

Read what ELOKA staff have been doing the past few months!

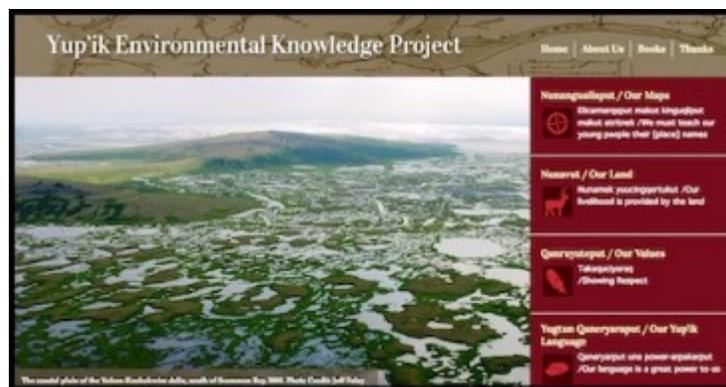
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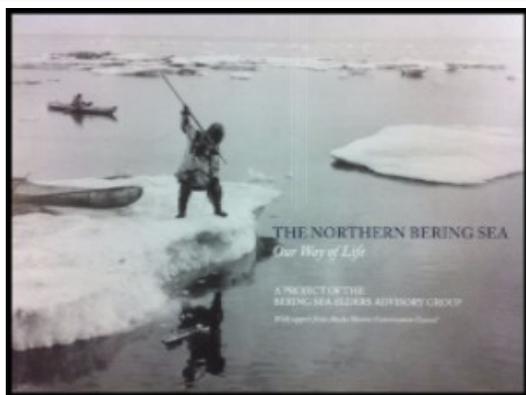
Welcome!

Greetings from the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA)! To better maintain community partnerships, ELOKA has created a digital newsletter to inform partners, collaborators, and friends about what ELOKA is up to. Based on your past connection to the project, we have included you on this mailing list, and hope that you will look forward to our occasional updates.

ELOKA Team has been busy!

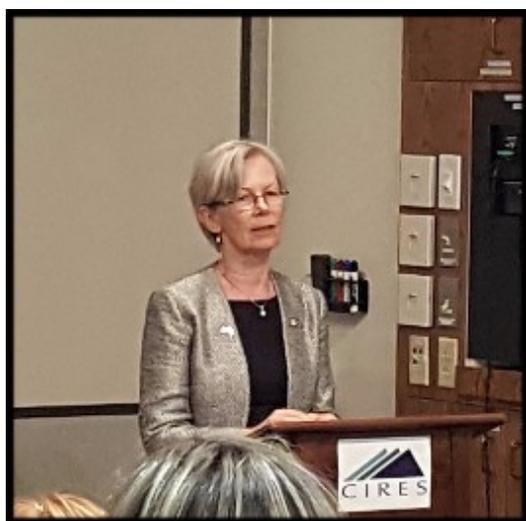


In February of 2017, Calista Education and Culture, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Kuskokwim Campus and ELOKA partnered to convene a three-day workshop in Bethel, AK to explore data sharing ideas and issues and learn about and further develop the Yup'ik Environmental Knowledge Project's digital atlas. The Atlas has been used for several years to share Yup'ik knowledge, place names, and stories. The workshop brought together professionals such as teachers, curriculum specialists, museum personnel and those already involved in knowledge documentation and heritage preservation. ELOKA has partnered with this project to help develop a knowledge, information and data management strategy to ensure sharing in ways that are meaningful to the communities involved. This project is funded in part by the National Science Foundation. New features and media have

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In partnership with the Bering Sea Elders Group, we released an online version of the beautiful book [The Northern Bering Sea: Our Way of Life](#) that describes the ecological importance of the region and how it supports the way of life for the people who live there.

ELOKA Staff gave multiple presentations during the International Data Week (IDW) in September of 2016, speaking to the importance of recognizing Indigenous Knowledge when considering all types of data. Click on the link to [Arctic Horizons](#) for more information. In the image to the right is Peter Pulsifer at the "Indigenous Data and Information Sovereignty" session at the Research Data Alliance Plenary in Denver, CO.



In April 2017, Chris McNeave, Colleen Strawhacker and Heidi McCann had the honor of meeting Finland's Ambassador to the U.S., Kirsti Kauppi, who visited the University of Colorado Boulder campus, our home institution, and discussed the importance of Indigenous Knowledge, education and the [Arctic Council](#). Finland will now chair the Arctic Council for 2017-2019.

Co-PI Colleen Strawhacker visited the [Snowchange](#) team in Russia earlier this year. From this came additional information for the Snowchange website on fisheries in the Lower Kolyma region of Siberia. Siberia, Russia, two Indigenous women prepare freshly caught sturgeon for a meal. Photo credit: Tero Mustonen.



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Collaborating with Greenlandic communities, ELOKA released a prototype application for online community-based monitoring of important animal species in Greenland. The Piniakkanik Sumiiffinni Nalunaarsuineq (PISUNA) project that collects these observations was described at the April 2017 16th United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Moving on to Phase IV

In February of 2017, the third phase of ELOKA came to a successful completion and we have entered the fourth phase of ELOKA under renewed funding. In this new phase, we will continue past efforts and focus new energy on:

- Continuing to foster partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations to promote and enhance self-determination and data and information sovereignty.
- Co-developing education and training materials.
- Enhancing interoperability between information systems and continuing to develop new ways of representing and sharing information.
- Maintaining, updating, and expanding our online applications and services through the ELOKA website.
- Organizing and contributing to community-building activities.



The sun sets behind a boat frame near Utqiagvik, Alaska. Photo credit: Matthew Druckenmiller



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ELOKA is part of the National Snow and Ice Data Center and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. We acknowledge the ongoing support of the National Science Foundation for our continued efforts in facilitating the collection, preservation, exchange, and use of local observations and knowledge of the Arctic.

Our mailing address is:

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