

Draft proposal for the strategy to prepare the ACIA Policy Document

This proposal is based on discussions at the joint AMAP/CAFF working group meeting held in Stockholm, August 30, 2001. The final strategy is expected to be endorsed at the Ministerial meeting in October 2002. Sentences in bold indicate questions to the SAOs.

Purpose

The purpose of the ACIA Policy Document is to provide a summary of the scientific findings of ACIA and recommendations to the Arctic Council for action to respond to the scientific findings presented in the ACIA Scientific Report.

The product

The 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 that will be presented at the same time as the ACIA Policy Document. The ACIA Policy Document will convey information carefully, not alarm or confuse the reader. The size of the document is expected to be between 20-30 pages plus illustrations.

Audience

The document will be prepared in order to provide information and recommendation to the Arctic Council Ministers, international fora dealing with climate and UV/ozone questions (e.g. EU, UN/IPCC), Arctic residents, business, and other stakeholders.

Approach

The AC Ministers have asked AMAP and CAFF to implement ACIA in cooperation with IASC. In the Implementation Plan for ACIA it is stated that AMAP and CAFF will be responsible for drafting the ACIA Policy Document. It is, however, important that the other AC working groups and indigenous organizations are involved in the production of relevant parts of the ACIA Policy Document. Experts from the other working groups and indigenous organizations should be nominated to take part in the drafting of relevant chapters of the ACIA Policy Document, and the working groups should be involved in commenting the draft chapters. For the ACIA Policy Document the AC working groups should be involved in preparation of the policy recommendations relevant for their work and expertise.

For the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document there is an essential question to be solved during 2002 and that is the degree of active involvement of the SAOs in its preparation. There are two strategies to be followed:

- 1) The AC working groups prepare the ACIA Policy Document and the policy recommendations without active involvement of the SAOs. In early 2004 the recommendations are handed over to the SAOs for their consideration and preparation of recommendation to the Ministers for their joint agreements.

- 2) The SAOs are involved in the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document from the very beginning (early 2003). When it is ready, the list of recommendation will be only those that the SAOs have agreed to forward to the Ministers for adoption

Both strategies have pro et contra. The first strategy gives more freedom to the process, the SAOs are free to reduce the number of acceptable recommendations and rephrase the recommendations, and the Ministers themselves will in addition have a freedom to adjust the final text at their own discussions. This strategy will also allow the SAOs to provide feedbacks at all stages of the production through the national representatives to AMAP and CAFF without drafting material themselves. This strategy was followed for the preparation of the AMAP report and recommendations in 1997. The second strategy involves both high and low level of national policy managers from day one. In the end the Ministers themselves will have more difficulties to change the recommendations at the Ministerial discussions. There is also an unclear formal situation, who has prepared the report to whom?

In the following a draft proposal following strategy 1 has been prepared.

1. The document should be prepared by a professional writer in close cooperation with the AMAP and CAFF working groups, the other AC working groups, indigenous people organizations and the scientists involved in preparing the scientific report. The core drafting team should not be too large, maximum 6 people, including the professional writer, one from AMAP, CAFF, Indigenous people's organizations and two overall lead authors (the chair of ACIA + one).
2. The 1st draft should be reviewed by ASC (all lead authors) to control the validity of the science interpretation and science related recommendations.
3. The 2nd draft should be reviewed by all WGs involved and the indigenous organizations to comment on the draft policy and science recommendations.
4. A joint meeting of AMAP and CAFF working groups involving representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and key participants from the other AC working groups to negotiate the final conclusions and recommendations.
5. The 3rd draft, including all recommendations, is presented to the SAOs for their considerations in early 2004.
6. Final editing of the report and it will be sent to a publisher for printing.
7. The final report is presented to the ministerial meeting in 2004.

During 2002 the SAOs also will have to decide on whether the ACIA Policy Document, in addition to the national review process, will need to be circulated for a public review.

Structure

The structure of the document has to be prepared by AMAP and CAFF during 2001/2002 for approval by the SAOs. A first draft for the structure is presented below, but these needs to be upgraded based on feedbacks, and information from the scientific report.

Draft structure, as of September 2001:

0. Preface.
1. Introduction.
2. The circumpolar Arctic context.
3. Overview of the Arctic climate change documented in the ACIA scientific report.
4. The laymen's summary of integration chapter (executive summary) from the ACIA scientific report.
5. Policy recommendations to consider science, traditional knowledge, social, economic, environmental issues. 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 one should avoid country specific recommendations.
 - specific recommendation and target
 - rationale
 - discussion
 - benefits/costs
6. Unresolved issues.
7. Next steps.

Timetable for the preparation of the strategy and the ACIA Policy Document

- 1 August 2001. A small ad hoc group prepare a first draft outline for the production, presented to the joint AMAP/CAFF working group 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 December 2001. Based on the comments from the SAO meeting the ad hoc group prepare and circulate an updated draft for comments from the working groups and ASC (ASC will have a meeting in early December 2001).
- 4 March 2002. An updated proposal from AMAP and CAFF is presented to the SAOs for their approval at the May meeting in 2002.
- 5 August 2002. The final plan for the ACIA report production is presented to the Ministerial meeting in October 2002 for endorsement.
- 6 September 2002. Appointment of drafting team, including the professional writer, to be ready for work by January 1. 2003.
- 7 March 2003. Based on the 2nd draft of the ACIA scientific report and the 1st draft of the executive summary report, available tentatively early 2003, the drafting team of the policy paper should start their work.
- 8 June 2003. Circulation of the 1st draft of the ACIA Policy Document to ASC.
- 9 September 2003. Comments returned to drafters.
- 10 December 2003. Circulation of the 2nd draft of the ACIA Policy Document to the Working groups and indigenous organizations.
- 11 February 2003. Comments returned to drafters.
- 12 April 2004. A joint AMAP/CAFF working group meeting to approve the recommendations.
- 13 May – June 2004. The 3rd draft of the ACIA Policy Document, including all recommendations are presented to the SAO meeting.
- 14 May – August 2004. Proof reading, editing, printing of the report.
- 15 September 2004. The ACIA Policy Document is ready for presentation to the Ministerial meeting.