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**ABSTRACT:  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

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**Ethical Livelihoods**

Livelihoods refer to ways of living and working for acquiring the necessities of life such as food and water and for generating further cash and non-cash income. Examples of Arctic livelihoods are reindeer herding and extracting oil and gas. Desire for certain livelihoods forms and styles is the root of seeking economic development, leading to deliberate and inadvertent social transformations.

As industrial development for livelihoods continues and expands around the Arctic, such as for transportation facilities or mining, land use patterns change. That could be vehicles driving across tundra or settlements encroaching onto previously unsettled land. Industrial development also brings socio-economic change which is frequently increased reliance on cash-based purchases for goods and services; less reliance on one's own skills for food and shelter; immigration into the Arctic to pursue new, often opportunistic and short-term livelihoods; and emigration from the Arctic due to declining livelihoods opportunities of one's main interests or seeking new options.

Conflicts and trade-offs can occur amongst different livelihoods. Oil or diamonds might be sought or found on prime hunting and herding land. Increased use of shipping lanes for commercial products might interfere with nature-based or culture-based tourist cruises. Tourism also illustrates the challenge of livelihoods scales. Increasing tourism can increase income, but can then harm the solitude, wildlife, and landscapes that many tourists seek in the Arctic.

Consequently, ethical approaches can assist in developing and maintaining long-term livelihoods. Different ethical approaches might yield different decisions. "Do no harm" refers to assessing possible outcomes from livelihoods choices and avoiding as much social and environmental harm as feasible. Risk/benefit analyses balance risks

and benefits from livelihoods, while trying to manage and mitigate the risks. Utilitarianism seeks the greatest happiness or greatest good for the greatest number through livelihoods activities. Different cultures have different base ethics, while all ethical approaches have been critiqued and the limitations evaluated. No ethical panacea exists.

Nonetheless, asking ethical questions about livelihoods from varying perspectives helps to develop and maintain livelihoods that meet a large set of ethical criteria. Even without explicitly selecting a culture or approach for an ethics base, guidelines can be developed for making “ethical livelihoods” practical in reality and for assisting the analysis of livelihoods choices. Examples of operational guidelines are provided as the recommendations for discussion that accompany this summary.

With that starting point for ethical livelihoods guidelines to support Arctic sustainable development:

1. Where are the most severe gaps in knowledge and action?
  - How flexible are Arctic subsistence livelihoods given the expected social and environmental changes? Plenty is known about livelihoods vulnerability, but not enough is known about actions to take to adjust to these changes without excessive detrimental consequences.
2. What needs to be done to ensure a holistic, interdisciplinary and multi-actor approach?
  - Instill a better balance of Arctic livelihoods needs over different time scales, especially including subsistence living, rather than focusing on short-termism. Think beyond, without ignoring, political boundaries to seek livelihoods choices that support the Arctic and the world rather than supporting the most powerful interests of Arctic states.
3. What modalities are required for a long-term and sustained approach?
  - Adopt a sustainable livelihoods approach as a basis <http://www.eldis.org/go/livelihoods>.
  - Seek a better balance of criteria for livelihoods-related decision-making, not relying on macro-economic indicators and not seeking continual or maximal economic growth.

### **Recommendations:**

These recommendations further represent sample, general guidelines for ethical livelihoods, as a starting point for discussion:

- Livelihoods choices should be selected on the basis of criteria from the sustainable livelihoods approach <http://www.eldis.org/go/livelihoods> rather than relying on macro-economic indicators or economic growth rates.
- Cultures and natural environments have non-quantifiable, non-financial, non-monetary values that must be considered when making livelihoods decisions.
- Indigenous land rights and subsistence livelihoods deserve full consideration, potentially even priority, when balancing conflicting Arctic livelihoods.
- When making livelihoods choices, all time scales must be considered, including many generations into the future, not just short-term gains.