

10th September 2002

Report from the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) to the SAO meeting in Inari, 7-8 October 2002

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the Sustainable Development Programme were established by the Arctic Council Ministers in Iqaluit. The goal of the program is to propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities to protect and enhance the environment, and the economies, cultures and health of the indigenous communities and of other inhabitants of the Arctic, as well as to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

In Barrow the Ministers endorsed and adopted the Sustainable Development Framework Document to form a basis for continuing cooperation on sustainable development in the Arctic. Such new proposals as the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, International Circumpolar Surveillance System for infectious diseases, projects on sustainable reindeer husbandry and sustainable development in northern timberline forests were approved. The Ministers requested that the SDWG facilitate completion of work on these proposals and propose priority areas in the further development of the Sustainable Development Program.

In Barrow the Ministers welcomed the introduction of a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the Council, and further welcomed Canada's offer to host a workshop on capacity building during the period 2000 to 2002 to explore practical ways to implement this focus.

The SDWG has had three meetings during the Finnish chairmanship period 2000-2002. The first meeting was held in Rovaniemi, Finland on 5th-6th April 2001, the second meeting was held in Espoo, Finland on 5th November 2001 and the third meeting in Oulu, Finland on 14th May 2002. Progress on all the above mentioned projects as well as on other ongoing projects have been reported at these meetings. A summary of the progress made in each project during the last two years is found below. This is followed by a summary of work anticipated during the next biennium. Some projects have also produced more extensive progress and work planning reports; these are found as annexes to this report.

2. Progress since Barrow

a) Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

The project was first endorsed by the Ministers in Iqaluit in 1998. Endorsement for the second biennium was given in Barrow in 2000. Canada is the lead country for the project. The goals of the project are:

- to improve the health and well-being of children and youth of the Arctic;
- to improve the basis for sound decision-making by increasing the knowledge and understanding of sustainable development among Arctic youth and children.

The project is divided into three programs: the Health Programme, the Networking Programme and the Internship Programme.

The Health Programme involves the examination of existing baseline data and studies in key areas that are related to the health of children and youth in the circumpolar region and identification of gaps therein. It includes assessment of processes and approaches used at international, national, regional and community levels that might provide models for actions in Arctic regions with a view to taking actions to mitigate health disparities.

Within the Health Programme data has been collected for many of the indicators and preliminary analysis has been carried out during 2000-2002. Findings were presented to a May 2002 meeting of health experts. Based on these findings, the list of key indicators has been refined to focus on a smaller number which could be followed prospectively. Best practice models provided by three member States were shared at the health experts meeting. The work of the Programme has been facilitated by the co-operation of AMAP and WHO.

The Networking Programme is facilitating engagement and empowerment of youth through activities targeting youth at risk as well as mainstream youth. Activities will include peer-based or peer helper programmes, intergenerational programmes, community-based programmes, new technology programs, arts-based programming, adventure programming, mentorship programmes, service programs and “edutainment”.

Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia and the USA have participated in the Networking Programme during 2000-2002. There has also been considerable interest and enthusiasm among the majority of Permanent Participants. Progress was made with "On Top of the World", the web site for children and youth. The Learning Exchange involving the development of a compendium of best practices for teaching and learning about sustainable development in the Arctic has been initiated. The Youth Camp organized by the Saami for which there was a broad-based selection process took place in Finnmark, Norway, in July 2002 and was a great success.

The Internship Programme engages and empowers youth who have recently completed university or college qualifications. The programme provides them with practical international work experiences that expose them to new ideas and different cultures, and allows them to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them to play an effective role in fostering sustainable development in their communities.

In the Internship Programme, the World Wildlife Fund and UNEP Grid Arendal have hosted interns in the second round of Internships. The International Institute for Sustainable Development carried out the administration, and organized an International Committee to provide Programme direction. The Barents Plus Programme, Danish CIRIUS, Centre for International Mobility in Finland, the Arctic Athabaskan Council and RAIPON have participated in refinement of the Programme. The Permanent Participants are anxious that their members have internship opportunities, but do not have the resources to support nominations.

The full progress report, including the work plan for 2002-2004, for the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic can be found as Annex 1. (The preliminary findings from the data gathering and analysis in the Health Programme are included as appendix 1 to the report.)

Further it can be reported that two meetings on youth policy issues in the Arctic were held in 2000-2002; one in Rovaniemi in September 2001 and one in Oulu in May 2002. The meetings emphasized that in order to obtain greater understanding of youth in the Arctic Region special

attention should be paid to the need for research-based knowledge on the circumstances and living conditions of young people in the Arctic.

The meetings concluded that the priorities of youth policy co-operation carried out within the Arctic Council should be as follows:

- To promote and support initiatives and activities that promote equality of opportunity for young people living in the Arctic region
- To increase youth participation and opportunities in multilateral youth cooperation in the region
- To obtain reliable and relevant information on the living conditions of the youth in the Arctic region.

The meetings further proposed that:

- youth policy issues should become a regular part of the work of the Arctic Council
- awareness of Arctic youth activities should be increased, e.g. via Internet and other modern technology
- mobility of young people should be promoted by preparing materials describing programs for international internship and exchange opportunities
- research on the living conditions, trends, behavior and expectations of the children and young people in the Arctic should be added to other Arctic research.

An initiative will be formulated in autumn 2002 to launch an Arctic Youth Research Network, which will build on three existing research organizations: the Barents Youth Research Network, Nordic Researcher Group and the Nordic Youth Research Co-coordinator and the Advisory Group of the co-coordinator.

b) Co-management of Marine Resources in Arctic Areas with Respect to Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The project is conducted by the Saami University College in Guovdageaidnu, Norway. Funding is secured for half a year, from 1st of January to 30th of June 2002. An application has been made for further funding from the Saami Parliament in Norway, but so far no decision on continuing funding has been made.

The project has focused on gathering information about the marine resource management in Canada, Greenland and Alaska and to what degree aboriginal people influence management in these countries. The idea has been to investigate if the experiences of other Arctic aboriginal people can be useful in the development of a co-management model for coastal- and fjord fishing in Saami fjord areas.

An international reference group has been established, but unfortunately the group has not been able to provide the project manager with the information and help needed. Due to the lack of support from the reference group, much of the time and effort of the project manager has been devoted to searching for contacts in Greenland, Canada and Alaska.

Since the funding has been only for half a year so far, it has been necessary to limit the research. The north of Canada has been selected, especially Nunavut territory, because of the Inuit achievement of an agreement with Canada's federal government to establish the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The project manager visited Iqaluit in Nunavut and interviewed people dealing with co-management issues. The data from Nunavut will be compared with data from marine management operations in Greenland and Alaska.

c) Cultural and Ecotourism

The Cultural and Eco-tourism project was initiated in Iqaluit (1998). While the project has not yet become fully operational, a number of significant steps have been taken towards the ultimate goals since the Ministerial Meeting in Barrow. Over a three-year period, the initial partners have assembled a group of interested actors representing federal and regional governments, trade associations, and private industry from all eight Arctic nations. Two complimentary projects, the Sustainable Tourism in the North (SusTour) project and the Linking Tourism and Conservation (LINKS) initiative, have been consolidated into a single, unified project. The draft for this unified project received support at the Arctic Regional Meeting for the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE), held in Sweden in April 2002. The plan for this unified project, called Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program has now been developed and the coordinators are in the process of applying for funding. When in place the project will offer capacity or competency building to tourism businesses and incentives, such as certification, to improve on-the-ground business practices.

d) Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry

The Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry project was initiated and endorsed in Barrow (2000). The aim of the project has been to assess the economic and social/cultural sustainability of circumpolar reindeer husbandry. The objectives of the project have been to describe and analyse the present situation with regard to

- (1) *economic* and *social* conditions,
- (2) *national management* of reindeer husbandry, and
- (3) different national *legislation* in reindeer husbandry.

The project has been headed by an international steering committee with two representatives from Russia, one representative from Finland and four representatives from Norway. The project has cooperated closely with the Association of World Reindeer Herders through their representative in the international steering committee. In addition to the international steering committee, a project manager located at the University of Tromsø and a Russian coordinator at St.Petersburg State University have been employed full-time on the project. The Nordic Sami Institute has partly funded the position of the Russian coordinator.

The project has collected the latest available national statistics and information about reindeer husbandry, management policy and plans, and predators, as well as scientific papers about the status and trends in reindeer husbandry. In addition to this written material, a set of interviews with reindeer herders and owners, bureaucrats and researchers in Sweden, Finland, Russia, Alaska and Norway has been accomplished. Several field trips to different parts of Russia, Alaska, Norway, Sweden and Finland were conducted in May 2001 to April 2002.

The seminar "Reindeer Husbandry in a Circumpolar Perspective" took place April 26-27 in Kautokeino, Norway, with approximately 50 participants. The overall theme of the seminar was the socio-economic development of reindeer husbandry in the different Arctic countries and the development of national legislation connected to reindeer husbandry. There was a special focus on the situation of the industry in Russia and on the new reindeer husbandry legislation being proposed in Norway and Sweden. The two-days seminar included presentations from legal experts and other speakers representing Russia, Sweden, Finland, Alaska and Norway. The organisers of the seminar

were the Nordic Saami Institute in Kautokeino, The Association of World Reindeer Herders and the Centre for Saami Studies, University of Tromsø.

Based on the collected written material and the interviews an analysis of the present situation in the circumpolar reindeer husbandry has been prepared. The review is organized around four main themes: a) economy connected to household/family/community , b) external conditions that affect reindeer husbandry, c) national management of reindeer husbandry and d) legislation. Based on the review the international steering committee has prepared recommendations that, among other things, focuses on the importance of rebuilding the family-based reindeer husbandry, the need for securing and maintaining reindeer pasture and the need to increase awareness of the market potential of reindeer products.

A 18 page summary of the project report, which includes the proposed recommendations, can be found as Annex 2. The full report from the project and a brochure with the project highlights will also be available in Inari.

e) Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests

The project was initiated in Barrow (2000). The aim of the project has been to arrange a workshop on Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests. The workshop was arranged by the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland), The University of Joensuu and the Finnish Forest and Park Service in Rovaniemi, Finland in May 2002. Special emphasis was paid to the social and economic consequences of global change in the region and to the ecosystem management in these regions. At the workshop recent research in the field was reviewed, and on the basis of keynotes, papers, posters and structured discussions in working groups, recommendations on sustainable development in the tundra-taiga zone were formulated. The recommendations focus on four different themes:

- 1) The human-forest interaction: the socio-economic and cultural dimension,
- 2) Resource management,
- 3) Forest and reindeer herding economy,
- 4) Maintaining biodiversity.

On top of specific recommendations in these areas a general recommendation is included: "to develop a permanent circumpolar monitoring network on human dimensions, i.e. living conditions and sustainable management of resources. Based on the integration of scientific and local knowledge, this network would serve as a complement to existing programs such as AMAP, CAFF, LULC (Land use and land cover) and others."

The recommendations from the workshop are attached as Annex 3. The proceedings from the workshop will also be available in Inari.

f) Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

SLICA is a joint international project that conducts a comparative study of living conditions among the Inuit and Saami people of the United States, Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the indigenous people of the Kola Peninsula and Chukotka in Russia.

The major objectives of the SLICA are:

- (1) The development of a new research design for comparative investigations of the living conditions of the Inuit and Saami populations in the Arctic,

- (2) A mapping of the living conditions among the Inuit and Saami in the Arctic,
- (3) To carry out a comparative dynamic social analysis of the causal relations between different individual resources and between individual well-being and different political, economic, cultural and technological settings,
- (4) An improved basis for decision-making in relation to policy planning and implementation.
- (5) The establishment of an interdisciplinary network of researchers and research institutions engaged in living conditions research in the Arctic,
- (6) Education and involving of post-doctoral researchers, PhD candidates and undergraduates under the SLICA project.

The SLICA project was initiated in Barrow (2000) and will run until 2004. The project has experienced substantial progress. On October 2001 Phase 1 of the project, which included the development and pilot testing of a new research design for living conditions research among Inuit and Saami people in the Arctic was completed. By means of funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, SLICA was able to host a conference on living conditions research in the Arctic in Nuuk in April 2001. At the conference living conditions researchers from Holland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa and the U.S.A. were invited to comment on the SLICA research design and to discuss methodological and theoretical aspects of doing living conditions research in areas characterised by economically, socially and culturally heterogeneous populations. One of the objectives was to adapt traditional indicators within the SLICA questionnaire to standardized measures in international surveys to secure international comparability. Furthermore, indigenous representatives, local students and researchers, politicians and of course SLICA members participated in the discussions.

Phase 2, which includes data collection, analyzing and reporting was started in March 2002. The data collection will include the implementation of 23,000 personal interviews among Inuit and Saami in the Arctic. Data collection in Canada has been completed (with 11,000 interviews carried out) and the data collection in U.S.A. and in Chukotka has started. The collection of data from Greenland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola Peninsula is scheduled for fall 2002/spring 2003.

g) Telemedicine

The goal of the Phase II Telemedicine initiative, which was initiated at Barrow, was to develop a structure among the nations of the Arctic Council to stimulate collaboration on telemedicine evaluation conducive to program development and sustainability.

The project's objectives are as follow:

- Promote awareness and understanding of past and current telemedicine evaluation initiatives among member countries,
- Establish best practices, programmatic successes, and lessons learned,
- Enhance the sharing of information as related to past and future evaluation strategies,
- Enhance the sharing of information on knowledge and experience in the application of telemedicine technology,
- Identify problems and work together toward solutions,
- Stimulate possible joint evaluation initiatives.

An international steering committee was established. The steering committee was invited to participate in an initial electronic dialogue and then to meet for three events in Alaska in September

2001. Due to the tragic events of 11 September these meetings had to be cancelled. This has led to new plans, which are included in the work plan section of this report.

h) International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic

The International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) project was endorsed as an Arctic Council project in Barrow (2000). The aim of this project is to establish an integrated International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) system for infectious diseases through a network of hospital and public health laboratories and authorities located throughout the Arctic. Linking public health facilities within the Arctic states will allow for the collection and sharing of standardized laboratory and epidemiological data that will describe the prevalence of infectious diseases of concern in Arctic populations, and assist in the formulation of prevention and control strategies. The plan is to establish population-based surveillance of diseases of most concern to residents of Arctic countries, to determine the rates of disease, populations at most risk, and the most effective preventive strategies. ICS was initiated for invasive pneumococcal disease in the US Arctic (Alaska) northern Canada, and Greenland (1999), Iceland, Norway, and Finland (2000), and Sweden (2001). Surveillance of other invasive bacterial diseases (i.e., those caused by *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, Groups A & B streptococcus) was initiated for the North American Arctic in 2000, and will be implemented in other Arctic countries in subsequent years.

An ICS steering committee was established in September 2000 to guide and review activities of ICS as well as to identify, prioritize and initiate the development of new surveillance activities. The steering committee consists of two experts in Arctic human health from each country including representation from indigenous people's organizations (Permanent Participants). Steering committee meetings occur bimonthly via teleconference, and face-to-face meetings occur annually (Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2001; Atlanta, US, March 2002). Priority diseases of concern include invasive bacterial diseases, vaccine preventable diseases, and tuberculosis. Working Groups have been established to coordinate surveillance activities for invasive bacterial diseases and tuberculosis.

The full progress report of the International Circumpolar Surveillance project is attached as Annex 4.

i) Arctic transportation and infrastructure

On the invitation of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Finland, a workshop on Arctic Transport convened in Tornio- Haparanda (Finland/Sweden) in September 2001. The workshop was attended by governmental experts on Arctic transportation from most member states. The aim of the workshop was to discuss issues of Arctic transportation, to identify areas of cooperation and to find ways forward pursuant to sustainable transportation development in the Arctic.

In the conclusions from the workshop the experts, among other things, emphasized the need to take into consideration the effects of climate change on the permafrost areas and its transportation infrastructure. They also addressed the risks of the increasing maritime transportation. As a first step it was decided to establish an informal network of experts to explore the issues of regional and inter-regional aviation in the Arctic. The US/CITF (Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force) was chosen to coordinate the network.

The CITF arranged an Aviation experts meeting in Anchorage, Alaska in February 2002. Representatives from US, Canada, Russia, Finland and the United Kingdom attended the workshop. The major recommendations from the workshop point out that a "vision statement" for Arctic aviation should be developed, that a number of issues concerning cross-polar air routes demand attention, that the lack of information about issues including market analysis and cost/benefit analysis needs to be rectified, and that there is a need to develop an outline for a feasibility study to promote additional air links. The recommendations further suggest that Arctic Council member states should investigate whether mail between the states can be directed through more direct air routes, which could increase availability of cargo and passenger service.

The report from the Aviation experts meeting is attached as Annex 5.

j) Capacity Building work shop and its' follow up

Canada, in cooperation with Finland, hosted a two-day workshop in Helsinki in November, 2001 to explore practical ways of implementing a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the AC. The workshop attracted about 70 participants from among the Arctic states, Permanent Participants, Observers and Arctic Council Working Groups. Several working group chairs and SAOs also attended. By the conclusion of the workshop there was broad consensus that capacity building is relevant, if not critical, for the Arctic Council itself and for the Arctic region where the rapid changes of globalization, climate change, and transitional economies require the development and application of new approaches and new solutions. On the basis of the outcome of the workshop Canada prepared a draft Capacity building strategy and action plan. Following bilateral discussions on the draft comprehensive strategy, action plan and pilot project with several states and organizations, including the IPS and the SDWG, Canada presented a modified proposal to the SAOs in May 2002. The SAOs approved the proposal to collect and review "best practices" in capacity building in the Arctic.

The proceedings from the Capacity Building Workshop will be available in Inari.

3. Work plan 2002-2004

Several of the projects that have been running in 2000-2002 are scheduled to continue during the next inter-ministerial period. The work plans for the continuing projects and programmes follow.

a) The future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

The plan is to proceed with the three components. The Health Programme plans to complete collection of indicator data, build capacity, perform detailed analyses and strengthen communication and networking. An inventory of innovative, practical and effective best practices models will be pursued and will be included in an internet-based resource center to be created by the Networking Programme. A policy and protocols for monitoring trends in health status over time will be developed.

The Networking Programme has planned eight activities with leadership primarily by Permanent Participants: an international youth program for reindeer herders in Russia (RAIPON); a seminar to showcase capacity building workshops developed by Arctic Council members and Permanent Participants (Norway, ICC (Canada), Saami Council); exchange of circumpolar youth for summer employment; promotion of outreach programs such as GLOBE and "New POPs"; a youth-friendly

resource book on sustainable development (ICC (Alaska)); further development of “On Top of the World” (University of Tampere and Government of Nunavut); development of Youth Environmental Information Centres in northern Russia (RAIPON and Russia) to extend the ability of children and youth to access internet-based resources; and an internet project on salmon that will provide for the collection and exchange of information and data, best practices and projects (Arctic Athabaskan Council).

The Internship Programme has an annual target of at least one intern per Arctic Council member country and Permanent Participant. The Programme will promote marketing of internships and exchanges with other Arctic organizations.

The full work plan for 2002-2004 for the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic can be found in Annex 1.

b) Co-management of Marine resources in Arctic Areas

The continuation depends on the availability of funding.

c) Ecological and Cultural Tourism

The Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program will consist of several smaller projects, all building upon each other with the main aim to empower the tourism sector in the Arctic to continually innovate more sustainable business practices which contribute to a wider sustainable development strategy, effective nature conservation and the well-being of local people. The first step will be the creation of a set of principles that provides a common frame of reference to guide the other projects. Then a set of best practices will be collected and this information will be available through an interactive database on a new web site. The web site will also be used as a first step for building up an Arctic tourism network. The program aims to generate fact sheets and information kits to be used in awareness campaigns to promote sustainable tourism practices in the Arctic. A training course in sustainable tourism is also planned. The training course will prepare the graduates for participation in a proposed market recognition scheme that is visualized as a certification program and/or a logo. Finally the program will focus on marketing products and businesses that have joined the recognition scheme.

The full work plan, including budget, of the Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program is attached as Annex 6.

d) Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

The collection of data from Greenland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola Peninsula is scheduled for fall 2002 and spring 2003. The 2003-2004 will be used for analyzing the collected data and preparing several reports.

e) Telemedicine

The Telemedicine Evaluation workshop is being scheduled for the fall of 2003 to be held in Alaska. Funding has been secured for the planning of this workshop. Sessions to share information on current telemedicine activities will be provided in two venues: first, the Nordic Telemedicine Association meeting that is scheduled during September 2002 in Tromsø, Norway; second, the 12th

International Congress on Circumpolar Health, scheduled for September 2003 in Nuuk, Greenland that is to have a special section on telehealth.

f) International Circumpolar Surveillance

In this project, it is planned to continue circumpolar surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases (lead country US). Development of a circumpolar laboratory quality control program for pathogens under surveillance is also planned. The circumpolar surveillance of tuberculosis (lead country Canada) will be initiated and consideration will be given to initiate circumpolar surveillance of infectious agents causing chronic diseases (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, *Helicobacter pylori*).

Other planned activities include exploring options for extending ICS activities into Arctic regions of the Russian Federation (Barents Sea region and Russian Far East) and seeking for options for linking ICS with AMAP Human Health Working Group and other international surveillance networks (WHO, EU, PAHO).

g) Arctic transportation and infrastructure

The CITF (Circumpolar Transportation Task Force) will continue its efforts to improve circumpolar transportation, both in aviation and marine transportation. A small workshop on marine transportation is tentatively planned for October 2002, with the aim of establishing priorities in Arctic marine transportation. Arctic telecommunication problems are also on the future agenda.

h) Capacity building

Under Canada's lead, reviews will be conducted on the capacity building methods and results of past and current Arctic Council projects and activities. "Best practices" will be assembled and disseminated, and an analysis of strengths and gaps in the capacity building focus of the Arctic Council will be provided during the 2002-2004 biennium. Efforts will be made to collaborate with the Arctic Vulnerability Study (associated with the ACIA) to increase its focus on building capacity that can increase local resilience (or decrease vulnerability) of Arctic communities to three change drivers: climate change, pollution and globalization. This will augment the current ACIA assessment that is examining the environmental, social and economic impacts of the three change drivers on specific Arctic communities and forecasting the capacity of these communities to adapt to these changes over the next generation based on their success in adapting to past changes. The proposed capacity building component will focus on how Arctic communities can develop new capacities to monitor and manage anticipated and potentially unprecedented changes in ways that are consistent with self-identified goals and objectives.

A follow up project is expected from the **Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry project**. The working title for this follow up project is: 'Reindeer husbandry and Wild Reindeer/Caribou'. The project proposal is divided into two parts:

1) Through the work of the "Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry" project, the challenges with the fast growing wild reindeer/caribou herds is noted as one of the factors that have a great impact on reindeer husbandry. This part of the project will focus on the development of the wild reindeer and caribou herds and the different national population management styles. Further, the project will focus on how population management affects indigenous communities. The anticipated outcomes

from this part of the project are a better understanding of the relation between herd fluctuation and management and its influence on indigenous communities.

2) Reindeer husbandry is traditionally based on the family. The role of the family, or the different members of the family, varies between different reindeer societies in the circumpolar area. But what is happening with the family members and the family structure in the “modern” societies and in this period of rapid change? The focus in this part of the project is on the different strategies used by reindeer families in response to different external pressures. Is there a development towards dissolution of the family or are external pressures strengthening the role of the family?

Some kind of **project on gender equality issues** is also to be expected as a follow up from the Taking Wing Conference. At the conference reference was made to the lack of influence by woman in the management of fisheries and other living natural resources. There is a need for further research and international co-operation on the issue in order to facilitate change. Norway is considering presentation of a relevant project proposal after the Inari Ministerial Meeting.

In addition to these continuing or follow up projects the SDWG suggests that the following two new projects be started and requests the Ministers’ approval of them.

1) Arctic Human Development Report

The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) is a comprehensive assessment of human conditions in the entire circumpolar region. The product will be a scientifically-based overview and assessment written for the non-specialist, highlighting issues of particular concern for Arctic livelihoods and human well-being. As a baseline, the AHDR will not only identify problems encountered in the North today but also identify success stories and processes to be studied and adapted as best practices for building human and social capacity and enhancing community viability across the region.

The goal is to have the AHDR completed in time for presentation at the fall 2004 ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council. The AHDR promises to provide a coherent framework for the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Programme and to play a key role in identifying priority issues for the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group during the foreseeable future. The project proposal is attached as Annex 7.

2) Product development and processing in the sustainable reindeer husbandry

The main aim of the project is to preserve and develop reindeer husbandry. Other aims are:

- to develop and improve the reindeer husbandry of each region in such a manner that pastures are used in the most effective and ecologically sustainable way to improve the social conditions of the indigenous people of the North.
- to ensure sustainable reindeer husbandry by related product development and further processing of reindeer products through utilizing especially education and research.

Geographical emphasis is on Russia but all countries where reindeer herding is practiced can participate in the project. The project contains the following sections:

1. Training in self-supervising of slaughterhouses
2. Slaughtering and meat handling of reindeer
3. Uniform education in reindeer husbandry for the whole reindeer herding area
4. Tourism as a supplementary industry in reindeer husbandry

5. By-products of reindeer
6. Training in marketing and business management
7. Development seminars, excursions and negotiation trips

It is expected that with the help of this project, the living conditions of the people of the North will improve and respect for reindeer as a genuine natural product will increase throughout the whole reindeer herding area. More jobs should be created through further processing activities as well as through other secondary occupations connected with reindeer. The reindeer industry should remain vital and the northern culture connected to it should remain respected as a way of life worth pursuing. In the long term, the further processing of reindeer meat and the other related product development will meet approximately the same standards throughout the reindeer herding area. The project proposal is attached as Annex 8.

4. Other SDWG activities

a) A survey and analysis of the need for the Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment (ARIA) web page

The ARIA web page was established by a decision in Iqaluit as a follow-up to the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in the Arctic that were adopted by the Ministers in Alta in 1997. The Ministers in Iqaluit decided that the day-to-day running and updating of the ARIA webpage was to be overseen by a group consisting of officials from the eight Arctic countries and that the overall coordination was to be done by the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland.

The Arctic Centre, has upon request by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, made a survey and analysis of the need for the Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment (ARIA) web page. The question was raised about whether there is interest among the Arctic countries to develop the ARIA web page as a better tool to disseminate information on Arctic EIA. The conclusion was that the contact group should be reactivated e.g. by organizing a face-to-face meeting, and that this group then should consider if and how to further develop the web page. At this stage it is recommended that the ARIA web page continue to be operated as it has from the beginning, with the Arctic Centre as the organ running the day-to-day affairs in consultation with the contact group when necessary.

b) Focus on Arctic Health - an expert meeting

In May, back-to-back with the SDWG meeting in Oulu, the chair of the SDWG together with the Center for Arctic Medicine (University of Oulu) arranged an expert meeting for all those involved in health projects within the Arctic Council. The aim was to get people together, to exchange information on ongoing and planned projects so that further synergies and cooperation can be found. The meeting was attended by around 40 people and deemed useful and informative. New contact persons were found and networks established.

c) Preparations for the WSSD

The SDWG has actively supported the SAOs in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) during the 2002-2004 period. Among other things, the SDWG has prepared two of the fact sheets --- "Environment and Health in the Arctic" and "Arctic Council: Sustainable Development Programme" --- that are included in the Arctic folder used to promote the Arctic Council and Arctic issues at several of the preparatory committees and at the Summit itself.

d) Permanent secretariat for the SDWG

Canada has kindly offered to provide permanent secretariat support services to the SDWG in Canada. The intention is to establish a small office comprised of an Executive Secretary, a part-time administrative assistant, and contracted professional services as required. The services provided would include coordination with other working groups and secretariats; communications with local, national and international organizations concerned with sustainable development in the circumpolar world; information management; project support and coordination, work planning and reporting, and research. Canada has offered to cover 50 % of the cost of the secretariat.

e) Chairing the SDWG

During the period 2000-2002 Mr. Sauli Rouhinen from Finland has acted as chair for the SDWG. Mr. Hugi Ólafsson from Iceland has acted as vice chair since April 2001 and Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier from the ICC was named co-vice chair since November 2001. Ms. Miliza Malmelin from Finland has served as secretary for the working group since the beginning of 2001.

For the period 2002-2004 Mr. Hugi Ólafsson has been selected as chair, which was endorsed by the SAOs in Oulu in May 2002. The vice-chairmanship of Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier will continue. A co-vice chair has not yet been selected.

Annexes:

- 1) Progress report and work plan for the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic**
- 2) Summary of the project report from the Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry project, including recommendations**
- 3) Recommendations from the project Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests**
- 4) Progress report of the International Circumpolar Surveillance project**
- 5) Report from the Aviation experts meeting**
- 6) Work plan, including budget, of the Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program**
- 7) Project proposal for the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)**
- 8) Project proposal for Product development and processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry**