



ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Planned AMAP assessments and other follow-up

For the SAO meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, 21-23 October 2013 agenda item 6.3

Background

As a follow-up to the AMAP work plan for 2013-2015, the AMAP WG has requested its Expert Groups on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Radioactivity, and Human Health to present proposals for the updating of previous assessments on these issues. At the AMAP WG meeting in the Faroe Islands, the WG approved plans for updating previous assessments on POPs, radioactivity and human health. As a follow-up to the 2013 Arctic Ocean Acidification Assessment, AMAP will conduct a workshop of experts to evaluate the needs and scope of possible follow-up activities.

The Expert Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants

A multi-component assessment of POPs in the Arctic will be conducted including: 1) an update on temporal trends in POPs in air and biota that will also provide input in 2014 to the Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation activity; 2) an assessment of new emerging POPs for delivery in 2015; and 3) an integrated assessment of climate and POPs issues in 2017. A workshop on temporal trends in POPs was held in Ottawa on 26-27 September to begin this assessment work.

The Expert Group on Radioactivity

An updated assessment on radioactivity in the Arctic will be prepared for delivery in 2015. This assessment will present new information on issues covered in the 2009 assessment as well as information on issues not previously covered, including the decommissioning of facilities and handling of wastes, accidents, trends in levels at various Arctic sites, and NORM/TENORM (technologically enhanced, naturally occurring radioactive materials) from mining and oil and gas extraction activities. AMAP is planning to co-organize an Arctic session at an international conference on Radioactivity to be held in 2014, together with IAEA and WHO.

Human Health Assessment Group

An updated assessment will be prepared covering trends in levels of contaminant and their effects in human populations in the Arctic; combined effects of climate change, contaminants and other stressors on Arctic populations; risk assessment and communication of risk to local communities; and strategies for adaptation to combined stressors. The assessment is planned for delivery in 2015. The assessment will also contribute to the Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation.

Arctic Ocean Acidification Assessment follow-up

The AMAP WG gave initial consideration to follow-up activities of the AOA assessment, including the development of a monitoring strategy for measuring Arctic Ocean acidification. Plans will be developed to hold a workshop of experts to clarify further follow-up work and discuss the scope of an updated assessment to address, among other things, new data and global implications and teleconnections of AOA.