

Revision of chapter 2.3 in the Strategic plan of action for the EPPR

2.3 Activities and projects

2.3.1 Project support elements

The EPPR working group projects are normally conducted by a lead country. When funding is needed, the costs are usually divided among the member countries. Therefore, only a certain number of projects can be carried out simultaneously. It is also up to the EPPR chair country to finance secretarial support functions.

A list of finalised projects are in Annex 1 (to be updated after the Inari Ministerial).

2.3.2 Existing projects

Approved projects have lead countries, project work plans with objectives, responsibilities, milestones and a description of tasks needed to achieve the objectives. Interim status reports will be produced as required, but, at a minimum, a status report will be provided for each working group meeting and for each SAO meeting.

a) Shoreline cleanup assessment technology

Activity area:	Guides, capacity building
Purpose:	To develop a standardized approach to Arctic shoreline cleanup assessment technology (SCAT) beginning by reviewing current practices and terminology. On the basis of this write a SCAT manual to be used by responders in shoreline cleanup actions.
Goals:	Improve response capabilities
Lead country:	Canada
Schedule:	Fall 2003

b) Emergency prevention and source control management for high risk activities in the Arctic

Activity area:	Risk analysis
Purpose:	To develop a plan to reduce the risks identified in the Arctic Risk Analysis. The project includes identifying activities that are a risk and then prioritizing the risks from high to low, identifying what capability exists to reduce the risk, and recommendations as to what should be done to reduce the threat. As a first step a methodology for reducing the potential for emergencies at facilities is being developed.

Goals: Prevent accidents, improve emergency preparedness programmes and improve response capabilities.

Lead country: Russia and the United States of America

Schedule: The plan should be in place by the year 2005.

c) Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines, in co-operation with PAME

Activity area: Guides

Purpose: To assist PAME in the development of guidelines for oil transfer in Arctic waters. These guidelines would apply to ship to shore and to ship to ship transfers, taking into account the special weather, sea and ice conditions in the Arctic. EPPR will focus on issues related to emergency planning.

Goals: Prevent accidents, improve emergency preparedness

Lead country: PAME/Canada

Schedule: The guidelines will be ready by 2004

2.3.3 Ongoing activities

In the EPPR working group, there are ongoing activities that support both the projects and the identification of possible new projects.

The EPPR working group conducts, on a regular basis, different kinds of exercises. Some are notification and communication exercises and some are tabletop exercises.

The following topics are discussed in the EPPR working group meetings:

- lessons learned
- information on new activities in Arctic areas (drilling, mining)
- information on major organizational changes in the Arctic countries
- information on research and development in the Arctic countries
- information on bilateral and multilateral agreements and plans
- follow-up on the Strategic Plan of Action and updating when necessary
- the maintenance and updating of the EPPR web site, including the Arctic Guide
- the maintenance and updating of the Circumpolar Map of resources at risk from oil spills in the Arctic

2.3.4 Possible future activities

At the moment, the first priority of the EPPR working group is to finalise the ongoing projects and activities. The activities listed below will be considered in the future by the EPPR working group as projects or activities. No decisions have been made concerning any of these possible future activities.

- Further development of the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic. Among possible ideas that will be explored and elaborated on are to add data on other type of risk activities, e.g. mines, nuclear facilities and activities, to the circumpolar map. The development of the Circumpolar Map will possibly involve other Arctic Council working groups as well.
- To develop the EPPR web site further to include information on oil spill response equipment stockpiles.
- Conduct a more extensive inventory of past natural disasters in the Arctic, as the survey conducted in 2001 did not yield very much response. Possibly this inventory will be done in close cooperation with the Northern Forum to ensure the valuable response from the regional authorities. The inventory of past natural disasters will serve as a base when developing projects in the field of emergency prevention and response to different natural disasters.
- To develop a best practices emergency program for prevention, preparedness and response for a nuclear/radiological emergency. The project will document the process for development of an emergency prevention, preparedness and response program to ensure appropriate measures are in place for any nuclear event.
- Focus on research and development of oil spill response in ice.
- Regional co-operation on effects of transboundary accidents.
- Disposal of oily waste from response actions and spills.
- Co-operation with ACAP on the Cleaner production project in Norilsk.
- Co-operation with AMAP on the International conference on oil and gas activities.
- Co-operation with the Northern forum especially on emergency prevention and response to different natural disasters, e.g. floods.