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# **Opportunities for Observer Engagement in Arctic Council Working Group Activities**

September 2016



## ***Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project***

Project Leads: AIA, Sweden

This project, which is a collaboration of the Aleut International Association, Arctic Alliance, Alaska Native Science Commission, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, with support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, will: assess, on a pilot basis, local sources of black carbon emissions from a representative sampling of Arctic Alaskan and Russian villages; provide a broad characterization of associated risks to public health; explore short and long-term mitigation options; assess and, where possible, strengthen local capacities to identify, mitigate and prevent black carbon pollution; draft a framework tool for community-based assessments of black carbon emissions and health risks; and educate local communities about black carbon emissions and risks.

Participation by Observers in this project by way of sharing information and best practices of similar projects would be helpful. Specifically, it would be interesting to know which tools work best for decision makers, donor and community members when communicating assessment results within small communities, including implementation of recommendations.

## ***ACAP Black Carbon Projects***

Leads: ACAP Short Lived Climate Pollutants Expert Group (SLCP EG)

Under the guidance of SLCP EG Chair (U.S) and Co-Chair (Sweden) a number of black carbon projects in the transport and energy sectors have recently been completed. This includes a bus conversion project in Murmansk, development of guidelines for off-road vehicles, and implementation of a wind-diesel project at a small collective in Murmansk. A number of new projects are in the ACAP pipeline. These projects are implemented most often in the Russian north, and impact small to medium size cities. Proposed projects include mitigation of methane emissions at landfills, reduction of black carbon from agricultural burning, black carbon mitigation from the oil and gas sector, and reduction of black carbon from gas flaring activities. Participation from Observers in these projects by way of sharing information and best practices of similar projects would be helpful.

## ***Environmentally Safe Management of Stocks of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides in the Russian Federation***

Project Lead: Finland

ACAP has been working on environmentally sound management of obsolete stocks of pesticides in Northern Russian Federation territory since 2001. In past years, the Netherlands and UNEP Chemical have contributed to the project. The project consists of three phases: (I) Inventory, (II) Safe storage and (III) Demonstration of environmentally sound destruction. The inventory and safe storage activities were completed in 2012 in 13 Northern regions. However, implementing the Phase III demonstration of environmentally sound destruction has not been possible so far because RF has not approved technologies for destruction of pesticides. In 2015 super-critical water oxidation (SCWO) technology passed Rospirodnadzor's environmental expertise, leading to a Krasnoyarsk based waste management company to invest in a facility. The company has approached ACAP to cooperate in environmentally sound destruction.

ACAP has in the past agreed that in order for any facility to be used for demonstrating the environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides, often including POPs, the facility must meet both the Russian Federation as well as international requirements. The international requirements are defined in Stockholm Convention Article 6 and relevant Basel Convention guidelines and for instance the Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emission (integrated pollution prevention and control).

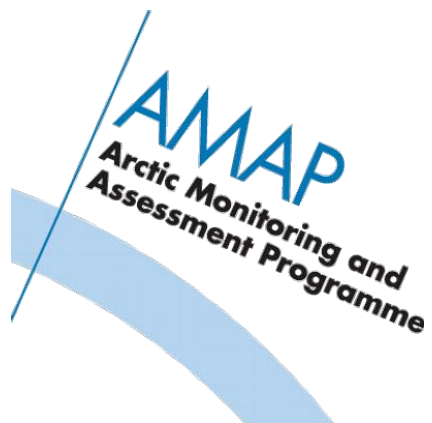
Technical expertise from Observer countries would be welcome in this project.

## ***Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network (CLEO)***

Project Lead: U.S., Finland, under the Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP) Expert Group

The CLEO project is well underway and making progress toward its short-term and long-term deliverables. The first is the establishment of a North American regional chapter of LEO in North American Arctic. To this end, IPCAP partners working through the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation have finalized contract terms for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to develop curriculum and guidance for new observers and hubs, a workshop in Canada, and training for new observers and hubs. The second potential deliverable is the framework to explore the expansion of the LEO network. Discussions are underway to bring in additional partners, ACAP partners are engaging other AC working groups, and exploring partnerships and the potential for a cross-chairmanship initiative. To that end, the Finland, Sweden, and the U.S. held a workshop in Inari, Finland June 1-3. This workshop examined indigenous and local observation networks and developed an outline for a framework to expand and link observation networks across the Arctic.

Observer participation in CLEO would be helpful as the project explores how to link with other observation systems and secure sustainable, long-term funding for CLEO.



Observing countries and organizations have over the last 25 years contributed to the AMAP work in several ways. Information about the content of ongoing national research and monitoring activities has been reported to the AMAP Project Directory. This type of reporting is also made by Arctic countries and non-observing countries that have research and monitoring activities in the Arctic and adjacent areas.

Data gathered from research and observations/monitoring of the Arctic environment – e.g. ecosystems, species and humans - are to some extent reported to the AMAP Thematic Datacenters (TDCs) that we have in operation, e.g. marine data are reported to ICES in Copenhagen, atmospheric data are reported to NILU in Oslo and radioactivity data to NRPA in Oslo. Human health data are handled in another way – they are stored at national TDCs - but we are informed about where data is stored and thereby it can be accessed when needed for assessments. The TDCs at ICES and NILU are databases operated in cooperation with other international organizations like EMEP, HELCOM and OSPAR, and by that we have achieved a rather professional and cost efficient operation. Climate related data are made available through international data centers. In addition, a lot of data and information are made available to the assessments through publication in international science journals.

Several experts from the observing countries and organizations are currently involved in the assessment work (as members of expert groups) that AMAP is implementing, mostly as in kind contributions. All experts involved are acknowledged in the assessment reports.

Some observing countries have also contributed to the assessment work by producing graphics and hosted expert meetings.

AMAP hopes that the observing countries and organizations will continue to contribute in the positive way as experienced, to the work AMAP has been mandated to perform.



CAFF has a long history of fruitful cooperation between Observer countries and organizations. In the past this has included the [Arctic Climate Impact Assessment](#), the [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment](#), [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity scoping study](#), headline indicator development including the [Arctic Species Trend Index](#). Observers have consistently and cooperatively engaged in a range of CAFF activities, providing technical input into the development of monitoring and assessment reports.

The extent of Observer engagement has steadily increased with a new focus being through the [Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative \(AMBI\)](#) a project that actively seeks to engage Observers to

work on issues that affect Arctic biodiversity outside of the Arctic. AMBI has provided a model for how Observers can engage in a constructive manner in both the development of project strategy and implementation. Observer countries are assisting in AMBI implementation and project development, with the Netherlands and Singapore hosting workshops focussing on implementation of AMBI actions across flyways.

CAFF very much encourages continued engagement and welcomes an expansion of observer involvement, and suggests a focus be placed on the following projects/activities:

- The [Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme \(CBMP\)](#): Observers are encouraged to review the [Marine](#), [Freshwater](#) and [Terrestrial](#) Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans and investigate how their own biodiversity monitoring efforts can inform [marine](#), freshwater and [terrestrial](#) expert groups, development and sharing of Arctic biodiversity monitoring data, incorporation of data into [CBMP reports](#) and the [Arctic Biodiversity Data Service](#), communication efforts, funding support, etc. CAFF also encourages review of the upcoming CBMP Strategic Plan and survey (see previous Strategy [here](#)) to identify opportunity for observer participation. CAFF would like to invite observer countries to nominate experts to join the CBMP expert networks.
- Given shared migratory bird populations shared between Arctic and non-Arctic states and common conservation needs CAFF would like to engage further Observers in the implementation of the [Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative \(AMBI\)](#): We encourage observers to review the [AMBI Work Plan 2015-2019](#) and [AMBI Texel Implementation report](#) to identify how their own national interests support AMBI objectives and activities, including providing on-the-ground conservation actions, diplomatic efforts, hosting workshops, communication and funding support would be welcomed.
- [Arctic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan](#): follow-up on activities identified in the plan and participate in its implementation in order to reduce the impact of invasive species on the Arctic environment e.g. in cooperation on controlling and blocking potential migration routes into the Arctic.
- Review the [Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021 implementation plan](#) to identify additional activities that might align with national and organizational priorities and which would benefit from partnership.

### ***Prevention, Preparedness and Response for Small Communities***

Project leads: Norway, U.S., Canada and AIA

The project “PPR in Small Communities” was approved by EPPR in June 2015, with an aim to “give guidance to small communities on best practices related to Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural incidents. A Scoping Workshop, which occurred in Anchorage in October 2015, helped identify the potential value of and products from the project, to be focused on oil spill preparedness. The implementation strategy engages communities in a self-assessment of their preparedness, as well as risk and impact. Community leaders and local emergency response officials will complete a questionnaire, which will have built in weighted metrics that will result in an evaluation of preparedness and exposure. Community preparedness dashboards will be displayed via a web-based, interactive map. Also available on the website will be a resource guide that features best practices. The outcomes from the project will be: (1) greater awareness of risk and preparedness at a local level, and access to best practices, (2) the ability for national governments to address misperception or lack of awareness, and (3) the identification of gaps in preparedness relative to risk. The survey will be distributed to communities under 15,000 people and/or significantly distant from response centers, local government and/or emergency response officials and across the eight Arctic State, within the geographic boundaries as defined by each nation.

This project would benefit from participation by those Observers who have small communities that are also concerned with oil spill preparedness, to share information and best practices.

### ***Readout from the MOSPA TTX***

Project lead: U.S. (for duration of U.S. Chairmanship) and then Finland from 2017-2019

On June 13, 2016, in Montreal, under the leadership of the United States, the 2<sup>nd</sup> functional table top exercise of the MOSPA agreement took place. Three Observers were present for the TTX, Italy, Singapore and WWF. The next exercise will take place under the leadership of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2017-2019). A Marine Environmental Response (MER) Experts Group has recently been established to address recommendations stemming from the Action Report (AAR). An Exercise Design Team is also being establish to initiate 2018 exercise design process.

Observers are invited to participate in the MER Experts Group and the 2018 Exercise Design Team to contribute relevant experience, best practices and lessons learned from other exercises.

### ***International Standards for Petroleum, Offshore-Oil and Maritime Industries***

Project Lead: Norway

The purpose of the report is to describe how standards are identified, developed, established and maintained, by various international trade groups and standards organizations, and who participates in the various phases of the work. It should be seen as building block for follow-up work on the Framework Plan, not a response in itself. EPPR agreed to change the title to “Standardization as a Tool for Prevention of Oil Spills in the Arctic” to better reflect the scope of the report. A summary report will be developed and submitted as an EPPR deliverable to the 2017 Ministerial meeting.

Participation by Observers in future work on standards would be beneficial to ensure that other lessons learned and best practices are incorporated in Arctic standards.

# PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

PAME welcomes expertise in all its activities and observers are welcome to nominate experts to our expert groups that operate based on activities/projects identified in our work plan. Current expert groups that operate for the 2015-2017 period are: Shipping Expert Group (SEG), Shipping Traffic Data Expert Group (ASTD), Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG), Regional Reception Facilities Expert Group (RRF-EG), MPA project group, Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (EA-EG). PAME will have a detailed discussion on potential activities/projects for the 2017-2019 work plan at our September meeting, where we can expect to see some existing projects that will continue and some new projects. Observers should be able to easily link to PAME activities/projects based on our expert groups.



Sustainable Development  
Working Group

### ***Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)***

The SDWG recently launched the Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA), a pilot initiative that promotes leadership focused on the development, operation, and management of remote-energy microgrids that incorporate renewable resources. The project will include an

extensive, publicly available webinar series and residential programs in circumpolar communities for select leaders from around the Arctic. Participants will bring back to their home communities innovative ways to integrate clean energy technologies and improve the management of fossil-fuel resources and other local energy needs.

The ARENA project is seeking energy experts from around the world to present webinar and classroom content. Furthermore, financial contributions would support Arctic community members' travel, housing, and educational expenses, ensuring that every participant will be able to partake in the entire span of this ground-breaking initiative. The ambition of the project team is that after completing this first pilot, further iterations of ARENA would occur elsewhere around the Arctic, creating a strong network of international energy experts.

### ***Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas – Project Review and Financial Support Request***

**Overview:** To contribute to sustainable development and healthy, resilient communities in the Arctic, the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) has initiated work on an online Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA). AREA will provide solar, wind, geothermal, marine and hydrokinetic resource maps within an easily accessible website. AREA will also overlay existing energy generation capabilities to allow easy visualization of localized supply and demand and encourage clean energy prospecting and investment. Finally, in an effort to profile and share best practices gleaned from traditional and local knowledge, AREA will showcase videos from Arctic community stakeholders discussing successes and challenges found in developing clean energy projects. AREA will be available free of charge to the general public, investors, policy makers, researchers, and Arctic public officials to raise awareness on energy efficiency opportunities and renewable energy development potential. By combining multi-layer data visualization and promoting local solutions, AREA will expand the capacity of Arctic residents and scientists to manage and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

**Description of Activity:** Stakeholders across the Arctic have indicated a need to share scientific data, research and development, and local knowledge to promote clean energy access--both renewable energy and energy efficiency. By bringing together maps, resource data, research activities, and storytelling into a single tool, AREA will enhance knowledge of the best practices and local adaptation actions on renewable energy within the Arctic region. AREA components:

- Renewable Energy Atlas – including Wind, Hydro, Solar Thermal, Geothermal, Biomass, Tidal
- Community Energy Production, Consumption and Efficiency Database
- Best Practices Guide for Remote Community Renewable Energy Integration and Efficiency
- Community Energy Stories – Videos profiling local energy projects, challenges and opportunities

**Requests for Support:** Contributions will support the design, implementation and completion of this Arctic Council project; and can be received as in-kind support, sponsorships, grants, cooperative agreements or contracts, and be applied to any or all of the project components. Some of the forms of support include:

- Access to renewable energy resource data, and power production/consumption data by community, across the Arctic.



- Technical support to develop procedures for receiving, converting, and publishing data.
- Financial support for mapping, developing community energy databases, or recording community energy stories (\$10,000 - \$50,000).
- The project is interested in organizing an in-person meeting to develop the scope for a project matchmaking instrument, which could be hosted by a partner state or organization.

States, agencies and organizations that contribute will be recognized throughout the work, on the final website and in any materials published. *Note: The Arctic Council does have a 50% rule, such that Observer States, Organizations and outside entities may only fund up to 50% of an Arctic Council project.*

### ***Improving Health through Safe & Affordable Access to Household Running Water & Sewer (WASH)***

An April 2016 conference on Arctic WASH was held in Sisimiut, Greenland, and the Water Innovations for Health Arctic Homes (WIHAH) conference will meet September 18-21 in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to disseminating the meeting proceedings, there will also be on-going work to implement the solutions identified at both conferences. We are aware that many observer countries are working on issues related to WASH, especially in the context of climate change. As Arctic WASH transitions from conferences to implementation, our implementing partners in the United States and the Kingdom of Denmark would welcome engagement from observers.

### ***One Health Table Top Exercises***

“One Health” is a conceptual approach that recognizes the fundamental linkages between human, animal, and environmental health. One Health is critical for protecting communities and ecosystems in a rapidly changing Arctic, especially in communities where subsistence is still widely practiced. As part of the SDWG’s One Health project, we are planning to conduct a circumpolar Table Top Exercise (TTX) during the first quarter of calendar 2017, likely in Alaska. In a TTX, participants from a variety of sectors and countries are given a hypothetical scenario (such as a disease outbreak, a wildfire, or an animal die-off of wildlife) and asked to design a response plan. The purpose of the activity is to highlight both current strengths and areas for future cooperation. While the eight Arctic States and six Permanent Participants are central to a circumpolar TTX, key experts and stakeholders may reside in observer countries. We would warmly welcome observer participation in the TTX and can share more information about the activity as the date draws closer.