

# Report of the Sustainable Development Working Group to Senior Arctic Officials. 20 January 2009.

2009

## Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

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**Report of the Sustainable Development Working Group  
to  
Senior Arctic Officials**

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# **Report of the SDWG to Senior Arctic Officials**

## **Introduction:**

The scope and complexity of responsibilities of the SDWG has continued to grow during the Norwegian chairmanship of the Arctic Council. This report outlines SDWG achievements during the period 2006-2009, as well as efforts by the SDWG to find ways to improve the focus of its activities and implementation of its mandate. The SDWG wishes to acknowledge the expertise and dedication with which the SDWG Chair, Mr. Stein Rosenberg of Norway, has guided the group during the period 2006-2009.

This report is organized into three main parts as follows:

- PART 1. Overview of Activities during 2006-2009
- PART 2. Deliverables and Recommendations for Ministerial 2009
- PART 3. Work Plan for 2009-2011

## **PART 1. Overview of Activities During 2006-2009**

### ***A. Management***

Mr. Stein Rosenberg (Norway) has chaired the SDWG since the Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard, Russia in 2006. The elected Co-Vice-Chairs have been Ms. Louise Lee Leth and then Ms. Marianne Lykke Thomsen (Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands) and Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami Council) representing the Permanent Participants. Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands has indicated its willingness to act as SDWG Chair for the period 2009-2011.

Canada has continued its generous support of the permanent secretariat for the SDWG established in Canada in 2002 following the Inari Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Bernard Funston has continued as SDWG Executive Secretary since 2002. All documents referred to in this report are available on the SDWG website maintained by the secretariat: <http://portal.sdwg.org>.

### ***B. Meetings and Workshops***

The SDWG held four regular meetings in Norway during the Norwegian chairmanship period. The first was held in Tromsø on 10-11 April 2007, the second in Vadsø on 30 October to 01 November 2007, the third in Oslo on 19-22 May 2008, and the fourth in Tromsø on 24-25 October 2008. A joint meeting was held with AMAP on 21 May 2008 in Oslo.

Three workshops were held during the week of 19-23 October 2008 in Tromsø in relation to 1) Arctic Indigenous Languages; 2) Best Practices in Ecosystems-Based Ocean Management (BePoMAR); and 3) Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA).

In addition, the SDWG held Heads of Delegation meetings in Oslo on 19 May, 2008 and in Copenhagen, Denmark on 8-9 December 2008 to discuss, among other things, the strategic direction and methods of work of the SDWG. During the Norwegian chairmanship period the SDWG also held Heads of Delegation teleconferences, as required, to organize its work and to discuss substantive issues.

New procedures for approval of SDWG projects, that allow SAOs to approve projects intersessionally, were adopted by SAOs and Ministers in Salekhard in October 2006. These new procedures have worked very well and have allowed the SDWG to develop and carry out several additional important projects during the Norwegian chairmanship:

- Economy of the North (ECONOR 2) (Norway)
- Best Practices in Ecosystems-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (Bepomar) (Norway)

- EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land (Norway)
- Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA) (Norway)
- Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North (USA).

The *EALAT* and *Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment* projects will complete their work during the Danish Chairmanship of the Council (2009-2011).

### C. Summary of SDWG Projects and Activities 2006-2009

During the Norwegian Chairmanship there have been 20 projects and activities under the umbrella of the working group. The core of the SDWG is a portfolio of projects dealing with a wide range of issues in human development in the Arctic. The range and diversity is illustrated by the Projects & Activities List below:

#### SDWG Projects & Activities 2006-2009

(\* denotes a project or activity with deliverables for the 2009 Ministerial meeting)

Project or Activity	Lead	To Continue during Danish Chairmanship
<b>ADAPTATION to CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
1. Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic *	Norway	Follow on projects or activities anticipated
2. EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land *	Norway	Yes
<b>MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
3. Best Practices in Ecosystem-based Ocean Management *	Norway	Follow on projects or activities anticipated
4. Arctic Energy Summit *	USA	Yes
5. SDWG Report to Ministers on Arctic Energy *	Norway	Follow on projects or activities anticipated
6. Circumpolar Information Tool Kit on Minerals, and Oils and Gas for Indigenous People and Northern Communities	Canada	Yes
<b>ARCTIC HUMAN HEALTH</b>		
7. Arctic Human Health Initiative *	USA	Will wind down during the IPY as health responsibilities are transferred to new SDWG health expert group (AHHEG)
8. SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) *	USA/Canada	Yes (first meeting: 16-17 Feb. 2009)
9. International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention	USA	Yes

and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic *		
10. Telemedicine	USA	No
11. Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North	USA	Yes
12. Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic	Russia	Status report pending
<b>FOLLOW ON TO ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT</b>		
13. Arctic Social Indicators *	Iceland	Follow on projects or activities anticipated
14. ECONOR 2 *	Norway	Follow on projects or activities anticipated
15. ArcticStat *	Canada	Yes
16. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA*	Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands	Yes
17. Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium *	Canada	Possible follow on project or activity
18. Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North	Russia/RAIPON	Status report pending
<b>ARCTIC INFORMATION &amp; COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>		
19. Arctic ICT Assessment *	USA	No
20. Action Arctic ICT	Sweden	Yes

## D. SDWG Organizational Activities

### **The SDWG Mandate**

The *Sustainable Development Terms of Reference* (1998) and the *Sustainable Development Framework Document* (2000) give the SDWG a very broad mandate. The content of the 2006-2009 SDWG workplan has mainly been workshops and reports on common Arctic challenges. The deliverables, like the projects, vary in scope. As demonstrated by the list of SDWG projects and activities approved by SAOs and Ministers at Salekhard in October, 2006 (see above), the objective has been to make healthy progress on several practical undertakings that aim, directly or indirectly, to improve people's lives in the Arctic.

Projects are not managed directly by the SDWG. The project coordinator from the lead country reports to the SDWG at regular meetings and SDWG participants offer their comments. Each project has one or more lead countries and a project team comprised of experts from participating Arctic states, Permanent Participants and Observers. Not all Arctic states and Permanent Participants participate in every project and activity of the SDWG.

In addition to its own reports, the SDWG has played a useful role as a facilitator of Arctic cooperation on a non-state level within several of the Arctic Council observer organizations. Things are happening within the framework of SDWG although not always formally linked to the working group. This especially applies to the cooperation on Arctic human health where the International Union on Circumpolar Health (IUCH) takes active part in SDWG meetings and is an important actor in most of SDWG projects on human health. The World Reindeer Herders are another observer that makes good use of SDWG meetings to both contribute to SDWG projects and by using the SDWG meetings as a venue for their own activities.

### **Some Challenges Facing the SDWG**

#### ***a. Participation in Projects***

The Terms of Reference for a Sustainable Development Programme says that: "Proposals should provide for participation from more than one Arctic State ..." The minimum requirement is thus a participation of at least two Arctic States. The content of the concept of participation is not clearly defined. The participation of member states and Permanent Participants in SDWG projects has been variable. Some projects have participation from most states and Permanent Participants. The participation can be direct funding or various forms of in-kind work. It can be on a governmental level or on other levels. The Arctic Human Development Report, ECONOR, SLICA,

ArcticStat and the Arctic Social Indicators project are examples from recent years of projects with broad participation. The projects on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA) and the Best Practices in Ecosystems-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BEPOMAR) were also projects with broad participation, as is the case with some of the projects on human health, although perhaps not on a governmental level but rather on a hospital or individual doctor level. Moving forward, the SDWG will encourage broad and active participation in projects and activities, as appropriate.

### ***b. Composition of the Working Group***

The SDWG has a broad mandate covering most aspects of Arctic cooperation that are not dealt with by the environmental working groups but still fall within the mandate of the Arctic Council. The group was thus from the beginning comprised of SAOs and Permanent Participants, or their designated representatives as requested by the *Iqaluit Declaration*. The participation of SAOs has gradually been reduced, but the SDWG representatives do still mainly come from ministries or Permanent Participants' central administrations.

The other working groups do all have more focused mandates, and consequently they have their representation mostly from governmental agencies and research institutions (i.e. ACAP, AMAP, PAME – pollution control agencies, CAFF – nature management agencies, EPPR – coastal administrations or agencies for emergency issues).

The formal delegations to SDWG do not provide the subject-matter expertise on most substantive work within the working group's mandate. There has been limited representation in the SDWG meetings and activities from specialists or experts from other ministries or their agencies. High quality work on specialized issues depends on expert participation in the SDWG project groups. The SDWG project groups are experts in their fields but these groups are engaged only for the life of a given project. Because of the large number of projects it has been difficult at recent meetings to accommodate detailed reports by all SDWG project leaders.

### ***c. Funding***

Funding of projects is a challenge for all delegations and working groups. *The Sustainable Development Terms of Reference (1998)*<sup>1</sup> and the more recent *SDWG Procedures for submitting, approving and managing project proposals (2006)* require project proposals to set out cost estimates and budgets. The latter also requires some

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<sup>1</sup> Article 3 of the SDTOR (1998) states: "A proposal, including any comments received, should be taken up at a Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meeting. The SAOs should consider the merit of the proposal, including the degree to which it is consistent with the Declaration and with the decisions taken at Ministerial meetings, regional applicability, level of sponsorship and sufficiency of any financial support required. The SAOs may call for further revision of the proposal or forward it to a Ministerial meeting for consideration and decision."



indication of sources of funding and states that “project proposals that have broad support and funding or that seem to be innovative should be favourably considered.”

Most SDWG projects manage to get a sufficient minimum funding to do their work. However, some projects face serious funding problems, even after having been endorsed by the Ministers or the SAOs.

Funding of participation in SDWG meetings and project work is a continuing challenge for many of the Permanent Participants, and does sometimes make it impossible for them to take part.

#### ***d. Timing and Venues for Meetings***

Apart from its first meeting of the Norwegian chairmanship in April 2007, the SDWG has not organized back-to-back meetings with the SAO meetings, as instructed by SAOs. Some participants, particularly the Permanent Participants, but also some Arctic states, feel that although this provides more time for comprehensive discussions, it may compromise participation in the SDWG owing to the overall increase in the number of meetings and the associated travel costs. In addition, some feel it reduces the communications with SAOs on important questions relating to the human dimension of the Arctic. Due to the challenging logistics of travel to Greenland, some reconsideration of this matter may be warranted during the Danish chairmanship.

#### ***New Strategic Direction***

The SDWG has been exploring new ways to organize and conduct its work with a view to taking a more strategic view of its priorities and work ahead. The working group does not wish to lose the flexibility of a "bottom-up" approach, which allows for new ideas and proposals to be explored, developed and approved, but at the same time realizes the importance of contributing to the larger-scale assessments which characterize much of the work of the other Arctic Council working groups.

#### ***Cross-cutting issues***

Increasingly, the activities of the Arctic Council, not only within SDWG, but across all working groups, have become cross-cutting. This is illustrated by AMAP's *Oil and Gas Assessment*, PAME's *Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment*, CAFF's *Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program* and *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment*, and so on. SDWG has a contribution to make to this cross-cutting work, particularly in the socio-economic dimension, given the success of projects such as the *Arctic Human Development Report* (AHDR), *Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic* (SLiCA), *Arctic Social Indicators* (ASI), *ECONOR I and II*, *ArcticStat*, and numerous others. The SDWG is considering mechanisms to allow it to participate in cross-cutting activities in a more structured and consistent way, for example in relation to the AMAP-led assessment on *Climate Change and the Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic* (SWIPA) and the *Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks* (SAON) process.

### ***Future work and direction***

During the period 2006-2009, the SDWG dedicated considerable time to discussing ways to improve the implementation of its mandate, including its strategic direction, methods of work and follow-up in relation to project findings. The SDWG will continue to look at how it can best define priorities, design new activities, and manage its portfolio of projects and other work. Broadening the participation of Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers in its projects and activities is among the primary issues the SDWG has considered during the Norwegian chairmanship and will continue to consider during the Danish chairmanship.

### **E. Recommendations**

- 1. Given the increasing interest in Arctic affairs in Arctic states and globally, the SDWG requests SAOs to recommend that Ministers include in their declaration a statement of commitment to fuller Arctic state participation in, and support for, approved SDWG projects and activities, including project funding.***
- 2. The SDWG also requests SAOs to recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged***
  - a. to continue its efforts to find ways to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the working group, for example, by analyzing its existing mandate in relation to the broadening and increasing number of projects; and through the use of existing experts groups (e.g. AHHEG), the establishment of new SDWG expert groups (e.g. in relation to socio-economic issues) and further collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups.***
  - b. to develop a strategic plan for addressing emerging needs and priority issues in relation to sustainable development in the Arctic***
  - c. to develop an action plan to disseminate, implement or follow-up on the findings of completed projects and activities, as appropriate.***
  - d. to report on the above issues at the next Arctic Council Ministerial meeting 2011***

## **PART 2. Projects Deliverables & Recommendations for Ministerial 2009**

As noted above, the SDWG had 20 projects and activities reporting to the working group in the period 2006-2009, with deliverables, that like the projects, vary in scope. Of these 20, fifteen have some form of deliverable for the 2009 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.

A brief overview of the objectives of each these fifteen projects or activities and its deliverable is given below, followed by the recommendations of the SDWG in relation to the project or activity.

While these projects and activities were undertaken as approved projects of the Arctic Council under the auspices of the SDWG, the SDWG notes that it does not negotiate or edit in detail each project final report. Project reports are prepared by a project team and do not necessarily reflect the policy or positions of any Arctic State, Permanent Participant or Observer of the Arctic Council. The SDWG has requested that each report contain a disclaimer to this effect.

The projects and activities are presented under the five thematic areas that have been used to organize SDWG work during the Norwegian chairmanship, namely:

- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Management of Natural Resources
- Arctic Human Health
- Follow on the the Arctic Human Development Report
- Arctic Information and Communication Technologies

Some project reports are primarily informational, while others are anticipated to result in proposals for new projects or activities that might be brought forward by the SDWG to SAOs for intersessional approval during the Danish or subsequent chairmanships.

For copies of reports and more detailed information about a project, please visit the SDWG website: <http://portal.sdwg.org>.

### **Adaptation to Climate Change**

#### **1 Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA) [Norway]**

The project on *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic* (VACCA) was approved by the SAOs in July 2007. The project was designed to provide useful knowledge and information-sharing at different governance levels and for different sectors so that this learning can be incorporated into policies and decision-making. VACCA has direct and indirect links to several SDWG priority subject areas, and activities of other working groups, including follow-on to the *Arctic Human Development Report* (AHDR, 2004);

management of natural resources; Arctic human, community and environmental health; energy; marine shipping; and information and communication technologies. The output from VACCA has two components: 1) a scoping study and 2) an international workshop to discuss relevant issues. The scoping study used a survey to collect information on expertise, previous and ongoing projects, and strategies and measures on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Arctic. Responses to the survey were solicited via the SDWG website, word-of-mouth, email lists, specific meetings, and by contacting individuals one-on-one to fill in the survey form. The scoping study also formed the basis for the preparation of a background document for the international workshop held in Tromsø, Norway on 22-23 October 2008. The international workshop provided a venue to discuss relevant issues and to exchange information on good practices and lessons related to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The workshop also prepared suggestions to assist the Arctic Council in moving forward with reducing vulnerability and implementing adaptation to climate change in the Arctic.

The report entitled *An Analysis of the Scoping Study Data* represents the background document analysing the scoping study for the workshop held in Tromsø, Norway from 22-23 October 2008. It reports on the data from the survey responses while analysing them through a strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-constraints analysis. It should be noted that the survey is not complete and therefore does not give a complete picture of activities in all Arctic states.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the report of VACCA, which summarizes the findings of the scoping study and an initial workshop aiming at identifying common challenges related to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the circum-Arctic context; that SAOs recognize that although the specific issues, challenges and needs related to the issue of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change varies substantially between Arctic countries, communities and peoples, there remains a significant core of common concern that the Arctic Council should explore further; that SAOs acknowledging that information constitutes an important basis for exploring and understanding issues of common concern, recommend ministers to request the SAOs to direct the SDWG to further consider potential mechanisms for information flow between parties. The SDWG, in cooperation with the other working groups of the Arctic Council, should be encouraged to explore further potential specific and concrete follow on projects and activities in relation to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Arctic.*

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

Indigenous peoples in the Arctic face major challenges related to changes in their society and the northern climate. The EALAT project was designed to gather information about the changes to which Arctic herders are subjected and to give some concrete examples where herders' traditional knowledge contributes to adaptation to changing conditions, including traditional use of grazing land. Local community-based workshops were organized in the reindeer herding societies in the most important reindeer herding regions. These workshops focused on how knowledge is used and how traditional grazing lands are lost. The challenge of EALÁT- Information is to transfer reindeer herders' knowledge into action for sustainable development of the Arctic and, in particular, to involve Russian, Scandinavian and Alaskan reindeer herders in this process. An interim report and an information book have been prepared for the Arctic Council Ministerial in 2009. The project will continue into the Danish chairmanship.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs note the progress on this project; note the continuation of the project into the Danish chairmanship; welcome the information book entitled Reindeer Herders' Voice: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land to be delivered to Ministers in April 2009; and recommend to Ministers that they encourage further studies on the effects of climate change on reindeer herding and on indigenous Arctic societies with a broad collaboration between Indigenous communities and organizations, academic institutions and networks, and other relevant circumpolar organizations with a view to bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate.*

## Management of Natural Resources

### 3 Best Practices in Ecosystem-based Ocean Management (Bepomar) [Norway]

The joint SDWG/PAME Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management project was initiated by Norway in 2006 and adopted by the SAO meeting in April 2007, following a startup workshop in February 2007. The objective of the Bepomar project was to present the concepts and practices the Arctic countries have developed for the application of an ecosystem-based approach to oceans management. By way of reviewing how countries actually put to use such concepts and practices, lessons can be drawn on how to effectively implement ecosystems-based oceans management, for

example, in relation to the 17 large marine ecosystems (LMEs) that have been identified in the Arctic.

The project examines two sets of questions relating to the substance and process of putting ecosystems-based oceans management to work, respectively:

- what practices and approaches have proved useful in moving towards effective protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment?
- What are the main obstacles, and what are the important success elements in moving towards ecosystems-based oceans management?

The issue of practices and approaches in ecosystems-based oceans management is examined for the participating Arctic states. Among the elements considered were how countries define ecosystems-based oceans management; the types of objectives that are formulated; the choice of policy instruments and organization of the work, for example in terms of how stakeholders are consulted and the geographical context for ecosystems-based oceans management, including existing transboundary agreements relevant to the management of Arctic marine ecosystems.

The question of obstacles and success elements was considered by asking the Arctic countries to describe their experiences in applying an ecosystems-based approach to oceans management. Important elements here include the process aspects of interagency cooperation and organization; the organization and use of science; and stakeholder involvement; and the actual content of ecosystems-based oceans management, such as institutions for ecosystems-based oceans management, legislation and policy tools, geographical approaches, including LMEs, and biodiversity considerations.

Outputs from the project include a presentation of ecosystem-based oceans management practices in the Arctic countries; examples of best practices for ecosystem-based oceans management in the Arctic; contributions to course development for ecosystem-based oceans management (possibly under the auspices of the University of the Arctic); an international workshop for the sharing of lessons and experiences; an *Observed Best Practices* document; and a final report of the project with chapters addressing the experiences of seven Arctic countries and indigenous perspectives.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the BEPOMAR Final report and recommend to Ministers for their consideration and approval the Observed Best Practices Document approved by SAOs at Kautokeino; that SAOs recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged to coordinate with PAME to explore follow on projects and activities with a view to*

*bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate.*

#### **4 Arctic Energy Summit(AES)[USA]**

The USA-led Arctic Energy Summit (AES) project has been coordinated by the Institute of the North in Anchorage, Alaska. It is also an International Polar Year Project (#299).

The AES created a network and community in which ideas, knowledge, suggestions and solutions can be exchanged among a wide range of participants including students, researchers, government officials and their colleagues in commerce. The primary objective of the AES is technology transfer on issues related to the Arctic as an energy province, with the goal of bringing together the people of the Arctic to discuss, share and develop a balanced approach to develop extractive, renewable and rural power all in a sustainable way, supporting the vision of creating energy wealth while eliminating energy poverty. The ultimate goal is energy self-sufficiency in the Arctic. This project is continuing through 2009, with its final report due for the autumn 2009 meeting.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the Interim Report of the AES and note that the final AES report is anticipated in the autumn of 2009.*

#### **5 SDWG Report to Ministers on Arctic Energy [Norway]**

The Arctic Council Ministers requested in their Salekhard Declaration (2006) that the SDWG report on energy cooperation and activities in the Arctic and identify activities that the Arctic Council could consider for future implementation.

By its nature, the subject of energy in the context of the Arctic has many facets and embraces a wide range of complex technical and political issues. These issues have been the subject of considerable research and cooperative activity within the Council. The Arctic Council has more than a decade of experience bringing together a broad network of scientists, policy makers, indigenous peoples' organizations, and other Arctic residents and stakeholders to expand the knowledge base in respect of the Arctic and to cooperate on issues of common interest. Therefore, this report is not intended as a comprehensive assessment of Arctic energy resources, nor of the impacts of Arctic energy development on the natural and human environments in the circumpolar region. Rather, it is on an overview of the broad subject of Arctic

energy which identifies some emerging Arctic energy issues; references completed Arctic Council projects and activities relating to energy; provides some background information on emerging energy sectors in an Arctic context; and identifies some possible areas for cooperation in the field of Arctic energy.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the SDWG Energy Report and its observations on possible activities that the Arctic Council could consider for future implementation; that SAOs note in particular the need to consider future projects and activities in relation to the Arctic as an energy consumer; that SAOs note the importance of economic activity in the energy sector to ongoing Arctic social and economic development; that SAOs recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged to explore follow on projects and activities with a view to bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate; and that SAOs recommend the report to Ministers for their consideration.*

**Arctic Human Health**

**6 Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) [USA]**

The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) is an Arctic Council SDWG IPY initiative that aims to build and expand on existing Arctic Council and International Union for Circumpolar Health's (IUCH) human health research activities. The human health legacy of the IPY will be increased visibility of the human health concerns of arctic communities, revitalization of cooperative arctic human health research focused on those concerns, the development of health policies based on research findings, and the subsequent implementation of appropriate interventions, prevention and control measures at the community level. AHHI organized an international workshop on climate change and human health in the Arctic in Anchorage, Alaska. The workshop re-examined and reaffirmed the conclusions of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Report. AHHI organized another workshop as part of the 6th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in Nuuk, Greenland. A comprehensive report on AHHI activities will be published as a special IPY supplement of the April 2009 International Journal of Circumpolar Health. As the Arctic Human Health Experts Group (AHHEG) begins to function, the activities of AHHI will gradually be absorbed into the AHHEG as its capacity develops.



### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the report of the AHHI and note the continuation of its activities into the Danish chairmanship, with the gradual transfer of its responsibilities to AHHEG as the International Polar Year concludes.*

## **7 SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG)[Canada/USA]**

The deliverable for this initiative is the establishment of the SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG). Work was initiated by Canada and the USA which agreed, at the April 2007 SDWG Meeting (Tromsø), to take the lead within the SDWG to explore ways to ensure greater integration of human health activities and to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Arctic Council working groups and outside expertise.

To advance this activity, Canada, in collaboration with the USA, organised a workshop (Ottawa, Canada, June 2007) and developed the Terms of Reference for an SDWG AHHEG. The inaugural meeting of the SDWG AHHEG is scheduled for February 16-17, 2009 in Ottawa, Canada. This meeting will provide the AHHEG nominees an opportunity to review the SDWG AHHEG ToR; to agree upon a governance structure; to initiate discussions on the SDWG's human health agenda priorities within the context of its mandate; and to undertake preliminary scoping on how to better create synergies and integration among the Arctic human health experts in other Arctic Council working groups. A report on the inaugural meeting will be provided to next SDWG Meeting.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG requests SAOs to note that the first meeting of the AHHEG is anticipated to be held on 16-17 February 2009 in Canada to set in motion the AHHEG and to review and discuss the AHHEG Terms of Reference, its governance, and parameters for a broader-based human health scoping exercise; that SAOs recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged to explore follow on projects and activities in the field of Arctic human health with a view to bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate.*

## **8 International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic (ICS)[USA]**

Human health is a critical component of any sustainable development program. With increased air travel and international trade, Arctic communities

are no longer isolated from infectious disease threats. Circumpolar surveillance of infectious diseases may serve as an early warning system of emerging threats and provide increased capacity to monitor the effectiveness of public health control measures. The purpose of this project is to establish an integrated International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) system for infectious diseases by creating a network of hospital and public health laboratories throughout the Arctic. The network allows collection and sharing of uniform laboratory and epidemiologic data between Arctic countries and assists in the formulation of prevention and control strategies.

During the Norwegian chairmanship, ICS continued surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases and established working groups on tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, and *Helicobacter pylori*, while laying the foundation for the establishment of a working group on sexually transmitted infections. In addition, in 2008, the activities were expanded into the Russian Federation. A workshop was conducted on ICS and agreement reached that Russia would participate with initial involvement in the tuberculosis working group. ICS will continue its efforts after the establishment of the Arctic Human Health Experts Group. A comprehensive report on ICS activities will be published as a special IPY supplement of the April 2009 International Journal of Circumpolar Health. Based on its nine years of successful activities, the ICS could be considered a model Sustained Arctic Observing Network for human health.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the Report of the ICS and note the continuation of its activities into the Danish chairmanship; that SAOs note that ICS can contribute to the Sustainable Arctic Observing Networks initiative and encourage the SDWG to find ways for ICS to continue its efforts to contribute as a Sustained Arctic Observing Network for human health; and that SAOs recommend the report to Ministers for their consideration.*

## **9 Telemedicine [USA]**

This project, participated in by the USA and the Russian Federation, was implemented by the Northern Forum, an observer organization. The goal of the Telemedicine pilot project is to promote the establishment of a mutually beneficial collaboration in telemedicine, telehealth, mobile medicine and distance learning in remote areas of the Russian north. From 2004 to 2008 the project organized a series of visits, workshops, and information exchanges in Khanty-Mansiysk and Sakha. In Khanty-Mansiysk there are now 52 telemedicine stations operating, as well as a boat with telemedicine equipment

to bring health services to communities with no clinics. Thanks to the project, nearly 150 tele-training sessions and 300 regional videoconferences have been held. Telemedicine experts from Alaska were integral members of the project team and served as advisors to the Russian regions. Following the completion of the project, it is expected that participants will continue to collaborate independently.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the final report of this project and note that the project has now concluded; and that SAOs recommend the report to Ministers for their consideration.*

**[Follow on to the Arctic Human Development Report](#)**

**10 Arctic Social Indicators (ASI)[Iceland]**

The Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project was initiated by the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland, which also hosts the secretariat. ASI has been endorsed by the Arctic Council as an SDWG project and has also received the endorsement of the IPY. The ASI project is a follow on activity to the *Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)*. The AHDR does not provide time series data regarding the various elements of human development in the Arctic, nor does it present a suite of quantifiable indicators suitable for use by those seeking to monitor or track changes in human development in the Arctic. The goal of the ASI project is to move toward filling this gap. It is the first step in a long-term effort to monitor and track human development in the Arctic. The goal is to devise Arctic social indicators which will help facilitate the tracking and monitoring of human development in the Arctic over time. The development of indicators falls within six domains: (1) Fate control and or the ability to guide one's own destiny; (2) Cultural integrity or belonging to a viable local culture; (3) Contact with nature or interacting closely with the natural world; (4) Material Well-being; (5) Education; (6) Health/Population.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the ASI report; that SAOs note that ASI can contribute to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative and encourage the SDWG to find ways for ASI to contribute to the SAON process; and that SAOs recommend the report to Ministers for their consideration.*

## 11 ECONOR 2 [Norway]

The ECONOR II project report updates and enhances the report of the ECONOR I project, *The Economy of the North*. (Presentations on ECONOR I were given to the Arctic Council SAO meetings in Tromsø in March 2007 and Svolvær in April 2008.) In addition to the ECONOR II report, two supplementary reports on petroleum in the Arctic and the subsistence economy in the Arctic were produced. The ECONOR II project included work on a model-based analysis of petroleum production in the Arctic regions, with updated estimates of reserves, production and costs. A theoretical basis for studies of the mixed subsistence-market economies of the Arctic has been defined. Preliminary research papers have been presented at international conferences.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the final report of the ECONOR II project; that SAOs recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged to explore follow on projects and activities with a view to bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate; and that SAOs recommend the report to Ministers for their consideration.*

## 12 ArcticStat [Canada]

ArcticStat is a Canadian-led project aimed at responding to the demographic gaps noted in the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR). The project intends to centralize relevant Arctic research data as well as facilitate comparative research between circumpolar statistical agencies, databanks and other data sources. It is further complementary to the work of other SDWG projects (e.g. SLICA, ECONOR, and ASI). The project deliverables are the website (<http://www.arcticstat.org>), which includes a statistical database on the socioeconomic conditions of the people of the Arctic, and the establishment of the metadata section containing hyperlinks to documents that explain the characteristics of the data found in ArcticStat. The residual issues requiring resolution in the short term are the data table and translation costs, and in the longer term, ArcticStat's sustainability. Work on ArcticStat will continue during the Danish Chairmanship (2009-11). It is anticipated that ArcticStat will play a pivotal role as the SDWG moves toward the development of an integrated SDWG Arctic human development monitoring mechanism.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs take note that ArcticStat is an ongoing tool that is complementary to SDWG and other AC Working Groups initiatives by providing socio-economic data; that SAOs take note that ArcticStat can contribute to the Sustainable Arctic Observing Networks initiative; that SAOs consider ways to address the challenges associated with obtaining data which are outlined in the ArcticStat report; and that SAOs bring the contribution of ArcticStat to the attention of Ministers.*

### **13 Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, (SLiCA)[Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands]**

SLiCA results are the product of a decade of collaboration among researchers and indigenous peoples. These results take the form of a three-part report: (1) Overview; (2) Tables; (3) Questionnaire, which can be accessed at the SLiCA website: <http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org>.

SLiCA's phase I (development of an international core questionnaire to be used among Inuit, Sami and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula) is well documented in a number of scientific articles and conference papers. A report entitled *Living Conditions in the Arctic – How to Measure Living Conditions and Individual Well-being among Inuit and Saami Peoples in the Arctic* by Thomas Andersen was provided to the participants in the Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, November 2004 and at the August 2005 Meeting of the Nordic Ministers responsible for coordinating Nordic activities. SLiCA's phase II (validation of data, data entry, processing of data and analyses) has been split into two parts (an Inuit-focused analysis to be followed by a Saami-focused analysis) due to the fact that interviewing was first concluded in Arctic Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Chukotka. Interviewing in Sweden was concluded in 2006/07 whereas data collection in Norway and in the Kola Peninsula was concluded in the summer 2008. The Arctic Centre/Rovaniemi in collaboration with the Saami Council is still trying to develop the preconditions to include Finland in SLiCA.

On March 22, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska, the SLiCA international team hosted a public briefing and workshop on SLiCA results involving international indigenous partners and researchers to discuss the results of the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic. Presentations, verbatim discussion notes, and SLiCA results can be accessed at the SliCA website (see above). The briefing and workshop constituted the launch of the University of Alaska human dimensions component of the International Polar Year.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs note the contribution which SLiCA has made to understanding the human dimensions of the Arctic; that SAOs take note that the project will continue data analysis and consideration of a mechanism to access the data; and that SAOs bring the contribution of SLiCA to the attention of Ministers.*

## **14 Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium [Canada]**

The Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium was mandated by the Salekhard Declaration, 2006, which stated that Arctic Council member states and other parties were encouraged to support the cultural diversity of the Arctic and especially uphold and revitalize the indigenous languages; to support the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium; and to welcome further projects in this important field. This project was strongly supported by the Permanent Participants and received endorsement as well as approval from both the SDWG and Arctic Ministers respectively.

The underlying objectives of this activity were: to provide an opportunity for the participants to engage policymakers and linguistic experts in discussions on the state of indigenous languages in the Arctic; to consider strategies to help in their revitalization; to build stronger relationships between state governments and indigenous peoples; and to foster a partnership approach toward the revitalization of languages. The Report of the Symposium is a major SDWG deliverable for the 2009 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting. The full report on the Symposium proceedings, including recommendations, is available on the Arctic Languages website (<http://www.arcticlanguages.com>). Also included in the report are suggestions on practical actions which the Arctic Council may consider as follow up to this Symposium.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs welcome the report of the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium; that SAOs take note of the suggestions from the symposium workshop held in Tromso, Norway on 20-21 October 2008; that SAOs take note that 2008 was declared by the United Nations to be the International Year of Languages; that SAOs recommend to Ministers that the SDWG be encouraged to explore follow on projects and activities in relation to Arctic languages with a view to bringing forward concrete proposals for intersessional consideration and approval by SAOs, where appropriate.*

## 15 Arctic Information and Communication Technologies (AICTA) [USA]

The AICTA project grew out of a 2005 workshop to consider appropriate Information Communications Technology (ICT) activities for the Arctic Council under the auspices of the SDWG. The overall goals of the assessment were to determine how ICT can: (1) increase the human and social capital in the North, (2) contribute to northern economic development, and (3) improve the quality of life in the Arctic. A report on the *Assessment of Information and Communications Technology in the Arctic* was prepared. It presents the results of an initial survey of ICT in the Arctic. Most member countries were unable or unwilling to provide the basic data necessary for establishing a baseline assessment. Two problems identified by the project leaders were that it is difficult to find officials who are tasked with and responsible for gathering such data in each member country, and where such people can be found it is difficult to extract data specific to Arctic regions of member states. The project did assemble an extensive AICTA bibliography which could be used as a research foundation for a future attempt to revisit the same question. The shortcomings of this project provide important lessons for any future project leaders who decide to pursue what are still thought to be the important goals of this project.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

*The SDWG recommends that SAOs take note of the report of this project and note that the project has now concluded.*

## **PART 3. SDWG Work Plan for 2009-2011**

### ***Overview of the SDWG Mandate***

The goal of the sustainable development program of the Arctic Council 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, culture 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.

Following on the mandate given to the SDWG by the *Iqaluit Declaration* (1998), the *Sustainable Development Framework Document*, adopted by the Ministerial meeting in Barrow in 2000, outlined the elements of the SD Program and identified six subject areas of special importance under the heading of sustainable development:

- Health issues and the well-being of people living in the Arctic
- Sustainable economic activities and increasing community prosperity
- Education and cultural heritage
- Children and youth
- Management of natural, including living, resources
- Infrastructure development.

### ***Responding to Ministerial Priorities and Directions***

Unlike other Arctic Council Working Groups, until the *Salekhard Declaration* (2006) the SDWG carried out its mandate based on specific projects approved by Ministers, rather than in accordance with a broad program mandate. This structural difference was alleviated to some degree by the adoption, at the Salekhard Ministerial, of a mechanism to allow SAOs to approve new SDWG projects intersessionally.

In light of the broad range of topics and issues covered by the SDWG, and because the rapidly changing conditions in the Arctic require flexibility and ability to respond in accordance with priorities and directions of Ministers and SAOs, the SDWG requests that SAOs be given an ongoing mandate by Ministers to approve SDWG projects consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council:

### **The SDWG therefore requests SAOs to recommend that Ministers:**

- **Encourage the SDWG to pursue projects and activities within the thematic areas described in SDWG Work Plans and authorize SAOs to consider and approve SDWG projects and activities in these areas, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council.**



### ***Responding Intersessionally to SAO Priorities and Directions***

In their Report to Ministers on the Review of the Arctic Council Structure endorsed by Ministers in the *Inari Declaration* (2002), SAOs noted, *inter alia*, that:

- The SDWG should continue to assist the SAOs in developing and implementing the Sustainable Development Program of the Arctic Council;
- The SDWG should further strengthen its role as the expert Working Group on the social, economic and cultural dimensions of sustainable development;
- The SDWG should continue to give priority to issues such as health, social affairs, education and training, children and youth as well as sustainable economic development, including tourism, infrastructure as well as information and communication technology;
- The SDWG should work closely with all Working Groups to promote the integration of a capacity building focus into the activities of the Arctic Council.

In the *Sustainable Development Action Plan* (SDAP), approved by Ministers in Reykjavik in November 2004, priorities were identified for the activities of the Arctic Council on the economic and social dimensions of sustainable development related to the SDWG, including:

- In relation to the Economic dimension of sustainable development: Sustainable economic activity and increasing prosperity of Arctic communities; Sustainable use of natural, including living, resources; and Development of transport infrastructure (including aviation, marine and surface transport), information technologies and modern telecommunications.
- In relation to the Social dimension of sustainable development: Health of the people living and working in the Arctic; Education and cultural heritage, including language; Prosperity and capacity building for the people of the Arctic, in particular for children and youth; Gender equality; Enhancing well being, eradication of poverty among Arctic people.

The SDWG will continue to pursue issues and priorities identified in previous Reports of Senior Arctic Officials and Ministerial Declarations.

### ***Cooperation with other Working Groups and Expert Bodies***

In addition, the SDWG is increasingly required to contribute to Arctic Council priority areas being carried out by other working groups and subsidiary bodies. The SDWG continues to seek more input from existing and new expert groups on issues and activities within its mandate. Further development of such relationships with expert bodies can contribute to the work of the SDWG and will be pursued in the period 2009 - 20011.

## ***SDWG Work Plan 2009-2011***

The purpose of the SDWG Work Plan below is to provide a framework for the work and priorities of the SDWG during the period 2009 – 2011 that complements the existing Ministerial Declarations, *Sustainable Development Terms of Reference*, *SDWG Operating Guidelines*, *The Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Action Plan* (SDAP) and other emerging priority issues.

### ***A. On-going Projects and Activities:***

The SDWG will continue activities in relation to existing approved projects and activities as follows:

- Arctic Energy Summit (AES)[USA]
- Circumpolar Information Tool Kit on Minerals, and Oils and Gas for Indigenous People and Northern Communities [Canada]
- EALAT-Information: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land [Norway]
- Action Arctic ICT
- ArcticStat
- Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic [Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands]

In addition, the creation of the SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) in 2007 will allow for better coordination of a number of ongoing projects and activities in relation to Arctic human health, including:

- International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic (ICS)
- Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI)
- Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North
- Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic

### ***B. New Projects and Activities Currently under Development (subject to approval by SAOs)***

The SDWG is currently considering a project proposal being developed by Norway in relation to *Assessment of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites in*

*the Arctic.* This proposal may be ready for SAO consideration and approval prior to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in April 2009.

### C. *Possible Follow-On Projects and Activities (subject to consideration at the future SDWG Meetings)*

The SDWG is currently considering a number of possible follow-on activities related to projects and activities concluded during the Norwegian Chairmanship (as indicated above under Part 2 of this report). Any formal proposals for projects or activities will be considered at future SDWG meetings and brought forward to SAOs for intersessional consideration and approval, as appropriate. Follow-on activities under consideration include:

- Vulnerability and adaptation to Climate Change
- Ecosystems-Based ocean management
- Arctic energy
- Arctic human health
- Arctic social indicators
- Arctic socio-economic issues
- Arctic cultures and languages

### D. *Thematic Areas for SDWG Projects and Activities:*

In addition, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council, the SDWG may carry out projects and activities, as approved by SAOs, in the following thematic areas:

#### 1. Arctic Socio-Economic Issues

An emerging competence of the SDWG is in relation to the development of reliable and accessible human data sets through such projects as the *Arctic Human Development Report*, *SLiCA*, *ECONOR I* and *II* and *ArcticStat*. In addition, the important work of the *Arctic Social Indicators* project has contributed to this effort. These data sets and indicators are important to the work of the SDWG and in the context of cooperation with other working groups. Increasingly SDWG has a contribution to make to this cross-cutting work, particularly in the socio-economic dimension. The SDWG is considering ways to allow it to participate in cross-cutting activities in a more structured and consistent way, for example in relation to *SWIPA* (Climate Change and the

Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic) and the *Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process*.

## 2. Arctic Cultures and Languages

The SDWG has recognized that until recently there was a gap in its projects and activities in relation to culture and language issues. Some progress has been made in addressing this gap during the Norwegian chairmanship through of the *Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium* and the developing proposal in relation to an *Assessment of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites in the Arctic*. SDWG will explore further projects and activities in this thematic area, including possible education and outreach projects or activities.

## 3. Arctic Human Health

A cluster of projects and activities in relation to human health has resulted in the creation of the SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG). The AHHEG will assist the SDWG in identifying Arctic human health issues and priorities, coordinating SDWG Arctic human health projects and activities, identifying possible new projects and activities, and cooperating with other working groups on Arctic human health issues.

## 4. Adaptation to Climate Change

Given the importance of Arctic climate change and variability, and related impacts, the SDWG proposes to pay particular attention to development of new projects and activities that are relevant to climate-change-related vulnerability, adaptation and resilience of Arctic residents.

## 5. Management of Natural Resources

Arctic residents fundamentally rely on the sustainable use of natural resources for their health and economic well-being. Increases in shipping, petroleum activities, fishing, mining as well as external influences such as climate change and variability, require that the management of resources is based on a holistic perspective. The SDWG proposes to pay particular attention to the development of new projects and activities that relate to the ecosystem approach and implementation of integrated management concepts.

## 6. Energy and Arctic Communities

Access to energy is a prerequisite for the existence and development of Arctic communities and societies. To sustain people and their livelihoods in Arctic regions, energy resources are essential for basic heat, power, light and transportation, as well as for a myriad of other purposes. Many important political, economic, social, environmental and technological questions underlie development of Arctic energy resources. Given the *SDWG Report to Ministers on Arctic Energy* and the ongoing work of *Arctic Energy Summit*, Arctic energy is an important theme around which to focus many issues that relate to the Arctic as an energy consumer and energy producer. In coming years the pressures to develop Arctic energy resources, including renewable resources, are likely to increase. The SDWG will explore the possibility of new projects and activities in this thematic area.

**-- END of REPORT --**

## SDWG Projects &amp; Activities 2006-2009

For copies of reports and more detailed information about a project, please visit the SDWG website: <http://portal.sdwg.org> or the appropriate project website indicated below.

(\* denotes a project or activity with deliverables for the 2009 Ministerial meeting)

Project or Activity	Lead	Website
<b>ADAPTATION to CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
1. Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic *	Norway	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
2. EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land *	Norway	<a href="http://www.arcticportal.org/en/icr/ealat">http://www.arcticportal.org/en/icr/ealat</a>
<b>MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
3. Best Practices in Ecosystem-based Ocean Management *	Norway	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
4. Arctic Energy Summit *	USA	<a href="http://www.arcticenergysummit.org">http://www.arcticenergysummit.org</a>
5. SDWG Report to Ministers on Arctic Energy *	Norway	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
6. Circumpolar Information Tool Kit on Minerals, and Oils and Gas for Indigenous People and Northern Communities	Canada	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
<b>ARCTIC HUMAN HEALTH</b>		
7. Arctic Human Health Initiative *	USA	<a href="http://www.arctichealth.org/ahhi">http://www.arctichealth.org/ahhi</a>
8. SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) *	USA/Canada	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
9. International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic *	USA	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/aip/index.html">http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/aip/index.html</a>
10. Telemedicine	USA	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a> and <a href="http://www.northernforum.org">http://www.northernforum.org</a>

Project or Activity	Lead	Website
11. Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North	USA	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a> and <a href="http://www.northernforum.org">http://www.northernforum.org</a>
12. Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic	Russia	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
<b>FOLLOW ON TO ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT</b>		
13. Arctic Social Indicators *	Iceland	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
14. ECONOR 2 *	Norway	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
15. ArcticStat *	Canada	<a href="http://www.arcticstat.org">http://www.arcticstat.org</a>
16. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA*	Denmark/Greenland/ Faroe Islands	<a href="http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org">http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org</a>
17. Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium *	Canada	<a href="http://www.arcticlanguages.com">http://www.arcticlanguages.com</a>
18. Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North	Russia/RAIPON	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a>
<b>ARCTIC INFORMATION &amp; COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>		
19. Arctic ICT Assessment *	USA	<a href="http://portal.sdwg.org">http://portal.sdwg.org</a> and <a href="http://www.institutenorth.org">http://www.institutenorth.org</a>
20. Action Arctic ICT	Sweden	<a href="http://www.n4c.eu">www.n4c.eu</a> and <a href="http://wiki.n4c.eu/wiki/index.php/LTU_page">http://wiki.n4c.eu/wiki/index.php/LTU_page</a>