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Title: *Traditional Knowledge-based Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change and Land Use Change in Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry*

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Indigenous peoples in the Arctic face major challenges related to changes in their societies and the northern climate. There is an urgent need for information, increased understanding and action in circumpolar reindeer herding societies related to the effects of climate change and development. Understanding reindeer herders' ability to adapt to climate change and the rapidly changing patterns of use of the Arctic territories is important for sustainable development of the circumpolar regions.

IPY EALÁT-Outreach/ Arctic Council SDWG EALÁT Information has focused on the ability of reindeer herders to respond to climate change and changed use of the Arctic, and to communicate this to both herding and mainstream societies. Priorities have included informing reindeer herders about the findings of ACIA and other IPY-projects, informing the mainstream society about reindeer herders' knowledge related to climate change, land use change and adaptation, as well as being 'the voice of reindeer herders' to the Arctic Council system and mainstream society on these issues.

The project has organised a series of 21 community-based workshops in local reindeer herding societies across the Arctic, where reindeer herders from different areas, scientists and local authorities have been brought together to address the challenges of climate change and land use change, while focusing on adaptation and traditional knowledge. In a combined effort within the IPY EALÁT Consortium the project has organised community-based workshops in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russian Federation (Nenets AO, Yamalo-Nenets AO, Sakha Republic and Chukotka AO) and Canada.



As input to the workshops, historical local climate data from each region has both been collected and subject to statistical downscaling, in cooperation with the Norwegian Meteorological Institute and Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St.Petersburg. Through the workshops, examples of adaptation and traditional knowledge has been identified and collected in different herding communities in Fennoscandia and Russia. Experiences with climate variability and loss of pastures have been discussed, and examples of traditional knowledge-based adaptation has been identified. Policy-recommendations have been formulated and key findings have been summarized in the final reports of SDWG EALÁT Information to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meetings in Tromsø, 2009 and Nuuk, 2011 (Oskal et al, 2009; Magga et al, 2011).