

# What the APS should focus on storing?

By Martin Enghof, NORDECO

To be relevant for development in Yakutia (as an example of Arctic Russia – and with Russian Arctic playing a crucial role in terms of size, people, development trend in the Arctic) the APS should:

- Store different type of documents on experiences related to land and resource use and related to planning processes for land and resources
- What is especially relevant to store, is experiences across the Arctic on how to address different aspects of land and resource management, which then can be shared among the actors
- More concrete examples (just a few out of many) of what could be relevant to store would be experiences of: Management of mining and local communities; Management of fish stocks; Wolve management; Brown bear management; Herding strategies and herding business management etc.
- Documents that could be relevant (to name a few): Documents on indigenous communities and rights (CSPIN and IWGIA documents); Documents from official sources on land and resource regulations; Documents from various research institutions in Russia and abroad that addresses resource and land management

## What the APS can and must do to work in the Arctic region (with Yakutia example)?

- To be relevant for actual development and management in Yakutia, it is deemed necessary that APS should store material that can be used not only by researchers, managers, and officials but also by the actual Arctic communities (this requires a lot of thinking in terms of accessibility and usability).
- Focus is important: The reason for the need to focus is simply that without focus on topics it will be a system of everything, which is not practical and not likely to attract interest enough, and which is also not a fair way to address a whole region, which is very complex (risk of having a simplistic view of the Arctic)
- To work, the system must have good and simple translation of all documents into Russian.
- The system must deal a lot with concrete examples of how land and resources are managed across the Arctic
- Provide opportunity to communicate directly with community members in other parts of the Arctic (again also with effective translation)
- The issue of maintenance of any system is central for the question of how it will work in any parts of the Arctic region – and specifically for Russia, the question of where the information is coming from (all outside Russia is having a hard time)

## Where do the individual community members get their information from?

- Fundamentally, at the local community level information related to practises in terms of land and resource management, is being exchanged among people directly, peer-to-peer. Social media (in Russia primarily VK) and phone contact are also being used. (Examples include: prices and selling options of products; location of river crossings; snow and ice; availability of resources; location of regulatory authorities etc).
- Local government staff at district and village level do off course also get information from official government communication channels. But again, little if any information related to resource and land management is being sourced from the Internet.
- It is also worth noting that Internet connections are of extremely different quality, when you get out in the real Arctic communities in Russia.