

# **The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) Project Report**

**Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting  
May 3, 2004, Selfoss, Iceland**

## **1. Purpose of Project:**

- The AHDR will provide an accessible overview of the state of human development in the Arctic that can serve as a benchmark for assessing progress in the future.
- The report will identify critical gaps in knowledge that require the attention of the scientific community.
- The AHDR can help to set the agenda and establish priorities for the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group.

The purpose of the report is to identify and provide policy relevant insights on key issues, themes and, in particular, trends that are of high importance and immediate concern to livelihoods and the welfare of people and societies in the circumpolar region.

## **2. Deliverable:**

The completed Report will be presented at the November 2004 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.

Each chapter of the AHDR will contain a mix of qualitative and quantitative information. The chapters will include a number of highlighted boxes with concise texts on case studies, pertinent issues and topics, from various sources, such as researchers, organizations, institutes and Arctic inhabitants.

Individual chapters will run 20-25 printed pages (including tables and figures) and they will follow a common format to ensure that the report as a whole is both comprehensive and coherent.

## **3. Date of approval, and date of proposed finalization:**

The AHDR was accepted as a new project of the SDWG, to be formally adopted by the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Inari, October 2002. The completed AHDR will be presented at the November 2004 Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council.

## **4. Leaders, participants:**

The AHDR is a priority project under Icelandic lead during the Icelandic Chairmanship 2002-2004.

The AHDR project also includes the following Arctic Council participants with representatives on the Report Steering Committee: Canada, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States, Aleut International Organization, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit

Circumpolar Conference, RAIPON, Saami Council, Indigenous People's Secretariat, International Arctic Science Committee, International Arctic Social Sciences Association, International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Northern Forum, Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, United Nations Development Program, and the United Nations Environmental Program.

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Secretariat:

Joan Nymand Larsen, Project Manager

Report Steering Committee

The Report Steering Committee provides oversight and general guidance for the assessment process.

Since the last update the Committee has received three new members, representing Canada (Hugh Lloyd), AIA (Larry Mercurieff and Victoria Goffman), and AAC (Chris Paci). Also, RAIPON is replacing Tamara Semenova, who is stepping down from the Committee.

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**5. Progress since the last SDWG-meeting:****Meetings:**

- Second Meeting: Meeting of Lead Authors and the Executive Committee:  
The second meeting of AHDR Lead Authors, the Secretariat and members of the Report Executive Committee, took place in Rovaniemi, Finland, on December 13-14. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the first draft manuscripts of the Report. The manuscripts provided the basis for a detailed discussion of the substance of each individual chapter. The need to identify and focus on major trends and contrasts, including high profile striking features was a common theme throughout the chapter discussions.
- Third Meeting: Joint Meeting of Lead Authors and Report Steering Committee:  
A joint meeting of Lead Authors, the Report Steering Committee, and the AHDR secretariat, took place in Tromsø, Norway, on April 3-4, 2004. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the second draft manuscripts of the AHDR, and to address review comments received by peer reviewers and members of the Report Steering Committee.
- Executive Meetings:  
Executive meetings were held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004.

**Review Process:**

- Last November, Bernie Funston, executive secretary of the SDWG, together with some web designers, designed an AHDR website which is linked to the new SDWG website. This website, which has restricted access, is used for the posting of draft manuscripts of individual chapters of the Report. Members of



the Report Steering Committee have access to the site and are invited to provide and facilitate comments on drafts as they are posted. The website ensures transparency from the first draft stage of the report to its final version.

- The review process of the AHDR includes review by the Executive Committee (first drafts), review by the Report Steering Committee (second drafts), and a peer review of second drafts, with further peer reviewing where needed. Once the draft manuscripts reach a more complete level they will be distributed for one final review by a broader audience, which would include, but not be restricted to, the Report Steering Committee, members of the SDWG, and peers.
- First drafts of individual chapters were submitted for review by the Report Executive Committee end of November 2003. Some chapters received an extension till mid January 2004. Lead authors have received review comments on first drafts.
- Second drafts were submitted for peer review and review by the Report Steering Committee mid February 2004. Peer Review of the second draft chapters has been completed. Chapters that were less developed at the time of the peer review will be sent out for a second peer review end of April. Review comments were also received from several of the members of the Report Steering Committee. Extensive review comments were communicated during the joint meeting of Lead Authors and the Report Steering Committee in April.

### **New Table of Contents of the Report:**

Decisions have been made to reorganize the Table of Contents of the AHDR. The basic idea of the reorganization is to start by orienting the reader to the human dimensions of the Arctic, move on to an assessment of the basic systems, and then proceed to a series of crosscutting issues as follows:

#### Part I: Orientation

- Ch. 1 - Introduction: Human Development in the Arctic
- Ch. 2 - Demographics

#### Part II: Core Systems

- Ch. 3 - Social and Cultural Systems
- Ch. 4 - Economic Systems
- Ch. 5 - Political Systems
- Ch. 6 - Legal Systems

#### Part III Crosscutting themes

- Ch. 7 - Resource Governance
- Ch. 8 - Human Health
- Ch. 9 - Education
- Ch. 10 - Community Viability
- Ch. 11 - Gender
- Ch. 12 - International Relations

## Part IV Conclusion

### Ch. 13 - Conclusions and Policy Implications

#### **Production of AHDR:**

Plans for the production and printing of the AHDR are underway.

#### **6. Main developments foreseen until next meeting of SDWG:**

- The next meeting of the Report Executive Committee is scheduled to take place in Reykjavik on May 2nd.
- Starting end of April, some chapter manuscripts will be sent out for further peer reviewing.
- The more complete chapter manuscripts will be made accessible to a broader audience for review, as the manuscripts get closer to their final version. This will include providing access by the SDWG to the SWDG/AHDR website where draft manuscripts are posted. Information on this will be forthcoming in May.
- Starting April, a production and printing company will be working closely with the AHDR team to make decisions regarding layout, design, graphics etc. The plan is to make 2,500 copies of the Report.
- Science editor Annika Nilsson will be working closely with individual lead author teams to get manuscripts ready for production. During the month of June, Annika will be working on final text editing in close collaboration with the authors.
- July 1 is the date for submission of final manuscripts and graphics.

#### **7. Contribution to Capacity Building:**

One goal is to integrate the AHDR into the curriculum of the University of the Arctic.