

Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Poples in BEAR



WGIP MEETING,

October 12th-October 13th, 2017

Kirkenes

Meeting starts at 15.50

24/17 Call-up approved

25/17 Agenda approved with one change

Galina asks to add practical problems with travelling planning to other issues

26/17 Protocol approved with small changes regarding Sweden and Arkhangelsk

- Edit the Swedish wording in the protocol from last meeting
- Edit the Nenets information, add the information about the organization

27/17 Short information from WGIP members about situation in regions

Nenets, Russia:

- On federal level, per now there is no sensus/register for small numbered indigenous people in Russia, and this has long been a problem for the small numbered indigenous peoples. The government are looking into it now, and they are checking out several possibilities, this question has been discussed at a federal level for two years, and at the last Federal Council meeting in republic Marij El, the president said that there must be a solution by March 2018.
- There will be a census of indigenous peoples, which Raipon is working on. Yuri Khatanzevsky is responsible for the census in the northwest district.
- Another issue, which is discussed on federal level is an ability to adopt children by indigenous peoples in Russia, a person must have a permanent place to live and a certain amount of square meters. Many indigenous people in Russia leading a nomadic lifestyle and therefore they do not have the right to adopt children.
- New governor in NAO, Aleksander Tsibulskiy, 38 year old from Moscow, who was previously the vice minister of economical development in the Russian Federation, and he does not know the Nenets area very well, nor the people, the culture or the challenges the indigenous people in the area have. The previous governor was from the Nenets okrug, and was a good representative for the region, so we hope that the good cooperation will continue.
- March 2018 there will be a reindeer herders congress, for the first time in 4 year. Perhaps the WGIP should participate there?

, Sweden:

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- The matter of consultation in Sweden now is that the national government must negotiate with the Sámi parliament when decisions concern the Sámi, and now the government are looking into whether it will be also on the national and regional level.
- The Norwegian/Swedish negotiation on a new reindeer herding convention has for the time being stalled.
- On mining levels there are still large challenges, at Nasafjell a new company wants to open up. This area used to be a mining area in the 1600s, was an ostrocity in the Sami history, because Samis were enslaved and forced to work there. Not only will a reopening there threaten the reindeer herding, but also on the collective well being of the Sami in the area because of the history. The Sami parliament has said no to this, but they have been ignored.
- The Gallok mining story goes on, as they have not yet reached a decision. The last decision from the government gave it back to the regional government and made them decide, so it's still undecided.
- The Swedish government has an investigator looking into the minority language act, to see how the law is applied, and have made some suggestions to what to improve, some are good and some are not so good. The Sami does not want to be treated as a minority but as an indigenous people of Sweden. The government are suggesting that the Sami language should together with other minority languages no longer be called a mother tongue, but from now on be referred to as a cultural heritage language.
- In regards of the Sami regions and areas that are a protected area, new areas have applied to be a part of the protected area.
- Lars -Anders Baer has been elected as the new representative to WGIP from Sweden, with Håkan Jonsson as sub.

Sami, Finland:

- The Finnish prime minister has approved establishment of Commission of Truth in Finland and expressed that this is a priority. The aim is to acknowledge and deal with the traumatic history of the Sámi during the last century and to inform the Finnish population of the Sámi nation. It would be beneficial for the Sámi community that the government thereby officially acknowledges the Sámi trauma.
- The legislation to support rights of the Sámi have failed during recent years. Last example was the approval of the Tana fishery agreement which overrides the traditional rights of the Sámi in the Tana region and poses a significant threat to the traditional Sámi livelihood and income. This includes restrictions to fishing tourism and traditional fishing methods.
- Last May a process was initiated by the Sámi parliament which aims at improving dialogue between the Sámi parliament and the Finnish government. A collaborative board consisting of members from the Sámi parliament and members from the Finnish political parties which are represented in the national parliament is underway. The aim

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of the board is to discuss issues such as legislative initiatives and other processes which concern the Sámi, and to inform members of the national parliament of the Sámi point of view to these issues. The board will also work against forces promoting alternative truth to the state of the indigenous affairs. It is already a pre-requisite that the national government must negotiate with the Sámi parliament when decisions concern the Sámi according to the 9th paragraph of the Sámi parliament law.

Unfortunately, the said negotiations often take place too late to have an actual impact in the legislation and the Sámi parliament does not have the right to veto decisions taken by the national parliament. The newly established board is hoped to alleviate this situation.

- The Sámi parliament receives a modest increase in the annual budget. Even after this improvement, the Sámi parliament is still unable to significantly increase the number of employees or initiate new projects, both of which would be needed. Our resources are very limited in comparison to financial situation of the Sámi parliaments in our neighbouring countries after the recent significant subvention increase to the Swedish Sámi parliament budget. As an example: because this year we travelled to the Sámi 100 year convention to Trondheim, we can only afford to hold three parliament meetings in place of the usual four.

Sami, Norway:

- There has been an election at the Saami parliament, Aili Keskitalo is the new Sami president, and there will also be elected a new representative from Norway, this is Christina`s last meeting where she is charing.
- The Jåma reindeer herding family in Fosen near Tråante are struggling now against wind mills and are now in court with the government
- The Norwegian Saami parliament are on the Saami`s from Finland side in the Tana river case
- The Saami parliament are working so that the consultation law should be a demand, not just a possibility, meaning that the government must consultate, not just have the possibility to consultate.
- Awaiting a resolution in Nussir case, with the reopening of the copper mine. This reopening would not only threaten the reindeer herders, but also the fjords as they are suggestion to put the waste directly in the fjord.

Sami, Russia:

- There is becoming less and less people on the Russian side that speaks Saami language, and it`s being discussed now, and there was a meeting not long ago, where they have decided that there will be Saami lessons at the school in Lovozero, and they are still discussing which alfabeth to use.

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- The work on development of tourism on the sacred lake "Seid" continues, and there has been made some amendments to the Law on the Guarantees of the Rights of the Community, in regards of use of territory, buildings, etc.
- There will be a congress for the Finnish-Ugric people in Syvtyvkar

Veps, Russia:

- Among alot of important matters going on in the Vepsian area, language is one of the most important issues. As a representative for the younger generation, our WG member states that they often are having trouble with keeping the level of language. Perhaps there are some ideas on how to make learning the language more interesting, to give the younger generation a stimuli of some kind, a euro vision for indigenous youngsters?
- There has been established a Vepsian council in Prionezskii region in Karelia
- The support of publishing books in the Vepsian language continues, new books are coming out, but there seems to be a small interest amongst the youth to learn the language.

Mikkel Anders Kemi, ICR:

- In Jokkmokk in August this year the 6th World Reindeer Herders Congress took place, over 50 delegates from 21 of totalt 27 regions were present. The next Congress will take place in four years in Hantimansk on Russian side. Traditional food, culture, health and climate change were main topics, and also there was one day where all the regions gave a summary on the situation in their regions. This was the first time the country where the congress was held did not contribute economical, but the the local people and the municipality contributed as best as they could, and also a big thanks to the Norwegian Barents Secretariat for financial support.

Decision: the information is included in protocol

28/17 Information about the meeting of the Senior Officials in Solovki 14th and 15th of September

Tatiana informs that the meeting was very practical, and that the meeting in Arkhangelsk and the ministerial declaration was discussed. Also she talked with Elinor Blomberg about Swedish priorities in the coming chairmanship.

Decision: the information is included in protocol

29/17 Approval of WGIP Action Plan 2017-2019

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Pentti informs a bit more about the Akwe: Kon guidelines, and Christina suggest to host smaller seminars to promote the Akwe: Kon guidelines and other subjects.

Galina comments

4;4 that the following should be described: summit for creating a meeting between the indigenous peoples and government, while congress is for the indigenous peoples themselves.

5;3 Regarding culture it's important that the indigenous peoples themselves are working with tourist products, and not people that have learned from indigenous peoples, we should state that we should try to engage indigenous peoples. The indigenous people has the right to present their own culture, and we must stress that the matter of the authenticity is important. Pentti asks if there are any international guidelines for this, and that we should add it in our action plan that there should be consulting with indigenous peoples if they are using indigenous artefacts.

Perhaps encourage the WG on tourism so that they work with the Finnish Sami parliament who are already working on guidelines on this. Negative experiences on exploitation and the sentence about this will be added in the background and also in the guidelines. Invite Andrey Dubovtsev to the next meeting to discuss this further.

Follow up on the ethical guidelines on indigenous tourism, and ask Andrey to raise this question

Promote guidelines

To finally adopt the action plan and chart at the next meeting, revise the Russian version.

Decision: Action plan approved

30/17: Ministerial meeting in Arkhangelsk 18th and 19th of October

Decision: Tatiana Egorova will represent the WGIP in Arkhangelsk, and the speech is to be prepared by the members

31/17: WGIP event together with the Swedish chairmanship

The chair and secretariate had a meeting with coming Swedish chair Elinor Blomberg, and joint meeting/conference/round table with the other WG was one of the suggestions that sounds like a good idea. Invite the chairs and members to enlighten on the situation challenges and possibilities that indigenous people have together with the majority community.

Decision: the information is included in protocol

32/17 Participation in other WG

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To appoint a new member in the WG on Environment at the next meeting after New Years. August Sjøvoll shall continue with his work. We should invite Andrey Dubovtsev for a meeting to tell him about the good work he`s doing. Tatiana Egorova will contact the chairs of the WG for Health and Social Issues to get an update on this group, and Hanna Sofie Utsi should also be invited to the next meeting to be included in the group. Tatiana Egorova says that the WG on youth is not working for the moment, and hopes that the Swedish chair will do something about this. Neeta does not have the possibility to continue her work with the steering comitee on children and youth at risk, so at the next meeting we should appoint a new member.

Education and research- update and check the possibility to appoint a member from us. Galina Platova suggests that not only Saami representatives are attending the other groups, but also Nenets and Veps. She understand that the problem is the language, and will ask Nadezhda Laptander to represent the indigenous people in the WG for environment. The representative at the WG for culture Valentina Zganich have not been attending meetings in a while, due to her new responsibilities in the Russian Government, and Galina suggests to talk to Alexandra Imena, would she be interested in participating. Nenents and Veps wants a brief summary in Russian on the mandate of all groups, and how many meetings and so on.

Decision: To find new representatives on the WG on environment, steering comitee on children and youth at risk, and WG on culture. The secretary will provide a brief summary in Russian on the mandate of all groups, how many meetings and so on.

33/17 Other issues

- Karelians to WGIP
- Travel issues
- Multivisa

The representatives for the Karelians were supposed to attend this meeting, but due to last minute change of dates, they were prevented from coming.

Members especially on the Russian side are experiencing difficulties from time to time when it comes to travelling to and from the meetings, they have to prepay tickets, luggage and so on with their own money, it would be easier if everything, included train tickets, could be invoiced directly to WGIP.

Mikkel Anders Kemi from ICR suggests travel agency AIR&SEA AS for travels for the WGIP.

Members from Nordic states would like to have multivisas for Russia so that it will be easier for them to attend meetings in Russia on short notice.

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Decision: An invitation to the next meeting of the WGIP will be sent to Karelians as they could not attend this meeting. The secretariate will look into how to make travels easier. Multivisum for all participants from Nordic states.

34/17 Next meeting

This is Christina`s last meeting, so at the next meeting the WGIP needs to choose a new chair.
Suggestion: Next meeting in Murmansk late February/March

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