



ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Progress report to Senior Arctic Officials

For the SAO meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, 21-23 October 2013 agenda item 6.3

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

Acting on Climate Change: Short-lived climate forcers: A technical report assessing the emissions and transport of black carbon and tropospheric ozone precursors to the Arctic as well as a parallel report assessing natural and anthropogenic sources and emissions of methane in the Arctic is under preparation for completion at the end of 2014. Based on these reports, a non-technical summary report with key findings from the two reports will be prepared by the AMAP WG. The work will supplement and assist the work of the new Arctic Council Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Forcers.

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change: A draft implementation plan for AACA-C, proposals for the composition and draft terms of reference for the AACA-C Integration Team and the Regional Implementation Teams, and a strategic framework and generic table of contents for regional integrated assessments will be considered at a Coordinating Workshop to be held in Quebec, Canada on 8-9 October 2013. A Barents Sea regional workshop will take place on 19-21 November; plans are also being developed for a Davis Strait/Baffin Bay and Bering/Chukchi/Beaufort Seas regional workshops in late 2013 or early 2014. The participation of Permanent Participants and the use of traditional and local knowledge are strongly encouraged in this work.

Protecting the Arctic environment: Arctic Ocean acidification: The Arctic Ocean Acidification Assessment scientific report is in the final stages of publication, for release in late October. A revised version of the layman's overview for this assessment will also be ready for publication in the near future. Initial consideration has begun to follow-up of the AOA assessment, including the development of a monitoring strategy for measuring Arctic Ocean acidification. A workshop will be arranged to clarify follow-up work and to discuss the scope of an updated assessment with plans to address, among other things, new data and global implications and teleconnections of AOA.

Persistent organic pollutants: Work has begun on a multi-component updated assessment of POPs in the Arctic including: an update on temporal trends in POPs in air and biota that will also provide input in 2014 to the Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation activity; an assessment of new emerging POPs for delivery in 2015; and an integrated assessment of climate and POPs issues in 2017. The input to the Stockholm Convention will also include results on POPs in humans in the Arctic.

2 Summary of progress on AMAP projects

Assessment activities: In addition to the activities noted above, work has begun on an updated assessment of radioactivity in the Arctic, to present new information since the 2009 assessment, as well as an updated assessment on contaminant trends and effects and combined effects of climate change and contaminants in human populations in the Arctic, covering issues associated with risk assessment and communication and strategies for adaptation to combined stressors. Both assessments are for planned delivery in 2015. In addition, plans are being developed for a follow-up to SWIPA, initially including the development of a freshwater budget for the Arctic, and potentially also expanded to include sea ice, snow, GRIS, permafrost, and feedback mechanisms. SWIPA follow-up activities are considered part of and coordinated with AACA-C work.



Unmanned Aircraft Systems activities: The AMAP UAS Expert Group is finalizing a white paper on air space access in the Arctic in relation to the development of a draft agreement on access and a handbook on safe UAS operations for scientific work, which should be available for review in early 2014.

Monitoring guidelines: Partial revisions of the guidelines for the AMAP Trends and Effects Monitoring Programme have been prepared. All AMAP expert groups have been requested to review these guidelines for potential revisions and work will begin to determine the most effective means of presenting the guidelines as well as adding new provisions for, among others, a combined effects approach, screening for emerging contaminants, and coordination with the CBMP.

SAON: The work of SAON is progressing; further work will be conducted to show the value-added advantages of SAON and the potential for integration of information and results on the Arctic.

Communication and Outreach (C&O): The new AMAP website was launched over the summer and has been populated with content from the previous website. The website contains an improved document search facility and links to project sub-sites and the AMAP video productions dissemination site. Further development of the AMAP website will continue, particularly to establish work areas for AMAP expert groups and to improve AMAP WG support pages and access to information on monitoring and other data submitted to AMAP.

3 Deliverables for the next Ministerial Meeting

Planned deliverables include the above-mentioned assessments on POPs, radioactivity and human health, and technical reports on black carbon and tropospheric ozone and methane together with a summary on SLCFs for policy-makers.

4 Working Group administration and next meetings

The next meeting of AMAP Heads of Delegation will take place in Rovaniemi, Finland during the first week of February 2014, while the next AMAP WG meeting will take place in Canada in September 2014 at a venue to be decided.

5 Collaboration with other Working Groups and other organizations

AMAP WG and PAME WG Cooperation: The report on Arctic areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance, prepared by AMAP, CAFF and SDWG in fulfillment of an AMSA IIc request, has recently been published. The report is available as an electronic document from the AMAP website. AMAP is taking an active part in PAME's marine ecosystem-approach initiative. AMAP will also collaborate with PAME on a new initiative on sustainable Arctic tourism and will review the revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, as requested by PAME.

AMAP WG and SDWG WG Cooperation: Cooperation between the AMAP and SDWG human health expert groups is continuing in relation to aspects of the updated assessment of human health in the Arctic.

AMAP WG and CAFF WG Cooperation: The CBMP will be taken into account in the further revision of the guidelines for the AMAP Trends and Effects Monitoring Programme.

Cooperation with UNEP: The AMAP Secretariat supported UNEP in the preparation of an updated technical report on global mercury emissions that was presented to the UNEP Governing Council in early 2013. A supplementary report is being produced to update information on results concerning modelling runs, to be completed at the end of 2013.