

Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Group Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP)

Background

Industrial development of the Arctic has been accompanied by waste accumulation, especially in the vicinity of indigenous villages, that represents a growing threat to safety and health of the Arctic people. Recent studies confirm that contamination of the Arctic environment of the indigenous peoples is getting increasingly severe.

Due to traditional living conditions, the peoples of the Arctic are exposed to higher levels of contamination in all components of environment: air, water, soil and food. Indigenous peoples' organizations have been active participants in the 2001-2004 AMAP project "Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North" coordinated by the RAIPON and also of other international projects addressing contamination problems and human health.

The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council have proposed the elaboration of the Indigenous Peoples Community Action Initiative "to develop their partnership with ACAP to identify and remove local sources of contamination and improve the environmental conditions in indigenous communities". The initiative was approved by the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard (October 2006).

1. Mandate

The goal of the Indigenous Peoples' Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP) is to enhance involvement of Arctic indigenous peoples' communities in reducing exposure and impact of contaminants in their communities. The ACAP Project Steering Group on implementation of this initiative (hereinafter - the PSG IPCAP)

was established in September 2008 at the ACAP Working Group Meeting. It was confirmed by the decision of the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø (March 31, 2009). The scope of activity of the PSG IPCAP was defined by the Tromsø Declaration – that is to “address contaminant issues in indigenous peoples’ communities in remote areas of the Arctic”.

The IPCAP PSG activity is circumpolar by nature and is being coordinated by the Member States and the Permanent Participants.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

IPCAP PSG roles and responsibilities are to include the following:

- Coordinating selection of co-chairs, one from the Permanent Participants groups and one from Arctic Council Member States, to serve as co-facilitators of the PSG.
- Developing and coordinating projects under the PSG mandate,
- Preparing and disseminating of draft documents to all interested parties.
- Ensuring the prior and informed consent of the local communities in projects impacting their communities.
- Supporting the direct involvement in the project development process by indigenous communities.
- Ensuring that the work of this PSG is consistent with the respective national legislation, rules and guidelines of the Arctic Council and ACAP.
- Providing a complete status report in writing to the chair of ACAP prior to ACAP and SAO meetings.
- Adhering to the Arctic Council Rules of Procedures and ACAP Project Preparation Guidance document, to the extent feasible.
- Striving to ensure that projects reflect the circumpolar nature of ACAP and the Arctic Council.

- Proposing amendments to these Terms of Reference (ToR), as needed, to ACAP for its consideration.

These Terms of Reference should be re-reviewed by ACAP no later than two years after adoption to ensure that the ToR are sufficient to meet the mandate of this PSG.

3. Project Proposal Elements

This IPCAP PSG is to recommend projects that focus on the: (1) identification of local sources of contamination (2) improvement of the environmental conditions in Arctic indigenous communities by reducing exposure to and impact of contaminants. During both tasks national and international skilled experts and personnel could be engaged, as appropriate to ensure necessary local training.

Projects implemented under the scope of this PSG should be developed according to the Arctic Council Rules of Procedures and ACAP Project Development Process Description. The project activities of the PSG IPCAP are to involve the following items:

Phase I (2 years – 2010-11)

- Awareness raising, collecting information and data, detection and inventory of the local sources of man-made contamination in the Arctic region.
- Elaboration and establishment of the participatory mechanism for indigenous peoples aimed at identification of man-made contamination in the vicinity of areas of their traditional inhabitation.

Phase II:

- Capacity building, (education, awareness raising and training activities) leading to assessment of contaminant sources on a community level and

leading to informed decision-making on management of the pollution sources and solution of the contamination problems.

- Dissemination of the relevant information on the contamination of land and its impact upon traditional lifestyle and land use of the indigenous peoples in the Arctic region.
- Feasibility studies.

Phase III:

- Clean up activities are to be executed with usage of Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices available at the community level or in accordance with the governments regulations. Clean-up of the hazardous substances or toxic wastes should be carried out by licensed experts only, according to the national regulations of the host country of the project.

4. Program Project Steering Group Structure and Membership

This Project Steering Group is to include two co-chairs; one chosen or endorsed by the Arctic Council Permanent Participants (PPs), and the second elected by the Member States. The PSG may invite other PPs, ACAP Member States, observers and experts to participate in this PSG, as necessary for specific project development (in accordance with ACAP Project Operating Guidelines, Annex II).

5. Funding

All activities are contingent upon the availability of funding which may be from Member States/Observers/Other PSG Participants, the Project Support Instrument, national development assistance, or other sources. Listing of activities in this document does not constitute or imply a promise of funding. Further, it is

recognized that not all activities may be eligible for all types of assistance indicated in this paragraph.