

ACAP Report to SAOs – Rovaniemi, November 1-2, 2018

2018-11

Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)

Arctic Council Secretariat

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Introduction

ACAP held its first meeting of 2018 in Toronto, Canada, April 19-20, 2018. 24 participants attended the meeting including representatives from six Arctic States (Kingdom of Denmark and Iceland were absent), one Permanent Participants (Saami Council), one observer states (Spain), three observer organizations (IASC, WMO and NEFCO, as PSI Fund Manager), two Working Groups (AMAP and PAME) and one invited guest (Paul Silfverberg, Planpoint Oy, responsible for the PSI external review). The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last ACAP meeting in Anchorage, reviewing progress and potential deliverables from the 2017-2019 work plan, and discussed ideas for potential new projects for the 2019-2021 workplan. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to develop and implement projects and progress has been made in priority areas of the ACAP work plan. The relevant sections of the Amarak were updated after the meeting.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

Expert Group on POPs and Mercury

Representatives from the Russian Federation provided a presentation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention. EG Chairs will consider the NIP in the context of developing projects for the upcoming ACAP work plan. Two projects are waiting for further information before implementation can start: 1) Non-Ferrous Metals/Zinc Smelter Emission Reduction Project, next steps include securing support from the Russian MNRE in approaching the enterprise for further discussions on the project; and 2) BAT-Project: Promotion of decreased pollution into the Arctic Region by introduction of the best available techniques (BAT), next steps include receiving an official response of support from the Russian Federation re: lifting of the study reservation. In addition to this, the EG is further refining two and reviewing two new project proposals that may be submitted to ACAP shortly for approval.

Expert Group on Hazardous Waste

The EG has three projects under implementation, 1) Environmentally sound management of PCBs in the Russian Federation; 2) Rapid Environmental Assessment and 3) Environmentally Safe Management of Stocks of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides in the Russian Federation. The status of these project remains unchanged since the last ACAP WG meeting in Anchorage (November 2017). Two projects are under development but are currently on hold: 1) Reduction of negative impact on the environment by rehabilitation of accumulated municipal solid waste (MSW) with the best available technologies – Dudinka landfill; and 2) Information exchange seminar on hazardous waste destruction technologies. Two new project ideas are being considered by the EG and will come to the ACAP WG for decision in due

course, 1) proposal for developing a mobile waste management ice-breaker for Arctic cities; and 2) development of the Municipal Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in Arkhangelsk Oblast.

Indigenous People Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG)

Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project: NEFCO has entered contracts with AIA and the Alaska Native Science Commission, and an agreement is currently being reviewed by the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection. Task 2 Desk Study activities have begun, including identification of 4 target communities in Alaska, Russia and possibly a Saami community, developing a black carbon concentration monitoring protocol, sample monitoring in one Alaskan community, drafting a community survey, exploring all relevant legal frameworks, and establishing cooperation with relevant authorities from the federal government to community levels. The final Desk Study has been delayed but the goal is to have it completed in time to apply for funding for a full feasibility study to meet the fall PSI Committee meeting deadline.

Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO): Currently in Phase 2 which is aimed at bringing LEO to Arctic communities outside of North America. The results of a recent feasibility study by the County of Finnmark (Norway) indicate both interest and potential for expanding CLEO in the Finnmark region, specifically, through the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) and northern salmon fisheries. ICR has secured some funding and is applying for additional funding to establish a LEO hub in Kautokeino, Norway. Translation of the LEO website and CLEO fact sheet are underway in Northern Sami, Russian, and Swedish. A CLEO side event is planned during the Arctic Biodiversity Congress in Rovaniemi in October.

Solid Waste Management in Small Arctic Communities Project: This project is an approved part of the SDWG work plan 2017-2019. The project provides an opportunity for ACAP to contribute a section on contaminants issues related to solid waste handling storage, processing, transportation, and treatment/disposal.

Clean-up of the Saami territory in the Murmansk Region: An informal proposal has been made to the IPCAP group by the Sami Council, represented by the Saami Association of the Murmansk Region (OOSMO). The goal of the project is to find, identify, and document sources of solid waste pollution in the region. The project area would include Kola, Lovozero, and Kovdor administrative districts and the Tersky coast. The project timeline is envisioned as June through September of 2018. ACAP decided to expedite approval of this project once approved by IPCAP and pursuant to relevant approvals from local and regional authorities.

Expert Group on Short Lived Climate Pollutants

Mitigation of black carbon and methane emissions from APG flaring in the Arctic zone of the Russian federation: The Project seeks to improve knowledge on black carbon and methane emissions in the Russian Arctic, with emphasis on the oil and gas sector, and spur enhanced actions to reduce emissions. This is a large project (PSI allocation of up to 850K EUR) with Phase 1a (assessment of flaring, mitigation of emissions, and detailed project costing) now underway. The EG needs to appoint a representative to the Project Steering Committee as soon as possible.



Phase out of ozone depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases at fish and seafood processing enterprises of the Murmansk Oblast:

This project was approved by ACAP in February 2017. The project seeks to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydro fluorocarbons at one of the fish and seafood processing enterprises of the Murmansk oblast. This project was approved for funding of up to 180 000 EUR for Phase I of the project. The EG needs to appoint a representative to the Project Steering Committee as soon as possible.

Pilot project for reducing CO₂ and black carbon emissions on the rivers of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation:

ACAP approved the project in April 2017. The project has three goals: 1) avoid and decrease air pollution of CO₂, PM, SO_x and NO_x, and where relevant substitute ozone depleting substances and HFC in ships; 2) raise awareness levels; and 3) minimize transportation costs related to logistics. The project received a PSI for scoping and prefeasibility has been approved for 60,000EUR. The Russian Federation is expected to lift the study reservation soon. The scope of the work to be undertaken will need to be refined once the reservation is lifted.

Black Carbon Case Studies Platform: The ACAP website hosts the interactive platform. Case Studies from the U.S. with assistance from the U.S. EPA's Alaska office and Norway have been completed. Canada recently submitted several case studies that have been added to the platform. The U.S., as project lead, continues to encourage any additional partners in this project who would like to contribute informational, in-kind, or financial resources.

Strategic Discussion on ACAP Work

In preparing for the upcoming work planning process, ACAP had an initial discussion on opportunities and priorities for new ACAP projects as informed by global processes such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AMAP assessments and the work of other Arctic Council Working Groups. It was agreed that better collaboration across working groups is a current "mega trend" across the Arctic Council including with ACAP. However, it was also agreed that more strategic project selection would be advantageous going forward. HoD present at the meeting in Toronto agreed that the Expert Group on Hazardous Waste should explore issues beyond hazardous waste such as liquid and municipal solid waste. It was agreed that plastics and marine litter are areas of potential project work in ACAP in collaboration with other working groups to eliminate pollution in the Arctic environment.

Contributions to Arctic Council priorities

ACAP contributed as requested by the Finnish Chairmanship to the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting, the Arctic Resilience Forum and the PSI External Evaluation.

Collaboration with other working groups/other organization

PAME and ACAP Heads of Delegation from Canada attended the meeting in Toronto and provided presentations on work relevant to ACAP. Participation by other WGs in ACAP meetings is considered a valuable contribution to ensuring that work is collaborative when possible. The ACAP Executive



Secretary has attended the PAME WG meeting (Feb 2018), the TFAMC meeting (Feb 2018), the EGBCM meeting (Sept 2018) and the TFICA meeting (May and Sept 2018).

WMO provided a presentation to ACAP and the Chair requested that EGs consider how WMO data can be utilized to further the development of future ACAP projects, including identification and sharing of the types of data important for pollution prevention on a continuous basis.

Upcoming ACAP Working Group Meetings

The next ACAP meeting will be held 7-9 November 2018 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The following meeting will be held via teleconference on February 4, 2019.