Human Dimensions Group Focus of Discussion:

- Three guiding questions:
  1. Discuss opportunities for better coordination in order to make use of synergies and to avoid overlaps
  2. Open and timely access to data
  3. How do we make the observation system sustainable?

- Premise: Science targeted at question of change in local resource availability at the community level is best served by addressing the above three questions with regard to multiple domains of social science data.

Human Dimension Priority Areas

- Access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale
- Implementation of local observation network on a pan-Arctic scale
- Synthesis and access of special study data

Research access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Rationale:
  - The climate is changing, and so are a lot of other things. We lack data to assess the scale of changes in Arctic communities.
  - Statistical agency data is the best source for assessing change in material well-being, health, education, and demography.

Research access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Challenges:
  - Standard statistical reports often not comparable – some we can't fix but access to microdata could help
  - Ethnic breakdowns not always available (especially Saami)
  - Utility of data hampered by lack of translations
  - Data acquisition costs (e.g. Statistics Canada)
  - Spatial resolution (e.g. communities)
  - Time series – challenges with changing geography, major task to restructure data into time series
  - General case of Russian data: "We don't know what we don't know"

Research access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Priorities:
  - Involve agencies in conversation
  - Network development to share data at level of detail necessary to address research questions
  - Explicit identification of key variables, subpopulations, geography, time series
  - Strategy for making data comparable
  - Strategy for addressing agency funding for Arctic dataset development
  - Development of university-based archiving system
- Actions:
  - Speak to agencies in each country to involve in next workshop
  - Next workshop: Russian expertise on data

Local Observation Networks

- Rationale:
  - This scale of observation is most relevant to people living in the Arctic.
  - It engages local people in the broader research process, achieving a better integration of research and adaptive responses
  - It is both efficient and contributes to a sense of fate control.

Local Observation Networks

- Challenges:
  - While we have successful examples and new initiatives in IPY, these initiatives are not being coordinated.
  - IPY initiatives need to be sustained in order to create a usable observation time series.
  - We are still operating at a regional scale which is not sufficient to address pan-Arctic research questions.

Local Observation Networks

- Priorities:
  - Integrate & expand scope of observations: local food monitoring, animal borne diseases, physical and natural phenomena (e.g. sea ice, weather).
  - Implement existing science priorities on development of local observation systems
  - Recognize transition from regional observation systems to pan-Arctic observation network
- Actions:
  - Involve experts in local observation systems and network development in Edmonton workshop

Research access to special study data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Rationale:
  - Individual case study and site level data sets can be combined into larger scale databases to address wider geographic and time scale changes.
  - Microdata sets (e.g. survey data) have multiple potential applications.
  - Domain specific data sets (e.g. health) can be combined (e.g. with education) to understand dynamics of change

Research access to special study data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Challenges:
  - Lack of knowledge of each others' studies
  - Lack of knowledge of archiving resources
  - Lack of expertise and funding for data management tasks required for sharing data

Research access to special study data on a pan-Arctic scale

- Priorities:
  - Formalize network of researchers to support identification of experts and exchange of ideas and data
  - Make better use of existing data and archive systems
- Actions:
  - Make meta-data available from IPY projects
  - International Arctic Social Science Association, with assistance from IASC, set up a list serve.

Recommendations for SAON process

- Continuity of participation is important
- Further develop priorities as task groups in Edmonton
  - Local Observation Networks
  - Statistical agency data
  - Data sharing