

# Arctic EIA

– Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic

An endorsed project by the SDWG – Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council

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6th EA workshop, 9-11 January 2018 Seattle



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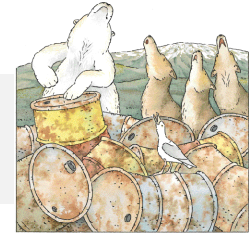
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# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) definition

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.
- a tool used to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.

# Finding out common interest on Arctic EIA

Early cooperation under Arctic Council predecessor AEPS: Guidelines for EIA in the Arctic (1997)



- // Arctic "academic" workshop in Rovaniemi Dec 2014 by the Arctic Centre
- // Arctic EIA officials and experts –discussions by Ministry of the Environment, Finland

- Finland – domestic discussions at three workshops in Rovaniemi spring season 2016
- Discussions with experts in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greenland, Russian Federation and Iceland in spring season 2016 and in Canada and USA spring 2017
- Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, especially Saami Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Finnish Saami Parliament.
- Arctic Economic Council and EIB

**Outcome: There is an interest and need to learn how EIA is implemented within the Arctic and willingness to share approaches addressing unique challenges and impacts faced in the Arctic environment.**

# Outcomes of the Arctic EIA

// Good practice recommendations for EIA and public participation in the Arctic

// Network of officials and other actors within the field of EIA

// Shared good practices

// Common understanding

// Permanent communication



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## Goals of the project 2017 – 2019

// **To ensure that environmental considerations specific to the Arctic** including social and health aspects are explicitly addressed and incorporated into planning, design and decision making of large-scale projects. This would include the effective use and integration of indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge, where applicable.

// **To identify good practices and develop recommendations** through sharing and learning with the aim of improving EIAs in the Arctic.

// **To increase the effectiveness of public participation** of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders.

// **To build a viable network of Arctic EIA actors.**

// To identify

// To share

// To learn

// To co-create



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# How is the project organized

## Lead countries: **Steering group**

- // Finland: Ministry of the Environment
- // Kingdom of Denmark: Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- // Canada: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- // Gwich'in Council International

## Appointed representatives from Arctic Council countries and permanent participants: **Editorial group**

- // Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States
- // Arctic Athabaskan Council, Aleut International Association, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, The Saami Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
- // Arctic Economic Council

**Project Leader:** Seija Rantakallio ,MoE Finland  
**Project Coordinator:** Päivi Karvinen, MoE Finland

// Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland funding the core of the project



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# Timeline

// Editorial group  
Kick-off in  
Rovaniemi  
19.-21.6.2017

// Questionnaire  
gathering Good  
Arctic EIA  
Practices

**2017**

## Feb 7-8

Decision on the  
project and  
co-leads at  
SDWG meeting in  
Kotzebue (SDWG –  
Sustainable Development  
Working Group)

## In other events

// IAIA, Montreal in  
April 2017 (poster)

// Espoo Convention  
MOP7, Minsk in June  
2017 (Side event on  
Arctic EIA)

// Arctic Energy  
Summit, Helsinki  
18.-20.9.2017  
(EIA in energy  
projects in the Arctic)

**Drafting &  
formulating  
recommendations**

**2018**

## Workshops

// Alaska  
27.-29.11.2017

// Nordic  
countries

11.-13.12.2017  
// Canada 2018  
// Russia 2018

**2019**

**Finalizing and spreading  
Good Practice Recommendations**

**Seminar –Conference  
In spring 2019 ?**



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# Arctic EIA project

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## Dear Reader,

Welcome to follow the Arctic EIA project – the generation of good practice recommendations for EIA in the Arctic region and to participate in gathering already existing good practices that can stand as examples for others.

*Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic* – Arctic EIA in short – is a project endorsed by the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council ([www.sdwg.org](http://www.sdwg.org)). The Arctic EIA project is led by Finland during the Finnish chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017–2019. The project is co-led by Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark.



Newsletter following the project will be issued quarterly. You can sign in/sign out to follow the project:  
<https://www.lyyti.fi/questions/dd9694b857>



# EIA and EA 1

## Similarities between EIA and EA

- // Both seek to manage human activities in a way that reduces negative impacts to the arctic nature, climate, and people
- // Both processes would benefit from increasing knowledge on arctic ecosystems and their living and non-living components and interactions (commonly existing databases)
- // Public participation and especially indigenous peoples are in an important role
- // Both also aim at looking ecosystems and human activities in them in a holistic way taking cumulative impacts/processes into account

## Differences between EIA and EA

- // Performing EIA proceeds bottom-up, whereas EA-thinking goes rather top-down. In EIA process, there is always a very concrete project (a harbour, fareway, offshore oil or gas operation etc.), which impacts the surrounding environment. In EA-thinking the starting point is the big ecosystem areas (LMEs at the moment) that are paid attention to as a whole, so human activity that takes advantage of natural resources is just small part of the entity. EIA is a practical process, whereas EA is rather a way of thinking in strategic planning.



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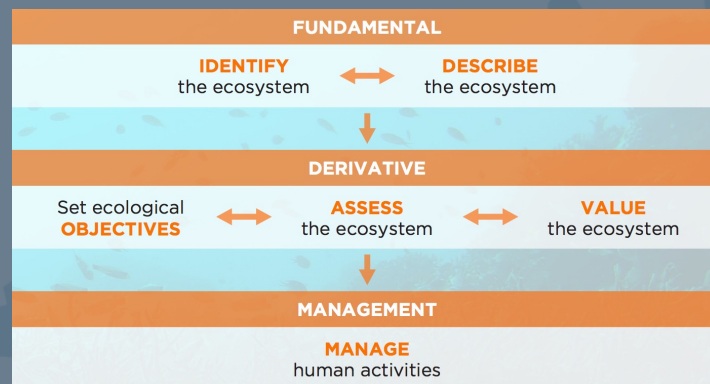


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# EIA and EA 2

## What EIA could benefit from EA

// The method created in EA could be taken into use in EIA when assessing project based impacts with arctic ecosystems, even in terrestrial habitats



// LMEs are vast from EIA's point of view, however they could eventually be used in impact assessment as a base line data. When ecosystem processes are better known also the impact assessment will be more accurate. The project could affect more than one LME depending on the location or type of the activity

// EA "philosophy" could help EIA to be developed into a more holistic direction, not looking at each impact too separately



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Shared responsibility

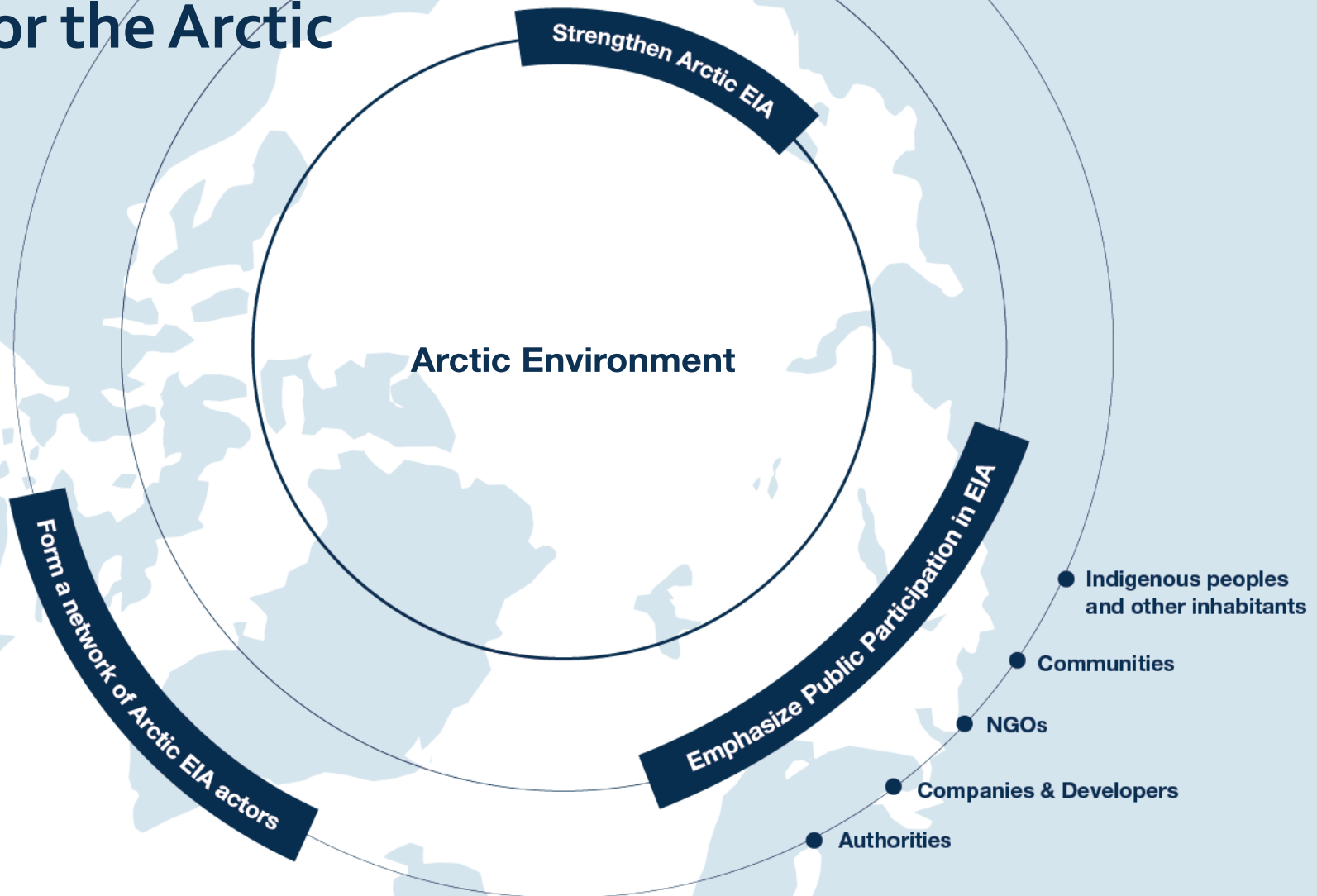
# Coming together for the Arctic



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**– Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental  
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**<http://www.sdwg.org/project/current-projects/>**

EXPLORING  
COMMON  
SOLUTIONS

FINLAND'S  
CHAIRMANSHIP  
2017-2019



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