



Inuit Circumpolar Council

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAST ICE AREA

**WWF Last Ice Area Workshop
Iqaluit June 4 & 5, 2013**

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Circumpolar Inuit



160,000 Inuit live in the Arctic spread across Greenland, Canada, Alaska (US) and Chukotka (Russia). The Inuit Circumpolar Council advocates for Inuit rights internationally.

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What we work on



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- Health
- Food security
- Biodiversity
- Human rights
- Sustainable use of wildlife
- Environment
- Climate Change
- Contaminants
- Culture and Language
- Resource Development
- Arctic Sovereignty

ICC Canada and LIA-WWF-GAP



Since 2010

ICC in discussions with WWF about the proposed LIA initiative.

ICC Canada has facilitated and advised on the engagement of Inuit organizations in Canada and ICC Greenland on organizations in Greenland.

- Broadening understanding of Inuit use of the LIA
- To advance Inuit interests and needs in the circumpolar Arctic
- To ensure that Inuit TK shapes and informs any decision processes and products

TK and the LIA



“...support locally based enhanced long-term monitoring programs based on systematic traditional knowledge studies to provide supplementary information on trends in distribution and local density of wildlife in the LIA area of interest, the use of these species by communities and the impact of change on the human and ecological community.”



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Search criteria



- **Geography:** Document must be focused on LIA including regions and communities surrounding Lancaster Sound or Greenland. In the document, other areas can be mentioned or compared, but must include areas with the above criteria.
- **Focus on Traditional Knowledge:** The materials must be on the subject of traditional knowledge or Inuit knowledge, and include some form of traditional knowledge on a subject related to the LIA. Sources that discuss aspects of or about traditional knowledge but that do not include some form of TEK from Inuit experts were not included.
- **Types of materials:** All forms of materials and media available online or electronically were included, including peer reviewed articles, grey literatures, and other media forms.
- **Language:** Materials that are in French, Danish, Kalaallisut or Inuktitut were included provided there was a section or summary in English.

Search Strategy



- Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS)
- Google Scholar
- Web of Knowledge
- Nunavut Database
- EBSCO Database
- Gale Database
- Nunavut Wildlife Resources Centre Coalition
- PROQUEST databases
- Government websites

Summary points



Recognition of the knowledge that Inuit, northerners and communities may contribute is still burgeoning with research teams and knowledge holders alike devising new multidisciplinary and multicultural approaches for the mutual exchange of knowledge and benefits to all involved.

Inuit observations from the 1980's and before, on both sides of the LIA area of interest, in Greenland and Canada, suggest the ice is changing, the ice forms later in the year, is thinner and breaks up earlier in the spring. Observations suggest that changes have been more noticeable since the 1990's. These changes impact the wildlife in many ways from changes in migration routes, wildlife health, population densities and animal behaviour.



Glacier recession in both Canada and Greenland on the coastal and inland ice cap glaciers have also been confirmed by traditional knowledge and hunter interviews and satellite data.





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Despite the changing Arctic community and research environments toward more participatory partnerships, numerous challenges remain in relation to wildlife research and spatial planning, traditional knowledge and capacity building outside of and within the bounds of the LIA.



Recommendations from this literature search and TK report would support locally based enhanced long-term and spatial monitoring programs based on systematic traditional knowledge studies to provide supplementary information on trends in distribution and local density of wildlife in the LIA area of interest, the use of these species by communities and the impact of change on the human and ecological community.

Inuit Governance: Canada



Issues such as health, wildlife, climate change etc.

→ **COMMUNITY**

→ **REGIONAL** *land claims organizations*

→ **NATIONAL** *ITK, Pauktuutit, and national committees*

→ **INTERNATIONAL** *ICC*

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ICC General Assemblies



- Are held every 4 years - Inuvik 2014
- Declarations form our work plan
- ICC Canadian chairmanship 2014-2018



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Nuuk Declaration 2010: 46 Articles



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Direct ICC to use the findings, and build upon the work, of past Inuit land use and occupancy studies and similar research to effectively and proactively respond to the increasing use by others of Inuit sea ice, waters, and coastal zones.

Urge ICC to enter into discussions with Inuit hunters through national Inuit organizations and, where appropriate, through their regional-level entities, on existing and newly developing international sustainability covenants that both strengthen and promote the rights of Inuit to use resources in a wise and prudent manner;

Encourage ICC to contribute to activities that incorporate traditional knowledge and western science into action and decision-making in the Arctic, such as the 2012 International Polar Year conference, *From Knowledge to Action*, and others;

Instruct ICC to develop a clearinghouse that will help record and protect traditional knowledge of Inuit and facilitate information exchange between Inuit of the circumpolar region;

Address the negative impact on Inuit food security brought on by the synergistic effects of contaminants, climate change, and regulatory decisions taken by others on polar bears, seals, and other mammals and Urge ICC to incorporate Inuit food security issues into its work on health, sustainable utilization of wildlife, contaminants, biological diversity, and climate change;

Circumpolar Inuit Declarations



Sovereignty

- History and reality of Inuit use and occupation of Arctic Lands and Waters
- That use and occupation is at the heart of any informed discussions of Sovereignty in the Arctic
- Arctic Nation States must respect the roles and rights of Inuit in all international discussions and commitments dealing with the Arctic.

Resource Development

A CIRCUMPOLAR INUIT DECLARATION ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN INUIT NUNAAIT

PURPOSE
Recognizing the Arctic's great resource wealth, the increasing global demand for the Arctic's minerals and hydrocarbons, the scope and depth of climate change and other environmental challenges, and the need to address these challenges in a way that respects the rights and interests of the Arctic's peoples, and in a way that is consistent with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we, the undersigned, have agreed to the following principles and objectives:

1. The Arctic Region and Inuit Nunangat
The Arctic region is a unique and irreplaceable part of the world's natural heritage. It is home to the Arctic peoples, who have lived and thrived in the Arctic for thousands of years. The Arctic region is also a source of natural resources, including minerals, hydrocarbons, and renewable energy. The Arctic region is also a source of scientific and cultural knowledge, and a source of inspiration for the world's peoples.

2. The Arctic Region's Resources
The Arctic region is rich in natural resources, including minerals, hydrocarbons, and renewable energy. These resources are essential for the development of the Arctic region and for the well-being of the Arctic peoples. The Arctic region's resources are also a source of scientific and cultural knowledge, and a source of inspiration for the world's peoples.

3. The Arctic Region's Environment
The Arctic region is a fragile and sensitive environment. It is home to unique and irreplaceable ecosystems, and it is a source of scientific and cultural knowledge. The Arctic region's environment is also a source of inspiration for the world's peoples.

4. The Arctic Region's Peoples
The Arctic region is home to the Arctic peoples, who have lived and thrived in the Arctic for thousands of years. The Arctic peoples are the custodians of the Arctic region's natural resources, and they have the right to participate in the development of the Arctic region and to benefit from its resources. The Arctic peoples also have the right to maintain and strengthen their traditional ways of life, and to protect their cultural heritage.

5. The Arctic Region's Development
The development of the Arctic region should be based on the principles of sustainability, equity, and respect for the rights of the Arctic peoples. The development of the Arctic region should also be based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. The development of the Arctic region should also be based on the principles of respect for the environment, and for the scientific and cultural heritage of the Arctic region.

6. The Arctic Region's Governance
The governance of the Arctic region should be based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. The governance of the Arctic region should also be based on the principles of respect for the rights of the Arctic peoples, and for the environment, and for the scientific and cultural heritage of the Arctic region.

7. The Arctic Region's International Cooperation
The Arctic region's development and governance should be based on the principles of international cooperation, equity, and respect for the rights of the Arctic peoples. The Arctic region's development and governance should also be based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

8. The Arctic Region's Future
The future of the Arctic region should be based on the principles of sustainability, equity, and respect for the rights of the Arctic peoples. The future of the Arctic region should also be based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. The future of the Arctic region should also be based on the principles of respect for the environment, and for the scientific and cultural heritage of the Arctic region.

9. The Arctic Region's Conclusion
We, the undersigned, have agreed to the following principles and objectives. We commit ourselves to the implementation of these principles and objectives, and to the promotion of the development of the Arctic region in a way that respects the rights and interests of the Arctic peoples, and that is consistent with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

10. The Arctic Region's Signatories
The following are the signatories to this declaration:

[Signatures of Arctic Nation Leaders]

11. The Arctic Region's Date
This declaration was signed on the following date:

[Date]

12. The Arctic Region's Location
This declaration was signed in the following location:

[Location]

Inuit Circumpolar Council

Who is the Inuit Circumpolar Council? The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international organization of Inuit from the Arctic region. The ICC is committed to the promotion of the development of the Arctic region in a way that respects the rights and interests of the Arctic peoples, and that is consistent with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The ICC is also committed to the promotion of international cooperation, equity, and respect for the rights of the Arctic peoples.

www.inuitcouncil.org

Arctic Council 2013-2015



“Development for the people of the North”
The Human Dimension

- 1) responsible Arctic resource development
- 2) safe Arctic shipping, and,
- 3) sustainable circumpolar communities

PROCESS of implementation of these subthemes will be the true test of whether or not the overarching goal of putting people first will be achieved.

ICC recommendations on Traditional Knowledge within the Arctic Council



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Objective:

Meaningful use of TK and science together for better decision-making.

Arctic Council working groups could develop mechanisms within their processes, which allow for these concepts to be incorporated.

ie. The development of a TK Expert Group to support this process.



Traditional Knowledge Principles

1. Research needs and objectives to be identified by all project partners.
2. Project funding utilized to gather data from both sources of knowledge and to employ TK holders and scientific experts.
3. Culturally appropriate methodologies are utilized to gain information from TK holders.
4. Employment of a participatory approach, where appropriate.
5. TK methodologies and final products are peer reviewed and validated by TK holders.
6. Knowledge is exchanged mutually between scientists and TK holders in plain language (using translation where appropriate/required) with regards to the scientific aspect of the project.

Considerations



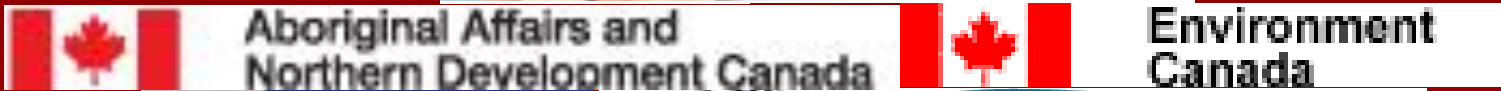
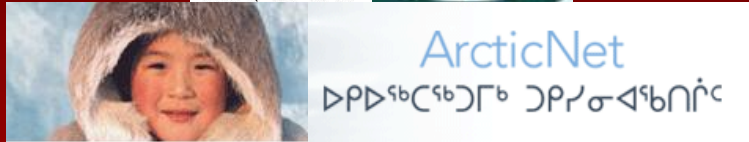
The value of traditional knowledge is not limited to the resulting data, -provides important insight and interpretation that enriches scientific knowledge.

-can be an important contribution within numerous disciplines, from natural science, atmospheric/systems, and health and social science etc.

- research teams and knowledge holders alike are devising new multidisciplinary and multicultural approaches for the mutual exchange of knowledge and benefits to all involved.



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