

## **Governability of reindeer husbandry - exploration of a governance approach to social-ecological system (SES) analysis**

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Reindeer husbandry is practiced across the circumpolar North and is commonly considered a “traditional” and adaptive practice. In Sweden reindeer husbandry is an extensive industry, occurring on more than 40% of the Swedish land surface. Based on immemorial land rights reindeer husbandry is a usufructuary right exclusive to the Indigenous Sami. Today escalating levels of conflict and novel challenges, particularly in terms of land-use and climate change, call into question both the adaptability and governability of Swedish reindeer husbandry.

Recognizing the recent proliferation of resilience and other SES-oriented approaches, a key difficulty of SES approaches in general is identifying the actual SES. Here, reindeer husbandry provides a fruitful case for further exploration as social-ecological linkages and actors involved are relatively easy to define and agree upon. This paper departs from Kooiman’s Interactive Governance theory and explores governability dimensions – i.e. the capacity for governance – of reindeer husbandry as a SES. This offers a novelty in that governability approaches have previously been tested mostly on marine resources and systems. Based on previous research, interviews, observations and document analyses, this paper sets out by mapping the historical context and development of reindeer husbandry as a system-to-be-governed and governing system respectively. It then identifies the current mix of governing modes and governing images prevalent in the system, and analyses these in relation to governability and resilience thinking.