

**Co - Production of
Knowledge:
Teachings from
the Field**

US-Greenland
Workshop
Nuuk, Greenland
August 27, 2018



“ Science is curiosity
acted upon.”

James Cameron
Film Maker,
Philanthropist, Deep
Sea Explorer



What is the Co-Production of Knowledge?



- A joining of Traditional Knowledge/Indigenous Knowledge/Local Knowledge with Western Science/Contemporary Science/Colonial Science to create new understandings and solutions to challenges facing Arctic communities, wildlife and environments.

Traditional/Indigenous/Local Knowledge & Western Science

- *Traditional Knowledge* is a systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long term experiences and extensive multi-generational observations, lessons and skills. A way of being in the world.
- *Western Science* is a systematic way of identifying, measuring, managing and analyzing a particular problem during a specific point in time using deductive and/or inductive reasoning to identify outcome and/or solution. A way of investigating the world. Needs to be replicated.



A Definition of the “Co-Production of Knowledge”

A process where people *intentionally collaborate on equal terms* to develop a *collective wisdom* for improving the quality of life of families and communities and the natural and built environment in Greenland.



Benefits to Knowledge Co - Production

- Builds capacity
- Reciprocal, Relational, & Respectful
- Creates shared observations and understanding
- Recognizes and honors diversity within communities & scholars
- Generates new adaptations and solutions to current challenges
- Informs decision making that is culturally and ecological relevant to families, communities, wildlife and the environment



A polar bear is walking on a dark, sandy beach. In the background, there is a massive, towering glacier with a blue-tinged top edge. The sky is overcast and grey. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the bear and the glacier.

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Reflections and Discussion