

**REPORT OF SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS TO MINISTERS  
AT THE FIFTH ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**Salekhard  
October 26, 2006**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL 2004-2006</b>
<b>CHAPTER I. ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL IN 2004-2006</b>
1.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-OVERVIEW
1.2. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT-OVERVIEW
1.3. CLIMATE CHANGE
1.4. INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR
<b>CHAPTER 2. ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL SUBSIDAIRY BODIES</b>
2.1.ACAP
2.2.AMAP
2.3.CAFF
2.4.EPPR
2.5.PAME
2.6.SDWG
<b>CHAPTER 3. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE ARCTIC REGION.</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4. OBSERVERS</b>
<u>ANNEX 1.</u> List of outreach efforts undertaken by the Russian AC Chairmanship
<u>ANNEX 2.</u> Conference on the cultural dimension of cooperation between the Arctic Council Member States (Khanty-Mansiysk, January 18, 2006)
<u>ANNEX 3.</u> Meeting of the Four Regional Councils for the cooperation in the North with participation of the European Commission

## **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL 2004-2006**

This report is intended to provide a detailed overview of the main activities of the Arctic Council during the period 2004-2006 and provide recommendations to Ministers for the period 2006-2008. The first part describes the activities of the Senior Arctic Officials, including the activities undertaken by the Russian Chairmanship in cooperation with Member States, Permanent Participants and Observers. The second part is devoted to progress reports of the working groups. Both parts contain recommendations to Ministers. The report is accompanied by several annexes relevant to the work of the Arctic Council, including the work plans of the working groups.

The Arctic Council, established in 1996, has marked its 10-year anniversary. It is a high level intergovernmental forum for sustainable development, mandated to address all three of its main pillars: the environmental, social and economic. Its Member States are: Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States. The Council is a unique forum for cooperation between national governments and indigenous peoples. Six organizations representing many Arctic indigenous communities have the status of Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council and are involved in the work of the Council in full consultation with governments. The work of the Arctic Council gains a global scale thanks to the wide range of its observers – from non-arctic states and intergovernmental organizations to NGOs.

An overview of the activities of the Arctic Council involves the work the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the Senior Arctic Officials, the indigenous peoples' organizations, the Arctic Council working groups and observers.

The Senior Arctic Officials had their 5 meetings: in Yakutsk (April 6-7, 2005, SAO Chairman – Vitaly Churkin), in Khanty-Mansyisk (October 12-14, 2005, SAO Chairman – Vitaly Churkin), in Syktyvkar (April 26-27, 2006, SAO Chairman - Alexander Ignatiev), in Moscow (September 18-19, 2006, SAO Chairman - Alexander Ignatiev), and in Salekhard (October 24-25, 2006, SAO Chairman - Alexander Ignatiev), back-to-back to the AC Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard (October 25-26, 2006) under the Chairmanship of the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Activities aimed at the sustainable development remain a pivotal part of the work of the Arctic Council. At the same time much of the environmental work undertaken by the Arctic Council bears witness to the close link that exists between the natural environment and the general well-being of Arctic residents. Human activity obviously impacts the environment. But changes in the environment also affect people and their conditions of life. In order to establish a more balanced approach to sustainable development in the Arctic, the Arctic Council has in recent years devoted more attention to the social, economic and cultural life of the region. To follow this continuity, this has been a priority of the Russian Chairmanship 2004-2006.

## **CHAPTER I. ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL IN 2004-2006**

### ***1.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-OVERVIEW***

As part and parcel of the cooperation on sustainable development, Russian Chairmanship paid attention to its regulative basis in the framework of the Arctic Council. In this connection, launching of Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) required an agreement on mechanism to implement SDAP which appeared to be subject for longer discussions and controversies. In the long run such a mechanism was approved and is supposed to serve for the benefit of control and coordination purposes, as far as the objectives, set forth by the Ministers, are concerned. Cooperation among the AC Working groups on sustainable development issues has been intensified. **According to the approved mechanism once per year, no later than 30 days after the spring SAO meeting, the Chair of each relevant working group will submit an updated project list to the Arctic Council Secretariat in the Table of Actions format.** This table elucidates previous, ongoing and new activity of the Arctic Council in priority areas on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It will facilitate SAOs and Working groups to reveal gaps where activity should be strengthened.

As to the projects themselves, the main focus was given to the problems of human health, circumpolar infrastructure, sustainable tourism, information and communication technologies, traditional economy of local communities, living conditions in the Arctic, capacity building for children and youth, and gender equality.

Another important step was the Russian sponsored workshop in advancing sustainable development in the Arctic in Salekhard (March 2006) - the first workshop of this kind in the history of the AC – which resulted in overall assessment of the corresponding activities and recommendations in further work on economic and social dimensions of sustainable development.

Upcoming projects on sustainable development include traditional spheres like ICT (lead Sweden and USA), including elaboration of the Arctic Portal (Iceland), human health (Russia and USA), economy and livelihood of the local communities (Russia), and the new one - energy dimension under the USA initiative, and also projects on social indicators (Iceland) and statistics (Canada).

In order to coordinate activities aimed at the sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic, the Arctic Council began developing cooperation with the UN-HABITAT. In this connection a concept of the project on sustainable development of cities in the Arctic has been presented by Russia.

As an important component of the sustainable development, the Arctic Council paid attention to the educational and cultural spheres of cooperation in the Arctic.

As a follow-up of the Ministerial Meeting of Ministers for Education and Research of the AC Member States in Reykjavik on June 9, 2004, the Arctic Council continued its efforts together with the Nordic Council of Ministers to establish a dialogue at the

appropriate levels of government to further define the scope of cooperation in education and research, holding, in particular a series of expert meetings in Copenhagen in 2006 with the aim to establish an ad-hoc group on Education and Research.

At the same time cooperation on education was carried out by the University of the Arctic, which proved to be an effective instrument in building capacity and raising awareness and improving understanding of the natural and cultural circumstances of the Arctic.

Russia organized a Conference on establishing cultural dimension of cooperation of the AC member states (17-18 January, 2006, Khanty-Mansiysk), which resulted in the declaration (See Annex # 2), stipulating the need for enhanced cultural interaction between the indigenous peoples and national governments as an indispensable input into the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

## ***1.2. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT-OVERVIEW***

Protection of the environment and research activities in this field continued to make up the major part of the Arctic Council work in the passed two years.

As directed by the AC Ministers in Reykjavik, the Arctic Council focused on preparation of such assessments, as Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic (AAHA) Assessment, which will be delivered by the Working Group “Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program” (AMAP) to the Ministers at the Salekhard Ministerial Session, scientific report on the perspectives and consequences of the oil and gas activities in the Arctic, which is supposed to be released by AMAP in 2007, and first part of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, which is supposed to be delivered by the Working Group “Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment” (PAME) to the Ministers in 2008.

Implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) continued, including the ongoing efforts of the Arctic States to implement their respective National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment. Russia, in particular, has reported to PAME on the progress of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment".

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program was launched by the Working Group “Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna” (CAFF) as its cornerstone research activity.

Much other work has been carried out by the expert groups within the AC Working groups in order to fulfil their particular tasks.

The Arctic Council Action Plan to eliminate pollution in the Arctic has successfully completed and is accomplishing a number of projects. The activities of ACAP were aimed at reducing releases of PCBs, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans and mercury, to further support implementation of the Stockholm Convention, the POPs and Heavy Metals Protocols of the UN/ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and included other hazardous waste initiatives.

Environmental safety was the main agenda item for the Working Group “Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response” (EPPR), which concentrated at promoting the cooperation in prevention and clean-up of oil-spills, control over the nuclear energy power plants, northern rivers’ flooding, mapping, joint training and information exchange. Russia also organized a special symposium on the environmental safety in April 2006 in order to discuss the “Arctic Rescue” concept, but the partners agreed that existing treaties, conventions and agreements provide the necessary framework for the work of the EPPR, and that it is needed to continue to develop co-operation and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the field of prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic.

### ***1.3. CLIMATE CHANGE***

As requested by the AC Ministers in Reykjavik, the Arctic Council has provided the follow-up work for the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), presented to the Ministers in November 2004 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session, in particular directing relevant technical working groups of the Arctic Council to review the scientific chapters of the ACIA in the context of their ongoing and future work programmes and to report on the progress made at the 2006 Ministerial Meeting, nominating a **focal point**, to be responsible for an ACIA follow up, including an assessment of gaps in knowledge and communicating as appropriate, any Arctic Council ACIA follow-up actions to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

The Senior Arctic Officials have received and reviewed the report from the Focal Point (FP), which is publically available.

The SAOs recognize that future work on ACIA Follow-up should be done within the Arctic Council Working Group structure and that all Working Groups have the potential for contributing to this effort.

### ***1.4. INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR***

There have been a number of major international science initiatives in the Polar Regions since the first International Polar Year (IPY) in 1882-83. The IPY scheduled for the period 2007-2008 will afford Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants, working groups and observers an opportunity to increase public awareness of the relationship of the Arctic to the rest of the world and to engage the upcoming generation of young scientists in polar research.

Preparations for the International Polar Year have been monitored closely. The Chairman of SAOs has participated in sessions of the IPY Joint Committee meetings.

The Arctic Council has contributed to the IPY planning process through the input of AC Member States and the AC Working Groups. The Arctic Council was recognized as a very important partner of the IPY, speaking about scientific and social component of the IPY. The contribution emphasized, in particular, the importance of including a human dimension in the IPY and the importance of climate change in the context of the IPY.

Along with that the Arctic Council has three multilateral joint initiatives for the IPY, they are Arctic Human Health Initiative, led by the USA, Coordination of Observation and Monitoring for Assessment and Research in the Arctic, led by Sweden, and Hydrometeorological Observatory in Tiksi, led by Russia.

*SAOs recommend to Ministers to:*

- *Increase the role of the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum in providing political support for the IPY in the Arctic.*
- *Continue to promote the human dimension in the preparations for the IPY.*
- *Support the further development of the Arctic Council three multilateral initiatives as a contribution to the IPY, the "Arctic Human Health Initiative", AHHI, led by the United States, Coordination of Observation and Monitoring in the Arctic for Assessment and Research", COMAAR, led by Sweden, and Hydrometeorological Observatory in Tiksi, led by the Russian Federation.*
- *Actively participate in the education and outreach activities of the IPY.*

## **CHAPTER 2. ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS**

**The Chairs for the AC Working Groups for 2006-2008 are:**

ACAP – the USA

AMAP – the USA

CAFF – Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands

EPPR – Norway

PAME – Canada

SDWG - Norway

### **2.1. ARCTIC COUNCIL ACTION PLAN (ACAP)**

The priority of ACAP is the reduction/elimination of contamination in the Arctic with a focus on the transboundary transport of priority pollutants. ACAP continues to develop practical solutions to real problems.

ACAP and UNEP Chemicals formally renewed their "Statement of Intent" to strengthen cooperation.

At the 5th Meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2006, ACAP presented the "Indigenous Peoples Community Action Initiative".

ACAP released the report on "Assessment of Existing and Planned Initiatives Addressing Mercury Sources in the Arctic States and Identification of Measures for Follow-up".

A new Mercury Chlor-alkali Partnership Project was initiated at Volgograd "Caustic" facility. This project has already achieved reductions of over 800 kg of mercury releases. Results will be reported at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi in 2007.

ACAP started a new project to address local sources of PCBs and pesticides contamination in Chukotka. A joint decision document was signed with the Chukotka Regional Administration (August 2006).

RF SAO Chairman convened a meeting in Moscow in June 2006 to advance the PCB and obsolete pesticides demonstration projects. Result: Rostekhnadzor will work with ACAP to develop an Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy for Russia.

The ACAP Cleaner Production Project at Norilsk Nickel Company, completed in 2005, was awarded a Diploma from the Vernadsky Fund, one of the highest environmental awards in the Russian Federation. This project focused on pollution prevention, energy efficiency, waste-minimization and recycling.

## **ACAP PROJECTS**

### **REDUCTION OF ATMOSPHERIC MERCURY RELEASES FROM ARCTIC STATES (CHAIR: DENMARK)**

**Phase I: Identify Main Source Categories and Prioritize Source Categories for Possible Reduction Measures.** The following reports have been released:

- “Arctic Mercury Releases Inventory”
- “Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation” (in English and Russian languages). This is the first Russian report on mercury releases.
- “Assessment of Existing and Planned Initiatives Addressing Mercury Sources in the Arctic States and Identification of Possible Measures for Follow-up”.

**Phase II: Feasibility studies to identify and evaluate potential demonstration projects.**

Five mercury release-reduction sectors have been identified for potential demonstration projects: Coal-fired power plants; non-ferrous metal production; mercury-containing products for which alternatives are available; mercury containing wastes; and reduction of use and releases of mercury in the chlor-alkali industry.

### **REDUCTION/ELIMINATION OF SOURCES AND RELEASES OF BROMINATED FLAME RETARDANTS (CHAIR-NORWAY).**

A draft Report has been prepared on the “Inventory of Sources and Identification of BFR Alternatives and Management Strategies”. This is the first comprehensive inventory of BFR sources in the Arctic. The inventory indicates that problems exist in a number of countries and Phase II efforts will therefore need to focus on circumpolar activities. Recommendations for possible Phase II activities have been developed.

### **ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS OF OBSOLETE AND PROHIBITED PESTICIDES IN RUSSIA (CHAIR: FINLAND)**

Over **1576 tons** of obsolete pesticides have been inventoried and placed into safe storage in 6 Regions. **1228 tons** of pesticides have been repackaged. Work is underway in Altai Krai where **521 tons** of pesticides have already been inventoried. **Four** Regions remain to complete Phase I of this project.

ACAP has assisted the Regions with the retrofit and repair of many storage warehouses.

A parallel Danish project in Pskov and Vologda Regions has resulted in the inventory and temporary safe storage of **680 tons** of pesticides.



Finland is conducting a similar project in Karelia. Plans are to destroy **12 tons** of obsolete pesticides at a facility in Finland.

### **Phase-out of PCBs in Russia**

**(New co-chairs: Russia, United States and NEFCO)**

Phases I and II are complete. The implementation of Phase III of this project depends on successful siting and licensing of the destruction technologies identified in Phase II.

The next step is development of a Hazardous Waste Management Strategy by Rostekhnadzor with assistance of ACAP and UNEP Chemicals. This Strategy will also assist in final destruction of obsolete pesticides stockpiles.

### **REDUCTION OF DIOXINS/FURANS RELEASES INTO THE ENVIRONMENT**

**(CHAIR: SWEDEN)**

Phase I is complete. Phase II Feasibility Study is underway to identify best available technologies and environmental practices.

A second Cleaner Production Program is in progress in the Arkhangelsk Region to further reduce dioxins/furans releases

### **ACAP INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY ACTION INITIATIVE**

The objective of this initiative is the identification and management of local sources of PCBs and obsolete pesticides in the Russian Arctic indigenous communities. The following two projects are managed by RAIPON.

**Project 1:** Three villages in the Nenets Autonomous Region. This project includes: training to identify sources of PCBs and obsolete pesticides, collect samples from local landfills and test for PCBs and pesticides. Toxic materials have been placed into safe temporary storage. New food storage containers were provided to local communities to replace POPs-contaminated containers. Over 700 kg of obsolete and prohibited pesticides have been located and isolated.

**Project 2:** Two coastal villages in Chukotka Autonomous District. This project will address PCB and DDT contamination from drums scattered throughout the Region.

**Project 3:** Community-based model for PCB mitigation in the Arctic – Managed by Gwich'in Council International. Twenty-one obsolete electrical transformers have been identified in four villages in Alaska. Five transformers have been analyzed for PCBs, packaged and flown to an approved processing facility for destruction of the PCBs and recycling of the housings. This project will continue in Spring 2007.

*The SAOs recommend to Ministers*

- *Approve ACAP as a Working Group under the Arctic Council.*
- *Rename the Arctic Council Action Plan to the Arctic Contaminants Action Program to better reflect the focus of its activities.*
- *Take note of ACAP's progress report for 2004-2006 and accept the Work Plan for 2006 – 2008*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its action projects addressing priority pollutants of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the priority pollutants under the LRTAP Convention's Heavy Metals Protocol.*
- *Welcome ACAP's assessment of the coverage of international agreements on reductions measures with regard to the major atmospheric mercury source*

*categories in the Arctic States and encourage the Arctic countries to take into consideration the recommendations on possible actions.*

- *Support ACAP's planned cooperative activities to work with the Russian Federation to develop an Integrated Waste Management Strategy to include inventory, collection, transportation, storage and destruction of hazardous wastes.*
- *Encourage ACAP to pursue cooperative initiatives with the Barents Euro Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment and the Nordic Council of Minister's Environmental Working Group.*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its cooperation with the Permanent Participants to address local and regional contamination in the Arctic.*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its close coordination with AMAP on addressing environmental problems related to emerging chemicals.*

### **ACAP WORK PLAN FOR 2006-2008**

ACAP will continue to implement projects approved by the Ministers to:

- Work with Russia to develop an Integrated Waste Management strategy.
- Complete inventory development and safe storage of obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the remaining five Russian Arctic and sub-Arctic priority Regions.
- Develop and implement control technologies for reduction/elimination of dioxin/furan releases at a pulp and paper facility in the Russian Arctic.
- Complete a feasibility study and initiate a demonstration project for management of mercury-containing waste in Northwest Russia.
- Continue close cooperation with the partnership project in Russia for achieving measurable reductions of uses and releases of mercury at chlor-alkali facilities.
- Develop demonstration projects to address additional mercury-release sectors in Russia (products, coal-fired power plants, non-ferrous metal production).
- Issue the BFR Inventory Report, prioritize and begin implementation of Phase 2 recommended activities to reduce/eliminate BFR-containing wastes and releases.
- Complete the model project on safe handling and storage of local sources of contamination in Nenets Autonomous District and in Chukotka.
- Continue work with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council to address additional "hot spots" in the Arctic.
- Continue close coordination with NEFCO to finance and facilitate implementation of ACAP projects and mobilize the Project Support Instrument.
- Collaborate with SDWG and AMAP to develop the action plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic, as a component of the evolving human health cluster.

## **2.2. ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (AMAP)**

The primary tasks for AMAP during the period 2004-2006 were:

Publication of the ACIA Scientific report in 2005;

Production of the AMAP Assessment 2006: Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic (AAHA), the results of which are presented to the Ministerial meeting in Salekhard; and

Production of the Arctic Council Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic, which has been delayed and will now be finalised during 2007/8.

All AMAP products (reports, symposia proceedings, fact sheets, etc.) are available electronically from the AMAP website ([www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no)). AMAP assessment reports and results of scientific work within the Arctic have been disseminated at a number of international and national meetings. Together with international partners, AMAP has arranged three international Symposia and sponsored one conference related to the ongoing work:

The AMAP International Symposium on Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic, St. Petersburg September 2005.

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Radioactivity in the Arctic and Antarctic, Nice, October 2005.

The AMAP/IASC Symposium on Human Health, Reykjavik May 2006.

The ICARP II Conference in Copenhagen, November 2006.

AMAP has been engaged in coordination and administration of several ACAP projects;

The multilateral co-operative project on phase-out of PCB use and management on PCB in contaminated wastes in the Russian Federation, where AMAP acted as co-lead on the initial phases of the project.

The Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR) project, where AMAP has produced a Fact Sheet presenting information on BFRs in the Arctic.

The Mercury project, where AMAP has produced a Fact Sheet on Mercury in the Arctic.

The Obsolete pesticide project, where AMAP administered financial support to the project from countries other than the USA.

AMAP has updated all its existing expert groups: Radioactivity, Persistent Organics, Mercury, Acidification, Oil and Gas, Human Health, and established a new group on Climate and UV.

The AMAP Thematic Data Centres have continued to operate thanks to financial support from some Arctic countries.

AMAP has worked closely with international organizations to avoid duplication of work and to achieve cost efficient and mutually beneficial solutions, e.g.:

Cooperation with UNEP Chemicals on the establishment of a global monitoring and assessment programme for the follow-up of the Stockholm Convention.

Cooperation with UN ECE with respect to reporting and assessment of heavy metals (especially mercury), persistent organics (POPs) and acidification, including provision of information for the reviews of the 'effectiveness and sufficiency' of the LRTAP Convention Protocols on POPs and Heavy Metals.

Cooperation with the EU/EEA on preparation for a marine monitoring and assessment programme for European waters.

AMAP has worked closely together with Russia in an attempt to establish joint projects in Russia North with international financial support from other Arctic countries and international funding arrangements such as the GEF, including:

the project on climate change, sound water management and flood preparedness in the Lena and other Siberian rivers.

the follow-up of the project on PTS, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North.

the Remediation of Contaminated Areas of Franz Josef Land.

Projects on combined effects climate change and contaminants.

The AMAP workplan for 2007-2008 and the tentative list of deliverables over the coming years is Annex 2 in the Draft AMAP Progress report.

*SAOs recommend to the Ministers to:*

- *Take note of the AMAP Progress Report 2004-2006 and accept the work plan for 2006-2008*
- *Encourage AMAP to continue its ongoing monitoring and assessment programme for contaminants, including long-term temporal and spatial trends, human health and biological effects of contaminants in the Arctic, with special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined effects of climate and UV and contaminants, emerging issues, and providing improved information on sources of contaminants.*
- *Encourage AMAP to follow up the ACIA findings through its planned programme for monitoring, workshops and assessments in close cooperation with other AC working groups and relevant international organizations, especially IASC.*
- *Request AMAP to cooperate with other AC Working Groups, IASC and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic observing network that meets identified societal benefit areas.*
- *Encourage AMAP in close cooperation with other AC working groups and relevant international organizations to continue its work on human health in the Arctic, especially regarding joint implementation with SDWG of the project on Human Health Risk Reduction, as a component of the proposed human health cluster.*
- *Encourage AMAP to continue to assess the vulnerability and threats to Arctic humans and ecosystems health associated with sources of radioactivity as a basis for contingency planning and to continue to compile information on sources of radionuclides, as a component of the proposed human health cluster.*
- *Encourage the member countries and observing countries to provide greater openness and access to restricted information associated with contaminants and climate.*
- *Encourage AMAP to continue to support and contribute to the UN ECE LRTAP POPs and Heavy Metals Protocol's and UNEP Stockholm Convention reviews of the effectiveness and sufficiency of these*

*arrangements; and recognize with appreciation AMAP's work to support the implementation of the UN ECE LRTAP and UNEP Stockholm Conventions, and encourage AMAP to continue and to further develop these important activities.*

- *Request AMAP to continue to contribute to, or jointly implement, ACAP projects.*
- *Encourage support for the new initiatives related to the Russia North such as the Lena and Siberian river project, the follow up of the PTS project, the Frantz Josef Land projects and the project on Combined effects of Climate change and Contaminants.*

#### **4.2. AMAP WORKPLAN FOR 2007 – 2008 AND TENTATIVE LIST OF DELIVERABLES 2007 – 2012.**

- Complete the 2006 Oil and Gas Assessment.
- Continue ongoing monitoring and assessment activities, including (long-term) temporal trend studies, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects in the Arctic, with special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined effects of climate (and UV) and contaminants (including radionuclides), preparing reports on emerging issues, and improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment).
- Further develop appropriate monitoring, assessment, and special climate related projects to implement ACIA follow-up by performing the following activities:
  - 1) Convening an Arctic Carbon Cycle Synthesis Workshop (ACS)
  - 2) Convening a workshop on Pan Arctic Downscaling of Climate Model Output (PAD)
  - 3) Convening a workshop to further develop an Arctic Observing Network
  - 4) Convening a workshop on Synthesis of Post-ACIA Model Projections for the Arctic and related Arctic Information from the IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment.
  - 5) Further developing the AMAP programme activities relating to coupled UV/biological monitoring.
- Translate and print the ACIA Overview report in French.
- Prepare updated reports on issues of concern, e.g., related to POPs and Mercury, see proposed timetable for AMAP deliverables.
- Continue to review the AMAP Monitoring Programme and update the AMAP Guidelines for Monitoring and Assessments to reflect the requests from Ministers and latest recommendations from science (concerning methodology, etc.).
- Produce additional fact sheets reflecting AMAPs assessments.

- Continue to support ACAP projects, in particular those on mercury, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, FJL clean-up, and other relevant projects as identified in the workplan for ACAP, including the development of AMAP/ACAP joint fact sheets.
- Continue a close cooperation with international bodies to avoid duplicating work and to coordinate work programmes in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Participate in planning and implementation of the IPY.
- Participate in the further development and implementation of special projects such as the project on the Lena and other Siberian rivers, and communicate this to SAOs for their consideration.
- Participate in relevant international meetings and symposia to communicate AMAP results and information on ongoing activities.
- Complete development of harmonized monitoring activities jointly with CAFF when common objectives can be addressed through such harmonization.
- Implement, together with SDWG and ACAP the Human Health Risk Reduction Project.
- Coordinate GIS related activities with other WGs.
- Improve the financial support for the AMAP work.

#### **Tentative AMAP deliverables and timeline for their production during 2007 - 2012**

<b>For</b>	<b>Delivery date</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Expert group</b>
<b>Arctic Council</b>			
AC 2006	2006	AMAP Assessment of Acidification and Arctic Haze	AAH assessment group
AC 2006	2006	Progress report on status of AC Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic	OG assessment group
AC 2006	2006	Proposals for AMAP activities related to ACIA follow-up	AMAP climate expert group
AC 2007	2007	Proposals for joint AMAP/CAFF monitoring sites (for pilot implementation of harmonized monitoring)	Relevant AMAP expert groups (together with CAFF CBMP group)
AC 2007	2007	Update report/review on mercury trends in biota	Hg expert group
AC 2007	2007	Update report/review on mercury depletion events (MDEs)	Hg expert group (atmospheric)
AC 2007	2007	AC Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic	OG assessment group
AC 2007	“	Human health and Hg effects update	HHAG
AC 2008	2008	Updated time trend assessment for POPs and review articles on new contaminants	POPs expert group

<b>For</b>	<b>Delivery date</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Expert group</b>
AC 2008	2007/2008	Report on AMAP/CAFF pilot study(ies)	POPs/Hg/metals expert groups and/or climate expert group?
AC 2008	2007	Comprehensive update assessment on effects of contaminants on human health of Arctic populations	HHAG
AC 2010	2009	Comprehensive update assessment on mercury	Hg expert group
AC 2010/2012	2009/2011?	Update assessment on climate and contaminants?	POPs/Hg/metals expert groups and/or climate expert group?
AC 2012/2014	2011/2013?	Comprehensive update assessment on Arctic climate change (impacts, including ozone and UV)?	Climate assessment group
<b>AMAP WG</b>			
AMAP 2007	2007	Updated version of the AMAP Trends & Effects Programme	All AMAP expert groups
AMAP 2008	2006-2007	Assessment of the Arctic Carbon Cycle	Sub-group of the AMAP climate expert group?
<b>External Groups (UNEP, UN ECE)</b>			
UN ECE Metals Protocol – effectiveness review 2007	2006	Time trend data products (Hg and other metals)	Hg (metals)
UNEP Governing Council – Hg review status – Feb 2007	2006	Time trend data products (Hg and other metals)	“
UNEP Governing Council – Hg review status – Feb 2007	2006	Human health and Hg effects update	HHAG
UNEP Stockholm Convention review of (regional) monitoring data - 2009	2008	Time trend data products POPs	POPs expert group
UN ECE POPs Protocol – effectiveness review 2009	2008	Time trend data products POPs	“
UN ECE POPs Protocol – sufficiency review 2009	2008	Scientific review of information on BFRs, PFOS/A, etc	“
UN ECE POPs Protocol – sufficiency review 2009	2008	Human health and POPs effects update?	HHAG

### 2.3. CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA (CAFF)

*CAFF successfully completed its 2004-2006 Work Plan within available resources, while maintaining a strong focus in developing international partnerships and working with the other Working Groups within the Arctic Council.*

**Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP):** The CBMP was officially launched September 2005 in Cambridge with hosting by UNEP-WCMC. Canada took the lead on this program, after 5 years of Iceland's successful lead. An international secretariat has been established in White Horse, Canada. An international steering committee comprised of 6 task teams (data management, indicators, funding, community-based monitoring, remote sensing, and outreach and assessment) work together to provide leadership to the CBMP.

*In accordance with the mandate set forth in the 2004 SAO report to Ministers and the Ministerial Declaration, the Indigenous People's Secretariat and Permanent Participants have been involved in this program since its launch, and a main component of the CBMP is community-based monitoring. Results from the CBMP directly connect with efforts toward sustainable development in the Arctic. The findings will be presented in a form tailored to address the needs of the Indigenous People, and assist policy makers on management of the Arctic's living resources. A major product of this program will be the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment for which Ministerial endorsement is being sought at the 2006 Ministerial.*

**CAFF Flora Expert Group (CFG):** *The CAFF Flora Expert Group is now designated as the Arctic Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The Aleut International Association's project on "Traditional Use and Conservation of Plants from the Aleutian, Pribilof and Commander Islands" has been published. The proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Circumpolar Vegetation Classification and Mapping has been published. CAFF Map No. 1 – Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map, and CAFF Map No. 2 - Vegetation of Arctic Alaska have now been published. The circumpolar boreal forest mapping project endorsed by the AC Ministers in 2004 is proceeding with applications for funding, and a workshop is being planned for Spring 2007 in Helsinki.*

**CAFF Seabird Expert Group (CBird):** *Countries have continued to implement the "Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan". CBird has now completed a "Common Eider Colony Poster" of the circumpolar region for all four eider species. The Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy has been completed and published. The 2006 CBird XII meeting was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 1-4 March 2006. The meeting report is available on the CAFF website. Soon, with the upgraded CAFF website, the datasets on circum-Arctic bird distributions will be accessible in integrated mapping format on the website. Some projects not completed during the 2004-2006 period are now listed on the 2006-2008 Work Plan.*

**Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN):** *Although Ministers endorsed the continued efforts of CPAN in the 2004 Declaration, CAFF was unsuccessful in identifying a country lead for the 2004-2006 inter-ministerial period, so no products were produced from CPAN during this time. However, in cooperation with UNEP GA*



and WWF, CAFF/CPAN was part of the successful report *Vital Arctic Graphics* while the Executive Secretary served as Acting Chair. CPAN will remain dormant for the 2006-2008 inter-ministerial period until a country lead can be identified. Scientific analyses on the effectiveness of currently protected areas needs to be done. There is no compiled circum-Arctic information on whether these protected areas are actually protecting threatened or endangered species or habitats. This information will be necessary as part of the conclusions of the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment.

- **ECORA - an integrated ecosystem approach to conserve biodiversity and minimize habitat fragmentation in the Russian Arctic:** *ECORA is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) sponsored project initiated by CAFF and the Russian Federation that uses an integrated ecosystem management approach to conserve biodiversity and minimize habitat fragmentation in three selected model areas in the Russian Arctic. Three Model Areas have been selected in the Russian Arctic to test the implementation of such an approach, namely Kolguev Island, Kolyma River Basin, and Beringovsky, and Model Area Coordinators and Western Advisors are in place for all three model areas. The first year of field work was undertaken in 2005, and activities included habitat assessments, harvest studies, bird surveys, and surveys on traditional nature use. The 2006 field season is progressing according to schedule and all results will reviewed at the next meeting of the Expert Task Team in November 2006. A "mid-term project review" is planned by GEF in early 2007, and this will be important in relation to continued support and possible changes in project design.* **ACIA Follow-up and the Focal Point:** *CAFF's response to ACIA follow-up is detailed in the Focal Point Report to Ministers.*

**IPY – Status of projects:** **1)** The CBMP received full IPY endorsement and applications for funding were prepared for submission in several Arctic countries. CARMA and ITEX – two of the networks under the CBMP have also received IPY endorsement and are proceeding with funding. **2)** AIA's project titled: *Bering Sea Sub-network of Community-based Environmental Monitoring, Observation and Information Stations* received a full IPY endorsement. CAFF is second proposer on this project. This project is now on the 2006-2008 Work Plan. **3)** COMAAR received IPY endorsement. CAFF is second proposer on the COMAAR IPY. **4)** The Netherlands' (as observer to CAFF) IPY project titled: *Health of Arctic Bird Populations* received IPY endorsement as well as CAFF endorsement. This project is especially significant as it relates to the transmission of Avian flu to Europe and the Arctic. **5)** Greening of the Arctic, an IPY-endorsed project submitted by University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and which also received CAFF endorsement, has been funded. This project is in cooperation with the CAFF Flora Group. **6)** The CAFF-endorsed IPY titled: *Arctic Reindeer Herders' Vulnerability Network Study (EALÁT)*, submitted by the International Center for Reindeer Husbandry, received full IPY endorsement and is now proceeding with funding. **7)** The CAFF-endorsed IPY project titled: *Community Adaptation and Vulnerability In Arctic Regions*, CAVIAR, submitted by co-leads University of Guelph and CICERO, also received full IPY endorsement, and is now seeking funding.

**Sacred Sites Workshop as follow-up to Sacred Sites Report of 2004:** RAIPON received the offer from the government of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug to defer the Sacred Sites Workshop at Salekhard, to April 2007. This proposal is in light of the complex preparations for the Ministerial meeting 2006. Yamal is still ready to partially finance this workshop and RAIPON will continue collaboration with the Yamal government on preparations.

**Cooperation with other Working Groups:** **1)** CAFF provided technical and policy review and overall cooperation with AMAP on the Oil and Gas Assessment. **2)** A joint CAFF-AMAP monitoring workshop of experts has been agreed to by both working groups, and an invitation to identify experts has been recently circulated. Once the experts have been identified, a date will be set for this workshop. However, it is not possible that this workshop will take place ahead of the 2006 Ministerial, so the results will be reported at the subsequent SAO meeting. **3)** CAFF sent a representative (from Norway) to the PAME meeting held in Oslo 1-2 March to

further the cooperation between CAFF and PAME on the AMSA. CAFF is prepared to continue cooperation with PAME on follow-up on the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), especially concerning large marine ecosystems (LMEs), and marine sensitive areas.

**Arctic Portal Initiative:** The ICEPORT management team was established in Iceland to execute the pilot phase of the Arctic Portal. The Arctic Portal was submitted as an IPY project and received full IPY endorsement. The CAFF upgraded website is part of the pilot phase of the Arctic Portal.

**Cooperation with International Organizations:** 1) *UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal* - CAFF has continued a close cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal on development and data management of the CBMP and a web-based portal. 2) *Cooperation with oil and gas biodiversity conservation efforts* - the joint biodiversity working group of IPIECA and OGP (the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association and Oil and Gas Producers), held an oil and gas biodiversity conservation workshop with CAFF following the CAFF XI Biennial Meeting.

**New Project - 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment:** CAFF would like Ministerial endorsement to proceed with the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. The 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment would be completed in cooperation with the Permanent Participants, and would be one of the major deliverables from the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, endorsed by the Arctic Council Ministers as a cornerstone program of CAFF in 2004. This 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment would be part of CAFF's follow-up to the biodiversity-related recommendations as set forth in the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. The interdisciplinary nature of this Assessment would also be useful in relation to other work in the Arctic Council, including in relation to the AMSP and AMSA, and to the work of SDWG and AMAP.

*The SAOs recommend to Ministers:*

- *Take note of the CAFF Progress Report 2004-2006 and accept the work plan for 2006-2008.*
- *Endorse the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment as a major contribution to international conventions and agreements in regard to biodiversity, and request the CAFF to deliver a detailed assessment plan, including identification of lead countries, and funding strategy at the next SAO meeting in spring 2007.*
- *Request the AC member states to consider becoming a lead country in the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network of CAFF (CPAN), for the restoration of CPAN's scientific activities.*
- *Support the continued development of mapping Arctic flora and vegetation using remote sensing and other monitoring techniques to establish baseline data on the effects of climate change and human impacts to Arctic ecosystems.*

## CAFF WORK PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The conservation of biodiversity is a necessary condition for sustainable development. Arctic biodiversity is experiencing stress from a number of factors such as climate change and rapid economic growth in the Arctic region, as well as the loss of wintering habitats for those species migrating outside the Arctic region. With the CAFF 2006-

2008 Work Plan, CAFF is responding to the recommendations in the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment calling for long-term data series on status and trends of Arctic biodiversity and the need for further research, observations monitoring and modeling.

It is possible to successfully conserve the natural environment and allow for economic development, but this requires solid baseline data on long-term status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health. CAFF's projects for the upcoming inter-ministerial period will provide data for informed decision making in resolving conflicts which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth.

In addition to research and monitoring, CAFF is also focusing efforts on education and outreach. While recognizing the need to acquire the data, the CAFF Working Group is also putting emphasis on getting the data out to the stakeholders, policymakers, researchers and the general public. Brochures, development of a new CAFF website and assistance on design and implementation of the Arctic Portal are all projects directly addressing outreach and education.

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) will continue to be implemented. Details regarding this program and its relationship to the ACIA recommendations can be found in the CBMP 2006 Annual Report. CAFF is requesting Ministerial endorsement for the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment as a primary deliverable to the CBMP endorsed by the Arctic Council Ministers in 2004 as a cornerstone program of CAFF.

This Biodiversity Assessment will be the first of its kind for the Arctic Council. It will involve large scale international cooperation and will merge data from many different sources. It is hoped that the Assessment will engage the Indigenous Peoples, by incorporating data from community-based monitoring projects, and incorporate traditional knowledge to every extent possible in order to form a complete picture of the current state of Arctic biodiversity, and allow for accurate modeling of future trends.

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council took place in Ylläs, Finland, 5-9 June 2006. The CAFF 2006-2008 Work Plan represents a consensus of the expert groups of CAFF, the Arctic States National Representatives, Permanent Participants, and Official Observers to CAFF. The Work Plan follows the five major themes in CAFF's strategic document: *Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation*, which was endorsed at the third Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in 2002, in Inari, Finland. The CAFF 2006-2008 Work Plan includes 32 action items listed below which will be implemented by CAFF XII, unless an earlier date is provided.

CAFF's Work Plan for the period 2006-2008 emphasizes cooperation and collaboration with other Arctic Council Working Groups, and organizations outside of the Arctic Council, and makes efforts to actively contribute to the global conservation agenda. This Work Plan responds to the findings and recommendations of the ACIA report, the Oil and Gas Assessment, the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan and ECORA.

The CAFF Flora Expert Group, now also serving as the IUCN Arctic Plant Specialist Group is proceeding with the boreal forest mapping project endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in 2004. In addition, they are working on several other circum-Arctic projects as outlined in the Work Plan. Arctic vegetation and flora are strongly affected by forces within and from outside the region, including the impacts of global climate change, resource development, changes in numbers of wildlife species, increases in permanent residents, and burgeoning tourism. The relatively simple and often fragile Arctic ecosystems are dramatically altered through changes to the species composition of the vegetation, destruction of wetlands, and thawing of ice-rich permafrost, as well as through feedbacks of these effects to global hydrologic and atmospheric systems. To preserve plant diversity, conservation programs must be guided by the biological requirements of species and ecosystem components as biological diversity ensures a healthy biosphere.

The CAFF Seabird Expert Group is involved in a number of projects, focused on research and monitoring population effects from climate change, as well as education and outreach. Seabirds are abundant, conspicuous and diverse members of the Arctic marine ecosystems that are important to many indigenous peoples for food and as an economic resource. Seabirds are top predators that act as indicators of the health of the marine ecosystems. Arctic countries share common seabird populations and threats. Consequently, there is a joint and equal responsibility for the conservation of seabirds in the Arctic.

CPAN, though currently dormant due to a lack of country lead, needs to assess the effectiveness of the areas currently under protection in the Arctic – the questions needing answers are: 1) what percentage of each biome is represented in the currently established network of protected areas; 2) which areas are successfully protecting the species and habitats that are under the most threat. This work would tie directly into the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. CPAN work will resume when a country lead is in place.

## **I. Conserving Arctic Species**

Implement conservation strategies on Murres, Eiders, and Ivory Gulls (3 projects). *Lead: Canada, Norway*

Report on Seabird Harvest in the Arctic (two projects). *Lead: Greenland*

Begin work on writing a “Technical Report on Seabird Gillnet Bycatch” (one project). *Lead: US*

Submit documentation to the IUCN in support of a proposed Red List of Arctic plant species. *Lead: US*

Create links on the CAFF website to country Red Lists and rare plant lists. *Lead: Iceland and Canada*

Complete an evaluation of monitoring of local flora in Russia, and determine its application in a circumpolar context. *Lead: Russia and US*

## **II. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats**

Implement priority CAFF-relevant action items of the Arctic Council’s Arctic

Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP). *Lead: To be determined*

Contribute to the PAME expert group to consider information requirements including suites of indicators of the changing states of Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems (as per AMSP Strategic Actions 7.4.1 and 7.4.2). *Lead: To be determined*

Develop a framework and criteria to identify marine sensitive areas in the Arctic in cooperation with PAME and other Working Groups (as per AMSP Strategic Action 7.3.2). *Lead: Greenland*

Review the future direction of CPAN. *Lead: CAFF Management Board*

Seek funding and hold a workshop to begin the development of a Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map, related to global change and modeling vegetation change, expanding the region covered by the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map (CAVM) into CAFF boreal regions to the south, and prepare a progress report prior to CAFF XII. *Lead: US*

Convene a circumpolar workshop, in cooperation with Permanent Participants, based on RAIPON's Sacred Sites Project to address the importance of sacred sites in biodiversity conservation, *inter alia* identification and protection of sacred sites, and management of ethnographic and cultural landscapes in the Arctic in 2007. *Lead: RAIPON*

### **III. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity**

Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan (one project). *Lead: US*

Conduct analyses for papers on "The Status and Trends of Black-legged Kittiwakes" and "The Decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic" (two projects). *Lead: Norway, Iceland and US*

Begin work on creating a web-based "Seabird Information Network" and a "Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database" (two projects). *Lead: Norway, Canada, US*

Complete checklists of Arctic lichens and bryophytes.  
*Lead: Iceland and Canada*

Develop collaboration within CAFF to delimit floristic regions in the circumpolar Arctic responsive to environmental variables such as climate using some of the principles developed by the CFG.  
*Lead: US, Canada, and Russia*

Encourage the use of GLORIA, a worldwide monitoring network for climate change impacts on the ecology of high mountain systems.  
*Lead: US and Canada*

Implement the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*

Implement the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. *Lead: Finland (conditional upon one or two co-leads)*

Implement the CAFF/AMAP Strategy for Cooperation. *Lead: Canada*

Implement the Bering Sea Sub-network (BSSN).

*Lead: Aleut International Association*

#### **IV. Global Issues**

Implement priority CAFF-relevant recommendations of the ACIA report in cooperation with the other Working Groups and IASC. *Lead: Canada*

Continue to implement the ECORA project in the three model areas in Russia. *Lead: Russia, Norway, RAIPON, UNEP/GRID-Arendal*

Contribute to the Arctic Council's Oil and Gas Assessment in cooperation with AMAP. *Lead: US*

Contribute to the PAME Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment. *Lead: To be determined*

Implement the CBird-STAMP Project (one project). *Lead: Norway, US*

#### **V. Engaging Society**

Continue to produce the Circumpolar Seabird Bulletin (one project). *Lead: US*

Hold CBird XIII in Sweden, February 2007; and CBird XIV in Greenland, February 2008. *Lead: Sweden, Greenland*

Hold 4<sup>th</sup> CFG Workshop in the Faroe Islands proposed for May 2007. *Lead: Faroe Islands and US*

Develop promotional brochures, posters and other communication products for CAFF and the CBMP.

*Lead: Canada in cooperation with CAFF International Secretariat*

CAFF website upgrade. *Lead: CAFF International Secretariat*

Continue updating CBird and CFG products on the CAFF Website.

*Lead: CAFF International Secretariat*

Hold an expert workshop to develop monitoring strategies for circumpolar marine mammal species (e.g. Beluga whale, ringed seals). *Lead: US*

#### **2.4. Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)**

Since the 2004 Ministerial meeting, the EPPR Working Group has met in Copenhagen, Denmark (18-20 April, 2005) and Tornio, Finland (5-7 April, 2006). The next EPPR meeting will be held in Norway in April 2007.

Recognizing that existing treaties, conventions and agreements provide the necessary framework for the work of the EPPR, the WG would like to draw attention to the need to continue to develop co-operation and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the field of prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic.

*The recent Russian sponsored symposium held in Moscow on 27-28 February, 2006 on Prevention and Mitigation of Emergency Situations in the Arctic has*

*highlighted the special challenges related to emergency response in the Arctic in particular*

- Awareness of the severe effects that disasters might have on Arctic ecological systems and on the traditional way of life of Arctic indigenous people;
- Extreme operating conditions for rescue workers and response equipment in the Arctic, and the need to develop the ability to respond to emergencies in cold and remote areas;
- The need to expand the exchange of experience and lessons learned in order to improve the technical capabilities and the practical expertise in response to emergencies in the Arctic;

In order to address these issues the EPPR will put special focus on these areas and initiate new projects in order to improve the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic. The projects will focus on

- exchange of information, training and experience
- public information
- technical development and support, and
- co-ordination of response

*The EPPR WG decided to initiate a number of projects in order to enhance the cooperation in this area and will be developing a proposal for establishing a National Assistance Capability based in Northwest Russia to respond to radiological emergencies in the Arctic. Further the group decided to start a review of the possibilities to strengthen the response capabilities in cold climate in 2007.*

Following the 2006 meeting, Norway (Mr. Tor Christian Sletner) was elected Chair and the Russian Federation (Mr. Igor Veselov) was elected Vice-Chair for the period 2006 - 2008.

The EPPR website (<http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>) is currently hosted by Sweden. The EPPR project information on the Arctic Council web site will be updated by the Secretariat, in consultation with the project leads.

Sweden has, through the Swedish Rescue Service Agency, arranged a series of international courses on the environmental impact of emergencies operations within the framework of Partnership for Peace (PfP).

Russian Federation proposed the development and realization of the project “An accident prevention and safety systems development in economic and infrastructural projects in Arctic”, as a prospective project of the Arctic Council.

Cooperative projects addressing radiological issues in the Arctic are ongoing under the leadership of the US and the Russian Federation:





**OIL POLLUTION: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT**

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
An accident prevention and safety systems development in economic and infrastructural projects in Arctic						L		

**RADIOLOGICAL & OTHER HAZARDS: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT**

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Ongoing</i>								
Source Control Management Phase III – FSUE “ME Zvezdochka” and FSUE “Atomflot”						L		L
ISO 14001 Training Programs						L		L
Community Radiation Information Project						L		L
Conduct of radiation emergency exercises – Moscow table-top exercise						L		L
<i>Proposed Projects</i>								
Development of Brochure on Far East Region of Russia						L		L
Portable analysis capability (Laptop based)						L		L
NOSTRADAMUS: real time computer system for estimation of atmospheric transfer						L		L
Work on establishment of Training Center “Emergency Response” (TC ER) at MIPK						L		L

**NATURAL DISASTERS: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT**

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Ongoing</i>								
Creation of a warning and information system regarding catastrophic flooding on Northern Rivers (project between the EPPR and the Northern Forum)	P					L		P
<i>Proposed Projects</i>								
"Managing the cold conditions - A systematic approach"			L				P	
Host EPPR Website	P					P	L	

**2.5. PROTECTION OF ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT (PAME)**

PAME’s objectives are based on Ministerial mandates as identified in PAME’s Work Plan 2004-2006 accompanied by a set of specific actions that have been successfully completed as follows:

**Arctic Marine Strategic Plan:** Several of the specific PAME Working Group activities have been aimed at implementation of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and related follow up to the ACIA.

Canada and Iceland have prepared a Communications Plan for the AMSP which the PAME Working Group is recommending for approval of the Senior Arctic Officials and the Arctic Council.

**Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment:** The PAME Working Group has the formal responsibility for the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) as organized under a ‘Lead County’ system. Canada, Finland and the United States serve as joint-lead countries for the AMSA project. The AMSA lead country representatives will engage with the PAME Working Group at critical decision points.

The PAME Working Group will provide guidance where necessary; and communicate progress and final results of the Assessment back to the SAOs and Ministers.

2004 baseline shipping activity data collection is underway and all Arctic states are participating.

Broad engagement in AMSA with stakeholders including other Arctic Council Working groups, Arctic research community; maritime community; Arctic parliamentarians. Outreach with Permanent Participants and Arctic communities in Town Hall Meetings is ongoing. Plans for Town Hall Meetings to be held in each Arctic state are being organized by the AMSA Team in collaboration with the Permanent Participants and PAME representatives in the Arctic states.

There are clear linkages with the AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment on a number of AMSA tasks such as experts and the application of Large Marine Ecosystem (LME). Collaboration will be explored by e.g. the possibility of sharing data and experts with the Oil and Gas Assessment.

**Port Reception Facilities:** Norway is the lead for the assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues. Phase 1 has been developed and finalized. Both the modalities and work on Phase 2 and Phase 3 (gaps, possible improvement and common guidelines for consideration by states) will be further developed during the next 2 years.

**Ecosystem Approach:** The United States is the lead on ecosystem approach and has updated PAME on the status of Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) to Assessment and Management within the context of UNEP Regional Seas.

PAME has adopted a working map of 17 Arctic LMEs acknowledging related work in other fora, in which place-based assessments of the changing states of Arctic LMEs can serve as the framework for ecosystem-based management practices in the Arctic.

The Arctic LME approach corresponds with the ecosystem approach promoted within the EU Marine Strategy and OSPAR context.

PAME discuss the opportunity to develop the LME approach for pilot assessment and management projects for the Arctic, for example the West Bering Sea, the Barents Sea and the Beaufort Sea.

PAME is in the process of establishing an LME Experts Group with the aim to consider information requirements including suites of indicators of the changing states of Arctic LMEs as measured against baselines of the five-module indicator approach (productivity/climate; fish and fisheries/marine birds and mammals; pollution and ecosystem health; socioeconomics and governance) to guide effective decision-making.

The PAME LME Experts Group will work in close cooperation with other experts associated with the activities of AMAP, CAFF and SDWG.

### **Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine**

**Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA):** The RPA was developed from 1996-1997 and adopted by Arctic Ministers in 1998. Since then, considerable new information has become available.

Based on a report prepared by Canada, PAME has decided that the RPA should be updated, broadened and possibly restructured to allow for more rapid response to developments and opportunities because:

- The RPA is out of date and updating it would provide a more current account of circumpolar activities and priority RPA issues.

- Canada, Finland, Iceland and Russia have found the RPA approach helpful in developing their National Programme of Action (NPAs).
- Russia used the RPA to support an application for the GEF/UNEP Russian NPA-Arctic Project funding.

The objective of this review and update is to look at the existing RPA text with regard to: addressing possible additional priority source categories, taking stock of international developments since the inception of the RPA. (including Arctic Council activities and reports).

Russia has reported to PAME on the progress of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment". This is consistent with the Ministerial Declarations of Iqaluit 1998, Barrow 2000, Inari 2002 and Reykjavik 2004.

*The SAOs recommend to Ministers to:*

- *Take note of PAME Progress Report 2004-2006 and accept the PAME Work Plan 2006-2008.*
- *Note with satisfaction the good progress being made in implementing the AMSP and welcome the addition of the Communications Plan for assisting in this important work.*
- *Welcome the progress made by PAME under the guidance of three lead countries (Canada, Finland and United States) on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and encourage the active participation of Arctic States and Permanent Participants the continuation and finalization of this assessment*
- *Take note of Phase I of the assessment on existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues and encourage PAME, through Norway as the lead-country, to continue this work and develop proposal for common guidelines for consideration by States.*
- *Endorse the working map of the 17 Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems, and request PAME to advance the work on the suites of indicators of the changing state of Arctic LMEs and encourage PAME, in close collaboration with AMAP and CAFF, to develop the LME approach for pilot assessment and management projects for the Arctic.*
- *Request PAME, through Canada and Iceland as lead countries, to review, update and expand the RPA where necessary, and possibly restructure to allow for more rapid response to developments and opportunities.*
- *Recognize the importance of the National Programs of Actions as components of the RPA implementation phase, and note the progress in the implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic.*

<b><u>PAME WORK PLAN</u></b>		
<b>Objective I: Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic marine environment</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<p>1. Conduct a comprehensive circumpolar assessment of current and future Arctic shipping including economic, social and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Final report from this assessment will be presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council Ministerial in Autumn 2008</p> <p><i>(From sections 7.1.4; 7.2.2 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a survey of marine activity for 2004 that will be provided by the six Arctic coastal states.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a survey of the regions of indigenous Arctic marine use including hunting, fishing, transport and other critical uses of the Arctic Ocean.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a series of Town Hall Meetings throughout the Arctic to gather critical local and regional information about the concerns, interests, and ideas of Arctic residents.</li> <li>➤ Based on ACIA and regional economic analyses, project the level of marine activity for 2020 and 2050.</li> <li>➤ Determine current and future social, economic, and environmental impacts of current and future Arctic marine activity.</li> <li>➤ Conduct studies on risk, accident scenarios and responses to future Arctic marine activity.</li> <li>➤ Develop a of list of key AMSA findings and recommendations for PAME, the Member States and the international maritime community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CANADA</b> <b>FINLAND</b> <b>USA</b></p>
<p>2. Continue to respond to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) taking account of new information on climate change.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.2.1 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>Monitor and consider any new climate change information to determine additional activities to be included in future workplans of PAME.</p>	<p><b>PAME</b> <b>Chair/Secretariat</b></p>

<p>3. Responding to the Arctic Council <u>Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council oil and gas assessment as it related to marine protection from the environmental impacts of oil and gas activities.</li> <li>➤ Examine the adequacy of Arctic Council guidelines related to the prevention of marine environmental impacts of oil and gas activities in light of the Council's oil and gas assessment and in keeping with the review cycle approved by the Council.</li> <li>➤ Organize a workshop to assess the implementation of the Arctic Council Oil and Gas Guidelines, and whether there are gaps and a need to update in light of the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council Marine Strategic Plan and Oil and Gas Assessment..</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>USA</b></p> <p><b>USA</b></p>
<p>4. Continue the <u>assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues</u> (PRF-Norway)</p> <p><i>(From sections 7.2.4 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p><u>Phase 2</u> – Identify gaps in existing coverage and possible improvements in availability and incentives for delivery.</p> <p><u>Phase 3</u> – Develop proposal for common guidelines based on the gap analysis.</p>	<p><b>NORWAY</b></p>

**OBJECTIVE II: Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<p>1. Apply the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>This work will be carried out in collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, in particular AMAP and CAFF.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.3.2 and 7.4.3 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Initiate by correspondence review of the indicator suites for assessing and monitoring the changing states of the LMEs of the Arctic based on productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics, and governance.</li> <li>➤ As a follow on to the presentation on Arctic LMEs, made during the Feb 2006 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science encourage the preparation for peer review and publication of a volume on the changing conditions of LMEs of the Arctic for publication in the Elsevier Science LME series.</li> <li>➤ Organize a session on Arctic LMEs for the Second Global Conference on LMEs to be held in Qingdao, China, Sep 11-13, 2007.</li> <li>➤ Develop the LME approach for pilot assessment and management projects for the Arctic, for example the West Bering Sea, the Barents Sea</li> </ul>	<p><b>USA</b> <b>CANADA</b> <b>NORWAY (to be confirmed)</b></p>

	and the Beaufort Sea.	
2. Review and update the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) and expand where necessary, taking into account new information since 1997. <i>(From section 7.3.3 in the AMSP)</i>	<p>Prepare a Terms of Reference, including reference to engagement of other Arctic Council working groups and other relevant organizations</p> <p>Prepare a draft updated RPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ for PAME review and discussion</li> <li>➤ to present to other Arctic Council working groups</li> <li>➤ to finalize an updated RPA</li> </ul> <p>Finalize an updated RPA and forward to SAOs and Ministers for approval in 2008.</p>	<b>CANADA ICELAND</b>
	Facilitate technical cooperation for Russian Federation's activities aimed at protecting the Arctic marine environment ( <i>From section 7.5.3 in the AMSP</i> ) and continue support for Russian NPA Arctic. The exact nature of future cooperation will be determined on the basis of opportunities identified.	<b>RUSSIA  PAME Chair/Secretariat</b>
<b><u>OBJECTIVE III: Facilitate partnerships, programmes and technical cooperation and support communication and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council.</u></b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1. <i>Information outreach and efforts to increase cooperation and collaboration with international/regional organizations.</i> <i>(From section 7.5.2 in the AMSP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Provide AMSP progress reports to the Arctic Council with assistance of all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies.</i></li> <li>➤ Information exchange with UNEP Regional Seas Programme regions, and other regional programs.</li> <li>➤ Liaise with fisheries organizations and organizations associated with marine-related conventions and agreements to inform and be informed of possible cooperative opportunities including information exchange.</li> </ul>	<b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b>  <b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b>  <b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b>
2. <i>Build the capacity and engagement of indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants.</i> <i>(From section 7.6 in the AMSP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement the 2006 AMSP Communication Plan.</li> <li>➤ Ongoing development of communication products and activities to support understanding and involvement in implementation of the AMSP. (<i>From Section 8.0 in the AMSP</i>) and other PAME-related</li> </ul>	<b>All Member Countries</b>  <b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b>  <b>PAME</b>

	<p>activities.</p> <p>➤ Promote oceans education and training related to best operating practices through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PAME homepage</li> <li>○ Brochures and posters</li> <li>○ Providing our information to other organizations for posting on their websites.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair/Secretariat</b></p>
--	--	---------------------------------

## **2.6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (SDWG)**

During the period 2004-2006 the SDWG held four (4) regular two-day working group meetings: Moscow (April 2005); Khanty-Mansiysk (October 2005), Salekhard (March 2006) and Moscow (September 2006). State of the problem, gaps and priority actions to be taken within each SDWG priority area, and also criteria and indicators for assessment of the progress in advancing sustainable development were discussed at the SDWG workshop held in Salekhard, Russia in March 2006. In addition there were numerous meetings and workshops conducted under the wide range of SDWG projects. At the recent Third World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada the SDWG hosted a networking session, entitled *Sustainable Development of the Far North: Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*. In accordance with the 2004 Ministerial Declaration, the SDWG made full use of the AHDR as a comprehensive knowledge base in preparation of new project proposals. A new SDWG website (<http://portal.sdwg.org>) was launched in 2005 and was made possible by the contributions received from Canada.

In summary, projects and other activities included in the SDWG Work Plan 2004-2006 were fulfilled. Five projects under the auspices of the SDWG have been completed during this period including *The Economy of the North: Impacts and Effects of Climate Change (ECONOR)* (Lead: Norway), *Future Children and Youth of the Arctic* (Lead: Canada), *Product Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry ("Ofelas")* (Lead: Finland), *Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism (S.M.A.R.T.)* (Lead: Finland), and *Women and Resource Management in the Rural North* (Lead: Norway). Five projects will be continued in 2006-2008 with results to report for Ministerial 2006 including *Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI)* (Lead: USA), *Arctic Infrastructure: Aviation* (Lead: USA), *International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic (ICS)* (Lead: USA), *Telemedicine* (Lead: USA), and *Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA)* (Lead: Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands). AHHI was recognized as an IPY project of the Arctic Council.

SAOs take note of and endorse the following results of the projects and activities of the SDWG:

- ***Note with appreciation the heightened importance placed on human health in the Arctic by the formation of the Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI), a cluster of health projects recognized as an IPY project of the Arctic Council, and endorse***

*action necessary to create further synergies and strategic directions in Arctic human health.*

- *Take note of the report of the ECONOR including the recommendations and request the SDWG to consider possible future actions taking into account these recommendations.*
- *Encourage and support the interests and issues relevant to circumpolar children and youth as a cross-cutting theme, and where appropriate that these be incorporated into the activities of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies.*
- *Note that reindeer husbandry comprises an essential part of livelihoods and cultures of the indigenous peoples of the north; and support education, together with the transfer of traditional knowledge, to restore and develop reindeer husbandry and the traditional livelihoods related to it.*
- *Acknowledge the potential of sustainable Arctic tourism, promote education and capacity building in business development, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in Arctic sustainable tourism.*
- *Take note of the report of the Women and natural resource management in the rural North project, including the recommendations, and request the SDWG to consider possible future actions taking into account these recommendations.*
- *Note with appreciation the accomplishments on practical aviation projects, such as the weather-camera demonstrations and regional aviation workshop, which are designed to enhance safety and increase aviation capacity in the Arctic and recommend continuation of such projects.*
- *Welcome the progress on the International Circumpolar Surveillance system for infectious diseases and encourage continuing work to improve human health in the Arctic and encourage the Russian Federation to take part this project.*
- *Note the following SLiCA Findings:*
  - A combination of traditional activities and cash employment is the prevailing lifestyle of Arctic indigenous people. It takes money to pursue traditional activities; households with higher incomes can, and do, choose to spend income on these activities. Nine in ten Inuit think traditional activities are important to their identity.
  - Family ties, social support of each other, and traditional activities have a lot to do with why indigenous people choose to remain in Arctic communities.
  - Well-being is closely related to job opportunities, locally available fish and game, and a sense of local control. Well-being and depression (and related problems like suicide) are flip sides of the same coin. Improving well-being may reduce social problems.
  - Health conditions vary widely in the Arctic: three-in-four Greenlandic Inuit self-rate their health as at least very good compared with one-in-two Canadian and Alaska Inuit and one-in-five Chukotka indigenous people.
- *Promote publication of SLiCA results.*



- *Promote collection and SLiCA to report comparable data from the Saami areas.*
- *Welcome the IPY endorsed dissemination of SLiCA-results while ensuring confidentiality of results through the SLiCA Remote Access Analysis System.*
- *Encourage drawing upon SLiCA results and experience in Arctic Council working groups and in projects such as Arctic Social Indicators, ECONOR, and ArcticStat.*
- *Note that Telemedicine is rapidly becoming a key element of medical service in the circumpolar north and welcome the continuation of the SDWG Telemedicine project as a component of the AHHI.* During the period 2004-2006, the SDWG also dedicated considerable time to developing and approving certain procedural and organizational matters, namely:
  - Mechanisms to implement the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Action Plan (Coordinator: Russia)
  - Procedures for submitting project proposals for endorsement, alternatives to project endorsement and management of projects within SDWG (Coordinator: Sweden)
  - These documents were approved by the SDWG at their meeting in Salekhard in March 2006 and by SAOs at their meeting in Syktyvkar in April 2006. Taking into account these documents, the SDWG has noted that amendments are required to the *SDWG Operating Guidelines* adopted by the SDWG on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002 and approved by SAOs on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

*At the request of the SDWG the SAOs approved the following:*

**The *SDWG Operating Guidelines* are amended by adding the following new wording to the end of article 3.4:**

*“Proposals for new SDWG projects shall be submitted according to the procedures set out in the document, *Procedures for Project Proposals for endorsement, alternatives to project endorsement and management of projects within SDWG*, approved by the SAOs on 26-27 April 2006.”*

**The *SDWG Operating Guidelines* are further amended by adding the following new article:**

*“4.3 Once per year, no later than 30 days after the spring SAO meeting, the SDWG Chair will submit an updated SDWG project list to the Arctic Council Secretariat in the SDAP Table of Actions Format.”*

In accordance with the approved *Mechanisms* document, a list of SDWG projects, in the Table of Actions format, was submitted to the Arctic Council Secretariat.

SDWG and SAOs at their meetings discussed and approved eight (8) new SDWG projects and activities.

*SAOs recommend to Ministers to:*

- *Take note of the SDWG Progress Report 2004-2006 and accept the work plan for 2006-2008*
- *Note with appreciation the adoption of the mechanism to implement SDAP and encourage all working groups to use the SDAP framework to identify gaps and define measures to eliminate those gaps and to continuously update the data base according to the adopted mechanism*
- *Welcome cooperation with the UN HABITAT aimed at sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic.*
- *Support further development of the educational dimension of cooperation between the AC Member States.*
- *Take note of the initiative Education for All in the Arctic, taken by the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, and welcome a presentation of the initiative and further cooperation on this issue.*
- *Welcome the establishment of a new – cultural dimension of cooperation between the AC Member States and support its further development.*
- *Approve the following projects: Arctic Action (ICT) (Lead: Sweden); Arctic Energy Summit (Lead: USA); Arctic ICT Assessment (AICTA) (Lead: USA, Finland); Arctic Social Indicators (Lead: Iceland); ArcticStat (Lead: Canada); Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic (Lead: Russia); Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North (Lead: RAIPON/Russia)*
- *Approve the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium (Lead: Canada) and welcome more projects in this important field.*

Each of the above-noted approved projects or activities is available on the SDWG website (<http://portal.sdwg.org>). The first Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) workshop was held on Sept. 15-17, 2006. The ASI working group encourages financial support or in-kind contributions by member states.

In light of the broad range of topics and issues covered by the SDWG, and because the rapidly changing conditions in the Arctic require flexibility and ability to respond in accordance with priorities and directions of Ministers and SAOs, the SDWG requests that SAOs be given a mandate by Ministers to approve SDWG projects consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council.

*SAOs recommend to Ministers to:*

- *Authorize the SAOs to consider, approve and supervise SDWG projects and activities in the thematic areas of the development of the Arctic Human Health Cluster, appropriate SDWG follow-up on the ACIA, natural resources, follow-up to the AHDR and Arctic Information and Communications Technologies, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council.*

### **SDWG WORK PLAN FOR 2006-2008**

The purpose of the SDWG Work Plan is to provide a framework for the work and priorities of the SDWG during the period 2006 – 2008 that complements the existing Ministerial Declarations, *Sustainable Development Terms of Reference*, *SDWG Operating Guidelines*, *The Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP)* and the recently adopted Swedish-led paper on *Procedures for submitting, approving and managing project proposals in the Sustainable Development Working Group*.

<i>Projects and Activities in Priority Areas</i>		
<u>Priority area</u>	<u>Projects &amp; Activities/ Lead</u>	<u>Main components of Projects &amp; Activities</u>
<b>Economic dimension of sustainable development</b>		
<u><i>Sustainable economic activity and increasing prosperity of Arctic communities</i></u>	1. Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North/ <u>RAIPON</u>	<p><b><u>Project key phases:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and priorities development (2005)</li> <li>• Coordination and partnership development; fundraising (2005-2006)</li> <li>• Project implementation in 5 pilot regions (2006-2008)</li> <li>• Outcomes sharing and delivering to other regions (2008-2010)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Project key components and initiatives:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic development of reindeer husbandry</li> <li>• Setting up facilities for processing of raw traditional products into long lasting and transportable food ones</li> <li>• Setting up and development of small businesses and marketing of traditional products</li> <li>• Development of sustainable aboriginal tourism</li> <li>• Fair and trade exhibition promotion</li> <li>• Training and distant support</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Input from Finland:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Report “Development of Traditional Economies in Russian North”</u></li> <li>• Report “Development of Traditional Economies in Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug”</li> <li>• Seminar “Tourism and Traditional Livelihoods in the North”, Syktyvkar September 27-28, 2006</li> </ul>
<u><i>Sustainable Use of Natural, including Living, Resources</i></u>	1. Arctic Energy Summit/USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Technology conference and exposition in late fall of 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska</u></li> <li>• Implementation of the education and outreach plan, including development of the web site, creation of educational materials, managing of student research grants and contests, creation of the Arctic Energy Atlas</li> <li>• Creation and deployment of an Arctic Energy Working Group</li> </ul>
<u><i>Development</i></u>	1. Arctic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Conclusion of the demonstration project on</u></li> </ul>

<p><u>of transport infrastructure (including aviation, marine and surface transport), Information Technologies and Modern Telecommunications</u></p>	<p>Infrastructure: Aviation/USA</p> <p>2. Arctic Action (ICT)/Sweden</p> <p>3. Arctic ICT Assessment/USA, Finland</p> <p>4. ArcticStat/</p>	<p><u>Enhanced Arctic aviation safety through weather cameras and kiosks in the fall of 2007</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an international demonstration project of the Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast/Capstone</li> <li>• Discussion on potential new air routes based on economic analysis</li> <li>• Further development of an Arctic Aviation Database</li> <li>• Second Arctic Aviation Experts Workshop on 8-10 November 2006, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can new ICT services improve life and working conditions in remote rural areas?</li> <li>• Identifying “unique “Arctic “needs”. Meeting in Brussels to present and discuss “unique” Arctic “needs” with relevant decision makers within the Commission services responsible for the EU Framework Programme.</li> <li>• Reduce the digital divide between rural and urban areas.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>November 2006:</u></b> <u>Data collection;</u> <u>Possible meeting of lead authors to fine tune Table of Contents;</u> <u>Selection proceeds for authors, editors, etc.</u></li> <li>• <b><u>Jan/ Feb 2007:</u></b> <u>Possible meeting of lead authors and country leads;</u> <u>Possible Meeting of AICTA Steering Committee/Executive Committee</u></li> <li>• <b><u>October 2007:</u></b> <u>Possible Meeting of AICTA Steering Committee/Executive Committee</u></li> <li>• <b><u>January 31, 2008:</u></b> <u>Possible cut-off date for submitting data for inclusion in assessment;</u> <u>Possible Meeting of AICTA Steering Committee/Executive Committee</u></li> <li>• <b><u>February 2008:</u></b> <u>Possible workshop or symposium on Arctic ICT;</u> <u>Possible Meeting of AICTA lead authors</u></li> <li>• <b><u>March 2008:</u></b> <u>AICTA preliminary draft should be available for review</u></li> </ul>
--	---	--

	Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct discussion with all the data providers, mainly the national statistical agencies from the Arctic countries</li> <li>• Agreements on permanent collaboration between ARCTICSTAT and each statistical agency</li> <li>• Creation of an Advisory Board, where ARCTICSTAT managers and participant agencies would meet on a regular basis</li> </ul>
--	--------	---

### **Social dimension of sustainable development**

<p><u><i>Health of the people living and working in the Arctic</i></u></p>	<p>1. Arctic Human Health Initiative/ USA</p> <p>2. The International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic/ USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Use of the Arctic Health website (<a href="http://www.arctichealth.org">www.arctichealth.org</a>) as a focal point for AHHI information</u></li> <li>• Development of an organizational infrastructure for human health activities, prioritization, and planning within the Arctic Council</li> <li>• AHHI International Advisory Committee meeting on April 24-27, 2007 in Banff, Alberta, Canada</li> <li>• ICS Invasive Bacterial Diseases Working Group Meeting, Winnipeg Manitoba Canada December 6-7, 2006</li> <li>• Continue surveillance of invasive diseases in the US Arctic, northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland and northern Sweden</li> <li>• Continue the pneumococcal laboratory Quality Control program (US Arctic northern Canada, Denmark) and extend program to include Iceland and Norway</li> <li>• Continue the laboratory based Quality Control program for Neisseria meningitidis, and Haemophilus influenzae (US Arctic, Northern Canada, and Denmark)</li> <li>• Establish a tuberculosis working group</li> <li>• Establish ICS partnerships within northern and Far Eastern Russian Federation</li> <li>• Establish an ICS Research Fellowship program</li> <li>• Plan epidemiology training courses for 2007-2008 as an IPY outreach/ educational/capacity building activity</li> <li>• Expand ICS to include non infectious disease problems important in Arctic Communities, including Injuries; Chronic diseases; Birth Defects</li> <li>• Initiate a research project to evaluate the long term sequellae of chronic hepatitis b infections</li> </ul>
--	---	---

	<p>3. Telemedicine/USA</p> <p>4. Research &amp; Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic/ Russia</p>	<p>indigenous populations of the Arctic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the natural history of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> in Arctic communities</li> <li>• Investigate the emergence of invasive bacterial diseases caused by <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type a</li> <li>• Initiate a community based monitoring system for the detection of zoonotic diseases in subsistence animal species (potential linkages with AMAP, CAFF)</li> <li>• Complete the Pilot Project in Alaska, Khanty-Mansiysk region and Sakha Republic.</li> </ul> <p><b>2006:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions and consultations on the establishment of the Steering Committee of the Human Health Risk Reduction Project (HHRRP) including its mandate, format and participation of representatives of the Arctic Council member countries, indigenous organizations and other stakeholders</li> <li>- Establishment of the HHRRP Management Staff and Expert Advisory Board</li> </ul> <p><b>2007:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inventory of local sources of the POP pollution in selected arctic areas such as Yamal and Chukotka Peninsulas</li> <li>- Research, development and evaluation of novel environment friendly biomedical technologies intended to involve the local health promoting natural resources in practical implementation (mineral waters, herbal and fish and animal products etc)</li> <li>- Workshop and seminars on health risk reduction in the Arctic</li> </ul> <p><b>2008:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and implementation an action plan to reduce health risks at community level</li> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation of implemented actions efficacy</li> <li>- Panel discussion and associated conference on the Project results</li> <li>- Report producing and its presentation</li> <li>- Dissemination of the Project recommendations</li> </ul>
<u>Education and Cultural</u>	<u>1. Arctic Indigenous</u>	<b><u>October 2006:</u></b> <u>Finalize budget and revenue sources</u>

<p><u>Heritage, including language</u></p>	<p><u>Languages Symposium/ Canada</u></p>	<p><u>Form a working group consisting of Arctic states, permanent participants Identify themes and objectives</u>  <b><u>November 2006:</u></b>  <u>Select speakers and participants</u>  <u>Secure venue location</u>  <u>Develop and communications strategy</u>  <u>Finalize agenda themes and participants list Invite and confirm availability of presenters</u>  <b><u>December 2006/January 2007:</u></b>  <u>Send official invitation to participants</u>  <b><u>January/February 2007:</u></b>  <u>Confirm all logistical details (hotel accommodation, ground transportation, cultural events and activities)</u>  <b><u>March/April 2007:</u></b>  <u>Symposium to take place</u></p>
<p><u>Prosperity and Capacity Building for the People of the Arctic, in particular for Children and the Youth</u></p>	<p><u>Activity to be studied</u></p>	
<p><u>Gender Equality</u></p>	<p><u>Activity to be studied</u></p>	
<p><u>Enhancing Well Being, Poverty Eradication in the Arctic</u></p>	<p><u>1. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA/ Denmark</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclude data collection/interviewing and data entry procedures</li> <li>• Carry out analyses regionally and by country</li> <li>• Publish results continuously</li> <li>• Compare data and analyses between regions/countries</li> <li>• Make the SLiCA-data “available to the scientific and indigenous communities of the Arctic as well as to political and administrative decision makers at the local, regional, national and international levels” this is planned to happen through developing a remote access analyses system to SLiCA</li> <li>• Make SLiCA an operational survey instrument in other Arctic regions</li> <li>• Offer SLiCA as an instrument to conduct surveys among other indigenous peoples in cooperation with the peoples in question and e.g.</li> </ul>

	2. Arctic Social Indicators/ Iceland	<p>United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the World Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second workshop to take place in the summer of 2007</li> <li>• Fall of 2007 – consultations in/with Arctic communities</li> <li>• Peer review of working group results in winter of 2007</li> <li>• Participants of the working group to meet and present results at the Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IV) in Nuuk, Greenland, fall 2008</li> <li>• Verification of report on Arctic Social Indicators in 2008. Funding will be sought for publication of book version of ASI report</li> </ul>
--	--------------------------------------	--

It can be seen from the tables above that SDWG projects and activities planned for 2006-2008 is limited in some priority areas. Therefore, the SDWG will study how these gaps can be eliminated using recommendations from the AHDR, the workshop held in Salekhard in March 2006, other workshops and symposiums, and recommendations from the projects concluded in the period 2004 - 2006. The SDWG will also continue to deal with a number of issues and priorities identified in previous Reports of Senior Arctic Officials and Ministerial Declarations.

#### ***Cooperation with other Working Groups and Expert Bodies***

In addition, the SDWG is increasingly required to contribute to Arctic Council priority areas being carried out by other working groups and subsidiary bodies. Among these activities are:

- Follow-on activities from ACIA
- Contributions to the Arctic Shipping Assessment
- Cooperation with AMAP and ACAP on the human health issues.

The SDWG continues to seek more input from expert groups on issues and activities within its mandate. This is the case, for example, in the fields of human health, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), statistics, reindeer husbandry and aviation, to name a few. Further development of such relationships with expert bodies can contribute to the work of the SDWG and will be pursued in the period 2006 - 2008.

The project, EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land (Lead: Norway), will be brought back to the next SDWG Meeting after being further developed and coordinated, as appropriate, with other relevant reindeer projects. Sweden has offered to host a workshop for this purpose in the spring of 2007.

#### ***Thematic Areas for SDWG Projects and Activities:***



In addition, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council, the SDWG may carry out projects and activities, as approved by SAOs, in the following thematic areas:

Follow on to the AHDR:

The preparation of the Arctic Human Development Report during the Icelandic chairmanship provides a base line for Arctic Council activities relating to human conditions in the Arctic. Ministers in Reykjavik recommended that the Sustainable Development Working Group make full use of the report as a comprehensive knowledge base for the development of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme and directed Member States and the relevant working groups of the Arctic Council to consider appropriate follow up actions. One emerging competence of the SDWG in this regard is in relation to the development of reliable and accessible human data sets through such projects as SLICA, ECONOR and ArcticStat. These data sets are increasingly important to the work of the SDWG and in the context of cooperation with other working groups in relation to some of the socio-economic dimensions of the oil and gas assessment, the Arctic marine shipping assessment, and so on. In addition, cultural co-operation, including indigenous languages, work on indicators, sustainable livelihoods and capacity building has been identified by the SDWG as important follow-up to the AHDR.

Further Development of the Arctic Human Health Cluster:

A cluster of project activities in relation to human health has resulted in the creation of the Arctic Human Health Initiative. The AHHI is the first cluster devoted to the essential issue of human health in the Arctic. This health cluster creates synergies between existing Arctic Council health projects and new health proposals and has led to greater cooperation among Arctic Council working groups. The SDWG intends to pursue further integration of activities in the thematic area of Arctic human health during the period 2006-2008 through a number of ongoing and new projects.

Appropriate SDWG Follow-on to the ACIA:

Given the importance of Arctic climate change and variability, and related impacts, the SDWG proposes to pay particular attention to development of new adaptation projects in this area and to take into account, where possible, adaptation issues in ongoing SDWG projects and activities. The EALAT proposal (Norway) is one such project.

Arctic Information and Communication Technologies:

Information and communication technologies are of particular relevance to an organization such as the Arctic Council and its working groups. During the period 2006-2008 the SDWG will carry out ongoing and new ICT-relevant projects and activities in the areas of aviation, telemedicine, energy technologies, education/distance learning and indigenous languages. The SDWG will also conduct an Arctic ICT Assessment and pursue development of practical ICT research projects under the Arctic Action (ICT) initiative led by Sweden.

Natural Resources:

Arctic residents fundamentally rely on the sustainable use of marine resources for their health and economic well-being. Increases in shipping, petroleum activities, fishing, as well as external influences such as climate change and variability, require that the management of the ocean environment be based on a holistic perspective. Under the

guidance and direction of the SAOs, the SDWG and PAME may jointly consider possible actions, consistent with the Terms of Reference for Sustainable Development Program, the Sustainable Development Framework Document, and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan to study how the ecosystem approach and sustainable management of natural resources can be effectively implemented.

### ***Participation in IPY***

The SDWG may carry out projects and activities, as approved by SAOs, in relation to Arctic Council IPY priorities.

A more complete text of the Work Plan is available on the SDWG website (<http://portal.sdwg.org>)

## **CHAPTER 3. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE ARCTIC REGION.**

Outreach and cooperation with international partners is of great importance to the Arctic Council. The Chairmanship attached particular importance to communicating information on the work of the Arctic Council both within as well as outside the Arctic region. Several of the outreach efforts have been directed towards the United Nations, the Arctic Council developed cooperation with the European Union by inviting it to the AC sessions, with Nordic Council of Ministers and the Northern Forum by joint initiatives.

In his capacity as Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, the Chair made public statements on different Arctic issues. In addition, written material was transmitted by the secretariat to international organizations bringing attention to Arctic concerns on a wide range of topics.

In order to enhance coordination of regional northern cooperation and avoid duplication, Russian AC Chairmanship has convened the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of AC, BEAC, CBSS, NCM with participation of the European Commission (August 18, 2006, Moscow), the Chair's report is attached, see Annex 3.

For list of outreach efforts undertaken by the Chairmanship, see Annex #1.

### **SAOs recommend to Ministers to:**

- ***Encourage the Chairman of the SAOs to continue, in that capacity, outreach efforts of the Arctic Council aimed at the international community, regional organizations and academic and research communities with the aim of increasing awareness of the work of the Arctic Council and exploring possibilities for cooperation.***

## **CHAPTER 4. Observers**

The Ottawa declaration lays out the status of observers in the Arctic Council, open to non-Arctic States, intergovernmental and interparliamentary organizations and non-governmental organizations. At present the following 23 partners have been granted

observer status in the Arctic Council.

Observer states; France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

International organizations; Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Northern Forum, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

Non-governmental organizations; Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH), Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), University of the Arctic (UArctic) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), The Arctic Circumpolar Route (ACR)

Spain has applied for observer status to the Arctic Council. Its application is to be processed at the Fifth Ministerial meeting in Salekhard.

**SAOs recommend to Ministers to:**

*Continue to strengthen relations with Arctic Council observers and review applications of countries and others interested in becoming observers to the Arctic Council.*

**ANNEX 1. List of outreach efforts undertaken by the Russian AC Chairmanship**

1.	March 30, 2005, Saint-Petersburg, Russia	International workshop on Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
2.	April 16-19, 2005, Kunming, China	Arctic Science Summit Week
3.	May 2005, Stavanger, Norway	5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the four Regional Councils for the cooperation in the North
4.	May 2005, Archangelsk, Russia	Workshop on the role of Arctic in Globalisation
5.	June 12-15, 2005, Saint-Petersburg, Russia	Meeting of Standing Committee of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
6.	June 15-16, 2005, Saint-Petersburg, Russia	Saint-Petersburg Economic Forum, Panel on cooperation in the Arctic region.
7.	June 18-19, 2005, Harbin, China	Northern Forum General Assembly
8.	September 8, 2005, Cambridge, UK	Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program launch
9.	September 30-October 6, 2005, Anchorage, Canada	World Wildlife Foundation Congress
10.	October 18-19, 2005, Rovaniemi, Finland	Meeting of Ministers for Environment of the Barents region
11.	November 11-13, 2005, Copenhagen, Denmark	International Conference on Arctic Research and Planning -II
12.	November 15-17, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland	Meeting of the Joint Committee of the International polar Year
13.	November 21, 2005, Brussels, Belgium	Northern Dimension Ministerial Conference
14.	November 28-December 9, 2005	United Nations Convention on Climate Change – Conference of the Parties – XI.
15.	February 21-23, 2006, Hundested, Denmark	AC Permanent Participants Workshop
16.	May 18, 2006, Moscow, Russia	NEFCO meeting with the Russian Ministry for Finance
17.	May 22-24, 2006, New York, the USA	5 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent UN Forum on Indigenous Issues
18.	June 12-13, 2006, Edinburgh, UK	IPY Session in the XXIX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
19.	June 21, 2006, Vancouver, Canada	World Urban Forum, AC-UN Habitat Networking Event.
20.	August 1-4, 2006, Kiruna, Sweden	Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
21.	August 18, 2006, Moscow, Russia	Hosting the 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the 4 Regional Councils for the cooperation in the North
22.	September 21-23, 2006, Imatra, Finland	Northern Dimension Senior Officials Meeting

**Annex 2. Conference on the cultural dimension of cooperation between the Arctic Council Member States (Khanty-Mansiysk, January 18, 2006)**

**Declaration**  
**Conference on the Cultural Dimension**  
**of the Cooperation among the Arctic Council Member States**  
**Khanty-Mansiysk, January 18, 2006**

Ministers of Culture and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States met on 17-19 January 2006 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, discussed the tasks of strengthened cooperation among the Arctic Council Member States in the field of culture and declare the following.

I. The Arctic region possesses a wealth of human and natural resources. The Arctic is home to many thriving communities and cultural traditions of great diversity.

The livelihood of many residents of the Arctic region is closely linked to nature. They noted that the indigenous communities and other residents of the region have for generations sustained themselves within their local environment and maintained cultural identities through their application of traditional knowledge in harmony with their environment.

Culture is an essential component in building capacity in traditional communities to deal with environmental, economic, cultural and social challenges for the benefit of sustainable development in the Arctic region. Its population must have access to the cultural heritage, opportunity for the cultural self-expression, protection and development of the cultural tradition. International cultural cooperation is an important tool and promotes the active exchange of cultural experience of the Arctic nations. The role of the culture is important for the economic development of the Arctic region.

The Arctic Council provides for favorable opportunities for development of the cooperation in the circumpolar region. The role of other northern regional organizations in promoting dialogue among members of the cultural community, inter-complementation and synergy of applied efforts is also worth of highest appreciation. **As an example of cooperation the Arctic Winter Games with youth participating from the Arctic Council Member States can be mentioned.**

II. Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States applauded the initiative, aimed at the strengthening of the joint activity, the importance of the cultural exchange for understanding the socio-cultural and natural environment of the Arctic region.

On this basis and with a view to the existing national and regional programs to strengthen cultural cooperation in the different parts of the Arctic region, the Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States decided to further explore possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of culture in the Arctic region, meaning the following priority areas:

1. Culture-cooperation in the Arctic region in governmental and other formats to better understand the ongoing social and cultural changes, meet new challenges and opportunities for keeping the traditional cultures of the indigenous northern nations, the vivid cultural tradition, taking into consideration the interests of the whole population of the North for the sustainable development in the region. Encouraging cultural programs and

projects that promote horizontal linkages and networks in the framework of the Arctic Council.

2. Exchanging legislative experiences and policy on measures to promote cultural innovation and sustainable development in the Arctic.

3. Efforts to strengthen cultural originality of indigenous communities, including the indigenous languages, and further exploring cultural projects.

4. Improving awareness of the Arctic region's cultural diversity.

**5. Encouraging the creation of an independent Inter-Arctic News Agency with a view to disseminate information on the Arctic Council Member States and exchange of experience.**

6. Exploring the possibilities of involving representatives of indigenous origin and young specialists of the cultural sphere in national and international cultural exchange programs.

**III. Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States support the proposal of the Finnish and Russian delegations to hold on a regular basis the Summit of the Ministers of Culture of the Arctic Council Member States.**

**IV. Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States request the Arctic Council Senior Officials Committee to consider the possibility of creating a Working Group of the Arctic Council for formation of the social and cultural environment of Northern territories.**

V. Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States support the initiatives to further explore possibilities for strengthening their cooperation between States – members of the Arctic Council. The Ministers thank the Government of Russia for its hospitality and for hosting this conference in Khanty-Mansiysk.

### **Annex 3. Meeting of the Four Regional Councils for the cooperation in the North with participation of the European Commission**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of CSO Chairmen of Regional Organizations in the North Moscow, August 18, 2006**

The Arctic Council Russian Chairmanship hosted an annual meeting of the four Regional Councils in the North (the Arctic Council [AC], the Council of Baltic Sea

States [CBSS], the Barents/Euro-Arctic Council [BEAC], the Nordic Council of Ministers [NCM]), and the European Commission. The objective was to exchange information on the current activities, and to discuss possible synergies, especially in the context of the new Northern Dimension policy as of 2007.

The Councils were represented by the following delegates: the AC SAO Chairman, Ambassador Mr. Alexander IGNATIEV - AC, Russia, the CBSS CSO Chairman, Ambassador Christer PERSSON – CBSS, Sweden, the BEAC CSO Chairman, Ambassador Anneli PUURA-MÄRKÄLÄ –BEAC, Finland, the Chairman of Nordic Cooperation Committee Mr.Eilif GUNDERSEN – NCM, Norway). The European Commission was represented by the Deputy Head of Mission to Russia Mr.Paul VANDOREN.

All the four Councils reported on the recent developments and accomplishments during the year that had passed since the last meeting (Stavanger, Norway, host – Norwegian Chairmanship in BEAC, May 2005). They also briefed each other on the current respective Chairmanship priorities.

The participants outlined areas of common interest where the relevant bodies have been engaged in joint activities on both a bilateral and a trilateral basis. Such inter-council formats were considered as useful to achieve synergy, and since all four Council have a number of crosscutting themes and items on their agendas, also to avoid overlap. These areas are:

- 1) Projects on environmental protection and security - all the four Councils.
- 2) Projects of sustainable development, health and social issues – all the four Councils.
- 3) Cultural dimension – all the four Councils.
- 4) Projects on Youth – all the four Councils.
- 5) Development of Information and communication technologies – all the four Councils.
- 6) Parliamentary cooperation - all the four Councils.
- 7) Projects on education and research – all the four Councils.
- 8) Impacts of Climate Change - AC, BEAC.
- 9) Projects on energy – AC, BEAC, CBSS.
- 10) Projects on indigenous peoples - AC, BEAC and NCM.
- 11) Projects on border-crossings and customs cooperation - CBSS, BEAC, NCM.
- 12) Promoting of business opportunities, trade and investment – CBSS, BEAC and NCM.
- 13) Promoting of democracy, civil society – CBSS and NCM.
- 14) Rescue services cooperation – AC, BEAC and CBSS.
- 15) Exchange of experience between the secretariats - CBSS and NCM.

At the same time great expectations were connected with the Northern Dimension, which is being re-established on a new political basis agreed upon by the ND Parties – the European Union, the European Commission, Russia, Iceland and Norway. Being supported by the delegates, the new ND format not only improves

preconditions for the involvement of all Parties on the basis of equal footing, but also, generally, increases potential for a mutually beneficial interaction between the regional bodies.

The European Commission expressed its satisfaction with the ongoing development of regional cooperation in the North, welcomed the efforts to avoiding duplication and assured that the renewed Northern Dimension policy will make a vast contribution in the northern regional interaction, based on common ownership and commitment of its parties.

The CBSS had prepared, and distributed at the meeting three comparative tables of interest to the regional Councils, which display the following: 1) the scope of activities of the “four”, 2) the scope of activities of the sub-regional organisations and working groups in the Baltic Sea Region, 3) Presidencies (including, outgoing and incoming) in the international regional co-operative organisations of interest to the CBSS. The CBSS delegation asked the partners to comment on the documents with the view to have complete and accurate information and to use the tables as visual aids, updating them from time-to-time.

The CBSS delegation offered to host the next meeting (the 7<sup>th</sup>) of the regional Councils in the fall of 2007. At the same time the CBSS delegation invited the other regional Councils to an extended meeting of regional organisations/councils acting in the European geographical area, to be organised on November 16, 2006 in Malmö (Sweden). The objective of the meeting is to initiate and establish an active co-operation dialogue with also the partners (the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative, the Baltic Council, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, the Central European Initiative, the South European Co-operative Initiative, and the Vyshegrad Group) to explore in real terms possibilities for joint actions and synergies in the areas of mutual interests, based on an applied dialogue and result-oriented discussions in a “give-and-take” open format. The invitations would be sent shortly.