

Permanent Participant Advice on Communicating the Results of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA)

Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Selfoss, Iceland
4-5 May 2004

The work of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment is of critical importance to Arctic indigenous peoples. They stand to be the people most affected by climate change impacts, physically, socially, economically, and culturally. It is therefore of great importance that the results of the ACIA are communicated effectively to indigenous audiences.

It is equally important that Arctic indigenous peoples are involved in communicating their perspectives on climate change to governments, policy makers, industry, and the public. This will clearly highlight the necessity of mitigating change and the necessity of providing resources to Arctic indigenous peoples to deal with climate change impacts already being experienced.

Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, recently described the Arctic as “an environmental early warning system for the world.” ACIA Chair Bob Corell noted recently in testimony before the US Senate, “Climate change...deserves and requires urgent attention by policymakers and the public worldwide.” As they proved during the negotiation of the Stockholm Convention, Arctic indigenous peoples can be effective catalysts for public policy.

Permanent Participants recommend that the ACIA secretariat take steps to communicate the results of the ACIA to Arctic indigenous peoples, and other important audiences. An essential understanding is that indigenous communications should not just be a separate undertaking, but should also permeate more ‘mainstream’ communications, reflecting the reality that many indigenous people are consumers of mainstream media, and ensuring that indigenous perspectives are available to the wider population. Indigenous peoples will also undertake their own communications based around the ACIA.

Tools

We recommend that the ACIA Secretariat:

- ◆ Produce 15 and 30 minute videos and b-roll that contain significant indigenous representation and viewpoints, and produce separate such materials specifically for indigenous audiences.

- ◆ Produces audio segments of varying lengths in national and indigenous languages explaining the ACIA results in plain language.
- ◆ Coordinate with indigenous peoples, and assist in funding the development of information/education tours of major indigenous communities. Indigenous peoples will be the main communicators in their regions.
- ◆ Produce a folder/brochure highlighting the main points of the ACIA in plain language. This folder/brochure would serve as a housing for fact sheets. ACIA could produce fact sheets detailing anticipated climate effects on indigenous regions.
- ◆ Target cultivation of indigenous media in the general media plan.
- ◆ Reflect indigenous observations and perspectives in graphics.
- ◆ Work with PPs to create an Arctic indigenous-centred side event at UNFCC COP10
- ◆ Work with PPs to produce curriculum materials for use by the University of the Arctic and other regional educational institutions.

Other Audiences

We believe the indigenous perspectives on Arctic climate change need to be brought directly to the attention of decision-makers. To that end, we request that ACIA should target indigenous participation in presentations to:

International

- ◆ UNEP governing council
- ◆ Global Environmental Facility
- ◆ European Union
- ◆ UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples
- ◆ Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Bio-diversity
- ◆ UNFCC Conference of the Parties

National

Presentations including indigenous representatives should also be made to national legislative bodies of all Arctic states.