
Arctic Human Development Report

Key Findings

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Arctic Human Development Report 2004 Arctic Council

- Icelandic led effort to identify factors key to sustainable development activities in the circumpolar region
- The focus was on all aspects of development for the human communities of the Far North



Demography

- The human population of the Arctic is sparse, unevenly distributed, and skewed in terms of both age and structure



Societies and Cultures

- Human societies in the circumpolar north are highly resilient; they have faced severe challenges before and adapted successfully to changing conditions



Economic Systems

- Arctic economies are narrowly based and highly sensitive to outside forces, including market fluctuations and political interventions



Political Systems

- The devolution of political authority to regional and local governments in the Arctic has not been accompanied by significant reallocations of material resources



Legal Systems

- There is a growing dualism between the legal rights of indigenous peoples and the authority of public governments in the Arctic



Resource Governance

- Many new and promising systems of resource governance have arisen in the Arctic, but little has been done so far to assess their performance using common criteria of evaluation



Human Health

- Telemedicine has been highly successful in the Arctic, but effective responses to problems involving mental health, violence, and accidental death require the development or strengthening of community-based health services. Also, dietary concerns arising from changing lifestyles and responses to contamination have to be addressed.



Education

- Although education in the hands of missionaries, economic entrepreneurs, and colonial administrators has been a vehicle for assimilation, there are opportunities today to develop education systems well-suited to the needs of Arctic residents



Community Viability

- Maintaining the viability of Arctic communities requires an enhanced ability to take advantage of interactions among governmental, corporate, organizational, and personal networks from the local level to the global level



Gender Issues

- Recent developments in the Arctic have generated new concerns about gender roles, without alleviating pre-existing problems.



International Relations

- The impacts of both global environmental change and global social change threaten to overwhelm efforts to carry out regional initiatives and to forge a strong sense of regional identity in the Arctic



Cultural Integrity

- The experience of the Arctic demonstrates that culture can remain viable even in the face of rapid and multi-dimensional change



Technological Advances

- Evidence from the Arctic demonstrates both the feasibility and the desirability of applying advanced technologies to address social problems



Political and Legal Innovations

- The Arctic has become a leader in the development of innovative political and legal arrangements that meet the needs of the residents of the circumpolar North without rupturing the larger political systems in which the region is embedded



Demography - Gap

- We need to collect more and better information on the Arctic's residents using common data



Cultures and Societies - Gap

- We need a better understanding of the cumulative changes on cultural and social well-being in the Arctic



Settlers - Gap

- We need to learn more about the experiences of recent settlers in the Arctic and their interactions with the region's indigenous peoples



Industry

- We need to improve our understanding of the roles that modern industrial activities play in the pursuit of sustainable development at the regional level



Governance - Gap

- We need to do more to compare and contrast new institutions in the Arctic and to distill lessons relevant not only to the Arctic itself but also to other areas of the world characterized by an abundance of natural resources and sparse and culturally diverse populations



Human Development Index

Key Items for the Arctic

- Controlling one's own destiny
- Maintaining cultural identity
- Living close to nature



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Working in the Arctic Requires New Perspective!



Thank You

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