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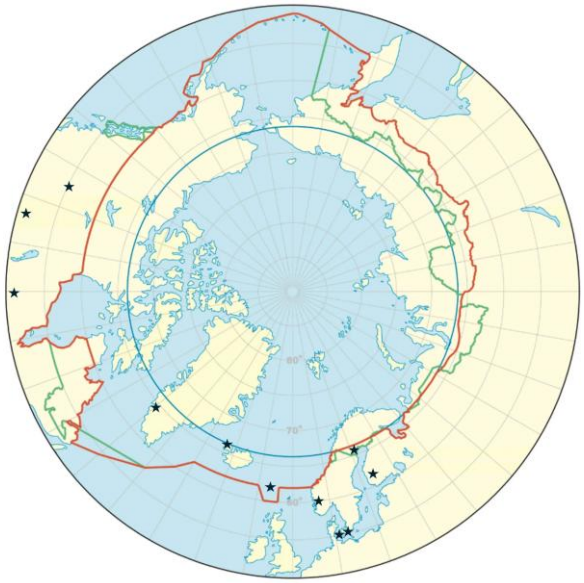
LostToClimate

Addressing Unavoidable Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic

LostToClimate Research Project

The Arctic is experiencing some of the fastest warming on the planet. Despite adaptation measures, these impacts undermine the well-being of Arctic communities, both economically (e.g. , by damaging infrastructure) and non-economically (e.g., by damaging cultural heritage and health).

In most countries, non-economic losses and damages (e.g., cultural heritage, health) escape policy metrics and are thus neglected in public policy. This neglect is unfortunate due to the profound negative impact of non-economic losses and damages on the well-being of present and future generations.



Partner locations
Map compiled by Winfried K. Dallmann. Published with permission from the Norwegian Polar Institute

"We need to make sure younger generations can travel and hunt for food in these changing sea ice conditions."

- Inuit hunter and Knowledge Holder , Pond Inlet, Nunavut Canada

Inuit food sovereignty in Nunavut

Locally harvested foods, known as country foods, have for millennia been central to Inuit culture, identity, and health, and a major source of food for Inuit families. In Nunavut, the impacts of climate change pose challenges for Inuit harvesting economies and food sovereignty goals. Inuit Elders and communities hold critical knowledge and skills through which to advance climate adaptation and decision-making, improve Inuit environmental health, and uphold community wellbeing.

Our collaborative team includes Inuit and non-Inuit researchers and Inuit Knowledge Holders working in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut and responding to urgent concerns from communities to document and mobilize Inuit knowledge to support Inuit food systems.

Our research focuses on key food species of cultural and nutritional importance to Inuit communities: marine mammals such as seals and whales, land mammals such as caribou, and migratory birds including geese. Each species is a valued food source and each, in its own way, tells a story of climate change risk, adaptation, and Inuit-led responses.

In the project, we will answer three research questions:

- How are cultural, non-economic impacts of climate change being defined by Inuit?
- What challenges does climate change pose for Inuit harvesting, environmental & human health and well-being?
- How can research collaborations advance Inuit-driven climate research, policymaking, and food sovereignty?

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