



Sustainable Development
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Presentation to the
Arctic Biodiversity Congress

December 3, 2014
Trondheim, Norway





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THE SDWG AND THE CANADIAN CHAIRMANSHIP

- The SDWG was established at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, Canada in September 1998.
- The goal of the SDWG is to propose and adopt steps to be taken by Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including:
 - Opportunities to protect and enhance the environment, and the economies, cultures and health of Indigenous communities and of other inhabitants of the Arctic; and,
 - Improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.
- Canada's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council: "Development for the people of the North"
 - Responsible Arctic resource development
 - Safe Arctic shipping
 - Sustainable circumpolar communities



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TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE AC

- Seven Ministerial Declarations reference Traditional Knowledge (TK) since the inception of the Arctic Council (AC)

"Recognizing the traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and their communities and taking note of its importance and that of Arctic science and research to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic"

- The Ottawa Declaration (1996)

- Many AC projects have integrated TLK to varying degrees
- Hope and Resilience Seminar (SDWG, 2009)
- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (PAME, 2009)
- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (CAFF, 2013)
- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic – Part C (AMAP, ongoing)



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SDWG PROJECT ON TLK

Mandate

Kiruna Declaration (2013)

“**Recognize** that the use of traditional and local knowledge is essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic, and **decide** to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council”

SAO Report to Ministers (2013)

“Canada has requested the SDWG, in collaboration with all working groups, to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Council”

Objective

Develop recommendations for the consistent inclusion of Traditional Knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council



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PROJECT PROCESS

- Scoping workshop held in Reykjavik (February 2014)
 - Draft “Fundamental Principles”
 - Potential recommendations for TK integration
- Second workshop held in Ottawa (June 2014)
 - Working definition of Traditional Knowledge
 - Further developed “Fundamental Principles” and potential recommendations
- Project proposal drafted by SDWG
 - Reflects ideas developed by PPs and WG representatives
 - Provided a basis for discussions among PPs and Arctic States to establish co-leadership by 2 Arctic States and solicit input from WGs and TFs.



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PROJECT PROCESS

- Updated project proposal tabled at SDWG General Meeting (October 2014)
- Project proposal set for endorsement (December 8, 2014)
 - Project co-leads to be finalized
 - Project proposal to be endorsed
- Ongoing/continued WG and TF engagement
- Recommendations to be presented at Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit (April 23-25, 2015)



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MOVING FORWARD

1. Ministerial Showcase in Ottawa (April 23, 2015)
2. Implementation of endorsed recommendations
3. Practical, concrete measures that strengthen project outcomes
4. Continued efforts on TK integration



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THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
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ANNEX 1

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REFERENCES IN MINISTERIAL DECLARATIONS

Ottawa Declaration

- **“Recognizing** the traditional knowledge of the indigenous people of the Arctic and their communities and taking note of its importance and that of Arctic science and research to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic” (pg 2).

Iqaluit Declaration

- **“Encourage** the Sustainable Development Working Group to take special note of proposals which reflect the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge and the perspectives of indigenous communities in developing a sustainable future for the Arctic” (pg 3).

Reykjavik Declaration

- **“Recognizing** the role and increased participation of indigenous peoples in the work of AC and its subsidiary bodies” (pg 1).
- **“Welcome** the continuing contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge to research in the Arctic” (pg 2).

Salekhard Declaration

- **“Welcoming** the continuing contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge to research and culture in the Arctic” (pg 1).



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ANNEX 1: CONTINUED

Tromsø Declaration

•“**Acknowledge** that indigenous peoples in the Arctic are taking a leading role to use best available traditional and scientific knowledge to help understand and adapt to challenges related to climate change and other challenges in their societies, and **welcome** initiatives to build the capacity of indigenous peoples” (pg 2).

Nuuk Declaration

•“**Reiterate** the importance of the use of Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge and capacity-building initiatives in the planning and implementation of measures to adapt to climate change, **recognize** that climate change and other negative factors have impacted the traditional livelihoods and food safety and security of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic residents and communities” (pg 6).

• “**Congratulate** the University of the Arctic (UArctic) on its 10th anniversary, **recognize** its contribution in developing specialized education aimed at building capacity and fostering traditional and scientific knowledge relevant to Indigenous Peoples, Arctic communities and policy-makers, and **encourage** continuous support for the UArctic” (pg 8).

Kiruna Declaration

•“**Recognize** that the use of traditional and local knowledge is essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic, and **decide** to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council” (pg 4).

•“**Acknowledge** the importance of indigenous peoples’ traditional ways of life to their economic wellbeing, culture and health, and **request** Senior Arctic Officials to recommend ways to increase awareness regionally and globally on traditional ways of life of the Arctic indigenous peoples and to **present** a report on this work at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015” (pg 4).