

Nordic Council of Ministers' Co-operation Programme with the Arctic

Action Plan 2004

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The Nordic Council of Ministers

was established in 1971. It submits proposals on co-operation between the governments of the five Nordic countries to the Nordic Council, implements the Council's recommendations and reports on results, while directing the work carried out in the targeted areas. The Prime Ministers of the five Nordic countries assume overall responsibility for the co-operation measures, which are co-ordinated by the ministers for co-operation and the Nordic Co-operation committee. The composition of the Council of Ministers varies, depending on the nature of the issue to be treated.

The Nordic Council

was formed in 1952 to promote co-operation between the parliaments and governments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Finland joined in 1955. At the sessions held by the Council, representatives from the Faroe Islands and Greenland form part of the Danish delegation, while Åland is represented on the Finnish delegation. The Council consists of 87 elected members - all of whom are members of parliament. The Nordic Council takes initiatives, acts in a consultative capacity and monitors co-operation measures. The Council operates via its institutions: the Plenary Assembly, the Presidium and standing committees.

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME WITH THE ARCTIC -

ACTION PLAN 2004

The Co-operation Programme for the activities of the Nordic Council of Ministers in the Arctic will remain in force until its revision in 2005. Thus, the Annual Action Plans reflect the Arctic project activities financed through this budget item.

In the selection of projects from among the application made, compliance with the principal priorities of the Co-operation Programme has been sought.

- Project activity is to be concentrated on more comprehensive, politically relevant projects.
- It is desirable to ensure better anchorage of efforts in the needs of the beneficiaries themselves.
- Information activities concerning the activities of the Nordic Council of Ministers in the Arctic are to be made more efficient and accessible, for example, by means of websites.
- To ensure co-ordination and minimise duplication of effort in relation to bilateral and other efforts, an expert committee of Nordic Senior Arctic Officials has been established.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has analysed the possibilities of co-operating with other international organisations, and the Arctic Experts Committee has pointed out that it should be possible, to a higher degree, to realise the objective of co-financing projects in co-operation with Northwest Russia and the European Union's Action Plan for the Northern Dimension. (NDAPII).

It has become apparent that there is a certain shortage of Arctic projects initiated and anchored in the Nordic countries. Thus, a large proportion of the activities financed have emerged through the Arctic Council and its subagent bodies.

In 2004 the budget has been increased to TDKK 5,370 (following price adjustment and additional allocation) which is a positive development from 2001 when the budget only amounted to TDKK 2,694. However, the Experts Committee describes the amount as modest, and points out that as the Nordic Arctic Research Programme (NARP) was completed in 2003 in accordance with the plan, annual allocations targeted at Arctic activities have in fact been reduced. The Arctic Experts Committee deplores the discontinuation of the NARP and recommends that in 2004, TDKK 300 should be reserved for the maintenance of the research networks that have been established. This proposal was recommended on the assumption that established Nordic research institutions active in the field of Arctic research will be contacted, such as Danish Polar Centre, Norwegian Polar Institute, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and the Finnish Institute of Marine Research.

A large proportion of the budget is tied up in long-term, multi-annual projects. Eleven new applications have been received amounting in total to TDKK 5,038. Five of these applications were rejected, whereas six new projects will be financed. The money available for new projects only represents 11% of the total budget, or more specifically TDKK 563. As a consequence of the limited available funds, only very few of the new projects have received an allocation corresponding to the full application; similarly some reductions have been made in the allocations awarded to

ongoing, multi-annual projects.

This is the third year in which a single deadline for applications concerning the entire programme is operated. One result of this is that the annual allocations have been spent to a higher degree than before and less money is carried over into the following year.

The Barrow Declaration adopted by Arctic Council at its meeting in October 2000 instructs the Nordic Countries to co-operate with a view to co-ordinating treatment in various international fora of questions concerning protection of the environment and Sustainable Development in the Arctic. In the Inari Declaration of October 2002, it is stated that co-operation between the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and the Northern Forum has been improved, and that this co-operation should be continued to foster synergies and to avoid duplication of effort.

The Co-operation Programme contains references to the possibilities for co-financing of projects. In co-operation with the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers will try to achieve new synergies, which will trigger co-financing on the part of the European Union of projects under the Northern Dimension.

The Arctic Co-operation Programme indicates the following order of priority:

Indigenous Peoples i.e. description and information of their living conditions and earnings potential as well as competence building and removal of obstacles to the production of traditional Arctic products. General business development and earnings potentials in sparsely populated areas. For 2004, a project based on last years project "A Family-based Reindeer Economy and Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry", as well as the "Study of Living Conditions" carried out by the Greenland Statistical Office, which has been going on for many years, and to which the Nordic Council of Ministers is one of several financing sources, will be financed.

Welfare in the Arctic particularly decisions promoting health and new ways of organising health care, for example, by using distance medical treatment, as well as establishing networks between women researchers and between various women's organisations. For 2004 four of the on-going projects, will be financed: "Developing a Journal of Circumpolar Health", planned to end in 2005, and "Arctic Human Development Report; "Teach the Teachers", and "Assessment of the Effect Attributable to Climate Change and UV". All three will be completed in the course of 2004.

Sustainable development in the Arctic areas based on the report "New Bearings for the Nordic Region". It includes the action plan for the protection of nature and the environment in the Arctic, biological diversity, Eco-tourism, etc. For 2004 the "Action Plan for Natural and Manmade Environment including two part-projects: "Nature Guides in the Arctic", and "Integration of Environmental Considerations into Research and Training", will be financed.

When selecting projects to be financed in 2004, importance has been attached to establishing a programme that takes account of all these priorities. However, the main emphasis of the new applications must be said to belong under the heading of Sustainable Development as largely they have to do with environmental issues.

In addition to Arctic co-operation, the international activities of the Nordic Council of Ministers include the Adjacent Areas Co-operation with our eastern neighbours, participation in the European Union's Northern Dimension and co-operation with the

West Nordic Region. These fields of co-operation are partly overlapping, for example, in the Arctic Window of the Northern Dimension. In the years to come, the Nordic Council of Ministers will seek to ensure improved political relevance of existing or potential Nordic co-operation with the West Nordic Region and with the neighbours of the West Nordic Region.

Copenhagen, 10 December, 2003

Nordic Council of Ministers' Co-operation Programme with the Arctic adopted on 12 June 2002

1 Background

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Co-operation Programme with the Arctic dates back to 1996 and is based on the Ministerial Proposal B 157/m of 1995.

Because of such things as the consolidation of Arctic co-operation through the Arctic Council established in 1996, and the fact that the Nordic Council of Ministers was given status as a permanent observer in the Arctic Council in October 2000, it has become necessary to review the Arctic Working Programme of the Nordic Council of Ministers. This has previously been pointed out in the report *Nærmere Norden* [Closer to the Norden] as well as in the proposal of the Nordic Council of Ministers for a revised strategy for co-operation in the Adjacent Areas adopted by the Ministers for Co-operation in March 2001.

2 Co-operation of the Nordic Council of Ministers Concerning Arctic Questions

In keeping with the Arctic Co-operation Programme of 1996, the objectives of Nordic co-operation concerning Arctic issues have, so far, been defined according to the following:

- Developing and improving the quality of life for the population and the economic and infrastructure preconditions for continuing habitation of the Arctic areas with a particular responsibility vis-à-vis the economic, social, cultural, and environmental situation of the Saami and Inuit peoples.
- Contributing towards maintaining the character of wilderness, the natural qualities, and biological diversity, as well as guaranteeing a defensible and sustainable use of local resources on the basis of the national interests of the Arctic states, and in keeping with the restrictions imposed by the ecological system.
- Reducing and removing the causes of pollution on land and sea as well as on glaciers and their adjacent areas through active and binding joint actions.
- Developing rational modes and bodies of co-operation between the Arctic states under a binding commitment to implement necessary and comprehensive measures through co-financing, joint project organisation, etc.

These overall objectives have been the guidelines for planning the Arctic co-operation activities of the Council of Ministers, and they will remain relevant for future co-operation. The general, overall objectives will be detailed in the three-year framework programmes and in annual working programmes. In the framework programme for 2000-2002 Arctic co-operation activities will fall into the following three thematic fields:

- Indigenous Peoples, description and information of their living conditions and earnings potential as well as competence building and removal of obstacles to the production of traditional Arctic products. Some of these activities have touched upon general business development in the Arctic areas and earnings potentials in sparsely populated areas.
- Welfare in the Arctic particularly measures promoting health and new ways of organising certain components of health care, for example, by using distance medical treatment, have been considered important as has establishing networks between women's organisations and women researchers in the Arctic.
- Sustainable development in the Arctic areas is based on the report New Bearings for the Nordic Region. In this thematic field we find the Action Plan for Protection of Nature and the Environment in the Arctic, biological diversity, eco-tourism, collection and follow-up on environmental data, local Agenda 21 for the Arctic, as well as analyses of levels and effects of PCBs in ecosystems and among the population of the Arctic.

In addition to the special Arctic working programmes, which have, since 1999, formed part of the Adjacent Areas Programme, the Council of Ministers has established an Arctic research programme. This programme falls into three principal themes: Natural processes on land, in marine areas and in the atmosphere; biological diversity and threats to the environment; living conditions for the inhabitants of the Arctic. Working methods have consisted in creating networks, setting up training of and mobility programmes for researchers, research seminars, and pilot projects. The programme, planned to run during the period 1999-2003, has a total budget of approximately 30 MDKK.

As an example of other large-scale Arctic activities carried out within the framework of the ordinary Nordic budgets, mention can be made of the Saami co-operation with a special informal Council of Ministers for Saami questions, the Nordic West B co-operation and activities under the framework of the Adjacent Areas Programme carried out in the Barents Region. To this should be added that the NAMMCO has been granted observer status in the Arctic Council.

The Nordic Council of Ministers considers it important to maintain and extend the existing practice according to which the Council of Ministers supports pan-Nordic endeavours in the Arctic co-operation.

3 Future Objectives for Nordic Council of Ministers Activities in Relation to Arctic Issues

3.1 Geographic Objectives

Several of the sectors under the Nordic Council of Ministers include Arctic activities aimed at the Nordic Circumpolar areas. Sectors carrying out extensive activities in the field of Arctic co-operation are among others health protection, equality, environment, fisheries, agriculture and forestry including reindeer herding, education, training and research as well as culture including Nordic co-operation concerning Saami issues.

In 1999-2000 the Nordic Council of Ministers took part on ad hoc basis as an observer in the meetings of the Arctic Council. In October 2000 the Council of Ministers was granted status as a permanent observer. The purpose of the Council's participation in the activities of the Arctic Council has mainly been to establish synergies in activities to promote a sustainable development in all respects in the Arctic area. In this connection the objective is to ensure that pan-Nordic interests concerning the entire circumpolar area can be protected. In practice this means that the Nordic Council of Ministers in collaboration with the Nordic countries will actively work in favour of Nordic interests in the Arctic co-operation structures, primarily within the framework of the Arctic Council.

In addition to the Nordic countries, three large countries – USA, Canada and Russia – are members of the Arctic Council. This geographic state of affairs makes it particularly important for the Nordic countries to join forces, each on its own premises, to influence developments in those fields where they have developed common policies.

3.2 Thematic Fields

The point of departure for choosing thematic fields is the needs of the Arctic populations and the areas. The Council of Ministers aims its efforts at co-operation fields chosen, partly, on the basis of the criteria for so-called Nordic Utility, partly on the basis of the specific competence available in the various sectors of the Council of Ministers and of which advantage can be taken also in Arctic co-operation. On the basis of these criteria the Council of Ministers will be active particularly within the following thematic fields:

Welfare, including Health and Equality: This also covers the co-operation already established for measures promoting good health, particularly combating transferable diseases as well as co-operation to further develop distance medical treatment in the Arctic regions. Establishing networks between women's organisations and in particular women's situation and earnings potential in the Arctic areas will be at the centre of attention. As far as efforts in favour of persons with limited working capacity are concerned, co-operation, exchange of experience, and the creation of networks can improve the chances of integrating these persons into working life and into society as such in the Arctic areas. Long-term development efforts to define indicators for living conditions on the Arctic populations' own terms will be pursued. The objective is, among other things, to be able to describe, in particular, the living conditions of the indigenous peoples with a view to ensuring that these populations will continue to have a sufficient livelihood in the Arctic areas.

Children and Adolescents: The conditions under which children and adolescents grow up are of key importance to the future development of the Arctic. In the Nordic Arctic areas and particularly in the Russian Arctic areas there are conspicuous problems indicating that special efforts are required to ensure the integration of children and adolescents into society. The Council of Ministers will take initiatives to guarantee to the young generations conditions for growing up on the basis of available experience in the fields of health care, education and training, social welfare, communication of culture, and the voluntary sector. In the Action Plan for children and adolescents in the Adjacent Areas special attention will be paid to the needs of the Arctic communities.

Development of Business and Industry: Efforts in this field are aimed at intensifying activities to promote the economic development of sparsely populated areas. Regional development is of decisive importance for the future earnings potential of the Arctic population. In this field, on the one hand, contributions should be made to develop the infrastructure and communication systems that are necessary to allow traditional Arctic industries to develop further, at to provide new industries, such as tourism, with favourable framework conditions. On the other hand, it is important to continue co-operation in such fields as, for example, competence building in the fields of processing products derived from primary industry and to remove barriers to trade in these products, but also in the fields of modern industries which can be made to evolve in natural continuation of the traditional Arctic primary industries. By way of an example mention can be made of sustainable tourism in the socio-cultural, economic, and environmental sense of the word.

Sustainable Utilisation of Resources: Because of the vulnerability of the Arctic environment, sustainable utilisation of natural resources is among the most highly prioritised themes in the field of Arctic co-operation. In the various working groups and projects under the auspices of the Arctic Council, the Council of Ministers will continue to play a particularly active role in the efforts to ensure sustainable development. In this context, the Nordic countries are actively pursuing the promotion of a regionally sustainable development in the Arctic across national borders, a development based on a joint endorsement of the concept of sustainability.

Environment and Energy: On the basis of the Strategy for Sustainable Development - New Bearings for the Nordic Region, the years 2001-2004 will see special efforts to promote the implementation of international agreements limiting the use, and thus the transportation, of persistent organic pollutants (POP) and heavy metals to and within the Arctic, to promote the implementation of the Århus Convention, contributions to develop efficient local administrations to ensure sustainable development, contributions to intensifying indicators for sustainable development and reporting.

In the sparsely populated Arctic areas, new alternative forms of energy supply will be examined.

Culture, Education and Training, Research, and Mobility: The Nordic Council of Ministers possesses a special kind of know-how when it comes to co-operation between universities and other institutions of higher education. Co-operation is well established between Nordic universities and their vice-chancellors. Nordic university co-operation will be used as an example for the development of co-operation and virtual modes of teaching within the framework of the so-called Arctic University, which consists of a network of universities and other similar institutions in the Arctic. The Council of Ministers considers it to be extremely relevant to develop research concerning the Arctic areas, and in this connection a network of Arctic educational and research institutions have an important role to play within the international scientific and scholarly community.

Cultural interaction across national borders enjoys long traditions in the Arctic areas of the Norden. These are traditions that should be pursued, intensified and which should be perceived in the context of the cultural co-operation taking place under the auspices of the Barents Co-operation.

Research: The Nordic Council of Ministers finds it important to maintain a research focus in the Arctic, including such research which has its base in the universities of the Arctic area. The Nordic Arctic Research Programme, financed by the Council of Ministers, has been highly significant.

The Council of Ministers has developed a number of Nordic mobility programmes as well as the Nordic Grant Scheme for the Baltic States and North-western Russia. They may serve as an example of mobility programmes developed with the purpose of offering inhabitants of the Arctic an opportunity to gain access to education and training and to provide educational institutions in the Arctic with an opportunity to develop appropriate division of labour and a spectrum of relevant education and training programmes. In connection with the specific planning of mobility programmes existing programmes should be taken into consideration in order to avoid duplication of effort.

At primary and lower secondary school levels initiatives are taken aimed at upholding the cultural heritage and perception of natural phenomena of the Arctic populations.

3.3 Co-operation Instruments

Existing instruments for Arctic co-operation are being further developed, and synergies are exploited whenever the thematic fields and instruments of the Co-operation Programme for the Arctic coincide with other activities. Similarly to what is being done under the Adjacent Areas programme, the following instruments are used:

Information and Contact Activities as well as Networking: The Council of Ministers participates in Arctic co-operation structures and promotes exchange of information on its own initiative, for example, by providing information on its web-sites. For the purpose of maintaining contact, existing Nordic co-operation structures are utilised as much as possible; these include the Nordic institutions and the Norden House in the Nordic Arctic area, and the Norden House as well as the information points of the Council of Ministers in the Barents area.

Mobility Programme: The Council of Ministers supports the Arctic area Grant Schemes allowing students and researchers to take part in co-operation between universities in the Arctic area. The Grant Scheme takes advantage of the experience gained by the Council of Ministers from other grant and mobility programmes, in particular the Nordic Grant Schemes for the Baltic Republics and North-western Russia. The Grant Scheme is used to finance the Nordic and Russian participants' travelling costs incurred by taking part in relevant activities. The mobility programme should be co-ordinated with other similar programmes financed by other Arctic countries to the benefit of their own citizens. Canada, for example, has taken an initiative to ensure co-operation and co-ordination concerning such programmes.

Co-operation Projects: When selecting projects, priority is to such projects as are of joint Nordic interest, and for which co-operation strengthens the Nordic political profile and which, seen from a Nordic point of view, yields the highest added value within the Circumpolar co-operation of the Arctic Council. Co-financing of projects is possible and in this connection funds go towards financing Nordic participation in co-operation

measures affecting the Arctic. Special importance is attributed to the development of new ideas for Arctic co-operation projects.

4 Co-operation Structures and Contacts to Other Relevant Players

The Council of Ministers participates in the activities of the Arctic Council as a permanent observer. In addition, the Council of Ministers participates in financing co-operation within the working groups of the Arctic Council: the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), the 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), as well as number of ad-hoc working groups established by ministerial meetings in the Arctic Council. This also pertains to two new working programmes introduced at the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in the autumn of 2000: Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP) and Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA). These programmes include important tasks in an Arctic context in areas of great significance to the Council of Ministers.

Arctic issues are also discussed in other arenas in which the Nordic countries and the Nordic Council of Ministers are present. Here special mention should be made of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council. Arctic issues constitute an important element in the development of co-operation concerning the EU's Northern Dimension as well as the EU's so-called Arctic Window.

In accordance with the final act, (the Barrow Declaration) adopted by the Arctic Council at its meeting in October 2000, the Arctic countries should closely co-ordinate their treatment of relevant issues concerning protection of the environment and sustainable development in the Arctic in various international fora.

5 Organisation of Co-operation

Since 1999 the Co-operation Programme for the Arctic has been a component in the Adjacent Areas Programme. In order to lend stronger prominence to co-operation concerning Arctic issues and to underscore its growing political importance, the Co-operation Programme for the Arctic will be separated from the Adjacent Areas programme as from 2003. The purpose is to involve the expertise available in the various sectors of the Council of Ministers more efficiently in Arctic co-operation. As relevant projects corresponding to pan-Nordic interests are initiated, the possibility of giving higher priority to Arctic co-operation will be considered.

The specification of objectives and the implementation plans for the Arctic are clarified in separate annual working programmes along the lines of those existing for the Adjacent Areas activities. In parallel with the compilation of the new Framework Programme for co-operation with the Adjacent Areas 2003-2005, a three-year framework programme for Arctic co-operation is prepared. It is assumed that a review of the Council of Ministers' Co-operation Programme for the Arctic will be carried out in 2005. The review will take up all of the Council of Ministers' Arctic activities.

In order to effect better co-ordination between the actions of the Council of Ministers and those of the national Nordic bodies, and in order for work of joint Nordic interest to be more effective, an expert committee is appointed under the Ministers for Co-operation and the Co-operation Committee; the expert committee is made up of members of the Nordic Senior Arctic Officials Committee and the Autonomous Areas and has an advisory capacity in connection with the composition, implementation, and follow-up of the Council of Ministers' Arctic activities. The Nordic Senior Arctic Officials had already begun an informal co-operation with the purpose of exchanging experience and of co-ordinating Nordic positions prior to meetings in the Arctic Council. Since 2000 the Council of Ministers has participated in these meetings. Inuit Circumpolar Conference, ICC; Greenland as well as the Saami Council have been invited to take part in the work in correspondence with the Council of Ministers' guidelines for co-operation with the voluntary organisations.

The secretariat of the Council of Ministers is in charge of the secretarial functions of the new Expert Committee.

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE:

Bud. No.	Budget item
Proj.No.	Project Number
Activity	Describes project - see also enclosed data sheet for each project
Duration	Duration of project
Total	Multi-annual proj. Amount over several years
Amount 04	Total project amount for 2004
External	Financing outside the NCM including national Nordic financing and financing from the countries themselves
Sector	Financing from the NCM's sectors, money outside of the the Adjacent Areas Programme
Applied for 2004	Amount applied for from the Adjacent Areas Programme in 2003
Allocated 2004	This column indicates the amounts allocated in 2004
Allocated 03	Amount allocated from the Adjacent Areas Programme in 2003
RU	% share of project funds to be spent in Northwest Russia
E	% share of project funds to be spent in Estonia
LA	% share of project funds to be spent in Latvia
LI	% share of project funds to be spent in Lithuania
N	% share of project funds to be spent in the Nordic countries

PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2004 Amount</u>	<u>2004 External</u>	<u>2004 Sector</u>	<u>2004 Application</u>	<u>2004 Allocated</u>	<u>2003 Allocated</u>	<u>Russia</u>	<u>The Nordic countris</u>
<u>ARCTIC CO-OPERATION</u>										
Additional allocation							5070			
Total amount for projects in 2004							300			
							5370			
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ISSUES										
A family based reindeer economy and sust	2002-'04	5096	2799	879	0	985	700	300		80
reindeer husbandry and wild reindeer.Ph.2										
Comparative study of Arctic living condit.s	1997-'04	3741			0	600	500	540		
WELFARE IN THE ARCTIC										
Developing Journal of Circumpolar Health	2003-'05	3400	440	40	0	400	350	300		
Arctic Human Development Report-AHDR	2002-'04	4547	1396	496	0	900	640	550		
Assessment of effects attributable to	2003-'04	1295	640	140	0	500	400	0		
climate changes and UV AMAP										
SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES										
Action Plan for the protection of natural and	2000-'04									
manmade environemnts		450	450	0	0	450	450		0	100
a) Nature Guides in the Arctic	2004								0	100
b) Proj.3 in the Nordic Action Plan, integrating		600	467	0	0	467	250			
environmental consids into reseach & train.	2004-05					150	150	150		
Co-ordination and administration	2004					4452	3440			
NEW APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED										
AMAP/Oilpollution of Northern waters	2004-06	3160	970	470	0	500	430		0	100
Renewable energy systems in the WNR	2003-04	1415	1195	515	170	660	600		0	
AMAP /ACIA intl. Scient.Symposium on	2004	1600	1600	1350	0	250	200		3	3
climate change i the arctic										
Nordic Arctic Research Planning Worksh.	2004					495	300		0	100
Strengthening the role of indigenous						216	200			
communities in environmental protection										
Womens part.decis.Arctic Fisher.mgmt	2003-04	3283	1821	1445	0	376	200			
						2497	1930			
NEW APPLICATIONS REJECTED										
Halibut resources in Greenland						1941				
Teach the teachers, Barents virtual univ.	2003-'04	102	63	8	0	55				
IKT in Arctic areas conference Iceland	2003	699	699	449	0	250				
IPS/Emerging Circumpolar contam.issues	2004	195	195	20	0	175				
IPS/ACIA Arctic Indigenous peoples and	2004	260	260	140	0	120				
						2541				

Reindeer Husbandry and Wild Reindeer/ Caribou

Objective: The objective serves a dual purpose. 1) Focussing on wild reindeer herds in Russia and the Caribou herds in Alaska and Canada and their impact on domestic reindeer herds in the same regions, and 2) the status of family in a time characterised by swift change and increasing external pressures on this industry. One such pressure is that of wild reindeer and caribou herds.

Activities: 1) The Arctic Council Project, "Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry" has shown that the fast growing wild reindeer and caribou herds constitute an ever growing threat to domestic reindeer husbandry. This part of the project intends to focus on the growing wild reindeer and caribou herds and the management of these herds by the individual countries. Furthermore the projects will examine how different management of the herds impacts differently on the northern communities. The aim of the project is to gain a better insight into the connection between herd fluctuations and management and the impact of these factors on a sustainable development of reindeer husbandry. 2) Traditionally family has a strong position in reindeer husbandry. It goes without saying that the importance of family or its members will vary between the different cultures in the Arctic. What will happen to the role of family in the "modern" world of rapid change constantly requiring new adjustments? In addition to the external pressures of loss of available grass land, predators, wild reindeer/caribou, disruptions to the community, expansion of infrastructure, etc., is there also a dissolution of the traditional family values to be observed, or can such external pressures strengthen the role of family in reindeer husbandry? In this respect the main focus will be on reindeer husbandry in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia.

Target group: researchers, students, local actors in the areas mentioned.

Participating Nordic Countries: Norway, Finland, Sweden.

Participating countries in the Russia:

Other countries: USA, Canada.

Co-operation partners: The steering committee will be composed of the following members: a representative of the Ministry for Agriculture of each country, a representative of the Nordic Council of Ministers (if desired), a representative of World Reindeer Herders and a representative of the Nordic Saami Institute in Kautokeino. Furthermore, a project manager from the Tromsø University and a Russian co-ordinator from the State University of St. Petersburg act as secretaries to the steering committee.

The research group will consist of researchers from the Universities of Lapland (Finland), Uppsala (Sweden), and Tromsø (Norway). Other Nordic research environments that are interested in the project may join it. In addition, Canadian and US American/Alaskan researchers will be invited to join the project.

Total budget: 5.096.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas funds 2004: 500.000 DKK

Sector funds:

External funds:

Responsible sector / Department: Agriculture and Forestry /Environment and Resource Policy

Responsible consultant in the NCM: Lise Lykke Steffenssen, tel +45 33 96 02 56,
lls@norden.org

Administrative body: Centre for Saami Studies, Tromsø University, Breivika, N-9037 Tromsø.

Duration of project: 2002-2004

Living Conditions in the Arctic, Inuit, Saami and Indigenous Peoples in Chukotka and the Kola Peninsular

Objective: Developing new research and comparative studies of living conditions, specific study of the living conditions among Saami and Inuits, analysis and evolving improved decision-making bases.

Activities: Living conditions study, analysis, researchers' network

Target group: Saami and Inuits in Greenland, Nunavut, Nunavik, Alaska, Chukotka, Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

Participating Nordic countries: Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

Participating countries in the Adjacent Areas: The Arctic.

Any other countries: Alaska, Greenland.

Co-operation partners: SLIICA Norden, relevant authorities.

Total budget: 3.741.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas funds 2004: 500.000 DKK

Sector funds: 0

External funds:

Responsible sector / Department: Social/health, VE

Responsible consultant in NCM: Nils-Petter Karlsson, tel +45 33 96 02 93, nk@norden.org

Administrative body: Grønlands Statistik, box 1025 Nuuk
Tel. + 299 34 5000 , fax: +299 322954

Duration of project: 2001 – 2004

Developing the Journal of Circumpolar Health

Objective: Updating the periodical and making it available on the Internet

Activities: Web-design, developing the periodical and its distribution

Target group: Health professionals in the circumpolar areas

Participating Nordic Countries: All

Participating countries in the Adjacent Areas: Russia

Other countries: Alaska, Canada.

Co-operation partners: The Arctic Council

Total budget: 3.400.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas funds 2004: 350.000 DKK

Sector funds:

External funds:

Responsible sector / Department: Social /Health VE

Responsible consultant in the NCM: Nils-Petter Karlsson, tel +45 33 96 02 93, nk@norden.org

Administrative body: Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland

Duration of project: 2002-2004

Remark: Because of the size of the budget, partial approval is recommended

Arctic Human Development Report

Objective: A scientifically based survey and evaluation of sustainable human development in the Arctic - a basis for future decisions

Activities: Collecting information, preparing the report, developing methods

Target group: Populations in the Northern districts, decision makers, researchers

Participating Nordic Countries: Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland

Participating countries in the Adjacent Areas: Russia

Other countries: Alaska, Canada.

Co-operation partners: Nordic editors' network

Total budget: 4.547.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas funds 2004: 540.000 DKK

Sector funds:

External funds:

Responsible sector / Department: Social /Health VE

Responsible consultant in the NCM: Nils-Petter Karlsson, tel +45 33 96 02 93, nk@norden.org

Administrative body: Center for Arctic Medicine, Oulo University, Finland

Duration of project: 2003-2005

Remark: Because of the size of the budget, partial approval is recommended

Assessment of effects attributable to climate change and UV in Northern areas, particularly in North-western Russia

Objective: Procuring existing environmental data on climate change in North-western Russia as well as initiating simple long-term observations in the area. Findings are to be included in AMAP's Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA)

Activities: Establishing co-operation with various Russian institutions and ensure the participation of Russian researchers in the process together with Nordic researchers

Target group: Researchers and decision makers

Participating Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland

Participating countries in the Adjacent Areas: The Arctic

Other countries: (USA, Canada, Germany, and The United Kingdom)

Co-operation partners: Svalbard University, Marine Research Institute, Danish Polar Centre, Finish Meteorological Institute

Total budget: 1.295.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas funds 2004: 400.000 DKK

Sector funds:

External funds:

Responsible sector / Department: Environment

Responsible consultant in the NCM: Birgitte Wøhlk, tel +45 33 96 02 82, bsw@norden.org

Administrative body: AMAP Norway

Duration of project: 2003-2004

Nature Guides in the Arctic

Objective:

- Producing shared basic information/manual, including material concerning cultural environments, for nature guides and other guides working in the Arctic.
- Examining how nature guides and other guides may contribute to influencing attitudes both in relation to the indigenous population and to tourists/tourism.

Activities:

- Identifying the most important challenges facing nature guides in the Arctic both in terms of vulnerable natural/cultural environments and the harsh climate as elements in the work of nature guides and the day-to-day activities of tourists.
- Compiling good examples of education, environmental interpretation, rules, guidelines, and practical solutions for nature guides.
- If relevant, submitting proposals for common guidelines for nature guides.
- Providing other relevant recommendations.

Target Group: Environment managers and the tourism sectors in Iceland, Greenland and Spitsbergen.

Participating Nordic Countries: Iceland, Greenland, and Norway.

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas:

Any Other Countries: Denmark.

Co-operation Partners: The tourism sector in the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Total Budget: 450.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: 450.000 DKK from the Arctic allocation

Sector Funds:

External Funds:

Responsible Sector / Department: Environment / NFK Arctic Steering Group.

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Danfríður Skarphéðinsdóttir, tel +45 33 96 02 81, dsk@norden.org

Administrative Body: Nordic Working Group for Nature, Outdoor Life and the Cultural Environment Group (NKF).

Duration of Project: 2004

Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Research and Education Sector

Objective:

- Developing guidelines for field based research and education.
- Presenting good examples of environmentally friendly use of resources in the sector.

Activities:

- Identifying the most important environmental challenges in connection with field based activities and the construction/operation of infrastructure.
- Compiling good examples of rules, guidelines, and practical solutions for such activities.
- If possible, developing proposals for common guidelines.
- Providing other relevant recommendations.

Target Group: Representatives of researchers, university-level education, and environment management.

Participating Nordic Countries: Norway, Iceland, Greenland.

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas:

Any Other Countries:

Co-operation Partners: Saami Council, EEA, UNEP.

Total Budget: 600.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: 250.000 DKK

Sector Funds: 350.000 DKK

External Funds:

Responsible Sector / Department: Environment / Arctic Steering Group of NFK.

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Danfríður Skarphéðinsdóttir, tel +45 33 96 02 81, dsk@norden.org

Administrative Body: Nordic Working Group for Nature, Outdoor Life and the Cultural Environment Group (NKF).

Duration of Project: 2004 -2005.

Oil Pollution in Northern Marine Areas and Organisms

Objective: Documenting the level of oil in the Davis Strait, the North Atlantic, the Barents Sea, the White Sea, and the Kara Sea. Data will be used to document the present status of water, selected organisms, and sea sedimentation.

Activities: Charting the pollution status in the North as well as clarifying sources and possible remedies; publication of data, collection of samples, workshops.

Target Group: Researchers, administrators and the Ministers of the Environment.

Participating Nordic Countries: Iceland, Denmark, Norway.

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas: Russia.

Any Other Countries:

Co-operation Partners: AMAP, observers: EEA, UNEP, UN, ECE,WHO, OSPARCOM.

Total Budget: 970.000 DKK in 2004 (2004-2006 DKK 3.160.000).

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: 430.000 DKK

Sector Funds: 70.000 DKK

External Funds: 470.000 DKK

Responsible Sector / Department: Environment / E&R.

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Birgitte Wøhlk, tel +45 33 96 02 82, bsw@norden.org .

Administrative Body: AMAP.

Duration of Project: 2004-2006

Renewable Energy Systems in the West Nordic Region

Objective: The main objective of the project is to determine and chart energy supplies and to prepare an energy model for small supply areas in the West Nordic Region as well as to assess and propose measures to promote environmentally friendly energy supplies in these areas. The principal aim of the systems studies is, on the one hand, to acquire new knowledge and information about the potentials and impacts of exploiting new alternative energy sources and technologies for electricity supply within specific supply areas as well as generally in the West Nordic Region, and on the other, to obtain new data to be used in the design of any future demonstration plant for, e.g., wind/hydrogen.

Activities: The first stage of the project includes the determination and charting of existing electricity requirements and electricity systems focussing on small supply areas not coupled up to an overall electricity transmission grid. Furthermore the environmental impact of electricity supply will be charted. In this connection, an energy planning model will be developed and established. The model forms the basis of further analyses and assessment of different supply scenarios and strategies. By means of the overall energy models alternatives and specific projects are to be identified. On the basis of this case studies are to be carried out for 2 - 3 selected locations in the West Nordic Region. At least one of these systems studies will focus on wind/hydrogen technology for Arctic areas, whereas the others might include, for instance, hydropower, wind power, solar energy or hydrogen as energy carriers.

Target Group: Organisations and authorities responsible for the implementation of renewable energy technologies in small supply areas in the Arctic areas of North America, Russia and the Nordic countries.

Participating Nordic Countries: Iceland, Greenland, the Faeroes, Norway, Denmark.

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas:

Any Other Countries:

Co-operation Partners: ECON Analysis, Denmark, NIRAS, Denmark, IFE, Norway.

Total Budget: DKK 1,415,000

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: DKK 600,000

Sector Funds: DKK 170,000

External Funds: DKK 585,000

Responsible Sector / Department: The Energy Sector

Responsible Consultant in the NC: Karin Widegren, Tel +45 3396 0285, kw@norden.org

Administrative Body: Nordic Energy Research.

Duration of Project: 2003-2004

ACIA International Scientific Symposium on Climate Change in the Arctic

Objective: Organising an international conference to study new data on climate change in the Arctic and its possible impact on human beings, fauna, and flora.

Activities: Conference plus preparatory meetings.

Target Group: Researchers, officials, representatives of the indigenous peoples.

Participating Nordic Countries: Denmark, Norway, Iceland.

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas: Russia.

Any Other Countries:

Co-operation Partners: Saami Council, EEA, UNEP.

Total Budget: 1.600.000 DKK

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: 200.000 DKK

Sector Funds: 50.000 DKK

External Funds: 1.350.000 DKK

Responsible Sector / Department: Environment / E&R.

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Birgitte Wøhlk, tel +45 33 96 02 82, bsw@norden.org .

Administrative Body: AMAP.

Duration of Project: 2004

Nordic Arctic Research Planning Workshop 2004

Objective: To identify the future needs on Arctic Research and to prepare a Nordic strategy to be formulated for the upcoming second international conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) in 2005 and provide possible input for International Polar Year 2007 (IPY 2007) planning.

Activities: Workshop 2004 in Oulu

Target Group: Key scientists in Arctic research

Participating Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden

Participating Countries in the Arctic: Finland, Norway, Sweden, Canada, USA, Russia

Any Other Countries: -

Co-operation Partners: -

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: DKK 300.000 (provided all conditions are met)

Sector Funds: 0

External Funds: 0

Responsible Sector / Department: Dep. for Education and Research / Research

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Kate Runeberg, tel +45 33 96 03 83, kr@norden.org

Administrative Body: RAIPON, Russian Federation

Duration of Project: 2004

Strengthening the role of Indigenous Communities in the Environmental Protection

Objective: To strengthen the role of Indigenous Communities in the Environmental Protection, by education and training.

Activities: Surveys, seminars, publication of results, incorporation of traditional knowledge into practical activities

Target Group: Indigenous communities in the far North

Participating Nordic Countries: Saami Youth Organisation "Davi Nuorra" (based in Sweden)

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas: Northwest Russia

Any Other Countries: -

Co-operation Partners: Saami organisations

Adjacent Areas Funds 2004: 200.000 DKK

Sector Funds: 0

External Funds: 27.000 DKK

Responsible Sector / Department: Dep. for Environment and Resources / Adjacent Areas

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Astrid Nærum, tel +45 33 96 03 27, amn@norden.org

Administrative Body: RAIPON, Russian Federation

Duration of Project: 2004 – 2006

Women's Participation in the Decision Making Processes of Arctic Fisheries Management

Project No.:

Objective: Charting the way in which women in the North are involved in fisheries management and the central decision making processes in the Arctic areas.

Activities: The project will co-ordinate research on the role and influence of indigenous women and men as well as of other population groups in the fisheries sectors in Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Canada.

Target Group: Politicians, researchers, women's organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, authorities.

Participating Nordic Countries: Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Participating Countries in the Adjacent Areas:

Any Other Countries: Canada

Co-operation Partners: The Northern Feminist University, University of Iceland, Luleå University, Maniitsoq.

Total Budget: DKK 3,283,601

Adjacent Areas Funds: DKK 600,000

Sector Funds:

External Funds: The project has received support from the Saami Parliament, Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nordic Atlantic Co-operation (NORA) Nordland's Municipality, Norway, Regional Adjacent Areas Fund, Sweden.

Responsible Sector / Department:

Responsible Consultant in the NCM: Jesper Heldbo Tel: +45 3396 0255 jh@norden.org

Administrative Body: The Northern Feminist University, Nordfold, Norway

Duration of Project: 2003-2004

New project applications(5) not recommended

- Halibut resources in Greenland
- Teach the Teachers
- IKT in Arctic areas conference Iceland
- IPS/Emerging Circumpolar contam. issues
- IPS/ACIA Arctic Indigenous Peoples