

Many Strong Voices: Dealing with Change in the Arctic and on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

<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 implementers in the regions according to the needs that they have identified.

Aims

- To assist in strengthening the Arctic's and SIDS' role in climate change negotiations.
- To complete a climate change vulnerability and adaptation research assessment across the SIDS using community-based participatory research.
- To raise awareness about climate change's effects.
- To motivate knowledge-based action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.



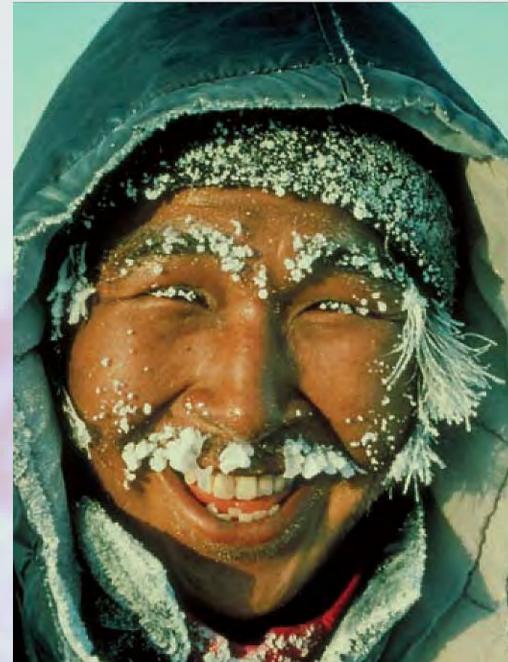
Nunavut's coast in Canada's Arctic.

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 requesting assistance on their own terms, covering and combining different knowledge forms to understand what is happening and how to deal with the challenges.

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 Many Strong Voices' main partners.



What approaches?

Many Strong Voices provides information and training, builds and supports networks and alliances, conducts original scientific research, and aids negotiations and project implementation. 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 theory within reality and to adopt an applied research method done by and useful for the affected peoples.

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



Senja island in Norway's Arctic.

Ongoing Work

- Many Strong Voices work includes:
- Training Arctic and SIDS representatives to act during climate change negotiations.
 - Researching community-based climate change vulnerability reduction and adaptation.
 - Applying traditional and indigenous knowledge for understanding and dealing with climate change.
 - Supporting partners in communicating their interests.

Publications

- A full list of peer reviewed scientific publications is at <http://www.islandvulnerability.org/docs/islandsclimatechange.pdf>
- Portraits of Resilience, a photography project documenting climate change from Arctic and SIDS community perspectives is at <http://www.manystrongvoices.org/portraits>



Pangaimotu Island in Tonga, a SIDS.