

Progress report from the AMAP Board to the SAO Meeting in Selfoss, Iceland, May 4-5, 2004

1. Update on ongoing work

AMAP is following the approved work plan for the period 2003-2004 as outlined in the SAO report to Ministers, Ivalo 2002. The main task for AMAP during this period is to produce the ACIA scientific assessment and overview report, to be presented to the Ministerial meeting in 2004. This has been a joint work with CAFF and IASC. The Scientific and Overview reports are intended to be signed-off by the scientists, the AMAP and CAFF WG and IASC by the end of June. A detailed report will be presented at the SAO meeting.

Development of Strategic Plan

A small drafting group met in Oslo in August 2003 and prepared a draft for the *AMAP Strategy 2004+* document. This document was circulated to the AMAP WG for comments, and based on comments received a revised version was prepared for consideration at the WG meeting. At the 18th meeting of the AMAP WG the new Strategic plan was approved, keeping open the final wording for tasks related to the follow up of ACIA. This will be filled in after decisions made at the Ministerial meeting in November. The Strategic plan is handed over to the SAOs for their endorsement

The AMAP Trends and Effects Programme prepared in 1998 will be reviewed by relevant experts and will be updated to reflect the new AMAP Strategy and further requests from Ministers.

Assessments of Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Acidification

Work on the assessments of petroleum hydrocarbons and acidification, to be delivered in 2006, is underway. Expert meeting concerning these two assessments were held in January 2004, in Washington DC and Helsinki, respectively.

Further details concerning the assessment outlines, identification of lead and contributing authors, etc., are provided in reports from the petroleum hydrocarbons and acidification assessment expert meetings held in January 2004 in Washington D.C. and Helsinki, respectively. A call for nomination of experts to take part in the assessment has been circulated. In early June we intend to have ready the list of Lead Authors. A workshop among all Lead Authors is tentatively planned for late summer/early autumn.

Production of AMAP Assessment Reports

The AMAP report *Arctic Pollution 2002* has been produced in Russian, and was presented at a press conference in Moscow in September 2003. Copies can be obtained from the AMAP Secretariat. Production of the Danish and Greenlandic translations of the report is still underway.

The report *AMAP Assessment 2002: Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Arctic* was published in February 2004; delayed by ca. 6 months relative to the time schedule presented at the AMAP WG 17 meeting. The main reason for this delay was the necessity for substantial re-editing by the Secretariat and publisher during the latter part of 2003.

The editing of the Radioactivity report, and most of the editing work on the Heavy metals report was completed during 2003 according to plan, however the delays with the POPs report have led to follow-on delays to the schedule for production of these two reports. The Radioactivity report is now undergoing final proofing and will be printed in May. Late corrections are still being received to the Heavy Metals report, however it is envisaged that layout work on this report will commence in late-April, with the intention that proofing can be conducted during May and printing in June.

All AMAP reports are available as electronic documents on the AMAP website (www.amap.no).

ACIA Reports

Work to produce the ACIA scientific and overview reports is ongoing according to schedule. Consistency checking of the reports has been completed and editing of the scientific report is proceeding.

A preliminary call for countries to order copies of the reports was circulated in 2003, and based on the figures received an invitation to print and publish the reports was circulated internationally. The preliminary orders from countries are considered to be low with respect to the likely demand for the publication and some countries have indicated that they may revise their preliminary orders. At the joint AMAP/CAFF meeting in April the selection of Cambridge University Press (CUB) as printing and publishing company for the ACIA reports was endorsed. A letter calling for a binding order of the two reports has been circulated with a deadline of May 30, 2004. Possible plans for translating the (overview) report into other languages are also called for so that necessary preparations and arrangements can be made, regarding copyright permission for photos, figures, etc.

A detailed update on the status of these two reports, including revised estimates for the production volumes, will be provided in the special report on ACIA.

ACIA Symposium

The ACIA International Scientific Symposium on Climate Change in the Arctic will take place in Reykjavik, 9-12 November 2004. A Symposium website including an electronic registration form can be found at: <http://www.amap.no/MiscTempFiles/ACIA-Symp.htm>. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 April 2004. The conference has a budget of 200.000 Euros. The financing will be covered by the conference fee and by sponsors, and a call for sponsors has been made. To date (March 10), 51.400 Euros from sponsors has been identified, additional sponsors are still needed. **The AMAP HoDs and SAOs are kindly asked to assist in identifying additional (national) sponsors or other sources of funding to support this event.**

A production of a video film highlighting some of the main conclusions from the ACIA assessment is under preparation. Canada, Denmark and Norway have indicated that they may raise financial support for such a production. The other Arctic countries are kindly asked to look into the possibility to raise funding for such a production.

AMAP Data handling

AMAP continues to operate four thematic data centers (TDCs):

- Atmospheric TDC located at Norwegian Institute for Air Research, NILU, Norway;
- Marine TDC located at International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, ICES, Denmark;
- Freshwater/terrestrial TDC located at University of Alaska-Fairbanks, UAF, USA;
- Radioactivity data located at Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency, NRPA, Norway.

Based on funding from Canada, Denmark and Sweden, an agreement has been made with NILU for data handling work in 2004/2005 that will contribute to the acidification assessment. The radioactivity TDC is currently financed by Norway, and the freshwater/terrestrial TDC is operating on a voluntary basis through UAF support for its SynCon database project. The marine TDC is not currently funded, but work is ongoing at ICES to investigate possibilities to allow AMAP data to be submitted without conforming to strict reporting formats. The outcome of this testing will determine the extent to which dataflow to the TDC from some sources is likely to continue/improve, and if successful a new agreement will be made with ICES, in particular to conduct data handling work to support the petroleum hydrocarbons assessment.

National Implementation Plans for AMAP

At the AMAP WG meeting in April most countries presented an overview of monitoring programmes performed in 2003 and plans for 2004. The Countries are kindly requested to submit their new AMAP Implementation Plans to the AMAP Secretariat as soon as possible.

The AMAP Project Directory (www.amap.no >> Resources & Projects >> Project Directory) currently holds information on ca. 430 projects, of which ca. 240 have been registered through AMAP. Countries are requested to ensure that their scientists register (or update existing registrations) concerning all projects that are relevant to the work of AMAP, and in particular projects that might contribute to the ongoing assessments of acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons in the Arctic.

AMAP Human Health Expert Group

The AMAP human health expert group will meet in Washington D.C. (May 24-26 2004) and continue their work to plan follow-up to the AMAP 2002 assessment of human health in the Arctic, including future development of the human health monitoring activities.

AMAP Website

The AMAP website was completely upgraded during 2003. Countries have been requested to present proposals for additional improvements, so far only a few comments and suggestions have been received. Development and improvement of the site will continue; new information and AMAP assessment products are being added continuously, and the site now includes video clips taken from the AMAP Phase 2 film. Areas that are currently targeted for improvement include the facilities to search both the site and also within the online documents, and to update the online database services for providing access to map and data products. Financial support to assist this work would be welcome.

Special Projects

RAIPON/AMAP/GEF project '*PTS, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North*'

According to the workplan adopted at the beginning of the project, the PTS project should be finalized in early-2004. However, intermediate project results showed a need for additional studies, to explain for example why PTS levels in blood samples in a number of cases did not appear to be related to food intake. In this connection, the project steering group (SG) agreed to organize further targeted surveys among some indigenous families which covered, in addition to food and blood monitoring, indoor and occupational environments. This additional work, and a half-year delay of the project finalization, has been agreed with GEF. At present, the first draft of the final report is ready, and it is expected that the SG, at its meeting in mid June, will adopt this report, other project products, and the plan for dissemination and communication of information arising from the project work.

As a follow-up of the PTS project, the Russian Government and RAIPON have taken an initiative for a new GEF project proposal entitled '*Economic activities in Northern Russia as PTS sources, health of indigenous peoples and global environment*'. This proposal is currently under negotiation with GEF. If endorsed, the project will cover 4 regions of the Russian North and Far East that have not been considered under the current PTS project. Countries and organizations may be invited to contribute to project funding.

Phases 2 and 3 of the ACAP project '*Multilateral Cooperative Project on Phase-out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation*'

At the request of the Arctic Council, the AMAP Secretariat is responsible for coordinating work on the ACAP PCB project. Phase 2 of the project was completed in September 2003 and the results were presented at a special meeting and press-conference in Moscow. Nine detailed reports on work tasks under Phase 2 of the project, and the Executive Summary of the Phase 2 reports are available in English in printed versions. The Executive Summary is also available as an electronic document on the AMAP website in English, a version in Russian will hopefully be added in the near future.

Phase 3 of the project has now been initiated. At present, the following 4 pilot investment projects are being implemented under Phase 3:

1. Destruction of PCB fluids (organised and financed by NEFCO);
2. Cleaning of PCB-containing transformers (organised and financed by NEFCO);
3. PCB collection and storage scheme (organised and financed by Denmark);
4. Plasma Arc technology for destruction of PCB-containing capacitors (organised by USA with joint financing of the Arctic countries and the Netherlands, and in-kind provision of the basic equipment by USA).

In addition, a project on remediation of PCB-contaminated site (Serpukhov city) is under development. However, this project is not adopted by the project ACAP Steering Committee yet. For more details, see the report from the ACAP Steering Committee.

The project ‘Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Water management and flood preparedness at the Lena Basin’

The Lena Basin project, carried out under the framework of the global Dialogue on Water and Climate (DWC), was successfully completed in June 2003. A printed report is available in a limited number of copies, and it is intended that an electronic version can be made available on the AMAP website in the near future. As follow-up of this project, the Russian scientific community has taken the initiative to develop two further integrated activities:

1. *Lena basin partnership* under the Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC), which is the successor of the DWC.
2. GEF medium-sized project ‘*Climate change sound water management and flood preparedness at Lena and other Siberian rivers*’.

These projects have been presented to the SAO meeting in October 2003 by Russian Authorities and received SAOs support.

The *Lena basin partnership* is mainly focused on practical issues of capacity building in coping with climate change impacts on the water regime of the Lena basin. The appraisal form for this partnership proposal has been provided to the CPWC Secretariat in the Netherlands for consideration at the sponsors meeting in April.

Following discussions with the GEF Secretariat, the project concept paper for the *Lena and other Siberian rivers* project has been provided to UNEP-GEF, and is currently under consideration by the GEF Secretariat. The Netherlands has already allocated financial support to the *Lena and other Siberian rivers* project.

These two activities are closely linked, and ‘cross-fertilize’ each other. It has been agreed between the CPWC and GEF Secretariats that, in the case of their endorsement, financing of these two activities will be considered jointly, and CPWC financial support will serve as a part of co-financing of the GEF project. Countries and organizations may be invited to contribute to project funding.

PCB and other POPs in ringed seals from seas around Northern Russia

Based on funding from the NCM, a special project to document the levels of PCBs and other POPs in ringed seals from seas around Northern Russia has made good progress. The results, when finalized, will allow a much improved circumpolar view of the exposure and threats posed by POPs to seals, and also to animals such as polar bears, and humans that use the seals for food.

Russian data on effects due to Climate Change in Northern Russia

Based on funding from the NCM, a special project to collect data from different sources in Russia that were of relevance for the ACIA assessment has been conducted. Data has been provided and a follow-up work is being planned, including a joint workshop with RAIPON and AARI (Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute).

Special Workshops

A special '*Barrow spring 2004 mercury study*' is ongoing at the present time in Barrow Alaska, organized and supported by the United States. The study into mercury depletion chemistry and mercury cycling in the Arctic has a number of research objectives and involves scientific groups from Canada, Denmark, Norway, United States, and the United Kingdom.

Atmospheric monitoring network in Russia

Based on funding from Norway and Canada, the atmospheric monitoring of mercury at Amderma in Northern Russia has been secured for 2004-2005. POPs monitoring at Amderma is not currently funded. Based on funding from the USA, mercury monitoring was carried out at Lavrentiya, and collection of samples and their analysis for POPs was conducted at Pevek, in the Russian Far East during 2002. This support, and the associated monitoring, has now unfortunately ceased. The sampling equipment is still at the site, but funding for further operation is lacking.

With the discontinuation of the operations at Pevek, there are currently no background air monitoring stations in the Russian Arctic where POPs are monitored, and thus no current data on POPs in air are available for this large sector of the Arctic.

AMAP Ring tests on human blood

As part of the AMAP circumpolar blood survey work, a series of ring tests to secure appropriate QA/QC on the human blood analyses was initiated. This activity is being continued under the leadership of Jean-Philippe Weber at the National Public Health Institute of Québec, Canada. In 2003, 27 laboratories participated, 19 from the eight Arctic countries. The ring tests are now organized on a cost-recovery basis with laboratories paying for their own participation. AMAP have very limited funds remaining to support this activity. It is vital that countries both require and support their own laboratories participation in this (and other) QA/QC activities, either through direct or indirect funding. Fees for participation in QA/QC programmes represent marginal costs in comparison to the costs of analyzing actual environmental or human samples, and lack

of participation in relevant QA/QC activities is grounds for rejecting data from certain laboratories from inclusion in AMAP assessments.

2. Deliverables to the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting in 2004

The main AMAP deliverables for the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting will be the results of the AMAP work on the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA). The ACIA scientific and overview reports are produced in cooperation with CAFF and IASC, and these will be jointly reported by AMAP, CAFF and IASC.

The results of the 2002 AMAP assessment were reported to Ministers at their meeting in 2002. The five scientific reports on human health, influence of climate change on contaminant pathways, POPs, radioactivity, and heavy metals that support the 2002 assessment will all have been published by November 2004 and will be presented at the 2004 Ministerial meeting.

The report from the PTS project is scheduled to be published in early autumn in Russia. The report should therefore be presented to the Ministerial meeting in November.

In addition, AMAP will produce a Progress report for work performed during the period of Icelandic chair of the Arctic Council. If any emerging “issues of concern” or “news from science” are identified, that needs to be brought to the attention of the Ministers, such will be highlighted in this report.

3. Collaboration with other organizations

Collaboration with AC WGs

All AC WGs and PPs have been invited to nominate experts to take an active part in the assessment of petroleum hydrocarbons to be presented to the AC in 2006. Further information concerning the organization of the work is provided in the report from the petroleum hydrocarbons assessment expert meeting held in January 2004 in Washington D.C.

ACAP

ACAP was originally established by the Arctic Council to address pollution issues documented by AMAP. In this context, AMAP has maintained a close collaboration with ACAP in all its projects, and is coordinating project work on some ACAP projects. AMAP has contributed to the initiation of the proposal for a new project on brominated flame retardants, and looks forward to a close involvement in this project, in particular in the work tasks concerned with the preparation of inventories of sources of BFRs. A joint production of a Fact Sheet related to BFRs has been discussed.

CAFF

AMAP and CAFF are working in close cooperation on the production of the ACIA, see special report from ACIA.

Work between AMAP and CAFF aimed at developing a harmonized monitoring programme for the future is continuing during 2004. This work was discussed at the 3rd joint AMAP/CAFF WG meeting in April 2004 in Oslo, and a special report is under preparation.

EPPR

EPPR is considering a proposal to upgrade data products compiled under its 'Circumpolar resources at risk from oil spills in the Arctic' project. One option is to incorporate these data into an interactive web-based GIS. AMAP has previously produced a pilot interactive web-based GIS project presenting information on sources of radioactivity in the Arctic based on data held at the AMAP radioactivity TDC. In the light of these initiatives, AMAP and EPPR have discussed possible cooperation to harmonize their work on mapping and GIS developments of standard maps/GIS, and this work should preferably be extended to include other AC WGs, such as CAFF, that have similar GIS data initiatives. AMAP and EPPR arranged an informal workshop in Oslo back to back to the AMAP WG in April, and the work will be followed up.

PAME

AMAP has provided input to PAME in connection with work on an Arctic Marine Strategy.

SDWG

AMAP has provided input to the SDWG in connection with their overview of Capacity Building within AC work.

International cooperation

UNEP

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on POPs will enter into force on 17th May 2004. Article 16 of the Convention requires periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the Convention, the first such evaluation to be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties four years after entry into force. The interim Convention Secretariat at UNEP has developed plans for obtaining and assessing harmonized global environmental monitoring information on POPs to be considered by the Conference of the Parties in May 2005. The Arctic Council has taken note of this work and AMAP has participated in planning and is preparing to assist in implementation.

UN ECE

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)

The UN ECE Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants under the LRTAP Convention has now entered into force. Article 10 of this agreement requires that there be periodic reviews of the 'effectiveness and sufficiency' of the Protocol, the first of which must be reviewed by the Convention's Executive Body in December 2005. This means that work on the review (which will be prepared by the LRTAP Convention's Task Force on POPs), must be completed by June 2005. The AMAP WG and the SAOs have previously noted the potential contribution of AMAP to this activity. The AMAP Secretariat participated in the First Meeting of the POPs Task Force (The Hague, 1-3 March 2004) and presented the AMAP report *AMAP Assessment 2002: Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Arctic*. The LRTAP POPs Task Force has established a small team to use information from already available sources including regional and national reports to prepare a 20-30 page summary of the levels and trends of POPs in the LRTAP region, and their possible effects. The AMAP representatives indicated that AMAP might be willing to participate in this activity, and this proposal was discussed and supported at the AMAP WG meeting in April 2004. Other sections of the LRTAP POPs effectiveness and sufficiency review will be concerned with emissions modeling and with emissions control techniques. The AMAP Secretariat informed the LRTAP Task Force of the relevant work conducted by AMAP and ACAP in this field, and offered to bring to the attention of AMAP and ACAP the potential interest of the LRTAP Task Force in information concerning modeling and emissions control techniques. The POPs Task Force welcomed these suggestions.

The UN ECE Protocol on Heavy Metals under the LRTAP Convention has now entered into force. The UN ECE LRTAP Heavy Metals ad hoc Expert Group met in Brussels (31 March-1 April 2004). It is expected that the LRTAP Executive Body may decide in December 2004 to replace this expert group with a Task Force with a similar mandate to that of the Task Force on POPs. It can be anticipated that AMAP may be asked to assist with effectiveness and sufficiency review of this agreement.

In connection with the UN ECE Convention, a Task Force on Health relative to LRTAP, which is organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the LRTAP Convention, has completed reports on acidification, small particulates, volatile organics, heavy metals, and POPs. The AMAP WG is considering the potential for linkages between the AMAP Expert Group on Human Health and this group.

EU

Under an EU initiative to develop a European Marine Strategy (EMS) several working groups have been established. These include groups on Strategic Goals and Objectives (SGO), Ecosystem approach (EAM), Hazardous substances (HS), and European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA); there are also linkages with the work under the EU group on Species and Habitats. Within the EU, this activity is co-led by DG Environment and the EEA, and is strongly linked to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and its possible extension to the marine offshore areas. Proposals for an EMS are due to be completed during 2004/early 2005, for consideration by the EC in 2005. The

AMAP Secretariat has participated in meetings of the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment group (EMMA). There is a further group responsible for coordination with other international bodies (regional seas conventions, etc.) but AMAP is not aware of whether, for example, PAME has been involved in these meetings. The EMS aims to cover all European Seas, including European Arctic Seas (Nordic Seas, Barents Sea, etc.), thus it has an obvious geographical overlap with the area being addressed in the Arctic Council's Marine Strategy (ACMS). The relationship between the EMS and ACMS is, however, unclear; similarly the outcome of the EMS initiative is currently very uncertain. A recent meeting of the SGO group appeared to indicate an intention on the part of the EC that the EMS might be developed into a legal framework (as currently the case with the WFD), which raises a number of questions about how this will impact on existing international legislation under, for example the regional seas conventions. The main reason for AMAP participation in EMMA is the potential implications that the EMS development may have with respect to future monitoring and assessment in European Arctic Waters.

The AMAP Secretariat has continued discussions with relevant partners concerning the possible development of a research proposal for funding under the EU's 6th Framework programme. At present, NILU are examining options for development of a proposal under the FP6 third call for proposals that could be linked to AMAP.

Canada has indicated an interest in a close cooperation with European countries and AMAP on Arctic research and monitoring. In this connection, AMAP participated in the joint Canadian-EU 'Symposium on Environmental Assessment Climate Change Research and Policy Implications in the Arctic' that was arranged in Brussels, March 15-16, 2004.

European Environment Agency (EEA)

The SAOs and the AMAP WG have previously been informed about an Arctic report that was being prepared by the EEA and UNEP, and an associated request (SAO meeting June 2001) that AMAP Secretariat contribute material based on the AMAP contaminants assessment work for inclusion in this report. The resulting EEA/UNEP report '*Arctic environment: European perspectives - Why should Europe care?*' was released in Brussels on 15 March, on the occasion of a joint Canadian-EU Symposium (see above). The accompanying press release (<http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/newsreleases/arctic-en>) characterised the report as follows: "In a joint report, the European Environment Agency and UN Environment Programme have painted a somber picture of the Arctic environment and called on decision makers, especially in the EU, to address the challenges seriously. 'Today it is industrialized countries, including the EU nations, that are the main users [of Arctic resources] and the main sources of pollution affecting the region', said EEA chief Jacqueline McGlade. 'The EU in particular has the potential to take a leading role in catalyzing the response on Arctic nations'". An electronic version of the report can be found at http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_issue_report_2004_38/en.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) invited AMAP to assist in the production of the radioactivity parts of its 'Kiev' report on Europe's environment. A contribution was

prepared by Russian and Norwegian (lead country) experts from the AMAP radioactivity expert group. The resulting report was presented at a Ministerial meeting held in Kiev in May 2003.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

AMAP have had a close cooperation with WWF over the years, and welcome the way AMAP information has been disseminated through the WWF-Arctic Programme's '*Arctic Bulletin*'. A joint project on POPs in polar bears, to be implemented in 2004, and based partly on funding made available through WWF, is currently being developed.

World Water Forum

The AMAP Secretariat has been invited to assist in arranging the 'Polar sessions' of the two previous World Water Forum meetings (in The Hague, Netherlands in 2000, and in Kyoto, Japan, in 2003). The Fourth World Water Forum will take place in 2006 in Mexico, and the AMAP Secretariat has again been requested to take part in the arrangement.

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

Following decisions at the BEAC Summit (Kirkenes, 10-11 January 2003), AMAP was requested by NEFCO to update the list of environmental 'Hot Spots' in the Russian part of the Barents region. The AMAP Secretariat, in collaboration with the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and its regional branches, responded to this request and presented the report '*Updating of Environmental 'Hot Spots' List in the Russian Part of the Barents Region: Proposals for Environmentally Sound Investment Projects*' at the BEAC Meeting of the Ministers of Environment, in August 2003 in Sweden. The Russian version of the report was presented at a press conference in Moscow in September 2003. The English and Russian versions of the report are available from the AMAP Secretariat and the English version is available electronically from AMAP website (it is intended that the Russian version will also be added to the website as soon as possible).

The International Polar Year (IPY)

The AMAP Secretariat has been invited to several meetings discussing the content of the IPY, and has participated in joint discussions between EU and Russia in Brussels in July 2003, and in a Russian meeting in St. Petersburg in January 2004. AMAP view the IPY as an important opportunity to establish greater long-term commitment to monitoring and research in the Arctic, which in the long-run has considerable potential benefit for the work of AMAP. **An AMAP proposal for priorities for work under the IPY has been presented to the AC Chair.**

4. Requests to the SAOs

Funding Situation

Core funding for the AMAP Secretariat is provided by Norway, however this does not meet all the running costs of the Secretariat, or costs associated with funding other AMAP core activities. AMAP would like to express its continuing appreciation to

Norway, and also Canada, Finland and the Nordic Council of Ministers that have provided financial support during 2003/2004 to fund AMAP Secretariat operations and other AMAP core activities and projects. Countries are kindly requested to investigate the possibilities to provide financial support in 2004/2005.

Furthermore, AMAP is grateful for the funding from Canada, Denmark, and Sweden that has allowed the AMAP atmospheric and marine TDCs to continue operations during 2004 and for Norwegian and University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) support for the radioactivity and freshwater/terrestrial TDCs, respectively. The same level of funding will be required in 2005, in particular to allow data handling work associated with the delivery of the acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons assessments.

Monitoring and Observation activities

SAOs are requested to ensure the timely availability of the necessary finances to allow AMAP to fulfill its work-plan as requested by Ministers and SAOs. It is vital to ensure that observations of levels, trends and effects of contaminants in the Arctic continues, even during the periods between major assessments, in order to guarantee uninterrupted time series and ensure that future assessment reports presented by the AMAP WG are complete and reliable. In addition to the ongoing assessment production work, AMAP is currently considering the detailed plans for work in the years to come, in particular in relation to possible ACIA follow-up. Continuation of core observations and establishment of both baseline and long-term records are especially important in this connection.

Annex 1: Provisional Calendar of AMAP and AMAP Related Meetings: 2004-

Meeting Schedule 2004

January 22-23	AMAP Acidification Assessment Expert Group Meeting, Helsinki, Finland.
January 27-28	AMAP Petroleum hydrocarbons Assessment Expert Group Meeting, Washington DC, USA.
January 28-29	ACAP BFR Expert Meeting, Oslo.
January 29-30	ACIA Steering Group Meeting, Washington DC.
February 5-6	EU/EEA Marine Strategy, Second EMMA group Meeting, Copenhagen.
February 17	EU/EEA Marine Strategy, First SGO group Meeting, Brussels.
February 17-20	ACAP Mercury Project Steering Group Meeting, Moscow. ACAP PCB Project Steering Group Meeting, Moscow.
March 1-3	UN ECE First meeting of the Task Force on POPs, the Hague.
March 15-16	Canada-EU Symposium: Environmental Assessment, Climate Change and Policy Implications in the Arctic, Brussels.
March 22-24	ACIA Steering Group Meeting, Copenhagen.
March 22-25	Workshop: Monitoring Contaminants in the Northern Seas, Tromsø.
March 29-30	NCM Mercury Workshop, Brussels.
March 31-April 1	UN ECE Second meeting of the Task Force on Metals, Brussels.
April (5)6-7	EU/EEA Marine Strategy, EMMA Assessment methodology Workshop, Athens.
April 13	Informal meeting on use of GIS in the work of the Arctic Council WGs, Oslo, Norway.
April 14-16	18th AMAP WG Meeting and Joint AMAP/CAFF Working Group Meeting, Oslo, Norway.
April 21-28	IASC Arctic Science Summit Week, Reykjavik.
May 4-5	Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Meeting, Selfoss, Iceland.

May 24-26	AMAP Human health expert group meeting, Washington D.C.
May 31 - June 1	UN ECE Second meeting of the Task Force on POPs, Prague
June 2-4	Nordic Conference - Ocean Strategies: Integrated management of the marine environment, Reykjavik.
June 9-10	UNEP-Chemicals (Stockholm Convention) meeting on PCB management and disposal. Geneva.
June 14-15	PTS Steering Group meeting in Moscow.
June 22-24	EU/EEA Marine Strategy, Third EMMA group Meeting, Copenhagen.
June 23-26	Conference on International Energy Policy, the Arctic and the Law of the Sea, St Petersburg.
September 1-3	Workshop on Radiation and Environmental Safety in NW Russia: Use of impact assessment and risk information, Moscow.
November 9-12	Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) Symposium, Reykjavik.
November 22-23	Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Meeting, Reykjavik.
November 24	Fourth Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, Reykjavik.