Projects Focus

CAPARDUS

The climate change and its consequences in the Arctic leads to new requirements for planning and decision-making based on scientific and economic data, assessments and predictions. A prerequisite for good planning is access to data and information of relevance to people living and working in the Arctic. Community-Based Monitoring (CBM) and Citizen Science (CS) initiatives are evolving across the Arctic, providing complementary data to the scientific observing systems. CBM/CS systems are initiated by people who need specific environmental and climate information to support management of resources, local decision-making and safety of human activities. It is a major activity in CAPARDUS to support development of CBM and CS activities and promote standardization of the work between various projects.

In **Svalbard**, the project continued dialogue meetings with governance and local community actors in Longyearbyen and initiated discussions and exchange of experience about the use of citizen science by guides and guests on expedition cruise ships for monitoring Arctic cultural heritage sites at risk from climate change. Several meetings and workshops have been organized, including sessions at the Svalbard Science Conference in November 2021, addressing topics such as avalanche forecast, climate change impacts and mitigation, environmental protection, changes in biodiversity and marine pollution.

On 30 October 2021, CAPARDUS in collaboration with Svalbard Social Science Initiative (SSSI), hosted a public sharing event at the public library in Longyearbyen. It was organized as an open evening event where people could meet SSSI members, visit a poster exhibition and discuss how scientists could help the local community to adapt to climate change and the green shift. Photo: S. Sandven.

In **Greenland**, the project continued dialogue with government agencies and civil society associations on CBM standards. Moreover, the project developed a preliminary model to explain and explore future scenarios for the inshore halibut fishery in West Greenland with a view to understand the usefulness of Bayesian Belief Network models and their ability to incorporate local knowledge to improve Arctic resource management. The work is performed in collaboration with the project ArcticFutureLives (https://futurearcticlives.eu/).

In **Russia**, the project continued assisting community groups who facilitate CBM in Yakutia and Kola Peninsula and organized a pan-Russian workshop on how indigenous/local knowledge can serve as key input to the monitoring of natural resources and resource uses and, at the same time, enable conflict resolution and strengthen self-determination.

In **Alaska**, the project organized interviews and virtual focus group discussions to identify the types of information used, inc. the function of CBM, in decisions and planning for coastal risks and hazards so as to increase our understanding of the role of standardization in connecting community observations with decision processes and the benefits and drawbacks of greater standardization for different actors.

Local fishermen catching fish in lakes and rivers are important contributors to Community-based monitoring, providing data on fishery resources. Photo by M. Enghoff.