

Háldi Transboundary Area Action Plan 2026



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1 Structure of action plan

The Hálldi Transboundary Area, a formal cooperation between Metsähallitus, Reisa National Park Council and Halti Visitor Center (for Reisa National Park), was awarded with EUROPARC Transboundary Park Area status in from EUROPARC Council 24th of December 2021.

The practical cooperation of the partners and connected stakeholders is first and foremost done by common actions and projects that foster benefits for nature, landscapes and communities in our border regions.

The actions plan contains a long-term strategy with a long-term perspective. Actions stem from the strategy and are prioritized in a yearly plan, updated every year.

2 Cooperation strategy for the Hálldi Area

The [cooperation strategy](#) spells out the mutual ideas and vision developed in 2018-2021, leading up to official Hálldi cooperation.

2.1 The main objectives in the cooperation are:

1. Organization of Hálldi Transboundary Area
2. **Protection of common** natural and cultural **values** in the Hálldi TBA by means of good cooperation and joint conservation actions.
3. Effective **monitoring, supervision and management** of growing **cross-border tourism** and other cross-border **activities** and their impact on common natural and cultural values.
4. **Sharing and synchronizing** information, knowledge and good practices, including other operators and stakeholders working in the area.
5. **Ensuring sustainable development** of cross-border nature tourism in relation to natural and cultural values.
6. Raising **resources for joint actions and projects**.
7. **Creating contacts for wider cooperation** with protected area managers in **Sweden**, TransParcNet and **other northern countries**.

3 General year plan in the Hálldi Transboundary Area

The planning process for the yearly action plan is as follows:

	Planning cycle	Reporting cycle
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October – December	Preparation for next year’s action plan – Management Work Group	
	Information process for stakeholders, general public, and national decision makers.	Draft yearly report
January - February	Formal decisions and approval of action plan in Joint Management Board / Steering group	Formal decision and action plan in Joint Management Board / Steering group
	Applications and financing process	
February - December	Implementation	

Due to the planning process and timing of meetings, the official approval for the action plan is made when the activities for the year have already started. Thus, many actions overlap between years.

The **Joint Advisory Board** has not been established (due to covid and Metsähallitus organizational changes). Having good contact with stakeholders is viewed as important part of the management of the areas. And also the cooperation. It have been difficult to find the right organization model. One reason is that the stakeholder sits is different on both sides of the border. The organization model and stakeholder group is to be solved during 2026-2027 and also part of a re-evaluation 2027.

4 Action plan 2026

4.1 Revision of the Haldi cooperation strategy. Including preparation of re-evaluation 2027.

The formal basis of the Haldi TBA cooperation is the [cooperation strategy](#) and the connected [formal agreement](#). These documents are to be revised as preparation of the re-evaluation in 2027.

Haldi Transboundary Area re-certification is postponed by a year, from 2026 to 2027, due to the reorganization of Metsähallitus (from regional organization to national) and the implementation of CLAP project results, that will take until the end of 2026. For laying out a solid foundation for future cooperation, there is a need to clarify how future cooperation in the Haldi Transboundary Area is to be organized, and to make strategic guidelines for the next 6-8 years. This is also seen in connection with future cooperation thru the CLAP project objectives that is climate change communication and adaption.

The re-certification documentation will be sent at the latest in December 2026, and the re-evaluation will take place in Spring 2027. Cost for one year postponing is 400 € in total. Cost for re-certification is 2000 € in total.

Themes:

- The re-organization of Metsähallitus: general status information and how it can affect day-to-day, but also long-term cooperation in the Haldi TBA.
- Specific information on new structure of Visitor Centers, prepared by Heidi Siira from Metsähallitus.
- Who are the future partners in cross border nature information, and what are the perspectives, prepared by Odd Rudberg from Halti Visitor Centre.
- Conclusions from the CLAP-project ending in 2026 and how the “future cooperation” is to be implemented.

Plan for the strategy process

Document outlining the discussion needed and the timeline. Prepared before 1, March 2026. Prepared by Rune Benonisen and Heidi Siira.	01.03.2026
Internal discussion on future strategy for Haldi cooperation	01.05.2026?
Manager group – meetings and discussions, Preparing outlines for new cooperation strategy.	May?
Ready suggestion for future cooperation	01.08.2026
Final decision on future cooperation strategy JMB	01.11.2026

4.1.1 Plan for the re-evaluation process

What	Time
Preparation: Work group prepare documentation for the process	October- November 2026
Step 1: Self-Evaluation: The protected areas conduct an internal evaluation against the 14 "Basic Standards" for cross-border partnerships. Work done by the partners and filling of evaluation form.	Before 15 th January 2027
Step 2: Desk Evaluation: An independent external verifier reviews the self-assessment remotely.	January -
Step 3: On-Site Verification: The verifier conducts a field visit to assess the practical implementation of the standards through discussions with stakeholders.	15.april 2027 or 15. Juni 2027
Step 4: Certification Decision: Based on the verifier's report, the Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) makes a recommendation to the EUROPARC Council, which then makes the final certification decision.	
Reward of new certificate	A: By mail June 2027 B: EUROPARC Conference 2027 (oct)

4.2 Information updates for the public and contact points

The re-organization of Metsähallitus affects cooperation regarding information to the public, internal staff producing information and the contact points between the partners.

There is a need to define internal contact points for different subject matters between partners. Metsähallitus drives customer service to take place digitally in Luontoon.fi web service, thus presentation of information regarding Halti area needs to be planned, designed and produced. Additionally, changes (for example Kilpisjärvi Visitor Center no longer exist) need to be made visible in the information materials on both sides.

Communication to general public and it's channels are considered in the mutual information update process. To strengthen engagement with the general public, the partners will explore methods for delivering uptodate cross-border information of the area within the remit of each organization.

Budget: 0	Financing: Internal funding	Responsible personnel: Rune Benonisen/ Nina Storm / Odd Rudberg / Heidi Siira / Tiia Lepistö
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Kommentert [HS1]: Tiia and Heidi added this chapter about general communication, Chapter 6 can be deleted totally.

4.3 Application for Protected Area Management Process (PAME)

Reisa National Park will leave an application for EUROPARC Federation pilot regarding Protected Area Management Effectiveness. If approved, Reisa National Park will cooperate closely with Metsähallitus conducting the documentation needed.

Currently, the evaluation of Protected Area Management Effectiveness in Europe is fragmented. Some Member States rely on their own national or international systems, while others have none. This patchwork leads to unreliable and incomparable data, making it challenging to form a clear picture of biodiversity trends across the EU.

LIFE PAME-Europe seeks to change that—not by imposing yet another system, but by building upon the best of what already exists. The project will analyse established MEE methodologies such as the IUCN Green List, European Diploma, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), and WWF’s Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPAM), along with national approaches. By identifying their strengths, LIFE PAME-Europe will create a flexible, adaptable framework tailored to the diverse needs of EU Member States.

The goal for the PAME process is to assess if the national goals for nature protection are met, and of course, if the standards are met in the Transboundary Area.

What		Time
Application process: Describe application and apply		12 th December 2025
Online meeting – start of process		29 th January 2026
Training Seminar in Prague		10 th -11 th March 2026
Online training Sessions		March – desember 2026
Budget: NOK 50 000	Financing: Internal funding	Responsible personnel: Rune Benonisen/ Nina Storm

4.4 Cooperation actions through CLAP project

As part of the CLAP project the partners will conduct actions that directly benefit the Haldi Transboundary Area cooperation.

4.4.1 Option A: Info screen renewal and information

There has been a lot of work done to establish the “infoscreen”. In practice, it is an ordinary web page that is specially adapted for viewing on a display screen. The info service is good and accessible, as it is now. However, there is a need to renew the info screen technically. In 2023-2024, new “technical specifications” were defined, and searched for potential technical solutions on the market regarding this. Building a new system was not implemented in 2024, but preparation has started.

Budget: NOK 50 000	Financing: Existing funding from CLAP project	Responsible personnel: Rune Benonisen/ Nina Storm
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12.01.2025

Status: Approved by Joint Management Board

4.4.2 Option B: Development Info screen for nature center exhibition on Climate Change

The Halti Visitor Centre is developing an info screen as part of the information on climate change issues. The screen content is developed on the basis of the planning process (WP2) of CLAP project.

Budget: NOK 150 000	Financing: Existing funding from CLAP project	Responsible personnel: Odd Rudberg
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4.4.3 Trail building A: Ráisjávri Follow-up trail building issues

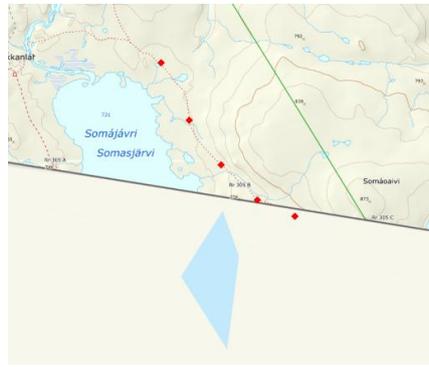
Specialist from Metsähallitus visit Reisa National Park (Ráisjávri) to learn more on how to build ATV tracks on wetlands. There will be a work shop and a field trip regarding this.

Budget: (travel cost, personnel cost, planning, equipment)	Financing: Existing funding from CLAP project	Responsible personnel: Odd Rudberg
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4.4.4 Trail building B: Monitoring of cross-border ATV tracks Sómajávri.

This is a follow-up on action from 2025. Reisa National Park undergoes measures to monitor the state of the cross-border ATV tracks. The results are reported in the system "Naturoppdrag" and possibly as part of a specific conservation goal. The action includes:

- Define a measure and state of the track (bevaringsmål)
- Define a monitoring strategy
- Monitoring



Picture above: Example from the area. Several parallel ATV tracks visible on the mire and right map of the area with mires that are damaged. Under: Example of action to prevent damage on mires.

Budget: (travel cost, personnel cost, planning, equipment)	Financing: Internal funding from Reisa National Park	Responsible personnel: Rune Benonisen / Nina Storm
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12.01.2025

Status: Approved by Joint Management Board

4.4.5 Implementing staff exchange program

The partners of Haldi Transboundary Area will prepare an internal system for staff exchange for partner organizations. The partner organizations put together a general program for staff exchange and implement it every second year.

Budget: (travel cost, personnel cost, planning, equipment)	Financing: Internal funding from both partners	Responsible personnel: Rune Benonisen / Nina Storm / Odd Rudberg / Heidi Siira
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5 Meetings and events in the Haldi TBA 2026

In 2026 there are several meeting points by the partners (Reisa National Park, Halti Visitor Centre and Metsähallitus) due to the CLAP project. The time-plan is not conclusive because of uncertainty on PAME process and need of re-evaluation as TBA.

Dates	Organizer	
20 th November 2025	Rune/Heidi	Work group meeting
9 th January 2026	Rune	JMB meeting. Formal decision of the 2025 report and 2026 action plan.
29 th January 2026	Rune	<i>Tentative</i> PAME: Online meeting
10.-11 th March 2026	Rune	<i>Tentative</i> PAME: Training Seminar
April - December	Rune	<i>Tentative</i> PAME: Online Training Sessions
May	Rune/Heidi	JMB meeting. Strategy for the future Haldi TBA.
8 th – 12 th June	All	Transboundary Protected Area Meeting 2026 – Illmitz Austria
July 2026		Trail building site visit to Ráisjávri Reisa National Park
August 2026		
September 2026		Staff Exchange
October 2026		Work group meeting
November 2026		Work group meeting
December 2026		JMB meeting. Formal decision of the 2026 report and 2027 action plan.