

24.3.2025

NOTICE OF RESEARCH

Interactive Promotion of Sustainability Transitions in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve: A Case Study of Networked Environmental Governance

Request to Participate in Research

You are invited to participate in a study that investigates the promotion of sustainability transitions in the practices of networked governance in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve. We have assessed that you are suitable for the study because, based on your role or experience, you have knowledge of the activities in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve. This notice describes the research and your role in it. After reviewing this notice, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the research, after which you will be asked to consent to participate in the study.

Voluntariness

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw from the study at any time. If you withdraw from the study or revoke your consent to participate, the data collected about you up to the point of withdrawal and revocation may be used as part of the research data.

Purpose of Research

The purpose of this scientific research is to gain a better understanding of the promotion of sustainability transitions at the local level within existing environmental governance structures and how interaction occurs during these governance processes among the various participating entities. The North Karelia Biosphere Reserve, as an entity involved in promoting local sustainability transitions under the guidance of the UNESCO MaB program and managed by the North Karelia ELY Center, provides a diverse perspective on local environmental governance.

Research Process

The research will be conducted as a case study utilizing multiple data collection methods. These include research interviews, participatory observation, and the collection of document materials related to the activities of the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve, as well as a possible electronic survey. Research interviews will be conducted with the participating entity or entities as agreed, either face-to-face, via Teams, by phone, or by email. The time required for participation in the research interview will be agreed upon with the interviewees on a case-by-case basis. In participatory observation, the researcher will participate as an observer in the daily activities aimed at promoting sustainability transitions in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve (e.g., meetings, gatherings, and other events). The implementation and duration of the observation will be agreed upon with the observed group or entities.



24.3.2025

Participation in the research is voluntary, and consent to participate will be requested from all participating entities.

Notification of Research Result

The research is a doctoral dissertation to be prepared at the University of Eastern Finland, majoring in Environmental Policy (Department of History and Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies). The doctoral dissertation is an article-based dissertation consisting of three separate articles. Each article will be published in an appropriate peer-reviewed scientific journal. The entities participating in the research will be informed about the publication of the research articles and the doctoral dissertation by the researcher.

Additional information

Please feel free to ask the researcher or the person responsible for the research any questions related to the study.

Contact Information of the Researchers

Person responsible for the research: Doctoral Researcher, Niko Nesterinen, Department of History and Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland, niko.nesterinen@uef.fi, +358294455477

Main supervisor of the doctoral dissertation: Professor, Irmeli Mustalahti, Department of History and Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland, irmeli.mustalahti@uef.fi, +358 29 4455006

Second supervisor of the doctoral dissertation: University Lecturer, Marja Alastalo, Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland, marja.alastalo@uef.fi, +358294455018



24.3.2025

Attachment to the Notice: Processing of Personal Data in Research

In this study, your personal data will be processed in accordance with the applicable data protection legislation (EU General Data Protection Regulation, 679/2016, and applicable national legislation). The following describes matters related to the processing of personal data:

The data controller for the research is: Doctoral Researcher, Niko Nesterinen, Department of History and Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland, niko.nesterinen@uef.fi, +358294455477

The following personal data about you will be collected in the study: Name, email address, phone number, job title/role, workplace, association membership, voice, traditional signature, assigned position (e.g., chairmanship). The participant has no contractual or statutory obligation to provide personal data, and participation is entirely voluntary.

Your personal data will also be collected from the following sources: Publicly available contact information from various organizations (e.g., online), including name, phone number, email address, and job title/role.

The purpose of processing personal data is: The purpose of processing personal data is scientific research aimed at investigating the promotion of sustainability transitions in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve through networked governance practices. The target group for data collection consists of individuals who, based on their role or experience, have knowledge of the activities in the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve. Entities connected to the activities of the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve will be interviewed or their participation in the daily activities of the biosphere reserve will be observed using participatory methods. The researcher has the contact information (name, email address, phone number) of the entities participating in the study. Consent to participate in the study will be requested from all participating entities.

The legal basis for processing personal data is: The processing of personal data always requires a legal basis found in the law. In this study, the legal basis is a task carried out in the public interest/exercise of official authority vested in the controller, scientific or historical research, or statistical purposes.

The duration of personal data processing for research purposes is: The duration of data processing for research purposes is 15 years (starting from 2024). This includes data collection, analysis, reporting, and publication, as well as the validation period. The storage period of the research data also considers the potential



24.3.2025

scientific research (e.g., post-doctoral research) that may be conducted by the doctoral researcher after the dissertation, for which this research data may be used.

What happens to personal data after the research ends: The research data containing personal data will be destroyed after the processing period ends.

Transfers of personal data: Data will not be disclosed outside the doctoral researcher and the entities supervising the doctoral research. Data protection agreements will be made with any research support services (e.g., transcription or translation services) that may be utilized in the study. Audio files of interviews or translation material without identifiable information will be provided to external research support services. The data collected in the study may be used in scientific research projects conducted by the doctoral researcher after the dissertation. Personal data will not be transferred to potential collaborators in these possible research projects.

Possible transfer of your personal data outside the EU or EEA: Your personal data will not be transferred outside the EU or EEA.

Since your personal data is processed in this study, you are a data subject in the personal data register created during the research.

As a data subject, you have the right to:

- Receive information about the processing of personal data
- Access your data
- Rectify your data
- Restrict the processing of your data
- The controller's obligation to notify about the rectification or restriction of personal data processing
- Object to the processing of data
- Not be subject to automated decision-making without a legal basis
- Contact the Data Protection Ombudsman if you believe your personal data has been processed in violation of data protection legislation

If the processing of personal data in the study does not require the identification of the data subject without additional information and the controller cannot identify the data subject, the right to access, rectify, delete, restrict processing, notify, and transfer data does not apply.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller.

The personal data collected in the study will not be used for automated decision-making.

A data protection statement has been prepared for the study. You can review the data protection statement by contacting the data controller.



24.3.2025

Personal data will be processed confidentially in accordance with data protection legislation. Direct identifiers will be removed from the research interview data at the establishment phase. The interview data will be analyzed using only coded indirect identifiers. Pseudonyms will be used for informants in the observation data, and the results will be reported at the group level so that no individual can be identified. The research data will be stored on the University of Eastern Finland's network drive, protected by a username, password, and two-factor authentication.