

Progress report from the AMAP Board to the SAO Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 23-24, 2003.

1. Update on ongoing work

AMAP is following the approved work plan for the period 2003-2004 as outlined in the SAO report to Ministers, Ivalo 2002. The main task for AMAP during this period is to produce the ACIA scientific assessment and policy reports, to be presented to the Ministerial meeting in 2004. This is a joint work with CAFF and IASC. Prior to the SAO meeting, ACIA will have arranged three important meetings in London (October 7-9 and October 14.-17). A report on the outcome of these meetings will be prepared jointly with CAFF and IASC for delivery to the SAO meeting that takes place the week following the ACIA meetings.

The AMAP WG met in Boulder USA, in May 2003 and discussed the work to be done by AMAP the years to come. The Minutes of the meeting is available from www.amap.no . The minutes include a Workplan for 2003-2004.

Based on the discussions at the AMAP WG meeting a new Strategic Plan for the period 2004+ has been drafted and circulated to the Heads of Delegation of the AMAP WG. The priorities for monitoring work are under discussion among the experts. The assessment work associated with the preparation of the update reports on petroleum hydrocarbons and acidifications that are due to be delivered in 2006 is underway.

The 2002 AMAP assessment report, '*Arctic Pollution 2002*' has been translated into Russian, and was presented at a Press Conference in Moscow, September 9th. The Danish and Greenlandic translations are still under preparation.

Five AMAP 2002 scientific assessment reports that provide the detailed scientific basis for the information and conclusions presented in '*Arctic Pollution 2002*' are being produced. The reports on *Human 'Health in the Arctic'* and '*The Influence of Global Change on Contaminant Pathways*' have been printed and circulated to the Arctic countries and the SAOs. The report on *Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Arctic* is at the printing house and will soon be circulated. The last two reports (*Radioactivity in the Arctic* and *Heavy Metals in the Arctic*) are currently undergoing final editing and will be printed and circulated later this autumn.

The AMAP Secretariat has been undertaking work to upgrade the AMAP website (www.amap.no). The first stages of this work have been completed and the new developments are now installed on the AMAP web server. These developments are out for comment prior to finalization of the work.

Special Projects

The RAIPON/AMAP/GEF project on '*Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the North*' has progressed. Nearly all sub-projects have now been completed. The core group of the PTS Project Steering Group met in St. Petersburg in early July 2003 to prepare a strategy for the finalization of the work.

At a Steering Group meeting held in Moscow in September for the '*Multilateral Co-operative Project on Phase-out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-Contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation*', Phase 2 of the project was successfully terminated and planning for Phase 3 of the project initiated. For more information see the progress report from ACAP.

Based on funding from the NCM, a special project to document the levels of PCB and other POPs in ringed seals from the seas around Northern Russia has made good progress. The results, when available, will allow a much better circumpolar view of the exposure and threats posed by POPs to both the seals and to the humans that exploit seals for food.

In an attempt to ensure an active Russian involvement in the ACIA work, UNEP-GRID Arendal took an initiative during the winter of 2001 to prepare and send an application to GEF for financial support to Russia. Russian authorities, AMAP, CAFF, UNEP GRID-Arendal, RAIPON and the ACIA Chair prepared a PDF-A application in January 2002 and this was approved. A Medium Sized Project (MSP) proposal was prepared and submitted in June 2001. Although GEF approved the application in general last autumn, no funding has been made available. At present the status of this project within the GEF administration is unclear.

Thanks to financial support from Canada, Denmark, Nordic Council of Ministers and Russia it has been possible to operate a joint AMAP/Russian station at Amderma in North West Russia to monitor long ranged transported contaminants (POPs and mercury) over some years. These fundings have now been spent and AMAP is looking for sponsors that can keep this important station in operation for the years to come.

2. Collaboration with other organizations

Arctic Council groups/initiatives

AMAP and CAFF are working in close cooperation on the production of the ACIA reports, and to develop a harmonized monitoring programme for the future. This will be further developed during 2004.

Following a request from PAME, the AMAP Board, assisted by Canada, have prepared a contribution for the Workshop on the Development of an Arctic Marine Strategy.

For the assessments of acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons that shall be ready by 2006 AMAP will establish a close cooperation with other AC Working groups to establish the best possible assessment teams.

UNEP

AMAP is involved in a cooperation with UNEP-Chemicals on (relevant aspects of) planning for a global monitoring programme for POPs, as a part of the follow-up to Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention. AMAP representatives participated in the planning meeting that was held in Geneva in mid March. Strong synergies can be anticipated between the Arctic monitoring that is contributing to AMAP and that which may contribute to the Global POPs Monitoring programme.

UNEP is represented in the AMAP WG by GRID-Arendal. GRID-Arendal has collaborated with the AMAP Secretariat in the establishment of the AMAP Project Directory and technical work in support of the AMAP website development.

AMAP has previously reported to SAOs on the request received from GIWA in 1999, concerning AMAP involvement in the GIWA work. The work is still on hold until a clear request from GIWA is received.

European Environment Agency (EEA)

The European Environment Agency (EEA) invited AMAP to assist in the production of the radioactivity parts of its 'Kiev' report on Europe's environment. This work was completed by the experts from the AMAP radioactivity assessment lead countries, Russia and Norway, and the EEA report was presented at a Ministerial meeting held in Kiev in May 2003. The report is available from EEA.

EEA and UNEP are preparing a report on the links between Europe and the Arctic, regarding use of resources, pollution, climate change, etc. Plans concerning the production of this report were presented to the SAO meeting in June 2001 in Rovaniemi. AMAP has made a substantial contribution to this production. The report is expected to be published in the autumn of 2003 in connection to the approval of the EU Northern Dimension Action Plan.

World Water Forum

Within the framework of the 'Global Dialogue on Water and Climate', the AMAP Secretariat has been involved in the development of a project 'Dialogue on climate change adaptation strategy in water management and flood preparedness at the Lena basin', and served as the international coordinator for this project. The project has been successfully completed and its outcome has been favourably acknowledged by Russian authorities and the international community. At present, a follow-up project proposal is under consideration, with possible expansion to all Arctic Siberian rivers.

EU

Under the EU's 6th Framework programme there are possibilities for a closer cooperation between European countries, Canada, USA and Russia to establish joint programme related to pollution and climate change. Joint meetings have been held to explore these possibilities and initiate work that may secure Arctic relevant research and monitoring activities.

Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC)

At the 10th anniversary for the BEAC in January 2003, NEFCO was requested to update its list of 'pollution hotspots' that was originally prepared by NEFCO-AMAP in 1995. NEFCO subsequently requested the AMAP Secretariat to assist in producing this update, and this activity was supported by the AMAP Board. The updated 'hotspots' report was presented at the Ministerial meeting of Environmental Ministers of BEAC in Luleå in August 2003. The report is available from AMAP website.

3. Requests to the SAOs

Regarding finances we have the same request as at the last SAO meeting.

Annex 1: Provisional Calendar of AMAP and AMAP Related Meetings: 2003-2004

October	ACIA meetings in London, PDT and ASC
October/November	Expert planning meetings for the 2006 assessments
January 2004	ACIA PDT meeting
March 2004	Joint AMAP/CAFF WG meeting
September 2004	ACIA Symposium