

Annex: Guidelines for Training w. Local CBM Groups (English and Russian)

Introduction to CBM activities to guide the meetings/training with local CBM groups

(English version, June 2021).

ENGLISH VERSION

The aim

The aim of community-based monitoring (CBM) activities is to use local knowledge more effectively to improve management of resources in a way that will benefit local livelihoods and be sustainable. CBM is for people, and it supports their rights and traditional land uses. It is not for the benefit of outside researchers. The CBM activities are initiated with the aim of being a long-term undertaking, whereby the local communities actively use them as a way of documenting how their local resources are changing. Local knowledge of the living natural resources is substantial and is of great importance but it is generally not used very much in the natural resource management decisions taken by authorities today. Further, we should stress “why” CBM activities can be useful. When regularly collected and shared, the observations can be used to influence the way resources are being used in an area and thus improve local livelihoods and strengthen rights to use land and resources.

What is CBM?

CBM is a simple system for self-monitoring that is implemented by resource users themselves (fishers, hunters, herders, users and collectors of forest/tundra products) of:

- animals that are being hunted,
- attacks by predators,
- fish and fishing activities,
- quality of pasture and livestock conditions in your area,
- use of resources in an area by people from within and outside community,
- changes in climate and the environment around you (snow, ice, pollution),
- status of resources and resource uses in traditional land-use areas.

The area and participants

CBM activities are being supported in different locations, including the Kola Peninsula and Yakutia. Assistance for this is being provided by regional Indigenous Peoples organisations, CSIPN and the Nordic Foundation for Development and Ecology. This support is planned for the coming two years, during which the project will reinforce implementation in the communities and with the organisations. It will work directly with several local communities (4-10) in the selected regional areas. Scaling up later to more communities may be possible. Within the communities the focus is on the Indigenous reindeer herders, fishers, hunters, and other people using the natural resources.

The expected results

The expected results of the CBM activities are that local people will be better able to communicate their knowledge of changes in the resources, and the way that challenges related to resource use and resources should be addressed. The results may be in the form of improved dialogue on resource use at the local level or between the local level and other stakeholders, better regulations, better implementation of regulations, better decision-making on resource use, or better management actions implemented where the local knowledge is being used more effectively. Examples of results may include:

- improved and more sustained access to fish,
- better management of predators,
- better hunting regulations for game animals and game birds,
- better control of poaching activities,
- improved addressing of pollution,
- control of access to land by outsiders,
- better addressing of challenges to pasture,
- improved rights to local management of resources,
- better opportunities for management within traditional land-use area.

Key features in CBM implementation

Support is provided to the CBM activities so that they will help to set up a simple system for how interested local people can monitor the resources, report on changes and suggest actions to be taken to improve resource management. The CBM activities build up a monitoring system from the field among local people: the experts are the local people. This is about supporting implementation and it is not a scientific research project. The data will be held by the local people and they decide what to share. People and communities decide on their own whether or not they see a benefit in this and if they want to participate in the project. They decide what they want to monitor. Participation is on voluntary basis so people are not paid to do the monitoring; they should do it because they think it may serve their interests in sustaining their resource use. The system is based on an active group of people that follow changes in resources, take note of these, discuss the changes, suggest management actions, agree among their community, and report on this.

Remember when introducing/training in CBM:

- Ensure adequate information prior to a possible meeting with local community members. Ensure that adequate notice is given of the time and venue.
- Present the CBM activities in a simple and straightforward way. Stress that this is voluntary work that people can choose to do as a contribution to the possible betterment of their respective use and access to land and natural resources. Discuss how best the CBM work can be used to influence decision-making related to the resources. Stress that the whole idea is to give local communities a better 'voice' related to natural resource management decisions.
- At a meeting, provide general information on future possible CBM activities. Seek to identify those interested in participating in the CBM group for the future work. A group of 6-10 people is considered a good and effective size for a CBM group. Where feasible, include both men and women in the team and representatives from different age

groups. The people participating should be those who have some form of connection with the use of resources around the community and either a continuous or seasonal presence in the community.

- Remember that topics for monitoring should be based on what people in the community feel is important for them and, at the same time, what is feasible to observe in a straightforward way. It is essential that CBM work addresses community priorities, questions and approaches that are deemed appropriate locally.
- The actual process of establishing CBM needs to be facilitated and to be an open process in which the communities decide – and there should be good participation. Talk about the importance of sustaining efforts and how the CBM work can be embedded within other existing work or structures.

The steps that should be implemented/trained:

1. A regional coordinator is appointed in each region to be in charge of the CBM activities. During public meetings, local people in each of the regions are informed about the CBM system and decide on their participation. They decide what is most important for them to document and keep track of. Typically, a range of 5-10 different key natural resources/resource issues would be most relevant to document and keep track of. Asking which resources are important for people? Which resources are important to monitor? And which resources are possible to monitor? – can be helpful in identifying the relevant resources to monitor.

2. A total of 6-10 interested local people in each participating community then organise themselves into a CBM group that represents their community and who are directly involved in monitoring the resources when they are out in the environment doing their herding, fishing, hunting, collecting activities.

3. Each group selects a coordinator within the group who oversees the group activities (the CBM group coordinator). The participants keep track of simple data on observations related to the resources and resource uses that they have chosen to monitor. This is done regularly throughout the year and as part of the existing trips the participants make around the community for hunting, fishing, herding, collecting, and/or other activities. So there are no trips just for the purpose of monitoring. The observations are done as many times as possible within each of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. Those who are able could take notes in a notebook as a supplement for remembering their observations. Remember that it is only changes related to the selected 5-10 different natural resources/resource issues that should be documented.

4. The participants in the CBM group meet every 3 months at the end of a quarter (so in April for 1st quarter, in July for 2nd, in October for 3rd, in January for 4th) to discuss the observations from the quarter just ended and what the important changes and issues are. They note down the combined major observations together in an agreed format (the matrix shown further down). They agree on what the changes are, which are important and what the key trends are in the selected resources/resource issues, and also agree on the reasons behind the changes, noting this down in matrix. They discuss and agree on what could be done about the important changes and issues and note this down in the matrix. The matrix must be kept in a relatively concise form. The matrix/report is shared with the organisations/community-based organisations involved. These organisations should then provide storage of the data.

5. The CBM group decides what needs to be reported to higher levels and other organisations to promote positive actions and what can be used for action within the community to improve resource management.
6. Quarterly status meetings with support organisation should as far as possible be undertaken and could be in the form of online meetings, ideally every quarter after the matrix has been filled in and forwarded. It is important that some form of regular contact is established and operating continuously between CBM groups and support organizations.
7. As far as possible, the CBM group should hold a yearly meeting with the wider community to discuss and gain input on the observations, changes, and the proposed actions to be taken.
8. The support organisation take the information and proposed actions to the higher levels. The support organisation try to influence action based on the documentation and proposals from the communities so that the observations guide decision-making. The support organisation also facilitate the regular provision of feedback to the local CBM groups.

The specific steps for the quarterly CBM group meetings:

Specifically, for the quarterly CBM group meeting, the following can help guide the meeting and the training of the CBM group:

Every third month, the CBM group holds a meeting to summarise observations of natural resources and resource use from the participants' observations in order to develop a coherent understanding of the observations in the last quarter (three-month period). An interpretation of the observations is undertaken amongst the participants in the CBM group. The results are organized in a format (the matrix) that makes it easy to communicate them to other people.

Facilitation of these CBM group meetings will typically be by the CBM group coordinator but could also be with presence of the regional coordinator. The facilitation comprises the following nine steps:

Step 1. The CBM group coordinator in each community is responsible for the meeting and for calling the meeting. Getting sufficient participation from CBM group members for the meeting is very important.

Step 2. Make sure everyone knows the purpose of the meeting. The purpose is to discuss the natural resources and resource uses that the CBM group has agreed its members will keep track of. The meeting is also aimed at summarising the last three months of observations from the CBM group members' field trips. Make sure you are in control of who will participate, and whether there are any special topics for the meeting agenda in addition to the review of the species and resource uses recorded. Make sure the participants bring with them the observations they have made during the last quarter; this could be in the form of a notebook or other way of remembering observations.

Step 3. Start the meeting by agreeing on its duration. Then agree on the order of the topics to be discussed.

Step 4. Go through the species and the resource uses that the CBM group in the community has agreed to document one by one. Use observations from all the participants. Then:

- Let the participants present their observations of the natural resource
- Discuss and agree on the trends in incidence, size, quality or distribution of the natural resource in this quarter relative to the same time last year
- Discuss trends in the use of and pressures on the natural resource
- Discuss whether the trends are important or not
- Discuss the possible causes of important changes
- Discuss problems and solutions and possible management actions.

N.B: Make sure during the meeting that the outcomes of these discussions are noted down in the matrix in handwriting in a short and concise form.

Step 5. Repeat these steps for each of the natural resources and resource uses (5-10 different ones) that the CBM group has agreed to document.

Step 6. Discuss other relevant issues that participants may find important.

Step 7. Evaluate the meeting with the participants. Is there anything that could be done differently next time?

Step 8. Agree on the location and time of the next meeting. End the meeting.

Step 9. File copies of the matrix and ensure that the matrix is also filled in electronically after each meeting. Forward copies of the matrix electronically to the support organisation.

Examples of topics for discussion in the CBM group include (by way of example only, many more are possible depending on the individual CBM group):

Compared with same quarter last year:

- Have there been any changes in the time and effort needed to obtain a particular resource?
- If so, how much more or less effort has been necessary? (number of trips, number of hours, changes in hunting/fishing/herding methods)
- Have there been any changes in the occurrence of species, their breeding or roosting sites, or summering areas (more or less individuals, earlier or later, larger or smaller animals, more or less fat, better or worse meat quality of animals)?
- What are the possible causes (e.g. change in weather, in pressure from use, in disturbance, in water quality, or just normal change to be expected)? What are the possible management actions, if any?
- Are there species used this year that were not used in the same season last year?
- Have there been any changes in the methods and tools used to hunt or fish or to herd?
- Have there been more or fewer people hunting, herding or fishing since the same season last year?
- Is the price of traded products different to the same time last year?

Some tips for the meeting:

- Ensure that the discussion is a dialogue. All members of the CBM group should participate in the discussion. Focus on fruitful cooperation and on listening.
- Make sure you are open to new ways of looking at things. Avoid preconceived conclusions. The CBM group should come to its own conclusions as a group.
- Do not worry about repeating and reporting the obvious. All trends are important - including no visible change in the abundance of species or resource uses.
- Remember that many of the observations will be become more relevant over time if observations are repeated.
- Do ask the participants how the documenting and observing has gone over the last quarter.
- Seek input from the participants on how the different aspects of CBM work are functioning – are there problems? – how can we solve these? – what is working well?

Name of coordinator: <i>(give the name of the CBM group coordinator)</i>							Year, quarter: <i>(give the year, and give the number of the quarter here – 2021 1st quarter, 2021 2nd quarter, etc)</i>						
Village/community name: <i>(identify the community or sub-community name)</i>							Tendency* <i>(Note 7)</i>				Comments re. number, size of animals, first/last sightings etc.	Possible meaning and explanation of tendency *	Ideas for action and recommendations on management <i>(give further information on separate sheets where necessary)</i>
Resources/ Resource use	Month	Location	Total number of trips	Number seen	Catch total	Method	No change	More	Fewer	Do not know			
<i>(Name the resource selected for monitoring here – resource 1)</i>	Note 1	Note 2	Note 3	Note 4	Note 5	Note 6					<i>(In this part you should provide the CBM group comments on the observations. Could be on numbers, size, or first and last sightings, and it could be on specific features related to the observations)</i>	<i>(In this part you should fill in the CBM group's analysis and agreed reasons – if any – behind the status observed for the specific resource. There may also be no possible explanations)</i>	<i>(In this part you should fill in what the CBM group agrees could be useful actions to take and useful recommendations to make based on the changes in resource availability – only some of the resources and the changes will result in ideas for action and recommendations)</i>
<i>(Name the resource selected for monitoring here – resource 2)</i>													
<i>(Name the resource selected for monitoring here – resource 3)</i>													
<i>(Name the resource selected for monitoring here – resource 4)</i>													
<i>(Name the resource selected for monitoring here – resource 5)</i> **													

Contributors: *(name all the contributors to the CBM group meeting here)*

***Tendency as seen in relation to same period last year**

**** Use more sheets for more selected resources if necessary**

Coordinator's signature: *(the CBM group coordinator put her/his signature here)*

Guide to filling in the matrix:

Some guidance for filling in the matrix is given in brackets and in *italics* in the matrix above. In accordance with the notes in the matrix above, the following offers some further guidance for filling it in. Remember that the matrix is an essential part of the CBM process, an essential part that will ensure that issues are discussed, captured, analysed, and communicated. The matrix provides good evidence that can be communicated and potentially used in future local attempts to influence decision-making regarding natural resources.

- Note 1: Name the month of the quarter (January, February, March for 1st quarter – April, May, June for 2nd quarter – etc).
- Note 2: Where relevant, give a more precise location for the observations or occurrence of the resource or resource use. If necessary, it can just be the general area of the village/community land/territory.
- Note 3: Provide here the total number of trips undertaken by all the CBM participants contributing to the meeting and the matrix. Only do this if it is easy to count and relevant in the context.
- Note 4: If possible, give an estimate of numbers seen by the CBM group members or possibly reported by others. This is only possible for some of the species/resources/resource uses that have been observed; for others it will suffice to indicate their status as common or rare and then give the trend in the following columns. If it relates to observations by others and not members of the CBM group, this should be noted in the comments.
- Note 5: If it is a resource that is being harvested, it would be good to indicate the catch volume as reported by the CBM group members. If it is harvested by other people who are not CBM group members, this should be noted in the comments.
- Note 6: Where relevant, mention the methods used to obtain the harvest here.
- Note 7: “Tendency” is a key issue to fill in. You just put an X in the column below that best fits with the trend that is agreed by the members of the CBM group. It is therefore important that it is discussed among the group. Remember that it should be the tendency compared to the same quarter last year. It is important to stress that trends are the most important issue to work with in the CBM group and that exact counting of large numbers is not what is expected of the group.

