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Meeting Summary Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Orono, Maine, October 01-02, 2016

Overview:

The third regular meeting of the SDWG under the U.S. Chairmanship occurred at Orono, Maine, on October 01-02, 2016. Approximately 54 participants attended this meeting. Please see the attached participants' lists for more detailed information¹.

Decisions of Note:

1. In Orono delegates formally endorsed one project:
 - *Gender Equality in the Arctic* [Leads: Iceland; Sweden; AIA];Another project, the *Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)* [Leads: United States, Canada, GCI] was endorsed by an inter-sessional process in July 2016 and GCI joined as a co-lead in Orono.
2. SDWG delegates also agreed to extend the timelines for two projects into the Finnish Chairmanship:
 - *One Health* [Leads: United States, Canada]
 - *AREA* [Leads: USA, Canada, GCI]
3. SDWG delegates agreed to eliminate the project tiered system related to the Groups' projects and the Strategic Planning group (see below) was given a mandate to create a clearly defined phased project endorsement process in its place.

Anticipated Future Project Proposals:

4. SDWG delegates indicated an intention to conduct follow-on work during the Finnish Chairmanship in relation to two existing projects. It is anticipated that existing project templates will be revised or new project templates will be submitted:
 - *RISING SUN* [Leads: United States, Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, ICC] Sweden requested to be added as a co-lead for the RISING SUN follow-on project.
 - *Arctic Adaption Exchange Portal* [Leads: Canada, United States, AIA, GCI]
5. Finland notified the SDWG of its intention to submit project proposal templates for three projects to be carried out during its chairmanship:
 - Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Arctic Teacher Training Project
 - Arctic Energy Summit 2017Finland will submit formal project proposal templates for endorsement at the SDWG Intersessional Teleconference on 28 November 2016.
6. AIA notified the SDWG about intentions to develop and submit a formal project proposal for approval at the SDWG meeting in Kotzebue in February 2017 for *Solid Waste Disposal in the Arctic*.

¹ Representatives from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants participated in this SDWG meeting. Six observers participated, including two non-Arctic states (Germany and Italy) and four Observer organizations (Association of World Reindeer Herders, IASSA, IASC and Northern Forum).

SDWG Chair's Summary

Strengthening the SDWG and Strategic Planning

7. At its Barrow meeting in March 2016, the SDWG tasked a sub-committee to conduct a process to examine ways to strengthen the SDWG and develop a strategic plan to guide future work. In Orono, the SDWG Chair reported on the work of the SDWG Strategy Group since the Barrow meeting. The Strategy Group prepared working draft documents for the consideration of Heads of Delegation. There was agreement on a timeline and process to advance the work on these strategic documents for consideration on the SDWG Inter-sessional Teleconference scheduled for 28 November 2016. This included mandates for the Strategy Group to 1.) consider the project proposal template to bringing it into line with the draft strategy; 2.) develop a simplified process to endorse projects.; and 3) to provide guidelines for future recommendations as well as a tool to track implementation.
8. The SDWG welcomed a presentation by Canada on its work to identify, collate and analyze the implementation of recommendations in a range of SDWG projects completed over the past 10 years.

SDWG Expert Groups

9. SECEG is continuing to engage experts on Traditional and Local Knowledge and is planning its first in-person meeting on the margins of the SDWG meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska, in February 2017.
10. AHHEG reported on its efforts to prepare ethical research guidelines for consideration at the next SDWG meeting and the continuing efforts of the International Circumpolar Surveillance network.

SDWG Project Deliverables

In Orono, the SDWG heard progress updates on 10 projects, with a focus on deliverables for the 2017 Ministerial Meeting:

- ***The Arctic as a Food Producing Region***: 2017 deliverable: interim report; the project will deliver a final report in May 2019.
- ***Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change, & Food Culture (EALLU)***: 2017 deliverables: cookbook of indigenous foods and short film on indigenous food culture;
- ***Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)***: 2017 deliverables: curriculum, webinar series, student cohort, first workshop completed by March 2017; the project will complete up to two additional workshops and deliver a final report during the Finnish Chairmanship
- ***Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)***: 2017 deliverables: beta version of online renewable energy resource maps; best practices and final report will be delivered during the Finnish Chairmanship.
- ***The Economy of the North (ECONOR III)***: 2017 deliverable: final assessment report.
- ***Improving Health through Safe & Affordable Access to Household Running Water & Sewer (WASH)***: 2017 deliverables: Reports on the status of water & sewer services in the Arctic via survey results; summary of WIHAH and ARTEK Conferences; Special publication on Arctic water and sewer systems in the Journal of Environmental Science and Pollution Research.

SDWG Chair's Summary

- ***Operationalizing a One Health Approach in the Arctic***: 2017 deliverables: One Health survey results; Table top exercise to be completed by March 2017; One Health hubs and additional table top exercises will be ongoing.
- ***Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups- Strengths United through Networks (RISING SUN)***: 2017 deliverables: Project report and toolkit of best practices for practitioners. Final workshop in March 2017.

Follow-up Activities from the Orono Meeting:

- The SDWG agreed that the SDWG Chair should send the link to the ARENA video to SAOs (<https://vimeo.com/184803513/53cff570f0>).
- The SDWG Chair and Executive Secretary will prepare a revised working draft of the SDWG Work Plan 2017-2019 by 21 November 2016, based on guidance provided in Orono, for discussion with other working groups and the SAO Chair at their meeting scheduled for 09 December 2016 in Copenhagen.
- The SDWG Strategy Group will continue to develop and revise the documents prepared to date with a view to further consideration at the SDWG Inter-sessional Teleconference scheduled for 28 November 2016.
- The SDWG Strategy Group will undertake revision of the Group's template and endorsement process as per the mandate.

Cross-Cutting Issues:

The SDWG's SECEG is working to finalize the contribution to the PAME project on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Marine Activities* (MEMA). The SDWG will contribute to PAME's implementation of the *Arctic Marine Strategic Plan*, as appropriate. The EALLU project is investigating co-producing a video with CAFF.

Upcoming Meetings:

- SDWG Strategy Group Conference Call: 17 October 2016 at 11:00AM EST
- SDWG Inter-sessional Teleconference: 28 November 2016 at 11:00AM EST
- SAO Chair/Working Group Chairs and Exec. Sect. Meeting: 09 December 2016 in Copenhagen
- SDWG Regular Meeting: 7-8 February 2017 in Kotzebue, Alaska

Participants List, SDWG Regular Meeting, Orono, Maine, 01-02 October 2016
(Draft as of 26 Sept.)

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