

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FOREST MANAGEMENT IN FENNOSCANDIA AND CANADA

International Conference in Jokkmokk, Sweden
October 10 – 12, 2001



INVITATION

*An initiative of the Sami Council and Grand Council of the Crees and
concerned Indigenous Peoples*

The Boreal forest is integral to the northern indigenous peoples' way of life. Its natural integrity is linked to their survival as peoples. Modern forestry creates threats, but there are opportunities, like certification schemes, that can initiate a responsible development. The conference will focus on this, including land and resource rights and will highlight forest practices that are ecologically appropriate and that promote the social and economic development of Indigenous communities.

The conference follows the intentions of the EU plan Northern Dimension and a joint statement by Canada and the EU on Northern Co-operation where high priority is given to sustainable management of natural resources, preserving biodiversity and issues of interest to the Arctic indigenous peoples affected by Northern Dimension policies.

The conference will bring together international forest experts, deputies, representatives of indigenous peoples, environmental associations and officials. The conference is open to an international audience. The programme is structured to allow for a constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue.

For the benefit of indigenous participants, pre and post meetings will be held outside of the regular conference programme.

The Sami Council and the Grand Council of the Crees hereby invites you to an interesting and rewarding conference.

Conference objectives

To promote understanding of the challenges Indigenous Peoples face in the context of forestry activities on traditional lands;

To share solutions to protecting Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights and traditional interests in this context;

To discuss methods for enhancing the development of indigenous communities through participation and benefits of forest management.

Conference Organizers

Sami Council

The conference is hosted by The Sami Council, established in 1956. It is a non governmental organisation representing the Sami people in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. The main objectives of its work are the promotion of Sami economic, social and cultural rights domestically and internationally. The Sami Council has been active on forest issues since its creation. More information about The Sami Council is available at: www.samicouncil.org

Grand Council of the Crees

The Canadian co-organiser of this conference is the Grand Council of the Crees. It is the political voice of the James Bay Crees who live in the province of Quebec, Canada. Established in 1974 by eight Cree communities. Further information on the Grand Council of Crees can be obtained on their website www.gcc.ca

Location

The conference will take place in Jokkmokk in northern Sweden. Fly to Stockholm for connecting flights or train to Luleå or Gällivare. From Luleå and Gällivare there are daily bus connections to Jokkmokk.

Language of the conference:

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, Swedish, Sami and Cree language.

Registration:

Please send your completed registration form by mail or fax together with payment **not later than August 15, 2001**. Confirmation and conference material will be sent out after the registration form and payment has been received.

Registration address Nordiska Samrådet
P.O.Box 44
S-962 02 MATTISUDDEN
SWEDEN
Tel +46 (0)971 320 25
Fax +46 (0)971 320 37

Registration fee

Until August 15: 1400 SEK/196 CAD After August 15: 1500 SEK/ 209 CAD

Website

The conference website www.sapmi.se/forestconference will provide information updates, speakers, programme, preparatory material etc. It will be available after 18 June, 2001

Addresses for further information:

Lisbeth Blind
Conference-Co-Ordinator
lisa.blind@same.net
Tel +46 (0)971 320 25
Fax +46 (0)971 320 37

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Tel +1-613-761-1655
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Preliminary Program

SESSION # 1

“THE FOREST AS A RESOURCE, AS AN ELEMENT IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MAINTENANCE AND AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ECOSYSTEM – PERSPECTIVES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES”

Introduction to the issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples regarding sustainable development and forests

Wednesday, October 10

9.00 a.m. Welcoming and Opening Speeches

10.00 a.m. **Part I: -Indigenous economies and their use of the forest- traditional and future possibilities -visions, experiences**

- Introduction to the perspective of the Sami people
- Introduction to the perspective of indigenous peoples of Canada

12.0 Lunch

13.30 **Part II: -Land and Resource Rights – the key question of access and jurisdiction**

- Introduction, Ownership and the right of use. Who has the power and authority of the forest resources?
- Land conflicts in Fennoscandia – from Sami point of view
- Land conflicts in Canada – from the point of view of the Canadian indigenous people – The Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples
- Land conflicts as seen by Government, State-owned and privately-owned forest companies in Fennoscandia and Canada
- Paths to the resolution of differences as seen by Government, State-owned and privately-owned forest companies in Fennoscandia and Canada

17.30 **Summary/reflection of the day; similarities and differences, identification of prospects for the future**

Evening programme

19.30 Dinner

Thursday, October 11

SESSION # 2

“INSTRUMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Favoured Policies: forest practices that are ecologically appropriate and protect and promote the social and economic development of Indigenous communities

09.00 a.m. **Part III: -Forest certification - possibilities and limitations**

- Introduction to different certification initiatives
 - CSA model – Canadian Standards Association
 - SFI model – Sustainable Forest Initiative

-FSC model – Forest Stewardship Council
-PEFC model – Pan European Forest Certification Council

- Criteria for a reliable system of certification
 - Indigenous peoples
 - Industry/Forest owners
 - Environmental organisations

12.00 Lunch

13.30 *Continuation of part III*

- Experiences of indigenous peoples in certification procedures
- Conclusion and comparison of the market models; what of importance can be attained, from the perspective of the indigenous peoples?

15.00 **Part IV: -Political and legal instruments – models to settle land use conflicts**

- Examples of successful and unsuccessful local/national models/outlines
 - International conventions, ILO 169, Convention of Biodiversity and ongoing discussion over the need for a convention on forests
 - Activities within European Union Action Plan Northern Dimension
 - Introduction to European Union initiatives for Indigenous people and forest policies
- Discussion**
- Proposals and/or recommendations from the Sami and Canadian Indigenous participants
 - How can the co-operation between different indigenous groups and other parts be strengthened? Measures to stimulate the development of areas used by indigenous peoples
 - The influence of indigenous people in the continuing process

17.45 **Summary/conclusion of the day and the conference**

- How to strengthen traditional forest use;
- How to enhance the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in certification work and Forest Regulation;
- How can land conflicts be settled?
- How to promote the increased involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the Forestry Industry

Evening programme

20.00 Dinner

Friday, October 12

A whole day outdoors

09.00-17.30 Field trip to forest sites of interest. Lunch outdoors.

19.00 Closing dinner

Internal

October 8 – 9 Preparatory meeting for indigenous participants

October 13 Evaluation meeting of indigenous participants

USEFUL INFORMATION

Jokkmokk

The conference will take place in Jokkmokk northern Sweden. The District of Jokkmokk extends into the Arctic Circle and it is Sweden's next largest district in size, although it is sparsely populated. Half of this area consists of an extensive mountain region. Add to this miles and miles of forests and wetlands. There are national parks and a number of nature reserves. You will also find the Laponian area, a World Heritage Site appointed by UNESCO. Laponia is a combined nature and cultural heritage area, and home to the Sami people. Ájtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum is definitely worth a visit. The traditional Sami way of life, with reindeer herding and traditional crafts, is still a large part of the local economy, but trade, small industry and tourism are gradually taking over.

Links to Jokkmokk info:

www.turism.jokkmokk.se
www.norbottens-turistrad.se
www.fjallen.nu

How to travel to Jokkmokk

Fly to Stockholm for connecting flights or train to Luleå or Gällivare. From Luleå and Gällivare there are daily bus connections to Jokkmokk.

The travel agency SN Resor in Jokkmokk will be pleased to assist you in organising all your travels in connection with the conference.

SN Resor +46 (0)971-582 22, e-mail: info@snr.se

Bus information www.ltnbd.se

Accommodation

Please note: accommodation is not included in the registration fee!

Hotel Jokkmokk

Hotel Single SEK 935 SEK/person, breakfast included

Hotel Double SEK 513 SEK/person, breakfast included

E-Mail: info@hoteljokkmokk.se Tel +46 (0)971 777 00, fax +46 (0)971 777 90

Homepage: www.hoteljokkmokk.se

When booking a room at the hotel please refer to "Forest conference 2001/ Skogskonferens 2001" to get the special conference price.

Jokkmokk Turistcenter (Camping center, 3 km east of Jokkmokk center)

Shuttle bus is available

2-bed cottage 600 SEK/cottage, breakfast included

4-bed cottage 750 SEK/cottage, breakfast included

Single room 300 SEK/person, breakfast included

2-bed room 200 SEK/person, breakfast included

E-mail: campingcenter@jokkmokk.com Tel +46 (0)971 123 70, fax + 46 (0)971 124 76

Homepage: www.jokkmokkcampingcenter.com

Please book your accommodation as soon as possible! The supply of hotel rooms is limited.

On the **conference website** www.sapmi.se/forestconference you will get information updates, speakers, preparatory material, programme, etc. It will be available after June 18, 2001.

Supporters

The conference is funded by the European Commission and the Government of Canada and assisted by the Taiga Rescue Network.

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REGISTRATION FORM

(Can be sent by mail or fax. (Please type or print clearly))

Family/Last Name:..... First Name:.....
Organization/Representing:
Address:.....
Postal Code:..... City:.....
Country:.....
Telephone:..... Fax:.....
(Please include country & area code) (please include country & area code)

E-mail.....

Will you attend the entire conference, including field-trip?.....

If "No", which dates ?.....

Expected Arrival in Jokkmokk (date and time):.....

Special remarks:.....

Dietary restrictions:.....

CONFERENCE FEES

We will confirm your registration. Note that the registration fee must be paid in advance.
(The registration fee is to cover the food during the conference.)

Registration Fee	Until August 15, 2001	After August 15, 2001
Full registration	1400 SEK/ 196 CAD	1500 SEK/ 209 CAD

Signature:..... Date:.....

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Refunds, less a 20% administration fee, will be made on registrations which are cancelled on or prior to September 15th, 2001. After this date, refunds will be given only at the discretion of the conference organizer.

A limited travel subsidy fund and billeting is available. Priority will be given to NGO's, indigenous participants and students. Please contact conference co-ordinator.

Please mail or fax this form to:
Nordiska Samrådet
Box 44
S-962 03 MATTISUDDEN
SWEDEN
Fax +46 (0)971 320 37

Please pay to our bank account number:
Clearing no: 82 64-4 103 016 972-4
Bank name: Sparbanken Nord
Bankaddress: Sparbanken Nord
Box 735, S-941 28 Piteå, SWEDEN
Swift id SWEDSSES
Please state: Forestconference

Please note: It is important to write your name and address, when you are paying the registration fee to our bank account.