

Progress Report from AMAP to the SAO Meeting in Espoo, Finland, November 6-7.

Prepared by AMAP Chair and Secretariat.

The following is a brief overview of progress in the main activities that have been addressed by AMAP since the SAO meeting in Rovaniemi, June 2001, and requests to the SAOs regarding funding of the assessment and related activities.

On-going and planned activities

During the last week of August, AMAP arranged two meetings in Stockholm and had a joint working group meeting with CAFF:

The Fourth Assessment Steering Group-II/Cross Fertilization meeting (ASG-II/CF).

Approximately 75 experts attended the meeting, including the lead authors and key national experts for the four scientific assessment reports (concerning POPs, metals, radioactivity, and human health) that are under preparation for the Ministerial meeting in 2002. Some national data managers and representatives from AMAP thematic data centres, and some observing countries and organizations also attended. In addition, the authors and publisher of the 2002 State of the Arctic Environment Report (SOAER) participated. The meeting was very successful and the minutes and recommendations of the meeting are presented as an Appendix to the report of the 15th AMAP Working Group meeting (see below) that will be made available to the SAOs.

The four assessments have made good progress and the work has been accomplished by the established drafting groups during 2001. For heavy metals assessment, much of the drafting work was only started at a workshop in McLean (USA) in June and there are still some unresolved decisions regarding lead authors for certain parts of the assessment, and for overall editorial work. In late August a second workshop was arranged (in Norway), again mainly in relation to the heavy metals assessment, addressing issues related to identification of sources and quantification of emissions and discharges. Together with the Nordic Council of Ministers and Denmark, AMAP also co-sponsored a workshop on mercury that was held in Denmark in September, focussing on atmospheric modelling issues. The ASG/CF meeting established a very challenging timetable for the production of the 2002 assessments, which is included as an Appendix to the Minutes from the 15th AMAP WG meeting. Following the ASG/CF meeting, the AMAP Human Health expert group met during the first week of October in Århus, and the AMAP Radioactivity expert group met in the third week of October in Oslo.

The 15th AMAP Working Group (AMAP WG) meeting was held back-to-back with the ASG/CF meeting to handle any matters arising from the ASG/CF meeting that needed decisions. The AMAP WG discussions are reflected in the Minutes from this meeting. The main request to the SAO meeting is related to the funding situation for the assessment production work, and several other related AMAP activities, as detailed below. Also, due to

a change in her position in Denmark, the AMAP Chair, Hanne Petersen, had informed the AMAP WG that she would no longer be able to continue as AMAP Chair. The WG elected Helgi Jensson (Iceland) as new Chair and Yuri Tsaturov (Russia) as Vice Chair; **the SAOs have been requested to approve these new appointments.** The WG also approved a **revised set of Operating Guidelines, and these have been sent to the SAO for their endorsement.**

The AMAP WG also discussed possible input to the planned 'Rio plus 10' meeting in Johannesburg. Recognizing that any such input from the Arctic Council will take the form of a single message prepared by SAOs on behalf of the Arctic Council, the AMAP WG agreed that it would be appropriate to provide SAOs with a brief overview of information concerning AMAP related activities, covering both past findings already endorsed by SAOs and noting the main focus of the work that will be delivered in 2002, for SAOs to consider for inclusion in their possible communication to Rio plus 10.

The 2nd Joint AMAP/CAFF Working Group meeting was also arranged back-to-back with the AMAP WG meeting in Stockholm. There were two main issues on the agenda: the ACIA process and cooperation in Arctic biological monitoring. The discussions and recommendations arising from the AMAP/CAFF meeting are reflected in the Minutes from the joint meeting. Based on the discussions at the meeting, a draft paper for the development of the ACIA policy document has been prepared and circulated to the SAOs for their comments, see a special document on this issue.

The Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) project has made good progress during the summer. Sampling of human blood has been performed in all four regions of Northern Russia. Also watersampling with simultaneous measurements of hydrological characteristics in the rivers Yenesey and Pechora has been carried out in three periods (spring, summer and autumn) for assessment of PTS fluxes by rivers. Analyses of the environmental samples collected during 2000 have started and it is hoped that the first data from the project will be available by the end of the year, in time for inclusion of some of the data in the 2002 assessments. The first ring-test of laboratories involved in analysis of human blood samples for Persistent Organics has been performed, and on the basis of the results of this ring-test a selection of laboratory/laboratories for analysing the samples collected in northern Russia is will be made.

In early October UNEP Chemical informed that the PTS project will receive a support of 50.000 USD. The main problem continues to be raising sufficient funding to fully implement all components of the project, see funding issues, below, and to agree on a western laboratory to analyse 10% of the samples as an intercalibration exercise.

The PCB project has also seen good progress during the summer. The Terms of References for the work to be done under Phase 2 of the project have been established and approved for 8 of the 9 planned activities. A draft report for Activity 1: Assessment of legislative requirements for handling of PCB has been prepared and discussed by the Steering Group and an updated version is now being produced. At the most recent project Steering Group meeting held in St. Petersburg, October 4-5, UNEP Chemicals confirmed that they would support the project with 50.000 USD.

NEFCO also report good progress on their Fast Track PCB project. Three methods available in Russia for destruction of PCBs have been tested during the summer and a report will be

available later this autumn. A very close cooperation between the two PCB projects is now established to avoid duplication of work.

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) has also made good progress since the SAO meeting in June, see the special report from ACIA. In connection with ACIA, AMAP have established a cooperation with WMO and GEWEX/GAME on a special case study on climate change and water management for the Lena Basin. This study is within the context of the Dialogue on Water and Climate established by the Global Water Partnership, 3rd World Water Forum and other international fora.

Requests to SAOs:

The production of the five AMAP assessment reports for the 2002 Ministerial meeting has a total estimated budget of 400.000 USD, of which 100.000 are covered through work by the AMAP Secretariat. The remaining 300.000 USD has to be covered by national support comprising orders for copies of the reports and/or specific grants/contributions for certain parts of the production work. The planned production volume for the 2002 SOAER report is at present only 3000 copies, and 1700 copies of the four scientific volumes, see Appendix. This is despite the fact that in 1997/98 8000 SOAER and 4000 scientific AMAP assessment reports, respectively, were produced and these stockpiles have almost been fully exhausted. At present AMAP are still lacking 75.000 USD to fully finance the planned minimum production of the 2002 reports to meet national needs of the 8 Arctic countries. Also this planned production does not currently include any additional stockpile for a wider distribution, e.g. to other international fora, although the 1997/98 reports were effectively distributed to and used by other fora such as UN ECE and UNEP as background material during negotiations of international agreements, etc. AMAP is therefore in a position where it is uncertain whether it can fully meet preliminary agreements with groups such as the SOAER authors and publisher to pay for essential production work. If funding is not secured by the end of November, AMAP will have to revise its existing agreements concerning production of the reports which will without doubt compromise the delivery of the AMAP products requested by Ministers. **The SAOs are kindly asked to seek a solution on the funding of the production the assessment reports or to recommend where cuts shall be made.**

For the 1997 SOAER report, joint funding was made available for translation and production of the report in Russian (funded by all eight Arctic countries, IPS and RAIPON) and Saami language versions (funded by Finland, Norway and Sweden). At present there has been some initial consideration of a translation into Saami, but no funding has been identified for this work. Denmark has indicated that they will translate the report into Danish and Greenlandic. **The SAOs are kindly requested to inform AMAP if translation into other languages shall be prepared and how these shall be funded.**

The PTS project has a total budget of 2.760.000 USD. At present 2.500.000 USD has been secured through grants and in-kind contributions. AMAP has, together with RAIPON, tried to rise funding from foundations and other organizations and countries but has not yet been able to fully finance the project. In addition, there has been an increase in prices in Russia since the budget was established three years ago. It has been the intention that as much as possible of the data produced through the PTS project should be incorporated in the AMAP 2002 assessment. However, since an amount of 250.000 USD (or more to cover increase in prices) is still lacking, AMAP foresee problems in finalising the project as planned. **AMAP kindly ask the SAOs for their assistance in fully financing the PTS project.**

During 2002 AMAP will be involved in arrangement of two international conferences; the 5th International Conference on Arctic Environmental Radioactivity in June in St. Petersburg, and the 2nd AMAP Symposium on Environmental Pollution in the Arctic in October in Rovaniemi, Finland. For both of these conferences AMAP, together with the other organizers, are seeking sponsors, and requests for funding have been sent to the Heads of Delegations to the AMAP WG. To date, some positive responses have been received, but most countries have not yet responded. **The SAOs are kindly requested to seek funding to support these conferences.**