



## Planning for action: how to plan and react to climate change effects in Protected Areas

Háldi Transboundary Area – Reisa National park in Nordreisa municipality in Norway and Käsivarsi Wilderness Area in Enontekiö municipality Finland.

# TransParcNet Meeting

2.-5. September 2024



## Welcome to the Háldi Transboundary Area – Reisa National Park and Käsivarsi Wilderness Area

Climate change is rapidly transforming the landscapes and ecosystems of northern and Arctic Europe—at a pace and scale more severe than in regions further south. These changes are inevitable, and it is crucial that we confront them with the best strategies at our disposal. But what tools can we use? Which issues deserve our focus? And what have we learnt so far about adapting to climate change? These are the key questions we will explore at this year’s TransParcNet (TPN) meeting.

The Háldi Transboundary Area is a proud member of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme, and we are delighted to welcome colleagues from across Europe’s Transboundary Parks. This event is an opportunity to connect, share knowledge, and discuss strategies for climate change adaptation. We hope this meeting will strengthen both personal and professional ties within our network and beyond.

This year’s meeting is designed to foster learning from experts as well as from one another. The programme balances field trips, educational sessions, and informal discussions, allowing ample time to explore both sides of our Transboundary Area: Norway and Finland.

Our focus throughout the programme will be on:

- Planning tools to guide adaptation efforts;
- The impacts of climate change on the northern regions;
- The role of nature restoration;
- The importance of sound policy and cooperation.

## Where is the meeting? And Where Exactly is That?

As mentioned, this year's meeting takes place in both Norway and Finland, far beyond the Arctic Circle.

The first part of the meeting will be held in the Reisa National Park area, located in Nordreisa municipality. The primary locations are the villages of Storslett and Sørkjosen, along with the Reisadalen valley. These villages form the heart of the municipality and host essential infrastructure such as an airport, schools, and primary health care service. Nordreisa spans a total area of 3,420 km<sup>2</sup>, with only 3% classified as urbanised. The municipality is home to 4,800 inhabitants, 70% of whom reside in the village areas. The surrounding 4 municipalities, known as North Troms lies between the bigger cities Alta and Tromsø, have a combined population of 12,000 people spread across 14,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The second part of the meeting will be held in the village of Kilpisjärvi, within Enontekiö municipality, which covers 8,300 km<sup>2</sup>. Enontekiö is situated in the Finnish Lapland region. Kilpisjärvi has approximately 150 inhabitants and is a hub for outdoor activities in the surrounding areas, including the wilderness regions near Sweden and Norway. This area is home to Finland's highest mountains, including Haldi, which stands at 1,324 metres.

## Travelling to the meeting

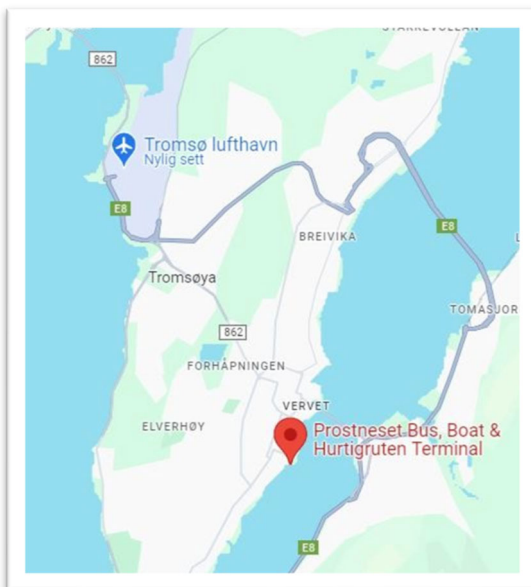
Our journey begins in Tromsø, which serves as the airport and regional travel hub. From there, we will drive to the various meeting locations. Given our northern setting, the distances can be quite long, but rest assured—the scenery is breathtaking, and the bus is comfortable. The map below shows the distances we will cover by bus. Transportation will be organised by the hosts and is included in the registration fee.

If you prefer to travel independently, you are welcome to rent a car or explore alternative transportation options. Should you require any assistance with your travel arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact the host Rune Benonisen at +47 9066 0709.



Date	Strech	Time	Distance
2.09	Tromsø – Skibotn	1hr 30min	125km
2.09	Skibotn – Storslett/Sørkjosen	1hr 30min	125km
3.09	Sørkjosen – Reisdalen valley	50min	65km
4.09	Sørkjosen – Kilpisjärvi	2 hr	145km
5.09	Kilpisjärvi – Tromsø Airport	2hr 35min	175km






## From airport to the bus (Tromsø City Centre)





Tromsø Airport is conveniently located near the city centre. The conference bus will depart from Prostneset, the bus, boat, and Hurtigruten terminal, at 10:30 AM on 2nd of September 2024. Prostneset is a 10-minute taxi ride from the airport. As an alternative, there is a frequent airport shuttle that takes 15-20 minutes to reach Prostneset, depending on the route. Should you experience any delays or need assistance with alternative transportation, please contact Rune Benonisen at +47 9066 0709.




## Programme

Please be aware that minor changes to the schedule may occur. If any adjustments are made, you will be notified in advance via your registered email or on site.

2 <sup>nd</sup> September 		
Time (Norwegian UTC+1)	Programme	Location
10:30	<b>Charter bus</b> departing from Tromsø. Enjoy a 3-hour drive along the stunning Lyngen Fjord, with guiding provided along the way.  <i>Please make sure to have breakfast before we depart.</i>	Starts at Tromsø central bus station (Prostneset)
≈ 14:30	Participants arrive to Sørkjosen / Storslett Check in to hotel.	<a href="#">See map</a>
15:00	Bus transfer (5-10 minutes) to the meeting venue at the Halti Visitor Centre, located in the village of Storslett.	<a href="#">See map</a>
 <b><i>Tip: Need to buy some drinks or extra snack or food? Use the possibility before start of the welcome session or during the field-trip time to visit the grocery shops 5-10min walk from Halti.</i></b> 		
15:45 - 16:45	Welcome session	Halti building
	 <i>Light meal (soup) is served by us.</i>	
	<a href="#">Welcome to the Håldi Transboundary Area.</a>  Join us for the welcome speech, view photos and films, experience a cultural event, and enjoy a tour of the exhibition.  <i>Speech given by: Mayor Hilde A. Nyvoll</i>	
16:45 – 17:30	<a href="#">Self-guided tour in exhibitions in the Halti building.</a>	

17.45 – 19.00	Short fieldtrips in the Storslett area - Explore the surroundings and connect with other participants. See options below.	
	<b>Tip: What to Wear? Dress according to the weather with suitable outdoor clothing prepared for all kinds of weather. Bring a change of clothes if needed for a more informal dinner setting. there are facilities for changing clothes in the Halti centre.</b>	
19:30	 Dinner will feature meal with ingredients from the north.	<a href="#">Bios Café</a>
-21.30	Bus leaves for the hotel	From BIOS

<p>3<sup>rd</sup> September </p>		
 <b>Tip: We recommend preparing for the field trip that will take place later this day already in the morning. Make sure your field trip gear and clothing are ready and packed.</b>		
07.00 -	 Breakfast.	
8:15 – 9:00	<p>How climate change impacts species and ecosystems in the Fennoscandian High North.</p> <p>Speech given by: Professor Rolf A. Ims, Professor of Ecology, University of Tromsø.</p>	På taket Conference Center
9:00 – 9:40	<p>Planning for changing climate and RAD model for adaptation.</p> <p>Recorded speech given by: Wylie Carr, Climate Change Specialist, National Park Service. Introduction by Heidi Siira.</p>	
BREAK - 9:40 – 09:55		
09:55 – 10:40	<p>Large-scale nature restoration, a solution to tackle climate change?</p> <p>Video and live Q&amp;A session with: Jeremy Roberts, Programme Manager, Cairngorms Connect; introduction by Nella Sergejeva, Transboundary Programme Coordinator, EUROPARC Federation.</p>	

10:40 – 11:10	<p>EU policies to support cross border and regional cooperation in EU neighboring countries: possible synergies with TransParcNet.</p> <p><i>Speech given by: Stefania Petrosillo, Biodiversity Consultant for EC-DG NEAR, EU B4LIFE.</i></p>	
BREAK – 11:10 – 11:25		
	Input from the network and beyond	
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Introduction to TRANSNATURE project: transboundary governance models of biodiversity protection.</p> <p><i>Speaker: Nuccio Mazzullo, Senior Researcher, University of Lapland.</i></p>	
11:45 – 12:00	<p><i>The situation in the Bohemian Switzerland NP after the 2022 wildfire.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker: Tomas Salov. Bohemian Switzerland National Park Administration.</i></p>	
12:00 – 12:15	<p><i>Current state of TB cooperation in Sumava NP / Bavarian Forest NP. I.e. BarcBeetle outbreaks, carnivore conflicts and CC impacts.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker: Martin Starý. Sumava NP.</i></p>	
12:20 – 13:15	 <i>Lunch served and then your own preparations for field trip.</i>	
13:30	Bus to Reisadalen valley from Reisafjord Hotel	<a href="#">Visitor Point Reisadalen</a>
14:30 – 17:30	<p>Excursions ≈ 3 hours.</p> <p>The key goal behind the excursions is to see how climate change affects different landscapes and how Reisa NP is facilitating for outdoors activities.</p>	
Ca 17.30 – 18.30	<p><i>We gather at Ovi Raishiin.</i></p>  <i>All participants bring their national foods and drinks to share with the Transboundary Parks team.</i>	
Ca 18.30	 <i>Dinner served and eaten at Ovi Raishiin. Traditional food from the Reisa area.</i>	Ovi Raishiin
22:00	Bus to the hotel.	

4<sup>th</sup> September  



**Tip: We recommend preparing for the field trip that will take place directly at arrival to Kilpisjärvi. Make sure your field trip gear and clothing are ready and packed. Please prepare to bring your own snack if needed.**



**Tip: when coming to Finland the time is UTC+2. That is one hour ahead of Norway.**



08:00 – 10:30 (09:00 – 11:30 Finnish time)	Travel to Kilpisjärvi by bus and car.	Bus starts from Reisafjord Hotel
12:00 – 16:00	Short introduction and then field trip to Saana Fell. 3 Options - see below for more information.	Saana Fell
	 Lunch bag with a sandwich, drink and snacks are handed out at the start of the field trip.	
	Optional: Kilpisjärvi visitor centre, next to hotel, is open 10.00 – 17.00	
15.00 – 16.30	 Coffee and sweet snack available in hotel restaurant for self-service.	
17.30 – 18.15	 <b>Task Force meeting.</b>	
18:30	 Dinner at the hotel.	Cahkal Hotel
21:00 - 23:00	Sauna and socialising in the lobby.	

Sauna is a Finnish tradition, and most Finns go to sauna weekly to relax. In case you would like to try (at no extra cost), please bring your swimsuit with you.



5<sup>th</sup> September



07:00 – 09:00		
07:00 – 09:00	 <i>Breakfast at the hotel.</i>	
09:00 - 11:00	Field trip to Lake Tsahkal or possibility to visit Kilpisjärvi Visitor Center or hike in the village area (self-guided). <i>Checkout between 11.00 – 12.00</i>	
11:00 - 11:45	 <i>Lunch on behalf of the hotel. Soup and dessert, coffee and tea.</i>	Cahkal Hotel
12:15 - 13:15	<b>Remote sensing in Northern Lapland.</b>  <i>Speech given by: Pekka Härmä, Senior Researcher, Finnish Environmental Institute and Anna Tammilehto, Nature Conservation Specialist, Metsähallitus.</i>	
13:15 - 13:45	<b>Arctic Fox, cooperation for protection in three countries.</b>  <i>Speech given by: Tuomo Ollila, Senior Advisor, Metsähallitus.</i>	
BREAK 13:45 - 14:00		
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Building a Climate Change adaptation strategy for the Protected Area network in Finland.</b>  <i>Recorded speech given by: Santtu Karaksela, Prioritisation Specialist, Metsähallitus.</i>	Cahkal Hotel
14:30 - 14:45	<b>Closing remarks.</b>  <i>Speech given by: Rune Benonisen, Pertti Itkonen.</i>	
15:00 (FIN time) –	<b>Bus to Tromsø airport</b> – 2hr 30min drive	
Arrival Tromsø Airport (TOS) 16.30 Norwegian time		
<b>OPTIONAL: 6th September</b>		
Optional travel day, stay in Kilpisjärvi or Tromso. Post excursion based on personal interest		

## More on Field Trips

As Alfred Wainwright wisely said, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." In Arctic regions, it's crucial to be prepared for every type of weather, even in early September. Temperatures can range from a sunny 20°C to 6-8°C, with possible wind and rain in between. To ensure you stay comfortable, we recommend bringing:

- **Base layer:** A moisture-wicking shirt and pants
- **Outdoor pants:** Windproof and, ideally, a pair of waterproof shell pants
- **Jackets:** A hiking jacket, a waterproof shell jacket, and a warm puffy jacket for breaks
- **Handwear and headwear:** Mittens or gloves, a warm beanie
- **Footwear:** Sturdy hiking shoes that are preferably water-repellent, and waterproof shoes for varying trails

In addition to keeping warm, consider packing:

- **Backpack:** For carrying snacks and extra clothing
- **Refillable water bottle**
- **Sun protection:** Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a cap



### Day 1: Storslett area.

About	Distance	Location
Short walk in Elveparken. Possibility for sauna.	Easy. 200m. Flat terrain	<a href="#">See map</a>
Short walk to "Dagsturhytta". Viewpoint to the village and Reisa river outlet.	Medium. 2km with steep terrain.	<a href="#">See map</a>
Car and walk Reisa river outlet nature reserve and Ramsar site	Easy. 2km. Flat terrain.	<a href="#">See map</a>



## Day 2: Reisadalen valley.

A. Hike to Visitor Point Reisa - Ovi Raishiin. Access the site using the information provided at the entrance points. Enjoy a short walk around the area near the visitor point. Engage in discussions along the way and share your experiences.

B. Hike to Carafossen Waterfall—2 km, intermediate difficulty. Consider how we manage outdoor access amid increasing tourism. Engage in discussions along the hike and share your experiences.

C. Hike to the Reisa NP border—5 km one way, with a return of 5 km. This is an intermediate to challenging trip. While the terrain is less strenuous, the hike is lengthy, taking approximately 2 hours. Themes to explore include rivers, flooding, tourism impact, and facility management.

D. If water levels are suitable, a riverboat sightseeing option will be available for those registered for this trip. Arrangements will be made a few days before the trip.



**Tip: When going to Finland** we will learn more about Science Trail project and technology. Please try downloading the science trail app in forehand. Visit the University of [Helsinki website for more information and downloading](#). Also, see the information on the [Kilpisjärvi science trails here](#).



## Day 3: Kilpisjärvi.

A: Summit of Saana Fell. Enjoy panoramic views from the top. The hike is 7.5 km and takes approximately 3 hours for quick walkers. You can also choose to hike half way up.

B: Saana Nature Trail. Discover the local flora, fauna, and cultural history along the Saana Nature Trail. The route from the Saana Day Trip Hut, including the return to the hut and the bus, covers 5 km. The estimated hiking time is 1.5 to 2 hours.

C: Around Saana Fell. Follow the path circling Saana to Saana Lake. This longer hike offers scenic views along the way. The total distance from the Saana Day Trip Hut to the hotel is 10 km, with an estimated hiking time of 3 hours.



#### **Day 4: Kilpisjärvi.**

A: The trail to Lake Tsahkaljärvi is paved with gravel, though some sections are steep. From the lake, you can see Saana rising prominently to the northwest.

B: Kilpisjärvi is located at the base of Saana Fell, nestled in the heart of the Arctic high-fell region. The Kilpisjärvi Visitor Centre's permanent exhibition, "On the Edge of the Caledonides," highlights the Malla Strict Nature Reserve, Saana Nature Reserve and Research Area, Käsivarsi Wilderness Area, and the local residents of Kilpisjärvi.

More info on the field-trip options and on Kilpisjärvi is available from Metsähallitus website - [Kilpisjärvi - Malla Strict Nature Reserve and Saana Nature Reserve - julkaisut.metsa.fi](http://julkaisut.metsa.fi)

## Familiarise yourself with Kilpisjärvi and Käsivarsi Wilderness Area in advance:

- Brochure Käsivarsi Wilderness Area, Malla Strict Nature Reserve, and Saana Protected Areas <https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/01/kasivarsimallasaanaeng.pdf>
- Brochure Kilpisjärvi - Malla Strict Nature Reserve and Saana Nature Reserve <https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/09/kilpisjarvieng.pdf>



## Download Kilpisjärvi Science Trails app in advance!

Discover Finland's most mountainous scenery with calming and endless wilderness as well as vivid and rare animal and plant life. The Kilpisjärvi Science Trails offer you amazing scenery and science as you walk along the stony paths of Saana Science Trail, Saanajärvi Science Trail, Tsahkal Science Trail and Salmivaara Science Trail. You will learn how the smell of the mountain birch forest can form clouds, and how it is possible that reindeer grazing protects arctic and alpine plants - which of course sounds a bit odd when reindeers are...well...eating plants.

**Download** the free **application** called **Kilpisjärven Tiedepolut** (Kilpisjärvi Science Trails) to learn more!

**Read more about Science Trails:** <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/research-stations/science-trails/locations/kilpisjarvi-science-trails>

