



Sami Parliament, Sweden
UNPFII 17, New York
17th April 2018



The Sami Parliament in Sweden

- Sami Parliament Act

Two aspects

- Popularly-elected Parliament
- Government Agency (Ministry for Culture and Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation)

Functions and tasks

- Monitor matters related to the Sami people and to promote a vibrant Sami culture
- Sami trades and traditional livelihoods, reindeer husbandry, community planning and land use, traditional knowledge - Árbiediehtu, Sami languages, environment and climate change





Sami trades and traditional livelihoods

The land and its resources as fundament

Use of land and resources are directly linked to the possibilities of carrying out trades and livelihoods – economic development, sustainability – self-determination

- Reindeer husbandry
- Hunting & fishing
- Handicraft (duodji)
- Food production

Traditional lifestyle to live off the yearly surplus provided by nature; waters and land - interactions with nature, cultural expressions, customs and traditional knowledge

The reindeer grazes and migrates over large areas - dependent on cohesive natural landscape from high mountains in summer to forests in winter





Sami trades and traditional livelihoods

Emerging trades

- Tourism
- Culture
- Design
- Interpretation
- Media production

Sami companies addressing the needs of the rural community

- Small-scale industry
- Transport
- Retail





Available information and statistical data

- Sami Parliament business register 3 700 companies
- 10 % of Sami makes their living from reindeer husbandry
- 3900 reindeer owners, 2 800 registered companies
- Food: 65 - meat production and processing in butcheries
- Handicraft: 78 - strong symbolic value for the Sami identity
- Tourism: 40 – guided tours, info and experiencing Sami life and culture

Combining trades

- 50 % of Sami tourism companies combine activities with handicraft and reindeer husbandry
- Reindeer Husbandry Act – right to reindeer herding including i.a. hunting and fishing



Sami land title

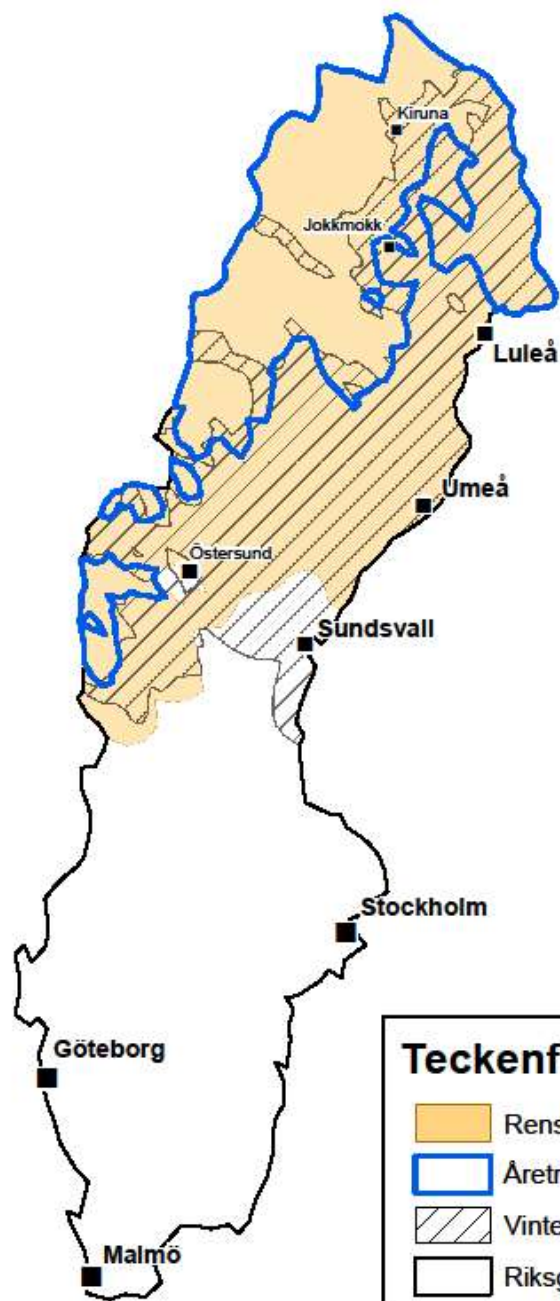
Past

- Previous Sami land ownership– tax lands mid 1600's
- Gradual loss of possession of lands 1700's and 1800's → abolishment of tax-lands 1928

Present

- No reserves – more or less defined reindeer husbandry area
- Prescription from time immemorial – land title for sami land use and reideer husbandry – can be private and state owned
 - no ownership but right to use – can be conditined and/or repealed
 - co-existence
- State claims ownership without registration of title to the land







State does not recognize Sami ownership to traditional lands

- Unclear situation – conflicting views → disputes and court procedures
- Conflict on the land areas referred to, what the rights include and who they apply to (holder of rights)

Weak protection of Sami interests in comparison to other commercial land use and establishing protected areas

- Increase of mining, extractive industries and other exploitation
- low requirements on consultation
- FPIC – not acknowledged principle
- prohibition of activities related to sami trades and traditional livelihoods in protected areas (ex. hunting in national parks)

→ Sami have very limited control on activities and development of the lands → creating insecurities for Sami trades, traditional livelihoods, culture and economic development



Other difficulties

Different rights for the Sami

Legislation divides Sami into two groups with different rights (members of Sami communities and non-members – reindeer herding criteria)

Lack of data and statistical information

Prohibited to process personal data that reveals race, ethnicity or religious conviction → no official statistics compiled regarding Sami

Lack of resources

Sami Parliament – to set priorities according to self-determination and safeguard Sami rights and interests

Sami communities – to participate in consultation processes

Fragmented responsibility of Sami issues

Sami issues being dealt with by different gov. agencies and ministries, overlapping capacities or gaps

Unclear responsibility and lack of motivation and overview





Initial observations – need for changes

Changes in legislation

- FPIC, consultation and increased self-determination

Increased knowledge

- Courts, public institutions, government authorities

Capacity building

- Sami communities, organizations and Sami Parliament

Introduce new governance structures

- overarching approach/perspective
- self-governance and joint management - introduction of Sami land management programmes

Build on good examples

- Laponia World Heritage, Carnivore Management tool, Reindeer Management Plans





Giitu – Thank you!



LAND RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -

Discussing the case of Swedish Sami in a global context

Tuesday 17th of April 2018 2:45 - 4:00 PM

Venue:

Conference Room
S-2725 BR, UN HQ,
New York

Language:

English

Organizers:

The Sami Parliament
in Sweden and
The Organisation for
Economic Co-
operation and
Development
(OECD)

Key speakers:

Chris McDonald,
Policy Analyst, OECD

Per-Olof Nutti,
President of the
Sami Parliament in
Sweden

Since time immemorial the Sami have lived in an area called Sápmi (also known as Lapland or Laponia) covering the Kola Peninsula in Russia, northern Finland, mid and northern Norway's coast and inland and the northern half of Sweden. Sami identity and well-being is closely tied to land use through traditional practices of reindeer herding, handicrafts, hunting and fishing and artistic and cultural expressions. Land rights and land use governance fundamentally shapes the capacity of Indigenous peoples to develop enterprises that support their values and interest.

The Sami Parliament in Sweden is currently participating in a project with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on linking Indigenous communities with regional development, aiming at developing policy recommendations for improving economic outcomes for indigenous people by better linking them with regional development efforts.

As a part of the project, a team from the OECD undertook a study mission to Sweden in February 2018.

This side-event will include presentations on ways to understand and measure Indigenous land use, how land governance arrangements impact on Indigenous livelihoods as well as initial observations from the mission to Sweden and the specific case of the Sami in Sweden.

After the presentations there will be a Q&A session and discussion with the audience on lessons learned and ways of addressing the challenges experienced by the Sami in Sweden.