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AMAP Progress Report to SAO meeting Anchorage, October 2015

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Progress report



## AMAP Progress Report to SAO meeting Anchorage, October 2015

AMAP held its 29th Working Group meeting in Tromsø, Norway from 13-16 September 2015. Present at the meeting were representatives of all the Arctic countries, Permanent Participants (ICC), Arctic Council Observer countries and organizations (Japan, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, Arctic Institute of North America, Association of World Reindeer Herders, NEFCO, Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, WWF) and invited experts from the European Commissions-Joint Research Council (JRC), European Environment Agency (EEA) and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis IIASA). The Canadian Senior Arctic Official (SAO) and representatives from the Arctic Council (AC) Secretariat, AC Indigenous Peoples Secretariat also attended parts of the AMAP WG meeting.

A main priority for the WG was to further develop plans for finalizing *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic* (AACAA) products that are due for completion during the US Chairmanship. The WG therefore reviewed the status of work on the three regional assessments (covering the Barents; Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort; and Baffin-Davis Strait regions) and plans to prepare a Pan-Arctic report. The WG agreed to establish an expert group (author team) to develop a short Pan-Arctic synthesis report based on the regional reports, other existing work under the Arctic Council and other relevant material. Related to the AACAA, the co-lead of the Arctic Resilience Report (ARR) described the process for completion of the ARR report and its release timed for May/June 2016, including involvement of AMAP WG in the approval process. The ARR and ongoing work to update the assessment of Arctic cryosphere change (Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic - SWIPA) are important activities that will feed into the AACAA work. One part of the SWIPA update concerns a 'synthesis' of knowledge on Arctic freshwater systems and the potential impacts of climate change on these systems.

The WG also reviewed progress in the production of updated scientific assessment reports concerning methane; black carbon and ozone; human health; and radioactivity in the Arctic, and two related overview (State of the Arctic Environment) reports. The reports are expected to be available by the end of 2015. The policy-makers summaries associated with these assessments were delivered to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in May 2015 and are included as supplements to the AMAP progress report to SAOs. AMAP is awaiting further information from SAOs on work that will be performed by the AC SLCP Expert Group. In order to ensure that work under the AMAP and AC SLCP expert groups is complementary and avoid overlaps the WG agreed to appoint an AMAP representative to the AC SLCP expert group.

Other assessment activities under the approved AMAP work-plan for the period 2015-2017 that were considered by the WG included the planned update assessment on Arctic Ocean acidification (AOA) and a new pollution assessment of 'Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern'.

The WG reiterated its commitment to build Traditional/Local knowledge (TLK) into its ongoing and future work where relevant. ICC proposed the development of a framework and implementation plan for the co-production of knowledge to ensure inclusion of TLK during the planning of projects.

AMAP Communication and Outreach (C&O) was discussed, firstly on a strategic level and then in relation to specific C&O activities. AMAP has been invited to contribute to a Nordic pavilion at the UNFCCC COP21 meeting and will clarify what is envisaged under this contribution. Several delegations asked about overall AC plans for C&O in connection with the COP21 meeting and the WG confirmed AMAP's commitment to contribute to possible AC C&O efforts.

Results of AMAP WG work are also relevant for dissemination at other international events such as the UN ECE Eighth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Batumi and the UNEP/Stockholm Convention POPs Review Committee. The AMAP Secretariat will engage with the ACS to discuss how better to coordinate and increase effectiveness of C&O efforts related to AMAP information. In relation to the AC Open Access Initiative, the WG took note of outstanding copyright questions on some AMAP reports for which AMAP does not hold the copyright, and needs to further clarify the implications of Creative Commons licensing. Discussions with the ACS focusing on how to handle outstanding copyright questions were very constructive.

Observers from Japan, Republic of Korea and the Netherlands, and invited experts from EEA, JRC and IIASA presented information on their research and other activities that is of relevance for AMAP implementation work. This included a presentation by IIASA of work proposed under their 'Arctic Futures Initiative' (AFI).

Other international cooperation discussed by the WG included engagement in the EU-PolarNet project and possible future collaborations with groups working on monitoring, modeling and assessment activities under the UN ECE Convention on Long-Range Transport Air Pollution, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

AMAP work relating to the AC TF on Scientific Cooperation and other AC TFs was considered, and AMAP would prepare an information note for SAOs on inter-WG cooperation on marine issues under the framework established by the AMSP. The WG also held initial discussions on priorities for its work-plan 2017-2019.

In connection with the joint arrangement of the ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, PAME working groups in Tromsø, AMAP organized a breakout session focusing on AACA; the main questions addressed to this session concerned how to better coordinate future WG activities that give strategic direction on cross-cutting issues and how to address the resource capacity challenges faced by all WGs, especially relating to engaging expert in intersecting work.

*Supplementary materials to be provided to the SAO meeting by AMAP:*

(1) AMAP policy-makers summaries on climate (SLCP) and pollution-related assessments.

(2) Information note for SAOs on inter-WG cooperation on marine issues under the framework established by the AMSP.