



Sustainable Development  
Working Group



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# The Sustainable Development Working Group

## Joint Presentation to AMAP/ PAME Working Groups

September 17, 2014  
Whitehorse, Yukon



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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (SDWG)

- The SDWG was established at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Nunavut, 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.



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## ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (AHDR) II

- Building on the first AHDR (2004), the Stefansson Arctic Institute (Iceland) developed the SDWG proposal which was approved by SAOs in 2011
- Iceland and Canada are co-leading this project
- AHDR II moves beyond baseline reporting established in 2004; provides a timely circumpolar assessment of human development, living conditions, Indigenous livelihoods and quality of life in the Arctic
- 2014 completion date makes the AHDR II Report an important and timely deliverable for the Canadian Chairmanships, both for the Arctic Council and the SDWG



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## Cross Cutting Opportunities

- AHDR II is an academic report written for the Arctic Council to help inform its work. It provides valuable information and analysis on the social, economic, and cultural needs of Arctic residents. It also identifies major trends, emerging socio-economic challenges, and opportunities relating to sustainable development
- Cross-cutting linkages with other AC working groups support current and future work
- Examples are broad-ranging and include:
  - Overview of human health and well-being, including surveillance on infectious disease and levels of contaminants across the circumpolar arctic;
  - Effects of globalization and climate change on human health, population and migration, resource development, culture and tourism



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## Next Steps

- AHDR II to be published academically this fall
- Given that it is written by independent academic authors, AHDR II will not be submitted for SDWG endorsement or SAO approval
- Canada is working to ensure the report is recognized at 2015 Ministerial meeting as an important contribution to the work of the Arctic Council



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## ARCTIC HUMAN HEALTH EXPERT GROUP (AHHEG)

- AHHEG works to advance knowledge gained through ecosystem and community-based research to support circumpolar communities in developing sustainable, practical, and integrated responses to human health impacts
- Recently undertook a review of statistics, programs and services related to the *Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples* project. Preliminary Report to be presented at the SDWG General Meeting in October 2014
- Key role in advancing the *Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities* project.
- Next AHHEG Meeting is scheduled on October 17, 2014 in Yellowknife, NWT in advance of the SDWG General Meeting



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## SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXPERT GROUP (SECEG)

- SECEG supports work to *advance social, economic and cultural research in the development of sustainable and integrated approaches emerging in the circumpolar region*
- SECEG recently sought the assistance of the SDWG Secretariat to identify projects that would benefit from the group's input in support of collaboration
- Two projects were identified:
  - PAME's *Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP)*; and
  - AMAP's *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic – Part C (AACAC)*.
- To guide SECEG participation in Arctic Council Projects, a *Rules of Engagement* document has been drafted by the SDWG Secretariat and SECEG Co-Chairs, with input from AMAP and PAME
- Draft will be discussed at the SDWG General Meeting in October





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# ARCTIC ADAPTATION EXCHANGE: FACILITATING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The project is being co-lead by:

- Canada
- United States
- Aleut International Association
- Gwich'in Council International



## Objectives:

To develop an on-line information portal that:

- i) provides appropriate access to data, knowledge and decision-support tools needed by governments, industry, Arctic indigenous peoples and other residents to manage climate change risks;
- ii) enables the sharing of existing tools and practical adaptation experiences including traditional and local knowledge; and
- iii) facilitates the development of new practices and tools to support adaptation decision-making (e.g. *Arctic-wide adaptive capacity indices*)



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# Target Audience

The portal aims to inform three key groups:

1. Community intermediaries

Intermediary organizations that can channel information to and from indigenous groups and communities

2. Policy makers

Policy-makers working at various levels of government and in the private sector

3. Researchers

Academics involved in adaption research in the circumpolar north



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# Scope of Portal

**Arctic Council  
reports**

**National,  
sub-national, community  
scale information**

**Other Information/  
knowledge relevant to  
adaptation in  
circumpolar region**

**Interactive  
function:  
ACIs, researcher/  
practitioner  
forum**

**Constructed for flexibility and growth**



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## Progress to Date



- Engagement with Knowledge Brokers Group
- Scoping workshop in Anchorage, AK in February 2014
- Developed and delivered user survey
- Solicited feedback from Traditional Knowledge workshop
- Solicited feedback from stakeholders and advisers on a portal blueprint document and key data
- Secured partnership with UAF – ongoing hosting and maintenance post-Canadian Chairmanship



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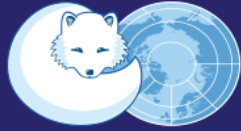
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## Timelines on track

- February 2014: Scoping activities
- June 2014: portal blueprint finalized
- Fall 2014: beta version of portal available
- January 2015: Outreach strategy implemented
- April 2015: Portal launched



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## Cross Cutting Opportunities

- Portal complements existing websites and presents an opportunity for Working Groups to extend results to different audiences
  - AMAP: AACA Part C; Trends and Effects Program
  - PAME: Survey of Arctic Indigenous Marine Use; PAME Sustainable Tourism initiative? Other?
- Next opportunity for input will be on the beta version in autumn 2014.



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# THANK YOU

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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