

Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
FINAL AGENDA
19-20 November 2008
Kautokeino, Norway

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Welcoming Remarks
- 1.2. Introduction to Kautokeino and Social Events
- 1.3. Introduction of new SAOs, PP HoDs and Working Group Chairs
- 1.4. Approval of the Agenda (AC-SAO-NOV08-Final Draft Agenda)
- 1.5. Report from the 21-22 April 2008 SAO Meeting (AC-SAO-Apr08-Final Report)

Note: There is a new procedure for approval of Reports from SAO Meetings intersessionally. The Report from the 21-22 April 2008 SAO Meeting has been approved.

1.6. Approval of *Ad hoc* Observers

Background: An application to obtain Arctic Council Observer status was received from the Republic of Korea by the Arctic Council on 20 May 2008. SAOs have granted the Republic of Korea *Ad hoc* Observer status pending Ministerial consideration of the application in April 2009, as per the Rules and Procedures. The European Commission requested permission to attend the November 2008 SAO meeting as an *Ad hoc* Observer and approval was granted by the SAOs in advance of the meeting.

Action: The Republic of Korea, participating in an Arctic Council meeting for the first time, will deliver a brief statement.

Thematic Areas

2. Climate Change

2.1. Climate Change and the Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic – SWIPA (AMAP/Denmark to present)

Background: The SWIPA Project has been approved by SAOs. AMAP will present a brief overall progress report of the work underway. The Greenland Ice Sheet (GRIS) component of SWIPA will have a deliverable to the 2009 Ministerial that will also form the basis for a planned contribution to the UNFCCC COP 15. A preview of this deliverable will be presented by Denmark. AMAP will present a proposal for inter-sessional consideration of the draft GRIS report so that an AMAP/Denmark-deliverable on this issue can be ready for the COP 15.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on progress to date and provide any suggestions for future work on the SWIPA project. SAOs are asked to comment on the tentative plans for an Arctic Council GRIS presentation at the UNFCCC COP 15 and to consider and approve AMAP's proposed process to finalize and deliver the GRIS report to the COP 15.

<u>Documentation:</u> see AMAP Report to SAOs

2.2. Non-CO₂ drivers of Climate Change (*AMAP to present*)

Background: The SAOs approved that AMAP should organize a workshop to discuss non-CO₂ drivers of climate change of special relevance to the Arctic, and to include both scientific issues and possible mitigation actions. A report from that workshop held on 15-16 September in Oslo will be presented. Based on recommendations from the workshop, AMAP will suggest that SAOs consider specific immediate actions, which may result in informational reports at the next SAO meeting. Some of these actions will require national-level implementation.

Action: SAOs are asked to consider the recommendations from the workshop and the specific actions proposed by AMAP with a view to approving some or all of these actions.

<u>Documentation:</u> AMAP Technical Paper “The Impact of Short-Lived Pollutants on Arctic Climate” (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.2a); AMAP Technical Paper “Sources and Mitigation Opportunities to Reduce Emissions of Short-term Arctic” (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.2b); Recommendations from the AMAP workshop on non-CO ₂ forcings of climate (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.2c); US proposal on non-CO ₂ drivers (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.2d)
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2.3. Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA) (*SDWG to present*)

Background: This is a major deliverable of SDWG for the 2009-ministerial. This presentation will provide a progress report on the scoping study and preview the development of draft recommendations based on the workshop VACCA workshop to be held in Tromsø, Norway on 22-23 October 2008.

Action: SAOs will be asked to accept the report and recommendations for delivery to the Ministerial Meeting.

<u>Documentation:</u> VACCA Scoping Study (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.3a); Draft Recommendations (AC-SAO-NOV08-2.3b)
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3. Energy

3.1. Energy Report to Ministers (*SDWG to present*)

Background: This is a major deliverable of SDWG for the 2009-ministerial. This presentation will provide an overview of the draft report and draft recommendations. The report was mandated by Ministers in Salekhard and examines cooperation on Arctic energy and suggests some possible areas for future cooperation.

Action: SAOs will be asked to accept the report and recommendations for delivery to the Ministerial Meeting.

<u>Documentation:</u> Draft SDWG Energy Report to Ministers (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.1)
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3.2. PAME Updated Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (*PAME to introduce*)

Background: The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines were first published in 1997, updated in 2002 and are undergoing another update to be ready for the Ministerial meeting in 2009. The Guidelines recommend voluntary standards, technical and environmental best practices, management policy, and regulatory controls for Arctic offshore oil and gas operations. The draft 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines have gone through more changes than in the previous update with considerable input from countries, PPs and NGOs.

Action: SAOs are requested to consider and accept the draft 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines for delivery to Arctic Council Ministers in 2009.

Documentation: Final draft 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.2)

3.3. Oil and Gas Assessment (*AMAP to introduce*)

Background: The Arctic Council Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic was completed and distributed in 2008. The Executive Summary contained a number of recommendations that could form the basis for future Arctic Council actions. AMAP has prepared a first draft of text that could be included in the Ministerial Declaration in 2009.

Action: SAOs are asked to review and discuss the draft text and agree on specific wording for the Ministerial Declaration. (Final action may be deferred until the SAO drafting session in February 2009.)

Documentation: Oil and Gas Assessment Overview Report with Executive Summary and Recommendations (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.3a); Draft text prepared by AMAP for inclusion in Ministerial Declaration (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.3b)

3.4. Development of safety systems in implementation of economic and infrastructural projects in the Arctic (*EPPR to introduce*)

Background: Russia presented its proposal for an Arctic Council project "An accident prevention and safety systems development in economic and infrastructural projects in Arctic" to SAOs in Narvik and Svolvær. The project proposal was approved by EPPR at its August 2008 meeting. EPPR concluded that the project covers several levels of decision making of which EPPR expertise covers only a part. Some delegates explained that they did not have the mandate to provide funding for this project, but had readiness to attend the planned exercises. It was recommended that Russia should have a stepwise approach to make it easier for the EPPR representatives to support the stepwise proposals. The Russian government and participating companies will provide financing, while financial contributions of other project participants will be determined by their involvement in particular events and pilot projects. The World Bank has expressed interest in managing Joint Trust Fund for the project after it is approved as an Arctic Council project.

Action: As per the decision at the SAO meeting in Svolvær, the SAOs are requested to approve the project as an Arctic Council project and advise on the further process.

Documentation: Project document approved by EPPR (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.4a); US proposal on search and rescue (AC-SAO-NOV08-3.4b)

4. Human Development

5. Oceans

5.1. The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (*PAME to present*)

Background: The draft AMSA is not yet ready for SAO consideration. PAME will present the draft key findings and recommendations for SAO consideration and input. PAME will also present a proposal for inter-sessional consideration of the draft AMSA 2009 Report so it can be delivered to the 2009-ministerial.

Action: SAOs are requested to consider the draft key findings and recommendations and provide PAME with input. They are also asked to approve the proposed inter-sessional process to finalize the AMSA and deliver the Assessment to Arctic Council Ministers at their meeting in 2009.

Documentation: Draft AMSA key findings and recommendations (AC-SAO-NOV08-5.1)

5.2. Updated Regional Programs of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) (*PAME to introduce*)

Background: Canada and Iceland are leading the updating of the 1996 Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) to go forward for Ministerial approval in Spring 2009. The final draft updated RPA is based on inputs from Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants and PAME National Representatives. This final version of the updated RPA to be approved by the 2009 Ministerial meeting was agreed to at the PAME II-2008 meeting 28-30 October 2008.

Action: SAOs are requested to consider and accept the updated RPA for delivery to the 2009 Ministerial meeting

Documentation: Final draft 2009 Updated RPA (AC-SAO-NOV08-5.2)

5.3. Best Practices in Ecosystems-based Oceans Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr) (*SDWG to present*)

Background: This is a joint PAME/SDWG project and a major deliverable of the SDWG for the 2009-ministerial. This presentation will provide an overview of the BePOMAR report, the Observed Best Practices document and the outcomes of the BePOMAR workshop held in Tromso, Norway on 21-22 October 2008.

Action: SAOs to consider and accept the BePOMAr Report for delivery to the Ministerial Meeting.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Draft BePOMAR Report (available in password area of SDWG website http://portal.sdwg.org); Draft Observed Best Practices document (AC-SAO-NOV08-5.3)</p>

6. Contaminants

6.1. Indigenous Peoples Community Action Initiative Overview (*ACAP to present*)

Background: In Salekhard, Ministers welcomed the new ACAP Initiative to develop partnerships with the Permanent Participants to identify and remove local sources of contamination and improve environmental conditions in indigenous communities. ACAP has completed two demonstration projects in the Nenets Autonomous District with RAIPON and in Fort Yukon, Alaska with Gwich'in Council International to remove PCBs and pesticides. ACAP has expanded the initiative into Chukotka and Franz Josef Land with RAIPON and Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association (APIA – a US member of AIA) to analyze and remove drums of toxic and hazardous waste from two coastal villages, which show high PCB-contamination in the blood of the local residents.

Action: SAOs are invited to support the initiative to form a new Project Steering Group for the implementation of the projects on safe handling, storage and treatment of local sources of contamination in Nenets Autonomous District, in Chukotka and on Franz Josef Land.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> see ACAP Report to SAOs</p>
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7. Biodiversity

7.1. Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (*CAFF to present*)

Background: The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) is now well into its organizational stages. The report will be produced in two phases. Phase 1 is a 2010 Arctic Highlights Report. This will present 20 indicators of trends and is based on the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program indicators. Authors are currently being identified for each indicator and the report is anticipated to be ready as an Arctic Council contribution to the United Nations 2010 Biodiversity Target and International Biodiversity Year, in 2010.

Phase 2 is a full Arctic Biodiversity Assessment to be ready by 2013. A chief scientist has been appointed and lead and co-lead authors are currently being identified. CAFF will review progress to date on the ABA and ask for funding commitments. It will also stress that in order to meet its timelines, assistance will be required to identify further lead and co-lead authors and to ensure country commitments to support authors.

Action: SAOS are asked to note the recent progress to advance the ABA and are asked for assistance to identify and secure further lead and co-lead authors and particularly for funding commitments to support authors.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> see CAFF Report to SAOs</p>
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8. Data, Observations and Monitoring

8.1. Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) (CAFF to present)

Background: The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) has now entered its implementation phase and is developing and organizing its Expert Monitoring Groups. CAFF will review progress on this activity and the status of the established Expert Groups e.g. the Marine Expert Group led by the US and Norway. The CBMP, currently led by Canada, receives funding from a number of sources, but requires more to achieve full implementation. Commitments from other countries to the program will also be sought in order to ensure full implementation at this critical point in the CBMP's development. It will also be stressed that CBMP has participated as a lead on the biodiversity monitoring component of SAON and will continue to be recognized as a major contributor to biodiversity monitoring for SAON.

Action: SAOs are asked to note the recent progress to implement the CBMP and for assistance to ensure its continued and full implementation, in particular to nominate and support experts to the CBMP Expert Groups, commit to be country leads for the Expert Groups that do not yet have leads, and ensure ongoing funding to support CBMP within their countries and within the Arctic Council as a whole.

<u>Documentation:</u> see CAFF Report to SAOs

8.2. SAON – Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (AMAP to present)

Background: The Salekhard Declaration expressed great interest by the Arctic Council in sustained observations in the Arctic region. In response to this Declaration, AMAP along with IASC and other partners have conducted the “SAON Process” to provide recommendations on how such observations could be implemented. Three workshops and two information exchange meetings have been held to develop recommendations for sustaining observations in the Arctic. The third workshop was held October 15-17 in Helsinki. The draft final SAON report, including a set of recommendations, will be presented for SAO review and comment. Although the final SAON report will not be available until mid-December, AMAP will suggest a few specific actions that should be implemented immediately to maintain the momentum established by the SAON process.

Action: SAOs are asked to consider the SAON report and its recommendations and provide views on how the Arctic Council should remain involved in the continuing evolution of the SAON process. SAOs are asked to consider the specific actions proposed by AMAP with a view to approving some or all of these actions.

<u>Documentation:</u> Draft SAON Final Report with cover letter from AMAP (AC-SAO-NOV08-8.2)
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9. IPY Legacy**9.1. Maximizing the Legacy of IPY (Norway to introduce)**

Background: IPY consists of more than 200 international projects. The larger of these typically involve between 10 and 20 countries and a few hundred scientists. A major legacy of the research will be the advances in knowledge that IPY produces, both in publications and in stored, accessible data. Norway will present the results of a preliminary review of completed and on-going IPY projects and of potential priority legacy needs. Norway will introduce its

revised project proposal “Maximizing the Legacy of IPY” to further the scoping work and help the Arctic Council decide where it should apply efforts, to ensure that IPY provides maximum benefits and outcomes for society at large.

Action: SAOs are asked to consider IPY legacy issues and approve the Maximizing the Legacy of IPY project.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Revised project proposal by Norway: Maximizing the Legacy of IPY (AC-SAO-NOV08-9.1)</p>
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10. Working Group Progress Reports

Issue: Working Group Progress Reports contain information on project progress and outcomes intended for Ministerial, including special issues for SAO consideration.

Action: SAOs are asked to refer to the Working Group reports for progress on projects which are not being presented, and raise questions to the Working Groups if needed under this agenda item.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Working Group Progress Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ACAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-ACAP)▪ AMAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-AMAP)▪ CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-CAFF)▪ EPPR Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-EPPR)▪ PAME Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-PAME)▪ SDWG Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV08-SDWG)
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*end thematic presentations **

11. Statements from Permanent Participants

11.1. Indigenous People’s Secretariat

Background: IPS Chair Patricia Cochrane will report on the work of the IPS Governing Board and provide a brief presentation on the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change that will take place 20-24 April 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Action: TBD

12. Statements from Observer States and Organizations (5 minutes each)

12.1. International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

Background: IASC will report on its latest development which includes the adoption of a new organizational structure, the signing of formal agreements with other Arctic science organizations and the move of the IASC Secretariat to Potsdam (Germany) beginning of 2009. In July 2008, IASC and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) jointly organized the first IPY Conference in St. Petersburg (Russia) which was the largest ever polar conference, attracting 1200 participants, the first bipolar conference, and the first SCAR/IASC conference.

Action: For information purposes. SAOs are asked to note the development.

Documentation: IASC Presentation Kautokeino (AC-SAO-NOV08-12.1); see also www.arcticportal.org/iasc/

12.2. University of the Arctic

Background: Briefing on the UArctic Strategic Plan & ATLAS mapping initiative.

Action: For information purposes.

Documentation: UArctic Strategic Plan 2008-2013 (AC-SAO-NOV08-12.2), see also www.uarctic.org

12.3. Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Background: SCPAR will present the Conference Statement from the last Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

Action: For information purposes.

Documentation: Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region Statement (AC-SAO-NOV08-12.3)

12.4. Nordic Council of Ministers

Background: Sweden will provide a briefing on the outcome of the Nordic Council of Ministers "Common Concern for the Arctic" meeting. The NCM will provide an update of the Nordic Council of Ministers "Arctic Cooperation Programme 2009-2011".

Action: For information purposes.

Documentation: Conference Report from the NCM conference in Greenland "Common Concern for the Arctic"(AC-SAO-NOV08-12.4a); NCM Arctic Cooperation Programme 2009-2012 (AC-SAO-NOV08-12.4b);

12.5. European Commission (*Ad hoc* Observer)

Background: The European Commission will report on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the EU and the Arctic.

Action: For information purposes.

12.6. Observer States

Background: The Observer States will deliver a joint statement.

Action: For information purposes.

13. Administrative Issues

13.1. Update on the PSI (*NEFCO to present*)

Background: At their meeting in Svolvær, Member States and PPs welcomed the news of a substantial financial contribution by Russia to the Project Support Instrument (PSI). Russia proposed a Russian executing agency (REA), supporting NEFCO, for the PSI projects to be implemented in the Russian Federation. Russia suggested that the mandate and scope of the REA be through an agreement between Russia and NEFCO. Russia also proposed that the PSI committee, consisting of the contributors to the PSI, be considered a management body responsible for the general policy and strategic guidance of the PSI. Russia requested amendments to the PSI committee Rules and Procedures (R&P). The Russian Federation and NEFCO have worked with contributing countries and PPs to prepare amended PSI committee's R&P. All the administrative agreements regarding the contributors are under final drafting. No changes are proposed to the PSI Guidelines approved by SAOs on 7 April 2005.

Action: SAOs are invited approve the PSI Committee Rules and Procedures agreed to by the Contributors.

Documentation: Rules of Procedure for the PSI Committee (AC-SAO-NOV08-13.1a);
PSI Update from NEFCO (AC-SAO-NOV08-13.1b)

13.2. Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council

Background: In April, 2007, SAOs requested that the effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council should be regularly reviewed and should be a standing item on the agenda. The Norwegian Chairmanship prepared a draft discussion paper to highlight the progress that has been made and to develop recommendations for further steps that might be taken. SAOs agreed on the importance of in-depth discussion on some priority elements of the paper. The SAO Chair will report back on the outcome of the SAOs and PP HoDs meetings held to discuss some key elements of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council on April 22 and November 18.

Action: SAOs are requested to discuss and approve next steps.

Documentation: Background paper "Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council" (AC-SAO-NOV07-17.2)

13.3. Preparations for Ministerial 2009

Background: The SAO Chair will introduce a discussion on finalization of Working Group reports and work plans, preparations of SAO Report to Ministers, the Ministerial Declaration and suggestions for the format for the Ministerial meeting.

Action: SAOs are requested to discuss and provide guidance on next steps.

14. Other business

14.1. Nordic Mapping Agencies Proposal for an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure

Background: In response to EPPR/CAFF and AMAP's consideration of the current and potential use of spatial information within the Arctic Council, the Nordic Mapping Agencies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and the National Spatial Planning of Greenland have proposed to enlarge the Barents Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) into an Arctic SDI, i.e. to also include Russia, Canada and the USA. Working Groups note the usefulness of an Arctic SDI to their activities and recommend that the Arctic Council support the initiative.

Action: SAOs are asked to support the proposed initiative. The Mapping agencies/Parties behind the initiative are requested to cooperate closely with the Arctic Council Working Groups.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Letter from Nordic mapping agencies to the SAO Chair (AC-SAO-NOV08-14.1a); Proposal for building an Arctic SDI (AC-SAO-NOV08-14.1b)</p>
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14.2. Update on the Arctic Portal (*Iceland to present*)

Background: Iceland will present a short update on the Arctic Portal (www.arcticportal.org) which was launched at the last Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, which welcomed it as "a gateway into the Arctic on the internet".

Action: For information purposes.

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15. ANNEX: Documents for information purposes

15.1. (Updated) EPPR Operating Guidelines (AC-SAO-NOV08-15.1)

15.2. Results from the Frantz Josef Land study regarding cleanup of decommissioned military bases (ACAP) (AC-SAO-NOV08-15.2)

15.3. BSSN Final Report 2008 (AC-SAO-NOV08-15.3)