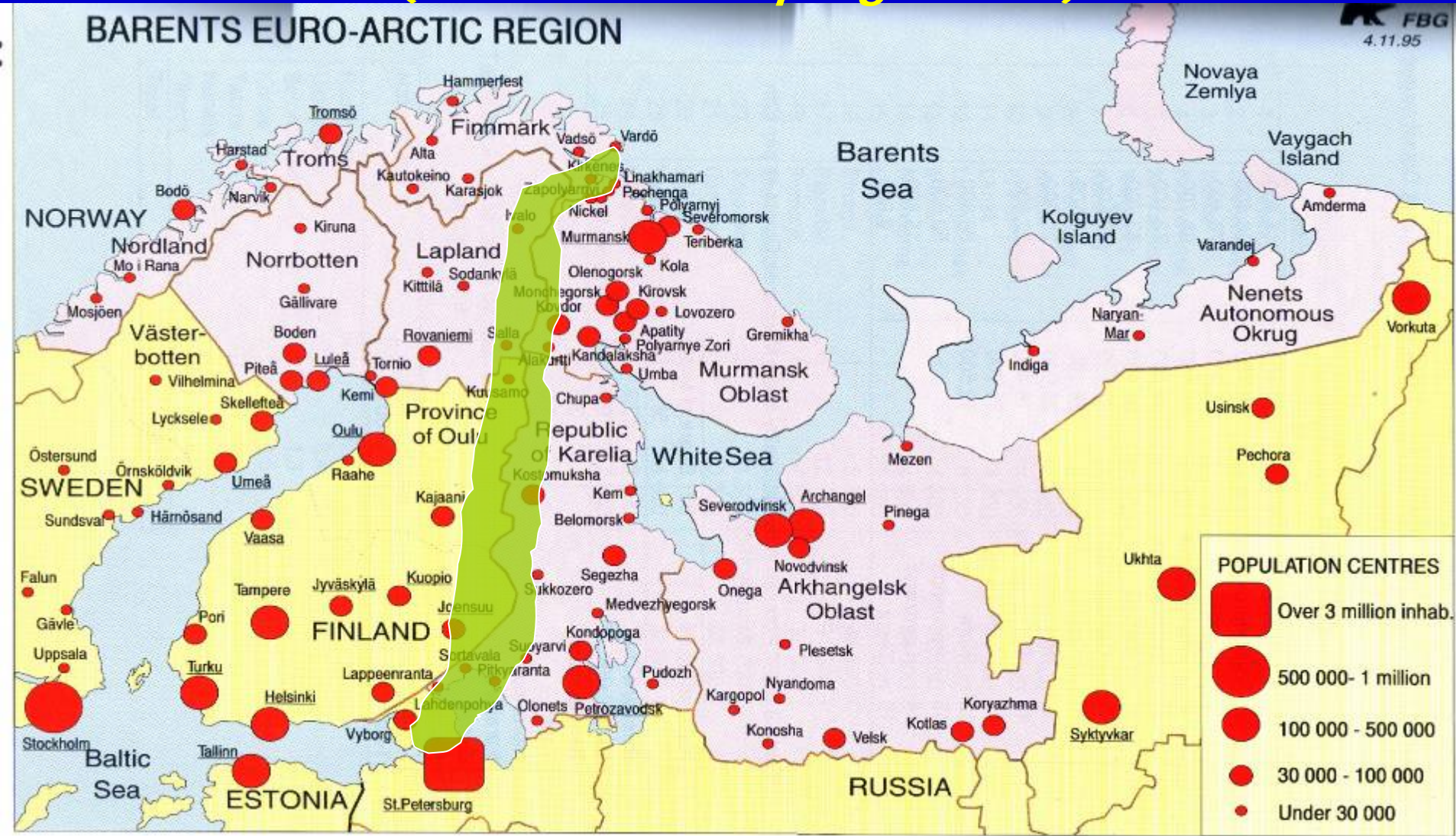


# Green Belt of Fennoscandia

*(draft research programme)*

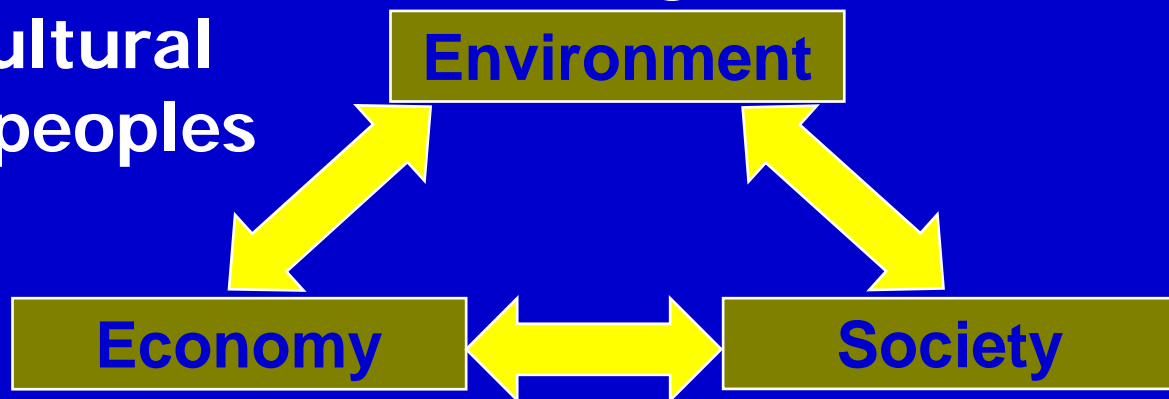
BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC REGION

FBG  
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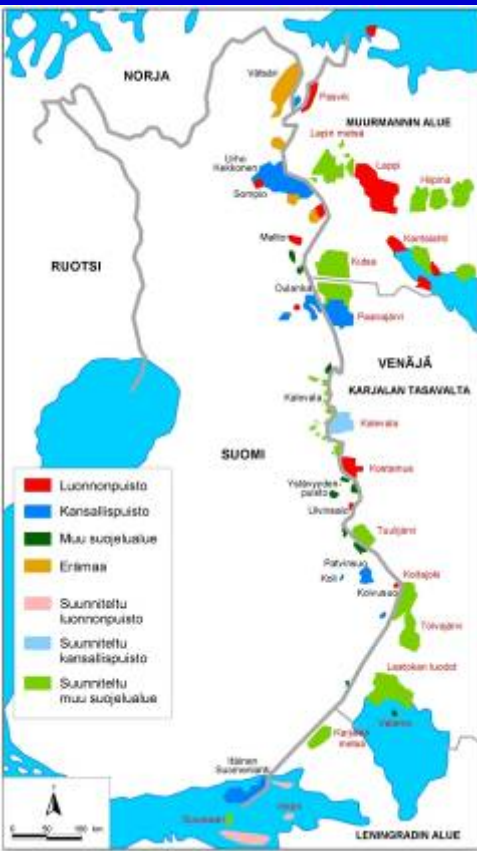


# Programme objective

- Research into natural complexes on both sides of the Russian-Finnish and Russian-Norwegian borders, and preparation of scientific substantiation for organizing integral environmental-economic space in order to conserve unique northern nature and develop the territories with regard to historical and cultural features of the peoples living there



# Long-term tasks of the “Green Belt of Fennoscandia” (GBF) programme



- Substantiation of GBF inclusion in UNESCO World Heritage List;
- Establishment and development of a network of protected areas (PAs) securing conservation of Fennoscandian biodiversity (setting up ecological corridors, strict reservation of areas retaining undisturbed ecosystems);
- Establishment of biosphere reserves – areas where nature conservation is harmoniously combined with resolution of social and economic problems;
- Identification of ethnocultural centres in GBF territory, and substantiation of measures to conserve indigenous peoples' traditions and languages, as well as historical and cultural monuments;
- Environmental education and awareness-raising;
- Working out of the economic development strategy taking environmental, social and cultural aspects, as well as nature conservation tasks into account.

# Research programme tasks

- Investigate biological diversity (species and habitats) in border areas
- Identify most valuable ecosystems and substantiate their conservation status
- Define development priorities for GBF components with focus on involving cultural & natural heritage in economic activities
- Identify potential challenges and risks of GBF establishment, ways and methods to overcome them, including settlement of possible social and economic conflicts

**РАЗНООБРАЗИЕ  
БИОТЫ КАРЕЛИИ:**  
условия формирования,  
сообщества,  
виды



**BIOTIC DIVERSITY  
OF KARELIA:**  
conditions of formation,  
communities  
and species



# Inception phase tasks (2008 - 2009)



- Set up an international working group to compile the GBF multidisciplinary programme;
- Analyse the results of completed and ongoing environmental, economic, socio-cultural and other projects in GBF area.

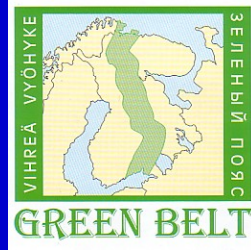




# Prospective participants (countries and institutions):

- **Russia:**
  - *Murmansk Region*
    - Kola Research Centre of RAS: Polar-Alpine Botanical Gardens Institute, Institute for Industrial Ecology of the North
  - *Republic of Karelia*
    - Karelian Research Centre of RAS: Institute of Biology, Forest Research Institute, Institute of Geology, Northern Water Problems Institute, Institute of Economic Studies, Institute of Language, Literature and History, Institute of Applied Mathematical Research
    - Petrozavodsk State University
    - Karelian State Pedagogical University
    - Kostomukshsky Strict Nature Reserve
  - *Leningrad Region*
    - St. Petersburg State University's Biological Research Institute
- **Finland**
- **Norway**

# Cross-border cooperation experience (past research and organizational activities)



## ■ Russian-Finnish projects

- Friendship Park
- GAP analysis in Northwest Russia, Republic of Karelia component

## ■ TACIS projects for preparation of PA feasibility studies

- Paanajärvi NP
- Kalevalsky NP
- Tulos landscape reserve
- Tolvajärvi landscape reserve
- Ladoga Skerries NP

- Working out of economic development programmes for Suojärvi and Muezerska districts, with nature tourism as the basis

## ■ EURegio Karelia projects



Tacis

НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ПАРК  
«САЛЕВАЛСКИЙ»  
ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ  
К ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ



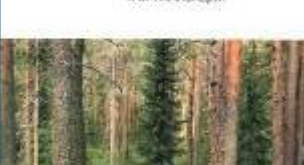
Tacis

НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ПАРК  
«ЛАДОЖСКИЕ ШЕРРЫ»  
ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ  
К ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ



Tacis

НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ПАРК  
«КОСТАЛСКИ-ТОЛВАЖЕРВИ»  
ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ  
К ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ



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НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ПАРК  
«ТУЛОС»  
ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ  
К ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ



# Some results of international projects

- Approximation of research approaches and methods
- Compilation of shared scientific databases on various natural resources, biodiversity and specific features of territories, permitting scientifically grounded decision-making
- Feasibility studies for designation of PAs (Tulos and Tolvajärvi landscape reserves, Ladoga Skerries NP)
- Working out of economic development programmes for Suojärvi and Muezerska districts, with nature tourism as the basis
- Broadened network of specialists and institutions involved in international cooperation

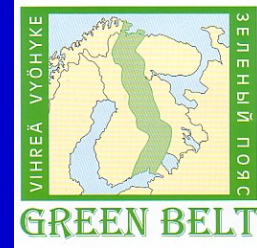




# Results expected from international cooperation

- Working out of common approaches to dealing with environmental problems (common environmental policy)
- Organization of international nature reserves
- Enhancement of tourism and transport infrastructures
- Formation of a network of international nature tourism and environmental learning routes
- Joining of efforts and resources for conservation of natural and cultural heritage
- “Environmentalization” of the public mind
- Preparation of scientific, educational, popular-science editions, leaflets, guidebooks, video materials

# Expected nature conservation results



- Working out scientific principles of conserving northern ecosystems exposed to anthropogenic pressure and global climate change;
- Working out a programme for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Working out a conservation programme for rare and endangered species;
- Scientific substantiation of PA network formation and development:
  - *Identification of undisturbed ecosystems, and preparation of recommendations for their conservation;*
  - *Identification of key biodiversity conservation areas;*
  - *Development of the network of ecological corridors.*
  - *Assessment of the status of rare and commercial plant populations in GBF territory;*
  - *Assessment of the status of rare and commercial animal populations, and identification of their migration pathways;*



# Expected results in environmental education

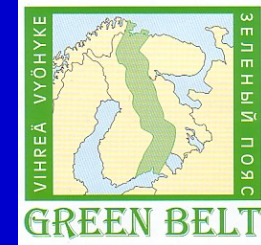
- Internet resources, including the “Green Belt of Fennoscandia” GIS
- Publishing activities
  - Scientific publications (descriptions of communities and ecosystems, species checklists)
  - Popular-science editions, incl. educational materials
  - Leaflets and posters
  - Maps and schemes of ecotourism routes
  - Video materials
- Environmental awareness building (presentations in mass media, lectures to schoolchildren, students, local people)
- Organization of environmental and ethnographic festivals and other events

# Programme final beneficiaries

- **Institutions and organizations:**
  - Administrations of border districts, towns and villages
  - Scientific organizations
  - National parks and other PAs
  - Educational institutions
  - Tourist firms
- **NGOs**
  - Environmental
  - Ethnographic
  - Local lore
- **Local people**
  - Educators and students
  - Fishermen and hunters
- **Tourists**



# Potential funding sources for the programme



- Russian Federation budget
  - *Russian Academy of Science*
  - *RF Ministry for Natural Resources*
  - *RF Education and Science Ministry*
  - *RF Regional Development Ministry*
- Budgets of Republic of Karelia, Murmansk and Leningrad Regions
- Budgets of different levels in Finland
- Budgets of different levels in Norway
- International foundations and organizations funding programmes and projects of this kind