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Report

The Arctic in 2045: a long-term vision

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 January 2016 | WP1453

In association with:





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In its 'Vision for the Arctic' document produced in 2013, the Arctic Council outlined key principles to guide the future activities of Arctic states: maintaining peace and stability; ensuring the welfare of Arctic citizens and indigenous peoples; promoting sustainable development; strengthening cooperation on environmental and civil security; addressing conservation needs; pursuing research and maintaining a strong Council. The international community has a long-term role to play in supporting the Arctic states to achieve that vision.

Using for context a number of different scenarios regarding the prospective characteristics of the Arctic in 2045, this Wilton Park meeting offered participants the opportunity to:

- examine the challenges to implementation of the values and principles of the Council's vision statement in a changed Arctic of 2045;
- examine the international avenues available to support the Arctic states and the Council in addressing these long-term challenges;
- assess and propose policy options for Arctic and non-Arctic states to consider over the coming years that could start to develop these avenues;
- consider and propose ways in which the Arctic states and the wider Arctic stakeholder community can most effectively work together to address long-term challenges.

Executive summary

- **The Arctic Council has provided effective, open and inclusive governance for the region, but may need to develop to meet the needs of a rapidly changing region.** No major governance gaps exist at present but there are areas where rules and collaborative mechanisms could be further developed. For example, questions exist regarding how best to involve business in Arctic governance.
- **The Arctic appears to be geopolitically insulated at present, but there are risks that this could change.** It is important to continue to try to shield Arctic cooperation from wider geopolitical tensions. For example, Russia's vast Arctic territory means that cooperation with Russia is vital in areas such as assessing the complex impact of climate change on the Arctic environment. Four of the six indigenous organisations represented in the Arctic Council have members in Russia, making indigenous peoples very vulnerable to geopolitical tensions if they spill over into the Arctic.
- **The Arctic is not going to be a giant 'national park'.** Contrary to popular belief, the Arctic is not a wilderness, but a lived in, managed space. Economic

development is happening and will continue, but it is also important to stress that there are “multiple Arctics”; economic development in one area is very different from that in others.

- **Conservation is of high importance but this will be maintained alongside utilisation of Arctic resources.** Scientific monitoring is critical to provide the information needed to protect this important environment. Indigenous and northern communities should continue to be supported and consulted in regards to development within the region, and not regarded as an afterthought.
- **The need for coordinated, long term, science programmes.** There is a need for sustained research over a large area and a long time scale, to understand changes as they happen. Funding is a key issue, particularly for major projects and long term studies. Priorities in the region include improving 'big science'; collating and synthesising data; and getting industry and science working together.
- **Science collaboration on the Arctic should be global, involving stakeholders beyond the Arctic states.** More information sharing between Arctic states and the wider international community would be useful to support this global science collaboration. Better connectivity between science research taking place in the Arctic and Antarctic could also help deepen understanding of environmental change.
- **Greater collaboration between public and private investment is needed.** Development in the Arctic will take investment. There is increased interest in the creation of some form of Arctic investment vehicle, without consensus on what form this should take. State investment will remain necessary to sustain communities and also to incentivise private interest.

Introduction

The Arctic is as important as it is diverse. Whilst it is at the frontier of climate change and a region of global environmental importance, it is also the home and place of work to over four million people.

Despite the challenges, communities have thrived in these regions for generations and are skilled at managing the consequences of change. The Arctic is universally acknowledged as a well-governed space by Arctic states with clear and internationally recognised sovereign responsibilities.

Rapid technological as well as environmental changes are driving the economic and social development of the region. With reducing ice cover, the Arctic Ocean may become increasingly accessible to commercial activity, including shipping, exploration for hydrocarbons, metals and rare earths, and tourism. Sustainable economic development is the shared goal, but how best to ensure that increased economic activity and use of the Arctic's marine and coastal environments does not cause environmental damage remains an important issue. The short term future for some well-developed extractive industries looks different now to five years ago, presenting a different set of potential challenges.

High-level, intergovernmental coordination in the region is led by the Arctic Council, the primary forum for promoting good governance and cooperation between the eight Arctic states. Indigenous communities are at the centre of the Council's work through six representations from across the region, as well as observer organisations and non-Arctic states. The introduction of the Arctic Economic Council in 2014 emphasised the Council's belief in the central role of business for helping to foster sustainable development in the region.

The Arctic today: context and challenges

1. The Arctic is not a theoretical, ungoverned concept; it is a lived-in, governed space which presents many opportunities but also some unique challenges. Most indigenous groups and northern communities do not want the Arctic to become a series of national parks, and this is unlikely to occur.
2. To maintain a geopolitically stable Arctic, it will be important for Arctic states to work together constructively and obtain mutual solutions, with the Arctic Council being the most appropriate platform for doing so.
3. Russia's recent military assertiveness has caused some concern that this could lead to instability in the region. The situation has however remained positive regardless of tensions in Europe. It is uncertain how long the Arctic will remain insulated, but states are keen to maintain peace in the region, whilst being prepared for changes to the Arctic's geopolitical situation. In practical terms cooperation with Russia in the Arctic has remained generally positive. Norway for example, has maintained positive working relations in such areas as fishing, search and rescue, environmental and atomic safety.
4. The United Kingdom has had strong connections with the region for centuries. From a security perspective, the Arctic is the UK's northern flank. In terms of energy security, the Arctic is also vital, with a large proportion of UK's gas coming from Norway. It is also of significant scientific interest; polar weather patterns have a direct impact on those in the UK. Any further access along northern sea routes would also be of importance to the UK, increasing its transport links in the Arctic and beyond.
5. The UK is continuing to work with Arctic states and is implementing the action points that came out of the Government's Response to the 2015 House of Lords Report Responding to a changing Arctic. Domestically, the UK will be continuing parliamentary work, particularly following the establishment of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions, and reviewing its Arctic policy framework.
6. Whilst also being the most vulnerable to climate change, indigenous groups are often the most affected by geopolitical instability. The security and geopolitical situation with Russia has a strong impact on indigenous communities as four of the six indigenous organisations represented in the Arctic Council have members in Russia. There are concerns that the Saami Council, for example, might struggle to stay united across borders, in times of high geopolitical tension.
7. Russian law requires organisations involved in any very broadly defined "political activity" while receiving money from abroad to register as "foreign agents". The law has been causing problems for international and domestic indigenous groups, damaging indigenous cooperation. RAIPON, Russia's main indigenous representation, was temporarily unable to operate but has now been re-energised under new leadership with new priorities. It remains to be seen if they will be affected further however. There are concerns that it will be harder to support indigenous groups without formal infrastructure. Supporting the work of the indigenous organisations within the Arctic Council is integral to the Council's mission.
8. In terms of understanding the importance of climate change in the region, it is important to consider the current state of knowledge of the impact within Arctic; the knowns, the known unknowns, and the unknown unknowns.
9. From observing isotope records in ice cores, scientists have been able to accurately measure the rhythms and relationship of carbon dioxide and temperature. In 800,000 years, carbon dioxide has not exceeded 280ppm until today, where it has now reached upwards of 400ppm. The time of stable patterns of climate change has passed, and accurate prediction is becoming ever harder.
10. Although there are localised variations, the overall trend is for a warming Arctic. On 12 July 2012, measurements indicated for the first time that the entire surface of the Greenland ice sheet was melting. Sea ice is also thinning and decreasing in area, with

a significant reduction of thick, multi-year ice. As well as impacting the Arctic's albedo, changes in sea ice will also affect marine algae populations living within the ice. Ocean acidification has increased, causing particular damage to microorganisms at the bottom of the food chain. Fish stocks are already moving north and we can expect increased species migration throughout the Arctic.

11. Significant changes are occurring on the land around the Arctic. The most major change will be in permafrost; the areas of subsoil that remain permanently frozen throughout the year, representing 24% of land surface on the northern hemisphere. 58% of the land freezes seasonally. Understanding of the extent and depth of permafrost is limited, particularly in the vast expanses of Russian Siberia. Very few climate models take into account carbon emissions from melting permafrost, and it is not even included in IPCC models. This is a major gap in understanding, but there is a lack of coordinated research on the subject even though it has strong potential to massively escalate the greenhouse effect. Subsidence due to melting permafrost will also have an effect on forests, infrastructure and transport links.
12. Methane frozen on the sea floor is another carbon store of concern, though its extent is unknown. The majority of the melting methane is absorbed by the ocean, though this will eventually reach a saturation point. Black carbon from industry and shipping is also enhancing albedo by reducing the reflecting potential of ice and snow.
13. The globe sees the region as the bellwether for climate change and a litmus test for many of the climate agreements and protocols. There are concerns that the Arctic Council may not be working in the most optimal way in this domain. The world is looking at the Arctic Council as a framework within which to foster wider international science collaboration on the changing Arctic environment. Determining how most effectively to share information, data and research between Arctic states and global Arctic stakeholders is key to progression, alongside cooperative frameworks within the scientific community.

Local interests and perspectives

14. Some of the main concerns for indigenous groups are land use changes and multilateral interests in the Arctic. The development challenges for indigenous groups mirror those stemming from climate change, and there is the risk that change might be too rapid to adapt to. The loss of particular environments could lead to the disappearance of the communities that survive off them. This has many possible implications including: extinction of indigenous languages, irreversible changes to biodiversity, a loss of cultural heritage and traditions.
15. Indigenous people are not waiting for business to come to the Arctic; they have had sustainable economies that have outlasted millennia of development in the same regions. What is needed is innovation within traditional economies. The proliferation of fora for discussions between Arctic stakeholders means that indigenous groups are increasingly informed and involved.
16. Whilst some believe further business exploration will be an inevitable consequence of a warmer Arctic, when it comes to the global demand for energy it appears to be commodity prices rather than thickness of the ice that is the limiting factor. If the resource is worth it, no amount of ice will prevent exploration indefinitely. There are concerns that as economic interest increases, the rights of indigenous people will be eroded. When looking north for resources, indigenous communities are welcoming of partnerships that respect their rights and cultural heritage.
17. The value of the Arctic Council as a governance mechanism should be strengthened. It is an important interface between science, local knowledge, and policy. There are concerns that the Arctic Council is becoming focused at state level and not as inclusive to indigenous groups as it was at its inception. The increasing range of observer states allows permanent members the ability to talk to states that they would not necessarily

be in contact with, building a wider appreciation of the perspectives of indigenous groups.

18. The permanent members of the Arctic Council also use their representation in the United Nations, in caucus with others in the global indigenous movement, to reconcile applicable human rights and international law. Some indigenous leaders felt that language has been weak in its support for indigenous people at Paris and COP21.
19. Nordic countries are used as a particularly good example for supporting indigenous rights, and for respecting human rights as a whole. Norway is the only Arctic state to have ratified International Labour Organisation (ILO) 169 convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.
20. Some have suggested that the Arctic Council should not be relied on as the only source of support to indigenous communities in the Arctic, as it is dependent on state funding and beholden to the interests of the states themselves. With changing Arctic governments and rotation of Council chairmanship every two years, the priorities of the Council remain fluid, reducing the sustainability of funding for indigenous communities.
21. Key to making a sustainable Arctic as well as a profitable one is ensuring there is a 'liveable' Arctic. This includes supporting existing communities and ensuring there are continued opportunities for youth, and even potentially encouraging people to move to the Arctic. Investment in locally run businesses like tourism could also provide new opportunities.
22. There were some concerns that over-focusing on seasonal industries like tourism may not significantly benefit communities in the long-term. There is optimism from some quarters however about the possibilities for bespoke tourism, built around indigenous communities. Improvements in access for tourism would benefit northern communities as well as provide wider national value for the Arctic countries concerned. The necessary safety measures such as search and rescue would also have to be expanded with increasing tourism and general traffic flows.
23. Amongst Canadian indigenous peoples, there are rising suicide rates in both the young and old, mental health issues and a generally low life expectancy. There have been increases in food insecurity, a continued lack of housing and infrastructure, and low graduation rates. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is attempting to address these problems and provides funding for programmes, services and initiatives to Inuit and Northern communities, government and individuals.
24. Many young people are told it is important to leave to receive an education. Attitudes are changing with more young people moving back after their studies. Some industries such as reindeer herding are almost suffering from over recruitment. Youth should not have to feel like they have a binary choice between living in the Arctic and higher education. It is beneficial for Arctic communities to have young, qualified people return but is also important that they have sufficient opportunities when they do. In some Russian communities, young women in particular are unwilling to return to their communities as there are few job opportunities, and the young men derive such a small income from reindeer husbandry it is hard enough to sustain themselves let alone a family.
25. Many international organisations and businesses have agendas they want validated by having indigenous communities involved in their work. Such groups can provide resources that indigenous organisations do not normally have. Involving indigenous communities does not always mean paying them; companies can consult or provide training. For example, Rio Tinto consults with indigenous communities in Canada's Northwest Territories regarding its mining operations, and provides training programmes, helping to create a skilled workforce. To increase engagement some companies have also worked on cultural awareness camps, where managers from the company go and live with a 'traditional' family for around a week to better understand local ways of life.

Governance and security

26. The Arctic Council remains the main forum for cooperative governance but as the complex nature of the Arctic increases there could be a need for more actors, including from the business community. The Arctic Council is also not an appropriate structure for military security. If the Arctic became a conflict environment NATO's Article 5 guarantee would come into play for those Arctic states who are also members of the Alliance. The Arctic Council is working to help ensure human security in the Arctic, as are other institutions such as the European Union.
27. Russia's increased military presence in the Arctic has raised some concerns on the part of other Arctic states given the wider geopolitical context, but is not generally viewed as a threat. Russia's focus seems to be predominantly on regional security and in protecting its sea routes.
28. Russia very much tried to shield Arctic cooperation from the political tensions triggered by its war with Georgia. Moscow is again following this approach in the aftermath of its military intervention in Ukraine, but to a lesser extent and in a much cooler way. Ukraine is providing a more extreme test of the ability to shield the Arctic from geopolitical conflict elsewhere. As a geopolitical area of interest, the Arctic does not have the same nationalistic resonance with the domestic Russian population as places of greater ethnic and historical significance.
29. For the time being cooperation between Russia and other Arctic states remains reasonably good. This situation may not last, but there is a desire amongst Arctic stakeholders not to create self-fulfilling prophecies.
30. Overall, official Russian policy is to support Arctic cooperation and to assert Moscow's respect for international law. When considering the Russian approach to the Arctic, it must be remembered that Russia's North occupies approximately 70-80% of its national territory, including vast southern areas of Siberia, making the Arctic a much more domestic region than it is for some other Arctic states. Russian interests are well served by international law, in particular UNCLOS, so it would be unlikely for Moscow to challenge in any significant way the status quo in the international approach to the Arctic at this time.
31. Russia has strengthened its participation in the Arctic Council, with increasingly senior individuals participating in working groups. It set up its own Arctic Commission in early 2015, led by a high profile politician, giving Arctic issues a higher profile in the Russian domestic sphere.
32. With regard to different Arctic governance issues, there are institutions in place to regulate shipping effectively. It is important however to make sure that shipping remains properly governed, whether by nations themselves or by a supranational authority. Areas that require improvement include insurance and classification of ships for different ice grades, although the Polar Code that comes into force on 1 January 2017 will in part address this issue. There is potential for shipping to occur in regions that are not yet covered by the Polar Code. Issues surrounding ships in national waters that are not following the code are a concern and an area of potential future tension. The lack of sufficient surveillance including satellite coverage remains problematic. Search and rescue will be developed and is seen as a key point of state collaboration as it involves the use of military assets but not for military operations.
33. Regulatory cooperation is an area that could be improved to make the Arctic an easier region for industry to operate in. With the eight Arctic states there are eight sets of laws and regulations with gaps and overlaps, which can cause difficulties for private actors seeking to operate in the region.
34. Whilst not necessarily standardising regulations or merely adopting the standards of any single Arctic state, it is important to understand the compatibility of varying regulations across the Arctic, and this should be definitely considered when updating or

introducing new legislation. Canada has incorporated traditional knowledge into its regulations and legislation, though not all states have followed suit. An understanding of how others are approaching legal regulatory issues will be key for Arctic states to work cooperatively as new areas for regulation arise.

Sustainable development

35. Looking forward to the Arctic in 2045, the critical importance of sustainable economic development is a salient feature. Sustainable development means helping to limit as well as adjust to climate change impacts, preventing environmental degradation; improving cooperative cross-border relationships; linking the Arctic economies to the global economy; and providing increased autonomy and opportunities for Arctic communities.
36. One of the realities of operating in the Arctic is the high costs. Financing business development is going to be a key issue facing Arctic economies; there is a need for a mix of public and private investment. All states agree that there should be an investment vehicle of some kind for sustainable economic development, but there does not appear to be consensus on what form this should take. Private companies are definitely interested in investing in the area, but do not necessarily have the resources to do so.
37. There is an increasing demand for public service delivery with communities wanting the same standards as further south. This may be nearly impossible however, and very expensive.
38. The EU is active in the Arctic and is currently formulating a new Arctic strategy focusing on sustainable development and climate change. EU priorities are for economic and social development, based on an understanding of the requirements of indigenous people as well as on providing the best condition for business. There is room for the EU to provide support to improve telecommunications through its space agency.
39. In terms of extractives, the challenge will be how to make individual companies adopt similar rules, as well as enhancing and promoting more cooperation between companies operating across different countries. Extractive companies should also have a responsibility to reduce their impact on the local environment and when leaving an area to restore it to its original state as far as possible. Companies utilising local labour and resources will reduce transport costs and damage to the local environment. Consultation by businesses with local communities is necessary to ensure sustainable development.
40. Transport infrastructure will need to be further developed, as well as widening internet and mobile phone coverage, to improve communications to and from the Arctic. This is fundamental for innovation and commercial development in the region. The Arctic Council has been working on improving telecommunications infrastructure. By providing digital connectivity the region can gain access to digital markets and match other global regions in business development and innovation despite its remoteness.
41. Building up relationships between similar societies in the Arctic, both domestically and internationally, will allow communities to learn from each other and share best practice on building sustainable economies. This could include issues such as waste and how to best utilise, whether for fertilisation or biogas for example, and how to reduce the amount of pollutants that may enter the environment.
42. Shipping is the life blood of the Arctic, particularly for communities that do not have road access and are inaccessible by air. There will be a need to further protect shipping as it inevitably increases, such as by educating and engaging with insurance companies in polar practice and further developments.
43. Tourism is a key area of development but there is debate about how much of the money generated will remain in the Arctic. Although there has been a focus on luxury

tourism, some research has indicated that budget and luxury travellers bring about the same amount of money into the local area, with the majority of the luxury tourist's money going to external companies. Although some indigenous communities have expressed an interest in using tourism as a way to preserve their culture, there are concerns about non-indigenous parties appropriating indigenous traditions for profit.

44. Fisheries will be an increasingly important food source for the world's growing population with aquaculture and bio-tech as growing sectors. Whether the fishing moratorium continues in the Central Arctic Ocean will be subject to food security pressures and research into stocks. A regional fishing organisation may need to be established to help regulate this industry.
45. The Arctic has an opportunity to get conservation and wildlife management right in ways that other places have not managed by sustaining co-existence with wildlife rather than fencing off the 'wilderness'. Monitoring will play a key role in ensuring that economic and social development does not jeopardise the surrounding environments, highlighting once again the importance of science and research.
46. Energy remains one of the Arctic's most important industries and even with the Paris climate change agreement, oil, coal and gas resources are still going to be developed. Renewable energy holds potential for Arctic states themselves where localised renewable solutions on a small scale may be a useful addition to fossil fuel sources.
47. There is debate about whether Arctic regions can really be independently sustainable or whether it should just be accepted that they will to some extent have to be subsidised by the state. Governments will remain as financial trailblazers, taking the upfront risks and costs to establish new economic activity. China could become a key player in terms of development with its increased interest in the region.

Science and research

48. There is a long history of scientific cooperation between nations in the Arctic. Scientific work is important as a buffer, as a space of cooperation between states and a range of stakeholders where there may be tensions. Russia is already involved in scientific cooperation with international scientists on a project by project basis; this is an area most are keen to expand on.
49. The Arctic Council is an important facilitator in terms of scientific cooperation between Arctic states and the wider international community. Beyond the Arctic Council, there are numerous international assessments that have come up with international frameworks for cooperation. 'Big science' involving large-scale studies is ambitious, expensive and can be logistically challenging, so requires multinational collaboration to share logistics and funding. Science is required for development of the Arctic sea routes, providing information on navigation, pollution, and accessibility. With the North Eastern Sea Route following the length of its territory, Russia is in prime position to lead an international programme in analysing the safety and navigability of current routes, in and around its waters.
50. Concerns exist, however, regarding the potential dangers of over governing science in the Arctic. Arctic Council member states have agreed to cooperate with each other, but this cooperation should not exclude those outside the Council. Scientific enquiry should be pursued via a global approach, to ensure the best research is conducted and information shared. Svalbard constitutes a prime example of how this is already being achieved in the Arctic. A better connection between Arctic and Antarctic research could also prove valuable for scientific research.
51. The Arctic Council's Scientific Cooperation Task Force is working on an agreement that addresses science cooperation with non-parties. Although Council observers will not be signatories to the agreement, it the revised draft contains an article acknowledging the importance and value of the science contribution from non-Arctic states and underlines

cooperation with non-parties.

52. Our understanding of the impact of various industries in the Arctic is limited. There are opportunities for industry to assist with scientific research through the provision of sensors, through the use of commercial ships in the Arctic oceans and buildings on land. It will be mutually beneficial for science and industry to work better together. Industrial-scientific cooperation is already occurring but is often limited to what has economic value. For example, there are three oil companies operating in the Chukchi Sea, with raw data gathered from their platforms readily viewable and accessible. Monitoring in the Central Arctic Ocean or along the North Eastern Sea Route is harder to achieve as there is a much smaller industrial presence and a consequent lack of funding and collaboration opportunities.
53. Collating data across the sciences and the region is essential to establish better understanding of the Arctic as an interlinked system. There are difficulties in capturing all the Arctic research being conducted in one country, let alone across the Arctic in general. There also needs to be collation of historical and newer data to better calculate patterns. The challenge will be to be able to synthesise this information into effective climate models.
54. Informatics is needed to help connect different areas of science. There is an interest in the use of big data and how that can be used to help improve modelling, although there are difficulties in processing large volumes. There are also concerns over a lack of sample archives in some areas and a need for more integrative science. The Arctic Council has done a great deal of good collation and published many well-developed documents. The social sciences are also being incorporated into work of the physical sciences and there are some ambitious EU projects that are utilising indigenous people to investigate the impact of sea ice change.
55. An issue, particularly with the biological sciences, is collecting a sufficient volume and regularity of samples to be able to track change; many studies only represent a limited geographical area over a very small time scale. A particular problem in the Arctic is that there is a lot more data in the summertime where the weather is obviously milder, and little in the winter.
56. There is a need for studies to be conducted over longer periods in order to make accurate predictions. One way to help improve this would be to increase cooperative work with rural northern communities. Whilst scientists can often only be based in an area for a short time due to logistical or funding reasons, local communities can be perfectly situated to maintain research and collect data. This will allow the scientific community to better understand real time change rather than relying on records and archives that do not necessarily reflect new challenges in this dynamic environment.
57. Community based development has the potential to merge communities and scientific infrastructure need. Tasking communities who live annually or even only partially in these environments with monitoring reduces pressures on science funding within these regions. Moreover, it is easier to direct public money to local communities for monitoring than to the scientific community as there is a preference to fund long term community projects whilst scientific studies usually only have short term funding. Local knowledge and community memory can also add significant value.
58. Another challenge for collection is the vastness of the area, and how to collect data through new methods such as remote sensing. The pressure to collect data more frequently and over a wide area will require new cooperative frameworks, particularly when technology crosses over with military uses such as unmanned aircraft.
59. Funding can be one of the main limiting factors on scientific endeavour in the Arctic, particularly in the context of multinational projects, as much funding is provided on a state by state basis. There is certainly a need for smoother bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms. Success within Europe thanks to EU funding such as Polarnet has been noted; such frameworks could be used as a template for funding mechanisms

elsewhere in Arctic science.

60. The private sector is keen to be involved and investment is happening but is not generally well advertised; Guggenheim Partners endorsed the World Economic Forum's Arctic Investment Protocol in January 2016. There may be scope for further exploiting commercial interests to fund scientific programmes, such as approaching Google and Silicon Valley in reference to big data interests. China is keen to utilise Arctic shipping routes, and as in the development field could potentially become a more significant actor in helping to further scientific study.

Conclusion

While governance in the Arctic is based first and foremost on the sovereign rights of the Arctic states, in order for the region to thrive it is critical for those states to encourage wider international cooperation. Regardless of attempts to buffer the Arctic, it cannot be completely isolated from wider geopolitical developments. The need for a more nuanced approach to security in the Arctic is an issue that merits further exploration.

The areas of Arctic science that need to be studied and pursued have been identified; the main areas of concern are about the process, funding mechanisms, international cooperation, and how to maintain long term studies. Solving these problems will require involvement of the global community and not just the Arctic states. Regular sampling is needed across multiple regions and timeframes to establish baselines, as without understanding the Arctic of today it will not be possible to understand the Arctic of tomorrow.

The co-production of knowledge between 'mainstream' and indigenous societies will allow better consensus and less conflict, and hopefully more sustainable development and successful adaptations to change. Locally generated and implemented solutions may be more appropriate than grand visions. Different communities are, and will be, experiencing different risks and will have different responses

It is important to be preparing for different Arctic futures without compromising contemporary requirements for sustainable development. One approach could be to establish a memorandum of understanding between the Arctic states and other relevant actors as a code of conduct for sustainable economic development in the region – including joint committees for the regulation of fishing; sustainable management of hunting; local production of fruit and vegetables and preventing extinctions and conserving species.

There are concerns that many Arctic discussions only debate best practice but do not move on to the next stage of actually implementing it. In order to protect the Arctic and utilise it effectively it is critical for Arctic states to lead on the effective implementation of new initiatives involving collaboration with a wide range of international stakeholders.

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