

Sociocultural justice of climate change in Sápmi

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SoSClim - project

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Prerequisites of the Saami in Finland

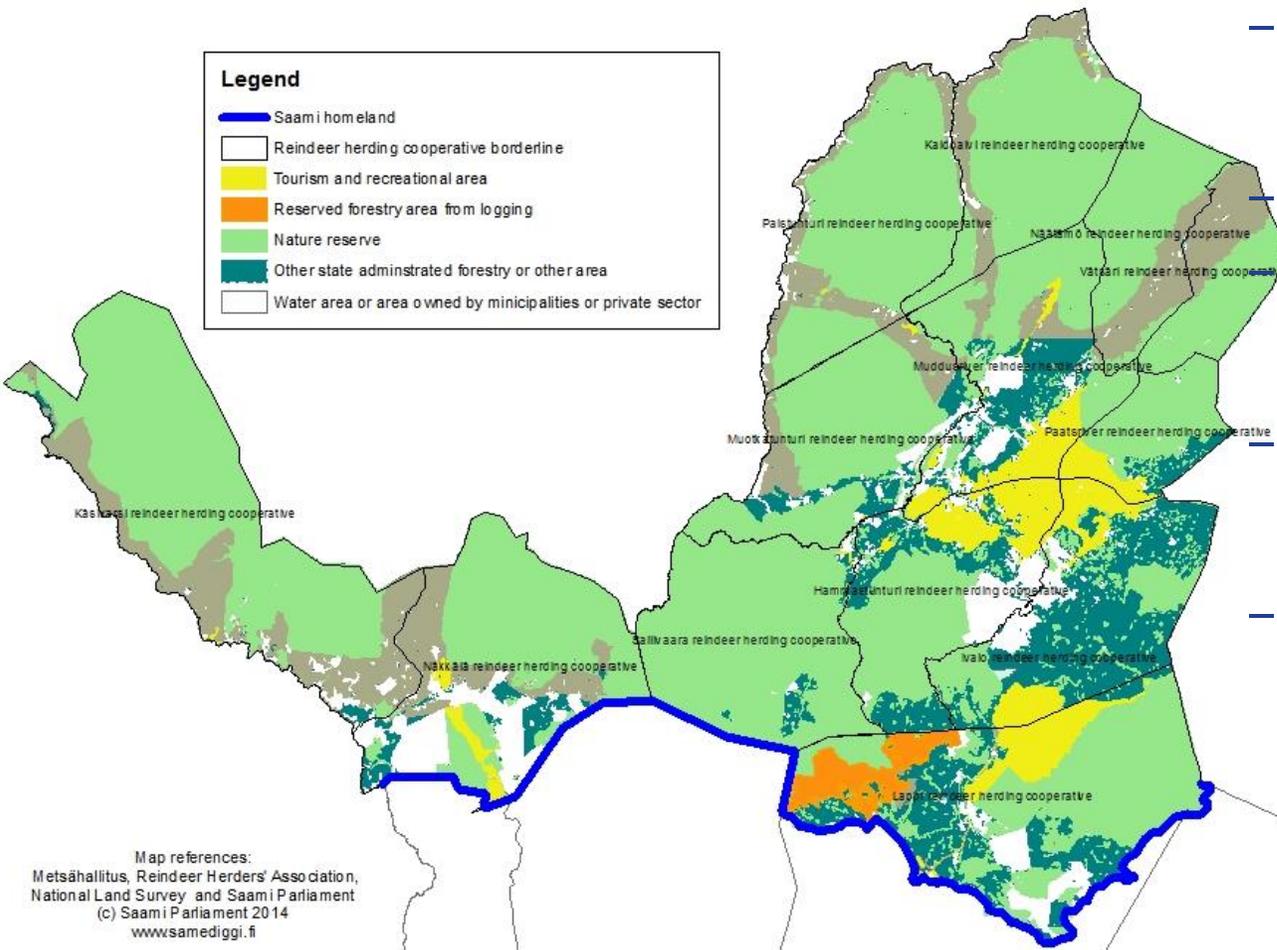
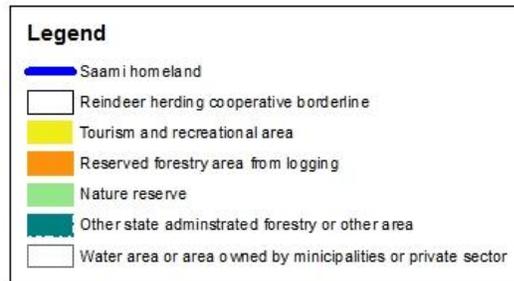
- Culture, languages and livelihoods are considered endangered
- Cultural and language loss among Saami population due to assimilation policies produces mental and social problems among Saami
- Competing land uses and shortcomings in legislation make it difficult to maintain Saami culture

Biodiversity loss is evident

First signs of climate change were dated in 1960s, changes have accelerated in the 21st century

Saami have been adapting for a long time to climate change, manifesting different livelihood models

- Historical legacy makes Saami people vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change





Human rights aspect in Paris Agreement

- The human rights aspect had been included in the preambular of the Paris Agreement on climate change, where it is stated that the states should, when taking action to address climate change respect human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Adaptation measures should take into consideration traditional knowledge and knowledge of indigenous peoples (article 7).
- effectiveness of the Paris Agreement depends on implementation on the European Union and the national level to interpret national law, to the extent possible, in conformity with international law



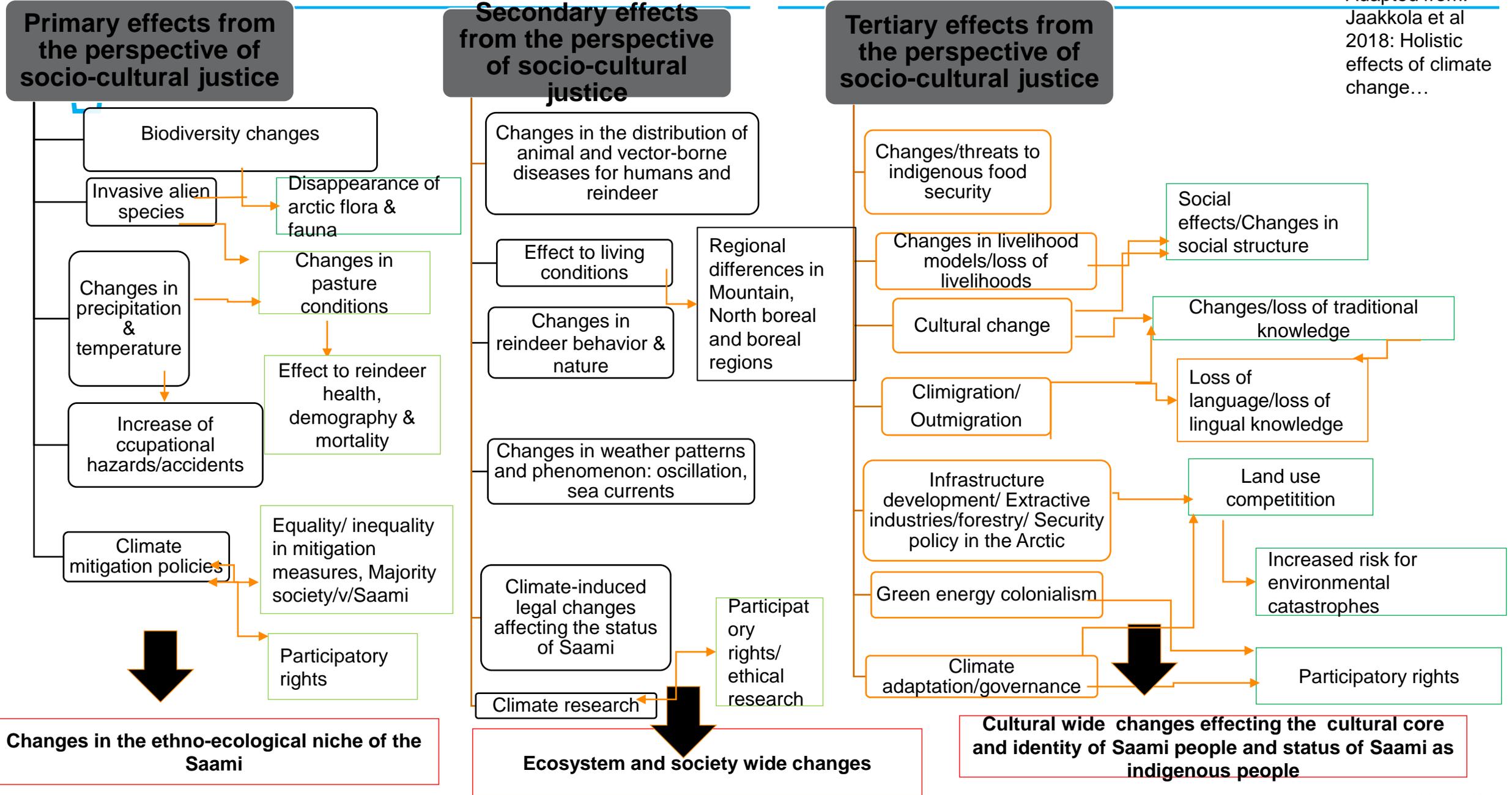
Climate change and human rights

- It is a necessity for indigenous peoples to have their human rights interpreted in the context of their specific indigenous culture and the related need to protect their land and environment
- Human rights of indigenous peoples cannot be separated from the environment in which they live – Saami occupy in Finland boreal, north boreal and mountain regions
- Adaptation measures have cultural effects → adaptation equals cultural change in many cases for the indigenous people



Concept of socio-cultural justice of climate change in Saami context

- Socio-cultural justice refers to cultural and participatory rights of Saami people from the perspective of Saami culture and society
- A crucial question is to understand the cultural and intergenerational effects of climate change, climate mitigation & adaptation today and in the future
- Arctic is changing due to climate change and adaptation measures





Future prospects



- Theoretical understanding and classification of adverse effects of climate change is crucial in order to understand the extent of these changes
- We have extensive monitoring on environmental changes – we need similar monitoring on human rights and cultural effects
- Climate change has cultural effects that can be detrimental to small, already vulnerable indigenous communities
- Climate change is a question of basic human rights – a right to lead a culturally meaningful life and pass cultural knowledge to future generation
- Scientific world is needed to deliver the message to the decision makers and collaborate with the indigenous communities

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, snow-covered landscape. In the foreground and middle ground, a large herd of reindeer is running across the snow. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. Three thick blue diagonal lines are positioned above the text.

Thank you - Giitu!

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