Protecting the Sacred: Recognition of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples for Sustaining Nature and Culture in Northern and Arctic Regions

International Conference

11-13 September 2013

Rovaniemi & Pyhä, Finland

www.arcticcentre.org/sacredsites2013
Objectives

- develop strategies towards more effective protection and management of SNS in Northern and Arctic regions, taking into account indigenous peoples’ own practices and customary laws;
- critically analyze current legal / political standards relevant to SNS, highlight best practices and identify gaps;
- network and contribute to efforts of oral historical and practical intangible cultural heritage preservation together with custodians in ways that they themselves find appropriate and case-sensitive;
- create a platform to establish a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to tackle multiple issues of SNS in the North;
- raise broader public awareness of the challenges and threats faced by SNS and their custodians in Northern and Arctic Regions.

Outputs

- increase the voice of SNS custodians in Northern and Arctic regions;
- dialogue between communities, scientists and decision makers to assure that social, cultural, religious and spiritual in addition to biological diversity are taken into account in law, policy and field action related to sustainable development in the North at all levels;
- provide recommendations and guidelines for policy-making related to SNS in the North;
- advance learning and legal / policy advocacy in support of SNS in the North;
- start a participatory educational research project to advance the transmission of spiritually relevant culturally embedded knowledge and practices related to sacred sites to younger generations, and advance effective legal recognition and sustainable management of SNS, in order to enhance SNS becoming a priority issue in national sustainable development planning;
- make a publication on the protection of the SNS in Northern and Arctic regions.

Venue

11–13 September 2013
Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi & Pyhä, Finland

Scientific Committee

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