Sustainable Development Working Group
The Human Dimension of the Arctic
- Presentation to Senior Arctic Officials -
Whitehorse, Yukon

The Mandate of the SDWG
- Focus on the human dimension
- Propose and adopt steps to advance sustainable development in the Arctic
- Improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities
- Respond to the challenges and benefit from the opportunities emerging in the Arctic Region

Sustainable Development Working Group
Progress since Kiruna
- HoDs meeting in Ottawa June 18-19
- Executive conference call September 17
- Meetings in Whitehorse October 17-20
  - Human Health Expert Group
  - Social Economic and Cultural Expert Group
  - SDWG Regional Outreach
  - SDWG Executive & Expert Groups
  - SDWG Meeting

"Development for the People of the North"
SDWG 2013-2015
Kiruna Declaration Priorities
- Promoting Mental Wellness in Northern Circumpolar Communities
- Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change
- Supporting Traditional and Local Knowledge

Sustainable Development Working Group
Progress since Kiruna, Cont’d
- Launch of the Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group
- Defined primary focus of both the Human Health and the Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Groups

SDWG Thematic Areas
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Cultures and Languages
- Human Health
- Social Economic Issues
- Energy and Arctic Communities
- Management of Natural Resources
- Other initiatives identified by AC - SAOs
**ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT II**

**OBJECTIVES**
- Provide an update to the (2004) baseline
- Compare social, cultural, economic, political conditions in the eight Arctic countries and in the world
- Better understand the interplay of physical and social global change processes for human living conditions in the Arctic

**ONGOING PROJECTS**
- Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages
- EALLIN Reindeer Herding and Youth
- Electronic Memory of the Arctic (EMA)
- Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

**PROGRESSION OF WORK**

AHDR I 2002 - 2004

ASI I 2006 - 2009

ASI II 2009 - 2013

AHDR II 2011 - 2014

**INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT**
- Traditional and Local Knowledge
- Marine Subsistence Mapping
- SDWG Strategic Planning

**APPROVAL PROCESS**
- SDWG HoDs currently evaluate projects based on the thematic areas identified in our mandate.
- HoDs may choose to endorse a project.
- Project then presented to the SAOs for approval

The SAOs may wish to re-examine this additional step.

**THE EVIDENCE-BASE FOR PROMOTING MENTAL WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE**

**LEADS:**
- Norway, Denmark, United States, Canada

**BACKGROUND:**
- People of the circumpolar region are bearing the consequences of rapid change in the Arctic.
- Since the Hope and Resilience: Suicide Prevention in the Arctic seminar in Nuuk 2009, there is a need to analyse which interventions have worked, with whom and for what reasons.
T HE EVIDENCE-BASE FOR PROMOTING MENTAL WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE, CONT’D

OBJECTIVES:
- To assess the outcomes of current and past research
- Programs and activities undertaken in circumpolar communities which promote resilience and well-being

DELIVERABLES:
- Synthesis report of evidence and recommendations
- Framework to scale up interventions in other communities
- Identify key indicators to measure and evaluate resilience and mental well-being programs
- Synthesis conference in February 2015 (knowledge translation and the sharing of evidence)

THE EVIDENCE-BASE FOR PROMOTING MENTAL WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE, CONT’D

OBJECTIVES:
- Endorsed by SDWG during telephone conference (September 27th)
- Endorsement was confirmed at SDWG General Meeting (October 16th). Government of Nunavut interested in hosting synthesis conference.
- SAOs are requested to consider the approval of this initiative.

FRAMEWORK TO SCALE UP INTERVENTIONS IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

ARCTIC ADAPTATION EXCHANGE: FACILITATING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

OBJECTIVES:
- To create an adaptation portal that facilitates access to adaptation relevant resources
- Creates a space where decision-makers can exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices

DELIVERABLES:
- An online information portal
- Protocols for populating and maintaining the portal
- A report on indicators of adaptive capacity across the Arctic, as an example of the utility of the practitioners/researchers’ forum

ARCTIC ADAPTATION EXCHANGE: FACILITATING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

LEADS:
- Canada, United States

BACKGROUND:
- This project is the next step of the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) parts A and B
- Both of these assessments recommend:
  - adaptation expertise
  - best practices
  - strategies

ENDORSMENT WAS CONFIRMED AT SDWG GENERAL MEETING
**Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change, Cont'd**

- Endorsed by SDWG during telephone conference (September 27th)
- Endorsement was confirmed at SDWG General Meeting (October 19th). Government of Yukon to provide support in developing the portal.
- SAOs are requested to consider the approval of this initiative.

**Gender Equality in the Arctic**

**LEADS:**
- Iceland, Norway

**BACKGROUND:**
- Inherent gender imbalance in policy and decision making
- Under representation of Women in regulatory agencies, administration, business and science.
- Gender bias of Economic Development impact.
- Negative effects on resilience due to gender ratio imbalance.

**Gender Equality in the Arctic, Cont’d**

**OBJECTIVES:**
- To promote extensive:
  - Policy-relevant dialogue on gender
  - Focus equality issues in Arctic regions
  - Economic and social development
  - Cooperation among research and stakeholder networks

**Gender Equality in the Arctic, Cont’d**

**DELIVERABLES:**
- Planning and Steering Committee
- Gender Equality in the Arctic conference
- Final Report on the outcomes of the conference
- SDWG web integration of recommendations and data exchange on SDWG website

**Gender Equality in the Arctic, Cont’d**

- Endorsed by SDWG during telephone conference (September 27th)
- Endorsement was confirmed at SDWG General Meeting (October 19th)
- SAOs are requested to consider the approval of this initiative.

**Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples**

**LEADS:**
- Canada, Denmark, ICC, Arctic Human Health Expert Group

**BACKGROUND:**
- Nuuk Declaration called for:
  - response to health concerns and long-term observation
  - monitoring of health changes
  - circumpolar comparative statistics
- Cancer is an emerging health problem among Arctic Indigenous Peoples.
**OBJECTIVES:**
- To review and describe patterns and trends of cancer among circumpolar indigenous peoples
- Endorsed by SDWG during telephone conference (September 27th)
- Endorsement was confirmed at SDWG General Meeting (October 19th)
- SAOs are requested to consider the approval of this initiative

**DELEIVERABLES:**
- Presentation of findings within Arctic Council
- Documents and media for dissemination
- Scientific papers for publication in medical journals and presentations at indigenous/health related conferences

**THANK YOU**