



Putting circumpolar science to work for a viable Arctic: perspective and role of an international NGO

- **Continuity:** WWF in the Arctic with a circumpolar presence for almost 20 years, also in the Arctic Council
- **Expertise:** A stream of projects, campaigns for arctic conservation, focusing on species, habitats (e.g. networks of protected areas on Taimyr), ecoregions (Barents and Bering Seas), informing processes governing human activities.
- **Convening and applying international science:** WWF can bring together disparate disciplines, interests, knowledge, and actively work on the gap between science and policy, expediting science the science to policy translation with credibility.
- **Transformation right now:** making arctic conservation fit for rapid change. Need to connect with and work with emerging science data and concepts



What are/were the impediments to successful international partnership and coordination and how were these overcome?

- The science-policy gap and how to effectively and credibly inform it (WWF's role and the role and motivations of science / scientists)
- The scientist and the advocacy challenge (and variations thereof between continents, disciplines)
- When close to the forefront of science, there is often not a fully established “consensus”, especially across various scientific communities and across the Arctic.
- Different languages used by different constituencies (WWF to connect, to provide knowledge translation)
- Mutual understanding with indigenous peoples / peoples in the Arctic, and mutual understanding of roles and needs
- WWF as a complex international organization (international / national)



What does the future (next 10 years) of coordinated, international arctic science look like from the perspective of your organization/program/project?

- Lots of the above!! (and hopefully solutions)
- More and easier cooperation
- Tighter coupling between science and solutions (requires time to listen)
- Convening topical streams of science for a pan-Arctic perspective, connecting to stakeholders, to combine and expedite policy implications of science on a larger scale



What is/has been the most successful initiative of your organization/program/project and what role did international partnerships play in that success?

- The ‘big tent’: a metaphor made concrete.
- Indigenous peoples, scientists, policy-makers, artists – all deployed to one end, reaching different audiences with one message.