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Document Title

Summary of the Arctic Council Working Groups Relationships to
External Bodies

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Summary

Summary of the Arctic Council Working Groups Relationships to External Bodies

At the June 2015 Senior Arctic Official Executive meeting in Washington, DC, the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) was asked to collect agreements that the Arctic Council's six Working Groups (WG) have established with external bodies.

Methodology:

The ACS sent a request to the WGs on the 26th of June and received replies from all of the six WGs. A summary of the submitted reports is below, organized in descending order starting with the most "formal" relationships for each WG. The WGs *Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)*, *Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)* and *Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)* reported that they do not have any formal relations or agreements established with external bodies. The detailed reports submitted by AMAP, CAFF and SDWG on their relationships with external bodies can be found on the SAO/PP password protected website. Relationships with external entities that are already accredited observers to the Arctic Council, are not included in this summary.

Summary of Existing Relationships with External Bodies by Working Group

AMAP

In total, AMAP has reported to have some kind of relationship with 22 different external bodies. Below is the list of external bodies with which AMAP cooperates, including details about the specific relationships and any financing that is associated with each relationship.

Memorandum of Understanding

The UNEP Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

- Activities: Joint (climate and contaminants) report production
- Financing: Saami Council supported engagement of Arctic experts

Joint assessments

- Stockholm Convention (e.g. UN Environment Program (UNEP)/AMAP report Climate Change and POPs)
- AMAP/UNEP Technical Background Report for the Global Mercury Assessment 2013
- AMAP-IASC-IASSA-WCRP/CliC assessment of Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA)

Relationship

The UNEP Minamata Convention on mercury

- Activities: Contributions to UNEP Global Mercury Assessment (GMA), presented as AMAP/UNEP Technical reports.
- Financing: Some Arctic countries, UNEP and Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) have supported the production of GMA through funding administered by AMAP.

UN ECE Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)

- Activities: Implementing conference recommendations, inter-secretariat discussions
- Financing: Intermittent AMAP funding for NILU data handling services of Arctic atmospheric data collected as part of the AMAP monitoring program.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), (UNSCEAR)

- Collaboration on assessments; co-sponsorship of conferences
- No financial contributions

UNFCCC (COP and IPCC)

- Activities: SWIPA update contributions to IPCC assessments or other relevant UNFCCC initiatives, outreach products for COP, possible presentation of SLCPs assessment products in connection with the COP

Joint actions (including co-organized conferences, harmonized programs and coordinated monitoring actions)

- Stockholm Convention Global POPs monitoring programs
- Joint (AMAP/EMEP/OSPAR, etc.) arrangements for data handling
- Joint databases (ICES, HELCOM, OSPAR, EMEP)
- Laboratory inter-comparison exercises (AMAP/EMEP/NCP)
- Other coordination activities include promoting Arctic research priorities under the EU Horizon 2020 and IASC/ICARP initiatives.

CAFF

Below is the list of external bodies (22 in total) with which CAFF cooperates, including specifics about these relationships. No detailed information on financing was provided. The role of CAFF in the conventions listed below is to provide information and expertise on Arctic biodiversity-related matters as well as information sharing between CAFF and the convention in question.

Resolution of Cooperation (ROC)

- the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) under the CMS Convention
- the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAFP)
- Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

Strategic Partnerships

CAFF has established strategic partnerships with 16 additional organizations. These strategic partnerships have not been formalized by more formal agreements, i.e. the Resolutions of Cooperation, but refer to informal ad-hoc cooperation in individual projects or other short-term collaborative actions.

- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)
- Convention for the Protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)
- Global Biodiversity Outlook

- Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON)
- Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN)
- International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)
- International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAFP)
- Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme Global Resource Information Database (UNEP GRID – Arendal)
- UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Wetlands International
- Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

SDWG (1)

Arctic Adaptation Exchange portal with the University of Alaska Fairbanks

- SDWG, together with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, has established a portal called the Arctic Adaptation Exchange. While the governance of the portal has not been defined by a MoU, a document accepted by both parties has established a cooperative relationship between the SDWG and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. The University of Alaska Fairbanks administrates the portal, but an Advisory Committee comprised of SDWG representatives from the US, Canada, AIA and GCI provides annual updates on the portal governance to the SDWG. The mandate of the Committee will be reviewed at the completion of the US Chairmanship in the spring of 2017.