

Arctic EIA project

– Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic

Dear Reader,

At your computer screen you have the second Newsletter of the Arctic EIA project. The project falls under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council and aims at creating good practice recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessments in the Arctic.

Questionnaire on Good EIA Practices in the Arctic

The questionnaire distributed by the project to gather information about good EIA practices in the Arctic received approximately 60 answers from the eight Arctic Council member states: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Kingdom of Denmark / Greenland, USA, Canada and Russia. The questionnaire was distributed in English and Russian. The most responses came from Russia, with 26 completed surveys, followed by Canada with 15 responses. Questionnaire gives valuable background information for starting to draft the good practice recommendations for EIAs in the Arctic. A summary, as well as an analysis of the general part of the English questionnaire, is available on the SDWG homepage: www.sdwg.org

Two workshops held in Nov and Dec 2017

On November 27–29 approximately 35 participants gathered at the Iñupiat Heritage Centre in **Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska** for the first regional workshop under the project. The sub-theme of which was, *"Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples within the Environmental Impact Assessment"*. The presentations from the workshop can be found [here](#). For the reporting of the workshop, please visit the SDWG homepage: www.sdwg.org



Intensive work and enriching culture by a group Taġiuġmiut – People of the Ocean in Utqiagvik.

The Santa Claus Hotel in **Rovaniemi, Finland**, on Dec 11–12, was the venue for the second regional workshop including 60 participants from all the Nordic countries. The subtheme of this workshop was, "*Tomorrow's Arctic EIA: Nordic Possibilities and Perspectives to Environmental Impact Assessments in the Arctic*". Indigenous perspective was strongly present also in Rovaniemi, with representation from e.g. Saami Council, the Finnish Sámi Parliament, Laevas Sámi Community (Sweden), Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North. The preliminary report is found on the homepage of the SDWG:

www.sdwg.org – and you can become acquainted with the workshop material here:

[Nordic Workshop Presentations](#)

[Nordic Workshop Posters](#)



Smiling participants of the Nordic workshop in Rovaniemi in Dec 2017.

More to come in Canada: Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment Workshop in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in April 2018

The Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group, in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, will be hosting a Canadian workshop to highlight *Good Practices in Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment (Arctic EIA)*. The workshop will take place in the Northwest Territories' capital city of Yellowknife, from Tuesday, April 24 – Thursday, April 26, 2018.

This invitation-only workshop will feature panel and breakout sessions, and keynote speeches. Results of the recent workshops held in Utqiagvik (Barrow, Alaska) and Rovaniemi (Finland) will be discussed, and participants will actively address key challenges and opportunities for improving how Arctic EIA is practiced domestically and internationally.

The Yellowknife workshop will serve to:

- 1 Showcase leadership, expertise, successes and challenges relating to Arctic EIA;
- 2 Share Canada's broad experiences with northern resource co-management, including the fundamental importance of Indigenous and local engagement to these processes;
- 3 Promote active dialogue among international EIA practitioners, Indigenous partners, community leaders and northerners;
- 4 Document Arctic EIA Good Practices, Barriers and Opportunities, and Pathways for Future Success; and
- 5 Produce a "Summary of Findings Report" for the final project for the SDWG, in collaboration with the project's International Editorial group.

The project's Editorial group will be meeting back to back with the Yellowknife Workshop.

Official invitations and draft programs for the workshop and the Editorial group meeting are currently being finalized, and will be provided to invitees shortly.

For more information – and to get yourself an invitation – please contact Matt Bender: matt.bender@canada.ca



Final workshop report combining the regional workshops will be published after the workshop in Canada – or after a workshop in Russia, which is an option for fall 2018.

ARCTIC EIA PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

- full name of the project: Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic
- works under the auspice of Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
- main funder: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- runs May 2018 – June 2019
- co-led by Finland, Kingdom of Denmark, Canada and Gwich'in Council International
- aims at creating 1) good practice recommendations for EIA and public participation in the Arctic and 2) a network of Arctic EIA actors
- contact person: project coordinator **Päivi A. Karvinen**: paivi.karvinen@ym.fi, tel. +358 50 308 0194
- <http://www.sdwg.org>
- @ArcticEIA

Introducing the Steering Committee members



Ole on a reindeer farm in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Ole Geertz Hansen – Kingdom of Denmark

Ole is a senior scientist from Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, based in Nuuk, Greenland. He has a background from the private consulting sector preparing EIAs of infrastructure and other types of projects in the Arctic, but also in Europe, Africa, The Middle East, and in East Asia. During the last five years he has advised the Greenland Government on environmental issues arising from mining and oil extraction.



Sarah in Tromsø, Norway.

Sarah Cox – Canada

Sarah Cox is Canada's Head of Delegation to the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group; she supports the Arctic EIA project as Canada's representative to the Steering Committee. As Director of Circumpolar Affairs at Canada's Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Sarah works directly with Indigenous peoples and northerners to help build healthy, safe, self-sufficient, and prosperous Northern communities. Sarah has two daughters who keep her management, logistical, and diplomatic skills honed.

Sara French – Gwich'in Council International

Sara serves as an Advisor to Gwich'in Council International and is the Principal Consultant at Northern Consultants. She has had the honour to work alongside an impressive host of former heads of state and government at the InterAction Council. She previously worked at The Gordon Foundation for over six years, leading the Foundation's programs on circumpolar studies and the Jane Glassco Fellowship for northern youth. She holds Masters and Bachelor of Honour degrees from Queen's University and spent her first year at the International Study Centre at Hertsmonceux Castle.



Sara just outside Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

In addition to Ole, Sarah and Sara, project coordinator Päivi and project leader Seija Rantakallio from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland are in the Steering Committee. Seija is the chair of the committee. Päivi and Seija were introduced in the former Newsletter.

Editorial group

There are new members in the Editorial group of the project consisting of nominated coordinators of the member states and Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. The coordinators 2018 are:

- Finland: Timo Jokelainen, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Lapland
- Sweden: Egon Enocksson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Norway: Fredrik Juell Theisen, Ministry for Climate and the Environment
- Iceland: Jakob Gunnarsson, National Planning Agency
- Kingdom of Denmark: Ole Geertz Hansen, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Canada: Kim Pawley, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- United States: Edward (Ted) Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
- Russian Federation: Marina V. Nenasheva, Northern Arctic Federal University at Arkhangelsk
- Saami Council: Gunn-Britt Retter
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC): Joanna MacDonald (Canada), Vernae Angnaboogok (Alaska), Parnuna Egede (Greenland)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI): Adam Chamberlain
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC): Cindy Dickson
- Aleut International Association (AIA): Liza Mack
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON): Sergey Sizonenko
- In addition to Country and Permanent Participant coordinators the Editorial Group is complemented by:
- Arctic Economic Council: Kjerstin Skeidsvoll Lange
- Arctic Centre, University of Lapland: Pamela Lesser

Follow the Arctic EIA project

Newsletter following the project will be issued quarterly.

You can sign in/sign out to follow the project:

<https://www.lyyti.fi/questions/dd9694b857>

You can also follow us on the homepage of the Sustainable Development Working Group:

www.sdwg.org and on twitter: [@ArcticEIA](https://twitter.com/ArcticEIA)

If you'd have any questions, comments or ideas to share, please contact the project coordinator

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tel. +358 50 308 0194,

Ministry of the Environment, Finland. Thank you.

Our appreciation is extended to main partners and sponsors of the workshops in

Utqiagvik (Barrow, Alaska)

- Institute of North
- Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat
- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- North Slope Borough
- North Slope Science Initiative
- ConocoPhillips
- ExxonMobil

Rovaniemi (Finland)

- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Nordic Council of Ministers



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