Memorandum 2/11/2018

IAB6: Nomadic herders: Enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session IAB6 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, UNEP GRID-Arendal and the Saami Council.

Attendance: 25

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:

- Climate change
- Identifying and safeguarding important areas

Key points raised in the session that were important to note:

- Reindeer herding is in the crossroads of many pressures: climate change, competing forms of land use, cumulative impacts.
- Technology - a drone can be of good help to a herder. You don't have to risk your life or an expensive snowmobile in order to see e.g. what is happening on weak ice.
- 2018 is the year of reindeer husbandry in Nenets Autonomous Ogrug in Russia.
- Reindeer herding is mostly permitted on protected areas in Russia. There are some conflicts between strictly protected areas and reindeer herding.
- The Local Environmental Observation network (LEO) is counting on the observations of citizens. Started in Alaska and is now and is now spread globally. Classifies the knowledge to Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge. Does it work equally for these all?

Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:

- As a researcher you should spend at least two months living with people, whose habitat you are researching. Instead of spending ten days n tundra in summer time and then travelling three years in international congresses pretending to be an expert.
- More tools are needed to assess relationship of reindeer herding and industry, like ethnological expert review in Republic of Sakha Yakutia. It is not working perfectly but it is a tool.

Take home message from the session:

- It is the people that live on their homelands – they are the ones to recognize changes in their environment