

Fundamental Principles for the Use of Traditional Knowledge in Strengthening the work of the Arctic Council

(Preliminary Draft)

1. Recognize the value of Traditional Knowledge (TK) as a systematic way of thinking that will enhance and illuminate our understanding of the Arctic environment and promote a more complete knowledge base.
2. Build mutual trust and respect, enhancing dialogue between disciplines and across approaches through the promotion of TK in the Arctic Council.
3. Recognize the integral role of Permanent Participants (PPs) with respect to the appropriate use of TK within the Arctic Council (AC).
4. Encourage meaningful engagement through systematic and consistent approaches to the use of TK in the work of the AC, including that TK is acquired and applied in accordance with appropriate ethical principles, where applicable, and is included in all stages of AC projects from conception to outputs.
5. Recognize the need to bridge knowledge systems, including through leveraging existing networks and exploring new opportunities for knowledge exchange; as well as developing education and communication strategies to broaden mutual understanding.
6. Recognize the important role of Arctic Indigenous communities and peoples as TK holders, and that they should enjoy the advantages of new knowledge derived through their contribution of TK; and foster effective communication with, and among, communities by using appropriate, innovative and effective communication tools.
7. Support the improved use of TK in AC activities through on-going efforts to enhance capacity and address resource needs.

Proposals for Implementing Guiding Principles on TK

(Preliminary Draft)

Guiding Principle #1: *Recognize the value of Traditional Knowledge (TK) as a systematic way of thinking which will enhance and illuminate our understanding of the Arctic environment and promote a more complete knowledge base.*

Guiding Principle #2: *Build mutual trust and respect, enhancing dialogue between disciplines and across approaches through the promotion of TK in the Arctic Council.*

Guiding Principle #3: *Recognize the integral role of Permanent Participants (PPs) with respect to the appropriate use of TK within the Arctic Council (AC).*

Implementation proposals:

1. Peer review of TK elements in applicable AC projects to be conducted by PPs.
2. Identification of appropriate TK holders to be conducted by PPs.

Guiding Principle #4: *Encourage meaningful engagement through systematic and consistent approaches to the use of TK in the work of the AC, including that TK is acquired and applied in accordance with appropriate ethical principles, where applicable, and is included in all stages of AC projects from conception to outputs.*

Implementation proposals:

1. Where projects involve a TK component, include a lessons learned exercise upon conclusion (as part of the proposal) that focuses on what worked well or what could have been improved with respect to the use of information from TK holders and/or methodologies (including perspectives of researchers, TK holders, and communities, involved in the project). Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Arctic Biodiversity Assessment could be one of the pilots for this.
2. Include section on TK in project proposal templates, to show whether a project has a TK component, and if so, how it will be used (including resource allocations, impact on timelines, communication and data management plans); and if not, explain in that section why a TK component is not applicable or feasible. (Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) could pilot).
3. Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) compilation of declaratory language on TK and review of applicable ethical guidelines.
4. ACS identification of PP-initiated projects and those where PPs had significant engagement, and review of lessons learned.

5. Include a TK column on ACS project tracking tool.
6. Employ methodologies that promote synergy of knowledge systems, such as co-production methodology (e.g. participatory approach) and/or parallel approaches emphasizing complementarity between knowledge systems. Demonstrate proof of concept through a short timeline project in one of the working groups.
7. Demonstrate and evaluate use of TK in project development through pilot project(s) in AC working groups (e.g. CAFF, SDWG-adaptation initiative).

Guiding Principle #5: *Recognize the need to bridge knowledge systems, including through leveraging existing networks and exploring new opportunities for knowledge exchange; as well as developing education and communication strategies to broaden mutual understanding.*

Implementation proposals:

1. Conduct outreach to enhance understanding of the applicability of TK knowledge systems and highlight best practices (e.g. TK outreach events on margins of AC meetings, develop brochure highlighting TK in the AC/Chairmanship context).
2. Use indigenous knowledge institutions and programs to facilitate the bridging of different knowledge systems, interaction between TK holders and researchers, knowledge exchange between domestic and circumpolar platforms, as well as communication and outreach activities.
3. The AC Chairmanship initiative “Promoting Traditional Ways of Life” could be an early champion of this principle.

Guiding Principle #6: *Recognize the important role of Arctic Indigenous communities and peoples as TK holders, and that they should enjoy the advantages of new knowledge derived through their contribution of TK; and foster effective communication with, and among, communities by using appropriate, innovative and effective communication tools.*

Implementation proposals:

1. Effectively communicate results and findings to communities that have contributed TK to the project in question.
2. Promote translation of relevant project materials into appropriate local languages.
3. Communicate project outlines in terminology accessible to non-technical audiences in order to facilitate early identification of potential TK components.
4. Recognition of TK holder and community contributions to AC projects and reports, including co-authorship where appropriate.

Guiding Principle #7: *Support the improved use of TK in AC activities through on-going efforts to enhance capacity and address resource needs.*

Implementation proposals:

1. Pilot project for internship(s) in SDWG/CAFF Secretariats focusing on TK.
2. Pilot project to transform or create staff position in IPS to focus on TK coordination.

DRAFT