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2

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Working Group Progress Report to Senior Arctic Officials in Oulu, Finland 25-27 October 2017

1. Introduction.

The main task of the AMAP Working Group is currently the implementation of its work-plan for the period 2017-2019.

The AMAP Working Group held its 31st meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland from 12-14 September 2017, following an AMAP HoDs meeting on 11 September. The WG meeting was attended by representatives from all the Arctic Nations, Permanent Participants (ICC, AAC, Saami Council) and observers or invited experts from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea; Arctic Economic Council, European Commission (Joint Research Centre), IASC, ICES. Parts of the meeting were also attended by representatives of the CAFF and PAME Secretariats, TFAMC; additional invited experts participated in the meeting via teleconnection.

The WG reviewed decisions coming out of 2017 Ministerial and SAO meeting in June Helsinki. In addition to implementation of the work-plan for the period 2017-2019, major items on the agenda concerned possible additions to this work-plan associated with activities being initiated under the Finnish Chairmanship, as well as longer term strategic planning; managing the current transition period of the AMAP Secretariat; and exploring opportunities for new or improved linkages with other AC bodies and international initiatives.

AMAP are considering Finnish Chairmanship initiatives on contaminants and education, as well as initiatives linked to mapping meteorological and marine observations and services and applying a 'value tree' analysis to this.

The WG also used its meeting in Reykjavik to

- Improve connections and communications between AMAP HoDs/PPs and AMAP expert groups.
- Enhance communication with observers regarding their engagement in AMAP work, especially to secure important contributions from the observers to key activities under the agreed work-plan.
- Consider current procedures for internal communication between the HoDs/PPs, Secretariat, EGs, etc. and ways to improve these in future work.

2. Summary of progress on AMAP projects

In the period since the spring SAO meeting, AMAP has delivered the results of its 3 main assessment activities conducted under the US Chairmanship period (*Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic* (SWIPA 2017); *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic* (AACA); and *Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern* (CEAC)). These assessments were reported in five 'Policy-makers Summary' and/or Overview reports presented at the 2017 Ministerial Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. Work is due to be completed by the end of 2017 to finalise publication of related technical background reports. A number of (summary) products are currently being translated into Danish, Greenlandic, Russian, Japanese and Korean.

Results of the AMAP 2017 assessments have been presented at a number of science and science-policy dialog events including the AMAP organized *International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action* in Reston, VA. Communication and Outreach initiatives associated with the 2017 AMAP assessments are continuing. In accordance with the Finnish Chairmanship's priority that Arctic Council assessment work be communicated in global forums, and SAO's requests concerning input to international conventions, AMAP is working with ACS and the Finnish Chairmanship to arrange AMAP and Arctic-related presentations at the Minamata COP1 in Geneva (24-29 September 2017), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants' POPs Review Committee in Rome (17-20 October) and UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn (6-17 November 2017).

Work is ongoing to prepare SWIPA and AACA follow-up targeting the IPCC and its special reports on Climate Change and Oceans and the Cryosphere (due in 2019) and IPCC Assessment Report 6 (due in 2021), and institute related outreach/communication activities.

All AMAP products are available from the AMAP website www.amap.no; AMAP outreach is also facilitated through social media (AMAP Facebook and Twitter accounts) and video media products available on <https://vimeo.com/amap>. Online outreach was particularly heavy during the period of the AMAP organized Reston International Conference.

3. Deliverables for the next Ministerial

In the period up to the next Ministerial meeting, AMAP are preparing to deliver the following products:

- An updated AMAP Strategic Framework for the coming years, also taking account of Arctic Council strategic planning.
- Results of an ongoing update assessment of biological effects of contaminants for delivery in 2018.
- Results of the update assessment of Arctic Ocean Acidification for delivery in 2019.
- Mid-term progress reporting planned on an update assessment of Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) for final delivery in 2021.
- The outcome of a consideration of lessons learned from the AACA process, and a more comprehensive evaluation of the AACA work once regional communications have been conducted.

4. Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

The AMAP HoDs and WG have discussed the implications on the work of AMAP in the coming months of two major simultaneous developments: the relocation of the AMAP Secretariat from Oslo to Tromsø (sometime between February and May 2018) and the appointment of the new AMAP Executive Secretary.

Lars-Otto Reiersen stepped down as Executive Secretary on 31 August 2017. The AMAP Foundation Board together with the AMAP WG are in the process of appointing a new AMAP Executive Secretary with interviews with short-listed candidates expected to occur in October. In the interim period AMAP Deputy Secretaries Simon Wilson and Jon L. Fuglestad will share the duties of Acting Executive Secretary.

AMAP discussions have focussed on how to plan and prioritize workflow in the transition period, including possibilities to re-schedule some activities, and/or opportunities for HoDs, PPs, of expert group leads to take on additional responsibilities otherwise filled by members of the Secretariat, e.g. representing AMAP at various meetings.

The next AMAP HoDs meeting is planned to be held in Canada in February 2018, and the next AMAP WG meeting in October 2018 in Sweden (dates of both still to be finalised).

5. Collaboration with other working groups / other organizations

AMAP have discussed planned collaboration with other AC groups, including:

- CAFF in relation to the Arctic Biodiversity Congress and monitoring;
- PAME in relation to marine litter and micro-plastics;
- EGBCM/ACAP on Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs);
- SDWG in relation to human health, Arctic resilience and Environmental Impact Assessment.

Efforts are continuing to ensure good coordination between this AMAP work and work under related external activities (IPCC, UN-Environment, UN ECE CLRTAP, CCAC, etc.).