

# IWC/S15/ASW/12

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## The importance of subsistence to indigenous peoples of the Arctic Different Aspects of Subsistence Activities in Contemporary Arctic Economies and Cultures Findings Based on the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA

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INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION



**INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)**

**Intersessional Expert Workshop on Aboriginal  
Subsistence Whaling (ASW)**

**September 14-18, 2015 – Maniitsoq/Greenland**

***The importance of subsistence to indigenous peoples of the Arctic –***

***Different Aspects of Subsistence Activities in Contemporary Arctic Economies  
and Cultures***

***Findings Based on the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA***

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# People(s) in the Arctic



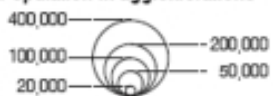
4-10 MILLION PEOPLE  
(depending on how the Arctic is defined)

400.000-1,3 MIO. ARE  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN  
MIXED ECONOMIES

90% ARE IMMIGRANTS

8 NATIONS: NORWAY, SWEDEN,  
FINLAND, DENMARK  
(GREENLAND-FÆROE ISLAND),  
ICELAND, CANADA, USA,  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
WORKING TOGETHER IN THE  
ARCTIC COUNCIL ON FOR.EX.  
CLIMATE CHANGE

Population in agglomerations



NB: The small blue dots represent villages with less than 20,000 inhabitants and very small communities.

UNEP/GRID-ARNDAL - MARCH 2004

Sources : United States: US Census Bureau, 2002 and United States department of commerce 1993; Canada: Statistics Canada, 1995 and 2002; Greenland: Statistics Greenland, 1994 and 2002; Faroe Islands: Faroe Islands Statistics, 2002; Iceland: Statistics Iceland, 2002; Norway: Statistics Norway, 2002; Sweden: Statistics Sweden, 2002; Finland: Statistics Finland, 2002; Russia: State Committee for Statistics, 2003; Republican information and publication center, 1992; State committee of the Russian Federation for statistics 1992; World Wild Fund (WWF) Norway.



# SLiCA

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Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic





SLiCA is an interdisciplinary and international research project (founded in 1997/1998)

## Major objectives:

- To develop a new research design for measuring living conditions, **individual well-being** and **quality of life** among Inuit and Sami peoples in the Arctic and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula **reflecting the welfare priorities of the indigenous peoples**, and
- To carry out a survey of living conditions among and in **partnership with the indigenous peoples**

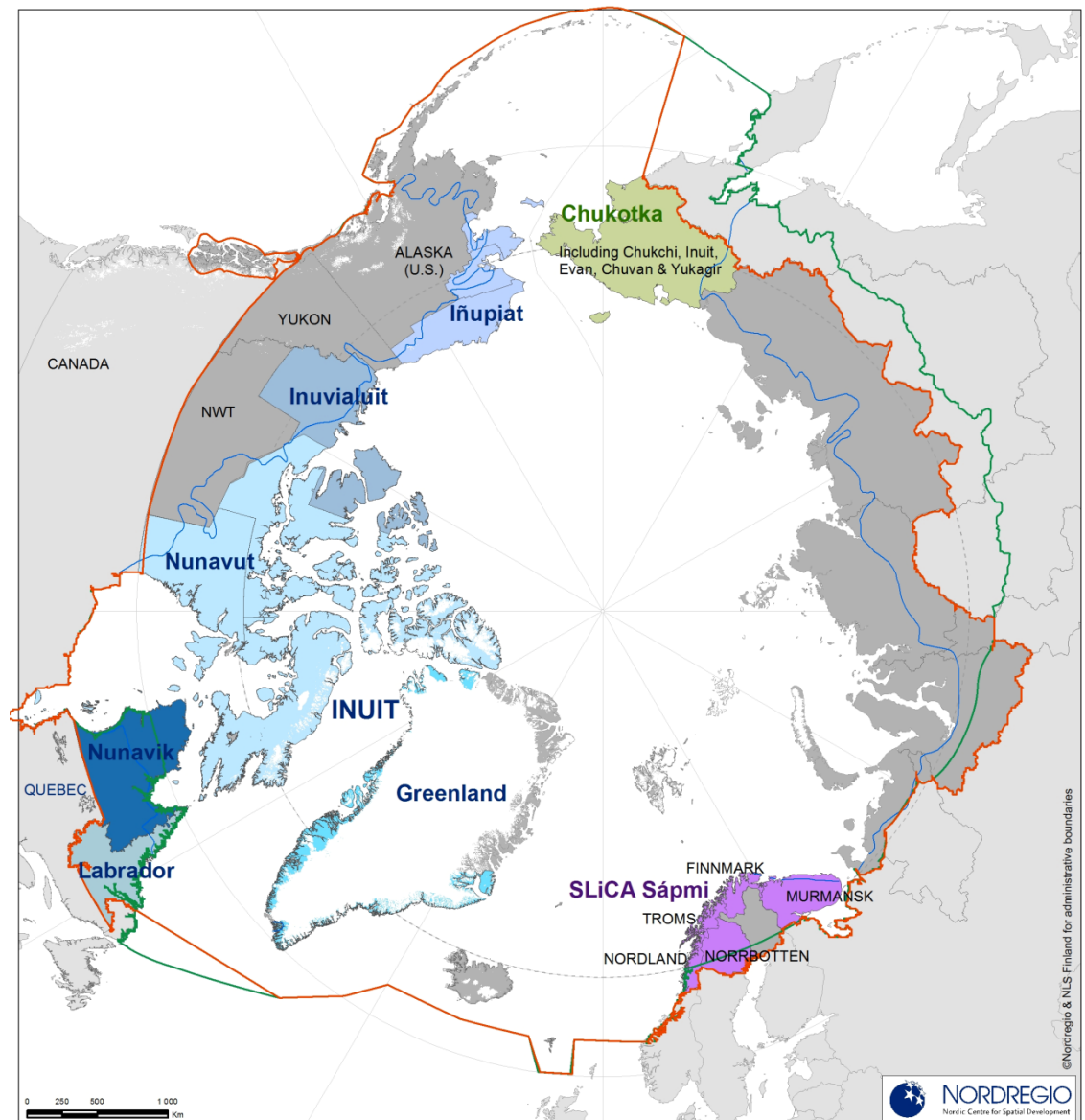
# The Arctic - Homeland of the

**Inuit: Alaska,  
Canada, Greenland,  
Chukotka: 7.200  
interviews (83%  
response rate)**

**The Sami: Sapmi:  
Fenno- Scandinavia  
and Kola Peninsula:  
1.000 interviews**

and,

**Almost 30  
indigenous peoples  
of Northern Russia  
(not included in the  
survey)**



## Definitions of the Arctic & the SLiCA Survey Regions

- Arctic circle
- Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- Treeline
- National/ regional boundary

SLiCA = Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

Arctic region defined as in AHDR: Alaska (US); CA - Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik (Quebec), Labrador; Greenland; Iceland; the Faroe Islands; NO - Nordland, Troms, Finnmark; SE - Norrbotten; FI - Lappi; RUS - Murmansk, Nenets, Vorkuta (Komi), Yamalo-Nenets, Norilsk & Igarka (Krasnoyarsk Krai), Taimyr, Sakha (13 northernmost subregions), Chukotka

# SLiCA SAMPLE SUMMARY

including details about interview periods and population sizes

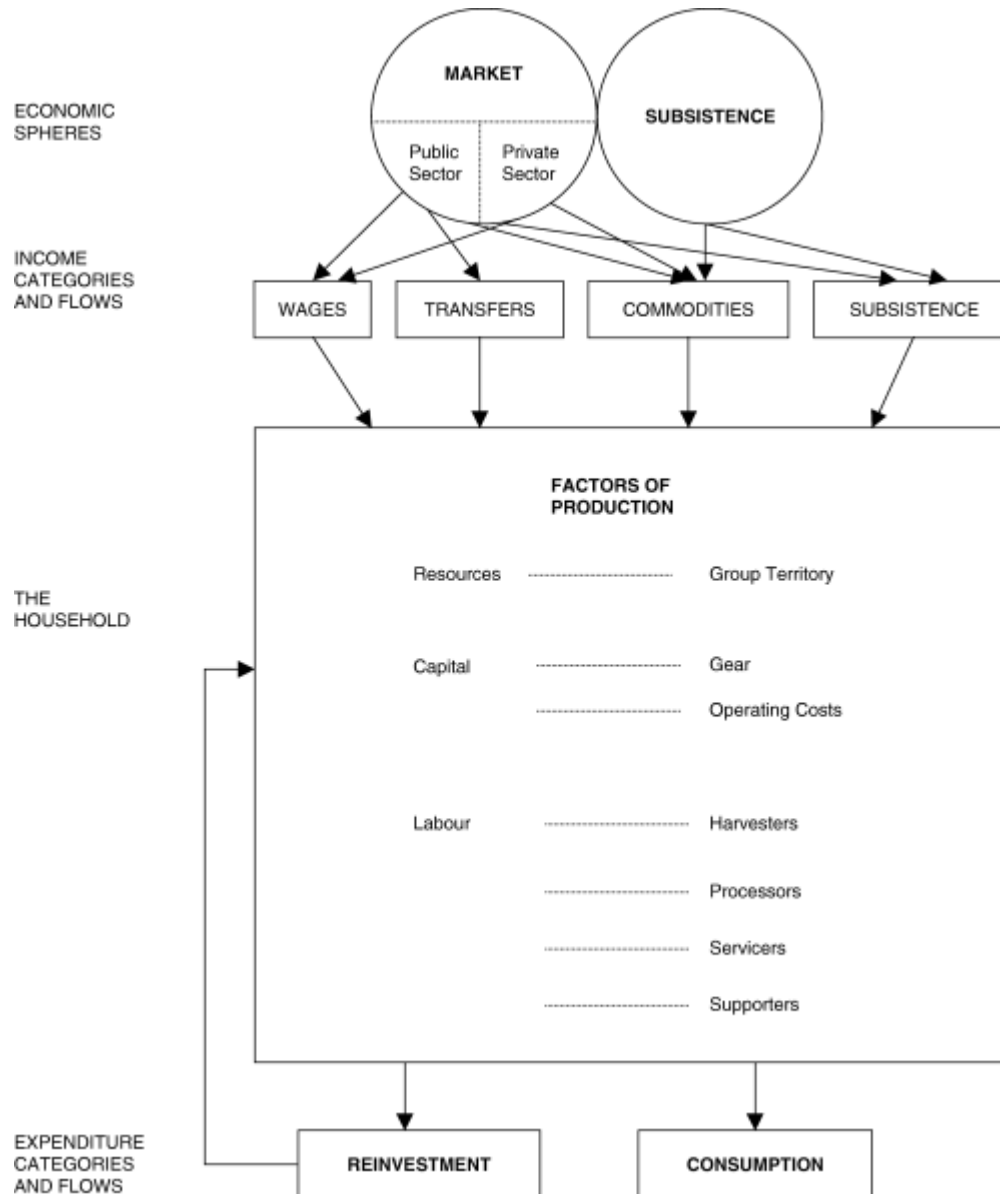
SLiCA: population*, sample* and respondents*						
Inuit settlement region	Indigenous peoples in the survey	Period of interviewing	Total number of adults in population	Sample size (N)*	Response rate	Respondents (n)
Northern Alaska	Iñupiat; Yupiit	2002-2003	11.000	700	84%	650
Chukotka	Inuit; Chuckchi; Evan; Chuvan; Yukagir	2005-2006	14.000	600	85%	500
Canada	Inuit	2001	22.000	5.650	83%	4.700
Greenland	Inuit	2004-2006	36.000	1.450**	83%	1.050
Inuit homelands/ regions/countries			83.000	8.400	83%	6.900
Sweden	Sami	2006-2008				200
Norway	Sami	2006-2008		800	56%	450
Kola Peninsula	Sami	2006-2008	1.500			300
Sapmi			50.000***			950
Note:						
* Rounded (to nearest '50'/'100').						
** In Greenland also the non-indigenous population was part the survey. In this article only the Inuit (the Greenlanders) are part of the analysis.						
*** Estimate for Nordic Sami (incl. Finland - excl. Kola Peninsula) (AMAP, 1998).						

## *The importance of subsistence to indigenous peoples of the Arctic*

- This theme is closely related to one of five international analysis themes suggested by the indigenous peoples' representatives participating in the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA.
- The international core questionnaire applied in SLiCA offers **opportunities to examine the importance of subsistence activities**, harvest of renewable resources and herding etc. to indigenous peoples in modern Arctic economies and cultures and the respondents' satisfaction with the actual composition of the different activities as well as the preferred composition and the relationship to the overall well-being and the individual.
- The analysis is based on more than 8,000 personal interviews with **Inuit adults** in Greenland, Northern Canada, Chukotka, and Northern Alaska and **Sami adults** in Northern Norway, Northern Sweden and the Kola Peninsula.



# A model for house hold production



Usher and Weinstein 1991 (p. 12)

# Subsistence - definition

“economic activities or those aspects of economic activities necessary to sustain the producers”

Dahl, J. (1989): *Greenland Subsistence Hunting*, p. 88

For operational reasons: harvesting of local resources (fishing, hunting, gathering, husbandry) for household production (including sharing, meat gifts and distribution)

Inspired by Robert Petersen – see *Greenland Subsistence Hunting* chapter 5.

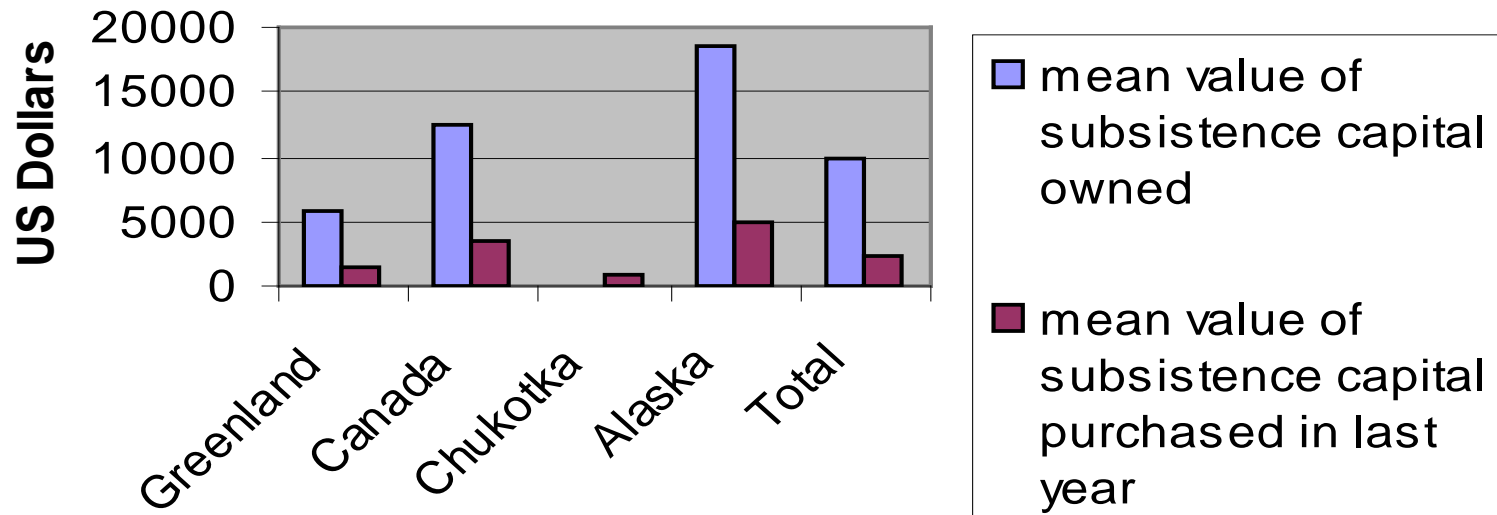
# Different aspects of subsistence activities

- the **economic** aspect – the importance to the economy of the household;
- the **nutritional** aspect – part of the diet of the household;
- the **socio-cultural** aspect – principles of sharing and community relations;
- the **identity** aspect – markers of identity related to subsistence;
- the **integration** aspect – the mix of subsistence and cash activities.

## Subsistence: the economic aspect (I)

- SLiCA indicator(s):
  - Number of subsistence activities
  - Subsistence based activities compared to cash income activities
  - Costs related to subsistence activities
  - Proportion of household's consumption that was harvested by household members

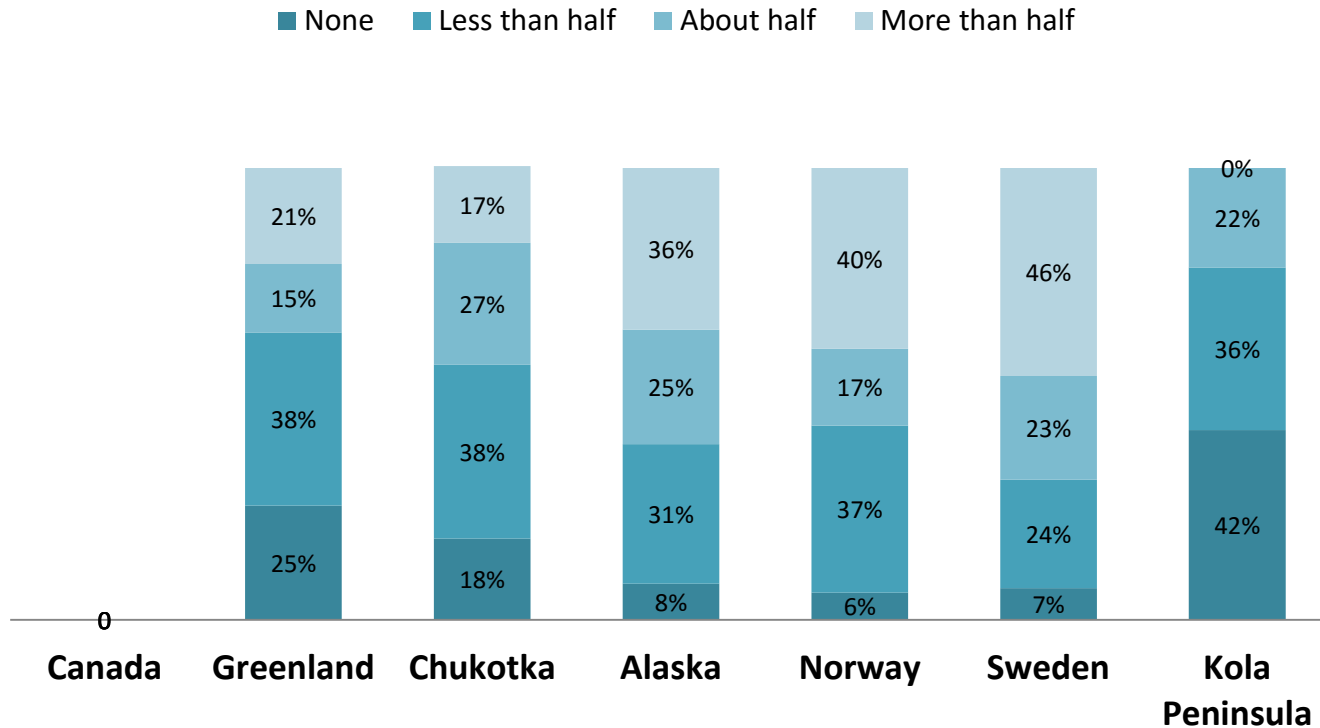
## Mean value in USD of subsistence capital owned and purchased in last year



A more detailed analysis of the break down of the household figures by employment and subsistence activities shows for all regions/countries that high employment and subsistence activities households has spent most on investments and low employment and subsistence activities households has spent least.

# Subsistence: the economic aspect (II)

## Inuit and Sami: Proportion of Meat and Fish Harvested by Household. By Country



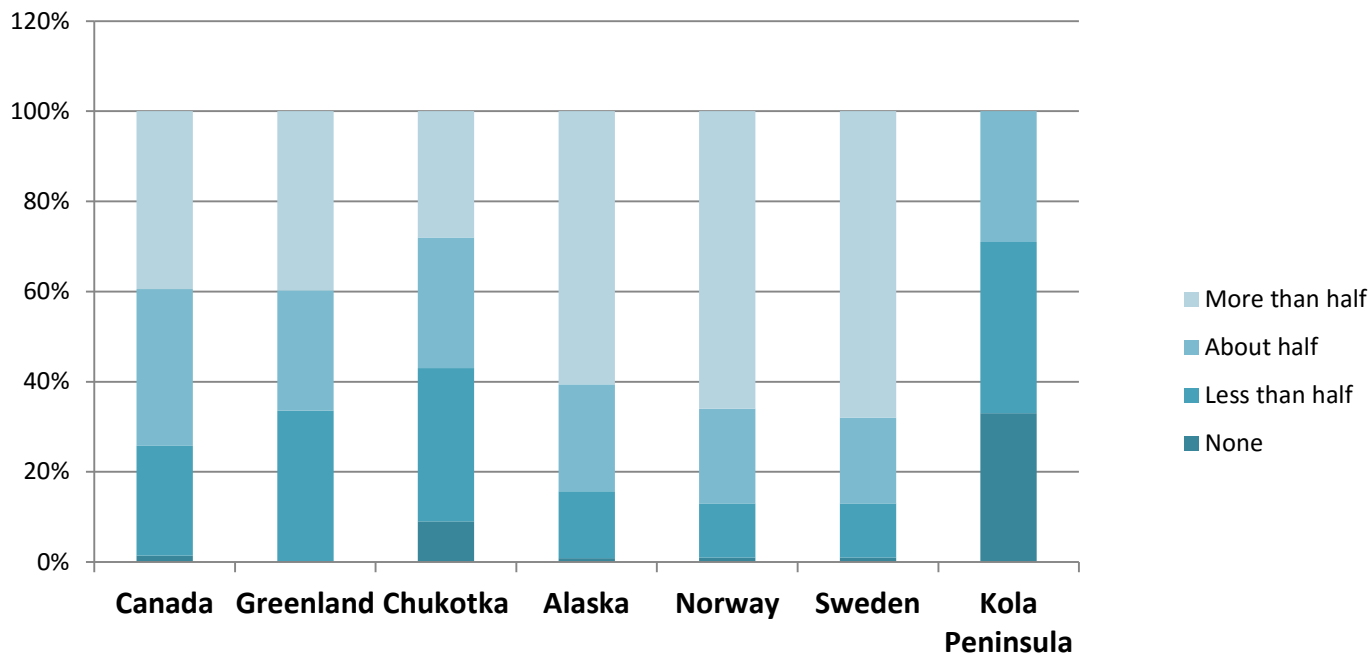
Source: <http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org/> SLiCA Results Report/Tables - Ties to Nature

## Subsistence: the nutritional aspect (I)

- SLiCA indicator(s):
  - Proportion of meat and fish consumed by household that is traditional food

# Subsistence: the nutritional aspect (II)

**Inuit and Sami.  
Proportion of meat and fish consumed by household that is  
traditional food .  
By country**





# Subsistence: the socio-cultural aspect (I)

- SLiCA indicator(s):
  - Sharing (receiving, giving) traditional food with others in or outside community
  - Buying traditional food from others

# Subsistence: the socio-cultural aspect (II)

**Households Received Traditional Food From Others by Country**

	Canada	Greenland	Chukotka	Alaska	Norway	Sweden	Kola Peninsula	Total
Received traditional food from others	100%	77%	29%	92%	65%	62%	68%	79%
Received traditional food in exchange for assisting others	5%	39%	40%	51%	41%	31%	26%	41%
Received traditional food in exchange for other traditional food	*	23%	41%	55%	39%	16%	34%	35%
Received gift of traditional food	90%	90%	89%	88%	80%	62%	87%	87%
Shared traditional food with households in other placers	*	66%	*	85%	78%	53%	*	69%
Paid for traditional food in last 12 months	19%	71%	46%	17%	56%	68%	71%	55%
* Data Not Available								

Source: <http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org/> SLiCA Results Report/Tables - Ties to Nature

## **Subsistence: the identity aspect (I)**

- SLiCA indicator(s):
  - Values related to subsistence that are important to the individual.
  - **Activities and customs related to subsistence that are important to the individual.**

# Subsistence: the identity aspect (II.a)

**Cultural Continuity Table 142\*\* Activities and Customs 'Very Important' or 'Important' to Maintaining Indigenous Identity. By Country (I)**

	Canada	Greenland	Chukotka	Alaska	Norway	Sweden	Kola Peninsula	Total
<b>View of nature</b>	*	97%	98%	96%	92%	96%	*	97%
<b>Traditional food</b>	*	95%	98%	96%	84%	78%	*	95%
<b>Childhood upbringing</b>	*	96%	98%	94%	94%	89%	*	95%
<b>Preservation of traditional foods</b>	*	85%	89%	96%	78%	84%	*	90%
<b>Naming kinship relationships</b>	*	87%	100%	90%	96%	87%	*	90%
<b>Use of indigenous language</b>	*	100%	84%	94%	90%	63%	*	89%
* Data Not Available								
** <a href="http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org">www.arcticlivingconditions.org</a> & SLiCA database								

# Subsistence: the identity aspect (II.b)

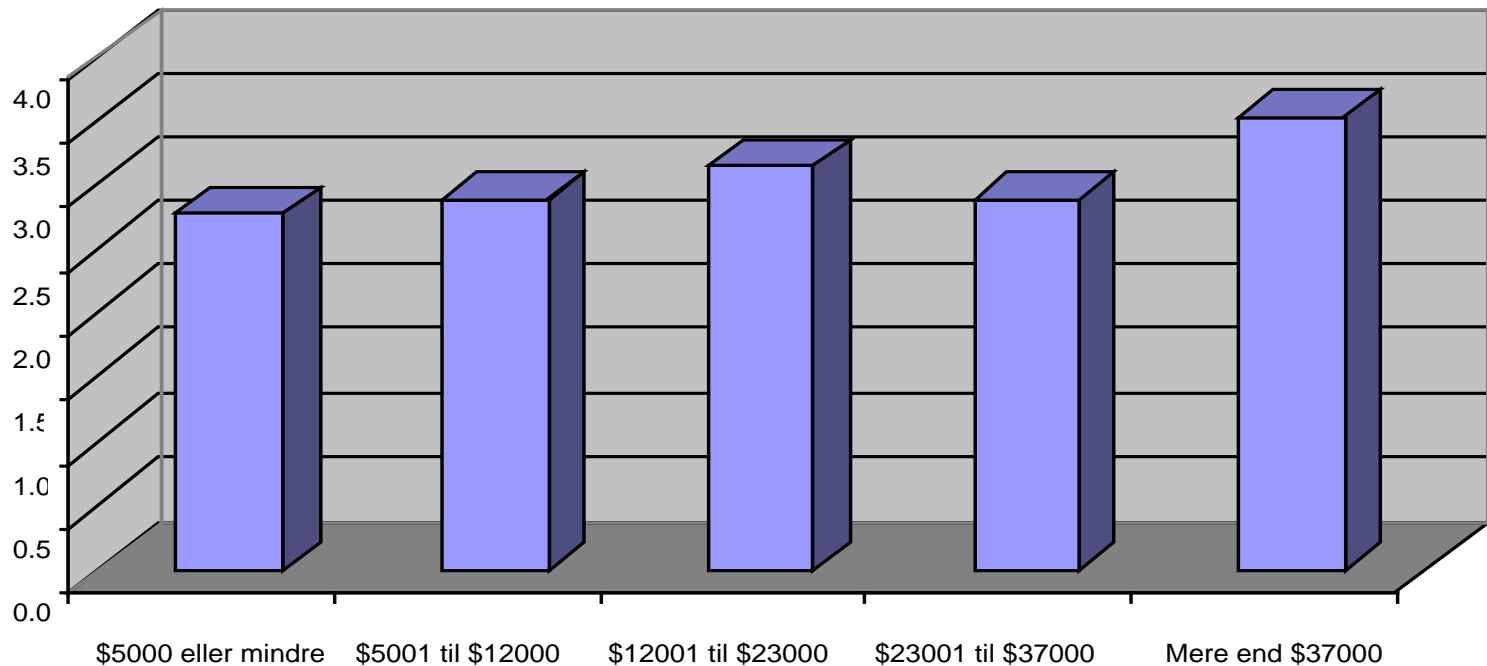
	Canada	Greenland	Chukotka	Alaska	Norway	Sweden	Kola Peninsula	Total
<b>Hunting and fishing</b>	*	79%	99%	95%	72%	87%	*	86%
<b>Contacts with other indigenous people</b>	*	95%	58%	93%	91%	88%	*	85%
<b>Harvesting of wild berries and plants</b>	*	75%	98%	89%	78%	80%	*	83%
<b>Occupation or profession</b>	*	87%	77%	87%	76%	56%	*	82%
* Data Not Available								
** <a href="http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org">www.arcticlivingconditions.org</a> & SLiCA database								

## **Subsistence: the integration aspect (I)** (subsistence and cash economy)

- SLiCA indicator(s):
  - The individual's and the household's combination of subsistence and cash economy activities.
  - The individual's satisfaction with actual combination of subsistence and cash economy activities.
  - The preferred combination of subsistence and cash economy activities.

# Subsistence: the integration aspect (II) (Inuit regions only)

Average number of subsistence activities by income groups (personal income). All Inuit.



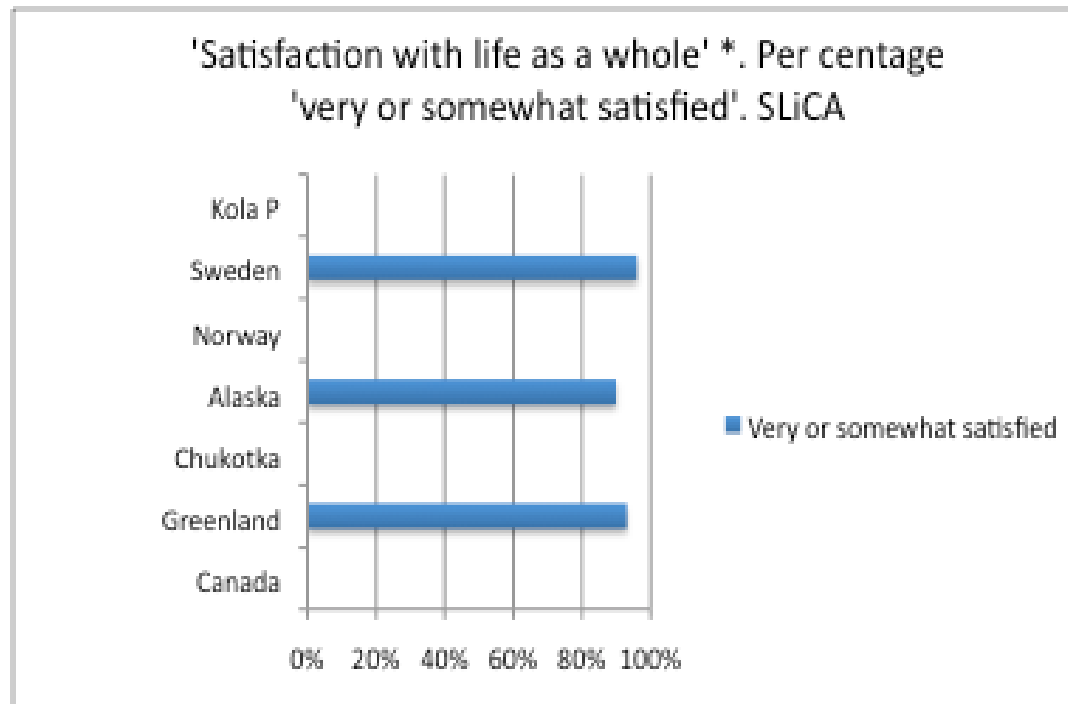
(ppp-adjusted to USD – exchange rate June 2007)







# Satisfaction with life as a whole – Greenlanders, Inupiat and Swedish Saami. Percent.



\* Data Not Available for Canada, Chukotka, Norway and the Kola Peninsula

\*\* Source: [www.arcticlivingconditions.org](http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org) & SLiCA database. (Glatzer, 2014)

# Identifying the dimensions of well-being that explain the most, second-most and so-on amount of variation in satisfaction with life as a whole (Greenland and Northern Alaska)

- Below are the results of a series of stepwise multiple regressions to identify the dimensions of well-being that explain the most, second-most and so-on amount of variation in satisfaction with life as a whole.
- Many variables were grouped into categories in order of relative importance, the dimensions, or grouped dimensions most important were:
  1. Job opportunities;
  2. Amount of fish and game available locally;
  3. Combination of production activities (cash and subsistence);
  4. Influence over natural resources and environment;
  5. Job satisfaction.

## Subsistence: concluding remarks (I)

- By focusing on a series of the aspects of subsistence activities in addition to those which are directly related to economy and the integration of market and subsistence economies - nutrition, socio-cultural and identity related aspects included - it becomes clear that the meaning of these activities extend beyond what can be measured in dollars and cents. Thus, **participation in subsistence activities (and activities closely related to these) seems to affect social relations, cultural continuity and the individual's sense of identity.**

## Subsistence: concluding remarks (II)

- When the **relationship to nature, participation in hunting and fishing and consuming traditional foods** regularly are emphasized as significant for Inuit and Sami in the Arctic, they do not necessarily indicate an image of a romantic life in an Arctic settlement, but rather relationships and activities which are **important for the quality of life of people**.
- For the Inuit regions we have made multivariate analysis showing that the **availability of subsistence resources** and **higher levels of subsistence activity** both explain significant variations in overall well-being

## **Subsistence: concluding remarks (III)**

- If the goal for political activities is to ensure quality of life for its citizens and if the efforts to ensure diversity shall not alone applies to plants and animals but also to people and the societies in the Arctic, then the coming years will demand an extraordinary clarification of the social goals and the consequences of diverse business strategies. It is not only the number of jobs, but a way of life which is at stake for the Arctic indigenous peoples.

## SLiCA: Arctic living conditions

Living conditions and quality of life among Inuit, Saami and indigenous peoples of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula



***Thanks for your attention!***

Check out:

***SLiCA Results***

on the web at:

[www.arcticlivingconditions.org](http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org)

SLiCA anthology can be downloaded from:

[www.norden.org](http://www.norden.org)

# Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA

- *Supported by:*
  - *Inuit Circumpolar Conference, ICC*
  - *Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, RAIPON*
  - *Sámi Council*
- *Adopted as an Arctic Council project under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group, SDWG at the Ministerial meeting in Barrow, October 2000. Included in the Sustainable Development Action Plan, SDAP 2004-06 & 2006-08 & 2008-11.*
- *Funded by:*  
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Qujanaq! Thanks for your attention

