



Cooperation Agreement between The Government of Greenland and the European Environment Agency

With the aim to improve environmental monitoring, sharing of data and information and the quality and timeliness of environmental assessments and outlooks for the European region as a whole and the Arctic region in particular, the Government of Greenland and the European Environment Agency (EEA) by this agreement establish the first step towards closer cooperation. The objective is to support sustainable development, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and to protect and improve the European and the Arctic environment through targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy makers in Greenland and Europe as well as to the general public.

Establishing closer cooperation on environmental monitoring and data sharing between the Government of Greenland and the EEA further strengthens the common efforts in providing policy makers with robust, timely and comprehensive assessments and knowledge on the Arctic environment, including biodiversity and climate change. The Government of Greenland and the EEA have a common interest in strengthening the knowledge base on the state and trends of the Arctic environment, recognizing that Europe leaves a footprint in Greenland and the Arctic, but also because what happens in Greenland and the wider Arctic region influences Europe's environment. Greenland and Europe cannot tackle environmental challenges without understanding the regional and global context and the exchange of environmental data and information between Greenland and EEA is a step in this direction.

The EEA is an independent EU Agency that has 32 member countries, including five Arctic states, namely Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. In addition, six further EEA member countries are permanent observers in the Arctic Council. The EEA therefore has a responsibility to ensure that there is a good understanding amongst Europeans of the environmental changes occurring in the Arctic, their underlying causes and the policy changes needed to address them. This agreement between the Government of Greenland and EEA further enhances the ability of both parties to provide relevant and accurate environmental assessments and outlooks for the Arctic region which can guide policy makers towards sustainable solutions.

The following initial priority areas have been identified for inclusion in this cooperation agreement:

- A liaison-agreement on exchange of personnel in order to improve capacity building and to coordinate the flow of information between the Government of Greenland and EEA on areas of common concern and interests.
- Exchange of knowledge to the widest extent possible on environment and related health issues, including cooperation on:
 - Chemicals and hazardous substances, including monitoring and assessment of substances causing bioaccumulation or endocrine disruption in humans as well as wildlife
 - Waste management
 - Marine and freshwater environment
 - Emissions, pollution, monitoring and other environmental pressures
 - Biodiversity and Arctic ecosystems
 - Climate change and the cryosphere.

- Exchange of data and information from operational monitoring, research communities and community-based local and traditional sources. Exchange of information and sharing of knowledge, as part of the Shared Environment Information System in Europe, with regard to the development of indicators and improving existing environmental assessments and outlooks, including joint work on improving Environmental Impact Assessments, including application of the Precautionary Principle and the Polluter Pays Principle.
- Sharing relevant data and information from the respective parties from e.g. the Greenlandic NunaGIS and the EEA *Eye-On-Earth* information platform to improve the general public's access to environmental information in their local area.
- Strengthening network cooperation through Greenland's participation as observer in the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), including participation in the meetings of EEA National Focal Points three times a year. Through participating in this networking activity, various national and international environmental reporting obligations will be strengthened.
- Assistance in translating relevant EEA reports and documents into Greenlandic and Greenlandic reports into English to particular benefit of the education system in Greenland.

The objectives and priorities outlined above, on which the Government of Greenland and the EEA cooperation is based, imply a free flow of mutually useful information between both parties, without accompanying financial implications. EEA will contribute financially to possible Greenlandic attendance at the NFP meetings and with regard to the exchange of personnel in order to improve coordination. Furthermore, EEA will provide technical assistance and tools with regard to exchange of data and information, as appropriate.

The above-mentioned list is not exhaustive and can be expanded if both parties agree in writing. Such amendment shall come into force on the date it is signed by the two parties. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving written notice to the other party. The present agreement shall come into effect upon signature by both parties.

Signed in Nuuk, 25 November 2010



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