

# Impact of climate change on the Sámi

Case study - First workshop on addressing loss and damage in the context of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4

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# The Sámi – the context

- Indigenous people living in regions warming more than 3 times faster than global average in Finland, Sweden, Norway & Russia.
- Total Sámi population is over 75.000. Majority living in Norway; about 10.000 in Finland
- Climate change impacts amplified by close relationship with nature & dependence on reindeer husbandry

# The Sámi in Finland

- The Sámi have, as an indigenous people, the right to maintain and develop their own language, culture and traditional livelihoods
- Have constitutional self-government in the Sámi Homeland in the spheres of language and culture
- Self-government is managed by the Sámi Parliament
- Legally defined Sámi Homeland and reindeer-herding district

# Challenges and constraints

- Over 60 % of the Sámi now live outside the Sámi Homeland
  - Brings new challenges for provision of education, services and communications in the Sámi language.
- Traditional Sámi livelihoods are fishing, gathering, handicrafts, hunting and reindeer herding
  - Modern ways of practising them demonstrates the Sámi's ability to adapt to changing societal structures and environment
  - But notable cultural consequences (such as traditional knowledge)

# Lessons learned and experiences 1/2

- The Sámi have managed to maintain the traditional way of reindeer herding while developing it as economically sustainable livelihood
- Climate change has direct & indirect impacts on feasibility of relying on reindeer herding as a main source of income
- This affects the culture, languages and traditional knowledge of the Sámi in negative ways
- Traditional knowledge and languages are transmitted by practicing traditional livelihoods and occupations

# Lessons learned and experiences 2/2

- Frozen and moulting grazing lands are concrete challenges for reindeer herders already today
- Extreme snow conditions have severe consequences both for reindeer and reindeer herders
- For example, thousands of reindeer died due to hard winter in 2019-2020.
- Most reindeer herders had to start to drive supplementary nutrition for reindeer to their winter grazing lands
- This increased expenses radically