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ACAP Working Group Report to SAOs

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Progress report

ACAP Working Group Report to SAOs, October 2015 in Anchorage

September, 2015

Introduction

ACAP held its first meeting under the US Chairmanship in Tromsø, Norway, September 16-18, 2015. 19 participants attended representing seven AC countries (Iceland was absent), one Permanent Participant (AIA), one observer state (United Kingdom) and 1 observer organization (NEFCO). ACAP welcomed participation by SAO Chair, David Balton, and Canadian SAO, Susan Harper during portions of the meeting.

The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last ACAP meeting in Rovaniemi and the Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to implement projects and progress has been made in priority areas of the ACAP work plan 2015-2017. The relevant sections of the Amarok (the AC Tracker) were updated after the meeting.

ACAP participated in the historic joint session of four of the AC working groups (ACAP, AMAP, CAFF and PAME) on the morning of Wednesday, September 16, 2015. ACAP worked with Arctic SDI to lead the breakout session on *Standardized Geospatial Data Management and Sharing*. Participants at the breakout session and ACAP delegates agreed that the joint meeting was very successful in raising awareness on some of the important cross-cutting issues on the AC agenda.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

Expert Group on Dioxins and Furans: The project as noted in the 2015-2017 ACAP work plan is on track. Two project proposals were approved intersessionally by ACAP, one related to work at the Vorkutinskiy Cement plant, and the other related to further inventory work at other sites.

Expert Group on Obsolete Pesticides: The project *Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) of Obsolete Pesticides Contaminated Sites in the Russian Federation* was approved intersessionally and is on-track to implement in spring 2016. Furthermore, the EG will consider assessing a new Russian hazardous waste destruction facility recently located in Krasnoyarsk, with a view of using it for destruction of pesticide waste thus finalizing the project. The on-hold PCB project, *Demonstration of Management and Destruction of 250 tonnes of PCBs in Transformers*, will be discussed in the EG and relevant papers will be distributed by NEFCO to the EG for comment, and/or approval if needed.

Expert Group on Mercury: The report titled *Summary of Technical Information Exchange Meeting on Mercury Abatement in the Metallurgical Industry Workshop*, April 15, 2015, in Ekaterinburg, Russian Federation, and subject to approval of the EG it will be forwarded to ACAP for further consideration including in the use of ACAP and AC logos.

Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG): The *Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO)* is on track and has a number of exciting developments, including an iPhone app. Possibilities to increase the geographic coverage to other countries are currently being considered. CLEO will be discussed at the Working Group Chairs meeting in Anchorage, and is currently on the agenda for the SAO plenary meeting. Project leads will also undertake outreach with SDWG, requesting a presentation at the next SDWG meeting in Barrow. The *Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment* project is on-track, and is likely to have both the assessment tool and associated reports as deliverables in 2017.

Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) Expert Group:

- Under the umbrella project *Arctic Black Carbon: Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources* a number of updates were reported to ACAP:
 - 1) The publication of the article Black Carbon Emission from Russian Diesel Sources: Case Study of Murmansk in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (July 2015) will be shared with SAOs.
 - 2) The report on guidelines for off-road vehicles will be released and an article will be published in the Russian Journal Mining Industry (August 2015). The article will be shared with SAOs.
 - 3) Implementation of the Battelle/EEF Russia pilot project *Wind-diesel Project at Tundra Collective in the Murmansk Region* continues.
 - 4) Completion of two feasibility studies one on mapping substitutes for diesel power plants, and one on energy supply conversion.
- The report *Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions* was approved by ACAP for publishing as an ACAP/AC report, and will be forwarded to SAOs for approval as a 2017 Ministerial deliverable.
- The *Black Carbon Case Studies Portal* has been launched on the new ACAP webpage. ACAP would like encourage further contributions to the portal. This work is the result of EPPR/NOAA (Arctic ERMA) and the Arctic Council Secretariat.
- ACAP noted two projects that are under development for first consideration at the EG level: *System for Black Carbon Emission Impact Management from Sources in the Russian Arctic and Arctic-Barents Region Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Mitigation Project*. These projects may come forward to ACAP for consideration either intersessionally or at the next working group meeting.

ACAP Strategic Plan

ACAP will update its Strategic Plan to reflect the current work streams and priorities. Under guidance from the Chair, the U.S., Finland, Norway and AIA, and ACAP Executive Secretary will lead the process, preparing a draft for discussion at the next ACAP meeting in February 2016.

Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

ACAP is Chaired by Ulrik Westman (SWE) and the Vice-Chair is Hodayah Finman (U.S). Secretariat support is provided by Executive Secretary, Patti Bruns at the Arctic Council Secretariat.

ACAP decided to test increasing expert group synergies by merging the EGs of Obsolete Pesticides, PCBs and Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS), into one group called the *EG on Hazardous Waste*, and also to merge the EG on Dioxins and Furans with the EG Mercury, into one group called the *EG on POPs and Mercury*. Both the IPCAP and SLCP EGs will remain the same. The decision to continue with the new EG configuration after the pilot phase will be on the agenda at the next ACAP Working Group meeting

ACAP welcomed news of the ACAP Twitter account, the new ACAP webpage (hosted on the AC website), and news of funds for a new visual identity.

ACAP Working Group meeting will be held February 2-4, 2016 in Washington D.C., U.S (TBC). It was tentatively agreed that the following meeting will take place in June 2016, in the Russian Federation.

Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

- As noted above, CLEO will be discussed at the Working Group Chairs meeting in Anchorage. Project leads will also undertake outreach with SDWG, requesting a presentation at the next SDWG meeting.
- As noted above, The *Black Carbon Case Studies Portal* is the result of EPPR/NOAA (Arctic ERMA) and the Arctic Council Secretariat.
- The ACAP Chair looks forward to further information, and invitation, to the first meeting of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane in early 2016.