

Human Security in the Arctic

GAPS: The Impacts of Oil and Gas Activity on Peoples in the Arctic Using a Multiple Securities Perspective - Canada Project Newsletter

An Annual Newsletter - covering April 2008 to April 2009

Newsletter No. 3

Evolution of GAPS
Community consultations change the course of the project
Page 1



Team Workshop
What exactly is Human Security?
Page 1

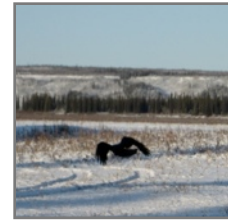
GNWT Report
Protocol for invasive species using community-based reporting
Page 2

Sub-project Updates
Find out what the GAPS researchers have been doing in NWT
Page 2



Conferences
Researchers have attended many conferences - get the scoop on what they presented and where!
Page 3

Interdisciplinary Research
Using human security to manage invasive nonindigenous plants.
Page 3



Major Events
Ecojustice Conference at York University, and Our North/ Our Future Youth Workshop in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.
Page 4

Evolution of GAPS

The GAPS project is an International Polar Year (IPY) project running from 2006 to 2011. The project has evolved significantly in response to community consultations.

GAPS, or Gas, Arctic Peoples & Security for short, is an inter-disciplinary initiative looking at the human security issues associated with oil and gas development in Norway, Russia, and Canada. The human security framework, which is essentially about well-being, emphasizes local communities having the freedom to identify and respond to risks and threats. Therefore, GAPS, through all of its sub-projects (see next page for updates on these), has consulted and collaborated with Arctic communities from the beginning of the project. Our research has evolved significantly from the original proposal stage in response to these consultations, since they highlighted to us that our aim to discuss challenges and changes in the Arctic needed to be broadened to

include different sub-groups in the North in a more significant way than initially planned. As a result, youth and marginalized adults formed a larger portion of our research participants in all sub-projects, with Elders continuing to play a substantial role. The GAPS training and capacity-building efforts were particularly geared towards youth in response to feedback from communities (see the Our North/Our Future story). In response to community input, we have also reached out more broadly to local communities through public events, such as northern workshops, presentations, and community feasts. These included presentations made at Aurora College in Inuvik, and to the North Slave Métis Alliance in Yellowknife.



Fort Good Hope Sunrise - October 2008

Team Workshop: What exactly is Human Security?

The GAPS team descended upon Toronto to hold an internal workshop January 14-16, 2009. The main purpose was for our human security expert, Professor Gunhild Hoogensen from the University of Tromsø in Norway, to lead us through a discussion of what human security is and how it is converging with the research of our sub-projects. These results will be used to assess what constitutes Human Security for Arctic communities. Human Security can be broadly defined as individuals being able to identify and respond to threats. We explored the various aspects of human security, including that this is a demilitarized form of security where the military and the state are not seen as the sole source of security, but rather individuals and communities can provide their own security, at a local level, as well. Therefore Human Security is both a bottom-up and top-down framework. As a framework, it is a process, rather than a goal to be achieved. Most importantly, Human Security is about dialogue - it is a way to get local voices heard!

Report for GNWT:

“Developing Options for Community-based Protocols to Detect Invasive Alien Plants and Insects in the Northwest Territories”

Plants or insects that come from other areas and continents are called introduced or non-native or non-indigenous species. While many of them are important crops, some species become “invaders” and pose a threat both to people and the environment.

Local people can play an important role in early detection of potentially invasive plants and insects. A research team from York University’s Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability (IRIS) (which houses the GAPS project), led by director Dawn Bazely, was asked to develop a protocol by Dr. Suzanne Carrière, biologist at the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Department in the NWT. In order to



determine the ways in which communities would prefer to report these species, based on our experience with the human security framework, we suggested to ENR that communities should be consulted before a protocol was developed. Therefore, community consultations were held in October 2008 in NWT for three and a half weeks. Annette Dubreuil (pictured above in Inuvik) and Milissa Elliott (below), met with community members in Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson and Inuvik. Using surveys they asked about their knowledge of invasive species. The consultations also included a discussion of the interest in local food production using greenhouses or community-gardens.

Cecilia Tagliavia and Tony Morris did background research on invasive species protocols for this project. Together, with the survey data collected, a draft protocol was developed for ENR that allows community-based reporting of the arrival of invasive plant and insect species. This protocol can be tailored to the preferences of each community.



Sub-Project Updates

Pipelines and the Northward Movement of Plants

In summer 2008, the ecologists on the team carried out field work in the Northwest Territories. Dawn Bazely, Milissa Elliott and Paul Marmer all started in Fort Simpson in June, with Milissa and Paul moving on to Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Inuvik through July and August. Milissa is studying the movement of invasive plants along the suggested Mackenzie Valley pipeline route. She conducted plant surveys in the four communities. Her MSc thesis is nearly completed. Her main finding was that most



potentially invasive plants are found along road edges in the southern part of NWT, but have not entered the nearby forest and taiga plant communities. However, if environmental conditions were to change, as is very likely, then these species are poised to jump into the forest, although we do not know exactly what their impacts may be. Paul collected grasses to check for the presence of fungal endophytes, and continues his data analysis. Nora Saona recently submitted a journal article on grass-endophyte-herbivore interactions to the *Journal of Ecology*.

Negotiating Change: Community-Based Mental Health and Addictions Practice in NWT

This qualitative study was completed by NWT student Alana Kronstal in partial fulfillment of a Masters in Policy and Practice from the University of Victoria. The purpose of this research was to explore how the work of community-based mental health and addiction counselors and wellness workers is changing and identify some ways this work can be supported. In total, 15 counselors and wellness workers who serve 8 NWT communities participated in this study. Their insights and reflections suggest that substance use continues to be a struggle in many communities. Alcohol remains the substance of primary concern with increases in marijuana use in smaller communities and crack cocaine in larger centers also noted.

On a positive note, practitioners spoke of decreased stigma surrounding disclosure of abuse and many people utilizing counseling to address these issues. The impacts of changes to the way mental health and addiction services are organized and delivered in communities was a key topic of discussion. The need for choice in counseling and treatment options was identified as important by practitioners, with a specific focus on the need for the development of local, culturally-appropriate services. This includes the specific recommendation for a healing program specifically addressing trauma.

A Renewed North: Resources, Corporations and First Nations

Gabrielle Slowey spent most of 2008 on maternity leave. Since returning in January 2009, she has been working on analyzing the results of her early fieldwork on this project and she is planning for more fieldwork in the spring and summer of 2009. Based on the early results from field research conducted with Jessica Simpson, she has also delivered a paper, which was presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) 2009 Annual Convention in New York City, USA, in February.

Jessica has played a pivotal role in the GAPS project, not only in coordinating and organizing the Tuktoyaktuk research component for Slowey, but given her former role as head of the Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance she played a critical role in helping to organize the Our North/Our Future Workshop (see next page). This represents a significant step forward, beyond a basic field assistant opportunity, in engaging local youth in the project, because Jessica continues to work as part of the overall research team, leaving a legacy of training and capacity building around research in the north by northern youth.

Homeless in a homeland: housing insecurity and homelessness in the Northwest Territories

Julia Christensen (PhD Candidate in Geography at McGill University) is currently completing fieldwork for her doctoral research on housing insecurity and homelessness in the Northwest Territories.



This research explores the meaning of housing insecurity and its relationship with homelessness within the context of resource development. From March to May 2009,

Julia completed additional fieldwork in Inuvik and Yellowknife, conducting another series of 40 interviews with people experiencing homelessness as well as collecting secondary data. She was also invited to make presentations to the Indigenous Wellness class at Aurora College in Inuvik. Julia is currently analyzing the data and writing up findings.

Julia also published “Notes from the field: homeless in a homeland” in the McGill Reporter this year. See <http://www.mcgill.ca/reporter/40/18/notes/>.

Book Publications

The book “Environmental Change and Human Security in the Arctic” which explores why Human Security is relevant to the Arctic has contributors from Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Finland and Norway. Edited by Gunhild Hoogensen, University of Tromsø, Norway, and Dawn Bazely, York University, Canada, it is due to be published by the end of 2009. The GAPS team is also approaching publishers for a second edited book with a Canadian focus.

Conferences and Presentations



Community-University Exposition (CUexpo), May 2008

Alana Kronstal attended the third national CUexpo held in Victoria, British Columbia, whose theme was "Community-University Partnerships: Connecting for Change." There, she presented a paper titled "Negotiating Change: Community-Based Mental Health and Addictions Practice in the Northwest Territories". The emphasis was on the process she followed to determine her research question in consultation with community-based health professionals in NWT.

Boom Bust Economies: Impacts on Rural and Remote Communities, June 2008

Julia Christensen and Alana Kronstal attended this conference in Inuvik, NWT, organized by the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University. Alana, Julia, and Julia's Inuvik-based research assistant Kate Snow had the opportunity to share preliminary

themes emerging from their recent field research in the Beaufort-Delta region with conference participants and members of the community of Inuvik.

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (ICASS VI), August 22-26, 2008

Five team members attended this conference in Nuuk, Greenland. Gabrielle Slowey and Gunhild Hoogensen were the chair and co-chair, respectively, of a session titled "The Impacts of Oil and Gas Activity on Peoples of the Arctic using a Multiple Securities Perspective". Julia presented a paper, "Homeless in a Homeland: Resource Development and Housing (In)security in Inuvik, Paulatuk and Yellowknife, NWT". Alana presented "Negotiating change: Community-based mental health and addictions practice in the Northwest Territories". Jessica Simpson presented the NWT component of our team based research.

Yukon Invasive Species Symposium, October 2008

In October 2008, Dawn Bazely spoke at this conference titled "Pulling Together for Invasive Species" in Whitehorse, Yukon. She presented on both the activities of GAPS, as well as other invasive species work done by her Biology lab.

Arctic Change, December 2008

Dawn Bazely attended this conference in Quebec City, hosted by the ArcticNet Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada.

International Polar Year Researchers' Workshop, December 2008

Also held in Quebec City, the IPY Researchers' Workshop was an opportunity for Dawn to network with Canadian IPY researchers.

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, February, 2009

During the Multiple Visions of

Security in Arctic panel, at this conference held in New York City, Gabrielle Slowey presented 'Human Security in the Canadian Arctic: Transforming Canada's First Nations through Self-Determination'. Gunhild Hoogensen was a panel discussant on this same panel, which generated an interesting debate as to what constitutes human security - with some members advocating a more traditional, military perspective while Gunhild and Gabrielle articulated a more holistic and human-based perspective.

Inland Northwest Research Alliance Lessons from Continuity and Change, Fourth International Polar Year Conference, March 2009

Alana Kronstal presented an overview of the GAPS project and provided a primer on how human security is being used to link the respective sub-projects at this symposium in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Interdisciplinary Research:

"A Human Security Framework for the Management of Invasive Nonindigenous Plants"

Published in the Invasive Plant Science and Management Journal (Vol. 2, pages 99-109) by Andrew J. Tanentzap, Dawn R. Bazely, Peter A. Williams, and Gunhild Hoogensen

Despite the fact that people and governments are becoming more aware of the economic, social and ecological consequences of invasive species, few have made the connection that the human security framework can be used to better manage these invasive nonindigenous species (INIS), or other ecological challenges for that matter. The article, explains this connection using the ecosystem-based management of invasives as a case study, and also argues that this approach, which manages multiple species at once, should be favoured when dealing with invasive species.

The human security framework illustrates that the needs and

concerns of multiple stakeholders at multiple levels can be included in the shaping of policies for managing invasive species, rather than just policy makers. It is important to note that this system depends very much on local individuals and communities who can offer a more immediate understanding of invasive species based on their direct experiences.

Ecosystem-based management is an example of a holistic approach that really gets to the root cause of invasive problems, unlike species specific approaches. By using the human security framework with ecosystem-based management techniques when dealing with invasive species, the article argues that the best results can occur. This is because the human security way of widening the diversity of participating stakeholders, provides added knowledge to the pool in a cooperative manner, while the ecosystem-based management tool ensures that the problem is dealt with at the right scale.

In conclusion, working at both the grassroots and political levels, the human security framework engages knowledge holders with the wider community to convey the threats and benefits of invasive species and how individuals may be personally affected. As a result, effective management is more like to benefit all stakeholders.

Major Events

During the last year we've hosted two innovative gatherings

Ecojustice Conference

Held at York University from April 16 to 17, 2009, the "Strengthening the Ecojustice Movement: How Will Disenfranchised People Adapt to Climate Change?" conference assembled international participants from Brazil, South Africa, India and Arctic Canada.

The idea began with a conversation between Sheila Embleton (former York Vice-President Academic & Provost), Adrian Shubert (former Associate Vice-President International), and Miriam Duailibi (director of the ECOAR Institute for Citizenship), followed by the efforts of a working group, consisting of Dawn Bazely (director of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability (IRIS) and a Biology Professor), Professor Martin Bunch and Professor Ellie Perkins (from York's Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES)), Professor Richard Saunders (from York's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies), and Adjunct Professors Kaz Higuchi and James MacLellan (seconded from Environment Canada to FES).



Fourteen community activists and activist scientists were invited from Brazil, India, South Africa and Arctic Canada to speak at this conference (pictured above with the working group). Using their unique experiences and expertise, they shared information on local exposure to climate change, and discussed approaches to addressing inequities in climate change causation, mitigation, funding, education and global/local politics.

In addition to their presentations, the conference included question-and-answer sessions, two documentary screenings, and a group synthesis discussion. Podcasts, video recordings, and transcripts, as well as speaker

bios and pictures, are all available on the Ecojustice Conference website <http://www.iris.yorku.ca/ecojustice-conference/>.

The Arctic panel included Chief Joe Linklater, Chief of the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation (left), Old Crow, Yukon; Aaju Peter, Inuit Lawyer and Inuit Rights Activist, Iqaluit, Nunavut (centre); and Andy Norwegian, Language Specialist, Deh Cho Divisional Educational Council, Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories (right).



The working group is now in the process of preparing a synthesis report and is planning to send representatives to the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. COP15 is the fifteenth Conference of the Parties under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Funding for the Ecojustice Conference was provided by Environment Canada, as well as the International Polar Year, through the GAPS project, and the Office of the Vice-President Academic at York University.

Our North/Our Future Youth Retreat

Our North/Our Future: Talking Security, Sustainability and Change with Northern Youth was a weekend retreat for young people and local mentors in the north. It was held in April 2009, in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories.

Based on the goal of youth-community engagement, this event was co-sponsored by IPY GAPS along with the Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance, "Sustainability's Paradox" - a Health Canada-funded research project, and the IPY Time Capsule Project. GAPS researchers Alana Kronstal, Julia Christensen and project partner Jessica Simpson were involved in organizing the weekend.

Fourteen youth from 5 different communities in the Sahtu and Beaufort-Delta regions of the NWT (Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, and Fort Good Hope) gathered in this space to share their visions for the future of the territory and their respective

communities. They reflected on these themes and used a diverse range of media, including photography, video, and blogging, to express their ideas and conduct first-hand research, through interviewing local people, in the community of Tuktoyaktuk.

As the workshop took place at the same time as the community's annual spring carnival, the youth also had the chance to join the celebration and host a community feast. They were invited to partake in a special workshop with the Tuktoyaktuk Drummers and Dancers.

The ideas, conversations and activities resulting from this event are captured on www.ournorthourfuture.blogspot.com. The retreat has been met with great satisfaction, among the northern youth for whom this was the first time participating in an IPY activity.

The retreat also received significant media coverage by CBC North, APTN and News/North. Christensen, Kronstal and Simpson have even had requests by other northern communities to hold similar workshops in the future!



The project will be included in the media literacy projects in the upcoming National Media Literacy Week in November 2009.

This event represents a cornerstone of the GAPS project not only in terms of leaving a legacy in the region but also in bringing and integrating the youth perspective into the overall project.

GAPS Project Website:

www.ipygaps.org

Annette Dubreuil, GAPS Project Manager, prepared this newsletter, along with the GAPS team. Feedback and comments to the GAPS Project can be sent to afdubreu@yorku.ca or you can call 416-736-2100 x 33631.