

## TAKING STOCK OF ADAPTATION PROGRAMS IN THE ARCTIC

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

#### BACKGROUND

An Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) initiative was adopted by the Arctic Council Deputy Ministers on May 15th, 2012. The Taking Stock of Adaptation Programs in the Arctic project is to deliver on the component B of the ACCA initiative:

**B. Adaptation activities relevant to Arctic Regions with the aim of contributing to the development of best practices, tools and approaches. To be compiled by a committee of Arctic Council States and Permanent Participants and completed by May 2013.**

The other components are:

A. Key Finding and Recommendations of Arctic Council, national and international studies / reports over the last 10 years. To be compiled by existing Arctic Council Working Groups and synthesized by the Sustainable Development Working Group and completed by May 2013.

C. Climate change prediction frameworks / models to inform Arctic Council States and Permanent Participants. To be developed by the Arctic Council Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program Working Group and completed by 2017.

Note: The AACA proposal indicates that non-climate induced changes might be included. However, a decision has been made to focus this project on climate change adaptation activities recognizing the limited time available. Opportunities will be considered to broaden this focus in subsequent related initiatives

#### LEAD COUNTRIES

Canada and Russia

#### OBJECTIVES

- To collect information about national, sub-national, regional and local climate change adaptation activities within or relevant to the Arctic region to be shared with members of the Arctic Council.

- To analyse this information with the aim of providing guidance concerning best practices, challenges and opportunities to inform the development and application of climate change adaptation tools and approaches that offer practical and effective solutions for the demands of a changing Arctic.
- To provide advice and recommendations to Arctic Council Ministers concerning future work in climate change adaptation.

## **SCOPE**

Within the context of this initiative, adaptation refers to an activity that prevents or reduces the current or potential negative impacts of climate change or an activity that aids in adapting to risks that cannot be eliminated or reduced. Adaptation also refers to an activity that aims to take positive advantage of climate change.

It is recognized that efforts to address climate change impacts may concurrently address other changes occurring in the Arctic and in fact, integrating climate change adaptation into planning and decision-making to address the many environmental, social and economic changes facing the Arctic is positive. There is interest in also capturing these activities.

The emphasis of this project is on action or strategies to adapt to climate change currently underway or concluded after 2008. These could address Arctic marine and/or terrestrial areas. In order to avoid overlap with other components of AACA or duplicate earlier and ongoing initiatives, the project does not intend to capture scientific and other research related to climate change adaptation.

The intent is to gather as many examples of climate change adaptation activities as possible at the national, sub-national, regional and local levels to reflect the range of activities occurring and to inform analysis that will be relevant for Arctic Council members. It is appreciated that timelines and other constraints will not allow the collection of information to be fully comprehensive.

## **DELIVERABLES**

- A draft report for Senior Arctic Officials that summarizes results by March 2013.
- A final report for Arctic Council Ministers by May 2013.

## **ROLE OF ARCTIC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Each member of the Arctic Council will identify a point of contact to participate in the project. The Arctic Council representative will be responsible for:

- coordinating the completion of templates for relevant climate change adaptation activities in their state or organization and assisting participants in completing templates as required
- forwarding the completed templates to the co-leads
- providing advice on the synthesis and integration of the information collected
- providing advice on guidance and recommendations for Arctic Council Ministers
- reviewing and providing input on the draft and final report

A workshop will be organized to support the analysis and confirm recommendations.

A consultant will be hired to assist in synthesizing the information and preparing the report.

### CRITICAL PATH

Timing	Action
September 2012	Project planning and initiation
October - December 14, 2012	Collection of template information
January 2013	Synthesis and analysis of information and draft recommendations
February 2013	Workshop to confirm analysis and to finalize recommendations
March 2013	Draft report to Arctic Council SAOs
May 2013	Final report to Arctic Council Ministers

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

While components A and B are distinct projects under the AACA initiative, efforts will be taken to ensure that efforts are coherent and complementary.

\* The year 2008 was selected to avoid duplication with the Arctic Council Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic project that occurred in that year.