

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Nordic Council of Ministers

Date of submission:

June 1, 2016

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.norden.org and www.nordregio.se

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Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Report

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. If applicable, please include mention of collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

The Arctic co-operation program

In the period 2012-2016, the open call of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation program has contributed with **4,810,000 DKK ~ 729,463 USD** to the work of Arctic Council's working groups, task forces, expert groups and support to permanent participants' projects. The funds were allocated as follows:

- 400,000 DKK ~ 60,662 USD to AMAP
- 650,000 DKK ~ 98,576 USD to SDWG
- 2,200,000 DKK ~ 333,642 USD to CAFF
- 710,000 DKK ~ 107,675 USD to PAME
- 850,000 DKK ~ 128,907 USD to Permanent Participants, incl. Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS)

For specific projects please see the scheme below.

AMAP:

Name of project	Amount	Year
Adaptation for a Changing Arctic	150,000 DKK ~ 22,748 USD	2015
	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
Total	400,000 DKK ~ 60,662 USD	

SDWG

Name of project	Amount	Year
Arctic Human Development report II	400,000 DKK ~ 60,662 USD	2013
Arctic Youth and Sustainable Futures	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
Total	650,000 DKK ~ 98,576 USD	

CAFF

Name of project	Amount	Year
Arctic Biodiversity Assessment	325,000 DKK ~ 49,288 USD	2012
Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme - Terrestrial Expert Monitoring Group	325,00 ~ 49,288 USD	2012
Arctic Biodiversity Assessment symposium	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2013
State of the Arctic Freshwater Report	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2015
Arctic Marine Protected and Important Areas: Phase 1: harmonisation and integration of information (with PAME)	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2015
Arctic Marine Protected and Important Areas, Phase II (with PAME)	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
Seabird harvest in the North Atlantic (related to CAFF)	150,000 DKK ~ 22,748 USD	2013
	150,000 DKK ~ 22,748 USD	2015
	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
	Total: 550,000 DKK ~ 83,410 USD	
Total	2,200,000 DKK ~ 333,642 USD	

PAME

Name of project	Amount	Year
Arctic Ocean Review	260,000 ~ 39,430 USD	2012
Arctic Shipping Data Service	200,000 ~ 30,331 USD	2015
Arctic Ship Traffic Data Project (Phase 2)	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
Total	710,000 DKK ~ 107,675 USD	

Permanent Participants, incl. Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS)

Name of project	Amount	Year
ICHR - EALLIN – NIV'GE – Reindeer herding youth project	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2012
ICC - Arctic Peoples Conference	175,000 DKK ~ 26,540 USD	2013
Samerådet - Sápmi 2053	175,000 DKK ~ 26,540 USD	2013
IPS - 20 years of Action - Telling the Story of Indigenous Peoples a Changing Arctic	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2016
Total	850,000 DKK ~ 128,907 USD	

Political priorities

In addition to the supported projects listed above, the Nordic Council of Ministers' political priorities have from 2012-2015 supported projects of the Arctic Council working groups with 2,230,000 DKK ~ 335,762 USD apportioned between the following projects:

Name of project	Amount	Year
AMAP: Adaptations Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA)	200,000 ~ 30,331 USD	2014
SDWG: CSR in the Arctic	250,000 DKK ~ 37,914 USD	2013
SDWG: Arctic as a food producing region	700,000 DKK ~ 105,396 USD	2015
CAFF: Biodiversity Assessment implementation and follow-up	880,000 DKK ~ 132,498 USD	2013
PAME: Ecosystem approach to management of the Arctic	200,000 ~ 30,331 USD	2014
PPs: "A Common Sápmi" (tribute conference to 100 year celebration of Saami mobilization)	500,000 DKK ~ 75,828 USD	2016
Total	2,730,000 DKK ~ 411,045 USD	

In total 7,540,000 DKK ~ app. 1,135,269 USD has been allocated to the Arctic Council's working groups, task forces, expert groups and the permanent participants' projects disbursed on the following:

- **AMAP:** 600,000 DKK ~ 90,339 USD
- **SDWG:** 1,600,000 DKK ~ 240,905 USD
- **CAFF:** 3,080,000 DKK ~ 463,744 USD
- **PAME:** 910,000 DKK ~ 137,015 USD
- **Permanent Participants, incl. Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS):** 1,350,000 DKK ~ 203,264 USD

In May 2015 a joint seminar on the U.S. (coming) chairmanship of the Arctic Council was arranged and financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen, Denmark called "The Nordic Region meets the United States of America: A Shared Arctic Agenda" that profiled the U.S. priorities as well as the Nordic contribution to the Arctic agenda. Program is attached.

On top of these financial contributions the Nordic Council of Ministers support its own efforts to contribute to the overall agenda on the Arctic – examples of how:

- The open call/application round allocating app. 6 mio. DKK ~ app. 904,000 USD to projects in the Arctic on a yearly basis (see more on www.norden.org and www.nordregio.se).
- Interaction with the EU on its Arctic policy/Arctic Communication, including three publications in the period 2008-2014 ([The European Union and the Arctic: Policies and actions](#), [European Union and the Arctic: Main developments July 2008–July 2010](#) and [The European Union and the Arctic: Developments and perspectives 2010-2014](#))
- In 2015 following Arctic publications were launched:
 - [Arctic Human Development Report II \(AHDR\)](#)
 - [Arctic Social Indicators II \(ASI\)](#)
 - [SLiCA](#)
 - [Local Knowledge and Resource Management](#)

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

Nordic Council of Ministers response

In the first meeting between the Nordic Cooperation Ministers (of 4-5 yearly meetings throughout a year) a discussion on the Arctic is dedicated to identify the political priorities and activities for the Nordic Arctic Cooperation Program. In 2016, the Nordic Cooperation Ministers met in Finland (Presidency in 2016) on February 3. The ministers decided:

- to support initiatives leading to **increased economic development** and investments in the Arctic,
- to support and **strengthen cooperation with Indigenous Peoples** of the Nordic region,
- to support and **contribute to international processes**, in particular the follow-up of the Paris Agreement and the 2030-agenda/Sustainable Development Goals.

As regards support leading to **increased economic development** and investments in the Arctic the following concrete action will be taken:

- a) Collaboration with the Arctic Economic Council on drafting and developing Terms of Reference for an analysis on the business landscape and business potential in the Arctic (estimated budget of 500.000 DKK).
- b) Work for strengthening Internet and telecommunication in the Arctic by i) support within the Arctic Council Task Force on Telecommunication Infrastructure in the Arctic (TFTIA) and ii) support to a "FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ARCTIC MOBILE NETWORK" conducted by the Centre for Wireless Communications, University of Oulu, Finland. It's currently being investigated if a session on this topic could be part of the agenda for the meeting in the TFTIA in September 2016.

As regards **cooperation with Indigenous Peoples** it has been decided to support the conference "A Common Sápmi" celebrating the 100 anniversary of Saami mobilization with 500.000 DKK.

As regards **contribution to international processes** please look at the next page/chapter.

When the Secretary General (Mr. Dagfinn Høybråten) of the Nordic Council of Ministers visited Washington D.C. in February 2016, a courtesy visit and meeting was held with the Arctic team of the State Department (lead by Chair of the SAOs, David Balton) and Special Representative, Admiral Robert Papp. In that meeting an American appeal was made to support the **ARENA project of the SDWG**. Currently, there's an attempt from a Nordic institution ([Nordic Energy Research](#)) to incorporate the project in its future work plan. This will be decided upon by mid-June 2016. If the project gains approval and support, contact will be taken to and with SDWG.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

Nordic Council of Ministers response

As regards **contribution to international processes** the Nordic Cooperation ministers decided to support a concrete proposal for a joint Nordic agenda in the establishment of an "Arctic Polar Regional Climate Centers" (Arctic-PRCC) within the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with 500,000 DKK. The goal of the project is *"to facilitate a Nordic contribution to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in its development towards an Arctic polar regional climate center (Arctic-PRCC) and to coordinate contributions from all Nordic countries to the Arctic-PRCC and create a Nordic hub in WMO collaboration"*. The overall aim of the Arctic-PRCC is to assist national authorities in issues of climate change and climate adaptation, including in producing climate predictions and observations for improved climate services as well as making existing climate data more accessible. All the Nordic countries together with the United States, Canada and Russia have expressed their interest in supporting this initiative.

Also, in relation to the **international climate negotiations** a Nordic pavilion was established for the CO21 with all the Nordic countries under one heading to showcase Nordic climate solutions. A common Nordic engagement is also expected to take place at the COP22 in Morocco. Arctic is generally on the agenda of the Nordic environment ministers cf. the [Nordic Climate- and Environment Ministers Declaration of Climate Change of October 28, 2015](#).

As regards **safety at sea**, the ArcticWeb project was initiated under the Danish Presidency in 2015 of the Nordic Council of Ministers with a total support of 4,5 mio. DKK (1,5 mio. DKK over three years: 2015-2017) amounting to app. 680,000 USD. The aim of the project is to establish a joint maritime web portal; to operationalize the support tool for Search and Rescue (SAR); to develop risk management tools. The geographical focus is currently on Greenland and Norway but there is potential for expanding it to other Arctic nations and there is dialogue with Canada. The project will be presented in Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission in October 2016 as well as input papers will be presented in the IMO and IHO. The work of ArcticWeb is also closely linked to priorities in Europe and on regional level. On that background the project has been linked to two major EU projects (STM Validation Project and EfficienSea 2 project) in 2015 with the aim of creating synergies and exchange information. The project has been presented to EPPR and PAME in 2015.

Another part of the Danish Presidency in 2015 of the Nordic Council of Ministers is an environment/bio-diversity project in the period 2015-2017 called "**monitoring of the seabed in the Arctic and the North Atlantic**" which is expected to lead to a Nordic Protocol on the area. It's supported with a total of 3 mio. DKK, app. 452,000 USD.

The current Finnish 2016 presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers will also initiate a project called "**the Socio-Economic Benefit of Arctic Surface Water in the Nordic Region**". A comprehensive report "Arctic Freshwater Synthesis (AFS) is being compiled by CLIC, IASC, and AMAP with the aim of summarizing the scientific background for the change and the importance of hydrological and ecological processes regarding fresh water in the Arctic. As a direct continuation of the AFS report the goal of this project is to provide AFS results with a Nordic added value by identifying and investigating the need for in-depth work with regard to the Nordic countries' specificities regarding their northern aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity.