

AMAP WG25 Meeting: 2-page highlights report to SAO Chair

The AMAP WG met in Moscow, 3-5 October.

Representatives included all countries, PPs (AIA, RAIPON), Observers (Netherlands) ad hoc observers (Italy, Japan, EEA), AC groups (IPS, CAFF, ACAP). In addition the AMAP and CAFF WGs held a joint meeting on 5 October.

Major issues addressed at the AMAP WG meeting of potential interest to SAOs included the following:

News on Deliverables:

- The AMAP mercury assessment scientific assessment report will be printed within the next two weeks.
- The SWIPA scientific assessment report is undergoing final proofing and expected to be in print by the end of the year. Additional SWIPA summary reports are also under production and expected to be available from November 2011.
- Translation of the SWIPA Executive Summary into Russian is underway. Translation of other AMAP outreach products into Russian is also planned.
- Translated versions of the SWIPA films are under production and expected by the end of the year.
- The technical report on black carbon produced by the AMAP SLCF Expert Group will be printed within the next few weeks.

Arctic Change Assessment (ACA) and Arctic Resilience Report (ARR)

The ACA scoping workshop was held in Oslo 28-30 September, arranged by AMAP at the request of the SAO Chair. The workshop was a success, with 110 participants representing a wide range of stakeholder interests. AMAP representatives also attended the ARR scoping workshop in Stockholm (26-27 September).

An 'ACA proposal' was developed after the workshop and revised in consultation with all other WGs. This proposal is coordinated with a separate proposal being developed on the ARR. If supported by SAOs in November, the proposal includes a suggestion that the SAOs establish an ACA Implementation Team to further elaborate specific parts of an ACA implementation plan (including preparing and organizational framework that includes all relevant groups of the AC) prior to the Deputy Ministers meeting in 2012.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Activities to develop unmanned aircraft systems for use in Arctic environmental monitoring were presented, demonstrating good progress by the AMAP expert group working on this subject. In addition to its relevance to SAON, UAS represent a potential tool that could be used to support the AC Search and Rescue initiative. The group are preparing *International Guidelines for Safe Operation of UAS* (addressing aviation authorities in Europe and USA), and an *Arctic UAS Operations Guideline* to facilitate use of UAS for research and monitoring purposes between Arctic national jurisdictions.

Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs)

AMAP will expand the activities of its SLCF/Black Carbon expert group to provide scientific information on ozone as a driver of Arctic climate change. It will establish a separate group on methane, led by Canada, to address this subject as it will involve a different pool of expertise.

AMAP and SDWG WG Cooperation

A joint project is under preparation between the AMAP and SDWG human health groups concerning Food and Water Security.

AMAP and CAFF WG Cooperation

AMAP and CAFF WGs held a joint meeting to exchange information on their activities and committed to mutual cooperation and support in connection with relevant activities, in particular development of respective AMAP and CBMP monitoring programmes.

AMAP and PAME WG Cooperation / AMSA Ilc

One of the assessment activities that AMAP and CAFF (together with SDWG) are collaborating on is the AMSA Ilc report (on identification of vulnerable and culturally significant marine areas) that has been requested by PAME. Work on this assessment is progressing and the final product is expected in April 2012.

AMAP and AC EBM Group

The AMAP (and CAFF) WGs noted that they had not been invited to participate in the Ecosystem-based management (EBM) workshop that is being held in Washington. This appears to be an oversight and the AMAP US HoD will represent AMAP at the meeting.

Communication and Outreach (C&O)

AMAP is planning to establish a communication and outreach expert group to support the work of AMAP. It is our intention to coordinate AMAP activities on C&O with AC C&O activities. The new AMAP website will be 'released' by the end of the year.

AMAP is prepared to assist the AC and make relevant products available for side events planned in connection with the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban in December 2011. AMAP has also been granted a booth at the mercury INC-3 meeting that will take place in Nairobi (31 October – 4 November 2011) where outreach products from the recent AMAP mercury assessment will be distributed.

Cooperation with UNEP

AMAP is prepared to support UNEP in the preparation of an updated technical report on mercury emissions; activities to compile data have been initiated.

Meetings

AMAP is planning to hold an AMAP HoDs+PPs meeting in Victoria in late February 2012, and a full WG meeting in Stockholm in September 2012. Both events will be timed to coordinate with the SAO meeting schedule.

The new SAON Board will hold its first meeting in Tromsø, 24-25 January 2012.

AMAP is likely to have a significant presence at the IPY 2012 Conference that will take place in Montreal in April 2012. This is likely to include a booth where AMAP products will be distributed, and a number of presentations (in various sessions) related to AMAP assessment work (on SWIPA, mercury and human health in particular)

AMAP requests for input from SAOs

SAOs considerations of how to address an identified need for better coordination of (AMAP expert group, AC Task Force and ACAP) initiatives on SLCFs, also with related non-AC activities on these issues. AMAP WG proposed a teleconference involving relevant parties to address this issue.

Information from SAOs on AC C&O activities/plans, including plans for the AC website, to allow AMAP to coordinate its C&O activities as far as possible.