

As the world falls deeper into a turmoil of climate and a humanitarian crisis, the indigenous populations of the world try to hang on to their century old practices of livelihoods in an environmental fashion, if their surroundings allow for.

The Indigenous people of the North: The Sami do so and live a „Greener Deal“ since centuries then Ms Ursula von der Leyen will probably succeed to implement within the next decade!

Sami life is build around reindeer herding, which evokes the necessity to move on as soon as resources become scarce. Governments in four countries have forced the Sami people to discontinue their purely nomadic life, imposing many problems on the livelihood of the Sami population, spanning over Norway, Sweden, Finland and parts of Russia.

With adapted ways of living their - now only partially - nomadic lifestyle, the Sami people are target to hostile opinions from the Scandinavian population for adapting to more modern practices with cars, skidoos and quads for reindeer herding. Also the governments impose limitations on the reindeers the Sami are allowed to keep, making a livelihood for many Sami people impossible.

A dive into the Sami culture and lifestyle showed the environmental photographer Maren Krings a side which is rarely seen for the outsiders.

Whilst adapting to modern culture and lifestyle the Sami are not loosing their deep connectivity to nature. They still live as they have done centuries ago in many parts of their lives. Still the eight seasons of the Sami year exist, according to the paths of the reindeer. Modern adaptation is mostly necessary in areas affected by rapid urbanization, which formerly belonged to the Sami and their reindeer. Nowadays modern forestry with heavy machines and clear cuts methods affect these areas and forcefully change the path of migration of the reindeer. Mining activity and the urbanization that comes along with it destroy much of the natural habitat of old-growth forests for the animals and makes their sole winter food, the lichen, disappear.

Sami Indigenous have to adapt fast to the changing climate and are finding ways of survival in a fast shrinking environment which hardly supports the reindeer herds to survive the arctic winters.