

Vast Arctic Potential Identified In WWF Report

Sustainable Development Can Help Preserve Biodiversity As Region Undergoes Drastic Change

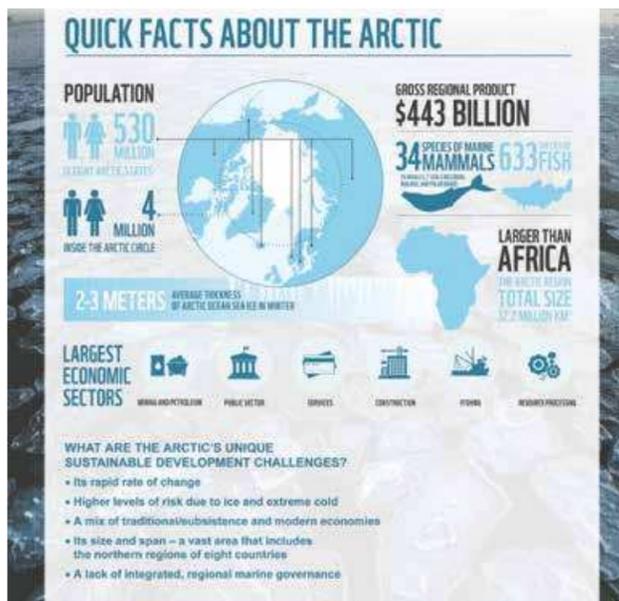
OTTAWA: As climate change alters the Arctic Ocean, opening the newly accessible region to an estimated C\$1.3 trillion in investments in coming decades, a new World Wildlife Fund report provides recommendations for developing resources and economies to ensure long-term economic and ecosystem health for both the Arctic and the planet.

Getting it right in a new ocean: Bringing Sustainable Blue Economy principles to the Arctic, from WWF's international Arctic Programme, draws from lessons learned elsewhere in the world on how the principles of a Blue Economy – one that provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations, that restores and maintains the diversity and productivity of marine ecosystems, and one that is based on clean technologies and circular material flows – can be applied to this “new ocean.”

The Arctic is home to 34 species of marine mammals, 633 species of fish and 4 million people including Indigenous peoples and communities.

Without proper policies in place, the Arctic's vulnerable coasts and marine species will increasingly come into conflict with industrial activities – such as shipping and seismic exploration – and may be harmed by invasive species, underwater noise and oil spills.

WWF is calling on the invest-



ment community, industry and governments to take a precautionary approach to the immense economic opportunities emerging in the Arctic.

- Recommendations include:
- Carefully consider and prioritize climate change risks when investing.
 - Preserve biodiversity in a warmer Arctic.
 - Fully integrate Arctic research and Indigenous knowledge in decision-making processes.
 - Focus on renewable resources to diversify Arctic economies.
 - Apply ecosystems-based management in the Arctic marine

environment and strengthen Arctic governance to ensure sustainable development.

Canada has an opportunity to be a global leader in creating economic growth that doesn't interfere with biodiversity. Canada will co-host the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference taking place in Nairobi, Kenya Nov. 26 to 28.

Applying Blue Economy principles in Canada:

The community of Cape Dorset, Nunavut is examining the possibility of creating the area's first sustainable, community-driven crab fishery.

Small-scale inshore fisher-

ies in northern communities offer sustainable economic development, allow for the use of more selective and habitat-friendly gear, and ensure that economic and food security benefits stay in communities.

WWF-Canada is working with community members in Cape Dorset on this sustainable fishing project, to determine through scientific assessment the size of the crab population and whether it can support a fishery. Discussions are under way with a second potential partner community in Nunavut.

Paul Crowley, WWF-Canada's vice president of Arctic

conservation, says: “As the Arctic warms, sustainable fishing practices will be critical in preserving biodiversity. We are extremely encouraged by the potential for a community-based, inshore fishery in Cape Dorset, which compared with other types of resource extraction such as oil and gas development and mining, will benefit the community, and could become a blueprint for sustainable fisheries for years to come. If properly executed, a locally managed, sustainable fishery could provide substantial economic opportunity at a low environmental cost.”

Dr. Simon Walmsley, WWF's international Arctic Programme sustainability director, says: “Climate change is making the Arctic more accessible than ever before. But the Arctic Ocean remains a remote, and risky place to do business. By starting from a premise of sustainability before massive development begins, we can help prevent the most negative impacts in one of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.”

About World Wildlife Fund Canada

WWF-Canada creates solutions to the environmental challenges that matter most for Canadians. We work in places that are unique and ecologically important, so that nature, wildlife and people thrive together. Because we are all wildlife. For more information, visit wwf.ca.

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Pot Users Know Driving High Is Bad, But Many Still Do It

OTTAWA: Almost two-thirds of Canadians who've smoked pot know they shouldn't drive after doing so but a lot of them are doing it anyway.

Health Canada's latest survey on cannabis use says more than eight in 10 Canadians believe using the drug will affect your ability to drive, but only six in 10 of those who use pot themselves say the same thing. Furthermore, four in 10 of those who use pot admitted they had driven within two hours of consuming it, and more than one-third of those had done so in the 30 days before they answered the survey.

The survey was conducted in June and July, with nearly 13,000 respondents across the country answering questions about whether and how they used pot just a few months before Canada legalized recreational marijuana.

Andrew Murie, the CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada, says it's



not surprising to him that people are driving while high even though they know it is unsafe.

He hopes police will be better prepared to detect drugged drivers by next summer. The survey found only three per cent of people who said they had used pot came into contact with police.

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