

Analyzation of the Questionnaire of Arctic EIA – General questions about EIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the analyzation results of the answers in Questionnaire on Good Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and public participation in the Arctic. The aim of the questionnaire was to find examples and needs of good practices from EIA projects undertaken across the Arctic circumpolar region. The responses gained are used to inform the work of the project's Editorial Group as they develop good practice recommendations for how EIA should be conducted in the Arctic.

The questionnaire is part of the activities of the Arctic EIA project which full name is: Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic. The Arctic EIA project works 2017-2019 under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council. The Arctic EIA is led by Finland, the Ministry of the Environment, and co-led by the Kingdom of Denmark, Canada and Gwich'in Council International. The Editorial group of the Arctic EIA consists of nominated coordinators from all the member states and Permanent Participants (Indigenous Peoples' organizations) of the Arctic Council.

The questionnaire was targeted to all EIA stakeholders and it was distributed by the Editorial group members of the Arctic EIA project. It could also be accessed from the Sustainable Development Working Group website from Sept – Dec 2017. Total of 37 respondents from seven countries answered to the questionnaire in English. In Russia 26 responses were received in Russian. Because of the language the Russian answers are analyzed separately.

Analyzation of the results is done in a way that would catch and record the main thoughts of each answer and bring out the themes that stand out from the answers. Answers have been modified as little as possible. Due to a relatively small number of respondents, the results of this report do not necessarily represent the thoughts of the majority. Analysis will be further refined as the Arctic EIA project develops.

2. CONCLUSIONS (all of the answers)

Recognition of traditional knowledge, consultation and engagement of locals, especially indigenous peoples, and monitoring / follow-up programs were the key concepts for defining good EIA practices in the Arctic. The importance of valuing and incorporating traditional (mainly indigenous) knowledge into the whole EIA process and decision-making was seen in answers across the countries. It was also seen that the way of incorporating traditional and local knowledge into the whole EIA process is by frequent consultations and engagement of locals, especially indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders. This should be done right from the beginning and through the whole process. Also, the importance of good monitoring and follow-up programs were emphasized.

Great improvement has been made in many countries with consultation processes and policies. In Canada, territorial review boards and co-management were seen as working systems that ensure consultation and participation processes of locals and indigenous peoples. There have also been good efforts in incorporation of traditional knowledge into EIA process and decision-making but still this was seen as needing improvement, especially in the Nordic countries.

Public participation was overall seen as a key ingredient for a good EIA and when asked about special insights into public participation, issues of **giving appreciation to the opinions and rights of locals and indigenous peoples and the importance of community meetings** stood out. Many of the respondents felt that community or public meetings are good ways to communicate with the locals and communities even though some felt conversely.

Meaningful participation of locals and indigenous peoples, valuing and incorporation of traditional knowledge, climate change and safeguarding of livelihoods were highlighted as themes needing the most attention in the development of recommendations for good EIA practices in the Arctic.

3. NORDIC COUNTRIES (14 answers)

3.1 Can you describe general concepts or principles that could be used to define good practice(s) for the conduct of EIA in the Arctic?

International agreements and agendas set up a framework that define basic principles for good practices. Respondents listed

- the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- the Arctic Investment Protocol
- the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), article 8 (j) as such. In CBD, the good practices arise from the recognition of the perspectives of indigenous peoples in nature management and how traditional knowledge and livelihoods should be respected and preserved.
 - Recognition of traditional knowledge and livelihoods were also mentioned in other answers and it was stated that the impact assessments must be prepared by people with knowledge and expertise from that specific local livelihood, e.g. reindeer herding.

Carefully adapted public participation and dialogue with all of the stakeholders concerned were mentioned by six respondents. Especially the role and perspectives of indigenous peoples and that they should be consulted and engaged into every stage of the process were emphasized. The concept of Free, Prior and Informed Consent was mentioned as a good practice that should be applied. It was also noted that the data gathered via public participation and stakeholder consultations should be visible in the report.

Solid baseline studies and targeted follow up programs were mentioned as important principles for the conduct of a successful EIA. One respondent stated that environmental monitoring programs aimed at reindeer husbandry and arctic industries should be established.

3.2 Based on your knowledge and experience with EIA in your region of the Arctic, can you describe what currently works well and what does not? How would you improve EIA as practiced in your region of the Arctic?

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Finland	Participation improved	It depends too much on the development actor (proponent) how much they want dialogue / consultations and what is their attitude towards local community / livelihoods.	Monitoring of the social impacts during the development project should be improved.

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Finland			
	EIA legislation in Finland incorporates many good practices and the foreign companies, in particular, are very progressive in implementing voluntary measures that go above and beyond what is required.		
Norway			
			To include the perspectives, knowledge and interests of the Saami and other indigenous peoples of Barents regions, and in particular the traditional knowledge of reindeer herding and related land use of fishing, hunting and gathering, in order to develop a comprehensive assessment of nature values.
	Addressing important topics and initiating new projects.	<p>Sufficient funding.</p> <p>Participation from different regions.</p> <p>Lack of collaboration between different working groups in the Arctic Council.</p>	<p>Better coordination between different representatives in projects/WGs.</p> <p>Better inclusions of indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>Important to follow up the assessments' findings on a national level.</p> <p>Important to identify what is expected on a national/regional level.</p> <p>Methods to assess cumulative effects.</p>

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Norway			
	<p>Consultation system which has improved the contact between the Saami and the governmental bodies.</p>	<p>“The challenge is to make an understanding that the consultations are not enough to carry out an action at the expense of Saami rights.”</p> <p>Although the Norwegian legislation requires co-operation from reindeer husbandry in matters concerning them, the impact assessments are, in many cases, based upon the lack of expertise of reindeer husbandry.</p>	<p>The Saami also have a right to deny intervention in Saami areas according to principles of international law.</p> <p>Knowledge and expertise on reindeer husbandry need to be increased in preparation of impact assessments.</p> <p>The Saami traditional knowledge is recognized through the Convention on Biological Diversity (article 8(j) and 10 © and the Diversity Act. This knowledge should be documented and used in all matters that will affect the reindeer herders’ rights.</p>
Sweden			
Kingdom of Denmark			
	<p>The update of Mineral Resources Act to improve consultations in Greenland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation on scope for EIA. Gives us a chance to influence what is covered in the EIA and social impact assessment. And people a chance to discuss projects that are being planned in their local area. 2. Eight week consultation periods to allow time to study EIA. ... 		

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Kingdom of Denmark			
	<p>...</p> <p>3. Community meetings in communities affected by a project.</p> <p>4. The administration is split so that the department responsible for promoting mineral resources activities in Greenland is not anymore responsible for setting the environmental standards.</p>		
	EIA Guidelines are good in Greenland.	Problems arise when projects are put to practice – lack of experience in conducting impact assessments.	Processes and practices need to be reviewed and evaluated, and one can revise according to experiences of best practices in order to improve the quality of the EIAs.
	Early public consultation and stakeholder involvement in Greenland.		Impact assessment should include all or as many scenarios as possible instead of the present “scaled impacts” from “very bad” to “very good”.
Iceland			
	Utilization of natural resources in a responsible manner which is due to local experts setting their own standards and aiming to be at the forefront. Also Norway, Canada and Alaska are good examples.		

Consultation processes and public participation are working well or have improved in many countries (Finland, Norway, Greenland) and in Norway this has improved the contact between the Saami and the governmental bodies.

Respondents from Norway emphasized the inclusion of traditional knowledge and expertise on reindeer husbandry in impact assessments and that this should be improved. The Saami traditional knowledge is recognized through the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Diversity Act and respondents emphasized the importance of documenting this knowledge and using it in all relevant matters that affect Saami peoples and reindeer herders' rights.

3.3 Can you provide any special insights into public participation related to EIA in the Arctic?

It was evident that public participation was seen as a key subject for a good EIA and that participation is important not only when conducting an EIA but also for democracy itself. It was seen important to have participation in order to uphold trust in the decision-making and one has to have motivation to use participation in order to conduct a successful EIA. Also, for the project leader, it was seen important to take time and build trust within the society and communities.

Public meetings were mentioned few times and they divided opinions. Many of the respondents saw them as good practices – a chance to have an open discussion about the project with locals. Though, one respondent felt that, especially in Greenland, public consultation meetings seem to facilitate one-way communication and the provision of information rather than a collaborative approach of dialogue and mutual learning. According to the respondents, attention needs to be paid to public meetings and to public participation overall, so that they encourage all parties to open dialogue and mutual learning from each other in order to create meaningful engagement.

It also stands out from the answers that the rights and opinions of indigenous peoples should be taken into account and that the concept of free, prior and informed consent needs to be applied. For example, a couple of years ago the indigenous organizations had a great influence on the Arctic Investment Protocol that sets out guidelines for responsible investment in the Arctic. Also, when assessing impacts on nature values it is important to have public participation in the form of consultation between Saami reindeer herders and authorities as well as direct participation in research activities.

3.4 In your opinion, what Arctic specific issues or themes deserve the most attention for the development of recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic?

The main themes that came up from the answers were traditional/ indigenous knowledge, local communities and climate change.

First of all, traditional/ indigenous knowledge and livelihoods were mentioned most often as themes deserving the most attention when creating recommendations for good EIA practices in the Arctic. Traditional knowledge was mostly referring to the traditional Saami knowledge. Two respondents specified that...

- integration of traditional/ indigenous knowledge at all levels of research and governance
- how to document and use the Saami traditional knowledge as a good practice in issues that affect the Saami people

- how to implement the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in practice (as Norway has adopted through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
...as an issue that needs most attention.

Also, reindeer husbandry and other nature-based livelihoods and safeguarding the use of land for these activities were seen as important issues.

Secondly, few respondents wanted to highlight the issue that locals should be heard in the projects and the projects should benefit the local communities – even after the project has ended. This means sustainability in a long term and includes activities such as local job creation, education and investments in activities that support local communities in the future. One respondent mentioned that one should consider how to ensure that e.g. mining leaves a community in a better state.

Last but not least, the climate change was seen as a theme needing the most attention in the Arctic. Emphasis should be put into assessing consequences in the light of climate change and how to be best prepared for the expected big scale changes.

- According to one respondent, also other cross-boundary issues such as cumulative effects of various different activities and long-range transported pollution would need more attention. There would be a need for a risk-based approach where the activities with the highest expected and most long-lasting impacts should be at the forefront.

Also seen as important issues were other land use issues such as protection of sensitive areas and valuing of large areas with none or few small-scale developments. This considers both marine and terrestrial environments, especially those with high in biodiversity and healthy environment. Safeguarding the diverse ways of using land and waterbodies was seen crucial in order to assess the value of nature as basis for delivery of ecosystem services. Also, ecological compensations and private governance were mentioned as issues needing attention.

3.5 Good practices and projects

	Good practices	Good projects
Finland		
	Preventing/ mitigating/compensating the impacts for livelihoods and local communities as a top priority.	
	Public participation including interviews and "working groups" for different topics (reindeer herding, conservation, municipality, local villages etc.).	
	Full and effective participation of all stakeholders concerned, in particular indigenous peoples.	

	Good practices	Good projects
Finland		
	<p>Good practices should be tailored to the culture and people in which a project is located. They should also represent the optimal way something can be implemented among a range of possibilities.</p> <p>Public participation should go beyond the required consultation process in EIA legislation. Stakeholders need to be consulted in the design phase and throughout the entire lifecycle of a project.</p>	
Norway		
	<p>Involvement of reindeer herders in all stages of a process.</p> <p>Implementation of real consultation processes.</p> <p>Use the traditional knowledge of reindeer husbandry related to effects and consequences.</p> <p>Impact assessments must be prepared by people with knowledge and expertise in reindeer husbandry.</p> <p>Governmental guidelines are required in the planning of use and exploitation of reindeer grazing areas.</p> <p>Establishment of environmental monitoring programs aimed at reindeer husbandry and arctic industries.</p> <p>Establishment of preparedness related to environmental challenges.</p> <p>Strengthen the economy and expertise among the reindeer herders so that they can safeguard their rights.</p> <p>Recognizing the interconnection of nature, culture and livelihood. ...</p>	

	Good practices	Good projects
Norway		
	<p>...</p> <p>Natural resources, land, environmental conditions, indigenous culture and local livelihood need to be integrated in a common approach to Integrated Value Assessments.</p> <p>Public participation in the form of consultation between Saami reindeer herders and authorities, as well as direct participation in research activities.</p>	
	<p>Precise and relevant Terms of Reference</p> <p>Solid baselines</p> <p>Competent EIA team</p> <p>Carefully adapted public participation</p> <p>Open and concise reporting</p> <p>Reasonably strict review</p> <p>Targeted follow-up programs</p>	
	Collaboration within regions, neighboring countries and on a circumpolar level.	
	Integration of traditional/ indigenous knowledge at all levels of research and governance.	
Sweden		
	Ecological compensations	
Kingdom of Denmark		
	Free, prior and informed consent	<p>WWF and ICC working to improve standards for consultations in a 2,5 year long project.</p> <p>Project output: a number of reports, a TV documentary about mineral resources activities and the debate about public consultations and a political meeting, where candidates for the Greenland Parliament were invited to debate how consultations could be improved.</p>

	Good practices	Good projects
Kingdom of Denmark		
		<p>A follow up was an establishment of a NGO coalition for better public consultations in Greenland.</p> <p>http://inuit.org/2/vores-arbejde/aktiviteter/rapporter/icc-og-wwf-rapporter-om-raastofaktiviteter-i-groenland/</p>
	<p>Follow a process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Present the project at a public meeting. 2) Q/A public meeting about the project. 3) General discussion about the project. 4) Dialogue with stakeholders. 5) Summarize and conclude comments to the project. 6) Response to the hearing about the project. 	
	A risk-based approach where the activities with the highest expected and most long-lasting impacts are at the forefront.	
	Democratic and fundamental rights for all citizens in the EIA process.	
	All participants, to communicate clearly in terms of expectations to the process of involvement.	
	<p>The update of Mineral Resources Act to improve consultations in Greenland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation on scope for EIA. Gives us a chance to influence what is covered in the EIA and social impact assessment. And people a chance to discuss Projects that are being planned in their local area. 2. 8 week consultation periods to allow time to study EIA. 3. Community meetings in communities affected by a project. ... 	

	Good practices	Good projects
Kingdom of Denmark		
	... 4. The administration is split so that the department responsible for promoting mineral resources activities in Greenland is no more responsible for setting the environmental standards.	
Iceland		
	Local experts setting up their own standards and aiming to be at the forefront.	

3.6 Interesting point of views to consider

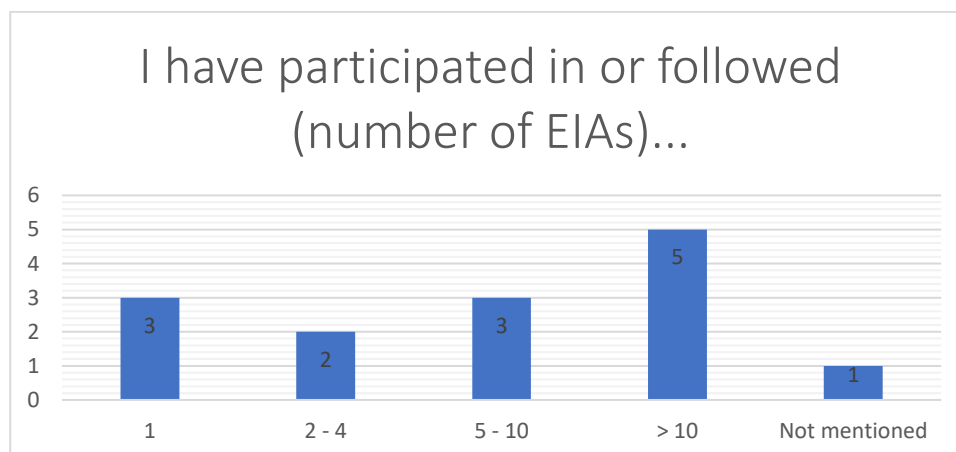
FINLAND:

- Monitoring of the social impacts during the development project should be improved. Now, only the environmental impacts must be monitored.

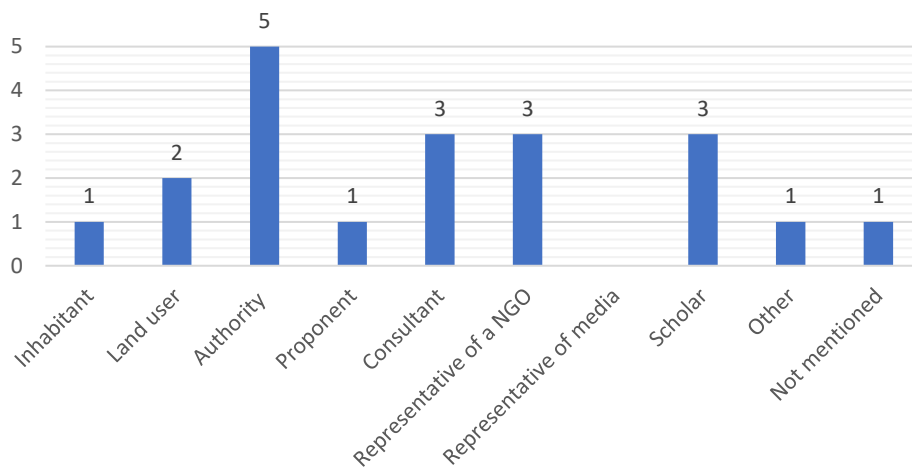
NORWAY:

- (From the respondent's point of view,) the Saami also have a right to deny intervention in Saami areas according to principles of international law.

3.7 Charts from the Nordic countries



My experience of EIA(s) is mostly in a role of a...



4. CANADA (15 answers)

4.1 Can you describe general concepts or principles that could be used to define good practice(s) for the conduct of EIA in the Arctic?

Local, especially indigenous, consultations and meaningful engagement right from the beginning and throughout the whole environmental assessment process were described most often (by 9 respondents) as important principles for defining good EIA practices. Consultations should continue through the process and project proponents should provide project updates consistently. Also, the involvement of all other stakeholders was seen important. It was also stated that mechanisms for indigenous peoples to be involved in the assessment as well as in the decision-making should be provided – and that the process should inform decision-making and result in appropriate levels of environmental protection and community well-being.

Integration of traditional / indigenous knowledge into EIA process and decision-making was mentioned next often by the respondents (total of five times). It was stated that traditional / indigenous knowledge should be given equal weight as conventional science and that processes need to be designed to use them both where and how they most appropriate fit in. In other words, the process should apply and integrate “best practicable” knowledge, may it be scientific, indigenous, or local. This information should be sufficient, reliable, and defensible.

- One respondent mentioned that what’s specific for the Arctic and should be taken into consideration is that depending on the area, there may be a lack of data or a lack of documentation of data. Traditional knowledge may be extensive but not accessible to the body doing the EIA or the mechanisms to include it may not be in place. In addition, processes for good EIA in the Arctic may just take longer. It’s essential to have enough time to engage with local people and Indigenous groups and to follow processes which allow for meaningful consideration of traditional and local knowledge and to accommodate seasonal harvesting cycles and possibly migrations or availability of the appropriate individuals. Mechanism to integrate traditional/ indigenous knowledge into EIA decision-making may take time to evolve and requires recognition and support from all authorities.

Also, careful scoping of the project, monitoring and follow-up programs and independence of the body doing the EIA were seen as important principles when defining good EIA practices.

It was stated that environmental assessment should include a good scoping of the project, focus on key issues (significant effects and what matters to people) which need to be taken into account in making decisions and actively engage with researchers to make sure that all knowledge is harnessed in the conduct of EIA. Also monitoring, follow-ups and adaptive management measures are essential parts of the EIA process. One respondent highlighted the possibilities of community-based monitoring in order to gather basic environmental and social data. EIA processes should also be conducted free from political and proponent influence by an independent and impartial body. For example, in Yukon independent board conducts the assessment and provides recommendations to government decision makers. This supports open and transparent decision-making.

4.2 Based on your knowledge and experience with EIA in your region of the Arctic, can you describe what currently works well and what does not? How would you improve EIA as practiced in your region of the Arctic?

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
		Overemphasis on social science “alternative facts”. The environmental sciences need to harmonize aims, objectives and methods.	
		Government decision makers struggle with inconsistent methods and recommendations.	
	Thorough review process in Nunavut offers complete reviews as per Nunavut Agreement.	Review process is lengthy which affects industry’s interests and is a limiting factor to economic development.	
	Various territorial review boards and federal co-ordination offices all provide essential roles in fulfilling consultation requirements.	Staffing issues can result in communication delays (e.g.: not posting items on public registries in a timely fashion).	
		Community consultation via face-to-face forums and visits on the land with local people. Lack of visual presentations such as maps or posters. Skype and teleconference connections are often poor / not working well.	Improvement could include more one-on-one and visual presentations.
	Co-management boards and land use plans are two successful components of ...		Certainty over land ownership and title – In regions without comprehensive land claim agreements, there is on-going uncertainty about Indigenous ...

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
	<p>...Canada's Northern EIA regimes. Both are constitutionally founded in comprehensive land claim agreements, and both ensure that Indigenous peoples and northerners participate meaningfully in environmental planning, assessment, and decision making.</p> <p>While their models may not be directly transferable to other jurisdictions, Canada's northern EIA regimes offer guidance for Indigenous involvement throughout the assessment and decision-making processes. They also rely on integrated land-use planning processes.</p> <p>Land Use Planning (in combination with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Regional Environmental Assessment) are proving to be effective in Canada's North. Land use planning is an integrated component of ...</p>		<p>...title to the land and how it may be used. Some interim agreements are in place to provide indigenous input into planning and EIA decisions while negotiations on land claims continue; however, without regional co-management boards, the system is incomplete.</p> <p>Capacity – A truly open and inclusive assessment process requires that those wishing to participate have the capacity to do so.</p> <p>Indigenous and northern stakeholders' groups across Canada face a multitude of capacity constraints including: inadequate funding, staffing or technical/process knowledge of environmental assessment. Capacity challenges also arise from the volume and complexity of project referrals received by Indigenous groups year by year. The net result is limited participation in current assessment processes.</p>

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
	<p>... co-management that involves the participation of community, territorial, and federal representatives. Approved land use plans have served to streamline EIA processes by outlining what kinds of development may take place, where, and under what broad conditions.</p>		
	<p>Accepting the cultural importance of valued species as a factor in assigning significance has been working better in the last few years.</p> <p>Accepting the hierarchy of mitigation and monitoring is gaining ground.</p>	<p>Establishing a regional context for individual projects stumbles especially when seen as cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Applying effective and adaptive mitigation still needs emphasis.</p> <p>Increasing understanding of thresholds needs to be expanded.</p> <p>Reaching a common set of metrics for assessment endpoints.</p>
			<p>Cumulative and regional EA focus vs. project level.</p> <p>Development of regional monitoring for credible and consistent baseline. Should be done through community-based approaches. Some higher-level analysis or technical analysis by scientists/ experts from outside the community would be needed to supplement.</p> <p>Mechanisms for data sharing, large-scale databases that address consistency of methods, proprietary and ownership issues are needed. ...</p>

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
			<p>...</p> <p>Data needs to be much more accessible and understandable to public.</p> <p>Transparent impact benefit negotiation process that uses analysis tools to show quickly and openly the results of various proposals (who wins, who loses, benefits long and short term, costs long and short term, uncertainty, etc.)</p> <p>Consultation and engagement of communities early and continuously.</p> <p>Change dynamic in EIA decision-making boards. Currently staff of all boards are largely western trained and thus recommendations they provide to boards (which include indigenous) undervalue or do not know how to use Inuit knowledge. More indigenous input into advice and recommendations to decision-makers is needed.</p> <p>Long term funding of key baseline data collection programs.</p> <p>Requirement that proponents fund/contribute to long term monitoring programs and do cumulative effects EIA for their projects. Mineral development in Canadian north tends to start with one project and ongoing exploration with result that new mine developments ...</p>

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
			<p>... keep being treated as add-ons to initial EA.</p> <p>A cumulative approach is needed and when/ how this should kick in needs to be clear for developers.</p> <p>The EIA process needs to be refined to reflect realities of development process in the Arctic – which is often started by junior companies looking to be bought out and done on a shoe string with money needed from initial finds used to continue exploring. The overall cumulative effects are thus never addressed and also significant environmental damage / liability is left behind for public to manage.</p> <p>The Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP) has potential to provide collaborative regional monitoring data but has been underfunded by the federal government consistently since land claim agreement 20 years ago.</p>
	<p>Co-management works well for EA decision making.</p> <p>Face-to-face meetings, sessions and hearings work better for communities, while written material works better for government.</p>		

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
	<p>Due to land claims agreements in Inuit Nunangat in Canada, there is a level of respect for community-based decision-making and self-determination of Inuit that does not exist with most areas of southern Canada.</p> <p>The mechanisms that were established through Land Claims Agreements, such as the environmental impact screening and review boards under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Nunavut Impact Review Board under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, have a strong basis in constitutional law, bring the various parties together (thus encouraging cross-jurisdictional communication), include processes for public and indigenous involvement, and result in a decision that is defensible...</p>	<p>In Nunatsiavut, there is no co-management of environmental assessment and the mechanisms for harmonization and even consultation is not strongly defined in the land claims agreement.</p> <p>Consequently, there is limited coordination or communication between the governments and the separate environmental impact assessments may be duplicative and/ or there may be project-splitting, which can result in decreased quality of impact assessment, as well as being frustrating for community members.</p>	<p>In Nunatsiavut, need for improvement of impact assessment processes by creating a co-managed environmental impact assessment body for the region, ideally integrating federal, provincial, Inuit (Nunatsiavut, plus Nunavik for cross-boundary projects), and First Nations (Innu, for overlap projects) into a single EIA process.</p> <p>There would be joint scoping and impact assessment and recommendations, but each body would retain decision-making over the areas within their jurisdiction (however, consultation between governments on the decision would be encouraged and would hopefully evolve as best practice). This would result in one project one EIA. It would be more straightforward for local people, and provide the best opportunity for them to be involved in the impact assessment. It would also encourage cooperation between jurisdictions and would likely lead to improved relationships over time.</p> <p>It would also result in better decisions, as the wider scope and greater involvement of interests throughout the EA would result in cogent and thoughtful recommendations, providing a better basis for decisions.</p>

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
	...because it has had input from a wide range of parties.		
		It can be hard having someone from “down south”, who has limited practical knowledge of local life, to work within the local communities.	<p>There needs to be a clear understanding of the requirements of sensitive data and other areas related to traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Proper protocols and guidelines should be in place for everyone.</p> <p>Consistent email sharing is good to showcase that one is interested in work being done.</p>
	The systems currently in use in Nunavut and the NWT generally work well.		The Government of Nunavut should make available wildlife data more freely, so that the most recent information on wildlife populations can be considered in the EIA.
	<p>Community working groups work well as a means to establish a participation level of engagement.</p> <p>The working groups can be used to direct community research such as Inuit knowledge studies or socio-economic baseline studies. They can also be effective for monitoring programs.</p> <p>The membership of these working groups should be determined by the community (by community groups, such as the hamlet/ municipality, ...</p>		

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
Canada			
	... local hunters and trappers, elders or youth organizations). The working groups can communicate their work with the company over community radio.		
			Do not rush process steps at the urging of the proponent. Many indigenous communities do not have sufficient capacity to respond to written requests for information in a short period of time. EIA could be improved with participant funding for indigenous groups in particular.

What's working well in Canada according to the respondents were the establishment of various territorial review boards and co-management. These mechanisms ensure consultation and meaningful participation of locals and indigenous peoples in environmental planning, assessment and decision-making. According to one respondent, while bringing various parties together, these mechanisms result in a decision that is defensible because it has had input from a wide range of parties.

- These mechanisms are established through Land Claims Agreements, which enhances the role of participation and indigenous involvement. Thus, in Inuit Nuangat there is a level of respect for community-based decision-making and the self-determination of Inuit according to one respondent.

Though, it was stated that in Nunatsiavut, there is no co-management of environmental assessment and the mechanisms for harmonization and even consultation are not strongly defined in the land claims agreement. According to the respondent, there would be a need for improvement of impact assessment processes by creating a co-managed environmental impact assessment body for the Nunatsiavut region.

Capacity issues and data availability were listed as issues needing improvement by few of the respondents.

According to the respondents, there are problems with adequate capacity and one of the respondents stated that indigenous and northern stakeholder groups face a multitude of capacity constraints which will lead to limited participation. When considering this with the fact that there

were few mentions about need for more consultation and engagement of communities i.e. more indigenous input and participation, it is clear that capacity issues should need more focus. One of the respondents summed this up by saying that a truly open and inclusive assessment process requires that those wishing to participate have the capacity to do so.

Also, data issues such as data availability and sharing need improvement according to the respondents. It was stated that data needs to be much more accessible and understandable to public and that mechanisms for data sharing need to be improved. There's also need for improving funding of data collection, for example long term funding of key base line data collection programs. One respondent stated that there should be a requirement that proponents fund or contribute to long term monitoring programs and do cumulative effects EIA for their projects.

4.3 Can you provide any special insights into public participation related to EIA in the Arctic?

Many of the respondents listed community meetings as good principles in public participation. According to one respondent, meetings are held in all potentially affected communities, such that the review board travels to the communities and not the other way and that some travel support is provided for final public hearings. Another respondent added the issue of scoping meetings (including proponent) in potentially affected indigenous communities at the start of environmental assessment where the focus would be on key topics that matter to people. Also, to be noted is that meeting formats should be adapted to reflect what is culturally appropriate for a given indigenous group.

While public participation was seen as a key to good EIA, it was seen important that locals are truly empowered to participate in EIA in order to hear their thoughts and perspectives and engage them into the process.

Couple of the respondents also mentioned that public hearings should be separated from technical hearings. According to one respondent, this is already being applied in Nunavut where scoping and public hearings are held in conjunction with or separately from technical hearings. By separating the hearings, it separates the technical scientific discussion from the community discussion according to the other respondent.

4.4 In your opinion, what Arctic specific issues or themes deserve the most attention for the development of recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic?

Valuing of traditional knowledge, meaningful participation and cumulative effects stood out from the answers as themes deserving most attention.

Many of the respondents stated that what needs attention is that traditional, i.e. indigenous knowledge would be appreciated to the same degree as scientific knowledge and they both would have their place in a well conducted EIA.

- According to one respondent the traditional knowledge of an area and its resources may be extensive, but the information may not be accessible or in a form that is easily integrated

into EIA. At the same time western scientific data and research may be non-existent or spotty, resulting in a shortage of information on which to base impact and mitigation predictions, and the development of monitoring and follow-up programs. Assessment of data gaps and best practices in integration of traditional knowledge and western science should thus need more focus in developing recommendations for EIA practices in the Arctic.

As one of the respondents mentioned, it's about making use of best available knowledge, be it scientific, indigenous or local.

Another theme was meaningful participation and indigenous consultation. It was stated that communities need to feel that they are meaningfully involved in the project from an early planning phase to decision-making and that this needs more focus. Involvement also includes realizing meaningful benefits.

- One of the respondents felt that ensuring participation at all levels – community, regional and governmental – needs more attention. In an EIA, it's essential that everyone is empowered to participate. How can one make that happen? The best recommendations and decisions come from wide-ranging input from knowledgeable and committed people. How is it ensured that knowledge holders and decision-makers are committed to the process and believe in the process and are willing to engage to it in order to make decisions that result in the best projects with the most benefits and the least negative impacts?

Third theme standing out from the answers were cumulative effects. A couple of respondents particularly mentioned caribous: importance should be given to migratory species of high cultural and ecological value.

Some of the other issues needing attention included climate change, supporting of effective co-management regimes and honest EIA process towards communities with realistic EIA based recommendations. Also, long-term monitoring and follow-up programs were mentioned.

4.5 Good practices and projects

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	Concepts and principles for defining good international EIA practices: http://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/principlesEA_1.pdf	
	The process should inform decision-making and result in environmental protection and community well-being. The process should apply and integrate “best practicable” knowledge, be it scientific, indigenous, or local, to address the issues being investigated. ...	

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	<p>...This information should be sufficient, reliable, and defensible.</p> <p>Budgets must recognize the critical need for scientific, indigenous, and local knowledge capacity and expertise, as well as data collection and maintenance, to support the incorporation of best practicable knowledge in EA processes.</p> <p>The process should concentrate on significant environmental effects and key issues. Note that many EIA authorities have worked to develop accepted definitions of ‘significance’.</p> <p>To promote credibility and public trust, EIA processes should be conducted free from political and proponent influence by an independent and impartial body.</p> <p>Regional EIA and land use planning provide essential context and background information and help streamline project level assessments by defining regional baselines and thresholds</p> <p>Monitoring, follow-up, and adaptive management measures are essential parts of the EIA process.</p>	
	<p>Meaningful public participation</p> <p>High quality information/ data</p> <p>Open and transparent decision-making</p> <p>Providing mechanisms to integrate traditional/ indigenous knowledge into EIA decision-making and giving it time to evolve, and securing recognition and support from all authorities.</p> <p>EAs should include a good scoping of the project and encompass the anticipation of environmental effects, consider different options for mitigation, they should have openness on the decision of whether an undertaking should proceed and under what conditions, and the follow-up and monitoring to be done to measure whether the effects or...</p>	

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	...predictions were accurate and whether different or additional mitigations might be required.	
	<p>Consistent consultations and locals' and all stakeholders' participation right from the beginning and throughout the EA process.</p> <p>Consistent leadership and communication and adequate resources, within regulatory bodies and review boards.</p>	
	Use cumulative and regional assessment approaches as much as possible - especially for areas or sectors that are new and could result in big changes to the residents and communities.	
	<p>Consider the intimate relationship of indigenous peoples and the land.</p> <p>Good EIA reflects the slow ecological rate of arctic regeneration, lack of (or low density of) existing infrastructure, and scientific unknowns regarding system functioning. Also, relatively high ecological and social vulnerability to climate change.</p>	
	The use of scientific ecological principals for analysis of environmental issues in the Arctic.	
	<p>The ground rules should be clear to all participants prior to commencement.</p> <p>Should be well documented.</p> <p>Should be conducted in a timely manner.</p> <p>Extensive scoping.</p> <p>Should consider all ecosystem and socio-economic aspects of the project.</p> <p>Should build on information available to date (to avoid re-inventing the wheel).</p>	
	Good EIA reflects the values of northern people in general and Indigenous peoples in particular.	
	Developing an EIS that is concise and written in plain language as much as possible, so that it is as accessible to the communities as possible.	
	<p>Risk analysis and uncertainty.</p> <p>Concepts of cultural and ecological landscapes.</p>	

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	(Canada's northern EIA regimes) offer guidance for Indigenous involvement throughout the assessment and decision-making processes.	
	Accepting the cultural importance of valued species as a factor in assigning significance.	
	Community working groups work well as a means to establish a participation level of engagement. Working groups can be used to direct community research such as Inuit knowledge studies or socio-economic baseline studies. They can also be effective for monitoring programs.	
	The membership of these working groups should be determined by the community (by community groups, such as the hamlet/municipality, local hunters and trappers, elders or youth organizations).	
	Data needs to be accessible and understandable to public.	
	Co-management/ regional co-management boards	
	Proponents funding/contributing to long term monitoring programs and do cumulative effects EIA for their projects.	
		Baffin Bay/Davis Strait SEA is a good example to early engagement prior to the federal government proceeding with activities in the petroleum industry in Nunavut.
		GMOB (www.gmob.ca) re public participation, as well as The Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision: Giant Mine Remediation Project, EA 0809-001 (June 20, 2013) being the basis for the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Agreement, signed on June 9, 2015.
	Fully transparent process where any citizen or organization is encouraged to participate by submitting documents to an online registry. (Practice in Yukon) ...	

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	<p>...</p> <p>Community meetings.</p> <p>During decision making, for procedural fairness, government cannot hear new information and must make a decision based on the assessors' evaluation.</p>	
	<p>Public participation is key to good EIA. When citizens are empowered to participate in EIA, their unique perspectives can provide a wider view into potential impacts and can inform good recommendations and decisions. In the Arctic, it is even more important to have good participation, as land claim agreements may set out requirements for indigenous participation and, additionally, the people of the Arctic have strong ties to the land and are greatly impacted when projects result in negative environmental effects, and the peoples' way of life and rights may be affected.</p>	
	<p>Sufficient time must be allocated to ensure that public concerns are voiced and addressed.</p>	
	<p>Best examples of strong EIA practice have involved co-management, which brings together jurisdictions in a spirit of co-operation and respect.</p> <p>The best co-managed processes are rooted in constitutional law (land claims agreements) and have strong political support and strong community support. They have developed mechanisms to ensure that community concerns can be considered throughout the EIA, and have resulted in the empowerment of community members to engage in the process.</p>	
	<p>To make recommendations which continue indigenous peoples' ties to the land in the vicinity of a development (i.e. mine) so that people can return to the land after closure and feel safe about drinking the water there and harvesting fish and wildlife.</p>	
	<p>Temporal and spatial scoping in the face of a rapidly changing environment.</p>	
	<p>Valuing of collaborative approaches to have detailed terms of reference for individual EIAs at the onset of an assessment to avoid the adversarial approach.</p>	
	<p>Development of (and enforcement of) monitoring and follow-up programs with good adaptive management.</p>	

	Good practices	Good projects
Canada		
	Follow-up accountability from the EIA hearings is required so that commitments made during the process can be followed to ensure they are followed.	

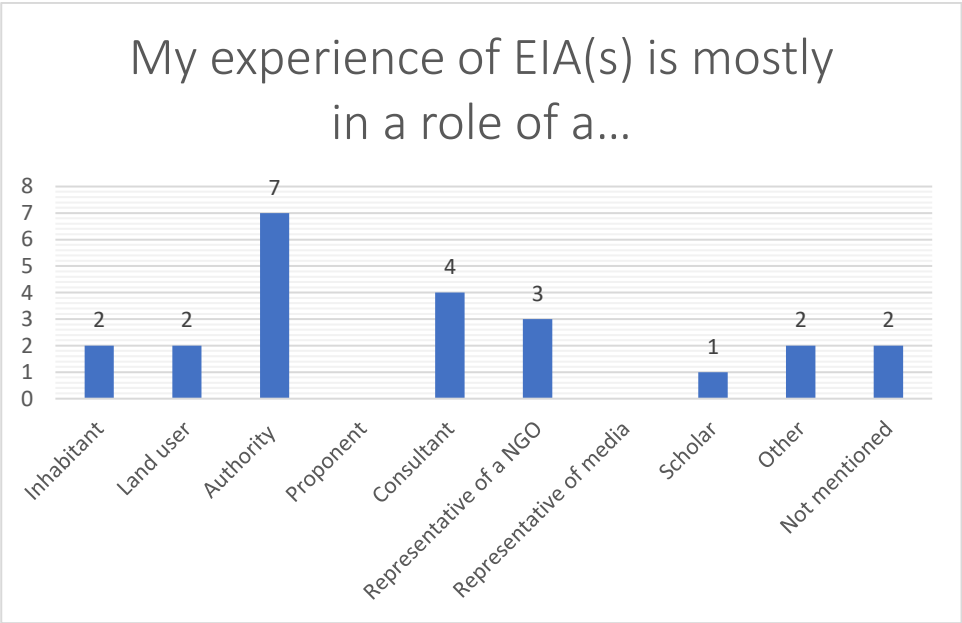
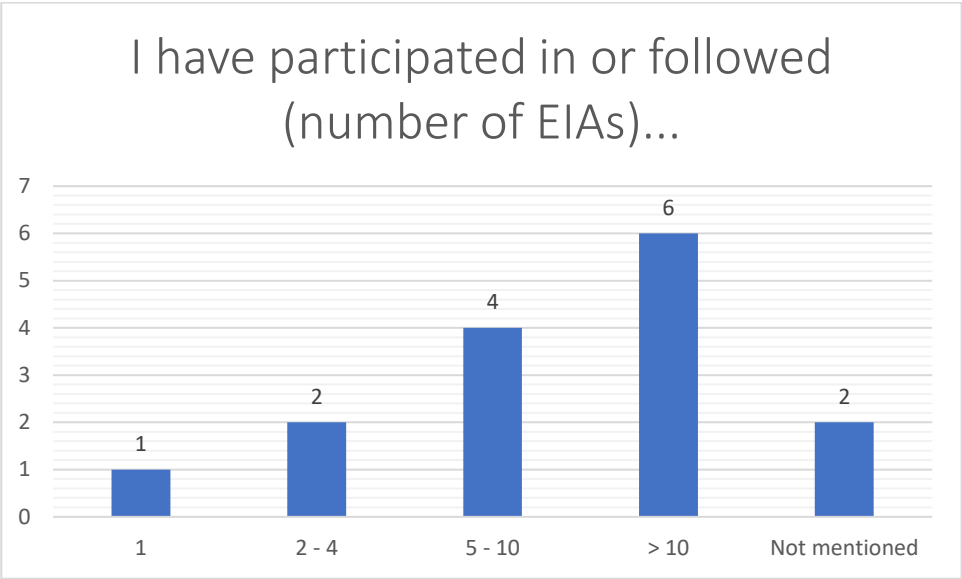
4.6 Interesting point of views to consider

- Use **cumulative and regional assessment approaches** as much as possible - especially for areas or sectors that are new and could result in big changes to the residents and communities. Project assessments would be done under these approaches and provide thresholds and standards for acceptability. Strategic approaches that focus on information for decision-making should be used to keep costs and timelines reasonable. One respondent noted that in Canadian Arctic (Nunavut and NT) detailed project EIAs often fail or get bogged down because there aren't correct mechanisms for addressing broad systemic issues and concerns of affected people, rapid changes in arctic environment – e.g. opening up of shipping, melting permafrost, rapid changes in social environment, etc. **EIA should be considered more like audit** - in terms of level of detail and authority and shouldn't be expected to answer most of the development questions that are cumulative and regional in nature.
- **The Asian Development Bank approach of assessing readiness of population for proposed development** is needed in Canadian Arctic. (See ADB social assessment guidelines of about 20 years ago). This assessment involves a tiered approach - starting with very broad and quick analysis of policy and social readiness, then more rigorous analysis of capacity and adaptive needs, followed by analysis of what is needed to fill/address lack of readiness or gaps. All this precedes EIA.
- **Transparent negotiations of impact benefit agreements.** Currently most are done in secret between developer and Inuit organizations, often led by lawyers and with little input from affected communities. Models/analysis that show potential benefits and impacts to all parties (who wins, who loses, benefits long and short term, costs long and short term, uncertainty, etc.) should be developed and shared.
 - Analysis of social and institutional readiness and plan for addressing readiness needs to be in place before specific project EAs are done (if not into issues of moratorium on MacKenzie Gas in 70s and Arctic drilling now).
- **Community based monitoring** for basic environmental and social baseline data. Low cost and effective techniques being successfully used in Africa with cell phones should be adopted much more. Also, drones are being used for monitoring in some places and for some components in US, etc. These need to be adapted and adopted for northern communities/environments. Institutional arrangements for monitoring that combine community Inuit knowledge and science are best.
 - **Long-term regional monitoring at community and regional levels** need to address collaborative institutional and governance structures and resources (issues of methods and capacity are secondary and can be sorted out if once governance and

resources are established). This will lead eventually to consistent baseline and impact data.

- Change dynamic in EIA decision-making boards. Currently staff of all boards are largely western trained and thus recommendations they provide to boards (which include indigenous) undervalue or do not know how to use Inuit knowledge. **More indigenous input into advice and recommendations to decision-makers** is needed.
- Idea of integrating indigenous knowledge and western science should be ditched. These are parallel knowledge systems with different strengths and values in the EIA process. **Processes need to be designed to use them both in places and how they are most appropriate.** Filter of **western scientists and decision-makers interpreting indigenous knowledge needs to be got rid of and replaced by Inuit doing the interpretation.**
- EA process based on oral processes and non-adversarial consensus approaches of Inuit.
- **Separate public hearing days into technical hearings** (more formal) **and community hearings** (informal). This separates the technical scientific discussion from the community discussion.
- The process should be run by people from the Arctic, not federal bureaucrats from outside the region.
- Scientific environmental sciences and traditional knowledge are looking at the same problems and seeking solutions – similarities (in aims, objectives and methods) need to be harmonized.
- In public participation, inclusion of unique group or audience and giving them intervener status.
- Proponents use the sheer deluge of repetitive material to drown poorly funded and understaffed participants. There is no consideration of a case-law approach where much of the evidence would already exist in the public record. Public governance acting on behalf of public interest is weak often because of time constraints caused by the voluminous approach to evidence.
- Public participation in quasi-judicial hearing process in Canada is expensive and not addressing community needs (see film by Zacharias Kunuk about hearings for Mary River project).
- Responsible develop rather than limiting or banning potential economic advancement of an area.
EA process should be blunt to the communities rather than try to be politically correct all the time.
- Providing "green/renewable energy" and remote sensing (for collection of baseline information and project monitoring) solutions that work in Arctic environments.
- Guidance is required on the balance between economic opportunities and potential wildlife concerns, be they conservation or access to wildlife resources and traditional lifestyles.

4.7 Charts from Canada



5. USA (8 answers)

5.1 Can you describe general concepts or principles that could be used to define good practice(s) for the conduct of EIA in the Arctic?

Consultations with the locals and incorporation of their traditional knowledge into projects and decision-making were being emphasized in the answers as principles that define good practices within EIA. These were mentioned by five respondents and couple of them specified that locals or indigenous peoples and stakeholders should be engaged right from the beginning and consulted frequently throughout the whole process. One respondent highlighted the importance of consultations with Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs) and the importance of proponents avoiding impacts on natural resources of particular value to ANOs.

When considering traditional or indigenous knowledge, it was seen important to include it into all phases of the project right from the baseline studies to analysis and impact assessment and finally into decision-making documents, such as U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses. This way traditional or indigenous knowledge could truly be integrated into project planning, rather than providing it as a separate part of the analysis.

5.2 Based on your knowledge and experience with EIA in your region of the Arctic, can you describe what currently works well and what does not? How would you improve EIA as practiced in your region of the Arctic?

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
USA			
		In the Bering Strait Region of Alaska and around Nome specifically, EIA's do not carry enough influence in local, state and federal governments with regard to making decisions about proposed projects.	Making EIA more thorough, cheaper to obtain, quicker to get and only done by entities that have no relationship whatsoever to the companies that they are providing the EIA's for. Need for concrete and effective measures to ensure that EIAs are done with that in mind.
			Using the newest data possible and doing new research. Setting up base line studies.
			Valuing indigenous knowledge. Use competent local individuals to gather necessary data. Open dialogue process.

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
USA			
			Local residents, namely the indigenous peoples, must be informed and be the key decision-makers (for example, the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the Nanuq Commission, Reindeer Herders Association).
			Composing of conflict avoidance agreements.
	<p>Abundance of baseline data collection.</p> <p>Good efforts to incorporate traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Thorough evaluation of project alternatives and cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Federal government Tribal consultation policy and Department of Interior Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Consultation Policy.</p> <p>Use of regional activities plans, conservation planning, integrated activity plans and resource management plans to streamline projects and impact assessments.</p>	<p>Ambiguity in process between different agencies creates an environment for lack of accountability, transparency, and objectivity through the different federal agencies application of their NEPA processes.</p> <p>NEPA process is lengthy and documents are several hundred pages long.</p> <p>Uncertain timelines and complex documents are difficult to digest and apply, these can also lead to permitting delays and regulatory uncertainty.</p> <p>Lack of evidence within NEPA products of local contributions.</p> <p>Lack of discussion of positive impacts.</p> <p>Lack of continuity in mitigation measures, projects, and agencies.</p>	

	Working well	Not working	Improvements needed
USA			
			Careful planning before construction in order to take environmental changes such as storms and floods into account. Tidal levels are mapped and can be used for planning.
	<p>Engaging with the relevant federal agencies and Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs) with cooperative agreements pursuant to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (e.g., Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission [AEWC]) during project planning.</p> <p>Consulting with relevant federal agencies regarding project mitigation measures, as well as project proponents jointly developing Conflict Avoidance Agreements with ANOs to minimize impacts on subsistence users, marine mammals, and other parts of the Arctic marine ecosystem.</p>		Project proponents should provide more project-specific information on particular types of common impacts, such as acoustic impacts to marine mammals.

What has been working well is the consultation policies with locals and indigenous organizations according to two respondents. They mentioned...

- Federal government Tribal consultation policy and Department of Interior Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Consultation Policy and

- the engagement of relevant federal agencies and ANOs with cooperative agreements pursuant to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (e.g. Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission AEWC) ... as good examples.

These Conflict Avoidance Agreements were mentioned by two respondents of whom the other felt that this was something to improve and the other felt that agreements were working when project proponents were jointly developing Conflict Avoidance Agreements with ANOs in order to minimize impacts. Also, one respondent felt that consultations with relevant federal agencies regarding project mitigation measures were working well in the US but on the other hand one respondent stated that there's a lack of continuity in mitigation measures, projects, and agencies.

Respondents felt that there had been good efforts in incorporating indigenous knowledge into projects and setting up base line studies or that these could still be improved.

What is currently not working according to one respondent, is that EIAs do not carry enough influence in local, state and federal governments with regard to making decisions about proposed projects at least in the Bering Strait Region of Alaska and around Nome. Also, one respondent stated that ambiguity in process between different agencies creates an environment for lack of accountability, transparency, and objectivity through the different federal agencies application of their NEPA processes.

5.3 Can you provide any special insights into public participation related to EIA in the Arctic?

When considering public participation, it is important to really listen to the locals and the community. Four of the respondents highlighted the meaning of local participation where as community meetings were seen as good platforms to contact with locals. One of the respondents gave emphasis on local input stating that local participation should be prioritized over general public comments and feedback in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Also, early engagement and collaboration with the locals and stakeholders were seen important and that collaboration should continue throughout the whole EIA/ NEPA process. But even though these efforts would be made to improve public participation, it would be meaningless without really implementing the results into decision-making. One respondent felt that participation and decision-making doesn't always go hand in hand and that many times governmental bodies seek input but do not take it into account. Other respondent stated that recommendations by the local people should be evident in the final product. The same applies for the results of public participation overall and that participation should lead to improved decision-making.

5.4 In your opinion, what Arctic specific issues or themes deserve the most attention for the development of recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic?

Answers varied a lot and there weren't any clear issues or themes that stood out. There were few issues that were mentioned couple of times.

Response time and development of response techniques to oil or other chemical spills were seen as issues deserving the most attention when developing recommendations for good EIA practices in

the Arctic. According to one respondent, there isn't infrastructure in Alaska to adequately deal with an oil spill, for example in Beaufort Sea. Especially development of techniques in broken ice conditions was seen as essential. The Arctic is under pressure by increased commercial and cruise ship traffic and offshore and nearshore oil and gas exploration and development. One of the respondents emphasized that management of these should need more attention.

Also, safety issues and protective measures such as protecting livelihoods and improving food security, are seen as issues deserving more attention.

Respondents also felt that more attention should be paid to listening to the needs and solutions of the local people. Locals, especially the indigenous peoples, should be taken along in the decision-making process and have access to research.

Other topics that would need more attention:

- Leaving Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lands out of development
- Conflict avoidance i.e. mitigation
- Rescue, emergency clean up, shelters and health facilities
- Filling of wetlands, permafrost, Arctic air quality, Arctic environmental baseline, flora and fauna, Arctic species and marine mammals, climate change, coastal erosion, socio-economic impacts, public health, workforce development.
- Adapting to effects from seasonal reduction of sea ice
- Measures to reduce impacts of offshore and nearshore oil and gas exploration & development to subsistence resources

5.5 Good practices and projects

	Good practices	Good projects
USA		
	Considering land recovery time	
	Using the newest data possible and doing new research.	
	Setting up base line studies	
	Consulting with ANOs early and often during the planning phase of each project. Important for project proponents to avoid impacting natural resources of particular value to ANOs ...	The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean is an example where National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) incorporated indigenous knowledge throughout the NEPA process. During this EIS process, NMFS worked closely with their ANO partners to ensure they incorporated ANO partners information and knowledge appropriately into the analysis. ...

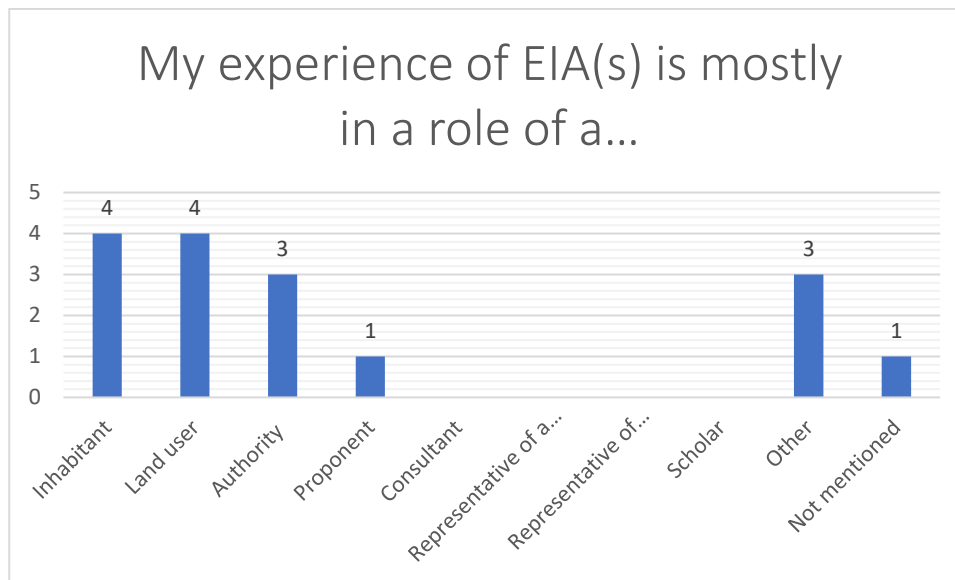
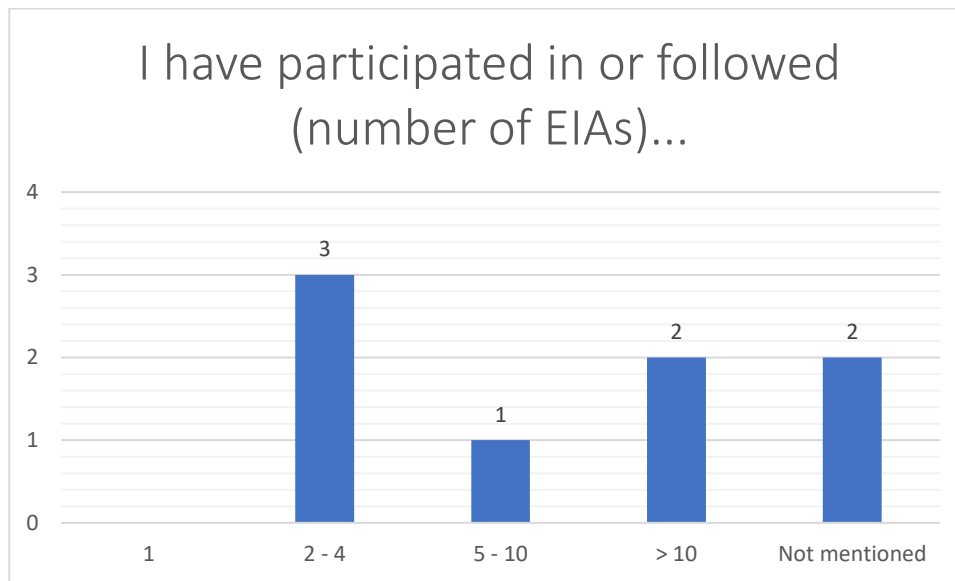
	Good practices	Good projects
USA		
	<p>... Incorporate indigenous knowledge into environmental analyses and decision-making documents, such as U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses.</p> <p>Incorporate the indigenous knowledge throughout the description of the baseline conditions and in the impacts analysis, rather than providing it as an appendix or separate part of the analysis.</p>	<p>...They also included alternatives and mitigation measures that would lessen impacts of the activities on ANO partners' traditional subsistence hunts.</p> <p>Available online: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/arctic.htm</p>
	Indigenous peoples, need to be informed to approve all initiatives.	
	<p>From an indigenous engagement perspective:</p> <p>Lots of local participation.</p> <p>Early and frequent engagement collaboration with local peoples.</p> <p>Incorporation of indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>Iterative stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Accessibility of executive summary and materials in the local language.</p> <p>Allowing local people to drive impact assessments.</p>	
		<p>As an example of good local participation, in response to local concerns over a lack of local control in the NEPA process:</p> <p>The Bureau of Land Management formed the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPRA) Working Group (WG) to integrate local people in the agency's planning and decision-making process over NPRA. ...</p>

	Good practices	Good projects
USA		
		...The NPRA WG is comprised of local leadership from surrounding communities, which contribute to the agency's management of NPRA.
	Using regional activities plans, conservation planning, integrated activity plans and resource management plans to streamline projects and impact assessments.	
	Project proponents jointly developing Conflict Avoidance Agreements with Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs).	
	Project proponents providing more project-specific information on particular types of common impacts.	
	Open dialogue process.	
	EIAs done by independent entities with no relationship to the companies that they are providing the EIAs for.	

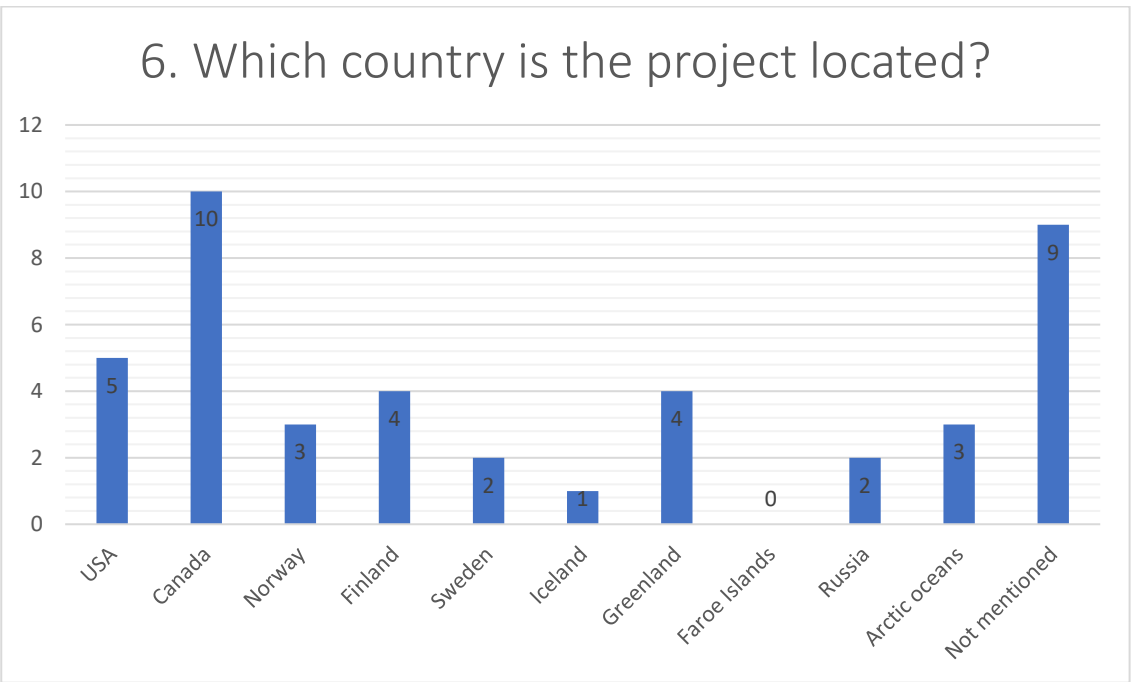
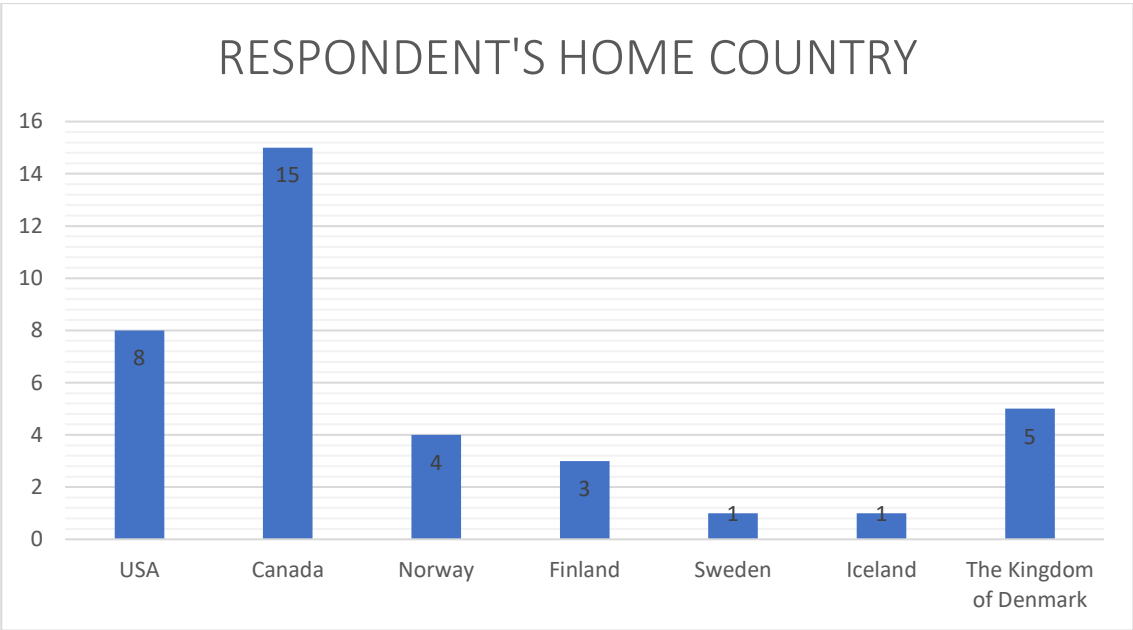
5.6 Interesting point of views to consider

- **Educate public about the importance of EIA** and the influence it has on land, water ways and ocean. Important to improve because at the moment there's little to no public participation.
- Conflict Avoidance Agreement in the Arctic ocean to become a tool of management practice for all vessels in the hunting zones outline by subsistence hunters.
- **Land recovery time needs more attention**
 - "An EIA only really provides a mining company (for example) with a list of impacts their project will have and what they will need to do for reclamation. The problem is that the US Army Corps of Engineers does not recommend native grass and plant species be planted immediately after a project is done although it should. They only have a short list of grasses that are not even native to the arctic that they make every operation use for reclamation. This is a huge problem and needs to be addressed in an EIA."
- Automatic Identification System capability needs to be included for all commercial vessels operating in the Arctic

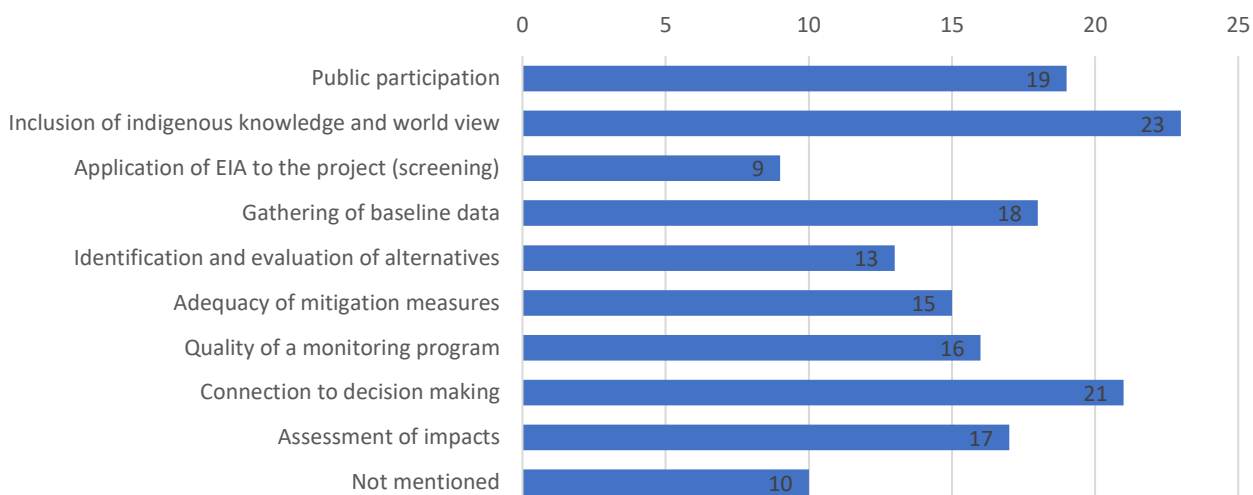
5.7 Charts from the USA



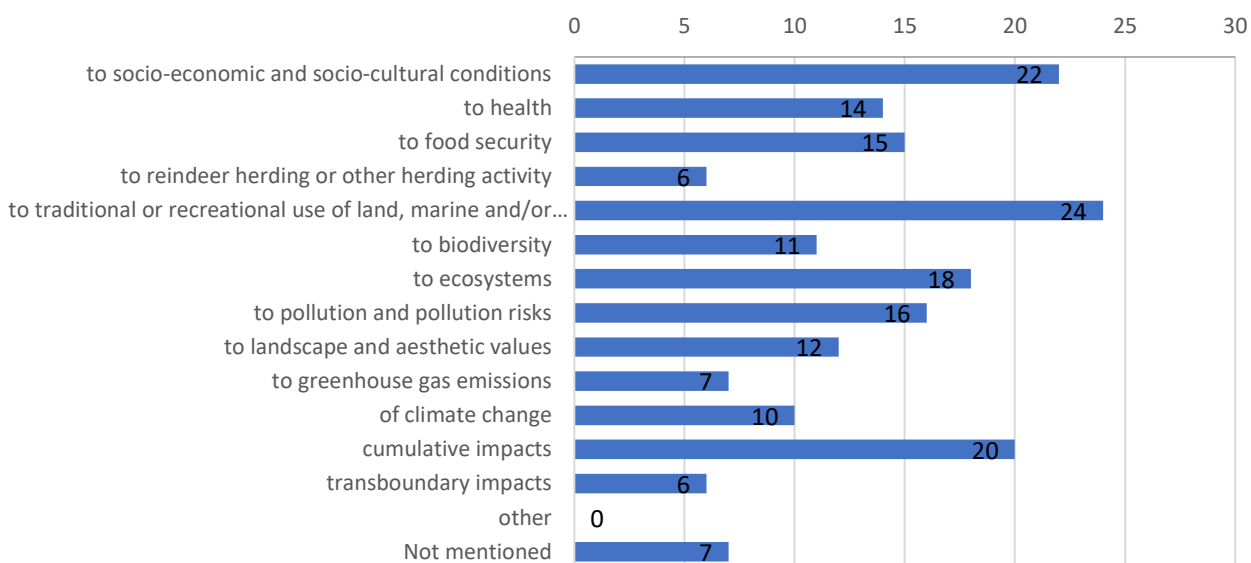
6. CHARTS FROM ALL OF THE ANSWERS



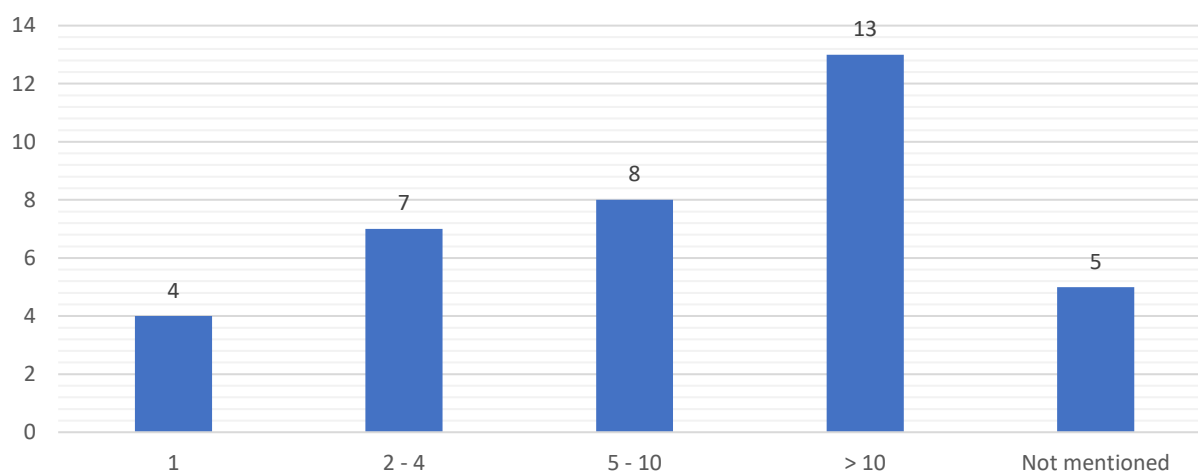
8. Is your example referring to some particular component(s) of an EIA process?



Assessment of impacts



I have participated in or followed (number of EIAs)...



My experience of EIA(s) is mostly in a role of a...

