

ICR's purpose is to:

- contribute in maintaining and developing a sustainable reindeer husbandry in the north
- strengthen the cooperation between the reindeer herding peoples
- supporting the traditional knowledge of reindeer herders
- disseminate knowledge about reindeer husbandry
- support the international work of Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)

ICR's international target groups are:

- reindeer herders
- national authorities
- research, education and knowledge institutions
- organisations and cooperative bodies
- other Arctic industries



ICR's main activities include:

- information, documentation and knowledge...
- the conditions, culture, business development and ecology of reindeer herding (including research results and traditional knowledge)
- knowledge production in collaboration with partner institutions

ICR is a member of University of the Arctic (UArctic) and the World Indigenous Nations' Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ICR is founding partner and the international secretariat of the UArctic EALÁT Institute. The Centre has also initiated international projects endorsed by the Arctic Council, the International Polar Year and United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), among others.



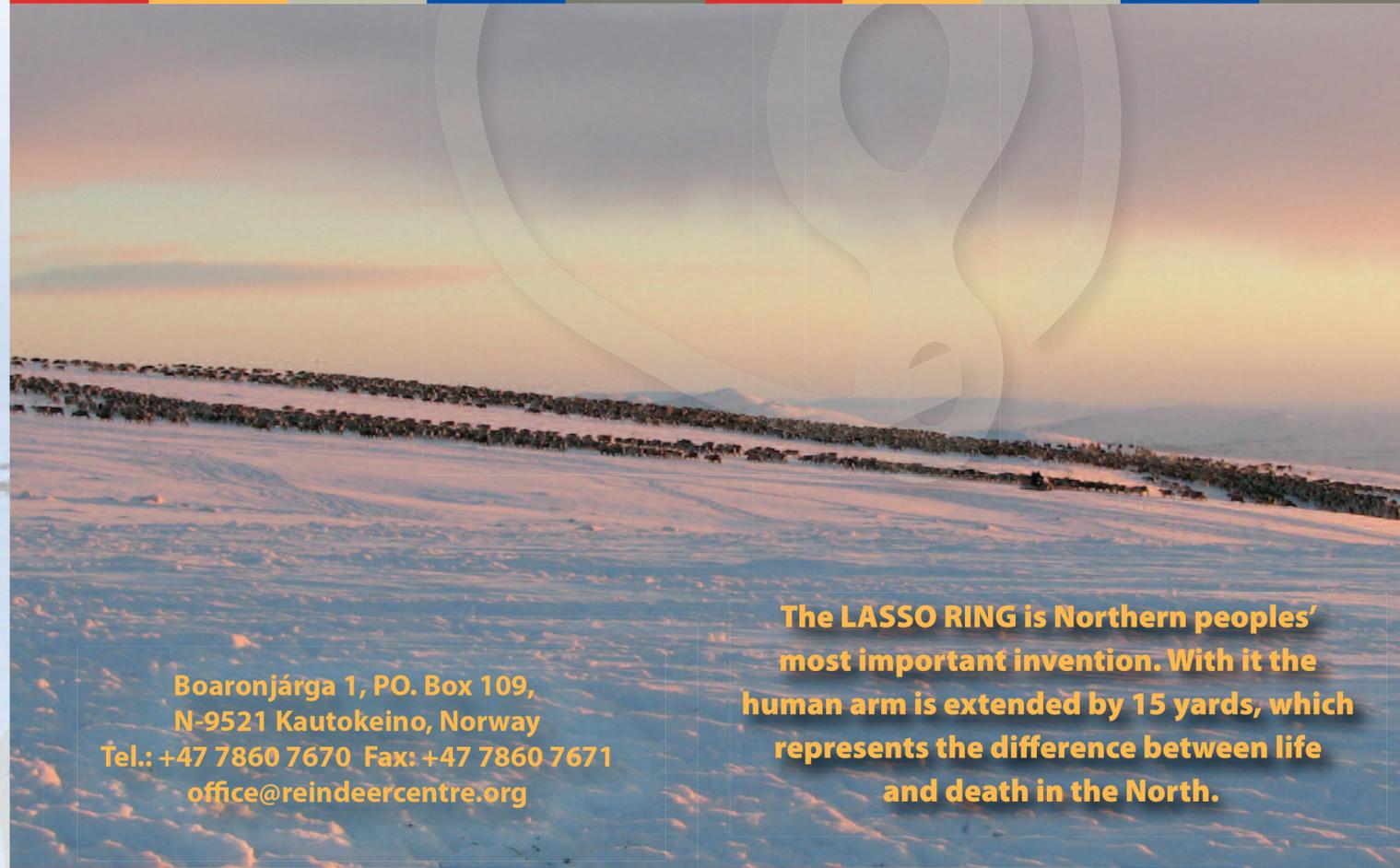
ARCTIC COUNCIL



International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
Международный Центр Оленеводства
Riikkaidgaskasaš Boazodoalloguovddáš



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The LASSO RING is Northern peoples' most important invention. With it the human arm is extended by 15 yards, which represents the difference between life and death in the North.



Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders



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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR REINDEER HUSBANDRY

Circumpolar reindeer husbandry has a long history in the north. More than 20 different indigenous peoples in the Arctic have reindeer husbandry as their livelihood. Reindeer husbandry is practiced in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Mongolia, China, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. It involves some 100.000 herders and 2,5 million semi-domesticated



reindeer which graze approximately 4 million square kilometres of pastures. Reindeer herders have managed vast areas in the Arctic over hundreds of years. Reindeer herding represents a sustainable model for management of these barren circum-

polar areas, a model that has been developed over generations. These areas have only recently become significant for other industrial interests, including the oil and gas industry. Today reindeer herders face major challenges, such as the effects of global change in their local societies, loss of grazing land and climate change in the Arctic.

Reindeer herders around the world, owing to their experience, traditional knowledge and skills, have developed unique management strategies for protection of pastures, observation of changes and rational use of natural resources, which should be recognized and supported. Reindeer herders should have the right themselves to determine their own future, based on their own philosophy of life and understanding of the world, and they should be consulted, included and accepted as partners when Arctic development, research and monitoring takes place on their territories.



Metaphorically, the development of the Arctic as a new energy region truly represents a «tidal wave» for the indigenous peoples of the north, and they must prepare to meet it – both in order to ride safely on the flood, and to settle on an even keel once the water ebbs away. The challenge is to take reindeer herders' traditional knowledge into action for sustainable development of the Arctic and, in particular, involve reindeer herders as real partners in this process as early as possible.

International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) is an independent professional organisation, established by the Norwegian state in 2005. ICR has its own budget and board with members from Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland representing reindeer husbandry and science. The board is the centre's highest authority. ICR's basic activity is funded by the Norwegian Government through annual grants from the Ministry of Reform and Government Administration. ICR also hosts the secretariat of the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH), a circumpolar organization for close to 100000 reindeer herders. WRH has observer status in the Arctic Council. ICR is a knowledge base for providing and exchanging information and documentation between different reindeer peoples, arctic industrial developers, national authorities and academic communities at the national and international levels. ICR will thus contribute to the protection of the Arctic environment, information sharing and enhancing understanding for world reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples, their traditional knowledge and future sustainable development.



Through WRH, ICR also has access to a unique international network of reindeer herders, their organisations and institutions. The establishment of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino represents one measure to secure the future of this unique cooperation in the North. The Centre enjoys wide professional and political support, both nationally and internationally, and its establishment was recommended by, among others, the Arctic Council in the report «Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry» (2002), and by the 3rd World Reindeer

Herders' Congress in the «Yakutsk Declaration» of March 2005. It was also recommended by the Norwegian Government appointed committee of experts in the report published as NOU 2003:32 (Norwegian Public

Report) entitled «Look North! Challenges and Opportunities in the Northern Areas». The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced at the 4th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iceland, November 2004: «...Norway has decided to establish an international centre for reindeer herders in the Arctic, in Kautokeino, in close cooperation with the World Reindeer Herders. This will be a resource centre for exchange of information between herders in different countries and promoting cooperation between them».

