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ACAP Report to SAOs – Ruka, March, 2019

Introduction

ACAP held its first working group meeting of 2019 as an online teleconference on February 4, 2019. Participants included representatives from all the Arctic States, one Permanent Participant (AIA), one observer organizations (NEFCO, also in the capacity of PSI Fund Manager). The ACAP WG approved the initial stages of two new project proposals brought forward by the Expert Group on POPs and Mercury. The main agenda item was a line by line discussion of the ACAP submission to the SAO Report to Ministers, both achievements in 2017-2019 and the 2019-2021 work plan, providing an opportunity to receive status updates on current projects and discuss projects that are early in the approval pipeline. NEFCO, as Fund Manager of the PSI, provided a short update on the PSI Review process. The relevant sections of the AmaroK were updated after the meeting.

It was also decided that the next Chair of ACAP will be held by Norway, represented by Inger Johanne Wiese, for the period of Iceland's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

Expert Group on POPs and Mercury

ACAP approved the initial stages of two projects brought forward by the Expert Group on POPs and Mercury

- ARCRISK - Mercury risk evaluation, risk management and risk reduction measures in the Arctic. The lead country is Norway. Work Package 1 (Inception) was approved.
- Updated and Broadened Inventory of Primary Emission Sources of Selected POPs and Mercury. The lead country is the Russian Federation. Work Package 0 (Scoping of work) was approved.

The project *Promotion of decreased pollution into the Arctic Region by introduction of the best available techniques (BAT)*, continues to wait for an official response of support from the Russian Federation including lifting of the study reservation.

Expert Group on 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 Reykjavik (November 2017). The planned information exchange seminar on hazardous waste destruction technologies remains on hold. A new project idea on the *Phase-out and environmentally sound management of fire-fighting foams containing Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the Arctic Region* is being considered by the EG and will come to the ACAP WG for decision in due course. Looking forward to the Icelandic Chairmanship, the EG Waste will follow closely the work of the Arctic Council on waste management on shore to limit marine litter.

Indigenous People Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG)

Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project: The final Desk Study has been finalized and approved by the ACAP WG. The project lead and the Fund Manager are working on the details of an application for funding for a full feasibility study for an intersessional decision of the PSI Committee.

Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO): Work continues as planned to promote CLEO in the Arctic region, by establishing a hub in Scandinavia and expanding youth engagement. Main activities for the upcoming work period include student internships in cooperation with CAFF, the continuation of translation of CLEO materials into additional languages, and further developing collaboration with the University of the Arctic.

Clean-up of the Saami territory in the Murmansk Region: This project has been completed and ACAP is expecting a final report for the next working group meeting in the fall of 2019. The goal of the project was to find, identify, and document sources of solid waste pollution in the region.

Work on solid waste and marine debris: Building upon previous ACAP work, IPCAP and the EG waste seek to collaborate on a project with the SDWG to share expertise and leverage resources in scaling up solid waste management activities.

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 completed, and Phase 1b work started. Subject to the outcome of Phase 1b, which is addressing two interventions, Phase II will start.

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

ACAP Project Communication

It was agreed that the lead country for each ACAP approved project is responsible for providing updates via the EG Groups Chair to the ACAP WG for relevant agenda items at ACAP WG and/or SAO meetings. The ACAP Executive Secretary will, as a first point of contact, communicate with the EG Chair with the lead country in copy when requesting information.

Collaboration with other working groups/other organization

AMAP, CAFF and PAME representatives attended the ACAP WG meeting in November 2018 (Reykjavik), sharing information on potential areas of collaboration. Participation by other WGs in ACAP meetings is considered a valuable contribution to ensuring that work is collaborative when possible. The ACAP Executive Secretary attended the EGBCM meeting (January 2019) and the TFICA meeting (December 2018).

In Reykjavik in late November 2018 the ACAP Chair and Executive Secretary participated in a one-day work planning meeting with the other Working Group Chairs and Executive Secretaries. This was followed by a one-day SAO Chair – Working Group Chairs meeting.

Upcoming ACAP Working Group Meetings

The next working group meeting will be held September 10-12, 2019 in Tromsø, Norway.