

Validity of the decision: 5 May 2008 – until further notice

Issued in Vantaa 5 May 2008

Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park Regulations

Pursuant to sections 18 and 20 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), Metsähallitus has issued the following Regulations concerning Pallas–Yllästunturi National Park located in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Muonio, Kittilä and Kolari.

These Regulations contain provisions issued by virtue of the Constitution of Finland (731/1999), the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996) as well as the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park (1430/2004, as amended by Act 431/2006), the Decree on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park (912/2005), (431/2006), the Off-road Traffic Act (1710/1995), the Off-road Traffic Decree (10/1996), the Hunting Act (615/1993), the Fishing Act (286/1982), the Fishing Decree (1116/1982), the Rescue Act (468/2003), the Reindeer Husbandry Act (84/1990), the Assembly Act (530/1999) as well as the Act on the Sámi Parliament (974/1995). In addition, the Regulations include provisions which Metsähallitus has the competence and obligation to issue in its capacity as a landowner and as the authority in charge of the National Park's administration.

In addition to these statutes, the provisions of the Regulations are based on the management plan for Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, which was drawn up by virtue of the Nature Conservation Act (section 19) and approved by the Ministry of the Environment on 10 January 2008.

1. Establishment and purpose of the National Park

(Section 1 of the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park)

The National Park was established and its protection and administration are regulated by virtue of the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park. Fishing in the park is regulated under the Decree on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park.

Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park was established to protect the most representative fell range of Western Lapland and, associated with it, the pristine forest and mire areas which have been preserved their wilderness character as well as the species found in them. The park's objectives also include hiking, research and education.

2. General provisions

2.1 General prohibitions

(Section 13 of the Nature Conservation Act, Chapter 8 of the Hunting Act)

Pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act, the following actions altering the natural surroundings are prohibited in the National Park:

- removal or destruction of trees, bushes and other plants or their parts
- the capture, killing and disturbance of wild vertebrates, and the destruction of their nests and burrows, and the capture and collection of invertebrates
- any other action which may have a detrimental impact on the natural conditions and the landscape, or on the preservation of fauna and flora
- the extraction of sand and stone materials and minerals, and any action that damages the soil or bedrock
- keeping dogs loose
- activities that alter the nature of the area, damage buildings or their ruins, or disturb other users of the park are also prohibited.

There are some exceptions to these provisions, which are listed below.

2.2 Zones in the National Park

(Section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act)

The National Park is divided into zones of use, which are subject to different regulations concerning access, camping and lighting campfires (maps in Annexes 1a and 1b). These zones are:

Remote zone; wilderness zone

- Latvavuoma area to the south of Aakenustunturi Fell
- The area north of Pyhätunturi Fell in Ylläs, excluding the surroundings of Äkäskero and Linkukero
- The area east of Vuontisjärvi in Muonio
- Ounastunturi - Könkäsentunturi - Raijanselkä area

Peripheral zone; special zone

- Onnasjoki - Pippovuoma - Kellotapulit area
- Pahakuru
- Sarvijärventievat - Ylisenpäänoja
- Sammaltunturi - Lommoltunturi - Keimiöjärvi
- Pyhätunturi in Aakenus

Recreational and nature tourism zone

- Ylläs - Kesänki - Lainiotunturi - Äkäskero area
- Aakenustunturi Fell
- Jerisjärvi - Pallastunturi area
- Hetta - Pallas trail and its surroundings

Cultural zone

- Pallasjärvi establishment and the meadows and cultural sites in its surroundings
- Pallas tourism area
- Buildings, yard and meadows of Puolitaival forest warden's croft
- Marasto reindeer separation fence with its buildings, structures and ruins

- Aakenus reindeer herders' hut and the old reindeer separation site nearby
- Kutujärvi meadow hut and its surroundings

Restriction zone

- Onnasjärvi - Onnasjoki area
- Hanhivuoma
- Pahakuru
- Suaskuru
- Haltioletto burial island
- Pyhäjoki
- Varkaankuru

2.3 Access rights

(Section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act, section 4 of the Off-road Traffic Act)

Access to the National Park without a motor vehicle is permitted, excluding the following restrictions (see the annexed maps):

- Access to Onnasjärvi - Onnasjoki restriction zone (239 ha) is prohibited between 1 May and 30 November to protect rare and endangered species.
- Access to Hanhivuoma restriction zone (333 ha) is prohibited to safeguard the nesting of birds, to prevent land erosion, and to protect the most important spawning beds of the Pallasjärvi trout.
- Access to Pahakuru (307 ha) and Suaskuru (48 ha) restriction zones is prohibited to prevent land erosion and to protect endangered species.
- Mooring and landing on Haltioletto burial island (0.1 ha) are prohibited to protect a habitat highly susceptible to wear and tear and its ancient history values.
- Access to the restriction zones of Pyhäjoki (84 ha) and Varkaankuru (a former herb-rich forest conservation area, 44 ha) is permitted in the snow-free season (1 May to 30 November) exclusively along the marked trail to prevent wear of the terrain and to protect endangered species.

Mountain biking, horse-riding and dog-ledding are only permitted on tracks/trails designated for this purpose. A husky sled refers to a sled pulled by two or more dogs. Husky sledding is not permitted in the Sámi Homeland in the municipality of Enontekiö, except on existing trails.

The use of land motor vehicles and motorboats as well as the landing of aircraft in the park area are prohibited, excluding the exceptions cited in sections 3 and 4.

2.4 Camping, lighting fires and hut use

(Section 24 of the Rescue Act, section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act)

Short-term camping (up to three days) is permitted in the wilderness zones of the National Park. In the special zone, recreational zone and cultural zone, lighting fires and camping are only permitted on serviced sites designated for these purposes. In the restriction zone, lighting fires and camping are prohibited.

In the wilderness zone of the National Park, lighting open fires is permitted using dry branches, twigs and small root stocks found in the area. However, lighting open fires within a radius of half a kilometre from a serviced campfire site in the vicinity of open wilderness huts and rest stops is prohibited.

Lighting open fires is prohibited everywhere when a forest fire warning is in force.

The day-trip huts in the National Park are primarily intended for daytime use, whereas the open wilderness huts are for short-term overnight stays. Metsähallitus may additionally issue more detailed instructions on the use of the huts.

2.5 Picking berries and mushrooms

(Sections 14 and 18 of the Nature Conservation Act)

Picking berries and edible mushrooms is permitted in the National Park area, unless this is prevented by access restrictions.

2.6 Fishing

(Section 14 of the Nature Conservation Act, section 8(1) of the Fishing Act, Section 4 of the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, section 1 of the Government Decree on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park)

Catching of fish is permitted in the National Park by angling and ice fishing as referred to in the Fishing Act and the Nature Conservation Act and under a permit issued by Metsähallitus, with the exception of the water bodies listed below. Angling and ice fishing, as referred to in the Fishing Act, may additionally be prohibited in specific water bodies by decision of the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

Fishing is prohibited around brown trout spawning beds in Lake Pallasjärvi as well as in water bodies with a native brown trout population and where Arctic char occurs. Fishing is consequently prohibited in the following water systems, including their tributaries and headwaters: Onnasjoki River including Onnasjärvi Lakes, Siosjoki River, Pippojoki River, Ruotajoki River, Hannujoki River including the small Raasikaltio Lakes, Pahajoki River including Hukkajärvi Lake, Kuoppajoki River excluding Kuoppajärvi Lake, Saariselänoja River, Ylijoki River, Nammalajoki River, all rivers and streams discharging into Vuontisjärvi Lake in Muonio including Riivinjärvi Lakes, Pyhäjoki River including Killinpoikanjärvi Lakes and Hanhijärvi Lake, Ylisenpäänoja River including Rautujärvi Lake and Ylisenpäänjärvi Lake, Lompolonoja River and, additionally, Rautujärvi Lake, Pahtajärvi Lake, Maanselkäjärvi Lake, Saarijärvi Lake and the adjoining Hietajärvi Lake, Palsijärvi Lake and Suaskuru Lakes. A water system refers to all water bodies discharging into the same river.

Fisheries management and fishing in keeping with the management plan are permitted in Pallasjärvi Lake, Keimiöjärvi Lake, and Pyhäjärvi Lake in Aakenustunturi subject to a permit issued by Metsähallitus.

Permits to operate motorboats may be issued for Pallasjärvi Lake, provided that no noise or other environmental disturbance is caused (section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act).

2.7 Hunting

(Section 4 of the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park)

Hunting in the National Park is prohibited, but allowed for local residents (see section 3.3 below).

3 Specific provisions on Sámi people and other local residents

A local resident refers to persons registered and permanently resident in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Muonio, Kittilä and Kolari when found within the area of their municipality of residence in the National Park. The part of Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park located in the municipality of Enontekiö is part of the Sámi Homeland (Map annex).

3.1 Constitutional rights of the Sámi

(Sections 17 and 121 of the Constitution of Finland, the Act on the Sámi Parliament)

As an indigenous people, the Sámi are entitled to preserve and develop their language, culture and livelihoods, including reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting.

3.2 Fishing

(Section 12 of the Fishing Act, section 34 of the Fishing Decree, section 1 of the Government Decree on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, section 71 of the Nature Conservation Act, section 4 of the Off-road Traffic Act)

Local residents have a right referred to in the Fishing Act to catch fish by angling and ice fishing in the waters of the National Park. However, this right does not apply to water systems in which fishing is prohibited under a decree, see section 2.6. Special fishing rights belonging to a holding confirmed in the cadastral survey apply to some of these water bodies.

In addition to commonly sold fishing permits, Metsähallitus may issue fishing permits based on sustainable yield of fishing waters for net, hook or other fishing in the following lakes: Kylmäsenjärvi, Pitkäjärvi, Ahvenjärvi, Kaivosjärvi, Ketomellan Hietajärvi, Iso Raasikaltio, Joukhaisjärvi and Kuoppajärvi. When issuing such permits, priority is given to persons pursuing natural sources of livelihood. Sustainable yield is defined in the fisheries management plan.

Boats may be kept in the water bodies subject to a permit, which may be issued for the lakes listed above. Those with special fishing rights in the lake may keep a boat in Porvinniemi in Pallasjärvi Lake.

Metsähallitus may grant persons pursuing a natural source of livelihood a permit to use motor vehicles for fishing activities.

Fishing in keeping with the management plan is permitted in Pallasjärvi Lake, Keimiöjärvi Lake and Pyhäjärvi Lake in Aakenustunturi subject to a permit issued by Metsähallitus.

3.3 Hunting

(Section 9 of the Hunting Act, section 4 of the Act on Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, as amended)

In the area of their municipalities of residence, local residents have the right to hunt as referred to in the Hunting Act, excluding in the areas listed below. The use of hunting dogs is permitted in connection with hunting.

Hunting is not permitted in treeless fell areas or areas close to the park's trails and service infrastructure, or the tourist centres of Ylläs and Pallastunturi (maps in Annexes 2a and 2b).

Persons permanently resident in the villages of Raattama and Rauhala in the municipality of Kittilä also have the right to hunt in the part of the National Park that was transferred from the municipality of Kittilä to the municipality of Muonio, with the exception of the areas protected under the act establishing the park.

Metsähallitus may grant an off-road traffic permit for hunters to pick up dead game animals and for the trapping of willow grouse.

3.4 Lighting fires and camping

Local residents have the right to camp and light fires in compliance with the provisions in section 2.4. In addition, lighting fires in connection with seine fishing is permitted on Lake Pallasjärvi at marked seine sites.

Only dry branches, twigs and small root stocks found on the site may be used to build a fire. Damaging growing trees and deadwood is prohibited.

4 Other provisions

4.1 Authorities' activities

(Section 14 of the Nature Conservation Act)

The restrictions concerning access, motor vehicle and aircraft use, camping and lighting fires do not apply to authorities' actions permitted under the protection provisions. Where necessary, persons carrying out official activities shall be able to prove that they are performing such duties.

4.2 Reindeer husbandry

(Sections 3 and 40 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act, section 14 of the Off-Road Traffic Act, section 13 of the Off-road Traffic Decree)

Grazing of reindeer and other reindeer husbandry work related to it are permitted in the National Park in compliance with the Act on Reindeer Husbandry and the statutes establishing the National Park.

The use of motor vehicles in reindeer husbandry tasks is permitted in compliance with the Off-road Traffic Act and Decree.

The use of reindeer dogs in reindeer herding tasks is permitted. For reindeer husbandry purposes, timber needed for firewood and building traditional huts may be taken free of charge. Dry branches, twigs and small root stocks may be used to build a fire. Felling trees to provide firewood for reindeer herders' huts and fencing is prohibited in the park.

Winter feeding of reindeer in the forest shall be agreed on with Metsähallitus.

4.3 Activities subject to a permit

At its discretion, Metsähallitus may grant a permit for the following activities in the National Park:

- Access to the restriction zone (section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act)
- Landing an aircraft (section 15 of the Nature Conservation Act)
- Killing and catching animals for scientific or educational purposes and limited collection of plants, plant parts and mineral samples, geological research and prospecting (section 15 of the Nature Conservation Act). Applications for these permits must be submitted to Metsähallitus in writing.
- Catching of fish by means other than angling or ice fishing (section 15 of the Nature Conservation Act)
- Removal of a dead game animal from the area (section 15 of the Nature Conservation Act)
- Construction of buildings or other fixed installations for the purpose of reindeer husbandry (section 15 of the Nature Conservation Act)
- Organising a public event (section 13 of the Assembly Act)
- Off-road and waterborne traffic for a purpose compatible with the activities of the National Park (section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act, section 4 of the Off-road Traffic Act).

Keeping boats in water bodies is only permitted at sites designated for this purpose and subject to permission of Metsähallitus (section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act) (see section 3.2).

Permits to operate motorboats may be issued for Pallasjärvi Lake, provided that no noise or other environmental disturbance is caused (section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act).

The ELY Centre (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment) may grant a derogation from the protection provisions laid down in section 48 of the Nature Conservation Act if the conservation status of the species remains favourable.

4.4 Tourism business

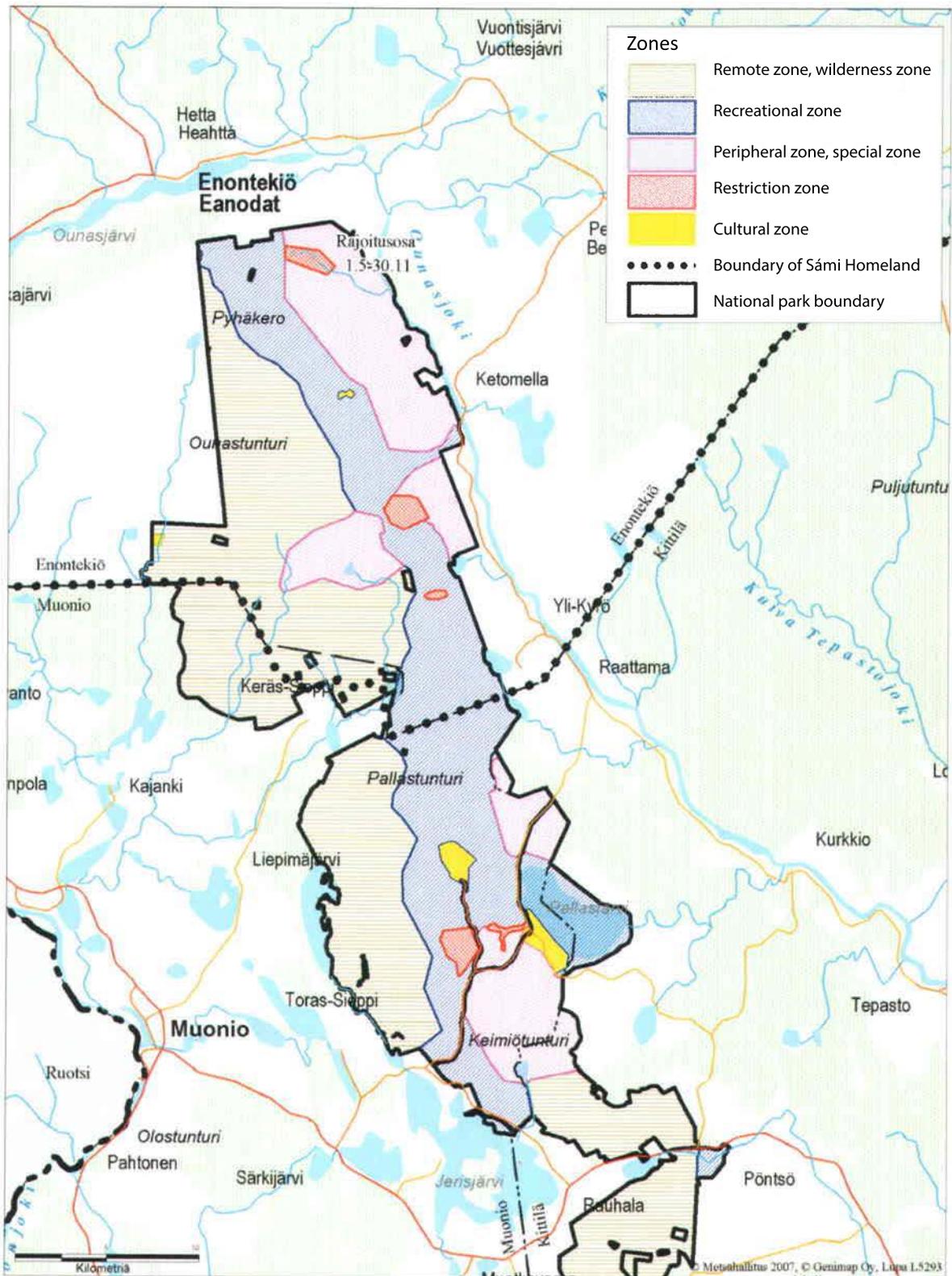
(Section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act)

Tourism-related activities may be carried out in the National Park without a separate agreement or permit if they are based on everyman's rights valid in the park, such as hiking or skiing, and rest stops serviced by Metsähallitus are not used.

Metsähallitus retains the right to decide separately on the use of serviced rest stops in the National Park, such as huts and campfire sites. The rest stops may be used for tourism activities subject to a permit issued by or agreement concluded with Metsähallitus.

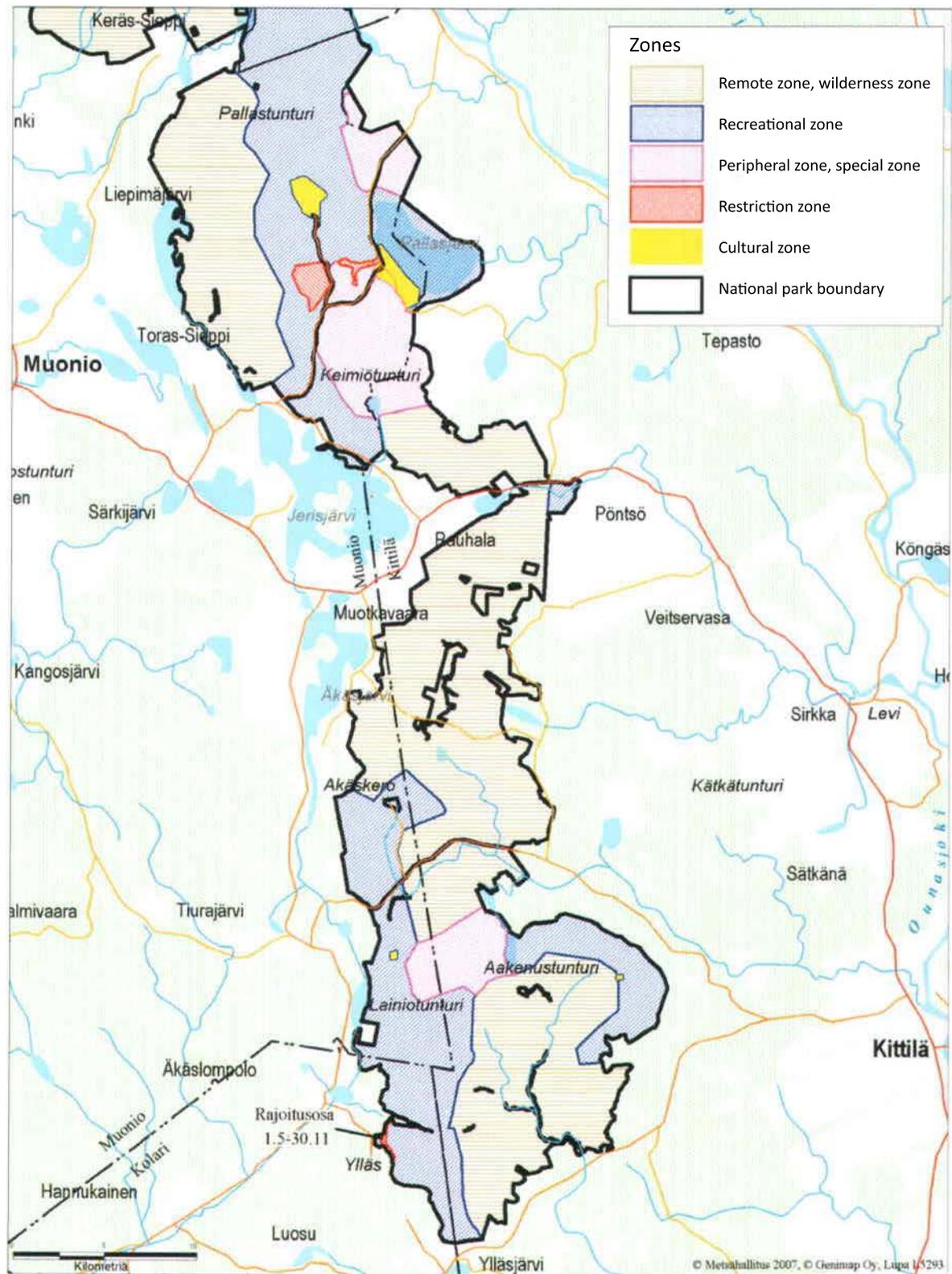
Annex 1a. Land use zones in Pallas–Ounastunturi area

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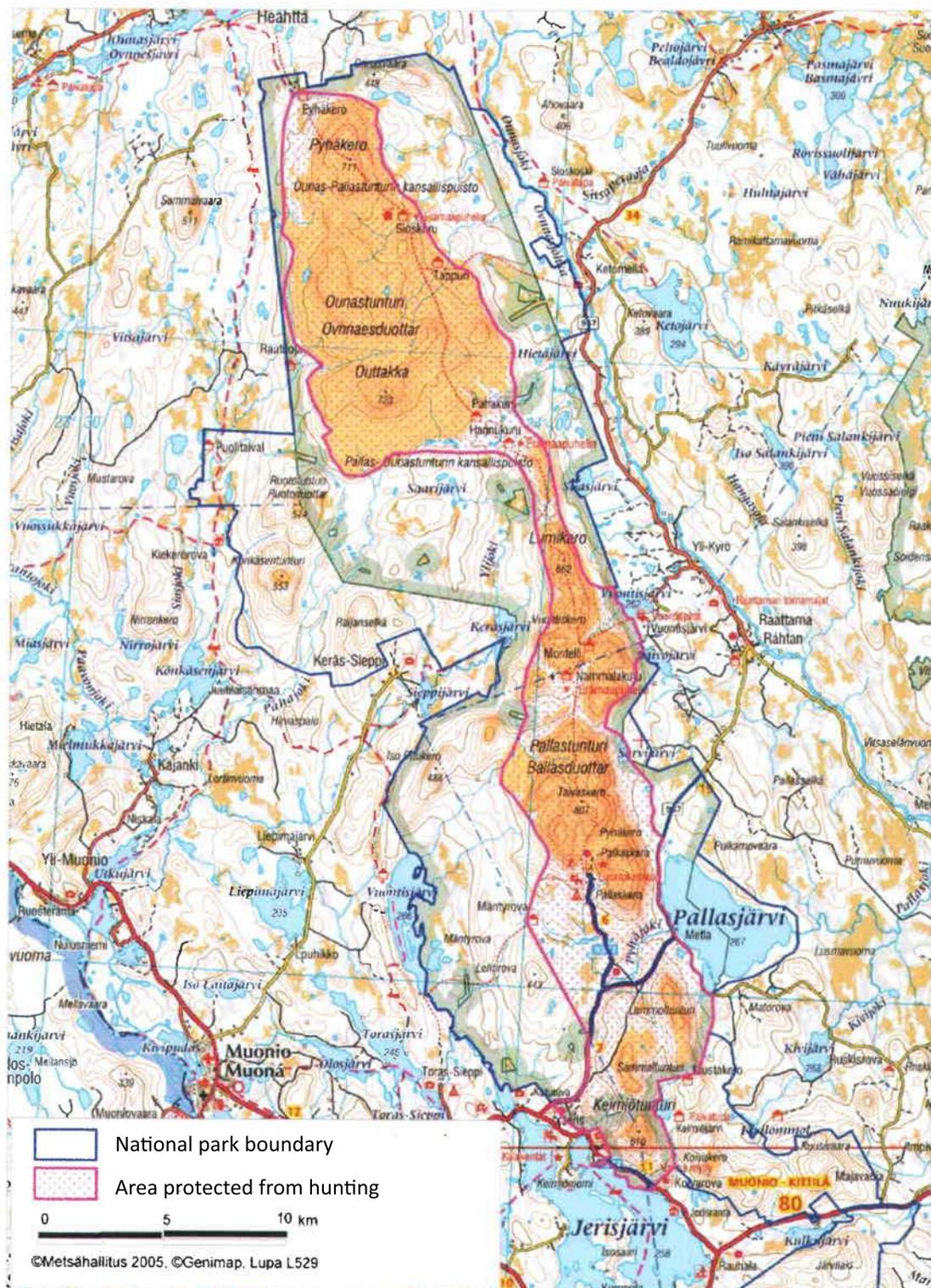
Annex 1b. Land use zones in Ylläs-Aakenustunturi area

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Annex 2 a. Pallas–Ounastunturi area protected from hunting

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Bilaga 2b. Fredningsområde i Ylläs-Aakenustunturiområdet

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