

CSI as one of multiple stressors – Risk and uncertainty in pastoralism in northern Norway (1)

Pastoralism is challenged by many interacting drivers of change. These include pressure from large carnivores, encroachment and changing climatic and environmental conditions such as locked winter pastures due to frequent freeze-thaw events.

For pastoralist communities the return of investment has been gradually decreasing for some time, a trend that has accelerated in recent years. Despite high internal robustness, pastoralism is at a cross-roads, economically and culturally, leaving pastoralists with limited prospects for sustainable adaptation.



Photo: C. Risvoll



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Rationalizing responses supported by the authorities are often highly technical, such as stringent wildlife-pastoral interactions or supplementary feeding, and fail to holistically manage ecosystems.

Supplementary feeding is a technical solution to combat the problem of lost access to pastures or of animal losses due to predation. But this adaptive response has multiple consequences; one being an increased risk of infectious diseases spreading in the herd.

This risk should be seen in combination with other stressors and changes that often exacerbate each other.