



August 27, 2013

To: Chairs of AMAP, CAFF and SDWG working groups
Cc: PAME Representatives
Subject: Collaboration on the development of the new *Sustainable Arctic Tourism Initiative*

On behalf of the PAME Working Group, I invite your collaboration on the development of a new *Sustainable Arctic Tourism Initiative* that was approved for inclusion in PAME's 2013-2015 Work Plan earlier this year. PAME's Work Plan describes this new initiative as follows:

PAME will reach out to SDWG, AMAP and CAFF to explore the development of a sustainable tourism initiative. Potential elements could include: collecting and assessing existing information regarding trends in Arctic tourism; collecting and assessing existing information on adverse and beneficial environmental, social and cultural impacts of Arctic tourism; an inventory of existing laws, codes, policies, guidelines and best practices pertaining to sustainable Arctic tourism and based on an evaluation of the inventory, identifying fundamental principles of sustainable Arctic tourism, publicizing principles and encouraging their adoption and/or implementation by key Arctic actors; and if/as appropriate, developing or encouraging the development of more specific codes or best practices of sustainable Arctic tourism, tailored to specific regions, communities, destinations, ecosystems or industries. Co-leads are Canada and the United States. [[Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers \(Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013\)](#) at p. 47.]

Background for this initiative is set forth in a paper submitted by the United States to PAME-I-2013 (attached).

We would greatly appreciate an initial assessment of your Working Group's interest in participating in the development of this initiative, the possible scope of your potential participation, areas that would likely be of particular focus for your working group, and a primary point of contact. Once we receive this information, we would work to arrange an initial teleconference to discuss next steps.

Responses may be sent to PAME's Secretariat, Soffía Guðmundsdóttir (soffia@pame.is), before 24 September 2013 when PAME's next meeting commences.

Sincerely yours,

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