

## Project information

### Project title

Managing Variable Environmental Values

### Year

2017-2018

### Project leader

Ellen Øseth, NPI

Geographical localization of the research project in decimal degrees (max 5 per project, ex. 70,662°N and 23,707°E)

Not relevant

### Participants

Diwakar Poudel, NPI

Per Arneberg, IMR

Dag Vongraven, NPI

Ellen Øseth, NPI

### Flagship

MIKON

### Funding Source

The project is part of a pan-Arctic Belmont Forum project, and hence receives funding from the Norwegian Research Council in addition to MIKON. Throughout the 5-years project period (2015-2019) the total funding is:

NRF: 1,774,000 NOK

NPI: 200,000 NOK

MIKON 2017: 420,000 NOK

MIKON applied for in 2018: 300,000 NOK

## Summary of Results

The main practical aim of the MIKON funding in the project was to enable hiring of a post doc to work on development of methodology and policy instruments for management of variable environmental values. Due to the funding from MIKON, Dr Diwakar Poudel was hired spring 2017 and has started the scientific work.

The initial task is to present a literature review as the first step to develop options and methods for integration of the range of values associated with the environment (both those with a market value and those without) into economic analyses and decision-making processes. The first publications are expected from the project in 2018.

Both Ellen Øseth and Diwakar Poudel have two book chapters in review for the first book of a book series from the pan-Arctic project, expected to be published in 2018.

## Master and PhD-students involved in the project

None, but post doc Diwakar Poudel is hired by the project.

## For the Management

Finding new or adjusted ways of managing variable environmental values is of great relevance for the society in general, hence also for the management. This project is important because the topic is of high relevance for succeeding with integrated ocean management. This is a new scientific area, meaning the work is challenging, groundbreaking and interdisciplinary. It is a typically "high risk – high gain" project. Still, for the different industries, a scientifically correct management of the variable environmental values is important for future development.

In addition, the project has international relevance, given Norway's leading role in managing ocean areas through management plans. For the Fram Centre there is also a relevance in supporting a project with an interdisciplinary approach including the social science perspective on an issue normally viewed mostly from natural science.

## Published Results/Planned Publications

Publications are expected in 2018.

Two book chapters are in review for the book "Governing Arctic Seas: Regional Lessons from the Bering Strait and Barents Sea", planned to be published by Springer in 2018. Diwakar Poudel is one of two authors on the chapter *Economic Dimensions of the Barents Sea Region* and Ellen Øseth is one of two authors on the chapter *Integrated Ocean Management in the Barents Sea*.

Diwakar Poudel is working on a planned literature review in addition to other initiatives for publications in 2018.

## Communicated Results

Diwakar Poudel has given a presentation of the project at the NVP Summer School in Longyearbyen where the theme was The Arctic Ocean and the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ).

## Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The project is international, interdisciplinary and inclusive, and cooperate with other projects where natural. Especially do the project build on methods, products, cooperation and support functions from "the Arctic Options Project" ([www.arcticoptions.org](http://www.arcticoptions.org)). The collaborators from the different countries brings different disciplines to the table, stretching from the physical parameters of sea ice to science diplomacy, social economics and resource management.

## Budget in accordance to results

The budget indeed helped in making it possible to address the theme in a systematic way. The funding from the Fram centre is the additional funding needed to hire a post doc for two years in the project.

## Could results from the project be subject for any commercial utilization

No

## Conclusions

It is too early to draw conclusions in the project, but after the first publications will be out next year we will have more concrete results to report and draw conclusions from.