

Adapting to change - Community Resilience in Northern Norwegian Municipalities

Helene Amundsen

PhD student, CICERO Tromsø

Grete K. Hovelsrud

Nordland Research Institute and CICERO

Framing

- How are the local communities currently developing processes to deal with changes in social, political, economic, environmental and climatic conditions?
- Multiple and combined factors
- Responses to current challenges
- Inform future adaptation



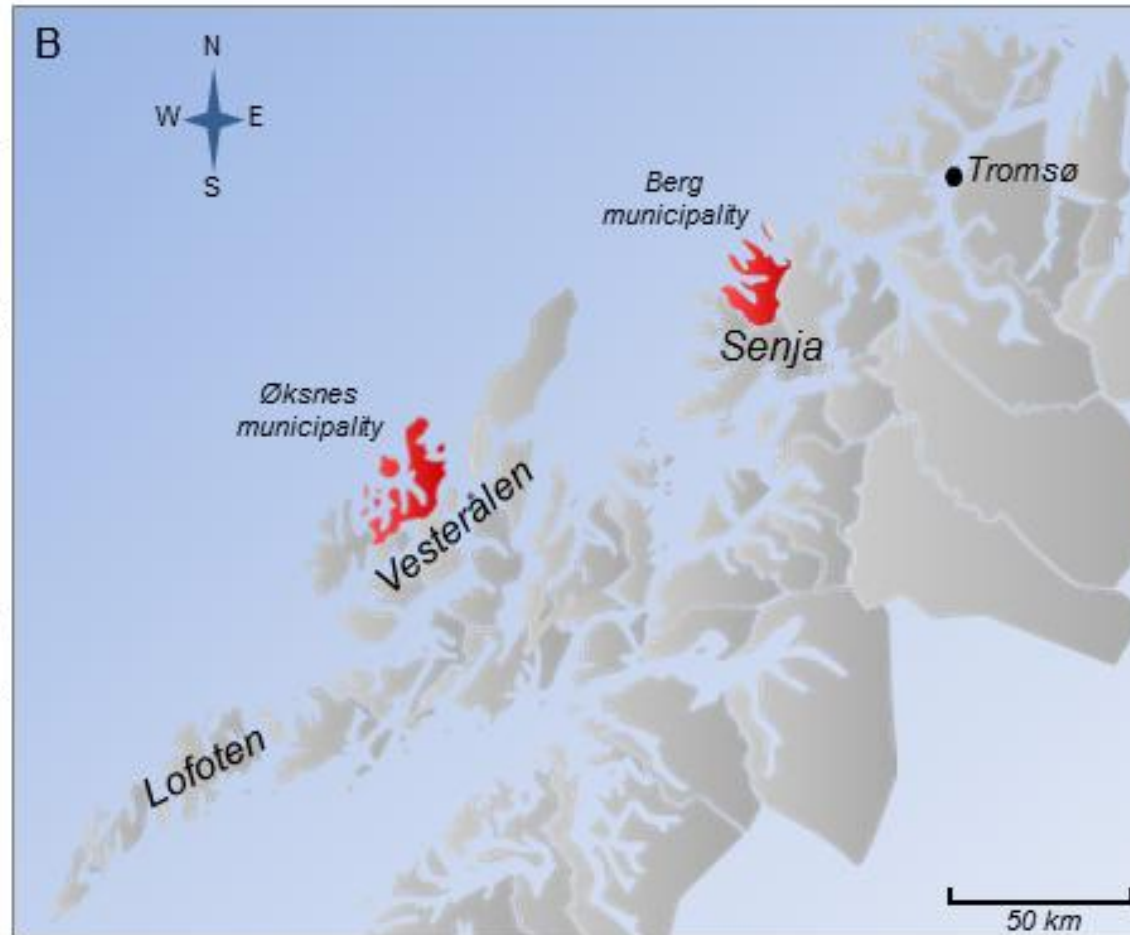
Community resilience is the ability of a community to cope and adjust to stresses to the system caused by social, political and environmental change, and to engage community resources to overcome adversity in response to change.

Adaptation - a continuous process of change in response to a suite of combined challenges, and thus not as solely adapting to climate impacts (current, perceived or future).

Background

- Two municipalities in Northern Norway (Øksnes and Berg)
- Methods: qualitative field work, participant observations, interviews, document analyses, newspaper search
- Knowledge of how communities function, are resilient and can prepare for future challenges

Two municipalities



Characteristics

- Coastal, natural resource based (fisheries, aquaculture, mining, tourism)
- Demographics - outmigration
- Provision of public services



Responding to challenges

- Aims:
 - increase well-being and attractiveness of municipality
 - Stabilise population (and population increase)
 - Create employment
- What
 - Local government and community projects
 - Place branding and marketing
 - Business development
- Climate adaptation not on agenda

Components of community resilience

- People-place connections
- Active agents
- Community resources, and development and engagement of these
- Community networks
- Institutions and services
- Learning



(Buikstra et al, 2010; Magis, 2010; Ross et al, 2010; Amundsen, 2012)

Projected climate change impacts in the region

- Higher temperatures – especially milder winters
- Increase and more intense precipitation
- Sea level rise – storm surges, infrastructure
- Sea temperatures – fish stock
- Slides and avalanches

Climate change perceptions

- Region accustomed to significant variation in weather and exposed to storms
- Climate change not regarded a significant challenge
- ‘We have always adapted’
- But, local processes and challenges related to changes in economic, social, environmental, cultural, political and climatic conditions are linked

Concluding remarks



- Understand future adaptation by investigating current processes to respond to change
- Motivated by factors to date not prevalent in climate change adaptation research
- Learning as important for future adaptation

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Thank you for your attention!
helene.amundsen@cicero.uio.no

