

Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Ilulissat
28-29 April 2010
Final DRAFT AGENDA

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Welcoming Remarks
- 1.2. Introduction to Ilulissat and Social Events
- 1.3. Introduction of new SAOs, PP HoDs
- 1.4. Approval of the Agenda
- 1.5. Approval of Ad-hoc Observers

2. Administrative Issues/ Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council

2.1. Information about Deputy Minister's meeting 27 May 2010 *(SAO Chair)*

Background: The Tromsø declaration stated that Ministers decided “to further strengthen the political role of the Arctic Council by having a meeting at deputy Minister level, with representatives of Permanent Participants, to discuss emerging issues between Ministerial meetings”. After the last SAO meeting, there has been an intercessional process among the SAOs by email to further develop the concept for the Deputy Ministers’ (DM) meeting. The SAO Chair will provide information on the current status of the planning of the first Arctic Council Deputy Minister’s meeting.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on the current plan for the DM meeting.

2.2. Arctic Council Information Day 28 May 2010 *(SAO Chair)*

Background: As per the SAO Report approved by Ministers in Tromsø, SAOs decided to “institute a biennial “Symposium” for more general information exchange with both Working Groups and Observers”. According to the mandate, the key objective is to invite more detailed communication of WG information to SAOs, as well as to invite observers to highlight their contributions to work of AC and of related activities. The SAO Chair will provide information on the developments since November and the planning for the first biennial Information Day.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on planning for the Information Day.

2.3. Communication and outreach *(Chair of the Contact Group to present)*

Background: At the last SAO meeting in November 2009, it was decided to create a contact group to work intercessionally on the issue of communication and outreach. The contact group has a two-part mandate to: 1) “develop guidelines for engagement in outreach activities and 2) develop

an Arctic Council communication and outreach plan based on common priorities.” The overarching objectives are to improve the effectiveness of Arctic Council communications efforts; and increase awareness of the Arctic Council amongst target groups including appreciation of the Council’s unique nature, capacity and role as a key platform for robust stewardship of the Arctic region. Canada has chaired the contact group, and Mr Giles Norman, Director of CICAR (Canadian International Centre for the Arctic Region) in Oslo, will make a presentation framing the issues and challenges facing Arctic Council outreach following an initial exchange of views with members of the contact group.

Action: The SAOs are requested to provide comments and guidance on the direction of the contact group and ask the contact group to continue its work with the objective of presenting a final report at the next SAO meeting in October 2010.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Analysis of Arctic Council Communications and Outreach (AC-SAO-APR10-2.3)</p>
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Thematic Areas

3. Climate Change

3.1. Short report from the AC activities at COP 15 (SAO Chair)

Background: The “Arctic Venue at COP15” was arranged at the North Atlantic House in the center of Copenhagen during the second week of COP15. A booth was reserved at the venue for information about the Arctic Council. The PPs and WGs were present and used the booth to present relevant material and be present during the event. In addition the GRIS Report was presented and information about the SWIPA was distributed.

Action: For information purposes and possible discussion of an AC outreach effort in connection to UNFCCC COP16 in Mexico November 2010.

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

Background: SWIPA is one of the major deliverables for the 2011 Ministerial meeting. The GRIS report was successfully delivered at the COP 15. AMAP will give a short outline of the timelines for the finalization process of SWIPA towards the Ministerial Meeting in 2011.

Action: SAOs are requested to approve plans for finalization of SWIPA, including the elaboration of science-based policy relevant recommendations by the AMAP WG and update of the SWIPA film, which was prepared for COP15.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Outline of the plan for finalization of SWIPA (AC-SAO-APR10-3.2)</p>

3.3. Short-lived Climate Forcers – (Co-chairs of the Task Force to present)

Background: Recall that the Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Forcers was established last year and reports directly to the SAOs, drawing on AMAP and other relevant expertise, to exchange information on existing national policies, regulations and opportunities for immediate voluntary action in the Arctic States to reduce emissions of short-lived climate forcers, to develop recommendations for further immediate national and international actions, including joint proposals for the SAOs to consider for submission to relevant international bodies. The terms of reference for the Task Force were approved in November 2009 at the last SAO meeting.

The US and Norway are co-chairing this Task Force. The Task Force Co-Chairs will present a progress report on Task Force activities to date and next steps.

Action: Provide feedback and guidance to the Task Force regarding any interim deliverables and progress reports, such as at the upcoming Deputy Ministers meeting, as well as reaction to progress to date and planned next steps in light of the Task Force's mandate.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Workshop summary from San Francisco in February, including work schedule; (AC-SAO-APR10-3.3)</p>

3.4. Black Carbon Initiative launched at COP 15 (USA to present)

Background: At COP 15, the United States announced a \$5 million initiative on black carbon mitigation. The U.S. is interested in determining whether there is interest by the member states and PPs in bringing this initiative into the Arctic Council. Norway, Sweden and NEFCO have previously expressed interest in the initiative. The U.S. will give a short description of the initiative and how it could be linked to the SLCF Task Force.

Action: The SAOs/PPs are requested to indicate their interest in bringing this initiative into the Arctic Council.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Black Carbon Initiative - Proposal from USA (AC-SAO-APR10-3.4)</p>

4. Biodiversity

4.1. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (CAFF to present)

Background: The key messages of the *Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change* report were approved by SAOs last November. The full report- the first report from the ABA process - will be submitted for SAO review March 27th. It is planned to release this report in May/June after the SAO review is complete.

Action: The SAOs are asked to approve the *Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change* for release.

Documentation: Final Draft – Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change (AC-SAO-APR10-4.1)

5. Human Development

5.1. Approval of new SDWG projects (*SDWG to present*)

Background: At their meeting in Copenhagen on 03-04 March 2010, the SDWG reviewed four new projects and are seeking SAO consideration and approval at this meeting. Three of the projects are related to Arctic Human Health and were developed by the new SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) in accordance with their approved work plan. The fourth project has been proposed by Norway and relates to an assessment of cultural heritage sites in the circumpolar Arctic.

The new project titles are as follows:

- a) **Proposal for the development of a Circumpolar Health Observatory [CircHOB]**
- b) **Proposal for a Comparative Review of Circumpolar Health Systems [CircHSR]**
- c) **Proposal for a Comparative Review of Circumpolar Nutritional Guidelines [CircNuGuide]**
- d) **Proposal for Assessment of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites in the Arctic**

Action: SAOs are requested to approve the above mentioned new SDWG projects.

Documentation: 1) CircHOB proposal (AC-SAO-APR10-5.1a); 2) Circ HSR proposal (AC-SAO-APR10-5.1b); 3) CircNuGuide proposal (AC-SAO-APR10-5.1c); 4) Proposal for Assessment of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites in the Arctic (AC-SAO-APR10-5.1d)

6. Oceans

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

Background: At the November 2009 SAO meeting, SAOs underlined the importance of Arctic Council follow-up to the AMSA recommendations and supported PAME's efforts in this regard. PAME, other WGs, SAOs and national governments were encouraged to follow-up as appropriate on basis of the discussion at the meeting and in response to the AMSA follow-up matrix as presented by PAME.

Actions to be followed up by PAME have been designated a lead/co-lead responsibility. Updates on status will be provided to the next PAME meeting.

Actions to be followed up by other Arctic Council working groups are AMSA recommendations I(E), II(C), II(F) and III(C), and discussions on these actions are ongoing.

PAME has agreed to produce an AMSA status report to the 2011 Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information on status and progress, and comments, as appropriate.

Documentation: PAME Progress Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-PAME)

6.2. The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project *(PAME to present)*

Background: The Arctic Ocean Review is proceeding according to plan, and the following activities have been accomplished:

- AOR Project Plan revised in accordance with guidance from last SAO meeting
- Project Expert Group (PEG) established
- Consultations with Working Group Chairs and Secretaries held 2nd March 2010
- Table of Contents and annotated outline drafted
- AOR Communication and Outreach Plan developed and approved by PAME
- AOR communication and outreach tools(e.g. brochure) being developed

The outline of the AOR Phase I Report includes 7 main sections. Consultations with other Arctic Council working groups are underway, in particular relating to the section on “*The Status of the Arctic Marine Environment and Emerging Trends*”. The AOR leads will continue to collaborate and consult with all Arctic Council working groups, and others, to develop the Phase I AOR Report. An AOR expert workshop is planned for the fall 2010. The phase I Report, including the outcomes of the workshop, is to be ready for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in April 2011.

Action: For information on status and progress, and comments, as appropriate.

Documentation: 1) A presentation on the status of project implementation in the PAME Progress Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-PAME), 2) The revised Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project Plan (AC-SAO-APR10-6.2); 3) approved Communication and Outreach Plan for AOR Phase I 2009-2011 (AC-SAO-APR10-6.2);

6.3. SAR Taskforce *(Taskforce co-chairs to present)*

Background: At their meeting in Tromsø in April 2009, Ministers decided to establish a task force "to develop and complete negotiation by the next Ministerial Meeting in 2011 of an international instrument on cooperation on search and rescue operations in the Arctic". The US and Russia co-chair the task force. The task force has met twice. The Task Force co-chairs will present an update on the work and next steps of the Task Force.

Action: Report to the SAOs from the Task Force co-chairs.

7. Contaminants

7.1. Update on The Project Support Instrument (PSI) *(presented by NEFCO)*

Background: Arctic Council Project Support Instruments (PSI) Guidelines, approved by the SAOs, on 7 April, 2005, requires that the Funds Manager (NEFCO) shall semi-annually present a report to the SAOs about the activities of the PSI. The previous report was provided to the November 2009 SAO Fall Meeting. The PSI Trust Fund with contributions from Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; interest and bank cost, as of 31 December 2009, stands at a total of EURO 739 800.39. The Russian Federation has informed that its contingent contribution had been approved with respect to the domestic legislation and included in its 2010 Federal Budget. The remaining internal procedures for depositing the RF contribution into the PSI Trust Fund Account are being expedited. It is anticipated that an announcement on the RF deposit, enabling an operationalisation of the PSI in 2010, will be made at the 28-29 April 2010 SAO Meeting in Ilulissat. Upon signing of the Contributor's Agreement with Russia and deposit of the RF contribution, NEFCO will proceed with making PSI operational, including its contribution of EURO 450 000, and call for convening the first PSI Committee meeting.

Action: SAOs may wish to:

- (a) Note NEFCO's Report on the PSI and status of contributions and pledges as contained in the document NEFCO PSI Update to SAO Draft 2010-03-15;
- (b) Invite Parties to consider contributing to the PSI and encourage Parties that have pledged to deposit their contributions with the Fund Manager to enable the Fund Instrument to become operational as early as possible during 2010.

<i>Documentation:</i> NEFCO PSI Update to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-7.1)

7.2. Mercury (AMAP to present)

Background: AMAP has over the last few years worked closely with UNEP concerning production of mercury assessment reports including emission data. AMAP would like inform SAOs about how some information from the AMAP Mercury assessment, which is due for release in April 2011, has been used to support UNEP global mercury reporting as well as the first UNEP Mercury Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meeting to be held June 7-11, 2010 in Stockholm. The intention of the INC process will be to develop a legally-binding global agreement for mercury by 2013. AMAP would like to alert SAOs about this ongoing joint work with UNEP, which provides an excellent example of how the Arctic Council can influence inter-governmental action related to issues of concern to the Arctic.

Action: To inform SAOs on a strengthened cooperation with UNEP concerning mercury, and provide information on the linkage between the mercury assessment report being conducted by AMAP for delivery in April 2011 and the UNEP Global Mercury reports and negotiations process which is to begin in June 2010 in Stockholm.

8. Data, Observations and Monitoring

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

Background: The SAON SG will present its initial thoughts on recommendations that might be given to the Arctic Council late in 2010. These recommendations will include the future of SAON, the fate of the SAON SG, and a way forward for converting SAON from a planning exercise to an

implementation phase. Thoughts on the “institutional framework” for SAON will be presented to allow SAO’s to provide initial responses that might shape the work of the SAON SG for the remainder of 2010.

Action: SAOs are requested to provide feedback and guidance regarding any interim deliverables and progress reports, such as at the upcoming Deputy Ministers meeting, as well as reaction to progress to date and planned next steps.

Documentation: SAON SG Minutes from the Miami Meeting (AC-SAO-APR10-8.1)

8.2 CBMP - Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CAFF to present)

Background: *The Arctic Species Trends Index (ASTI)* is complete and the first report on the Index will be submitted to the SAOs. With the Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI) we can now begin to track how the Arctic’s ecosystems and the living resources dependent upon them are responding to change. Almost 1000 datasets representing 35% of all known Arctic vertebrate species are found in the ASTI – a significant accomplishment and recognition of the sustained effort and dedication of Arctic researchers and communities who have been tracking wildlife populations over the past four decades and beyond in a remote and challenging environment. CAFF will also inform on future deliverables related to the Index.

Action: SAOs may wish to note this achievement and are invited to welcome the first report on *The Arctic Species Trends Index (ASTI)*.

Documentation: *The Arctic Species Trends Index (ASTI)* (AC-SAO-APR10-8.2)

8.3 Arctic Protected Areas Map (CAFF to present)

Background: The updated map (and dataset) of protected areas in the Arctic has been completed and will be presented to the SAOs. The first protected areas dataset for the Arctic was created by CAFF in 1994 and was last updated in 2004. The data here represent the first results of this new update.

Action: SAOs may wish to note this achievement and are invited to welcome the updated Arctic Protected Areas Map.

Documentation:

9. IPY Legacy

9.1. Maximizing the Legacy of IPY (Norway to present)

Background: In Copenhagen, November 2009 SAOs concurred with the importance of building on the momentum of the IPY and agreed to support a joint Arctic Council/ATCM workshop in June 2010 in conjunction with the Oslo IPY Conference to further discuss IPY legacy issues. The workshop will take place June 9th from 1000-1600 hours in Oslo and the title will be: ***Legacy of IPY: from science to society & policy***. The question pertaining to the legacy of the IPY has been a topic in both the Arctic Council and the Antarctic Treaty system. In both forums the importance of continued focus on the legacy of the IPY has been stressed, and the aim of the workshop is to look at ways in which the legacy of the IPY can be maximized.

The workshop targets scientists and policy shapers who have the relevant background and interest to move the results of the IPY science into the framework of society and policy development.

Action: SAOs are requested to discuss and agree on AC input to the planning of the workshop.

<u>Documentation:</u> Invitation to workshop in Oslo (AC-SAO-APR10-9.1)

10. Working Group Administration

10.1. Working Group Progress Reports

Background: Working Group Progress Reports contain information on project progress and outcomes intended for Ministers, 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.

<u>Documentation:</u> Working Group Progress Reports: ACAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-ACAP) AMAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-AMAP) CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-CAFF) EPPR Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-EPPR) PAME Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-PAME) SDWG Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-APR10-SDWG)

10.2. Approval of Strategic Plan of EPPR (EPPR to present)

Background: The EPPR has developed a new strategic plan, a draft of which was circulated to SAOs, Permanent Participants, observers and Working Groups for comment in December 2009 and comments were incorporated in January 2010. Related to the request for approval of the Strategic Plan of Action, EPPR needs a small modification of its Operation Guidelines to reflect the changes of the new Plan. Our report to SAOs explains the details. The current Operating Guidelines, section 6, Activities state:

“6.1 The main objectives and priorities for the work of the EPPR working Group shall normally be included in the Strategic Plan of Action”, which is approved by the SAOs and subject to a Ministerial mandate. The work plan part of the “Strategic Plan of Action” is updated periodically.”

EPPR wishes to delete the last sentence: “The work plan part of the “Strategic Plan of Action” is updated periodically.” EPPR requests approval from the SAOs to revise the Operating Guidelines as noted.

Action: Approval of the EPPR Strategic Plan and the revised EPPR Operating Guidelines.

<i>Documentation:</i> The EPPR Strategic Plan (AC-SAO-APR10-10.2)

11. Any other business

11.1. The 4 Councils of the North *(SAO Chair)*

Background: The Tromsø declaration welcomed the increased cooperation with regional bodies such as the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and acknowledge their contributions to circumpolar cooperation. There are regular meetings between the 4 councils, both at political level and at senior Arctic Officials level. As decided at the last SAO meeting, discussion on this item will continue. The SAO Chair participated at a meeting with the 4 councils in Kirkenes, Norway 23 March 2010. He will give a brief report from the meeting.

Action: SAO are requested to give guidance to the SAO Chair in how to proceed in relation to the 4 councils of the North with the view of fulfilling the mandate given in the Tromsø declaration.

11.2. The Indigenous Entrepreneurship project *(SAO Chair)*

Background: At the last SAO meeting in November 2009, Russia suggested that the Indigenous entrepreneurship project of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) might be a possible and suitable project for exploring any extended cooperation between the councils. The project aims to develop entrepreneurship among indigenous peoples in the Barents region. The participating entrepreneurs should have businesses/ideas closely related to indigenous cultures and traditions. The project is formally a cooperation between the different Indigenous Associations in the Barents region, and contact has been established with representatives from the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The project budget is approximately 1 million euro. Main financiers will be Interreg IVA Nord (EU), Nordic Council of Ministers, Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the International Barents Secretariat. Several regional governments and the Saami parliaments of Norway and Sweden have also granted funding to the project. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Affairs are also contributing to the project.

Action: SAOs may want to consider how to proceed in the matter, for instance, as proposed at the last SAO meeting, by suggesting that SDWG considers the project with a view to making this project circumpolar and thus a joint AC-BEAC project.

<i>Documentation:</i> “Indigenous Entrepreneurship“ background paper from BEAC (AC-SAO-

APR10-11.2)

11.3. Information about the Nordic Council of Ministers' (NCM) Arctic Conference in Copenhagen 26 May 2010 *(SAO Chair)*

Background: The NCM is organizing an Arctic Conference in Copenhagen 26 May. The current plan for the conference includes a 1 hour opening session on overall Arctic issues followed by 3 panel sessions on: governance in arctic; resource development in arctic (oil and gas); and living in the Arctic.

Action: For information purposes

11.4. SCPAR *(Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region)*

Background: The Secretary General of SCPAR will give a brief update on the work of SCPAR. The main information will be about the 9th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in the European Parliament, Brussels 13-15 September 2010.

Action: For information purposes

Documentation: Draft program for the 9th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (AC-SAO-APR10-11.4)

11.5. Information about the Arctic Environmental Ministers meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland 8-11 June 2010 *(Denmark to present)*

Background: The Danish Environmental Minister has in co-operation with the Greenland Self-Government invited the 7 Arctic Environmental Ministers, 6 non-Arctic Environmental Ministers and the Permanent Participants to a meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland the 8-11th June. The meeting will focus on future challenges and protection of the Arctic marine environment with information from CAFF, AMAP and PAME, IMO and the UN.

Action: For information purposes.

11.6. Arctic Ocean Foreign Ministers' meeting *(Canada to present)*

Invited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Mr. Lawrence Cannon, representatives of the five Arctic Ocean coastal states – Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America – met at the ministerial level in Chelsea, Canada on 29 March 2010. The Ministers had a dialogue on issues related to roles and responsibilities in areas under their countries' jurisdiction in the Arctic Ocean. Canada will provide a debrief of the meeting.

Action: For information purposes.

11.7. University of the Arctic *(UArctic to present)*

Background: UArctic is now established as a legal entity as the UArctic Association based on the Finnish law. The President of UArctic will inform briefly about positive developments with new funding and further expansion of the UArctic.

Action: For information purposes

11.8. Next meeting in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 19-20 October 2010 (SAO Chair)

11.9. Information about Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting 2011 (SAO Chair)

12. ANNEX:

Documents for information purposes *(to be posted on website for reference, when available)*

CBMP – Circumpolar Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan: Background Paper - CAFF
CBMP Report No. 19 December 2009 (new publication)

CAFF Flora Expert Group - The updated pan arctic lichen checklist – CAFF Technical
Report No.20 February 2010 (new publication)

CAFF Flora Expert Group - Proceedings' of the workshop on the Circumpolar Boreal
Vegetation Map – CAFF Technical Report NO.21 March 2010 (new publication)