**Progress Report 2015**

**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, Fangst og Landbrug (APNN); 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. Reporting date**

31 December 2015

**4. 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 2015. Please find below an overview of the status of the project as of Dec. 2015 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: Potential templates for pilot-testing and suitable test areas were discussed among representatives of SLiCA, KNAPK, ICRH, SnowChange, ELOKA, APNN and NORDECO in the project’s technical backing-group in Feb. 2015. Templates were tested in two countries, Greenland and Finland.

In Greenland, led by APNN, GINR and NORDECO, the project developed and tested 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-July 2015, the project started testing the use of community-based templates for assessing populations of both species. GINR refined a tool (’minimum-counts’), and the project established this tool on-the-ground in the community Arsuk near the Ivittuut area, and trained the local community members in its use. Together with reindeer herders in Isortoq, the GINR tested minimum-counts. Results from transect surveys of reindeer undertaken from a gyrocopter (an ultra-light aircraft) were compared with ground-based survey results from minimum-counts. There has been large interest from village inhabitants to participate. A community meeting was held in Arsuk to discuss the preliminary findings of the project and to establish a local Natural Resource Committee. Communities in the neighboring Kujalleq Muncipality (Nanortalik and Tugtutooq) have also asked to become involved in the pilot-testing. In 2016, the project plans to continue the pilot testing of the templates and tools and further discuss community involvement in the management of the local populations of musk ox and reindeer.

In Finland, led by SnowChange Cooperative, the project has undertaken a horizon scan of existing templates and practices used for communicating local knowledge and observations and has started field-testing an adapted version of the quarterly form used by Greenland’s PISUNA project (see <http://www.pisuna.org/documents/Kvartalsumskema_DK.jpg>). The horizon scan of existing practices used for communicating local knowledge and observations involved interviews with key game and wildlife scientists, hunter-fishermen and survey of national game and wildlife institutions. Key existing approaches for communicating local knowledge and observations in Finland include: (i) catch statistics, (ii) ‘game triangle’ assessments of wildlife tracks surveyed on foot along predetermined routes, (iii) user surveys, and (iv) consultation meetings between hunter associations and public agencies. The field testing of an adapted version of the quarterly form used by Greenland’s PISUNA project 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 first 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. In 2016, the project will continue the testing of the template form from March so as to include ice fisheries in the basins. This will produce further information on what roles the templates may play in future governance and observations.

In Norway, preparations were made by ICRH for testing templates to incorporate community knowledge on reindeer and area management into decision-making on the use of resources in three Siidas in Finnmarken. Further work is required to set up the test process, and the field work is expected to begin in 2016.

In the Faroe Islands, the use of Facebook for monitoring and discussing hare hunting is being tested during November and December 2015 by Eydfinn Magnussen of the University of the Faroe Islands. With co-funding from the project, it has been agreed that he will analyze and disseminate these experiences in 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:

- Training of ten community members in Arsuk and Isortoq 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.

- 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.

- The uses of templates and methods were also presented in two other basins, Puruvesi in North Karelia and Kuivasjärvi in Pirkanmaa in Finland, to see how transferability of the approaches might work out, in late 2015. Initial reactions amongst the local fishermen were very positive. Additionally, discussions on the monitoring and uses of methods were discussed with the North Sámi involved in the work in the Utsjoki basin, Finland to considerable interest.

**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 2015, key materials and outreach activities of the project have included:

*Meetings, presentations and panel discussions*

* Participation and discussions at Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø, Jan. 2015.
* Presentation by Birgitte Jakobsen of APNN at Nordic Seminar in Nuuk in Feb. 2015.
* Presentation by Johanna Roto of SnowChange and participation in discussions at the Nordic Workshop at the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Uppsala in June 2015.
* Participation in discussion at a seminar of ICRH at the Nordic Food Festival in Copenhagen June 2015.
* Presentation and panel member in discussions at British Counsel’s side-event at Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik, Oct. 2015. The project’s presentation led to many questions from the audience. The session was mentioned in recent discussions in the British parliament about UK’s efforts to support indigenous peoples’ rights.
* 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*

* Printing and wide distribution of the Tema-Nord report ”Local knowledge and resource management: On the use of indigenous and local knowledge to document and manage natural resources in the Arctic” (<http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A791816&dswid=7377>).
* Contribution to the the Government of Brazil’s international ”*Manaus Letter: Recommen-dations for the Participatory Monitoring of Biodiversity*”, published in Portuguese, Spanish and English, <http://media.wix.com/ugd/8d7574_869904b775da441896aa91d49d28daad.pdf>.
* The project provided comments to the draft proceedings and concluding report of the ”Indigenous and Local Knowledge Scoping Study” for the Nordic IPBES assessment, a work led by Naptek at the Swedish Biodiversity Centre.
* Establishment of Wiki encyclopedia article on ”Participatory Monitoring” (<http://stats.grok.se/en/latest90/Participatory_monitoring>). This has been viewed 1,000 times already.
* A project-specific website with resource materials and news-links at [www.nordres.org](http://www.nordres.org).

*Media:*

* Radio interview by Øystein Slettemark of APNN about the project for the website of the Greenland Government, listen here: <http://naalakkersuisut.gl/da/Naalakkersuisut/Nyheder/2015/06/300615-Nyt-Projekt>.
* Presentation of the Näätämö river work including the project’s tool for documenting local’s observations in a major US media story in Dec. 2015, accessible at <http://www.takepart.com/feature/2015/11/30/arctic-people-fight-back-against-climate-change>
* The Näätämö method and partnership were featured on YLE Finnish National News. On 14th November, 2015 the YLE National News also reported on the Jukajoki activities on national news. Finnish –language links are available as needed.

*Other results:*

* As a result of the communications from the project, the Government of Myanmar has asked for assistance to pilot participatory monitoring as a tool for co-management in the country’s national parks, and Burmese NGOs have proposed inclusion of participatory monitoring as a priority area in Myanmar’s Biodiversity Action Plan.

**5. Budget situation**

See Annex 1.

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

The project continues in 2016. See time table below.

Preliminary time table 2016:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month of 2016** | **Activity** | **Organisation(s)** | **Output** |
| Jan.-Mar. | Analysis of experiences with the use of Facebook to track, discuss and communicate hare hunting, Faroe Islands | Univ. Faroe Islands | Manuscript for journal paper  |
| Mar. onwards | Continued pilot testing of templates Jukajoki and Näätämo watersheds, Finland | SnowChange | Technical report |
| Mar. | Pilot testing of templates begin in Finnmarken, Norway | ICRH | Technical report |
| Mar. | Inter-active meeting in the Technical Backing Group for the project  | Members of the Technical Backing Group | Minutes |
| May-August | Continued pilot testing of templates Arsuk, Isortoq, and Nanortalik, Greenland | APNN, GINR, NORDECO | Technical report |
| To be determined | Preparation of policy brief(s) for Nordic Council of Ministers | All  | Policy Brief |
| To be determined | Training course | To be determined | One-page intro manual drafted by participants |
| To be determined | International workshop | All | Workshop report |
| Nov. or Dec. 2016 | Second Steering Committee Meeting | Members of the Project Steering Committee | Minutes |
| Dec. 2016 | Progress report 2016 | APNN and NORDECO | Status Report |

**Annexes**.

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Budget | Outcome |
| Costs |  |  |
| Personnel (direct) | 903.430 | 224.070 |
| Other | 1.096.568 | 171.338 |
| Total costs | 1.999.998 | 395.408 |
|  |  |  |
| NMR funding |  |  |
| Previous payments |  | 766.666 |
| Current payment request |  | 841.666 |
| Remaining |  | 391.666 |
| Total NMR funding | 1.999.998 | 1.999.998 |