

# Many Strong Voices: Arctic and Island Action on Climate Change

<http://www.manystrongvoices.org>

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Chalky Mount in Barbados, a SIDS.

## Background

The Many Strong Voices (MSV) programme brings together vulnerable regions in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in a collaborative effort to document and respond to the common challenges that climate change presents to the regions. MSV supports a consortium of policy-makers, researchers, and advocates in the regions according to the needs that they have identified.

## Aims

- Assist in strengthening the Arctic's and SIDS' role in climate change negotiations.
- Complete a climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment across the SIDS.
- Raise awareness about climate change's effects.
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions.
- Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.



The Manitoba /Nunavut coast in Canada's Arctic.

## Why Arctic & SIDS?

Climate change impacts on coastal zones provide a common denominator between the two regions, giving context for comparing vulnerability and adaptation and for developing strategies for sustainable development in both regions.

The magnitude of present and forecasted climate change in the Arctic and SIDS means that these regions are harbingers of what could be in store for the rest of the planet. They are barometers of global change and so are considered to be testing grounds for applied processes and programmes that strengthen societies dealing with social and environmental change.

The rest of the world therefore has an interest in the responses and solutions to climate change being generated in both regions and should contribute to and learn from these peoples.



Arctic and SIDS peoples are the main Many Strong Voices partners.



## What approaches?

Many Strong Voices provides information and training, builds and supports networks and alliances, and aids negotiations and project implementation both within and outside of formal processes. The work is community-driven, but links across the multiple scales of impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation.

Both existing knowledge, especially local knowledge, and new knowledge are used. Case studies are particularly important, to focus ideas within reality and to adopt an applied research method that is useful for the people being affected by climate change.

Lessons learned through Many Strong Voices feed into policy processes at local, national, regional, and international levels, and provide decision-makers with the knowledge to safeguard and strengthen vulnerable regions.



Senja island in Norway's Arctic.

## Ongoing Work

Ongoing Many Strong Voices work includes:

- Training Arctic and SIDS representatives to act during climate change negotiations.
- Investigating climate change vulnerability and adaptation approaches for the two regions.
- Applying traditional and indigenous knowledge for understanding and dealing with climate change.
- Supporting partners in communicating their interests.

## Some Sources

- CAVIAR (Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions) project <http://tinyurl.com/6qy6jy>
- Glantz, 2003, *Climate Affairs*, Island Press, USA.
- Island Vulnerability <http://www.islandvulnerability.org>
- Lewis, 1999, *Development in Disaster-Prone Places*, Intermediate Technology Publications, London.
- VACCA (Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic) <http://portal.sdwg.org>



Pangaimotu Island in Tonga, a SIDS.