

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP - PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS FOR THE SAO MEETING NUMBER 1 IN (WHITEHORSE, YUKON) (OCTOBER 21-23, 2013)

1. Introduction. Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration

- In line with recent Declarations of the Arctic Council, the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) is poised to deliver four Recently Endorsed Initiatives and five Ongoing Initiatives in time for the 2015 Ministerial Meeting. In addition to these, the SDWG is exploring projects in the following areas:
 - *Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge*
 - *Marine Subsistence Mapping*
 - *Food and Water Security*
 - *Indigenous Health Research Ethics in the Arctic*
 - *Adaptation to Climate Change in the Russian and Norwegian High North*

2. Summary of progress on SDWG projects

| Project | Progress since spring 2013 | Budget (CAD) | # Active Participants |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| Recently Endorsed Initiatives | | | |
| <i>The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities</i> Leads: Canada, Norway, Denmark, U.S. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Canada has secured funding for this initiative, which has received SDWG endorsement. | \$1,000,000 | TBD |
| <i>Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change</i> Leads: Canada, U.S. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contingent on approval from SAO's, funding has been secured from Canada and the United States (University of Alaska / Fairbanks) which will allow for development of the Portal's basic structure and some content ahead of a face-to-face scoping meeting planned for January 2014. | \$450,000 | TBD |
| <i>Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples</i> Leads: Canada, Denmark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Canada has secured funding for this initiative which has received SDWG endorsement. | \$140,000 | TBD |
| <i>Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current Realities and Future Challenges</i> Leads: Iceland, Norway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iceland has secured 60% of the total required project funding and are working towards securing the remainder. Contingent on approval from SAOs, a scoping meeting will be planned for November 2013 in Iceland. | \$160,000 | TBD |
| Ongoing Initiatives | | | |
| <i>A Circumpolar-wide Inuit Response to the AMSA</i> Leads: ICC, Canada, U.S., Denmark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current work is focused on the development of a data collection/survey process taking into account the different research protocol across regions | \$122,430 | 4 |
| <i>Arctic Human Development Report II (AHDR-II)</i> Leads: Iceland, Canada, Denmark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A case study matrix has been developed and applied to the draft report to identify potential gaps. The final lead authors meeting will be held November 9-10 2013, following which final edits to the report are due by December 31, 2013. | \$600,000 | 94 |

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|-----|
| <i>Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages</i> Leads: ICC, Canada, U.S., Denmark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current work is focused on preparations for a youth/elder workshop to promote inter-generational understanding and planning for the symposium and corresponding report. | \$995,000 | 25 |
| <i>Electronic Memory of the Arctic</i> Lead: Russia, Norway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current work is focused on continuing the development of national segments, Norway in particular, and implementing a test with the Yukon Archives. A second EMA international conference is being planned for Spring 2014. | \$780,000 | 25 |
| <i>Reindeer Herding and Youth</i> Leads: Russia, Norway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding for a series of workshops in Finland, Sweden and Russia is being finalized. Russia and the US are in discussions regarding project activities being extended to include Alaska. | \$327,273 | 8 |
| Other | | | |
| <i>Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK)</i> Lead: AIA, IPS (scoping workshop) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A scoping workshop, led by Permanent Participants, is being planned for February 2014 to discuss the idea of developing a consistent method of integrating TLK into the work of the Arctic Council as well as a common definition. | \$55,000 | TBD |
| <i>Energy Summit (designated project)</i> Leads: U.S., Iceland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated projects are not formally endorsed by the SDWG; however, working group members monitor progress and may report on activities. | Externally funded | TBD |

3. Deliverables for the next Ministerial

- All of the above projects are on track for delivery in 2015.

4. Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

- The SDWG Secretariat has developed and disseminated “Project Summary” and “Status Report” templates. These will facilitate the collection and reporting of information to SAOs.
- On June 18-19, 2013, the SDWG held its first planning and strategy meeting with Heads of Delegation (HoDs) in Ottawa, Canada. An inter-sessional teleconference was held on September 17, 2013. Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates and times:
 - Whitehorse
 - October 18, 2013 – SDWG HoDs - Regional Outreach (09:00 - 12:00 hours)
 - October 18, 2013 – SDWG HoDs - joint meeting with the Arctic Human Health (AHHEG) and Social, Economic and Cultural (SEC) Expert Groups (13:00-17:00)
 - October 19-20, 2013 – SDWG General Meeting
 - Yellowknife
 - March 17-18, 2014 – SDWG General Meeting in Yellowknife, NWT.

5. Collaboration with other working groups / other organizations

- The SDWG Chair Sarah Cox addressed via video presentation the 5th World Reindeer Herders’ Congress hosted by the Evenki reindeer herders of China and held in Inner-Mongolia, July 28, 2013.
- October 21, 2013 the Working Group Chairs and Executive Secretaries will meet to coordinate cross-cutting activities, define roles, responsibilities and required input. This will include discussions on SDWG’s plans to engage other working groups in the *Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge* initiative and SDWG’s response to letter(s) from the PAME Chair regarding its potential engagement in the *Arctic Marine Strategic Plan*; and *Sustainable Arctic Tourism* initiatives.

ANNEX 1 – Description of SDWG Deliverables, 2013-2015

| Project | Description |
|---|---|
| <p><i>The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities</i> Leads: Canada, Norway, Denmark, , U.S.</p> | <p>This project will assess the outcomes of current and past research, programs and/or activities undertaken in circumpolar communities which promote resilience and well-being. It will bring multiple stakeholders together throughout the project to ensure common understanding and potential application of evidence leading to positive mental health outcomes.</p> |
| <p><i>Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change</i> Leads: Canada, U.S.</p> | <p>This initiative will create an adaptation portal which would facilitate access to adaptation relevant resources and create a space where Northern decision-makers can exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices.</p> |
| <p><i>Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples</i> Leads: Canada, Denmark</p> | <p>The results of this initiative will significantly benefit health jurisdictions in the North to better screen, plan for, and treat cancer among circumpolar indigenous populations. The project has two phases involving different Arctic countries, regions and indigenous peoples. This project has received SDWG endorsement and is tabled for SAO approval October 21-13, 2013.</p> |
| <p><i>Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current Realities and Future Challenges</i> Leads: Iceland, Norway</p> | <p>The initiative will be lead by the Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality and the Stefansson Arctic Institute and would strengthen cooperation among research and stakeholder networks and promote dialogue on this issue in the face of change. A 2014 Gender Equality Conference will be held in Akureyri, Iceland. This project has received SDWG endorsement and is tabled for SAO approval October 21-13, 2013.</p> |
| <p><i>A Circumpolar-wide Inuit Response to the AMSA</i> Leads: ICC, Canada, U.S., Denmark</p> | <p>Communicate findings of the AC AMSA to Inuit and seek guidance on moving AMSA forward. Expand earlier survey on Inuit use of sea and sea ice to assess how current use of sea and sea-ice is impacted by Arctic shipping</p> |
| <p><i>Arctic Human Development Report II (AHDR-II)</i> Leads: Iceland, Canada, Denmark</p> | <p>This report will build upon baseline findings published in 2004 and provide the Arctic Council with a better understanding of human development and quality of life in the Arctic at a time of accelerated global change. Second draft chapters have been completed and the project is on track for delivery in 2015.</p> |
| <p><i>Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages</i> Leads: ICC, Canada, U.S., Denmark</p> | <p>Deliverables for this project include: a communications plan; the development of a data collection instrument to capture salient data; and an Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium (2014) that will include a final report along with a framework for future work. The project is on track for delivery in 2015.</p> |
| <p><i>Electronic Memory of the Arctic</i> Lead: Russia, Norway</p> | <p>EMA project will gather and digitize circumpolar related information on a variety of topics from AC states libraries, museums and archives, to make them available online. The project is on track for delivery in 2015.</p> |
| <p><i>Reindeer Herding and Youth</i> Leads: Russia, Norway</p> | <p>Combining scientific data and traditional knowledge, this project will result advance the understanding of reindeer husbandry; the impact of climate change; future developments and shared challenges. The project is on track for delivery in 2015.</p> |
| <p><i>Traditional and Local Knowledge</i> Lead: AIA, IPS (scoping workshop)</p> | <p>This initiative aims to develop a consistent approach for promoting the integration of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council. The initiative is currently being scoped out by the SDWG PP HoDs with the assistance of AIA and the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS). Work to date will be submitted to SAO's, for information only, October 21-13, 2013.</p> |
| <p><i>Energy Summit (designated project)</i> Leads: U.S., Iceland</p> | <p>The Arctic Energy Summit will be held in Akureyri, Iceland October 8-10, 2013. The event will bring a variety of stakeholders together to share leading approaches on Arctic energy issues. Its findings will be valuable to the SDWG and it is classified as a designated SDWG initiative not requiring endorsement.</p> |