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Towards 'good practice' in the use of local and scientific knowledge to inform natural resource management

A workshop organized by the CAPARDUS project
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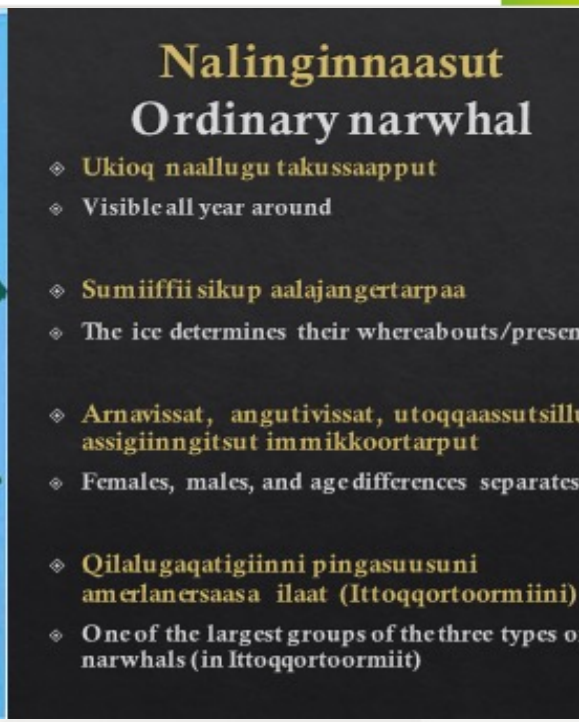

1) How do you see the future for the use of hunter and local knowledge to inform decision-making about living resources in Greenland: Should local knowledge be used further to inform decision-making? How ?

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Use of hunter and user knowledge is based on § 2, subsection 3 and 4 of the Inatsisartutlov on hunting: **The future looks much better:**

Section 2, subsection 3. In connection with the administration of hunting conditions, emphasis must be placed on the inclusion of hunter and user knowledge gained through, among other things, relevant main organizations and the Hunting Council.

PCS. 4. The National Government may lay down detailed provisions on the inclusion of hunter and user knowledge in connection with the administration of hunting conditions, cf. subsection 3
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- There are structured and organized **consultation processes in place** in connection with the setting of quotas and the issuing of notices on individual species/several species, administration and management of hunting licenses, hunting controls, etc.

- Work is underway on a new executive order on the collection and use of hunter and user knowledge, which sets a framework for organized and structured collection and use of hunter and user knowledge and is equated with biological knowledge/advice

1) (Continued)

Should hunter and user knowledge be used further to inform decision-making? How?

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- Clear need to close the imbalance in the use of **scientific knowledge / advice** and **hunter and user knowledge** in connection with the decision-making processes
- Need for a clearer framework for the collection and use of hunter and user knowledge
- Systematic and organized collection of hunter and user knowledge at local level ensures a more solid decision-making basis for decision-makers at local and national level
- Maintenance / follow-up of catcher and user knowledge in documented form can be used to assess whether changes have occurred over time and thus the need to adjust previous decisions in adaptive management of living resources
- YES, much more needs to be spent on documented / structured collected hunter and user knowledge in decision-making processes via the executive order that sets the framework:
- Pre-agreed collection methods, headlines, secured knowledge storage (digital or printed reports) and agreed follow-up initiatives – which we set out in a draft of a new executive order

2) How can the economic and organizational sustainability of programs on local documentation and management be ensured?

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Economic sustainability:

- At **local level**, the Municipal Board should, in close cooperation with KNAPPs or similar associations, determine how any financial aspects should / must be ensured. APN has no direct influence there, but encourages it.

- APN creates the formal framework via legislation – does not have financial capacity, but can contribute in kind – which we have done since 2009

The organizational sustainability:

- At **local** level, it is again the local authorities in close cooperation with KNAPPs or similar associations that must be in charge of local documentation and management of the knowledge that is documented and shared with relevant parties, including decision makers

- APN creates the formal framework via legislation and contributes in-kind

Case example: Collection of hunter and user knowledge about narwhals in East Greenland in the period 2019-2021, presented at the NAMMCO annual meeting 2021:
Yield: Naalakkersuisut has maintained quotas for meat supply in East Greenland.
The biologists have responded via their last meeting in autumn 2021, i.a. recommended several DNA analyzes (tissue sample collection) to follow up the presentation.

3) What challenges and opportunities are there to link local and scientific data together in practice, when this is relevant?

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Challenges!

- Serious disagreement on the number of animals in areas, e.g. narwhals in East Greenland and others
- Reproduction / how often calf are obtained;

There is too much focus on the disagreements, and too little effort is made to minimize the challenges – and these often end up on the APN table!

Should hunter and local knowledge as well as scientific data be linked together?

Both yes and no. It depends on which subjects are involved!

- Scientific studies are mostly documentable and scientifically based knowledge - made on the basis of a specific and internationally recognized method, etc.
- The hunters are good at describing what they observe (land and sea maps):

- arrival times of the animals,
- when the animals depart the area,
- appearance, difference in appearance between subspecies,
- what and where they fourage,
- diving patterns,
- Where they breed, ages of calves if there is more than one age group

In East Greenland and Qaanaaq, APN has focused on 8-9 main topics that hunter and local knowledge share - which are elaborated on in the next slide:

3) What challenges and opportunities are there to link local and scientific data together in practice, when this is relevant ?

Options:

Hunter and local knowledge should be utilized much better by biologists;

- The animals' appearance, difference in appearance, which could indicate different subspecies (cf. East Greenland narwhal) where science says otherwise
- Behavior in different seasons
- year-round observations from the hunters to the animals and habitat (ice conditions and water flow)
- Arrival times and departure times (where and when they are in the area)
- Fouraging areas – what they eat
- Hunter knowledge of calf/fry; appearance, behavior of the calf, about different ages, which are with adult females
- What can the hunters tell about what they see, e.g. the thickness of blubber , tusk/teeth, stomach contents
- The cultural and socio-economic importance of game animals

- **So the focus should be how hunter and local knowledge can improve overall knowledge about the game animals?**

Apeqqutit

Questions

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Åge Hammeken, Ittoqqortoormiit:
"Maluginiassavarsi assini tamani uanga ilaagama angissusai eqqarsaatigalugit"

Åge Hammeken from Ittoqqortoormiit:
"Be aware that I am in all of the pictures to compare the different sizes"