

The IPY-supported project

**Monitoring of development of traditional indigenous land use areas in the
Nenets Autonomous Okrug, NW Russia.**

Acronym: **MODIL-NAO**

A cooperative project of the
Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
and the
Association of Nenets People Yasavey

Annual report 2007

By Winfried Dallmann, project leader

Preparatory phase until December 2006

October 2003: Project idea developed between Nenets Association “Yasavey” and Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)

January 2004: First funding application to Norwegian Barents Secretariat: The project was considered interesting, but no funding was available

2004: Inquiries at the Norw. Dep. of Foreign Affairs and the Nordic Council of Ministers were not successful. WWF promised a minor contribution if a main sponsor could be found

2005: The project was adjusted to IPY requirements

January 2005: Expression of Intent was submitted to the IPY Joint Committee

June 2005: Draft Preparation Form was submitted to the IPY Joint Committee

June 2005: The project leader and the President of Yasavey met for discussions

Summer/autumn 2005: Preliminary map data compilation

November 2005: Project endorsed by IPY Joint Committee

November 2005: The Norwegian Barents Secretariat financed trip for two board members from NPI to Naryan-Mar and Moscow – project planning (the project report is not posted on the Internet, but is available on request)

June 2006: The National Norw. IPY Committee accepts the project for funding

November 2006: Funding (1.2 mill. NOK) is finally granted by the Research Council of Norway

Contracts and agreements

A *consortium agreement* stating responsibilities and liabilities was signed by NPI and Yasavey in April 2007. The agreement is not posted on the Internet, but is available on request.

Cooperation agreements (with payments involved) or *work contracts* were signed with:

Zoia Vylka Ravna, project assistant and translator, Tromsø (February 2007)
Olga Murashko, anthropologist, Moscow (May 2007)
Rodnik Legal Center, contact person Ekaterina Khmeleva (October 2007)

Cooperation agreements (for data exchange, without payments involved) were made with:

IPY project GAPS (November 2006)
IPY project EALÁT (November 2006, muntlig)
WWF Arctic Programme (December 2006)

Contractors for minor tasks:

Nenets Information and Analytical Center (NIAC), Naryan-Mar (autumn 2007)

Funding transfer to Yasavey

Uncertainties about Russian taxes on the funding to be transferred to Yasavey initially delayed the implementation of the project in Naryan-Mar. The search for legal ways to avoid income tax was time consuming, while it turned out in the end that this tax was not to be paid anyway. Fund transfers finally started in July 2007.

Staff

Project staff active in 2007:

Winfried Dallmann, NPI: project management, data acquisition, GIS and map work, webmaster

Vladislav Peskov, Yasavey: project management

Boele Kuipers, NPI: GIS work

Zoia Vylka Ravna, project assistant: translation, interpretation, administrative work, data search

Olga Murashko, scientific contractor: management of questionnaire campaign

Nikolay Shubin, project assistant (April-November): project implementation in Naryan-Mar

Filipp Taybarey, project assistant (from Nov.): project implementation in Naryan-Mar, interviewer

Vladimir Nyurov, contractor: interviewer

Aleksandr Nosov, contractor: interviewer

Viktoriya Vylko, contractor: interviewer

Yana Evsyugina, contractor: interviewer

Staff of NIAC: preparation of maps for questionnaire campaign

Ekaterina Khmeleva, legal contractor: just started in November/December

Other staff of NPI and Yasavey: project assistance, accounting, legal advice

Members of the international Scientific Expert Group: Consultation during elaboration of questionnaire

Project website

The bilingual project website <http://npolar.no/ipy-nenets> was launched in late January and has continually been updated. Webmaster: Winfried Dallmann

Meetings and seminars

Implementary meeting 14-16 January 2007

The Norwegian participants (Project leader: Winfried Dallmann; GIS expert: Boele Kuipers; project assistant and interpreter: Zoia Vylka Ravna) visited the Association of Nenets People Yasavey (President: Vladislav Peskov; Executive Director: Galina Platova; Director of Yasavey Manzara: Aleksandr Belugin, and others). Besides Board meetings and meetings with the staff of Yasavey, meetings were held with representatives of the Okrug Administration, the Reindeer Husbandry Office, and the Nenets Information and Analytical Centre. Policies and procedures of cooperation were discussed. Olga Murashko from RAIPON, Moscow, joined the meetings and prepared for the questionnaire campaign among the local population, of which she will be in charge.

It is noteworthy that the new (since summer, 2006) administration does not want to support the part of the project that gathers information on oil development.

Seminar for questionnaire campaign in Naryan-Mar, 3-7 September 2007

From 3 to 7 September a project seminar was held in Naryan-Mar. Aim of the seminar was to gather representatives from a number of villages in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug who are going to carry out a questionnaire campaign with their co-villagers. Seminar leader was Olga Murashko, the project's expert on anthropology. The representatives were taught basics about traditional knowledge and juridical aspects of indigenous peoples' issues, and about the present project. Then, the questionnaires were discussed in detail, with instructions and exercises to fill in and draw information on maps. A report is posted on the website.

Seminar for questionnaire campaign in Naryan-Mar, 22-23 December 2007

A second project seminar was carried out in Naryan-Mar. The aim was to gather the the representatives from villages who carry out interviews and continue interview training on the basis of the experiences from the interviews gathered so far. A report is posted on the website.

Apart from these meetings, two telephone conferences were held.

Data acquisition

Questionnaire campaign

A major source of data for the project is questionnaire campaign directed towards traditional land users. A questionnaire has been elaborated by the project's anthropologist, Olga Murashko, and has been going on since September 2007. Local residents are contracted and trained to run the interviews in the various settlements and during various gatherings. By the end of 2007 a number of 46 interviews have been carried out, of which 40 are followed by detailed notes on maps. A

number of ca. 100 interviews is envisaged by March 2008. A sample map is posted on the website, while the others will be interpreted and redrawn before published and entered into the database.

Satellite image interpretation

Satellite image interpretation at a detailed scale is used to monitor visual, physical damage of the tundra. GoogleEarth (<http://earth.google.com/>) provides high-resolution images for a few areas within the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The areas around Naryan-Mar and Varandey have been interpreted on the basis of these. We are going to purchase images covering the remaining areas of interest in collaboration with the the EALÁT project (<http://www.ip-ipy.org/>). Satellite image interpretation is done by the Norwegian Polar Institute. A sample map (Varandey area) is posted on the website.

Statistical and published data

Published or publically available data on infrastructure, population, traditional and other economies are collected by various project staff and are continually entered into the GIS database. Data are posted on the website as tables.

GIS database

The GIS database has been provisionally established at NPI, but is not yet available to others. Data are continually entered and can be provided to project participants and cooperation partners on request. Some datasets will be posted on the website shortly.

Budget

Out of the NOK 1.200.000 provided by the Norwegian Research Council, NOK 495.000 were used by the end of 2007. An application of additional NOK 300.000 has been sent to StatoilHydro; no answer has been received yet.

Media attention

Articles about the project have been published by (all posted on website):

Bladet Forskning (Norwegian Research Council), in Norwegian

Global Knowledge (Norw. Centre for Int. Coop. in Higher Education), in English

Yasavey Vada (Nenets bulletin), in Russian

Naryana Vynder (Nenets online newspaper), in Russian

A report was broadcasted by the local Nenets division of the TV channel Rossiya.

Changed personnel situation from January 2008

The project leader, Winfried Dallmann, left his work at NPI in Tromsø and started to work at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research Oslo (CICERO) on 1 January 2008. An agreement between NPI and CICERO has been signed that leaves responsibilities unchanged; the project is continually administered by NPI, while CICERO formally joins into the project.