Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Marine Activities

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A Reference Guide

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Part II Report
Findings for Policy Makers
MEMA Part II
Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities

This report and database can be used by the Arctic Council for guidance and, if decided, in possible follow-up project(s) to consolidate, update or expand existing guidance, identify areas where additional guidance may be needed, or as a value-added resource for other projects focused on engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
MEMA PART II REPORT

• Examines engagement practices with Indigenous Peoples and local communities from governments, Indigenous Peoples, industry, NGOs, academia, and the Arctic Council.

• Takes stock of existing guidance, recommendations, protocols and requirements on engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

• Identifies good practices and lessons learned.

• Features wisdom of 5 guest authors with experience in meaningful engagement.

• Creates a database of publicly available documents.

• Report brings these good practices and lessons learned under one roof and may lead to a better understanding of how to meaningfully engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
The MEMA Database

• Online database of over 750 entries
  • Formed the basis for the MEMA I and MEMA II reports

• Various types of documents e.g.:
  • legislation/regulations
  • protocols
  • guidance
  • recommendations by:
    • Governments
    • Arctic Council
    • Indigenous People
    • Industry
    • Academia
    • NGOs
    • United Nations
Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) - Part II

• Support engagement between policy and Indigenous Peoples
  • Identify how they engage
  • Support enhanced engagement

• Consider:
  • legal obligations for engagement
  • cultural differences
  • location of community
  • resources available

• Establish supportive measures, e.g.:
  • record keeping
  • review
Executive Summary for Policy Makers

Main Findings:

• Term “meaningful engagement” has no single definition, nor a one-size–fits-all approach.
• The findings are not only applicable to marine activities but most of them are valid for all activities.
• Identified good practices.
• Key Lessons learned - related to development of relationships and engagement process.
The review of documents from all sources and sectors identifies certain practices of meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Summary of Good Practices for Meaningful Engagement

- Identify the issues and factors requiring engagement and which issues/factors require engagement strategies to be established.
- Identify potentially affected participants and those with whom to engage.
- Consider legal obligations for how to engage, if applicable.
- Consider cultural differences, location of community, and resources available.
- Employ mechanisms for engagement by use of multiple strategies and early and proactive engagement at all levels.
- Develop an engagement plan or agreement, and report back to the community.
- Identify how best to communicate with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Identify the appropriate time to begin any engagement and the processes of engagement over the lifetime of an activity.
- Establish supportive measures including record keeping, review of processes, and dispute resolution mechanisms, as appropriate.
- The relationship between actors and Indigenous peoples based on trust and respect, and conducted in a transparent and culturally appropriate manner.