

Presentations from Rovaniemi 2018 SAO Meeting

2018-11

Arctic Council

Arctic Council Secretariat

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Thematic Discussion on Arctic Biodiversity

Presentation to SAOs
By Pekka Shemeikka
SDWG Chair
Rovaniemi, Finland
October 2018



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SDWG and ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY

- SDWG engages biodiversity through the human dimension of the Arctic
- SDWG conducts several projects relating to resilience where biodiversity is an important factor, for example:
 - Integration of Indigenous Knowledge
 - Human Health in the Arctic
 - Food Security for Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents
 - Cultural and Social Traditions
 - Sustainable Economic Development



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ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY and the HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF THE ARCTIC

- Engagement of local communities and Arctic peoples is critical for preserving biodiversity in the Arctic region.
- Biodiversity is similarly critical to the people of the Arctic.
- SDWG projects build the Arctic knowledge base and help to understand the economic, cultural, social and health relationships between Arctic biodiversity and the human dimensions of the Arctic.

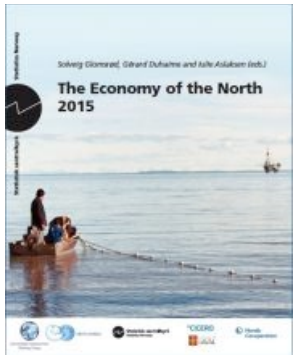


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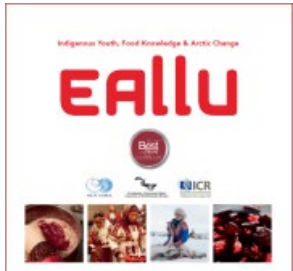


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Biodiversity Conservation: some relevant SDWG projects



- **ECONOMIC:** *Economy of the North 2015* (ECONOR III)
[Leads: Norway, United States, Canada, Saami Council]



- **CULTURAL:** *Arctic indigenous youth, climate change and food culture* (EALLU)
[Leads: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Russian Federal, U.S., AIA, Saami Council]



- **HEALTH:** *Operationalizing a One Health approach in the Arctic, Parts 1 & 2* (ONE HEALTH)
[Leads: United States, Canada, Finland]



- **FOOD SECURITY:** *The Arctic as a Food-Producing Region*

[Leads: Canada, Norway, GCI, ICC]



- **SOCIAL:** *Circumpolar Resilience, Engagement and Action Through Story (CREATeS)*

[Leads: Canada, Finland, ICC]



- **RESILIENCE:** *Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF)*

[Leads: USA, Sweden, Finland]



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BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION and HEALTH



- A priority area for the SDWG is human health.
- Human health issues link to biodiversity.
- The SDWG One Health project is especially relevant.
- The One Health approach assesses the potential health effects at the human-animal-ecosystem interface and can greatly enhance scientific understanding of the threats to Arctic communities and ecosystems.



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KEY CHALLENGES

RAPID CHANGE

- Globalization and climate change

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- Many drivers of Arctic change have non-Arctic roots

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Balance:** There is constant tension between creating economic diversity and the need to preserve and protect Arctic biodiversity



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THANK YOU !

Questions or Comments ?

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