

Adaptation of Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA)

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ARCTIC COUNCIL

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During the coming decades, a number of changes across the Arctic are projected to occur with high probability and scientific confidence that pose unprecedented challenges and emerging opportunities to human societies, their economic foundations and government institutions. A key challenge in the Arctic includes having appropriate adaptation strategies and actions to deal with multiple environmental stressors that include, for example, climate variability and change, human demographic shifts, industrialization, and increasing demands for energy and natural resource extraction. Changes associated with these stressors will have significant socio-economic and policy implications for all Arctic nations, their peoples and the conservation and protection of the Arctic environment.

Many Arctic countries are developing adaptation strategies to a changing Arctic. Decision-makers require appropriate information, expertise and tools to better inform and implement adaptation decisions in relation to multiple stressors operating at a range of spatial and temporal scales.

The overarching goal of the AACCA is: To enable more informed, timely and responsive policy and decision-making related to adaptation action in a rapidly changing Arctic.

AACCA Deliverables, Leads and Timelines

- a) Consider the key findings and recommendations from existing AC assessments and other relevant national and international reports over the past ten years to determine how these can contribute to and inform adaptation options for Arctic countries. ***This work will be conducted by each AC working group and compiled and synthesized by SDWG. This work will be reported out at the May 2013 Ministerial.***
- b) Identify existing national, regional and local adaptation efforts within or relevant to the Arctic region, with the aim of considering how these can contribute to and inform the development and application of various adaptation tools and approaches that offer practical and effective solutions and best practices for adaptation actions in response to opportunities and challenges in a changing Arctic. ***This work will be undertaken by a committee of representatives from each of the Arctic States and Permanent Participants and coordinated by an Arctic State(s). Work will be reported out by the May 2013 Ministerial.***
- c) Work with other relevant, recognized scientific organizations to consider Arctic-focused climate and integrated environmental frameworks/models that can improve predictions of climate change and other relevant drivers of Arctic change. This would support the goal of obtaining better predictions to inform the development and implementation of adaptation actions by Arctic Council members and Permanent Participants. ***This work will be led by AMAP as part of its existing workplan, in collaboration with other Working Groups and scientific organizations as appropriate, and will be completed by 2017.***