

**Trip Report**  
**Craig L. Fleener**  
**Gwich'in Council International**  
**Selfoss & Reykjavik, Iceland**  
**May 1-8, 2004**

**Purpose of Trip**

To attend the SDWG and PAME Working Groups and the SAO meetings in Selfoss and Reykjavik, Iceland.

**Background Information**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**IPS P.P. Consultation**

Since *Stephen Mills*, current chair of the IPS, was unable to attend I served as chair for these meetings.

*John Crump* provided an overview of the budget, five-year forecasted budget, work plan, and then we reviewed the final draft of three of the ACIA climate change posters. The forecasted budget included a 1% increase each year. The posters were completed for the Saami, Gwich'in, and RAIPON PP's (Permanent Participants).

*Bob Corell* provided an overview of the ACIA. We also discussed our communication process and methods about getting the word out about the results of the ACIA from the indigenous peoples perspectives, and possible collaborative venues. Because of the suspended development of the Policy Document by the Arctic Council, we discussed developing our own. There may be an opportunity to begin drafting a PP Policy Document at Arendal, Norway in June at a meeting of PP's sponsored by *Kathrine Ivestt-Johnsen* at GRID-Arendal to discuss ACIA & AHDR communication strategies and priorities.

*Victoria Gofman*, AIA, presented her proposal to the Arctic Council on AICEMI.

The PP's met with *Vitaly Churkin*, incoming AC Chairman (beginning after Nov 2004 Ministerial Meeting) and Russian Federation SAO. Discussions centered on how the Russians can assist PP's over the next two years. Four related issues were identified: 1. Visa complications, especially for indigenous neighbors with Russia, 2. Russia signing the Kyoto Protocol, 3. Russia signing the U.N. Indigenous Peoples Declaration, 4. Financial support for Russia's PP's.

Vitaly said the first three meetings will probably be in the Yakutsk Region, St. Petersburg, & Moscow. He wants to hold most of the meetings in the northern part of Russia.

## **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### *Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting*

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting. The primary discussion was on accepting the ACIA. *Bob Corell* gave an excellent overview on what we've learned and what the implications of climate change may be. Ten key findings were identified. He's stated that all chapters should be completed and signed by the authors by July. It was decided that Cambridge will publish the documents at a cost of \$60.00 and \$6.00 for the scientific report and overview document. The reports will be made available on the internet.

*Paul Pestrud, ACIA*, indicated that there will be an ACIA Symposium from 9-12 November presenting scientific results and panel discussions.

## **May 4<sup>th</sup>**

### *Joint CAFF-AMAP Meeting Cont...*

This morning work focused on finalizing the transmittal letter for submitting the ACIA to the SAO's and Ministers. There was discussion on maintaining the momentum of the ACIA. Two follow-up workshop ideas were presented. One that would allow us to develop research ideas the second that would look at what's next-This discussion would address assessment and possibly mitigation.

*Samantha Smith, World Wildlife Fund*, and I went to her office and discussed two projects they are working on. The climate witness program is a global program with numerous sub-projects that may provide funding to indigenous organizations to provide information relation to indigenous knowledge regarding climate change. July is the proposed application deadline. The global toxics campaign is a project where WWF anticipates the European Community begins a chemical testing program that will identify potentially hazardous substances before they are authorized for released into the environment with an intent to prevent negative environmental and human impacts before they occur.

*Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, GRID Arendal*, is developing a mapping project relating to pollution and its effects on indigenous peoples. They are concerned with major environmental challenges and identifying methods of adaptation to rapid changes in the environment. They would like to cooperate with indigenous organizations to accomplish these projects. I spoke to her about the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments years of experience conducting environmental and traditional use mapping projects. They were impressed and would like to cooperate on several joint projects with the Gwich'in Council International on similar project ideas.

## **May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*S.A.O.* 's met today and received working group activity updates. ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, EPPR, PAME & SDWG all provided status reports. Additionally, The Arctic Marine

Strategic Plan-2<sup>nd</sup> draft was made available on March 2004, Sustainable Development Action Plan, and the Arctic Human Development Report were presented.

### **May 6<sup>th</sup>**

AMSP discussions continued to today. I recommend that indigenous people be included at the beginning of any marine planning. I also indicated that the maps of Alaska in use by the arctic Council working groups is too non-inclusive. Nearly the entire state is excluded. Unfortunately, there was a lot of time spent editing the text of the AMSP.

*Robert Corell* presented an update of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. He discussed the need for a good quality strategy to communicate the results of the assessment. As part of his discussion the PP's presented various methods they would like to use to communicate their assessment of the findings.

There was a nearly invisible discussion of the status of the states for funding PP's. Canada was unhappy with the blatant refusal of the Arctic Council & states to resolve this issue. PP's retained the high ground by stating that we had no more to say on the issue until we received a respectable response from the states. They still have not responded to last year's discussion and request for resolution of this problem.

### **Conclusion**

The trip was very successful. I accomplished my main goal of becoming more familiar with the ACIA scientific and overview document and the process it must go through to be accepted and strategies for implementation of mitigation procedures. I also made numerous comments regarding the increased involvement of indigenous peoples in the scientific process and in communicating the ACIA results to government, industry, indigenous peoples and the broader public, as a means of insuring our viewpoint is included. I also made contact with two organizations that are supportive of working cooperatively with indigenous organizations, namely the Gwich'in Council International, to accomplish common goals.