

Cross-Border Cooperation on Environment

Norwegian-Russian Seminar with Norilsk Nickel
on Kola Peninsula

Zapolyarnij, 26th October 2011

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Cross-Border Cooperation since June 1986...

...25 years ago, June 17th-19th

- the County Governor of Finnmark Mr Anders Aune and the Vice Governor of Murmansk Mr Sergeij F. Zhdanov with their experts met in Kirkenes **to discuss environmental issues of common interest.**
- The pollution situation in Pasvik area was especially informed about and both sides gave suggestions on how to monitor the air and water emissions and what measures that could eliminate or reduce the pollution.
- A joint communiqué was signed by the Governors.
- The most important issue was how to reduce the impact from the nickel production.

Norwegian-Russian Environmental Cooperation



- An Governmental agreement between Norway and the Soviet Union on cooperation in the areas of nature conservation and environmental issues was signed as early as 1988.
- The agreement was renewed with the Russian Federation in 1992.
- At the political level the collaboration operates through the **Norwegian-Russian Environmental Commission**, that meets once a year and alternate every other year between Norway and Russia.
- At these annual meetings the commission decides on its overall directions for the cooperation and prepares a working programme for joint projects.

Norwegian-Russian Environmental Cooperation



The cooperation includes projects on:

- Marine Environment, Biological Diversity, Pollution Reduction, Climate Change and Cultural Heritage
- **Cross-Border cooperation**

The aim of the cross-border cooperation is;

- **to reduce pollution,**
- **to preserve biodiversity and**
- **to develop the best possible management of the protected areas, shared animal populations and shared water resources**



Cross-Border Cooperation

Several joint projects :

Pasvik Zapovednik from 1991

Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park 2008

Environmental Education and Enlightenment

Multiuse plan for Pasvik River Basin 1997

Monitoring of Air Quality

The Pasvik Programme 2003-2006





Pasvik Programme

May 2002

- Russian-Finnish-Norwegian meeting in Svanhovd
- Summing up from more than 10 years of monitoring and research in the Pasvik area

Conclusion

There is a need for a new status of the environment





Results from the Pasvik Programme 2003-2006

- **Sulfur dioxide emissions 75% lower than in the 1980s**
new establishment of lichens
acidification of some lakes is reduced
improvements in water quality and fish populations
- **Heavy metals are not correspondingly reduced**
still unacceptably high
accumulation in mosses and in soils
concentrations in Pasvik River and in fish close to the plant
- **Organic contaminants measured in sediments**

Pasvik Programme

THE FINNISH ENVIRONMENT 6 | 2007

State of the Environment
in the Norwegian, Finnish
and Russian Border Area

Kerstin Stebel, Guttorm Christensen,
John Derome and Ilona Grekelä (editors)



Lapland Regional Environment Centre, Finland
Office of the Finnmark County Governor, Norway
Murmansk Department for Hydrometeorology
and Environmental Monitoring, Russia

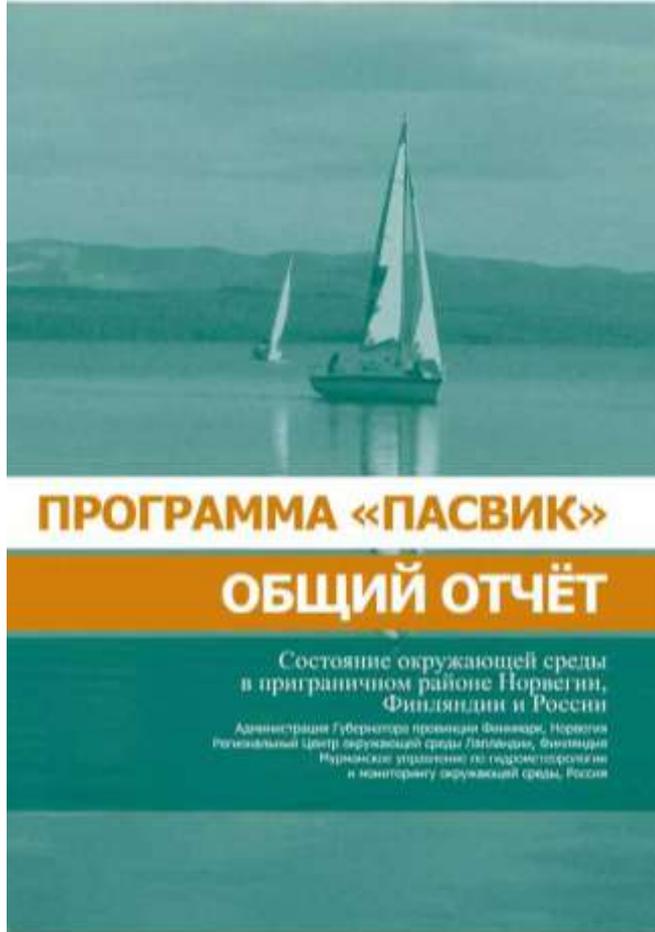
An environmental status and a common monitoring and assessment programme for the Pasvik area was compiled by Russian, Finnish and Norwegian environmental authorities and researchers.

The results are presented in the report; *State of the Environment in the Norwegian, Finnish and Russian Border Area* and in a Summary Report

Web site:

www.pasvikmonitoring.org

Pasvik Programme



and in a **Summary Report**

Pasvik Programme

Summary recommendations for future monitoring and assessment in the cross-border area

- Extremely important to guarantee continuation of the most important measurements (sulfur dioxide, meteorology, heavy metals in air and precipitation, etc.) through the use of harmonized measurement methods.
- Extensive screening of POPs and PAHs in air, soil and water
 - to identify and map possible sources and to determine the possible threat of accumulation in food chains.

Pasvik Programme

Environmental Monitoring Programme in the Norwegian, Finnish and Russian Border Area – Implementation Guidelines

Annukka Puro-Tahvanainen, Ilona Grekelä, John Derome and
Kerstin Stebel (editors)



The Common Monitoring and
Assessment Programme –
Implementation Guidelines for
the Pasvik area was compiled
by Russian, Finnish and
Norwegian Environmental
Authorities and Researchers.

Lapland Regional Environment Centre, Finland
Office of the Finnmark County Governor, Norway
Murmansk Department for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring, Russia

Monitoring from 2006-

- Each country implement national monitoring programmes
- Results from harmonized water monitoring up to 2010
 - **no decrease** in the concentrations of pollutants the last 9 years in the Pasvik River watercourse
 - **increase in Ni and Cu levels** the last 9 years is evident
 - ongoing **recovery from acidification** is however seen, due to decrease in SO₂ emissions.
- Berries in Sør-Varanger have elevated heavy metal content
 - more information and inter annual variations has to be investigated.
- More information and mapping of pollutants is needed
 - to determine possible accumulation in the food chains and human food items – preliminary investigations show a great deal of geographical differences in the border region.

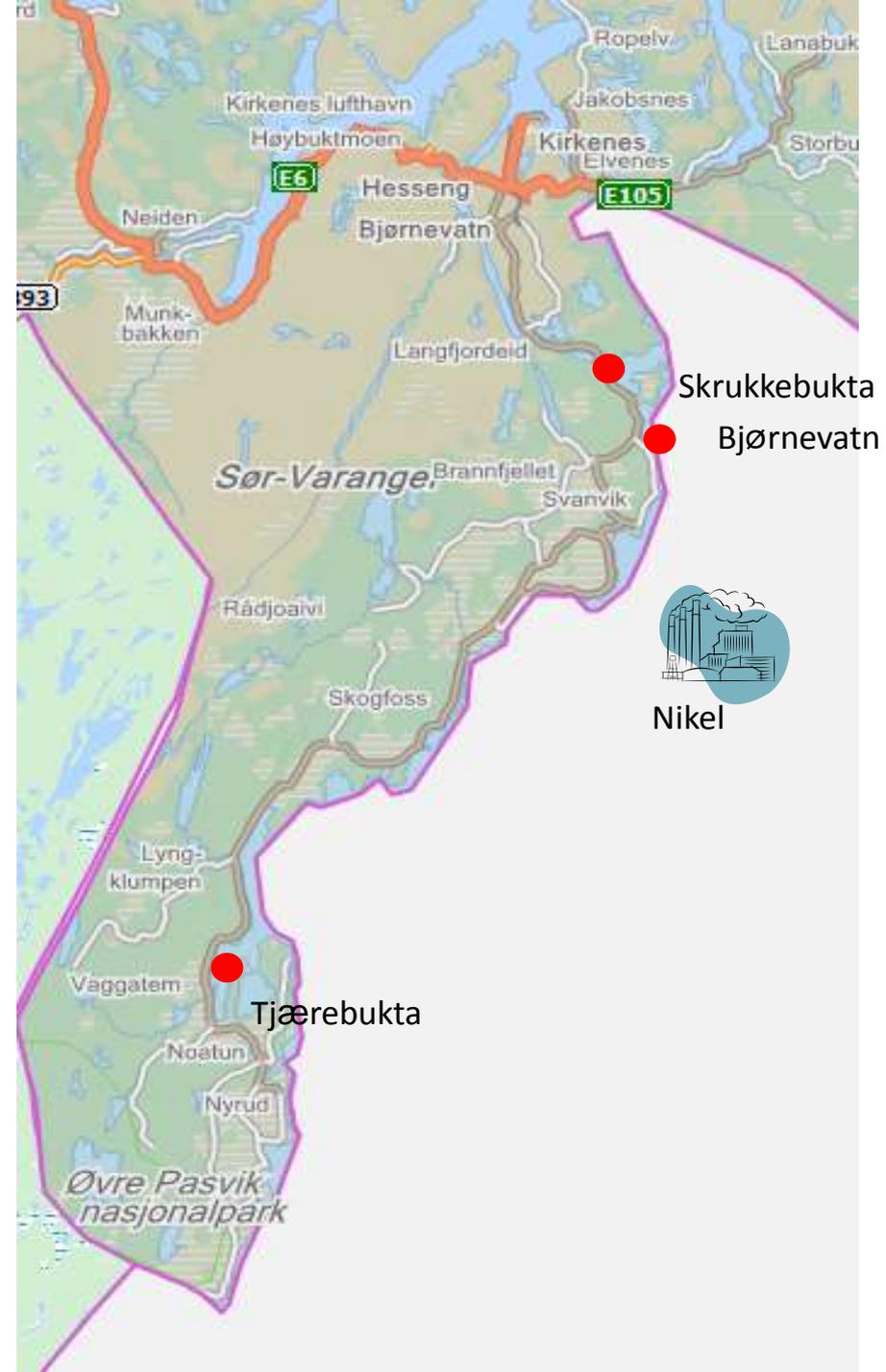
Contaminants in fish from Pasvik



three (3) different stations in the Pasvik watercourse

Tjærebukta – upstream Nikel

Skrukkebukta and Bjørnevatn – downstream Nikel



Sampling and Analysis

Perch, pike, whitefish and trout

- Analysed muscle tissue
- PCB
- Pesticides (HCB, DDT, HCH)
- Heavy metals (nickel, copper, mercury, cadmium)
- Brominated flameretardants (PBDE)
- Dioxins

Conclusions

- Elevated levels of PCB, DDT and PBDE downstream Nikel – indicates that Nikel can be a source
- Elevated levels of mercury – no difference between the 3 sites
- Highest levels of all contaminants found in trout
- No dioxins were detected in fish

- New samples of trout will be analysed in 2011-2012
- Sediment core will be dated and analysed from Skrukkebukta in 2011/2012

Public meetings – give and get information

Results from the monitoring is presented and discussed in public meetings

- Safe food – also self harvested local natural food items
- Self harvesting and local traditions – fish, game and berries
- Clean drinking WATER
- Health aspects
- Partners of cooperation
- The right to get updated and adequate information...
 - In Norway, all citizen have the legal right to information from both public and private companies on matters that affect the environment

The UNECE **Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**,

usually known as the **Aarhus Convention**, was signed 1998

The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding

- access to information
- public participation and
- access to justice

in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and transboundary environment.

It focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities.

Environmental Information Act - Miljøinformasjonsloven

- **Why an own Environmental Information Act?**
- Main purpose – is to make it possible for citizens, through better access to information, to engage themselves and contribute to a better protection of the environment
- The Act is necessary for Norway's follow-up on obligations under international laws, however the Norwegian Environmental Act goes in several respects considerably further
- Private sector is also obliged to give the information about emissions, and what impact it can cause on the environment and your health

Environmental Information Act - Miljøinformasjonsloven

A prerequisite for the Environmental Act to function as intended is that the public use it actively

The Act enables the general public to:

- Contribute to the protection of the environment
- Protection against health and environmental damages
- Influence public and private decision makers in environmental issues

**Joint Declaration of the Meeting between
Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and President Dmitry
Medvedev 28.04.10. Paragraph of Pechenga-Nikel.**

The parties agree that emissions from nickel production in the Pechenga region of Murmansk Oblast is a cause for concern and must be brought down to a level that protects human health and the environment in the border area.

Russian side will in this regard, help to ensure that necessary measures be taken to reduce emissions.

The Parties agree to cooperate in order to obtain objective information on emission levels, enhance the continued control and to strengthen environmental monitoring in the border area.

(not official translation)



Dialog between The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Russia and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of the Environment to formulate a mandate for the cooperation to obtain objective information on emission levels, enhancing of the continued control and the strengthen of environmental monitoring in the border area

We are impatient...

A scenic view of a lake with a sailboat in the foreground and industrial smokestacks in the background. The sky is overcast, and the water is calm. The sailboat has a white and blue sail. In the distance, there are hills and a forest. On the left side, there are several tall smokestacks emitting white smoke.

Reducing the emissions of sulphur and heavy metals from Pechenganikel is still the great unresolved challenge in Norwegian-Russian environmental cooperation.

The annual sulphur emissions are currently about five times the total of those released in whole of Norway.

The Cross-Border Environmental Cooperation

The Trilateral Environmental Cooperation on all levels – national, regional and local, municipal level

- Provides a joint understanding of the current status of the environment**
- Give the same information to the local general public regardless of residence**
- Give a joint knowledge base that is crucial when managing shared natural resources**
- Involves several management and research institutions and this give synergies**

The General public and local stakeholders are important partners



Takk for oppmerksomheten!
Thank you!

Takk! Tack! Kiitos! Спасибо! Giitu!