

Progress report from the AMAP Board to the SAO meeting in Oulu, May 15-16, 2002.

SA0/2002/A/11.1.

1. Follow-up since Barrow Ministerial Meeting

- **review of the current mandate and tasks given in the Barrow Ministerial** (*text from the declaration is shown as italics*)

Endorse and adopt the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), a joint project of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, in cooperation with the International Arctic Science Committee,

approve the goals and objectives contained in the ACIA Implementation Plan and request that the AMAP and CAFF Working Groups, in consultation with the Sustainable Development Working Group, promote the availability of the necessary social and economic expertise to complete the assessment;

The mandate given in Barrow was very clear and has been followed by AMAP and CAFF, in close cooperation with IASC. Several meetings have been held among the ASC and the Executives.

Since the ministerial meeting in Barrow October 2000, ACIA has been further developed. More than 180 scientists have now committed to take part in the scientific assessment. The extended outlines of the 18 chapters have been further elaborated. The drafting teams are now actively engaged in the drafting work and several workshops have been arranged to develop different components of the programme.

Several models have been tested in relation to the development of scenarios for the next 100 years. Agreement has been reached on the scenarios that will be considered by the other scientists when preparing their assessments. The next meeting of ASC will take place in Oslo, during the first week of June, and at that time it is anticipated that the first (rough) drafts of most chapters will be available.

The strategic plan for the production of the policy document has been further developed since last SAO meeting in Espoo, and this will be presented to the SAOs for their consideration in Oulu.

endorse AMAP's future activities as outlined in the SAO report to Ministers and request that AMAP prepare updated assessments on individual topics of high importance over the next several years;

During the last 2 years AMAP has prepared its four **2002 Assessments** on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Heavy Metals, Radioactivity, and Human Health. Parts of the assessments concerned with Effects of Climate Change on Pathways of Contaminants will now be produced as a separate fifth assessment report. The 2002 SOAER (State of the Arctic Environmental Report) will be released and presented to Ministers in October. The 2002 AARs (AMAP (scientific) Assessment Reports) will also be published during the latter part of 2002.

AMAP had planned to deliver an updated assessment on the effect of petroleum hydrocarbons in the Arctic environment in 2004. Based on recent developments, AMAP has presented a proposal to the SAOs that this assessment now be delayed until 2006. AMAP also plans to present an updated assessment on acidification issues in 2006, and planning work for this assessment is under way.

Welcome the AMAP report on Phase I of the Multilateral Co-operative Project for Phase Out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-Contaminated Waste in the Russian Federation, “endorse the plan for Phase II, and request AMAP to coordinate implementation of the Phase II plan;

Further progress has been made in the **PCB project** since that reported to the SAO meeting in Espoo. Activity 1 concerning Russian legislation relevant to PCB handling has now been finalized, and a report (in English) on this is being prepared for publication. All other activities are under implementation, and are expected to be finalized by the beginning of November. The project Steering Group plans to publish the Phase 2 Executive Summary by the time of the Arctic Council Ministerial Conference in October.

According to the request from ACAP, preparatory work for Phase 3 has been initiated, a Discussion Paper on implementation of Phase 3 has been prepared and this will be updated based on ACAP discussions at the Oulu meeting.

Acknowledge approval for funding of the Global Environmental Facility of the RAIPON/AMAP Project “Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North”.

The project **”Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North”** has made further progress during the period since the last report to SAOs. Environmental samples collected in 2000-2001 have been analysed, and the data from these analyses have been used in the AMAP assessments. Dietary survey conducted among indigenous populations covered approximately 1500 persons, and the information obtained is currently under evaluation. An analytical laboratory for analysis of human samples has been selected, partly on the basis of results of two ring tests arranged under the AMAP Human Health programme QA/QC activity (see below), and the work on the analysis of blood samples has started. For determination of fluxes of PTS with the Pechora and Yenisey river flow, four seasonal sample collections have been performed. These field activities were performed according to international guidelines and include simultaneous measurements of hydrological characteristics. Analysis of the resulting water samples are planned to be started this summer.

The PTS project work is performed in close collaboration with RAIPON and its regional branches. Indigenous representatives are actively participating in a number of the project activities, including the dietary survey work, environmental and human sampling, and assessment of local pollution sources, etc. Following an initiative of RAIPON, every mother and newborn child that participates in the project will receive a special post-natal care-pack in recognition of their contribution to the project. An information flyer about the PTS project has been produced (in English and Russian) to advertise and communicate information on the project.

With regard to the project budget deficit, which has not yet been completely eliminated, the AMAP Secretariat highly appreciate the additional financial contributions from Norway and Finland, and the appeal from Finland to the other Arctic Council members to provide further assistance to this project.

Encourage the effort of CAFF and AMAP towards integrating their monitoring initiatives,

A joint AMAP/CAFF WG meeting was held in Stockholm in August 2001 to discuss the **harmonization of monitoring programmes**. Connected with this, CAFF arranged a workshops on monitoring of biodiversity in Akureyri in March 2002.

- activities, progress made 2000-2002

The **AMAP Working Group** (AMAP WG) has met twice since the Barrow meeting, in Stockholm in August 2001, and in Torshavn in April/May 2002. In connection with the Stockholm meeting, the second joint AMAP/CAFF WG meeting was held to discuss ACIA and harmonization of monitoring programmes.

The **Assessment Steering Group** (ASG) has met four times since Barrow, in Reykjavik in November 2000, in Stockholm in August 2001 (where a Cross-Fertilization meeting involving a large number of scientific experts was also held), in Tromsø in connection with the AMAP Symposium in January 2001, and finally in Oslo in March 2002.

The **expert groups** for radioactivity, human health, heavy metals and POPs have met independently on several occasions in connection with the preparation of the 2002 AMAP Assessment Reports.

The **National Implementation Plans** (NIPs) for fulfilling the AMAP programme have been updated during the period. These are described in the **AMAP Project Directory** (AMAP PD) (www.amap.no/pd2000.htm) and in various reports that are available as online documents from the AMAP website (www.amap.no). Almost 300 projects and programmes are now registered in the AMAP PD and a large number of these have contributed data and information to the AMAP assessments. The AMAP PD also has a wider relevance. CAFF have adopted the AMAP PD as a resource for documenting their projects, and the system has also been extended (using external funding) to serve the needs of other organizations such as ENVINET (see below). In this way a resource has been developed that describes Arctic monitoring and research projects and programmes whereby information compiled under different organisations can be shared to the mutual benefit of all organizations –

avoiding duplication of effort in building independent systems to serve similar needs. The AMAP PD is developed as an online database – both registering/updating information and searching/accessing information are activities that are conducted online over the Internet.

During the last two years AMAP has placed increasing effort on identifying and quantifying sources of contamination to the Arctic. This is a complex issue and national reporting of emissions and discharges of priority contaminants is often inadequate, unreliable or unavailable. Improved information has been received concerning a number of sources. On a project level, both the PTS and the PCB projects (see above) include a source identification/quantification component, as does the ACAP project on obsolete chemicals in which AMAP is involved. Close cooperation has been further developed between AMAP and UN-ECE, OSPARCOM and GEIA on related issues. An AMAP workshop on source information for POPs and Heavy metals was held in Oslo in August 2001 and the report from this workshop is available. AMAP has also been involved in the preparation of a spatially distributed version of the most recent global inventory of atmospheric emissions of Hg from anthropogenic sources, which was a pre-requisite for Hg transport modeling that has been employed in the AMAP assessments.

AMAP continues to operate 4 **thematic data centers (TDCs)** to support its assessment activities and to ensure the long-term access to Arctic environmental data that is necessary for the conduct of, for example, temporal trend assessments. A lot of the new environmental data that has been used in the 2002 AMAP Assessment Reports has been reported to the AMAP marine TDC at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES, Denmark), the atmospheric TDC at Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU, Norway), the terrestrial/freshwater TDC at University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF, USA) and the radioactivity TDC at the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA, Norway). The ICES TDC hosted a special workshop in November 2001 to analyse AMAP temporal trends data sets as part of the heavy metals assessment. The UAF TDC has developed systems to provide online access to its database (see www.syncon.uaf.edu); these systems developments include necessary restrictions on public access to restricted AMAP datasets, according to the AMAP Data Policy. The TDC for human health has not been in operation due to problems related to handling/storing of personal and confidential data. Hopefully these problems will be resolved in the near future.

Based on requests from the SAOs, three **Fact Sheets** have been prepared and produced by AMAP. These Fact Sheets, concerning Persistent Organic Pollutants, Heavy Metals and Radionuclides, provide an overview of the Ministerial decisions that have been made under the AEPS and Arctic Council in relation to these issues for use in international negotiations, etc. Initially 1000 copies of each sheet were produced and circulated to the eight Arctic countries, observers and permanent participants; subsequently an additional 1000 copies of each Fact Sheet were requested and produced. The Fact Sheets have been translated into Russian and Saami for production in these languages.

The **AMAP website** (www.amap.no) has continuously been updated with new information, and almost all reports produced by AMAP are now made available online as electronic documents. In addition, online databases have been developed to provide access to datasets and graphics that are compiled or produced by AMAP as part of its assessment production work. Website usage statistics show that access to the AMAP website has increased considerably over the past few years. The AMAP website currently receives some 12.000 visitors per month. This includes 3-4.000 new (first time) visitors each month. Average

length of these visits are between 5 and 20 minutes, resulting in some 300.000 visit-minutes per month.

A restricted access part of the website has successfully used for distribution of the draft assessment reports during 2001-2002, for review purposes, etc.

During the last two years AMAP has, in cooperation with other national and international bodies, arranged several **conferences and workshops**, including:

- ACIA Scenario Workshop, Stockholm, January 2001
- ACIA Workshop: Russian Climate Research and Monitoring Programmes, St. Petersburg, May 2001.
- EMEP/AMAP (US-EPA) Workshop on Photooxidants, Particles, and Haze across the Arctic and North Atlantic: Transport Observations and Models, New York, June 2001
- AMAP Workshop on Emissions, Sources and Scenarios, Kjeller, August 2001
- Danish-EPA/NMR/AMAP Workshop on Mercury and POP's, Roskilde, September 2001
- AMAP Conference and Workshop: Impacts of POPs and mercury on Arctic environments and humans, Tromsø, January 2002.
- Fifth International Conference on Environmental Radioactivity in the Arctic and Antarctic, St. Petersburg, June 2002
- The 2nd AMAP Internatinal Symposium, Rovaniemi, Finland, October 2002

The **Strategic Plan for AMAP 1998 – 2003** identified 10 Key Monitoring areas, five of these in Russia.

In the **Key Area** representing the border areas between Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia a significant amount of new monitoring and research activities have been undertaken, including joint operation by Sweden and Finland of the Pallas atmospheric monitoring station. The PTS project has contributed to the collection of a large number of samples of different environmental media from the Kola Peninsula, however there is still work to be done to achieve a more permanent operation of several programmes on freshwater, terrestrial, marine and human health monitoring in the area.

In the Pechora area, the PTS project has again ensured collection a large number of samples, but here also a long-term programme of environmental monitoring in the region is lacking. An air monitoring station at Anderma has, however, been operated for two years to collect data on POPs, and recently a Tekran instrument has been installed at the site to allow monitoring of mercury in air at Amderma. The Amderma site was originally established under a Canadian-Russian bilateral cooperation. The current operations and measurements

are possible thanks to funding support from Canada, the Nordic Council of Ministers and Denmark. Future funding arrangements are, however, needed to secure continuation of the sampling and analyses from this area.

In the Taimyr/Norilsk area, the PTS project has been the main programme for collecting samples and delivering data from this region during AMAP Phase 2. No permanent environmental monitoring programme exists or is under development in this area, although this area incorporates one of the largest pollution source (for emissions of metals and acidifying substances) located within the Arctic. Bilateral work between Finland and Russia preparing for the 2006 AMAP Assessment on Acidification has been performed.

In the Lena delta area, no special programme has been established. A Lena Delta Basin programme is however, under development (involving AMAP cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the Third World Water Forum), as described in the following. The AMAP Secretariat were responsible for organizing a “Polar Regions” Session at the 2nd World Water Forum. On the basis of this very successful activity, the organizing committee of the 3rd World Water Forum (which will take place in Japan in March 2003) has invited the AMAP Secretariat to co-ordinate preparation of this session at the WWF-3 as well. Taking into account a special focus of WWF-3 on climate change adaptation strategy in water management, the AMAP Secretariat prepared a special project proposal “Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Water management and flood Preparedness at the Lena Basin”. This project has recently been approved by the steering committee of the global Dialogue on Water and Climate, and has received financial support of 203,300 Euro. Since this project is based on major elements of the capacity building strategy, the AMAP Working Group considers this project as a potentially important contribution to the Arctic Council Capacity Building Strategy and Action Plan.

In Chukotka the PTS project has been the main programme to collect samples and deliver data for use in the AMAP Phase 2 assessment. Plans for establishing two atmospheric monitoring stations in the region (one for POPs, and another for mercury measurement based on Tekran instrumentation) are however well advanced and partly implemented. This activity is funded by the USA and is closely coordinated with the programme of activities and procedures established already at Anderma.

The Alaska/North Slope Key area was a focus of work to fill geographical gaps. Atmospheric mercury measurements have been implemented at Barrow, and there are also plans for monitoring POPs in air at this site. Several screening studies, including some effects studies, in particular on marine mammals have been performed in the North Slope area. However, in general these are implemented as single studies and not part of any long-term ongoing monitoring programmes. The US National Status and Trends monitoring programme mainly only covers sites in southern Alaska. Human health studies including communities in the North Slope (Barrow), and Aleutian/Pribilof Islands have been implemented.

The Mackenzie Key area has been the subject of only minimal new/ongoing activities due to large amount of information on this area available from previous work. Studies on spatial and temporal trends of contaminants in biota have been performed in the Yukon territories. The area is covered by activities under the Canadian Northern Contaminants Programme.

The Canadian Arctic Archipelago Key area includes the long-term air monitoring site at Alert. Temporal and spatial trend monitoring studies involving biota, including retrospective studies (e.g. temporal studies using seabird eggs on Prince Leopold Island) have been implemented in the region. The area is covered by activities under the Canadian Northern Contaminants Programme.

The Baffin Island/West Greenland Key area has been a focus for human health studies on Inuit populations in the area that are highly exposed to some POPs and Hg as a result of their consumption of marine mammals. Temporal trend studies have also been performed on sediment and peat cores in West Greenland. The area is covered by activities under the Canadian Northern Contaminants Programme and the Danish AMAP Phase 2 national implementation programme.

Activities in the East Greenland/Svalbard Key area include operation of the air monitoring stations at Station Nord (mercury) and Ny Alesund (mercury and POPs). Human health studies have also now been implemented in East Greenland. Studies on Svalbard and in the Barents Sea area have focused on attempts to explain the high levels of several contaminants that are found around Svalbard. The area is covered by activities under the Danish and Norwegian AMAP Phase 2 national implementation programmes.

As a part of preparations for the AMAP Phase 2 assessment work, the AMAP monitoring programme was updated with respect to the contaminants and media to be analyzed, **methodologies and QA/QC** aspects, etc. In connection with QA/QC, all laboratories were recommended to participate in relevant international intercalibrations. The majority of laboratories that are responsible for the national monitoring data that are included in the AMAP 2002 assessments are participating in either the major European laboratory QA activities (e.g., QUASIMEME laboratory performance programme, see below) or their North American equivalents (e.g., NOAA/NIST laboratory intercomparisons). Whilst these activities have led to much improved capability to reliably determine many of the 'traditional' priority contaminants, there is an need to address some QA issues relating to analysis of a 'new' contaminants (in particular current-use POPs) that are being found in the Arctic.

As a special activity in support of the AMAP Phase 2 assessment, and future human health monitoring work, the AMAP Human Health group established a special QA/QC programme directed at laboratories engaged in analysis of priority contaminants in human samples. So far, two ring-tests have been carried out under this initiative. Results of these ring-tests, concerning analysis of PCBs and organic pesticides (DDT and mirex) in human blood, can be found on the AMAP website. The AMAP ring-tests are currently being coordinated by Jean-Philippe Weber at Le Centre de Toxicologie du Quebec (Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada). They are open to participation from both AMAP and non-AMAP laboratories. The next ring-test, including heavy metals analyses, is currently being planned.

The improvement of the laboratory QA/QC has been a major step forward for the quality of AMAP monitoring and assessment. Many issues still, however, need further work to continue these positive developments.

- administrative and financial issues, cooperation with the other AC's working groups and other actors

Administrative issues:

At the AMAP WG meeting in Stockholm the AMAP Chair Hanne Petersen from Denmark announced that she would have to step down as Chair. The WG elected Helgi Jensson as the new Chair and Yuri Tsaturov Russia as the new Vice Chair of AMAP.

At the Secretariat there have been no changes.

The AMAP Foundation Board is a Norwegian body established to oversee the financial affairs of the Secretariat, which is established as a Public Foundation under Norwegian law. The AMAP Secretariat accounts are audited by the Norwegian Governmental Audit. The accounts regarding both AMAP Secretariat operations and project accounting for 2001 have been accepted by the auditors.

Funding issues:

The AMAP Secretariat receive core funding from Norway that covers approximately 67% of the operational costs of the Secretariat. The reminder has been covered by voluntarily contribution from Canada and Finland, and through administration of projects such as the PTS and PCB project.

The production of the AMAP 2002 Assessment Reports is funded partly through in-kind contributions, whereby all lead countries support participation of their National Key experts in the assessment work. Report production work, including authoring of the SOAER, graphical production work, report lay-out and printing, etc., is covered partly by grants from some countries such as Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and USA, and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The remainder is covered at cost through national orders for copies of the reports.

The production and translation of the Fact Sheets was funded by Denmark, Finland and Norway.

Phase two of the PCB project has been funded by all eight Arctic countries and UNEP-Chemicals.

The AMAP/RAIPON/GEF PTS project has been funded by all eight Arctic countries, GEF, the Salamander Foundation, WWF, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and UNEP-Chemicals.

A special application has been sent to GEF concerning an ACIA project in Russia. This received PDF-A support. A MSP (medium sized project) proposal has been prepared and sent to the GEF secretariat for evaluation and hopefully support.

Cooperation with AC WGs:

AMAP and CAFF has worked closely on the design and implementation of ACIA. A new cooperation has started on coordination of contaminant/biological effects and biological/biodiversity monitoring programmes. These two activities will be continued in the years to come.

AMAP and the SDWG are cooperating closely, in particular in relation to human health projects and the Children and Youth project. AMAP also contributed to the preparation of the SDWG Fact Sheet on human health and POPs.

Under ACAP, AMAP has been responsible for project administration of the PCB project, and is actively involved in the new ACAP projects related to Obsolete Chemicals, Dioxins and Mercury.

AMAP approached the other WGs with a view to closer cooperation on Petroleum Hydrocarbon issues, but so far no cooperation has been established.

Cooperation with other actors:

AMAP has continued the cooperation with **UNEP** and UNEP Chemicals on several issues:

In the UNEP **Regional Based Global Assessment of POPs**, AMAP has produced the Arctic contribution based on the 1998 AMAP Assessment Report. The activity has been funded by a contribution from Canada.

AMAP has been invited to take a coordinating role of the **GIWA** Assessment, but has been awaiting information regarding funding of the project and a specification of the tasks to be done. To date, AMAP has assisted GIWA with consultations regarding assessment of the Russian river basins.

In connection with the follow-up of the Stockholm Convention, AMAP has been invited to take part in the planning of a **new global network to monitor**, for example, effectiveness of the Convention. A first meeting on this was held in Geneva in May 2001, and the next meeting is due to be held at the same time as the SAO meeting in Oulu.

UNEP has initiated a feasibility study to assess the need for a **new global assessment of the marine environment**. AMAP has participated in the two meetings on this that were held in Iceland in September 2001 and in Bremen in March 2002.

AMAP was involved in reviewing the Arctic relevant sections of the **GEO-3 report** that is currently being prepared by UNEP.

AMAP are cooperating closely with **UN ECE** on issues relating to the follow-up of the Aarhus Protocols on POPs, Heavy Metals, and the Protocol on Acidifying substances.

AMAP is currently involved in discussions with **WHO** concerning the establishment of a new project 'Development of recommendations on breastfeeding among indigenous peoples of the Asian Russian Arctic in connection with POPs pollution' within the framework of the Child Health and Nutrition Initiative, Global Forum for Health Research.

Following a recommendation of ACSYS/CLIC, the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources initiated the development of the **Arctic-HYCOS** (Arctic Hydrological Observing System). This is an integral component of the World HYCOS, addressing informational support for climate studies and water management for the Arctic Region. AMAP assisted WMO in drafting the Project Profile, taking into consideration that implementation of this project may significantly contribute to the climate-related monitoring network in the Arctic.

The cooperation between **EU** and AMAP has developed further during the last two years. The core group of the **Inter Regional Forum**, in which AMAP Secretariat participates, has met twice, in Copenhagen in December 2000 and in Brussels in December 2002. Harmonization and improvements of monitoring and assessment of the marine areas are the main issues behind this cooperation.

The **EEA** (European Environmental Agency) has requested AMAP to take an active role in the production of parts of the Kiev report - The European Environmental Status report for 2003. The AMAP radioactivity expert group in close cooperation with Russian and EU experts will produce the chapter related to radioactivity. This activity will start in June and be funded by the EEA. The two lead countries for radioactivity under AMAP, Russia and Norway, will be responsible for the AMAP contribution.

AMAP has been invited to participate in the preparation of an **EEA/UNEP/AMAP/Nordic Council Arctic report** on the links between Europe and the Arctic that can be used as a background report for justifying and developing European policy in relation to the Arctic areas.

As a part of development of the **EU Northern Dimension**, AMAP was invited to give presentations at an EU, Canadian, Russian, USA conference in November 2001 in Brussel.

ENVINET is an EU sponsored project to promote networking among European infrastructures (mainly large-scale research facilities) involved in monitoring and research in Arctic and Alpine areas. The AMAP Secretariat is a member of the ENVINET, representing one of main international organizations that are 'users' of data from these facilities. The AMAP Secretariat has participated in ENVINET meetings in April 2001 and January 2002, and is leading an ENVINET activity to make ENVINET Site Specific Information and Project Information available on the Internet (for further information see: www.amap.no/envinet//queryform1.cfm). This activity is being developed as an integrated component linked to the AMAP Project Directory database described above; information about projects registered through ENVINET automatically appears in the AMAP Project Directory as well.

AMAP has continued its close cooperation with the **Nordic Council of Ministers** (NCM) and Nordic Council. AMAP have provided material as input to NC/NCM activities, and the NCM have contributed substantial funding for several AMAP projects, including production of the 2002 AMAP assessments.

The Nordic Environment Finance Cooperation (**NEFCO**) participate in the ACAP PCB project, and the AMAP Secretariat participate in NEFCO's Fast Track project on PCB. This has ensured a very close coordination of the activities and avoided overlap of work.

AMAP has followed the work under the **Barents Euro-Arctic Council** and held a presentation on ACIA and climate change in the Arctic at their last Ministerial meeting in Kirkenes, Norway.

OSPARCOM is one of the regional organizations that AMAP work closely with. AMAP provided a substantial contribution to the 2000 OSPAR (Arctic sub-regional) Quality Status Report. Since that time cooperations have largely been through routine exchange of information and participation of both organizations in the Inter Regional Forum (see above).

AMAP has continued its close cooperation with **ICES**. ICES operates one of AMAP TDCs and hosted an AMAP workshop on assessment of temporal trend data. ICES is also a member of the IRF. AMAP and ICES have held discussions on respective activities in relation to UNEP initiatives and UNEP Chemicals planning, to avoid potential overlaps and duplication, etc. The AMAP Secretariat was also invited to contribute to an ICES evaluation of how they could improve their work to support the activities of regional organizations.

Cooperation between AMAP and **IASC** is mainly linked to the implementation of ACIA. Also, there is an agreement between IASC and AMAP on collaboration in development of the long-term Arctic Hydrology Initiative, and on joint organization of the 'Polar Regions' Session at the 3rd World Water Forum.

Together with equivalent programmes in North America, the **QUASIMEME** (Quality Assurance of Marine Environmental Monitoring programmes in Europe) programme provides an important part of the QA/QC activities linked to analysis of priority contaminants. Most of the laboratories in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland that are responsible for delivering data to AMAP participate in QUASIMEME Laboratory Performance Studies. Some laboratories from Canada, the United States and Russia are also included. AMAP has arranged for additional participation of Russian laboratories in this programme as part of the requirement for these laboratories to take part in the PTS project. AMAP is represented on the QUASIMEME Advisory Board. However, due to time and financial constraints the AMAP Secretariat were unable to participate in the October 2001 Advisory Board meeting.

AMAP was invited to act as an observer in the development of the **ACOPS** project application to GEF aimed at raising funding for project implementation in Russia. However, due to lack of funding from the MSP funded project to ACOPS, a representative from AMAP Secretariat could only participate at a few steering group meetings.

Cooperation Projects:

Regarding the PTS and ACAP projects, such as the PCB project, see above.

The AMAP Secretariat is member of the steering group of the EU funded project called MAIA, that will provide useful information to AMAP and ACIA regarding inflow of Atlantic water into the Arctic Ocean.

The AMAP Secretariat is member of the steering group of the EU funded project called RADARC, a project that will provide scenarios on effects of climate change on releases of radionuclides in Russia over the next 100 year period.

The AMAP Secretariat has been invited to sit in the Board of the WWF Arctic Climate project.

Over the period since Barrow, several radioactivity projects related to the Arctic have been funded under the EU fifth Frame Work Programme and provided information that has been used in the 2002 AMAP Radioactivity Assessment.

2. Tentative work plan for 2002- 2004

- follow-up of ongoing processes

2002 Publish and present the AMAP 2002 Assessment reports.
Arrange the 2nd AMAP International Symposium.

Continue the core AMAP programme for ongoing/long-term monitoring activities, including monitoring for spatial and, in particular, temporal trends, and human health and biological effect studies, expanding information on new contaminants, other emerging issues, etc.

Implementation of ACIA and the ACIA/GEF project in Russia.

Improve the reporting to the AMAP TDCs and the accessibility to AMAP data

Improve the AMAP website, to incorporate the new AMAP assessment results.

Produce and present translations of the 2002 SOAER.

2003 Consolidation of programmes and activities.

Development of AMAP Strategic Plan for the period, to lay out activities and (in consultation with SAOs) set priorities, taking into account the implications of potential reorganization of the AC groups, requests from the AC SAOs and Ministers after their meeting in October 2002, and the needs of international bodies such as UNEP and UN-ECE for monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of Protocols and Conventions, etc.

Planning a new way of performing and reporting the Arctic assessments – communication of results.

Assessment priority 1, the ACIA assessment, pollution aspects, ACIA policy document etc.

Assessment priority 2, the acidification and petroleum hydrocarbon assessments for 2006.

PTS project: delivery of final report and to plan any follow up.

An International conference in Moscow is already under preparation for presenting the PTS results in late 2003.

ACAP – support activities to several projects.

Take part in the Lena Basin Case study as a part of the work for the World Water Forum in 2003.

Planning of necessary activities related to new issues of concern.

2004 Decision of the new monitoring programmes for trends and effects 2005 - 2015
Decision on assessment priorities for the AC need and follow-up of international bodies.

Delivery of the ACIA Assessment.

Arrange an International Symposium on Arctic Climate and UV together with CAFF and IASC.

Implement programmes decided upon.

Follow-up the ongoing assessment of acidification, and the extended planning and implementation of the petroleum hydrocarbons assessment, due for 2006.

- requests for possible new mandates to be applied for in Inari

AMAP would like to request a mandate to allow it to initiate projects in the same way as is currently practised under ACAP, meaning that if two or more countries would like to implement a special study, project or programme, this can be done without any expectation that the other countries shall participate.

Extend the mandate on source related issues in relation to an identified need for development of a more comprehensive source related assessment procedure.

- suggestions of possible new themes

To be specified later in the process, in connection with the development of the future AMAP Strategic Plan.

- activities needing coordination with other working groups or other actors

The ACIA activity will need increased coordination with the all other AC working groups.

The development of the updated AMAP monitoring programme should be coordinated with CAFFs monitoring plans, but also with wishes from other working groups, e.g. health related issues under the sustainable development working group, and oil related issues with other Arctic Council working groups.

The petroleum hydrocarbon assessment that is currently under preparation would benefit from a closer cooperation with all the other working groups under the AC.

A follow up of the PTS project would most probably need a closer cooperation with the sustainable development working group.

The follow up of the PCB project will be planned in close cooperation with ACAP.

3. Developments which seem to call for Ministers attention

Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the AMAP 2002 Assessments can be found in the Executive Summary to the AMAP assessment reports.

The results of the 2002 AMAP Assessment will call for follow-up on the part of Ministers with regard to the following issues:

- the Mercury problem,
- problems associated with both “old” and “new” POPs products,
- radioactivity related issues,
- human health related issues and
- the implementation of ACIA.

4. Proposal for possible elements to be included in the Inari declaration

Recommendations arising from the AMAP 2002 Assessments that may provide the basis for elements to be included in the Inari Declaration can be found in the Executive Summary to the AMAP assessment reports, as well as highlights from the workplan.

5. Proposal for possible elements to be included in the SAO-report

Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the AMAP 2002 Assessments that may provide the basis for elements to be included in the SAO report can be found in the Executive Summary to the AMAP assessment reports.

Items from this progress report (follow up of Barrow, Workplan, PTS project etc.).