

Memorandum 2/11/2018

MB2: Inspiring Arctic voices through youth

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session MB2 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the XXXXXX.

Attendance: 400

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:

- Climate change

Key points raised in the session that were important to note:

- Together, 35 young leaders of Arctic youth and observer countries have been listening to the voices of wisdom, leadership, and experience in their communities, who tell of changes and loss due to climate effects being felt across the Arctic.
- The mission of these Arctic youth is to work with contemporary leaders to create opportunities for implementing youth voices in decision making – not only as future leaders, but as current leaders. They are here today and in future to advocate for climate action, Indigenous rights, and biodiversity conservation
- The message in their film “Voices of Arctic Youth” identifies the inherently unsustainable practice of taking more from the planet than we offer in return. Arctic youth stand united in their call to present leaders and decision-makers to move forward on climate action, and to step up their efforts.

Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:

- Create opportunities for Arctic youth to be part of the decision-making process today, and not only in future.
- Action must be accelerated.

Take home message from the session:

- Arctic youth firmly advocate for a more central place in decision-making, and for swifter action.