

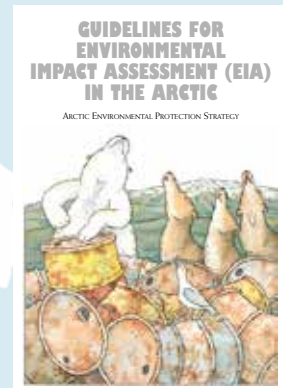
Arctic EIA project

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

Dear Reader,

Welcome to follow the Arctic EIA project – the generation of good practice recommendations for EIA in the Arctic region and to participate in gathering already existing good practices that can stand as examples for others.

Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic – Arctic EIA in short – is a project endorsed by the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council (www.sdwg.org). The Arctic EIA project is led by Finland during the Finnish chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017–2019. The project is co-led by Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark.



The project aims at providing Arctic-specific EIA recommendations that can be applied in the vulnerable and changing Arctic environment, taking into account the indigenous peoples and other inhabitants living there. Since economic activities are likely to increase in the Arctic, the role of EIA in the project planning will be increasing. Mapping good practices, sharing experiences, learning from each other and co-creating recommendations form the core of the project.

Arctic EIA project continues the early cooperation in the field of EIA by the Arctic countries. To take a look at the 1997 publication *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the Arctic*, please visit https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EIAGuides/Arctic_EIA_guide.pdf

Questionnaire for mapping good practices

The Arctic EIA project is looking for good practice examples from various EIA projects across the Arctic region. Have you taken part in a well-executed EIA, or has a specific component of an EIA – like public participation or mitigation measures been completed so successfully that it could be used as an example of good practice? Would you like to report such a case by answering the questionnaire?

For answering the Good Practice Questionnaire, please go to:
<https://www.lyyti.fi/questions/241697814d>

Your answer is much appreciated – thank you!

The questionnaire is targeted to all EIA stakeholders: Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic residents, authorities, developers, consultants, NGOs, and other interested parties. The Editorial group of the project, consisting of experts from Arctic countries and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, will view the suggested practices and use that as a base in co-creating good practice recommendations for EIA in the Arctic.

What is good practice? Different actors may have different views on what worked well and what did not in the process of EIA. Generally good practice can be defined as practice that has proven to work well and has produced good results, and can therefore be recommended as a model. At this stage we want to leave the determination of good practice up to the stakeholders who answer the questionnaire. Producing a definition of the good practice in this case is a process that everyone can contribute. You may visit the webpage of the International Association for Impact Assessment to view how well worked practice is defined there:

https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/principlesEA_1.pdf

Workshops and other events

In addition to the questionnaire, practices of EIA within the Arctic are shared in summits and workshops. The following events have been agreed so far:

Arctic Energy Summit in Helsinki September 18–20, 2017. There was a session on *EIA in energy projects in the Arctic* on Wednesday Sept 20 (www.arcticenergysummit.com)

Two workshops focused on the good practices of EIAs and public participation in the Arctic have been agreed in the following locations:

- **Utqiagvik/Barrow, Alaska 27.–29.11.2017.** Working title of the workshop is *Indigenous consultation and meaningful engagement in an EIA process*. Workshop is organized by the Institute of North.
- **Rovaniemi, Finland 11.–12.12.2017.** Working title of the workshop is *Tomorrow's Arctic EIA: Nordic possibilities and new perspectives*. This Nordic workshop is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Workshops in Russia and Canada are planned for 2018.

Arctic EIA project has been presented by a poster at the annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) in Montreal in April 2017. It was also presented in a side event at the Espoo Convention's 7th Meeting of the Parties in Minsk in June 2017 – Espoo Convention being a shortened name for UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Expected outcomes

The deliverables of the project will be

- Good Practice Recommendations for EIA and Public Participation in the Arctic to be delivered to the Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in 2019
- Establishing a network of experts and actors in EIA in the Arctic.

Introducing the staff

Päivi A. Karvinen, Project Coordinator

Päivi works full time in the project coordinating and facilitating the project in the Ministry of the Environment. She is the main point of contact of the project. Päivi's expertise is Environmental Impact Assessment and pilot studies on that and other environmental fields. Päivi has been active for years as a chair and in other positions in the Finnish Association of Impact Assessment.
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Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Seija Rantakallio, Project Leader

Seija works as a Ministerial Adviser in the Ministry of the Environment and is in charge of enforcement and development of EIA legislation, guidance of regional environmental authorities and preparing of the Finnish position in EIA matters in the EU and within the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). She is the Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Finland and a former chair of the Implementation Committee of the Convention.
seija.rantakallio@ym.fi, tel. +358 400 143 937, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Steering Group consisting of representatives of lead and co-lead countries:

Seija Rantakallio, Finland – Ministry of the Environment
Sarah Cox, Canada – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Ole Geertz Hansen, Kingdom of Denmark – Greenland Institute of Natural Resources

Sarah and Ole will be introduced in the next newsletter.



Seija and Päivi are leading the work.

Editorial Group consisting of nominated Country and Permanent Participant coordinators

Arctic countries and Permanent Participants (Indigenous Peoples' organizations) of the Arctic Council have nominated an expert for the project. The coordinators are involved in the project by helping in bringing upfront specific Arctic features of each country, identifying EIA actors for a forming of the network, helping to collect good practice examples and eventually helping in drafting and crystallizing the recommendations. Coordinators form an *Editorial Group*. The nomination of coordinators was organized via the country and Permanent Participant representatives within the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. Coordinators are:



Editorial Group started its work at the kick-off meeting of the project in Rovaniemi, Finland in June 2017.

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: Thomas Sheldon (Canada), Vernae Angnaboogok (Alaska),
Parnuna Egede (Greenland)
Gwich'in Council International: Adam Chamberlain
Arctic Athabaskan Council: Cindy Dickson

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 at: <http://www.sdwg.org/project/current-projects/>