



Work Plan

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

2000 - 2002

August 2000

Preface:

The purpose of the PAME Work Plan is to provide a framework for PAME's work related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment for the period of 2000 – 2002.

PAME's activities are directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. PAME consists of National Representatives responsible for its work in their respective countries. Permanent Participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, also participate in PAME, as well as representatives from several observer countries and interested organisations. Thus PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic pollution prevention issues.

The PAME Working Group meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair which rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat.

PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials and, through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years.

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Introduction

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities. These include coordinated action programmes and guidelines complementing existing legal arrangements.

The PAME Work Plan 2000 – 2002 has been developed according to its mandate and agreed priorities. The aim is collaborative actions involving member countries and permanent participants, observing countries and regional/international organizations.

This Work Plan identifies 5 objectives and a set of specific actions which outline the overall direction for the PAME program.

Mandate

The 1998 Iqaluit Ministers' Meeting requested PAME to undertake the following work:

Work vigorously for the early implementation of the actions described in the first phase of the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) and its further development in a manner consistent with the associated international agreements and arrangements.

Seek appropriate support to help Russia finalize the Russian NPA-Arctic and host a Partnership Conference to be organized with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) which would seek funds to remediate regional priority pollution sources and activities identified in the RPA and Russian NPA-Arctic.

Review the effectiveness and general usage of the 1997 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines in the year 2000.

Assess current and potential shipping activities to assist in determining what, if any, additional Arctic shipping measures are required.

Assess the adequacy of existing international agreements and arrangements related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1

Prevent marine pollution from land-based activities.

Rationale:

The Ministers of the Arctic Council declared (1998 Iqaluit Declaration) its support for the development and implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic and to host a Partnership Conference with the assistance of ACOPS, which would seek funds to remediate regional priority pollution sources and activities identified in the RPA and Russian NPA-Arctic.

The RPA objective is to protect the Arctic marine environment through joint actions on land-based activities which are the main sources of marine pollution. The actions range from legal mechanisms to technology transfer, education and training, and capacity building.

The design and overall management objective of the Russian NPA-Arctic provides for the need to protect and restore the quality of the marine environment, including its biological resources and biodiversity. The goal is to support the conservation and sustainable development of its natural resources and the removal of threats to the health of its human population from anthropogenic sources of pollution in the Arctic marine environment.

The Russian NPA-Arctic has identified 38 activities to be implemented in the period from 1999-2002. Seven of these activities are underway with financial support through the GEF PDF-B Project: "Support to the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Russian Federation".

RPA Actions:

- Encourage the implementation of National Plans of Actions.
- Respond to additional RPA proposals such as the consideration of Codes of Practice for Mining.
- Clarify application of the RPA to the Coastal Zone.
- Develop a reporting procedure and format for assessing the implementation of RPA in collaboration with other working groups.

- Provide progress reports on the implementation of the RPA.
- Develop proposals for a clearing-house mechanism in coordination with the UNEP/GPA Office.

Russian NPA-Arctic Actions:

- Support the effort of the Russian Federation and ACOPS in the development and implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic through technical, scientific and financial assistance.
- Continue to promote information sharing, collaboration and in the funding raising efforts for the implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic.
- Encourage International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to take part in the design and implementation of pre-investment studies and the hot-spot analysis.
- Serve as an advisory body to the partnership process and promote participation of all relevant stakeholders in the Partnership Conference.
- Report on the progress of the Russian NPA-Arctic to all relevant stakeholders (e.g. Arctic Council working Groups, SAOs and IFIs).

Objective 2

Prevent marine pollution from offshore oil and gas activities.

Rationale:

The Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines were adopted at the Alta Ministerial Meeting in 1997. These guidelines are intended to be of use to the Arctic countries at all stages for the planning, exploration and development of offshore oil and gas activities. The goal of these guidelines is to ensure that the Arctic marine and coastal environments are better protected.

The Arctic Council has instructed PAME to periodically evaluate the effectiveness, adequacy and usage of these guidelines.

Actions:

- Consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the Oil and Gas Guidelines, and the need for and appropriateness of other measures by PAME in this field.
- Review and revise, as appropriate, the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines.

- Consider other possible new measures for Oil and Gas.
- Encourage the continuation of the RUNARC project.
- Collaborate with other organizations involved with the review and assessment of Arctic Offshore Guidelines including WWF, IUCN, OGP and UNEP.

Objective 3

Prevent marine pollution from shipping activities.

Rationale:

Present and future shipping activities in the Arctic are a potential cause of concern with respect to the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

Actions:

- Complete analysis on present and future shipping activities in the Arctic.
- Promote working group co-operation in the assessment of shipping activities e.g., combining shipping information with sensitivity mapping information from CAFF and EPPR.
- Consider shipping proposals and recommend possible new shipping measures.

Objective 4

Implement existing international agreements and assess the need for further actions or measures.

Rationale:

Update the 1996 PAME report as a means to continue activities in identifying means of preventing or reducing pollution of the Arctic environment through coordinated action programmes and guidelines complementing existing international agreements.

Actions:

- Provide an update of the 1996 PAME Report including assessing the need for further actions or instruments at international and/or national level to prevent Pollution of the Arctic Marine Environment.
- Encourage and facilitate co-operation between and among regional organizations/conventions and agreements to promote the exchange of information, experience and expertise.
- Promote ratification and implementation of international conventions and agreements.

Objective 5

Develop and promote integrated and cost-effective actions.

Rationale:

There is a need to coordinate work with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations, local authorities and indigenous groups in an effort to promote integrated and cost-effective actions.

Actions:

- Develop PAME Communication Strategy.
- Develop reporting procedures/mechanism on the implementation of the PAME Work Plan to Arctic Council SAOs and Ministers and other interested intergovernmental bodies (e.g. UNEP, UN-ECE and CSD).
- Promote regular consultation with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations, local authorities and indigenous groups.
- Develop integrated training programmes to build capacity in skills to prevent and control marine pollution.
- Develop education materials on measures to protect the marine environment (e.g. fact-sheets).

Overview of PAME Workplans

2000

Support the RPA, Russian NPA-Arctic and Partnership Conference
Factual updates on status of International Agreements and Arrangements
Review Snap Shot Analysis on shipping
Invite comments on Oil and Gas Guideline and need for other measures
Develop Proposals for Clearing House
Develop communication Brochure
Progress Reports to Ministers on:

- RPA, Russian NPA-Arctic, Partnership Conference
- Shipping Analysis
- Meeting goals and objectives of offshore guidelines
- Status of agreements and additional instruments

2001

Define Coastal Area
Support RPA, Russian NPA-Arctic and hold Partnership Conference
Collate Shipping Proposals
Consider proposed amendments to PAME Offshore Guidelines and any suggestions for other measures in this area
Respond to additional RPA Proposals
Complete update on marine pollution sources
Continue Analysis of International Agreements and Arrangements

2002

Support RPA and Russian NPA-Arctic
Complete Analysis of International Agreements and Arrangements
Provide recommendations on:

- Adequacy of international agreements and arrangements
- Possible new shipping measures
- Possible amendments to offshore oil and gas guidelines
- Possible new measures for land-based activities