



Assi Harkoma, Arctic Biodiversity Congress 11.10.2018

Biodiversity Convention and Akwé: Kon Guidelines in the Arctic – Incorporating traditional knowledge based cultural, environmental and social impact assessment into existing EIA procedures



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Berit Siilasjoki, Enontekiö, 2017

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1. Introduction

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was opened for signature at the [Earth Summit](#) in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.

The convention has been signed by 168 parties (Finland ratified the convention 1994).

Objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

Article 8(j):

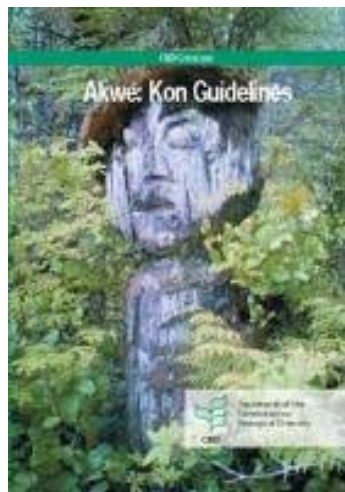
(j) Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

Article 10 (c): Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

AKWÉ: KON GUIDELINES

“Voluntary Guidelines for the **Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment** Regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or used by Indigenous and Local Communities.”

→ IMPACT ASSESSMENT/PARTICIPATORY TOOL



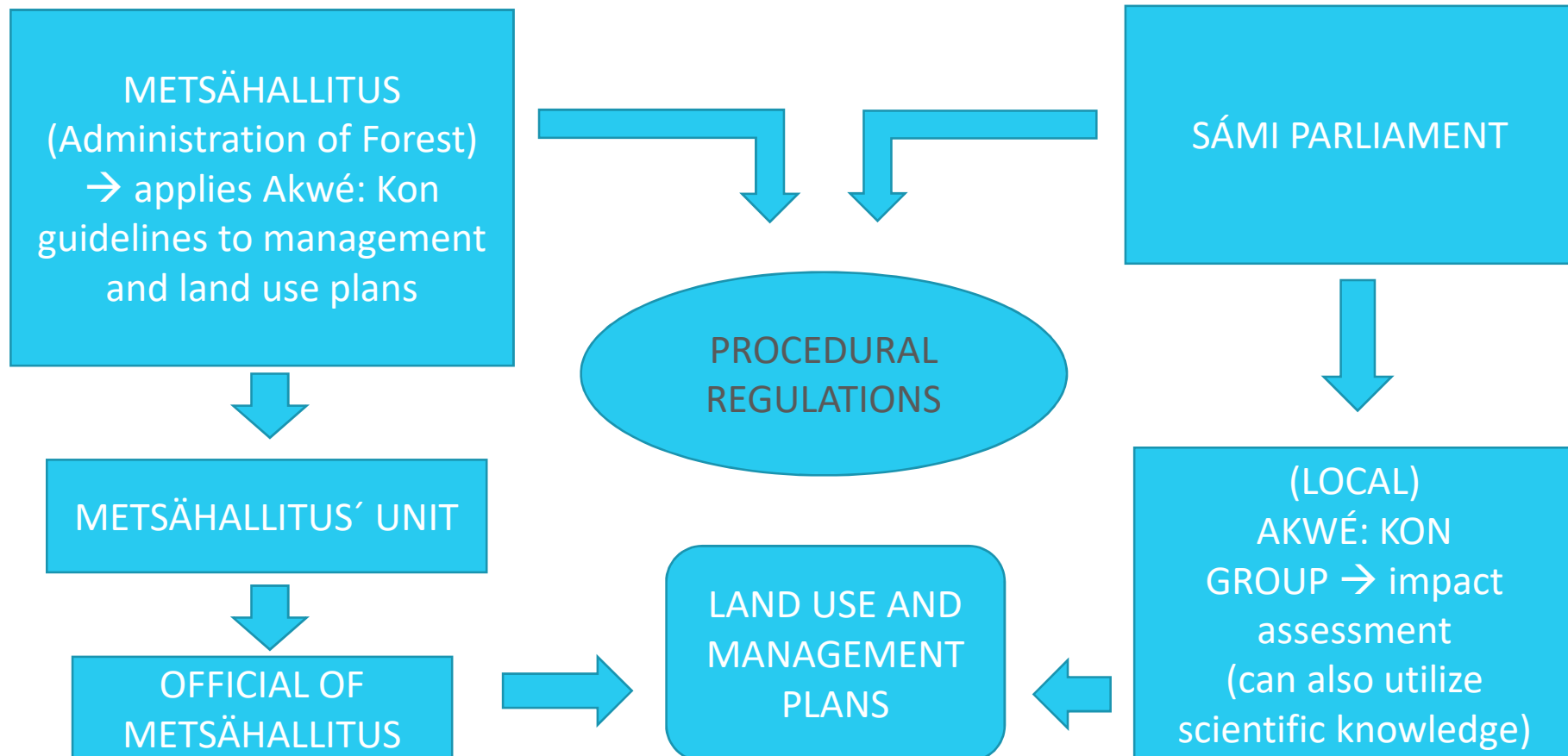
- guidance is provided on how to take into account traditional knowledge
- ensuring the full involvement of indigenous and local communities in the assessment of cultural, environmental and social impacts

Objective is to provide information on the impacts of proposed developments and thereby help to prevent negative impacts on the indigenous peoples' livelihoods.

AKWÉ: KON PROCESS (IN FINLAND)

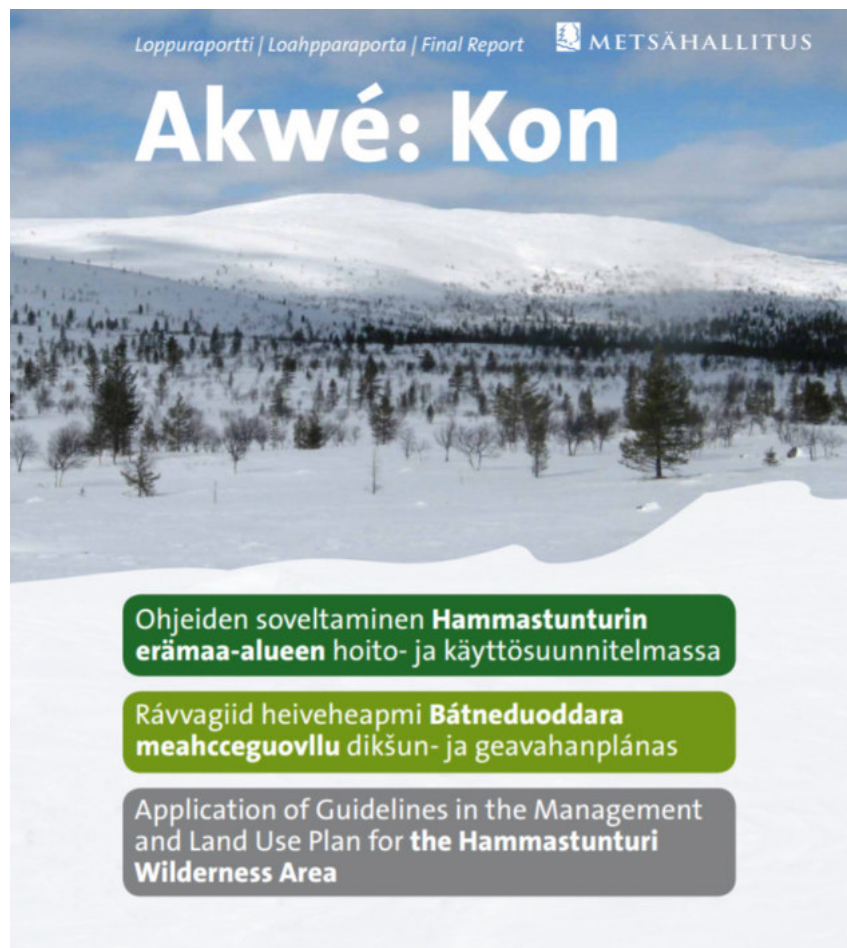
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

- The action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Finland 2013-2020, Saving Nature for People
 - National Working Group for Article 8(j)



AKWÉ: KON PROCESS (IN FINLAND):

Management and Land Use Plan for the Hammasturi Wilderness Area 2012 (pilot)



“Metsähallitus decided to cooperate with the Saami Parliament to pilot the application of the Akwé: Kon Guidelines in accordance with Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in compiling a management and land use plan for the Hammastunturi Wilderness Area. The objective was to find new ways for Metsähallitus, as the administering authority, to further improve on securing the opportunities of Europe’s only indigenous people to influence the conditions for practising their culture in the area”

Final Report

<https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/assets/pdf/lp/Muut/AkweKonraportti2013.pdf>

AKWÉ: KON PROCESSES (IN FINLAND):

List of land use and management plans:

1. Parks and Wildlife Finland Unit of Metsähallitus

→ provides the public administration services

- Management and Land Use Plan for the Hammastunturi Wilderness Area (pilot) 2012
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Kevo Strict Nature Reserve (2016)
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Urho Kekkonen National Park, the Sompio Strict Nature Reserve, the Kemihaara Wilderness Area and the Vaaravaana, Nalka-aava ja Uura-aava Mire Reserve (2016)
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Puljun Wilderness Area (2016)
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Saana area (draft 2017)
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Käsivarren area (draft 2017)
- Management and Land Use Plan for the Vätsärin Wilderness Area (unfinished)

2. Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd

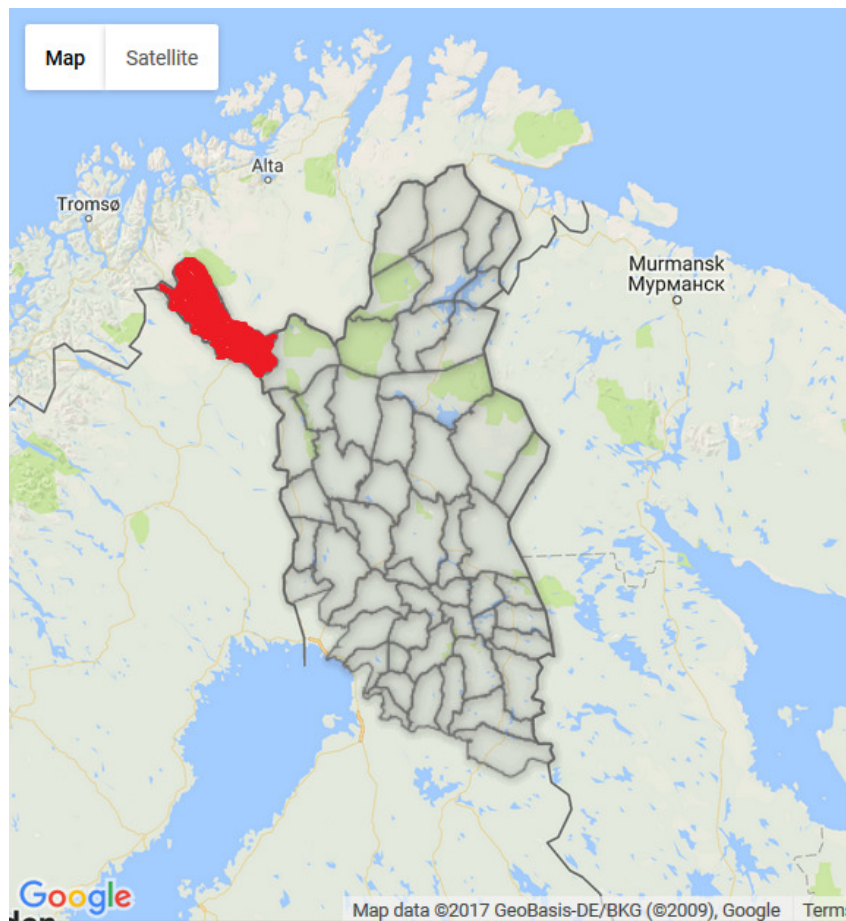
→ responsible for the management of state-owned multiple-use commercial forests and sale of timber

- Land use plan for Inarin Juutuan-Tuulispään Recreational Forest (unfinished)
- Strategy for Logging of Forest in the Area of Local Reindeer Herding Association in Muddusjärvi (unfinished)

APPLICATION OF AKWÉ: KON GUIDELINES

- ❖ Natural Resources Plan(s)
- ❖ Metsähallitus: processes regarding management of natural game and fish stocks etc.
- ❖ **EIA process**
- ❖ SEA process
- ❖ Implementation of Land Use and Building Act
- ❖ Mining industry (for example permitting procedure)
- ❖ Generally in processes which require impact assessment or similar kind assessment (for example Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes), Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI), Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres))
- ❖ Implementation processes of ILO 169 and Nordic Sámi Convention (regarding land use)

2. "Integrating Sami Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Decision-making" project



-project to support Akwé: Kon group in the Käsivarsi area

“The project will identify Sami traditional knowledge related to land use so that it can be better taken into account when making decisions about biodiversity and sustainable development, as well as the rights of the Sami people. The project will focus on the traditional knowledge among the reindeer-herding Sami in the Käsivarsi area in cooperation with local Akwé: Kon group.”

2016-2017

Funder: Maj and Tur Nessling Foundation

Principle Investigator: Dr. Leena Heinämäki

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

- identification and exploration of Sámi community's needs and priorities
- responding to community needs
- research is beneficial to community



Hans Christian Hansen, Enontekiö, 2016

PARTICIPATORY METHOD

- participation of Sámi community
- not including Sami nominally, real cooperation with the local community
- knowledge co-production

CO-PRODUCED KNOWLEDGE/OUTCOMES



- Produced information to the Management and Land use plans for the Käsivarsi wilderness area and Saana area (traditional knowledge was collected by interviewing local Sámi people)
- Olsen, Laura; Harkoma, Assi; Heinämäki, Leena and Heta Heiskanen (2017) "Integrating Sámi Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Decision-making"
- Interviews on Sámi traditional knowledge (Sámi, experts, researchers etc.)
- Videos on Sámi traditional reindeer herding (Sámi)
- School lessons on traditional knowledge for local Sámi children (Sámi & researchers)

KEY ELEMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE

- ✓ **COMMUNITY-DEFINED NEEDS & PRIORITIES/RESEARCH IS BENEFICIAL TO COMMUNITY:** identification and exploration of community needs and priorities (based on mutual negotiation) and responding to needs (Rhodes, 2010)
- ✓ **FULL AND EQUAL PARTNERSHIP:** community becoming a partner in the cooperative process of knowledge production and sharing, as opposed to being the object of research; requires a commitment of time and effort of all partners, a long term commitment etc. (Pontes, Ferraira & Grendron, 2011, 157; Berkes, 2004, 621-630; Kral & Allen, 2015, 253)
- ✓ **MULTIDIRECTIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND LEARNING:** all partners work together and share experiences and perspectives to develop a deeper and more informed understanding of phenomena (Rhodes, 2010; Pontes, Ferraira & Grendron, 2011, 157)
- ✓ **RESPECT, OPENNESS & TRUST:** community priorities must be respected; different views of the reality must be respected (not only western perspective) etc. (Rhodes, 2010)
- ✓ **STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES:** building on the strengths and resources of the community (Kral & Allen, 2015, 253)
- ✓ **INDIGENOUS VALUES AND REALITY:** co-produced knowledge reflects indigenous peoples values and reality (Pontes, Ferraira & Grendron, 2011, 157)

RECOMMENDATIONS: DEVELOPMENT OF AKWÉ: KON PROCESS



CONCLUSIONS

IN THEORY: AKWÉ: KON PROCESS IS A GREAT IMPACT ASSESSMENT/PARTICIPATORY TOOL WITH HUGE POTENTIAL

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CAN MAP THREATS TO CULTURE/LIVELIHOOD, CONDUCT CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AS WELL AS CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOP MITIGATION MEASURES.

- IMPLEMENT INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING
- **CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

IN PRACTICE: CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS CHALLENGING

- DIFFICULTIES INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESSES AND
- PRODUCE INFORMATION THE GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS WOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY AND IMPLEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

AKWÉ: KON PROCESS HAS TO BE IMPROVED/DEVELOPED FURTHER AND APPLIED MORE WIDELY FOR EXAMPLE EIA-PROCESSES.

- PROCESS CAN REACH IT'S FULL POTENTIAL AS A PARTICIPATORY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL





Thank you!

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