



Sustainable Development
Working Group

SDWG Project Proposal Template
Effective as of 21 March 2018

SDWG PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Note to project leads: The SDWG Project Proposal Template is to be used in conjunction with (1) the Procedures for Submitting, Endorsing and Managing SDWG Projects (Annex A); (2) the SDWG Recommendations & Follow-up Matrix (Annex B); and (3) the SDWG Communications Strategy (Annex C).

<p>Project Title: One Arctic, One Health</p>	<p>Lead Country/Project leader(s):</p> <p>USA – Joshua Glasser (US Dept of State)</p> <p>Canada – Josh Vomberg (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada)</p> <p>Finland – Arja Rautio (Univ of Oulu)</p>
<p>Summary of Required Project Inputs:</p> <p>The project has operated with a mix of in-kind and financial inputs since 2015. Typically, Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, and Observers contribute by a) hosting events, such as knowledge sharing or table top exercises; b) contributing experts to share knowledge, join table top exercises, or stage collaborative investigations of One Health phenomena.</p>	<p>Relationship to other AC Working Groups:</p> <p>All working groups may be considered One Health stakeholders; most common cross-over is with members of AMAP (HHAG), ACAP (LEO Network), and CAFF (wildlife experts)</p>
<p>Summary of project objectives and main outcomes:</p> <p><i>One Arctic, One Health</i> seeks to develop a collaborative network of Arctic One Health (human-animal-environmental health nexus) stakeholders via knowledge sharing, table top exercises, and collaborative investigations of One Health phenomena such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. A key outcome of the project is to self-sustain the network after the life of the Arctic Council project, via an independent set of “One Health hubs” (points of contact) that continue to facilitate One Health work in the circumpolar North.</p>	

Project objective(s)

Provide a clear and concise description of the new action, including

- *Project's linkages to the SDWG's Strategic Framework and stated priorities;*
- *Project's contribution to one or both of the following: (1) building an integrated multi-disciplinary knowledge-base; (2) building the capacity of Arctic residents to better manage the current and future challenges and opportunities in the circumpolar region;*
- *A description on how this project will contribute or advance on (one or more) recommendations provided in previous SDWG initiatives undertaken in the relevant project area;*
- *Project's linkages to other Arctic Council Working Groups' activities;*
- *If the project is linked to knowledge or action, describe the type and nature of information that will be made available, the beneficiaries, and their capacity to apply this knowledge in situation;*
- *If the project is linked to capacity building, identify the target group or institution, the type of capacity to be developed and the way in which this strengthened capacity will benefit or improve the quality of life of Arctic residents;*
- *If applicable, describe which of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals the project correlates with, and describe how this correlation functions.*

One Arctic, One Health supports several of the themes of the SDWG Strategic Framework (2017), including community vitality, heritage and culture of Arctic communities, and human health.

Integrated, multi-disciplinary knowledge bases are at the heart of *One Health*, which is designed to assess and jointly manage the risks of human-animal-environmental health risks such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Moreover, the project places heavy emphasis on capacity building, so that Arctic residents and communities can manage current and future challenges (e.g., outbreaks, disasters) and opportunities (e.g., collaborative research, education, training, and preparedness action planning).

A project report was accepted at both the 2017 and 2019 Ministerial Meetings, with recommendations/next steps listed in each document. These recommendations/next steps have served as a strong basis for refining the project activities and objectives.

All Arctic Council stakeholders are *One Health* stakeholders; however, participation from certain other groups has been especially strong. Among them: AMAP (members of the Human Health Advisory Group); ACAP (members of the Local Environmental Observers group); CAFF (veterinary and wildlife experts).

Information sharing is a hallmark of the project. In addition to various in-person meetings, the project has been marked by several publications in both academic and popular literature, in a variety of languages and for diverse audiences.

The project has built capacity by expanding the information and toolkits available to address *One Health* phenomena in Arctic communities. For example, the 2017 and 2018 table top exercises applied the *One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART™)*, with participants learning how to use the toolkit in their home communities.

Activities and Outputs

- Outline the key activities/tasks to be undertaken;
- Outline the desired project outcomes – these should support the project's objective(s);

- Indicate whether the project plans to produce any policy recommendations.

One Arctic, One Health functions based on iterative collaboration among an ever-widening circle of project partners. Since 2015, the project has convened approximately 2-3 times per year, leveraging various events in the Arctic region to minimize travel and time costs to participants.

The most recent activity was a first-of-its-kind workshop, “Understanding and Responding to Global Health Security Risks from Microbial Threats in the Arctic”, convened in November 2019 in Hannover, Germany. A circumpolar conference, *One Health, One Future*, was planned for March 11-14, 2020 in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA. This conference was to include a session reviewing progress made toward project goals and assess prospects for the One Health network into 2021 and beyond. All Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, and Observers were invited to attend that meeting via SDWG channels. Due to the COVID-2019 pandemic, the conference has been postponed; a new date will be identified and shared through SDWG channels.

The project has already supported the first two One Health table top exercises ever held in the Arctic Council (2017 and 2018). A third table top exercise is currently being considered.

One Arctic, One Health seeks to develop a collaborative network of Arctic One Health (human-animal-environmental health nexus) stakeholders via **knowledge sharing, table top exercises, and collaborative investigations** of One Health phenomena such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. A key outcome of the project will be the ability of such a network to self-sustain after the life of the Arctic Council projects, via an independent set of “One Health hubs” (points of contact) that continue to facilitate One Health work in the circumpolar North.

A project report was accepted at both the 2017 and 2019 Ministerial Meetings, with recommendations/next steps listed in each document. These recommendations/next steps have served as a strong basis for refining the project activities and objectives. **A third report is expected for the 2021 Ministerial Meeting, with recommendations/next steps to inform the hub network moving forward.**

Partnerships

- Outline the key stakeholders and organizations participating in the project and how their participation is complementary to mutual objectives;
- Outline partners’ contributions, which may include leveraging financial and other forms of support, individuals and groups who will participate in the implementation of the project;
- Outline opportunities for engagement of Observers. What would be the anticipated role of Arctic Council Observers in the project and, accordingly, what are the type(s) of involvement and/or support being sought (i.e. financial, in-kind, expertise, use of established networks, etc.).

Partnerships have been a consistent hallmark of this project. One Health phenomena cut across sectoral and geographic boundaries, so cooperation and partnership are essential aspects of developing a circumpolar One Health network. A sampling of the participants in the project to date would include doctors, public health experts, veterinarians, wildlife ecologists, and disaster preparedness experts from local, national, and regional organizations, as well as the nongovernmental sector.

One of the clearest examples of partnership to date occurred via the November 2019 workshop “Understanding and Responding to Global Health Security Risks from Microbial Threats in the Arctic”. It was convened by the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and hosted by the Volkswagen Foundation in Hannover (Germany is an Arctic Council Observer). Several other organizations provided financial or in-kind support and expertise to this innovative meeting. A workshop report is expected in mid-April 2020.

Timetable and Project Completion

- Indicate the intended date of project commencement;
- Include project’s implementation plan and dates of major events, if possible;
- Indicate the completion date;
- Describe if the project is to continue outside the SDWG purview; how will the project be sustained once it is no longer an SDWG project?

A full list of project activities for 2015-2019 is available in the reports accepted at the two Ministerial Meetings (2017 and 2019), now posted to the Arctic Council website.

The first activity of the Icelandic chairmanship – and the most recent project activity – was the aforementioned workshop, “Understanding and Responding to Global Health Security Risks from Microbial Threats in the Arctic”.

The aforementioned March 2020 *One Health, One Future*, circumpolar conference was to include a session reviewing progress made toward project goals, and assess prospects for the One Health network into 2021 and beyond. This portion of the discussion was to include contingency planning, should the Arctic Council project continue or not continue past the current chairmanship. All Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, and Observers have been invited to attend. Due to the COVID-2019 pandemic, the conference has been postponed; project leads are exploring alternative mechanisms for holding a progress/planning session.

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) will also host October 5-8, 2020, a session entitled “One Health: Emerging Themes in the Circumpolar North.”

An additional table top exercise in Canada has been discussed; however, given ongoing travel restrictions to northern regions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, efforts to organize this activity have been postponed, to be reconsidered once the situation is stabilized.

A project report, with recommendations/next steps, will be prepared for ministers’ consideration at the 2021 Ministerial.

Costs

- Provide a cost estimate and detailed budget that identifies all sources of funding.

Project activities unfold on an ad-hoc basis, leveraging the busy current circuit of One Health gatherings in and beyond the Arctic region to minimize the financial and time cost of participation.

The most common forms of funding support for this project are costs associated with hosting events, and costs associated with travel for experts and knowledge holders.

Permanent Participants are strongly encouraged to take part, and travel assistance is frequently made available to indigenous and local knowledge holders. Project leads coordinate dates and aim for 2-3 events each year.

Integration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge

- *Identify whether the use of Indigenous and Local Knowledge will lead to better project outcomes;*
- *If so, explain how Indigenous and Local Knowledge will be used in this project;*
- *If not, provide an explanation why Indigenous and Local Knowledge is not applicable or not feasible for this project.*

The participatory community-based approach is core to the One Health model of thinking and acting. The participatory community-based approach takes into account indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), and uses that experience to identify and respond to One Health phenomena such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. ILK holders are particularly attuned to their environments and ecosystems based on millennia of living close to nature and practicing subsistence in order to thrive. Additionally, communities' perceptions of and relationships with the environment, embedded in ILK, are important elements of cultural identity - a key facet of physical and mental health.

One Health by its nature, considers interactions between ecosystems, animal and human systems. ILK includes an understanding of plants and animals at the interface of ecosystems and the techniques for using and managing them that is particular for the region. Communities rely on locally occurring species for foods, medicines, fuel, building materials and other products. ILK places emphasis on understanding the interconnectedness between environment, animals and humans, and putting this knowledge in the context of season, location, condition and relevance to Arctic communities and people.

ILK holders have participated in *One Health, One Arctic* since its inception, including at both Table Top Exercises and in nearly all of the knowledge sharing activities. ILK-informed collaborative investigations are also featured prominently in the 2019 report to ministers, including one piece on sled dog husbandry in rural Alaska and another exploring the positive effects of traditional music and dance practices for the mental and physical health of Inupiaq Elders.

Going forward, TLK will continue to inform the One Health III project through the below approach:

- Reliability and consistency of One Health assessments and finding.
 - ILK is based on observations made by local experts who know intimately the wildlife, people and environment. As a result, ILK is critical for recognizing and characterizing important changes that may indicate the need for a One Health approach.
- A more comprehensive One Health risk-assessment and risk-management process.
 - ILK has and will continue to inform discussion about emerging threats, advance collaborations, prioritize actions, and provide input on needed interventions, planning, policy, resilience capacity.

- One Health programs will achieve a more complete analysis of the link between climate change and the holistic impact on the lives of Arctic human and animal residents.
 - o ILK includes unique perspectives that will contribute to the assessment and understanding of the effects of climate change on biodiversity and animal health, and in managing biodiversity in a changing environment.
- ILK will contribute to advancing the knowledge and expertise of One Health collaborating scientific specialists from Arctic and non-Arctic communities alike.
- ILK will support One Health contributions to advancing prevention through a grounded understanding of the importance of issues that directly and indirectly impact the health and well-being of Arctic residents.
- ILK will reinforce and clarify the relationship between environmental and animal health and the mental and physical well-being of Arctic residents.

Communications

- *Identify the target audience(s);*
- *Indicate how the SDWG and/or State Project lead(s) will communicate project goals/objectives, implementation strategy and final results to the broader Arctic Council community, proponents, beneficiaries and Arctic residents.*

This project focuses on a concept for developing and sustaining broad interdisciplinary collaboration for the early identification, prevention and mitigation of health risks in human, animals and the environment. The One Health approach requires diverse experts and wide-ranging stakeholders in addressing the complex health issues at the human-animal-environment interface. Project leads have found that there is a strong appetite for project publications, including in both Arctic and non-Arctic communities, in both academic and popular literature, and in both traditional and social media channels. Project leads expect that these audiences will remain interested in such content.

The Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group, through the One Health project co-leads, will communicate information about the goals and objectives, implementation strategies and final results of this project to the wider community of the Arctic Council, including Permanent Participants, through the various stages of the project. More in depth communications strategies may be developed through the various components, such as advertising for conferences, organizing participation at meetings, and exchanging views and conclusions among international One Health research projects and experts, as required.

Teleconferences will take place on an ad-hoc basis to ensure effective implementation of the various project components. Research outcomes may be published and disseminated through existing networks. Feedback may be requested from expert groups and applicable parties, as required.