

STUDY GUIDE



SDWG - Working Group **Sustainable Development Working Group** *Improving economic and living conditions for Arctic communities*



ONE ARCTIC THE SIOI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SIMULATION OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

ORGANIZED BY



SPECIAL THANKS TO



Table of contents

INTRODUCTION OF ARCTIC COUNCIL	2
OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES OF SDWG.....	4
ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE ARCTIC REGION	5
ARCTIC’S ETHNICAL DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY CONFLICTS	9
ARCTIC COUNCIL’S APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM	11
FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED	13
REFERENCES	15
MANDATORY READING.....	15

Introduction of Arctic Council

The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental organization addressing a diversity of issues concerning the Arctic Circle. Its main purposes are to foster sustainable development and environmental protection of the area, together with encouraging education and promoting interest worldwide in Arctic related issues.

The establishing treaty of the Arctic Council is the Ottawa Declaration, signed on September 19th, 1996 by the eight founding **Arctic States**: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America. Twenty years later, in 2016, the Council was defined as ‘a forum for peace and cooperation’ in a joint declaration by the Member States.

As those States share Arctic territories¹ they came together to pursue on one side a balanced and fair control of the Circle, on the other to ensure its protection under different points of view: environmental sustainability, exploitation control, human presence and social and economic development.

In addition to the Member States, six organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have the status of **Permanent Participants (PPs)** within the Council. These are the following: the Aleut International Association, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Saami Council. The PP category was created in order to provide participation of the Arctic indigenous tribes in the political and economic life of the Region². Member States and Permanent Participants are fully empowered entities as they are involved at any level of decision taking and policy making of the Council.

Furthermore, the Arctic Council is open to **Observers**. Observing entities can be non-Arctic States, inter-governmental, inter-parliamentary, global and non-governmental organizations that have submitted admission request and later admitted by the Council according to criteria³, which have been clarified in 2011. To mention the most relevant ones, Observers must entirely recognize Arctic

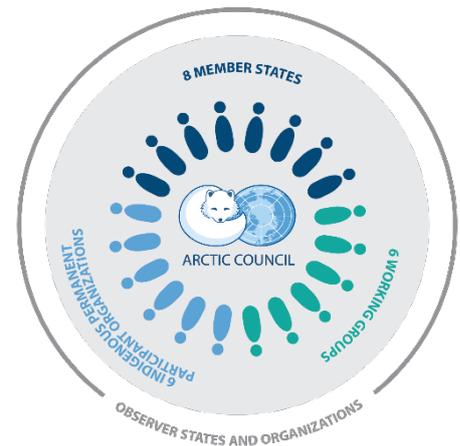


Figure 1 - Arctic Council composition diagram and logo

¹ Greenland is an autonomous constituent country within the Danish Realm

² Joint Communiqué of the Governments of the Arctic Countries on the Establishment of the Arctic Council (Ottawa Declaration, 1996), <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/85>;

³ Set out both in Ottawa Declaration and in the Arctic Council's rules of procedure

States' sovereignty, authority and jurisdiction on the Arctic territories; must include in their own legal system the complex of regulations applying to the Arctic Ocean (e.g. Law of the Sea) and of course share the objectives and functioning of the organization. The rationale of having entities which are not involved in first person in Arctic issues is that of giving valuable contribution to the discussion, mainly at the Working Groups' level. Nowadays, a consistent number of Observers have received official approval of their status by the Council: 12 non-Arctic States, 9 Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations (included UNDP and UNEP), and 11 non-governmental organization (included WWF)⁴. The admission of the European Union was requested by the supranational organization in 2013; even though it is still pending, mainly due to the dissenting position of the Russian Federation and Canada, EU was allowed to merely observe Council proceedings.

The Arctic Council's functioning is organized in three steps: Working Groups, Senior Arctic Official meetings (SAO) and Ministerial meetings.

Working Groups are in charge of carrying out the Council's tasks by developing strategies and researching over the topics at stake. They **regularly** produce comprehensive environmental, ecological and social assessments and work out the projects in the field of their specialization⁵. Six Working Groups are now actively working:

- Arctic Contaminants Action Program (**ACAP**)
- 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**)

Moreover, the Chairmanship is empowered of establishing subsidiary bodies such as **task forces** and experts' groups. Currently, three task forces are operating:

- Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (**TFAMC**)
- Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic (**TFTIA**)
- Scientific Cooperation Task Force (**SCTF**)

⁴ A complete and list of Permanent Participants and Observers can be found on the AC official website, together with links to their respective websites.

⁵ Working Group Common Operating Guidelines (2016), <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1853>;

The **SAO meetings** are operational meetings wherein Senior Arctic Officials take part to. SAOs are government representatives of the Member States, usually envoys of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. During their meetings held three or four times in a Chairmanship period, they summarize all the results of the Working Groups' work and present a report to the Ministers⁶. Permanent participants and observers may present at the meetings, and the indigenous peoples' organizations have the right to express their opinion on the issues on the agenda. Decisions during the SAO are taking by Member States by consensus. The last SAO meeting was held in Juneau, Alaska (US) on March 8th – 9th, 2017.

Ministerial meetings are the Arctic Council's state of the union, taken as comparison with the US system. They gather Member States' Ministers of Foreign Affairs every two years and mark the transition from one chairmanship to the following. The location is chosen within the outgoing chairman's country, while the meetings' aim is to overview what was done in the ending two-years period and what has to be done in the next one. The last ministerial meeting took place in Iqaluit, Canada on April 24th and 25th, 2015.

The Chairmanship of the Arctic Council rotates every two years among Member States⁷, From 2015 to 2017 the Chairmanship is hold by the USA. The program developed by the US Department of State focuses on three issues of particular importance for the Arctic: a) Improving Economic and Living Conditions in Arctic Communities; b) Arctic Ocean Safety, Security and Stewardship; c) Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change⁸.

Overview of the history and objectives of SDWG

The SDWG was established at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, Canada, in September 1998. The mandate of the Sustainable Development Working group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council is “to propose and adopt steps to be taken by Arctic States to advance sustainable development, including opportunities to protect and enhance the environment and economies, culture and health of Indigenous People and Arctic communities, as well as to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole”. The current Chair of the Working Group is the United States of America.

⁶ The Arctic Council (official website), https://www.arctic-council.org/images/PDF_attachments/SAO_Meetings/Juneau-2017-Mar/EDOCS-4114-v6-JUNEAU-2017-pre-meeting-media-release-FINALIZED.pdf;

⁷ Ottawa Declaration, art. 5

⁸ The US Department of State (official website), <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/arc/uschair>;

The main thematic areas of the SDWG are: Arctic Human Health, Arctic Socio-economic issues, Adaptation to Climate Change, Energy & Arctic Communities, Management of Natural Resources, Arctic Cultures & Languages and Strategic planning.

Economic structure of the Arctic region

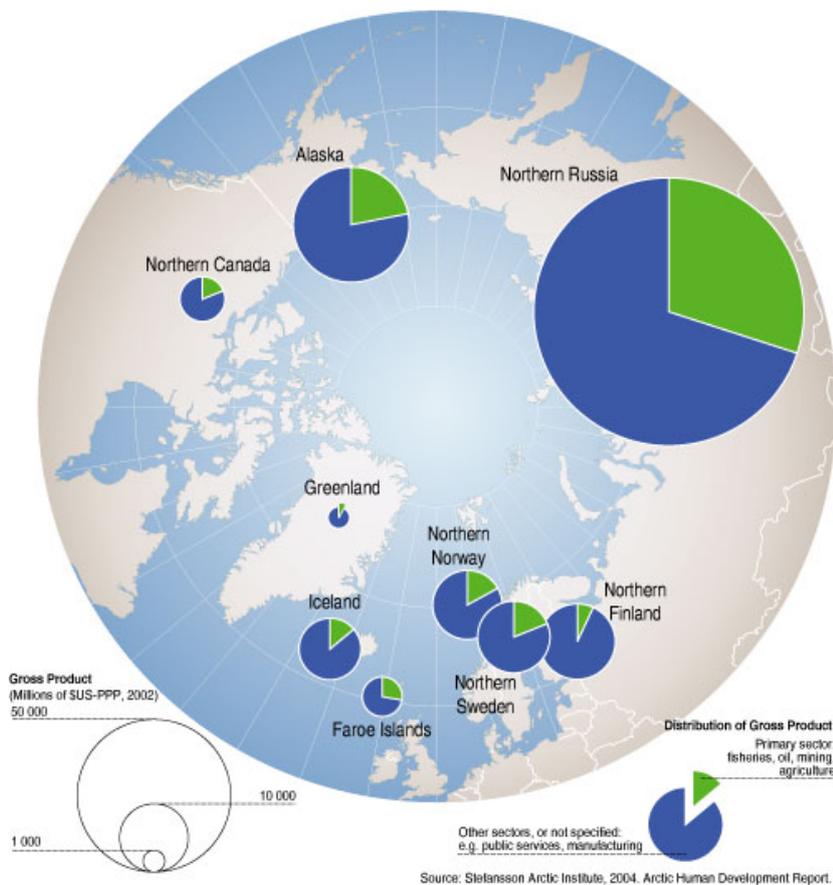


Figure 2 - Distribution of Gross Product in Arctic by sectors

Talking about the Arctic region's economy consists on exploring the communities' methods to generate income and the impact those methods have on ensuring economic and social developments for the local populations. Although it counts with only about 0.2 percent of the world's total populace, the Arctic region was responsible, in 2005, for the generation of 0.5 percent of the global gross domestic product⁹.

To understand the regional economic interactions it is important to focus on that which makes it so different from non-Arctic economies.

- First, the formal economy is mainly based on large-scale resource exploitation.

⁹ Glomsrod, Solveig and Iulie Aslaksen. "Economy of the North 2008". Statistics Norway, Nov. 2009, pp. 11-76.

- Second, family-based commercial fishing or customary hunting, fishing, breeding, and gathering activities continue to be important.
- Third, much consumption, in particular public services, is supported by transfer payments to regional governments and individuals from central governments.¹⁰

The first point mentioned above, the large-scale exploitation of resources, is most deeply defined by the availability and extraction of oil, gas and mineral resources in the area. Although that does not comprehend all the activities that generate income for the Arctic populations, it is imperative to say that the aforementioned practices are, without a doubt, some of the most expressive ones nowadays. The sub-regions that most rely on oil, gas and mineral extractions are Alaska, the Canadian North and Arctic Russia – thus explaining their vulnerability, since their revenue depends on the fluctuation of the prices of those resources.

Despite the great relevance of the large undertakings focused on resource extraction for the general economic scenario of the region – especially nonrenewable resources - it must be said that the exploitation of gas, oil and mineral resources depends of huge enterprises and tends to cause considerable environmental damage. Companies that exploit the regional oil reserves, for example, are notorious for oil spillages. To fully understand the impacts of that, one must consider that there are no effective techniques for removing spilled oil from icy water, which allows for it to cause even more negative consequences for native species - many of which are important for local communities' economic activities and subsistence. The Arctic region takes years - usually decades - to recover from such situations.

In what concerns other kinds of production, it can be said that the Arctic region's particular economic structure generally lacks manufacturing and industrial activities. That is mostly due to the high production and transportation costs, which undermine the competitiveness of products manufactured by the local communities. That makes most of the groups in the circumpolar zone extremely dependent on the importation of products from non-Arctic regions. Even so, it might be interesting to highlight that, although it is not sufficient to replace the food imported from non-Arctic regions, the customary production for subsistence is helpful in guaranteeing more independence for some communities in the aspects of food availability.

Other than that, it is interesting to point out the relevance that the exploitation of biological resources of the region had and still has in the local economy. A peculiar example that can be

¹⁰ Duhaime, Gérard. "Economic Systems". AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report) 2004. Akureyri: Stefansson Arctic Institute, pp. 69-84.

pointed out is the fact that many of the settlers throughout the past centuries were drawn to the region because of whaling or seal-hunting, and those practices, though diminished, still endure. Regardless of that, it is evident that the greatest possible example for the relevance of biological resources to the Polar region is fishing and fish-processing – as was stated by Gérard Duhaime in the Economic Systems chapter of the AHDR (p. 69)¹¹, “in almost all coastal and island areas of the Arctic, fisheries form one of the backbones of the economy”. It comprises large portions of the GDP of many of the Arctic regions – such as the Faroe Islands, Norway and Greenland. It should also be made clear that fishing and the fish-related industry are, given what was stated previously, some of the greatest sources of income and employment in the region. Their organization ranges from industrial, large-scale extraction to small and even family businesses, providing for communities and generating more activity for local commerce and governments.

As for the second point mentioned earlier, it consists mostly on the fact that there are still many communities, especially the indigenous ones, relying on traditional fishing, hunting, breeding and similar activities for subsistence. It is possible to mention, for example, reindeer herding, which is a practice common to over 20 different ethnic groups throughout the Arctic countries¹². These types of activities, even though they are traditional sources of subsistence and income, have adapted to modern and more technological approaches and continue to be extremely relevant to local communities (e.g. harvesting¹³).

To say that indigenous communities in the Arctic region retain some of their traditional practices is by no means to say that they still perform those activities exactly like their ancestors did. Nor does it mean that they are cut off from contact and commerce with non-indigenous communities. In fact, native Arctic populations have developed that which is called a “mixed economy”, intertwining the monetary and commercial aspects with their traditional subsistence-oriented activities.¹⁴

To obtain the financial means necessary to fund their economic activities, members of the communities either sell the goods acquired through hunting, gathering, fishing and alike or search for employment in the region, be it in resource extraction, government attributions, the military or other available opportunities. As stated in the “Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic” paper, “[...] the shortage of job opportunities in the Arctic, poor quality of offered employment and comparatively high prices – especially for food imported from outside the region – result in difficulties for many

¹¹ Duhaime, Gérard. “Economic Systems”. AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report) 2004. Akureyri: Stefansson Arctic Institute, pp. 69-84.

¹² Association of the World of reindeer herders available at <http://reindeerherding.org/wrh/>

¹³ Koivurova, Timo et al. “Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic”. Background Paper, Sept. 2008, <http://arctic-transform.org/download/IndigPeoBP.pdf>.

¹⁴ Koivurova, Timo et al. “Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic”. Background Paper, Sept. 2008, <http://arctic-transform.org/download/IndigPeoBP.pdf>.

indigenous people to sustain themselves exclusively on financial resources” (p. 8)¹⁵. The traditional practices of the local communities, thus, are still present not only because of their unique cultural value, but also because of the need to provide for their population.

One other situation that should also be pointed out is the growing relevance of tourism in the region. The growth of the communities, the investment of governments and the ever growing global ecotourism sector are expanding touristic initiatives concerning the Arctic region. Polar tourism increases the flows of finance in the region, provides an opportunity to create new workplaces for local population and allows the indigenous to find new customers for their ethnic arts and crafts. The problem at hand is how to deal with the new influxes of tourists without negatively interfering with traditional communities’ values and territories.

The third point focuses on the interactions between the local Arctic communities and the governments of Arctic countries and their importance as a subject to be explored. Governmental transfers and public services comprehend an essential portion of the gross regional product (GRP), and activities such as healthcare, education and public administration can be considered as the second largest industry in the Arctic region¹⁶. Even so, the ways through which the central governments interact with the Arctic populations vary, and can be divided in three groups: the North-american neoliberal model, the Scandinavian model and the Russian model¹⁷.

The first model consists of allowing the establishment of large companies in the region, lowering taxes for the native populations and leaving services such as health and education to be arranged by the individuals.

The Scandinavian model, on the other hand, presents itself as a more social approach – it consists on, through the action of the government, presenting communities with work opportunities and quality public services. There is lower disposable income for households due to the high tax rates, but there is more social security and better redistribution of resources.

At last, the Russian model tends to turn into the North-american model. After the dismantling of the USSR, the structures of power in the Arctic Russia were incapable of maintaining the same levels of production and social security. The Russian model basically comprehends a scenario of generation of wealth through the exploitation of oil and gas resources, but without redistribution to

¹⁵ Koivurova, Timo et al. “Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic”. Background Paper, Sept. 2008, <http://arctic-transform.org/download/IndigPeoBP.pdf>.

¹⁶ Duhaime, Gérard. “Economic Systems”. AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report) 2004. Akureyri: Stefansson Arctic Institute, pp. 69-84.

¹⁷ Duhaime, Gérard and Andrée Caron. “Economic and social conditions of Arctic regions”, Economy of the North 2008. Statistics Norway, Nov. 2009, pp. 11-23.

the populace in the form of development. Although the models are, in reality, quite different, they all focus on economic growth and present some form of challenge to native groups.

Arctic's ethnical diversity and identity conflicts

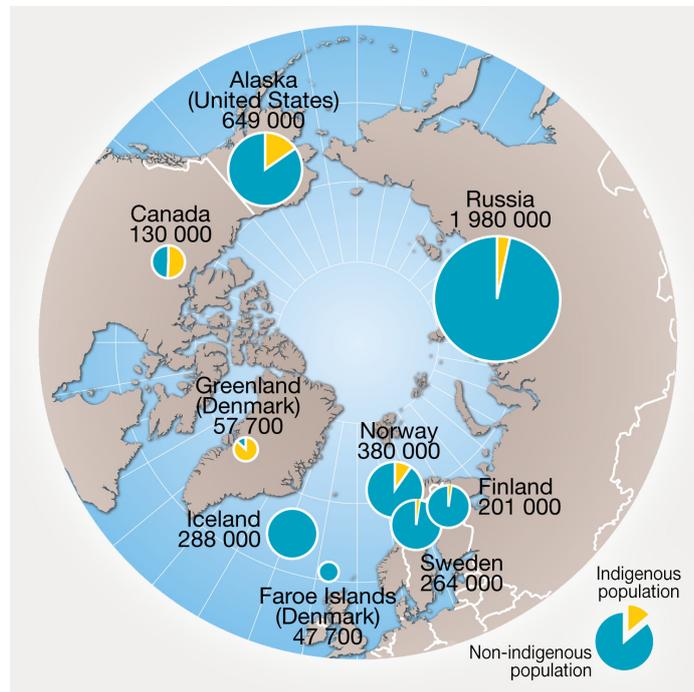


Figure 3 - Arctic's total population

The cultural mosaic of Arctic is extremely diverse and rich in terms of languages, identities, traditions and customs. The Polar region presents a huge number of different groups and communities, ranging from the indigenous peoples to the recent settlers and seasonal workers.

The Arctic is home to an estimated 4 million people, of which around 10% are indigenous populations. There are over 40 ethnic groups in Polar region, some of the most numerically expressive groups are Inupiat, Yup'ik and Aleut in Alaska, Inuit in Greenland and Canada; Saami in Fennoscandia and Russia; Yup'k, Chukchi, Even, Evenk and Nenets in Russia"¹⁸. Generalization regarding their identity is incorrect and these peoples' values and cultures vary considerably in terms of lifestyle, language, traditional occupations. This cultural heritage is unique in its diversity, that is why it is extremely important to employ means and resources available on international level

¹⁸ Koivurova, Timo et al. "Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic". Background Paper, Sept. 2008, <http://arctic-transform.org/download/IndigPeoBP.pdf>.

to protect their traditional lifestyle. The most important thing in common between the indigenous populations is their life in harmony with surrounding ecosystems and Arctic wildlife. As a result, shaping the future of their region is of the utmost importance to them. Unfortunately, those populations are, nowadays, quite frequently forced out of their traditional territories, and are usually treated as “second-class citizens” – as if they had less rights simply because they do not fit in the national standards. They are judicially marginalized and it is not unusual for their cultural background and interests are not taken into consideration by the central government.

Native peoples of the Arctic traditionally lived off the land, fishing, hunting, herding and gathering wild plants. To survive severe weather and snow, they developed and transmitted traditional knowledge of their home from generation to generation. Unfortunately, mandatory education, implemented in Arctic countries, led children from indigenous communities to be separated from their families, language and traditional values. The fast changes caused by the rapid occupation of the region by new settlers and corporations through the 20th century have been responsible for creating gaps in the communication between generations – the youth is immersed in a reality far different from that of their parents and grandparents, which creates a problem for cultural exchange between them. Aside from that, as happens with other indigenous communities throughout the world, the detachment from their culture and past and the subsequent identity crisis usually leads to higher suicide and alcoholism rates.

Even so, it is unquestionable that not all that has happened is negative for the communities. During the 20th century, many of the circumpolar countries began to exploit the non-renewable resources present in the region and to create new commercial activities. Arctic resources attracted growing worldwide attention to this remote region. It can be seen both as opportunity and threat to indigenous peoples – as a challenge for local communities to remain the protagonist of the social change and as a possibility for future economic development and for creation of new workplaces. It's necessary to consider that the development of new industries would nonetheless necessitate the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to land and sea and their right to free and prior consent in matters that affect their lifestyle directly.

Conflicts in the region consist, mostly, of the dialectic relation between locals and “outsiders” - which also comprehends the notion of those who settled there. These settlers have established themselves in the region for a multitude of reasons - there were the viking settlers in Greenland, the whalers and seal-hunters of the 18th and 19th centuries, the deportees and prisoners during the Great Wars of the 20th century and those who migrated to the Arctic region because of the

possibility of exploiting its natural resources. Despite the essential differences between those groups, most of them are motivated by the possibility of taking advantage of the region, seen as a place yet to be fully explored. The indigenous peoples, however, have occupied the Arctic region for millennia, seeing it as their home. Hence, the dialectic relation. There are those who see the Arctic as their traditional home, developing topophilic interactions with the land, and those who see it as a place to be exploited, filled with valuable and abundant resources.

Arctic Council’s approach to the problem

The SDWG focuses on the human dimension of the Arctic, an area of change and opportunity. As such, the Working Group focuses on the complex meaning of what it is to be sustainable and tries to promote sustainability in the region through the combination of projects focusing on economy, demography, culture, energy and health. It is interesting to consider the relevance of health related issues to the Working Group and to the region as a whole because of the direct and immediate impact it causes for local communities – it is a well-established fact that, due to several identity issues, along with prejudice and marginalization, indigenous populations present suicide rates much higher than the average of non-indigenous groups. Considering the importance of general health, suicide among indigenous youth has emerged as a serious public health challenge in circumpolar regions over the past several decades.

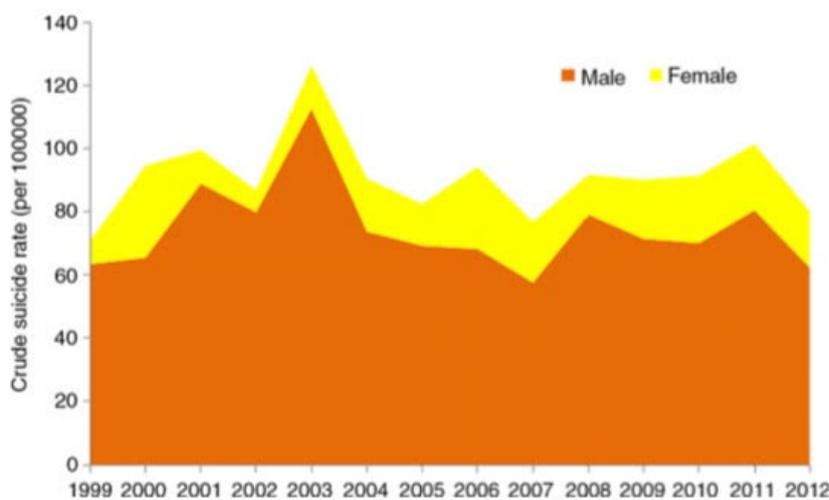


Figure 4 - Distribution of suicide cases by sex in Nunavut, 1999-2012.

Among the efforts of the SDWG to prevent suicide, we can find the Arctic Health Declaration in Nuuk, signed in February 2011 by the Health Ministers and representatives of the Arctic Council. It specifically pledged to “enhance mental health and prevention of substance abuse and suicide through exchange of experiences and good practices”. Furthermore, the SDWG Mental Wellness builds the evidence base to promote the well-being and resilience of Arctic peoples.

On the environmental approaches of the SDWG, one finds a focus on how the increasing economic interest in the region and the consequent arrival of new companies and enterprises might affect – both positively and negatively – the lifestyle of traditional communities and how to develop, along with the locals, ways to ensure sustainable interaction between them.

Global Warming and its impacts are also a very important topic because of its expressive impacts in the Arctic region. As was stated by the Canadian Chairman in the Declaration for the UNFCCC COP XIX, “A changing climate has consequences for biodiversity, ecosystems, and human living conditions in the Arctic, posing distinct challenges related to adaptation and to the diverse resources that northern communities depend upon for their survival. Since its founding in 1996, the Arctic Council has played, and continues to play, a leadership role in highlighting the environmental, cultural and societal implications of climate change for Arctic inhabitants, with a particular emphasis on Indigenous Peoples”¹⁹. Attempts to comprehend and mitigate the possible problems caused by climate change to Arctic societies are an attribution of the SDWG – currently developed through the Arctic Adaptation Exchange portal, that helps circumpolar communities develop innovative approaches to climate change adaptation.

The Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group also works on promoting alternative and environment-friendly energy sources, preserving traditional food culture of the region and improving living standards for reindeer herders, studying the economic profile and interactions in the region to allow for better policy making and promoting gender equality in the Arctic. All these projects are developed by the SDWG through several different means – from seminars and webinars to reports and initiatives along with local governments and communities.

During the U.S. Chairmanship (2015-2017), the SDWG is conducting a range of activities to implement the SDWG 2015-17 Work Plan. Major projects include: Economy of the North (ECONOR III), Reducing Suicide in Arctic Communities (RISING SUN), Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages, Improving Health in Arctic Communities through

¹⁹ Declaration for the UNFCCC COP XIX available at <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/our-work2/8-news-and-events/143-statement-copxix>

Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer. Also, in order to improve the regional economic and living conditions, the SDWG will focus on assessing and developing community-level tools for black carbon reduction in indigenous communities, to mitigate health and environmental effects from black carbon sources. The project is expected to take place in Alaskan, Russian and Sami communities.

The Sustainable Development Working Group is of extreme importance to the region due to its focus on what is human in the Arctic. Like the other groups, it also assesses and studies various environmental conditions that afflict the region, but it focuses mostly on how that affects the local populations and how to help them adapt and improve their living standards. Health, Energy, Economics, Culture and Demography are the fields through which the SDWG works in attempt to ensure sustainable development.

Fundamental issues to be addressed

The circumpolar North's economy is, as a whole, improving, and investors and entrepreneurs are growing more interested in the region.

However, how can the SDWG reduce the Arctic's vulnerability regarding its need for importation of products and food? How to cheapen transportation and production in order to make the local producers competitive in the global markets?

Most of all, it is probable that in the coming years, the oil, gas and water resources in the Arctic may play a very important role in defining the political dynamics of the international community. Knowing that those resources are limited, *how to ensure a sustainable consumption and production? How to protect Arctic ecosystem and the indigenous peoples' traditional lifestyle considering the activity of numerous corporations in the region? How to promote the adaptation of those communities to the presence of the companies and how to defend their rights?*

Also, it is an ongoing challenge to facilitate a holistic health impact assessment of the influences of environmental pollution on the health of Arctic people and the associated risk factors affecting them. Since one of the main reasons for suicide, as said before, is boredom, it is necessary to implement youth-focused programmes offering recreational activities. *Which measures can be taken to ensure the mental wellness and to prevent suicide among indigenous youth?*

All the previous questions are a means to achieve the answer to the most important questions of them all, which are as follows – ***how, with the growing interests in exploiting the resources in the***

region, can sustainable development be achieved? How can the Sustainable Development Working Group help promote better living and economic conditions for arctic populations?

Answering that question consists on debating on how to conciliate the rights of the locals to a balanced, healthy environment and the possibility of economic usage of the resources there contained by governments and companies.

References

1. *AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report) 2004* available at <http://www.thearctic.is/AHDR%20chapters.htm>
2. “*Economy of the North 2008*”. *Statistics Norway*, Nov. 2009 available at <https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/the-economy-of-the-north-2008>
3. *Senior Arctic Officials’ Report 2015* available at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/494>
4. *The Ottawa Declaration which established the Arctic Council* available at <http://www.international.gc.ca/arctic-arctique/ottdec-decott.aspx?lang=eng>
5. *AMAP Assessment 2015 on Human Health in the Arctic* available at <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/AMAP-Assessment-2015-Human-Health-in-the-Arctic/1346>
6. “*Suicide in circumpolar regions*” report available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273155194_Suicide_in_circumpolar_regions_An_introduction_and_overview
7. *The official page of the Sustainable Development Working Group on the Arctic Council’s website* available at <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/sdwg>
8. *Arctic Business Scenarios 2020 report* available at <https://www.arctic-business.com/download/Arctic-Business-Scenarios-2020-pages.pdf>

Mandatory reading

1. The mandate and work plans to better understand the working group available at <http://www.sdwg.org/about-us/mandate-and-work-plan/>
2. Page on the establishment and attributions of the Sustainable Development Working Group available at <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/sdwg>
3. Report “*Suicide in circumpolar regions: an introduction and overview*” available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273155194_Suicide_in_circumpolar_regions_An_introduction_and_overview
4. Economy, Health and Culture chapters in the Arctic Human Development Report available at <http://www.thearctic.is/AHDR%20chapters.htm>
5. Arctic Business Scenarios 2020 report to better understand prospects of the region available at <https://www.arctic-business.com/download/Arctic-Business-Scenarios-2020-pages.pdf>