

Summary of good practices for CBM activities based on experiences in Russia

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(From CAPARDUS WP4: Case study in Russia)

Good practices in Yakutia:

- Indigenous Evenk communities are effectively gathering around, promoting and able to continue CBM as a tool for promoting knowledge about resources, presenting and discussing management options, and for upholding local IP rights in terms of resource use. Using and stressing CBM as a tool for influencing management of resources is of outmost importance.
- Important to note that time is needed, a period sufficient for local communities to master the CBM methodology, get used to it, and, most importantly, realize that CBM is not a research project imposed from outside, but a real tool for strengthening their own position – the position of the indigenous communities involved with utilization of their natural living resources.
- The importance of the presence of a strong regional coordinator, able to convey to the authorities the pressing problems of local communities and defend their rights to traditional nature management. Likewise, the importance of active local coordinators should be stressed.
- Using CBM as a tool for monitoring and providing input to management of Traditional Territories of Land Use is crucial and make CBM even more relevant.
- Likewise, using the organization around CBM to provide a voice from the local communities in terms of fishing and hunting regulations and management should be viewed as a key aspect of CBM. Hereunder, using the CBM groups/organization to address issues of hunting agreements and to put pressure on authorities to adjust hunting fees for indigenous territories and adjust hunting time for wild reindeer for indigenous communities. With the outcome of this advocacy work by the CBM groups being relatively positive in favor of more pro-indigenous regulations (less fees and relaxed hunting periods for IPs) this role of the CBM groups must be considered a good practice.

Good practices in Kola Peninsula also include

- Establishing CBM and making it sustainable do take time and might require more than one attempt. Local coordination in this is crucial and exchange of experience with other CBM initiatives can make a big difference.
- It is important that CBM activities are organized in ways so that local participants feel that they are protected from potential backlash from authorities; this takes time and local processes of negotiation. Even in areas with relative high level of conflict with the state structures, it is possible for IP communities to find ways of working with CBM.

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