



# Third Progress Report

## Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry

### Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry Objectives

The "Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry" project was approved by the Arctic Council as a project under the "Sustainable Development Program" at the Ministerial meeting in Barrow, Alaska 2000.

So far Norway, Russia and Finland are represented in the International Steering Committee. Other countries with an active involvement in the project are invited to join the steering committee.

The aim of the project is to assess circumpolar reindeer herding in relation to economic and social/cultural sustainability. This will be done by carrying out a thematic survey and assessment of reindeer husbandry in the Arctic regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and Alaska.

### The major objectives of the project are:

- Describe and analyse the present situation with regard to *economic and social* conditions;
- Describe and analyse the present situation with regard to *national management* of reindeer husbandry; and
- Describe and analyse the present situation with regard to current *legal status* in reindeer husbandry.

### Organisational structure

Finland was invited to the International Steering Committee meeting held in Helsinki, November 8, 2001. Finland has also contributed financially to the project. Senior Consultant Nina Hellström from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is representing Finland in the Committee.

## **Collection of data**

The collecting of data through fieldtrips is almost completed. The project has collected a lot of already existing material about reindeer husbandry from the different countries. At the moment the material comprise the following (some example):

- Official statistics about reindeer husbandry
- Management plans
- Assessments for predators
- Scientific papers about the development in reindeer husbandry
- Maps over different pasture areas/use of pastures
- Documents about national management policy

The following field trips have been undertaken since the start of the project:

- Russia: Yamal-Nenets Okrug, Kola Oblast and Republic of Yakutia/Sakha
- Alaska: Anchorage, St.Paul Island and Seward Peninsula
- Finland: The areas of Karigasniemi, Nourgam, Angelli and Inari
- Sweden: Visit to the area of Saarivuoma, Liehittäjä, Mausjaure, Vilhelmina norra and Mittådalen.
- Norway: Nordland and South Trøndelag/hedmark County in Norway.

The project has carried out many interviews with reindeer owners, reindeer herders, personnel at slaughtering houses, bureaucrats, researchers etc. These interviews, together with the written material, will form the basis for developing the recommendations to the Arctic Council. This will secure that the recommendations is anchored and represent the view from the industry itself.

## **The seminar “Reindeer Husbandry in a Circumpolar Perspective”**

The seminar will take place April 26-27 in Kautokeino, Norway. The invitation to the seminar is circulated through the Arctic Council secretariat. The organisers of the seminar are Nordic Sami Institute in Kautokeino, Association of World Reindeer Herders and the Centre for Sami Studies, University of Tromsø. The overall theme of the seminar will be the respective countries national legislation concerning the socio-economic development of reindeer husbandry in the circumpolar area. There will be a special focus on the situation of the industry in Russia and the new reindeer husbandry legislation being proposed in Norway and Sweden. Speakers from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Alaska and Norway have been invited to make presentations.

## **Time schedule of the project**

### 2001

November 8: Meeting in the International Steering Committee, Esboo, Finland

### 2002

April 25: Meeting in the International Steering Committee, Kautokeino, Norway

April 26-27: Seminar “Reindeer Husbandry in a Circumpolar Perspective”, Kautokeino, Norway

May 14: SDWG meeting, Oulo, Finland

June 12-13: Meeting in the International Steering Committee, Tromsø, Norway

September 1: Submitting of the summary of the report to Arctic Council Secretariat  
October 9-10: Third Ministerial Meeting, presentation of the “Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry” report  
Oct-Dec: Closing period of the project

### **Funding**

Finland has made a contribution to the project. Initial funding for the project was provided by Norway and Russia.

### **Anticipated outcome**

The project is preparing several documents for the Ministerial meeting.

- One double-sided “brochure” with the project highlights,
- A 15 pages summary of the report with all the proposed recommendation to the Arctic Council, and
- The main report.

The main report will be available at the Ministerial Meeting, and only in English. But the project is working to secure funding for a Russian translation.

### **Presentation at the ministerial meeting**

The report will present the results and the outcome from the project. The presentation will focus on a short overview about the socio-economic situation in reindeer husbandry, but mainly focusing on the recommendations made to the Arctic Council. These recommendations will be formulated as concrete steps for follow-up actions for the Arctic Council, national governments and the reindeer industry.

The Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry project will not continue after December 31, 2002 in its original form, but a follow-up project in the Arctic Council is under consideration.

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Further documentation can be found at the official Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry homepage:

<http://www.reindeer-husbandry.uit.no/>

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