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# Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) work plan for 2017–2019

## Introduction

Significant parts of the AMAP work to meet its mandate to inform policy-makers with up-to-date information on pollution and climate issues are of a continuing nature; this includes the implementation of the AMAP coordinated (trends and effects) monitoring programme. The 2017-2019 AMAP work-plan described below is developed within the context of a multiyear schedule for updating assessment of issues under AMAP's mandate. The 2017-2019 work-plan reflects near-term priorities identified by the AMAP WG; these priorities do not imply that work given a lower priority is considered unimportant, but represent priorities in the context of timing and allocation of resources. The work plan also takes note of Finnish chairmanship priorities, in particular concerning environmental protection and education and improved links to UN Sustainable Development Goals. Detailed information on specific activities, the expert group(s) that would be responsible, intended products, relationship to AC and external processes, and envisaged work-load is maintained by the AMAP Secretariat. All AMAP work endeavors to engage Permanent Participants (PPs) and utilize Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK) where applicable. The work-plan also recognizes the potential contributions of observers.

## List of work areas, projects and activities

### Activities: ***Addressing Climate Issues***

Lead/co-leads: Cryosphere Change (Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost) – Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States; Arctic Ocean Acidification – Norway, USA

WG partners: Joint outreach of AC information on Arctic climate change and its impacts, is proposed together with CAFF, PAME and ACS.

Other partners: Observers, WMO, IPCC, IASC (on SWIPA); ICES (on AOA)

Rationale and overall Objective: AMAP's continuing work to update information on the implications of climate change for Arctic physical environments and ecosystems is essential for providing policy-makers with the most recent and relevant information to inform decision making on these far-reaching issues. Arctic climate change impacts are already altering the region's nature and human activities, and this change is projected to continue with implications both for the Arctic and World as a whole.

Arctic Ocean acidification is a consequence of increasing emissions of carbon dioxide that has potential for major effects on Arctic ecosystems, including important subsistence and commercial fisheries.

AMAP has been requested to advise SAOs on the implications of the Paris accord for Arctic climate change to support the IPCC process to prepare special reports on cryosphere/hydrological impacts of a global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (due in 2018), and climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere (due in 2019). The SWIPA and AOA follow-up work also feeds into a range of other AC activities.

Main activities and interim milestones: A major focus of AMAP work on climate issues under the 2017-2019 work-plan is to contribute to the planned IPCC special reports and to disseminate the results of the SWIPA 2016 update widely and effectively to multiple target groups.

Timeline: Work to contribute to IPCC special reports is scheduled for 2017 and 2018. Planned work on AOA involves completion in 2017 of the ongoing assessment that was initiated under the AMAP work-plan 2015-2017. Proposed work on SWIPA outreach requires coordination with other AC groups but is part of the work planned in the 2017-2019 period.

Kiruna Vision Element(s) Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment, Arctic Knowledge, A Safe Arctic. Finnish Chairmanship Priorities: Environmental protection, Education

Project/activity: ***Addressing Contaminants and Human Health Issues***

Lead/co-leads: POPs and Contaminants of Emerging Concern - Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Sweden; Mercury – Canada, Kingdom of Denmark; Radioactivity – Norway, Russia; Human health – Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway; Air pollution/SLCFs forcers – Finland, Norway, United States.

WG partners: Parts of the work connect to work under other AC WGs, specifically ACAP (chemicals and SLCFs), CAFF (pollution effects on biota); EPPR (radioactivity), SDWG (human health) and EGBCM (SLCFs).

Other partners: Observers, UN ECE (CLRTAP), UNEP/UN-Environment, Industry

Rationale and overall Objective: These ongoing activities fulfill AMAP's ongoing mandate.

Relevance to external processes: Work elements support the further development and implementation of the UNEP Stockholm (POPs) and Minamata (mercury) Conventions, the UN ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, and connect to UNFCCC/IPCC priority: Food security and the UN Sustainable Development Goal: Food.

Main activities and interim milestones: Main activities on mercury under the 2017-2019 work-plan relate to joint work with UNEP relevant to the Minamata Convention and Global Mercury Assessment 2018; an update assessment of mercury in the Arctic is planned for 2021 (updating the 2011 assessment of this issue). Work on POPs is focused on completion of ongoing work on biological effects of POPs (and mercury) for delivery in 2017 and work to follow-up on the assessment of chemicals of emerging concern, including provision of relevant data and information to bodies responsible for chemical regulation. Assessments of radioactivity and human health were delivered in 2015, so planned work in 2017-2019 relates mainly to routine compilation of new data and activities to enhance cooperation between groups working on contaminant and human health effects. Longer term planning includes provision of timely input for Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation and further work on impacts of climate change on contaminant release and fate in the Arctic, possibly including targeted studies addressing possible radioactive and other pollution at the Camp Century site in Greenland. AMAP delivered assessments of scientific knowledge regarding SLCF impacts on Arctic climate in 2015 and plans to update these in the form of an interim update in 2019 with a focus on emissions scenarios and modelling and a comprehensive update in 2021 considering air pollution issues in an integrated context (working in collaboration with CLRTAP bodies and other relevant groups, including coordination activities in relation to the EU initiative on black carbon).

Timeline: These activities are part of a coordinated plan for activities with deliverables in 2017 (POPs), 2019 (POPs and human health targeting Stockholm Convention information needs; SLCF interim update) and 2021 (mercury; integrated air pollution assessment).

Kiruna Vision Element(s) Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment, Arctic Knowledge. Finnish Chairmanship Priorities: Environmental protection / Education

Project/activity: ***Supporting Adaptation Actions***



Lead/co-leads: Norway, Finland, Russia, Sweden (Barents region); Canada, Russia, United States (Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort region); Canada, Kingdom of Denmark (Baffin Bay/Davis Strait region)

WG partners: SDWG, CAFF, PAME

Other partners: Observers, Stakeholders (e.g. Arctic Economic Council, Industry, Local/region government, etc.)

Rationale and overall Objective: The *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA)* project is implemented through three regional pilot studies addressing the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort region; the Baffin Bay-Davis Strait region, and the Barents area.

Main activities and interim milestones: Under the work-plan for 2017-2019, in addition to completing planned deliverables, the AACA pilot studies will be followed-up initially through an evaluation process and the development of an overarching report and possible development of national follow-up activities by the AMAP WG.

Timeline: Completion of an overarching report and initial evaluation of the AACA results is planned for 2017-2019 with the intention of developing more concrete follow-up activities in the period beyond 2019.

Kiruna Vision Element(s) Element(s): The Arctic Home, a Prosperous Arctic, Arctic Knowledge.  
Finnish Chairmanship Priorities: Education

Project/activity: **AMAP Implementation Issues**

Lead/co-leads: AMAP Future Strategy Development – All Arctic countries; Support for SAON - Canada, Norway, United States

WG partners: CAFF (for SAON).

Other partners: Observers, IASC (for SAON), WMO

Rationale and overall Objective: AMAP's existing Strategic Framework document was developed in 2010. The AMAP WG is planning an activity under the work-plan 2017-2019 to update its strategic direction for the coming years. AMAP, together with IASC, provide secretariat support to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative.

Main activities and interim milestones: Preparation of an updated AMAP Strategic Framework document, including consideration of how to better incorporate TLK in AMAP work. Continuation of SAON secretariat support.

Timeline: Strategic Framework development during 2017; SAON support - ongoing

Kiruna Vision Element(s) Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment, Arctic Knowledge. Finnish Chairmanship Priorities: Environmental protection

### Administration

The AMAP Secretariat is located in Oslo, Norway. The Secretariat was established in 1991 at the same time as the AMAP WG, as part of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) arrangements, and subsumed under the Arctic Council in 1996. Staff includes the Executive Secretary and five Deputy Secretary positions, four of which are located in other countries; one of these positions is half-time and this and three other positions are funded at least 50% through projects. In addition, AMAP Secretariat has one full time administrative assistant, a half time accounting assistant and other occasional part-time assistance maintaining archives, etc. The AMAP Secretariat was established in June 1997 as a Foundation under Norwegian Law, and is accountable to both the AMAP WG and an AMAP Foundation Board. AMAP Secretariat core funding is provided by Norway, with additional contributions from some other Arctic countries to support directed work tasks. Between May 2015 and December 2016, AMAP held 2 Working Group meetings and 2 face- to-face Heads of Delegation meetings, as well as several virtual HoDs meetings. The AMAP WG Chair is elected by the AMAP WG for a period of two-years; in the period 2015-2017 the Chair has been from Finland.

In 2017, the current AMAP Executive Secretary will retire, and the Norwegian government has announced that the Secretariat will be relocated to Tromsø in 2018.