

Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge. Project Proposal.

2014

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

[Sustainable Development Working Group \(SDWG\)](#)

<http://hdl.handle.net/11374/1377>

Disclaimer: This document may not be the final or approved version. It may be a working or draft version, as submitted to one of our Senior Arctic Officials meetings. Drafts are available in order to provide historical perspective on the work of the Arctic Council and the development of our scientific reports and assessments. To find final, approved versions of our reports and assessments, please make note of the title and visit the appropriate collection in our archive. Each collection listed below contains final documents from one of the six Working Groups. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/617>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/126>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/3>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/52>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/4> Any citation of an Arctic Council document must include reference to the author. If no author of a particular document is identified, the document may still be cited; in these cases, the Arctic Council should be listed as the author. Downloaded from the Arctic Council Open Access Repository. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/>



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge

<p>Project Title:</p> <p>Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge</p>	<p>Lead Country/Project leader(s):</p> <p>TBD (Endorsed projects must be sponsored by more than one Member State)</p>
<p>Total Cost of Project:</p> <p>There are no further substantial costs associated with this project under Canada's Chairmanship; however, there may be future work that requires funding given the ongoing nature of the initiative. Note that financial investments have been made to date that are expected to support the outcomes of this project, including the two workshops, funded by Canada with support from Iceland (Reykjavik Workshop \$85,000 and Ottawa Workshop \$68,000).</p>	<p>Relationship to other AC Working Groups:</p> <p>SAOs directed that the Traditional and Local Knowledge project be undertaken in close collaboration with all Arctic Council Working Groups.</p>



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Objective of Project:

- This project aims to develop recommendations for the consistent and practical integration of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council (AC).
- This objective responds directly to the Kiruna Declaration and the Senior Arctic Officials' (SAO) Report to Ministers.

Kiruna Declaration (2013):

*“**recognize** that the use of traditional and local knowledge is essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic, and **decide** to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council”*

SAO Report to Ministers (2013):

“Canada has requested the SDWG, in collaboration with all working groups, to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Council.”

Background:

- The current initiative is led by the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) in close collaboration with all six Permanent Participant (PP) organizations and the support of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS).
- A scoping workshop was held in Reykjavik in February 2014, led by the IPS, with support from Canada and Iceland. With representation from all six PP organizations, the Reykjavik workshop was the first such meeting of its kind where experts came together to establish a common understanding and vision regarding traditional knowledge in the AC context.
- Four of the six AC Working Groups (WGs), including the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR), and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), attended the workshop and made significant contributions towards the proceedings.
- At the workshop, PPs developed draft principles for the use of traditional knowledge, and explored ideas for translating these into



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

practical action. The documents produced at the Reykjavik workshop were shared with the SDWG Heads of Delegation (HODs) in March 2014. The HoDs reviewed the material and provided comments in April 2014.

- To build on the Reykjavik outcomes, a second workshop was held in Ottawa in June 2014 geared towards implementation. The first half of the workshop was exclusively for the participation of PPs in order to further develop the traditional knowledge principles (*Fundamental Principles*), with preliminary discussions on implementation options. The latter half of the workshop saw participants joined by WG representatives and others to examine implementation options in greater detail. The recommendations developed at the Ottawa workshop are annexed to this proposal (Annex A).
- The proposal will be distributed to SDWG HoDs for review and discussion at the October SDWG General Meeting in Yellowknife. It will also be provided to all AC WGs and the Scientific Cooperation Task Force (SCTF) for discussion and input.
- The revised *Fundamental Principles* developed by the PPs will be circulated to the SDWG HoDs, WGs and SCTF for their review and discussion at the October SDWG General Meeting.
- The scoping work undertaken at the Reykjavik and Ottawa workshops and continuing consultations with the SDWG HoDs, AC WGs, and SCTF are intended to inform the development of consensus-based recommendations under this project.
- The timeline of this project has been structured to ensure that the consensus-based recommendations will be finalized in advance of the April 2015 Ministerial Meeting.
- No significant additional costs are foreseen under Canada's Chairmanship as Canada and Iceland have previously provided funds for the two workshops (Canada = \$60,000, Iceland = \$25,000 for support related to venue and logistics; Canada = \$68,000; Total = \$153,000). No further workshops on traditional and local knowledge are planned before April 2015.
- Future-oriented work, following Canada's Chairmanship, will require a budget assessment based on the finalized recommendations.



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Rationale:

- The goal of incorporating traditional and local knowledge into the work of the AC has been present since the foundation of the Council.
- The six AC WGs have employed a variety of approaches to integrate traditional and local knowledge into their work. The objective of this project is to build on the accomplishments and best practices already achieved and active, and develop a more consistent approach to the use of traditional and local knowledge throughout the AC.
- In the *Kiruna Declaration* (2013), Ministers recognized the importance of traditional and local knowledge in the pursuit of a sustainable future in the Arctic, while committing to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge into AC work.
- This initiative spans all thematic areas of the SDWG as traditional and knowledge are linked to Arctic human health, socio-economic issues, adaptation to climate change, energy and Arctic communities, management of natural resources, and Arctic cultures and languages. It also directly links to the SDWG mandate to promote the human dimension of the Arctic.
- Traditional and local knowledge is a cross-cutting issue in the AC and, as a result, the project is a priority for the entire organization. It is particularly salient for the AC WGs and the SCTF as they will be expected to implement the recommendations that are approved by SAOs and endorsed by Ministers. As such, ongoing dialogue with the WGs and SCTF will be maintained through focus meetings, presentations at WG meetings, document/information sharing, and outreach events.

Activities and Outputs

Activities

- Request SDWG HoDs, AC WGs and the SCTF to provide feedback on the draft project proposal, which includes the recommendations for the integration of traditional knowledge.
- Request SDWG HoDs, AC WGs, and SCTF to provide feedback on the *Fundamental Principles* developed by the PP representatives.



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

- Establish State and PP co-leads for the project and endorse project proposal.
- SDWG to work with the other AC WGs and SCTF to solicit information on their current processes, best practices, and practical examples of the integration of traditional and local knowledge in their work.
- Project leads to identify final recommendations to be put forward for approval based on consultation with SDWG HoDs, WGs and SCTF.
- Endorsement of final recommendations by SDWG prior to March SAO meeting.
- Submission of final recommendations for SAO review and approval.
- Submission of final recommendations to Ministers for endorsement.

Outputs

- Recommendations for the integration of traditional and local knowledge in the work of the AC.

Anticipated Outcomes

Implementation of endorsed recommendations on the integration of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the AC.

- Greater understanding and use of traditional and local knowledge within the AC.
- Improved ability to analyze and address Arctic issues through the application of traditional and local knowledge (where appropriate).

Timetable and Project Completion

- A project timetable is provided in Annex B.
- The project recommendations will be developed prior to the Ministerial Meeting in April 2015. The incorporation of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the AC is an ongoing effort and the implementation of recommendations put forward are expected to extend beyond the Canadian Chairmanship.



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Communications

- Target audiences for this project include: 1) the AC, including WGs, SAOs, SCTF and the AC Secretariat; 2) Arctic communities; and 3) Non-Arctic States and observers.
- Ongoing engagement and collaboration will occur with SDWG HoDs, AC WGs, SCTF and SAOs. This includes providing presentations and facilitating discussions on the project at WG meetings, AC events (Biodiversity Congress) and at other fora.
- The outcomes of the project will be communicated to Arctic communities to illustrate that the AC values and uses traditional and local knowledge on a consistent basis.

DRAFT



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Annex A

Potential Recommendations for Consideration¹ **Integration of Traditional Knowledge into the Work of the Arctic Council**

- (i) Acknowledge the process and work of the two traditional knowledge workshops held in Reykjavik, Iceland and Ottawa, Canada in 2014.
- (ii) Develop consensus-based traditional knowledge principles for the more consistent inclusion of traditional knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council.
- (iii) Include a traditional knowledge column in the ACS project tracking tool.
- (iv) Communicate project outlines in terminology accessible to non-technical audiences in order to facilitate early identification of potential traditional knowledge components. Align the use of traditional knowledge with working group processes.
- (v) Incorporate traditional knowledge into WG proposal templates and evaluation tools to demonstrate whether a project has traditional knowledge components, and if so, how it will be used.
- (vi) Effectively communicate results and findings to communities that have contributed traditional knowledge to AC projects and reports.
- (vii) Recognize/credit traditional knowledge holders and community contributions to AC projects and reports, including co-authorship where appropriate.
- (viii) Promote translation of relevant project materials into appropriate local languages.
- (ix) Use consistent terminology regarding traditional knowledge throughout the AC.

¹ The recommendations in this annex represent outcomes from the two traditional knowledge workshops. The final list of recommendations put forward for approval will need to be determined by the project co-leads.



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

- (x) Establish a collaborative group with PPs, WGs, a minimum of two (2) sponsoring States, to develop an implementation framework and a review process for the use of traditional knowledge by WGs.
- (xi) Create a peer review process of traditional knowledge elements in applicable AC projects and working groups, to be conducted by PPs.
- (xii) Include lessons-learned exercises for projects which have traditional knowledge components, upon conclusion.
- (xiii) Undergo a historical review of projects, lessons learned and best practices regarding traditional knowledge, examining projects with significant PP engagement.
- (xiv) Champion traditional knowledge outreach, education and communication to enhance the use of traditional knowledge in the AC.
- (xv) Use indigenous institutions of knowledge, boundary organizations, and programs to facilitate the bridging of knowledge systems, enhanced interaction between traditional knowledge holders and researchers, more advanced knowledge exchange between domestic and circumpolar platforms, as well as communication and outreach activities.
- (xvi) Conduct outreach to enhance the understanding of the applicability of traditional knowledge systems and highlight best practices (e.g., traditional and local knowledge outreach events on margins of AC meetings; develop brochure highlighting traditional knowledge in the AC/Chairmanship context).
- (xvii) Build traditional knowledge capacity at community, regional and international levels by supporting the hiring of indigenous and non-indigenous interns.



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Potential Local Knowledge Recommendations

- (i) Advance community based monitoring, where appropriate, in the work and projects of the AC working groups, incorporating traditional as well as local knowledge, as appropriate.
- (ii) Evaluate the use of traditional knowledge in the AC over the course of two chairmanships and determine how best practices on traditional knowledge can be translated into the area of local knowledge.

DRAFT



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Annex B

Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge - Next Steps

Action	Date	Responsibility	Comments
Provide Ottawa Workshop update to HoDs and WGs	Completed	Executive Secretary	
Develop draft project proposal	Draft completed	SDWG Chair/Exec Sec	
Circulate draft project proposal to SDWG HoDs	2 nd week of September	SDWG Chair/Exec Sec	For discussion at SDWG Oct. 18-19 meeting
Circulate draft project proposal to WG Chairs and SCTF	2 nd week of September	SDWG Chair/Exec Sec	For preliminary review and input (however, WGs have no formal approval role)
SDWG Chair and IPS Chair to provide an update on the TLK initiative at the AMAP/PAME joint meeting on Sept 17 Schedule and hold briefings with the other Working Groups and SCTF	Briefings completed prior to the SAO meetings in October	SDWG Chair/Exec Sec	Initial discussion on the TLK proposal Initiate a process with other AC WGs and SCTF to solicit information on their current processes, best practices, and practical examples of the integration of traditional and local knowledge in their work
Discuss draft proposal at SDWG	Oct. 18-19	SDWG HoDs	Revisions to be informed by



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Action	Date	Responsibility	Comments
General Meeting			comments from SDWG HoDs, WGs, and SCTF
Discuss initiative at the Arctic Council Working Group Chairs and Executive Secretaries Meeting	October 21	SDWG Chair	
Provide project update at SAO Meeting	Oct. 20-23	SDWG Chair	
Revise and endorse project proposal following SDWG meeting	End of October	Project Leads/SDWG HoDs	Requirement is two state co-leads
Continue consultations with WGs and SCTF	Ongoing	SDWG Chair/Exec Sec	
Project leads to identify final recommendations to be put forward for approval based on consultation with SDWG HoDs, WGs and SCTF	November - January	Project Leads	
Circulate final recommendations to SDWG HoDs 30 days in advance of Winter 2015 SDWG meeting	(TBC)	Executive Secretary	SDWG meeting likely to be held in early March (TBC)
SDWG HoDs approve recommendations at Winter 2015 SDWG meeting	(TBC)	SDWG HoDs	
Circulate recommendations to SAOs 30 days prior to Winter SAO meeting	(TBC)	Executive Secretary	



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Action	Date	Responsibility	Comments
SAOs approve recommendations at Winter SAO meeting	Early March (TBC)	SAOs	
Ministerial Declaration regarding TK deliverables at Ministerial Meeting	April 21-24 (TBC)	Ministers/Arctic Council	

DRAFT