

## Arctic Resilience Action Framework

The Arctic Council, as the leading intergovernmental forum on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the region, is well-positioned to establish a framework that increases our understanding of risks and uncertainties, and supports and encourages measures to improve the resilience of threatened communities and ecosystems.

The Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) focuses on the resilience of Arctic states, Indigenous Peoples and communities, and the ecosystems upon which they depend, in the face of rapid social-ecological change. Implementing the Priorities for Action that are outlined in the ARAF will increase our understanding of Arctic change and potential risks and strengthen adaptive capacity and overall resilience in the region. The ARAF was informed by the Arctic Resilience Assessment and other Arctic Council resources; existing national ambitions to build resilience and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda, and stakeholder consultations.

The ARAF has 4 Priority Areas, with sub-actions for each priority area:

1. Analyzing and Understanding Risk and Resilience in the Arctic
2. Building Resilience and Adaptation Capacity
3. Implementing Measures that Build Resilience with Policy, Planning and Cooperation
4. Encouraging Investment to Reduce Risk and Build Resilience

AAC's engagement and strategic objective: to ensure the health and well-being of the Arctic and its residents, must ensure a balanced approach between environmental protection with economic sustainability. This blended in nicely with the SDWG's objectives: To propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic. This included pursuing opportunities to protect and enhance the environment and the economies, culture and health of Indigenous peoples and Arctic communities. The guiding tenet was to pursue initiatives that provided knowledge and contributed to the capacity of Indigenous peoples and Arctic communities to respond to the challenges and benefits from the opportunities in the Arctic region.

ACC's concentrated its efforts on ARAF's Priority Area 2: Building Resilience and Adaptation Capacity:

1. Increase the co-production of knowledge using science, Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge and local knowledge
2. Expand the ability of community-based observation networks to collect critical data for monitoring change and integrate with Earth observations
3. Improve tools for assessing management strategies in changing Arctic ecosystems
4. Ensure data and tools are equitably distributed and easily accessible for local communities, decision makers, and policy makers at all levels
5. Substantially increase the number of communities, youth and emerging leaders that understand Arctic change using a variety of knowledge approaches
6. Increase administrative and planning support to communities, governments and decision-makers at all levels, including support for applying resilience knowledge to decision-making[3]

AAC's participation was in support of ARAF's outcome: A measurable increase in the capacity of Arctic States and Arctic communities to understand and respond to risks and changes in ways that support positive socio-economic development and healthy, functioning ecosystems and ecosystem services.