



Report PARKAS' seminar 2018

The Integration of Cultural Heritage in National Park Management

Geilo, 6-8 November 2018



Research project-MILJØFORSK



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Picture 1 - The seminar's plenary sessions have resumed with all representatives from PARKAS' closest partner institutions (picture taken on the second day).

Background for the autumn seminar (6-8 November 2018, Geilo) is the R&D project "Building trust to environmental policy as a catalyst for a green transition - PARKAS" (research project-MILJØFORSK 2018-2021).

The project group consists of 12 researchers from the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU, project manager), the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy (NIBIO) and Nordland Research Institute (NRI). It is carried out in collaboration with a Norwegian reference group consisting of local managers and non-governmental organizations - including Hordaland and Nordland County Councils, the Sami Parliament and the Saltfjellet Reindeer Herding District in Nordland, the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNV), the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (SNO) and the Middle Nordland National Park Board. The project also reaps professional expertise from a group of foreign researchers from the University of Wageningen (NL), the University of Newcastle (UK), the Cornwall Council (UK), the University College London (UK), the University of Ghent (B) and VetAgro Sup (F).

Cultural heritage management is particularly challenging in large nature conservation areas, but it can be an important resource for socio-economic development. In the next few years, the research project will examine the management system for nature conservation areas, with the Hardangervidda and Saltfjellet-Svartisen national parks as cases (with adjacent landscape protection areas). The research project will explore how natural diversity, cultural-historical values and other environmental benefits can be managed in a

holistic way that contributes to achieving political goals for a sustainable society through green transition. Among other things, the management system for nature conservation areas must be examined to find solutions that safeguard such areas as environmental resources and benefits the society as a whole without compromising local interests and conservation values.

The starting point for the project is that trust in the population for political decisions and management is crucial to achieving green social change. Then the policy and the administration must be exercised in a way that takes into account everyone's interests and facilitates sustainable choices.

About the seminar.



Picture 2 – Debate in fishbowl's group session, with panel leader Camilla Risvoll from the Nordland Research Institute (NRI). Behind from left John Pendlebury (University of Newcastle), Frode Sundnes (NIVA), Camilla Risvoll (NRI), Petter Braaten (SNO Geilo), Anne-Cathrine Flyen (NIKU), Bolette Bele (NIBIO) and Grete Swensen (NIKU). Front with their back towards us, from left Kirsti Dammen Otterholt (Nore and Uvdal municipality) and Kjell Bitustoyl (Norwegian Wild Reindeer Center).

Goals and perspectives.

NIKU (project manager) was responsible for the planning, preparation and implementation of the seminar.

The main objective of the seminar was to address the public's confidence in political decision-making and management actions in large areas of protection. The overall theme was the integration of cultural heritage in the management of national parks ("The integration of cultural heritage in national park management"), with Hardangervidda and Saltfjellet-Svartisen as cases (with adjacent natural landscape reserves).

The three-day seminar was run with 23 representatives from PARKAS' closest partner institutions*. Represented at the event were NIKU, NIVA, NIBIO and NRI, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, DNT, Norwegian Wild Reindeer Centre, the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate, Nore and Uvdal



municipality, in addition to five researchers from universities and management authorities in France, England and the Netherlands.

* N.B. four of the original 28 participants were compelled to cancel due to illness and employment-related duties (cf. territorial reform project, i.a. redrawing of municipality boundaries).

Managing national parks' rich natural and cultural heritage is a great responsibility. The seminar's goal was to build a knowledge base from national and international experiences about protection policy and the management of large nature conservation areas. The seminar's participants discussed how one can ensure that both natural and cultural values are set as part of the national park management strategy. Prerequisites were thus to exchange prevailing understanding of the management of natural and cultural values in nature conservation areas in Norway and in Europe, and to discuss a common approach to nature management and heritage management in nature conservation areas. Another goal was to nurture relationships between local users and researchers and secure involvement and cooperation. 'Trust' is a fundamental premise in the research. In general, high priority was given to dialogue and active participation of all participants about administrative practices in Norway, France, the UK, the Netherlands and Svalbard.

The seminar harvested a range of understandings, skills and knowledge as the participants interacted through presentations, discussions and a guided tour, and learned from cumulated experiences from practices locally, nationally and internationally. In total, eight scholarly presentations, four popular presentations and many shorter (spontaneous) statements in discussion forums and other forms of dialog (i.e. 'fishbowls' conversations).

Key issues on themes, approaches and management models.

The following key questions were raised at the start of the seminar and prepared the ground for the discussions throughout the event.

- What are the main barriers and challenges in national park management facing the local authorities, managers and local population, and why?
- Cultural heritage in the national parks - how can we better integrate the dimensions of cultural history and cultural heritage in national park management?
- How could we better facilitate and respect the interests of users and local people?
- How functional are the current management models of the two national parks?
- What are the expectations of local government and populations regarding a management model?

Field activities: purpose.



Picture 3 - Guided tour in Hardangervidda in November. The snow will not stop our knowledge-seeking researchers. From left, John Pendlebury (University of Newcastle), Peter Herring (Cornwall Council), Yves Michelin (Vet.Agro Sup Clermont-Ferrand), Lars Inge Enerstvedt (SNO Rødberg), Aslak Skurdal (entrepreneur), Graham Fairclough (University of Newcastle).

On the first day of the seminar, four international researchers and NIKU's communication and research consultant were taken on a guided tour of Hardangervidda by SNO representative Lars Inge Enerstvedt and local entrepreneur Aslak Skurdal. The day trip took them on an excursion rich in cultural experiences through the landscape from Geilo and up to a farmstead on the border of Hardangervidda national park.

The purpose of the guided tour was to get a first glimpse of the national park's guidelines in Norway, as well as an understanding of the history, cultural heritage policy and business opportunities in the area. Topics such as 'nature', 'culture', 'traditions' and 'practice' were lifted. From day two they were reunited with the rest of the group at Geilo Hotel.



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Open forum activities: layout and scope.

In an open forum, the participants examined the theoretical and practical sides of national parks' management, cultural heritage and nature protection policy, starting from Hardangervidda and Saltfjell-Svartisen. The participants showed great involvement and positive energy in the exchange of experiences. The mixture of forums, presentations and activities in smaller groups allowed more flexibility and thus greater opportunities for exchange between various actors.

Being gathered in the same place at the same time also provided an opportunity for collaborating in real time and together engaging in deep and meaningful dialogue. It became a social meeting place and an arena where the Norwegian reference group could share their experiences and opinions on the management of national parks with the researchers.

Presentations



Picture 4 – Engaged speakers in scholarly presentations. Top picture, Anne-Cathrine Flyen (NIKU); Bottom pictures from left, Knut Fageraas and Torggrim S. Guttormsen (NIKU), Graham Fairclough (University of Newcastle) and Aase Kristine Lundberg (NRI).

ACTIVITIES

Guided tour



'Fishbowls'





What happened at the seminar? Achieved and expected results.

The preliminary results showed great interest in the topic and confirmed that the administration must be exercised in a way that takes into account everyone's interests and facilitates action-oriented solutions.

Summary of achieved results.

The event happened in the middle of an ongoing process related to the renewal of the management model in Hardangervidda National Park. The discussions confirm that the current management model in the Hardangervidda national park has a complex structure with several regional boards and many involved parts which in many cases requires local adjustments: a new management scheme is desirable. But a general concern lies in the consequences a new management model will have for already established customs, traditions and rules such as grazing rights or 'Fjelloven' (comparable with the French 'Loi Montagne'). Several participants pointed out that not all parts are equally represented in the management of nature conservation areas – e.g. municipalities and landowners feel poorly integrated or even excluded from the debate. Many people perceive the administration as complex and challenging in practice. The following topics were mentioned as among the most demanding challenges: preservation measures, wild reindeer migratory routes, traffic and visitor management strategy. Similar opinions are found about a lack of coordination and management routines between Protected Area Management Boards, County Councils and municipalities, a mistrust to political decision-making, and restrictions (especially, the consequences that protection and environmental policy may have for affected communities/region and various types of business activities), etc. Communication, transversal collaboration, transparency and knowledge were highlighted as crucial for a well-functioning administration into (and around) national parks.

In addition, discussions have shown a great interest in issues related to the nature-culture dualism. PARKAS is encouraged to present examples of areas where a favourable environment has been established for the management of cultural and natural values. In Norway, the responsibility for these values is spread among several departments, and all too often, nature and culture management issues are disconnected (the distinction may not be as clear abroad). Participants agreed that the protection and dissemination of locally and regionally important cultural heritage sites is not given priority in national parks. Maintenance is experienced as unresolved. It was pointed out that it is therefore important to clarify the responsibilities of all partners involved and create a stronger awareness of these issues.

The Sámi cultural monuments and the challenges represented by reindeer husbandry were discussed during the seminar. Major differences are reported in the two case studies, but participants agreed that they are bound together in several ways through the history and culture of the Sámi people – past, present and future. A narrow focus is concentrated on wild reindeer and value creation in the Hardangervidda national park, while the history of tame reindeer is largely overlooked. There is too little knowledge about Sámi cultural heritage. 'Reindeer' topic – protection and nature – was suggested as a portal for studying the two case areas.

Researchers from the international expert group presented examples of four different management systems and legal processes in protected areas from abroad. Differences with the Norwegian system were reviewed. Approaches to better-adapted conservation measures became a recurring theme throughout the debate, as well as their meaning for local communities who live around national parks. The presented methods are transferrable to surveying and interviewing techniques in PARKAS (the methods will be further discussed).

The seminar was closed by a final exchange on opportunities for international cooperation and new projects that will have ripple effects for PARKAS. Previous agreements between partners in the network were confirmed to create new joint research projects – e.g. H2020 application on national park management (Call GOVERNANCE-01-2019) and COST-action call. The PARKAS-network was also reinforced with new members.



Progress.

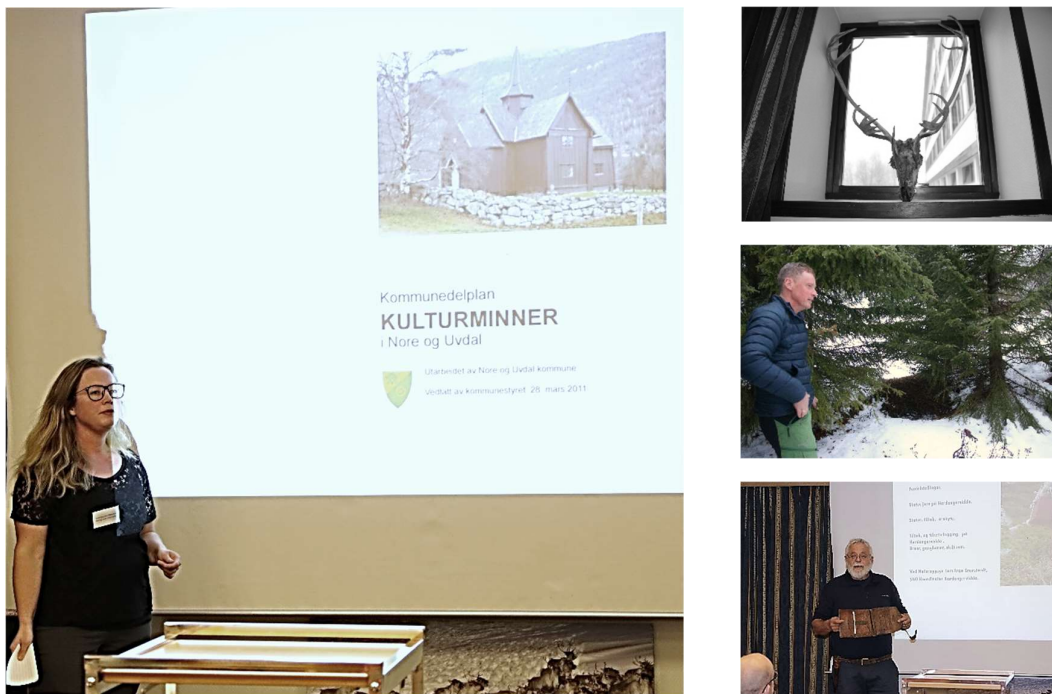
The seminar highlights important goals amongst PARKAS' expected results. Three pressing issues:

- build trust in political decision-making
- Find better and simpler management and management methods in large protected areas
- Raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in national parks

The seminar contributes to map different interests and responsibilities in both cases, as well as to widen the scope of knowledge. Furthermore, it helps better understand how different worldviews and knowledge systems come into play, and detect possible conflict situations, appreciate conflicting interests, and address the core issues of the conflict – locally, regionally, and nationally.

Local management and trust are fundamental issues of PARKAS. Results show that the choice of activities during the seminar was well-suited to providing insights on both issues. The seminar contributed to networking and increased trust between all participants from the reference group, the research group and the foreign expert group. It gave "a voice" to the participants and provided an opportunity to discuss a common approach to nature and cultural heritage management in national parks. These results are favourable for producing a research of high scientific quality. Progress in PARKAS also depends on good contacts and sources. It is an important starting point for field work and interviews in both cases.

With strengthened bonds between all participants and new knowledge, PARKAS research group will be able to collect valuable data on the management of natural values and cultural heritage in the two cases and build on the theoretical knowledge that underlies PARKAS.



Pictures 5 – Various categories of cultural heritage and cultural environments in the Hardangervidda National Park and its cultural history were presented. It is a fact that registration of all types of cultural monuments is uncompleted. It is important to provide a common plan for registering, restoring, managing, and maintaining cultural monuments that would help with the practical side of national park management. (See the "Cultural Heritage Compass: Regional Plan for Cultural Heritage in Buskerud 2017-2027." This plan, which is a 'tool kit' for interactions about cultural heritage, is the first plan that regroups the whole county of Buskerud around the topic of cultural heritage). From left: Kirsti Dammen Otterbolt (Nore and Uvdal municipality), and in smaller pictures from the center: Aslak Skurdal (entrepreneur) and Lars Inge Enerstvedt (SNO Rødberg).



Other information.

The seminar shows that there is great interest in the project. Several institutions outside the formal partner institutions have already expressed their interest and requested to be included in the debate. In addition, universities inland and abroad have encouraged the development of ideas for topics or projects that could be relevant to master students. Preliminary results from the event also indicate that research topics include more issues than those presented in the original project description – e.g. registration of nature and cultural values, common arrangement for cultural monuments in national parks, landscape changes caused by wind turbines, etc. The development of PARKAS and possible utilization of its full potential will be analysed and further assessed.

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Communication: PARKAS in social media.

Information about the research project:

- PARKAS' homepage: <https://parkas.niku.no/>
- NIKU's website: <https://www.niku.no/prosjekter/parkas/>

The seminar was announced on PARKAS' website, and information was sent to forskning.no and various local newspapers prior to the event. A brief article was published after the event. At the seminar, local media were represented by journalist Kjell Bitustøyl from the Norwegian Wild Reindeer Centre. NIKU's communications and research consultant Liv Mildrid Melkild Avset covered the event.

Additional information about the event is available at:

- PARKAS' homepage: <https://parkas.niku.no/>
- NIKU's website: <https://www.niku.no/2019/01/vel-utfort-parkas-seminar-2018/>
- article about the seminar published by Kjell Bitustøyl and Anders Mossing from the Norwegian Wild Reindeer Centre: <http://www.villrein.no/aktuelt/parkas-seminar-om-integrering-av-kulturminne>

The report for PARKAS autumn seminar 2018 was made available for the participants who were prompted to make comments. The final report is eventually made available to the public on PARKAS homepage. Members of the public are strongly encouraged to send comments and opinions by sending an e-mail to veronique.simon@niku.no.

Language:

The seminar was bilingual.

The first day (6/11), the seminar was held in plenary in Norwegian (only the Norwegian reference group was present at the plenary). Meanwhile, the guided tour of Hardangervidda was conducted in English to facilitate communication with the international researchers.

From the second day (7/11), the seminar was in English. All presentations and discussions were held in English to enable researchers from Europe to share their experiences with the other participants and participate in the plenary sessions.

The third day (8.11) was conducted in English, with presentations from the international researchers.

Source of images: NIKU with Liv Mildrid Melkild Avset and Véronique Karine Simon



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NIKU

NIVA
Norsk institutt for vannforskning



NIBIO
NORSK INSTITUTT FOR
BIOØKONOMI



NORDLANDSFORSKNING
NORDLAND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Attached documents

1. Program (Norwegian and English)
2. List of participants (Norwegian and English)
3. PowerPoint presentations

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