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The Government should make Further Use of the Knowledge of Local Resource Users

In the Greenland Government Act on Catching and Hunting (No. 12 of 29 October 1999), it says "In relation to the the government administration of catching and hunting, emphasis should be placed on incorporating the knowledge of local resource users" (Section 2, Stk. 3). To follow up on the law, one should organize the documentation of local users' knowledge on the environment in the separate areas of Greenland.

Local documentation and management of living resources in Greenland began in 2009. Fishermen and hunters from rural communities record their observations and meet every quarter (three month) in what is called Local Resource Councils. At these meetings, they assess and discuss their observations. They fill out summary forms, and they formulate proposed management actions to the government administration.

The information and proposed management actions are now publicly available, though still only in English. If one wants to refer to the information, the names of the observers must be specified. If one wants to use the information for other purposes, one has to first obtain permission (https://eloka-arctic.org/sizonet).

The proposed management actions prepared by the Local Resource Councils have had an impact. Here are some examples:

- Recommendations on the regulation of foxes on Grønne Ejland have been heard.
- New knowledge has been generated on the growth of bird populations.
- The hunting seasons for gulls and ravens have been changed.
- New knowledge has been generated on the status of Atlantic cod.
- The knowledge of overwintering eider ducks at Store Hellefiskebanke has been improved.

However, some of the recommendations from the Local Resource Councils are not followed by the Government. This can be reversed if there are more communities who establish Local Resource Councils and who compile further knowledge and document the status of the resources.

KNAPK (The Association of Fishers and Hunters in Greenland) encourage the authorities to support the Local Resource Councils. The Government and the municipalities should further support these efforts.

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