

Strategy for the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document

Annex 9 to the SAO Report to the Ministers

Introduction

This document, outlining the proposed strategy for preparing the ACIA Policy Document, is based on the ACIA Implementation Plan approved by the Second Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, 2000, discussions at the joint AMAP/CAFF working group meeting held in Stockholm, August 30, 2001, comments from the SAO meetings held in Espoo, and Oulu, and the ACIA Assessment Steering Committee meetings held in Ottawa and Oslo. The final strategy is expected to be endorsed at the Ministerial meeting in October 2002.

Purpose

The purpose of the ACIA Policy Document as stated in the ACIA Implementation Plan is to: “relate the information from the synthesis and scientific documents (of ACIA) to the policy needs of the Arctic Council and provide recommendations for follow-up measures. AMAP and CAFF will address the question of what strategies can be recommended to cope with current environmental stresses, and possibly lessen the impacts of these changes in the climate and ultraviolet radiation. These recommendations will include advice relevant to national and international policy as well as advice to inhabitants of the Arctic”.

The product

The ACIA Policy Document will be prepared in laymen’s terms and as a stand-alone document. The background for the scientific conclusions and all references to scientific literature will be in the ACIA Scientific Report, which will be presented at the same time. The ACIA Policy Document will convey information carefully in order not to alarm or confuse the reader. The size of the document is expected to be between 20-30 pages plus illustrations.

Audience

The primary audiences for the ACIA Policy Document are the Arctic Council Ministers and Permanent Participants, but also Arctic residents, economic sectors and other stakeholders, non-Arctic States and international fora dealing with climate and UV/ozone questions (e.g. EU, UN/IPCC).

Approach

At Barrow (2000), the AC Ministers requested AMAP and CAFF, in cooperation with IASC, to implement ACIA. Although stated in the ACIA Implementation Plan, that AMAP and CAFF will be responsible for drafting the ACIA Policy Document, follow-up discussions at the SAO level (e.g. in Espoo, November 2001), have identified the need for other AC working groups and indigenous organizations to be intimately involved in the process. Therefore, representatives from all AC working groups and indigenous organizations should be invited to participate in the drafting of ACIA policy recommendations relevant to their work and expertise. In addition, draft chapters of the AC Policy Document should be circulated to all AC working groups for comments prior to submission to the SAOs.

The SAOs will not be directly involved in the drafting process. However, key policy questions will be brought up to the SAOs as early in the process as possible. In early 2004, the ACIA policy recommendations will be handed over to the SAOs for their consideration and preparation of

recommendations to Ministers for joint adoption at the Fourth AC Ministerial meeting in the fall of 2004.

The following describes the proposed process for the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document:

1. The document will be prepared by AMAP, CAFF, other AC working groups that wish to participate, and indigenous people groups, with the assistance of a professional writer. A core drafting team will be established to prepare the first draft. The composition of the drafting team will be proposed to SAOs in October 2002 following discussion with SAOs in May 2002. It will be important to ensure that members of the drafting group has the proper competence for this task..
2. A process to ensure a clear linkage to the scientific report is essential. As a part of this process, the first draft will be reviewed by the ASC , including all lead authors, to control the validity of the science interpretations and science related recommendations.
3. The 2nd draft will be circulated to all AC WGs involved and the indigenous organizations with an invitation to comment the draft policy and science recommendations, and made available for a national review process.
4. Joint meeting of AMAP and CAFF, with representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and the other AC working groups, will be arranged to negotiate the final conclusions and recommendations.
5. The 3rd draft, including all recommendations, will be presented to the SAOs for their considerations in early 2004.
6. After final editing of the report it will be sent to a publisher for printing.
7. The final report will be presented to the Fourth AC Ministerial Meeting in fall 2004.

Structure

A rough outline of the ACIA Policy Document is presented below. This outline will be regularly upgraded and developed based on information from the Scientific Report and feedbacks from the AC WGs and SAOs. The first opportunity to provide and incorporate any science-based preliminary policy questions and issues into this outline (section 4.) will be after the upcoming ASC meeting in Norway, June 2-4, 2002, where first rough drafts of all chapters of ACIA Scientific Report are expected.

Proposed structure, as of April 2002:

0. Preface.
1. Introduction.
2. The circumpolar Arctic context.
3. Summary and conclusions with respect to expected climate changes and their impacts across regions, ecosystems, societies and sectors of the circumpolar Arctic, as documented in the ACIA Scientific Report.

4. Policy recommendations addressing environmental, social, sectoral economic and cultural issues. (Note1: due to the geographical size of some of the Arctic countries and special conditions there might be situation where some of the recommendations are country specific, but in general country specific recommendations should be avoided. Note2: decision on the grouping of the recommendations, by themes as above, or chapters of the scientific assessment, will wait further discussions).
Each recommendation will be structured in the following way:
 - specific recommendation and target
 - rationale
 - discussion
 - benefits/costs
5. Unresolved issues. This chapter would highlight issues, for which there is not scientific or political consensus.
7. Next steps.

Revised timetable for the preparation of the strategy and the ACIA Policy Document

- 1 August 2001. A small *ad hoc* group prepares a first draft strategy outline for presentation to the joint AMAP/CAFF working group meeting in August 2001.
- 2 November 2001. Based on recommendations from the working groups, the *ad hoc* group prepares an updated proposal to be presented to the SAO meeting in November 2001.
- 3 Early 2002. Based on comments from the SAO meeting and the December 2001 meeting of the ASC, the *ad hoc* group prepares and circulates an updated draft for comments from the working groups and ASC.
- 4 April 2002. An updated proposal from AMAP and CAFF is presented to the SAOs for their consideration at the May meeting in 2002.
- 5 September 2002. The final strategy for preparing the ACIA Policy Document is presented to SAOs for adoption at the Ministerial meeting in October 2002.
- 6 October-November 2002. Appointment of a drafting team, including the professional writer.
- 7 January 2003. The drafting team initiates its work. Note: 2nd draft of the ACIA scientific report and the 1st draft of the executive summary report are expected in early 2003.
- 8 March 2003. A scoping workshop is arranged back to back to the cross fertilization meeting.
- 9 June 2003. Circulation of the 1st draft of the ACIA Policy Document to ASC.
- 10 September 2003. Comments returned to drafters.
- 11 November 2003. Circulation of the 2nd draft of the ACIA Policy Document to the Working groups and indigenous organizations.
- 12 January 2004. Comments returned to drafters.
- 13 March-April 2004. A joint AMAP/CAFF working group meeting, with representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and the other AC working groups, to approve the recommendations.
- 14 April-May 2004. The 3rd draft of the ACIA Policy Document, including all recommendations, presented to the SAOs.
- 15 June – August 2004. Proof reading, editing, printing of the report.
- 16 September 2004. The ACIA Policy Document is ready for presentation to the Ministerial meeting.