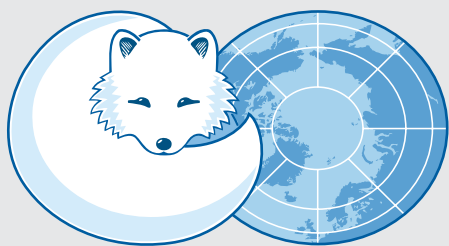


ARCTIC COUNCIL

# Ninth Ministerial Meeting

Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada  
24 - 25 April 2015

Information for Press



ARCTIC COUNCIL

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A Senior Arctic Officials' meeting in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada



“Family photo” from the Senior Arctic Officials' meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada

*Images: Linnea Nordström / Arctic Council Secretariat*

# Arctic Council Heads of Delegations



## Canadian Chair of the Arctic Council

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council



## Canada

The Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs



## Norway

Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs



## Finland

Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs



## Russian Federation

Sergei Donskoi, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment



## Iceland

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs



## Sweden

Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs



## Kingdom of Denmark

Martin Lidegaard, Minister for Foreign Affairs



## United States of America

John F. Kerry, Secretary of State

*Delegation also includes Minister for Industry, Labour, Trade and Foreign Affairs of Greenland, Vittus Qujaukitsoq and the Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands, Kaj Leo Holm Johannesen*

# Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council

The six permanent participants of the Arctic Council represent Indigenous peoples from all over the Arctic, who speak many different languages and come from many different cultures.



The Arctic Athabaskan Council represents Athabaskans in Canada and the United States.



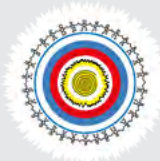
The Aleut International Association represents Aleut people both in Alaska and in Russia.



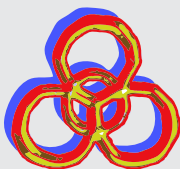
The Gwich'in Council International represents members of the Gwich'in Nation in Canada's Northwest Territories and Yukon, as well as in Alaska.



The Inuit Circumpolar Council represents Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka in Russia.



RAIPON – the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North – represents 41 Indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia, altogether accounting for about 250 000 people.



The Saami Council represents Saami member organizations in Finland, Russia, Norway and Sweden.

# Press Secretaries for Arctic Ministers

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## Saami Council

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# Arctic Council Working Groups



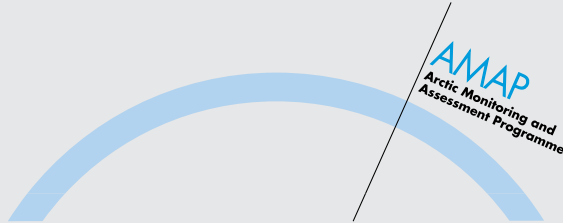
The Chairs and Executive Secretaries of the Arctic Council Working Groups, photographed in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada at a Senior Arctic Officials' meeting in March, 2015.

L-R: Lars-Otto Reiersen (AMAP), Ann-Sofi Israelson (ACAP), Ole Kristian Bjerkemo (EPPR), Timo Seppälä (ACAP), Synnøve Lunde (EPPR), Soffia Gudmundsdottir (PAME), Tom Barry (CAFF), Doug Klassen (SDWG), Hugi Olafsson (PAME), Jutta Wark (SDWG), Risa Smith (CAFF), Morten Olsen (AMAP)

*Image: Linnea Nordström / Arctic Council Secretariat*



# ACAP ARCTIC CONTAMINANTS ACTION PROGRAM



**EPPR** Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response



Sustainable Development Working Group

# Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)

The objective of ACAP is to prevent adverse effects from, reduce, and ultimately eliminate pollution of the Arctic environment. ACAP addresses Arctic pollution sources and acts as a strengthening and supporting mechanism to encourage national actions to reduce emissions and other releases of pollutants that are relevant in the Arctic. Cooperative actions make an important and significant contribution to the overall international effort to reduce environmental damage on a global level. ACAP develops concrete project proposals for approval as Arctic Council projects, taking into account the needs of indigenous populations in the Arctic.

## Main Deliverables

### ***Reduction of Black Carbon Emissions from Residential Wood Combustion***

The goal of this project is to spur action to reduce emissions of black carbon from residential wood combustion in the Arctic. The project compiled information on wood-burning stove and boiler technologies and analyzed existing approaches to emission inventories, reduction methodologies and mitigation instruments and measures. The report identifies voluntary actions that could be adopted to reduce black carbon emissions from residential wood combustion on both the national level and pan-Arctic level. The recommended actions may benefit Arctic people through improved local air quality and climate change mitigation.

### ***Economic benefits, social advantages, and emission reductions: Bus fleet upgrade by Murmanskavtotrans***

The ACAP project *Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources in the Russian Arctic* completed an emissions inventory of black carbon from diesel sources in the Murmansk Region of Russia, which showed that the top two sources of black carbon from diesel sources were off-road vehicles at mines and on-road vehicles such as trucks and buses. The pilot mitigation project to upgrade the bus fleet at a Murmansk bus company resulted in a 90 percent decrease in black carbon emissions from the fleet, as well as significant reductions in other pollutants. The brochure describes the results of the pilot project and serves as a useful guide for similar projects.

## **Ongoing Projects into 2015-2017**

ACAP will undertake projects on short lived climate forcers in the sectors of transport and diesel generators, as well as renewable fuel alternatives. A black carbon inventory will be published and include outreach tools such as the Arctic Case Studies Platform. Improving the living conditions of indigenous peoples will be addressed through two projects, one developing community level assessment tools for black carbon reduction, and another to expand the Local Environmental Observer network (LEO) to the circumpolar region (CLEO). ACAP will continue to work to reduce releases of contaminants such as mercury, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, PCBs and other hazardous waste.

## **Contact ACAP**

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# Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

AMAP's mandate is to monitor and assess the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change, documenting levels and trends, pathways and processes, and effects on ecosystems and humans. AMAP provides reliable science-based information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment, and scientific advice to support Arctic governments in their efforts to reduce adverse effects of contaminants and climate change. AMAP produces scientific assessment reports that address a range of Arctic pollution and climate change issues, including effects on health of Arctic human populations, as well as public outreach products containing science-based policy-relevant recommendations to inform decision-making processes.

## Main Deliverables

### ***Arctic Pollution Issues 2015: Summary for Policy-makers***

The *Arctic Pollution Issues 2015 Summary for Policy-makers* presents the key results of three assessments that have been prepared updating information on 1) human health in the Arctic in relation to environmental contaminants and other stressors, including results of biomonitoring in Arctic residents and effects of these contaminants; 2) trends in persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Arctic air, biota, and humans; and 3) radioactivity in the Arctic, including handling of radioactive waste and accidental releases.

## ***Arctic Climate Issues 2015: Summary for Policy-makers***

The *Arctic Climate Issues 2015 Summary for Policy-makers* presents the findings from two assessments that have been prepared on short-lived climate pollutants, detailing emission sources and impacts on Arctic climate of 1) black carbon and ozone, and 2) methane.

## **Ongoing Projects into 2015-2017**

AMAP will continue to implement the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) project. AMAP experts are working in close cooperation with indigenous people and stakeholders in three pilot areas to produce information to assist decision-makers to develop adaptation strategies to deal with climate and other drivers of Arctic change. Work is underway to update the 2011 Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) assessment, the 2013 Arctic Ocean Acidification assessment, and to prepare a new assessment of chemicals of emerging concern in the Arctic and biological effects of POPs and mercury.

## **Contact AMAP**

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# Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

CAFF is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. Its mandate is to address the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices that ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources. It does so through various monitoring, assessment and expert group activities. CAFF serves as a vehicle to cooperate on species and habitat management and utilization, to share information on management techniques and regulatory regimes, and to facilitate more knowledgeable decision-making. It provides a mechanism to develop common responses on issues of importance for the Arctic ecosystem such as development and economic pressures, conservation opportunities and political commitments.

## Main Deliverables

### ***Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment***

An action plan for Arctic Council decisions on conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity for the next decade.

### ***Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): Workplan 2015-2019***

Identifying on the ground actions inside and outside the Arctic to improve the conservation status of priority species of migratory birds in decline.

### ***Arctic Biodiversity Congress: Co-Chairs Report***

The largest gathering in the history of the Arctic Council bringing partners and stakeholders together to discuss the challenges facing Arctic biodiversity and suggest solutions.



### ***Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure: Memorandum of Cooperation***

Making seamless mapping across the Arctic possible and contributing towards better planning and development.

### ***The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB): Progress Report***

Helping improve understanding of the value and benefits provided by the Arctic and its living natural resources.

### ***Community-based Monitoring: Progress Report***

Including traditional knowledge to allow for a more complete and holistic understanding of change in the Arctic.

## Ongoing Projects into 2015-2017

### ***Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)***

Identifying emerging trends and improving our understanding of changes in the Arctic.

### ***Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): Progress Report***

Providing easy access to biodiversity data from across the Arctic and CAFF projects, programs and activities.

## Contact CAFF

[www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is) | [www.facebook.com/CAFFS](https://www.facebook.com/CAFFS) | [@CAFFSecretariat](https://twitter.com/CAFFSecretariat)

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# Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

The mandate of EPPR is to address various aspects of prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic, as well as search and rescue. While EPPR is not an operational response organization, members exchange information on best practices and conduct projects to include development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, response exercises and training. The goal of the EPPR Working Group is to contribute to the protection of the Arctic environment from the threat or impact that may result from an accidental release of pollutants.

## Main deliverables

### ***Guide to Oil Spill Response in Snow and Ice Conditions in the Arctic***

At the request of the IMO, EPPR developed the Guide. An Arctic-only version is available and serves as a practical tool for responders and communities in the event of an oil spill.

### ***Arctic 2014 Emergency Exercise***

Held in June 2014 at the Atomflot facility in Murmansk. Radiation exercises are an important evaluation tool to test and refine response procedures.

### ***Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)***

A GIS platform designed to assist in oil spill response by providing a common operating picture of response assets and threatened environmental resources in a single interactive map.

### ***Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs***

This report is a compendium of work on national risk assessments incorporating information from EPPR documents.

### ***First International Exercise under the auspices of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOSPA)***

The first exercise under the auspices of MOSPA was hosted by Canada in May 2014. Exercises support the Agreement and are invaluable preparation for real-world emergencies.

## Ongoing projects into 2015-2017

A ***second international exercise*** under the auspices of MOSPA will be conducted. The ***Circumpolar Oil Spill Gap Analysis*** builds on existing gap analyses to produce a pan-Arctic perspective. The ***Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets*** will identify oil spill response assets available to Arctic countries. Work will continue under the ***Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects***, which seeks to improve industrial and environmental safety, and the ***Arctic Rescue Project***, which shares information to improve emergency preparedness. Improving response capabilities in the Arctic are key goals of both the ***Prevention, Preparedness and Response for Small Communities*** and the ***Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers*** projects. In April 2015, EPPR's mandate was expanded to include search and rescue.

## Contact EPPR

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# Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

PAME is the focal point of the Arctic Council's activities related to the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. PAME's activities are based on its mandate to address policy and other measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment from both land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement existing international arrangements.

## Main Deliverables

### ***The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) Best Practice Guidelines***

Address the potential benefits of sustainable Arctic marine tourism and are mindful that these benefits are best realized through active and collaborative engagement among coastal communities, government agencies, industry, academia, and other stakeholders.

### ***The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) for the period 2015-2025***

Provides a framework to guide the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies in the coming decade towards healthy, productive, and resilient Arctic marine ecosystems that support human well-being and sustainable development for current and future generations.

### ***Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)***

Aims to inform the development of MPAs and networks of MPAs that are located within the national jurisdiction of Arctic States. It offers guidance; it is not legally binding. Each Arctic State pursues MPA development based on its own authorities, priorities and timelines.

### ***The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report***

Provides tools and approaches for reducing the threat of catastrophic effects of major offshore oil and gas related accidents, such as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster.

## **Ongoing Projects into 2015-2017**

PAME will continue implementing the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment recommendations through a number of projects and initiatives, including the best practices guidelines for Arctic marine tourism, development of Arctic Regional Reception Facilities Plan, updating Arctic ship traffic data, and a cross-cutting oil & gas and shipping project on meaningful engagement of Arctic indigenous peoples and local communities in marine activities. PAME will be engaged in three projects as a follow-up to the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs, continue work on Ecosystem Approach to management activities, and develop an implementation plan for the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025).

## **Contact PAME**

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Website: [www.pame.is](http://www.pame.is)

# Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

The SDWG advances sustainable development in the Arctic through initiatives that aim to improve environmental, economic and social conditions of circumpolar communities, with a focus on the protection and enhancement of the economies, culture and health of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic residents.

## Main Deliverables

The *Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities* report and symposium identified best-practices and promising intervention methods that lead to positive mental health outcomes and reflect Indigenous practices.

The *Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change* online portal promotes community exchange and dissemination of information to support innovative approaches to climate change adaptation.

The practical recommendations for the consistent integration of *Traditional and Local Knowledge* into the Council's work built on Working Groups' best practices and Permanent Participant-led workshops.

The *Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages* website, project report, and symposium promote language vitality through youth involvement, scientific assessments and community-based engagement.

The *Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment* (AMSA) report expands on the 2009 AMSA to provide a pan-Inuit perspective on shipping and traditional sea ice use.



The *EALLIN – Reindeer Herding and Youth* report and executive summary highlight the youth-identified challenges and opportunities that affect the viability of reindeer herding as a sustainable livelihood.

The *Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current Realities and Future Challenges* conference and final report examined gender issues in the Arctic.

The *Arctic Human Development Report II – Key Findings* distills the major findings of this ten-year update on the state of human development in the Arctic.

## Ongoing Projects into 2015-2017

The theme of Improving Economic and Living Conditions will guide the initiatives of the SDWG. Work will be advanced in the areas of mental wellness, traditional and local knowledge, climate change adaptation, reindeer herding and Arctic Indigenous languages. New projects will be undertaken in areas such as energy security, water resources, socio-economic data and food security.

## Contact SDWG

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## Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM)

The TFBCM was established at the Kiruna Ministerial in 2013 and mandated to “develop arrangements on actions to achieve enhanced black carbon and methane emission reductions in the Arctic, and report at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015”.

The Task Force, co-chaired by Canada and Sweden, successfully delivered on its mandate and developed an Arctic Council Framework for Enhanced Action to Reduce Black Carbon and Methane emissions. This important work will lead to benefits for both climate and human health in the Arctic. This Framework represents high level commitment of Arctic States which will promote actions at the national, regional and global levels to reduce emissions of these pollutants and includes a follow-up mechanism to continuously drive ambition. Recognizing that black carbon and methane emitted beyond the borders of Arctic States also affect the Arctic, this Framework seeks to engage Arctic Council Observers in taking actions together with Arctic States. This Framework represents a key deliverable for the Iqaluit Ministerial meeting.

With this Framework, the Arctic Council will send a strong political signal in the form of an ambitious, politically aspirational collective vision, especially in the light of the efforts being undertaken under the UNFCCC to conclude a new climate change agreement by December 2015.

### Contact TFBCM

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## Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP)

At the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013, Ministers of the eight Arctic member states decided to establish “a Task Force to develop an Arctic Council action plan or other arrangement on oil pollution prevention,” which would present the outcomes of its work and any recommendations for further action at the Ministerial meeting in 2015.

The Task Force - chaired by the Senior Arctic Officials from Norway and the Russian Federation, and with delegates and participants from Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants and accredited Observers - met five times in the course of its work to complete the “Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic”.

Though it is not legally binding, the governments of the member States of the Arctic Council explicitly express their intentions to strengthen cooperation, including exchange of information, among the Participants in the field of prevention of marine oil pollution. The concrete actions are divided into two categories: those which are pertinent to Arctic petroleum activity; and those which are pertinent to Arctic maritime activity.

### Contact TFOPP

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## Scientific Cooperation Task Force (SCTF)

At the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013, Ministers of the eight Arctic member states decided to establish a Task Force to work towards an arrangement on improved scientific research cooperation among the eight Arctic states. They “agree[d] that cooperation in scientific research across the circumpolar Arctic is of great importance to the work of the Arctic Council, and establish[ed] a Task Force to work towards an arrangement on improved scientific research cooperation among the eight Arctic States”.

As a result, under the co-chairmanship of representatives from Sweden, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the Scientific Cooperation Task Force met five times with participants from all Arctic Council member states and representatives from the Permanent Participants and accredited Observers.

The Task Force identified several key areas where shared efforts could improve scientific cooperation including: sharing of data and metadata; facilitating the movement of people, samples and equipment across borders for the purposes of conducting research; and facilitating logistics and access to research areas and facilities.

The SCTF has recommended to SAOs, for inclusion in the Iqaluit Declaration, that the Task Force works towards a legally binding agreement on scientific cooperation with a view to completing its work during the US Chairmanship.

### Contact SCTF

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Mr. Vladimir Barbin, Co-chair (Russian Federation)  
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# Task Force to Facilitate the Creation of a Circumpolar Business Forum (TFCBF)

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## Arctic Economic Council (AEC)

During the 2013-2015 Chairmanship, the Arctic Council States and Permanent Participants worked together through the Task Force to Facilitate the Creation of a Circumpolar Business Forum to create a new independent body - the Arctic Economic Council (AEC) – which was formally established at its founding meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut (September 2-3, 2014). The AEC is intended to serve as a forum for interaction between the Arctic Council and the circumpolar business community. Through facilitating this two-way dialogue, the AEC will help inform the work of the Arctic Council by providing a circumpolar business perspective while enriching private sector understanding of Arctic Council interests and initiatives. The AEC will also foster business-to-business cooperation by sharing best practices, industry standards and innovative solutions to promote responsible economic development for the benefit of the people of the Arctic. The AEC will further aim to provide the necessary framework for being good business partners in the Arctic with indigenous residents and communities by promoting small and medium enterprise development, respect for traditional knowledge, and Arctic stewardship.

### Contact TFCBF / AEC

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Community outreach event in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada  
*Image: Jesper Stig Andersen / Arctic Council Secretariat*



Community outreach event in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada  
*image: Linnea Nordström / Arctic Council Secretariat*



Arctic Council Secretariat  
April 2015