

Villages and villagers' participation in tourism development and other planning processes - Case study of the village Lokka

*MA Maria Hakkarainen & Dr. Seija Tuulentie
Finnish Forest Research Institute
Rovaniemi, Finland*

seija.tuulentie@metla.fi, maria.hakkarainen@metla.fi

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METLA

Peripheral context

- Rural communities in sparsely populated areas are facing a variety of changes
 - Out-migration
 - Decline of traditional rural livelihoods
 - The coming of new kinds of livelihoods, especially tourism and recreation
- Planning challenges
 - How to anticipate the changes?
 - How to keep the villages inhabited and the infrastructure in use?
 - How to involve local people into planning processes?
 - How to engage the locals in new livelihoods?

Problems of planning and development

- Development through top-down strategies
 - initiatives not from grassroot level
- Participatory planning as a routine practice?
- Expert knowledge vs. local knowledge
- Emphasis on centres (especially in tourism)

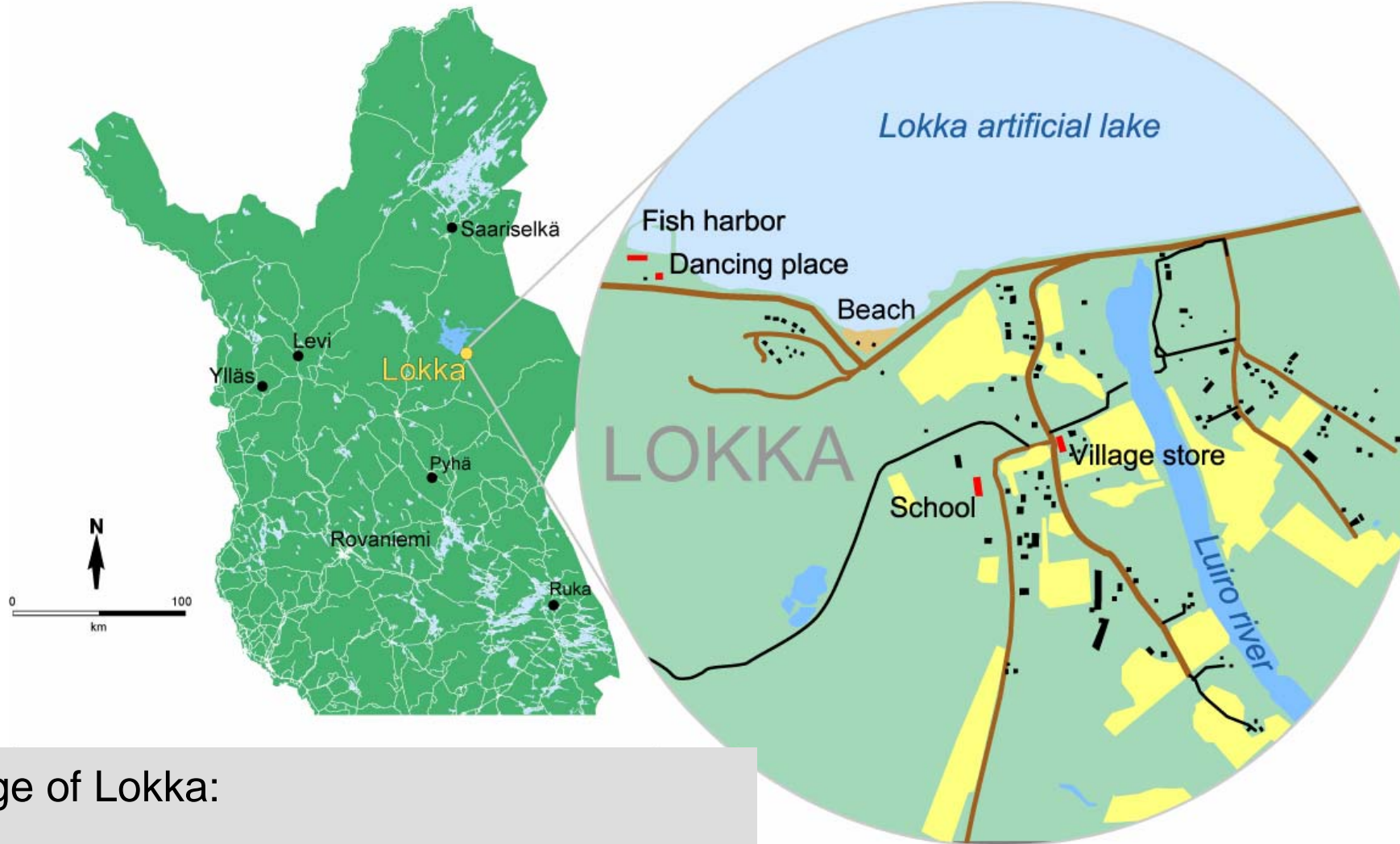
Involvement of local residents

- Why local people should be involved?
 - Involvement not possible or not necessary?
 - Local knowledge
 - Prevention of conflict
 - Democracy
- Who should be involved?
 - Increasing mobility – of whom does the local community consist?
 - Increase in interest groups
 - Differences in abilities to participate (time, education, expertise)
- What effects participation has?
 - Do the hearings have concrete effects?

Forms of participatory planning

| | Consultation | Consensus | Collaboration |
|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Goal | Information gathering and feedback | An outcome supported by all parties; agreement | Full respectful interaction |
| Participation | Structured by the decision authority | Structured by the parties; controlled access | Accessible and inclusive |
| Power and control | Sought and maintained decision authority | Shared, as dictated by the decision authority | Shared and negotiated |


Daniels & Walker 2001



Village of Lokka:

100 inhabitants, beside the biggest artificial lake in Finland, fishing, reindeer herding, forestry, agriculture, tourism as a growing field

Village community of Lokka

- Actors *in* village:  ■ Actors *outside* village:
 - villagers
 - village collective
 - associations
 - livelihoods
 - school
 - village store
 - Lokka's co-operative society
 - entrepreneurs
 - second home owners
 - tourists
 - customers of other products
- municipality
- The Leader Regional Development Association
- Reindeer Herders' Association
- Metsähallitus
- hydroelectric power company
- Lapland Regional Environment Centre
- Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute
- METLA
- State, EU, etc.

Participation in communal action

- Traditional cooperative practices:
 - village meetings and voluntary work
 - communal events, hobbies, recreation activities
 - cooperation in associations, communities of livelihoods
- According to village inquiry for village plan II
 - 71 % of the villagers are interested in *participating* in arranging common activities
 - 9 % of villagers are active in *arranging* these activities

Village plans

- Two village plans
 - the first plan: focuses on the development of the infrastructure and include the first plans to develop tourism
 - the second plan: focuses on the development of livelihoods: fishery and tourism
- Village plan is needed to get funding from the Leader Regional Development Association for village development
 - instructions and formula for the plan
- Plans include cooperation of villagers BUT they are reaction to outside demand

Land-use issues

| | Forestry | Mining | Water reservoir |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Issues | The problem of overcuttings | New land-user | Development of fish populations, water regulation |
| Villagers' participation | Statements | Statements, hearings | Hearings, workshops |
| Effects of the actions | Some arrangements with cutting areas | ? | Development of fishery |

Livelihoods

| | Fishery | Reindeer herding | Tourism |
|---|--|--|---|
| Status of the livelihood | One of the main livelihoods | One of the main livelihoods | A new livelihood |
| The role in village development | Main concern | Stabile | Future expectations |
| Participation in tourism processes | Fishing tourism included in fishery development activities | Activity in land-use issues supporting tourism | Plans in collaboration Action by entrepreneurs |



Participatory planning used in Lokka

| | Consultation | Consensus | Collaboration |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Village development | Regional plan Regional tourism strategy Rural development strategy | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Village plans I and II</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">Action research by Metla?</div> | |
| Land-use issues | Forestry Mining | Village landscape Water resevoir | Village landscape Water reservoir |
| Livelihoods | Fishery Reindeer herding Tourism | Fishery Reindeer herding | Fishery Reindeer herding Tourism |

Conclusions

- In land-uses issues, statements and hearings have been the most common participatory activities
 - All development plans express good will to involve locals effectively
 - According to the action research process, the villagers wish to have more possibilities to collaborate in planning – not only to be heard
 - Participation *in* the village is regarded important
- The village plans represent the most collaborative way of planning
- All action in the village is intertwined:
 - The number of different groups in the village is big but the same persons participate in many groups
 - Hearings and statements regarding one livelihood affect also other livelihoods

Thank you!

