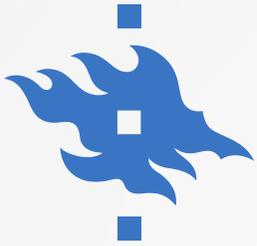




Reetta Toivanen  
Professor in sustainability Science  
(Indigenous Sustainabilities)

# DECOLONIZING THE SDG'S EXAMPLES FROM THE ARCTIC

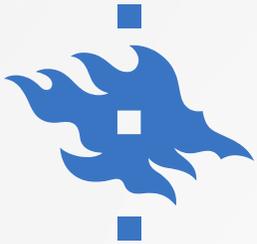
A Case With Arctic Sámi Indigenous Peoples



# RESEARCH QUESTION

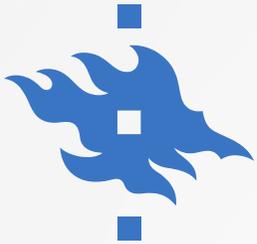
- 1. How can Indigenous and local perspectives be more strongly included in the democratic implementation of SDGs in Finland and Sweden?
- 2. Why do tensions between SDGs and democratic participation arise in the European North?





## SDG'S

- The 17 SDGs include 169 targets, of which 43 are means of implementation targets, and 232 individual indicators.
- These indicators comprise management tools aiming to help countries with implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and they represent report cards keeping track of the progress made in order to achieve the respective target

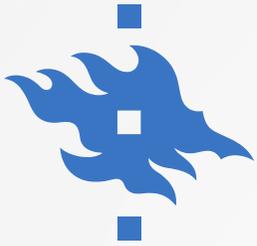


# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	

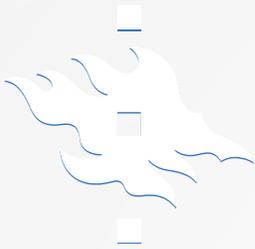
[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)





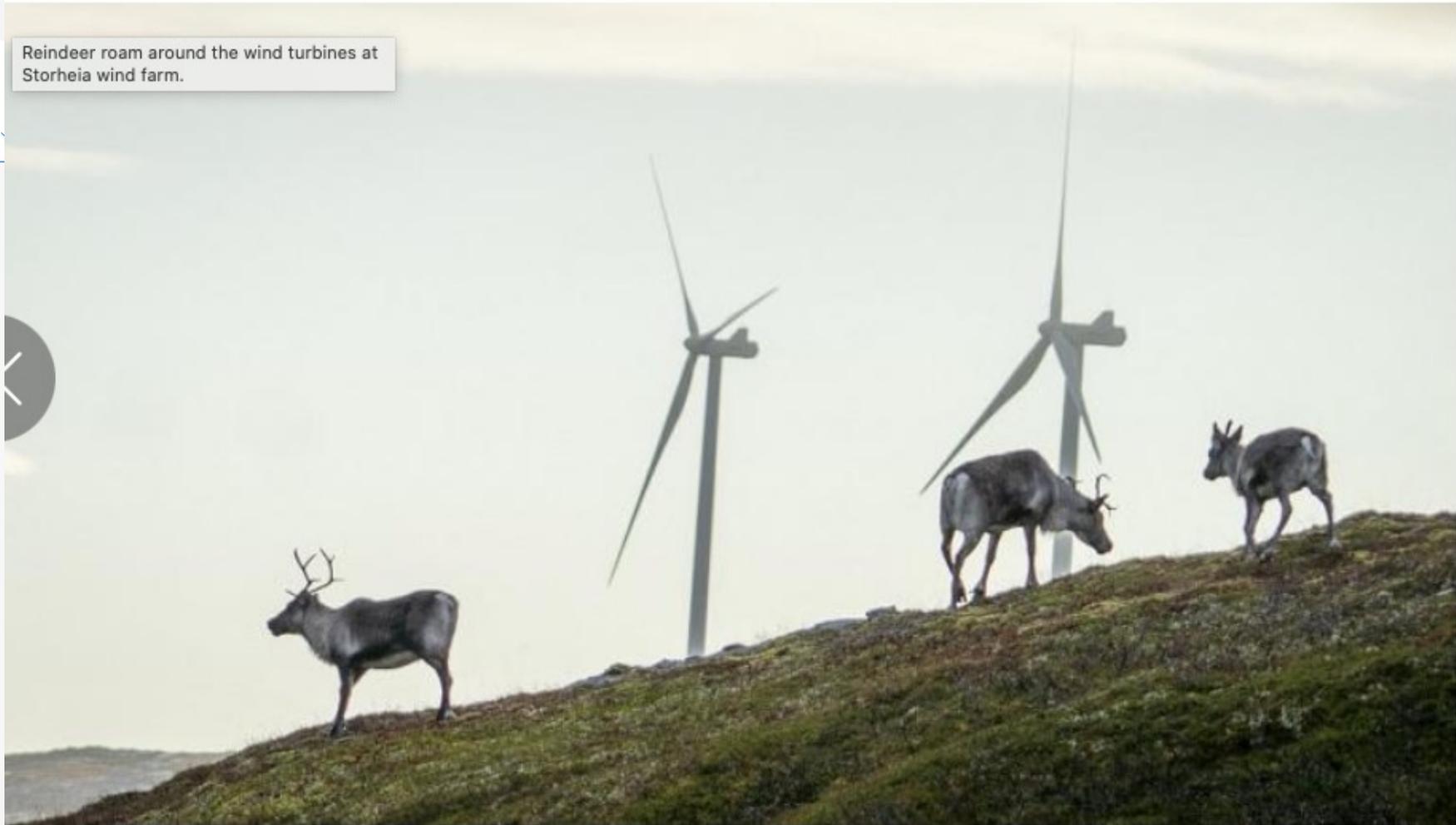
## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NOT REALLY) MENTIONED

- Target 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- Target 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

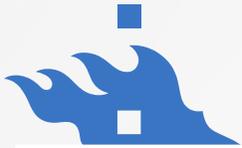




Reindeer roam around the wind turbines at Storheia wind farm.



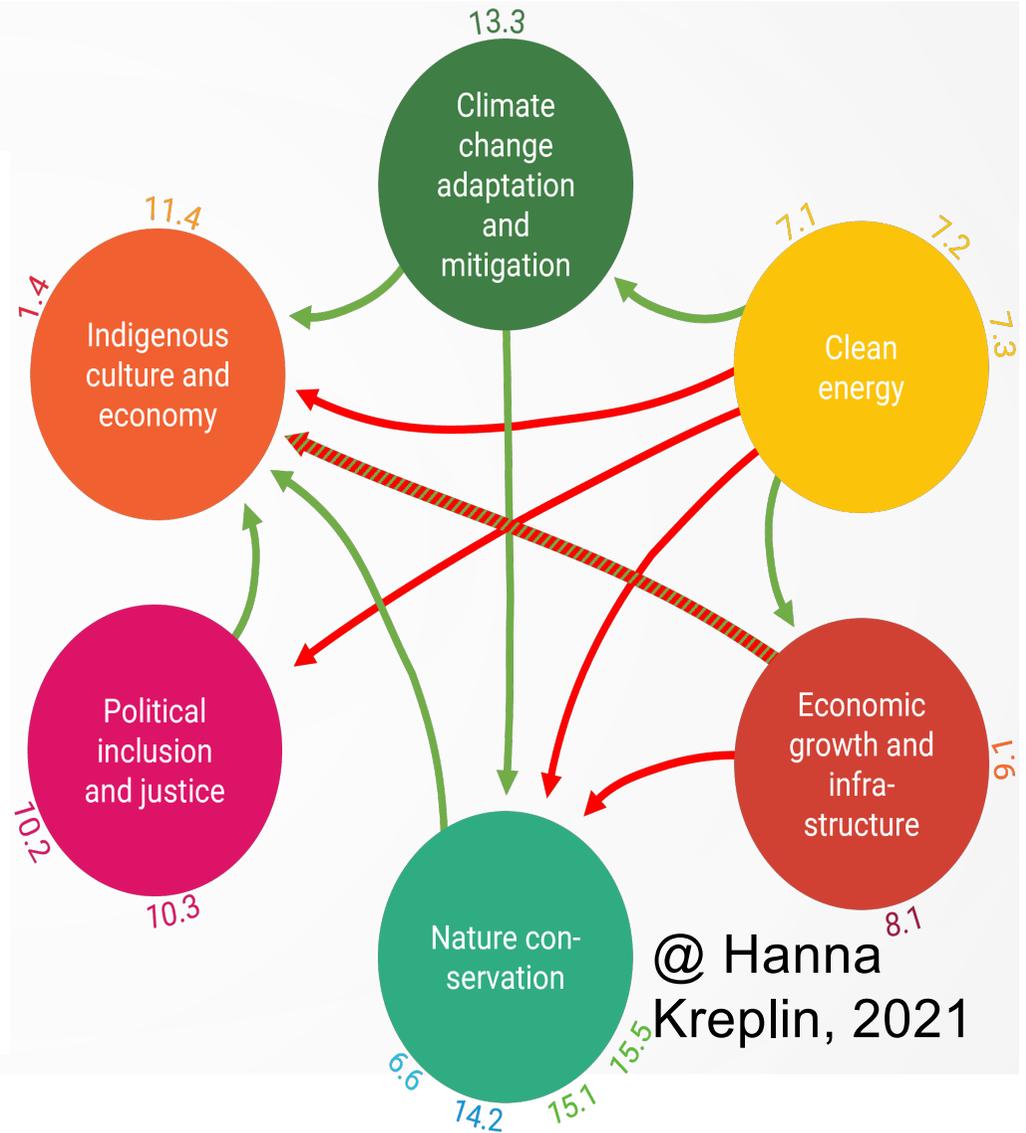
*Reindeer roam around the wind turbines at Storheia wind farm.* - Copyright HEIKO JUNGE / NTB / AFP

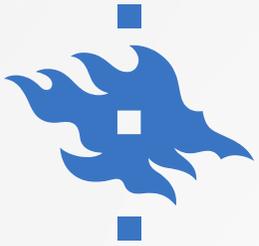


## Initial analysis: synergies marked in green, trade-offs in red

Referring to target 1.4, which states that “all men and women [shall] [...] have equal rights to economic resources [...]”, the construction of wind turbines diminishes the Sámi’s access to economic resources such as reindeer.

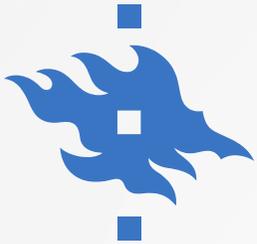
Similarly, the access of Sámi to “ownership and control over land” is exacerbated by wind power projects, taking into account that Sámi only hold use rights to the land and not ownership. Therefore, a trade-off between the targets 7.2 and 1.4 can be determined. The economic aspect of the conflict can also be found in target 10.2.





## 3 EXAMPLES SYNERGY VS TRADE-OFF

- Clean energy and political inclusion / justice
- Clean energy and nature conservation
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation



## TWO COMPETING ECONOMIC BUSINESSES?

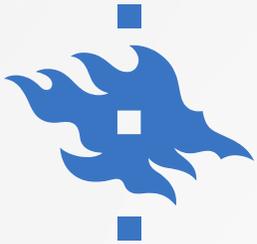
Relationship between economy and culture is more complex.

For instance, Sámi reindeer herders have adopted modern technologies and infrastructure, such as snowmobiles, trailer transportation, and GPS localisation, which has helped the herders and facilitated reindeer herding, particularly during the winter months.

Reindeer herding is now an economically viable business and herders are entrepreneurs selling their products to a much larger market.

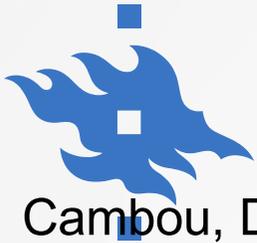
However, they are under pressure as they have to compete with larger, independent and external companies determining the price of reindeer meat. Tourism has developed as an additional business model for Sámi: it serves as a source of income and employment, as well as allows them to act as cultural ambassadors and teach externals about their traditions.

Whether this relationship can be determined as synergy or trade-off is still to be discussed.



## CONCLUSIONS: WERE TO CONTINUE

- 14 targets have been found to be relevant for the project during its first phase.
- Reviewing and analysing the literature showed the negative impacts of wind power projects on indigenous communities. This includes the effects on the traditional reindeer herding which in turn influences both Sámi economies as well as their culture.
- It further showed how wind power projects harm the procedural rights of Sámi and their political inclusion as clear guidelines on how to weigh their interests compared to the renewable energy projects are missing. Sámi experience discrimination in lawsuits related to wind power projects and they face distributional injustice.
- A trade-off evolves therefore between protecting the Sámi culture and traditions, as well as their access to natural resources, and the goal to promote clean energy and to reach a fossil-free electricity production for the country.
- More trade-offs exist between the development of clean energy and nature conservation due to the environmental impacts of wind turbines.



## REFERENCES

- Cambou, D. (2020). Uncovering Injustices in the Green Transition: Sámi Rights in the Development of Wind Energy in Sweden. *Arctic Review*, 11, 310–333.
- Larsen, R. K., & Raitio, K. (2019). Implementing the State Duty to Consult in Land and Resource Decisions: Perspectives from Sami Communities and Swedish State Officials. *Arctic Review*, 10, 4–23.
- Liljenfeldt, J., & Pettersson, Ö. (2017). Distributional justice in Swedish wind power development – An odds ratio analysis of windmill localization and local residents' socio-economic characteristics. *Energy Policy*, 105, 648–657.
- Normann, S. (2021). Green colonialism in the Nordic context: Exploring Southern Saami representations of wind energy development. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 49(1), 77–94.
- Toivanen, R. J. (2019). European Fantasy of the Arctic Region and the Rise of Indigenous Sámi Voices in the global Arena. *Arctic Triumph: Northern Innovation and Persistence*, 23–40.
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2021). Indigenous Identity in the Resource Landscape of Buryatia's Oka District. *Anthropology and Archeology of Eurasia*, 59(1), 52-68.