

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

PRESENTING ON BEHALF OF
NORDIC WH RESEARCH
NETWORK
PHD CANDIDATE KRISTINA
SVELS

Nordic World Heritage Conference

5.10 2012

Suomenlinna, Helsinki

BACKGROUND

- The research program *Norwegian environmental research towards 2015 at The Research Council of Norway* has financed the network
- Participants in Sogndal May 2011
 - **Karoline Daugstad and Marte Lange Vik** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology/Norwegian Centre for Rural Research), **Allan Sande** (University of Nordland), **Kristina Svells** (Åbo Akademi University), **Eivind Brendehaug** (Western Norway Research Institute), **Elsa Reimerson** (Umeå University), **Martin Price** (University of Highlands and Islands)
- Independent research on:
 - Laponia WH
 - Kvarken Archipelago WH (Kvarken),
 - Western Norwegian Fjords WH (FjordWH)
 - Vega Island WH
 - Lofoten nomination process
- 2 popular science articles
 - Newsletter Botnia-Atlantica institute December 2011
 - Article in Nationen 24.5.2012

THE FINDINGS FROM THE RESEARCH IS
RELATED TO CONFERENCE TOPICS:

AWARENESS
COMPETENCE
CAPACITY

WHAT SIMILARITIES AND
DIFFERENCES ARE DETECTED AMONG
THE NORDIC WHS?

AWARENESS

- Being included on the UNESCO WH list
 - **Encourage local stakeholder engagement** because they perceive WH supporting the interplay between people and nature
 - > **Viable options for all stakeholders (e.g. 'Community')**
 - **Locals value their own culture** and life equally with **own environment** (more than traditional nature reserves)
 - *Examples:*
 1. **Vega Islands WH** boosted local optimism and encouraged immigration to the region
 2. The Swedish state suggested: “The Lapponian Wilderness Area”, the Sami organisations protest and the name was changed to **The Laponia Area**
 3. Value awareness for traditional landscape management **Fjord WH**
 4. In **Kvarken WH** residents value local history and feel more proud of the local surroundings

BUT, WHY DOES NOT CREATE 'HARMONY'

○ New lines of demarcation and conflicts

- E.g. between the tourist sector who profit from increase in tourism and other local people who do not and who take the burden of the influx
 - As in WNF where the residents producing the collective goods attracting tourists do not receive direct return from the tourists companies

○ *Examples:*

- In **Vega Island WH** traditional fishery industry felt disfavoured when the eider operation was fronted
- In the **Kvarken WH**, tourist development is regulated and streamered by the regional authority leaving the local population feeling removed and disempowered.

COMPETENCE

- Awareness of the **value of traditional knowledge**
 - **Modernization and new techniques** adapted to maintain old traditions
 - **Strategies** to combine traditional techniques and knowledge with scientific knowledge (tacit vs. expert knowledge)
- **New products and new markets (e.g. scale)**
- *Examples:*
 - **Vega Island WH:** Tourists visiting the archipelago where people and eider living together
 - **Fjord WH:** Small scale farm products: food and tourist guiding
 - **Laponia WH:** awareness of reindeer farming competence
 - **Kvarken's WH** label

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Different **intention and structures** to involve local people in WH nomination, mangement and development
 - Nordic Council of Ministers report 'Verdensarv i Norden' 1996
- Different **national state financing instruments** to maintain and develop the WH

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Are the legal instruments in WH's suitable to maintain the values?
 - In **FjordWH** the laws regulating the sea/fjord traffic stimulate high volume transfer traffic without any return to the people who maintain the fjord landscape
 - On the other hand the low regulating activity on land areas limits to a large degree the construction of tourism infrastructure and cabins in the WH area.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Are there **need for new institutions?**
- *Examples:*
 - Co-management governace model in **Laponia WH** has been viewed as a great success for the Sami representatives which is in majority
 - New organisations in **Fjord WH** stimulate mobilisation for small scale entrepreneurship and a more society friendly tourism approch
 - **Lofoten** as potential WH: Choise of direction for community development: Oil industry vs. WH designation?
 - **Kvarken and High Coast** – is Transnational management protocol and/or practis?

APPRECIATE YOU SHARING OUR
PRESENTATION AND PLEASE CONTACT US!
THANKS TO THE
RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY



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