

BOOKLET

RESULTS FROM THE SEMINAR ON LIVING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

GREENLAND (KALAALLIT NUNAAT), 2023

Introduction

The Greenland National Museum & Archives organized a seminar on April 18, 2023, aimed at fostering collaboration among tanners, artisans, designers, event organizers, gallery – and museum curators. The primary focus of this seminar was to deliberate on the objectives pertaining to the use of animal skins, furs, bones, and antlers in various artistic and practical domains, including crafts, sewing, design, and tourism-related production.

Context and Background: The seminar's significance is underscored by its association with the LIVIND project, a collaborative Northern Dimension initiative involving twelve northern European countries, with Kalaallit Nunaat being a prominent participant. Over the course of two years, these stakeholders have actively engaged in cooperative endeavours and have shared their respective projects about intangible cultural heritage. Central to the LIVIND projects is the promotion of sustainable utilisation of living resources, with a particular emphasis on addressing pertinent themes surrounding the responsible use of valuable resources in tourism, education, and traditions. This pamphlet serves as a comprehensive account of the proceedings and insights from the workshop, exclusively addressing these subjects.

Funding and Support: It is essential to acknowledge that the realisation of this seminar and the subsequent publication of this booklet were made possible, in part, by the gracious co-financing provided by the LIVIND pilot project and NAPA (Nordic Institute in Kalaallit Nunaat). Their support further underscores the significance of this initiative and the commitment of relevant stakeholders to preserve and promote living cultural heritage.

The seminar conducted by the Greenland National Museum & Archives proved to be an intellectually stimulating and fruitful endeavour, bringing together diverse professionals and traditional knowledge holders to discuss and deliberate on the sustainable utilisation of living cultural heritage in crafts, sewing and design. The active involvement of the LIVIND project and the support from NAPA demonstrate the dedication of numerous entities to safeguard and enrich the intangible cultural heritage of the region. This booklet stands as a testament to the valuable insights shared during the seminar, and hopefully, that the knowledge disseminated here will inspire further efforts towards the preservation and responsible utilisation of these invaluable resources in various creative and cultural domains.

Participants

Aleqa Hammond, interpreter at the seminar
Anne Mette Olsvig, curator, Qasigiannnguit Museum
ArnajaraK' N. Lyberth, manager at Kittat
Arnatsiaq M. Jessen, seamstress and tanner
Aviâja Rosing Jakobsen, curator, NKA
Aviaq Pipaluk Meye, drum dancer
Evi Kreutzmann, editor at The Board of Education
Fia Krigel, tanner
Hanne Kirkegård, curator, Nuuk Art Museum
Hans Lange, curator, NKA
Ida Kleist, crafter
Inuk Poul Olsen, boat builder
Ivalu Petersen, tanner
Ivínnguak Stork Høegh, leader at The Art School
Joachim Christensen, Administrative Officer, Naalakkersuisut

Johanne Markussen, seamstress and tanner
Kirstine Møller, coordinator for the event, NKA
Kristine Bønløkke Spejlborg, curator, Nuuk Art Museum
Kuka Fleischer, drum dancer
Louise L. Berthelsen, designer
Mona Hammeken, potter
Paninnguaq Pikilak, crafter
Poul-Erik Isaksen, workshop manager, Ajagaq / Illorput
Randi Sørensen Johansen, curator, NKA. Project leader.
Rosannguaq Rossen, Head of Communication, Tourism
Sara Marie L. Berthelsen, seamstress and tanner
Sascha Blidorf, crafter
Søren Würtz, director at NAPA
Terto Ngiviu, cultural related organizer
Vivi Noahsen, moderator at the seminar, NKA

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritage consists expressions, knowledge, stories, and inherited ways of thinking that hold significant cultural value. The term '*heritage*' itself denotes a connection to our ancestors and the past, representing the rich inheritance we receive from our ancestors. Throughout history, experiences and events have evolved into diverse expressions, stories, and artistic creations, shaping unique ways of thinking and perspectives that hold intrinsic value for individuals and communities alike.

The profound impact of cultural heritage on communities cannot be overstated, as it fosters a sense of belonging and collective identity within distinct regions. Often taken for granted as an inherent part of daily life, cultural heritage imbues souls with varying degrees of meaning, grounding us in the collective narratives that define cultures.

In the context of utilising living resources, traditional craftsmanship methods and knowledge, such as tanning, sculpture, and design, have been passed down through generations, making use of the readily available resources of their time. These practices have become an integral part of the cultural heritage of various communities, forming an enduring link between the past and the present.

As cultural heritages traverse through generations and among different communities, they continuously evolve and gain new significance as they intersect with nature and adapt to the prevailing societal discourse. This adaptability and interconnectedness exemplify the living and dynamic nature of cultural heritage.

In contemporary times, there are still individuals who carry forth the legacy of these cultural heritages, ensuring that traditional practices, wisdom, and artistic expressions remain relevant and continue to enrich the cultural fabric of society.

It is vital to recognise the significance of sustainable utilisation when dealing with these valuable resources embedded in intangible cultural heritage. Safeguarding and responsibly managing these practices and knowledge not only safeguard the richness of shared history but also hold the potential to contribute to sustainable development and cultural diversity.

As we move forward, it is crucial to strike a delicate balance between honouring the heritage of the past and embracing innovation and evolution. By doing so, we can ensure the continued relevance and vitality of these invaluable intangible cultural assets for generations to come. This, in turn, strengthens our collective appreciation for cultural heritage, fostering an enduring legacy that transcends time and binds us together as a global community enriched by our diverse traditions and shared humanity.

Living Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030s)

The United Nations (UN) has outlined a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

17 global goals set ambitious targets to be achieved by the year 2030, encompassing a wide range of critical areas, such as gender equality, human rights, access to education, social harmony, legal security, sustainable development, responsible resource utilisation, and the preservation of cultural diversity. Naalakkersuisut (the Government of Greenland) are committed to actively participating in the pursuit of these global goals.

While the official announcement from Naalakkersuisut does not explicitly specify objectives for intangible cultural heritage, it is important to recognize that living cultural heritage aligns inherently with the broader goals. By supporting and nurturing living cultural heritage, we contribute to the safeguarding and continuity of unique cultural expressions, traditional knowledge, and community practices, which are essential components of cultural diversity and sustainable development.

When viewed holistically, the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for addressing various interconnected aspects of society and the environment. By promoting the goals for living cultural heritage, we lay the groundwork for responsible economic practices, fostering harmonious relationships within and between communities, and nurturing an environment that sustains the well-being of current and future generations.

The initiatives and projects launched in 2021 are instrumental in propelling us forward on this journey towards sustainable development. As we strive to meet the SDGs, we recognise the vital role that living cultural heritage plays in shaping our identities, enriching our societies, and fostering a sense of belonging and continuity.



In embracing the UN's call for sustainable development, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of cultural heritage with other aspects of development, including social progress, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity. By upholding and supporting living cultural heritage, we actively contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for Kalaallit Nunaat and its people.

As we work towards achieving the SDGs, it is crucial to acknowledge the significance of intangible cultural heritage and integrate its preservation and promotion into the broader sustainable development agenda. By doing so, we embrace the power of culture as a driving force for positive change, fostering a more equitable, prosperous, and culturally diverse world for generations to come.

[Download SDG 2030 Greenland](#)

Presentations

The following section presents a collection of presentations delivered after seminar. While not all presentations from the workshop are included in this compilation, it provides valuable insights into various aspects of living cultural heritage and its responsible utilisation.

The titles of the presentations are as follows:

Living Cultural Heritage

This presentation explores the significance of living cultural heritage, encompassing expressions, knowledge, stories, and inherited ways of thinking with profound cultural values. The role of cultural heritage in fostering a sense of belonging and community identity is discussed, emphasising the enduring link between past and present. *Key speakers: Randi Sørensen Johansen, NKA. Anne Mette Olsvig, Qasigiannnguit museum.*

Resource Utilisation Work

In this presentation, the focus is on traditional craftsmanship methods and knowledge related to resource utilisation, particularly in the context of animal gut, bones, and antlers. The workshop participants delve into the sustainable practices that have been passed down through generations, promoting responsible resource management. *Key speakers: Aviåja Rosing Jakobsen, NKA. Hans Lange, NKA.*

What Has Been Created through Utilisation

This presentation sheds light on the diverse creations that have emerged through the utilisation of living cultural heritage. From exquisite sculptures to innovative designs, the rich artistic heritage of Kalaallit Nunaat and its contributions to cultural expression and identity are showcased. *Key speakers: Sara Marie Berthelsen, Kittat. Poul Erik Isaksen, Ajagaq.*

Responsible Tourism

The presentation on responsible tourism explores the intersection of cultural heritage and the tourism industry. Emphasis is placed on promoting sustainable and culturally respectful tourism practices that celebrate and protect the intangible cultural heritage of the region. *Key speaker: Rosannguaq Rossen, Visit Greenland.*

Good Business

This presentation delves into the economic aspects of living cultural heritage, highlighting how responsible business practices can be harnessed to support and promote traditional crafts, designs, and cultural expressions. The potential for sustainable development and economic growth through the preservation of cultural heritage is discussed. As well as sustainable use of animal species. *Key speakers: Louise Berthelsen, Nuuk Couture. Joachim Christensen, Government of Greenland.*

OBS: Please note that the presentation of tanning in Kalaallit Nunaat, carvings, and design provided in this booklet does not offer a comprehensive view of the entirety of these practices. The presentations compiled here serve as a glimpse into the broader discussions and insights shared during the seminar. In conclusion, this compilation of presentations serves as a valuable resource for understanding the multifaceted aspects of living cultural heritage and its responsible utilisation. The workshop participants' collective efforts in promoting sustainable practices, preserving cultural diversity, and fostering meaningful connections with heritage are indicative of the commitment to achieving global goals for sustainable development. It is hoped that the knowledge shared in this booklet will inspire further collaboration and action towards safeguarding and celebrating the invaluable living cultural heritage of Kalaallit Nunaat.

Exhibition of Collections: Preserving Tangible and Intangible Heritage

Museums and galleries play a pivotal role in preserving and exhibiting collections that offer present-day individuals a unique opportunity to delve into cultural artistic and practical achievements that serve as a wellspring of inspiration and knowledge.

These tangible collections encompass tools, clothing, designs, handicrafts, and other artifacts that provide insights into the development of society throughout history. Beyond their material significance, these collections have acquired intangible value as they form profound connections to the essence of the human spirit. Rooted in traditions, the land, and the soul, they serve as powerful reminders of shared cultural heritage.

An exemplary instance is the qajaq, which serves as both a tangible object and a repository of intangible knowledge. While the qajaq itself can be physically observed, the knowledge of how to construct one resides within the minds of skilled artisans. The design of the qajaq's frame, ingeniously designed to seamless gliding through water and wind, exemplifies the intimate relationship between the environment and human ingenuity. Each qajaq, custom-made for its owner, incorporates essential features like a backrest and crossbar for the feet, ensuring comfort and seaworthiness during long hours at sea. Within the qajaq's frame, amulets were often found, representing the fusion of material culture with spiritual beliefs. Amulets, imbued with various meanings such as strength, protection from evil, longevity, and success in hunting, demonstrate the profound connection between the material and the spiritual world.

Furthermore, the act of imbuing collections with a sense of soul transcends the individual and fosters a sense of community. It underscores the intrinsic value of living together as a cohesive society, united by shared practices, beliefs, and cultural expressions. The appreciation and value attributed to possessions such as clothing, bags, jewellery, and other intricately designed items emphasise the meticulous craftsmanship of skilled artisans.

Through the exhibition of these tangible and intangible collections, museums and galleries create vital spaces for cultural appreciation and understanding. They facilitate a dialogue between past and present, encouraging present-day individuals to draw inspiration from the wisdom and creativity of their ancestors. By preserving and showcasing these collections, we honour our heritage and celebrate the diverse tapestry of human culture, nurturing a profound sense of connection with our past and instilling a collective responsibility to safeguard and pass on this rich legacy to future generations.

The Significance of Tannery in Arctic Countries and its Role in Cultural Heritage

In high Arctic countries, knowledge of tannery holds paramount importance, as it enables the people to make the most of available resources, particularly animal skins, which are widely utilised in various aspects of daily life. While clothing remains a primary use, these versatile skins find applications in crafting hunting tools, home goods, and components of vessels, contributing to the sustenance of Arctic communities.

Understanding the diverse uses of different animal skins and mastering effective tanning methods is crucial for the successful adaptation of tools and materials to the Arctic way of life. Each type of skin requires specific treatment and customisation, depending on its intended purpose, whether it be for clothing, resilience in sailing, ceremonial and festive attire, or functionality in hunting gear and household items. This attention to detail ensures that the skins are optimally tailored to their specific applications, highlighting the intricate relationship between cultural practices and resource utilisation.

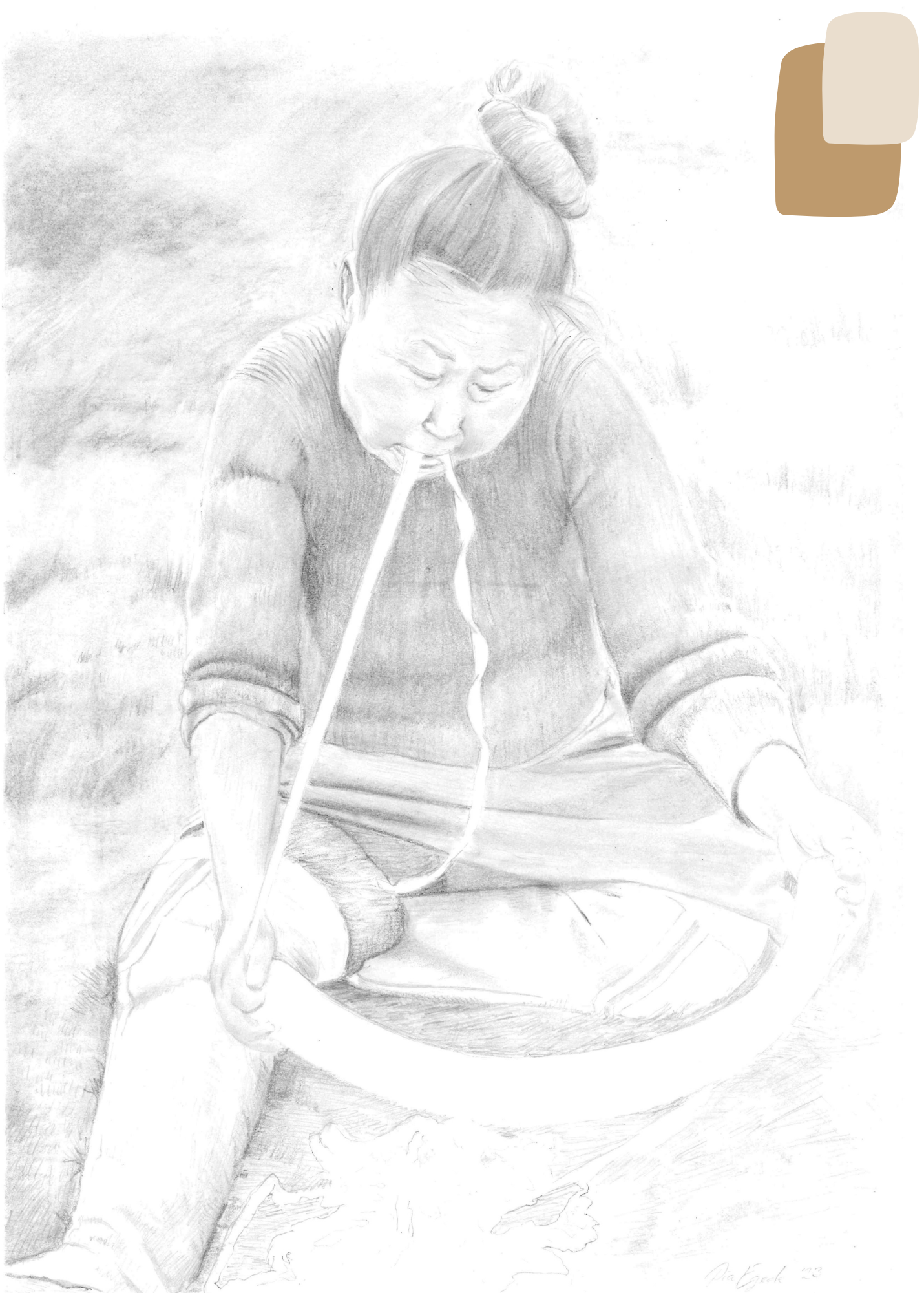
Tanning itself is a skilled art that extends beyond the initial process. Ongoing treatment and care of the tanned skins are essential for their continued use. As these skins are integrated into various aspects of daily life, maintaining their durability and quality is vital to preserving the cultural heritage they represent.

During the seminar, several key aspects of tannery were emphasised:

Initiatives for Tanning: Sensible and sustainable use of skins necessitates the dedication of volunteers' time and efforts to tanning processes. Utilising existing tanneries, opening them up for community involvement, and expanding their capacity can foster the development of tanning skills and practices.

Establishing Tannery Workshops/Centers: A notable concern in Kalaallit Nunaat is the lack of tanneries specialised in processing different types of skins. By establishing workshops or centers with expertise in various tanning methods, employment opportunities can be created, and a sustainable development approach for preserving cultural heritage can be achieved.

In conclusion, tannery holds significant cultural and practical value in Arctic countries, where traditional knowledge of utilising animal skins is deeply intertwined with their way of life. Through conscientious and adaptive tanning practices, these communities can continue to celebrate their heritage, maintain valuable connections with nature, and foster sustainable development for future generations. Embracing and supporting the art of tannery ensures the preservation of this vital cultural legacy and serves as a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of Arctic peoples.



Handicraft Using Fish Skin: Exploring Possibilities for Sustainable Utilisation

In Kalaallit Nunaat, fish skin tanning and softening for handicraft purposes is not yet widely practiced. However, there are numerous opportunities to harness fish skin's potential in creating clothing, furniture, and other similar items, presenting a promising avenue for sustainable utilisation.

While the acquisition of fish skin presents good opportunities, it is essential to transform it into usable supplies to fully realize its potential. Rather than solely focusing on exporting fish, exploring the application of fish skin to produce materials for various items can significantly expand its utility and value.

Indeed, fish skin offers excellent possibilities for sustainable utilisation. Although immediate may not be achievable, with time and careful implementation, it can be attained. This principle extends to tanning on a larger scale, whereby the preservation and processing of fish skin can be effectively managed to support environmentally friendly practices.

Tanning fish skin results in a transformative process where the skin, once cleaned of scales and tanned, loses its original colour. This, however, opens a world of creative possibilities, as the now neutral-toned skin can be used for diverse purposes. Drawing inspiration from traditional patterns and designs, artisans can create unique and culturally resonant items.

In the context of handicrafts, craftsmen have begun exploring the use of fish skin in their creations. The applications of fish skin have extended to crafting earrings, bags, clothing, shoes, art, furniture, etc. This innovation in handicraft techniques not only contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage but also offers new avenues for artistic expression and economic opportunities for businesses.

Despite the potential, it is worth noting that limitations exist in fully capitalising on fish skin utilisation. The availability of resources, infrastructure, and expertise may pose challenges to further expanding its application. However, with dedication and support, efforts to promote the use of fish skin in handicrafts can contribute to sustainable development and the preservation of traditional practices. As we move forward, it is crucial to foster an enabling environment that nurtures creativity, resourcefulness, and a commitment to sustainable practices, allowing fish skin to play a meaningful role in Kalaallit Nunaat's cultural and economic landscape.

The Versatile Use of Seal Intestine Skin: A Sustainable Resource

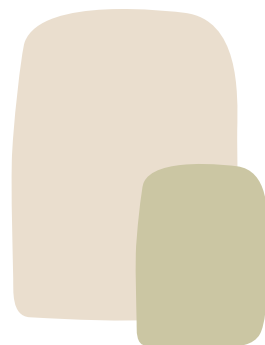
Throughout history, Inuit have extensively utilised seal intestine, or gut skin, for various purposes, recognising its unique properties and adaptability in wet environments. This remarkable material has been ingeniously employed to craft items such as parkas, drum skins, windows, and bags, exemplifying sensible resource utilisation.

Seal intestine skin offers a compelling solution when seeking sustainable alternatives. By drawing inspiration from the past uses of this material, it becomes possible to expand production to a greater extent. Given that seals are wild animals, establishing collection points for intestine skins can pave the way for projects involving craftsmen, artists, schools, and other stakeholders. Embracing this resource can contribute not only to cultural preservation but also to economic development and artistic creativity.

The treatment of seal intestine skin follows a meticulous process. To obtain the intestine skin, the outer membrane is carefully removed, and the inner skin is rinsed in water. The end is securely tied, and the intestine is inflated before being hung to dry overnight. Once dried, the skin is cut to the desired size and adapted for its intended use, allowing it to be easily stored for future projects. Its malleable nature makes it highly workable, enhancing its appeal for craftsmanship and artistry. One of the remarkable features of seal intestine skin is its inherent waterproof properties. Dried intestine skin is employed in crafting anoraks for sailing, bags, and skin pouches, effectively protecting their contents from moisture. To ensure durability, it is necessary to slightly moisten the seams during the sewing process, preventing potential tearing and enhancing the overall water resistance of the final product.

The use of seal intestine skin not only connects back to the wisdom of our ancestors but also represents a tangible step towards sustainable resource management. By recognising the potential of this versatile material and establishing channels for its responsible collection and utilisation, we can foster a harmonious relationship with nature and honour the cultural heritage deeply rooted in our connection with the environment.

In conclusion, the practice of utilising seal intestine skin showcases the ingenuity of our ancestors in making the most of available resources. As we look to the future, embracing this traditional material in modern craftsmanship and artistic endeavors offers exciting prospects for sustainable development and cultural continuity. By cherishing and promoting the use of seal intestine skin, we celebrate our shared heritage and pave the way for a more environmentally conscious and culturally vibrant tomorrow.



Working with Seal Skin: Durable, Versatile, and Sustainable

Seal skin has been a valuable resource for Arctic communities, serving a multitude of purposes, including clothing, qajaq and umiaq skins, bags, kamiks, and various other products. Its durability and waterproof properties make it especially suitable for items used in wet environments. Unlike land animal skins, seal skin possesses a thicker outer layer, allowing it to last for many years without wearing out and even enabling its recycling for other means.

Recognising the potential of seal skin as a sustainable product opens exciting opportunities for responsible utilisation. Currently, some recreational hunters discard the skin when they catch a seal. However, establishing a system to collect and distribute the skin to people interested in using it for handicrafts, sewing, and tanning can give rise to various projects. The versatility of seal skin ensures a wide range of potential applications, attracting interest from individuals seeking this unique material for their creations.

The treatment of seal skin is a crucial process that requires careful preparation and adaptation for its intended use. The backside of the skin is cleaned of fat residues, and it is carefully scraped to achieve the desired thickness. Depending on the specific application, additional treatments such as softening, bleaching, or dyeing the skin, cutting skin to embroidery, and more may be employed, each requiring specialised tools and methods.

Products made from seal skin have a consistent demand among both residents and tourists. The white, frost-bleached seal skin, often used in festive attire, particularly captures popular attention. This sustained interest in seal skin products underscores the enduring value and cultural significance of this material in the Arctic communities.

In conclusion, working with seal skin represents a testament to the resourcefulness and adaptability of Arctic cultures, harnessing this durable and versatile material for various practical and artistic purposes. By implementing sustainable practices, such as collecting and utilising seal skin that might otherwise be discarded, we can foster economic opportunities, promote traditional craftsmanship, and preserve cultural heritage. Embracing the use of seal skin not only celebrates the wisdom of ancestors but also ensures that their legacy continues to thrive, processing names continue to be used, and captivating both local communities and visitors with the beauty and resilience of this remarkable material.

Making Paint from Seal Blubber: A Traditional and Sustainable Approach

Seal blubber has been a significant resource for Arctic communities, serving not only as a source of heat and light, as a delicacy but also as a key component in traditional paint-making. In Kalaallit Nunaat, blubber was used to create paint for the exterior of houses, making it an integral part of sustainable creation.

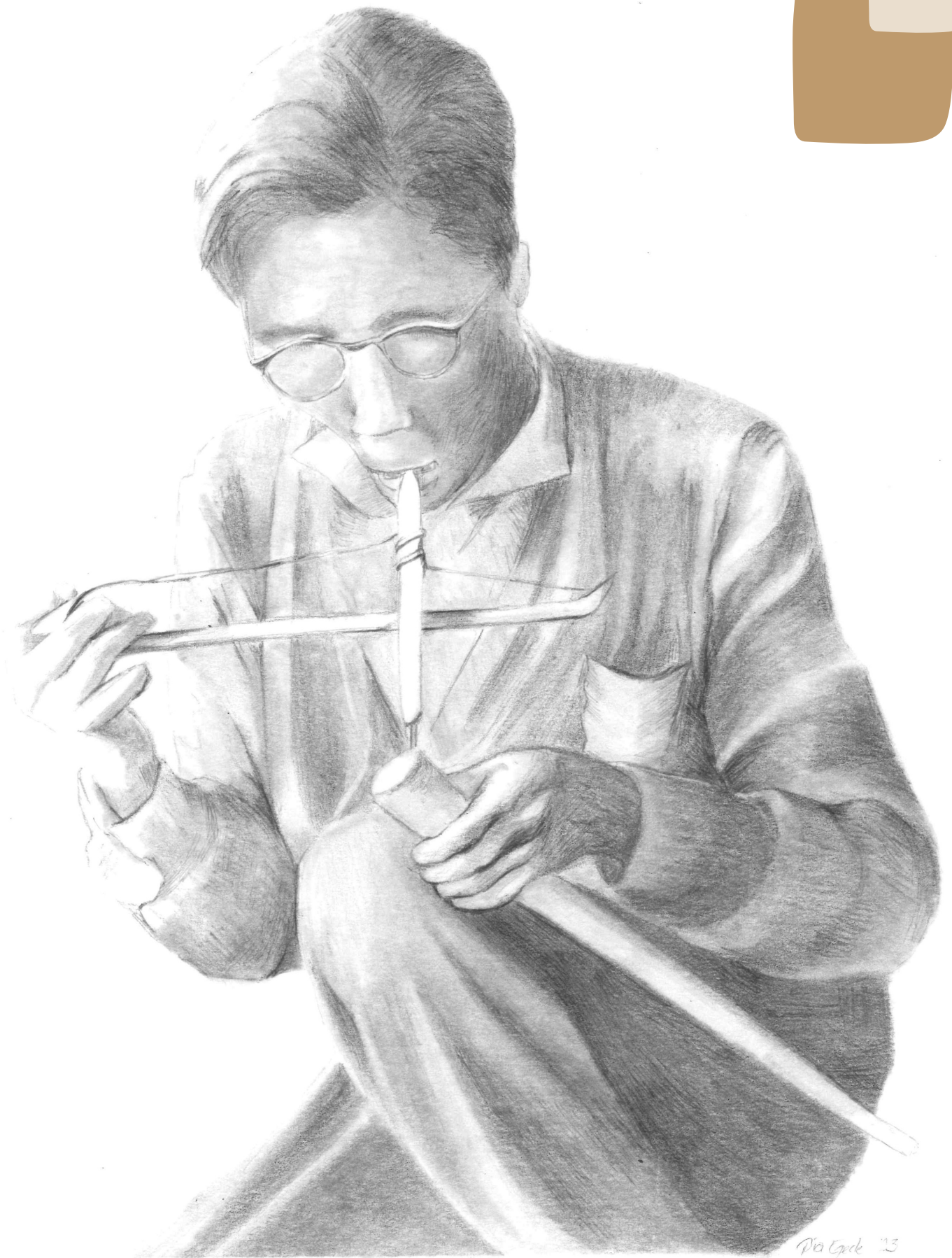
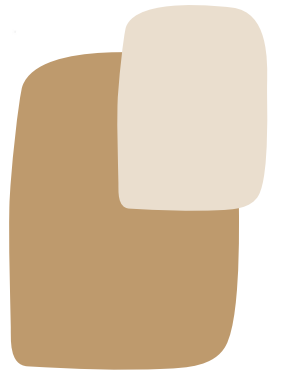
The availability of seal blubber offers a good supply for paint-making, presenting an opportunity to draw inspiration from traditional methods while striving for sustainability and well-being. By examining old techniques of making paint, we can craft a paint mixture that embodies the wisdom of ancestors and aligns with our contemporary values. The process of making paint from blubber is relatively straightforward. Thin slices of blubber are boiled down to extract oil, which serves as the primary component. Crushed resin is then stirred into the oil, gently heating the mixture to achieve the desired thickness for the paint. Once the desired consistency is achieved, crushed dry pigment, or crushed stones of the desired colour are added, completing the paint mixture. Notably, this paint-making process is environmentally friendly and poses no harm to health. The addition of resin neutralises the smell of the blubber, ensuring a more pleasant application process.

The resulting paint, when applied to the exterior of wooden houses, offers unique properties that are both practical and environmentally conscious. It makes the wood dense while allowing it to breathe, contributing to the preservation of the building's structure.

Embracing the traditional method of making paint from seal blubber connects us with cultural heritage and serves as a reminder of the resourcefulness and ingenuity of ancestors. Moreover, this approach aligns with contemporary efforts to promote sustainable practices and to cherish the rich cultural traditions that have shaped Arctic communities for generations.



Watch the tutorial



Carvings:

Embodying Art, Culture, and Living Heritage

The art of carvers in Kalaallit Nunaat transcends mere aesthetics; it encompasses a profound connection to ancestral traditions and a deep reverence for nature. Ancestors practiced the art of decoration on their hunting tools, believing that it brought joy to the owner, attracted animals, enhanced hunting skills, and ensured a secure livelihood. Carvings in diverse forms serve as a tangible link between humans and the spirits of nature, reflecting a spiritual and cultural significance that endures to this day.

Crafters in Kalaallit Nunaat draw inspiration from the rich Inuit legends, infusing their artworks with stories and symbolism. Notably, the figurines known as Tupilaks hold particular significance, representing a respect for and connection to the spirits. Often the figures are perceived as amulets meant to protect their owners from evil intentions, or vice versa. The legends and tales of their appearance appeal to the soul a richness in the imagery of the carvings.

The materials used in carvings remain deeply rooted in tradition; Soapstone, bones, antlers, and driftwood, the same materials used by ancestors, continue to be the medium of choice for crafters, with modernised tools. Materials are skillfully transformed into a diverse array of artworks, including amulets, rings, earrings, necklaces, and more. The finished products attract both residents and tourists alike, demonstrating the enduring appeal of Kalaallit craftsmanship.

Responsible use of bones in crafts is a fundamental aspect of cultural values. Animal bones, including those of hunted prey, horns, antlers, and teeth, are utilised with great care and respect. These materials hold deep cultural significance and are transformed into pieces of art that honour the connection between humans and the natural world. To ensure responsible management of resources, the animals are registered under supervision. This means, among others, that approval is required to bring products made from parts of endangered species into and out of the country, and this regulation also applies to tourists. It is clear that these products are treated with a sense of responsibility and reverence for nature.

While crafters search for suitable materials for their artworks, the art of sculpture remains an integral part of Kalaallit culture, passed down through generations. Encouraging and supporting this traditional art form is essential, as it holds great potential for further creative expression and cultural continuity. The practice of sculpture not only enriches cultural heritage but also serves as a bridge between the past, present, and future, inviting individuals to connect with the essence of Kalaallit's unique identity and artistic legacy.

In conclusion, crafts in Kalaallit Nunaat embodies a living cultural heritage, representing the profound relationship between humans and nature, as well as the timeless beauty of our ancestral traditions. By cherishing and fostering this art form, we perpetuate the spirit of our forebears and affirm our commitment to responsible and respectful resource management. As sculptors continue to create masterpieces that tell stories of the land and its people, we celebrate the enduring cultural legacy of sculpture and its power to inspire, unite, and preserve the essence of Kalaallit identity.

Traditional Toys: Resourceful Creations and Enduring Amusement

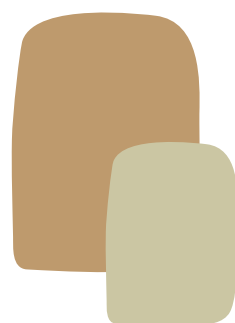
Before the advent of foreign factory-made toys in Kalaallit Nunaat, ancestors exhibited remarkable resourcefulness in crafting toys from existing materials. These toys were not exclusive to specific age groups but were enjoyed by children, youth, adults, and the elderly alike. These playful creations not only brought amusement but also served as tools for practice and skill development, fostering an inclusive and engaging experience for everyone.

The toys were ingeniously fashioned from the bones and hides of hunted animals, representing a sustainable and culturally significant practice. Among the well-known traditional toys is the *ajagaq*, a game where players aim to narrow holes. This toy can be made from various materials, with the shoulder blade or sternum of a seal and the antler of a reindeer being common choices. Even bones that have been gnawed on can find new life as an *ajagaq*. The word '*ajagaq*' translates to '*something pushed away*', reflecting its design, which typically includes one stick tied to a bone with one or more holes, that players attempt to manoeuvre through the hole(s). This game not only entertains but also challenges players to use their cognitive skills, practice precision, and enjoy friendly competition.

The significance of traditional toys is evident in their display in museums, where they serve as a source of learning, as for inspiration, for both visitors and artisans. In some places, museums even offer visitors the opportunity to try out some toys, further bridging the gap between past and present and allowing for a hands-on appreciation of cultural heritage.

The art of crafting toys from animal bones continues to hold relevance today, representing a celebration of traditional skills, cultural continuity, and sustainable practices. The simplicity and accessibility of creating toys from these materials ensure that the spirit of play and creativity endures, resonating across generations and reminding us of the joy that can be found in the simplest of creations.

In conclusion, traditional toys in Kalaallit Nunaat encapsulate the ingenuity and resourcefulness of ancestors, who ingeniously crafted playful creations from animal bones and hides. These toys served as inclusive and engaging pastimes for people of all ages, fostering amusement, skill development, and a profound connection to nature. The exhibition of these toys in museums serves as a testament to their cultural significance, offering inspiration for preserving and cherishing unique heritage. By continuing to create toys from recycled materials, we honour the wisdom of the past while ensuring that the spirit of play and creativity remains alive in Kalaallit's cultural landscape.



Responsible Tourism: Embracing Sustainable Adventure and Cultural Immersion

In Kalaallit Nunaat, responsible tourism seeks to strike a balance between promoting the country's cultural heritage and natural beauty while ensuring sustainable practices that benefit both visitors and locals. Locally produced products, including those made from animal skins and carved figures, are marketed to tourists, providing an authentic and enriching experience. Visit Greenland's project, GrowGreenland, underscores the importance of local art, crafts, and gallery visits in promoting tourism and fostering a positive impact on the community.

Adventure tourism holds a significant focus in Kalaallit Nunaat, driven by extensive studies and research. Adventure tourists, specifically, are a segment that exhibits a keen interest in sustainability and nature, aligning with the country's vision for responsible tourism. Sustainable tourism, a key goal for 2030, hinges on fostering a positive attitude towards tourism among the local population. As a result, stakeholders in the tourism industry are dedicated to attracting responsible tourists who respect and appreciate the culture and environment of Kalaallit Nunaat.

Living cultural heritage is an integral part of tourism, further enhancing the visitor experience. Adventure tourists can be categorised into three distinct segments:

Soft Adventurists (Observation): These tourists prefer to observe and collect new experiences. They find joy in visiting galleries and museums to immerse themselves in the cultural treasures of Kalaallit Nunaat.

Immersive Adventurists (Interaction): This group seeks to learn more about other cultures and engages in activities that facilitate meaningful cultural interactions. They may visit workshops to meet local artists and observe them at work, fostering a deeper appreciation for traditional crafts.

Ultimate Adventurists (Total Immersion): Tourists in this category have a strong desire to actively participate in the cultural heritage of Kalaallit Nunaat. They eagerly seek opportunities to try their hand at carving figures, engaging in handicrafts, and other immersive experiences.

By tailoring tourism products to cater to these distinct segments, Kalaallit Nunaat can ensure that its tourism offerings are both appealing to visitors and beneficial to the local communities. This approach encourages sustainable practices and meaningful cultural exchange, promoting a positive and enriching experience for both tourists and residents.

In conclusion, responsible tourism centers on promoting sustainability, cultural immersion, and a positive impact on the local community. By offering locally produced products, showcasing cultural heritage, and catering to different adventure tourism segments, the country embraces an approach that fosters mutual appreciation and respect. Through responsible tourism practices, Kalaallit Nunaat can continue to share its unique cultural treasures and natural wonders with the world while preserving its rich heritage for generations to come.



Recommendations

The seminar culminated in theme-based workshop that centered on formulating recommendations aimed at contributing to the attainment of a global goal.

On the subsequent pages, you will find overarching discussion points pertaining to no. 12 of Sustainable Development Goals:

Responsible Consumption and Production

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Responsible consumption and production

are delineated in Kalaallit Nunaat's official objectives as follows: firstly, the waste should be properly managed, and the overall amount of waste should be reduced through recycling. The objective also addresses the escalating global consumption market and trade patterns, which have brought significant benefits to the country.

In light of this, the Naalakkersuisut (the Government of Greenland) is poised to implement enhanced measures, such as establishing frameworks for augmenting resource recycling;

As for more recycling

Initially, waste should be avoided through recycling. Waste should be disposed of in landfills as a last resort. This can be achieved by setting requirements for citizens and private businesses for waste sorting and establishing good collection points for recyclable materials in different regions. If the current methods are to change to more sustainable attitudes, it is essential to inform the population. Most children and young people are already informed about the consequences of consumption and methods. Therefore, it is important to involve all residents in projects related to learning and information dissemination. This can be achieved through dialogue with various stakeholders.

As for more responsibility

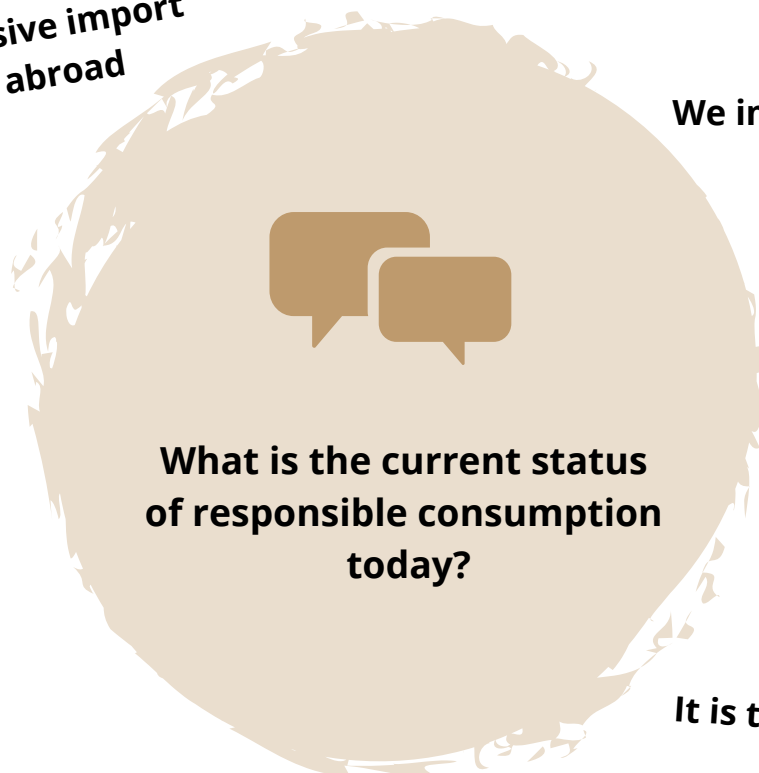
It was also emphasised that with waste management services provided by municipalities in different locations, opportunities for responsible behavior from the population's side can be created. During the seminar, the possibility of collecting animal skins and bones at recycling stations was positively evaluated and found appealing - if this solution can be established and realised.

**There is little information about better resource utilisation.
Information that can encourage**

**There have been no assessments of waste
and recyclable materials**

**There is still extensive import
of goods from abroad**

**We import goods that we
already have**



**What is the current status
of responsible consumption
today?**

It is too easy to dump

**Cleaning skins with additives is
environmentally harmful**

**Animal tendons are unfortunately no
longer used (meat is minced without
removing tendons)**

**Some of our everyday clothing is no longer adapted
to our surroundings**

During the seminar, the following main headings were considered for the recommendations:

1. Establishing Waste Regulations Frameworks

The seminar participants emphasised the necessity of implementing effective waste regulations, particularly concerning cultural activities. This involves introducing dedicated waste containers for bones and skins that are specifically designed for recycling purposes. By facilitating the proper disposal of these materials would enable their reuse in various product manufacturing processes.

2. Establishing a Center for Craft and Design

The proposal includes the establishment of a multifunctional center equipped with Studios, Courses, Trail map, and an Agency to facilitate various creative endeavors. This integrated facility aims to foster innovation and encourage the development of new creations, and collaborate with traditional craftsmen to preserve time-honored techniques and practices.

3. Establishing a Network-Based Knowledge Portal

The proposal involves a imperative need for comprehensive knowledge portal accessible to cultural actors and cultural institutions. This centralised repository would provide legislative information and updates on ongoing and completed projects. The primary objective is to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing within the cultural community, fostering effective collaboration.

4. Establishing a National Dissemination Center

The proposal involves creating a dedicated media hub, the National Dissemination Center, to communicate cultural heritage, values, and institutional products. This center will play a crucial role in showcasing various cultural aspects to the public, engaging audiences through presentations and social media outreach.

5. Developing teaching materials

This aspect entails the creation of comprehensive learning materials covering tangible and intangible cultural heritage, sustainability, and nature understanding. Tailored for school teachers, the content includes in-depth knowledge of craftsmanship practices, enabling effective impartation of cultural knowledge. The goal is to preserve traditions and cultivate appreciation for sustainable living and the natural environment among younger generations.

The five points are recommended to facilitate opportunities for fostering a more sustainable and eco-friendly consumption of resources among individuals, consumers, and production companies

A Centre For Craft & Design

A PLACE WITH STUDIOS,
COURSES, TRAIL MAP, AGENCY
AND WITH A STATION FOR
REUSABLE SKINS AND BONES



TEACHING MATERIALS

**IMPLEMENTATION OF
TEACHING COURSES:
FRAMEWORK FOR
CULTURAL HERITAGE
AND UNDERSTANDING OF
NATURE**



National Dissemination Center

**INFORMATION AND
REFERRAL CENTER
THAT PROVIDES
RESOURCE LIBRARY**

**TUTORIALS
INFOGRAPHICS
ARTICLE / PAPERS**

**EXPERT CHAT
CONSULTING AND
ADVICE**



Nunatta Katersugaasivia Allagaateqarfialu
Greenland National Museum & Archives



NAPA

LIVIND

Creative and Living Cultural
Heritage as a Resource for the
Northern Dimension Region



THE GLOBAL GOALS