

AMAP Progress report to Senior Arctic Officials. For the SAO meeting number ACSAO SE02 in Stockholm 28-29 March 2012.

2012

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

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1. Introduction. Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration.

AMAP is currently reviewing follow-up of recommendations from past work with a view to developing its future work plan, including activities that would be compatible with an eventual ACA. Parts of this work will contribute to the 'Needs Analysis' that is being performed as a one of the preliminary ACA scoping activities.

AMAP has requested its Human Health Assessment (Expert) Group to develop, jointly with the SDWG HHEG, a human health related project on Food and Water Security to address this identified priority area under the Swedish Chairmanship (see 5 below).

AMAP is currently developing its communication and outreach strategy to address current and future AMAP activities. The AMAP strategy will align with the overarching Arctic Council communications and outreach strategy.

2. Summary of progress on AMAP projects

SWIPA Follow up

The SWIPA project has been completed and AMAP is currently addressing final work associated with SWIPA communication and outreach activities, and looking into possible SWIPA follow-up activities.

The AMAP Climate Expert Group (CEG) met in Victoria BC, 30 January-1 February 2012. This meeting was arranged back-to-back with the AMAP HODs meeting (31 January – 2 February).

Approximately 50 scientific/technical experts participated in the CEG meeting. The main purpose of the joint AMAP HoDs/CEG consultation was to follow-up on SWIPA and other relevant recommendations and prioritize future work for the next 5 years (2012-2017). Recommendations were developed and an implementation framework established for incorporating these priorities into AMAP's future work program. Scenario development was identified as the highest and most immediate priority. This is required to support many ongoing projects under AMAP and other AC WGs, including the proposed ACA. AMAP HoDs agreed to hold a workshop in Sweden or USA in the fall of 2012 to evaluate results of models employed in the IPCC process from an Arctic context and establish climate scenarios for activities relevant to the AMAP work. A second workshop is planned for spring 2013 (in Russia) to bring in additional user requirements and integrate ecological aspects. Key results of this meeting will be presented to SAOs in March under the agenda item SWIPA Follow-up.

AMSA IIc

A national review of the draft sections of the AMSA IIc report concerning identification of ecologically significant/vulnerable areas (prepared jointly by AMAP and CAFF) is expected to be completed during March, so that a final draft of these sections of the report can be delivered to PAME, AMAP, CAFF, and SDWG WGs by 26 March. Parts of the report concerning areas of cultural significance (prepared by SDWG) will not be available in time to include them in this national review. When all sections of the report have been finalized it will undergo further editing and production work for publication later in 2012.

Arctic Ocean Acidification (AOA) assessment

The Arctic Ocean Acidification (AOA) assessment is scheduled to be delivered in spring 2013. A draft of the scientific AOA report will be distributed for national and international peer review on 30 June 2012. Planned AOA deliverables include the AOA Scientific assessment report and its Summary for policy-makers (which will be presented at the Ministerial meeting in Sweden 2013); short (3 and 10 minute) films presenting the results of the AOA; and an AMAP AOA science conference which is planned to take place in Bergen, in April 2013.

Oil and Gas Assessment Follow-up

An updated overview of AC and national follow-up to the OGA recommendations is under preparation. This overview can be instrumental in setting future work not only for AMAP but potentially for other Arctic Council WGs.

SAON

The Nuuk Declaration that forms the basis for establishing SAON is specific on the role of the eight Arctic Countries, the six Permanent Participants, WMO, and IASC and AMAP. The Declaration also notes that SAON should create its own operating guidelines. The first meeting of the SAON Board was held in Tromsø, Norway on 24-25 January, with as its primary task reaching agreement on SAON Board's Terms of Reference (ToR). Work conducted prior to the meeting was continued at the meeting and the results of this work will be presented to the SAOs in March under the agenda item SAON. Important next steps for the SAON Board are to;

- Approve the ToR;
- Prepare more detailed Terms of Procedure, covering among other things;
 - o Approval of non-permanent members
 - o Approval of new tasks
- Prepare an external and internal review process;
- Prepare for the next Board meeting to be held 1–2 October 2012 at the IASC Secretariat/AWI in Potsdam, Germany.

SLCFs

AMAP is currently organizing its work to implement follow-up activities by its SLCF expert groups working on black carbon, ozone, and methane as drivers of Arctic climate change. AMAP's technical work is being coordinated with the work of the TF on SLCFs, and other international efforts addressing SLCFs.

UAS

A report from the AMAP Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Expert Group summarizing relevant aviation regulations and proposing a set of recommendations on best practices will be finalized in March 2012.

3. Deliverables for the (2013) Ministerial

Arctic Ocean Acidification (AOA) assessment: AOA scientific assessment report and Summary report for policy-makers.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) in the Arctic: A report on guidelines for operation of UAS will be presented at the Ministerial meeting for approved or acceptance.

SLCFs technical reports: Progress reports will be produced in support of TF recommendations.

SAON: Progress report on SAON tasks.

Communication and Outreach Strategy: The AMAP Communications and Outreach Strategy will be finalized.

ACA (if approved): The ACA Phase 1 implementation plan includes deliverables for the 2013 AC Ministerial meeting.

4. Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

The AMAP WG is planning to hold its next meeting in Stockholm in late-September/early-October, and this will be coordinated with the SAO meeting scheduled for 7-8 November.

The AMAP WG and Secretariat will have a significant presence at the IPY 2012 Conference in Montreal (April 2012) both as part of the AC booth and through a number of presentations (in various sessions) related to AMAP assessment work. The AMAP human health assessment group will hold their next meeting in connection with the IPY Conference.

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) World Conference in Berlin in May 2012 includes Arctic –related sessions that are convened by AMAP experts where

several presentations based on the AMAP work on POPs, human health, and climate will be made.

5. Collaboration with other working groups / other organizations

AMAP WG and SDWG WG Cooperation

A joint project is still under preparation between the AMAP and SDWG human health expert groups concerning Food and Water Security. AMAP HoDs felt that the project proposal needed further work and the AMAP Chair has consulted with the SDWG Chair to clarify some issues raised relating to process, content, funding, and management of this proposed project.

AMAP WG and CAFF WG Cooperation

AMAP is cooperating with CAFF on the development and implementation of CBMP and harmonization of the AMAP and CBMP monitoring programmes. Both WGs are also working on the AMSA IIc report which will be jointly released in 2012. Both WGs are contributing to the NOAA-led Arctic Report Card.

AMAP WG and PAME WG Cooperation

In addition to the contribution to the AMSA IIc, AMAP will take an active part in PAME's marine ecosystem-approach initiative. AMAP will also contribute to the AOR by leading on the Pollution Chapter.

Cooperation with UNEP

As follow up to the AMAP Mercury Assessment 2011, AMAP is supporting UNEP in the preparation of an updated technical report on global mercury emissions. This work is due to be completed during the first half of 2012 and will contribute to a report that UNEP is preparing for delivery to its Governing Council in 2013.

AMAP is continuing to work with the UNEP Stockholm Convention on POPs, in follow-up to its joint report on Climate Change influence on POPs levels and effects.

Cooperation with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council

In connection with the preparation of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Action Plan on Climate Change in the Barents Region, AMAP has been requested to provide input based on the latest work on climate (SWIPA, SLCF) Mercury, POPs and human health.