



AMAP Work plan 2013–2015¹

Projects and activities

Trends and Effects Monitoring Program: AMAP will carry out its monitoring and assessment implementation plan in accordance with the approved AMAP Strategic Framework for 2010+.

Arctic monitoring and research activities: As part of its on-going work, AMAP will continue to coordinate, based largely on national programs, to provide the information necessary for assessment of relevant issues such as:

- spatial and temporal trends in levels of contaminants in Arctic ecosystems including humans;
- biological/ecological effects of contaminants and associated trends, including human health effects;
- climate change, including ocean acidification, SLCFs and cryosphere;
- effects of climate variability and change;
- improved predictive capacity through increased observations, research and understanding of processes governing changes in the Arctic;
- human and ecosystem health effects; and
- combined effects of contaminants, climate change and other stressors, including effects on humans.

AMAP will continue to coordinate and deal with new activities to ensure appropriate data reporting and archiving, including reporting of data to AMAP Thematic Data Centres. AMAP will cooperate with international partners and arrange workshops to improve monitoring capability, including the use of remote sensing.

Ongoing and planned assessments

Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic – part C: Work will continue on Arctic-focused climate and integrated environmental frameworks/models that can improve predictions of climate change and other relevant drivers of Arctic change in order to improve predictions and inform the development and implementation of adaptation actions by Arctic States and Permanent Participants. An interim report will be presented in 2015, other products are anticipated during 2015–2017, and final integrated reports will be produced in 2017. The main work in phases 2 and 3 will be organised around workshops starting in mid-2013, with follow-up in 2014, with experts, indigenous and local peoples, governments and stakeholders, focusing on the selected regions and prioritised sectors. These will clarify the basis for adaptation strategies to meet user needs and analyse consequences that may occur in relation to combined effects on ecosystems and socio-economic development. Information for relevant sectors will be compiled and evaluated, and integrated regional reports and other products will be prepared to improve predictive capability of the consequences of climate change and other relevant drivers of change.

¹ Extract from Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers. Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013.

SLCF Expert Group: AMAP will update its assessment to include scientific data and information on black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone from sources inside and outside the Arctic. Updated scientific assessment reports will be presented at the Ministerial meeting in 2015 and the work will be well coordinated with the new Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane.

Human Dimension and Priority on Arctic Health and Human Well-being: The human health assessment group will continue to work with SDWG's human health expert group on issues of joint concern and plans to produce an update to the 2009 AMAP Human Health Report in time for release at the Ministerial meeting in 2015.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Expert Group: AMAP will continue its work on safety guidelines and demonstrate the use of UAS in cross-jurisdictional environmental monitoring.

Other: As part of its ongoing work, AMAP will determine the need for follow-up activities and products in relation to its previous work and develop plans for such activities as needed. Follow-up activities and products may be undertaken for the Oil and Gas Assessment (OGA), SWIPA, AOA, and mercury assessments. Other AMAP-relevant issues, such as POPs, radioactivity, human health, contaminant transport and fate, will be updated. AMAP will continue to evaluate emerging issues of concern related to pollution and climate change and their effects on Arctic ecosystems and human populations.

Cross-cutting projects and activities

Food and Water Security project: The AMAP Human Health Assessment Group and the SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group are jointly developing this project for review and consideration by Senior Arctic Officials.

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan: AMAP will contribute to an update of the 2004 plan with PAME.

Arctic Ocean Review: AMAP will contribute to any potential follow-up related to pollution and climate change issues with PAME.

AACA part c: AMAP is leading the work on this part, which will be developed in collaboration with other relevant Arctic Council working groups and international science organisations.

Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative: AMAP will continue to implement this initiative, as appropriate with other relevant Arctic Council working groups.

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Plan: AMAP will continue to cooperate with CAFF in the further development of this plan to ensure consistency with the AMAP monitoring guidelines and plans, and on follow-up on the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment.

SAON: AMAP will contribute to the implementation of the SAON and continue to co-lead its development on behalf of the Arctic Council, together with the IASC. The AMAP Secretariat, together with the IASC Secretariat, will continue to provide secretariat support.

Support for international activities

AMAP's science results and information: As part of its continuing work AMAP will participate in relevant international meetings and symposia to communicate its ongoing activities as needed.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Chemicals: AMAP will continue to cooperate with UNEP on its activities related to UNEP's global mercury agreement, the Minamata Convention.

Stockholm Convention Conference of Parties 7 (COP 7): AMAP will present data products and intends to collaborate with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat in preparation for the Stockholm Convention's Second Global Monitoring Plan report due in 2015. Activities connected with the Stockholm Convention will be undertaken, including follow-up of the joint UNEP/AMAP technical report on climate change and POPs: predicting the impacts. AMAP will also take into account the possible need to provide Arctic information products in connection with, e.g. effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the international agreements under UNEP and the United Nations Economic Convention for Europe (UNECE), as well as information for the inclusion of new chemicals in existing conventions.

UNFCCC IPCC and the SWIPA assessment results: The results of the SWIPA 2011 assessment will continue to be delivered to the IPCC for use in its Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change to be prepared in 2013/2014.

Combined Effects of Contaminants and Climate Change: The AMAP Secretariat will continue its leading role in this project, in cooperation with AMAP experts, and funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic countries. Phase 2 of the project is due to be completed by 2013. AMAP will also continue its work on ArcRisk, funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme and Arctic States. ArcRisk will be completed at the Arctic Frontiers Conference to be held in January 2014. Also, AMAP's climate expert group and the human health assessment group will participate in the further development and implementation of special projects in Russia, including the project on the Lena and other Russian Arctic rivers under the GEF-Russian Federation Partnership, and follow-up on the Persistent Toxic Substances project.

Communication and outreach

AMAP will further develop and implement its Communications and Outreach Plan in compliance with the Arctic Council's Communications and Outreach Strategy. AMAP will implement follow-up communication and outreach activities in accordance with the Arctic Council's Communications and Outreach Guidelines, associated with its assessments and activities: AOA, SWIPA, OGA, mercury, radioactivity, SLCFs, POPs, human health and SAON, through the production and dissemination of films, translated reports, fact sheets, website information, educational materials and other outreach products. AMAP will continue to contribute relevant programme-related scientific input to the Arctic Report Card, and co-lead, together with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and CAFF, its production.