The Relationship of the Social Economy to Community Development and Park Creation: A Case Study in Lutsel K’e, Northwest Territories

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Context: Lutsel K’e

7000BC - First Evidence of Humans
1770 - European Contact
1800+ - Trapping and Dog Teams
1850+ - Priests and Steamboats
1870+ - Epidemics
1880 - 1900 - Oil, Minerals, Gold Rush
1900 - Signing of Treaty 8
1902 - Fort Resolution Boarding School Opens
1925 - Hudson Bay Opens Trading Post
1927 - Thelon & RCMP
1954 - Homes Moved to Current Site
1960 - School Built
1970s - Introduction of Snowmobiles
1990s - Diamonds and Uranium

(Source: Griffiths, 2006)
Context: Protected Areas

- 1922 - Wood Buffalo Park Formed
- 1927 - Thelon Game Sanctuary Formed
- 1969 - Parks Canada Officials come to Lutsel K’e (Griffiths, 1987)
- 1969 - Brotherhood Formed - Dene Nation (Griffiths, 1987)
- 1971 - Initial Land Withdrawal
- 1971-2001 - Ongoing Talks and Negotiations - “Pack up your maps…”
- 2001 - Ready to Talk (Barrett, 2003)
- 2006 - MOU Signed (MOU, 2006)
- 2007 - Further Land Withdrawals (Parks Canada, 2007)
- Currently - Feasibility Studies, MERA and Consultations
Context: Current Status of Proposed National Park

(http://www.pc.gc.ca/agen/nt1_E.asp)
Consideration: Potential Benefits and Possible Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Benefits</th>
<th>Possible Consequences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Preservation of Local Eco-Systems</td>
<td>➢ Lack of Consultation</td>
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<td>➢ Conservation for Future Generations</td>
<td>➢ Marginalization from Decision Making</td>
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<td>➢ Economic Benefits</td>
<td>➢ Negative Resident-Manager Relations</td>
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<td>➢ Jobs in Tourism and Park</td>
<td>➢ Displacement of Traditional/Historical Values</td>
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<td>➢ Increase in Tourism/Eco-Tourism</td>
<td>➢ Loss of Opportunity to Access Resources</td>
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<td>• Solidification of Cultural Identity</td>
<td>➢ Imposition of New Regulations</td>
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<td>➢ Infrastructure in Local Communities</td>
<td>➢ Loss of Jobs from Development</td>
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<td>➢ Tourism Can Have Negative Impacts</td>
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<td>➢ Jobs not Filled Locally</td>
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Consideration: Accountability to Community in Conservation and Development

The Most Desirable Outcome: Symbiotic (Win-Win-Win) Relationship between Park, Community and Development (Nepal, 2000):

Success of conservation depends on community support (Alexander, 2000; Vainio-Mattila, 2003)
Clarification: Role of the Social Economy

(Kay, 2005)
Project Goals

1) To examine potential social and economic benefits for Lutsel K’e related to the establishment of the park

2) To examine community capacity building that will maximize benefit

3) To clarify the role of the social economy in facilitating development relating to conservation
Action Research

1. Research in Indigenous Context
   • Research “with” not “on”
   • CREE Philosophy (Lickers et al., 1995)

2. Includes a whole range of approaches and practices based in different paradigms.
   • Focused on improving society and quality of life
   • Participative
   • Grounded in Experience
   • Action Oriented (Reason & Bradbury, 2001)

3. Various studies have applied action research methodologies in Lutsel K’e (Parlee, Manseau & LDFN, 2005; Ellis, 2003)
Research Design: Key Features

1) Collaborative Design Process
   - To ensure research meets community needs and process is contextually appropriate.

2) Review of Meeting Minutes
   - Examine community hopes and possible directions
   - Look for gaps

3) Flexible Unstructured Interviews with Community
   - Ensure accuracy of vision and direction
   - Fill in gaps in understanding
   - Open-ended ethonographic (in-depth) interviews (Fontana & Frey, 2003)
   - Conducted in the field - Informal, Theme Based
   - Recorded when possible - Supported with field notes

4) Formal Interviews with Externals
   - From different backgrounds, knowledge areas.
   - Open-Ended Questioning
   - Recorded

5) Data Analysis
Preliminary Analysis: Community Development

Perceived and Desired Benefits of Park

- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Social
- Cultural
- Economic
- Health
- Educational
- Aesthetic
- Political
Preliminary Analysis: Capacity Building

- Focusing on Strengths - Addressing Barriers

- Importance of Addressing Capacity at Individual (Training), Organizational (Community Supports, Policy, Programs), and Institutional (Agreements, IBA, Policy) Levels

- Identification and Use of Available Assets and Resources
Preliminary Analysis: Social Economy

A. Roles of Current Social Economy Organizations

- Coop
  - Capitalize on Tourism
  - Build Hotel in Community (Inns North)

- Denesoline Development Corporation
  - Develop Arms Length Tourism Body
  - Capacity Building for Tourism and Business Dev.
  - Capitalize on Park Contracts

- Thebacha Business Services (Community Futures)
  - Support Business Development
  - Source of Funding
Preliminary Analysis: Social Economy

B. Community Economic Development

- Significant Local Interest in Business Development
  - Catering to Tourists and Locals
  - To Capitalize on Park-Related Contracts
  - Lack of Community Supports
  - Confusion About Who is Responsible for CED

- Denesoline Development Corporation
  - Focused Outside Community
  - Mandate Moving Away from Supporting Local CED

- Thebacha Business Services
  - Limited Resources

- Room for Growth
Preliminary Analysis: Social Economy

The Social Economy and Tourism

- Support for Tourism Dev. Needed In Community
  - CED - Room for Growth
  - Cooperative Body - Potentially More Suited
  - Extensive Capacity Building Needed

- Potential for Tourism to Support Culture
  - Land Based Way-Of-Life
  - Integration with Cultural Activities and Events
  - Cultural Revitalization and Documentation
  - Development of Intercultural Understanding
  - Provides Rationale for Youth to Learn
Preliminary Analysis: Social Economy

C. Other Representations of the Social Economy

- Parks Working Group
  - Research and Advocacy
  - Integrating Community Social and Economic Development with Park Creation
  - Supporting Local Capacity Building

- ENGOs
  - Embracing Local Social Mandate
  - Filling Gaps in Funding to Support Local Capacity Building

- Conservation as Social and Economic Endeavor
- Community Elders as Social Economy?
Value of Research


2. Social Economy Organizations - Examination of role in community development related to conservation and tourism.

3. Parks Canada - Guide policies and processes for consideration of community capacity building and development.
Funding Bodies

- Social Economy Network of Northern Canada (SERNNOCA)
- Northern Scientific Training Program
- Aurora Research Institute Fellowship and Assistantship
- Parks Canada
Questions?