

# Snowchange Presentation at ISF SystExt, September 2017



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### Some of the Snowchange mining related processes (Long-term) in Finland, Russia, Sweden

- Strictly protected areas (IUCN category I)
- Other protected areas

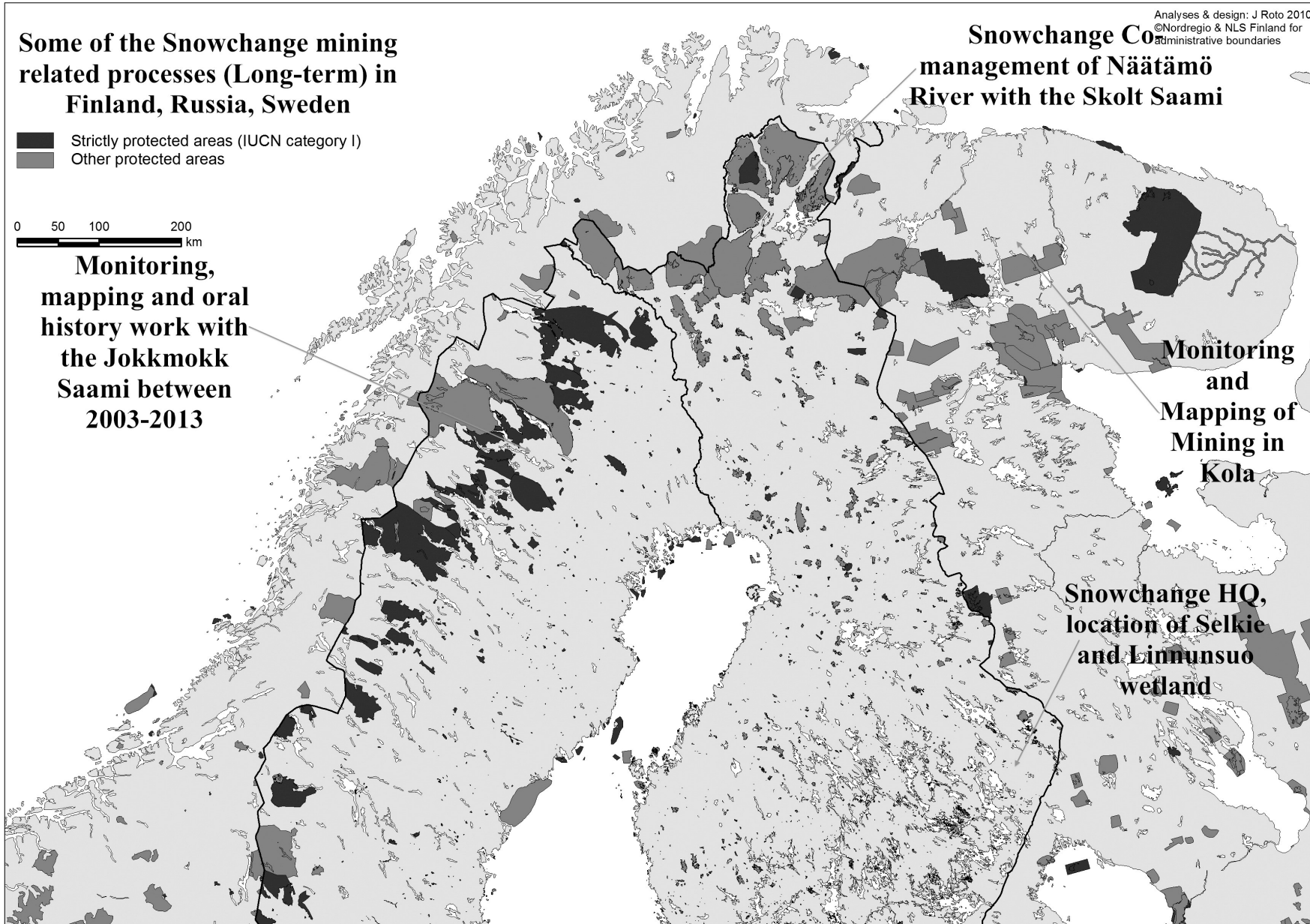
0 50 100 200 km

Monitoring, mapping and oral history work with the Jokkmokk Saami between 2003-2013

Snowchange Co management of Näätämö River with the Skolt Saami

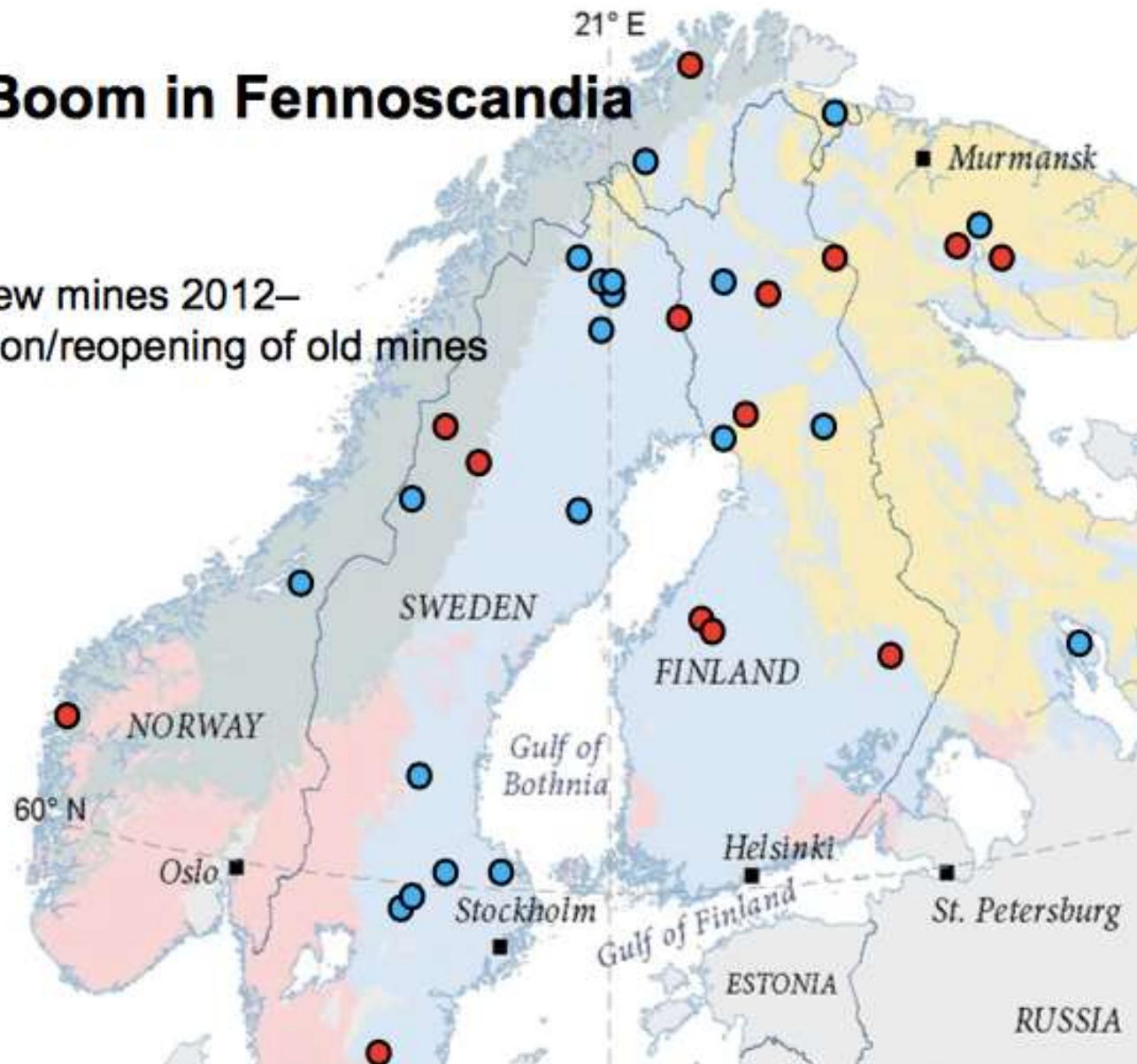
Monitoring and Mapping of Mining in Kola

Snowchange HQ, location of Selkie and Linnunsuo wetland



# Mining Boom in Fennoscandia

- Major new mines 2012–
- Expansion/reopening of old mines



# Mining in Finland: The Context of Snowchange's Work

**Rights and 'resources' in Finland, the first movement:**

**Finland is one of the most ore-rich regions in the Arctic and Europe.**

Despite appearances, nationally and internationally, **Finland has one of the most ineffective legal frameworks concerning mining and mining impacts.**

**State decisionmaking frequently favours mining companies**, which are 99% large international actors e.g. Boliden, Areva, First Quantum, Western Areas Limited etc.

**Local communities still have very limited rights** or influence and **Finland is not a signatory to ILO 169** (no FPIC).

**Companies benefit from the dismantling of effective legal and ecological regulation** and monitoring caused by major society reforms in the 2000s.

**The current right-wing government is further eroding people's rights** to contest mining projects e.g. preventing local people from applying to Supreme Administrative Court of Finland without prior permission etc.



## 'Green Mining' in Finland: Snowchange's Perspective

### Finland's interface on 'green' or 'sustainable' mining, the second movement:

E.g. The Finnish Network of Sustainable Mining- a network of companies, State authorities and NGOs that has produced the Finnish Towards Sustainable Mining Standard (2016). See: <https://www.kaivosvastuu.fi/in-english/>

#### The Aim:

To provide 'responsibility tools' for environmental, social and economic sustainability that enable companies to 'go beyond what is required'.

And

*"To restore confidence in the industry and improve its acceptability"*- Hannele Pokka, Chairman of the Network and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment

**Snowchange's view: 'Green mining' standards are unable to produce meaningful or relevant agreements that protect socio-ecological and local-Indigenous rights and lifeways. Power is not changed.**

## Turning Point of Public Perceptions: Talvivaara



Finland's 'green mining' hype damaged by the Talvivaara mining disaster.

Finland's biggest nickel/uranium mine contaminated local water bodies with severe leaks (sulphate) from metal-contaminated tailings 2012-2016.

Mine now owned by a state company Terrafame, a member of the Finnish Network of Sustainable Mining.

# Snowchange Responses to the Aggressive Mining and Destruction of Lands



## Supporting resistance: Diamonds in Deatnu



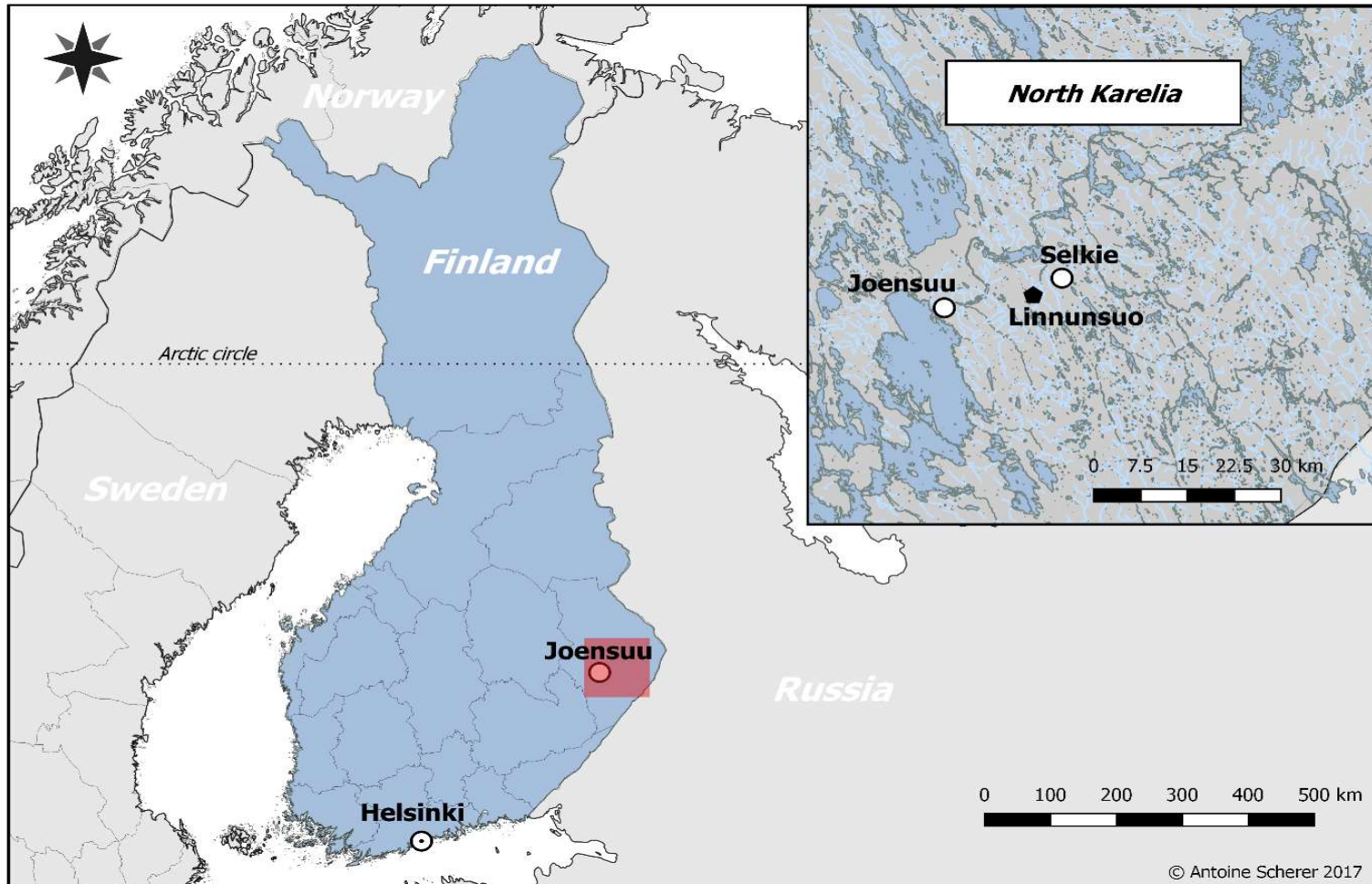
Finnish authorities gave KDR Diamonds a license in Kevo Nature Reserve on Sami lands, against international law and standards.

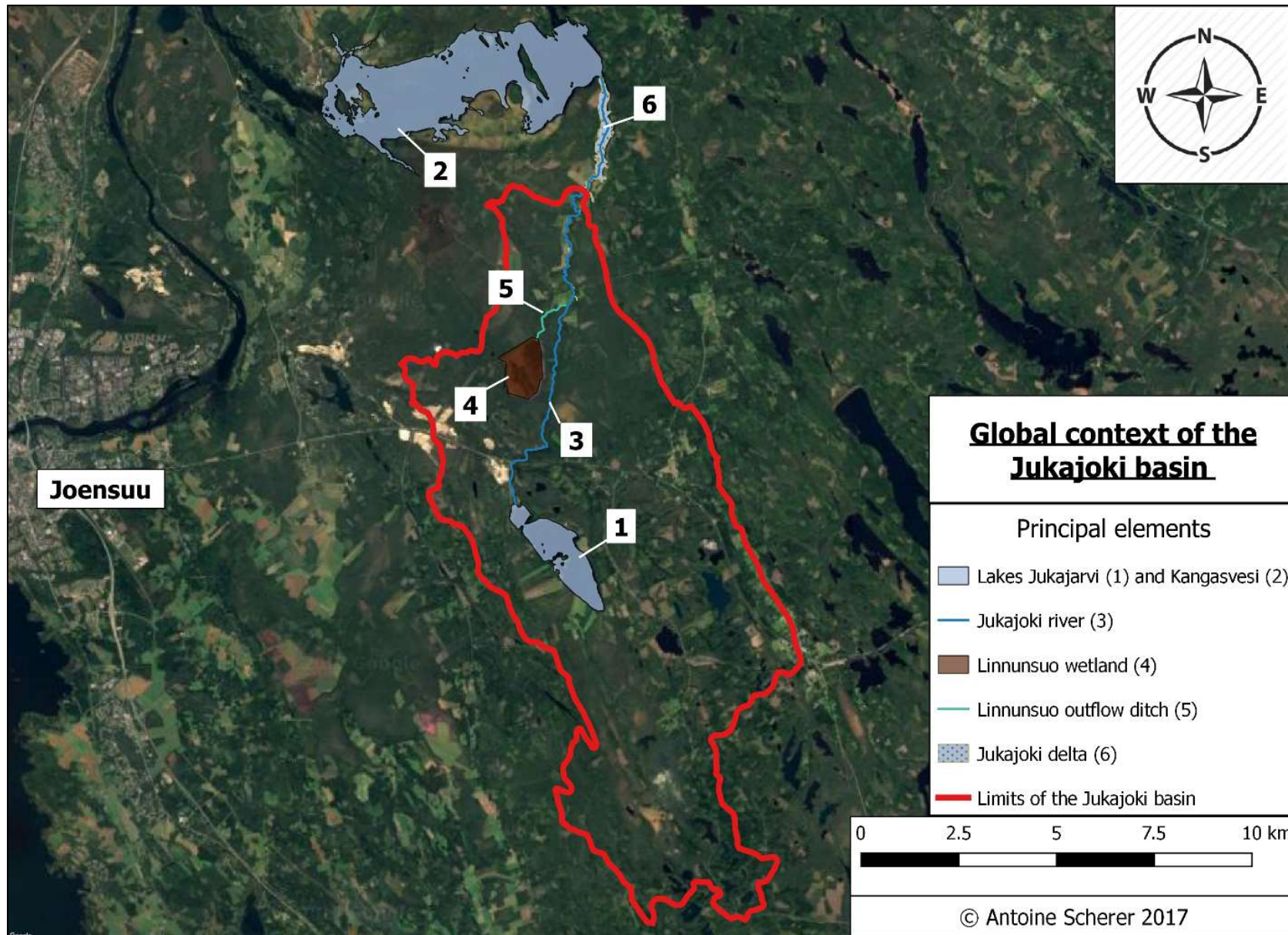
Sami people opposed to the KDR diamond mine organised as the *Anti-Mining Coalition of the Deatnu Valley*.

Snowchange consulted on their campaign, which was successful.



# Jukajoki restoration project : the Linnunsuo case





# Linnunsuo, a restored wetland showing a high resilience...



Common Greenshank on Linnunsuo

Linnunsuo Wetland : owned by Snowchange, Re-Wilding site, post-peat production area, now home for over 185 bird species (especially waders)

.... But where the effects of its industrial past are still visible



Iron precipitates forming as the ice melts



A temporary stream typical of acid mine drainage



# Co-management approach

## *Importance of the local-traditional knowledge*



The moose hunt, an important communal event  
(© Vanhakalvia.fi)



Fishing has always been an activity of major importance for Finns  
(© Kaleva.fi)



**LEGEND**

-  Co-management council member
-  Affiliated partner
-  Civil society (community)
-  Public sector (state)
-  Private sector
-  Education/research

*ELY - Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. ELY Centres are responsible for the government's regional implementation and development tasks. As the administrative branch of the Ministry of the Environment, ELY provides guidance on land use and conservation, monitoring and management of water resources.*

*OTSO - Metsäpalvelut (Forest Services Otso) is the business unit of the Finnish Forest Centre, which is a national governmental forestry organisation that both enforces the national Forest Act and promotes forest-based livelihoods.*



# Co-management approach

*Expert knowledge and traditional-local knowledge are used equally, in a complementary way*



Tarmo Tossavainen measuring the maximal discharge in Linnunsuo



Bird census on a cloudy day



Laboratory analyses of the water samples



## **Näätämö river Skolt Saami Co-Management**

Restoration of trout and Atlantic Salmon habitats to combat negative drivers of Arctic climate change. Featured in Science journal, National Geographic, the Guardian as a best practice

Co-management and mapping of traditional land uses and knowledge assists in preventing and responding to potential and future infrastructure and mining plans



# Proposals for Cooperation

The boreal and the Arctic are key habitats for future of global climate change and preservation of carbon sinks. We are open to discuss new cooperation to prevent mining

Linnunsuo as a post-mining site has a potential to be replicated globally as a "safe haven" for socio-ecological systems. We are open to discussing using Linnunsuo as a larger example of community- and traditional knowledge restoration.

Contact: [www.snowchange.org](http://www.snowchange.org)