

Arctic Council Working SAO Meeting Tromsø, Norway 12-13 April 2007. Summary of SDWG Activities for 2006-2008.

2007-04

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

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**Arctic Council Working SAO Meeting
Tromsø, Norway
12-13 April 2007**

Summary of SDWG Activities for 2006-2008

The SDWG work load for the period 2006-2008 is considerable. The SDWG does not directly undertake and carry out projects and other activities under its mandate. Rather, experts participate in country-led project groups which carry on the actual project work. The SDWG provides general direction, as required. However, there are several major new initiatives which are anticipated to require additional time and attention by the SDWG:

- 1) Follow-up to Ministers' requests relating to adaptation to climate change
- 2) Arctic Energy Summit
- 3) Arctic ICT Assessment
- 4) Arctic Human Health activities
- 5) Follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report

Efforts are being made to reorganize the conduct of SDWG meetings to allow more time for discussions and decision-making on major work activities such as adaptation to climate change.

The SDWG continues to seek more input from expert groups on issues and activities within its mandate. This is the case, for example, in the fields of human health, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), statistics, reindeer husbandry and aviation, to name a few. Further development of such relationships with expert bodies can contribute to the work of the SDWG and will be pursued in the period 2006 – 2008.

Projects and activities include the following:

Cross-cutting issues where coordination is needed

1. Climate change

The Salekhard Declaration requests SDWG, AMAP, the working groups in general, as well as the SAOs directly, to follow up on climate change.

Specific Ministerial Requests:

- "Request the SAOs to direct the SDWG, drawing on the expertise of other Working Groups, experts and stakeholders, to identify and share adaptation expertise and best practices and possible actions, unique to the needs and conditions of the Arctic, so that indigenous and other residents can better adapt to climate change, and to report on the status of this activity at the 2008 Ministerial meeting, and to make publicly available any results or lessons learned from this undertaking."

Recently Completed Projects and Activities:

- ECONOR (Norway): the final report (2006) of phase one of this project is on the SDWG website (<http://portal.sdwg.org>)

On-going Projects and Activities:

- None

Proposed SDWG Projects and Activities (to be considered at SDWG meeting on 10-11 April 2007):

- ECONOR 2 (Norway)
- EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land (Norway)

2. Resource Management

The SAO report mandates SDWG and PAME to jointly consider possible actions to study how the ecosystem approach and sustainable management of natural resources can be effectively implemented. Norway hosted a meeting of experts from the Arctic States and Permanent Participants to a workshop on integrated ocean management in Tromsø 20-21 February.

Specific Ministerial Requests:

- Welcome the increased co-operation in the field of energy, reflected in various AC projects, and endorse energy, including renewable energy and environmentally friendly technologies, as an important component of the AC cooperation, addressing energy issues and their impact on human life and the environment, and request the SDWG to report on this activity to the AC Ministerial session in 2008, and to identify activities that the Arctic Council could consider for future implementation,

Recently Completed Projects and Activities:

- *Women's participation in decision-making in Arctic fisheries resource management (2004)*: the final report of this project is on the SDWG website.
- *Women and Resource Management in the Rural North (2006)*: the final report (2006) of this project is not yet available on the SDWG website.
- *Family Reindeer Economy (2004)*
- *Product Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry 2002 – 2005*

On-going Projects and Activities:

- None

New Projects and Activities (approved at the Salekhard Ministerial Meeting):

- Arctic Energy Summit (Lead: USA)

Proposed SDWG Projects and Activities (to be considered at SDWG meeting on 10-11 April 2007):

- Integrated Ocean Management (Norway)

3. Health issues

Health projects are carried out both in AMAP and in SDWG as well as in other international bodies (e.g. Barents and EU Northern Dimension). A meeting of health experts was held in Oslo on 29-30 March 2007 to discuss coordination of this work.

Recently Completed Projects and Activities:

- Arctic Children & Youth Health Indicators (Canada): the final report of this project is on the SDWG website

On-going Projects and Activities:

- Arctic Human Health Initiative (Lead: USA)
- The International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic (Lead: USA)
- Telemedicine (Lead: USA)

New Projects and Activities (approved at the Salekhard Ministerial Meeting):

- Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic (Lead: Russia)
- Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North (Lead: Russia, RAIPON)

Proposed SDWG Projects and Activities (to be considered at SDWG meeting in April 2007):

- Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North (USA)

4. Other SDWG Projects and Activities

Specific Ministerial Requests:

- Encourage the SDWG to pursue projects and activities within the thematic areas described in the SDWG Work-Plan for 2006-2008 as accepted by the SAOs and authorize SAOs to consider, approve and supervise SDWG projects and activities in these areas, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council,

The thematic areas referred to above are the following:

- Follow on to the Arctic Human Development Report
- Further Development of the Arctic Human Health Cluster
- Appropriate SDWG Follow-on to the ACIA
- Arctic Information and Communication Technologies
- Management of Natural Resources:

Recently Completed Projects and Activities:

- SMART (Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism)

On-going Projects and Activities:

- Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA (Lead: Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands)
- Arctic Infrastructure: Aviation (Lead: USA)

New Projects and Activities (approved at the Salekhard Ministerial Meeting):

- Arctic Action (ICT) (Lead: Sweden)
- Arctic ICT Assessment (Lead: USA, Finland)
- Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium (Lead: Canada)
- Arctic Social Indicators (Lead: Iceland)
- ArcticStat (Lead: Canada)

5. Main deliverables to the next Ministerial

- Climate Change adaptation expertise, best practices and possible actions
- Arctic Action (ICT) (Lead: Sweden)
- Arctic ICT Assessment (Lead: USA, Finland)
- Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium (Lead: Canada)
- Arctic Social Indicators (Lead: Iceland)
- ArcticStat (Lead: Canada)
- ECONOR 2 (Lead: Norway)
- Possible final reports of other projects mentioned above.