Welcome speech from Norway

Bjørn Arne Næss, Norwegian Environment Agency
9. Pan-European Green Belt Conference

- Having in mind the two former Pan-European Conferences I personally have had the pleasure of attending and looking at the very interesting program, I really look forward to this conference!
The common Norwegian - Russian border is 196 km, starting at the tipple border point, “Treriksrøysa” at the borders of Finland, Russia and Norway and continuing to the Barents sea.
Lower flow of the Grense Jakobselv river - Vuoremi river, Photo: Alexei Kravchenko

Barents sea, Photo: Tiia Kalske

Treriksrøysa at Muotkavaara NO-FI-RU border, Photo: Ingvild Wartiainen
Photos of birds: Bjørn Franzen
Green Belt Fennoscandia – Norwegian part

- Øvre Pasvik National Park, managed by the Øvre Pasvik National park Board and the NP-manager.

- Norwegian side of the Pasvik_Inari Trilateral Park: The same areas as Øvre Pasvik National Park.

- In Norway the Finnmark County Governor office is responsible for the Trilateral Park
Øvre Pasvik National Park
(1970, 2003,) 119 km²
mainly continuous old pine forest, important habitats, eastern species not found elsewhere in Norway, cultural heritage.

Øvre Pasvik Landskapsvernområde
(2003), 54 km², peatland, wetlands, some forest, important for both local and migrating birds, geological landscape elements.
**Øvre Pasvik NP / The Norwegian part of the Pasvik – Inari Trilateral Park**

- Valuable landscape and habitats
- Valuable high quality old forest
- Lakes, rivers and wetlands
- Important for birds, bears, elk, reindeers

- Scientific research institution/station: Norwegian institute of Bioeconomy research, NIBIO
- Scientific research - NIBIO and others
- Cooperation with Russia and Finland
- Joint cooperation on counting birds in the border region
Old growth forest in Øvre Pasvik
Photo: Olli Manninen
Visitor point at the gate to Treriksrøysa in Norway, two more will be built - including one closer to Treriksrøysa triple border point. Information about the Green Belt Fennoscandia and the trans border cooperation with Russia and Finland are in preparation.
Thank you to the organizers for a excellent, very interesting program!

We are really looking eagerly forward to be part of these three days of interesting topics and joint work.