

RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA TO THE KHOSTOMUKSHA STRICT NATURE RESERVE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Group of specialists
European diploma on protected areas
CoE, Strasbourg, 8 March 2017**

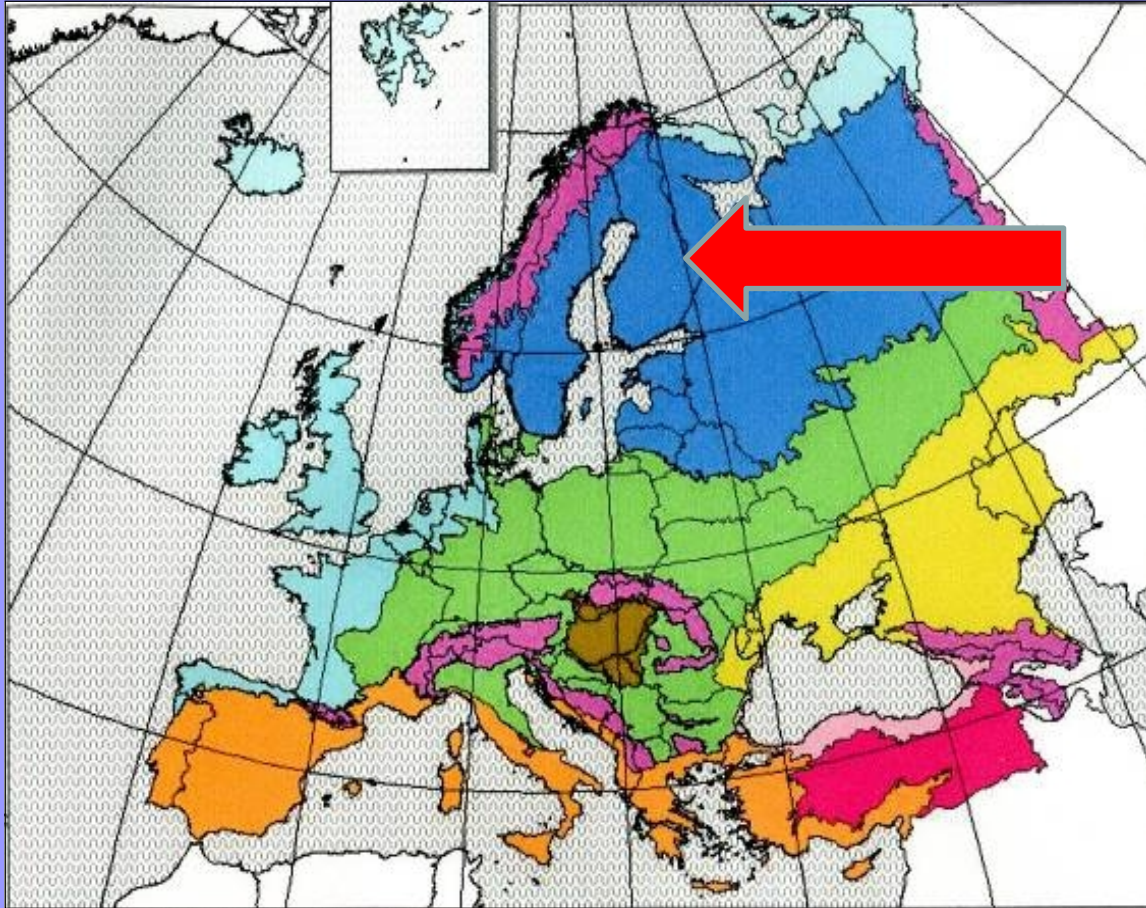


Hervé LETHIER, Switzerland

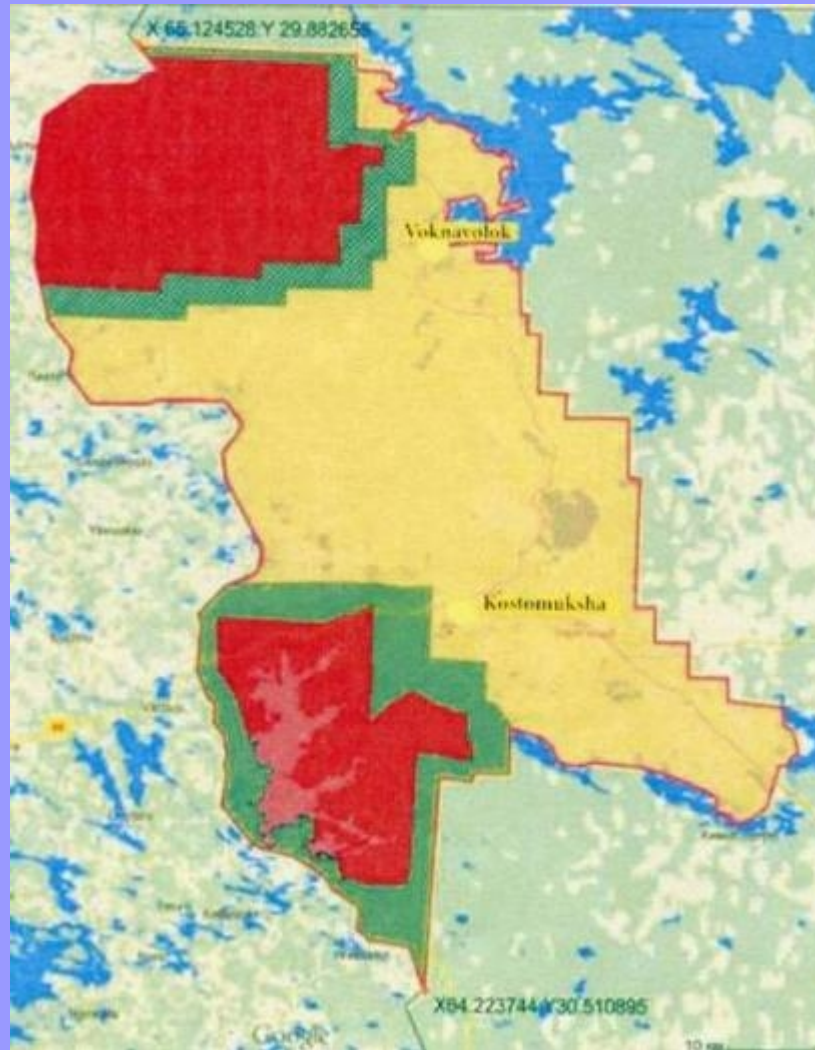
LOCATION



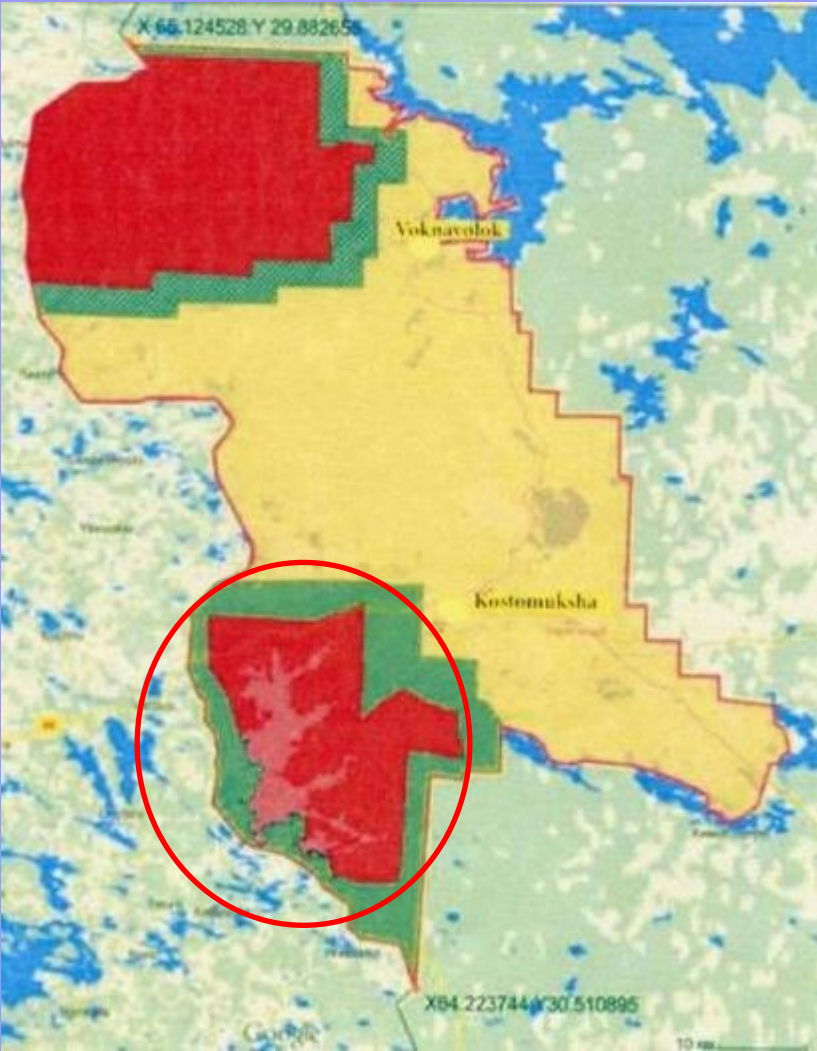
BIOGEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION



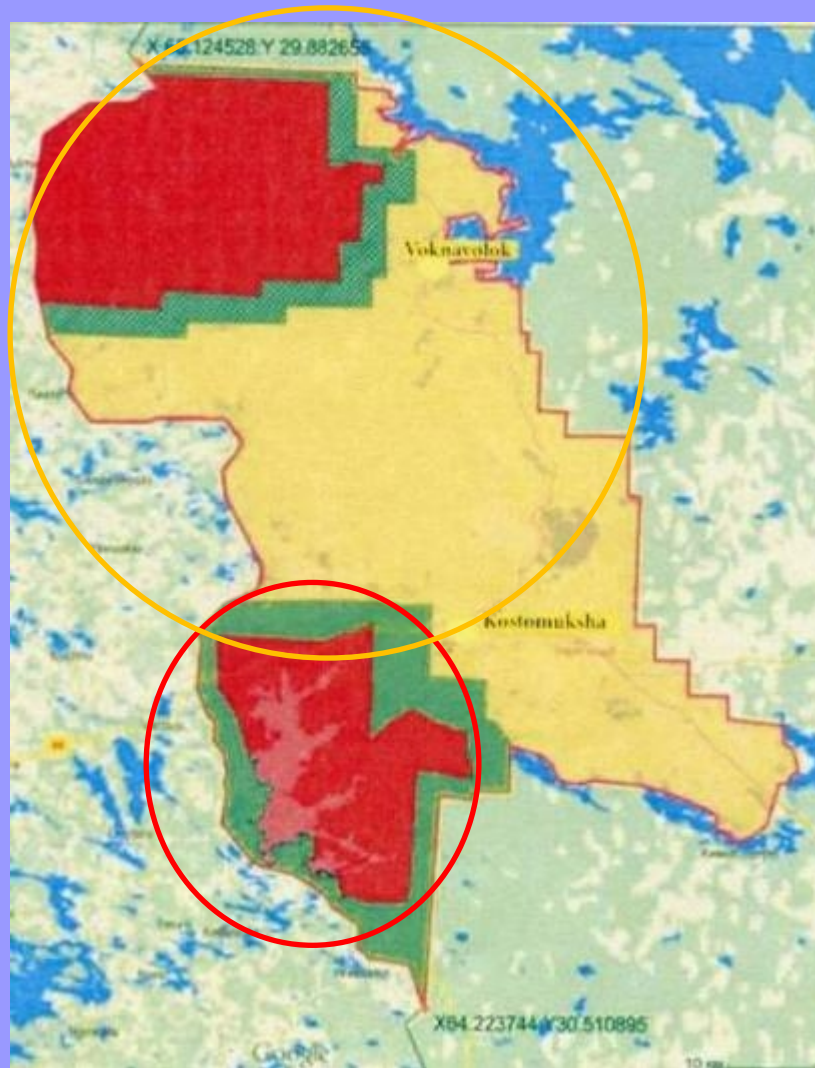
THE KOSTOMUKSHA NATURE RESERVE



THE KOSTOMUKSHA STRICT NATURE RESERVE (DIPLOMED AREA)



THE KALEVALA NATIONAL PARK



NATURAL HABITATS AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY















ECOLOGICAL EUROPEAN INTEREST

- Typical examples of diverse and highly representative ecological communities (ancient/primeval forests, wetlands)
- Increased number of rare and threatened species of fauna and flora
- Critical habitats for key species (wild rein deer, wolverine, ...)
- Important breeding grounds and feeding areas for « Bern » species (loons, large carnivores, ...)
- Site nominated for the EMERALD network

LANDSCAPE INTEREST AS WELL

- Exceptional beauty
- Excellent integrity
- Mix natural and cultural values (Akonlahti village, old route between Russia and Finland)

CULTURAL AND LANDSCAPE INTEREST AS WELL



CONCLUSION 1

- European interest still there
- Excellent integrity
- High level of naturalness
- Opportunities for the extension of the DA with the establishment of the KNR, including the Kalevala NP (core zone)

MANAGEMENT

- State owned land
- Strict nature reserve legal regime
- High level of protection (zapovednik)
- Low human pressure
- Good facilities (trails, visitor centres, ...)
- Most roads closed for public
- Permit needed for visiting the site
- A management plan for the current period
- No « non sustainable » socio-economic activities
- Good scientific baseline and capacities (increased funding capacities since the last renewal)

EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES



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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Res. CM/ResDip(2012)13)

- **Condition 1:** *to build a 200-300 m wide area around the diplomed area in order to strengthen the protection of the DA*  **a new obligation according to the federal law + process on going to establish a larger biosphere reserve with a buffer zone**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

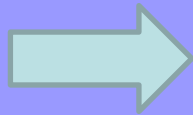
- **Condition 2** : *improve the DA funding mechanism and create a system for remitting part of the money due for the water pumping in the DA, to its management*



(1) part of the money collected returns to the federal budget, (2) the budget of the DA has significantly increased since the last renewal while (3) the volume of water pumped in the main lake has decreased by about 30%

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

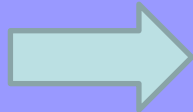
- **Rec. 1** : *optimize the DA, expand its territory and adapt its borders*



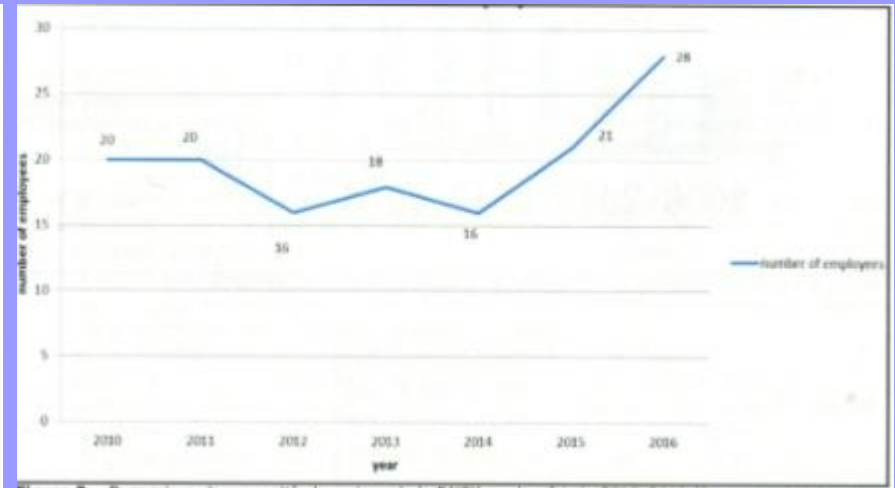
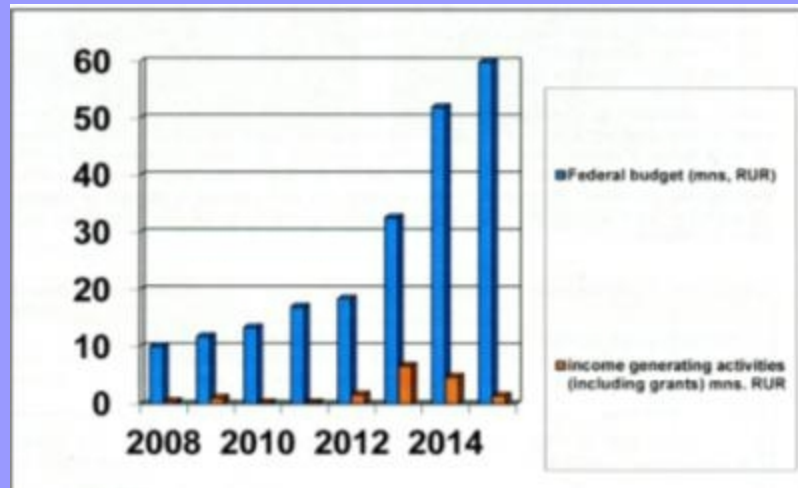
- **2 small areas owned by the Ministry of Defense and the municipality of Kostomuksha have been given to the DA Administration**
- **the creation of the NR of Kostomuksha in 2015 and the future establishment of a biosphere reserve should give the State party the opportunity to adapt the DA borders properly (and extend the DA ?)**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Rec. 2:** *provide sufficient financial resources*



- the budget of the DA has increased significantly since the last renewal, thanks to the federal efforts



CONCLUSION 2

- **All conditions and recommendations adopted in 2012 should be considered as going on or fulfilled by the State Party**

SEVERAL MATTERS TO ADDRESS FOR THE FUTURE

- Establishment of the biosphere reserve
- Maintain of the natural processes (fire)
- Removal of the fences and dismantlement of others security equipments at the finno/russian frontier
- Preparation of a comprehensive new management plan for the Kostomuksha NR including the DA (NSR)
- Transborder cooperation with Finnish
- Long term monitoring of the water pumping and effects in the DA

GENERAL CONCLUSION

- Towards a renewal of the ED to the KSNR for ten more years
- With 7 recommendations

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Rec. 1** - Dismantel the fences and other security equipments to optimize the connectivities
- **Rec. 2** – Build a training programme for the staff on biodiversity and natural resources
- **Rec. 3** – Engage an update of the management plan in the context of the new nature reserve
- **Rec. 4** – Complete the process of establishing a Biosphere Reserve including the DA
- **Rec. 5** – Preserve the natural processes in the DA management (fire)
- **Rec. 6** – Build up a regional tourism strategy
- **Rec. 7** – Monitor the water pumping and its effects on the DA