

REPORT OF SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS
TO
ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERS

BARROW
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Report of Senior Arctic Officials
to
Arctic Council Ministers

Barrow, Alaska, U.S.A.
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PART I. IMPLEMENTING THE IQALUIT DECLARATION

A. INTRODUCTION

Much has been accomplished in the Arctic Council during the two years since the issuance of the Iqaluit Declaration. The hard work of Council members and Permanent Participants, under the Canadian leadership of 1996-98, to establish Rules of Procedure (Annex 1) and Terms of Reference for the Council's Sustainable Development Program (Annex 2) created an infrastructure that has sparked a number of important initiatives in the Council. Council members and Permanent Participants have worked on the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution in the Arctic, developed the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment to gauge the effect of climate change on the region, and completed work on a Framework Document and advanced several projects under the Sustainable Development program--all initiatives taken to improve the condition of the Arctic environment and the lives of Arctic residents.

B. TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE IQALUIT DECLARATION

There have been thirteen meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and Permanent Participants since the inauguration of the Arctic Council in 1996.

In the Iqaluit Declaration of 1998:

Ministers directed the SAOs to continue to review applications relating to Permanent Participant status and Observer status to the Arctic Council, and to recommend applicants for approval at the next Arctic Council Ministerial in 2000. Consequently, SAOs are pleased to recommend to Ministers that the Arctic Athabaskan Council and the Gwich'in Council International be accepted as the Council's fifth and sixth Permanent Participants, which SAOs believe meet the criteria set forth in the Ottawa Declaration of 1996.

SAOs are also pleased to announce that the following organizations have applied for Observer status to the Council:

France
North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS)
Association of World Reindeer Herders
Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA)
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Having considered the criteria and procedures specified in the Rules of Procedure, the SAOs recommend that those listed above be granted Observer status in the Council for the period until the next Ministerial Meeting.

Ministers directed SAOs to guide the completion of work in the following areas of the Council's Sustainable Development Program: Arctic children and youth; health; telemedicine; resource management, including fisheries; cultural and eco-tourism, technology transfer to improve Arctic sanitation systems; and national sustainable development strategies, and to propose possible priority areas, review specific proposals, and prepare them for approval. SAOs are pleased to report on their activities in this regard, as well as to recommend new sustainable development projects and programs for Ministerial approval, in Part II, Section A of this report.

Ministers instructed SAOs to continue to oversee and coordinate the work of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) program, the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR) program, and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) program. SAOs are pleased to report on their activities in this regard and to provide recommendations to Ministers for new activities under the aforementioned working groups in Part II, Sections B, C, D, and E of this report.

Ministers instructed SAOs to continue to develop the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution in the Arctic (ACAP), which would include actions of a wide scope on pollution prevention and remediation measures, also including the identification and implementation of specific cooperative projects. SAOs are pleased to report on their actions in this regard and to recommend to Ministers that they adopt ACAP, in Part II, Section F, subsection (a) of this report.

Ministers requested Arctic states to consider the financial questions involved in securing participation of the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council and in the operations of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. SAOs are pleased to report on their actions in this regard in Part III, Sections A and B of this report.

C. PARTICIPATION IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

The members of the Arctic Council are: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America.

The Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council are: the Aleut International Association, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Saami Council. The *Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council* (the Ottawa Declaration) provided that permanent participation was open to other Arctic organizations meeting criteria specified therein.

The Ottawa Declaration also provides that Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to: (a) non-Arctic states; (b) inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and (c) non-governmental organizations that the Council determines can contribute to its work.

SAOs note that the following were granted Observer status in the Arctic Council under Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure at the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting in September 1998 and wish to continue that status:

Federal Republic of Germany
The Kingdom of the Netherlands
Poland
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Nordic Council
Northern Forum
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)
Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

PART II. ARCTIC COUNCIL PROGRESS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

Highlights of Arctic Council achievements and proposed activities are found below. Further details are set out in the Annexes to this report.

A. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The goal of the Sustainable Development program of the Arctic Council is to propose and adopt initiatives to be taken by the Arctic member states to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities to protect and enhance the environment and the economies, cultures, and health of indigenous communities and of other residents of the Arctic, as well as to improve the environmental, economic, and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

Progress Report

The Sustainable Development working group met in Anchorage, Alaska, in April 1999; Washington, D.C., in November 1999; Fairbanks, Alaska, in April 2000; and London, U.K., in September 2000 to advance the Sustainable Development program during the U.S. Chair. SAOs are pleased to report that they have drafted a Sustainable Development Framework Document for approval by Ministers. The Framework Document contains a guiding strategy, brief descriptions of possible areas for work in the area of sustainable development for Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participants, and a matrix of current activities. The Framework Document may be found in Annex 3b. SAOs are pleased to report to Ministers that progress has been made in implementing many of the proposals approved at Iqaluit. Progress reports, including recommendations, for the program on Children and Youth, the telemedicine and cultural and eco-tourism projects, and the program on fisheries management are located at Annex 3a.

The Children and Youth initiative has made progress in the areas of improving the health and well-being and in increasing the knowledge and understanding of sustainable development of Arctic youth and children. Pilot projects completed in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development demonstrated the feasibility of expanding youth internships in organizations concerned with sustainable development. Coordinating meetings were held with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council officials responsible for the Barents Youth Program in September 1999 and with Permanent Participants during the Arctic Leaders Summit III in Moscow in September 1999. The initiative was also discussed at the Canada-European Union Transatlantic Seminar held in Ottawa in October 1999. In all instances the Children and Youth project received support and commitments were made for stronger future collaboration in this area. During a planning meeting for the next biennium, held in June 2000 in Copenhagen, representatives recommended a work plan focusing on health, internships, and networking. The plan would include continued data collection and analysis of health indicators, a symposium in late 2001, pilot projects in the four broad areas of health (socio-economic-cultural, health services, psycho-social well-being, and bio-physical health), development of 6-12 month internships in a country other than the participant's country of origin, a summer camp for young people, a learning materials exchange, and an art competition for young people.

Health care services to remote Arctic communities are highly dependent on the availability and affordability of communications and internet technology, according to the work of the Arctic Telemedicine project. The report of the Arctic Telemedicine project includes recommendations regarding health education, training, and the provision of clinical services. The Arctic Telemedicine project report and recommendations are presented in Annex 3a. The recommendations grow out of the common experiences of telemedicine experts from all Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participants who served as the Telemedicine working group. The expert group conducted most of its work via the internet and met once in Washington, D.C., in April 2000.

As a follow-on activity to the Telemedicine project, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans to host a workshop in September 2001 to develop a joint evaluative agenda for telemedicine programs in the Arctic. Workshop invitees would include representatives of indigenous communities, health professionals, and health care agencies interested in identifying what works and what does not work in the area of telemedicine. The organizers of this workshop plan to collaborate with Alaska's Commissioner of Health, the Nordic Telemedicine Association and the Secretariat of the AFCEA Visby Telemedicine Chapter's "Telemedicine Forum" based in Sweden, and others who contributed to the initial report.

The cultural and eco-tourism initiative has the support of SAOs and Permanent Participants. The State of Alaska's Department of Community and Economic Development hosted a workshop for tourism officials in Anchorage, Alaska, in September 2000 to identify promising areas for collaboration among Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participants and tourism operators. Finland, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Northern Forum, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and tourism associations and operators attended the workshop. Participants agreed to support in principal a proposal drafted by Finland and to develop a joint project in time for the June 2001 SAO meeting. The expanded initiative may have three elements: a database of projects, initiatives, models, best practices, and codes of conduct for sustainable tourism development in the Arctic; extranet to facilitate collaboration and control costs for project participants; and a practical handbook on sustainable tourism development in the Arctic.

The Saami fisheries projects have indigenous knowledge at their core. The project on a comparative analysis of coastal fishery management systems in Norway, Greenland, and Canada has been translated into English by Saami College staff. The Saami Council is seeking funding to complete the project. The progress report is found in Annex 3a. Saami investigators are making links to other indigenous communities with experience in co-management of wildlife resources. Saami College is seeking cooperation with other institutions that are doing research on Saami resource management. The Saami fisheries project will fit well into a research program that the Nordic Saami Institute is planning, entitled Use and Management of Cultural-Environment and Natural Resources in Saami Areas. The Norwegian Saami Parliament is planning another 5-7 year project on Sustainable Development in Fjords.

Norway held three international workshops on living marine resources, reindeer husbandry, and utilization of energy and mineral resources, which could form the basis for future activities in the framework of the Sustainable Development Program.

Future Activities

SAOs recommend that the Ministers approve the progress reports and continuation of work on the Future of Children and Youth, Arctic Telemedicine, Cultural and Eco-tourism, and Coastal Fisheries Management projects.

Canada has proposed that the Arctic Council include a capacity-building focus as part of virtually all of its activities, including the work of the five working groups. The proposal recommends ongoing information sharing to enhance access to, understanding of, and application of information in Arctic communities. The recommended information-sharing orientation would be the first phase of a capacity-building focus.

AMAP, CAFF, PAME, and EPPR were requested to prepare a brief report on capacity building in the context of Working Group activities. The objectives of this exercise include providing general information on activities to date that have contributed to or will contribute to capacity building; identifying lessons learned; demonstrating, where appropriate, the direct relevance of Arctic Council work to capacity building in Arctic communities; and identifying, where appropriate, possible issues or areas requiring further work.

During the period 2000-2002, Canada has offered to host a workshop on capacity building for experts from the Arctic states, Permanent Participants, and Observers to explore practical ways to contribute to capacity building through Arctic Council activities and to identify potential projects or activities in this regard. SAOs welcomed this offer from Canada.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control's Arctic Investigations Program, together with Health Canada's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, is providing initial leadership to an Arctic-wide effort to prevent and control emerging infectious diseases in the Arctic. The first phase of this initiative in the area of human health is to establish an International Circumpolar Surveillance system for diseases caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Contacts have been established with Greenland/Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden to expand the network. Initial contacts have also been made with health experts working on the Barents Euro-Arctic Council initiative on infectious diseases (drug-resistant TB and HIV/AIDS).

Denmark/Greenland has full cooperation from the Arctic Council member states and the Saami Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North for the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic: Inuit, Saami, and the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka (SLICA). SLICA is designed for comparative investigations of the living conditions of the Inuit and Saami populations in the Arctic and the indigenous people of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula. Statistics Greenland is coordinating the participation of social scientists and government statistical agencies in this effort to better understand the dynamics of living conditions in the Arctic environment. Phase I of the survey has been funded with contributions from Denmark/Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and the United States, as well as the Nordic Council and Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

Norway has prepared a project on reindeer husbandry with the support of member states and indigenous communities. The goal of the project is to assess circumpolar reindeer herding and husbandry in relation to ecological, economic, and social/cultural sustainability. This goal will be met by carrying out a thematic survey and assessment of

reindeer husbandry in the region, with reference to management of pasture land, internal organization, and socioeconomic conditions in reindeer husbandry.

Finland has prepared a project on sustainable development in northern timberline forests. The aim of the project is to further develop the work initiated in 1995 under the AEPS Task Force on Sustainable Development and Utilization. Finland organized a workshop on timberline forests in 1998 in Whitehorse, Canada. The workshop proceedings and recommendations were delivered to SAOs, and Ministers took note of these recommendations in the Iqaluit Declaration. The aim of the project is to collate the latest information on the timberline region gained in the numerous research and cooperation projects carried out during 2000-2002, and to prepare conclusions and recommendations on sustainable development in the northern timberline region (i.e. the tundra-taiga zone) for the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2002.

SAOs recommend that Ministers approve the new activities described above as projects under the Sustainable Development program. Detailed descriptions of the new proposals may be found in Annex 3c.

SAOs are pleased to report to Ministers that member states have expressed interest in working together to develop additional activities under the Sustainable Development program during the 2000-2002 time period.

Canada has spoken to the opportunity presented by the upcoming ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Program of Action for Sustainable Development negotiated by governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+10), to bring Arctic issues and the impact on the Arctic of southern activities to the attention of the global community. Canada was invited to prepare an informal paper and tabled Taking an Arctic Voice into Rio+10 for the consideration of SAOs. The Canadian proposal and the opportunity provided by Rio+10 were discussed in London and enjoyed the general support of member states and Permanent Participants. The subject of Rio+10 will be brought to Ministers for consideration in Barrow.

The U.S. Arctic Research Commission, in cooperation with the Institute of the North at Alaska Pacific University, the Northern Forum, and others, hosted a workshop on circumpolar infrastructure that considered transportation, telecommunications, and power and enterprise planning and investment. Workshop participants are prepared to spearhead an Arctic Council Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force (CITF). In view of continuing interest on the part of the Russian Federation, Norway, Finland, and Canada in circumpolar transportation matters, SAOs expressed their willingness to assist in further refinement of the initiatives so that an Arctic Council infrastructure activity might be developed.

Under the broad theme of improving Arctic health, the United States is exploring several options. Several U.S. agencies working with AMAP organized an international conference on Arctic Development, Pollution, and Biomarkers of Human Health in May

2000. The conference proceedings and policy recommendations may suggest areas for further cooperation under the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development program. The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) is developing a proposal for an Arctic Health Disparities Research Dissemination Network (AHDRDN) that would serve Arctic communities, health professionals and researchers. The Network would also address several policy recommendations from the Biomarkers conference. The United States anticipates sponsoring a workshop in Alaska in 2001 to elicit inputs, feedback, and interest on the part of potential participants (and applicants for the U.S. node of the Network). Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participants would be invited as well to help develop the Network concept.

Finally, at a special meeting hosted by the U.K. in London on September 18-19, 2000, SAOs began discussing possible organizational alternatives to their convening as the Sustainable Development Working Group. SAOs agreed to continue the discussion under the Finnish Chair and to expand the representation of experts from member states and Permanent Participants in the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group.

SAOs recommend that Ministers encourage continued work by the Council to support and help develop these and other initiatives under the Sustainable Development program.

B. ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (AMAP)

Since its establishment in 1991, the principal task for AMAP has been to monitor and report on the state of the Arctic environment with respect to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), radionuclides, heavy metals, acidifying substances, and pollution issues associated with petroleum hydrocarbons, climate change, ozone depletion, and UV radiation. The scope of the monitoring and assessment program embraces sources of pollution, both within the Arctic region and at lower latitudes, pathways of pollutant transfer to and within the Arctic, levels and trends, fate of pollutants, and their effects on Arctic ecosystems and human populations.

Progress Report

AMAP has continued to monitor the levels and effects of various contaminants in the Arctic and presents new key findings in the areas of human health, persistent organic pollutants (including tributyltin), radioactivity, and mercury, as well as recommendations for actions based on those findings, in Annex 4 of this report. Annex 4 also contains a report on the progress towards implementing the AMAP work plan for 1998-2003 that will produce new comprehensive AMAP assessments on individual topics. The timetable for the delivery of the planned AMAP assessments is included in the AMAP Strategic Plan for 1998-2003, which has been published and is available as an electronic document on the internet via the AMAP homepage.

The SAOs note the key findings concerning human health, persistent organic pollutants, radioactivity, and mercury, and further note the recommendations contained in Annex 4 concerning these issues.

Documents describing the AMAP Trends and Effects Monitoring Program and National Implementation Plans (NIPS) that have been developed by the Arctic countries to provide necessary data and information for the preparation of the AMAP 2002 assessment are, likewise, available over the internet via the AMAP homepage.

The 1998 AMAP Assessment Report is available on CD-ROM from the AMAP Secretariat.

In the Iqaluit Declaration, Ministers encouraged and supported completion of the first phase of the Multilateral Cooperative Pilot Project for Phase-Out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-Contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation. AMAP has accomplished this as the coordinating body for the eight donor countries and their technical experts and international organizations such as the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation. Details of the results of the first phase of this project can be found under Part II, Section F, subsection c of this report.

AMAP has actively participated in the Assessment Steering Committee for the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and assisted in the preparation of relevant ACIA documents submitted to the Arctic Council, including the ACIA Implementation Plan.

In accordance with ministerial wishes expressed in Iqaluit, SAOs report that the AMAP Human Health Sub-Group will produce the biophysical health component of the Canadian sustainable development project entitled the Future of Children and Youth in the Arctic.

AMAP held or participated in numerous international conferences and workshops during 1998-2000, including a meeting on the reduction of POPs/dioxins and furans in St. Petersburg, December 1998; international workshops on combined effects in the marine environment (Copenhagen, December 1998), sources and modelling (Bergen, May 1999); POPs and human health in the Arctic (Rovaniemi, January 2000, published report available); a joint workshop with CAFF on monitoring circumpolar biodiversity (Reykjavik, February 2000, published report available); the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference (The Hague, March 2000); the Arctic Science Summit Week in Cambridge, April 2000; the Biomarkers Conference in Anchorage, May 2000; and the AMAP Workshop on Sampling and Analysis of Persistent Toxic Substances (St. Petersburg, May 2000).

In support of Ministerial wishes for closer cooperation with other international organizations, AMAP has kept in contact and has pursued joint activities with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), and the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), and has established new cooperation with the International Union of

Radioecology (IUR). The list of AMAP observing countries and organizations (Annex 4) has been presented to and accepted by SAOs.

Future Activities

SAOs recommend that Ministers support AMAP in its efforts to continue to conduct its monitoring program focusing on trends and effects of contaminants on the Arctic environment. AMAP will oversee the production of formal reports on POPs, heavy metals, radioactivity, human health, oil and PAHs in the Arctic environment, and climate change/UVB.

SAOs draw Ministers attention to the need to ensure that necessary resources (human, financial, and data) are made available to complete the AMAP assessments requested by Ministers.

SAOs are pleased to report to Ministers that an AMAP Terrestrial/Freshwater thematic data center (TDC) will be established at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to support the AMAP assessment work and complement the existing AMAP TDC network.

SAOs are pleased to report to Ministers that AMAP, in collaboration with CAFF, is assessing the impacts of climate change and UV-B on Arctic ecosystems.

SAOs recommend that Ministers endorse and support AMAP s efforts, supported by funds from the Global Environment Facility and participating Arctic Council member states, to work with RAIPON and ICC to carry out their project on Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security, and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North.

SAOs are pleased to note the development of new initiatives to monitor long-range transport of contaminants. AMAP, together with the Russian Federation and Canada, will begin to monitor for mercury at the Amderma atmospheric monitoring station in the Russian northwest. Similar efforts are under preparation to establish a joint air monitoring network involving stations in Alaska and the Russian Far East through bilateral cooperation between the Russian Federation and United States.

SAOs recommend that Ministers welcome the report on Phase I of the Multilateral Cooperative Project for Phase-Out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-Contaminated Waste in the Russian Federation, which was supported by all eight Arctic member states and the Netherlands.

SAOs further recommend that Ministers endorse and support Phase II of the PCB project, under the supervision of its multilateral steering group, noting that financial and other support from all eight Arctic states has been requested to ensure implementation of Phase II of the project. SAOs further recommend that AMAP implement the Phase II plan.

SAOs draw attention of Ministers to the fact that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is launching a regionally-based global project which will document

the human health and environmental issues associated with persistent toxic substances. It is intended that the final reports will assist the design of global strategies for remediation, including programs implemented by aid agencies. At the request of UNEP-Chemicals, AMAP is reformatting the 1998 AMAP Assessment in order to complete the Arctic regional component of this study.

C. CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA (CAFF)

CAFF was established under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) in 1991, as a distinct forum for scientists, indigenous people, and conservation managers engaged in Arctic flora, fauna, and habitat-related activities to exchange data and information on issues such as shared species and habitats and to collaborate as appropriate for more effective research, sustainable utilization, and conservation. Currently the CAFF program work is guided by the Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity, endorsed by the Arctic Ministers in 1998, as further defined through directions from the Arctic Council. At the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting, five priority tasks for CAFF were identified:

- to prepare an overview report on status and trends in changes to Arctic ecosystems, habitats, and species
- to assess, in collaboration with AMAP, the impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems
- to identify elements of a program to monitor circumpolar biodiversity
- to continue developing and coordinating implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN), with focus on the marine environment
- to continue coordinating implementation of the murre and eider conservation strategies and action plans.

Progress Report

Completion of CAFF's overview report on Arctic conservation issues is progressing well. CAFF plans to deliver the report to the meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials to be held in conjunction with the meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. Specific recommendations will be presented by CAFF in a separate report. SAOs are pleased to present to Ministers the brochure Arctic Flora and Fauna: An Introduction to Biodiversity, Status, and Conservation. The brochure describes the types of issues addressed by CAFF and is a preview of CAFF's Overview Report, which is scheduled to be published in 2001.

CAFF has actively participated in the Assessment Steering Committee for the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and assisted in the preparation of relevant ACIA documents submitted to the Arctic Council, including the ACIA Implementation Plan, Version 3.6. CAFF and AMAP held a joint meeting on ACIA in Trondheim in

September 2000 to discuss and harmonize climate change research and monitoring work. The meeting confirmed the will of the two programs to work closely together on this important issue.

CAFF held a workshop in Reykjavik in February 2000, co-sponsored with AMAP, on identifying priority elements of a program to monitor circumpolar biodiversity. Based on the results of the workshop, CAFF has established, as the pilot phase of this monitoring initiative, nine voluntary expert monitoring networks on important elements of Arctic biota for which there are national and regional interests.

With respect to CPAN, CAFF and PAME co-sponsored a Circumpolar Marine Workshop with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to explore practical ways to promote conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development in coastal and marine ecosystems. CAFF published *Summary of Legal Instruments and National Frameworks for Arctic Marine Protection* (CAFF Habitat Report no. 8), which suggests that there is already sufficient legislation to protect the Arctic marine environment and conserve its biodiversity and habitats. However, a general conclusion from the report is that the legislation is not always implemented or its provisions adequately enforced. CAFF also published *GAP Analysis for the Russian Arctic in Support of CPAN* (Habitat Conservation Report no. 9), providing a wealth of data and 22 maps that can be useful in assisting Russia in focusing its efforts to establish protected areas.

The *Atlas of Rare Endemic Vascular Plants of the Arctic* (CAFF Technical Report no. 3) describes and provides distribution maps of 96 vascular plant species endemic to the Arctic region, only 30% of which are fully protected. The completion of the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map is progressing well. The final product, a circumpolar synthesis map and database, is planned for completion in 2002.

The CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Working Group met in Ottawa in December 1999. National implementation of the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan is well underway. In support of both strategies, CAFF hosted a workshop on Seabird Incidental Bycatch in the Waters of Arctic Countries in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, in April 2000, which produced recommendations on outreach and education, monitoring and assessment, mitigation measures, and mechanisms for reducing the bycatch of seabirds in commercial marine fisheries. The workshop proceedings emphasize the need to bring fisheries management and seabird conservation agencies together within each CAFF country to effectively address this conservation concern. Also published was *Seabird Harvest Regimes in the Circumpolar Nations* (CAFF Technical Report no. 5), which summarizes current harvests of seabirds and impacts on their populations.

A workshop on Conservation of Arctic Breeding Migratory Birds Outside the Arctic was held in Songli, Norway, in September 2000, with the support of the Netherlands. Its

main objective was to identify international initiatives to protect Arctic bird species that migrate south to over-winter beyond the circumpolar region. The workshop recommended *inter alia* that CAFF issue a report on priority Arctic migratory bird species and their most important wintering and staging areas outside the Arctic. This report could provide a basis for joint actions by the Arctic member states in international treaties and conventions relevant to Arctic migratory birds.

Since 1998, CAFF has initiated two projects. The CAFF Chair, Russia, and UNEP developed a proposal on Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic. The project will use the integrated ecosystem approach which will secure necessary capacity building and the involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders, and integrate biodiversity concerns into sustainable development. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has awarded US\$350,000 to the project development phase, to be conducted from fall 2000 through 2001. Additional country contributions have been confirmed, although further monetary and in-kind contributions are required. If the project development is successful, GEF will contribute up to US\$2.5 million to the larger project from 2002-2005, matching ongoing and planned country efforts related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the Russian Arctic.

To address an issue of high priority to indigenous people, the project on Biological Significance of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic: A Study in Northern Russia was initiated by RAIPON, with financial support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Its objective is to enhance protection and management of sacred sites through linkage with biodiversity conservation efforts under CAFF/CPAN.

For detailed information on the aforementioned activities, SAOs refer Ministers to Annex 5 of this report.

Future Activities

Future activities are grouped around the five objectives of the CAFF Strategic Plan. SAOs recommend that Ministers endorse the following priorities for CAFF:

Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity

- continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive network to monitor biodiversity, focusing on key species and species-groups of ecological and economic value
- play an integral role in the completion of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
- develop and implement monitoring activities in collaboration with AMAP in support of ACIA and other assessments.

Species and habitat conservation

- support the further development of the flora group to address priority flora and vegetation issues and to support ACIA, biodiversity monitoring, and CPAN
- finalize the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map
- continue coordinating the implementation of the murre and eider strategies
- address the recommendations from CAFF's work on seabird bycatch and the conservation of migratory birds outside the Arctic.

Protected areas

- continue coordinating the implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, with specific focus on the full range of values of Arctic protected areas, marine protection in collaboration with PAME, electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers, and integrating protection of indigenous sacred sites into CPAN.

Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas

- complete the project development phase of the GEF project on An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic, including securing the necessary funds to complete the development phase and to start the larger project.

Integration and information sharing

- complete the full CAFF overview report on Arctic conservation issues
- prepare recommendations based on the overview report
- use the report and recommendations to enhance awareness among the public and decision-makers about important Arctic biodiversity concerns.

SAOs also note that Sweden will become Chair of CAFF after the Barrow Ministerial.

D. EMERGENCY PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE (EPPR)

The goals of the EPPR working group are to protect the Arctic environment from the threat or impact of activities in the Arctic that may result from an accidental release of pollutants and to promote sustainable development in the Arctic area.

In the Iqaluit Declaration, Ministers endorsed EPPR's Work Plan set forth in its Strategic Plan of Action. Ministers asked the working group to initiate new projects and activities as indicated in the chapter entitled Activity Areas and Possible Future Activities of the Work Plan and endorsed the development of a Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic.

An earlier task given to EPPR at the AEPS Ministerial Meeting in Inuvik in 1996 was to propose, as a supplement to existing international agreements, adequate arrangements for

prevention, preparedness, and response in those parts of the Arctic area where regional or bilateral cooperation is not in place. In the Inuvik Declaration, the group was given the task of analyzing the adequacy and effectiveness of existing agreements and arrangements.

Progress Report

The EPPR working group finalized the Analysis of the Adequacy and Effectiveness of Agreements and Arrangements, a task given to the working group by the AEPS Ministerial Meetings at Nuuk in 1993 and Inuvik in 1996. Based on a comprehensive risk assessment process, country surveys of bilateral and multilateral agreements, and a detailed analysis of the arrangements related to the identified risks, the EPPR analysis concluded that international conventions and instruments currently in force, agreed to, or still under preparation appear to cover the present needs for Arctic cooperation as far as prevention of, preparedness for, and response to land-based accidents, maritime accidents, or nuclear accidents with environmental impacts are concerned.

The EPPR working group is preparing a GIS-based Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic showing the areas of highest risk of an oil spill and those areas with sensitive natural resources or subsistence communities. This tool will facilitate prioritizing prompt responses when resources are jeopardized by an oil spill. Other Arctic Council working groups have expressed interest in using the map in conjunction with some of the work being carried out by their working groups. The final product will be ready for the next EPPR working group meeting in 2001.

The EPPR working group has developed a website, which can be accessed through the Arctic Council website. The web serves an important role of facilitating exchange of emergency-related information and expertise and makes accessible information regarding EPPR activities. The Arctic Guide, an EPPR document updated annually, has been integrated as a part of the website and will no longer be produced in hard copy.

The EPPR working group is conducting a pilot project on Source Control Management and Emergency Prevention Strategies for High-Risk Activities at the Apatity waterworks in Murmansk region. The aim of the pilot project is to develop and test a methodology for reducing the potential for emergencies at facilities. The process will include a facility risk assessment, application of international standards such as the ISO 140001, Environmental Management Systems Standards, and recommendations as to what should be done to reduce the threat. The resulting methodology will be applicable to a broad spectrum of Arctic activities.

The EPPR working group is developing an information brochure on EPPR. The brochure will be ready in Spring 2001.

Future Activities

The EPPR working group will arrange an expert workshop on the Development of a Standardized Approach to Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology in Canada in January 2001 to determine if Arctic-specific information is needed in this area. Depending on the outcome of the workshop, future actions in this field may be taken to prepare an Arctic guideline on this issue.

The EPPR working group will arrange a pilot Training Course for Oil Spill Response in the Arctic Environment in Svalbard, Norway, in September 2001. The aim of the course is to provide both theoretical lectures and field exercises with actual spills in Arctic conditions.

The EPPR working group will consider participation in two projects concerning airborne radiation monitoring and communication. The projects are situated in Alaska and near the Bilibino Nuclear Power Station in Chukotka, Russia. The specific goals of the projects are data collection, development of a communication plan to explain results of measurements to the public, and involvement of native students. The United States will prepare a concrete project outline for the next EPPR meeting.

For additional information on EPPR s activities since Iqaluit, SAOs direct the attention of Ministers to Annex 6.

E. PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT (PAME)

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency response measures related to the protection of the marine environment from land and sea-based activities. The measures include coordinated action programs and guidelines complementing existing international arrangements.

At the 1998 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, PAME was requested to undertake the following:

- Work vigorously for the early implementation of the actions described in the first phase of the Regional Program of Action and its further development in a manner consistent with the associated international agreements and arrangements
- Support the development and implementation of the Russian Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Russian NPA-Arctic), including seeking appropriate support to help Russia finalize the Russian NPA-Arctic and host a Partnership Conference to be organized with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) which would seek funds to remediate regional priority pollution sources and activities identified in the RPA and Russian NPA-Arctic

- Report on the implementation and adequacy of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines
- Assess current and potential shipping activities to assist in determining what, if any, additional Arctic shipping measures are required, including work on an International Code of Safety for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Assess the adequacy of existing international agreements and arrangements related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment
- Identify means of preventing or reducing pollution of the Arctic environment through coordinated action programs and guidelines complementing existing international agreements.

Progress Report

SAOs report that PAME is making progress on its Regional Program of Action (RPA). In accordance with the RPA, the PAME working group:

- Continues to implement the Russian NPA-Arctic through active involvement in the Global Environment Fund PDF-B Project
- Continues to cooperate with the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas, the Russian Federation, international financial institutions (EBRD, NEFCO, and the World Bank), Arctic Council working groups, and other relevant institutions to promote their active involvement in the Russian NPA-Arctic and the Partnership Conference.
- Continues to develop support elements for the RPA including consideration of a regional clearinghouse in cooperation with the clearinghouse being prepared by the Global Program of Action (GPA) Coordination Office.

With respect to its other activities, PAME:

- Continued to collaborate on the development of activities responding to the strategy of the Arctic Council Action Plan
- Prepared an update of the current status of the international conventions and agreements as presented in the 1996 PAME report and continues to assess the adequacy of existing international agreements and arrangements related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment
- Co-sponsored a Circumpolar Marine Workshop with IUCN and CAFF to explore practical ways to promote conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development

- Established a correspondence group on shipping activities and potential environmental risks under the leadership of Norway
- A snapshot analysis on shipping activities and potential environmental risks was prepared under the leadership of Norway
- Continued to promote the application of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and has initiated an evaluation of their application and effectiveness and will identify the need for further action, if any, by 2002. PAME continues to collaborate with other organizations that are active in this field including WWF, OGP, IUCN, and UNEP.

For more detail on the aforementioned activities of PAME, SAOs direct the attention of Ministers to Annex 7 of this report.

Future Activities

SAOs recommend that Ministers support the implementation and further development of the program support elements and projects for the Regional Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA).

SAOs recommend that Ministers recognize that the RPA can be viewed as a management framework for improved working group collaboration related to protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment. RPA activities should be expanded to more fully address impacts on the coastal zone.

SAOs recommend that Ministers support the implementation and further development of the Russian NPA-Arctic and recognize the important role of PAME in coordinating efforts with ACOPs, other international organizations, and international financial institutions.

SAOs recommend that Ministers welcome and support the planned Partnership Conference concerning implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic and the RPA.

SAOs recommend that Ministers recognize the need for the RPA and ACAP to develop complementary activities.

SAOs recommend that the Arctic Council promote the early completion and implementation of the IMO Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters.

SAOs recommend that Ministers support PAME in updating its review of the existing international agreements and arrangements. The PAME review should assess the need for further action or instruments at international and/or national levels to prevent pollution of the Arctic marine environment and be completed by 2002. SAOs welcome the snapshot analysis of maritime activities in the Arctic prepared by Norway for PAME

as a useful contribution for determining what, if any, additional Arctic shipping measures are required.

SAOs recommend that Ministers support PAME in its ongoing efforts in promoting application of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and in evaluating the effectiveness and objectives of the guidelines. Proposed amendments to the guidelines and other possible oil and gas measures, if any, should be recommended by 2002.

F. OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

a. Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP)

At the Iqaluit Ministerial in the fall of 1998, Ministers instructed SAOs to develop an overall plan, complementary to existing programs identifying actions to address the pollution sources identified through AMAP.

SAOs are most pleased to inform Ministers that, under the leadership of Norway and the enthusiastic participation of all Council member states and Permanent Participants, an ad hoc working group charged with developing ACAP has produced an overall strategy designed to provide a basis for cooperation and an accompanying Action Plan which can evolve dynamically on a shorter time frame in response to identified priorities reflecting specific projects and activities.

The objective of ACAP is to prevent adverse effects, reduce, and ultimately eliminate pollution in the Arctic environment.

To implement ACAP, SAOs recommend to Ministers to establish an ad hoc ACAP Steering Committee (the Committee) on an interim basis, for a period of two years, awaiting a review of the structure of the Arctic Council organization. Norway would chair this Committee. The Committee would be a subsidiary body of the Council, and would provide a mechanism to supervise the implementation of ACAP. The Committee would report to SAOs and be composed of representatives of Arctic States and Permanent Participants, with the active involvement of the chairs of the Council's working groups and the Council's Observers.

The Committee would develop proposals for new projects for approval by Ministers and recommend to SAOs a management regime for projects as to which a ministerial mandate exists. This may include using working groups and/or ad hoc project steering groups. The Committee would also be responsible for the evaluation of proposals against ACAP criteria. Secretariat support to projects could be provided by the Arctic Council Secretariat and the working group secretariats as appropriate. Norway as lead country for the Committee would be the focal point for ACAP.

The Committee would further oversee projects which possess a ministerial mandate; provide for a marketplace of ideas, including identification of partnerships and possible

implementing parties outside the Arctic Council; provide for stimulation of ideas; and provide for oversight and review.

With regard to subject matter, the terms of reference for the Committee will be: (1) pollution prevention; (2) source control and reduction; (3) environmental remediation; and (4) technical assistance.

The implementation of ACAP will be consistent with the responsibilities, capacities, and work plans of existing Arctic Council subsidiary bodies as they pertain to pollution prevention and remediation. When appropriate in order to advance proposed actions, information may be required from Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, e.g. scientific assessments and advice, background information, or policy advice.

The functions and activities of the implementation mechanism are subject to the rules of procedure of the Arctic Council.

Furthermore, SAOs recommend that Ministers accept the following projects for pursuit under ACAP during its first two years of operation:

1. Multilateral Cooperative Project for Phase-Out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-Contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation
2. Evaluation of Dioxins and Furans in the Russian Federation
3. Development of fact sheets on Arctic contaminants for use by Arctic Council countries delegations in other fora
4. Reduction of atmospheric mercury releases from the Arctic states
5. Environmentally sound management of stocks of obsolete pesticides in the Russian Federation
6. Guidelines for performing environmental impact assessments of handling and storage of radioactive waste in Russia
7. Outspread and implementation of the cleaner production methodology in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

(Note: Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are Annex A projects. Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are Annex B projects and need some further development, but can be implemented only with SAO direction and approval. It is understood that new projects will be added to either Annex A or Annex B on the basis of a Ministerial mandate.)

The Committee would develop operational guidelines consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Arctic Council.

For a comprehensive, detailed description of ACAP, SAOs direct the attention of Ministers to Annex 8.

b. Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA)

Senior Arctic Officials are pleased to put forth for the consideration by Ministers a plan to conduct a comprehensive Arctic Climate Impact Assessment under the auspices of the AMAP and CAFF working groups in cooperation with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). This project is designed to assess the consequences of climate variability and change and the effects of increased UV in the Arctic region.

At the Iqaluit Ministerial, Ministers asked the program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) to monitor and assess in collaboration with AMAP, the effects of climate change and UV radiation on Arctic ecosystems. In response to this, CAFF and AMAP established an Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) for the climate and UV work. The ASC is constituted of representatives of AMAP, CAFF, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the Permanent Participants, lead authors, and relevant international organizations.

The goals of ACIA (as described in the ACIA Implementing Plan) are to:

- Evaluate and synthesize knowledge on climate variability, climate change, and increased UV radiation and their consequences
- Provide useful and reliable information to the governments, organizations, and people of the Arctic region in order to support policymaking processes and to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) further work on climate change issues.

The assessment will include environmental, human health, and social and economic impacts and recommend further actions. This assessment will be conducted in the context of other developments and pressures on the Arctic environment, its economy, regional resources, and people. The assessment will be documented in the following volumes: (1) a scientific document, (2) a synthesis document, and (3) a policy document.

SAOs recommend that Ministers approve the goals of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and support the participation of their countries in the production of the assessment. For a comprehensive, detailed description of ACIA, SAOs direct the attention of Ministers to Annex 9.

We are pleased to inform the Ministers that the United States has agreed to lead this project and as such is funding a substantial portion of the secretariat to facilitate the production of the Assessment as well as to provide for the preparation and publishing of associated reports. All Council members are expected to support their participants who will serve as lead authors and contributing authors to the assessment.

c. The Multilateral Cooperative Pilot Project for Phase-Out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-Contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation

At the Iqaluit Ministerial, Ministers welcome(d) with appreciation and support the three-part cooperative pilot project for the phase-out of PCB use and management of PCB-contaminated wastes in the Russian Federation as an example of a cooperative project under ACAP, and endorse(d) Phase I of the PCB project.

SAOs are pleased to report to Ministers that Part I of the PCB project (which was to identify PCB-contaminated sites in the Russian Federation) has come to a successful conclusion. Ministers are requested to see Annex 10 for detailed findings of Phase I of the project.

With the first phase of the project having been brought to a successful conclusion, SAOs enthusiastically recommend that Ministers endorse the second phase of the project: a feasibility study to explore remediation of one or more contaminated sites and the replacement of PCB with other non-toxic substitutes in the production facilities that currently use them.

d. University of the Arctic

SAOs are pleased to report continued progress on the development of the University of the Arctic, an educational initiative committed to the sustainability of Northern people and their communities through the cooperative development of academic and professional programming and the innovative use of new technologies. With support from Finland, the University has established its Circumpolar Coordination Office at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland and is now currently seeking the University's first director. Norway has also provided support by funding a coordination position in Tromsø.

Progress has also been made on two other important fronts. First, the University has finalized its governance structure and is ready to seek individuals for its Board of Governors. Second, the University continues to develop its programs. Initiatives like the Northern Research Forum, which now has a Secretariat in Akureyri, Iceland, and the PhD Networks are well underway. New capacity is being established through the integrated development of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies, the Arctic Learning Environment and the Circumpolar Mobility Program. These initiatives will give the University the means to quickly and ably respond to critical training and educational needs as expressed by Northern people. This development is being led by Canada and Finland but needs concerted efforts from all governments to succeed.

PART III. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

A. FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

As was decided in the *Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council*, signed in Ottawa in September 1996, and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure, financial support of the working groups of the Council, as well as support for specific Council projects or other Council endeavors, is undertaken solely on a voluntary basis. In light of this, a number of the Council's working groups and Permanent Participants have turned partially to outside funding sources and international organizations to secure financial support for projects of mutual interest to the Arctic Council and the Grantor. AMAP, CAFF, PAME, RAIPON, and ICC have all successfully applied, with the concurrence of SAOs, to the UN's Global Environment Facility for funds to pursue projects within their mandates. SAOs applaud the initiative of the working groups and Permanent Participants and encourage Ministers to do the same. As has been the case in the past, a number of working groups' secretariats have been supported primarily by specific Arctic states. SAOs remain grateful to the member states that have graciously taken on the primary financial burden of supporting a specific secretariat. SAOs encourage all member states to contribute to the financial support of Council secretariats as their individual circumstances allow.

a. SDWG

The chairing country covers the meeting costs of the Sustainable Development Working Group as well as the operational costs of the secretariat functions for the period 2000-2002. The lead country or Permanent Participant group has the responsibility for identifying funding and encouraging contributions by others to specific projects and activities.

b. AMAP

The operational cost of the AMAP Secretariat is approximately US\$ 430,000 per year. Norway has secured the core funding of the Secretariat since 1991. The total cost of operating the five thematic data centers (TDCs) in 2000 is approximately US\$130,000. To date, Canada and Finland have allocated support for specific activities, while other activities remain unfunded. There remains a need for financial contributions to the AMAP Secretariat to allow it to provide the necessary support to the working group, including such key activities as communications and operation of the thematic data centers.

In addition to financial support for the secretariat, SAOs request that member states make sufficient financial support available for the work by their lead country experts and national key experts to ensure that the assessment work to be performed during 2000-2002, in accordance with the requests of Ministers, is completed.

c. CAFF

To date, CAFF initiatives have been funded through voluntary contributions of the Arctic countries and through the support of non-governmental organizations and observers. The future scope of activities will be contingent upon the resources available to the program. The operational cost of the CAFF Secretariat is around US\$ 235,000 per year, which is funded through voluntary contributions of the Arctic countries. Iceland provides the primary financial support, US\$ 135,000 per year.

With respect to CAFF's project on an Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic, member states and observers (the Netherlands and WWF) are requested to provide US\$ 450,000 (*cash and in kind*) in co-financing, with the other US\$ 350,000 request from GEF.

d. EPPR

Finland has provided secretariat support for the EPPR working group since 1997, when it took over this responsibility from Sweden. Finland's annual contribution in support of the secretariat has been approximately US\$ 20,000.

As the resources available to the EPPR working group have been somewhat limited, projects are normally undertaken by a lead country, with others contributing as their interests and ability allow. When funding is needed, costs have usually been divided among member countries.

e. PAME

Operational support has been provided through the Secretariat office that was established in 1999 in Akureyri, Iceland. The operational cost of the PAME Secretariat is estimated to be around US\$ 150,000 per year, which is funded through voluntary contributions of the Arctic countries. Iceland provides approximately half of the financial support for the operation of the Secretariat, US\$ 75,000 per year. Some of the longer-term initiatives are funded through the lead country approach.

With respect to the GEF PDF-B project Support to the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Russian Federation (NPA-Arctic), PAME's role is to facilitate the preparation of the Partnership Conference and to encourage Arctic Countries and international financial institutions to support this project, both financially and by taking an active part in its implementation. All member states have contributed financially or have provided in-kind support to the first year of this project in addition to providing commitments towards the funding for the full three-year product.

B. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SECRETARIAT

The Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) has continued to assist the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council. IPS provides a variety of services, including but not limited to providing advice on technical and procedural matters between and during meetings of the Arctic Council, maintaining and disseminating information on Arctic Council schedules and events of importance to indigenous peoples, translating between Russian and English, and disseminating information to and among the Permanent Participants. The Secretariat is also the secretariat to the IPS Board.

The core funding of IPS is provided by Denmark's Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) with DKK 2.5 million annually while the Greenland Home Rule Government offers low-cost office space and in-kind support. IPS has also been the recipient of additional funds during the 1998-2000 period for work on sustainable development from the Governments of Canada and Norway and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Canada contributed CAD 50,000 to support IPS workshops for Arctic Council indigenous communities in the area of sustainable development, including support for the Children and Youth initiative. The Danish Foreign Ministry contributed DKK 782,500 in 1999 and DKK 800,000 in 2000 to fund IPS work in support of sustainable development. The funds were used to support the salaries of two technical advisors who focused on traditional knowledge and sustainable development. IPS has administered a travel grant fund of NOK 100,000 for Russian indigenous people on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The expanded mission of the Arctic Council has brought new funding and management issues before the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. DEPA commissioned an evaluation study of IPS beginning in February 2000. That report has been presented to the Board. Before the end of the year, the board will make decisions on a process for dealing with the recommendations and the need to have IPS reflect the expanded mission of the Arctic Council.

C. COORDINATION AMONG COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

SAOs are pleased to report that coordination among the Council working groups has improved remarkably during the two years since the Iqaluit Ministerial. Working groups are doing a better job of keeping each other informed of their respective activities, both formally and informally. Council members have instituted a half-day meeting immediately prior to SAO meetings for working group chairs to come together with the Chair of the Arctic Council and representatives from the Council's Secretariat and identify ways for their groups to work together more efficiently.

There has been an increase in the number of joint workshops hosted by working groups, and working groups have been better at coordinating their meeting dates among themselves (to avoid overlap and assist Council members that participate in multiple working groups of the Council). An example of this coordination is the Circumpolar

Workshop sponsored by CAFF and PAME. AMAP and CAFF have held joint workshops and meetings to discuss collaboration on ACIA and on biological monitoring.

D. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA

The Arctic Council's SAOs actively discussed the need for coordination with other international organizations with Arctic interests, such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Council of Baltic Sea States, and the Nordic Council of Ministers, and other appropriate fora such as the Northern Forum. The SAOs have also taken note of the shared interests of the European Union's Northern Dimension, the United States Northern Europe Initiative, and the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy.

The SAOs have begun to take the following steps to expand the exchange of information and improve cooperation:

- The SAO of the nation that is serving as Chair of the body or its Executive Secretary will be welcome to update the Arctic Council on developments of interest. The United States has briefed the Arctic Council on its Northern European Initiative and Finland has briefed the Arctic Council on the European Union's Northern Dimension. Also, the Nordic Council and the Northern Forum have briefed the Arctic Council during the U.S. chairmanship.
- Taking into account Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, the Arctic state that is the Chair of the Arctic Council will brief other bodies on the activities of the Council as time and travel funds permit. The United States, as Chair of the Arctic Council, briefed the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Parliamentarians.

In addition, SAOs agreed at their November 1999 meeting in Washington, D.C., that an inventory of Arctic Council activities should be prepared so that the Council's work might be exchanged with other bodies. The gathering of information was intended to identify gaps in the coverage of matters of interest to Arctic residents and opportunities for collaboration. The Arctic Council compiled the requested inventory and circulated the document to other international fora with an Arctic focus. That inventory can be found at Annex 11 of this document. SAOs recommend that future chairs of the Council be requested to keep the document current.

A preliminary effort was made by the U.S. as Chair to develop a matrix comparing the programs of the Arctic Council with the Barents Euro-Arctic, Nordic, and Baltic Sea States Councils to identify areas for possible collaboration. That matrix can be found in Annex 11.

PART IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. NEXT HOST COUNTRY

SAOs acknowledge with appreciation the United States' role in chairing the Arctic Council from 1998-2000 and for hosting the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council.

SAOs recommend that Arctic Council Ministers accept the offer of Finland to chair the Arctic Council and to host the third Ministerial Meeting of the Council in 2002.

B. ARCTIC COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Arctic Council has instituted a number of streamlining features and improvements which have made the website a central focus of information exchange for the Council. Given the remoteness of Arctic communities, new telecommunications technologies are essential to provide a means for rapid dissemination of information and timely updates to Arctic Council documents. Some highlights of this effort are:

- Distribution of all Council meeting documents - agendas, reports, minutes, linkages, upcoming events, meeting arrangements, etc., via the website
- Availability on the website of the PAME Regional Programs of Action in four languages - English, French, Russian & Inuktitut
- Links to more than a thousand data and information sites about the Arctic
- Creation of password protected pages on the website for draft Council documents
- Live webcast of a Council panel on contaminants
- Posting of digital photos of upcoming meeting facilities and near real time photographic documentation of Council meetings
- Development of a permanent URL address, www.arctic-council.org, for the Arctic Council website
- Digital archiving of the U.S. Chair records on a CD-ROM to be given to the successor Chair.