

Contract Number: 2006/123-534

## Euregio Karelia Neighbourhood Programme

### Final Narrative Report

#### Tacis component of the joint project

1. Name of Lead Partner of grant agreement and of legal representative: Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia

2. Name and title of the person responsible for the project: Mr. Arto Ahokumpu, Regional Director & Ms. Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen, Project Manager

3. Name of partners in the project: Paanajärvi National Park

4. Title of the project: Oulanka-Paanajärvi – wilderness, experiences and well-being

5. Contract number of the project: 2006/123-534

6. Start date of the reporting period: August 1, 2006

7. End date of the reporting period: July 31, 2008

8. Target country(ies) or region(s): Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation

9. Target groups: Nature-based and culture-oriented tourism businesses in Russian Karelia and in North-Eastern Finland, tourism associations, tourism development organisations, North-Eastern region of Finland, District of Loukhi, organisations of research and education, management of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks, and the PAN Parks network.

**Contract Number: 2006/123-534****A. Compliance with the Grant Agreement:**

1. Has the project been carried out as foreseen in the terms of reference of the agreement? If not, please explain how and why the original proposal was modified, including the dates that any addenda were requested and received.

There were two addenda to the Contract that both had to do with a request for a budget change. Both were granted. The first addendum was presented with the Interim Report which was dated December 10, 2007. The second addendum was requested on June 9, 2008. The first addendum entered into force on February 26, 2008 and the second addendum on July 1, 2008. As the addenda have to do with requests for budget change they are discussed below (Section A, Question 2).

The project has been carried out as foreseen. The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. As it can be noted in the follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks, each task has been carried out and each product has been produced thus contributing to the overall fulfilment of project goals. Some minor changes are discussed below in the Section C, Questions 1 and 4.

2. Was the provisional budget of the project respected? If not, please explain any changes that occurred.

There were two addenda to the Contract that had to do with a request for a budget change. The first addendum was presented with the Interim Report which was dated December 10, 2007. The second addendum was requested on June 9, 2008. The first addendum entered into force on February 26, 2008 and the second addendum on July 1, 2008.

In the first request for budget change there were changes in the budget lines 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.2.4 and 5.2.5 in which the activities had concluded and no more resources were needed. There was also a change in the budget line 5.6.2 in which less resources were needed than originally budgeted. The savings from the aforementioned budget lines were used to fulfil needs in the budget line 6. Other. In the budget lines 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 more resources were needed and consequently a budget change was requested. The changes in these two budget lines had to do with the rise of prices for construction work and materials in Russia. The money allocated in the original budget for construction in Arola and Vartiolampi historical sites was not enough to complete the work in full. As one of the main objectives of the project was to commission both construction sites with finished interiors it was necessary to get more resources for these budget lines. These changes were approved in the first addendum.

In the second request for budget change there were changes in the budget lines 1.1.1 and 1.1.2. A total of 23.5 months were needed for both the Project Coordinator and Specialist in Tourism and Communication and not the original 24 months as both specialists started their work on August 15, 2006 (the project started on August 1, 2006). There were also a change in the budget line 1.2.1 as originally six months were budgeted for the Coordinator in Finland (Project Manager) but seven months were needed (until the end of July, 2008) in order for the Coordinator to work until the end of the project. Less money was needed for the budget line 1.3.1.2 as this activity was concluded and no more resources were necessary. More resources were needed in the budget line 1.3.2.1 as travel for specialists in Russia was necessary for acquisition of services and purchases in Petrozavodsk, for project activities and for visibility actions in different events in Russia. As a result of these changes a slight increase in the budget line 1. Human resources was requested and granted.

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In the budget line 2. Travel, a decrease of approximately 50% was requested as resources anticipated for this budget line were more than the resources needed. These changes were granted as no more resources in this budget line were necessary for the fulfilment of the project goals. In the budget line 3. Equipment and supplies, a slight decrease was requested as it was deemed that less resources than budgeted would be enough for the budget line 3.2 Information points. In the budget line 5.1.1, more resources were requested in order to print more copies of the important booklets. Less resources were anticipated to be needed in the budget lines 5.1.2 Material for electronic information points, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.7.2, 5.8.1, 5.8.2.

In the budget line 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 more resources were needed again due to increased costs of construction in Russia. These changes were granted.

Resources for the budget line 1. Human resources and budget line 6. Other for the budget change were taken from the budget lines 2. Travel, 3. Equipment and supplies, and 5. Other costs and services.

The Final Financial Report is attached to this Final Report. The budget in the Final Financial Report is the one that entered into force after the second addendum. In the Final Financial Report it is possible to observe that 5400.28€ (2.00%) of the total project costs were not realised. All project activities were carried out and all products were produced so no more resources were needed to implement the project.

In the budget line 1. Human resources, 403.72€ (0.55%) of the resources was not realised but everything was used that was necessary to carry out project activities and no more resources were needed.

In the budget line 2. Travel, 756.73€ (15.80%) of the resources were not realised but all travel necessary for the project activities and fulfilment of project goals was done and no more resources were needed.

In the budget line 3. Equipment and supplies, the resources were exceeded slightly by 110.09€ (0.54%). This was mainly due to resources exceeded in car rental and purchase of tools. The exceeded sums were due to the great need of construction tools in the construction of Arola and Vartiolampi and to the need of car rental for project trips.

In the budget line 5. Other costs and services, 3147.76€ (3.10%) of the resources were not realised. Within this budget line some budget lines were exceeded and others had resources that were not realised. The resources were used where they were needed. All project activities were implemented and all products produced so no more resources were needed.

In the budget line 6. Other, the resources were exceeded slightly by 63.28€ (0.12%). The construction costs in Arola exceeded the sum budgeted as the construction was more expensive than anticipated even after budget changes.

In the budget line Administrative costs, 1166.17€ (6.96%) of the resources were not realised but no more resources were needed.

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**B. Project Objectives:**

1. Please list all project objectives, and indicate if they were modified.

The overall objective of the project is as follows (this is the same as the overall objective of the whole Interreg/Tacis Joint Project):

To secure and strengthen the status of Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark as the most important national and international attraction and resource for nature-oriented tourism in the region.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows (these are unique to the Tacis project, although similar to the Interreg project):

1. To develop policies, facilities and services of Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark as one entity by applying the best international methods together with local stakeholders;
2. To strengthen socio-economic sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreation by development of cooperation and partnership between Paanajärvi National Park, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders and by development of nature interpretation and cultural sites of visit;
3. To contribute to ecological sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreation in Paanajärvi National Park by development of waste management and improvement of channelling of visitor use in order to avoid crowding of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks by communicating comprehensively on possibilities offered by the parks and marketing actively other natural and cultural sites of visit in the region to visitors;
4. To assess socio-economic and ecological sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreation and effectiveness of Oulanka-Paanajärvi cooperation.

The objectives have not been modified. The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report.

**C. Project Activities**

1. Please list all the activities in line with Annex I of the Contract since the beginning of the project, e.g.

Activity 1

Title of the activity

Conference at town W with X participants for Y days on Z dates

Please elaborate on the activities covered:

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):

Your assessment of the results of this activity:

**Activity 1 Project management and coordination**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

An Overall Work Plan for the project was elaborated to be used as an administrative tool for the implementation of the project.

The project team was set up to implement the goals of the project. Project Coordinator was Ms. Natalia Bizhon and Specialist in Tourism and Communication was Mr. Yuri Tigushkin. The post of Financial Secretary was occupied by two different people: Mr. Dmitriy Belinskiy

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for three months and Mr. Aleksey Korsanenkov for nine months. Project Coordinator in Finland (Project Manager) was Ms. Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen.

Computer hardware and other necessary office supplies for the project team were purchased. Three Project Update Reports were presented. There was a continuous follow-up of the project budget. The project team was trained to operate an electronic bookkeeping programme. The action plan of the project was updated each time a Project Update Report or Interim and Final Reports were presented. Interim and Final Reports were accompanied by Interim and Final Financial Reports. Two pre-financing instalments were received; the final instalment (payment of balance) is requested upon the presentation of this Final Report.

Every month meetings or phone meetings were held by the Project Manager of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project and the Tacis Project Coordinator to discuss progress of implementation of the project activities and to coordinate future actions. A total of 42 meetings were held. Continuous coordination between the project partners was maintained through 15 Steering Committee meetings. In these meetings the project partners (Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia and Paanajärvi National Park) were informed of the progress of the project and they were heard as to their opinion of the activities implemented. Also continuous coordination (30 meetings) with the Interreg project and its partners was maintained during the implementation of the Interreg Project. This was facilitated as the Project Manager Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen was also the Project Manager for the Interreg Project.

There was a permanent communication with the Project Officer Natalia Zabrodotskaya (EC Delegation to Russia, Moscow).

The audit of the project was carried out by the auditor Mr. Asmo Miettunen of the auditing company Oulun Tilitoimi Oy (Ltd.). The audit visit to Kuusamo took place on August 21, 2008.

Visibility actions conducted are described below in the Section F, Question 1.

*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

There was a slight problem in recruitment of a capable Financial Secretary for the project due to the remote location of project headquarters in Pyaozerskiy where the office of Paanajärvi National Park is situated. Due to this it was necessary to fulfil the post as a full-time post and not as a half-time post as this facilitated the recruitment. This change was reported in the Interim Report.

Project Coordinator in Finland (Project Manager) Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen was employed for seven months, although her post was originally budgeted for six. The originally budgeted six months were calculated so that the project would end at the end of June 2008. But as the signing of the Contract took place later than anticipated, the project end date was also moved to July 31, 2008. For this reason one more month was necessary for the Project Manager so that she could work until the end of the project. This change was done in the Addendum II to the Contract and it was also granted.

No external evaluation of the project was carried out as that was not a requirement in the Contract (as confirmed by Ms. Zabrodotskaya on June 18, 2008). The resources budgeted for the evaluation were used to cover other costs in the budget line 5. Other costs and services.

Some changes in the planned visibility actions are described in the Section C, Question 4.

Otherwise the activity was not modified.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project. Indicators related to visibility actions are assessed in the Section F, Question 1.

Indicator 1: An Overall Work Plan for the project

Assessment: An Overall Work Plan for the project was prepared and it was used as an administrative tool for the implementation of the project.

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Indicator 2: Project personnel recruited

Assessment: Project personnel was recruited as planned.

Indicator 3: Follow-up of time used by project team

Assessment: Project Manager fulfilled a follow-up of time usage for each activity for her work. All project team filled out time sheets.

Indicator 4: Progress and final reports

Assessment: Three Project Update Reports and an Interim Report were presented. Here the Final Report is presented.

Indicator 5: Budget follow-up and payment applications

Assessment: The project budget was constantly followed up throughout the project. A request for the first advance payment was made upon signing of the contract. The second request for advance payment was made upon presenting the Interim Report. The last request for payment, the payment of balance, is presented together with this Final Report.

Indicator 6: Meetings of the Steering Committee of the project

Assessment: Fifteen meetings of the Steering Committee were held.

Indicator 7: Coordination meetings with the Interreg section of the joint project

Assessment: Thirty meetings with the Interreg section of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project were held. The Steering Committee of the Interreg project was informed about the advances in the Tacis project. Project Manager of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project Ms. Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen also acted as the Project Manager for the Interreg section.

Indicator 8: Visits between Russia and Finland for coordination

Assessment: Forty-seven visits related to the Project were made between Russia and Finland.

Indicator 9: An audit and an evaluation of the project

Assessment: An audit of the project was carried out. The audit certificate is attached to the Final Financial Report. No evaluation was carried out as this was not a requirement of the Contract. The resources planned for the evaluation were used for other actions under the budget heading 5. Other costs and services.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

The aim of this activity was an effective and efficient achievement of results of the project with transparency and active communication, as is the task of any management and coordination. All project goals were met and all products produced as is described in this Final Report. Communication of the project activities and goals reached was also active as evidenced by the visibility actions carried out. All implementation took place within the provisional budget as is also described in this Final Report and in the accompanying Final Financial Report.

All in all, project implementation went very well and the aim of the activity was achieved.

### **Activity 2 Development of GIS-based electronic information points**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

The two electronic information points that were planned are installed in Russia. One is in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park, maintained by Paanajärvi National Park, and the other in the Administration building of Loukhi Region, maintained by the Loukhi Region Administration. Press release that informed about electronic information points was released and information was given about the electronic information points in the Final Project Conference on July 25-27, 2008.

Seven electronic information points were installed in Finland by the Interreg Project.

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*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

The activity was not modified.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.

Indicator 1: Establishment of two electronic information points in Russia

Assessment: Two electronic information points are established in Russia: one in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park, one in the administration building of Loukhi Region.

Indicator 2: Purchase of hardware and software licenses for the two electronic information points in Russia

Assessment: Hardware and software were bought.

Indicator 3: Production of information (in Russian and English) on Paanajärvi National Park and other natural and cultural sites of visit in the vicinity of Paanajärvi National Park to be used in the electronic information points

Assessment: Information is available in the electronic information points.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled. As the two electronic information points that were planned are now installed in Russia, the assessment is that the activity was concluded successfully.

The aim of this activity was the channelling of visitor use in order to avoid crowding of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks, to guarantee possibilities for nature experiences for visitors and to safeguard biological diversity thus securing ecological sustainability of the National Parks. Through the electronic information points visitors can obtain information of the possibilities for experiencing nature in Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks and in the areas in their vicinity. The information points offer information also on those sites of visit that are not visited by many people thus channelling the visitor use towards areas that can take more visitors. This can effectively reduce crowding in certain areas and thus contribute towards preserving ecological values in the more crowded areas.

The effectiveness of this tool for channelling of visitor use will be assessed through the public use of the information points. Results from the public use of the information points are to be expected during the year 2008.

**Activity 3 Production of material for nature interpretation and visitor guidance to be used at Paanajärvi Visitor Centre, at fairs, at Ruka Customer Service Point and in Oulanka National Park**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

Three information panels of Paanajärvi National Park (of aluminium and plastic, size A0, languages Finnish, Swedish, English) are placed in Oulanka National Park: outside of Oulanka Visitor Centre, outside of Hautajärvi Visitor Centre and in the parking area of Jäkälämutka canoeing site. One information panel of Oulanka National Park (of aluminium and plastic, size A0, languages Russian, English, Finnish) and one information panel of Paanajärvi National Park (of aluminium and plastic, size A0, languages Russian, English, Finnish) are placed at the moment in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park. Next summer as the visitor season starts they will be placed in Paanajärvi National Park. Eight information panels "Code of Conduct of the Paanajärvi National Park" (of plastic, size A0, four panels in Russian, four panels in English) were made. These panels are also accompanied

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by a bilingual (Russian, English) map panel of Paanajärvi National Park. All these panels are at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park. Three sets (one Russian panel, one English panel, one bilingual map) will be placed in Paanajärvi National Park at the onset of the visitor season next summer. One set is already placed outside of the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park in Pyaozerskiy.

The booklet on the history of Paanajärvi National Park is now published as a book that tells about not just history but also natural history of Paanajärvi National Park. 1,500 copies were printed. The book is called "National park Paanajarvi" (ISBN 978-5-94804-144-5) and it is bilingual (Russian and English).

The booklet on the history of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks is now published. It is called "Oulanka-Paanajärvi – From Past to Present: History of Oulanka National Park and Paanajärvi National Park" (ISBN 978-952-446-688-2). 600 copies were printed. The booklet is in English.

A winter trip for photographers was arranged in March in the territory of the Paanajärvi National Park. Photos were bought to be used in printed materials, in the books and in the DVD.

An electronic version of the map of the territory of Paanajärvi National Park has been produced, which is used for waste management sites, book, DVD and web site, and it can be used for future nature interpretation and visitor guidance material. The map is bilingual: Russian and English. Four map panels (of plastic, size A0, languages Russian, English) were made. One map panel is placed at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park; the other map panels will be placed in Paanajärvi National Park as the visitor season begins next summer. These are the map panels that accompany the information panel "Code of Conduct of the Paanajärvi National Park". Four tourist map panels (of plastic, size A3, language Russian) were made. These map panels show kilometres to different sites within Paanajärvi National Park and the location of e.g. cabins. These panels are placed in Paanajärvi National Park in different sites along roads to instruct visitors.

A trilingual (Russian, English, Finnish) map was produced for an information panel (of aluminium and plastic, size A0, languages Russian, English, Finnish) that shows natural sites of visits in Finland and Russia. This is placed at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park at the moment and will be placed in Paanajärvi National Park as the visitor season commences. One information panel (of aluminium and plastic, size A0, languages Russian, English and Finnish) of visitor centres in Russia and Finland was produced and is placed for the moment at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park. This panel will be placed in Paanajärvi National Park next summer when the visitor season starts.

Four roll-ups were produced that show Paanajärvi National Park's four different seasons (each roll-up shows one season). These have three languages: Russian, English and Finnish. These are kept in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and they can be taken to e.g. tourism fairs.

A digital camera and a video camera were purchased to help in documenting the project activities and in production of nature interpretation and visitor guidance material. A GPS was purchased in order to document the location of e.g. services of Paanajärvi National Park to show them accurately on the digital map of the Park. The GPS was also used in other project activities.

*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

The activity was not modified.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.



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Indicator 1: A booklet on the history of Paanajärvi National Park in Russian  
 Assessment: The booklet "National park Paanajarvi" was produced as a booklet that also tells about the natural history of Paanajärvi National Park, not just history. This booklet was produced in Russian and English.

Indicator 2: A booklet on the history of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks in English  
 Assessment: The booklet "Oulanka-Paanajärvi – From Past to Present: History of Oulanka National Park and Paanajärvi National Park" was produced.

Indicator 3: A trilingual map (Russian, Finnish and English) on natural and cultural sites of visit in North-Western Russia and in North-Eastern Finland

Assessment: This map was produced. One map is as part of an information panel. The same map is available in the electronic information points.

Indicator 4: Four information panels about Paanajärvi National Park in Oulanka National Park  
 Assessment: Three information panels were produced and are placed in Oulanka National Park and one is placed in Paanajärvi National Park. Also an information panel about Oulanka National Park was produced for Paanajärvi National Park.

Indicator 5: An information panel of Paanajärvi Visitor Centre and visitor centres of Metsähallitus for Paanajärvi Visitor Centre

Assessment: This panel was produced and is at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park to be placed later in Paanajärvi National Park.

Indicator 6: Four information sheets of the four different seasons (one sheet each) that highlight different destinations to be visited in different seasons

Assessment: These sheets were produced as roll-ups. There is one roll-up for each of the four seasons depicting scenes from Paanajärvi National Park.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

The aim of this activity was to enable more effective communication on region's natural and cultural sites to visitors thus contributing towards ecological sustainability of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks. The designs and products produced were made to fulfil this goal. All planned products were produced so the activity was concluded successfully.

#### **Activity 4 Production of information material and development of facilities in Vartiolampi area and Arola Farm for preservation of cultural sites and promotion of cultural tourism within Paanajärvi National Park**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

##### **Arola Farm:**

A sauna and a grain storage building were built in the area of Arola Farm. These were built after the 1930's style. The sauna is a typical Finnish sauna with a vestibule and a main room where the stove is. The main room is the room used for washing and enjoying the warmth of the sauna. In the vestibule one dresses. The grain storage building has two storeys which can both be used for accommodation. Also a dry toilet was built in Arola as this was necessary for implementation of the construction works. The dry toilet is available for visitor use.

Three information panels (of aluminium, 1 size A0, 2 size A2) were produced and placed outside the buildings in Arola. These information panels tell about the life in the old days in the Arola Farm. The information panels are trilingual: Russian, Finnish and English. A brochure "Life at the Arola Farm" was printed. The brochure was produced in three languages: Finnish, English and Russian. There are 1,000 copies of the brochure in each language.

Both buildings have a commemorative plaque (of brass, size B5, languages Finnish, English, Russian) placed outside by the door of each building. This plaque tells that the building was

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constructed with support of the European Union. Also the dry toilet has a commemorative plaque.

***Vartiolampi area:***

A Karelian main house was constructed in the Vartiolampi area. This building was built after the 1930's style. The house has a vestibule and three rooms: one large main room and two smaller rooms. The smaller rooms house artefacts, such as a hand loom and a traditional Karelian dress. The large main room houses an oven and traditional furniture. Outside of the house a model water well and a part of a perimeter fence were constructed.

Five information panels (of aluminium, size A1, languages Russian, English, Finnish) were produced and placed outside the building. These information panels tell about life in the old days in Vartiolampi village. A brochure "Vartiolampi Village" was printed. The brochure was produced in two languages: Russian and English. There are 750 copies of the brochure in each language.

The building has a commemorative plaque (of brass, size B5, languages Russian, English, Finnish) placed outside by the door. This plaque tells that the building was constructed with support of the European Union.

***Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):***

There have been two modifications as to the outputs of the construction in Vartiolampi and Arola. There is a grain storage building in Arola instead of a planned cowshed as the storage building can be used better for accommodation. The grain storage building is larger than the cowshed and as a two-storey building both floors can be used for accommodation. In the discussions with the beneficiaries it was decided that the grain storage building would be better as it serves better the needs of the Paanajärvi National Park. This was reported in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Update Reports as well as in the Interim Report. Also a dry toilet was built as this was necessary for implementation of the construction works. The dry toilet is available for visitor use.

In Vartiolampi there is one large building instead of two smaller buildings. It was decided in the discussions with the beneficiaries that one large building would be built as this serves best the needs of Paanajärvi National Park and the tourism industry. All effort was put into the one building and building of the outhouse was not taken forward. The large building will be used for accommodation and as lecture and practice hall for ecological camps that take place each year in the Park and it also can accommodate large groups of tourists. This kind of accommodation has previously been lacking in the Park. The building also houses an exhibition of old artefacts.

There is no interior exhibition in Arola as the sauna is used as sauna and the grain storage building is too dark inside to house an exhibition and is used for accommodation. For this reason the information panels were placed outside. It was noted at the end of the construction that the grain storage building was going to be too dark.

Originally, there were four information panels planned for both Arola and Vartiolampi. In the project, three information panels were made for Arola and five for Vartiolampi. There are already information panels in Arola area so it was decided that three was enough as in those three it was possible to present information on both buildings and on the Arola Farm in general. More effort was put to information panels in Vartiolampi as the area had no previous information panels.

***Conference at town W with X participants for Y days on Z dates***

An opening ceremony of these two reconstructed historical sites was held on July 26, 2008 together with the final project conference on July 25-27, 2008. The final project conference was held in Kuusamo, Pyaozerskiy and Paanajärvi National Park. There were 47 participants. The list of the participants is attached to the Final Report.

A commemorative 'kuksa' (Finnish wooden cup) was made for everyone as a conference gift as was a commemorative t-shirt with the photo of the Karelian house in Vartiolampi. A commemorative t-shirt was presented to the builders of Arola: Mr. Arto Hänninen, Mr. Simo Hyrkäs, Mr. Rauno Koramo and Mr. Juhani Kurvinen. Press release was given out to the

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media about the results of the project and about the final project conference and the opening ceremony. Newspaper articles were written about the event and one radio interview was conducted.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.

**Arola Farm:**

Indicator 1: Two buildings to be constructed: a sauna and a cowshed that houses an exhibition that shows life in an old Finnish village

Assessment: A sauna and a grain storage building were built. The grain storage building was constructed as this met better the needs of the project stakeholders. Also a dry toilet was built. No interior exhibition was produced, instead there are information panels placed outside of the buildings that tell about the life in the area. The sauna is used as a normal sauna and the grain storage building turned out to be too dark inside for an exhibition.

Indicator 2: Four information panels that have information on the old Finnish life in the area

Assessment: Three information panels were produced for Arola. Five panels were made for Vartiolampi (which is one more than planned there).

Indicator 3: A brochure on information for visitor guidance

Assessment: The brochure "Life at the Arola Farm" was produced.

**Vartiolampi area:**

Indicator 4: Two buildings to be constructed: a traditional Karelian house that harbours an exhibition that shows life in a Russian Karelian village in the old days, and an outhouse of a Karelian farm

Assessment: One large building was constructed as this met better with the needs of Paanajärvi National Park. This building houses an interior exhibition of old artefacts.

Indicator 5: Four information panels that have information on the old Karelian life in the area

Assessment: Five information panels were produced for Vartiolampi as one less than planned was produced for Arola. There were already panels in Arola but not in Vartiolampi so the effort was put to produce more information for Vartiolampi.

Indicator 6: A brochure on information for visitor guidance

Assessment: The brochure "Vartiolampi Village" was produced.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

The aim of this activity was the promotion of cultural tourism and preservation of cultural sites through reconstruction of buildings and production of information to depict life in olden times. This aim can be judged achieved as the buildings are finished and informational material is produced.

**Activity 5 Development of waste management in Paanajärvi National Park***Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

A bilingual map of waste recollection and recycling sites in Paanajärvi National Park was produced; this was made in Russian and English. This map shows the waste recollection and recycling sites in Paanajärvi National Park thus guiding the visitors to use those sites for their waste management.

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Four waste recollection and recycling sites were established: one at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and three in Paanajärvi National Park. These sites are: 1) at the bridge of Olanga River, 2) in Vartiolampi area, and 3) at the shore of Lake Paanajärvi. Each site has a container for each of the following type of waste: metal, plastic and glass. In addition, there are panels at each site that give instructions on how to handle waste that can be burnt and waste that is biodegradable.

Each waste recollection and recycling site has two panels giving instructions on waste management and recycling, both panels have the same content in Russian and English. At each site there is also the map panel showing the waste recollection and recycling sites within Paanajärvi National Park.

A brochure "Preserve the nature when you travel" with instructions for sorting of waste and instructions for park visitors was prepared in Russian and English. 500 copies of the brochure were printed on each language.

*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

No waste management plan as such was made. The instructions for visitors on waste management were produced as panels and brochures. This material and the map showing the waste recollection and recycling sites are incorporated into the plans of Paanajärvi National Park that the Park makes for its normal function. Thus there was no need to produce a separate waste management plan.

There were four waste recollection and recycling sites established instead of three as one was also established at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and the planned three in Paanajärvi National Park.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.

Indicator 1: A waste management plan, including a map of the locations of waste collection sites

Assessment: The instructions for visitors on waste management were produced as panels and brochures. This material and the map showing the waste recollection and recycling sites are incorporated into the plans of Paanajärvi National Park that the Park makes for its normal function. Thus there was no need to produce a separate waste management plan.

Indicator 2: A brochure and three information panels on guidelines for waste management and low impact back country travel

Assessment: A brochure "Preserve the nature when you travel" was produced. Two panels and one map panel was produced for each of the four established waste recollection and recycling sites.

Indicator 3: Three waste recollection sites established with information panels on waste management and the guidelines on low impact travel

Assessment: There were four waste recollection and recycling sites established. One was established at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and three at different sites within Paanajärvi National Park. Each site has a collection of three panels showing the location of the sites and giving instructions of waste management within the Park.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

This activity had as its aim the contribution towards ecological sustainability and enjoyment of visitors in Paanajärvi National Park. As these new waste recollection sites and visitor information panels and brochures are produced the goal was achieved. The waste can now be collected in a more organised manner and the visitors are educated about the importance of recycling.

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**Activity 6 Development of cooperation and partnership between Paanajärvi National Park, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

Analysis of the present state of the tourist sector and the entrepreneurs in the region of Paanajärvi National Park was made. This information was used in production of the “Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia” (STDS). In the STDS the region influenced by the Paanajärvi National Park and that influences the Park (the Park itself and its vicinity) is referred to as the PAN Parks region as the STDS has been made following the guidelines of STDS of PAN Parks. Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks are both members of the PAN Parks network and thus follow the guidelines of the network when it comes to sustainable tourism in the Parks.

A local support group or Paanajärvi cooperation group (in the terms of the PAN Parks network the local PAN Parks group, LPPG) was established to promote the development of the PAN Parks region. It incorporates representatives of the National Park, local government, local people and businesses. The cooperation group adopted its charter and a joint action plan. These documents along with the list of members are incorporated into the STDS as Supplements. Paanajärvi cooperation group was very helpful in collecting material for the STDS. It prepared the criteria for selection and principles of work with possible business partners of the National Park. In July of 2007 verifiers of PAN Park Foundation visited Paanajärvi National Park in order to verify the STDS in practice and on the field. During the visit a meeting with members of Paanajärvi cooperation group took place and the verifiers gave recommendations for further improvement of the work and implementation of the STDS. A working meeting of the LPPG with a trip to the Park was organised to check the restoration work at Arola and Vartiolampi historical sites.

Four guides from Paanajärvi National Park participated in the training course for nature guides “As a guide in Oulanka National Park” in order to learn about the training and its applicability in Paanajärvi National Park. Assessment of training needs for nature guides in Paanajärvi National Park was made and a report “Analysis of the need in training of nature guides in National Park Paanajarvi” was prepared in Russian and English. It gives a possibility to select the direction of work to improve the quality of guided tours for the visitors of Paanajärvi National Park. The analysis contains recommendations for training of the nature guides for the next 10 years.

*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

This activity was not modified.

*Conference at town W with X participants for Y days on Z dates:*

At the start of the project, in August 25-28, 2006, a seminar was conducted on “Experience of cooperation with the local support group of Oulanka National Park in preparation of the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy”. The seminar took place in Paanajärvi National Park and in Pyaozerskiy. During the seminar cooperation of the two protected areas was analysed as well as the prerequisites for successful development of international tourism. The experience of Oulanka cooperation group was studied. The list of the participants is attached to the Final Report. There were 16 participants.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

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Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.

Indicator 1: Report on the analysis of tourism sector

Assessment: Selected material of the analysis was used in the development of the STDS. The STDS is produced and is endorsed by the PAN Parks network.

Indicator 2: Seminar of the establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group

Assessment: This seminar was held in August 2006.

Indicator 3: Establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group

Assessment: Paanajärvi cooperation group is established.

Indicator 4: Meetings of Paanajärvi cooperation group

Assessment: Meetings have been held by the cooperation group.

Indicator 5: Participation in training of nature guides in Oulanka National Park

Assessment: Four guides from Paanajärvi National Park participated in the training for nature guides "As a guide in Oulanka National Park".

Indicator 6: Report on assessment of training needs of nature guides in Paanajärvi National Park

Assessment: The report "Analysis of the need in training of nature guides in National Park Paanajarvi" was produced.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

The aim of this activity was the promotion of involvement and ownership of local entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the actions taken in Paanajärvi National Park in order to preserve and strengthen the status of the area as the most important and attractive destination for nature-oriented tourism in the region. This aim was achieved through the establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group and through the group's involvement in the development of the STDS. This activity was successful.

### **Activity 7 Development of a Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for Paanajärvi National Park and assessment of effectiveness of Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark cooperation**

*Please elaborate on the activities covered:*

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given.

A detailed analysis of the tourist sector of the PAN Parks region and of the attractions and resources for sustainable tourism of Paanajärvi National Park was made and was included in the "Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia" (STDS). Report "Insight in cross boundary development for the international market" by Consultant in Tourism, Mylène van der Donk, was produced.

A group of schoolchildren under the guidance of a research worker made a questionnaire for the visitors (visitor survey) in the National Park and conducted a poll during the summer season of 2007. On the basis of the collected data, analysis of categories of visitors was made and results have been included in the STDS. A report "Analysis of questionnaires of visitors to National Park Paanajarvi in 2007" was prepared in Russian and English.

A research group from the Institute of Forest of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Science collected material on impacts of recreational use in various zones in the National Park and on sustainability of the recreational use and nature-oriented tourism in the Park. The results are presented in a report "Analysis of the condition and sustainability of

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different components of eco-systems which are affected by ecological tourism and recreation at the present stage of development of National Park Paanajarvi” in Russian and in English.

All material collected for the STDS was analysed and used in the STDS. SWOT-analysis of the territory was made, a marketing concept was defined, a strategy for accommodation of visitors was produced, and an action plan of joint activities of the local support group and Paanajärvi National Park was adopted. These form a part of the STDS.

One task of this activity was to facilitate a site visit of PAN Parks verifiers that came to verify the STDS in Paanajärvi National Park. The site visit took place on June 18-22 of 2007 and was conducted by two PAN Parks appointed verifiers: Gordon Miller and Alexander Zinke. This task was not tendered (although it exceeded 5,000 €) as it is the practice of the PAN Parks Foundation to appoint the impartial verifiers and the cost is decided between the PAN Parks Foundation and the verifiers. In this case, the project, the PAN Parks Foundation and Paanajärvi National Park contributed to cover the costs of the verification of Paanajärvi National Park. The verifiers produced the report “PAN Parks Verification, Paanajarvi National Park, Russia – Monitoring Report Principles 1-3and Verification Report Principle 4”.

Production of the “Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia” (STDS) was completed. The Strategy is available in Russian and English. The final document was acclaimed positively by the PAN Parks Foundation, LPPG, authorities of the Republic of Karelia and by the Administration of the Loukhi region. The Strategy was intended for the Paanajärvi National Park and the PAN Parks region (which in practical terms means the Loukhi region). The Strategy is an instrument for attaining of long-term sustainability of ecological and socio-economic development of the territory. Work on STDS gave a possibility to make an objective assessment of the present situation of the PAN Parks region and adjoining areas in relation to development of tourism and to develop a plan of future activities for development of the whole territory.

In order to strengthen the partnership with PAN Parks network a study visit to Bulgaria was conducted on October 4-12, 2007. Project Coordinator Natalia Bizhon, Specialist in Tourism and Communication Yuri Tigushkin, member of Paanajärvi cooperation group Mayor of Pyaozerskiy Aleksandr Moiseenko and Project Manager Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen participated in this trip. The Central Balkan National Park was visited in order to learn about park’s business partners in order to facilitate future business partner certification in Paanajärvi National Park. The group also participated in the PAN Parks Conference “Europe’s Wilderness Days 2007” in the vicinity of Rila National Park as part of the study trip. Project Manager gave a presentation on the project in the conference as well as acted as a secretary and spokesperson for a group work session.

An assessment on the effectiveness of cooperation between Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks was carried out by the Interreg project. There is a report available in Finnish. A summary of the report was translated into English in the project as the report “Evaluation of the cooperation of the Oulanka and Paanajarvi National Parks”.

*Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):*

The activity was not modified.

*Conference at town W with X participants for Y days on Z dates:*

Seminar was held on “Opportunities for nature-oriented tourism and guaranteeing of sustainability – Visit and seminar: Kostamuksha Strictly Protected Area, Friendship Park, Kalevala Parks, Oulanka-Paanajärvi and Kutsa Protected Area” on August 27-29, 2007 in Pyaozerskiy and in Paanajärvi National Park. Representatives from protected areas in Russia and in Finland, from research organisations and from the press took part in it. Many presentations and discussions were held as well as on-site visits to Paanajärvi National Park were made. The list of the participants is attached to the Final Report. There were 26 participants.

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Seminar was held on “Sustainable ecological tourism and education in protected areas in Russia and Finland” on April 8-11, 2008 at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park in Pyaozerskiy and in Paanajärvi National Park. Representatives of Metsähallitus from Finland and from three national parks in Russia participated in the discussions on ecological tourism and education and in the field trip to the Park. There were nine participants in the seminar. The list of participants is attached to the Final Report.

Seminar on “Experiences on research of sustainability of nature and nature-based tourism in protected areas” was held on May 3-7, 2008 in the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Petrozavodsk. This was a seminar that was aimed at students of the ecological school of Paanajärvi National Park. The students met the researchers and learned how to research sustainability in protected areas. The students also visited other organisations devoted to nature in Petrozavodsk. There were 22 participants. The list of participants is attached to the Final Report.

A Training Seminar on “Limits of Acceptable Change and research in monitoring of sustainability of nature-based tourism and recreational use of nature” was conducted on June 2-5, 2008 at Oulanka Research Station in Oulanka National Park. Researchers from Finland (University of Oulu), researchers from Russia (Karelian Research Centre), staff of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks and other national parks and project personnel participated in the training course. There were 22 participants (during the first day there were additional 20 people listening to the presentations). The list of participants is attached to the Final Report.

*Your assessment of the results of this activity:*

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for this activity as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project.

**Indicator 1: Report on assessment of tourism attractions and resources in Paanajärvi National Park**

**Assessment:** An analysis of the tourist sector of the PAN Parks region and of the attractions and resources for sustainable tourism of Paanajärvi National Park was made and was included in the “Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia” (STDS). There is also a report “Insight in cross boundary development for the international market” by Consultant in Tourism, Mylène van der Donk.

**Indicator 2: Report on assessment of impact of tourism through visitor surveys**

**Assessment:** The report “Analysis of questionnaires of visitors to National Park Paanajarvi in 2007” was prepared.

**Indicator 3: Report on analysis on different elements of sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreation**

**Assessment:** The report “Analysis of the condition and sustainability of different components of eco-systems which are affected by ecological tourism and recreation at the present stage of development of National Park Paanajarvi” was produced.

**Indicator 4: Training in “Limits of Acceptable Change” methodology**

**Assessment:** The training seminar on “Limits of Acceptable Change and research in monitoring of sustainability of nature-based tourism and recreational use of nature” was conducted in June, 2008.

**Indicators 5 and 6: Seminar on sustainable nature-oriented tourism and two seminars on development of the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy**

**Assessment:** Four seminars and a training seminar were held. In each of these seminars themes involving sustainable nature-oriented tourism were discussed.

**Indicator 7: A Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy**

**Assessment:** The “Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia” was prepared.



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Indicator 8: Visit to PAN Parks Headquarters in Hungary and to Central Balkan / Rila National Park in Bulgaria

Assessment: A study visit to Bulgaria was conducted in October, 2007. Central Balkan and Rila National Parks were visited. The representatives of the PAN Parks Foundation were met at the PAN Parks Conference "Europe's Wilderness Days 2007" in Bulgaria and so no visit to Headquarters in Hungary was deemed necessary.

Indicator 9: Report on verification of Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy

Assessment: The report "PAN Parks Verification, Paanajarvi National Park, Russia – Monitoring Report Principles 1-3 and Verification Report Principle 4" was prepared.

The assessment of these indicators shows that objectives of this activity were achieved and thus the objectives of the activity were fulfilled.

The aim of this activity was developing the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for Paanajärvi National Park in order to ascertain sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreation in the future as it is a prerequisite for use of the national parks and for continuity of nature-oriented tourism and assessing effectiveness of twin park cooperation in order to develop it further. The STDS is concluded and is endorsed by the PAN Parks network. The assessment of twin park cooperation was done by the Interreg project and was translated into English in this project. Both the STDS and the assessment of the twinpark cooperation are available as reports.

2. Please list all materials and publications (and no. of copies) produced during the project to date and include one copy of each item in the report.

Please state how your publications are being distributed and to whom.

*List of materials and publications produced*

Examples of these materials are in the folder "Project Products".

- 2 electronic information points installed and functioning in Russia: 1 at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and 1 in the building of Loukhi Region Administration
- 1 electronic version of the map of Paanajärvi National Park
- 1 electronic version of the map of waste recollection and recycling sites in Paanajärvi National Park
- 3 information panels of Paanajärvi National Park in Oulanka National Park
- 1 information panel of Oulanka National Park at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 1 information panel of Paanajärvi National Park at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 2 information panels "Code of Conduct of the Paanajärvi National Park" at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park
- 6 information panels "Code of Conduct of the Paanajärvi National Park" at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 1 map panel of Paanajärvi National Park at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park
- 3 map panels of Paanajärvi National Park at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 4 tourist map panels in Paanajärvi National Park
- 1 information panel of natural sites of visits in Finland and Russia at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 1 information panel of visitor centres in Russia and Finland at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park later to be placed in Paanajärvi National Park
- 3 information panels on Arola
- 5 information panels on Vartiolampi

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- 3 commemorative plaques for the buildings in Arola, 1 commemorative plaque for the building in Vartiolampi
- 4 roll-ups that show Paanajärvi National Park's four different seasons
- 4 waste recollection and recycling sites
- 8 panels of instructions on waste management and recycling
- 4 map panels of locations of the waste recollection and recycling sites within Paanajärvi National Park
- 1,500 copies of the booklet "National park Paanajarvi"
- 600 copies of the booklet "Oulanka-Paanajärvi – From Past to Present: History of Oulanka National Park and Paanajärvi National Park"
- 3,000 copies of the brochure "Life at the Arola Farm"
- 1,500 copies of the brochure "Vartiolampi Village"
- 1,000 copies of the brochure "Preserve the nature when you travel"
- 2,000 copies of the brochure "National Park Paanajarvi"
- 100 copies of the commemorative t-shirt with picture of Vartiolampi house
- 6 copies of the commemorative t-shirt for the builders of Arola
- 50 copies of the commemorative "kuksa" of Arola and Vartiolampi
- 1 document "Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia"
- 1 report "Analysis of the need in training of nature guides in National Park Paanajarvi"
- 1 report "Insight in cross boundary development for the international market"
- 1 report "Analysis of questionnaires of visitors to National Park Paanajarvi in 2007"
- 1 report "Analysis of the condition and sustainability of different components of eco-systems which are affected by ecological tourism and recreation at the present stage of development of National Park Paanajarvi"
- 1 report "PAN Parks Verification, Paanajarvi National Park, Russia – Monitoring Report Principles 1-3and Verification Report Principle 4"
- 1 report "Evaluation of the cooperation of the Oulanka and Paanajarvi National Parks".

*Distribution of materials and publications produced*

Electronic information points are installed in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and in the Administration building of Loukhi Region. The electronic information points can be browsed in these places to which the public has access.

Information panels are placed in the areas in the Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks and in the Paanajärvi Visitor Centre to which the visitors have access. In these places the information panels can be observed by the visitors. The commemorative plaques are on the buildings constructed in the Paanajärvi National Park. The roll-ups are placed in the Paanajärvi Visitor Centre to which the visitors have access. The roll-ups can be taken to e.g. tourism fairs or presentations.

The brochures and booklets are available to the visitors in the Paanajärvi Visitor Centre and in the Metsähallitus office in Kuusamo. The brochures on Vartiolampi and Arola are also available at the restored sites.

T-shirts and "kuksas" were given out as conference gifts to the participants in the Final Project Conference.

The document "Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia" is distributed through the organisations that are represented in the Paanajärvi cooperation group, Metsähallitus and PAN Parks network. Other reports are distributed through Paanajärvi National Park administration and Metsähallitus to relevant stakeholders. Both organisations take great care that the results of the project are distributed throughout the organisation and to the relevant stakeholders.

3. What problems have arisen and how have these been addressed?

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There have been no problems in the implementation of the project. There have been some modifications to the budget and these have addressed the needs for some changes that arose during the implementation of the project.

4. Please outline any activities and publications foreseen in the agreement that have not taken place and any other changes to the foreseen activities or timetable, explaining the reasons for these.

*Changes to the activities or publications*

For the most part, activities have been conducted and publications produced as foreseen in the agreement as can be seen from the follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up, a detailed description of the status of each task is given and this follow-up is attached to the Final Report.

**Activity 1**

There was an evaluation planned for the project but as no evaluation was required by the EC Delegation to Russia as confirmed by the Project Officer Natalia Zabrodotskaya in her e-mail dated June 18 2008, the resources reserved for the evaluation were used to cover other costs as there was need to cover costs in some other items under the heading 5. (as explained in the Section A, Question 2).

Visibility actions conducted are described below in the Section F, Question 1. It was planned that two visibility trips to Moscow and Petrozavodsk was to take place. There were no actual visibility trips *per se* but the project staff presented the project in numerous occasions in Russia and Finland as described below in Section F, Question 1. Visibility material was produced to be given out at such occasions (brochure on Paanajärvi National Park).

**Activity 3**

Instead of four information panels on Paanajärvi National Park for Oulanka National Park, three information panels were made for Oulanka National Park and one for the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park. An additional information panel on Oulanka National Park was made for Paanajärvi National Park. Also eight panels of "Code of Conduct of the Paanajärvi National Park" were made with accompanying map panels of Paanajärvi National Park. Also tourist map panels were produced. These changes were made as they give added value to the information panels produced. The electronic version of the bilingual map of Paanajärvi National Park was very useful in production of different nature interpretation and visitor guidance material; this is also very practical in development of future materials of Paanajärvi National Park.

The planned booklet on history of Paanajärvi National Park is not only in Russian but also in English and contains also natural history of the Park. These changes give added value to the product.

The produced four roll-ups present information on Paanajärvi National Park and not on other sites of visit. In the Interreg project similar roll-ups were made on different sites of visit in Finland and thus the roll-ups made in this project complement nicely the whole. The roll-ups can be used in the marketing of Paanajärvi National Park and were thus deemed important.

**Activity 4**

There have been two modifications as to the outputs of the construction in Vartiolampi and Arola. There is a grain storage building in Arola instead of a planned cowshed as the storage building can be used better for accommodation. The grain storage building is larger than the cowshed and as a two-storey building both floors can be used for accommodation. In the discussions with the beneficiaries it was decided that the grain storage building would be

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better as it serves better the needs of the Paanajärvi National Park. This was reported in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Update Reports as well as in the Interim Report. Also a dry toilet was constructed in Arola as this was necessary during the construction works. The dry toilet now caters the visitors.

In Vartiolampi there is one large building instead of two smaller buildings. It was decided in the discussions with the beneficiaries that one large building would be built as this serves best the needs of Paanajärvi National Park and the tourism industry. All effort was put into the one building and building of the outhouse was not taken forward. The large building will be used for accommodation and as lecture and practice hall for ecological camps that take place each year in the Park and also it can accommodate large groups of tourists. This kind of accommodation has previously been lacking in the Park. The building also houses an exhibition of old artefacts. This was reported in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Update Reports as well as in the Interim Report.

There is no interior exhibition in Arola as the sauna is used as sauna and the grain storage building is too dark inside to house an exhibition and is used for accommodation. For this reason the information panels were placed outside. It was noted at the end of the construction that the grain storage building was going to be too dark.

Originally, there were four information panels planned for both Arola and Vartiolampi. In the project, three information panels were made for Arola and five for Vartiolampi. There were already information panels in Arola area so it was decided that three was enough as in those three it was possible to present information on both buildings and on the Arola Farm in general. More effort was put to information panels in Vartiolampi as the area had no previous information panels.

**Activity 5**

Four waste recollection and recycling sites were established instead of the planned three. The additional site is placed at the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park. No waste management plan as such was made. The instructions for visitors on waste management were produced as panels and brochures. This material and the map showing the waste recollection and recycling sites are incorporated into the plans of Paanajärvi National Park that the Park makes for its normal function. Thus there was no need to produce a separate waste management plan.

*Changes to the timetable*

Although there were changes in the timetable planned, all activities planned were conducted and all products produced. In practice, many activities took place later than originally planned as the project was slow to start. One activity that started earlier than planned was the design of Arola and Vartiolampi which turned out to be good as construction was very time-consuming. There is an Updated Action Plan attached to the Final Report.

**5. Please provide an updated action plan (Annex C) for the entire implementation period.**

There is an Updated Action Plan attached to the Final Report. Also the follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks is attached and gives a detailed account of the status of each task.

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**D. Results, Impact, Multiplier effect, and Evaluation**

1. What results have been achieved during the reporting period (based on the results anticipated in your project application)? Please quantify these results, where possible.

The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report as is a follow-up of progress of project activities and tasks. In the follow-up a detailed description of the status of each task is given and each project product is described. Products of the project have been extensively discussed in Section C, Questions 1 and 2. All project products have been produced and thus all activities have been successfully conducted. This means that the project has also achieved its results. Below, there is an assessment of results based on the indicators of the logical framework which was attached to the project application and is part of the contract.

Results of the project according to the logical framework:

1. Nature interpretation and visitor guidance practices and effectiveness of communication on nature-oriented tourism strengthened, and channelling of visitor use to decrease risk of overcrowding in National Parks improved
2. Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for Paanajärvi National Park developed, strengthening ecological and socio-economic sustainability of Paanajärvi National Park and cooperation between tourism sector, Paanajärvi National Park and other stakeholders
3. Waste management of Paanajärvi National Park developed, strengthening ecological sustainability of Paanajärvi National Park
4. Different elements of sustainability analysed and overall sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreational use of nature in National Parks and effectiveness of Oulanka-Paanajärvi cooperation assessed

Below, there is the list of indicators of achievement of results according to the logical framework and an assessment whether the results have been achieved.

Indicator 1: Two GIS-based electronic information points placed for visitor use

Assessment: This indicator has to do with the Result 1. There are now two electronic information points installed and functioning in Russia. These are installed in places to which the visitors have access. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Indicator 2: Nature interpretation and visitor guidance material on display in Paanajärvi National Park Visitor Centre, in Ruka, at fairs and in Oulanka National Park

Assessment: This indicator is related to the Result 1. The project has produced information panels, brochures, booklets and roll-ups for nature interpretation and visitor guidance. These are displayed in areas to which the visitors have access and the printed material is available for the visitors in Russia and in Finland. Also material can be taken to tourism fairs for marketing. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Indicator 3: Upgrading of Vartiolampi and Arola Farm through construction and exhibition

Assessment: This indicator is linked to the Result 1. Two buildings (and a dry toilet) were constructed in Arola and one in Vartiolampi based on models of the 1930's. Information panels were placed outside of the buildings. These panels tell about life in the old times in the area. The building in Vartiolampi houses also an exhibition of old artefacts and depicts old-style living with furniture, loom and fireplace. Buildings can be used for learning about old times, for accommodation and as meeting places. The sauna is also available for visitors. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

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Indicator 4: Three waste management sites established with information on waste management and low impact back country travel

Assessment: This indicator has to do with the Result 3. Four waste recollection and recycling sites were established. Each site has panels instructing the visitors on how to manage their waste and how to recycle it. Each site has also a map panel that shows the location of each waste recollection and recycling site in Paanajärvi National Park.

Indicator 5: Establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group

Assessment: This indicator has to do with the Result 2. Paanajärvi cooperation group was established and has regular meetings. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Indicator 6: Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for Paanajärvi National Park

Assessment: This indicator is connected to the Result 2. The document "Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy – Paanajarvi National Park and PAN Parks Region, Republic of Karelia, Russia" (STDS) was produced and approved by the PAN Parks Foundation. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Indicator 7: Report on sustainability in Paanajärvi National Park

Assessment: This indicator is related to the Result 4. The report "Analysis of the condition and sustainability of different components of eco-systems which are affected by ecological tourism and recreation at the present stage of development of National Park Paanajarvi" was produced. The results of this report were presented in several seminars. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Indicator 8: Report on twinpark cooperation

Assessment: This indicator is linked to the Result 4. The report on the Oulanka-Paanajärvi cooperation was produced in Finnish in the Interreg project. A summary of the report "Evaluation of the cooperation of the Oulanka and Paanajarvi National Parks" was produced in English in this project. Assessment of achievement of this result is positive.

Based on this assessment of how these indicators were achieved in the project it is safe to say that the project has fulfilled its results.

2. What is your assessment of the results of the project so far? Include observations on the extent to which foreseen goals are being met and whether the project has had any unforeseen positive or negative results (see Indicators in Logframe).

In the previous point the achievement of results of the project was analysed in detail based on the achievement of indicators of the results in the logical framework. As the assessment showed the results were achieved so it is reasonable to expect that also the specific objectives of the project were achieved. Below, there is an assessment of project goals (specific objectives) based on the indicators of the logical framework. The logical framework of the project is attached to the Final Report.

Here is the list of specific objectives of the project:

1. To develop policies, facilities and services of Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark as one entity by applying the best international methods together with local stakeholders
2. To strengthen socio-economic sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreational use of nature by development of cooperation and partnership between Paanajärvi National Park, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders and by development of nature interpretation and cultural sites of visit
3. To contribute to ecological sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreational use of nature in Paanajärvi National Park by development of waste management and improvement

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of channelling of visitor use in order to avoid crowding of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks by communicating comprehensively on possibilities offered by the Parks and marketing actively other natural and cultural sites of visit in the region to visitors

4. To assess socio-economic and ecological sustainability of nature-oriented tourism and recreational use of nature and effectiveness of Oulanka-Paanajärvi cooperation

**Indicator 1: Degree of standardisation and integration of policies and practices in Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark increased**

**Assessment:** This indicator is related to the Specific Objective 1. Cooperation between the twin parks Oulanka and Paanajärvi has become much closer through the joint implementation of the project. Principles of the Parks' management policies and practices have been standardised as both Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks belong to the PAN Parks network and have thus followed its standards for the establishment of cooperation groups and development of STDS. This indicator is also related to the production of nature interpretation and visitor guidance material and restoration of Arola and Vartiolampi historical sites. All material was produced in close cooperation and construction works were closely integrated. Assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive.

**Indicator 2: Degree of involvement of relevant actors in National Park actions increased**

**Assessment:** This indicator is related to the Specific Objective 2. This has to do with the establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group in order to guarantee involvement and ownership of local entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the actions taken in Paanajärvi National Park. There is now a Paanajärvi cooperation group that meets regularly. Paanajärvi cooperation group participated also in the development of the STDS thus becoming more involved in the work of the Park. Assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive.

**Indicator 3: Degree of visitor learning on Paanajärvi National Park increased**

**Assessment:** This indicator is linked to the Specific Objective 2 and 3. Lots of nature interpretation and visitor guidance material was produced in the project and it is made available to the visitors. The effectiveness of cultural tourism has increased with restoration of the objects of cultural heritage. Paanajärvi National Park is famous not only as a territory of nature conservation but also as a historical and cultural site. Many things were also learned about the sustainability of the Park through studies and which can now be communicated to the visitors. Assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive although a better understanding of how much visitor learning has increased can be obtained in the future through visitor surveys.

**Indicator 4: Degree of deterioration of the most visited sites in Oulanka National Park decreased and deterioration avoided in Paanajärvi National Park**

**Assessment:** This indicator is connected with the Specific Objective 3. This is something that is difficult to measure during lifetime of the project. One of the goals of the electronic information points is channelling of visitor use in order to avoid crowding of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks and this is achieved through presentation of other natural and cultural sites of visit in the region in order to even out the visitor pressure in different sites within and without the National Parks. We feel that the project has achieved this through the tools that it has so the assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive.

**Indicator 5: Degree of waste recollection times decreased**

**Assessment:** This indicator is related to the Specific Objective 3. A new waste sorting system was put into practice in Paanajärvi National Park. The results of how well this works can be expected during the summer of 2009 during the high visiting season. It is expected though that as people are made more aware of litter-free travel and sorting of waste, less waste is produced and the need for waste recollection decreases. Based on this, assessment of achievement of this indicator is deemed positive.

**Contract Number: 2006/123-534****Indicator 6: Degree of communication effectiveness increased**

Assessment: This indicator has to do with the Specific Objective 3. This is difficult to assess during lifetime of the project. This can be better assessed in subsequent years through visitor surveys. Information from users of electronic information points is also essential in assessment of the achievement of this indicator. Lots of communication material was produced and new communication tools – the electronic information points – were put into practice so there is the expectation that communication effectiveness is increased. Thus assessment of achievement of this indicator can be deemed positive.

**Indicator 7: Assessment of sustainability in Paanajärvi National Park**

Assessment: This indicator is linked to the Specific Objective 4. Assessment of sustainability of nature-based tourism and recreational use of nature in Paanajärvi National Park was carried out and results presented. It is assessed that nature-oriented tourism and recreational use of nature in Paanajärvi National Park have a sustainable pattern. Visits by the tourists to natural sites of visit in the National Park and its surroundings do not have negative impact on the biological diversity since these are organised in such a way that there is no overcrowding in the main attractions and visitors are guided to use trails, and the visitors' expectations are fulfilled. This helps to maintain the attractiveness of the protected area. Assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive.

**Indicator 8: Assessment of effectiveness of twinpark cooperation**

Assessment: This indicator is linked to the Specific Objective 4. An assessment of the effectiveness of Oulanka-Paanajärvi cooperation was made by the Interreg project and summary of the study was translated into English in this project. The overall assessment of the cooperation was very positive. It is widely thought that the twin park cooperation boosts the local tourism industry in a significant manner. The National Parks are deemed to be the most important resource in the region for nature-based tourism. Assessment of achievement of this indicator is positive.

Overall assessment is that the project achieved its specific objectives. No unforeseen positive or negative results were detected. As the project has achieved its specific objectives it is also safe to say that it has contributed towards the fulfilment of the overall objective. The overall objective of the project is something that the project alone cannot achieve as this depends on other actors as well but the project will work towards it through the achievement of its specific objectives. Thus it can be concluded that the project has done its part in the achievement of the overall objective.

**3. What has been the impact on both the beneficiaries &/or target group (if different) and the situation in the target country population or target region which the project addressed?**

Below, there is a list of the target groups and beneficiaries according to the project application form.

Target groups: nature- and culture-oriented tourism businesses in Russian Karelia and Finland, North-East Finland region and Loukhi District, tourism associations, organisations of research and education, management of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks, PAN Parks network, and tourism development organisations.

Beneficiaries: conservation (species and habitats), hikers and outdoors people (national and international), customers of tourism businesses (national and international), local people, customer service people in the region, and tourism industry.

Implementation of the project has strengthened the cooperation between the twin parks. Today, the twin park Oulanka-Paanajärvi can serve as a model for transboundary cooperation. This is the most important national as well as international tourist attraction and resource in



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the region. Products produced and results achieved by the project are very useful to the long-term management of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks.

Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy was produced in the project. It laid down the programme for development of nature-based tourism in Paanajärvi National Park and the neighbouring area and unified the regional actors in the development efforts. Production of the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy of Paanajärvi National Park has positive influence on development of sustainable tourism and on attaining of the socioeconomic and ecological sustainability in the region as a whole. Involvement of representatives of the state authorities of Loukhi Region and of local administration of Pyaozerskiy Township in the local cooperation group helps to integrate the project activities in the plans of socioeconomic development of the region in general.

Production of information materials and development of infrastructure in historical sites of Vartiolampi and Arola gives an impetus to development of historical and cultural tourism and preservation of the cultural heritage in the region. Also the improvement of other services of Paanajärvi National Park through production of nature interpretation and visitor guidance material boosts tourism development in the whole region as more visitors are attracted to the Park. Also, the visitors to Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks can enjoy improvement of services that was achieved through the project. This gives opportunities for development of tourism and tourism products for local businesses in Russia and also in Finland. Development of strategies, facilities and infrastructure lays the ground for further tourism development thus being beneficial for the target groups and the beneficiaries.

The activities conducted by the National Park and supported by the project (such as “March of the parks”, the summer ecological camps, the study tours for schoolchildren to other protected nature territories in Russia and in Finland, joint seminars, etc.) enhance the ecological awareness of the people and engage the local citizens in the work of Paanajärvi National Park. Nature interpretation material produced by the project is also available to be used in school work in the region and especially for the ecological school organised by Paanajärvi National Park for the young people.

According to the opinion of the researches who conducted research in the territory of Paanajärvi National Park, at present recreational use of nature does not incur significant irreversible negative impacts on nature in the Park. The researches give scientifically justified recommendations how to control anthropogenic stress on natural ecosystems connected with development of tourism in Paanajärvi National Park. The scientists’ report confirms that the activities conducted in the National Park in the sphere of nature protection fully meet the European standards. This means that there is no danger that the Park is losing its main attraction – its unique nature. For nature-oriented tourism, nature is the essence and thus nature-oriented tourism needs to be always conducted in a manner that respects nature. The maintenance of attractiveness of the Park when it comes to nature is beneficial for target groups and beneficiaries as development of nature-based tourism is depended on protection of nature as already stated. Exchange of experiences between Russian and Finnish scientists organised by the project has helped to strengthen the cooperation between difference research institutions in Russia and Finland and to coordinate research methods in the two countries.

Promotion of Paanajärvi National Park as a sustainable tourism destination links the Park to the European PAN Parks network through which the participating parks can benefit from each other’s experiences and through which potential tourists can find sustainable tourism destinations.

4. How and by whom have activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received, including from the beneficiaries.

Implementation of the project activities was monitored and evaluated by the management of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks, the Steering Committee of the project, the Steering Committee of the Interreg project, the Tacis Project Coordinator and the Project Manager of

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the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project, the PAN Parks Foundation verifiers and Paanajärvi cooperation group. Feedback was positive and all participants were satisfied with the results of the project as evidenced by positive feedback given in the Final Project Conference.

5. What impact is the project having on your organisation and on your partners?

For Metsähallitus the project gives an opportunity to strengthen the relationship with Paanajärvi National Park and to strengthen the twin park concept. Cooperation between Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks has been a fundamental part of the existence of both Parks for the past 15 years. It is wonderful to realise how far the Parks have come on their common road. This project has strengthened the cooperation through many common activities between the parks. The cooperation is stronger than ever and makes future cooperation easier. Also the project has produced products that are very important and useful for Metsähallitus and Oulanka National Park.

For Paanajärvi National Park the informational back-up of the Park has reached a new quality level through the activities carried out in the project. The data bank of the Park has been modified according to international requirements. Today in its work the National Park applies the uniform principles and standards adopted in the European protected areas. Tourism potential of the territory has been researched and the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy worked out. Historical and cultural aspects have been studied which has given a start in tourism development in this direction. In the framework of the project, concrete steps have been taken to revive the sites of former settlements, which will help to preserve the cultural heritage of the territory. Thanks to the project support, the National Park has been awarded a certificate of PAN Parks Foundation due to the successful completion of the STDS. This certificate confirms the European level of service standards in the territory of the Park. Also, the level of international cooperation has improved through the implementation of the project.

6. How is your organisation ensuring that the results obtained / the lessons learned from the project, are being made public?

Visibility of project results is ensured by means of mass media, Internet web sites ([www.onego.ru](http://www.onego.ru), [www.karelia.ru](http://www.karelia.ru), and [www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi)), participation in regional, national and international seminars, participation in international and domestic exhibitions and fairs in the sphere of tourism, and presentation of the project at various regional, national and international fora. Web site [www.karelia.ru](http://www.karelia.ru) provides an interactive map of the park and hiking trails, which have been produced during the project implementation. Also the electronic information points are installed in places to which the public has access.

The staff of both Parks worked closely with the project. The project was not isolated from the normal work of the Parks thus ensuring ownership by the management of the Parks. Results of the project are disseminated within Metsähallitus which is a nation-wide organisation in Finland. Information on results is given to the administration of protected areas and to other protected areas in Russia.

Information was also disseminated through meetings of Paanajärvi cooperation group and the Steering Committee of the Interreg Project. Paanajärvi cooperation group was established with support of the project and it participated in monitoring the implementation of the project, ensuring its transparency and assisting in its execution. In addition, many local bodies, regional government, research and public organisations participated in writing of the STDS. The STDS is available to interested parties in Russian and in English. As both National Parks are part of the European PAN Parks network, the network also serves as a channel for distributing information about project activities and results.

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All nature interpretation and visitor guidance material is available to visitors in the Visitor Centre of Paanajärvi National Park and also in Metsähallitus customer service points in Kuusamo. The booklet on Paanajärvi National Park made in the project has been highly acclaimed by Park's visitors. At the end of the implementation period of the project, a Final Project Conference and an Opening Ceremony of Arola and Vartiolampi were held. In these events, approximately 50 people participated and information on the project results was given out to mass media.

7. Please outline any links you have developed with other EU-Russia Cooperation Programme /other donor projects.

The project staff participated in many seminars and conferences in which information of the project was distributed and in which information was exchanged between different projects and actors in the same field of action. Relations have been established with the following programmes: Oulanka-Paanajärvi Interreg Project – naturally, the “Green Belt Life” Project, “Development of Regional Protected Areas in the Cross-Border Territories in the Northwest Russia” Programme, “Development of Nature-Oriented Tourism in the areas of Salla and Kutsa” Interreg/Tacis Joint Project, “Sustainable development for local people living in the areas of specially protected nature territories of the northwest Russia” Project, the Russia-Finland Project “Methodological basis of ecological education and tourism on protected nature territories of Russia and Finland”, the Russia-Norway project “Development of small business in the border areas”, and PAN Parks Foundation and PAN Parks network of participating European national parks. PAN Parks gave valuable assistance in writing the STDS and in the development of partnership relations in the sphere of ecological tourism. Also regular contacts were kept with the other Interreg/Tacis Joint Projects managed by Metsähallitus (“Inari-Pasvik” and “People and Harbours”).

8. The success of the project depended on various assumptions (see logframe). Have these influenced the results so far?

Below are listed **the assumptions that are linked to the achievement of the overall objective of the project with an assessment of their influence on the project results.** The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report.

Assumption 1: Continuous support of national, regional and local authorities in Finland and Russia to Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark

Assessment: This assumption holds true. The national, regional and local authorities are supportive of the twin park. This is especially true when it comes to regional and local authorities in the Paanajärvi National Park region as the authorities have come to realise that successful development of the Park is contributing to the improvement of the social and economic situation in general. Their attitude to Paanajärvi National Park is becoming more positive. In Finland no tourism plans are made without taking into account the existence of Oulanka-Paanajärvi twin park as its importance is well understood by the tourism industry and organisations. The continuous support affected the project positively.

Assumption 2: Continuous interest of tourism sector in Oulanka-Paanajärvi twinpark

Assessment: This assumption holds true. There is an increasing interest in the twin park in the tourism industry and it is widely recognised that the twin park is the main attraction for nature-based tourism in the region. The continuous support affected the project positively.

Assumption 3: Integrated effort of tourism sector in marketing and communication

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Assessment: Work has been done to market the area as one tourism destination, even across the national border. It is widely recognised that Oulanka-Paanajärvi twin park is a great asset for marketing and communication, especially related to the tourism destination. There is still work to be done in this area but more effort is put to integrated marketing and communication in Finland and Russia. Integrated marketing and communication affected positively the project as the Parks are thriving for these themselves.

Assumption 4: Opening of an international border crossing point in Kuusamo

Assessment: This has affected positively the tourism industry especially in the region of Paanajärvi National Park. The opening of the international border crossing point affected the project positively as it became acknowledged that organised development of the tourism industry is needed in the region. This was done through the development of the STDS.

Below are listed **the assumptions that are linked to the achievement of the specific objectives of the project with an assessment of their influence on the project results.** The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report.

Assumption 1: Interest of park authorities in twinpark cooperation

Assessment: The cooperation between Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks has already a long history and it has become a natural part of the work on both sides of the border. The project was affected positively by the support given by the management of the Parks.

Assumption 2: Interest of visitors to visit different natural and cultural sites of visit in the region

Assessment: It seems that visitors are increasingly interested in visiting different, maybe new sites, and especially when they are developed with facilities. This means that the work the project did is really needed. The project was positively affected that this assumption held true.

Assumption 3: Interest of regional and local authorities to promote natural and cultural sites of visit within their jurisdiction and in neighbouring areas

Assessment: This assumption seems to hold true as well. There is an increasing understanding of the importance of natural and cultural sites of visit for tourism development by the regional and local authorities. This means that the work the project did is really necessary. The project was positively affected that this assumption held true.

Assumption 4: Effective cooperation with relevant actors

Assessment: One proof of the effective cooperation is the establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group in which different actors come together to discuss activities in Paanajärvi National Park. Also the cooperation between Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks' management is very effective and both Parks are committed to it. It can be summarised that cooperation can be deemed effective and it is in the interests of the relevant actors. The project was positively affected that this assumption held true.

Below are listed **the assumptions that are linked to the achievement of the results of the project with an assessment of their influence on the project results.** The Logical Framework of the project is attached to the Final Report.

Assumption 1: Fruitful cooperation between project partners

Assessment: Continuous cooperation between the Tacis Project Coordinator and the Project Manager of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project produced positive results in implementation of the project in the planned timetable. Also the cooperation between Metsähallitus and Paanajärvi National Park worked very well and affected positively the results achieved by the project.

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**Assumption 2: Sustainability and maintenance of electronic information points agreed**  
**Assessment:** Electronic information points are installed and contracts on their maintenance were signed. There is a great interest in these electronic information points and Paanajärvi National Park and Loukhi Administration are committed to maintaining them. The interest for the electronic information points affected positively the results achieved.

**Assumption 3: Cooperation with relevant actors**  
**Assessment:** It can be assessed that cooperation is effective and it is in the interests of the relevant actors. One proof of this is the establishment of Paanajärvi cooperation group and the continuous tight cooperation between the management of Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks. The results of the project were positively affected that this assumption held true.

**E. Partners and other Co-operation:**

**Each partner organisation should write a one-page assessment on its role and co-operation in the project. This does not have to be limited to the questions in this section.**

Answers to these questions are provided by Paanajärvi National Park.

1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this project (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Give details about the division of responsibilities, transfer of expertise, and overall co-ordination of the partnership(s).

Effective working relations were established between the project partners. The main project partners and participants were Metsähallitus and Paanajärvi National Park. Paanajärvi National Park has been involved in the realisation of the project right from the inception. Representative of the Park's administration was included in the project's working group. The Park's administration gave suggestions for the most effective implementation of the project activities. Paanajärvi National Park has fulfilled its partner obligations in financing the project. The Park's management plans have been adjusted with consideration of the project's plans. During implementation of the project the Park's administration has provided all support to ensure successful results. It provided vehicles and personnel, office rooms, communication means and consultations to support the implementation of the project on the Russian side. The Park's personnel were actively involved in the project activities, participated in the seminars in Russia and Finland and took part in joint activities in the territory of the park. Paanajärvi National Park provided all required maps and photographs for publishing of material in the framework of the project. The positive results achieved by the project have been possible thanks to efficient cooperation between the partner organisations. The Finnish partners give valuable assistance in the implementation of the project. Training to operate the electronic accounting system, monthly meetings to make accounting reports, consultations on office management and reporting as well as on other issues advance the work in the project. The Finnish partners assisted in writing the STDS, in establishing the local support group and in its operation. Guides of Paanajärvi National Park received training in Finland. Skilled carpenters from Finland helped to assemble the structures at Arola historical site. All this contributes to the successful results, transparency of activities and active exchange of experience. Paanajärvi National Park supported the coordination of the work in the Russian side as all work was carried out in the Park territory. Work of the STDS Specialist was partly self-funded by the Paanajärvi National Park.

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2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and state authorities in the project countries? How has this relationship affected the project?

The relations between the park and state organisations can be characterised as positive. The main interested organisations were Administration of the Loukhi Region and local administration of Pyaozerskiy Township. The prepared STDS gave an assessment of situation in the region in general and suggested the main directions of efforts for development of the region in the next five years. Great work was done by research workers of the Karelian Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The state organisations participated actively in the project and provided valuable support. Coordination with state authorities was done through Paanajärvi National Park. Paanajärvi National Park was independent in implementing the project but informed the Ministry of Natural Resources accordingly.

3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the project, e.g. associated partners or sub-contractors.

Good working relations were established with all partners and sub-contractors. There were no problems in implementation of works or in purchase of equipment. Paanajärvi National Park assisted the project team in carrying out the work and worked also in all the project activities. A close coordination and cooperation with local actors was carried out through the Paanajärvi cooperation group, especially in issues related to nature-oriented tourism within and without the Park boundaries.

4. How do you evaluate co-operation with the European Commission services?

All communication between European Commission and Paanajärvi National Park was done through the Tacis Project Coordinator Natalia Bizhon and the Project Manager of Interreg/Tacis Joint Project from Metsähallitus Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen. We are very satisfied with cooperation with organisations of the European Union. For instance, the regional Tacis office in Karelia and Representation of European Union in the Russian Federation provided valuable consultant advice. Project coordinators took part in three seminars organised by the European Union. There were no problems in this communication.

**F. Other**

1. How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the project?

Here visibility actions of the project are presented. All printed material related to the project has reference to the financial support of the European Union. All information panels and roll-ups and the DVD acknowledge the contribution by the European Union. In all publications in the mass media concerning implementation of the project, it was mentioned that the project is financed by the EU. The financial support of the EU was highlighted in all presentations of the project at various seminars and conferences.

As such, in each case there was an effort made to publicise the EU contribution. Sometimes, though, the journalists that wrote the articles did not mention the EU contribution or the project. That outcome was out of the project's influence. As this was Interreg/Tacis Joint Project some visibility actions were presented with the reporting of the Interreg project and are included in those reports and thus are kept in the archives of the Interreg project. Some changes in the planned visibility actions are described in the Section C, Question 4.

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A booklet "National Park Paanajarvi" was produced for visibility trips and for presentations and to be handed out for visitors and other interested parties in general. The brochure was produced in Russian and in English. There were 1,000 copies of the brochure printed in each language. These booklets were distributed at tourism fairs, seminars and at events where project presentations were given. Karelia magazine (see below) is offered in passenger trains, in hotels in Russian Karelia, and in local administration offices in the towns and regions in Karelia.

Each building in Arola and Vartiolampi has a commemorative plaque placed on the outer wall that acknowledges the contribution by the European Union.

Here are presented the newspaper articles that mentioned the project and/or activities related to the project. There were newspaper articles published in the following newspapers in Finland: Koillismaan Uutiset (1 article), Koillissanomat (5), Pohjolan Sanomat (1), Lapin Kansa (1), Kaleva (1), Kainuun Sanomat (1), Oulu-lehti (2), a monthly notice for Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia (2), and Oulanka National Park Bulletin 2008 (3). In Russia newspaper articles were published in the following newspapers: Karjalan Sanomat (4), Pripoljarje (4), and Karelia (1).

Twenty-four presentations of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project were presented by the project staff in different venues for different audiences in Russia, Finland and Bulgaria. Project Manager Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen was interviewed for radio and television. The project participants participated in the filming of a documentary TV series in Arola and demonstrated building of the old-style log houses and hay-making in Arola.

Information on project activities was updated on the web site of Paanajärvi National Park ([www.karelia.ru](http://www.karelia.ru), [www.onego.ru](http://www.onego.ru)). Information of the project is also presented on the web site of Metsähallitus ([www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi)). A press release was distributed about the project in relation to the Final Project Conference. This press release was presented on the web site [www.metsa.fi](http://www.metsa.fi) and sent to different mass media.

Business cards were made for the Project Manager of the Interreg/Tacis Joint Project.

A DVD on Paanajärvi National Park was made and is being distributed to relevant actors.

A Final Project Conference and Opening Ceremony of Arola and Vartiolampi were held in July 2008. In these events participated about 50 people from Russia and Finland and information was distributed to mass media.

Below, there is a list of the quantitative indicators for the Activity 1 that had to do with visibility actions as presented in the project application form and an assessment whether these indicators of achievement of the objectives of the activity were fulfilled in the project. Other indicators of the Activity 1 are assessed in the Section C, Question 1.

Indicator 1: A communication and dissemination programme for the project

Assessment: The communication and dissemination programme for the project was made for the Overall Work Plan and is included in it.

Indicator 2: An opening ceremony in Vartiolampi and in Arola Farm

Assessment: The Opening Ceremony took place in July 2008.

Indicator 3: Two visibility missions to Moscow and Petrozavodsk

Assessment: There were no visibility missions *per se* but the project staff participated actively in events at local, regional and international level in which they presented the project, its activities and results. Also several events, such as seminars, were organised by the project in which the project was presented.

Indicator 4: Production of an informational and promotional DVD on Paanajärvi National Park

Assessment: This DVD was produced and is being distributed to relevant actors.

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Indicator 5: A meeting of the presentation of the results of the project  
Assessment: The Final Project Conference took place in July 2008 together with the Opening Ceremony of Arola and Vartiolampi.

2. Has the grant so far helped secure new sources of funding for the project? Please give details.

Description of the project activities in the mass media and presentations of the project at seminars and conferences attracted attention of other projects wishing to develop cooperation. Restoration of historical sites of former settlements has greatly increased the visitor traffic, which has brought additional income to Paanajärvi National Park from providing services in the Park. Thanks to the project Paanajärvi National Park has been integrated in the Program of Development of the Loukhi Region which is financed by the government of Republic of Karelia. The cooperation between Oulanka and Paanajärvi National Parks is sure to continue and sources for funding this cooperation in the future are always sought after. The cooperation also continues despite the projects but with extra funding it is possible to achieve more impact, more development and more far-reaching and sustainable results. It is expected that in the future the funding might be easier to come by as the project partners can show the results of the successfully implemented project.

3. Please add any further information that would help the Commission to make a balanced assessment of the project to date.

Our overall assessment is that the project achieved all of its planned results and thus was concluded successfully. It was a pleasure to work on all the aspects of the project because the products produced are all import for Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks. The project has further strengthened the cooperation between the Parks and it is now stronger than ever. We want to give our most sincere thanks to the staff of Paanajärvi and Oulanka National Parks (Metsähallitus) for their support and help in the implementation of the project. Also we want to give many thanks to Project Officer Natalia Zabrodotskaya of the EC Delegation to Russia for her ever-ready advice on many different aspects of the project management.

4. Do you have any objection to this report being published? If so, please state your objections here.

There are no objections to this report being published.



**Contract Number: 2006/123-534**

Name of the person responsible for the project: Arto Ahokumpu, Regional Director,  
Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia

Signature:  Location: Kuusamo, Finland

Date report due: January 31, 2009

Date report submitted: October 27, 2008

Name of the person responsible for the project: Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen, Project Manager,  
Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia

Signature:  Location: Kuusamo, Finland

Date report due: January 31, 2009

Date report submitted: October 27, 2008