



Sustainable Development  
Working Group



ARCTIC COUNCIL

# PROMOTING TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Joint Presentation to AMAP/PAME  
Working Groups

September 17th, 2014  
Whitehorse, Yukon



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# RATIONALE

- Since the inception of the Arctic Council, efforts have been made to incorporate traditional & local knowledge into its work
- The project objectives respond directly to

## **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”



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## BACKGROUND

- Per Kiruna Declaration, the initiative is led by the SDWG, in close collaboration with all WGs and SCTF
- Objective is to develop recommendations for the consistent inclusion of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council
- Inclusion of traditional knowledge adds value to scientific research – 2 different but complementary systems of knowledge
- Project aims to build on WG accomplishments and best practices already being applied



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# PROGRESS SINCE KIRUNA (REYKJAVIK & OTTAWA WORKSHOPS)

- A scoping workshop was held in Reykjavik in Feb 2014, led by IPS, attended by representatives from all six PP organizations and four WGs
- Draft “Fundamental Principles” were produced, as well as potential implementation options related to traditional knowledge
- A second workshop was held in Ottawa in June 2014, to build on Reykjavik, and further develop the principles & recommendations for traditional knowledge inclusion





# PROGRESS SINCE KIRUNA (FUNDAMENTAL TK PRINCIPLES)

- The “Fundamental TK Principles” document has been developed, by the PP representatives building on two TK workshops and includes:
  - *a working definition of TK, and;*
  - *13 Fundamental Principles to strengthen the use of TK in the work of the AC*
- The document reflects a consensus-based approach, circulated to the PP HoDs for approval - each PP organization has responded in the affirmative and endorsed the document
- The PPs have submitted this document with the objective of seeking SDWG/AC endorsement



# PROGRESS SINCE KIRUNA – (RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE TLK)

- A project proposal has been drafted by the SDWG to reflect ideas developed by the PP and WG representatives at the two workshops and based on input received from HoDs. The draft proposal:
  - focuses on recommendations for the inclusion of traditional & local knowledge into the work of the AC, and;
  - provides a basis for discussions amongst the PPs and Arctic States with a view to establishing co-leadership by at least 2 Arctic States (plus PPs), and to solicit input from WGs and SCTF
- \* Note: Not intended to be a final product, the content of the final proposal will need to be developed and agreed upon by the Arctic States Co-leads



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# WORKING GROUPS ENGAGEMENT

- Traditional & local knowledge is a cross-cutting issue in the AC, and as such, the project is a priority for the Council under the Canadian Chairmanship. To ensure engagement:
  - SDWG will collaborate with other WGs and SCTF to solicit information on their current processes, best practices, and practical examples of the inclusion of traditional & local knowledge with their scientific work
  - Continue ongoing consultation with other WGs and SCTF to confirm the final recommendations put forward are practical and build on the previous efforts and progress



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# DELIVERABLES

- The deliverables will be completed according to the 2015 Ministerial Meeting timeline and include recommendations for inclusion of traditional & local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council as mandated by the Ministers
- This is an ongoing effort and the recommendations put forward will likely include suggestions for future work that will extend beyond the Canadian Chairmanship





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## NEXT STEPS

- The scoping work undertaken at the two workshops and consultation with the SDWG HoDs, Working Groups and SCTF will inform the development of the final deliverables. Next steps include:
  - Discussion of draft Project Proposal and Fundamental Principles at SDWG General Meeting
  - Briefing with WGs and SCTF prior to SDWG General Meeting
  - Ongoing discussion and collaboration with all WGs and SCTF to facilitate the successful development of the implementation approach



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# THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
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