



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

PROMOTING TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Presentation to the Senior Arctic Officials

October 23rd, 2014

Yellowknife



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BACKGROUND

- Per Kiruna Declaration, the initiative is led by the SDWG on behalf of the AC, in close collaboration with all WGs and TFs
- Objective is to develop recommendations for the consistent inclusion of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council
- Project aims to build on WG accomplishments and best practices already being applied



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REYKJAVIK & OTTAWA WORKSHOPS

- A scoping workshop was held in Reykjavik in Feb 2014, draft “Fundamental Principles” were produced, as well as potential recommendations related to traditional knowledge
- A second workshop was held in Ottawa in June 2014, to build on Reykjavik, and further develop the principles & recommendations for traditional knowledge inclusion
- The coordination of the workshops was led by the IPS





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FUNDAMENTAL TK PRINCIPLES

- The “Fundamental TK Principles” document has been developed by the PP representatives, building on two TK workshops and includes:
 - *a working definition of TK; and,*
 - *13 Fundamental Principles to strengthen the use of TK in the work of the AC*
- The document was circulated to the PP HoDs
- The document was shared with SDWG HoDs, WGs, and TFs



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RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE TLK

- A project proposal was drafted by the SDWG to reflect ideas developed by the PPs and WGs representatives at the two workshops and based on input received from SDWG HoDs:
 - includes recommendations feasible to implement in the short term and others for future work for strengthen the inclusion of traditional & local knowledge in the work of the AC; and,
 - provides a basis for discussions amongst the PPs and Arctic States with a view to establishing co-leadership by at least 2 Arctic States (plus PPs), and to solicit input from WGs and TFs



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WORKING GROUPS ENGAGEMENT

- Traditional & local knowledge is a cross-cutting issue in the AC, and as such, the project is a priority for the Council under the Canadian Chairmanship
- To ensure engagement:
 - SDWG collaborates with other WGs and TFs to solicit information on their current processes, best practices, and practical examples of the inclusion of traditional & local knowledge with their scientific work
 - to date written submission received from ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, EPPR, PAME, & TFBCM
 - Phone call consultations with ACAP, AMAP, EPPR, PAME, SCTF, and TFBCM
 - Continue ongoing consultation with other WGs and TFs to confirm the final recommendations put forward are practical and build on the previous efforts and practices in the AC



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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- An updated draft was tabled by the U.S. prior to the October 2014 SDWG meeting for discussion, focusing on refining the recommendations for better inclusion of TLK in the AC
- The U.S. and AIA have agreed to co-lead the project with Canada, other AC states and PPs are considering co-leadership



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DELIVERABLES

- The deliverables are on track to be completed according to the 2015 Ministerial Meeting timeline and will include recommendations for integration of traditional & local knowledge into the work of the AC mandated by the Ministers
- This is an ongoing effort and the TLK recommendations put forward will very likely include suggestions for future work that will extend beyond the Canadian Chairmanship



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NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. will further revise the current project proposal to reflect comments received at the October 2014 SDWG meeting
- Working Groups have agreed to provide their comments and input concurrently
- In early November, the SDWG Secretariat will circulate the revised proposal to SDWG HoDs to initiate the 30-day review process
- In early December, the SDWG Chair will convene an intersessional meeting of SDWG HoDs via teleconference to seek endorsement of the revised project proposal



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THANK YOU

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