



**Status, some Preliminary Results and
Experiences so far**

SLICA - A Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic; Inuit, Saami and the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka

www.arcticlivingconditions.org

- ◆ **Supported by:**
 - *Inuit Circumpolar Conference, ICC*
 - *Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, RAIPON*
 - *Sámi Council*

- ◆ *Adopted as an **Arctic Council project** under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group, SDWG at the Ministerial meeting in Barrow, October 2000. Included in the Sustainable Development Action Plan, SDAP 2004-2006.*

- ◆ **Funded by:**
Nordic Council of Ministers, NMR, The Greenland Home Rule Government, The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, KVUG, The Barents Secretariat, Nordic Arctic Research Programme, NARP, Danish Research Council for the Social Sciences, SSF, Swedish Research Council for the Social Sciences, Ministry of the interior – Dept. of municipalities, Norway, The Joint Committee on Research Councils for Nordic Countries, NOSS, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, SSHRC, National Science Foundation, NSF, Statistics Canada.

- ◆ *International coordinator: Statistics Greenland: www.statgreen.gl*

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SLiCA's objectives in brief

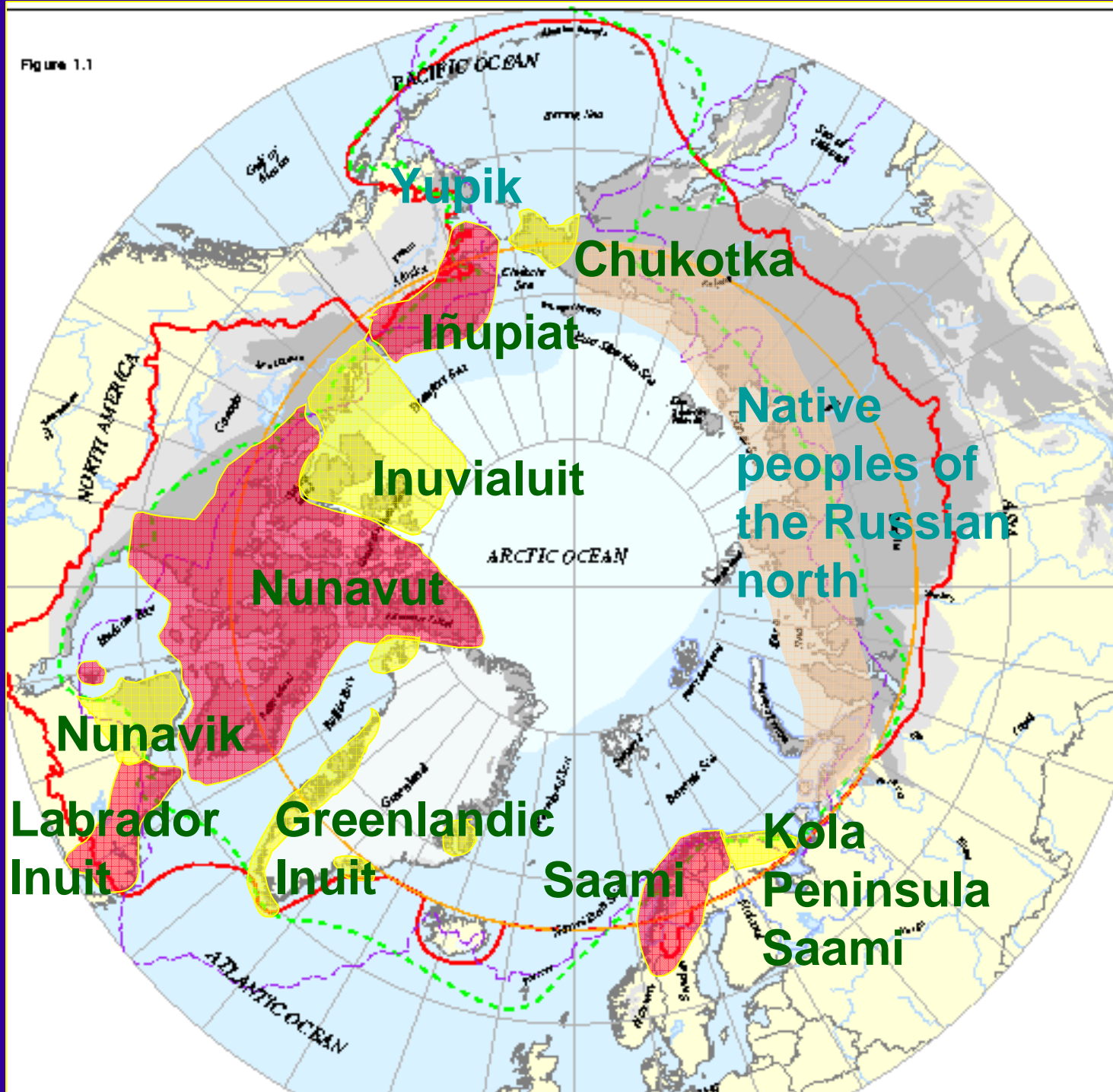
- ◆ For Arctic Native peoples and researchers to work together
- ◆ To include living conditions most relevant to Arctic peoples.
- ◆ To advance our understanding of how living conditions are interrelated.
- ◆ To improve the basis for decision-making

SLiCA objectives and status

- ◆ **SLiCA is a joint international project that conducts a comparative study of living conditions among the Inuit and Same peoples of the United States, Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the indigenous peoples of the Kola Peninsula and Chukotka in Russia.**

- ◆ **In mutual understanding between the international SLiCA board, the national/regional research organisations and the indigenous peoples organisations the following countries/regions and peoples/population groups have been included in the survey:**
 - Alaska (the Inupiat settlement region (North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits));
 - Canada (the Inuit of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik and Labrador);
 - Greenland (the Inuit and Danes);
 - Norway (the Same of Nordland, Troms and Finmark);
 - Sweden (the Same of Nordbotten);
 - Finland (the Same of Lappland);
 - Kola Peninsula (the Same and other indigenous peoples of Kola Peninsula);
 - Chukotka (the Inuit and other indigenous peoples of Chukotka).

Figure 1.1



SLiCA objectives and status (I)

- ◆ To develop a new research design for comparative investigations of the living conditions of the Inuit and Sámi populations in the Arctic. This will include the drawing-up of a battery of nominal and operationalised indicators of living conditions based on earlier theoretical literature and consultations with indigenous peoples' organisations and public hearings.
- ◆ A new research design has been developed – including applying a questionnaire based on 17 living conditions dimensions. The living conditions dimensions have been selected on the basis of discussions between researchers and representatives of the respondents to reflect the indigenous peoples' welfare priorities and to meet the need for international comparisons.

SLiCA objectives and status (II)

- ◆ **To map the living conditions among the Inuit and Same in the Arctic. This will facilitate inter- and intranational comparisons of the level of the living conditions in a number of dimensions.**
- ◆ **17 living conditions dimensions (operationalised into more than 200 questions) have been selected to reflect indigenous peoples welfare priorities and to meet the need for international comparisons.**

SLiCA objectives (III)

- ◆ **To carry out a comparative, dynamic social analysis of the causal relations between different individual resources and between individual well-being and different political, economic, cultural and technological settings.**
- ◆ **Some preliminary analysis themes have so far been selected (e.g. relationships between social problems and other dimensions of living conditions) and causal models have been built on hypothesised relationships between different dimensions of living conditions.**

SLiCA objectives (IV)

- ◆ **To create an improved basis for local as well as national decision-making in relation to policy planning and implementation.**
- ◆ **There is a general agreement within the SLiCA project that data from the project shall be disseminated to the indigenous peoples' organisations and public authorities at all levels as well as to the research community and other interested parties. Concrete agreements have been made with both local, regional and national organisations of the indigenous peoples in Alaska and with e.g. municipal authorities in Greenland about data sharing and how to use data for specific purposes.**

SLiCA objectives (V)

- ◆ **To increase knowledge among the indigenous peoples concerning their own and other indigenous peoples history of development and living conditions.**
- ◆ **The agreements on dissemination of data and data sharing as well as the plans to evolve contextual analyses to each of the regions aim at fulfilling this goal.**

SLiCA objectives (VI)

- ◆ **To establish an interdisciplinary network of researchers and research institutions engaged in living conditions research in the Arctic.**
- ◆ **More than 30 researchers (of which nine are members of the international SLiCA board) from 14 universities, research institutions and national statistical bureaus from all participating countries are involved in SLiCA.**

SLiCA objectives (VII)

- ◆ **To train and involve local students and researchers in the SLiCA project.**
- ◆ **Especially the Alaskan and Canadian SLiCA-teams have so far been successful including masters and PhD-students in the project. Everywhere local residents (students and others) have been trained to be interviewers. In Greenland this has resulted in involving a total number of more than 120 local interviewers.**

SLiCA – status December 2004

	Development of research design			Analyses/ Reporting
		Pilot testing	Data collection	
Alaska	X	X	X	(X)
Canada	X	X	X	(X)
Chukotka	X	X	(X)	-
Kola-Peninsula	X	X	-	-
Greenland	X	X	(X)	
Norway	X	X	(X)	-
Sweden	X	X	(X)	-
Finland	X	-	-	-

Status on interviewing

	Number of interviews carried out	Number of interviews planned
Alaska	625	600
Canada	11.000	11.000
Chukotka	500	525
Kola-Peninsula	50	500
Greenland	1050	1.300
Norway	130	500
Sweden	320	700
Finland	0	500
Total	13.275	15.850

SLiCA's funding 1997-2004 per November 11th 2005 (thousands)

Year	Source											
	NMR (DKK)	GH (DKK)	KVUG (DKK)	B_SEKR (NOK)	NARP/NMR (DKK)	F_RÅD/ DK (DKK)	F_RÅD/SV (SEK)	NOS-S (SEK)	SSHRC (CAD)	Norwegian Government (NOK)	NSF U.S. \$	STAT CAN (CAD)
1997	300	166		117								
1998	300	760	50	110								
1999	200		134	210	300		210					
2000	300		102	0	500	500	700	700	125		50	
2001	550	110		300	400	300	770	1000	125		229	2.000
2002				100	184	200	910	600	125	385	366	1.000
2003	60	1300	50							300	585	
2004	540	30								100	157	
Total	2.250	2.366	336	837	1.384	1.000	2.590	2.300	375	785	1.387	3.000
Total U.S. \$	358	376	53	120	220	159	335	366	276	112	1.387	2.224
Total U.S. \$	5.986											

Concluding the status of the project

- ◆ Interviewing is complete in Canada and the United States
- ◆ Interviewing is underway in Greenland, Chukotka, Sweden, and Norway
- ◆ The data collection process has not yet started in Finland and is temporarily stopped in the Kola Peninsula (due to lack of funding)
- ◆ The international team has identified a set of five analysis themes
- ◆ We have used Alaska data to provide examples of analysis results

Preliminary analysis themes

- ◆ **The importance of social relationships and the standard of living to settlement patterns**
- ◆ **The importance of a mixed cash- and harvest/ herding- based economy to living in the Arctic**
- ◆ **Relationships between social problems and other dimensions of living conditions**
- ◆ **The influence of educators and missionaries**
- ◆ **The influence of policies on living conditions**

SLiCA – a social science mega-project

- ◆ **Geography: covering regions in all Arctic states.**
- ◆ **Project participants – a diversity within**
 - **Scientific fields (anthropologists, linguists, sociologists, cultural geographers, political scientists, economists, demographers, statisticians, physicians);**
 - **Preferred methodologies: quantitative vs. qualitative studies;**
 - **Institutional backgrounds: universities, other research institutions;**
 - **Cultural tradition (academic): Anglo-American, French, Scandinavian, Russian;**
 - **Cultural tradition (personal/ethnic background): Indigenous – Western – Russian.**
- ◆ **Funding – a large project having to adapt to different national/ cross national funding systems and research programmes. Patchwork vs. total funding.**
- ◆ **Infrastructure/logistics/project organisation: special needs due to dimensions of project.**

Experiences from the SLiCA project (I)

- ◆ Not many experiences to draw upon when it comes to mega-projects (including several countries/regions and disciplines) within Arctic social sciences;
- ◆ Partnerships need to be developed with:
 - Indigenous peoples and their organisations (ICC, Same Council, RAIPON);
 - Political and administrative authorities;
 - Researchers and research institutions in the Arctic as well as outside the Arctic;
 - Funding institutions.
- ◆ Hence lobbying is a necessity;
- ◆ Seed money has been crucial to this project

Experiences from the SLiCA project (II)

- ◆ Funding of infrastructure and logistics is necessary;
- ◆ Thorough discussions on research questions, goals and methodology leading to a common understanding within in the project organisation;
- ◆ Thorough documentation – not only of the common point of departure but of important developments of the research process (including decisions on methodology, time schedules etc.) too;
- ◆ A project organisation and distinct agreements on division of labour is necessary;
- ◆ Milestone planning;
- ◆ Cooperation between funding institutions would have been of importance;

Experiences from the SLiCA project (III)

- ◆ **Necessary elements to secure momentum in the process:**
 - **Networking and an ongoing dialogue within the project organisation (researchers and representatives of the indigenous peoples/local residents) as well as with stakeholders and researchers outside;**
 - **A devoted and enthusiastic team of skilled researchers;**
 - **A supportive and encouraging environment (financial, institutional, political, family);**
 - **Credibility.**

Future of SLiCA 2004 - ?

- ◆ **Concluding the data collection;**
- ◆ **Analysing data by region/country;**
- ◆ **Comparing data and analyses between regions/countries;**
- ◆ **Publishing the findings**
- ◆ **Disseminating data/datasets**

- ◆ **Employing the SLiCA-instrument in other regions in the Arctic;**
- ◆ **Using the data analyses and findings in cooperation other research projects and stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples organisations, political and administrative authorities) in the Arctic**



SLiCA

Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

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