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ACAP Working Group Report to SAOs, March 2018 in Levi

Introduction

ACAP held its third meeting of 2017 in Anchorage, USA, November 7-9, 2017. 15 participants attended representing six AC countries (Kingdom of Denmark and Iceland were absent), two Permanent Participants (AIA and ICC), one observer states (Germany). NEFCO, as PSI Fund Manager joined the meeting by phone during the relevant portion of the agenda. The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last ACAP meeting in Helsinki, reviewing the approved work plan for 2017-2019, and discussing ideas for potential new projects. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to develop and implement projects and progress has been made in priority areas of the ACAP work plan. The relevant sections of the Amarak (the AC Tracker) were updated after the meeting.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

Expert Group on POPs and Mercury

On October 3, 2017, the Russian Federation approved the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention. This is an important development and will help the EG identify future projects that support the NIP. The EG has also indicated that they intent to improve networking with relevant AMAP EGs, to ensure that projects are based on AMAP assessments and recommendations. Three projects are awaiting funding allocations from the PSI, with decisions being held up either by input from the enterprise partners, approval from national governments, or waiting further refinement from the EG/PSI Fund Manager. Two new project ideas (one on reduction of pollutants from power plants and one on risk related to mercury) are being explored and ACAP will be informed in due course.

Expert Group on Hazardous Waste (EG HW)

Projects under implementation:

Demonstration of Management and Destruction of 250 tonnes of PCBs in Transformers (Phase III):

In October 2015, the PSI Committee approved an allocation for a Feasibility Study (FS). The Terms of Reference (ToR) have been revised by project partners GEF, UNIDO and Russian Railways are under review by the EG. The next step in the project is to engage the required consultants who will prepare the FS document. PSI Fund Manager reported that some movement on the project is expected soon. ACAP will consider placing this project on hold at the next meeting if momentum is not restored in the project.

Demonstration of environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides (Phase III): Phase I, scoping and technical feasibility, has been completed for the "Use of SCWO (Super Critical Water Oxidation) for Environmentally Sound Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides in Russia". The PSI Committee approved 450K Euro on October 10 to carry out the Phase 2: demonstration test program. A technical report and business plan for the basis of Phase 3 are expected deliverables by November 2018. A study reservation by the Russian Federation is in place, and will hopefully be resolved soon.

Rapid Environmental Assessment: Funds are available no consultant has been hired. The project is on hold.

Projects under preparation:

Reduction of negative impact on the environment by rehabilitation of accumulated municipal solid waste (MSW) with the best available technologies in Dudinka, Krasnoyarsk Krai: This project was approved for scoping funds (10 000EUR) by the PSI Committee in March 2017 to evaluate the scope and feasibility of a

full-scale project with input from the beneficiary, other stakeholders and the EG. Any further project proposal will come back to ACAP for approval before applying for further PSI funds.

Information Exchange Seminar to exchange information on obsolete pesticides inventory and destruction technologies is under development.

Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG)

Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project: NEFCO has entered contracts with AIA and the Alaska Native Science Commission, and an agreement is currently being reviewed by the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection. Task 2 Desk Study activities have begun, which include identifying 3-4 target communities in Alaska, Russia and possibly a Saami community, developing a black carbon concentration monitoring protocol, sample monitoring in one Alaskan community, drafting a community survey, exploring all relevant legal frameworks, and establishing cooperation with relevant authorities from the federal government to community levels. The final Desk Study is expected to be completed by June 2018.

Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO): Norway is conducting a feasibility study to determine potential partners and projects in Norway. Finland and Sweden are undertaking similar studies. Discussions have begun with CAFF to collaborate on biodiversity and/or invasive species monitoring. Technical advancement to the LEO website have been completed and next steps include translation of the website and LEO user guides and training documents into AC languages. Outreach to other WGs and potential partners will continue over the next two years.

Solid Waste Management in Small Arctic Communities Project: This project is an approved part of the SDWG work plan 2017-2019. The project provides an opportunity for ACAP to contribute a section on contaminants issues related to solid waste handling storage, processing, transportation, and treatment/disposal. Cross-cutting collaboration will also include input from the PAME project “Desk Study on Marine Litter and Microplastics in the Arctic”. A proposal for grant funding from the PSI will be developed.

Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) Expert Group

Valday Cluster Upgrade for Black Carbon Reduction in the Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation: This project aims to implement a range of alternatives for providing energy to off-grid settlements in this region. The project is now in the implementation phase, with 5 of 8 settlements being completed. Several guarantee issues and long-term availability of bio-mass have emerged and are being addressed by the project leads and PSI Fund Manager.

Mitigation of black carbon and methane emissions from APG flaring in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation: The Project seeks to improve knowledge on black carbon and methane emissions in the Russian Arctic, with emphasis on the oil and gas sector, and spur enhanced actions to reduce emissions. This is a large project (PSI allocation of up to 850K EUR) with Phase 1a (assessment of flaring, mitigation of emissions, and detailed project costing) now underway.

Mitigation Phase out of ozone depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases at fish and seafood processing enterprises of the Murmansk Oblast: This project was approved by ACAP in February 2017. The project seeks to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydro fluorocarbons at one of the fish and seafood processing enterprises of the Murmansk oblast. This project was approved for funding of up to 180 000 EUR for Phase I of the project. The Project Supervisory Committee is under appointment.

Pilot project for reducing CO₂ and black carbon emissions on the rivers of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation: ACAP approved the project in April 2017. The project has three goals: 1) avoid and decrease air pollution of CO₂, PM, SO_x and NO_x, and where relevant substitute ozone depleting substances and HFC in ships; 2) raise awareness levels; and 3) minimize transportation costs related to logistics. The project received a PSI for scoping and prefeasibility has been approved for 60,000EUR.

Mitigation of Methane Emission – Syktyvkar Dyrnos Landfill Project, Russian Federation: This project was approved by ACAP in March 2016. The Project has suffered a set-back due to re-organization of the local Government. A “focal point” for the Project has also been designated. The project has not yet been funded.

Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

ACAP participated in meetings of the EG BCM and agreed that representation at future meetings would be beneficial.

Collaboration with other working groups has been noted in the project updates above. The current work plan notes collaboration with CAFF, SDWG, EPPR and AMAP. ACAP is looking closely at the AMAP report on Chemicals of Emerging Concern as expect to develop projects based on the recommendations from the report.

Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

The next ACAP Working Group meeting will be April 19-20, 2018 in Toronto, Canada.