Role play cards for Principles of Arctic tourism

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| Representative of indigenous communities‘We would like the tourists to respect our culture, rights and wishes. We don’t want to be changed by the tourists. Please ask permission before you wander into our communities especially the graveyards and fishing sites of our people.Please involve us in the planning of the tourist trips so that the arrival of the tourist does not unduly change our way of life. By all means train up our young people (and even the not so young) to be employed in the tourist industry. If the tourists learn about our communities and our way of life they will respect our environment and will understand why we need to conserve it.Some of our communities have recycling systems, please use them. Do not leave rubbish all over the place! If there are no recycling systems please take your rubbish away or help us to develop some.’ |

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| Representative of conservation groups‘Tourism should always be compatible with conservation plans at local, national and international scales. Planning for tourism that supports conservation is the ideal. Tourists should respect the environment they find themselves in and should take care to protect all the wildlife habitats on land, sea and in the air.If the environment has been damaged then the tourists should support efforts to clean it up and restore it as far as possible. The undeveloped areas of the Arctic should be seen as a resource, once they have been compromised by development they can’t be put back to their original state.Tourists use resources when they come to the Arctic, planning for tourist trips should take into account the use of resources in a sustainable way and how any rubbish will be disposed of to minimise the impact on the environment.’ |

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| Representative of the government group‘Much of the Arctic is a wilderness and is very much inaccessible as there are no roads or railways. Often the only way to reach places is either by boat or plane and we don’t want to open the areas up too much and destroy the unique Arctic environment.One of the main concerns we have is to try to reduce pollution. This has the added benefit of reducing environmental damage too. Tourists will get a better experience of the Arctic if there aren’t piles of rubbish around which are also costly to clear up. We want to encourage the development of waste disposal which will have the least impact on the environment.One of the best ways to do this is to encourage the tourists to take their rubbish away with them and to use biodegradable packaging. We want to reduce the use of fossil fuels so want to try to avoid using motorised transport like skidoos other than for essential journeys.We want to encourage local community involvement in the planning of tourist activities which should maximise the benefits to the communities without damaging them. We see the application of a code of conduct promotes responsible tourism. The Arctic can be treacherous and we don’t want accidents which need costly rescue or medical emergencies.’ |

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| Representative of the Arctic scientific community‘We support research into the effects of tourism, we don’t really know a lot about the environments of the Arctic and the impact of the activities that go on there. We also don’t know what will happen as a result of the climate change which is affecting the Arctic now. We think cooperation between all the stakeholders in the Arctic is important in the protection of the Arctic environment. These areas are economically valuable and one of the main reasons tourists visit.We support efforts to stop and if possible reverse the fragmentation of the Arctic environment which reduces the quality of the tourists’ enjoyment of their visit. The use of natural resources in a sustainable way and conservation techniques are essential to the long-term health of the Arctic.It is important to respect the value of archaeological, historic, prehistoric and scientific sites. If they are disturbed their value for research is reduced and much important information will be lost.’ |

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| Representative of the tourist companies‘We want tourists to have as high a quality of experience as possible. We realise that many of these visitors are attracted to the Arctic by its wilderness and wildlife so the last thing we want is to destroy these.We realise that we must train our staff to be as sensitive as possible to the environment and their impact on it. Providing information about the issues is an essential part of responsible tourism and we want to promote the employment of local people in the industry. All staff should be encouraged to behave responsibly towards the environment and to be role models for the tourists.We take health and safety seriously and our staff should be familiar with laws and regulations. All their actions should follow accepted safe practices and all tourists should know about the relevant safety procedures. The conditions in the Arctic have to be respected.’ |