
Tero Mustonen and Local Coordination Team¹, Snowchange Cooperative
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¹ Members of the HOC and Eastern Sámi coordinators in Lovozero
1. Introduction

Snowchange Co-op, together with the Lovozero's Center for Development of Leisure and Culture - HOC, organized new sets of workshops in December and January, devoted to the dissemination of the Ponoi river 2006-2015 project posters, titled ‘Flow of Life’. The purpose was to present the main results of the project to the general public.

All in all the following events were organized:

21.12.2014 – Opening of the posters exhibition "Flow of Life - the River Ponoi" (participants discussed what they learned from the posters at the round-table discussion) in remote Krasnoshchelie village along the Ponoi River.

21.12.2014 - Opening of the posters exhibition "Flow of Life" in Lovozero, municipal center, the "Sámi capital of Kola Peninsula".

30.12.2014, 04.01.2015, 08.01.2015 – Exhibition was shown to groups of tourists from Murmansk, traveling by snowmobile to Krasnoshchelie.

29.01.2015 – Educational program for children "Journey by the River Ponoi" (in Lovozero's HOC)

12.02.2015 – Round table "Flow of Life - the River Ponoi" in Lovozero. The residents of Krasnoshchelie and Kanevka attended the meeting.

Overall, in the workshops, the following topics were discussed:

- To inform general public about Snowchange Cooperative;
- To inform residents about the processes occurring in the catchment area of Ponoi according to posters materials;
- To highlight to the participants, who attended the meetings of Lovozero, Krasnoshelie, Kanevka and Sosnovka of the importance of personal participation and care in future of the river Ponoi.

2. Workshop with Children in Lovozero, 29th January 2015

On January 29th, 2015 the poster materials were discussed together with a total of nine children in Lovozero HOC.

*Children learning about the Ponoi River at HOC.  
Photo: Snowchange, 2015*
Then the children had a chance to learn and contribute to the biodiversity ‘mapping’ of the catchment area. Photo: Snowchange, 2015

The result was a rich tapestry of human settlements along the Poni and animals, fish, birds, including the reindeer, burbot, Atlantic salmon, spruce trees, capercaillie and other local species.
Photo: Snowchange, 2015
The ‘map’ was ready. Photo: Snowchange, 2015

3. The Workshops in the Remote Wilderness Villages of Ponoi

A local resident reviewing the posters in remote wilderness village of Kanevka. Photo: Snowchange, 2015
The posters provided an overview of the main themes of the longstanding research by Snowchange and provided results of the 2006-2015 work, which is very important for ordinary villagers. During the community workshops the posters became the main source of information and discussions.

Tourists at remote wilderness village of Kanevka.
Photo: Snowchange, 2015

Poster exhibitions were held in the Lovozero’s Center for Development of Leisure and Culture - HOC, the Ethno-cultural center of Krasnoshchelie and HOC's village club in Kanevka.

Local boys studying the posters in the remote wilderness village of Krasnochelye.
Photo: Snowchange, 2015
A very important theme that emerged was that the residents of the villages could understand, why they were interviewed by Snowchange in previous years\(^3\), the significance of the research and that their voices are heard and considered important.

\(^3\) All research is conducted according to standard Indigenous and social science methods and results taken back to the interviewed people in Snowchange work. However, people who were spoken to as far back as in 2006 could now see the long history of the project and their participation contributing to it.
4. Workshop in the Regional Center, Lovozero – Return to Ponoï?

At the round table, which took place on February 12th, 2015 residents of Lovozero, Krasnoshchelie and Kanevka took part, including Mr. Nikolay Ivanovitch Kurzenev - the head of the Lovozero village municipal administration.

As one of the conclusions of the conversation, participants considered the Ponoï River to have a sacred status, especially for residents of Krasnoshchelie, Kanevka and former village Ponoï.

Posters exhibition, as well as the results of Snowchange research have been a catalyst of deep feelings and stirred up strong emotions. Round table participants felt free to express their views openly and directly, rejecting fears and concerns.
Main topics of the Lovozero Roundtable included the importance of preservation small villages like Kanevka and Sosnovka. Even the prospect of reviving the village Ponoi, as well as accessibility issues on Ponoi River and river's future were discussed.

Loss of traditional forms of land use such as fishing and reindeer herding in the catchment area of Ponoi River was seen as one of the negative phenomena affecting the life of the river.
Another summer view of the now abandoned village of Ponoi at the extreme Eastern point of Kola Peninsula. Photo: Snowchange, 2015

But words alone are not enough to revive fishing brigades. Along with traditional knowledge people need to know basics of running a modern-time business.

As for tourism - only the development of ecological tourism should be the priority for the river. To solve these issues, authorities at various levels should listen to local people; hear their opinions before taking any decisions.

The participants had noted the importance of Snowchange research work, expressed hope for Snowchange research work would continue.

In Lovozero there’s a community of former residents of Ponoi village, who were resettled in 1969-1977. Many of them often visit their relatives in the villages of Sosnovka, Kanevka, Krasnoshchelie.

Many residents of Krasnoshchelie, upon reaching retirement age, move to live to Lovozero. All of them were concerned with the future of Ponoi River. Many of these people have valuable traditional knowledge for future work.

5. Concluding Thoughts and Future Steps in the Work for Spring and Summer 2015

We plan to continue this work in spring and summer 2015 - due to the seasonal residency of the local inhabitants in Sosnovka, opening of the exhibition and discussions on "Flow of Life - the River Ponoi" is scheduled to take place in March 2015 and again in the summer months.
During summer we plan to organize educational program for children “Journey by the River Ponoi” in Krasnoshelie, Kanevka and Sosnovka.

It is important to work also with the tourists from Murmansk region and to share poster information with them, because they are one of the most effective mechanisms to spread information about the uniqueness of the River Ponoi and the wilderness settlements.

These posters will help to shape respectful attitude to the Ponoï river area and increase the responsibility of the local people for the preservation and development of the river in the future.

Snowchange Co-op expresses utmost thanks to the local coordinators and HOC, as well as all the participants of the December – January 2015 workshops in Kanevka, Krasnochelye and Lovozero.