

Land-use conflicts in Finnmark: Obstacles and opportunities for sustainable pasture management

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Research goals and purpose

The overall goal of the PhD study is to understand and analyse the causes of land-use conflicts in Sámi reindeer herding in Finnmark, Northern Norway. The study is part of the *Dávvgas* project (full title: *The economics and land-use conflicts in Sámi reindeer herding in Finnmark: Exploring the alternative*).

Using a political ecology framework, the project will analyse the cultural, economic and political aspects of the use, conservation and distribution of pastures. The starting point for the research will be past and present land-use conflicts between reindeer herders and other interests, like windmill parks, gold and copper mines, power grid expansion, cabin sites, ski resorts and the military.

In order to explore the complexity of and the nuances within the land-use conflicts in Finnmark, the PhD project will analyse the perspectives of the actors of the conflicts. These actors include reindeer herders, investors in extraction industries and windmill parks, local and national authorities, scientists and, environmentalists. The project will examine local and national decision-making processes in land-use management, and identifying factors that influence access to and control of the contested land and resources in Finnmark.