

Progress report from AMAP to the SAO Meeting in Khanty Mansyisk, Russia, October 12-14, 2005

1. Administrative issues

Director Yury Sychev of the Polar Foundation in Russia has been employed by the AMAP Secretariat since 1 May 2005 to work out of Moscow with main responsibility to follow-up issues related to Russia and the Barents region. Jon Øyvind Odland has been engaged from mid-August to work in a half-time position with environment/health related issues.

2. Update on ongoing work

The AMAP Work plan for 2005-2007

AMAP is following the workplan for the period 2005-2006 that was approved at the Ministerial meeting in Reykjavik in 2004.

A list of meetings relevant to AMAP during the period July-August 2005, including meetings organized by or supported by AMAP is attached as Annex 1.

At its 19th Working Group Meeting the AMAP WG updated its workplan for the period 2005-2007 (see Annex 2) and submits it to SAOs for their consideration/approval.

The main tasks for AMAP since last SAO meeting have been the following:

Work on the production of: (1) the Arctic Council Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic (OGA), and (2) the AMAP Assessment 2006: Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic.

(1) Arctic Council Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic

An OGA expert meeting was held in Washington D.C. in June 2005. The report from that meeting (AMAP Report 2005:4), which includes an updated outline for the Assessment, has been circulated to all Oil and Gas experts and AMAP HoDs, and is available on the AMAP website. A meeting of the OGA authors was also held in St. Petersburg (12, 13, 16 September 2005) in conjunction with the AMAP International Symposium on Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic.

The second drafts of most chapters of the scientific report for the assessment have been prepared and circulated to countries for comments, however, these drafts contain significant gaps (as discussed below).

During the OGA authors group meetings in Washington and St. Petersburg, gaps in information have been identified, some of which are critical to the planned delivery of the assessment in 2006.

Although some data and information is still needed from all countries, a particular concern is the provision of necessary data and information, and involvement of experts from the Russian Federation. The AMAP Executive Secretary and a co-lead of the OGA met with the Chair of the SAOs and representatives of Russian Ministries and the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow in August to agree upon a strategy on how the Russian participation and contribution can be improved.

The lack of necessary information and data has already had consequences for the planned time schedule for production of the assessment. The revised timetable developed during the Washington meeting in June required that outstanding data and information be made available prior to the St. Petersburg meeting in September. Given that this deadline was not met, further revision of the time schedule was discussed at the St. Petersburg meeting. The OGA assessment group informed the AMAP Working Group that it would still be possible to produce an overview report in printed form by the time of the 2006 Ministerial meeting, but that the time now available only allowed for production of a technically edited pre-print (electronic) version of the science report by the time of the ministerial meeting. This report would be ready to go to print immediately after the Ministerial meeting. This delivery is dependent upon meeting the following deadlines:

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| 1 February 2006 | Complete drafts of all chapters |
| 30 June 2006 | Final draft ready for technical editing (initial sign-off) |
| 30 September 2006 | Final sign-off of edited science report |

In order to meet these deadlines and have complete drafts of all chapters ready by 1 February 2006, a **cut-off date of 15 January 2006** is set for receiving the final pieces of missing information to fill gaps, including Russian information. While this is the date for receiving the last information, the bulk of the currently missing information must be provided well before this date if it is to be incorporated into the chapters.

The original deadline of **1 November** for complete draft version of the chapters will be kept in the sense that the lead authors will work to produce by that date versions of their chapters that are as complete as the submitted information allows. This will facilitate the further cross-chapter harmonization, as several chapters depend on material presented in other chapters.

If these deadlines are not met, delivery of the assessment to the 2006 Ministerial meeting could not be assured.

The AMAP International Symposium on Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic was arranged as part of the 7th International Conference and Exhibition of Offshore Oil and Gas Development (RAO/CIS 2005), in St. Petersburg, September 13 – 15, 2005. Approximately 180 experts participated in the AMAP Symposium and 350 in the RAO/CIS Conference. The programs for both events were very relevant to the Oil and Gas Assessment that is under preparation.

(2) AMAP Assessment 2006: Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic

The second drafts of most chapters of the scientific report for the assessment have been prepared and circulated to countries for comments.

A meeting of the AMAP Acidification and Arctic Haze Assessment Group will take place in Tromsø, Norway (October 12-13).

The ACIA Scientific Report has finally been completed. The graphical and layout work was delayed due to several reasons, among them lack of financing for additional layout work and delayed responses from some authors to questions from the editors. However, the report has now been delivered to Cambridge University Press (CUP) for printing. All chapters are available electronically from the web. The printed report is expected to be available from the end of October.

Follow-up of ACIA has been initiated. An AMAP expert workshop on ACIA follow-up was arranged back-to-back with the first 'Focal Point' meeting in Oslo (June 15-17, 2005). Forty-eight experts from the eight Arctic countries and representatives of the other AC working groups, permanent participants and some of the observing organizations participated in the workshop. A report from the workshop has been prepared and circulated. The report includes a long list of recommendations that should be of considerable use not only to AMAP but also to the other AC WGs in their work with the follow-up of ACIA. The report from the first Focal Point meeting has also been circulated and a second meeting of the Focal Point took place in Oslo, 21 September 2005.

Translation of the ACIA Overview report has been ongoing since last meeting. The Norwegian and Saami versions were delivered to the printing house in early-September and the printed copies are expected in early-October. The Overview report is now available in six languages.

A Process to renew the Expert Groups and update the AMAP Monitoring Programme has been initiated. The expert group on human health met in May in St. Petersburg, and will meet again in Johannesburg (September 16-17) in connection with an international health conference. The expert group on Radioactivity also met in May in Stockholm. Experts on POPs and Heavy Metals (mercury) met in Toronto in late-August in connection with other international meetings. Reports from these meetings, including proposals for implementing the AMAP work programs and nomination of new experts have been provided to the AMAP WG. The ongoing process includes examining options for reorganizing and strengthening the expert groups that have been responsible for the production of the AMAP assessments.

AMAP Data handling

AMAP continues to operate the following thematic data centers (TDCs):

- Atmospheric TDC located at Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Norway;
- Marine TDC located at International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Denmark;
- Freshwater/terrestrial TDC located at University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF), USA;
- Radioactivity TDC located at Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency (NRPA), Norway.
- Human health data base will be discussed at the human health expert meeting.

The Arctic countries, observing countries and organizations have been called upon several times to report relevant data to these TDCs so that they are available to experts engaged in production of ongoing and future AMAP assessments. However, the response to this call from some countries has not been as good as might be expected. The Arctic countries are again kindly requested to ensure that AMAP relevant data are reported to the AMAP TDCs, and also provide financial support for the continued operation of these TDCs.

National Implementation Plans for AMAP

At the AMAP Extended HoDs meeting in Helsinki, February 2005, some countries presented updated overviews of national monitoring conducted in 2004, and plans for monitoring to be performed in 2005 that is relevant to AMAP (i.e., information regarding their AMAP National Implementation Plans, NIPs). Countries that have not yet done so are kindly requested to submit their new AMAP NIPs to the AMAP Secretariat as soon as possible.

The AMAP Project Directory (www.amap.no >> Resources & Projects >> Project Directory) currently holds information on ca. 450 projects, of which ca. 250 have been registered through AMAP. A request that countries complete the registration of relevant projects (in particular their NIP projects) in the PD has been repeated on several occasions during the last year, however, again not all countries have responded to this call. Once again, we kindly ask countries to ensure that their scientists register (or update existing registrations) concerning all projects that are relevant to the work of AMAP, and in particular projects that might contribute to the ongoing assessments of acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons in the Arctic.

AMAP Website

New information is routinely added to the AMAP website. All AMAP reports, including AMAP assessment reports are available as electronic documents from the AMAP website. Maps and graphics produced for the AMAP assessments are also available from

the website. The AMAP web server has been used for the electronic dissemination of ACIA products, and work to develop an online GIS application to present data from AMAP and other Arctic Council WGs is being implemented in cooperation with EPPR. The AMAP Board would like to thank UNEP GRID-Arendal for its continuing offer to host the AMAP website.

The AMAP WG discussed the Arctic Portal initiative. A number of reservations were expressed regarding the scope of the project as described in the Arctic Portal concept paper, and in particular about the effort that would be required to maintain such a system. The view of the AMAP WG is that, before any implementation plan is considered, a feasibility study should be conducted that includes realistic estimates of the project objectives and the magnitude of effort required. If SAOs support the idea of conducting such a feasibility study, the AMAP WG would be willing to participate in this work.

Atmospheric monitoring network in Russia and Alaska

Based on funding from Norway and Canada, the atmospheric monitoring of mercury at Amderma in northern Russia has been reinstated following re-location of the instrument. There are still no sites in Alaska and northern Russia where POPs monitoring is currently being conducted, and the mercury monitoring at Barrow has now ceased. AMAP are discussing possibilities to reinstate POPs monitoring – a POPs sampling device is located in northern Russia but funds for its operation are currently lacking. Similarly, AMAP are discussing with NOAA possibilities to re-establish mercury monitoring at Barrow using the instrument that is still located there. It is hoped that the IPY will provide an opportunity to establish some stations to monitor POPs, mercury, climate and UV/ozone in areas that are not presently covered, however this may require that IPY funding is used to finance ‘international’ projects as opposed to only financing the implementation of national projects contributing to the IPY.

AMAP Ring tests on human blood

The ring tests are continuing under the lead of Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (contact Jean-Philippe Weber).

A joint Canadian/AMAP workshop on Mercury was held in Toronto, August 29 -31, hosted by the Meteorological Service of Canada and co-sponsored by the Canadian Northern Contaminants Program and AMAP. The workshop addressed the current status of Arctic mercury research activities, identification of research needs (and possibilities to address these), coordination of mercury-related projects under the IPY, and AMAP mercury assessment needs. A report on the workshop is under preparation. The workshop consideration of AMAP mercury assessment needs and arrangements of an expert group to support future AMAP mercury (and heavy metals) assessment activities was reported to the AMAP Working Group meeting.

Special Projects

RAIPON/AMAP/GEF project ‘*PTS, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North*’

The final component of the PTS project work, the arrangement of four workshops to disseminate the results back to the regions and to the people that took part in this project, has been performed over the summer. There was great interest in the results and discussion of actions needed as follow-up these results. A special report is under preparation and will be presented to the SAO meeting in October.

Phase 3 of the ACAP project ‘*Multilateral Cooperative Project on Phase-out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation*’

Phase 3 of the project has been implemented over the last two years. At present, 4 pilot investment projects are being implemented under Phase 3. All four projects have faced problems in the implementation. At the PCB Project Steering Group meeting held at the end of August in Moscow, a strong request was made to the Russian government to take necessary actions to facilitate implementation of all four projects. For more details, see the report from the ACAP Steering Committee.

Phase 1 of the ACAP project on ‘*Brominated Flame Retardants*’.

The AMAP Secretariat and AMAP POPs experts are supporting the ACAP BFR project in relation to project administration, data compilation, and facilitation of data reporting from Russia. AMAP have prepared a fact sheet on BFRs in the Arctic that can be used by Arctic decision-makers as a source of background information on this issue.

The project ‘*Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Water management and flood preparedness in the Lena Basin*’

The Russian government and scientific community have taken the initiative to develop further integrated activities, including proposing a GEF medium-sized project ‘*Climate change, sound water management, and flood preparedness at Lena and other Siberian rivers*’. After a period during which little activity has occurred, AMAP and Russian institutes are now preparing a new initiative based on positive signals received from UNEP.

World Bank project proposal on climate and contaminants

Following an approach from the World Bank, AMAP Secretariat has produced a concept paper for a possible project on climate and contaminants. This document has been delivered to the World Bank for their consideration. SAOs will be informed of any further developments in relation to this proposal.

3. Collaboration with other organizations

Collaboration with AC WGs

AMAP is working closely with several other Arctic Council WGs on the implementation of the Oil and Gas assessment and the follow up of ACIA.

ACAP

ACAP was originally established by the Arctic Council to address pollution issues documented by AMAP. In this context, AMAP has maintained a close collaboration with ACAP in all its projects, and is coordinating project work on some ACAP projects. AMAP has contributed to the initiation of the proposal for a new project on brominated flame retardants (BFRs), and are assisting Norway in administrating the project.

CAFF

AMAP and CAFF have been working in close cooperation on the preparation of a proposal for the follow-up of ACIA - see special proposal regarding this issue.

Concerning harmonization of AMAP and CAFF programs, CAFF have recently launched their CBMP and will hold workshops later in the year to further develop their key indicators and proposals for monitoring sites. AMAP will try to participate in these workshops and will review their outcome with a view to ensuring that the further development of the CBMP is coordinated with AMAP needs and ongoing activities.

EPPR

AMAP and EPPR have been cooperating in a joint activity, together with UNEP (GRID-Arendal), to develop an online GIS system that can be used to present and overlay data from the various Arctic Council WGs. The project also aims to harmonize work between the different groups that are engaged in mapping and GIS activities under the Arctic Council WGs. A pilot system has been produced for demonstration purposes and the AMAP WG agreed that the AMAP Secretariat should continue to support the development of this activity, using the limited available resources and reporting progress to the AMAP WG. Representatives of the CAFF and PAME Secretariats and WWF expressed an interest in joining this activity in the future. The UNEP representative also indicated that they were interested in continuing their work on this project.

PAME

AMAP is cooperating with PAME on the Arctic Marine Strategy. PAME have requested AMAP (and CAFF) to develop their joint monitoring programs and thereby assist PAME with science issues related to Large Marine Ecosystems.

SDWG

Both AMAP and SDWG are engaged in activities relating to human health issues. A special meeting was held in Copenhagen in April to improve the cooperation and coordination between the two groups and to facilitate IPY initiated projects related human health.

International cooperation

UNEP

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on POPs entered into force on 17th May 2004. Article 16 of the Convention requires periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the Convention, the first such evaluation to be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties four years after entry into force. At the first meeting for the Conference of the Parties at COP 1 for follow-up of Stockholm convention in Montevideo in May 2005, AMAP and RAIPON presented the results fro the PTS project. The results were received with great interest.

UN ECE

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)

The UN ECE Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants under the LRTAP Convention has now entered into force. Article 10 of this agreement requires that there be periodic reviews of the ‘effectiveness and sufficiency’ of the Protocol, the first of which will be reviewed by the Convention’s Executive Body in December 2005. Following a request from the UN ECE Task-Force on POPs, and in accordance with the approved AMAP Strategic Plan 2004+, AMAP has actively supported the preparation of the documentation for the first review that has been prepared by the LRTAP Convention’s Task Force on POPs.

The AMAP WG and the SAOs have previously noted the potential contribution of AMAP to this type of activity and in this connection, the AMAP WG discussed possibilities for contributing in a similar manner to the first review of the effectiveness of the LRTAP Metal Protocol that is due to be prepared in 2006/2007.

EU

Under an EU initiative to develop a European Marine Strategy (EMS) several working groups have been established. These include groups on Strategic Goals and Objectives (SGO), Ecosystem approach (EAM), Hazardous substances (HS), and European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA); there are also linkages with the work under the EU group on Species and Habitats. Within the EU, this activity is co-led by DG Environment and the EEA, and is strongly linked to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and its possible extension to the marine offshore areas. The AMAP Secretariat has participated in meetings of the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment group

(EMMA), the last meeting of which was held in Copenhagen (January 2005). The proposals for the establishment of a European Marine Strategy, and also a wider-ranging Maritime Policy (that will also address issues such as fishing and shipping) are currently being discussed within the European Parliament.

The AMAP Secretariat has continued discussions with relevant partners concerning the possible development of a research proposal for funding under the EU's 7th Framework programme. So far, however, these initiatives have not been successful. One of the problems appears to be that, despite the adoption of the 'Northern Dimension', research proposals focusing on northern areas alone do not receive the support necessary to gain approval/financing, and within the context of pan-European projects, the Arctic region is of marginal interest.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

AMAP have had a close cooperation with WWF over the years, and welcome the way AMAP information has been disseminated through the WWF-Arctic Programme's '*Arctic Bulletin*'.

World Water Forum (and Dialogue on Water and Climate)

The AMAP Secretariat was invited to assist in arranging the 'Polar sessions' of the two previous World Water Forum meetings (in The Hague, Netherlands in 2000, and in Kyoto, Japan, in 2003). The Fourth World Water Forum will take place in Mexico, 16-22 March 2006 (www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx). The organizers of this event have contacted the AMAP Secretariat for input to the arrangements for this event. One of the five themes addressed at the 2006 meeting is risk assessment – aimed at encouraging dialogue on local actions. Because the focus of the Forum sessions in 2006 is on actions and policy, rather than science, it is the view of AMAP that, if the Arctic Council would like to continue its involvement with the World Water Forum/ Dialogue on Water and Climate, this might be more appropriate through an Arctic Council activity rather than an activity on the part of one of its Working Groups.

A report on progress in relation to the development of the project 'Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Water management and flood preparedness in the Lena Basin' (see above) would be welcomed by the organizers of the World Water Forum.

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

The AMAP Secretariat participated in the BEAC meetings arranged in Finland on May 26-27 and August 30-31. There is a great interest with the BEAC to follow-up the ACIA, to initiate projects addressing the 'Hot Spots' identified in the list prepared for NEFCO by AMAP, and to follow the Oil and Gas Assessment. AMAP has been asked to present the follow-up of ACIA to the Barents Environmental Ministers meeting in October 2005.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 27-31, 2005. The AMAP Secretariat was asked to give a presentation of the ACIA. A very engaged group of parliamentarians had a lot of questions to the assessment and situation. A follow-up of the issue is planned for their November meeting in Copenhagen.

The International Polar Year (IPY)

Several projects relevant to the AMAP programme have been further developed and/or consolidated over the last 6 months and the full related proposals will be submitted to the IPY for the deadline of 30 September. The Arctic Council and its WGs have not played a particularly active role in the formal process to review the IPY projects, however work at the national level has been effective to some extent.

IASC

The AMAP Human Health Group is now working very closely to the IASC as a consultant group responsible for initiation of scientific projects mostly regarding effect studies on human health and contaminants. IASC provides very important traveling support for young scientists important for recruitment of new members of the AMAP Human Health Group. IASC are represented on the Focal Point concerned with ACIA follow-up.

4. Requests to the SAOs

Funding Situation

Core funding for the AMAP Secretariat is provided by Norway, however this does not meet all the running costs of the Secretariat, or costs associated with funding other AMAP core activities. AMAP would like to express its continuing appreciation to Norway, and also Canada, Finland and the Nordic Council of Ministers for providing financial support during 2004/2005 to fund AMAP Secretariat operations and other AMAP core activities and projects. Countries are kindly requested to investigate the possibilities to provide financial support in 2005/2006.

Furthermore, AMAP is grateful for the funding from Canada, Denmark, and Sweden that has allowed the AMAP atmospheric and marine TDCs to continue operations during 2004 and for Norwegian and University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) support for the radioactivity and freshwater/terrestrial TDCs, respectively. The same level of funding will be required in 2005/2006, in particular to allow data handling work associated with the delivery of the acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons assessments.

Monitoring and Observation activities

SAOs are requested to ensure the timely availability of the necessary finances to allow AMAP to fulfill its work-plan as requested by Ministers and SAOs. It is vital to ensure that observations of levels, trends and effects of contaminants in the Arctic continues, even during the periods between major assessments, in order to guarantee uninterrupted time series and ensure that future assessment reports presented by the AMAP WG are complete and reliable. In addition to the ongoing assessment production work, AMAP is

currently considering the detailed plans for work in the years to come, in particular in relation to possible ACIA follow-up. Continuation of core observations and establishment of both baseline and long-term records are especially important in this connection.

Annex 1: Provisional Calendar of AMAP and AMAP Related Meetings: July-December 2005 (bold font indicates meetings arranged or co-sponsored by AMAP)

July 13	EU Maritime Policy Conference, Brussels
August 25	AMAP POPs Expert Group meeting (in connection with Dioxin 05 Conference), Toronto, Canada
August 25-26	ACAP PCB Project Steering Group meeting, Moscow
August 29-31	Second Workshop on Mercury Research in Polar Regions (including AMAP Heavy Metals Expert Group session), Toronto, Canada
August 30-31	Barents Council meeting, Helsinki, Finland
August 30-September 1	ACAP Obsolete Pesticides Project Steering Group meeting, Tomsk, Russia
September 5-7	EMEP Steering Body, Geneva
September 5-9	CAFF meeting, Cambridge, United Kingdom
September 6-9	AON meeting, Washington DC, USA
September 8-9	SDWG ITC meeting, Yllas, Finland
September 13-15	AMAP Oil and Gas Symposium (and AC OGA drafting group meeting), St Petersburg, Russia
September 15-16	ACAP Hg Project Steering Group Meeting, Ottawa
September 12,13,16	19th AMAP WG meeting, St Petersburg, Russia
September 16-17	AMAP Human Health Expert Group Meeting (in connection with ISEE meeting), Johannesburg, South Africa
September 19-20	PAME meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark
September 20-21	ACAP Steering Group, Moscow, Russia
September 21	Focal Point (ACIA follow-up) - second meeting, Oslo, Norway
September 27-29	Northern Contaminants Programme Results Workshop, Victoria BC, Canada
October 2-6	The 2nd International Conference on Radioactivity in the Environment & 6th International Conference on Environmental Radioactivity in the Arctic and the Antarctic, Nice, France
October 4-5	ACAP BFR Project Expert Meeting, Oslo
October 10-11	SDWG meeting, Khanty-Mansyisk, Russia
October 12-13	SAO meeting, Khanty-Mansyisk, Russia
October 12-13	AMAP Acidification Assessment drafting group meeting, (Tromso, Norway OR Helsinki, Finland)
October 18-19	Barents Environmental Ministers Conference, Rovaniemi, Finland
November 10-12	ICARP II - Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning, Copenhagen, Denmark
November 28-December 9	UN Climate Change Conference (COP11 and COP/MOP 1), Montreal, Canada

Annex 2: Draft AMAP Workplan for 2005 – 2007

- Perform the 2006 Oil and Gas Assessment.
- Perform the 2006 Acidification Assessment.
- Continue ongoing monitoring and assessment activities, including (long-term) temporal trend studies, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects in the Arctic, with special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined effects of climate (and UV) and contaminants (including radionuclides), preparing reports on emerging issues, and improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment).
- Implement relevant parts of the ACIA communication plan, according to decisions taken by the Ministers, including provision of relevant materials for use in the COP11 meeting in Montreal in December 2005.
- Translate and print the ACIA Overview report in French (the report is now available in English, Russian, Saami, German and Dutch).
- Follow-up the ACIA recommendations as requested by SAOs and Ministers by further developing appropriate monitoring, assessment, and special climate related projects.
- Respond to the Reykjavik Ministerial request concerning follow-up of ACIA by, inter alia:
 - Identifying specific activities that fall within AMAP's core capabilities, including proposals for implementing these activities under the AMAP programs.
 - Seeking, in collaboration with other Working Groups, and other international organizations, to address the wider multi- and interdisciplinary aspects of research and monitoring as identified in the ACIA recommendations regarding gaps in knowledge and needs for monitoring and research.
 - Preparing a detailed multi-year climate-related workplan to be delivered to Ministers in 2006 for their consideration, including proposals for cooperation between Arctic Council Working Groups, and cooperation with other international organizations and programs involved in climate-related research and monitoring.
- Prepare updated reports on issues of concern (e.g., mercury depletion events, human health effects of mercury, new POPs, etc.) and initiate work to produce reviews of scientific information on new POPs of concern.
- Continue to review the AMAP Monitoring Programme and update the AMAP Guidelines for Monitoring and Assessments to reflect the requests from Ministers and latest recommendations from science (concerning methodology, etc.).
- Produce fact sheets reflecting AMAP's assessments.

- Support ACAP projects, in particular those on PCBs, mercury, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, and other relevant projects as identified in the workplan for ACAP, including the development of AMAP/ACAP joint fact sheets.
- Continue a close cooperation with international bodies to avoid duplicating work and to coordinate work programs in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Participate in planning and implementation of the IPY.
- Develop the appropriate role for AMAP in projects such as the Lena basin partnership and the Lena and other Siberian rivers project, and communicate this to SAOs for their consideration.
- Participate in relevant international meetings and symposia to communicate AMAP results and information on ongoing activities.
- Complete development of harmonized monitoring activities jointly with CAFF when common objectives can be addressed through such harmonization.
- Coordinate GIS related activities with EPPR and other WGs.
- Improve the financial support for the AMAP work.
- Further develop the AMAP workplan to address relevant issues associated with the implementation of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.
- Produce assessment products according to the following list:
 - Time trend data products for Hg (and possibly other metals), in 2006, in support of the UN ECE LRTAP Protocol on Heavy metals and UNEP Governing Council review of mercury
 - Time trend data products for POPs, in 2007, in support of the UN ECE LRTAP Protocol on POPs and Stockholm Convention review of (regional) monitoring data.