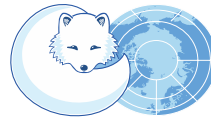




Sustainable Development
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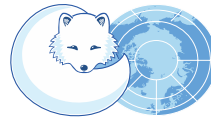
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS For the SAO Meeting Number 3 in Yellowknife, NWT (October 22-23)

1. Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration.

In line with recent Declarations of the Arctic Council, the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) is poised to deliver eight initiatives in time for the 2015 Ministerial Meeting. In addition to these, the SDWG is working to formalize a proposal on Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge in the Arctic Council.

2. Summary of progress on SDWG projects

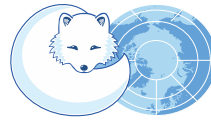
Project	Progress since spring 2014	Budget (CAD)	# Active Participants
The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities Leads: Canada, Norway, Kingdom of Denmark, US, Russian Federation, ICC	A Mental Wellness Workshop, organized by Norway, was held on May 26-27, 2014 in Tromsø. It enabled the two project teams to plan and optimize their research activities. Planning is underway for a March 2015 symposium in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to share the research findings.	\$750,000	25
Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change Leads: Canada, US, GCI, AIA	The design and development of the Portal has progressed significantly, based on the feedback received during the scoping phase. A Beta version of the Portal is ready for viewing and feedback. University of Alaska at Fairbanks has committed to host the Portal, which is scheduled to be launched in April 2015. Discussions on who will be managing the longer-term maintenance are ongoing.	\$450,000	50
Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples	Ongoing work includes collection of patterns and trend data for 27 northern regions of all eight Arctic States. Data collection on Inuit,	\$140,000	25



Project	Progress since spring 2014	Budget (CAD)	# Active Participants
Leads: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, ICC	Athabaskans and Saami is underway. Reviews of policies, programs and services are underway through a search of the published literature and relevant websites of national/regional health agencies.		
Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current Realities and Future Challenges Leads: Iceland, Norway	Current work is focused on planning for a Conference on Gender Equality in the Arctic to be held in Akureyri, Iceland (October 30-31, 2014).	\$160,000	50
A Circumpolar-wide Inuit Response to AMSA Leads: ICC, Canada, US, Kingdom of Denmark	ICC-Canada is in the process of drafting the final report on the second phase of this initiative, with a focus on expanding surveys of sea and sea ice use. The publication updates and expands the content of the 2008 report, <i>The Sea Ice is our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on the Arctic</i> , and includes material on three additional Inuit regions.	\$222,430	25
Arctic Human Development Report II (AHDR – II) Leads: Iceland, Canada, Kingdom of Denmark	The AHDR-II will build on baseline findings published in 2004 and provide the Arctic Council with a better understanding of human development and quality of life in the Arctic. The report is being written for the Arctic Council to help inform its work, particularly that of the SDWG. As such, it will not be submitted for SDWG endorsement or SAO approval. The final report is slated for publication in fall 2014, with SDWG HoDs receiving a draft in advance for their information.	\$600,000	25
Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages	Current work is focused on planning for a Language Symposium in Canada (location TBC) on February 10-12, 2015.	\$995,000	100



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Project	Progress since spring 2014	Budget (CAD)	# Active Participants
Leads: ICC, Canada, US, Kingdom of Denmark			
Electronic Memory of the Arctic Leads: Russian Federation, Norway	Planning for a workshop in Russia on this topic is ongoing.	\$780,000	25
Reindeer Herding and Youth Leads: Russian Federation, Norway	Final report will be brought forward for endorsement at the October SDWG General Meeting.	\$323,273	8
OTHER			
Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK)	A Traditional Knowledge (TK) Implementation Workshop, organized by the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, was held in Ottawa on June 28-30 to build on the progress made at the Reykjavik TK Workshop in February 2014. A draft project proposal has been developed by the SDWG Secretariat that will be brought forward for discussion at the October SDWG General Meeting.	\$153,000 (costs associated with Reykjavik Workshop \$85,000 and Ottawa Workshop \$68,000)	

3. Deliverables for the next Ministerial

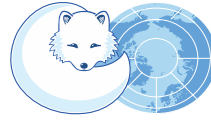
All of the above projects are on track for delivery in 2015.

4. Working Group administration and next meetings

The *Committee to Examine the SDWG Executive Secretary Hiring Process and Core Duties* has completed a final report, which has been approved by the SDWG HoDs. It is proposed that the new hiring process will be referenced in the SDWG Operating Guidelines. This is the only revision to the SDWG Operating Guidelines anticipated to be brought forward at the October SAO meeting.



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The new SDWG website is now live and fully functional - www.arctic-council.org/sdwg.

The next SDWG meeting will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, on March 1-2, 2015.

5. Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

On June 28-30, 2014, the SDWG partnered with the Indigenous People's Secretariat to hold a Traditional Knowledge Implementation Workshop with 5 Permanent Participants (RAIPON was unable to attend due to entrance visa issues), as well as representatives from CAFF.

The Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG) is working with PAME on the Arctic Marine Tourism Project and AMAP on the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic – Part C. In each case, the main role of SECEG members is to identify subject matter experts with relevant expertise to participate in the respective initiatives.