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Title: *Observation and Interpretation of Environmental change by Komi Hunters in the Russian North*

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Since mid-1990s, we have conducted collaborative research with among hunters of Komi Republic, Russia. Hunters manage a huge amount of information about their natural environment and are able to estimate long-term changes in the region. Adaptation to changes is crucial for these people who rely on their everyday subsistence primarily on hunting and fishing. At the same time, global cultural and social changes have a certain impact on the Komi hunters' survival strategies, as well.

Hunting has been extremely important in Komi society until the beginning of the 20th century. Although in the region we study only 3% of male population is engaged in hunting as their primary occupation of subsistence, it is exceptional for contemporary European Russia to have such a large amount of professional hunters in population. Hunters still influence the self-perception of the Komi people quite significantly.

Major change for hunters has been driven by forest industry that has been intensively developed in Komi Republic during last century. Patterns of forest areas and structure of forests have been changing continually and dramatically in the experience of nowadays hunters. Hunters also detect influences of climate change on animal behaviour on their hunting grounds. Animal diseases, resulting from environmental pollution, limit hunting options, as well.

Another kind of changes result from global changes in human behaviour. During centuries and even decades ago the primary source of income for hunters was fur-hunting. Nowadays market needs much less natural fur and hunters orient themselves more towards tourist business to get paid.

Major changes influence Komi hunters' everyday and strategic survival strategies. Despite that, important aspects of hunting worldview and overall structure of hunting practices has preserved their original nature (or something close to this). Thus, we can observe Komi hunting practices in traditional forms. Interpretation of traditional Komi hunting knowledge can provide comparative insights to survival strategies that can be valuable also in larger context.