

Arctic co-operation organisations: a status report

for the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
by
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Foreword

July 25, 2000

When the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region started, last year, to plan the Fourth Arctic Parliamentary Conference in Rovaniemi, it was strongly felt that the conference could benefit from a document describing some of the major players in Arctic cooperation, their objectives and coming activities.

The Rovaniemi conference will deal with issues such as the work of the Arctic Council, capacity building in the Arctic, and financing sustainable development. Participants in the conference are key persons involved in developing Arctic policy and making political decisions, and this report written by Dr. Richard Langlais provides a quick overview of Arctic work already in progress.

For practical reasons, the document had to be limited to information on the activities of a few major organizations, governmental and non-governmental, and primarily working within the Arctic council context.

However, there are several other equally important organizations active in the Arctic field. The "Inventory of Sustainable Development Initiatives in the circumpolar Arctic" will contain detailed information on many more such organizations and fora. The Inventory was originally produced by Canada for the Third Parliamentary conference held in Salekhard, Russia in 1998, and is in the process of being updated for the Rovaniemi Conference. Our hope is that Dr. Langlais's Status Report, too, will be updated on a regular basis in order to provide relevant background information for future Arctic Parliamentary Conferences.

On behalf of the Standing Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Richard Langlais for his important contribution to the Conference, and to the Finnish Parliament for providing the funding for this project.

Clifford Lincoln, MP, Canada
Chairman,
Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Introduction

This report is intended to provide a summary introduction to a number of the many organisations that have emerged for Arctic co-operation in the last decade. It has been written for newcomers to the field, those in need of a quick overview and orientation before setting off to make their own contacts and begin their own initiatives.

As such, it must be stated from the start that this brief paper is by no means exhaustive: choosing the information was more a problem of having too much to leave out than of finding enough to include. Neither its treatment of each of the organisations, nor its selection of the organisations for description, can do full justice to the knowledge that their representatives possess, nor to the rich diversity of organisations that characterises today's circumpolar society. Instead, this brief report can only serve as an invitation to follow the leads that it provides, in the certainty that every bit of effort will eventually prove interesting.

What is already interesting is that almost none of the organisations presented here even existed at the beginning of the 1990s. UNEP/GRID-Arendal had only just been created, and only the Nordic Council of Ministers had already long been in place; but it had waited for two decades without any serious engagement in Arctic affairs before at last stepping forward with plans for Arctic cooperation, and by then it was well into the 1990s as well. Prior to that, from the point of view of the Arctic the Nordic Council didn't really exist either. It is revealing, not only in considering the Nordic Council of Ministers, but every other organisation as well, that the now classic 1989 study of Arctic society, Osherenko and Young's *The Age of the Arctic: hot conflicts and cold realities*, has nothing, or little, to say about any of them—not through any fault in scholarship—and it was published only eleven years ago! From its pages, only hints of discussions around the circumpolar Arctic from which potential tendencies might eventually develop can be, with today's hindsight, knowingly discerned as forming the roots of most of today's active Arctic organisations. Of course, 1989 was only the beginning of the end of the Cold War in the Arctic, but as anyone who knows the seasons of the far north can attest, spring happens fast.

The Arctic of the new millenium is indeed a different place from just ten years ago. As has already been implied, the number of new forms and forums for Arctic co-operation seems to be increasing at a dramatic rate. While co-operation is in principle desirable, the number of new organisations and initiatives runs the risk of unnecessary duplication. If the duplication proves necessary, then it means that we all needed the lesson that when resources are scarce, co-operation can also mean effective co-ordination and skilful management of information. It is becoming more common to hear the complaint in Arctic organisations that it's becoming difficult to keep track of who is doing what; the underlying explanation for the complaint is a sense of uneasiness that we might be wasting our energy doing the same thing as everybody else, when the really important things are being neglected.

And what are those really important things? In this way, too, the Arctic is changing. The role of science has at least partially changed from being a tool of the military presence in the Arctic to being an informant on the nature of the serious environmental change that we think we are witnessing. Indigenous peoples are becoming more successful at finding their voice in telling the rest of

the world what they think about the impacts of global change. Their organisations are developing partnerships with scientists and managers to understand and explain how the world could be made into a better place. Through the increasing numbers of new autonomies in the Arctic, the really important things are becoming more clearly addressed, at the same time as they restate the challenge of needing to become better equipped, better educated, better prepared for the sensitive demands of sustainability.

Yet another important thing has been noticed in the production of this report. The role of information technology—"IT"—has permeated the Arctic. Each of the organisations reported on here has extensive web sites with a vast array of material available for anyone wanting to learn more and see for themselves how rich their activities are. The impact of the Internet in altering the way we understand the enormous distances and the great variety of the Arctic, and indeed the way in which the rest of the world will come to us in the Arctic, may eventually prove to be the greatest change of all from this period of circumpolar cooperation.

Another item of note is that, in spite of the growing cooperation initiatives, there remains a surprising lack of publications—studies, reports, proceedings—that truly present this theme from a circumpolar Arctic perspective. The Selected Bibliography in the back pages of this report also reflects this. In any attempt to find such titles, it is true that a bibliographic search will reveal a vast number of titles that include the word Arctic, but closer examination shows that the texts most often represent only some smaller portion of the Arctic. So, for example, while there is a plethora of titles on Arctic cooperation in the Barents region, those texts only rarely also include an examination of the relation to the rest of the Arctic. This is true for every other region of the Arctic as well. The Selected Bibliography here is an attempt, then, to provide the reader with a useful cross-section of a sufficient number of the different kinds of texts (although the preference was for monographs), to be able to begin his or her own further enquiry. Older and newer, regional and circumpolar, the author famous and the author less well-known, professional scholar and political actor: these are some of the polarities in the selection of the texts. The hope is that the diversity will be appreciated, even if the quantity remains small.

In reading the descriptions of Arctic organisations that follow, the diversity of approaches that these new institutions represent is evident. Some of them appear straightforward and simply constructed, others cumbersome and complicated. The reader is asked to remember that each of these organisations is nevertheless looking for a way forward toward better cooperation in the Arctic. The fact that the way that they are described here may create a false impression of what their intentions, plans and actions are is certainly not their mistake, but that of the writer. I implore you to contact the organisations directly and explore, with them, the ways in which cooperation in the Arctic can be successfully pursued. They all are interested in this.

Rovaniemi
5 June 2000
Richard Langlais

The Arctic Council

The Arctic Council is the pre-eminent body for circumpolar Arctic co-operation. It is a high-level intergovernmental forum that brings representatives of Arctic society together for meetings several times a year. Representatives of the eight Arctic states—Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America—assemble with delegates of indigenous peoples' organisations from around the Arctic to address matters of common concern. Also present at the meetings are Observers from other countries and organisations with Arctic interests. The most general level of shared interests that have been agreed upon involve issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Formed in 1996, the Arctic Council is a young organisation whose influence on Arctic society is being felt slowly, but increasingly, with each passing meeting. The Senior Arctic Officials of the member countries meet several times a year to co-ordinate the Arctic Council's work; ministerial meetings are held every second year. The ministerial portfolios involve the equivalent of each country's ministries for the environment and for foreign affairs.

Goals/Mission

As expressed in its founding document, the *Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council*, signed by the representatives of the Arctic States in Ottawa, Canada, on 19 September, 1996, the Arctic Council was created to:

- a. provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common arctic issues*, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- b. oversee and coordinate the programs established under the AEPS on the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP); conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME); and Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPPR).
- c. adopt terms of reference for and oversee and coordinate a sustainable development program.
- d. disseminate information, encourage education and promote interest in Arctic-related issues."

The asterisk (*) after "issues" in point "a" denoted an important caveat: "The Arctic Council should not deal with matters related to military security." This distinction had been an essential element in the negotiations to form the Arctic Council.

Organizational range and structure

The Arctic Council is made up of Member States (represented by Senior Arctic Officials--SAOs), Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (abbr. Permanent Participants, served by the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat), Working Groups, Observers, Ad Hoc Observers, the Chair (rotates every two years) and the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Chair	United States of America	(Mr. Raymond Arnaudo)
Member countries (and their SAOs)		
	Canada	(Ambassador Mary Simon, Mr. James Moore)
	Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands	(Mr. Ole Samsing)
	Finland	(Ambassador Heikki Puurunen)
	Iceland	(Ambassador Gunnar Gunnarsson)
	Norway	(Ambassador Jan Tore Holvik)
	Russia	(Ambassador Aleksy Obukhov)
	Sweden	(Ambassador Eva Kettis)
	United States of America	(Ms. Sally Brandel)

<p>

Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (abbr. Permanent Participants)

<dd>Aleut International Association (AIA)

<dd>Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

Saami Council

Working Groups

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Observers (countries)

Federal Republic of Germany

The Netherlands

Poland

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(organizations)

International Arctic Science Committee

International Union of Circumpolar Health

Northern Forum

Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/GRID-Arendal)

World Wide Fund for Nature

Ad Hoc Observers (vary from meeting to meeting)

Arctic Council Secretariat (located in Washington, DC, contact info below)

Funding

The Arctic Council Secretariat is hosted by the Arctic Council Chair. There is no particular Arctic Council structure for funding the attendance of the Permanent Participants in the meetings; this is sporadic and ad hoc, with a plethora of arrangements that cannot always ensure their sufficient participation. Many of the member countries fund the participation of those Permanent Participant representatives to the meetings. Regarding the funding of the activities of the

Arctic Council, such as that of the working groups, various countries have signified their commitment to funding specific working groups and their projects.

Brief history

The Arctic Council was declared by the eight Arctic countries in Ottawa, Canada, on 19 September 1996. It evolved out of the Arctic intergovernmental co-operation on environment called the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, or AEPS. The AEPS was the first major step in the *Rovaniemi Process*, named after the northern Finnish city in which the declaration of the AEPS was signed, in 1991. Finland had also taken the initiative to create the AEPS; it felt that it needed assistance from its Arctic neighbours in dealing with transboundary environmental issues. After several years of successful circumpolar Arctic cooperation through the four working groups that had been set up as part of the implementation of the AEPS, Canada felt that the co-operation could be widened into a broader forum to include issues of sustainable development in the Arctic. Negotiations to act upon the notion of the Arctic Council, which had been gestating for years, were stepped up, eventually leading to a formula that all could agree upon, at least for long enough to sign the founding declaration. Part of the agreement signed in Ottawa in 1996 was that the AEPS would be subsumed by the Arctic Council and this was indeed carried out at the AEPS ministerial meeting in Alta, Norway, in 1997. The first secretariat and Chair for the Arctic Council was hosted by the Canadians for two years, followed by the USA. At the end of the current USA Chair, Finland will take over and also host the secretariat during 2001 and 2002. An overarching issue that the Arctic Council will need to face more solidly, and that has been mentioned repeatedly by a number of its participants and others, is that the pace and intensity of Arctic co-operation, and the number of organisations becoming involved in it, is increasing at a rate that is making the challenge of avoiding duplication a serious obstacle to concrete action. Furthermore, because of the need for increasing co-ordination and the confusion that prevails in its absence, there is a real threat of exhausting the scarce resources that can actually be dedicated to Arctic co-operation, no matter how good the intentions.

Looking ahead

In October, 2000, the next Senior Arctic Officials and Ministerial meetings of the Arctic Council will take place consecutively in Barrow, Alaska, and the USA will hand over the Chair to Finland. A number of items that have been under consideration by the Arctic Council, some of them since its inception, and even before, will be decided upon and/or announced at the Ministerial. These include requests:

- by the Gwich'in Tribal Council for Permanent Participant status in the Arctic Council;
- by the following organisations for permanent Observer status in the Arctic Council,
 - Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea
 - Arctic Environmental Data Directory—ADD
 - Association of World Reindeer Herders
 - Circumpolar Conservation Union
 - High North Alliance
 - International Arctic Social Science Association

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
 - International Red Cross
 - North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
 - Nordic Council of Ministers;
- regarding environmental protection,
 - for approval of an Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP) to eliminate pollution in the Arctic,
 - for approval of the undertaking of an Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA);
 - regarding Sustainable Development,
 - for approval of the Arctic Council's work on sustainable development
 - acceptance of reports on sustainable development projects approved at the previous ministerial in Iqaluit in 1998—on Children and Youth, Fisheries Management, Telemedicine, Cultural and Ecological Tourism,
 - for approval of new sustainable development projects on—Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, Circumpolar Surveillance of Emerging Infectious Diseases, and other projects;
 - regarding Using Technology for Education, Communication and Outreach,
 - acceptance of a report on the Arctic Council's virtual secretariat and website (on CD),
 - acceptance of a report on developing a web-based "Inventory" of Arctic research.

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The Barents Euro-Arctic Council

The Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (now more commonly know as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Barents Council and, less commonly, as BEAC) is one of the two main institutions for the multilateral Barents Cooperation that emerged out of the 1993 Kirkenes Declaration on the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, or BEAR. The other is the *Regional* Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (now more commonly known as the Barents Regional Council, although

it is more correct to simply call it the Regional Council. Unless the Barents context is totally clear in any discussion, however, it often aids clarity to call it the *Barents Regional Council*).

The two institutions are meant to be distinct, yet interlinked. The first is the central level of interaction, usually conducted by the Foreign Ministers, or their equivalents, of the member countries: the five Nordic countries, Russia and a representative of the European Commission. The second is the regional level of interaction, representing cooperation between the counties or provinces as well as the indigenous peoples of the region. (The intricate structure that they together constitute is probably one of the most complicated in northern regions and this, combined with an often incorrectly used nomenclature, provides a formidable barrier to easy understanding, access and interaction with it. What has been described above is only the most superficial, coarse level of description; this will be further elaborated in the section on Structure, below.

The BEAR is Europe's northernmost regional cooperation and the location of the European Union's only land frontier with Russia. It is thus a natural link between the Nordic countries and Russia. Although everything undertaken by its Council—BEAC—is by definition northern in character, with many projects involving north-west Russia, there is virtually nothing in its work that is circumpolar Arctic. This is notwithstanding the fact that in its founding document, the 1993 Kirkenes Declaration, a strong statement of association with the aims of the then recently established (1991) Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. Although it is not a formal Observer in the Arctic Council, the two bodies do have a dialogue, which includes a presence at each other's meetings.

Goals/Mission

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council's founding document, the 1993 Kirkenes Declaration, spoke in terms of objectives for the new body:

“The objective of the work of the Council will be to promote sustainable development in the Region, bearing in mind the principles and recommendations set out in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 of UNCED. To this end the Council will serve as a forum for considering bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, tourism, the environment, infrastructure, educational and cultural exchange, as well as projects particularly aimed at improving the situation of indigenous peoples in the North.”

In terms that today fit in easily with the EU's current policy (and Finland's initiative) on the Northern Dimension), it also expressed the general conviction that the BEAC would;

“ . . . contribute substantially to stability and progress in the area and . . . to international peace and security . . . which has been given a new dimension with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and . . . an important contribution to the new European architecture, providing closer ties between the Northern parts of Europe and the rest of the European continent.”

Organizational range and structure

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council is made up of the Foreign Ministers (or equivalents) of the five Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden—the Russian Federation and the Commission of the European Union. Observer countries are: Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It meets once a year, with the Chair rotating between the member countries; currently Russia, then, in 2001, Sweden, followed by Norway and then Finland. During the periods between meetings of BEAC, its Committee of Senior Officials serves as the main forum for cooperation. Its Chair, as well as the BEAC Secretariat, rotates in step with that of BEAC, and it is (usually) composed of lower level officials from each of BEAC's categories.

In addition to the implementation activity at the local level that is carried out by the *Regional* Council, BEAC functions through:

- three permanent working groups,
 - a Working Group on Economic Cooperation;
 - a Task Force on the Environment;
 - a Working Group on the Northern Sea Route;
- an ad hoc working group on Energy; and
- a Steering Committee for development of the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area

Working in close collaboration with BEAC is the *Regional* Council, which has representatives from all eleven member counties, provinces and regions as well as the Saami people. In a mirroring of the BEAC, its Chair, too, rotates between the member regions, but every two years, instead of BEAC's annual changes. It also has an additional committee, the Regional Committee, that looks after the Regional Council's affairs between its meetings. The Regional Secretariat for each specific two-year chair session is also hosted by the Chair region (currently Murmansk Region). The Regional Council also has regional secretariats in Arkhangelsk, Kirkenes, Luleå, Murmansk and Rovaniemi.

Funding

The work of BEAC itself is funded through the participation of the member governments, since it is largely of a consultative character. Funding for projects is then sought or identified on an ad hoc, case-by-case basis. Financial support in the form of grants or loans has also been given to a number of projects in northwest Russia by EU-TACIS, the Nordic Council, the EBRD, the World Bank, the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), and NEFCO.

Brief history

In 1993, the Kirkenes Declaration laid out a new form of northern interaction, informally called the Barents Cooperation, and formally, the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) is the national level of consultation for the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR). The Barents Cooperation emerged from a background of North Calotte cooperation, involving the northern regions of Norway, Sweden and Finland, that had crystallized in the

early 1960s. By the 1980s, a pattern of bilateral interaction with the northwest of the Soviet Union had been developed, which, after the end of the Cold War, Norway felt could be transformed into broader multilateral cooperation. At Norway's initiative, the five Nordic countries, Russia and the Commission of the European Union agreed on the formation of the Council for the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, or BEAC. It is interesting to note that the BEAR does not include the seas, tacitly leaving maritime cooperation as the bilateral affair of Norway and Russia. The enlargement of the Barents Region - a pending issue since 1994 - was finally solved at the Council's meeting in Luleå 1998. The region was extended to comprise the Counties of Västerbotten in Sweden and Oulu in Finland. Two more entities, namely the county of North Karelia, Finland, and the Republic of Komi in the Russian Federation have also expressed their interest in joining the Region. The rotation of Chairmanships is currently in the second round.

Method of implementation/Main types of activity

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council—BEAC—and its Committee of Senior Officials meet regularly to consult on the coordination of policy, priorities and action on projects for the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. This is assisted by the working groups on specific themes, as mentioned above. While retaining decision-making authority and giving guidance on matters of major significance, BEAC devolves most issues having local importance onto the Regional Council. The Regional Council in turn works to develop concrete projects according to its Barents Programme, currently for 2000-2003, and does this by means of its annual action plans.

Looking ahead

Although progress has been made in many areas, the main challenges for the Barents Co-operation at the end of the 1990s remain much the same as at the time of the Kirkenes Declaration in 1993. Community health, transportation corridors, stability and security, cross-border joint economic activity and the continuing threat of serious environmental problems are still primary concerns. In the nature of the co-operation itself, it has been observed by many players that there remains a dominating tendency to continue to develop bilateral projects with Russian actors, with the goal of multilateral collaboration remaining more difficult and elusive to achieve. At the same time, the EU Northern Dimension policy, as a new ingredient in the Barents Cooperation, could provide the vehicle and the impetus for more rapid progress in all these matters, if only the will to do so perseveres.

Publications/Products

Because of the intensive rotation of secretariats for both the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council, a wide and impressive range of products concerning the Barents Cooperation have been produced through the years: magazines, maps, reports, surveys, etc. The best single starting point and source for this info can be found at the following Internet address:

<<http://www.barents.no/engelsk/index2.html>>

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The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat

The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) works under the auspices of the intergovernmental Arctic Council. The main task of the IPS is to support the involvement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic Council. That involvement is currently represented by four organisations, known as the Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples' Organisations of the Arctic Council (often abbreviated as the Permanent Participants). The four Permanent Participants are (alphabetically):

- the Aleut International Association, representing Aleut from Russia and the USA and living primarily in the Commander Islands and Aleutian/Pribilof Islands regions;
- the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North (RAIPON), representing twenty-nine distinct peoples of Siberia, the North and the Far East of the Russian Federation;
- the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, representing the Inuit in Alaska/USA, Canada, Chukotka/Russia and Greenland/Denmark;
- the Saami Council, representing the Saami People of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

Goal/Mission

The goal of the IPS is to ensure the full participation of the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council, especially with regard to sustainable development, the environment and traditional knowledge.

Method of implementation/Main types of activity

The IPS achieves its task of supporting the Permanent Participants by:

- arranging for the distribution to the Permanent Participants of all relevant meeting documents and reports in connection with the work of the Arctic Council and its working groups;
- providing assistance to the Permanent Participants in preparing specific contributions to the Arctic Council processes;
- supporting the Permanent Participants in developing their work within the Sustainable Development Program of the Arctic Council;
- assisting in the planning of meetings between the indigenous peoples' organisations, and co-ordinating their participation in the meetings of the various working groups of the Arctic Council;
- procuring information about the Arctic Council and its results and disseminating it to the indigenous peoples in the various parts of the Arctic;
- supporting the on-going work with the traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples.

Organisational range

The IPS works at several levels. It interacts with the eight countries that are Members of the Arctic Council, and with the Observer countries and organisations (these can be found in the section on the Arctic Council). It also facilitates collaboration between the four Permanent Participants themselves. The IPS also serves as a focal point for work with a number of international organisations, such as for example the World Intellectual Property Organisation (in a Roundtable on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge), the World Health Organisation's Consultation on Indigenous Health—in partnership with the Committee on Indigenous Health, of the United Nations' Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UN-WGIP), and the international Northern Sea Route process, among others. These activities complement the large number of similar interactions that each of the Permanent Participants themselves have underway.

Funding and structure

The IPS is located in Copenhagen, Denmark. Core funding is from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and the Greenland Home Rule Government, who are financing the operations and three staff salaries of the Secretariat, with the Canadian Government having made an additional pledge of 50 000 CAD annually from 1999.

The Secretariat's operations are directed by an Executive Secretary, who reports to the Governing Board. In addition to the Arctic Council Permanent Participants, who have permanent seats, the Governing Board also consists of representatives of:

- the host country and primary contributor, currently Denmark
- the Arctic Council chair, currently USA
- the former chair of the Arctic Council, Canada

The Chair of the Governing Board is chosen from among the Permanent Participants; the Board rules through consensus.

English is the working language of IPS, although its communications are in both English and Russian.

The rules and regulations pertaining to the IPS workplace, the employment of staff, budgeting, accounting and auditing procedures are in accordance with the norms of Danish Law.

Brief history

The history of the IPS is tied to that of the Arctic Council, and its predecessor, the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). At a meeting of Ministers of Environment from the eight Arctic countries, held in 1991 in Rovaniemi, Finland, the AEPS was created, in order to encourage co-operation in the protection and preservation of the Arctic environment.

In “recognising the special relationship of the indigenous peoples and local populations of the Arctic to the Arctic, and their unique contribution to the protection of the Arctic environment,” the second Ministerial meeting of the AEPS, held in Nuuk, Greenland, in 1993, accredited three Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations—the ICC, the Saami Council and RAIPON—as Observers. At the same meeting, and in response to the recommendation from the Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations, the Danish Minister for the Environment, Svend Auken, announced the establishment of the Indigenous People’s Secretariat, with the mandate to ensure the participation of the indigenous peoples and their organisations in the AEPS process.

In Autumn, 1994, the actual secretariat was officially opened, and it set about the work of supporting the Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations in their participation in the four working groups of the AEPS: the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP); the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME); Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response (EPPS); and for Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). At the next Ministerial, in Inuvik, Canada, in 1996, the Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations received a new accreditation as Permanent Participants in the AEPS.

When the AEPS process evolved into the creation of the Arctic Council, at Ottawa, Canada, in 1996, the status of Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations was maintained, with the three original organisations carrying on in this role, as was the Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat. The Aleut International Association was recognised as a fourth Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council’s Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, Canada, in September 1998.

Looking ahead

The IPS has begun the process of developing a strategic plan for its continuing work. To date, it has been a largely functional, or task-focused, organisation. To the extent that it already has goals and a mission, these have been expressed in functional terms: the IPS has the goal of supporting, assisting, facilitating, helping, and so on, the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic to reach *their* goals in working with the Arctic Council and other international organisations. Now that the IPS has developed considerable expertise and experience in fulfilling those functions, it can afford to assess whether any other kinds of goals should be developed and articulated.

As the Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations that it serves become ever more sophisticated and active in ever more spheres of endeavour, the IPS is sensing that in the future there may be a need to prioritise some types of assistance over others. This would be because, with

rather stable, which is to say, not increasing levels of financial support, it will most likely have to do more and more with much the same funding as before. Having a vision of its role that helps it to determine qualitative, thematic goals; that then leads to the development of a strategic plan, should in turn help it to most effectively select the optimum forms of assistance for its partners and clients.

Publications/Products

The IPS publishes its monthly, *Newsletter for Arctic Council Permanent Participants and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat*, which is also available on its web pages.

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The International Arctic Science Committee

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) was founded in 1990. It is a non-governmental international organisation created by national scientific organisations in the eight Arctic states. Its purpose is to encourage and facilitate co-operation in all dimensions of Arctic research in all areas of the circumpolar Arctic. The ambition is that all countries engaged in Arctic research, whether inside or outside the actual Arctic region, will be included in such participation. IASC defines its primary activity as being to develop research projects for which

circumarctic or international co-operation is required. Its secretariat is located in Oslo, Norway, and it is an Observer in the Arctic Council.

Goals/Mission

IASC describes its mission in the following manner:

“The mission of IASC is to encourage, facilitate and promote the full range of basic and applied research encouraging co-operation and integration of human, social and natural sciences concerned with the Arctic at a circumarctic or international level; and to provide scientific advice on Arctic issues.”

Methods of implementation/Main types of activity

IASC implements its main mission—the development of research projects requiring circumpolar Arctic co-operation—in a number of ways. Although its budget is surprisingly small, considering the large number of activities it is involved in, careful application of its funds appears to be made to go a long way. Judicious grants to those proposing projects are intended to function as seed money and are used for example for: funding key meetings for planning projects; gathering experts on a particular theme in order to assess the possibilities for research; the printing of brochures for promoting projects to potential funders, and so on.

Main project selection criteria include:

- the formulation of issues in thematic terms in a multi- and/or interdisciplinary way that brings together the physical, biological and social sciences;
- a capacity to strengthen dialogue between the science and policy communities;
- the addressing of concerns of those who live in or near the Arctic;
- a foundation in the priorities of the Arctic science community in each member country and in accordance with internationally agreed programmes.

Project oversight is provided by IASC’s Executive Committee, composed of representatives from science and academia from around the circumpolar north. It is responsible for monitoring and reviewing IASC’s projects and requests for funding from the IASC General Fund; as well as making recommendations for the consideration of projects by IASC’s Council.

An annually up-dated Project Catalogue is available on both the Internet, at IASC’s web site (address below) and in a printed version. It currently lists 14 projects, although this number fluctuates constantly as projects move in and out of different phases of activity and new ones are introduced.

A mechanism that IASC has developed to combine its need to hold a number of regular meetings with its objective of involving the scientific community is its annual Arctic Science Summit Week, which was last held in Cambridge, England, in April, 2000. This was the second time for the event; last year it was held in Tromsø, Norway, and in 2001 it will take place in Iqaluit, Canada, around the time of the celebration of Nunavut’s first anniversary, in the last week of April. The Arctic Science Summit week, in addition to IASC’s own meetings, has also

become the venue for several other Arctic science-related meetings. It also includes the open Science Day, organised much in the same way as an international scientific conference, with emphasis on poster exhibits and in bringing together an international collection of science administrators with scientists themselves. This format has been felt to be successful, providing as it does a unique convergence of many of the key players in Arctic science at one time and in one place.

In addition to these directly project-related facilitation activities, IASC maintains and continuously updates an Internet-based Survey of Arctic Meetings. This is a list with information about any future meetings that it receives information about through its many networks and contacts. Its address is: <<http://www.iasc.no/SAM/sam.htm>>. It is also active in the ADD Council—the International Arctic Environmental Data Directory—and in ISIRA—the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic—an international co-operative initiative to assist science and sustainable development in the Russian Arctic.

Organizational range

In addition to the obvious membership of the eight Arctic countries, IASC is meticulous in pointing out that membership is also open to non-Arctic countries. Consequently, its Council membership is comprised of Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

At the IASC Council meeting in April, 2000, an Observer from Korea related his countries progress and plans for future Arctic research. At its Council meetings, an assortment of Observers are usually present, representing a wide range of organisations involved in Arctic science and research, such as the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP). By virtue of its continued existence and success in encouraging projects, IASC is widely known among the community of scientists and academics pursuing Arctic research.

Structure

IASC's structure is composed of a President, a Council, an Executive Committee, a Regional Council, a secretariat (run by the Executive Secretary) and a number of working groups, projects and activities.

The Council's members are national science organizations involved in Arctic research; at present, 17 countries are represented in the IASC Council, which is the organization's primary governing body; it usually meets on a yearly basis. The current President is Dr. David J. Drewry, of the UK. The Executive Secretary is Mr. Odd Rogne, Norway.

There is also an Executive Committee, which acts on IASC matters between meetings and reviews projects and requests for funding. It meets several times a year. Its members are titled Vice Presidents of IASC.

The Regional Council consists of one member from each Arctic country, and its

main task is to advise IASC on its relation to the Arctic Council. This is meant to ensure that the scientific interests of Arctic countries are consistently and fully represented in both IASC and in the Arctic Council. The outgoing Chair is Dr. Robert W. Corell, USA, and the new Chair is Dr. Paula Kankaanpää, Finland.

Funding

The secretariat for IASC is funded by the country in which it is situated; at the moment, Norway. The IASC General Fund consists almost entirely (more than 90%) of contributions by national member organizations, and is used to finance common activities, such as direct meeting costs and seed money to projects. Each project must seek its eventual main funding from other sources.

Brief history

Although international cooperation in Arctic science has been advocated since the mid-1800s, it was not until a general thawing of relations between the Soviet Union and the West in the late 1980s that such ideas gained true momentum. In a number of moves that even involved President Gorbachev's famous Murmansk Speech of November, 1987, representatives of national Arctic science programs—initially Odd Rogne, Norway, Fred Roots, Canada, and Jørgen Taaghøld, Denmark—began a process that eventually led to the formal signing of the IASC Founding Articles, on 28 August 1990, in the High Arctic Canadian hamlet of Resolute Bay (now a part of Nunavut). The formation of IASC also had a role in encouraging Finland to proceed with its "Finnish Initiative," later more commonly known as the "Rovaniemi Process," in order to find circumpolar international support for dealing with the then Soviet Union on transboundary pollution issues. This history has been interestingly described elsewhere (see references), but it shows the key role that science has had, and no doubt will continue to play, in affecting policy in Arctic society and environment. As the Finnish Initiative evolved into the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, and later the Arctic Council, IASC has become an active Observer, now instrumental in the initiative to collaborate with AMAP and CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna) Arctic Council/AEPS working groups in the complex organizational challenge of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

Looking ahead

It is appropriate that in marking its first ten years of operations, IASC's President, Dr. David Drewry, has undertaken a review of IASC Structure and Performance. This exercise reflects the hard-won experience that IASC has gained in attempting to function as a co-ordination body for Arctic science. Briefly, one issue is that the projects require extremely specialized knowledge, while the Council as a whole is more generally constituted, and therefore would need to rely on advice from some other entity in order to assess projects. Another point is that, as IASC becomes more and more engaged in synchronising its agenda and funding proposals to always on-going national and international policy processes, the more occasional nature of IASC's structure is in danger of being inadequate for capitalising on the opportunities as they arise. These may be dealt with through the creation of some sort of "strategic standing committees," or perhaps a dramatically strengthened secretariat.

In another issue, regarding the striking of an appropriate balance between the needs of the national agendas and the more overarching aims of circumpolar science, it may be that the role of the Regional Council will become superfluous, even if it has now been redefined by IASC as the body that will interface between it and the Arctic Council. It was originally created in the early days of IASC, before the emergence of the Arctic Council, when there was the need for a distinct mechanism to ensure input from the national science agendas of the Arctic states. Now, however, when there is the circumpolar intergovernmental Arctic Council in place, and IASC is itself an active Observer in it, it may suffice to have the national representation that is already ensured through the IASC Council. It is possible that the major challenge of implementing and co-ordinating the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment will provide a catalyst to the clear assessment of this.

Publications/Products

IASC has a list of 8 numbered and 9 non-numbered publications listed on its web site. All may be ordered free of charge from the IASC secretariat. Apart from the one-time publications, the list includes several serial publications. Among others, these include:

- *IASC-Progress*, a newsletter issued several times yearly; and
- the *IASC Project Catalogue*, first published in 1997 and thereafter on an annual basis, which describes the status of and provides information about its projects. Since IASC itself repeatedly mentions that projects are its core focus, this is a key publication.

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The Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) is the cooperation and consultation body organized by the Nordic countries to address goals and strategies of common interest. It is made up of the ministers of state, as well as other ministers with

responsibility for the subject under discussion at specific meetings, of the member countries. Neither the ministers for foreign affairs, however, nor the defence ministers, meet under the aegis of the Council; they meet at other venues. The NCM's formal decisions are usually binding on the member governments. The NCM distributes funds for joint Nordic institutions and projects in such areas as culture, education, investment finance, scientific research and development, and social health and welfare. It is advised by the Nordic Council, the forum for co-operation between the parliamentarians of the Nordic countries.

The Nordic Council of Ministers was created in 1971 through an amendment to the Helsinki Convention (1962) between the Nordic countries. Since then, it has had only a minor focus on specifically Arctic matters of cooperation, but this has nevertheless been increasing in the last few years. The NCM considers the beginning of this interaction to have been the adoption, in 1996, of its Co-operation Programme for the Arctic Region.

In 1999, the NCM also formally adopted a programme for Arctic co-operation as part of its Adjacent Areas programme. Prior to that, the adjacent areas program could only involve activities in the Baltic area and in northwestern Russia. The Arctic project activities are directed towards issues affecting the indigenous peoples, welfare in the Arctic and sustainable development. The NCM has also applied to the Arctic Council for formal Observer status.

Goals/Mission

The Nordic Council of Ministers incorporates its Arctic cooperation into its Adjacent Areas programme. Its “overarching goal” for the programme is “to promote stable and democratic development” in the Adjacent Areas. Against a background of developments with the European Union’s Northern Dimension, including the latter’s emphasis on external relations, and considering the growing Arctic forms of cooperation—the Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council—the NCM has also delineated three strategic goals for its Adjacent Areas co-operation. These are:

- “*Security—in the broadest sense of the term,*” which, it says, is “. . . inter alia, sustainable utilisation of resources, measures to combat crime, along with aid measures to promote the development of democratic socio-economic structures and social security.”
- “*A broader spectrum of shared values:* . . . focuses on spreading knowledge of Nordic culture and shared Nordic values . . . focusing primarily on culture, languages and education/training . . .”
- “*Increased economic co-operation:* . . . with regard to co-operation with Russia and measures in the Arctic region, one of the prior requirements for economic cooperation is the removal of the various types of trade hindrances.”

In addition, it stresses several other fundamental viewpoints that steer the cooperation; these are the geographic definition of Adjacent Areas, the concept of Nordic Advantage, and the gender and equality perspective. Nordic Advantage means that “Co-operation—viewed in a Nordic perspective—must be based on shared Nordic values, and must result in politically relevant measures where joint implementation can yield a tangible

advantage . . . a higher profile at international level for the Nordic countries and the Council of Ministers . . .”

Organizational range, structure and means of implementation

The Nordic Council of Ministers programme for Adjacent Areas extends certain aspects of the cooperation between the Nordic countries to the Baltic states, the administrative regions (*oblasts*) of Archangel and Murmansk, the Republic of Karelia, Leningrad’s *oblast*, the St. Petersburg region and the Kaliningrad *oblast* in the Russian Federation, along with co-operation in the Arctic Region.

Its activities in the Arctic are conducted primarily in co-operation with other actors and organisations, of which it considers that the role of the Arctic Council is the most meaningful. With this in mind, the NCM is now taking advantage of the Arctic Council’s willingness to accept intergovernmental organizations as Observers by applying for that status in the current session of the Arctic Council.

The NCM has been and still is an unofficial Observer to the Arctic Council, as well as participating in meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the (Barents) Regional Council.

In addressing its goals for its Adjacent Areas programme of cooperation, it has re-allocated its priorities according to a framework programme. In addition to the numerous and more general other themes of the framework, there is a specific theme for Arctic cooperation projects, which declares a priority in:

- development of possibilities of earning a livelihood in the Arctic areas;
- sustainable utilisation of resources on nature’s terms; and
- information on living conditions in the Arctic areas, with a view to creating an understanding of the traditional occupations/trades;
- planning, regional development, as well as research and education/training in the Arctic;
- with special emphasis on network-building and development of the Council of Ministers’ role in the Arctic co-operation structures.

The current Chair of the NCM is Denmark. It has informed both the rest of the NCM and the Arctic Council of its heightened emphasis on actions that develop the Arctic region co-operation. Its focus is to consistently promote the drawing up of a strategy for sustainable development in the Arctic—an “Arctic Agenda 21”—and for nature conservation. This is also to be achieved with clear reference to the importance, as it sees it, of establishing of “an Arctic window,” a concept launched at the climax of Finland’s Chair of the European Union, as a component of the Northern Dimension policy.

The Nordic Council of Ministers also established a Nordic Arctic Research Programme, entitled “Rapid Change in the Arctic,” for the years 1999-2003, as an additional way to enhance the *Nordic Advantage* in cooperation and networking in research. 31 projects are currently funded, while a call for new proposals was made in March 2000 for operations during 2001-2003. The total budget of the programme is approximately USD 3.6 million. Its secretariat is located at the Thule Institute, at the University of Oulu, Finland.

Funding

The NCM is funding a number of already planned projects from its special Adjacent Areas budget, retaining the 1999 level for the forthcoming programme period 2000-2002 (an aggregate for the three years of approximately USD 24.5 million).

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The Northern Forum

The Northern Forum is a non-profit, membership-supported international organization composed of twenty-four northern regional governments and businesses from ten northern countries. The regional leaders—Governors and other executives—assemble to address common issues of politics, environment and economics. The Forum was formally established in November, 1991. Its secretariat is in Anchorage, Alaska. It is an Observer in the Arctic Council and has relationships with most other northern regional bodies.

Goals/Mission

The Northern Forum has formulated its mission thus:

“To improve the quality of life of Northern peoples by providing Northern regional leaders a means to share their knowledge and experience in addressing common challenges; and
To support sustainable development and the implementation of cooperative

socio-economic initiatives among Northern regions and through international fora.”

Organizational range

The Northern Forum is committed to working extensively to building strong links with other organizations that can have a bearing on northern society. It was recognized by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization in early 1994; this in turn allows the Forum's membership to participate in certain functions of the United Nations. It is also a permanent Observer in the Arctic Council, and since the Forum works at a region-to-region level within the Arctic, it constantly seeks to bring local and regional initiatives and concerns to the Arctic Council's attention. Similarly, it is establishing relations with the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities and the International Winter Cities Group. It has interaction, regionally, with the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council, the Nordic Council and other Arctic or northern policy groups. It is also encouraging practical cooperative relations with indigenous peoples' organizations such as the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East. Various scientific and cultural organizations, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent, the International Arctic Science Committee, national-level Arctic research commissions, the Institute of the North and the International Symposium on Cold Regions Development, have also been identified as interesting for collaboration.

The Northern Forum membership consists of twenty-three member regions, and one business, drawn from ten countries, as follows:

- Canada Northwest Territories,
Province of Alberta,
Yukon Territory
- Finland Province of Lapland
- Japan Hokkaido Prefecture
- Republic of Korea
- Mongolia Dornod Aimag (Province)
- Norway Regional Authority of
Northern Norway
(Landsdelsutvalget)
- Peoples Republic Of China
Heilongjiang Province
- Russia Arkhangelsk Oblast,
Evenk Autonomous Okrug,
Kamchatka Oblast,
Khanty Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug,
Komi Republic,
Magadan Oblast,
Nenets Autonomous Okrug,
St. Petersburg,
Sakha Republic (Yakutia),
Sakhalin Oblast,

- Yamalo Nenets Autonomous District
- Sweden Norrbotten County
- Västerbotten County
- USA State of Alaska
- Business member Taiga Trading Company, Anchorage, Alaska

Structure and methods of implementation/main types of activity

The Northern Forum has a Board of Directors made up of senior political leaders of member regions: Governors, Premiers and, in some cases, Presidents. It provides guidance and oversees the implementation of policy. The Board is unique in the circumpolar Arctic, since over half of its Board members represent Russian regions. It formally manages the Northern Forum Inc., an Alaskan corporation that is the Northern Forum's business arm (its President is the Executive Secretary). The Board has an Executive Committee, led by Chairman Mikhail Nikolaev, President of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia. Other members are North European Vice-Chair, Governor Hannele Pokka of Lapland, Finland; East Asian Vice-Chair, Governor Tatsuya Hori of Hokkaido, Japan; and North American Vice-Chair, Governor Tony Knowles of Alaska, U.S.A. Additional leadership is provided by the Secretary General, former Alaska Governor Walter Hickel, also the Northern Forum's first Chair.

Each member region has a Regional Co-ordinator, designated by its respective Chief Executive. Collectively, the Regional Co-ordinators identify and address day-to-day issues among member regions, and meet annually to plan the General Assembly and Board of Directors' meetings.

Most members are sub-national governments, but membership is open to non-profit and non-governmental organizations, as well as commercial institutions. These members, known as Advocate and Associate members, respectively, must demonstrate an interest in northern issues that is relevant to the Northern Forum's governmental members.

The Secretariat, located in Anchorage, Alaska: gathers and provides information, assists in communications; coordinates the Northern Forum's international meetings; obtains funding for and generally assists cooperative projects among member regions; and performs translation services. It also works closely with the Regional Coordinators to implement meeting plans. The Executive Director of the Secretariat (selected by the Board) is Mr. John Doyle, who also serves as the President of Northern Forum Inc.

The Russian Associate Secretariat (Mr. Nikolai Nakhodkin, Director), which the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) runs in its capital, Yakutsk; and in Finland, the Northern European Associate Secretariat (Mr. Hannu Viranto, Director), hosted by the Province of Lapland, assist the Anchorage Secretariat in the coordination of Northern Forum activities. St. Petersburg, Russia, and an unspecified site in north-east Asia have also been proposed for the location of branch offices.

A main policy of the Northern Forum's leaders is to seek and maintain regular dialogue with national leaders from the member regions. Besides raising awareness of the Northern Forum's activities, the stated intent of this is to show the value of the region-to-region approach to international relations, and that through cooperation with national leaders, practical results for northern peoples can be attained.

Central to the Northern Forum's role is that it coordinates cooperative projects and activities; these are initiated and executed by groups of at least three member regions. A current and illustrative listing of the project titles is a good indication of the Northern Forum's comprehensive scope:

Priority Projects and Programs

- Boreal Forest Management
- East-West Circumpolar Air Routes
- Education in the North
- Northern Forum Academy
- Reindeer Management
- Wildlife Management

Endorsed or Proposed Projects and Programs

- Arctic Development Bank
- Alcohol Abuse in the North
- Legislation in Northern Forum Regions
- Northern Sea Route
- Reindeer Management
- Small Aviation in the North
- Youth Northern Forum

Funding

The Northern Forum is a non-profit organization, funded primarily through membership dues and special grants from members. Its Priority Projects are funded by participating members, while other specific projects and operations are funded by international funding institutions. The secretariat and associate offices are partially funded through contracts for activities such as the coordination of international seminars.

Brief history

The Northern Forum sees its history as beginning in a series of northern inter-regional conferences held in 1974 (Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan), 1979 and (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) and culminating in the meeting in 1990 (Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A.), when the 600 delegates agreed on the concept of a Northern Forum. This was then inaugurated at the formal founding meeting, held in Anchorage in 1991. Until 1990, the inability of full participation from the northern areas of the Soviet Union had been seen as the most important obstacle to any sort of formal institutionalization of the meetings. With the slogan of being the "Voice of Northern Regions," the delegates agreed on wanting "to improve the quality of local, national, and international decision-making regarding northern issues by providing a means through which northern voices can be heard at all stages of the process." After the setting up of the Secretariat in Anchorage, in 1992, the first General Assembly was held in 1993 and on a biennial basis thereafter. The Northern Forum has also been an Observer in the Arctic Council since the latter's inception, in 1996.

Looking ahead

The Northern Forum has recently completed an eighteen-month self-assessment and internal restructuring process. This has led to the continuing development of an Action Plan and a streamlining of the number of its projects. It is emphasizing that in addition to its comprehensive scope, it is vigorously seeking broader business contacts and membership as a way to affirm its conviction that economic development is an essential issue throughout the North. Its activities in this regard have included meetings with natural resource development enterprises such as Gazprom, LUKoil, Diamonds Russia-Sakha (Almazy Rossii-Sakha—ALROSA), Norilsk Nickel, Nokia and Fortum Oil (Neste). An important step to follow up on this regard was its hosting of the First Northern Business Conference, held in 1999, in Rovaniemi, Finland, in conjunction with its Fourth General Assembly. On another note, it has also been stepping up the intensity of its message to the Arctic Council that it seeks cooperation, and not competition, with the latter, especially since it provides a level of regional interaction that is not so clearly represented in the Arctic Council; and also since many of its projects parallel those of the Arctic Council.

Publications/Products

The Northern Forum lists twelve project reports, surveys and proceedings from meetings among its publications. Its web site also contains a number of items, such as speeches, information documents, charts and archived editions (ending with the July, 1998 number) of its newsletter, the Northern Regions Quarterly, which it no longer publishes. The Northern Forum is periodically involved with the production of documentary films and television projects focusing on Northern issues.

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The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region seeks to work in close co-operation with the governments of the Arctic states in order to support the efforts of the Arctic Council. The Committee participates in all meetings of the Arctic Council as an Observer, and takes part as invited guest in meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The Standing Committee operates under the principle that an essential part of successful international co-operation and global governance is an active dialogue between governments and parliaments. Additionally, it implements the conviction that parliamentary participation also provides for better democratic anchoring of views and positions, and that this, in the long run, will be of great importance when decisions on practical issues have to be made on a national level.

Goals/Mission

The main priority of the Standing Committee is to support and actively promote the further establishment and work of the Arctic Council.

Methods of implementation/Main types of activity

The Standing Committee participates directly in Arctic Council meetings as an Observer. This is strengthened by means of the Committee's active dialogue, maintained by its Chair and Secretary, with the USA, the Arctic Council Chair. In March 2000 there was also a meeting between the full Committee and the Arctic Council Chair.

In addition to its participation as an Observer in the Arctic Council, the Standing Committee holds major meetings, the Arctic Parliamentary Conferences. The first was in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1993, the second in Yellowknife, Canada, in 1996 (and since then on a biennial basis), the third in Salekhard, Russia, in 1998, and the next one in Rovaniemi, Finland, in August, 2000.

The Standing Committee also regularly arranges hearings with experts and officials from national administrations in order to follow up on the work in the member states on issues raised in the statements approved by the Arctic Parliamentary Conferences, or otherwise taken up by the Committee. Several member parliaments have also arranged national or regional seminars in order to raise political interest and sensitise opinions to the needs of the Arctic region.

In the period since its conference in Salekhard in 1998, three major political initiatives concerning the Arctic and northern regions have emerged: the EU's policy for the Northern Dimension, Canada's Northern Dimension Foreign Policy and the US Northern Europe Initiative. The Committee has welcomed this policy work, all of which indicates increased political interest in the region.

In early 1999, the Standing Committee adopted formal rules of procedure for its work and that of the full Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. The rules are general and based on the traditions from the previous work in the Committee and the conferences. The rules are in all respects compatible with the rules of procedure for the Arctic Council. The rules confirm the right for all the parliaments of the Arctic Council member states and the European Parliament to participate in the work as full members. The rules also give the Standing Committee the responsibility for making all decisions concerning the Secretariat of the Committee.

In connection with its meeting in the European Parliament in Brussels in the Spring of 1999, the Committee also, in co-operation with the Parliament, arranged a seminar on the Northern Dimension Policy of the European Union.

At the Second OSCE Parliamentary Conference on Sub-regional Economic Co-operation Processes in Europe, held in October 1999, the Arctic as a region was also noted for the first time.

After an appeal from the ICC, and by invitation from the Speaker of the Russian Duma, the Committee was represented on a mission to monitor the Russian parliamentary elections in December 1999.

The Standing Committee has focused much of its additional work on sustainable development, assisting indigenous peoples, and capacity-building in the Arctic. This is also in harmony with the framework for the Arctic Council's deliberations.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development issues have had high priority in the work of the Standing Committee. At the Arctic Council ministerial meeting in 1998, the Chair of the Standing Committee stressed the need to give more political attention to the work concerning sustainable development. To bridge the conflict between different ways of approaching this work within the Arctic Council, the Committee suggested a two-track approach: the Council could give a green light to some practical projects; at the same time it could start work on an overall strategy.

In order to contribute to this work within the Arctic Council, the Standing Committee decided to give its backing to an informal workshop on sustainable development organised, in the Spring of 1999, in Iceland. The workshop was attended by representatives of the academic community and numerous administrations, as well as representatives of the Standing Committee. In part, the workshop was productive and helpful in the efforts to solve the issue within the Arctic Council. The Council is presently working on a framework for its sustainable development activities, and this framework is expected to be approved at the ministerial meeting in October 2000.

The Standing Committee has drawn attention to the economic aspects of sustainable development and has maintained contacts with the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the UNCSD. One of the major themes at the Fourth Conference will be the financing of sustainable development.

The interests of indigenous peoples

The Standing Committee has also given high priority to the interests expressed by indigenous groups. The Committee has expressed its support for the implementation of a program proposed by UNEP/GRID-Arendal for the development of capacity and participation of indigenous peoples in the sustainable development of Arctic Russia. Members of the Committee have also encouraged participation in this program at a national level. The Committee took an active part in a roundtable discussion on State and Indigenous Parliaments arranged by the Russian State Duma in Moscow in March 1999.

Capacity-building

Capacity-building in the Arctic has received much attention by the Standing Committee, especially in the preparations for the parliamentary conference in Rovaniemi (August 2000). In particular the Committee has followed the work to establish the Arctic University. The Arctic University concept achieved strong backing by the Parliamentary Conference held in Salekhard, and the decision to launch the University at the first Arctic Council ministerial meeting was welcomed by the Committee. The Committee has also arranged hearings on youth exchange, mobility programs and the Canadian initiative on the future of children and youth in the Arctic.

Structure

The Chair of the Standing Committee is Mr. Clifford Lincoln, MP, Canada. Members of the Committee are Ms. Dorte Bennedsen, MP, Denmark; Mr. Brian Simpson, MP, European Parliament; Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, MP, Finland; Mr. Tómas Ingi Olrich, MP, Iceland; Mr. Erik Dalheim, MP, Norway; Mr. Lennart Daléus, MP, Sweden; Mr. Valery P. Markov, MP, Russia; Mr. Yuri V. Neyolov, Governor, MP, Russia, Mr. Frank H. Murkowski, Senator, USA. The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council are represented by Mr. Pekka Aikio, Saami Council; Mr. Aqqaluk Lynge, President, ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference), and Mr. Sergey N. Kharyuchi, President, RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North).

The Secretariat of the Committee is hosted by the Finnish Parliament and consists of Mr. Guy Lindström and Ms. Maarit Immonen.

The Standing Committee meets on a regular basis, about three times a year. The meetings circulate between the different member parliaments.

Brief history

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region started its activities in September 1994. The establishment of the Standing Committee was based on a decision at the first Parliamentary Conference concerning Arctic co-operation in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1993. After the second conference, in Yellowknife, Canada, they are being held biennially, with the 1998 conference held in Salekhard, Russia, and the next one in Rovaniemi, Finland, in August 2000.

Originally, one of the main priorities of the Standing Committee was to support the establishment of the Arctic Council. Representing the eight Arctic states, the Arctic Council was founded on September 19, 1996. Since then, the Committee has worked actively to promote the work of the Council.

The Arctic Council held its first Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, Canada in October 1998. At the inaugural meeting, in 1996, the governments expressed their wish to have the Standing Committee participating in future meetings of the Council; subsequently, the Committee's Observer status was formalised at the first ministerial meeting. This status has given the Committee the formal base it needs for an active participation in the work of the Council. The Committee has been represented at all meetings of the Council, including those of its Senior Arctic Officials.

In the Ministerial Declaration from the Arctic Council meeting in 1998, a reference was made to the Conference Statement approved by the Arctic Parliamentary Conference, held in Salekhard, in April 1998.

Publications/Products

In order to increase access to information on the work of the Standing Committee and the Arctic Parliamentary Conferences, a homepage for the Standing Committee has been set up on the Internet (www.grida.no/parl). The homepage also includes the Inventory on Sustainable Development Projects, produced for the Salekhard conference and presently being updated for the Rovaniemi conference (the Inventory has been financed by Canada), as well as statements and proceedings from the earlier conferences.

Looking ahead

As a follow-up to the debate on capacity-building at the upcoming conference in Rovaniemi the Standing Committee is planning to focus in particular on information technology and the Arctic at its meeting in late 2000.

The Standing Committee has also been invited to participate as a guest in

coming meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The Committee was for the first time represented at the ministerial meeting held in March 2000 in Oulu, Finland. This means that the Standing Committee now has an established position as a parliamentary forum for issues being dealt with by both the intergovernmental organisations dealing with Arctic co-operation. The Committee has also actively promoted increased co-operation between these two councils, and has been happy to note that information about ongoing activities in different international organisations with relevance for the Arctic is now permanently on the agenda at Arctic Council meetings.

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UNEP/GRID-Arendal

UNEP/GRID-Arendal is the abbreviation for a collaboration, centred in Arendal, Norway, between the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resource Information Database and the Government of Norway. It was founded in 1989, as an independent non-governmental foundation, under national legislation, dedicated to supporting a UN agency; as such, it is unique in Arctic cooperation. It is a regional focal point within UNEP, and a provider of scientifically credible environmental information for the general public and for policy- and decision-makers on matters relating to international environmental management of the Arctic. UNEP/GRID-Arendal represents the global UNEP as an Observer on the Arctic Council.

Goals/Mission

GRID-Arendal's mission is stated within the framework of UNEP's mission within the UN system, which is:

“to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”

Within that framework, GRID-Arendal's specific mission is that it:

“aims to be an internationally recognised information centre providing decision-makers and the public with improved access to high quality environmental information and supporting the United Nations Environment Programme in expanding the use of such information for awareness-raising, policy-making and action.”

Methods of implementation/Main types of activity

GRID-Arendal has a long list of activities that fall under its mandate. Included within the specific scope of its Arctic focus is that:

- it represents UNEP, whenever appropriate, at international meetings dealing with Arctic environmental issues;
- through active networking with Arctic institutions it develops the International Arctic Environment Data Directory (ADD) into the most comprehensive international gateway to environmental data and information for the Arctic;
- it continues to explore the development of the established co-operation with programmes under the Arctic Environment Protection Strategy;
- it encourages co-operation with Arctic parliamentarian bodies for the provision of information products relevant for their policy recommendations;
- it continually looks for opportunities for supporting Arctic indigenous peoples' organisations, such as in its growing collaboration with RAIPON—the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North.

GRID-Arendal's technical specialities include advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data preparation and modelling, database development, and data searching and communication via tools such as the World Wide Web. It networks with partner agencies and assists co-operating institutions in capacity-building and state-of-the-environment reporting.

Organizational range

UNEP's GRID-Arendal is part of a global system of UNEP/GRID centres for environmental information and assessment. The GRID programme attempts to monitor the state of the world's environment; provide early warning of environmental threats; improve access to multi-disciplinary information, especially for decision-making and for the planning of policy and action in the environmental sphere. Recognizing this, the current joint agreement between UNEP and the Government of Norway stipulates that GRID-Arendal shall prioritise:

- Norway;
- the Nordic countries, with their adjacent seas;
- the two polar regions; and
- support for the global and regional activities of UNEP in environmental information.

GRID-Arendal also has staff members in several other countries: in Uppsala, Sweden, deal to deal with Nordic and Baltic issues; in Geneva, Switzerland, to serve as liaison with UNEP's Regional Office for Europe and GRID-Geneva; and in Ottawa, Canada, to work on a joint project with the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing.

Structure

The Norwegian Ministry of Environment (MoE) appoints the Chairman and the Board members, with one member representing UNEP. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and the Government of Norway and the prevailing UNEP Work Programme define the operational policy context within which UNEP expects GRID-Arendal's support. The MoU provides the basis for the core funding provided annually from MoE to GRID-Arendal.

The composition and representativity of the Board of GRID-Arendal provides insight into the heavily networked position of the centre:

Leif E. Christoffersen
Chairman of the Board

Hans Alders
Commissioner of the Queen
Province of Groningen
Netherlands

Oystein Dahle
Board Chairman
World Watch Institute Norden
Norway

Kari Elisabeth Fagernæs
Head of Section
Section of Environmental Assessment
Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Daniel van R. Claasen
Officer-in-charge
UNEP/DEIA
Hanne Katherine Petersen
Director
Department of Arctic Environment
National Environmental Research Institute
Denmark

Anu Pärnänen-Landtman
Environmental Co-ordinator
Dept. for Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Finland

Odd Rogne
Executive Secretary
IASC secretariat
Norway

Per Wramner
Director General
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Sweden; and also
Scientific Director of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA)

Funding

GRID-Arendal's activities are financed mainly through core funding from the Norwegian government; programme funding made available through UNEP and others; project funding; and returns on its equity.

Brief history

Inspired by the recommendations of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development (UNCED), and impressed by the already-existing world-wide system of GRID centres, the Government of Norway approached UNEP to establish an environmental information centre in Arendal, Norway. The centre was opened as a foundation in August, 1989, under Norwegian legislation, and was thereafter linked to the UNEP Global Resource Information Database (UNEP/GRID) programme. This was considered an interesting institutional model with potential for use elsewhere: the idea of a non-profit foundation supporting international activities within the programme framework of a UN agency was novel. In 1999, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the Norwegian Government's willingness to continue funding the GRID-Arendal centre was renewed for another five years.

Publications/Products

GRID-Arendal lists its most important products as being:

- digital *State of the Environment Norway* (SoE Norway). In its initial form, in 1992, it was the world's first digital State of the Environment. In 1995, it was the first such report available on the Internet. SoE Norway on the Internet served as a model for similar products in 22 countries;
- a *Cookbook* for the production of digital SoE reports;
- evolution of the national SoE reports into SoE reports for cities (CEROI);

- maps and graphics, partly available in a database on the Internet;
- a comprehensive environmental information network for Eastern and Central Europe (ENRIN);
- a similar network for the Baltic area (Ballerina);
- GIS maps for the Baltic area (Baltic GIS);
- daily environmental news from Norway (*Miljønytt*)
- press releases from UNEP and other international environmental news (*News*);
- polar networks: International Arctic Environment Data Directory (ADD);
- environmental Information Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa (EIS-SSA);
- maintenance of UNEPnet.

Looking ahead

GRID-Arendal has recently produced its Strategy 2000 Report, the result of an extensive review by all of its departments of all aspects of its many operations. (Refer to its web site.) It details comprehensive changes at all levels that are too numerous to describe here, but its overall tone was described in a speech by the Chair of its Board of Directors, Mr. Leif E. Christoffersen, at GRID-Arendal's tenth anniversary ceremonies, in 1999. He emphasised three strategic points:

- the need for *effective partnerships*, both in geographic scope and in the communication the results of science. The local and regional work can continue to be enhanced by expanded world-wide partnerships gained through global UNEP. With regard to science, it is essential to increase scientific partnerships in order to make scientific results more credibly available and understandable for all types of users;
- the need to know more about users and their specific information needs, including a solid understanding of how environmental information can be effectively linked with the economic and financial information used by decision- and policy-makers. This is especially relevant in understanding how GRID-Arendal's activities can contribute to sustainable development;
- the need for effective feedback on performance. This is being encouraged from partners in the international community.

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The University of the Arctic

The University of the Arctic (UArctic), "a university without walls," is an idea that dates back to the early 1970s, but in its current form it is closely linked to the process of Arctic co-operation that is embodied in the Arctic Council. The initiative began with a suggestion from the meeting of the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials that was held in Kautokeino, Norway, in March, 1997.

The UArctic fills a number of essential gaps in higher education in the circumpolar Arctic by providing a framework for academic co-operation that makes sense to people who live in the Arctic. Instead of having to go South for all things associated with higher education, the UArctic seeks to use the talent, assets and knowledge that already exists in the Arctic and, through co-ordinated sharing of those resources, provide completely new opportunities for students who live in the northern reaches of the Arctic countries. The UArctic bridges the vast distances of the Arctic by using the most reliable forms of information technology and works with mobility programs to assist students and faculty to move between institutions and communities when required. The newly-developed curriculum of the UArctic is based on the premise of sustainable development and the need to address the complex issues of circumpolar environment and society through interdisciplinary approaches. In this way it provides what more classical, established institutions have more difficulty maintaining: flexible programs of study that are rooted in the experience, cultures and knowledge of the Arctic, in close partnership with local communities and indigenous peoples.

Goals/Mission

The mission of the University of the Arctic is to provide the best possible higher education experience for students living in the Arctic.

Organizational range

The University of the Arctic has been developed by a circumpolar-wide network of higher education institutions and individuals, with representation from northern and other areas of every Arctic, and some non-Arctic, countries; as well as from the Arctic Council Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples' Organizations. Its members represent a broad range of institutions, from large universities with many faculties, degree programs and research facilities, to small colleges with programs that have been designed in close consultation with their surrounding communities:

- University of Akureyri, Iceland
- University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
- Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS)
- Arctic Research Consortium of the US (ARCUS)
- Athabasca University, Canada
- Centre for Northern Studies, USA
- Dartmouth College, USA
- University of the Faroe Islands, Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands
- University of Greenland, Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands
- Ilisagvik College, USA
- Kola Science Centre, Russia (representing a consortium of NW Russian institutions)
- University of Lapland, Finland
- Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
- University of Oulu, Finland
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Roskilde University Centre, Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands

- Sakha State University, Yakutsk/Russia (representing a consortium of NE Russian institutions)
- Saami Council
- Scandinavian Seminar, USA
- Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland
- UNIS, Norway/Svalbard
- University of Tromsø, Norway
- Yukon College (representing a consortium of northern Canadian colleges)

Structure

The University of the Arctic is governed by an Interim Council of representatives of member institutions and of circumpolar higher education in general. The Interim Council meets twice a year. The Chair of the Interim Council is Prof. Asgeir Brekke, of the University of Tromsø, Norway. The Interim Council has a number of committees and working groups addressing specific aspects of the UArctic, including the development of programs, projects and funding proposals. The Interim Council is supported by its Circumpolar Co-ordination Office, with a small staff located at the Arctic Centre, at the University of Lapland, Finland. Even though the UArctic is in its initial phases, there are a number of programmes underway, mainly in the provision of postgraduate and research training, as well as several projects developing teaching resources in an Internet environment.

Funding

The activities of the University of the Arctic's Interim Council are almost entirely funded through the support of its member institutions and individuals. The Circumpolar Coordination Office (CCO) has been funded by Finland's Ministry of Education and its host institutions, the Arctic Centre and the University of Lapland, in Rovaniemi, Finland, for its first two years, 1999-2000, and has recently received word that increased funding is being made available for 2001-03, inclusively. The (CCO) has also been fortunate to benefit from the placement of a Youth Intern supported through a programme of international youth internships provided by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The Government of Norway has also created a full-time project leader position for the University of the Arctic. The position is located at the University of Tromsø, and has received initial funding for a two-year period.

Several on-going programs of the University of the Arctic have received sufficient funding to be able to commence their activities. These include, among others:

- the Circumpolar Arctic Environmental Studies PhD Network and the Circumpolar Arctic Social Sciences PhD Network, both with core funding from NorFA, the Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi;
- Human Dimensions of Arctic Environment: a Web-Based Project, supported by EU-Rafael (50%) and the rest from contributions from the partner institutions involved:

- the Northern Research Forum, with funding from the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation and the Government of Iceland.

Brief history

An initial concept of an Arctic university was discussed at the meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, held in Kautokeino, Norway, in March 1997. The SAOs invited the Circumpolar Universities Association (CUA) to develop the concept further and produce a feasibility study. To perform this task, the CUA created a Working Group of circumpolar group of interested academics representing a wide variety of disciplines and from all the Arctic countries and Permanent Participant Indigenous Peoples's Organizations. After less than a year of preparations and many meetings in a number of circumpolar locations, the completed Feasibility Study was presented to the Ministers of the Arctic Council at their meeting in Iqaluit, Canada, in September 1998. In their Iqaluit Declaration, the Ministers welcomed the Feasibility Study and the concept of the University of the Arctic and promised to assist in finding support for it. At the next meeting of the working group, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in October, 1998, the Interim Council was formed and, after consultation with the Circumpolar Universities Association, it was agreed that the UArctic Interim Council would proceed independently of the CUA.

The University of the Arctic has continued its regular participation at the Arctic Council's meetings, where it routinely presents an update of its progress, performs numerous consultations with the assembled delegates from all around the circumpolar Arctic, and receives valuable advice and other feedback from all concerned.

Looking ahead

The University of the Arctic is nearing the end of its implementation phase, the period in which it has been preparing for its formal launch and for the establishment of its regular governance structure. The next two meetings of its Interim Council will be crucial for its progress. In the first one, to be held at the University of Greenland, in November 2000, it hopes to create the permanent Council (as opposed to the present Interim Council) and begin the selection of its Board of Governors. The second meeting has been planned to coincide with the first SAO meeting that will be held in Finland as part of its Chairing of the Arctic Council and its special significance will be to formally launch the University of the Arctic. This will take place in June 2001, and is considered as one of the ways of noting, at a prestigious forum of the circumpolar Arctic community, both the generous support of Finland for the UArctic and of commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Rovaniemi Process. By that time, there should be more news on the numerous funding applications filed by UArctic partners at agencies all around the world, and therefore several more student-centred programs on their way to delivery.

Publications

The UArctic Circumpolar Coordination Office and the University of Lapland have maintained a series of publications entitled Publications in the University of the Arctic Process, which now has nine titles.

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The WWF International Arctic Programme

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is a global non-governmental organization that is active in Arctic cooperation through its International Arctic Programme (WWF Arctic Programme), which it developed in response to the Rovaniemi Process. Its current role in that process is as an Observer in the Arctic Council and it is active in many of the latter's programmes. One of the WWF Arctic Programme's most visible contributions to Arctic cooperation is its quarterly publication, the widely-read *WWF Arctic Bulletin*.

The coordination unit for the programme is located in Oslo, Norway, where it shares the facilities of the WWF-Norway Office; the programme has also recently opened an office—the WWF Arctic Programme Barents Sea Project Office—in Tromsø, Norway, in the Polar Environment Centre.

The coordination unit has four main roles:

- it implements its own Arctic conservation strategy;
- it promotes governmental action that it sees as promising for Arctic management;
- it serves as a focal point for Arctic conservation issues that are of international concern;
- it promotes Arctic activities originating from WWF's national organisations in Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United States, a programme office in Russia and the Iceland Nature Conservation Association.

Goal/Mission

The goal of the WWF Arctic Programme is to strive for:

“A healthy Arctic environment, with unfragmented natural systems and viable wildlife populations, which allow for local needs based on sustainable resource use. The Arctic should be recognized for its global environmental significance and its diversity of cultures.”

This is undertaken as part of the WWF parent organization’s broader aims, which are to:

- conserve nature and ecological processes by preserving genetic, species and ecosystem diversity;
- by ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable both now and in the longer term; and
- by promoting actions to reduce pollution and the wasteful exploitation and consumption of resources and energy.

Methods of implementation/Main types of activity

The WWF Arctic Programme’s main strategy for achieving its goal is to target issues that it considers to be of primary importance and then relate projects to them. Six such issues (each expressed in numerous projects) have been designated and described as:

- addressing the global significance of the Arctic;
- reserving natural ecosystems and habitats;
- creating conditions to ensure maintenance of viable populations of all native species;
- targeting safe, sustainable use of exploited resources;
- increasing activities that result in pollution reduction to promote a healthy environment;
- caring for the local needs and cultural diversity of the Arctic.

Organizational range

WWF is the world’s largest conservation organization. It has a global network of 27 National Organizations, 5 Associates and 22 Programme Offices (of which WWF Arctic Programme is one). There are 4.7 million paying supporters worldwide.

The WWF Arctic Programme works internationally, nationally and locally to achieve its goals. It also participates in the programmes, such as the Living Planet Campaign, of the global WWF. Internationally, it is an official Observer in the Arctic Council and is an active participant in several of its programs, especially the CAFF—Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna—working group. In addition to pursuing its own Arctic-wide program, with such projects as its Ring of Life poster series, the WWF Arctic Programme also seeks cooperation with indigenous peoples’ organizations and environmental organizations, for example the Marine Stewardship Council, the Audubon Society and others. At the national level, it consults with governmental institutions and coordinates and

promotes the more general emphases as well as the specific Arctic-related projects of WWF's national offices. Among the Arctic countries, the country-specific priorities of the WWF offices are, in general terms:

- in Canada, focused on endangered species, with many projects carried out in consultation with indigenous peoples;
- in Denmark/Greenland, to work with Greenlanders in areas of education, nature tourism and species use;
- in Finland, on projects dedicated to saving boreal forests and endangered species;
- in Iceland, on issues dealing with renewable natural resources, most recently criticizing a scheme to build an aluminum smelter and the hydropower to run it, in the highlands, and in opposing fishing subsidies;
- in Norway, the development of tourism guidelines and nature reserves, both especially in connection with Svalbard;
- in Russia, an intensive focus on encouraging the creation of protected areas all across the Russian Arctic;
- in Sweden, on habitat and species protection, and in providing major funding for the WWF Arctic Programme as a whole, particularly in assisting projects in Russia and Iceland;
- in the USA/Alaska, efforts to preserve the ecosystem of the Bering Sea and Strait, the development of tourism guidelines and a campaign to acquire wilderness areas on Kodiak Island.

In 1999 it announced the first winner of its annual Arctic Award for Linking Tourism and Conservation. The winner was Arctic Treks, an Alaskan family-owned tour business specializing in conservation values. The award, in the amount of 10 000 Swiss Francs, honours individuals, organizations, or businesses, involved in tourism in a way that embodies best practices for conservation in the Arctic. Funding for the award was provided by WWF-Finland Board Member Heidi Andersson.

Funding

WWF is an independent organization and is funded from a variety of sources. These include, in descending order: individuals, legacies, corporations, trusts and foundations, government and aid agencies, royalties and financial income (net).

Brief history

WWF created its circumpolar Arctic Programme in 1992, as a direct result of being encouraged and inspired by the formation, in 1991, of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (*WWF Arctic Bulletin* 4, 1999, p. 3), in what has come to be known as the Rovaniemi Process. WWF has been a continuous enthusiast of the AEPS and its descendent, the Arctic Council—formed in 1996—ever since. The Arctic Programme quickly took concrete form through the opening of a coordination office in Oslo and, in 1994, the inauguration of a new publication, *WWF Arctic Bulletin*. Its most recent structural change has been the opening of a new office in Tromsø, Norway. Called the Barents Sea Project Office, it is located in the Polar Environment Centre, which provides it with ready

access to a wide collection of Arctic-related institutes and organizations that collectively make up the Centre.

Publications/Products

Its main publication is the quarterly *WWF Arctic Bulletin*, published since 1994. The magazine is funded by private donors and the Norwegian and Finnish Ministries of Environment. Other publications are produced from time to time. It has also produced a series of educational posters, called the *Ring of Life*. This, and the *WWF Arctic Bulletin*, can be received free of charge from the WWF-Arctic Programme office.

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Selected bibliography

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