

## **C04-O06**

### **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND (WESTERN) SCIENCE**

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#### **Objective**

The objective is to explore the possibilities of establishing a working group on traditional knowledge within the framework of IASSA/Scientific organizations.

#### **Context**

Over the last years, there has been discussions on how western science and traditional knowledge together can form a better knowledge base, and what principles that should apply when the two sets of knowledge are unified. Science has to a certain extent acknowledged the importance and the added value of incorporating traditional knowledge in research projects. More and more scientists are also finding value in collaborating with the indigenous peoples and their communities. Different methods have been employed for various projects (ACIA, SLICA, EALAT, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, Arctic Social Indicators etc.) by the six Working Groups of the AC and the Arctic Indigenous Organizations with varying degrees of success. Another more recent example is how the International Whaling Commission acknowledges indigenous peoples needs and traditional knowledge on whaling, when setting the whaling quotas. This is a good example on a balanced dialogue between biologists, Inupiat and Government regarding a cultural and ecological sustainable harvest of whales.

Also within the framework of the Arctic Council, inclusion of traditional knowledge in the work of the council has been discussed since the establishment of the council. The Kiruna Declaration states that it is time for the development of a method that will provide a consistent way to incorporate traditional knowledge into the work of the Council, allowing for the common inclusion and consideration of western scientific methods and traditional/community knowledge together.

The work of the Arctic Council on Traditional Knowledge, initiated by the Permanent Participants, incorporating the feedback of the working groups and Senior Arctic Officials, has resulted in the Ottawa Principles on Traditional Knowledge. The hope is that the principles will be adopted by the Ministers at the Ministerial Meeting in April 2015, and will result in a more holistic approach to AC projects whose outcomes will bring traditional ways of life to the forefront and will be more relevant to communities.

#### **Concept**

A presentation of the Ottawa Principles of Traditional Knowledge will be given during the session. The aim is to make these principles known to researchers and other stakeholders, and how they can be used in science projects. The presentation will also explore the possibility of establishing a working group on traditional knowledge within the framework of IASSA/other scientific organization. The objective of a working group is to investigate how traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples can be involved in science in a more organized manner and how the current structures better can reflect the needs of indigenous peoples in the Arctic.