



Joint Arctic Council Working Group Meeting Tromsø, Norway

Wednesday 16th of September

ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, PAME

Background

- Four Arctic Council Working Groups (ACAP, AMAP, CAFF and PAME)
- Approximately 192 people took part
- including representatives from Arctic states, Permanent Participants, Working Groups, Observer states and organizations

Welcome ,opening, introductions

- SAO Chair David A. Balton
- Norwegian SAO Else Berit Eikeland
- CAFF Chair/Reidar Hindrum on behalf of the 4 working group chairs

Breakout exercise

- Background papers were produced for each breakout session providing context and questions to be addressed
- Each session was structured to ensure even representation from across the four WGs, governmental, indigenous and non-governmental organizations
- Participants were asked to consider two general questions on cooperative actions within the Arctic Council and two more specific questions pertinent to the cross-cutting activity being addressed by a particular session

Breakout session thematic

- Standardized geospatial Data Management and sharing: Project Arctic SDI (ACAP)
- Climate Change: Project - AACCA (AMAP)
- Biodiversity reporting and assessment: CBMP and its State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports (CAFF)
- Area-based Management: Project - Arctic MPA Network (PAME)

Key Messages - Data management:

- There is a need to ensure a systematic approach to data management to facilitate access to data produced by WGs
- This would require the application of common standards to ensure coordination and interoperability
- The Arctic SDI was raised as a potential tool to enhance coordination across Arctic WGs

Key Messages - Experts:

- There is a need to broaden and coordinate the pool of experts engaged in Arctic Council activities including experts in Traditional Knowledge and geospatial management
- It was suggested that coordinating mechanisms were needed to avoid approaching the same experts, and to ensure expert groups can contribute to multiple Working Group initiatives, when appropriate
- The need to engage younger experts in Arctic Council work was emphasized so as to ensure new blood and ideas found their way into Arctic Council activities

Key Messages - Planning:

- There is a need for long-term strategic planning by the Arctic Council to improve coordination of Working Group activities
- Working Group initiatives would be organized to address common goals in response to shared issues and concerns

Broad range of suggestions!

A broad range of suggestions relevant to the cross-cutting themes were also identified e.g. establishment of cross-cutting expert groups to address MPA development and spatial data management (Annexes 2-5 of the Joint Meeting Report)

Recommendation to SAOs

- Joint meetings between the WGs may be arranged once every AC chairmanship period and would probably give most effect to the chairmanship program if it's arranged in the beginning of the period
- In the future there may be more value in having smaller numbers of WGs (2-3) meet jointly in order to address specific projects
- This may also be more sustainable due to the costs involved in hosting such meetings
- This kind of collaboration should also involve other WGs and Task Forces than those gathered in Tromsø this time