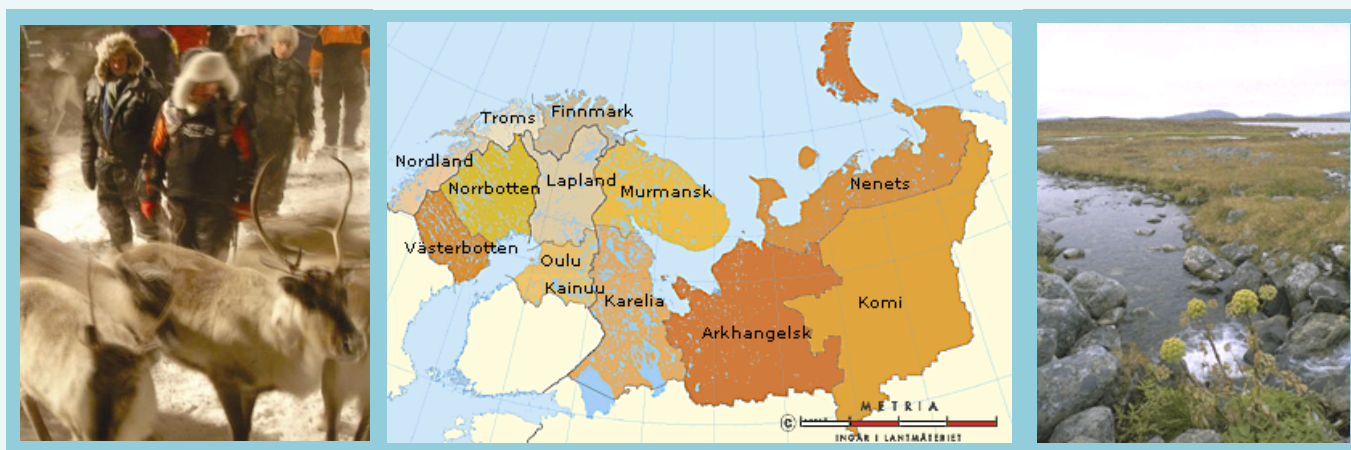


The Barents Euro Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment
(BEAC WGE)

Conference on Climate Change in the Barents Region

Vadsø, Norway September 1-3, 2009
Venue: Rica Hotel Vadsø



Preliminary Programme

July 7th 2009

The Conference is hosted by Ministry of the Environment (Norway).
CICERO is responsible for the technical and practical arrangements.

The conference is sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment of Norway,
Nordic Council of Ministers, Ministry of the Environment of Finland,
and The Ministry of the Environment of Sweden



*Royal Ministry
of the Environment*



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers

CICERO

Senter for klimaforskning
Center for International
Climate and Environmental
Research – Oslo

Introduction

The main premises for the Conference on Climate Change in the Barents Region derive from the Declaration, adopted by the Barents Environment Ministers in Moscow, November 9th 2007, when Norway took over the Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group on the Environment (2007-2009).

The Environment Ministers Declaration called for the development of projects relevant to the Barents regions concerning:

- Consequences of climate change for the carbon cycle in the Barents environment including projects relating to the importance of land and natural resources use.
- Increased knowledge of changed living conditions for the people of the region and their possibilities for adapting to climate change through a dialogue amongst experts, national and regional authorities and civil society with the intent to develop mitigation measures.

Based on the Declaration, and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's policy document, "A warming Arctic – Policy measures relevant for the Barents Region," the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the Ministries in Sweden, Finland and Russia, decided to organize this vital and opportune conference, just prior to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15).

The conference topics will focus on:

- The effects of climate change on nature; bio-diversity, permafrost, forests and water resources.
- The effects of climate change on society; traditional way of life-ecosystem services, human health, infrastructure and water management.
- Current and future national, regional and local climate change impacts and adaptation and mitigation responses.

The Conference will be both an opportunity for Barents Region countries to exchange insights from their own experience of mitigation and adaptation strategies, and to learn of the latest developments in scientific research in relation to climate change in the region.

The high cultural, ethnic and political diversity in the region creates challenges, but also tremendous opportunities to develop new, and definitive cooperative approaches to successful regional climate change adaptation and mitigation. Based on the research and experience presented during the conference a summary statement will be developed, It is expected that over the three days spent in Vadsø possibilities of cooperation in the field of climate change between Barents Region countries will be explored and established.

Day One, Tuesday September 1st.

08:00-09:00	Registration
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I. Opening Session

09:00-09:40	Opening of the Conference – Introduction by the Chair.	
	The Ministry of the Environment, Norway	Ms. Heidi Sørensen, State Secretary
	The Barents Euro-Arctic Council	Mr. Anton Vasiliev, Chair Barents Euro-Arctic Council and Ambassador at Large, Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation.
	Finnmark County	Ms. Bente Christiansen, Head, County Governor's Environmental Affairs Dept, Finnmark
09:45-10:10	Climate Change Scenarios for the Barents Region	Dr. Inger Hanssen-Bauer, Senior Scientist Norwegian Meteorological Survey (DNMI)
10:10-10:30	Coffee break	

II. The Effects of Climate Change on Nature – Management Challenges

Chair: To be determined

10:30 - 11:00	Effect of Climate Change on Biodiversity	Dr. Bruce Forbes, Research Professor, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
11:00 – 11:30	Effect of Climate Change on Permafrost	Dr. Oleg A. Anisimov, Professor of Physical Geography, Hydrological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia
11:30 – 12:00	Effect of Climate Change on Forests/Vegetation	Dr. Hans Tømmervik, Senior Scientist, NINA Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Tromsø, Norway.
12:00 – 12:30	Effect of Climate Change on Water Resources	Dr. Rutger Dankers, Climate Impact Scientist, Met Office, Hadley Centre, UK
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	

III. The Effects of Climate Change on Society – Management Challenges

Chair: To be determined

13:30 -14:00	Traditional Way of Life – Ecosystem Services	Speaker from the EALÁT project
14:00 -14:30	Effect of Climate Change on Health	Dr. Birgitta Evengård, Dept. of Clinical Microbiology, Division of Infectious Diseases, Umeå University Hospital, Sweden.
14:30 -14:45	Coffee break	
14:45 -15:15	Effect of Climate Change on Infrastructure	Dr. Arne Instanes, Instanes Polar AS
15:15 -15:45	Effect of Climate Change on Water Management	Dr. Katri Rankinen, Vaccia Project, The Finnish Environmental Institute.
15:45-16:30	Summing up – panel discussion	To be confirmed – Ministry of the Environment, Norway.
18:00-20:30	Dinner	

Day Two, Wednesday September 2nd.

IV. International Climate Change Negotiations and the Barents Region

Chairs: To be determined

09:00-09:45	The Situation in International Climate Negotiations prior to COP-15	1) Mr. Harald Dovland, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environment, Norway 2) Dr. Steinar Andresen, Senior Research Fellow, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway
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V. National, Regional and Local Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies in the Barents Region

09:45-10:30	Indigenous Peoples – Russian and Nordic Representative	1) To be confirmed 2) Ms. Gunn Britt Retter, Head of the Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council.
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	

V. National, Regional and Local Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies in the Barents Region

10:45-11:30	Finland	1) Mr. Antti Irjala, Finnish Ministry of Environment. 2) Dr. Leena Suopajarvi, University of Lapland and Clim-Atic Project.
11:30-12:15	Norway	1)Dr. Grete K. Hovelsrud, Senior Research Fellow, CICERO, Oslo, Norway 2) Mr. Steinar Pedersen, Director, Sámi University College, Kautokeino, Norway.
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:00	Russia	1) To be determined 2)Dr Anna Stammler-Gossmann, Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
14:00-14:45	Sweden	1) Mr. Stefan Marklund, Manager of Water & Waste Water Services - City of Luleå, Norbotten County, Sweden. 2) To be Confirmed
14:45-15:00	Coffee break	

VI. Future challenges for the Barents Region*

Chair: To be determined

15:00-16:00	Proposals for Further Co-operation on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Barents Region	1) Mr. Kari Aalto, Chair of the Barents Regional Committee and Manager International Affairs, Council of Oulu Region, Finland 2) Ms. Inger Johanne Wiese, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Norway
18:00-20:30	Dinner	

Day Three, Thursday September 3rd.

Excursion to the arctic fishing village Hamningberg

See enclosed program.

Practical information

1. Conference venue

The conference will be held at Rica Hotel Vadsø, Oscarsgate 4, 9800 Vadsø.

Tel: +47 78 95 52 50, rica.hotel.vadsoe@rica.no, www.rica.no

2. Accommodation

The organizers have prebooked rooms at **Rica Hotel Vadsø** and **Nobile Hotel**. The rooms are booked from August 31 to September 3. The price at **Rica Hotel** is NOK 950,-per night, the price at **Nobile Hotel** is NOK 855,-

Please book your room directly with the respective hotel, referring to the conference and reservation number **3919227**.

Nobile Hotel, Brugata 2, 9800 Vadsø, booking@nobilehotell.no, tel +47 78 95 33 35, www.nobilehotell.no

3. Conference length

The conference opens Tuesday September 1st at 09:00. This means that most participants will have to travel to Vadsø on Monday August 31. The conference program will end at approximately 16:00hrs Wednesday September 2. There will be a conference dinner in the evening.

On Thursday September 3 an excursion will be organized through Varanger.National Park to the fishing village Hamningberg. The now abandoned village is one of the most important cultural heritage areas in coastal Finnmark. It is part of the program “Creating New Assets in the Cultural heritage sphere 2006 – 2010”, run by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway. The excursion will end at Vadsø/Vadsø airport approximately 1600 hrs.

4. Transport

Please book your own transport. If you go to Vadsø by plane there are flight connections from Tromsø and Kirkenes.

Please find flight schedules to/from Oslo below.

31 August	Oslo dep. 09:00 Oslo dep. 13:45 Oslo dep. 18:25	Kirkenes arr. 11:05 Tromsø arr. 15:35 Kirkenes arr. 20:30	Kirkenes dep. 12:10 Tromsø dep. 17:20 Kirkenes dep. 20:55	Vadsø arr. 13:06 Vadsø arr. 18:27 Vadsø arr. 21:10
2 september	Vadsø dep. 17:10 Vadsø dep. 18:42	Tromsø arr. 20:23 Kirkenes arr. 19:40	Tromsø dep. 20:55 Kirkenes dep. 20:55	Oslo arr. 22:45 Oslo arr. 23:05
3 September	Vadsø dep. 05:21 Vadsø dep. 06:15 Vadsø dep. 10:15 Vadsø dep. 14:17 Vadsø dep. 17:10 Vadsø dep. 18:42	Tromsø arr. 08:05 Tromsø arr. 09:02 Kirkenes arr. 10:30 Tromsø arr. 15:30 Tromsø arr. 20:23 Kirkenes arr. 19:40	Tromsø dep. 08:30 Tromsø dep. 10:15 Kirkenes dep. 11:30 Tromsø dep. 16:00 Tromsø dep. 20:55 Kirkenes dep. 20:55	Oslo arr. 10:20 Oslo arr. 12:05 Oslo arr. 13:40 Oslo arr. 17:50 Oslo arr. 22:45 Oslo arr. 23:05

The flights to Vadsø have limited capacity. If the last flight to Vadsø Monday August 31 or the last flight from Vadsø Thursday September 3 should be fully booked, please do contact us, and we will arrange for bus transport between Kirkenes and Vadsø.

5. Costs

The participants are expected to cover their own travel and hotel costs.

6. Contact information and registration:

Please send the registration form on e-mail to:

1. Research Assistant Jeremy White, j.l.white@cicero.uio.no, phone: + 47 22 85 85 60,

or

2. Office Manager Tone Veiby, tone.veiby@cicero.uio.no, phone: + 47 22 85 87 55,
Cell phone: + 47 99 15 12 40.

You will find updated information about the conference at <http://www.cicero.uio.no/thebarentsconference/>