



Expert Network Monitoring Plan

WORLD REINDEER HUSBANDRY

Supporting Publication to the
Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program
Framework Document



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna



Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders



International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
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Nomadic reindeer herder migrating to new pastures in summer. Yamal Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation. Photo copyright: Oyvind Ravna

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 CAFF Designated Area





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Framework Document

Prepared by:

ASSOCIATION OF WORLD REINDEER HERDERS
and

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR REINDEER HUSBANDRY

In cooperation with

Saami Council, Reindeer Herders Union of Russia,
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1. Introduction

Reindeer husbandry has a long history in the north. There are more than 20 different indigenous peoples in the Arctic that are reindeer herders. Reindeer husbandry is practiced in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Mongolia, China, Alaska, Canada and Greenland and involves some 100,000 herders and nearly 2.5 million semi-domesticated reindeer which graze approximately 4 million square kilometers in Eurasia. Reindeer herders have managed vast areas in the Arctic over hundreds of years. Reindeer herding represents a sustainable model for management of these barren circumpolar areas, which has been developed through generations. These areas have only recently become significant for other industrial interests, including the oil and gas industry. Today, the reindeer herders face major challenges, such as effects of global change in their local societies,



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resources, which should be recognized and supported. Reindeer herders, based on their own philosophy of life and understanding of the world, should be consulted, included and accepted as partners when Arctic development, research and monitoring takes place on their territories. On the occasion of the Third World Reindeer Herders Congress in Yakutsk 2005, the

Yakutsk Declaration stated that reindeer herders should be able to participate in IPY 2007/2008 on equal terms with the scientists who investigate herders' societies and their use of natural resources. This Declaration supports true partnership between scientists and herders as the basis for future sustainable management monitoring strategies.



Fig. 1: Reindeer herders of Eurasia.
Map courtesy of International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry

loss of grazing land and warming of the Arctic. There is an urgent need to monitor the changes to which reindeer herders are subjected. Reindeer herders should be actively developing their own monitoring or observation programmes locally, and be real partners in the national and international Arctic monitoring programmes. World reindeer herders, owing to their experience, ancient traditional knowledge and skills, have developed unique management strategies for protection of pastures, observation of changes and rational use of the natural

Metaphorically, the development of the Arctic as the new energy region of the north truly represents a "tidal wave" for the indigenous peoples of the north, and they must prepare to meet it – not only so that they can ride safely on the flood, but also so that they settle on an even keel once the water ebbs away. The challenge is to take reindeer herders' traditional knowledge into action for sustainable development of the Arctic and, in particular, to involve Russian, Alaskan and Saami reindeer herders as real partners in this process as early as possible.

2. History of Reindeer Herders' International Network

The fall of the 'iron curtain' and the Brundtland Commission's report to the UN, *'Our Common Future'*, enabled Norwegian Saami reindeer herders to establish formal cooperation with the Russian Academy of Sciences and with reindeer herders in the Russian Federation. As early as 1990, a delegation with representatives from Saami Reindeer Herders' Association of Norway (NRL), the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture, the Norwegian Reindeer Administration and the University of Tromsø visited Even reindeer herders in Topolinij in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in Eastern-Siberia.

In September 1993, NRL organized an international Reindeer Peoples' Festival in Tromsø, in cooperation with the Russian Government and reindeer herders in Russia. Approximately 360 representatives from reindeer pastoralism in Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Russian Federation and Alaska participated in the festival. This was the first time in history that such a diverse collection of reindeer peoples were able to meet with each other. This event marked the beginning of a unique, cross-border cooperation between the circumpolar reindeer peoples which resulted in the establishment of the Association of World Reindeer Herders.

The 1st World Reindeer Herders' Congress took place in the city of Nadym, in the Yamal region of Russia in 1997, and was hosted and funded by the Russian government together with the regional authorities in Yamal. Participants included representatives from reindeer husbandry in the Nordic countries and in Russia. The Congress resulted in the establishment of the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH). The aim of the Association is to promote professional, cultural, social and economic relations between world reindeer peoples, as

well as to disseminate information about the reindeer pastoralism. Johan Mathis Turi was the first elected president of WRH.



Photo copyright: Oyvind Ravna - WRH's first president, Johan Mathis Turi, Nadym 1997

The establishment of WRH provided reindeer herders with a forum for contact and cooperation which contributed to bring reindeer pastoralism on to the international agenda. In 1999, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs took the initiative to add reindeer husbandry to the agenda of the international Arctic cooperation. As a direct consequence of this, WRH was granted observer status in the Arctic Council in 2000.

The 2nd World Reindeer Herders' Congress in Anar (Inari), Finland in 2001 was funded by the Finnish Government. The Congress adopted the 'Anar Declaration', which is the first common statement developed by reindeer herders. The Declaration presents guidelines for the development of sustainable reindeer husbandry for the future.



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The 3rd World Reindeer Herders' Congress took place in the city of Yakutsk, in the Russian Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in March 2005. The Congress adopted the 'Yakutsk Declaration', which emphasizes reindeer husbandry's participation in the international cooperation in the Arctic. The Congress was hosted and funded by the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and was part of a campaign for promoting reindeer pastoralism and the indigenous peoples of the republic. The next Congress will take place in Kautokeino, Norway in 2009. Dmitry O. Khorolya is now the second elected president of WRH, and Johan Mathis Turi has been elected as Secretary General.

Khorolya is also the president of Reindeer Herders Union of Russia, a branch of WRH.



Photo copyright: Anders Oskal - 3rd World Reindeer Herders Congress. Yakutsk 2005

3. History of International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR)

The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) is an independent professional unit, established by the Norwegian Government in 2005. ICR has its own budget and board with members from Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland representing reindeer husbandry and science. ICR's basic activity is funded by the Norwegian Government through annual grants from the budgets of the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ICR also hosts the secretariat of the Association of World

Reindeer Herders (WRH), the circumpolar organization for about 100,000 reindeer herders. ICR is to be a knowledge base for providing and exchanging information and documentation between different reindeer peoples, Arctic industrial developers, national authorities and research and academic communities at the national and international levels.



Photo copyright: Anders Oskal - Knowledge exchange on handicraft between Saami and Even Yakutsk 2005

ICR will thus contribute to protection of Arctic nature, improve information sharing and enhance understanding for world reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples, their traditional knowledge, future sustainable development and local value added. Through WRH, ICR has first-hand access to a unique international network of reindeer herders, their organisations and institutions. The establishment of an International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino represents one measure to secure the future of this unique cooperation in the North. The centre enjoys wide professional and political support, both nationally and internationally, and is recommended by, among others, the Arctic Council in the report "Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry" (2002), and by the 3rd World Reindeer Herders' Congress in the 'Yakutsk Declaration' of March 2005. It is also recommended by the Government appointed committee of exports in the report published as NOU 2003:32 (Official Norwegian Report) entitled '*Look North! Challenges and Opportunities in the Northern Areas*'.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced in the 4th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iceland, November 2004: "...Norway has decided to establish an international centre for reindeer herders in the Arctic, in Kautokeino, in close co-operation with the World Reindeer Herders. This will be a resource centre for exchange of information between herders in different countries and promoting co-operation between them". This was followed up by the government in its report nr. 30:2005 to the Norwegian Parliament entitled '*Opportunities and Challenges in the North*', which recommends establishment of an international information centre in close cooperation with WRH. The Norwegian Parliament supported the recommendation by adopting the 'Proposition to Parliament' no. 264 (2005), which announces that the centre "...is important to strengthen the cooperation between northern indigenous communities and other industries".

The Norwegian Government has followed up this proposal and the centre is now organized under the Norwegian Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion.

ICR has become a member of the University of the Arctic, and will develop courses locally. The Chair of ICR's board is Mr. Johan Mathis Turi, while the other board members are reindeer herders and scientists from Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway.



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4. IPY *EALÁT* Reindeer Herding and Climate Change

EALÁT is a core IPY project or consortium of projects related to reindeer herders' traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate variability and changes which has received full IPY endorsement (ID: 399). "*Ealát*" is the Saami word for pasture. *EALÁT* was initiated by the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH), and is carried out in partnership with Reindeer Herders' Union of Russia, the Saami Reindeer Herders Association of Norway, the Saami Council, Saami University College, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norwegian School of Veterinary



Photo copyright: Lars Ante Oskal

Medicine, and the University of Tromsø, among others. Competence building is one major objective of *EALÁT*. *EALÁT-Information* in the SDWG Working Group of the Arctic Council is a project lead by Norway which will focus on information. *EALÁT-Research* is organized by Saami University College, Kautokeino, Norway to scientifically define risks related to change, and will support economically robust and ecologically sustainable development of reindeer pastoralism in the north. *EALÁT-Outreach* from ICR includes outreach of the main findings from the Arctic Council ACIA report to reindeer herders' societies, and will focus on outreach, development of web and portal solutions, film productions and information materials like DVDs, books and posters for the educational sector. *EALÁT-Monitoring*, an expert monitoring network under the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program of the CAFF Working Group of the Arctic Council, is a separate part under the *EALÁT* consortium, and will continue beyond IPY 2007/2008.

5. Reindeer Herders' Monitoring and Observation Systems



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EALÁT-Monitoring, in cooperation with the CBMP, will develop an observation program or monitoring system for reindeer pastoralism in case studies in the Saami area (Norway, Sweden, Finland and NW-Russia), Nenets AO, Yamal-Nenets AO, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Chukotka AO and Alaska. Management and policy decision-making in reindeer pastoralism must be improved by the integration of indigenous traditional local and scientific knowledge. It is important that reindeer herders' traditional knowledge is integrated into the management and monitoring of the natural environment in the Arctic.

The future monitoring system for reindeer husbandry will be based on UN Convention of Biological Diversity Art. 8, UN Agenda 21 Declaration Chapter 26, ILO-169 Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UN Draft Declaration concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples, UNESCO's Convention on Protection and Development of Cultural Diversity as ratified by Norway June 2006, the Yakutsk Declaration from the Third World Reindeer Herders Congress in 2005, and finally, the Human Rights Criteria for the Global Resource Sector (GRS) following FTSE 4Good and the Dow Jones Sustainability

Index. The Yakutsk Declaration explicitly approved that reindeer herders should develop their own system to monitor changes of the Arctic natural resources, based on traditional knowledge and modern technology.

In cooperation with NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, WRH has developed an observation system called "Reindeer Mapper," to bring indigenous traditional local knowledge together with scientific knowledge, remote sensing and information technologies. This system addresses change issues related to the environment, weather, climate and land use, to foster improved decision-making for sustainable reindeer husbandry. It is critical to empower indigenous reindeer herders with the best technologies available to be

combined with indigenous knowledge, for advancing the development of sustainable reindeer husbandry. In each region, traditional indicators for animals and herds will be observed, likewise snow and snow change, vegetation change, predators and traditional use of grazing land.



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Reindeer herding represents a highly extensive form of land use. For herders, the principle issue is generally the securing of habitat in which to graze their reindeer. Indeed, the progressive and effectively irreversible loss of the uncultivated lands which reindeer use as pasture is probably today's single greatest threat to reindeer

husbandry, for instance in Norway. Preservation of rangeland is, likewise, perhaps the single greatest priority for sustaining the resilience of reindeer herding confronted by changes in both the natural climate and the socio-economic environment.

Habitat loss occurs principally in two ways: (i) through physical destruction and; (ii) through removal of habitat or through a reduction of its value as a resource. Physical destruction of habitat is chiefly a result of the development of infrastructure, including the construction of petroleum installations, artillery ranges, buildings,

hydro-electricity facilities, pipelines, roads, etc. Of far greater concern is the gradual abandonment by reindeer of previously high-use areas as a result of their avoiding disturbance resulting from human activity. Approximately 25% of the reindeer ranges in the Barents Euro Arctic Region has effectively been lost owing to disturbance resulting from infrastructure development; in some of the productive coastal ranges the figure is as high as 35%. For instance, as much as 1% of the summer grazing areas used traditionally by Saami reindeer herders in some areas are lost every year, which equals the grazing land used by one nomadic family during summer.



Fig. 2: The six main reindeer herding regions included in CBMP EALÁT-Monitoring. Alaska, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, the Saami area (Norway, Finland, Sweden, and NW-Russia).

6. Traditional Knowledge Related to Climate Change and Observation



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Observation of changes using elders' knowledge, particularly in relation to climate, local weather, snow change, pasture loss and the responses of herders and herders' institutions to variations in these parameters, is an ethical imperative. As the older generation decreases, the sum of non-written knowledge stored in peoples' memories and, thus, remaining in the reindeer herding societies, is also declining. This knowledge is effectively irreplaceable. With this in mind, the



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project has been developed in accordance with the intentions of international declarations and conventions for the collection, integration, analysis and publication of the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities. The use of reindeer herders' languages as part of these scientific analyses is important.

The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry has a special responsibility to document and inform about traditional knowledge in reindeer husbandry.



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