**Progress Report 2016**

**The Political Priority Initiative of the Nordic Council of Ministers on**

**Incorporating Community Knowledge into Decision-Making on the Use of Natural Resources**

**“Nordic Resource Management”**

**1. Project title**

Nordic Resource Management (Nordisk Ressourceforvaltning; *NUNAVIS*, *Nunani avannarlerni isumalluutinik ingerlatsineq suliniut*). Project Web-site: [www.nordres.org](http://www.nordres.org)

Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers’ as a Political Priority Initiative at the occasion of the Danish Chairmanship in 2015.

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**2. Contact details**

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Partners in the Project:

**Greenland / Denmark:**

* Departementerne for Fiskeri og Fangst (APN); Uddannelse, Kirke, Kultur og Ligestilling;

Miljø og Natur

* Greenland Association of Municipalities (KANUKOKA)
* Greenland Fishers and Hunters Association (KNAPK)
* SLiCA (Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic), Ilisimatusafik, Greenland University
* Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR)
* Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling (NORDECO)
* Department of BioScience, Aarhus University

**Faroe Islands:**

* University of the Faroe Islands

**Iceland**:

* Stefansson Arctic Institute

**Sweden**:

* Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm Universitet
* Centre for Sami Research, Umeå Universitet
* Swedish Biodiversity Centre (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Uppsala University)

**Norway**:

* International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICRH)
* Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

**Finland**:

* SnowChange Cooperative

**International**:

* University of the Arctic
* Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Russia
* ELOKA (Exchange for Local Observations of the Arctic), National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

**3. Research development (summary of empirical and theoretical work)**

This project is part of a wider programme by partners from all the Arctic countries to improve the use of local and indigenous knowledge to inform democratic decision-making on the management of natural resources in the Arctic. The programme was discussed in the Sustainable Development Working Group in Reykjavik in 2012 and further developed at an international symposium in Copenhagen in 2013 (<http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A791816&dswid=7377>). In 2014, one component of the programme (= the present project) was proposed to the Nordic Council of Ministers for funding by the Greenlandic and Danish Governments.

The project is a three-year project. The project has progressed largely as planned during 2016. Below is an overview of the status of the project for each of the project’s immediate objectives and indicators.

**Immediate objective 1:** ”Further development and testing of standard templates to incorporate community knowledge into decision-making on the use of resources”.

Indicator for immediate objective 1: “The tools/standard templates developed for incorporating community knowledge into decision-making on the use of resources will, in themselves, constitute the success criterion”.

Status: In 2016, templates for pilot-testing were tested in two countries, Greenland and Finland. In addition, in the Faroe Islands, Eydfinn Magnussen of University of Faroe Islands analyzed the use of social media for monitoring hare hunting.

In Greenland, led by APN, GINR and NORDECO, the project continued the development and testing of templates and tools for incorporating community knowledge into decision-making on the use of musk ox and reindeer populations. Musk ox and reindeer are the only two ungulates (hoofed mammals) in the Arctic. Within Greenland, sub-populations of these species are separated from each other by fjords and glacial tongues running from Greenland’s ice cap to the sea. There is limited understanding of the status of many of the sub-populations. Because of the lack of such information, it is difficult for the government to take optimal management decisions for each population. The government has minimal ability to undertake population assessments. The best opportunity for input to the setting of quotas might therefore be by handling over a larger share of the responsibility for monitoring the populations to the local users. During June-September 2016, the project continued testing the use of community-based templates for assessing populations of both species. GINR tested the tool (’minimum-counts’) on-the-ground in the community Arsuk near the Ivittuut area, and trained the local community members in its use. The village inhabitants continued to be very interested in participating. A meeting was also held in Arsuk local Natural Resource Committee to discuss progress of the project. Communities in the neighboring Kujalleq Muncipality (Nanortalik) were visited and a local Natural Resource Committee was established. In 2017, the project plans to continue the pilot testing of the tools in Arsuk and Nanortalik and the associated training and to further develop community involvement in the management of the local populations of musk ox and reindeer.

In Finland, led by SnowChange Cooperative, the project continued the field-testing of an adapted version of the quarterly form used by Greenland’s PISUNA project in 2016 (see <http://www.pisuna.org/documents/Kvartalsumskema_DK.jpg>). Like in 2015, the field testing was undertaken from June to September among three fishermen in Jukajoki watershed in East Finland and two teams of Skolt Sámi fishermen in the Näätämo watershed in North Finland. These locations were chosen for the test round, due to their infrastructure and human professional capacity in place, i.e. project resources benefitted from existing teams of fishermen who were already cooperating with SnowChange. Both in Jukajoki and the Näätämo watershed, the fishermen found the forms useful to document observations of fish resources, harvest, uses of the basin, weather changes, and limnological water quality. Nevertheless, both the Sámi and the Jukajoki fishermen stressed that the forms cannot convey their deeper relationships and interaction with the river on their own, therefore primary vehicles for the local governance of resources has to include, in addition to the forms, uses of workshops, interviews and mapping. The results were presented for the project partners in Greenland, and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for fishermen and hunters from both countries using these tools to visit each other and further exchange lessons learnt. An application was therefore made to the Arctic Programme of the Nordic Council of Ministers for exchange visits. The application was approved for funding, and Finnish fishermen and hunters will visit Disko Bay in Nov.-Dec. 2017.

In the Faroe Islands, the use of Facebook for monitoring and discussing hare hunting was tested during November and December 2015 by Eydfinn Magnussen of the University of the Faroe Islands. During 2016, Eydfinn analyzed the experiences and wrote it into a section of a chapter in a book for Cambridge University Press, which also included the lessons from Greenland and Finland. The book will be published in 2017. The use of Facebook enabled a dialogue between hunters and scientists on hares and hunting in the outfields of the country based on collaboration and trust. There were however also challenges. It was time-consuming for the scientist to facilitate the Facebook-discussions and some information was incomplete.

The test results were discussed among project partners at a 2-day workshop in Nuuk, Greenland, on 10-11 Dec. 2016 as well as at a meeting in the Technical Backing Group of the project on 8 Dec. 2016.

**Immediate objective 2:** “Improved capacity to use citizen knowledge” (“Authorities and civil society organizations will” (through their participation in courses and other capacity-development activities) “increasingly be able to use community members’ knowledge of nature and natural resources and promote democratic civic participation in the management of natural resources”).

Indicator for immediate objective 2: “The success criterion will be a one-page manual developed by the course participants and which will also serve as an introduction to standard templates for new participants”.

Status: The project has undertaken a number of capacity-development activities, including:

- Continued training of community members in Arsuk and Nanortalik in using community tools and templates for population assessment of musk ox and reindeer and in using the simple PISUNA template for tracking, discussing and communicating the status and trends of other natural resources.

- Continued training of a group of fishermen in Jukajoki watershed in East Finland and two teams of Skolt Sámi fishermen in the Näätämo watershed in North Finland in using a locally-adapted version of the PISUNA template for tracking, discussing and communicating the status and trends of fish and other riverine resources, as well as weather changes.

- Three national staff and several municipality staff from the Government of Greenland, and one staff of GINR, have been directly involved in the capacity development in South Greenland. One staff of the Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission has been involved in the template testing in North Finland.

**Immediate objective 3:** “Communication of the experience” (“There will be more widespread international recognition of community knowledge and how it differs from scientific knowledge. Likewise, there will be greater awareness of the fact that, when used together, these two forms of knowledge can provide a more complete basis for the management of natural resources”).

**Immediate objective 4:** ”Learning from practice”. (“The experience of using standard templates to incorporate community knowledge into decision-making on the use of nature and its resources will be documented and disseminated internationally”).

Combined indicators for immediate objectives 3 and 4: “The success criterion will be that the project can demonstrate a significant increase in how often community knowledge of natural resources is incorporated into decision-making procedures on quotas, etc. This means that the standard templates: are being used systematically by hunters, fishermen, reindeer herders and other local environmentally-interested citizens; are reaching the institutions responsible for natural resource management, quota legislation, etc.; and are being used in practice for management decisions”.

Status: During 2016, key materials and outreach activities of the project have included:

*Meetings, presentations and panel discussions*

* Participation in panel and discussions at Government of Quebec’s high-level side-event at the Arctic Circle conference in Reykjavik, Oct. 2016.
* Presentation by APN at Nordic Seminar in Nuuk in Feb. 2016.
* Presentation and participation in discussions at British Counsel’s two-day event in Nordatlantens Hus in Copenhagen, June 2016.
* Provision of inputs to Greenland Government’s contribution to the Indigenous People and Local Communities Work Programme of the CBD.
* Presentation at Cornell University in Ithaca, USA, Nov. 2016.
* Presentation among indigenous and local communities and civil society organisations in Kola and Khomi in Russia, July and Oct. 2016.
* Various published materials on the science and application of community monitoring at the website of the University of the Arctic.
* Participation in Steering Committee for ’Species On the Move 2016’ high-level scientific conference in Tasmania on climate change and species distribution changes, advising on how to incorporate local knowledge into the conference discussions.

*Written outputs*

- The book chapter “Citizen Science Tools for Engaging Local Stakeholders and Promoting Local and Traditional Knowledge in Landscape Stewardship”. The title of the book is “The Science and Practice of Landscape Stewardship”, and it is edited by C. Bieling and T. Plieninger. The book will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2017.

* The book ”EALLU; Food, Knowledge and How We Have Thrived on the Margins”, see <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1926>. The preparation of the book has been led by ICRH, and the book has officially been published by the Sustainable Development Working Group of Arctic Council.
* Minutes from the two-day NUNAVIS workshop in Nuuk in Dec. 2016 has been drafted.

- Revision and update of the Wiki encyclopedia article on ”Participatory Monitoring” (<http://stats.grok.se/en/latest90/Participatory_monitoring>). This website provides an introduction to community monitoring of natural resources and it is every day seen by about 10 users and it has been viewed several thousands times by now.

*Media:*

The project has led to several media stories in the Nordic countries in 2016 as well as press releases published by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the University of the Arctic.

*Other results*

The project has brainstormed with project partners and staff of NCM Secretariat on the contents of a policy brief on the use of community knowledge and observations for decision-making. In addition, the preliminary graphic contents of the policy brief have been drafted. The policy brief will be completed and disseminated in 2017.

**4. Budget situation**

See Annex 1.

**5. Further dissemination plans for the project outside current budget**

The project continues in 2017. See time table below.

Time table 2017:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month of 2017** | **Activity** | **Organisation(s)** | **Output** |
| Jan-Apr. | Various follow-up to the Dec. 2016 workshop, inc. preparation of minutes from meetings, and several media releases | APN, SnowChange, NORDECO | Minutes, media releases |
| May | Publication on traditional knowledge and food by Sustainable Development Working Group, at the Week of the Arctic | ICRH | Book, event |
| May | Participation in panel discussion, indigenous and local knowledge for decision-making, International Arctic Assembly | NORDECO | Video (streamed) |
| May-August | Continued pilot testing of templates Arsuk and Nanortalik, Greenland, and training of the local Natural Resource Councils | APN, GINR, NORDECO | Technical report, minutes |
| June 2017 | Steering Committee Meeting | Members of the Project Steering Committee | Minutes |
| Nov. 2017 | Completion of ”Ungulate Calculator”, a software for hunters/biologists to project consequences of management decisions | GINR, APN | Software w. instructions and examples |
| To be determined | Preparation of policy brief for Nordic Council of Ministers | All | Policy Brief |
| To be determined | Training webinar | To be determined | One-page intro manual drafted by participants |
| Dec. 2017 | Project report | All | Report |

**Annex 1.** Budget situation (DKK)

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Budget | Outcome |
| Costs |  |  |
| Personnel (direct) | 873.438 | 823.787 |
| Other | 1.126.560 | 679.437 |
| Total costs | 1.999.998 | 1.503.224 |
|  |  |  |
| NMR funding |  |  |
| Previous payments |  | 1.608.332 |
| Remaining |  | 391.666 |
| Total NMR funding | 1.999.998 | 1.999.998 |