

The Fulbright experience

Resilience under uncertain Arctic conditions: Exploring the potential of impact assessment and local knowledge

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Assessing the uncertain



Impact assessment:

- Assessing and mitigating impacts of a proposed activity on the environment and people = input for decision making and ultimately sustainable development
- Planning and impact assessment is about the future which is inherently uncertain

Uncertainty:

- For example design or technology, data, models and calculations, secondary consequences, society's classifications or values, outside trends

Challenges



Qassarsuk, Greenland



Assessment in an uncertain Arctic



The Arctic is a dynamic and developing region:

- Environmental trends
- Social trends
- Economic development activities

How does impact assessment of the proposed economic activities deal with the challenge of uncertainty in the Arctic?

- Is uncertainty acknowledged?
- Is it dealt with?



Itelleg, Greenland



Nuuk, Greenland



The Fulbright exchange experience

- Comparative work across the Arctic
- A chance to go beyond documents
- General understanding of the region
- Networks: Gathering material and contacts



Barrow/Utqiagvik, Alaska



Thank you!

