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Arctic Council Tourism Workshop Report
September 15, 2000

Representatives from Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic, Lapland Travel Development, the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), WWF Arctic Programme, ICC-Alaska, the Northern Forum Secretariat, the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA), and the private sector, met in Anchorage, Alaska on September 14, 2000 to review the status of arctic tourism development projects and plan new collaborative projects. All parties support in principal a proposal forwarded by Finland. Further, they reached agreement on a timeline and division of labor to produce a refined joint project proposal for the June 2001 Senior Arctic Officials meeting.

Project Proposal: The project objectives are 1) collect information about ongoing sustainable tourism development projects in the Arctic; 2) facilitate greater communication among parties engaged in this work; and 3) heighten the public profile of and promote practical steps towards environmentally-oriented and socially responsible tourism in the Arctic.

The outcomes of this project are: a **database** of projects, initiatives, models, best practices and codes of conduct for sustainable tourism development in the Arctic; an **extranet** to facilitate collaboration and control costs for project participants; and a practical **handbook** on sustainable tourism development in the Arctic with case studies drawn from various member nations.

Points of Agreement and Future Steps: The **Alaska DCED** expressed support for the proposal and agreed to collaborate on its continued refinement. DCED envisions contributing significant staff time and content for the handbook. Further, it will seek funding from internal and external sources, both public and private.

The **Finnish collaborative group** welcomed the support of other attendees and committed to collaboratively refining the proposal, seeking additional partners and funding.

WWF Arctic Programme expressed support in principal and committed to working with Finland and Alaska to assist in developing the project proposal, seek project alignment and avoid duplication. In addition, it agreed to contribute in kind content for the handbook and approach potential partners.

The **Northern Forum Secretariat** expressed support in principal for the project and agreed to look for opportunities for collaboration, including future grant seeking efforts.

ICC Alaska expressed support in principal for the proposal and welcomed the attention to tourism development that involves Arctic communities and indigenous peoples.

AWRTA noted similarities between this project and its Guiding Alaska Tourism project and agreed to consider providing content and staff time as in kind support for the project.