

# THE ARCTIC COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN. Draft.

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## **THE ARCTIC COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN**

The present Sustainable Development Action Plan of the Arctic Council is prepared in accordance with the Inari Declaration of the Arctic Council (2002). The Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) aims at implementing provisions of the Inari Declaration, the Framework Document, the Sustainable Development Program and other decisions of the Arctic Council. SDAP envisages their step-by-step practical implementation taking into account the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, 2002.

### **1. Introduction: Mandate for Development**

The Arctic Council was established as an intergovernmental high-level forum of the Arctic states in Ottawa, Canada, in 1996. It aims to address the problems of the Arctic, in particular, those concerning sustainable development and protection of the environment.

The Arctic Council has consistently implemented measures towards the shift to sustainable development in the Arctic region. A Sustainable Development Program was declared, Terms of Reference for this Program was agreed, a Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) was set up, a sustainable development Framework Document was adopted. The Arctic Council has implemented a number of projects and programs. In fact they all are integral elements of the Sustainable Development Program and ensure the implementation of the Framework Document.

As a result of realization of these steps, conditions were created for a new stage of the Arctic Council activity in the field of sustainable development. It was realized that comprehensive target-oriented actions should be undertaken embracing the three main pillars of sustainable development – its environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Ministers of the Arctic states at its meeting in Inari (Finland, October 9-10, 2002) signed the Inari Declaration that highlights the following commitment:

***"to develop an action plan on sustainable development to realize the Framework Document adopted by the ministers in Barrow, the priorities in the Inari Declaration, latest scientific knowledge and the decisions by the Johannesburg WSSD 2002, with the aim to adopt this action plan at the next Arctic Council Ministerial meeting."***

The Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) of the Arctic Council at its meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland) in April 2003 decided that the SDWG be responsible for developing the Action Plan and that Russia should be the lead country for this task. Russia prepared and presented a conceptual paper about the SDAP preparation that

was approved by SDWG and SAOs at their meetings in Svartsengi (Iceland) in October 2003

The elaboration of a such complex document is only possible under a close interaction of all the member states of the Arctic Council, its working groups, permanent participants and observers. Therefore, SDWG has invited them to participate in developing SDAP. This plan is a result of their joint efforts and serves as an important instrument for co-ordination of action of all countries and organizations represented in the Arctic Council for transition to sustainable development in the circumpolar region. In the draft SDAP preparation, the Russian Federation was assisted by a Task Force of representatives of Canada, Finland, Iceland, Russia, the USA, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON).

The SDAP aims at:

- Revealing gaps in the Arctic Council's activity on each dimension of sustainable development;
- Defining measures to be taken by the Arctic Council to eliminate these gaps;
- Taking target-oriented actions by the Arctic Council to ensure a step-by-step advancement to sustainable development in the circumpolar region by harmonically combining all dimensions of this development and taking into account the interests and traditional knowledge of the Arctic inhabitants, including indigenous communities.

*Note: These aims are taken from the conceptual paper approved in October 2003.*

## **2. Particular Importance of Sustainable Development for the Arctic**

The necessity of transition to sustainable development and its main principles were laid down at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio-de-Janeiro in 1992, especially in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. The achievement of sustainable development is of utmost importance for the Arctic for the following reasons:

- Arctic nature is extremely vulnerable; ecosystems are fragile and can be easily disturbed by anthropogenic impacts and global climate change.
- A share of indigenous people in the Arctic region population is greater than in other regions. Their livelihood depends on biological resources. Their lifestyles, culture, and health are compromised because of economic development of their traditional habitats.
- The Arctic is rich in natural resources. Arctic countries already extensively use them. As mineral natural resources get exhausted in the more southern regions of the Earth, the intensity of their use will grow in the Arctic. Use of

unsustainable management of the natural resources will exacerbate threats to the environment and local communities.

- Dealing with social and economic problems in the Arctic is complicated due to the remoteness of Arctic areas from the main centers of economic activity, low density of the population, underdeveloped infrastructure, severe natural-climatic conditions, the presence of the permafrost and the need to compensate higher expenses on living and employment in these harsh conditions.

*Note: these provisions are taken from the Conceptual paper and slightly refined.*

### **3. Sustainable Development as the Main Activity of the Arctic Council.**

The Ottawa Declaration, adopted in 1996, established the Arctic Council and affirmed its commitment to sustainable development in the Arctic region, including economic and social development, improved health conditions, culture and well being. The Declaration defined issues of sustainable development and environmental protection as the key ones for the Arctic Council.

The United Nations Conference on environment and development held in Rio-de-Janeiro in 1992 has set the main principles of sustainable development, in particular:

- People are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature,
- States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations
- In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.
- Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

These principles were reflected in documents and decisions of the Arctic Council, in the Terms of Reference for a Sustainable Development Program and the Framework Document.

The ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in Iqaluit (1998) declared a sustainable development program, its terms of reference, and set up a sustainable development working group. The Terms of Reference stressed that the goal of the sustainable development 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 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.

The next step was adoption of a Framework Document on sustainable development at the ministerial meeting in Barrow (2000). It defines the main principles that should be taken into account while selecting projects and joint actions on sustainable development in the Arctic. It also outlined subject areas of special importance for the Arctic Council at present.

After the Barrow Ministerial the SAOs thoroughly examined the work of the Arctic Council and its structure and made a document that was adopted and referred to in the Inari Declaration. This document pointed out that sustainable development issues should permeate all activities of the Arctic Council and not only be the sole concern of the SDWG. The SAOs have the responsibility to ensure that all activities in the Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies are in line and promote the general principles of sustainable development. (*para. 1.3.1., the Report of Senior Arctic Officials to the Arctic Council ministers at Inari*)

The Inari Declaration stressed the commitment of the Arctic state ministers to strengthen circumpolar interaction to ensure sustainable development in the Arctic as the foundation of further well being and prosperity. They undertook to elaborate the SDAP and submit it to the 4<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council ministerial meeting for approval. SDAP should ensure the practical realization of the Framework Document, the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Program, and decisions of the World Summit in Johannesburg as applied to the specific conditions of the Arctic region.

The AC Sustainable Development Program and the Framework Document are implemented by Arctic Council working groups, the Arctic Council member states at the national level, Permanent Participants, and Observers.

The Arctic Council implements a considerable number of programs and projects. Most of them relate to the ecological dimension of sustainable development. Such Working Groups as AMAP, CAFF, PAME, EPPR as well as such programs as ACAP and ACIA carry out their activity in this area.

A number of the projects relating to economic and social dimensions of sustainable development are implemented under the SDWG leadership. But activity in these spheres is not as comprehensive at present as on the ecological dimension.

More detailed information about activities of working groups can be found in Section 8 of the SDAP.

#### **4. The Priorities Defined in the Framework Document, Inari Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002.**

The present SDAP is largely based on the Framework Document on Sustainable Development, the Inari Declaration, and decisions by the

Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development as applied to the Arctic conditions.

**4.1. The AC Sustainable Development Framework Document** defined the following subject areas of special importance for the Arctic Council at the moment:

- Health issues and the well being of people living in the Arctic. Prevention and control of disease, as well as the long-term monitoring of the impact of pollution and climate change on human health .
- Sustainable economic activities and increasing community prosperity. To be sustainable, Arctic communities must have an appropriate economic base to ensure their survival.
- Education and cultural heritage. These are a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development and capacity building.
- Children and youth (Their well being and capacity building).
- Management of natural, including living, resources. This must be based on sound science and traditional knowledge.

Infrastructure development.

To pursue and adopt sustainable development projects and cooperative activities the Framework Document lays down the following principles that should be born in mind:

- Sustainable Development must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Economic, social and cultural developments are, along with environmental protection, interdependent and mutually reinforcing aspects of sustainable development.

- Capacity Building is a necessary element for achievement of sustainable development.

- Economic activity should create wealth and human capital, while simultaneously safeguarding natural capital of the Arctic.

- Environmental considerations should be integrated into all economic activities that may have a significant impact on the environment and human health in the Arctic states.

- Sustainable development must be based on sound science and use traditional knowledge of indigenous and local people.

- Prudent conservation and management of resources should be pursued.

- The innovative and educational processes of northern communities should be strengthened for sustainable development.

The Framework Document also points out that successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Program should be built on the coordination of work carried out by Arctic Council Working Groups. Undoubtedly it is also applicable to the SDAP. In addition, the Framework Document stresses that actions and projects that are implemented in the interest of the Arctic communities should be assigned the top priority in the Arctic Council.

**4.2. The Inari Declaration** reaffirmed "the commitment of the Governments of the Arctic States and indigenous peoples to work together to promote sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic region with increased focus on climate change, sustainable use of resources and human development in the Arctic"

The Inari Declaration singled out several areas of cooperative activity in the Arctic region and relevant projects, programs, and actions within each of them. The Table below graphically demonstrates these activities.

<b>The AC Areas of Activity</b>	<b>Priority projects, programs, and actions as defined in the Inari Declaration</b>
1. Human Conditions in the Arctic	1.1. The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) as a comprehensive knowledge base for the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Programme. 1.2. The development of concrete projects of mutual interest in the field of economic cooperation. 1.3. Ecological and cultural tourism. 1.4. Gender issues (gender equality, prevention of all forms of violence against women) 1.5. Health issues (environmental health, infectious diseases, telemedicine, promotion of healthier lifestyles) 1.6. Infrastructure development, including aviation, marine and surface transport and modern telecommunications, climate change impact on infrastructure.
2. Actions Against Pollutants	2.1. Implementation of AMAP’s “Arctic Pollution 2002” Report 2.2. Implementation of international agreements on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and on Heavy Metals. 2.3. Monitoring of environmental pollution. 2.4. Mercury pollution control. 2.5. Implementation of the Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic, including priority projects on cleaner production, control/elimination of PCBs, obsolete pesticides, and dioxins/furans. 2.6. Implementation, development and updating of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and development and implementation by Arctic countries of corresponding National Plans of Action. 2.7. Support of the Russian NPA-Arctic. 2.8. Development of a strategic plan for protection of the

	<p>Arctic marine environment.</p> <p>2.9. Reduction of releases of radio nuclides originating from European reprocessing plants,</p> <p>2.10. Safety of nuclear power installations and nuclear waste sites</p>
3. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources	<p>3.1. Implementation of recommendations of the CAFF report <i>Arctic Flora and Fauna, Status and Conservation</i> as a strategy for future biodiversity conservation work.</p> <p>3.2. Circumpolar cooperation and cooperation with non-arctic states.</p> <p>3.3. Enhanced monitoring of biodiversity, utilizing traditional knowledge.</p> <p>3.4. Implementation of recommendations generated by projects on timberline forests, sustainable reindeer husbandry and sacred sites.</p> <p>3.5. Responsible management of oil, gas, metals and minerals, including emergency prevention and assessments of ecological and other impacts of natural resource development.</p> <p>3.6. Attention to the impact of development and the use of natural resources on the traditional sources of livelihood of indigenous peoples</p>
4. Climate Change	<p>4.1. Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA).</p> <p>4.2. Enhancing early capacity building to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>4.3. Prevention of and response to emergencies originating in climate variability and change.</p>
5. Arctic Council as a partner in international cooperation	<p>5.1. Closer cooperation of the Arctic States in international fora on environmental protection and sustainable development issues</p> <p>5.2. Interaction with Permanent Participants in developing Arctic Council policies of regional and global significance</p> <p>5.3. Cooperation between the Arctic Council and the European Commission;</p> <p>5.4. Increased contributions to Arctic cooperation by Observers of the Arctic Council.</p> <p>5.5. Implementation of the Johannesburg WSSD decisions relevant to the Arctic (the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities, the impact of climate change, the actions to reduce POPs and other pollutants, oceanic issues, sustainable use of natural resources, the vital role of the indigenous peoples in sustainable development).</p> <p>5.6. The Arctic Council's role as a regional partner in</p>

	Arctic international cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development issues ( and the leader in addressing Arctic problems, <i>see Report of Senior Arctic Officials to the Arctic Council Ministers at Inari, para. 2.1.1)</i>
6. Capacity Building	6.1. Taking account of capacity building issues in all working bodies of the Arctic Council. 6.2. The use of information and communications technology in circumpolar capacity building efforts. 6.3. Increase of support for the University of the Arctic (UArctic). 6.4. The integrated ecosystem approach to the management of natural resources (ECORA).

### 4.3. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) adopted a Political Declaration and Plan of Implementation.

Plan of Implementation includes priority measures in various areas for the world community, mostly in a decade to come. It welcomes efforts and the results already achieved to promote sustainable development at regional fora and expresses its support for further development and implementation of cooperation among countries of the appropriate regions (para.72).

The Arctic Council is mentioned twice in the Plan of Implementation. In connection with climate change issues it points out in para 38:

"Actions at all levels are required to: ...(i) Support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change, such as the Arctic Council initiative, including the environmental, economic and social impacts on local and indigenous communities." Furthermore, para. 80 of the Plan of Implementation recognizes the Arctic Council's important contribution to sustainable development at the regional level.

In addition, a lot of other aspects of the Plan of Implementation are relevant to the Arctic. In particular in addition to the climate change the following themes of WSSD should be taken into consideration in SDAP: poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, sustainable use of natural resources, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, health, the actions to reduce POPs and other pollutants, oceanic issues, and an important role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development. (*see para. 11, the Inari Declaration and para 2.1.1.2, Report of SAOs to the Ministers in Inari*)

Thus, summing up the priorities defined in the Framework Document, the Inari Declaration and the Johannesburg WSSD Plan of Implementation, the following priorities are suggested for **the first stage of the SDAP implementation:**

### **Economic dimension of sustainable development**

- Sustainable economic activity and increasing prosperity of Arctic communities,
- Sustainable use of natural, including living, resources,
- Development of transport infrastructure (including aviation, marine and surface transport), information technologies and modern telecommunications.

### **Social dimension of sustainable development**

- Health of the people living and working in the Arctic,
- Education and cultural heritage,
- Prosperity and capacity building for children and the youth.
- Gender equality.
- Enhancing well being, eradication of poverty among Arctic people

### **Environmental dimension of sustainable development**

- Monitoring and assessment of the state of the environment in the Arctic
- Prevention and elimination of environmental pollution in the Arctic.
- Arctic marine environment protection.
- Biodiversity conservation in the Arctic.
- Climate change impact assessment in the Arctic.
- Prevention and elimination of ecological emergencies in the Arctic, including those relating to climate change.

At the second and subsequent stages of the SDAP implementation the Arctic Council member states, Working Groups and Permanent Participants can submit proposals to update priorities to SAOs and for subsequent approval by the Arctic Council at its meetings.

The Inari Declaration adopted the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) as a priority project that should result in creating a comprehensive knowledge base for the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme. Therefore, AHDR conclusions and recommendations should be used in the SDAP's all three dimensions of sustainable development, first of all in its social development activities. Capacity building should be taken into account in activity of all Working Groups as it is stipulated in the Framework Document and the Inari Declaration. It should also be present in all the three dimensions of sustainable development.

## **5. SDAP Objectives**

**The main objective of SDAP** is to ensure co-ordinated action of all member states of the Arctic Council, its Working Groups, Permanent Participants and Observers, to enlist public organizations, regional and local authorities, as well as the private sector in order to address sustainable development problems in the circumpolar region in accordance with the principles and priorities laid down in the Framework Document, Inari Declaration, other decisions of the Arctic Council with due account of WSSD recommendations as applied to specific conditions of the Arctic region.

SDAP is the main instrument for practical realization of the Sustainable Development Program declared by the Arctic Council. It aims to achieve integrated economic, social and cultural development in the Arctic region while preserving the environment in the interests of present and future generations.

### **Objectives in Economic Dimension of Sustainable Development**

The Arctic Council has lately limited its activity in this area to selected projects in the interest of indigenous peoples and elaboration of proposals to develop air transport. The Inari Declaration called on the Arctic states to enhance economic cooperation and develop specific projects of mutual interest. Taking into account the priorities indicated in Section 4 of SDAP, at the first stage of its implementation it is necessary to:

- Review the progress of implementation of recommendations originated from completed projects that dealt with the economic dimension of sustainable development.
- Reveal gaps in the Arctic Council's activity on priority areas of the economic dimension of sustainable development and make recommendations to eliminate these gaps.
- Develop for SDWG and subsequent submission to SAOs new project proposals, projects and other measures, primarily relating to sustainable economic activity and prosperity of Arctic settlements, sustainable use of natural, including living, resources, development of transport infrastructure (including aviation, marine and surface transport) and development of information technologies and modern telecommunications.

### **Objectives in Social Dimension of Sustainable Development**

The main attention in this area has lately been accorded to the implementation of projects relating to the issues of children and the youth, cultural and ecological tourism, human conditions and health of indigenous peoples. The Inari Declaration, on the basis of a survey of living conditions in the Arctic, stressed commitments of the Arctic states to improve human conditions in the Arctic and identify new areas of the AC activity in the socio-cultural field (gender equality, promotion of healthier lifestyles, development of education and training for the youth). Taking into account WSSD recommendations, section 4 of SDAP

includes also the issues of raising well being and poverty eradication as priority issues.

Achievement of the above priorities in the Arctic region is a complex and long-term effort. The usefulness of many actions will be found out as gaps will be revealed and the knowledge base will be expanded in this area. Identification and adoption of commonly accepted criteria of socially and culturally sustainable development is extremely important to this activity.

Taking into account the priorities in the field of social and cultural development at the first stage of the SDAP implementation it is necessary to:

- Review the progress of implementation of recommendations originated from completed projects that dealt with the social and cultural dimension of sustainable development.
- Reveal gaps in the Arctic Council's activity on priority areas of the social and cultural dimension of sustainable development.
- Develop for SDWG and subsequent submission to SAOs new project proposals, projects and other measures, primarily relating to human health, education and cultural heritage, prosperity and capacity building for children and the youth, gender equality, well being enhancement and poverty eradication among people living and working in the Arctic.

Achievement of concrete results in the interest of indigenous and local people in the Arctic, including social and cultural infrastructure creation and development, is of great importance to promote cooperation in the social and cultural field.

### **Objectives in Ecological Dimension of Sustainable Development**

Activity of the Arctic Council in this area in preceding years has been most well structured integrated and fruitfully evolved according to declarations and decisions of the Arctic Council. The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy adopted by the Arctic states in 1991 remained the main political document in this area to date. Four working groups set up way back then under that Strategy actually determine the principle areas of activity of the Arctic Council in the field of ecological dimension of sustainable development. The knowledge and recommendations on eliminating ecological threats in the Arctic that resulted from these groups and the ACAP program are broadly used by all Arctic states as well as for deliberations and decision making at international fora. Taking into account the priorities set in Section 4 of SDAP that are refined by Working Groups, at the first stage of the SDAP realization it is necessary to:

- Review the progress of implementation of recommendations originated from completed projects of the Arctic Council in the field of environmental protection and environmental performance in the Arctic circumpolar region.
- Reveal gaps in the Arctic Council's activity in priority areas of the ecological dimension of sustainable development with due account of the new scientific

knowledge about environmental changes in the Arctic. Make recommendations to close these gaps.

- Develop for the AC working bodies and subsequent submission to SAOs new project proposals, projects and other measures relating to environmental monitoring and assessment, preventing and eliminating pollution of the environment, protection of the Arctic marine environment, conservation of biodiversity, climate change impact assessment, management of environmental emergencies in the Arctic, including those originating from climate change.

In this area, special importance should be attached to integrating the use of new scientific data and traditional knowledge of indigenous and local people as well as building up close interaction of governments of the Arctic states with regional and local authorities, NGOs and the private sector.

*Note: SDAP objectives are identified with due account of provisions made in the Conceptual paper (paras 4 and 11) that was approved in October 2003.*

## **6. The Main Activity on Sustainable Development at the National Level in the Arctic Countries**

Globalization opens up new opportunities for the Arctic Council as well as challenges on its way to achieve sustainable development in the Arctic. Globalization and interdependency usher in the opportunities for expanding trade, investments and capital flows as well as for technological change in all spheres of economic activity. The Arctic region offers vast opportunities for mutually beneficial co-operation among the Arctic countries. At the same time, each Arctic country faces its own problems, which are addressed at the national level, depending on its own priorities, and the availability of resources, economic and human capacity. National features of sustainable development visions and strategies of the Arctic countries should be taken into account to be able to include in SDAP actions of interest for all or, at least, a group of countries.

*Note. Summaries of national sustainable development strategies in the Arctic region shall be included in the SDAP final text after receiving these materials from all Arctic states. These materials will not be edited.*

## **7. The main actions on sustainable development in the Arctic carried out by Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council.**

Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council that are actively involved in the work of the Council and decision making on Arctic issues are: Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East and Saami Council.

*Note: summary information on activities of Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council on sustainable development in the Arctic will be included after receiving relevant materials from*

*all Permanent Participants. The Indigenous Peoples Secretariat is invited to process this information and send summary to the Russian Federation and the SDWG Secretariat.*

## **8. The main actions on sustainable development in the Arctic carried out by Observers to the Arctic Council.**

Observers to the Arctic Council are:

non-Arctic states: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Great Britain;

International organizations:

- Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region - <http://www.grida.no/parl/>
- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) - <http://www.ifrc.org/>
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - <http://www.iucn.org/>
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) - [http://www.norden.org/index\\_uk.html](http://www.norden.org/index_uk.html)
- Northern Forum - <http://www.northernforum.org/>
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) - <http://www.nammco.no/>
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) - <http://www.unece.org/>
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - <http://www.grida.no/>
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - <http://www.undp.org>
- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) - <http://www.acops.org/>
- Association of World Reindeer Herders
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU) - <http://www.circumpolar.org/>
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) - <http://www.npolar.no/iasc/>
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) - <http://www.fss.ulaval.ca/iassa/>
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) - <http://www.iuch.org>
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) <http://www.iwgia.org>
- University of the Arctic (UArctic) <http://www.urova.fi/home/uarctic/>
- Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) - <http://ngo.grida.no/wwfap/>

### **The Nordic Council of Ministers**

The Prime Ministers of the Nordic Countries and the Nordic Council approved strategy «Sustainable Development – New Bearings for the Nordic Countries». It entered into force on January 1, 2001. The Strategy includes the Nordic countries' long-term objectives on sustainable development for a period of up to 2020 and tasks and initiatives for 2001-2004. Their implementation is important to achieve long-term aims relating to a number of economy sectors and fields of activity. Presently, proposals on specifying the strategy and specific objectives for 2005-2008 are being elaborated. The strategy focuses on application of the principles of sustainable

development and environment protection, first of all, in six most important sectors of economy: energy, transport, agriculture, business and industry, fisheries, forestry.

Originally, the strategy included five most important cross-sectoral issues: climate change, biological diversity, marine environment, chemical pollution and food safety.

The strategy envisages measures on the organization of its implementation, regional and international co-operation, defines indicators of sustainable development.

*Note: Summary information on sustainable development activities of other observers to the Arctic Council will be included after receiving information from those of them, which would like to participate in the SDAP development and further implementation.*

## **9. Contributions of the Working Groups and other bodies of the Arctic Council to SDAP**

The Arctic Council's activity concerning the ecological dimension of sustainable development is carried out with the help of working groups AMAP, CAFF, PAME, EPPR and programs ACAP and ACIA. SDWG is entrusted to ensure the Arctic Council's activity relating to economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. SDWG also coordinated all the work on preparing SDAP by Russia as the lead country and was responsible for submitting SDAP for approval to the Arctic Council's ministerial meeting. SDAP was made under the general supervision of the Senior Arctic Officials.

### **Working Group on the Arctic Monitoring and Assessing Program**

#### **AMAP**

AMAP mainly aims at monitoring, assessing and preparing reports on the state of the Arctic environment with emphasis on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), radio nuclides, heavy metals, acidity, contamination by oil hydrocarbons, problems relating to climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and increased ultraviolet radiation.

AMAP prepared the second comprehensive report, including the assessment of Arctic pollution "Arctic Pollution 2002", and issued five research reports relating to POPs, radioactivity, heavy metals, human health and changes in pathways of pollutants "AMAP 2002 –Reports with an assessment". All reports can be found on the AMAP Web-site: <http://www.amap.no>, while research reports are also available on CD-ROM.

The priority actions to prevent environmental pollution and reduce effects of the pollution were proposed on the basis of these reports. AMAP will implement these measures on the basis of its Strategic plan. In particular, in 2006, AMAP will submit reports on assessing acid deposition and hydrocarbon pollution in the Arctic. It will continue to co-operate with the Russian Association of the Indigenous People of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON) and the Government of the Russian Federation

to implement project “Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), food safety and the indigenous people of the Russian North”. Long-term monitoring of long distance trans-boundary atmospheric transport of mercury and POPs will be carried out at the observing stations of Amderma and Pevek in the Russian Arctic. Priority actions also include a study of processes of re-mobilizing radio nuclides from bottom sediments and their impact in the Arctic; a study of climate change impact on pathways of POPs, heavy metals and radio nuclides, their accumulation and impact on biota; monitoring of impact on humans of mercury, selected POPs, including dioxins and dioxin-like components, and other chemical substances of concern; ratification and implementation of the UN ECE Protocols on long range trans-boundary air pollution (LRTAP), heavy metals and POPs, as well as the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

The AMAP considers it necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.

*(AMAP is invited to update and amend the above information)*

### **Working Group on Conservation of Flora and Fauna** **CAFF**

CAFF is the main forum of the Arctic Council on bio-diversity. The main areas of its activity include integration and exchange of information, monitoring of the Arctic bio-diversity; conservation of species; protected areas; conservation of bio-diversity outside the protected areas. The more detailed information can be found on the CAFF Web-site <http://www.caff.is>.

Since 1998 CAFF has been guided by the Strategic Plan of preserving biological diversity in the Arctic, which later was updated on the basis of the AC instructions. The recommendations on the Arctic Council’s activity in this field for the future, approved at the ministerial meeting in Inari, were prepared on the basis of CAFF report “Arctic flora and fauna: state and conservation”.

The CAFF considers it necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.

*(CAFF is invited to update and amend the above information)*

### **Working Group on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response** **EPPR**

EPPR aims at protecting the Arctic environment from threats or impact of human activity in the Arctic as a result of accidental emissions of pollutants and at promoting sustainable development in the Arctic region.

EPPR carries out its activity on the basis of its Strategic plan. Until recently the projects implemented by EPPR, mainly, related to the problems of accidental oil pollution. Lately, the EPPR pays great attention to likely emergencies with radioactive

and other dangerous materials, and it has made an inventory of natural disasters, which took place in the Arctic earlier. Moreover, it has researched methods of response to oil spills in ice covered areas, broadened regional co-operation to combat emergency situations of trans-boundary nature and to store emergency oil wastes. More detailed information relating to the EPPR activity can be found on web-site <http://eppr.arctic-council.org>.

The EPPR considers it necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.  
(EPPR is invited to update and amend the above information)

### **Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group**

#### **PAME**

PAME is engaged in policies and measures of response to actions, which are not of emergency character, relating to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from terrestrial and marine based sources. These measures include coordinated actions, programs and guiding documents supplementing the existing international agreements. More detailed information can be found on the PAME Web-site <http://www.pame.is>.

PAME implements and develops a Regional Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based activities (RPA). The main components of the RPA include the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation (NPA – Arctic) and national action plans adopted by Canada and Iceland. A Partnership Conference to support the NAP-Arctic is planned to be held in Russia with the PAME assistance. Arctic Marine Strategic Plan on protecting the Arctic marine environment is worked out and submitted at the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in 2004. The international agreements regulating marine activity have been studied. A Manual on ecological aspects of the works relating to oil and gas development in the Arctic shelf is worked out and recommended for use. The recommendations on solving the problem of waste products from sea ships and on safe transportation of oil in the Arctic waters were prepared by Norway and Canada, accordingly (?).

PAME considers it is necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.  
(PAME is invited to update and amend the above information)

### **Sustainable Development Working Group**

#### **SDWG**

SDWG has the following main objectives: assisting Senior Arctic Officials in development and implementation of the Arctic Council's Program on sustainable development; being responsible for working out the proposals for the Arctic Council,

relating to the social, economic and cultural dimensions of sustainable development; promoting together with other working groups of the Arctic Council integration of the Capacity Building in the whole activity of the Council.

In Barrow the Ministers approved and adopted the Framework Document on Sustainable Development creating the basis to continue co-operation on sustainable development in the Arctic, prepared by the SDWG. To ensure efficient implementation of the Framework Document and the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the present SDAP is worked out under aegis of the SDWG and submitted for approval at the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in 2004. Arctic Human Development Report is also submitted at the same meeting. Its conclusions and recommendations will be used to specify the SDAP and prepare the second stage of its implementation.

SDWG priority areas include human health protection, education and training, children and youth, and other social problems. SDWG has carried out a number of projects relating to these areas. The works concerning sustainable reindeer husbandry and processing of the reindeer product and participation of the indigenous people of the North in managing coastal marine resources, are carried out. The Arctic Council requested the SDWG to brisk up its work relating to the sustainable use of natural resources and improve infrastructure, including marine and air transport, information technologies and communications, and to pay due attention to the problems of women in Arctic.

SDWG considers it is necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.

*(SDWG is invited to update and amend the above information)*

### **Arctic Council's Action Plan to eliminate pollution of the Arctic** **ACAP**

ACAP was created on the basis of the conclusions of the AMAP. The second meeting of the Arctic Council on a ministerial level in Barrow in 2000 adopted ACAP and determined that this plan would be the basis for development and implementation of the actions under aegis of the Council, relating to the prevention of pollution and enhancement of the environment.

A number of projects under ACAP promoting the region's transition to sustainable development were implemented. They include a Multi-level cooperative project to stop using PCB and control waste products containing PCB in the Russian Federation; Reduction/Elimination of outburst of dioxins and furans in the Russian Federation and, first of all, in the Arctic and northern regions, influencing the Arctic; Working out informational materials relating to contaminants in the Arctic, to be used by the delegations of the countries of the Arctic Council at other forums; Ecologically safe control of reserves of outdated pesticides in the Russian Federation; Reducing the

outbursts of mercury in the atmosphere in the Arctic countries; Manufacturing purer production by economically efficient control systems of protecting environment in the Norilsk mining and smelting company in Norilsk, the Russian Federation.

ACAP believes it is necessary to carry out a number of new near-time and long-time actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.

*(ACAP is invited to update and amend the above information)*

### **Arctic Climate Impact Assessment**

#### **ACIA**

Possible consequences of climate change and increase in ultraviolet radiation in the Arctic for the environment and its living resources, health of a human being and different branches of economy are studied within the limits of the ACIA. Ecological and social and economic consequences of these changes for periods till 2020, 2050 and 2080 are considered on the basis of a moderate scenario of climate change. The results of scientific researches (a research volume) and a political document, including recommendations to the institutions of power on the measures of counteracting the changes and adapting to them, are prepared and submitted at the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in 2004 (?).

ACIA thinks it is necessary to carry out a number of new near-term and long-term actions and will prepare appropriate project proposals.

*(ACIA is invited to update and amend the above information)*

## 10. SDAP: Table of Actions for 2004 – 2006

Activities	Expected Output	AC lead WG/Lead country	Participants *	Date of impleme ntation	Financing, \$ mln. **	
					Project cost estimate	Sources of finances
<b>1. HUMAN CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC</b>						
<i>1.1. Activities completed or underway</i>						
1.1.1. The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)	Integrated assessment of human conditions in the circumpolar region. A comprehensive knowledge base on sustainable development	SDWG/Iceland	All Arctic States	2002- 2004		
<i>1.2. New Activities</i>						
1.2.1.						
<p>* Composition of participants will be defined following consultations between lead countries and Arctic Council members, Permanent Participants and Observers.</p> <p>** Estimated costs and sources of financing will be determined after defining the composition of participants and project size.</p> <p>Note. New projects, project proposals and other actions will be included in Table of Actions according to the standard Arctic Council procedure.</p>						
<b>2. ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>						
<i>2.1. Priority area «Sustainable economic activity and increasing prosperity of Arctic communities»</i>						
<i>2.1.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004- 2005		
<i>2.1.2 Completed or on- going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						

2.1.2.1. Sustainable reindeer husbandry	Assessment of the situation, recommendations on sustainable deer husbandry	SDWG/Norway	Finland, Sweden, Russia, USA	2000-2002		
2.1.2.2. Reindeer husbandry and wild deer/caribou	Improved data base, gap identification, recommendations on reindeer husbandry development and improvement of reindeer farms	SDWG/Norway	?	2003-2004		
2.1.2.3. Production and product processing in sustainable reindeer husbandry	Increased quality of products in reindeer husbandry. Training to process reindeer meat	SDWG/Finland/Northern Forum	?	2002- ?		
2.1.2.4. Sustainable development of timberline forests	Socio-economic impacts of global change and recommendations on ecosystem management in the region.	SDWG/Finland	?	2000-2002		
<b>2.1.3. New Activities</b>						
2.1.3.1.						
<b>2.2. Priority area «Sustainable Use of Natural, including Living, Resources »</b>						
2.2.1.. <i>Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
2.2.2. <i>Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
2.2.2.1. Joint management of marine resources in Arctic regions	Construction of marine resource management models for coastal areas with indigenous people participation	SDWG/Saami Council/Norway	Canada, Denmark/Greenland, USA	2002		
<b>2.2.3. . New Activities</b>						
2.2.3.1.						

<b>2.3. Priority area «Development of transport infrastructure ,( including aviation, marine and surface transport), Information Technologies and Modern Telecommunications»</b>						
<i>2.3.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<i>2.3.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
2.3.2.1 Arctic transportation and circumpolar infrastructure	Recommendations on development of aviation, marine transport and telecommunications in the Arctic	SDWG/USA/ Northern Forum	Canada, Russia, Finland, UK	2000-2004		
<b>2.3.3. New Activities</b>						
2.3.3.1.						
<b>3. SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>						
<b>3.1. Priority area « Health of the people living and working in the Arctic»</b>						
<i>3.1.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<i>3.1.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
3.1.2.1. International circumpolar surveillance: prevention and control of emerging infectious	Monitoring of infectious diseases and tuberculosis	SDWG/USA	All Arctic States	2000-?		

diseases in the Arctic						
3.1.2.2. Telemedicine	Development of telemedical activity	SDWG/USA	?	2000-?		
<b>3.1.3. New Activities</b>						
3.1.3.1.						
<b>3.2. Priority area «Education and Cultural Heritage »</b>						
3.2.1. <i>Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
3.2.2. <i>Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
3.2.2.1. Cultural and ecological tourism. Sustainable patterns of Arctic regional tourism	Development of sustainable patterns of Arctic regional tourism. Sustainable tourism curriculum.	SDWG/USA/Finland	?	1998 -?		
<b>3.2.3. New Activities</b>						
3.2.3.1.						
<b>3.3. Priority area “Prosperity and Capacity Building for Children and the Youth »</b>						
3.3.1. <i>Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
3.3.2. <i>Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
3.3.2.1. Future for Children and Youth	Health protection program. Network development program. Internship program	SDWG/Canada	?	1998-2004		

<b>3.3.3. New Activities</b>						
3.3.3.1.						
<b>3.4. Priority area «Gender Equality»</b>						
<i>3.4.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<i>3.4.2. Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
3.4.2.1.						
<b>3.4.3. New Activities</b>						
3.4.3.1.						
<b>3.5. Priority area «Enhancing Well Being, Poverty Eradication in the Arctic»</b>						
<i>3.5.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	SDWG/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<i>3.5.2. Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
3.5.2.1. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic	Study of human conditions for inuits and saamis	SDWG/Denmark/ Greenland	Sweden, Norway, Russia, USA, Canada, Finland	2000-2004		
<b>3.5.3. New Activities</b>						
3.5.3.1.						

#### 4. ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

##### *4.1. Priority area «Arctic Environment Monitoring and Assessment»*

<i>4.1.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	AMAP/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<i>4.1.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
4.1.2.1. Reports "Arctic Pollution 2002" and "AMAP 2002 - Assessment Reports". Creation of Thematic Data centers. Information papers on POPs, heavy metals, and radionuclides. Project on persistent toxic substances. Establishment of two atmospheric stations in Amderm and Peveke, Russia.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analysis of environment pollution by POPs, radio nuclides, heavy metals, oil contamination</li> <li>2. Analysis of climate change, ozone layer, UV radiation.</li> <li>3. Impact of pollution on human health and biota.</li> </ol>	AMAP/?  (Lead countries should be identified for each activity)	?	?		
<i>4.1.3. New Activities</i>						
4.1.3.1.						
<i>4.2. Priority area «Prevention and Elimination of Environmental Pollution in the Arctic»</i>						
<i>4.2.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on	ACAP/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		

<i>priorities</i>	cooperation development					
<b>4.2.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</b>						
4.2.2.1. Phase out of PCB and PCB containing waste management in the Russian Federation	Source assessment and development of rehabilitation measures. Feasibility studies.. Implemented pilot projects	ACAP/Russia		2000-2002		
4.2.2.2. Reduction/elimination of dioxin and furan releases in the Russian Federation, primarily in the Arctic and northern areas affecting the Arctic	List of pollution sources. Justification of best technologies. Implemented pilot projects	ACAP/Russia	Sweden, USA, UNEP	2000-2005		
4.2.2.3. Development of fact sheets on Arctic contaminants for use by Arctic Council states in other for a	Information materials	ACAP/?	?	2000-2001		
4.2.2.4. Environmentally sound management of obsolete pesticides in the Russian Federation	Inventory of the stocks. Technology assessment and selection. A pilot project.	ACAP/Russia	?	2000-2004		
4.2.2.5. Reduction of atmospheric mercury releases air emissions from the Arctic states	Source identification Pilot project selection Implementation of pilot projects	ACAP/Denmark	All Arctic states	2002-2006		
4.2.2.6. Introduction of	Prevention, reduction of air and water	ACAP/R	Norway,	2002-		

economically efficient and environmentally sound cleaner production systems at the Norilsk metallurgical company at Norilsk, Russian Federation	pollution	ussia	USA	2004		
<b>4.2.3. New Activities</b>						
4.2.3.1.						
<b>4.3. Priority area «Protection of Arctic Marine Environment »</b>						
<b>4.3.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</b>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	PAME/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
<b>4.3.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</b>						
4.3.2.1. Regional program of action on protection of Arctic marine environment from land based activity and its components: Russian NPA-Arctic, NPA Canada and Iceland:	Individual and joint actions that will lead to prevention, mitigation, control and elimination of the Arctic marine environment pollution	PAME/?	?	1998-?		
4.3.2.2. Offshore oil and gas guidelines	Prevention of marine environment pollution from oil and gas development on the Arctic shelf	PAME/ ?	?	1997-2002		
4.3.2.3. Protection of		PAME/	?	2002-		

the marine environment from shipping activities	Recommendations to solve the problem of ship generated waste. Assessment of potential risks of pollution.	Norway		2004		
<b>4.3.3. New Activities</b>						
4.3.3.1.						
<b>4.4. Priority area « Conservation of biodiversity in the Arctic»</b>						
4.4.1. <i>Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities</i>	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	CAAF/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
4.4.2. <i>Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council</i>						
4.4.2.1. Integration and information exchanges. Report "Arctic flora and fauna: recommendations on conservation"	Policy recommendations to the ministers of the Arctic states regarding necessary actions for conservation and sustainable use of Arctic flora and fauna	CAAF/?	?	2001		
4.4.2.2. Monitoring of biodiversity in the Arctic	Creation and functioning of a network of experts to harmonize circumpolar observations	CAAF/Iceland	?	?		
4.4.2.3. Conservation of species	Implementation of projects on conservation of sea and migratory birds	CAAF/?	?	?		
4.4.2.4. Protected areas	A public education booklet. Report with detailed description of protected areas Valuation of conservation of sacred sites	CAAF/	Denmark	?		

4.4.2.5. Conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas		CAAF/?	?	2000-?		
<b>4.4.3. New Activities</b>						
4.4.3.1.						
<b>4.5. Priority area «Climate change impact assessment in the Arctic»</b>						
4.5.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	ACIA/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
4.5.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council						
4.5.2.1. Preparation of policy document and scientific report on Arctic climate change impact assessment	Assessment of likely future climate change impact on the environment and its living resources, human health and economic sectors	ACIA/USA	All Arctic States	2002-2004		
<b>4.5.3. New Activities</b>						
4.5.3.1.						
<b>4.6. Priority area «Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies in the Arctic, including those originated from climate change»</b>						
4.6.1. Analysis of the state of the problem. Definition of gaps and priorities	Activity review, evaluation of implementation of recommendations, list of priority actions, proposals on cooperation development	EPPR/?	All Arctic States	2004-2005		
4.6.2. . Completed or on-going projects (actions) under the Arctic Council						
4.6.2.1. Development of	Emergency prevention	EPPR?	Norway,	2000-		

a circumpolar map of likely oil spill risks in the Arctic			Russia, USA	2004		
4.6.2.2. Development of best practice program on emergencies (prevention, preparedness, readiness, response)	Measures to deal with any accident at nuclear facility	EPPR/?				
<b>4.6.3. New Activities</b>						
4.6.3.1.						

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. Introduction: Mandate for Development..... 1
- 2. Particular Importance of Sustainable Development for the Arctic ..... 2
- 3. Sustainable Development as the Main Activity of the Arctic Council..... 3
- 4. The Priorities Defined in the Framework Document, Inari Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002. .... 4
- 5. SDAP Objectives..... 9
- 6. The Main Activity on Sustainable Development at the National Level in the Arctic Countries ..... 12
- 7. The main actions on sustainable development in the Arctic carried out by Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council..... 12
- 8. The main actions on sustainable development in the Arctic carried out by Observers to the Arctic Council..... 13
- 9. Contributions of the Working Groups and other bodies of the Arctic Council to SDAP ..... 14
- 10. SDAP: Table of Actions for 2004 – 2006..... 19