

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

After consideration of the report on Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry, the International Steering Committee (ISC) makes the following recommendations:

- Concerned that the viability of traditional reindeer husbandry is deteriorating throughout much of the circumpolar North. There is a risk that this form of land use will vanish altogether in some areas. Special efforts by member countries are required to rectify this situation.
- Encourages the Arctic Council to acknowledge the value of the traditional reindeer husbandry of the arctic peoples, which is closely connected to the ecology, economy and culture in the circumpolar region. The rebuilding of the family based reindeer husbandry is of great importance, and needs to be paid more attention.
- Encourages the Arctic Council to provide a framework for an international meeting place to facilitate a dialog between national authorities and the reindeer industry in the circumpolar North.
- Recognises that the rate of degradation and loss of reindeer pasture is accelerating in many areas. The ISC will call attention to the need for securing and maintenance of reindeer pasture. International management of pasture areas, especially where these span national borders, can be an important step towards the achievement of sustainable reindeer husbandry.
- Recognises the need to develop a more comprehensive approach to the management of reindeer husbandry. Furthermore encourages the development of the educational system and enhance the flow of knowledge between herders, scientists and managers.
- Recognises the need to develop or improve already existing legislation that aims to protect and enhance the life and culture of reindeer peoples.
- Recognises the need to increase awareness of the market potential of reindeer products and to stimulate the process of adding value to these products.
- Draws attention to the need for better management plans and scientific programmes to secure the co-existence of reindeer husbandry with predators, wild reindeer and caribou.
- Recognises the importance of existing international co-operation between Arctic nations. Bilateral agreements could be extended into new areas of co-operation for land use and resource management.
- Encourages the development of one or more international centres for traditional reindeer husbandry.
- Encourages the reindeer industry to continue the positive development in adjusting the number of reindeer to a sustainable level in order to preserve the pastures for future generations.