



ACCESS
Arctic Climate Change
Economy and Society



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Project no. 265863

ACCESS

Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society

Instrument: Collaborative Project
Thematic Priority: Ocean.2010-1 “Quantification of climate change impacts on economic sectors in the Arctic”

D3.53 – Yearly report on ethical issues

Due date of deliverable: **31/03/2013**

Actual submission date: **20/06/2013**

Used Person/months: **1**

Start date of project: **March 1st, 2011**

Duration: **48 months**

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: **UoL**

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Contents

ACCESS Research Ethics Report.....	3
1. Research ethics and social science	3
2. Laboratory experiments	3
3. Fieldwork.....	4

ACCESS Research Ethics Report

(March 2012 – March 2013)

Dr. Anna Stammler-Gossmann

Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

1. Research ethics and social science

Research ethics have been a crucial part of the ACCESS quality research and researchers' professional skills. Research activities during the reporting period have complied with the ethical standards reflected in the documents of the European Union (e.g. Charter of Fundamental Rights, the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, Ethics for Researchers: Facilitating Research Excellence in FP7).

The importance of awareness of the project members on ethical aspects was once again emphasized in the circulated 'Do not forget research ethics!' letter, which summarized fundamental principles of research ethics. Respect for persons, respect for human dignity, scientific validity, social value, the rights and interests of research participants have been overarching ethical principles of the performed research activities.

- The relevant ethical standards of FP7, guidelines of International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA) and American Anthropological Association (AAA) have been applied in conducting the anthropological fieldwork and laboratory experiments.
- All researchers have followed ethical principles from research design to data collection and publishing.
- Scientific evaluation of socio-economic studies did not involve any biomedical research related to human beings. Data collection did not include information on health, sexual lifestyle, political opinion, religious conviction, and criminal justice, genetic and financial issues.
- Interviews conducted and laboratory experiments followed strictly the principles of voluntary participation. Presentation of the research project, explanation of the project's goals to the community and individuals has been an important part of the studies.
- Special attention has been paid to the requirements for anonymity and confidentiality. Protection of personal identity has been considered in the public presentation of collected materials (conferences, lectures, publications, dissemination activities).

2. Laboratory experiments

WP 3 (task 3.5, Beijer Institute, Sweden) continued in the reporting period the experimental project started in the previous year: 'Behavioral response to abrupt changes in resource renewal rate'. The purpose of the laboratory experiments is to study how people, for example fishermen, may react to changes in the resources renewal rate.

During the course of the game different scenarios of possible changes were tested: a baseline scenario, a scenario, where tipping points could occur and a scenario, where the users do not know whether tipping points may occur or not. The participants of the experiment (students and fishermen) were asked to make their choices in the context of a non-threshold treatment (logistic like growth rate of the resource), a threshold treatment (resource renewal rate has a threshold below which the resource grows significantly less) and an uncertainty treatment (the subjects do not know which of the two possible growth rates prevails).

Participation was voluntary and all participants filled in a consent form, where they were informed that the experimental data will be treated anonymously. The recorded participants' answers can be identified only by a number. The processed observational data on choices made during the conducted game cannot be connected to any individual choice and person.

Description of the laboratory experiments and preliminary results are outlined in:

Lindhahl Th., Schill C, Isaksen J. 2013. Exploring Behavioral Responses to Potential Abrupt Changes in Fish Availability. *ACCESS Newsletter* 5: 15 – 17.

3. Fieldwork

Within the research activities of WP 3 (task 3.4, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland) fieldwork in the coastal area of Northern Norway was conducted. The main purpose was to draw a picture of the dynamics in economic activities in the communities along the Barents Sea coast and changes observed in relation to the seascape. The study has particularly focused on the practical involvement of people in their environment, who negotiate changes as a mode of engagement with seawater. Ethics have been an integral part of the conducted empirical research.

Anthropological research encompasses as much as possible of an 'insider's' perspective to understand in depth the environmental and social sensitivities to on-going, anticipated or predicted changes that cannot be captured, for example, by statistics, structured survey methods or models. Empirical work applied to different methods: residing in the community for a prolonged period, participation in its activities, conversations and semi-structured interviews.

For the fieldwork in small northern settlements confidentiality, anonymity and protection of identity have been of highest priority. These issues were addressed in a comprehensive manner. Collection of data on local knowledge about sea water, experiencing environmental and social changes and their interpretation by community members involved particular attentiveness to human dignity and cultural values. No personal data were collected.

Local people were consulted and included in fieldwork location planning, arranging meetings with local experts, travel logistic and participation in different communities' activities (for example, cod and King crab fishing, recreational fishing, salmon fishing). All semi-structured interviews and conversations were conducted after spontaneous or arranged invitations by local people. An interview given to the regional newspaper was a good opportunity to introduce the project research and purpose of anthropological fieldwork.

All fieldwork partners were informed with great care about the purpose and content of the research during conversations. Audio and video recordings were not used during this fieldwork, which was

concerned with identifying important partners and locations for the next fieldwork. Photographs of few individuals made with their permission were sent to them. Observations and empirical research made in the small remote Arctic communities were reported at the end of the fieldwork to the colleagues and local representatives during a presentation at the Barents Institute (Kirkenes, Norway).

Description of the fieldwork and preliminary results are outlined in:

Stammler-Gossmann, A. 2013. Changing Barents Sea and Coastal Communities: Expedition to the High Arctic. *ACCESS Newsletter* 5: 17 - 19.