

THE SAAMI COUNCIL **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



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1. Summary

2022 was in many ways a special year. At the beginning of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic still presented a number of challenges. Then the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out. The war led to the Saami Council on 10 April having to decide on a break in cooperation with the member organizations on the Russian side. It also meant that from that date there has been no representation from the Russian side of Sápmi either in the working committee or at the meetings of the Saami Council. This was a very difficult decision for the Saami Council - in the year when we were to celebrate 30 years of Russian participation in the Saami Council. It is still unclear how long this situation will persist. It must first be both practically and politically possible to cooperate. For the Saami Council, it is also important to take individual safety into account.

Of the results from 2022, we would like to particularly highlight the implementation of the 22nd Saami Conference. Meeting new people, being together, having good discussions and making important decisions. There was a consistently good atmosphere throughout the conference and you could feel how much people had missed being able to meet across national borders. Of the many important decisions, we would like to highlight is the historic decision that Nils Aslak Valkeapääs " Sámiatnan duoddariid " shall be the Sámi national joik.

We also want to highlight the Interreg-funded project "Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps". The 3-year project ended with good results. EU- Sámi Week was organized in Brussels in June. About 90 people participated - both Sámi, EU politicians and bureaucrats. Through the project, the Saami Council also launched a Sápmi EU strategy in August. Through the project, the Saami Council has had close and good cooperation with Suoma Sámi Nuorat . The project's results have also been noticed by several outside Sápmi, when the project was nominated for the Regiostar award and was chosen as one of the 15 most successful cross-border EU projects of all time.

Another important event was that Gunn-Britt Retter was elected as an expert member for the Facilitating Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP FWG). The platform is the climate convention's constituent body and is the most important platform for promoting indigenous issues in the climate convention's negotiations.

This annual report gives a good picture of the Saami Council's activities in 2022. Each in its own way, we believe that these results will benefit the Sámi people.

2. General information about the organization

The Saami Council is a voluntary and independent cultural policy and political cooperation organization with nine member organizations in Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The

Saami Council was established in 1956 and is thus one of the world's oldest indigenous organisations. Cooperation with other indigenous peoples has been important to the organization since it participated in the global indigenous movement for the first time in the 70s. International cooperation is still a central part of our work today.

The Saami Council's overall objective is to safeguard the interests of the Sámi as one people and to strengthen the Sámi's cohesion across national borders as one people and indigenous people.

The Saami Council's highest body is the Saami Conference, which is organized every four years. The Saami Conference elects 15 council members for a 4-year term. A working committee is elected from among these for two years at a time. The Saami Council organized the 22nd Saami Conference in Gällivare, Sweden in August 2022.

The Saami Council has four operational thematic departments: the Arctic and Environment Unit, the Human Rights Unit, the Culture Unit and the EU Unit. The departments' activities are explained in more detail below. The Saami Council also has a secretariat that looks after the administrative work.

2.1 Political level

The Saami Council consisted of the following members until August 2022:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Deputy member</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Åsa Larsson Blind	Ella Karolina Juuso	SSR
Leah Simma	Sanna Vannar	SSR
Kristina Nordling	Margareta Pope	RSÄ
Karin Vannar	Marja Kari Omma	RÄF
Yevgeny Kirillov	Elena Jakovleva	AKS
Ivan Matrekhin	Andrey Danilov	OOSMO
Christina Henriksen	Beatrice Fløystad	NSR
Ol Johan Gaup	Beaska Niilla's	NSR
Ellinor Marita Jåma	Nancy Porsanger	N RL
Ellen Inga Turi	Mattias Jåma	N RL
Björg Bonk	Henrik Kolstrøm	SFF
Áslat Holmberg	Ida-Maria Helander	SSG
Niko Valkeapää	Maaren Palismaa	SSG
Piia Nuorgam	Jouni Lucky	SSG
Sara Tervaniemi	Per Oula Juuso	SSG

In August, the 22nd Saami Conference elected the following members for the period 2022-2026:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Deputy member</i>	<i>Organization</i>
June Esa Nousuniemi	Ida-Maria Helander	SSG
Petra Laiti	Anne Olli	SSG
Niko Valkeapää	Anne Helena Angeli	SSG
Áslat Holmberg	Tiina Sanila -Aikio	SSG
Karin Vannar	Per Ove Blind	RÄF
Margareta Pope	Veronika K. Ekeke	RSÄ
Åsa Larsson Blind	Gudrun Kuhmunen	SSR
Per Olof Nutti	Martina Fjällberg	SSR
Christina Henriksen	Beatrice Fløystad	NSR
Vidar Andersen	Beaska Niilla's	NSR
Ellen Inga Turi	Lajla Helene Eira	NRL
Ellen-Sara Sparrok	Ellinor Marita Jåma	NRL
Stein-Are Olsen	Henrik Kolstrøm	SFF
Aleksandr Slupachik	Yakov Yushkov	OOSMO
Elena Almazova	Andrey Ageev	AKS

Due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, the Saami Council adopted a temporary pause in cooperation with the member organizations on the Russian side. This resulted in the Saami Conference stating the following: "The Saami Conference is following the situation in Russia and regrets that the elected council members on the Russian side may not be able to take a seat in the Saami Council until the situation is clearer and it once again becomes possible to cooperate across state borders." No representatives from the Russian side have taken part in the Saami Council's activities since April 2022.

The Saami Council had three meetings in 2022. The first meeting was in February and was a hybrid meeting with participants in Kirkenes and online. The second meeting was the Saami Council's constituent meeting in Gällivare in August. The third meeting was in Kilpisjärvi in November. The Saami Council dealt with a total of 30 cases in 2022.

The Working Committee until August 2022 consisted of president Christina Henriksen and vice presidents Åsa Larsson Blind, Ivan Matrekhin and Aslak Holmberg. Due to the agreed break in the cooperation with the member organizations on the Russian side, Ivan Matrekhin has not served as vice president since 10.04.22. In August 2022, Aslak Holmberg was elected as president, while Åsa Larsson Blind and Ellen-Sara Sparrok were elected as vice presidents. The Russian seat is currently empty. The working committee held seven meetings in 2022 and dealt with 28 cases. In addition, the working committee dealt with several matters between meetings through e-mail exchanges.

2.2 Member organisations

The Saami Council has nine member organisations:

- Reindeer Herders Association in Sweden (RÄF)
- Kola Saami Association (AKS)

- Saami Association in the Murmansk Region (OOSMO)
- Reindeer Herders Association in Norway (NRL)
- Saami Association in Norway (NSR)
- National Association Same Ätnam (RSÄ)
- Saami Peoples Union (SFF)
- National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR)
- Central Saami Association in Finland (SSG)

Due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, the Saami Council adopted on 10 April 2022 a temporary pause in cooperation with the member organizations on the Russian side.

2.3 Employees

In 2022, the Saami Council had the following employees:

- Aile Jávo , Secretary General
- Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of the Arctic and Environment Unit
- Anne Nuorgam, head of the Human Rights Unit (40% position until 30.04.22)
- Christina Hætta, head of the Culture Unit
- Elle Merete Omma , head of the EU Unit
- Oula-Antti Labba, lawyer in the Human Rights Unit (until 31.08.22)
- Tonje Johansen, advisor in the Arctic and Environment Unit
- Åsa Larsson-Blind, project manager
- Niila Inga, project employee (50% position until 30.09.22)
- Anna-Márjá Persson, project manager
- Lasse Eriksen Bjørn, project manager (until 30.06.22)
- Enni Similä , project employee / administrative secretary
- Kristoffer Myhre Hætta, communications and technical adviser (until 20.08.22)
- Unna-Maari Pulska , adviser in the Culture Unit
- Rune Fjellheim, senior adviser
- Aslak Holmberg, project manager (from 01.03.22)
- Eva Fjellheim, project manager (50% position as of 01.06.22)
- Natalia Vaskova , Russian coordinator (until 21.05.22)
- Anja Márjá Nystø Keskitalo , adviser in the EU Unit
- Susanna Israelsson , advisor in the Arctic and Environment Unit
- Karin Nutti Pilflykt , advisor in the EU Unit (50% position from 01.09.22)
- Sandra Márjá West, project manager (from 17.11.22)

3. The 22nd Saami Conference

The 22nd Saami Conference was held in Gällivare, Sweden 10-14 August 2022. There were two factors that particularly characterized the conference. One was the joy of being able to meet again across national borders after a long period of pandemic and closed borders. The second was the sadness that the conference had no participants from the Russian side of Sápmi due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. All in all, the conference was very successful. The hope is that it gave the participants new energy and inspiration to continue the cooperation across national borders in Sápmi.

In the preparations for the conference, a separate steering group consisting of one member from each member organization was established. It has not been common at previous Sámi conferences to have such a steering group, but there was a need for it this time because it was uncertain for a long time whether the conference could be carried out in the usual way due to the pandemic. Through the steering group, the various resolutions and the declaration could be anchored in the organizations before the conference itself.

The Saami Council also took an active role in establishing cooperation with other actors regarding the event itself, in order to anchor the conference in Sámi society and to spread information through an even wider network. There was a collaboration with the Sámi Music Festival on the cultural program, with Garmeres on Sápmi Pride, and with the Sámi youth organizations in relation to the youth part of the conference. In addition, there was good cooperation with Gällivare municipality to disseminate information locally. Invitations to the Saami Conference were sent out widely to the entire Sámi community, in addition to both national and international partners. In particular, it was important for the Saami Council to invite the local Sámis and Sámi associations to ensure local anchoring.

According to the Saami Council's statutes, delegates to the Saami Conference consist of 18 delegates from Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia respectively. Especially this time was that the geopolitical situation in the world, where Russia and Ukraine are at war, meant that Sámi from the Russian side could not participate in the conference. This of course affected the conference, and people are very worried about how the situation affects our people over a long period of time. A separate statement was drawn up from the conference on this.

The main theme of the conference was "Empowering Sápmi". It was a broad programme, and in connection with the conference a full-day seminar titled "Empowering Sápmi", the KulturSápmi trade meeting, courses on the EU system and EU-Sápmi relations were organized as part of the Interreg-funded project "Filling the EU Sápmi knowledge gaps", the seminar "Sámi culture in a changing climate", Sápmi Pride, youth events and a separate cultural program.

During the conference's seminar day, the conference's theme was highlighted and there was an opportunity to discuss the theme in more depth. What is needed to strengthen Sápmi? What is our own responsibility, and what depends on others? The seminar's program addressed important themes such as truth and reconciliation, the Sámi language, children's and young people's identity, being queer in Sápmi, education, research, international cooperation, and land rights. The broad theme encompassed many aspects of Sámi social development and was one of the items on the conference's program that attracted the most participants.

The Conference made several important decisions:

- The Saami Conference decided that "Sámieatnan duoddariid" by Nils-Aslak Valkeapää is to be the Sámi national joik. This historic decision received a lot of attention in the media and society in general. The national joik's original language is Northern Sámi, but the Saami Council has had it translated into South Sámi, Lule Sámi, Inari Sámi, Skolt Sámi and Kildin Sámi. The joik will in the future be translated into other Sámi languages. There will also be a process of transferring the rights from Nils-Aslak Valkeapää's descendants to the Saami Council, which will own the joik on behalf of the Sámi people. Through ownership, the Saami Council will protect the joik from inappropriate or unauthorized use.
- The Saami Conference adopted a declaration in which a strengthened Sápmi is repeated as a common thread. The declaration will be an important governing document both for the Saami Council, but also for the member organizations in the coming four years.
- The Saami Conference adopted 7 resolutions on relevant topics; Sea salmon fishing as a primary industry and carrier of Sea Sámi culture, Elders' right to participate, Implementation of Sámi rights, Implementation of rights for Sámi with disabilities, A joint Sápmi, Reindeer's health and Follow-up of the Sápmi-EU strategy.
- The Saami Conference adopted a four-year strategic plan for the Saami Council. This is something that the Saami Council has not had before, and which will be an important management document for the organization going forward.
- The Saami Conference also elected 15 new members to the Saami Council for the period 2022-2026. Of these, 7 are men and 8 are women. There are both young and old among the elected members, in addition to a geographical spread between the countries. The elected members from the Russian side of Sápmi will not be able to take a seat in the Saami Council until the situation again makes it possible to cooperate across state borders.

According to tradition, the Saami Council's honorary prize and literature prize were awarded during the Saami Conference. This year's honorary award went to musician and activist Sofia Jannok. It was especially nice to be able to award her the honorary award in

her own hometown of Gällivare. This year's literature prize went to the young Sámi writer Sara Vuolab for her poetry collection *Gárži*.

In addition to the delegates, the Saami Council's elected members, staff, as well as Sámi, national and international guests participated. In total, the Conference had 218 participants. Even more expressed a desire to participate, but the number of participants had to be limited due to capacity considerations. This clearly shows how important the Saami Conference is for Sámi civil society across national borders in Sápmi.

4. Culture Unit

The war between Russia and Ukraine has also affected the cultural field to a large extent, because, among other things, the payment of cultural funds to the Russian side has stopped and cultural political cooperation is limited.

4.1 A joint Sámi cultural policy

The Saami Council's cultural policy mission is to make visible and promote an all-Sámi cultural policy. The most central activities in 2022 in relation to this were the publication of the report to the KulturSápmi think tank and the implementation of the KulturSápmi conference which took place in Gällivare in August in connection with the Saami Conference.

In April, the Saami Council also participated in the Venice Biennale, which was a major event for KulturSápmi. During the biennale, the art of Máret constituted Ánne Sara, Anders Sunna, and Pauliina Feodoroff the Sámi pavilion. The Saami Council also participated in "Aabaakwad" which was the indigenous art seminar in Venice.

The Saami Council has had an active cultural policy role both at various events at home in Sápmi, but also in national and Nordic contexts. Collaboration to strengthen KulturSápmi is important and we particularly want to highlight the good collaboration we have had with the ViermieK network, with Dáiddadállu, and with the Sámi Parliament in Norway.

4.1.1 KulturSápmi think tank's report

At the beginning of the year, the Saami Council published [the report for the KulturSápmi think tank](#). The report highlights, among other things, that current cultural policy does not support the KulturSápmi field on their own terms, and that the Sámi parliaments must also recognize the cross-border nature of KulturSápmi.

In the spring of 2020, the COVID19 pandemic caused a crisis in the entire cultural field. That is why the Saami Council created the All Sami cultural think tank "Kultur-Sápmi jurddabeassi". We invited Sámi artists, cultural workers, festivals, and cultural institutions to take part in the think tank to describe the current situation for Sámi culture and form new thoughts and ideas

for the coming ten years. The think tank stated that they hope that their report can act as a road map for the future development of Sámi cultural policy both in Sápmi and in the various nation-states.

The Saami Council has invested a lot of time in making visible and presenting the think tank's report, particularly to national and Nordic cultural authorities. We are pleased to see that the report has been useful and that both national, Nordic and Sámi cultural authorities recognize the report. Among other things, the Saami Council was invited to a panel discussion with the directors of the Culture Council and Taike during the annual meeting between the Nordic Ministers of Culture. In this panel, the report was in focus.

4.1.2 The KulturSápmi conference

There are few meeting places in Sápmi where actors in the field of art and culture can get to know each other, collaborate and develop their own fields across national borders. That is why KulturSápmi has been established, which will function as an annual meeting place for the Sámi art and culture field. In 2022, KulturSápmi was organized in Gällivare in August. The conference was organized in collaboration with the ViermieK network. The conference was successful and brought together approximately 100 artists, cultural workers, and other actors from all over Sápmi. The program gave the opportunity to become familiar with ongoing artistic processes in Sápmi and to discuss current cultural policy issues.

4.2 The Saami Council's cultural grant

The Saami Council annually awards cultural grants to various cultural initiatives. The purpose of the cultural grant is to support both traditional and modern Sámi art and culture. You can apply for project support, travel support and work grants. In 2022, the Saami Council received 64 project and travel grant applications and 33 applications for work grants. The cultural grant was awarded before the war, and there were more applications than ever before from the Russian side of Sápmi. This shows that the cultural grant is very important on the Russian side. Nevertheless, due to the war, cooperation with the Sámi on the Russian side has been put on hold in 2022 and it has no longer been possible to pay out the Saami Council's cultural support to the Russian side.

Work grants for home residences have also been awarded, so-called "Ruoktu Residency". The purpose is to offer the Sámi art and culture field the opportunity to immerse themselves in their work and at the same time facilitate collaboration on creative processes together with other Sámi artists. The work grants for living at home have been awarded, but in practice will not be implemented until 2023 and then in a digital format. A total of five residence grants were awarded to Simon Issát Marainen (literature), Heidi Gauriloff (literature, art, language), Gáddjá Haarla Pieski (stage art), Anthoni Hætta (music) and Lena Viltok (duodji). Each grant was NOK 50,000. It is Gunvor Guttorm who will lead the Ruoktu Residency.

4.2.1 Cultural projects 2022

In 2022, the Culture Committee awarded cultural support to 51 projects for a total of NOK 1,250,000. A total of NOK 3,020,450 worth of applications had been received. The Saami Council strives to distribute the cultural resources of the entire Sápmi and takes into account both geographical and genre-wise distribution. The Culture Committee feels that Sámi culture has a cross-border nature and that it naturally includes various art genres.

Sámi festivals and other cultural events are very important for the whole of Sápmi. In 2022, the Saami Council awarded support to 11 festivals and other cultural events, including the Sámi Easter Festival, Riddu Riđđu , Márkomannu , Ijahis Idja and Skábmagovat . The Saami Council has also supported the Sámi music world. For the publication of new Sámi music, cultural support was awarded to seven music albums and to music production. Among others, Ingá-Máret Gaup- Juuso , Elin Kåven , Ulla Pirttijärvi-Länsman , Ravggon and Petra Laiti received support. In addition, support was awarded to five film projects and ten literature projects. The Saami Council has also supported study tours, interior design projects, art exhibitions, podcasts, board games, documentation projects and other projects dealing with traditional knowledge. A complete list of the grants is published on the Saami Council's webpage.

4.2.2 Work grants 2022

In 2022, the Saami Council awarded three work grants for a total of NOK 500,000:

- Roman Yakovlev (language) NOK 100,000
- Sunna Kitti (comic) NOK 200,000
- Ann Holmgren Aurebekk (film) NOK 200,000

4.2.3 Literature prize

The Saami Council awards a literature prize every other year. The purpose is to motivate Sámi authors to write. The award gives recognition and helps to make the books known. In order to receive the literature prize, it is a requirement that the book's basic language is Sámi. The literature prize alternates between children's literature and literature for adults.

In 2022, the Saami Council's literature prize was awarded to Sara Vuolab for her poetry collection " Gárži ". Sara Vuolab is a 27-year-old writer from Karasjok. In addition to the poetry collection, Vuolab has previously written an anthology collection. The book " Gárži " also received the taboo prize in Norway in 2021. The Saami Council's literature prize was awarded during the 22nd Saami Conference in Gällivare.

4.2.4 Walt Disney Animation Studios - trainee program

Based on the cooperation agreement between Walt Disney Animation Studios, the Saami Council and the Sámi Parliaments that were established in connection with the Frozen 2 film, Walt Disney Animation Studios offers Sámi youth a place on their trainee program. Due to the

corona pandemic, no one could participate in the trainee program in 2020. Instead, two Sámi youth participated in a 10-week program in 2022 together with other young talents from all over the world. These were Ánne Kátjá Gaup and Ophelian L.J. Ekblond. The Saami Council and the Sámi Parliaments awarded them a travel grant of NOK 100,000 each. There were a total of 40 young people from all over Sápmi who applied to take part in the trainee programme. In the summer of 2023, the trainee program will be organized for the last time.

4.3 Cultural Committee

The Saami Council's cultural committee is a cross-border cultural political body, whose purpose is to promote Sámi culture in the broadest sense of the term culture. In the period 2021-2022, the cultural committee has had the following members: Matti Aikio (chair), Andrei Danilov, Irene Partapuoli, Mary Sarre, and Niko Valkeapää. Deputies: Petra Magga-Vars, Domna Khomyuk, Oskar Östergren, Asta Balto and Ol Johan Gaup.

The Saami Council's cultural committee had two meetings in 2022. Both meetings were held digitally. The Saami Council's cooperation with the member organizations on the Russian side has been put on hold, and therefore the member from the Russian side has not been able to attend the meetings.

4.4 Sámi cultural heritage

The protection of Sámi cultural property and cultural heritage is high on the agenda at the Saami Council. In 2022, we have worked particularly to secure funding for the work with the Sámi trademarks, and we have succeeded in initiating the trademark project. The Saami Council has also followed up processes around the protection of cultural heritage at both a Nordic and an international level.

4.4.1 Sámi trademarks

Work on the Sámi trademarks made great progress in 2022. The Saami Council received a grant from the American embassies in Sweden, Finland and Norway for the trademark project. The project has also received support from the Sámi Parliament in Norway and LIVIND. At the end of the year, the Saami Council launched two trademarks; renewed Sámi Duodji mark and new Sámi Made mark. Sámi Duodji is a trademark for traditional duodji. Sámi Made is a trademark for all other products produced by the Sámi. These are two different certification marks, the purpose of which is to convey information to buyers about which products are made by Sámi. Through the brands, we try to protect Sámi cultural heritage and strengthen the competitiveness of Sámi cultural industries. In this work, the Saami Council collaborates, among other things, with the duodji organisations. The project lasts until May 2024, but the aim is to get additional funding so that the project can last until 2027.

4.4.2 Sámi symbols

The 22nd Saami Conference elected Sámielatnan duoddariid as Sámi national joik. Work on the national joik was started at the Saami Conference in Tråante in 2017, when the Saami Council asked the Sámi symbols committee to lead the work on designating a national joik and put forward a proposal for a decision for the 22nd Saami Conference. The Saami Council has had close cooperation with the Sámi symbols committee in this work.

It is the Sámi symbols committee that manages the Sámi symbols, such as the flag and the national anthem. The committee is a working group of experts made up of the Saami Council and the Sámi Parliamentary Council (SPR). Since 2018, the Saami Council's representatives on the committee have been Ol Johan Gaup, Anna Igontova and Lars Anders Bæhr. Deputies are Márjá Sofe Aikio, Stefan Mikaelsson and Domna Khomiuk.

5. Arctic and Environmental Unit

Healthy and productive ecosystems, both on land and in water, sustainable development and holistic management of natural resources in Sámi areas are the basis for Sámi culture and identity. Climate change, pollution, encroachment and changed use of land are challenges for Sámi culture.

The Sámi Parliament in Norway has asked the Saami Council to prepare a report on how climate change affects Sámi culture, industries and social life. The Saami Council has put a lot of resources into this work and we hope it will be useful for the Sámi community. The report will be formally submitted to the Sámi Parliament in February 2023. It is a comprehensive report that addresses, among other things:

- research on climate change globally, in the Arctic and in Sámi areas;
- what international bodies have said about the position of indigenous peoples in relation to nature conservation and discourses in this field;
- how climate change affects Sámi industries, health, and nature use;
- analyzes Sámi research and research in Sámi areas that deal with climate change;
- conclusions and proposals for measures.

5.1 Participation in the Arctic Council's cooperation

The chairmanship period of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Council is 2021-2023. After this, Norway will take over the chairmanship in May 2023.

Russia attacked the sovereign state of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. As a consequence, on March 3, 2022, seven Arctic states published a joint statement that they cannot travel to Russia for Arctic Council meetings and that they are taking a break in Arctic Council cooperation activities. The Saami Council stated on 13.03.22 that it supports the decision of

the seven states and that the Saami Council will not participate in the Arctic Council's meetings in Russia either. The Saami Council emphasized at the same time that the break in the Arctic Council should not drag on for a long time.

On 8 June 2022, the same seven states stated that the working groups can continue with those activities that do not include Russian researchers and representatives and where Russia is not involved as project leaders.

The Saami Council has appointed Viktoria Guseva as board member of the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) for the period 2021-2023. The IPS board has not been in function since 3 March.

5.1.1 Arctic Council working groups

The Saami Council is represented in five of the Arctic Council's six working groups. The Saami Council's main focus in the working groups is to ensure the inclusion of the permanent members' interests and indigenous knowledge in the various projects and the administrative work of the working groups.

The activities of the Arctic Council's working groups were also interrupted by the fact that cooperation in the Arctic Council has temporarily stopped. However, the Saami Council has continued to work on its own projects that have not been in Russia.

5.1.1.1 Arctic Contamination Action Program (ACAP)

The Saami Council received funding to continue with the project "Cleaning up the Sámi area in the Murmansk region". The Saami Council's partner OOSMO was transferred the first part of the grant to continue with the clean-up. Due to the sanctions, it has not been possible to transfer more of the funds to the Kola Peninsula. It is unlikely that it will be possible to resume project work on the Kola Peninsula in the foreseeable future. The grant provider agreed to reallocate the funds to youth activities. Thus, Sámi youth could participate in the UNFCCC COP27 and CBD COP15 meetings. The Saami Council still has IPCAP as a priority area, and is ready to continue the work as soon as the situation in the Arctic Council permits.

5.1.1.2 Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)

The Saami Council has completed the pilot part of the CITE project where we were to co-produce knowledge about climate change on terrestrial ecosystems, in close collaboration with indigenous knowledge holders and researchers. The main part of the project has now received funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project will develop a digital tool called Maptionnaire. In the project, we collaborate with reindeer herders to ensure that the tool is adapted to their needs. The main goal is to map climate change and changes on land.

The Saami Council also participates in a project on biosecurity with a focus on new threats, including diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans. This project has had no activity during the war.

Arctic Observation Summit (AOS) was organized in Tromsø in March. The Saami Council was part of the event committee.

5.1.1.3 Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

The Wetlands Sápmi project researches the use of wetlands in Sámi reindeer husbandry areas. In 2022, the project has arranged two workshops with the Sámi towns participating in the project, Malå and Vittangi. The project is now analyzing the results, preparing maps and writing research articles.

The first phase of the *Salmon People of Arctic Rivers project* was planned to end in the first half of 2022. Due to the break in the Arctic Council, this was not possible. The Saami Council is in communication with the other leaders in the project to find a solution so that phase two can be initiated.

5.1.1.4 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

Of the new initiatives, it can be mentioned that the Saami Council prioritizes getting involved in the *Different Ways initiative of Knowing*. This work barely got underway before it was put on hold due to the war. The Saami Council continues to participate in the expert group for ecosystem approach. The Saami Council is also participating in the planning of the international conference on this topic to be held in Tromsø in 2024.

Together with Grid Arendal and NIVA, the Saami Council has published the report " *Displaced by plastics* " which deals with the consequences of using plastic.

5.1.1.5 Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

The majority of the projects in the SDWG have Russian leadership or co-leadership. This has resulted in most of the work in the SDWG being put on hold. This includes the projects the Saami Council has been involved in, such as *Equality in Arctic areas (GEA) IV*, *ECONOR IV*, *Arctic Resilience Forum*, and *Local2Global*. The Saami Council continues to participate in the aforementioned projects, and is ready to resume activity as soon as possible. The Saami Council continues to support the " *Arctic Community" project Perspectives on Covid-19 and Public Health* " led by, among others, Canada and Norway, where the Center for Sámi Health Research is involved.

5.3 UN Environmental Conventions

5.3.1 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD COP15 meeting was held in Montreal, Canada before Christmas. There, the new strategic plan, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), was adopted. Three Sámi youth representatives participated in the Saami Council's delegation. Indigenous issues such as

rights and traditional knowledge were recognized and the rightful participation of indigenous people was included.

5.3.2 United Nations Climate Convention (UNFCCC)

Sápmi is now represented in the facilitating working group of the Platform for Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIPP FWG), which is the climate convention's constituent body. It is Gunn-Britt Retter who fills this role. Aslak Holmberg is deputy representative. The working group has had two meetings in 2022. The FWG has a work plan that guides the activity. Here, the Arctic representative has responsibility for leading certain parts.

The Saami Council had a delegation both to the SBSTA meetings in June and in November. During the COP27 meeting, youth representatives also participated in the Saami Council's delegation. The Saami Council organized preparatory meetings both for Sápmi and for the Arctic region and participated in the meetings of the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IPFCC).

The Saami Council organized two side events during the COP27 meeting. One was in collaboration with the IWGIA and the other with the Arctic Caucus. In addition, the Saami Council participated in many other side events where we promoted our view. An analysis of COP27 is that more was achieved in terms of the consequences of climate change than in the areas of how to deal with climate change itself. In relation to the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment, it was a setback.

5.3.4 The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The Saami Council is approved as an observer organization for IPBES. The Saami Council participated in a presentation during the first days of the IPBES meeting. The Saami Council has also registered and been approved as the Center of Distinction on Indigenous and Local Knowledge.

6. EU Unit

The work on Sámi issues within the framework of the EU is in an intensive period. The focus is on building platforms to formalize the relationship between the EU and Sápmi. The Saami Council has worked actively to participate in various hearings on relevant topics, participated in seminars and conferences to make Sápmi visible also in an EU context. The Saami Council received project money from the EU Commission for the AWARE project. The project will contribute to increasing knowledge about the EU in Sápmi and about Sápmi in the EU. The Saami Council has also received project funding to continue the work to de-colonise the

research field within the framework of the EU. In addition, the Interreg project *Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps* was concluded in September.

6.1 Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gap

The Interreg project *Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps* ended in September 2022. The project has been important for spreading knowledge about how EU decisions affect Sami everyday life, but also for building up capacity internally on EU-relevant issues. The project has registered a total of over 300 participants in various activities under the auspices of the project. In addition, the project has been a bridge-builder between Sápmi and decision-makers in the EU system.

6.1.1 The trainee program

The aim of the trainee program was to give young Sámi the opportunity to acquire relevant work experience in a Sámi environment. Three trainees started their work in the Saami Council on January 1, 2021, and were in a full position until June 2022. Anja Márjá Nystø Keskitalo from the Norwegian side has worked in the EU Unit with mentor Elle Merete Omma, Susanna Israelsson from the Swedish side has worked in the Arctic and Environmental Unit with mentor Gunn Britt Retter, and Ida-Maria Helander from the Finnish side has worked in the Human Rights Unit with Oula -Antti Labba as a mentor. The trainees have expressed that the program has given them valuable work experience, as well as the opportunity to build a network both in Sápmi and internationally. Through courses, written assignments and study tours, the trainees have become familiar with the Saami Council's work. They have all been responsible for planning one of the courses the project has organised. During the program, the trainees each worked on a written assignment related to the EU. The aim of this task was to help the trainees improve their writing skills in a safe environment. They had the opportunity to present their texts at the last course held in Gällivare in August 2022. Two of the trainees still work at the Saami Council.

6.1.2 Think tank and strategy

In August, during the 22nd Saami Conference in Gällivare, the Sápmi-EU strategy was officially launched. The document was developed by an interdisciplinary EU-Sápmi think tank, under the auspices of the project. The document is an expert opinion that presents proposed priorities and a road map for formalizing a strategic partnership between Sápmi and the EU. The 22nd Saami Conference adopted a resolution stating that the Saami Council will continue the work on implementing the Sápmi-EU strategy.

EU-Sápmi Jurddabeassi consisted of 6 members, all of whom are Sami experts in their fields; Pyrite Näkkäljärvi, Liisa Holmberg, Rune Fjellheim, Eva Josefsen, Jerker Bexelius and Susanna Israelsson. The experts have backgrounds from, among other things, Sámi business, research, politics and Sámi civil society.

6.1.3 Courses

The Saami Council recognizes a need to build a greater knowledge base in the Sámi community about the EU. The project has therefore arranged courses where the target group has primarily been the Saami Council's member organisations, but they have also been open to other Sámi actors and institutions. In 2022, two courses were organized under the auspices of the project. The first course took place in May at Diehtosiida in Kautokeino with the title "Sámi advocacy and diplomacy". The course was limited to 21 participants. The second course was organized in connection with the Sámi conference in August 2022 with the title "The EU framework and EU-Sápmi relations". 69 people participated in this course.

6.1.4 EU-Sámi Week

EU- Sámi Week, which was held in Brussels on 20-22 June 2022, was a successful and important event for the Sámi and decision-makers to build a network towards the EU and vice versa. The goal of the EU- Sámi Week was to strengthen the relationship between Sápmi and the EU, and it was a step to raise awareness of the Sámi as the only indigenous people in the EU and the need for a partnership between Sápmi and the EU. Around 150 people from both Sápmi, EU institutions, politicians and research environments participated in a two-and-a-half-day event. The event was the first completely Sámi-owned, -planned, and -arranged event of this type where the agenda was set according to Sámi priorities. The main theme of the entire event was "Art & Land", which was discussed through various sessions on culture, partnership and climate justice. EU Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Commissioner Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, the president of the Sámi Parliamentary Council and other guests gave opening remarks. For the program, the project collaborated with various MPs: Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Alviina Alametsä (Finland), Nils Torvalds (Finland), Alice Bah Kuhnke (Sweden), Erik Bergqvist (Sweden) and Malin Björk (Sweden). The cultural program contained art, dance, music and food so that the guests could experience Sámi culture with all their senses.

6.2 EU- Sámi Youth Idea Lab

As part of the AWARE project, funded by the EU, an EU- Sámi Youth Idea Lab has been established. In May 2022, we recruited six Sámi young people from the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish sides as a core group in the project. The group meets monthly to discuss how we can increase Sámi youth participation in the EU's youth programs, but also policy-making in general. The group's members are Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio from Karigasniemi, Julius Mihkkal Lindi from Karasjok, Lotta Hagelin from Helsinki, Nils- Gustu Kuhmunen from Jokkmokk, Helene Ajuna Olsen from Manndalen and Hanna Keinil from Kiruna. The members participated in EU- Sámi Week in June 2022 and on the EU course during the Saami conference in August 2022. EU- Sámi Youth Idea Lab will deliver recommendations for increased Sámi youth participation that the Saami Council can work with in EU work.

6.3 Research and the EU

The Saami Council advocates for indigenous peoples' right to self-determination over knowledge creation and aims to influence the EU and Arctic research environments to better adapt to the needs and priorities of Sámi society.

The Saami Council has continued to engage in the interdisciplinary research network CO-CREATE, which consists of indigenous and non-indigenous researchers and knowledge holders in the Arctic. The network's main goal is to work towards de-colonial research policy and practice through co-creative methods that recognize multiple ways of knowing, doing and being in the world. For the Saami Council, this means strengthening indigenous knowledge and engaging in scientific research, which Sápmi needs. The Saami Council's efforts over time to seek funding for research collaboration are now beginning to bear fruit. In 2022, two co-created project proposals prepared with the network received support.

6.4 Forests and biodiversity

In 2022, the Saami Council has continued to work on strengthening partnerships with European actors and decision-makers in forestry and biodiversity issues. In September, a new employee was hired with a particular focus on forest issues.

Saami Council was included in several of the EU Commission's expert groups; Biodiversity Platform (EUBP), the EU's Species and Habitats Directive (NADEG) and Nature and Forests (CGBN). The mission of the EUBP, which is led by the EU Commission, is to assist the Commission in the implementation of the EU's strategy for Biodiversity for 2030. In the CGBN expert group, the Saami Council has, among other things, contributed to writing guidelines for *Closer to nature forestry* and *Old growth forest*. In december, a high-level film event was organised by EU parliamentarians Ville Niinistö, Michal Wiezik and Silvia Modig where the Saami Council participated in a panel discussion on the EU's forest policy.

The Saami Council has participated in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC), where the Saami Council represents Europe. In October, FSC's General Assembly was in Bali, where the Saami Council participated in side events, among other things. Continuing in 2022, securing the new FSC standards in Sweden and Finland has been a priority and a review project has been started on how Sweden fulfills Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Criteria (FPIC). New for this year is that Norway is included in the FSC standard.

6.5 Food security

In collaboration with the Canadian International Arctic Center and the Arctic Mayors' Forum, the Gordon Foundation organized an Arctic Policy Hackathon (APH) in Reykjavik, Iceland. Young leaders from the circumpolar north were invited to discuss, challenge and brainstorm ideas to address the topic of food sovereignty in the Arctic. The work resulted in a number of

policy recommendations that were presented at the Arctic Circle conference. The recommendations were based on the perspective of a sustainable management model that includes principles of respect, reciprocity, responsibility, and redistribution of Arctic food resources. From Sápmi Enni Similä and Anja Márjá Nystø Keskitalo participated.

7. Human Rights Unit

Anne Nuorgam has been head of the human rights unit in a 40% position from January until April. Oula -Antti Labba has been a full-time employee until September. In addition, the Saami Council has purchased external consultancy services where necessary.

The Indigenous Navigator project is the one that has taken the most time and effort. Otherwise, the Human Rights Unit has written a statement on the renewal of the Minerals Act in Finland and has completed a shadow report regarding Finland's Universal Periodic Review. In addition, the Saami Council has assisted two reindeer herding districts in relation to intervention cases, namely the Øyfjellet and Ráidna cases. As usual, the human rights unit has also participated in a number of different meetings and panels, including in connection with human rights work within the UN system.

7.1 Indigenous Navigator in Sápmi

Indigenous Navigator is a framework and set of tools created for and by indigenous peoples to be able to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights, UNDRIP and other human rights instruments. A lot of data has been collected on the rights of various indigenous peoples, and the Saami Council is now working on introducing the Navigator in Sápmi. In this connection, the Saami Council has carried out a thorough survey which is collected in the national forms for Finland, Norway and Sweden, the so-called National Survey. For now, only the national forms for Finland and Norway have been published and a lot of information has been shared about them. The national form for Sweden is still under investigation and will be published according to the plan in 2023. The Saami Council has also begun planning similar surveys at the local level in each of the countries, the so-called Community Survey. This work will continue in 2023.

In this project, the Saami Council collaborates with IWGIA and the Sámi University. We hope it will become a useful instrument for monitoring and promoting Sámi rights in the Nordic region.

More information about Indigenous Navigator can be found on [the Sami Council's website](#).

7.2 Intervention cases

The Saami Council has worked on the Øyfjellet case and the wind power project that is planned there. The Saami Council has assisted the Jillen-Njaarke reindeer grazing district in drafting a

letter to the Aquila Capital company, which is an investor in the wind power project. The statement focuses on the human rights consequences of a lack of investigations and that there is a direct threat to the reindeer herding district's human rights if the project is not stopped.

In 2021, the Saami Council assisted members of the Ráidná reindeer herding district regarding the Langsund connection project. The Saami Council has assisted in formulating a response to the UN Human Rights Committee to highlight the project's serious consequences for Sámi human rights.

7.3 Different meetings

The Saami Council has participated in many different meetings where the focus has been on human rights. Among them we would like to mention the following:

- Expert meeting: Enhancing the participation of the Indigenous Peoples in the processes of the Human Rights Council
- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) both the session and on various side events
- KIOS: What? Wed environment human rights? (human rights and the environment) - participation in the seminar's panel discussion
- Stockholm +50 panel participation at a side event organized by Minority Rights Group International and Tenure Facility
- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP)
- Expert meeting: OSCE Addressing hate crime against indigenous peoples expert meeting

7.4 Revision of the Sámi Parliament Act in Finland

In 2022, the Saami Council has invested considerable resources in the revision of the Sámi Parliament Act in Finland. It is now the third parliamentary term in a row that attempts to carry out a revision. The current law violates Sámi's human rights, especially when it comes to free political organization. In this case, Finland has received criticism from, among others, the UN Human Rights Committee (case no. 2668/2015) and the Racial Discrimination Committee (case no. 59/2016). Finland has not yet done anything to follow up on these decisions, but a revision of the Sámi Parliament Act would be a way to follow up on them.

The work on the Sámi Parliament Act has involved both participation in the public debate as well as various lobbying activities. The Saami Council has supported the people's action for the Finnish Sámi Parliament Act and has purchased consulting services from Inka Musta and Petra Laiti. They have been responsible for preparing a strategy for lobbying and its implementation, meetings with various politicians, preparing materials about the Sámi Parliament Act, information and communication work, and handling media inquiries and social media campaigns. Training in advocacy work in relation to the Sámi Parliament Act was also organized for other Sámi. The Saami Council has thus supported the people's action by

preparing statements regarding the Sámi Parliament Act for the Finnish Riksdag's subject committees: labor and equality committee, economics committee and the constitution committee. Much of the preparation for these took place in 2022 but will continue in 2023.

In addition, civil statements were written, for example, to the Coalition Party in Finland and to other members of the Parliament. We have had both physical and digital meetings with various members of the Parliament. In total, over twenty such meetings have been held. One has particularly focused on meeting representatives of the opposition parties in Finland, as the bill requires the support of the opposition to pass. In addition, people have participated in various events with a focus on the Sámi Parliament Act.

Through the people's action, among other things, signatures have been collected in support of the Sámi Parliament Act. Through a large campaign, they succeeded in collecting over 21,000 signatures. Images and text relating to the Sámi Parliament Act have also been widely disseminated on social media.

At the end of 2022, the national media also became concerned with the Sámi Parliament Act, and through the campaign, the Sámi Parliament Act was published in, among other things, the following main media: Helsingin Sanomat, Ilta-Sanomat, Iltalehti, Dagens Nyheter, Euronews, Hufvudstadsbladet, P3-nyheter, Lapin Kansa, as well as Yle and SVT through its various departments.

The deadline for revising the Sámi Parliament Act is in March 2023, because the election period for the Finnish government is coming to an end.

8. Future leaders

Youth participation is one of the most important areas of focus for the Saami Council. For several years, the Saami Council has had a trainee scheme with the aim of building capacity in Sápmi and offering young people to get to know our business. Through the project "Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps", the Saami Council has employed three trainees until June 2022. Each trainee had been appointed a mentor to support and guide them in their work.

During the 22nd Saami Conference, young people were also a high priority. The conference adopted a strategic plan where one of the objectives is to strengthen the young people's sense of belonging and strengthen their capacity. During the conference, a separate youth event was organized with participants from Finland, Sweden, and Norway. It was the first meeting place for the young people after the corona pandemic, which made it a very important event. The young people otherwise had the opportunity to follow the rest of the conference and make a speech during the Saami conference's plenary meeting. In the post, the young people talked about how difficult the pandemic has been for them and how important cross-border

cooperation is to them. They also emphasized that they want to take a greater part in the activities of the Saami Council. In addition, they addressed themes such as identity, language, traditions, respect and representation.

Based on the speech the young people gave during the conference, the Saami Council decided to invite the youth organizations to each send a representative to the Saami Council's meeting in Kilpisjärvi. The idea was that this could be an opportunity for them to take a greater part in the Saami Council's work and to get to know each other across national borders. The Saami Council will also continue with this in the future if it is something that the young people themselves see as valuable.

The young people have also expressed their desire for the Saami Council to employ a separate youth secretary who can support them in their collaboration. Enni Similä has now been given responsibility for planning the youth work further together with the youth organisations. This will form the basis for the Saami Council in the coming year to continue to assess the best ways to support young people's cooperation across national borders.

For the Saami Council, it has also been important to include Sámi youth in the official delegations to international meetings. In 2022, the young people could participate in EU-Sámi Week in Brussels, at the COP27 meeting in Egypt and at the CBD meeting in Montreal. In this way, the Saami Council wants to give young people the opportunity to become familiar with international work and to establish contacts with other Sámi and indigenous youth.

9. Knowledge and research

In 2022, the Saami Council has strengthened its work with knowledge and research. The main focus has been linked to 3 main areas:

1. Follow-up of the Saami Council's report on working towards common research ethical guidelines in Sápmi.
2. Participate in knowledge production through various research projects.
3. Develop the Saami Council's role as facilitator of knowledge production and participant in research projects.

9.1 Common ethical guidelines for research in Sápmi – Workshop

Together with the Sámi University, the Saami Council invited Sámi academia, the Sámi parliaments, the research councils and others interested in Sámi research to a joint workshop in Kautokeino on 22-23. November 2022. The purpose was for us together, within the Sami community, to discuss the Saami Council's report from spring 2022, [Working towards ethical guidelines for research involvement the Sámi](#). The document refers to various works that have been done so far on research ethics in Sápmi, which similar works have been carried out in

some other indigenous areas, and how property rights and autonomy also affect the research. In conclusion, there were proposals for how to work further with this case in Sápmi. The workshop gathered around 40 academics and decision-makers from a number of research institutions, universities, the Sámi parliaments and organisations. As expected, there was a preponderance of representation from the Norwegian side of Sápmi.

9.1.1 The need for joint ethical guidelines

There was broad agreement on the need for common ethical guidelines. Several of the actors pointed to the ethical dilemmas that often arise in academia's encounter with Sámi society. We gained both experience from the use of the guidelines that already exist in health research on the Norwegian side, and the work to create guidelines on the Finnish side of Sápmi. There was a widespread opinion that pan-Sámi work should be initiated with such guidelines.

One key point from the actors was *user participation* from the start of research projects and all the way to finished research results and dissemination of these.

9.1.2 Ownership of data and research results

There was also broad agreement to continue the discussion around ownership and management of data that is collected and results that are produced. We received a presentation of the GIDA -Sápmi network (GIDA – Global Indigenous Data Alliance) and their work on the topic. GIDA-Sápmi is a loosely organized network of researchers on Sámi issues at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, the University of Umeå and the University of Rovaniemi. The Saami Council finances, and sits on the steering committee for, an international conference on the topic which will be held in January 2023 in Tromsø.

9.1.3 The way forward

The signals from the workshop about the way forward were somewhat more unclear. There was no clear opinion about who, what and how such uniform guidelines should be designed. One of the reasons why this question was not answered very clearly may be that it was actually one of the first times that Sami academia has been brought together in this way and across institutional boundaries. Sámi academia is, as a whole, relatively disorganized, apart from Sámi Allaskuvla and the centers in Tromsø, Umeå, Bodø/Levanger, Oulu and Rovaniemi are Sámi researchers and researchers on Sámi topics, spread across the institutions. Collaboration across disciplines and institutions occurs sporadically and somewhat randomly.

This makes it difficult to point to any individual actor who can naturally take a leadership role in this work. Gratitude was also expressed to the Saami Council for taking the initiative in the matter and putting the topic on the agenda. Several also believed that the Saami Council should continue to facilitate work on the topic. We will return in 2023 with proposals for follow-up.

9.2 The Saami Council's participation in research projects

Over many years, the Saami Council has participated in a number of research projects. In this respect, 2022 is no exception. Here follows an overview of the various research projects the Saami Council is directly involved in.

9.2.1 Dávgi

The Dávgi project received support in February 2022 and started up in July 2022. For the project, the Saami Council enters into an equal partnership with the Research Institute for Sustainability in Potsdam (Germany), and Ecologic Institute (Germany). The project also collaborates with the CO-CREATE network. The project aims to strengthen relationships between indigenous peoples, researchers and decision-makers, and co-create knowledge for biocultural diversity in the Arctic. During the first months of the project, the Dávgi team has organized workshops, attended conferences, and plans to write an academic paper, a policy document and guidelines promoting and reflecting on co- create research practices. The work is to be completed in September 2023.

9.2.2 Indigenous uses and stewardship of wetlands ecosystems – “Wetlands in Sápmi”

Indigenous use and management of wetland ecosystems - "Wetlands in Sápmi" is a work package within the research project Arctic Wetlands Ecosystems - Resilience through Restoration & Stewardship (AWERRS) led by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). The aim is to explore the history and current use of wetlands in the forest Sámi communities on the Swedish side, using a co-creative approach.

9.2.3 Impacts of climate change on Nordic and Arctic terrestrial environments: Community-based monitoring of biodiversity changes in Sápmi

Effects of climate change on Nordic and Arctic terrestrial environments: Community-based monitoring of changes in biological diversity in Sápmi, is a research project which, through collaboration between the reindeer husbandry industry and researchers, will develop a digital mapping tool for systematic documentation of the industry's observations and experiences related to observed changes on their land. This must be done for all eight seasons in the reindeer herding year.

9.2.4 CO- CREATE: Comprehensive Policy Brief to the European Commission – a roadmap for de-colonial Arctic research

With a comprehensive policy recommendation as its main product, the CO-CREATE project supports the European Commission in introducing de-colonial and collaborative Arctic research in equal partnership with indigenous rights holders in 1) major projects, 2) calls for projects, 3) proposals and project evaluation, 4) implementation of the European Polar Research Program and the European Polar Coordination Office. At the international level, the rights of indigenous peoples have received increasing legal recognition. Similarly, the EU's calls for proposals now call for a "co-design approach" in research. Arctic researchers are

increasingly adopting de-colonial research methods. Nevertheless, continued integration of de-colonial research practices and initiatives that support indigenous sovereignty in the Arctic is often lacking. It is precisely here that one has theoretical and methodological ambitions to improve capacity among researchers and the European Commission.

9.2.5 OKTA – Kunst og friksjonsfylte felleskap in Sápmi

The research project examines how art forms part of and functions in meeting places for the Sámi minority and the Nordic majority population. Based on analyzes of the role and function of art at cultural festivals in Sápmi, the project seeks to develop new knowledge about how art can create friction and cracks that enable Sami cultural knowledge and artistic expression to be articulated and negotiated in public.

9.3 The Saami Council's role in knowledge production and participation in research projects

The Saami Council has for a number of years worked closely with academia and, to an ever-increasing degree, has also taken an active part in various research projects. It is a stated strategy and objective that the Saami Council shall take responsibility in the field of knowledge production and research in and on Sámi society. In order for this to happen within the framework of Sámi self-determination and with respect for and control over the knowledge resources, it is crucial that a set of frameworks is developed so that this can be taken care of on Sámi terms.

In 2022, the Saami Council has begun to follow two main tracks when it comes to its own role in this work. One is to start the discussion around guidelines for the Saami Council's own participation in research projects, the other is to create an arena for Sámi society, including Sámi academia, to take a proactive role in knowledge production in Sápmi.

9.3.1 The Saami Council's own guidelines for research

In 2022, the Saami Council has started the internal discussion about developing its own guidelines for the Saami Council's participation in various research projects. Through a work seminar in Gilbbesjávri, people began to identify their own ambitions and requirements for participation in research projects. This work will continue in 2023, with the aim of finalizing specific guidelines for the Saami Council.

9.3.2 Create an arena for knowledge production in Sápmi

The Saami Council's cooperation in 2022 with the Sámi Allaskuvla about gathering Sámi academia around the discussion of ethical guidelines, and internal discussions about the work with research, revealed a need to meet more regularly to discuss Sámi research.

Today, there are no obvious arenas or channels for discussing research needs in Sámi society with important social actors, such as organisations, the Sámi parliaments, academia and others. In 2023, the Saami Council will follow up on this work and look at the possibility of

taking an even clearer role in knowledge production. The Saami Council is well positioned with a background in its long collaboration with academia in the Arctic and its pan-Sámi structure.

10. Representation

In 2022, the Saami Council has, among other things, been represented here:

- National cooperation forum IDIL (Norway), Niko Valkeapää member
- Norwegian Folk Museum (Norway), Christina Hætta board member
- EU PolarNet2, Elle Merete Omma member of the Advisory Board
- Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA -CO), Gunn-Britt Retter member of the Indigenous Advisory Board
- Enhancing Trust in Government for Effective Water Governance (EnTruGo), Elle Merete Omma member of the project's Advisory Board
- Lásságámmi , Niko Valkeapää board member
- Kulturrom (Norway), Christina Hætta board member
- Harvard Kennedy School Arctic Initiative Board of Advisors, Gunn-Britt Retter member of the International Board of Advisors
- Pawanka Fund, Gunn-Britt Retter member
- Nia Tero Advisory Board, Gunn-Britt Retter member
- Arctic Circle Mission Council on the Global – Arctic Indigenous Dialogue, Gunn-Britt Retter member
- The Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH) Advisory Committee, Gunn-Britt Retter member
- Arctic PASSION, Anna- Marja Persson member of the Advisory Board
- International Arctic Science Consortium (IASC), Social and Human Working Group (SHWG), Ragnhild Nilsson member
- Shackleton Medal Judge, Gunn-Britt Retter member
- International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), Áslat Holmberg coordinator for the Arctic region
- Second International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region, Gunn-Britt Retter member of the scientific steering group
- Arctic Science Funders Forum, member
- EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP), Karin Nutti Pilflykt and Elle Merete Omma members
- EU Commission Nature Directive sub-expert group (NADEG), Elle Merete Omma member
- EU Commission Working Group on Forest and Nature, Karin Nutti Pilflykt member
- Sustainable Development Working Group's Arctic Human Health Expert Group, Heidi Eriksen member
- Arctic Council's PP youth network, Enni Similä member

- International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP), Eva Maria Fjellheim member of the steering group
- The Nordic Civil Society Network, Tonje Johansen member