Reindeer Herding and Youth: Project proposal.
Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group.

2011

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

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Reindeer Herding and Youth: Project proposal
Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group

1. The title of action proposed
SDWG EALLIN – NIV’GE – Reindeer Herding Youth Project.

2. The new action initiator
Association of World Reindeer Herders.

3. Lead country and project leader (name of person and institution)
Russian Federation.

Project leader Dr Mikhail Pogodaev,
International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Kautokeino, Norway.

4. Participating countries and permanent participant including name of institutions and contact persons.
Russian Federation, Norway, Saami Council, Iceland.
Sweden (TBC), Finland (TBC), Alaska/US (TBC), Canada (TBC),
Greenland/Denmark (TBC). RAIPON (TBC), AAC (TBC), GCI (TBC), ICC (TBC).

(Participating observers: UArctic)

5. Justification of the new action including relations to a priority subject area, activity of other working groups and contribution to gender equality.
This project is related to several key and priority areas of importance highlighted by the Arctic Council in the Nuuk Declaration of 2011 and the recommendations from the 9th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region in 2010. This project represents a continuation of the legacy of both ACIA and IPY, and is an IPY legacy project. Furthermore it is linked to the strategic goals of the Russia’s Arctic Policy to 2020 and Beyond adopted in 2008 and the Russian Federation Climate Change Doctrine 2009.

With reference to the daunting challenges reindeer herding in the north face as a result of projected climate change, land use change and societal changes in the north the coming decades, IPY EALAT has concluded that adaptation to change demands the training of local Arctic leaders in long term sustainable thinking. This project focuses on training and engagement of indigenous reindeer herding youth who represent the sustainable future of reindeer herding and other traditional livelihoods in the Arctic. The meaningful engagement of indigenous peoples for the future is “...fundamental to addressing circumpolar challenges and opportunities” (Tromso Declaration, 2009), and the continued engagement of indigenous peoples and communities is emphasized “...as a fundamental strength of the Council” (Nuuk Declaration, 2011). This must clearly also apply to engagement of indigenous youth.
Climate change and socio-economic change are now evident across the Arctic, and is particularly evident in reindeer herding cultures and in their traditional areas. Global and regional scenarios project dramatic changes in temperature, precipitation and snow conditions in the key areas for reindeer herding and in social-economic changes for reindeer herding communities and other indigenous communities in the Arctic. Degradation of pasture lands combined with the consequences of a changing climate will challenge the future of reindeer husbandry (Magga et al. 2011). Building competence locally to meet these changes is therefore important. Furthermore, we believe in empowering Arctic indigenous peoples with the best technology available to develop adaption strategies to future change.

This project addresses the needs for adaptation and vulnerability strategies to be focused on the community level, as also recommended by the Tromso Declaration. The Nuuk Declaration (2011) “...reiterate the importance of the use of Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge and capacity-building initiatives in the planning and implementation of measures to adapt to climate change” and further “...recognize that climate change and other negative factors have impacted the traditional livelihoods and food safety and security of Arctic Indigenous Peoples”. This project will continue the legacy of IPY, with its focus on youth, education, outreach of both scientific and traditional knowledge and capacity building. This speaks directly to the important recognition given these issues by the Arctic Council in the Tromso and Nuuk Declarations.

Finally, the 9th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region in 2010, explicitly asked the Arctic Council to “...Strengthen the cooperation of the circumpolar reindeer herders network, including the IPY legacy, the University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry, as reindeer as a species and their grazing land have significance for human life and the economy in the Arctic”.

This proposal is a follow-up of SDWG EALÁT-Information. The initiative also wish to link to CAFF ongoing monitoring project in reindeer husbandry.

The project will ensure gender equality among participants, also in accordance with the Kautokeino-declaration on the occasion of the 4th World Reindeer Herders Congress in 2009.
6. Outcome of the project, deliverables and implementation plan.

Outcomes of the project include the linking of reindeer herding youth throughout the Scandinavia and the Eurasian landmass, to share knowledge and lessons learned in their quest to ensure the future viability of a sustainable reindeer husbandry. Furthermore, to create space for improved dialogue between reindeer herders and industry, which is a key issue for those in the Arctic practicing traditional livelihoods whose lands are increasingly of interest to industry. This will be achieved by a series of workshops bringing young reindeer herders together, facilitating exchange of knowledge, understanding and best adaptation practices. The project will be based on experience from EALAT where young reindeer herders interviewed reindeer herding elders about traditional use of the land, climate change and reindeer, and from the youth project led by International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in the Nordic countries entitled ‘Reindeer Herding Ambassadors’.

Deliverables will include 1) mid term and final reports with recommendations to the AC SDWG on how the cooperation between the states could work better to improve the life of reindeer herding youth in the small indigenous arctic societies 2) A documentary film co-created by reindeer herding youth from all regions engaged in the project, representing part of the final reporting as the ‘voice of reindeer herding youth’ 3) A popularised multimedia exhibit created by reindeer herding youth for widespread distribution and display, and 4) Implementation of online teaching and communication technologies to promote capacity building and networking for indigenous youth based on experience of the Virtual Learning Tools (VLT) and EALAT pilot master course.

The project will also be a tool for recruiting indigenous youth to scientific work, by building competence locally in the indigenous peoples’ societies and encouraging the active engagement of reindeer herders in securing sustainable futures for themselves, their reindeer and their communities. The project will seek to build resilience in their home societies and will be linked with knowledge activities of UArctic EALAT Institute at International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR). This for instance relates to the circumpolar course ‘Reindeer Herders meet Arctic Industrial Development – Understanding Challenges of Impact Assessment and Reindeer Herders Food Culture’. This new SDWG project will be linked both financially and content wise to the UNEP Nomadic Herders project, coordinated by UNEP/ GRID-Arendal, Norway and Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH). An important part in the project is to utilize new teaching and information technology in close cooperation with Arctic Portal, Iceland.

Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders
The project will contribute to holistic strengthening of knowledge development and will focus on research, education, monitoring and information. The project will run over a 2 year timespan.

Implementation plan
The project will start planning and arranging local youth workshops in the following locations:
1. Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets AO, Western Siberia, Russia (focus: Nenets and Khanty youth from Yamal)
2. Yakutsk, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Eastern Siberia, Russia (focus: Dolgan, Chukchi, Yukagirs, Even and Evenk youth from different regions of Sakha)
3. Kautokeino, Northern Norway (focus: Sámi youth, from Fennoscandia)
4. Nome, Alaska, USA (focus: Inuit/ Sámi herding youth, possibly together with Athabascan/ Gwichin and other caribou hunting youth)

The project wishes to explore the possibility of involving also reindeer/ caribou hunting peoples in community-based activities and gatherings. Hence, workshops and activities in Alaska could also seek to integrate indigenous youth from caribou hunting societies, for knowledge sharing and holistic local perspectives on indigenous reindeer/ caribou dependent societies. This would be a follow up of the SDWG EALÁT workshop in Inuvik, Canada in March 2011. The project is of course open to engagement and activities in other regions and states as well. These are also issues of resources etc. There could also be an option to involve other nature-based livelihoods of northern indigenous peoples.

Workplan contents/ milestones:
A-Overall planning of activities
B-Regional planning and detailing - Kautokeino, Norway
C-Regional planning and detailing - Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets AO, Russia
D-Regional planning and detailing - Yakutsk, Sakha Republic, Russia
E-Regional planning and detailing – Nome, Alaska, USA
F-Workshops implementation
G-Technology assessment
H-Production video/ multimedia
I-Synthesis
J-Reporting

Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
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<tr>
<td>B Planning Kautokeino</td>
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<tr>
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<td>E Planning Nome</td>
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<td>F Implementation WS</td>
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<td>G Tech assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>H Prod. multimedia</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Synthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>J Reporting etc.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Even though the order of the regions/local workshops are specified, this might be subject to change because it will be a matter of practical adaptation to local parameters during the implementation phase (ie. timing vs local reindeer herding activities and migrations, local governmental support, practical issues like transportation etc.) Chosen locations may also be subject to adjustment due to such practical reasons.

7. Summary

The main goal of the project is to maintain and further develop a sustainable reindeer husbandry in the Arctic, working towards a vision of creating a better life for circumpolar reindeer herders. The project will work towards knowledge building and experience exchange in and between local reindeer herding societies in the Arctic, with the emphasis on youth. To this end the project will focus on youth involvement, place-based workshops, local capacity building, new technology implementation, networking, dialogue between herders and industry, as well as circumpolar co-production of video and multimedia by youth.

The project will have reindeer herding youth as a focal point for its activities and implementation. Reindeer herding youth from Sakha (Yakutia), Yamalo-Nenets, Alaska and Fennoscandia will be included in a series of workshops gathering reindeer herding youth, expressing their wishes and need for new insights into matters of land use change, industry, and the shared experiences of reindeer peoples.

The centres for reindeer husbandry recently established in Russia and Fennoscandia will act as knowledge hubs and will exchange information that will enhance understanding for world reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples, their traditional knowledge, the impacts of climate change, their future development, their shared challenges and the utilization of appropriate technologies.

Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders
We strongly argue that building competence between reindeer herding youth in different regions is a critical factor for the protection of the Arctic, and will enable the maintenance of Arctic biodiversity and the sustainable development of the Arctic indigenous societies.

8. Project description including methods to be used and work plan.

This project aims to build on the successes and methodologies of the IPY/SDWG EALAT project. The project represents a further development of the place-based community workshop methodology developed in SDWG EALÁT Information, that has proven to be a useful tool for community engagement and knowledge sharing. This methodology allows for a diverse range of peoples, gender, age groups, social and economic backgrounds to communicate with each other in a collaborative and mutually beneficial environment in order to search for solutions to issues that are important for sustainable development locally, such as rapid land use change, encroachment and alternative visions of development. The community-based workshops implemented in SDWG EALÁT-Information have represented an arena where science and traditional knowledge have met, where reindeer herders, scientists and local authorities have been brought together in dynamic discussions on important issues related to reindeer husbandry. It is the challenge of this project to utilize this concept ‘arena’ for indigenous youth engagement and exchange throughout the Arctic, to result in capacity building for participants and their respective local communities.

This project aims to investigate how the latest scientific data and experiences on land use change combined with traditional knowledge can be used to develop a dialogue of understanding between developers and indigenous peoples.

The project will also seek to adopt new information and communication technologies, facilitating more regular dialogue and exchange between the involved young reindeer herders normally separated by vast Arctic distances. This will include efforts of testing and adapting existing technology solutions (ie. Virtual Learning Tools, Reindeer Portal, GIS, satellite communications, hand held digital devices and more). This part of the project will be implemented together with Arctic Portal, Iceland and other partners. The end goal is to find ways to improve the lives and collective futures of young circumpolar reindeer herders and their communities.
9. Cost estimate and budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated costs</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>A-Overall planning of activities</td>
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<td>18 182</td>
<td>72 727</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-Workshop Kautokeino, Norway</td>
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<td>18 182</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>E-Workshop Nome, Alaska</td>
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<td>I-Synthesis</td>
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<td>J-Reporting, translation etc.</td>
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<td>18 182</td>
<td>18 182</td>
<td>36 364</td>
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<td>18 182</td>
<td>218 182</td>
<td>90 909</td>
<td>327 273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implementation of local workshops includes costs such as travels, accomodation, local transport, interpretation, infrastructure and arranging costs etc.

10. Sources of funding
The project is supported by the foundation of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, UArdctic EALÁT Institute and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding plan</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>ICR/ EALÁT Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUM, in USD</td>
<td>327 273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any increased funding achieved will be utilized to increase the number of youth involved, and to improve the quality of implementation and focus on local activities.

11. Contact information

International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry,  
Project leader Dr Mikhail Pogodaev (pogodaevm@gmail.com, +7 911 916 9780).  
Co-project leader Executive Director Anders Oskal (ax@reindeercentre.org, +47 9945 0010).