

SDWG report to the SAO meeting in Oulu 15-16 May 2002/ preparations for the 3rd Ministerial meeting

1. Follow up since Barrow ministerial

In the Barrow declaration the Ministers approved the continuation of work on the Future of Children and Youth, Arctic Telemedicine, Cultural and Eco-tourism, and Coastal Fisheries Management projects. The Ministers further welcomed and approved new proposals to conduct a Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, to develop an International Circumpolar Surveillance System for Infectious Diseases, to initiate projects on sustainable reindeer husbandry and sustainable development in northern timberline forests. Finally the Ministers welcomed Canada's offer to host a workshop on capacity building to explore ways to implement a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the Council.¹

The SDWG has had three meetings during the Finnish chairmanship period 2000-2002. The first meeting was held in Rovaniemi, Finland on 5th-6th April 2001, the second meeting was held in Espoo, Finland on 5th November 2001 and the third meeting in Oulu, Finland on 14th May 2002. Progress on all the above mentioned projects have been reported at these meetings. A summary of the progress made in each project during the last two years is found below.

The Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

This project was first endorsed by the Ministers in 1998 and a subsequent plan was endorsed in 2000. Canada is the lead country for the project. The goals of the project are:

- to improve the health and well-being of children and youth of the Arctic;
- to improve the basis for sound decision-making by increasing the knowledge and understanding of sustainable development among Arctic youth and children.

The project is divided into three programmes: the health, the network and the internship programme.

The objectives of the health programme are:

1. examination of existing baseline data and studies in key areas that are related to the health of children and youth in the circumpolar region and identification of gaps therein;
2. assessment of processes and approaches used at international, national, regional and community levels that might provide models for actions in Arctic regions; and
3. an action plan that takes into account the results of objectives 1 and 2, the nature of specific issues, scientific and traditional knowledge as appropriate that will lead to the elimination or mitigation of problems associated with health.

¹ Barrow declaration (Oct. 2000) paragraphs 6 and 18, and Report of the SAOs to the Ministers in Barrow (Oct. 2000) part II A.

During the past two years data have been collected are on four indicator categories (involving more than 60 indicators):

- socio-economic-cultural
- health services
- psycho-social well-being
- bio-physical health

All country contacts have been requested to submit data to the Canadian focal point. All information received up to March 31, 2002 has been tabulated and graphs have been prepared. The information has been organized when possible into comparisons of:

- national versus regional data;
- indigenous versus non-indigenous data;
- male versus female data; and
- WHO age groupings.

Despite significant effort to obtain information, there is a paucity of data from some countries which severely affect a circumpolar evaluation of the status and well-being of children and youth. There is also unevenness in reporting on all indicators. Due to this the Expert Group re-evaluated the utility of a large number (60) of indicators at their meeting in May 2002 and agreed to focus on the following smaller number of key indicators that could be followed prospectively:

- education
- prenatal care
- preterm birth rate
- low birth weight
- breast feeding
- immunization status
- maternal age at birth
- population demographics (less than 18 years of age)
- infant mortality rate (neo-natal and post-neonatal)
- major notifiable diseases (tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, chlamydia)
- disease incidence (diabetes, cancer)
- tobacco use
- child abuse and neglect
- unintentional injuries
- suicides.

Data for these indicators are considered to be more readily available and internationally comparable, and more consistent and suitable for countries to identify the key disparities between and among Arctic regions, ethnic groups and countries. These indicators are also found to be areas appropriate for policy recommendations to improve the health of children and youth.

Further Finland has started a sub-project of the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic project the goals of the development and research project "The Psychosocial Well-being of Children and Youth in the Arctic" are to provide information to the health programme and to improve the psychosocial health and well-being of students at the schools in the Arctic.

The intention of the networking programme has been to focus on educational activities through sharing of ideas and experience pertaining to sustainable development, adapting best practices to different environments, strengthening northern cultures, and encouraging entrepreneurship among

youth. The International Networking Committee (INC), comprised of one elder and one youth member from each Arctic Council country and Permanent Participant (PP) organizations, has together with the co-ordinator continued to work to implement the program. During 2000-2002 the following progress has been achieved:

- The design of "On Top of the World", the website of the initiative has been assessed by the INC members. Funding limitations have made it difficult to support all the recommended changes and expansions, but the site has been upgraded and enhanced with the assistance of a school and a voluntary Information Technology group. The website will provide an opportunity for children and youth of the Arctic to register themselves as part of the network, find out about the Arctic Council, discuss ideas and share opinions, exchange news, report on projects and activities, learn about Arctic cultures and traditions, and find out more about sustainable development.
- To provide best practices for teaching and learning about sustainable development a database directory has been developed. The directory provides basic descriptions, costs of acquisition, and identification of project co-ordinators or locations where material might be obtained. The directory will be added to the "On Top of the World" web site and represent a useful and important resource for teachers and youth-serving agencies in the Arctic.
- The Saami International Youth Camp 2002, is scheduled for July 2002 in Finnmark. 30 youth aged 15 to 21 from the circumpolar area will take part in the 10 day event consisting of both a coastal and inland program. The Saami will also undertake the production of a video of the camp which, upon completion, will be made available through the "On Top of the World" web site. The video could also be broadcast on local or national television channels as a way of sharing best practices and raise the profile of the Arctic Council.
- There has been efforts to secure sponsorship for the an art contest focusing on a theme related to Rio +10, with the idea of organizing for an exhibit of the winning entries at the WSSD Summit in Johannesburg, but funding has not been forthcoming. Therefore this project will not occur.

The goal of the internship programme is to facilitate the exchange of youth between circumpolar countries in order to provide them with practical work experience abroad in areas related to sustainable development.

The Future of Children and Youth project has contracted the International Institute for Sustainable Development to undertake some activities in support of this programme. To date the following tasks have been accomplished or are underway:

- a working paper which reviews the experiences of northern youth in international research and work experience programs is being prepared. The goal is to identify best practices and tools for supporting young northerners in these programs and to assess their value in promoting sustainable development.
- the development of a directory of current international research and work experience opportunities for youth within the Arctic Council's member countries. An Internet search has been conducted to identify potential programs suitable for inclusion in the directory. These organizations have been contacted and a draft copy of the directory is being refined.
- the development of a directory of potential host organizations willing and able to accept participants in the future. Several organizations have been contacted and many of these have already expressed interest in hosting interns. More organizations will be contacted during the upcoming month as the International Institute for Sustainable Development develops a comprehensive list of potential placement locations.
- the formation of an International Internship Co-ordinating Committee (IICC) to facilitate the exchange of circumpolar youth in work experience/internship programs. Each Arctic country

and Permanent Participant has been requested to nominate a representative to the Committee.

During 2001-2002 two meetings on youth policy issues in the Arctic have convened. The aim of the meetings have been to exchange information on youth policy issues between Arctic Council member states and permanent participant organizations and to draw on the valuable experience gained in youth policy co-operation within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Among other things the meetings have discussed the possibilities of organising an Arctic youth research network and of holding an Arctic youth policy conference.

Co-management of Marine resources in Arctic Areas with respect to aboriginal people and traditional ecological knowledge

The project is conducted by the Saami university college in Guovdageaidnu, Norway. The funding of the project is so far for half a year from 1st of January to 30th of June 2002. Saami university college has however, applied for further funding for another half year from the Saami Parliament in Norway.

The first phase of the project is supposed to last for one year with following questions:

- 1) How is the co-management of marine resources organized in Canada, Greenland and Alaska?
- 2) To what degree do aboriginal people influence on management of fishery resources in these countries?
- 3) How is native ecological knowledge used within fishery management in these countries?

The unifying question is whether experiences from other Arctic aboriginal people can be useful in the establishment of a co-management model for coast- and fjord fishing in Saami fjord areas.

An International Reference Group, consisting of 7 members was initiated by Saami Council and appointed by Arctic Council countries and Permanent Participants. The response from the Reference group has been minimal though, which has led to that most of the project co-ordinators work has been devoted to searching for contacts in the three countries, Greenland, Canada and Alaska. The main problem has been to become acquainted with the different kinds of management systems, especially in Canada. The information has been gathered mostly through internet and literatures. Some information has also been gathered through e-mail correspondence.

Since the funding is only for a half year for the moment, the demarcation of the research has been necessary. The north of Canada has been selected, especially Nunavut territory, because of the Inuit's achievement of an agreement with Canada federal government that among other has established Nunavut Wildlife management board. The intention is to map out a study tour to Nunavut at the end of May. The data from Nunavut will be compared with data from marine management in Greenland and Alaska.

Cultural and Ecotourism

The LINKS program, short for Linking tourism and Conservation, is the Alaska-led Cultural and Eco-Tourism project. LINKS will certify arctic tourism businesses that operate sustainably and will assist in marketing these businesses to consumers. The program will also raise awareness about sustainable tourism in the Arctic. Through LINKS, businesses that adhere to criteria based on the WWF's *Principles and Codes of Conduct for Arctic Tourism*

(<http://www.ngo.grida.no/wwfap/core/about/guidelines.html>) can display the LINKS program logo along with references to the program itself on their marketing materials. A central website

(www.links2tourism.org) for the project will promote the program to both consumers and industry. Certified businesses will have access to environmental management tools and information about sustainable arctic tourism, training and networking opportunities. The main marketing efforts, however, will be directed at tourists and the general public through an interactive website that will help travellers to choose more sustainable businesses and provide information on the Arctic.

Progress has been made on basic LINKS program design and program materials including sample application packet and applicant tools such as checklists. An internationally recognized tourism certification consultant has been engaged to aid in program design, review of program materials, and marketing and fundraising strategies. The partners have secured a tentative agreement from the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA) to provide a physical home for the LINKS program. The major outstanding issues are agreeing on a governing administrative structure and finalizing program materials including marketing brochure, central website, and application materials.

The objective of the Finnish led Sustainable Tourism in the North is to increase knowledge and practice of sustainable tourism in the Arctic. This will be achieved by establishing an Arctic tourism network and through that network collect and provide tangible sustainable tourism tools and information to tourism industry. The expected outcomes are:

- A database of projects, initiatives, models, best practices and codes of conduct for sustainable tourism development in the north.
- A comprehensive handbook on sustainable tourism development in northern countries for use by the project partners and, ultimately, by regional tourism and environmental operators.
- An extranet - an inter-organisational environment for working on the Web using current communications software, containing password-protected "working group" areas, housing the database, providing news and chat facilities etc.

Funding for the pre-project (feasibility study) was received from the Nordic Industrial Fund. The feasibility study provides the basis for the planned development work within the SusTour project. During the feasibility study the needs of the tourism enterprises in the field of sustainable tourism will be mapped out, a long-term working model will be established, and furthermore, it will be determined how the strategy can be applied in the small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as establishing the operational and financial preconditions for the SusTour project. The timetable for the pre-project is October 2001-October 2002. The partners for the pre-project are: Executive Committee for Northern Norway, WWF Arctic Programme, Swedish Eco-tourism Association, Rural Economy and Agricultural Society of Norrbotten County, Provincial Government of Lapland, Travel Development Centre Finland Ltd. and Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic.

Seeking to provide a stronger and more efficient project the two complementary tourism initiatives have agreed to form a single project.

The project partners agree on the importance of increasing the sustainability of tourism business practices in the Circumpolar North. To accomplish this objective, the joint project will offer assistance and incentives to improve on-the-ground business practices. Businesses need both the knowledge of how to improve operations and tangible incentives, primarily financial, for implementing these more responsible practices. The joint project will address both needs by offering capacity or competency building and business incentives such as certification. This draft concept received the support of the Arctic Regional Meeting for the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE) recently held in Hemavan, Sweden. It will be one of the recommendations forwarded to the World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec City, Canada.

The knowledge-transfer, or capacity building, element will collect information and experiences about sustainable tourism practices in the North, and translate and distribute the most helpful lessons, examples, and tools to tourism businesses, development specialists and communities across the Arctic. This function will deliver these tools to the through a variety of different mechanisms, potentially including handbooks and manuals, databases, other web-based support functions, and most importantly training, workshops, and consultations.

The other pillar of the project, the certification program, will contribute to achieving the objective by providing market incentives for businesses. Using the Principles and Codes of Conduct developed by Arctic business operators, indigenous communities, academics, governments, and conservation groups in the process facilitated by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), it will recognize operations that have reached a certain level of responsible practice, through their own initiative or by profiting from the expertise offered through the capacity building effort. Certified businesses will be rewarded with a variety of benefits, including joint marketing and the increased bargaining strength offered a network of high quality tour operators across the arctic. It will also focus on the education of consumers about sustainable tourism and offer assistance in selecting a sustainable tourism product.

Sustainable Reindeer husbandry

Norway is the lead country of the project. In addition to Norway Russia and Finland are represented on the International Steering Committee of the project. The aim of the project has been to assess circumpolar reindeer herding in relation to economic and social/cultural sustainability. This has been done by carrying out a thematic survey and assessment of reindeer husbandry in the Arctic regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and Alaska. Data has been collected through field trips in the regions. The data collected comprise of different kinds of written documents (statistics, management plans, maps, scientific papers etc.) and interview material from interviews carried out with reindeer herders, owners, personnel at slaughtering houses, bureaucrats, researchers etc. A seminar with the focus on the national legislation concerning the socio-economic development of reindeer husbandry in the circumpolar area of the respective countries was held in Kautokeino, Norway in April 2002. A report with recommendations will be ready for the Ministerial Meeting. The project will end in December 2002.

Sustainable development in Northern timberline forests

The aim of the project is to arrange a workshop on 23-25 May in Rovaniemi. The goal of the workshop is to review recent research and to prepare recommendations on sustainable development in the tundra-taiga zone for delivery to the Arctic Council's Ministerial Meeting in October 2002. Special emphasis will be paid to the social and economic consequences of global change in the region and to the ecosystem management in these regions. The project will end in December 2002.

Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA)

SLICA is a joint international project that conducts a comparative study of living conditions among the Inuit and Saami peoples of the United States, Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the indigenous peoples of the Kola Peninsula and Chukotka in Russia.

The major objectives of the SLICA are:

- (1) The development of a new research design for comparative investigations of the living conditions of the Inuit and Saami populations in the Arctic.

- (2) A mapping of the living conditions among the Inuit and Saami in the Arctic.
- (3) To carry out a comparative dynamic social analysis of the causal relations between different individual resources and between individual well-being and different political, economic, cultural and technological settings.
- (4) An improved basis for decision-making in relation to policy planning and implementation.
- (5) The establishment of an interdisciplinary network of researchers and research institutions engaged in living conditions research in the Arctic.
- (6) Education and involving of postdocs, PhD candidates and undergraduates under the SLICA project.

The project has experienced substantial progress since the Ministerial meeting in Barrow. By means of funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, SLICA was able to host a conference on living conditions research in the Arctic in Nuuk, Greenland in the spring 2001. At the conference living conditions researchers from Holland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa and the U.S.A. were invited to comment on the SLICA research design and to discuss methodological and theoretical aspects of doing living conditions research in areas characterised by economically, socially and culturally heterogeneous populations. On October 2001 phase 1 of the project, which included the development and pilot testing of a new research design for living conditions research among Inuit and Saami peoples in the Arctic was completed. Phase 2, which include data collection, analysing and reporting has started in March 2002. The data collection will include the implementation of 23.000 personal interviews among Inuit and Saami in the Arctic. In Canada 11.000 interviews have been carried out and data collection in that area is now completed. The data collection has been launched in U.S.A with 300 interviews carried out, the data collection has also started in Chukotka. The collection of data from Greenland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola Peninsula is scheduled for fall 2002.

Several publications are expected from the project. The publications "*Living Conditions in the Arctic – Reports 1-3*" will be published in 2003 and 2004 and contains the descriptions of living conditions and analyses of social change among Inuit and Saami peoples in the Arctic. The project will end in 2004.

Telemedicine

The goal of the Phase II Telemedicine initiative, that was initiated at Barrow, was to develop a structure among the nations of the Arctic Council to stimulate collaboration on telemedicine evaluation conducive to program development and sustainability. The project's objectives are as follow:

- Promote awareness and understanding of past and current evaluation telemedicine initiatives among member countries.
- Establish best practices, programmatic successes, and lessons learned.
- Enhance the sharing of information as related to past and future evaluation strategies.
- Enhance the sharing of information on knowledge and experience in the application of telemedicine technology.
- Identify problems and work together toward solutions.
- Stimulate possible joint evaluation initiatives.

An international steering committee has been established. The steering committee was invited to participate in an initial electronic dialogue and then to meet for a 1-day working session in Alaska in September 2001. The preliminary discussion of issues and lessons learned of telemedicine evaluation in the Arctic was not implemented prior to the September meeting, as expected, due to

delays in identifying committee members. And due to the tragic events of 11th September the steering committee working session was cancelled.

US has re-offered to host a meeting later this year instead. There is maybe also a possibility to meet in connection to the Nordic Telemedicine congress in Tromsø in the autumn 2002.

International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Disease in the Arctic

The goal of the project is to establish an integrated International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) system for infectious diseases through a network of hospital and public health laboratories and authorities located throughout the Arctic. Linking public health facilities within the Arctic states will allow for the collection and sharing of uniform laboratory and epidemiological data that will describe the prevalence of infectious diseases of concern in Arctic populations, and assist in the formulation of prevention and control strategies.

An ICS steering committee was established in September 2000 to guide and review activities of ICS as well as to identify, prioritize and initiate the development of new surveillance activities. The second face-to-face steering committee meeting was held in Atlanta GA March 25, 2002 in conjunction with International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

An international population based surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases (i.e., those caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, Groups A & B streptococcus) has been established by linking clinical laboratories, reference laboratories, and public health authorities in the North American Arctic (US/Alaska, northern Canada), and Greenland/Denmark. The results of this surveillance for 1999-2000 were presented at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases Atlanta, GA., March 24-27, 2002, and at the 3rd International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases, Anchorage, Alaska, May 5-9, 2002.

In 2001 and 2002, Iceland, Norway and Finland will provide reports of invasive bacterial diseases to ICS.

Current participants include the US, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation. It is hoped that ICS representatives from Sweden and Denmark will be identified in 2002. Current ICS working areas include Invasive Bacterial Diseases and Tuberculosis. Potential additional areas of surveillance for ICS could include: vaccine preventable diseases (pertussis), drug resistant infections, viral respiratory diseases (RSV, influenza), hepatitis C, asthma, and diabetes.

Capacity building

Canada, in cooperation with Finland, hosted a two-day workshop in Helsinki in November, 2001 to explore practical ways to implement a capacity building focus in relation to Arctic Council activities. The workshop attracted about 70 participants from among the Arctic states, Permanent Participants, Observers and Arctic Council Working Groups. Several Working Group Chairs and SAOs also attended. By the conclusion of the workshop there was broad consensus that capacity building is relevant, if not critical, for the Arctic Council itself and for the Arctic region where the rapid changes of globalization, climate change, and transitional economies require the development and application of new approaches and new solutions.

On the basis of the outcome of the workshop Canada has prepared a draft Capacity building strategy and action plan for consideration at the SAO Meeting in May, 2002. This strategy attempts to enhance dialogue at the international, national, sub-national and local levels in relation to knowledge generated by the Arctic Council and thereby facilitate Arctic cooperation and appropriate capacity building responses at all levels of society. Given the broad scope of the strategy, and the many potential activities that can be carried out in relation to capacity building, it is proposed that a pilot project be undertaken to test some focussed approaches to capacity building and to provide practical information that can assist the Arctic Council, Permanent Participants, Observers and Working Groups in determining their appropriate roles and contributions in relation to capacity building in the Arctic. This pilot project would focus on adaptation issues in Arctic communities associated with knowledge generated from the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the 2nd AMAP Assessment projects.

2. Other issues of interest to the SAOs discussed/decided at the SDWG meeting 13th May 2002

Preparations for the WSSD

- Fact sheet on “Sustainable management and conservation of the natural resource base”: Several member states emphasized that they would like to have a more balanced text including more positive text on resource development. The PPs also expressed their will to take part in redrafting the fact sheet. A small redrafting team was established under the lead of the US. The matter will have to be dealt with through email decision making as the redrafting team will probably not be able to finalize its work during the days in Oulu.
- Side event: the proposals put forward by Canada were discussed, the meeting did not oppose to the ideas but neither was strong support expressed. No final position was taken, as this will be discussed by the SAOs as well.

Project guidelines

In general there was objection to have a new set of criteria/guidelines for the SDWG, as to many guiding documents lead to confusion. The question on whether or not there actually is something new in the proposed project guidelines or if the issues are already covered by the Terms of reference was discussed. Finally it was decided that the chair and vice chairs will develop the proposed project guidelines further, taking into consideration the comments heard at the meeting, and come back with a new proposal at the next meeting. Especially points 1-3 of the suggested procedural requirements should be kept in mind when developing the suggestion further.

Secretariat for the SDWG

The kind offer by Canada to host a permanent secretariat for the SDWG was warmly welcomed and supported by the meeting. Two suggestions were given to Canada 1) to include a member of the permanent participants in the staff of the secretariat, 2) to place the secretariat in the North of Canada.

Due to the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the SDWG amendments in the operating guidelines of the working group is needed. The SDWG decided to delete the paragraph 2.7 (stating: “The home country of the chairperson shall normally provide the secretariat support, unless the working group agrees on other arrangements.”) from the operating guidelines. This way the operating guidelines should reflect the new situation and be in line with the operating guidelines of the other working groups having permanent secretariats. This naturally means that paragraph 2.8 will be renumbered to 2.7. These amendments need approval by the SAOs.

Capacity Building

The meeting expressed its gratitude to Canada for carrying out this extensive task. Many comments were given to Canada, both general and specific. The meeting thought that the new permanent secretariat of the SDWG would have a crucial role in fostering capacity building. The meeting further expressed the view that the development of capacity building within the Arctic Council should build on the use of “best practices” rather than on new guiding documents. The SDWG sees that the Capacity Building strategy is still “work in progress” and that the further development should be done step by step. In general the SDWG felt that this is an issue that needs to be dealt with at the SAO level as the CB strategy would affect all working groups, and as the proposed pilot project merely affects ACIA, CAFF and AMAP.

Project proposals

The meeting approved two new projects: the Arctic Human development report and a project on Product development and processing in sustainable reindeer husbandry. The meeting asks the SAOs to forward these for endorsement to the ministers.

The meeting did not approve the project Post-Soviet Political and Socio-economic Transformation among the Indigenous Peoples of the Northern Russia. The meeting thought that criteria for endorsing possible “outside” projects, which are in line with the AC principles, first have to be developed and decided upon.

Further the meeting was informed of an initiative between the Russian federation, Raipon and the UNDP called “Sustainable Socio-economic Development with Indigenous People of the Russian North, Siberia and Far East”. Interested parties are welcome to join the project, which hopefully will evolve into a project that can seek for Arctic Council approval at a later stage.

Cooperative activities

- CITEF: a report from the Aviation experts meeting (held in February in Alaska) was presented at the meeting, due to the lack of time and the late arrival of the report no further discussion on the subject occurred. The issue is furthermore also included on the SAO agenda.
- AMAP- Oil and gas conference: AMAP will most likely postpone the conference until 2006. At the next SDWG further discussion on the involvement of the SDWG will be discussed.

Outcomes of the WSSD

The SDWG meeting recognized a problem in the fact that there is no way for the working group to react upon the outcomes of the WSSD in form of a project proposal put forward in time for the Ministerial, as the SDWG do not meet in between the WSSD and the Ministerial meeting. The SDWG therefore wants to ask the SAOs to address this issues and scrutinize the outcome from the WSSD to see if /what project(s) should be initiated on the basis of the results, and to bring these project proposals to the Ministers for decision.

Selection of chair for 2002-2004

The meeting selected Hugi Ólafsson from Iceland for the new chair for the period 2002-2004, and asks the SAOs to endorse the selection. As the next (after Iceland) chairing country of the Arctic Council is not yet known the SDWG decided not to select any new vice chair at this meeting. The vice-chairmanship of Sheila Watt-Cloutier will continue.

3. Tentative work plan 2002-2004

Continuation of :

The future of Children and Youth of the Arctic
Co-management of Marine resources in Arctic Areas
Ecological and Cultural Tourism (LINKS and SusTour together)
Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic
Telemedicine
International Circumpolar Surveillance: Emerging Infectious diseases
CITF

Follow up, coming out of the recommendations from the projects:

Sustainable Reindeer husbandry
Sustainable development in the Northern timberline forests
Gender equality project (as a follow up/outcome of the Taking Wing conference)?

New:

Arctic Human Development Report
Product development and processing in the sustainable reindeer husbandry

4. Developments which seem to call for Ministers attention

- approval of the work plan for 2002-2004
- recognition of the secretariat

5. Elements to be included in the SAO report to the Ministers

The aim is to include a more elaborated version of this report in the SAO report to the Ministers, unless different instructions are given by the SAOs or Arctic Council Secretariat. Several of the SDWG projects will further hand in extensive project reports, these will be attached as annexes to the main report. The outcomes of the project Sustainable development in the Northern Timberline Forests and the project Sustainable Reindeer husbandry will be published reports which will include recommendations to the Arctic Council's Ministerial Meeting.

6. Elements to be included in the Inari declaration

The working group will submit elements for the Inari declaration by June 17th.

7. Actions by the SAOs in Oulu

Based on this report the SAOs are kindly asked to:

- **endorse** the selection of Mr. Hugi Olafsson from Iceland as Chair for the period 2002-2004,
- **welcome** Canada's offer to host the secretariat of the SDWG
- **approve** the changes made in the operating guidelines
- **take note** of the state of the ongoing projects