



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment

# Green Belt of Fennoscandia - model of transboundary biodiversity conservation

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TRANSPARCNET Meeting 12th of June, 2019,  
Oulanka National Park  
**Erkki Parkkinen**, Mayor of Municipality of Salla,  
Leader of the GBF Finnish Kolartic Region  
Kristiina Niikkonen, Ministry of the Environment  
of Finland

# Content of the Presentation Will Answer...

## What GBF is all about?

- GBF Concept
- GBF Strategy process, vision, 6 targets and 21 actions
- Implementation the GBF Strategy
- Next steps

**BUT** what is your from the ground message to the global post-2020 biodiversity framework and strategy process? - Decision will be made in Kunming (China) at CBD COP15.

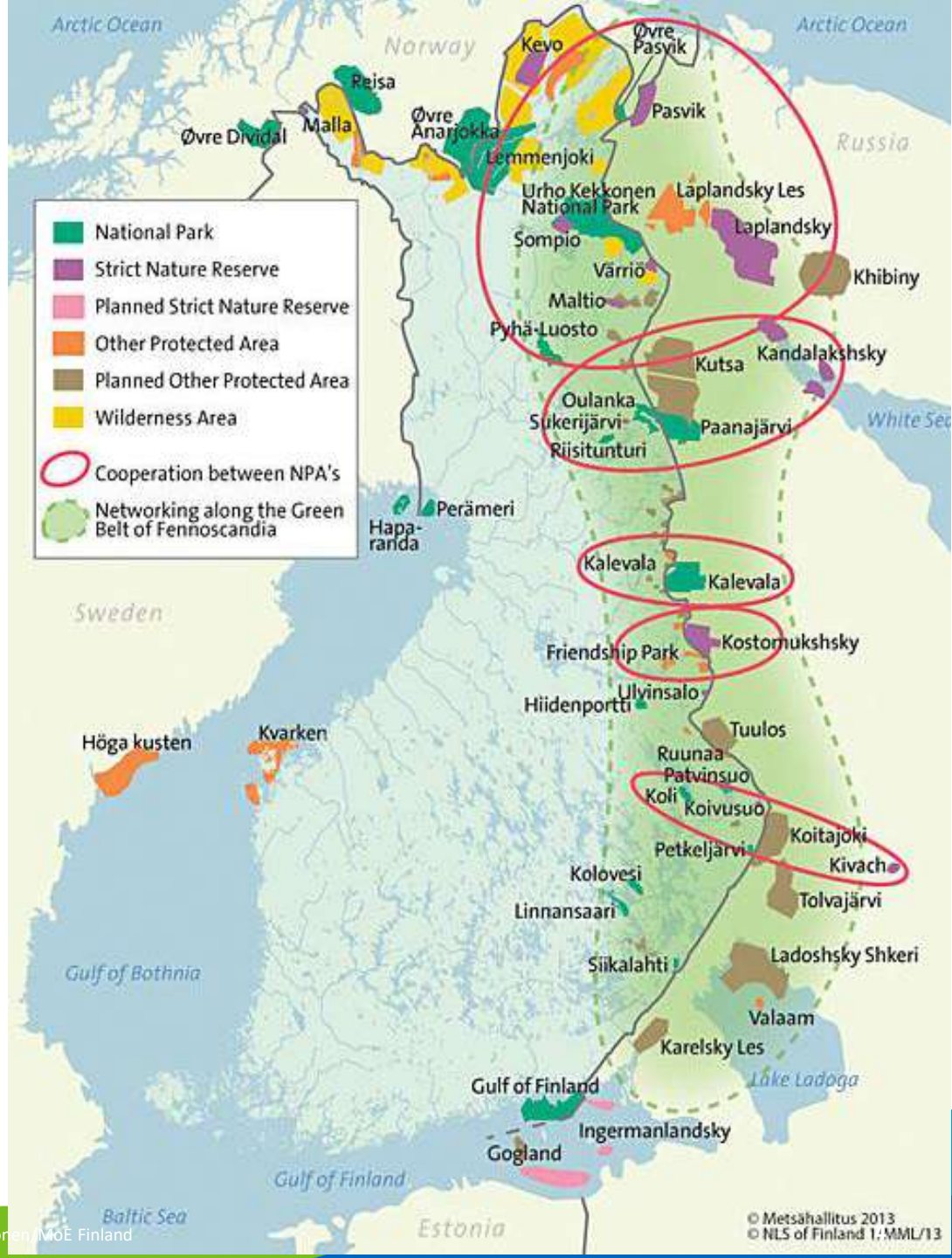
# The Concept of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia

- Based on biological and geological diversity and rich cultural heritage of the region
- Has physical and functional boundaries
- Under the CBD framework – ecological, social & cultural, economical sustainable development



# The Concept of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia

- The core is protected area network along the borders
- Surrounding areas to ensure N-S and E-W ecological connectivity for habitats and species



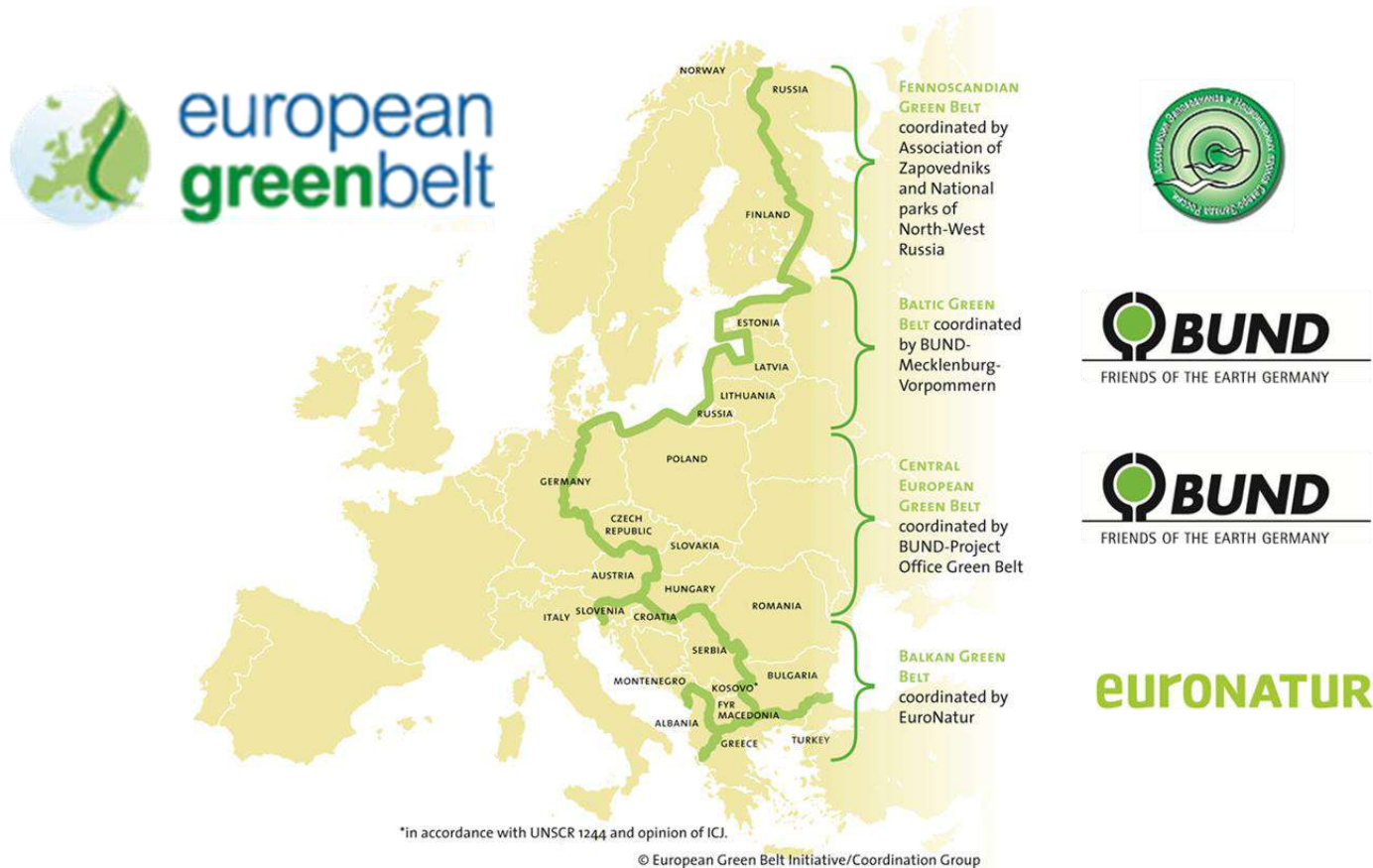
# The Concept of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia

- Cooperative network of wide scale of stakeholders
- The GBF is a planned platform:
  - ***protected area*** management,
  - trilateral cooperation in ***research***,
  - development of ***livelihoods and social well-being*** ,
  - promoting ***environmental sustainability in spatial planning and in development processes***,
  - supporting environmentally sustainable ***nature tourism businesses and cross-border cooperation***,
  - increasing ***environmental awareness and participation*** at all levels.



# Green Belt of Fennoscandia is...

...the oldest & northern part of the European Green Belt.



# The GBF Strategy Process 2014-2020

## 1. *The Planning Phase, 2014:*

- Four workshops, over 70 participants from Norway, Russia and Finland

## 2. *Implementation Phase 2015-2020:*

Based mainly on project funding, but also every-day work by stakeholders

## 3. *Evaluation Phase, in 2020*

## 4. *New Strategy?* CBD COP15 in Kunming, China (Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework decision)



# Vision for the GBF in 2020

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia is developed into a widely acknowledged transboundary model area for biodiversity conservation, social well-being and environmentally sustainable economic growth generated by the region's unique nature and cultural heritage.





# 1. Biodiversity

GOAL: Development of a network of protected areas and ecological connections within the three countries to ensure conservation of biodiversity, as well as sufficient N–S and E–W connectivity for migration

## Biodiversity component

Target 1.1: A representative PA network is established

Target 1.2: Ecological connectivity of the protected areas is strengthened

Target 1.3: PAs are managed so that the conservation status of habitats and species is maintained and/or improved

Target 1.4: Key species, habitats and physical elements of the ecosystems within the GBF are defined, surveyed with harmonised methods and data are made available

Target 1.5: Cooperation in the management of transboundary species populations and habitats leads to maintenance and/or improvement of their conservation status

## 2. Research

GOAL: Intensified trilateral research cooperation on biodiversity conservation, climate change, culture and social well-being in the GBF.

### Research component

Target 2.1: Multidisciplinary and transboundary analysis of the shortage of scientific information is conducted for the whole GBF area

Target 2.2: Measures are established for joint monitoring of the changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services under the impact of climate change and other factors

Target 2.3: The GBF provides a platform for active research cooperation and dissemination of GBF-related research to the research community, decision-makers and general public

### 3. Economic and regional development

GOAL: Strengthened sustainable economic and regional development based on human capacity building and ecosystem services in the GBF area.

#### Economic and regional development component

Target 3.1: The GBF approach is integrated into spatial and development planning in the whole GBF area

Target 3.2: GBF-based nature tourism and other environmentally sustainable services and products are developed

## 4. Social and cultural development

GOAL: Strengthened livelihoods based on the nature values and cultural heritage of the GBF area

### **Social and cultural development component**

Target 4.1: Traditional knowledge and cultural heritage are identified and key cultural heritage sites are secured

Target 4.2: Active cross-border development of livelihoods based on the GBF is enhanced to secure social well-being and lifelong connections over the border



## 5. Institutional development

GOAL: Intensified cross-border cooperation within the GBF network

### Institutional development component

Target 5.1: GBF is a well-organized cooperation network with sufficient resourcing ensured

Target 5.2: The GBF is a well-known and influential part of the European Green Belt (EGB) network

Target 5.3: Twin park cooperation is established for National Parks and other relevant PAs in the GBF area

Target 5.4: Platforms are developed for active sharing of best practices and for cooperation with key stakeholders

Target 5.5: Good cross-border access and cooperation with border authorities

Target 5.6: The GBF is acknowledged in relevant funding programmes as an eligible target for funding

## 6. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

GOAL: High level of awareness of the GBF's unique biological and geological diversity and their conservation among all stakeholders

### Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) component

Target 6.1: The GBF brand is developed to support the GBF marketing and self-identity of local people

Target 6.2: Environmental awareness is improved among the general public, authorities and businesses operating in the GBF area

Target 6.3: A plan for communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA Plan) for the GBF is prepared, implemented and monitored with good coordination

# Implementation phase of the GBF Strategy

- “Owner” of the strategy is a whole network of GBF
  - > Challenge1: How to involve and increase cooperation with wider society?
- Implementation is done both within the stakeholders everyday work, but Cross-Border-Cooperation **funding programmes** are the key enabler at the transboundary area
  - > Challenge 2: How to increase cooperation with projects?
  - > Challenge 3: How to build project capacity?

Estimate of more than  
35 000 000 euros  
funded to the GBF  
projects  
within 2014-2020 in  
different EU funding  
programmes



# Cross-border Cooperation Funding is the Critical Enabler

- EU ENI CBC Funding Programme for 2014-2020
- Project portal:  
[www.enicbc.fi/cbcprojects](http://www.enicbc.fi/cbcprojects)
- How to ensure long-lasting impacts?
- New programme is under development: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), COM/2018/460 final



CBC 2014-2020  
SOUTH-EAST FINLAND - RUSSIA





# Evaluation Phase in 2020

- Environmental values: Biodiversity, water quality, Climate Change ?
- Economic value: National Parks Return 10 Euros to the Finnish LOCAL Economy for Every Euro Invested by the Finnish Taxpayer
- Health value: Outdoor Activities Improve Public Health Equally
- Other values, for example for local societies etc.?
- **Challenge 4:**  
What and how to evaluate GBF?

	Kokonais- tulovaikutus (milj. €)	Käyntimäärä (hlöä)
UKK	21.5	291 700
Oulanka	19	201 200
Koli	17.7	167 300
Riisitunturi	3.6	24 400
Linnansaari	2.4	30 000
Petkeljärvi	0.8	16 900
Kolovesi	1	11 400
Patvinsuo	0.2	12 700
Itäinen Suomenlahti	0.5	12 500
Hossa	2.4	53 000
Ystävyyden puisto	2	21 200
<b>Yhteensä</b>	<b>71,1</b>	<b>842 300</b>

Year	Visits in GBF NPs	Economic value M€
2010	730 000	56
2015	842 000	71,1
2020	?	?

# Next Steps?

- Strengthen the Political Support: Need to update the Memorandum of the Understanding of the GBF (2010) with Norway, Russia and Finland – would Sweden join?
- Influence & follow the NDICI – funding programming process
- Use the results of different evaluation processes to update the strategy & implementation – do we need an updated strategy?
- **QUESTION to YOU: What are the messages from the ground of cross-border-cooperation to the global biodiversity post-2020 process?**

# Thank you!

More in

[www.yr](http://www.yr)

[www.e](http://www.e)

[www.m](http://www.m)

[onomic](http://onomic)

[parks](http://parks)

[www.cl](http://www.cl)

[post20](http://post20)

kristiina





# The Finnish – Russian Nature Conservation - Work Programme for 2020-2021

- The Nature Conservation cooperation at the ***country level***
- The GBF cooperation at the ***transboundary level***
- The FI-RU working group is one actor, but there are also **other actors** that influence to the state of nature at transboundary area, like Transboundary Water Commission and transboundary working group on Forestry
- Cross-Border-Cooperation **funding programmes** are the key enabler at the transboundary area
- Also the other sectors needs to be taken onboard – **awareness raising** about the (negative) impacts and possibilities (nature tourism)



# The Finnish – Russian Nature Conservation - Work Programme for 2020-2021

- **Six activity areas:**

1. Cooperation aimed to create and develop the network of specially protected nature areas SPNA (+ blue&green connectivity)
2. Protection of rare and endangered species (+ invasive alien species)
3. International and Regional Cooperation
4. Environmental outreach and education (including **nature** tourism)
5. Cultural Heritage conservation
6. Regional Nature Management

- Proposals from Russian and Finnish nature conservation sectors



IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

# PAN

PHENOMENA OF  
ARCTIC NATURE  
2019-2022

Kolarctic CBC  
EU FINLAND NORWAY RUSSIA SWEDEN



Biotop AS, Varde



NIBIO Svanhovd and Øvre Pasvik  
National Park Board, Svanvik

Pasvik State Nature  
Reserve, Nikel



Visitor Point Gjøkhotellet,  
Øvre Pasvik National Park Board



Youth Centre  
Vasatokka, Inari



Northern Lapland Nature Centre  
Siida, Metsähallitus, Inari

Saariselkä Customer Service  
Kiehinen, Metsähallitus, Saariselkä



Institute of North Industrial  
Ecology Problems, Apatity



Visitor Centre Naava,  
Metsähallitus, Pyhäunturi

Municipality of Salla



Salla Reindeer Park Exhibition, Private  
entrepreneur/Metsähallitus, Salla



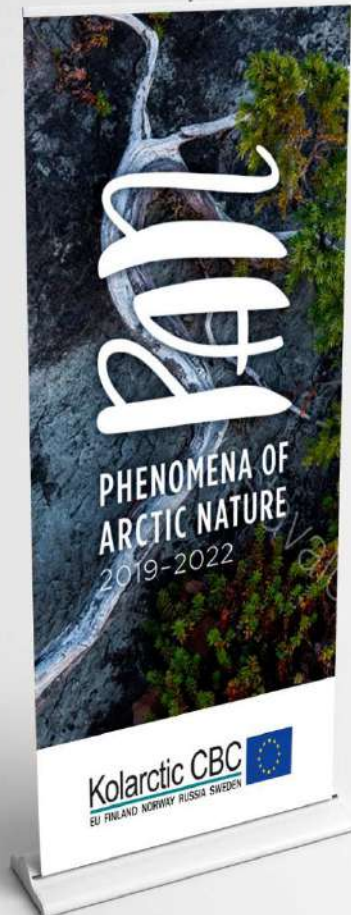
Lapland University of  
Applied Sciences, Rovaniemi

Visitor point for Karhunkierros Trail,  
Municipality of Salla, Hautajärvi





# NATURE BASED CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION



What in practice to Salla in this trilateral ENI-project

- Concept plan for tourism based on Phenomena of Arctic Nature in Salla
- Consulting light pollution and re-arrangement of lights
- Three observation bases for visitors
- Two reservable observation places for the usage by tourism entrepreneurs and groups
- Renewal of the permanent exhibition and AV-devices in Poropuisto Centre of Nature based services and Events
- Arctic phenomena installation to Hautajärvi Nature Centre Karhunkierros
- Guiding to observation bases
- Marketing

What for example to all

- Environmental education packages for international youths and materials for nature centres and schools
- Seminars and workshops to entrepreneurs and other participants
- Practicing in common the co-operation and working together for better future





## NATURE BASED CO- OPERATION ON HIGH LEVEL



**KIITOS HUOMIOSTANNE – THANK YOU**



IN THE MIDDLE  
OF NOWHERE