

**MINUTES FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Helsinki, Finland, December 7-9, 1998

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the Agenda.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Progress Report from the Chairman and the Secretariat.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>US priorities as the Leader of the Arctic Council.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Statements of the Observers.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>The AMAP Strategic Work Plan for 1998-2003.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>The AMAP Assessments to be produced during 1998-2003.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>The AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme (AMAP MEP) for 1998-2003.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>National Implementation Plans (NIP) to fulfil the AMAP MEP.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Source related work.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Cooperation with the other Arctic Council Working Groups.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Cooperation with International Organizations.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>International AMAP symposia and workshops to be held during 1999.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>AMAP data policy and other data issues.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Specimen banking.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>The financial situation regarding the AMAP Secretariat and common activities.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Election of the Chair.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>The AMAP Programme for 1999.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>The next Working Group Meeting.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Any other business.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>21.</b>	<b>End of the Meeting.....</b>	<b>19</b>

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

- 1. List of Participants**
- 2. Agenda of the Meeting**
- 3. List of Participants Distributed Prior to and During the Meeting**
- 4. Progress Report from the AMAP Secretariat**
- 5. Timetable for the AMAP Assessment Reports**
- 6. Schematic diagram of interaction between ASG and ASC**
- 7. Terms of reference for the Assessment Steering Group (ASG)**
- 8. Terms of Reference for the Assessment Steering Committee (ASC)**
- 9. AMAP Work Programme for 1999**

**MINUTES FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING  
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**1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1. The Chair of the AMAP Working Group, Lars Erik Liljelund, opened the meeting.
- 1.2. The Head of the Finnish AMAP Delegation, Outi Mähönen, welcomed the meeting participants to Helsinki on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of Finland and the organizers of the meeting, and provided practical information concerning organizational issues of the meeting. A list of participants is attached in [Appendix 1](#).
- 1.3. The AMAP Executive Secretary, Lars-Otto Reiersen, gave additional information concerning practical arrangements.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda.**

- 2.1. There were no comments from the Delegation to the Draft Agenda presented prior to the meeting.
- 2.2. The Canadian Delegation requested to consider the information on the Arctic Council Project "Children and Youth in the Arctic", which was included under the Agenda item 7, later, due to late arrival of the Canadian Delegate Andrew Gilman.
- 2.3. The Agenda was adopted with the agreement to re-order the agenda items during the meeting as necessary for their more efficient presentation and discussion ([Appendix 2](#)).
- 2.4. The list of documents distributed prior to and during the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting is presented in [Appendix 3](#).

**3. Progress Report from the Chairman and the Secretariat.**

- 3.1. Lars Erik Liljelund presented information on the Iqaluit Arctic Council Meeting. He emphasized a favourable response of the Meeting participants to the AMAP Assessment Report (AAR), which was presented at the Meeting by the Norwegian Delegation on behalf of AMAP. He expressed his satisfaction on positive comments to the AAR from different fora, both in relation with scientific content of the Report, its design, and graphical material and maps presented in it. He expressed special thanks to the AMAP Deputy Secretary, Simon Wilson, for his contribution to organization of the report's publication.
- 3.2. Lars-Otto Reiersen presented Progress Report from the AMAP Secretariat to the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAP Working Group Meeting ([Appendix 4](#), the items of the presentation, covered by the Appendix, are not reflected in the Minutes).  
The USA Delegation emphasized in the discussion importance of wider presentation of the AMAP Assessment results. In this context, the Secretariat was requested concerning possibilities to present the AAR in the Internet using the AMAP Home

Page. The Secretariat informed the meeting participants that publication of the CD-ROM version of the AAR is under consideration, however, constraints of the joint funding available at the Secretariat create problems in implementation of this initiative. The US Delegation expressed its will to consider possibility of financial support of CD-ROM publication. In this context, the AMAP Secretariat was asked to consult with the AAR Publisher (Olsen & Olsen) concerning the price of CD-ROM publication and a number of copies that can make this publication financially feasible (see agenda item 14.4).

Special attention was given to financial support needed for sustainable operation of the existing AMAP thematic data centres. Lars-Otto Reiersen informed the meeting participants that, based on planned financial support from Canada, Denmark, Norway and the Nordic Council of Ministers, TDCs should be financially ensured for 1999.

#### **4. US priorities as the Leader of the Arctic Council.**

After the First Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting (Iqaluit, Canada, September 17-18, 1998), the USA took the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council for the next two-year period. The USA AMAP Delegation presented to the meeting participants the position of this country on the priorities of the Arctic Council activities for this period. This position has been stated by the USA Department of State in the communication letter of November 30, 1998 (document 12/4/1). It was emphasized that sustainable development, environmental protection and education are currently considered as the most important issues of the Arctic Council agenda.

During the discussion, the meeting participants expressed their wish to get, in order to have an opportunity to schedule their work, a preliminary long-term timetable of the Arctic Council related meetings.

The ICC Delegation raised organizational questions connected with the work of the Arctic Council Secretariat. The USA Delegation explained that the AC Secretariat is currently under formation, and its structure and duties will depend on practical issues of the Arctic Council activities under the USA Chairmanship, particularly related to the Sustainable Development Programme.

#### **5. Statements of the Observers.**

- 5.1. The WWF representative, Samantha Smith, stated in her presentation, that her non-governmental organization is increasing field activities in the Arctic Council. In this context, more close collaboration between AMAP and WWF would be beneficial for both bodies, particularly in the area of biological effects monitoring.
- 5.2. The IASC General Secretary, Odd Rogne, stated that there are at least three areas of joint interests between IASC and AMAP: climate change and its effects, UV-B effects and environmental impacts on human health. He expressed his hope that fruitful co-operation between these two organizations will further improve in the forthcoming period.

- 5.3. The UNEP representative, David Henry, expressed the willingness of his organization to further assist AMAP in the fields of mutual interests, particularly in information and dissemination activities within the projects that should be implemented by AMAP or with AMAP participation, e.g. "Children and youth of the Arctic". He welcomed once more an idea of publication of the AMAP Assessment Report in the CD-ROM version and stated the readiness of his organization to assist AMAP in its preparation.

## **6. The AMAP Strategic Work Plan for 1998-2003.**

- 6.1. At his introductory comments to this agenda item, Lars Erik Liljelund pointed out that the agenda item 6, 7 and 8 are closely linked, and harmonization of the strategic document on the AMAP activities for 1998-2003 and monitoring and effects programme for this period is the most crucial issue for the current meeting of the Working Group. The aim of the discussion should be developing directives for the Secretariat and the Lead Country Experts on changes in these documents.
- 6.2. Lars-Otto Reiersen introduced the history of the Strategic Work Plan development. He reminded the meeting participants that the first version of this document had been adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG Meeting (Girdwood, Alaska, 23-24 April 1998) under the title "Outline of the AMAP Work Plan for 1998-2003". This document was focused on mainly strategic issues of acquisition of data and information needed for assessments, and was prepared to provide guidance to the experts meeting in Girdwood. Based on the decision of the Working Group at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, this document was subsequently presented to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) at their meeting in Whitehorse, 9-11 May 1998. The document was accepted by SAOs as the AMAP Work Plan, and after the SAO and Ministerial Meetings in Iqaluit (September 1998) this document has been further updated according to recommendations of these meetings. The updated version of this document is presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> WG meeting as document 12/6/1 "The AMAP Strategic Work Plan for 1998-2003".
- 6.3. Taking into account that the purpose of the document should be to introduce an overall strategy for the AMAP activities for the forthcoming period, and not be confused with the operational AMAP workplan for 1999, the meeting participants agreed that the document should be rewritten as a short and concise paper for presenting this strategy to politicians and wider public audience. The document would reflect the AMAP mandate by incorporation (e.g. in italics) relevant material from Ministerial Declarations and the SAO reports. It would also include a statement about the continued good relationship with, and future commitment to working together with the indigenous organization permanent participants. The Working Group welcomed the proposal of Lars-Otto Reiersen to take the form of "Strategic Plan of Action for the Arctic Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) 18 August 1998" as a model for the presentation of the AMAP strategic document. It was agreed that the document should be entitled "The AMAP Strategic Plan for 1998-2003".
- The meeting participants requested the AMAP Secretariat to draft this document and to distribute it among the Heads of Delegations and Permanent Participants in April 1999, in order to present it to the next SAO meeting in May

The Danish and some other Delegations gave specific comments to the document, which will be taken by the Secretariat into attention during preparation of its final version.

- 6.4. It was agreed that the AMAP “Monitoring Programme” and “Assessment Programme” (see agenda items 7 and 8) would be described in separate more detailed documents.

## **7. The AMAP Assessments to be produced during 1998-2003.**

- 7.1. Lars-Otto Reiersen introduced the draft “Strategy for the Production of the AMAP Assessment Reports” (document 12/7/1), which has been prepared by the Secretariat prior to the meeting. He informed that this draft is based on the tentative plan for assessment reports presented in the SAOs Report to the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council. It was emphasized that the word “tentative” had been used intentionally, to allow the Working Group the possibility to make adjustments, particularly at later stages of its implementation.
- 7.2. During the discussion, the meeting participants accepted the general approach proposed by the Secretariat and made comments to the timetable for assessment process on specific pollution issues. In particular, it was emphasized that the timetable should be adjusted where possible to provide the opportunity for presentation of AMAP assessment materials at other relevant international environmental activities such as the “Rio+10” meeting planned for 2002 in connection with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Conference on Development and Environment (UNCED). The US Delegation strongly supported the idea of delivering AMAP assessment products to other fora, in particular the IPCC in relation to the assessment on climate change effects. In this connection, however, the Working Group recognized that the primary responsibility is reporting to ministers, that SAOs would need to support any planned special products, and that special product deadlines should not interfere with the general assessment production strategy. It was agreed that currently AMAP needs a concrete plan for the period including 2002. The timetable for later assessments should remain tentative.
- 7.3. The Working Group agreed that a letter to SAOs outlining proposals concerning delivery of reports to organizations and events such as RIO+10, IPCC and CSD, etc. should be prepared by the Board following the meeting and copied to Heads of Delegations.
- 7.4. The meeting participant adopted the revised Timetable for the AMAP Assessment, updated based on comments and proposals agreed during the discussion ([Appendix 5](#)).
- 7.5. The meeting participants discussed organizational issues connected with the assessment process. The opinion of the Danish Delegation, that the mechanisms established during the first phase of AMAP, revolving around the Assessment Steering Group (ASG), should be continued to conduct the future AMAP assessment process, was supported. The need to enhance the harmonization and cross-fertilization between groups was stressed.

- 7.6. Since assessments of climate change and UV-B effects need close collaboration between AMAP and CAFF, as well as with other international fora outside of the Arctic Council structure, in particular IASC, the Working Group supported the proposal to establish an inter-organizational Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) comprising representatives of AMAP, CAFF, IASC and, if necessary, other relevant international organizations/programmes to coordinate the assessment process. The meeting participants adopted a schematic diagram describing the proposed interaction between ASG and ASC within the overall framework of the AMAP assessment process that was prepared in consultation with CAFF and IASC representatives ([Appendix 6](#)).
- 7.7. The meeting considered proposals from the Secretariat for draft Terms of Reference for ASG and ASC. They agreed to establish an *ad hoc* drafting group to finalize these drafts based on comments made. Henry Huntington, on behalf of the drafting group, presented final drafts of these documents. The Working Group agreed to adopt the ASG Terms of Reference ([Appendix 7](#)), and to accept the draft ASC Terms of Reference ([Appendix 8](#)) and to send these to CAFF for their consideration. After acceptance of the ASC Terms of Reference by CAFF, they should be forwarded to IASC as a joint proposal of the Arctic Council Programmes.
- 7.8. It was further agreed that drafting of each of the assessment reports should be led by the Lead Country(ies) nominated by the AMAP Working Group. The Lead Country(ies) will be responsible for organizational issues of the drafting process.
- 7.9. Each of the assessment reports will be drafted by a small drafting group consisting of Lead Country Experts (LCEs) and Key National Experts (KNEs) who will be able to consult with and call upon other designated experts from the AMAP member countries, and observing countries and organizations as necessary. LCEs, who will have primary responsibility, working with the assistance of KNEs, for completion of the given report, will be appointed by Lead Countries. LCEs/KNEs will have responsibility:
- to draft assessment reports;
  - to ensure comprehensive utilization of the existing data and information provided by the participating countries and from the published scientific materials;
  - to ensure that the assessment reports are prepared according to decisions made by the AMAP WG and ASG recommendations;
  - to obtain peer review comments as appropriate;
  - to utilize data management and quality assurance expertise as needed;
  - to draft recommendations for actions for the corresponding assessment reports.
- 7.10. The AMAP participating countries agreed on the following distribution of responsibilities as the Lead Countries for assessments:
- Human health – Denmark;
  - POPs – Sweden and Canada; Norway offered to assist;
  - Heavy Metals – US Delegation will arrange internal consultation whether to take this responsibility;
  - Radioactivity – Norway and Russia;



- Acidification – Finland;
- Oil and PAHs – Russia; Norway will make final decision later;
- TBT – Iceland was requested to take the lead;
- Climate change – USA; Norway will assist in the marine component;
- UV-B – USA;
- Combined effects – AMAP Secretariat.

7.11. The Working Group offered Cynthia de Wit (Sweden) to take the position of the ASG Chair. She kindly agreed to accept this offer.

## **8. The AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme (AMAP MEP) for 1998-2003.**

8.1 Lars-Otto Reiersen introduced two documents containing three draft sub-sections of a proposed detailed description of the AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme for the period 1998-2003 (documents 12/8/1 and 12/8/3). The draft sections comprised: Section A - Background Information; Section B - Monitoring Programme; Section C - Effects Programme.

8.2 He further described the process by which the draft documents had been prepared. The draft sections were prepared by the Secretariat and based on the reports of the Expert Groups as a result of their meetings at Girdwood just prior to AMAP WG 11. The expert group reports incorporated revisions requested by the Working Group at their 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Because the expert group documents varied substantially in their structure, content (level of detail) and completeness, the Secretariat had had some difficulties in combining these source documents into an overall programme description.

8.3 The expert group reports had been distributed by the Secretariat for review. Comments received from the countries had been passed to lead authors, but not all lead authors had responded. The Board had therefore evaluated the comments, many of which were more related to national implementation plan issues than the main programme descriptions (e.g. notes concerning ongoing activities additional to those noted in the expert group reports). Some comments had been introduced when preparing the Secretariat documents but others would be clarified if necessary with lead authors and introduced later.

8.4 Since the different groups had used key terms differently, thus Section A was an attempt at establishing a common usage of terms and concepts. Sections B and C comprised overviews of the (contaminants) Monitoring Programme and Effects (monitoring) Programme, respectively. Other sections concerning Supporting Studies, QA/QC and Data Handling, etc. had not yet been drafted. Due to lack of specification in some of the expert group documents, the existing sections were not always complete in terms of detail concerning e.g. proposed sampling locations and frequencies, etc. He explained that the name 'AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme' was a proposal resulting from discussions by the Board.

8.5 Simon Wilson further elaborated on the draft programme documents. He informed that the overviews of the contaminants and effects programmes (Sections B and C) had been produced to allow countries to prepare provisional National Implementation

Plans for the WG 12 meeting. Thus, although not complete, the documents did describe the main components of the monitoring proposals as developed by the experts in relation to updating of the AMAP Phase I monitoring programme. Sections concerning climate and UV-B effects were not included since these were awaiting the outcome of further work. Similarly, the effects programme would need to be further developed based on conclusions arising from the Radioactivity expert group meeting and “The Workshop on biological effects methods for assessment of combined effects in the marine environment” that was held just prior to the WG meeting.

8.6 Specific outstanding issues noted for the meeting were:

- inconsistency in the use of E and E\* parameters in the tables;
- the need to decide on the 'key areas';
- the need to address details concerning sampling frequency, etc.;
- the need to resolve differences between PAH monitoring proposals developed by the Oil and POP expert groups, respectively.
- the need to develop the sections dealing with QA/QC and data reporting;
- the need to develop the content of the sections dealing with supporting studies, including source related work, etc.

8.7 Various comments were provided to the distributed documents and the Secretariat will prepare updated versions accordingly. Radioactivity components of the effects programme would be introduced according to proposals contained in meeting document 12/8/7. Concerning the name of the programme and its elements, the working group decided that the contaminants monitoring component (Section B) should become the 'AMAP Trend Monitoring Programme' and the effects component (Section C) the 'AMAP Effect Monitoring Programme'. The representatives of the radioactivity expert group expressed their opinion that the word “effects” does not fully correspond to terminology used in environmental radioactivity, where the work “exposure” is more applicable. The Secretariat would consider proposals concerning the title of Section C and the overall programme/document and circulate a proposal in the spring of 1999.

8.8 Given the status of the documents, the working group agreed that they formed a sufficient basis for preparatory work on the development of National Implementation Plans concerning contaminants and effects monitoring components (excluding climate change and UV-B effects issues) and endorsed, subject to comments, the sections prepared so far. However, the working group discussions were aimed at providing guidance to the Secretariat on how to complete the document rather than formally adopting them as the AMAP Phase II programmes. The documents should therefore be further developed during the spring of 1999 with the assistance of Lead Countries, and additional sections provided to countries as they become available, for endorsement and eventual adoption of the programme as a whole. Any substantive changes to the existing sections should be notified to the countries. The Effect programme should be presented to the next AMAP WG meeting for adoption.

8.9 As an introduction for development of the Climate Change Effects component of the monitoring programme, the Head of the US Delegation, Alan Thomas, presented the Discussion Paper “Climate Change in the Arctic” (document 12/8/4). Taking into

account that climate change issues are currently on the agenda of many international programmes and organizations, he emphasized importance of close collaboration with them, and specification of the AMAP/CAFF role in the whole process. In this context, he expressed once more his support of establishing ASC (see agenda item 7). The meeting participants supported the proposal of the US Delegation to organize a workshop for developing the programme proposals. Based on the results of this workshop, the AMAP Secretariat, together with USA and Norway, will develop AMAP specific plans for Phase II. In the meantime, AMAP should monitor the ongoing programmes or relevant projects and advocate for more attention to the Arctic in the other programmes such as global observing system and IGBP subprogrammes.

Norway pointed out that cooperation with international organizations, like ICES and PICES, that are involved into studies of climate change effects on the marine environment, would be useful for successful implementation of the climate change component of the AMAP programme

- 8.10. Elizabeth Weatherhead presented the US Discussion Paper “Effects of UV Radiation in the Arctic” (document 12/8/4-1). The observations from the Arctic area show that UV radiation poses a serious threat to the Arctic. The ozone observations show both long-term decreases in total column ozone and increased episodes of extremely low ozone, particularly during springtime. The decrease of ozone in the Arctic are determined not only by man-made chemicals, but also by climate change. It is not clear if under current international legislation, Arctic ozone levels will return to normal. It is therefore an immediate need to follow this process more intensively and to assess the development and possible actions to be taken. She proposed the strategy for development of the UV-effects component of the monitoring programme, which would allow to put this sub-programme on the same track as the other AMAP pollution issues and to consider UV within the Human Health and Combined Effects expert groups.
- 8.11. The USA, as Lead Country for the UV monitoring and assessment under AMAP, expressed an intention to prepare a plan by March 1999, for the monitoring and research needs for AMAP. An expert team should be established to assist US in this work by using electronic communication. Countries were kindly requested to nominate, as soon as possible, experts that could take part in this work, either to the AMAP Secretariat or to Betsy Weatherhead.
- 8.12. The IASC representative, Odd Rogne, supported the view presented by US Delegation, and the Working Group decided to bring this information to the attention of the SAOs, attaching the US paper, with the intention to get the ozone situation in the Arctic on the international arena.
- 8.13. As the Danish contribution to the development of the QA/QC Section of the AMAP monitoring programme, Marianne Cleeman presented the proposals for the AMAP QA-programme for POPs analysis (document 12/8/2).

## **9. National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to fulfil the AMAP MEP.**

- 9.1. Lars-Otto Reiersen informed the meeting participants that not all participating countries had presented their reports to the WG Meeting. However, he requested all delegations to present any relevant information under this agenda item.
- 9.2. The Canadian Delegation presented their National Implementation Plan for AMAP 1999 and beyond (document 12/9/2). It was stated that Canada's contribution to AMAP Phase I consisted largely of results from the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Canadian Northern Contaminants Program (NCP-1). Canada's implementation plan for the POPs, Heavy Metals, Radionuclides, TBT and Human Health components of AMAP Phase II will be the renewed NCP. This represents the core of Canada's work for AMAP. Climate change and UV issues do not fall under the mandate of NCP. When the AMAP plans for climate change and UV have been finalized, Canada will look for information from a number of Canadian initiatives.
- 9.3. As a further contribution to the presentation of the Canadian Delegation, the ICC representative informed the meeting participants that 5 indigenous peoples of Canada participate in the NCP. He expressed ICC's satisfaction the shift in emphasis of the NCP towards human health issues, including the study of environmental pathways to humans.
- 9.4. The Danish Delegation presented their National Implementation Plan for AMAP Phase 2, 1998-2003 (document 12/9/6).
- 9.5. The Finnish Delegation had not presented information in writing concerning their National Implementation Plan, since the plans for 1999 have not been compiled yet. The meeting participants were informed that the NIP for 1998 that had been presented at the previous WG Meeting was implemented as planned.
- 9.6. The Delegation of Iceland had not presented a document on their National Implementation Plan, however a brief oral report concerning implementation of 1998 Plan was presented together with an outline of the activities for the forthcoming period.
- 9.7. The Norwegian Delegation presented the preliminary National Implementation Plan, which covers atmospheric, marine (biotic and abiotic), terrestrial and freshwater environments, and human health (document 12/9/8).
- 9.8. The Russian Delegation presented a Progress Report on the implementation of projects within the framework of the Russian National Plan by Roshydromet in 1998 (document 12/9/4) together with a list of Roshydromet projects proposed for the 1999 National Implementation Plan in the Russian Arctic (document 12/9/7). It was pointed out that, in spite of current financial problems in Russia, 7 expeditions linked to the Russian AMAP NIP were carried out in 1998 with financial support of Russian companies. It was also stressed that, since the data have been obtained with the support of these companies and within their economic interests, the Russian AMAP Delegation will only be able to provide the AMAP data centres with summarized data, and not raw data, as in previous years. The meeting participants were informed

that a number of AMAP related bi- and multi-lateral projects with the Arctic countries would be implemented within the Russian territories.

- 9.9. Lars Erik Liljelund, commenting on the presentation of the Russian Delegation, stated that it would be necessary to contact the companies which had sponsored the expeditions, and if possible to solve the problem with providing raw data to the AMAP data centres. In general, the AMAP data centres are set-up specifically to handle measurement data and not summarised data.
- 9.10. The Swedish Delegation informed the meeting participants that the Swedish AMAP-related monitoring programme is currently under revision. It is not likely that this small programme will be further reduced; however expansion of the programme is equally unlikely. POPS and pollution effects on biodiversity will be the main focus of the Swedish NIP.
- 9.11. The US Delegation presented information on the NOAA Arctic Research Initiative (ARI) awards for 1998-1999 (document 12/9/5), and US AMAP projects and multilateral projects with active US participation (document 12/9/3), including:
- The multilateral co-operative pilot project for phase-out of PCB use, and environmentally safe management of PCB-containing wastes in the Russian Federation (see also the Minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG Meeting, agenda item 7, and agenda item 10 of the present Minutes);
  - The assessment and reduction of atmospheric mercury transport and deposition to the Arctic from Russian sources;
  - Effects of UV radiation in the Arctic;
  - Climate change in the Arctic;
  - The conference on biomarkers for human health;
  - The US cord blood project.
- The meeting participants were informed that the USA intends to have a detailed NIP by mid 1999.
- 9.12. In the development of the US general presentation, Angela Bandemehr introduced updated information concerning the multi-lateral project proposal "Assessment and reduction of atmospheric mercury transport and deposition to the Arctic from Russian sources (document 12/9/1).
- 9.12. The ICC representative, Terry Fenge, informed the meeting about the ICC initiative to establish and implement a multilateral project "Persistent Organic Pollutants, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic Russia". Based on preliminary agreements, this project should be financed from several sources, including the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). He reported on the progress in preparation of the project proposals, and links between this project and the AMAP human health sub-programme. It was emphasized during the discussion that the RAIPON and the other international IPOs – AMAP Permanent Observers, together with the governmental institutions of the Russian Federation, should play an active role in implementation of this project. The Delegations agreed that their countries should work actively to promote approval of the project by GEF.

## 10. Source related work.

- 10.1. Lars-Otto Reiersen made a brief overview of the AMAP work during the Phase 1 on inventories of pollution sources, which may impact the Arctic region. He stated that, in spite of substantial work during the previous period, source information available is not sufficient yet, and that during the next phase source related work should get a special attention.
- 10.2. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Vitaly Kimstach, informed the meeting participants on the results of the OSPAR Workshop on the development of harmonised reporting procedures for hazardous substances (Oslo, 21-24 September 1998) (document 12/10/1). He stressed that since in the forthcoming years AMAP should pay significant attention to inventory of pollution sources, harmonisation of reporting procedures on sources among the Arctic countries is crucial for the success of this work. It was suggested to take the experience of the OSPAR/North Sea Conferences in this field into account in the future work of AMAP, and to integrate its efforts with the other international fora, in which the Arctic countries participate.
- 10.3. Lars-Otto Reiersen and Vitaly Kimstach presented progress report on preparation of the Multilateral Co-operative Project on phase-out of PCB use, and management of PCB-contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation. Lars-Otto Reiersen informed on the agreement made by the participating parties of the project that its 1<sup>st</sup> Phase "Evaluation of the current status of the problem with respect to environmental impact, and development of proposals for priority remedial actions" will be made under an international co-ordination of the AMAP Secretariat, and the results of the work will give a significant input into AMAP source related work. He informed also that all the Arctic countries made their decisions to participate in the project, the funds for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase are available, and that the work can be started as soon as the contract with the Russian contracting organization is signed.
- 10.4. The meeting participants exchanged an information on the source related activities under the other international fora. The Head of the Canadian Delegation, David Stone, presented an information concerning a joint workshop on POPs sources, which should be convened by UNEP, Canada and Australia in spring, 1999 in Singapore. The Head of the Russian Delegation, Alexander Solovyanov, informed the meeting participants on the work being implemented, or planned to be implemented, by other international fora on establishment of data centres on pollution sources, which can be relevant to the Arctic. He paid a special attention on establishing the data centre on pollution sources in the South-Eastern and Eastern Asia under ESCAP. The decision to establish this centre was made by the ESCAP Environmental Senior Officials Meeting some time ago and practical steps on implementation of this decisions should be adopted at the next ESCAP ESO Meeting.
- 10.5. To develop practical proposals on the AMAP source related work, the meeting participants agreed to convene a special workshop during 1999, possibly integrated with the workshop on transport modelling.

## 11. Cooperation with the other Arctic Council Working Groups.

- 11.1. The EPPR Chairman, Olli Pahkala, presented activities of this Arctic council Working Group, with special focus on its Strategic Plan of Action. He emphasized importance of more close collaboration between EPPR and the other Arctic Council Working Groups, particularly AMAP due to their focus on pollution sources and levels of chronic contamination.
- 11.2. The CAFF representative, Paula Kankaanpää, informed the meeting participants on the CAFF strategy for the forthcoming period, with special focus on AMAP related activities, particularly climate change. The participants were informed that the meeting of AMAP and CAFF Chair Persons dedicated to follow-up of the Ministerial directives to these working groups on climate change took place recently in Stockholm (document 12/8/6).

During the discussion, the meeting participants pointed out on strong link between pollution issues and biodiversity, and that this link provides a very important field of co-operation between the two working groups. The Norwegian Delegation stated that, to increase efficiency of biological effect monitoring, biodiversity monitoring should cover indicator species monitored under the effects programme. It was also stressed that this co-operation should be established at the initial stages of monitoring design, in order to avoid possible overlaps between AMAP and CAFF in this field. The Delegation of Sweden suggested that CAFF should be invited to direct participation in the effects programme for contribution with information of behaviour, diversity, visible changes and other relevant matters. It was also suggested that CAFF representatives should be invited to participate in ASG for discussions on biological and combined effects.

- 11.3. The member of the Canadian delegation, Andrew Gilman, reported to the meeting participants on the project "The Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic" under the Sustainable Development Initiative of the Arctic Council (document 12/8/8), and presented a view on possible AMAP's contribution to this project. It was stressed that the project will cover all set of problems connected to well being of the Arctic children and youth, and that environmental pollution issues, which should be covered by AMAP, comprise approximately 10% of whole project.

The Chairman of the AMAP Human Health expert group, Jens C. Hansen (Denmark) informed the meeting participants that this group discussed AMAP's possible contribution to the project on the Arctic children and youth during its meeting in Reykjavik 12-15 October 1998 and came to the conclusion that the participation of AMAP in the project would require certain extension of the AMAP mandate given in the Alta Declaration (document 12/8/5). At the same time, he acknowledged that current plans and timetable do not contradict with the project proposals prepared by Canada, and can be easily adjusted, though certain gaps currently exist.

The ICC representative supported the project and emphasized that including of all aspects of life into the scope of the project is its strong side. He also informed that Greenland is currently preparing the project on living conditions of the Greenlandic population that fits very well to the above project.

The Canadian Delegation and the other participants exchanged their opinions on practical steps, which should be made to develop and provide AMAP's contribution to the project. The Canadian Delegation and the AMAP Human Health expert group were requested to develop proposals on the co-operation plan to present it to ASG for consideration and further presentation to the AMAP WG for adoption. The Canadian Delegation expressed its appreciation to AMAP for support of the Canadian initiative.

- 11.4 Simon Wilson informed the meeting participants on the AMAP contribution to the Regional Plan of Actions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA), which is being compiled by PAME. Following the decision of the SAO Meeting in Whitehorse, representatives of AMAP prepared in June 1998 a brief synopsis of the state of the Arctic marine environment in the context of the RPA development (AMAP Report 98:4). The Canadian Delegation suggested that AMAP should prepare a similar synopsis to assist Norway in preparation of the Arctic Council Action Plan to eliminate pollution of the Arctic (ACAP).

## **12. Cooperation with International Organizations.**

- 12.1. Lars-Otto Reiersen informed the meeting participants that UN-ECE had invited AMAP to present the main results and future plans on atmospheric monitoring at the UN-ECE Meeting on Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP). Since this meeting is convened in Geneva at the same week as the AMAP WG Meeting, AMAP representatives could not participate in it. However, the AMAP Secretariat has sent a letter to UN-ECE with information on AMAP activities in atmospheric monitoring and other areas relevant to LRTAP (document 12/12/1).

During the discussion, David Stone reminded that information exchange between AMAP and LRTAP, particularly its effects WG, is effective and has a long history. The AMAP results were widely used by UN-ECE during the negotiation process on POPs Protocol, which has been signed in June 1998 in Aarhus, Denmark.

- 12.2. The Delegation of USA stressed the importance of close collaboration with International Organizations involved into international cooperation on global climate change, which is reflected in the strategic document on climate change effects prepared by USA.
- 12.3. Vitaly Kimstach presented an information on introduction of the AMAP assessment results at the GEMS/Water Steering Committee Meeting in Geneva in June, 1998. The Steering Committee of this global international program expressed its interest in more close collaboration with AMAP, particularly in the field of pollution effects on freshwater biota.
- He also informed about preliminary discussion on establishment of collaboration between the GEMS/Water Data Centre (Burlington, Canada) and the AMAP Freshwater Thematic Data Centre (Winnipeg, Canada). The meeting participants expressed their opinion that such cooperation might be very fruitful and mutually beneficial. However, more detailed consultation with the Canadian governmental bodies, which are responsible for activities of both international data centres, is needed.



### **13. International AMAP symposia and workshops to be held during 1999.**

- 13.1. The meeting participants agreed that a number of international AMAP symposia and workshop should be arranged in 1999 with the objectives to:
- provide new data and information for the assessment reports, which should be issued by AMAP in the forthcoming period, particularly in the context of "RIO+10" process;
  - finalize the development of the AMAP monitoring sub-programs, with special focus on their biological effects sections;
  - further develop methodologies of monitoring and assessment of pollution issues, including their combined effects, particularly for new or expanded areas of AMAP activities.
- 13.2. The Working Group noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Radioactivity in the Arctic, which is organized by Norwegian Radiation protection Authority and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency in co-operation with AMAP, will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland, September 20-23, 1999.
- 13.3. The Working Group noted that the Workshops on Climate Change and UV-B effects will take place in Tromsø, Norway, in connection with the IASC Arctic Science Week during at the end of April.
- 13.4. Noting that POPs pollution aspects will have a special importance in human health programme, the meeting participants suggested arranging workshops on these two issues consequently in one place, with possible joint session. With reference to preliminary agreement with Finland to arrange a human health expert meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland was requested to consider a possibility to organize these two consequent events. However, due to other important commitments of Finland as the Lead Country of the European Union in 1999, the Finnish AMAP Delegation could not support this suggestion. The Participating Countries were requested to consider alternative options for place and dates of the above workshops, and to inform the Secretariat on the proposals.
- 13.5. The meeting participants acknowledged the USA initiative to organize the International Conference on biomarkers of human health, with special focus on Arctic issues (document 12/9/3), in autumn 1999 in Bethesda, Maryland. It was agreed that the planning meeting of this conference will be held in Washington, D.C., in March 1999).
- 13.6. Noting the growing awareness of global and regional aspects of mercury environmental threats, the Danish Delegation suggested convening, together with USA, a special workshop on biological effects caused by this metal. It was agreed that the place and dates for this workshop will be settled on later stages.
- 13.7. The meeting participants appreciated proposals of several institutions to arrange workshops on modelling dedicated to separate environments. However, it was agreed that the workshop on modelling should cover more wide scope of inter-related environmental issues. Taking into consideration the role of data on pollution sources,

in modelling of pollution fate, it was suggested to consider reporting on pollution sources and modelling during one workshop or, as an alternative, during two consequent workshops, with possibility to arrange their joint session. The National Delegations were requested to give their proposals on place and dates for these workshops.

#### **14. AMAP data policy and other data issues.**

- 14.1. Simon Wilson reported that no updated version of the AMAP Data Policy was yet available. This would now be prepared as part of the AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme documentation (see agenda item 8) the outstanding sections of which (including the Data Policy section) would be circulated in spring 1999.
- 14.2. He also reported on the status of updating of the AMAP web site. Due to the workload associated with the assessment report production, the AMAP web site had not been updated since the end of 1997, and several requests had been received for updating of the available information. Although only partially completed, an updated version of the site had therefore been released just prior to the meeting. The priority so far had been placing results of the AMAP assessment on the web in the form of the texts of the SOAER; these would be further updated to incorporate the graphics, etc. as part of the ongoing work to place the AMAP graphics and data compilations on the web site. It was hoped that this work would be completed early in 1999. A new part of the web site would be devoted to support for the WG activities, including document distribution, etc. The WG members were informed that they would receive further information on this when it was fully functioning. The WG were further requested to provide the Secretariat with any information items, such as announcements of upcoming meeting, etc., that would be useful information for inclusion on the web site. The URL of the AMAP web site is:  
  
<http://www.grida.no/amap/amap.htm>
- 14.3. The WG took note of three documents reporting on the AMAP atmospheric, freshwater and marine thematic data centres (TDC) activities during 1998 (documents 12/3/2, 12/3/3 and 12/3/4). Funding is secured to operate all of the established TDCs (including the radioactivity TDC), and the planned human health TDC during 1999. The WG were further informed of the possible need to request TDCs to extend their systems to handle additional types of data associated with, in particular, the proposed AMAP effects monitoring programme. The marine TDC has already introduced part of such a system and AMAP could take advantage of these developments.
- 14.4. In response to the request concerning possible availability of the AMAP AAR report on CD-ROM, Simon Wilson informed that there were no principle difficulties involved in production of such a CD-version. Using readily available software the work could be accomplished at a cost of a few thousand USD. The additional costs of actual production of the CD-ROMs would depend on the number required. It was agreed that the Secretariat should proceed with producing the CD-ROM version, on the basis of provisional offers of funding made by countries during the meeting; these countries were requested to confirm these offers as soon as possible to the

Secretariat. In early 1999, the Secretariat would distribute a request to all participants asking how many copies of the CD-ROM they would like to order, after which the costs of the CD-ROM production would be confirmed and notified.

- 14.5. The secretariat intends to use e-mail and www. for future circulation of papers and documents. The draft minutes from the Combined Effects Workshop, held in Copenhagen, has been distributed by this way as a test.

## **15. Specimen banking.**

- 15.1. During the autumn of 1998 a questionnaire regarding specimen banking was distributed among the Nordic and Arctic countries. Ivar Mykebust (Norwegian Delegation) presented the result of this exercise on environmental specimen banking activities in the Nordic and Arctic countries (document 12/15/1). He expressed particular interest in making inquiry on the environmental specimen banking in the AMAP countries and in exchange of information available via Internet with linkage to the homepage of each institution involved.
- 15.2. The USA Delegation informed the meeting participants that this country has a specimen banking centre, with its own www. Homepage.
- 15.3. It was agreed that the AMAP countries should give an information to the Secretariat on their activities in specimen banking, existence of www. Homepages of the respective centres and possibility to include a relevant information into www.

## **16. The financial situation regarding the AMAP Secretariat and common activities.**

- 16.1. With reference to the Progress Report from the AMAP Secretariat (see Agenda item 3), Lars-Otto Reiersen stressed once more that the budget for operation of the AMAP Secretariat for 1999 has a shortfall of 700.000 NOK (ca. 100.000 US dollars). Part of this deficit can be covered from the administration overhead on projects that the Secretariat is administrating, and requested the AMAP Heads of Delegation and the Arctic Countries to continue support of the AMAP joint activities, including the Secretariat's operational needs.
- 16.2. The Finnish Delegation informed the meeting participants that Finland will provide financial support of 100.000 NOK in 1999 to the AMAP Secretariat, especially for the participation of the Saami representatives in the AMAP activities.

## **17. Election of the Chair.**

- 17.1. The AMAP Chair, Lars Erik Liljelund, applied to the Working Group for resignation in connection with his new appointment in Sweden. His application was accepted by the Working Group members.
- 17.2. Lars-Erik Liljelund proposed to elect Hanne Petersen (Denmark) as a new AMAP Chair. This proposal was supported unanimously by the meeting participants.

17.3. Lars Erik Liljelund informed the meeting participants that the consultation of the Heads of Delegation had not made a final decision on the candidate for the position of the AMAP Vice-Chair. It was agreed to continue consultations on this matter and to elect the Vice-Chair not later than in February by correspondence voting.

**18. The AMAP Programme for 1999.**

The Working Group meeting adopted the tentative programme of AMAP activities for 1999 ([Appendix 9](#)).

**19. The next Working Group Meeting.**

The meeting participants accepted with appreciation kind invitation of Canada to host the 13<sup>th</sup> AMAP Working Group Meeting in November 1999.

**20. Any other business.**

No other business was raised.

**21. End of the Meeting.**

The AMAP Chair, Lars Erik Liljelund, thanked the Finnish Delegation and the Secretariat for the organization of the meeting and closed the meeting at 14:00 on December 9.

Appendix 1.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**12th AMAP Working Group Meeting, Helsinki, 7-9 December, 1998:**

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
<b>AMAP WG</b>									
Canada	Gilman	Andrew	Health Canada	Tunneys' Pasture Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9	+1 613 957 1816	+1 613 954 7612	Andy_gilman @hc-sc.gc.ca	+1 613 957 1876	+1 613 954 7612
Canada	Puckett	Keith	Atmospheric Environment Service	4905 Dufferin Street Downsview Ontario, M3H 5T4	+ 1 416 739 4836	+ 1 416 739 5708	keith.puckett @ec.gc.ca	+ 1 416 739 4841	+ 1 416 739 5708
Canada	<b>Stone</b>	<b>David</b>	Indian and Northern Affairs	Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere North Tower Ottawa K1A 0H4 Ontario	+1 819 997 0045	+1 819 953 2590	stoned@inac. gc.ca	+1 819 997 0045	+1 819 953 9066
Denmark	Carlsen	Anders	Medical Health Office Viborg County	Lille Sct. Mikkelsgade 4 DK-8800 Viborg	+45 86 62 33 27	+45 86 61 25 68	Liland@dadln et.dk	+45 86 62 33 27	+45 86 61 25 68
Denmark	Cleemann	Marianne	National Environmental Reserach Institute	P.O. Box 358 DK-4000 Roskilde	+45 46 30 1200	+45 46 30 11 14	mc@dmu.dk	+45 46 30 1200	+45 46 30 11 14
Denmark	Elling	Henrik	Danish Polar Center	Strandgade 100HDK-1401 Copenhagen K	+45 32 88 01 19	+45 32 88 01 01	he@dpc.dk	+45 32 88 01 00	+45 32 88 01 01

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
Denmark	Hansen	Jens C.	University of Aarhus Dep. of Environmental and Occupational Medicine	Bldg. 260 Vennelystboulevard 6 DK-8000 Århus	+45 89 42 6160	+45 89 42 6199	UV@mil.au.dk	+45 89 42 61 57	+45 89 42 61 99
Denmark	<b>Moseholm</b>	<b>Lars</b>	Danish Environmental Protection Agency Ministry of the Environment	Strandgade 29 DK-1401 Copenhagen K	+45 32 66 03 36	+45 32 66 04 11	LMO@MST.dk	+45 32 66 01 00	+45 32 66 04 79
Denmark Vice-Chair	Petersen	Hanne	Department of Arctic Environment National Environmental Research Institute	Tagensvej 135 IV DK-2200 Copenhagen N	+45 35 82 14 15	+45 35 82 14 20	hkp@dmu.dk	+45 35 82 14 15	+45 35 82 14 20
Denmark	Rindom	Birte	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	29 Strandegade DK-1401 Copenhagen - K	+45 32 66 01 66	+ 45 32 66 04 11	BR@MST.DK	+45 32 66 01 00	+ 45 32 66 04 79
Denmark	Søndergaard	Jørgen S.	Greenland Home Rule	P.O.Box 2151 Pilestræde 52 DK-1016 Copenhagen K	+45 33 69 34 25	+45 33 69 34 01	jss@ghsdk.dk	+45 33 69 34 00	+45 33 69 34 01
Faroe Islands	Joensen	Jacob Pauli	Food and Environmental Agency	Debesartrød 100 Torshavn	+298 31 53 00	+298 31 05 08	Jakuppj@hfs.fo	+298 31 53 00	+298 31 05 08

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
Finland	Iivonen	Pasi	Ministry of the Environment	P.O.Box 399, FIN-001221 Helsinki	+358 9 1991 94 91	+358 1991 9 9717	<a href="mailto:Pasi.iivonen@vyh.fi">Pasi.iivonen@vyh.fi</a>	+358 9 1991 94 91	+358 9 1991 9717
Finland	Juntto	Sirkka	Finnish Meteorological Institute	Sahaajankatu 20 E 00810 Helsinki	+358 9 19295 422	+358 9 19295 403	<a href="mailto:sirkka.juntto@fmi.fi">sirkka.juntto@fmi.fi</a>	+358 9 19291	+358 9 1929 5403
Finland	Kämäri	Juha	Finnish Environment Institute	P.O. Box 140 FIN-00251 Helsinki	+358 9 4030 0771	+358 9 4030 07990	<a href="mailto:Juha.Kamari@vyh.fi">Juha.Kamari@vyh.fi</a>	+358 9 4030 00	+358 9 4030 0190
Finland	Mannio	Jaakko	Finnish Environment Institute	P.O. Box 140 FIN-00251 Helsinki	+358 9 4030 0367	+358 9 4030 0390	<a href="mailto:Jaakko.mannio@vyh.fi">Jaakko.mannio@vyh.fi</a>	+358 9 4030 00	+358 9 4030 0190
Finland	<b>Mähönen</b>	<b>Outi</b>	Ministry of the Environment International Affairs	P.O.Box 399, FIN-00121 Helsinki	+358 9 1991 9739  Mobile: +358 40 512 7393	+358 1991 9 9453	<a href="mailto:Outi.Mahonen@vyh.fi">Outi.Mahonen@vyh.fi</a>	+358 9 1991 9739  Mobile: +358 40 512 7393	+358 9 1991 9453
Greenland	Holm	Mogens	Greenland Home Rule	Directorate for Sundhed og Forskning P.O. Box 1160 3900 Nuuk	+299 34 66 11	+299 32 55 05	<a href="mailto:Mogens@sundhed.hote.gh.g1">Mogens@sundhed.hote.gh.g1</a>	+299 34 66 11	+299 32 55 05
Iceland	Jensson	Helgi	Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland	P.O. Box 8080IS- 128 Reykjavik	+354 568 8848	+354 568 8841	<a href="mailto:helgij@hollver.is">helgij@hollver.is</a>	+354 568 8848	+354 568 18 96

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
Norway	<b>Futsæter</b>	<b>Gunnar</b>	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority	P.O.Box 8100 Dep. N-0032 Oslo	+ 47 22 57 34 49	+ 47 22 67 67 06	Gunnar.Futsater@sft.telemax.no	+47 22 57 34 00	+47 22 67 67 06
Norway	Loeng	Harald	Institute of Marine Research	P.O. Box 1870 Nordnes N-5024 Bergen	+47 55 23 84 66	+47 55 23 85 84	Harald.Loeng@imr.no	+47 55 23 85 00	+47 55 23 85 31
Norway	Myklebust	Ivar	Directorate for Nature Management	Tungsløtta 2 N-7005 Trondheim	+47 73 58 06 35	+47 73 58 05 01	ivar.myklebust@dirnat.no	+47 73 58 05 00	+47 73 58 05 01
Norway	Strand	Per	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	P.O.Box 55 N-1345 Østerås	+47 67 16 25 64	+47 67 14 74 07	per.strand@nrpa.no	+47 67 16 25 00	+47 67 14 74 07
Russia	Melnikov	Sergey	Regional Centre Monitoring of the Arctic	38 Bering str. 199397 St Petersburg	+7 812 352 36 29	+7 812 352 20 26		+7 812 352 36 24	+7 812 352 20 26
Russia	<b>Solovyanov</b>	<b>Alexander</b>	The State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection	Bolshaya Grouzinskaya Street 4/6 123812 Moscow	+7 095 252 32 70	+7 095 254 83 56		+ 7 095 254 68 56	+ 7 095 254 8283
Russia	Tsaturov	Yuri	Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring	Novovogankovsky Street 12 123242 Moscow	+ 7 095 252 07 28	+ 7 095 255 24 00	adm@tsaturov.mskw.mecom.ru	+7 095 252 13 89	+7 095 253 94 84



Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
Interpreter	Zubova	Anastasia	Regional Centre Monitoring of the Arctic	38 Bering str. 199397 St Petersburg	+7 812 352 36 24	+7 812 352 20 26		+7 812 352 36 24	+7 812 352 20 26
Sweden	<b>de Wit</b>	<b>Cynthia</b>	Institute of Applied Environmental Research (ITM) Stockholm Univ.	S - 106 91 Stockholm	+ 46 8 674 7180	+ 46 8 674 76 36	cynthia.de.wit@itm.su.se	+ 46 8 16 20 00	+ 46 8 674 76 36
Sweden	Enqvist	Carina	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Blekholtsterrassen 36 S-106 48 Stockholm	+46 8 698 1508	+46 8 698 1042		+46 8 698 1000	+46 8 698 1042
Sweden Chair	Liljelund	Lars-Erik	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Blekholtsterrassen 36 S-106 48 Stockholm	+46 8 698 1508	+46 8 698 1042	lel@environ.se	+46 8 698 1000	+46 8 698 1042
Sweden	Notter	Manuela	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Blekholtsterrassen 36 S-106 48 Stockholm	+46 8 698 1061	+46 8 698 1585	Manuela.notter@environ.se	+46 8 698 1061	+46 8 698 1585
USA	Bandemehr	Angela	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/ GLNPO G-17J	77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604	+1 312 886 6858	+1 312 353 2018	<a href="mailto:Bandemehr.angela@epamail.epa.gov">Bandemehr.angela@epamail.epa.gov</a> OR: @epa.gov	+1 312 886 6858	+1 312 353 2018

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
USA	Berner	James	Indian Health Service	4201 Tudor Centre Dr. Anchorage, Alaska 99508	+1 907 729 36 40	+1 907 729 36 52	Jberner@akan mc.alaska.ihs. gov	+1 907 729 36 40	+1 907 729 36 52
USA	Chen	Philip	National Institute of Health	Bldg.1 Room 140 Bethesda Maryland 20892	+1 301 496 3561	+1 301 402 0027	Pc17w@nih.g ov	+1 301 496 3561	+1 301 402 0027
USA	Hall	Tracy	U.S. Department of State OES/OA	Room 5805 Washington D.C. 20520	+1 202 647 4972	+1 202 647 4353	tahall@state.g ov	+1 202 647 4972	+1 202 647 4353
USA	Huntington	Henry	Marine Mammal Commission	Huntington Consulting P.O. Box 773564 Eagle River, AK 99577	+1 907 696 3564	+1 907 696 3565	hph@alaska.n et	+1 907 696 3564	+1 907 696 3565
USA	Low	Seth	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Mail Code 2660 401 M St. S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460	+1 202 260 8692	+1 202 260 56 46	Low.seth@ep a.amaail.epa.gov	+1 202 564 6600	+1 202 565 2411
USA	Murray	Thomas	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	1315 East West Highway Silver Spring MD 20910	+1 301 713 2465 ext. 125	+1 301 713 0158	Tom.Murray @noaa.gov		
USA	<b>Thomas</b>	<b>Alan</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	1100 Wayne Ave., # 1225 Silver Spring, MD 20910	+1 301 427 2089 ext. 171	+1 301 427 2082	alan.thomas@ noaa.gov	+1 301 427 2089	+1 301 427 2082

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
USA	Weatherhead	Elizabeth	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Environmental Research Laboratory (R/E/ARX 1)	325 Broadway Boulder, Colorado 80303	+1 303 497 6653	+1 303 497 6546	betsy@srrb.noaa.gov	+1 303 497 6653	+1 303 497 6546

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
<b>AMAP Permanent Participants</b>									
ICC	Fenge	Terry	Inuit Circumpolar Conference	170 Laurier Ave. W Ottawa, ON K1P5V5	+1 613 563 26 42	+1 613 565 3089	tuktu@magi.c om	+1 613 563 2642	+1 613 565 3089
ICC	Jakobsen	Alfred	Inuit Circumpolar Conference Greenland	Inuit Issittormuit Kattuffiat P.O.Box 204 DK-3900 Nuuk	+299 323632	+299 32 3001	Iccgreen@gre en.net.gl	+299 323632	+299 323001
ICC	Pederson	Michael	Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Alaska	P.O. Box 1232 Barrow Alaska 99723	+1 907 852 2762	+1 907 852 2763	Michaelp@bar row.com	+1 907 852 2762	+1 907 852 2763
RAIPON	Suliandziga	Pavel	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North	Prospect Vernadskogo 37, Korp 2, Office 527 117 415 Moscow	+7 095 930 71 97	+7 095 930 44 69	Udege@glasn et.ru	+7 095 930 71 97	+7 095 930 44 69
Saami Council	Halonen	Leif	Saami Council	N-9520 Guovdageaidnu	+47 78 48 58 00	+47 78 48 58 90	leifah@online. no	+47 78 48 66 86	+47 78 48 55 53/78 48 58 90
Saami Council	Solbakken	Jan Idar	Saami Council	Saami College N-9520 Guovdageaidnu	+47 78 48 77 29	+47 78 48 77 02	jan- idar.solbakken @samiskhs.no	+47 78 48 77 00	+47 78 48 77 02

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
<b>AMAP IO Observers</b>									
IASC	Rogne	Odd	International Arctic Science Committe	P.O. Box 5072 Majorstua N-0301 Oslo	+47 22 95 96 02	+47 22 95 96 01	Iasc@iasc.no	+47 22 95 96 02	+47 22 95 96 01
UNEP	Henry	David	UNEP/GRID-Ottawa	c/o Canada Centre for Remote Sensing Room 403, 588 Booth St. Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y7	+1 613 995 2042	+1 613 947 1383	dhenry@NRC an.gc.ca	+1 613 995 2042	+1 613 947 1383
WWF Arctic Programme	Smith	Samantha	World Wide Fund for Nature Arctic Programme	P.O. Box 6784 St. Olavs Plass N-0130 Oslo	+47 22 03 65 17	+47 22 20 06 66	samanthas@gr ida.no OR wwfap@onlin e.no	+47 22 03 65 17	+47 22 20 06 66
<b>AMAP Observer Countries</b>									
The Netherlands	Steenhuisen	Frits	Arctic Centre University of Groningen	P.O.Box 716 NL-9700 AS Groningen	+31 503 63 60 56	+31 503 63 49 00	Frits@let.rug. nl	+31 503 63 68 34	+31 503 63 49 00
United Kingdom	Howard	Brenda	Institute of Terrestrial Ecology	Merlewood Research Station Grange-over-Sands Cumbria LA11 6JU	+44 15395 32264	+44 15395 35941	BJHO@wpo.n erc.ac.uk	+44 15395 32264	+44 15395 34705

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
<b>Arctic Council Secretariats and Working Groups</b>									
Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secr.	Johansen	Marianne Sjødahl	Arctic Council, Indigenous Peoples Secretariat	Pilestræde 52 P.O. Box 2151 DK-1016 Copenhagen K	+45 33 69 34 98	+45 33 69 34 99	msj@ghsdk.dk	+45 33 69 34 98	+45 33 69 34 99
CAFF	Kankaanpää	Paula	CAFF International Secretariat	Hafnarstraeti 97 IS-600 Akureyri	+354 46 23 350	+354 46 23 390	PAULA@NA TTFS.IS	+354 46 23 350	+354 46 23 390
EPPR	Pahkala	Olli	Ministry of the Environment	P.O.Box 399, FIN-00121 Helsinki	+358 9 1991 9739	+358 1991 9 9453	<a href="mailto:Olli.Pahkala@vyh.fi">Olli.Pahkala@vyh.fi</a>	+358 9 1991 9739	+358 9 1991 9453
<b>Secretariat</b>									
AMAP Secr.	Reiersen	Lars-Otto	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	P.O. Box 8100 Dep. N-0032 Oslo	+47 22 57 3544	+ 47 22 67 67 06	lars-otto.reiersen@amap.telemax.no	+47 22 57 34 00	+47 22 67 67 06 +47 22 57 37 75
AMAP Secr.	Kimstach	Vitaly A.	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	P.O. Box 8100 Dep. N-0032 Oslo	+47 22 57 3634	+ 47 22 67 67 06	vitaly.kimstach@amap.telemax.no	+47 22 57 34 00	+47 22 67 67 06 +47 22 57 37 75
AMAP Secr.	Wilson	Simon	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	P.O. Box 8100 Dep. N-0032 Oslo	+47 22 57 3676 +31 10 466 29 89	+ 47 22 67 67 06 +31 10 466 29 89	s.wilson@inter.nl.net	+47 22 57 34 00	+47 22 67 67 06

Country	Last name	First name	Institute name	Mailing address	Direct phone	Direct fax	e-mail	Institute phone	Institute fax
AMAP Secr.	Utne	Inger	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	P.O. Box 8100 Dep. N-0032 Oslo	+ 47 22 57 36 36	+ 47 22 67 67 06	inger.utne@amap.telemax.no	+47 22 57 34 00	+47 22 67 67 06 +47 22 57 37 75
<b>Host Country Secretariat</b>									
	Björkbacka	Sari	Lapland Regional Environment Centre	P.O. Box 8060 Roi FIN-96101	+358 16 329 4482,	+358 16 310 340	Sari.Bjorkbacka@vyh.fi	+358 16 329 4482,	+358 16 310 340
	Kalamoski	Mika	Ministry of the Environment International	P.O. Box 399 Helsinki FIN-00121	+358 9 1991 9463	+358 1991 9453	<a href="mailto:Mika.Kalamoski@vyh.fi">Mika.Kalamoski@vyh.fi</a> ;	+358 9 1991 9463	+358 1991 9453
Interpreter	Tolonen	Tarja		Rajamäenkuja 8, Masala FIN-02430	+ 358 9 2975 712	+358 9 2977664	<a href="mailto:tarja.tolonen@sci.fi">tarja.tolonen@sci.fi</a>	+ 358 9 2975 712	+358 9 2977664

**THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AMAP WORKING GROUP MEETING,  
DECEMBER 7-9, 1998, HELSINKI, FINLAND**

**Agenda of the Meeting**

- 1. Opening of the Meeting.**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda.**
- 3. Progress Report from the Chairman and the Secretariat.**
- 4. US Priorities as the Leader of the Arctic Council.**
- 5. Statements by the Observers.**
- 6. The AMAP Strategic Work Plan for 1998-2003.**
- 7. The AMAP Assessments to be produced during 1998-2003.**
- 8. The AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme (AMAP MEP) for 1998-2003.**
- 9. National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to fulfil the AMAP MEP.**
- 10. Source related work.**
- 11. Cooperation with the other Arctic Council Working Groups.**
- 12. Cooperation with International Organizations.**
- 13. International AMAP symposia and workshops to be held during 1999.**
- 14. AMAP data policy and other data issues.**
- 15. Specimen Banking.**
- 16. The financial situation regarding the AMAP Secretariat and common activities.**
- 17. Election of the Chair.**
- 18. The AMAP Programme for 1999.**
- 19. The next Working Group Meeting.**
- 20. Any other business.**
- 21. End of the Meeting**



**12th AMAP Working Group Meeting, Helsinki, 7-9 December, 1998:**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO AND DURING THE MEETING**

<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Document Title</b>
AMAP WG 12/3/1	Progress Report from AMAP Secretariat to the 12 <sup>th</sup> AMAP Working Group Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 7 – 10 December, 1998
AMAP WG 12/3/2	AMAP FW-TDC. 1998 Progress Report
AMAP WG 12/3/3	AMAP Atmospheric Data Centre – Status Report
AMAP WG 12/3/4	AMAP Marine Data Centre Progress Report 1997/1998
AMAP WG 12/4/ 1	To: Senior Arctic Officials, Permanent Participants, Working Group Chairs Letter dated 30 November, 1998 from Richard B. Norland
AMAP WG 12/6/1	AMAP Strategic Workplan for 1998 – 2003
AMAP WG 12/7/1	Strategy for Production of the Assessment Reports
AMAP WG 12/7/2	AMAP Structure and Need for Future Assessment
AMAP WG 12/7/3	Terms of Reference for the Assessment Steering Group (ASG)
AMAP WG 12/8/1	AMAP Monitoring and Effects Programme: 1998 – 2003
AMAP WG 12/8/2	AMAP QA-programme for POPs analysis
AMAP WG 12/8/3	Section C – Effects Programme
AMAP WG 12/8/4	Climate Change in the Arctic (Discussion Paper)
AMAP WG 12/8/5	Response of the AMAP Human Health expert group to the Canadian Project on Arctic Children and Youth
AMAP WG 12/8/6	AMAP/CAFF Chair's Meeting in Stockholm. Proposal on how to follow-up on Ministerial directives to AMAP and CAFF re climate change
AMAP WG 12/8/7	Section C – Effects/exposures Programme. Radioactivity Draft

- AMAP WG 12/8/8 The Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic: Update for the AMAP Working Group.
- AMAP WG 12/9/1 Multi-Lateral Project Proposal: Assessment and Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Transport and Deposition to the Arctic from Russian Sources. Draft  
19 August, 1998
- AMAP WG 12/9/1-1 Multi-Lateral Project Proposal: Assessment and Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Transport and Deposition to the Arctic from Russian Sources. Draft  
7 December, 1998
- AMAP WG 12/9/2 Canada's Implementation Plan for AMAP 1999 and beyond
- AMAP WG 12/9/3 U.S. AMAP Projects. Draft 1 December, 1998
- AMAP WG 12/9/4 Progress Report on the implementation of the projects in the framework of the Russian National Plan by Roshydromet in 1998
- AMAP WG 12/9/5 NOAA Arctic Research Initiative (ARI) Awards – 1998 – 1999. "Health of the Western Arctic/Bering Sea Ecosystem"
- AMAP WG 12/9/6 National Implementation Plan for the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Phase 2, 1998 – 2003
- AMAP WG 12/9/7 The List of Roshydromet projects proposed for National Implementation Plan in Russian Arctic – 1999 and brief results of 1998
- AMAP WG 12/9/8 AMAP – Preliminary Norwegian Implementation Plan
- AMAP WG 12/10/1 OSPAR Workshop on the Development of Harmonised reporting Procedures for Hazardous Substances, Oslo 21 – 24 September, 1998. (Overview of the Workshop Report)
- AMAP WG 12/12/1 AMAP Activities an Atmospheric Monitoring
- AMAP WG 12/15/1 Nordic Cooperation on ESB-Activities

## **Progress Report from AMAP Secretariat to the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAP Working Group meeting, Helsinki, Finland. December 7-9, 1998.**

### **1: Organization**

Since last meeting of the AMAP Working Group (WG) there has been no changes, neither in the Board nor the Secretariat. The Board met in Stockholm, October 19-12, and had a joint meeting with the chair and <Executive Secretary for CAFF regarding the joint work with Climate and UV. Board members attending the SAO meeting in London, August 17-19, and the SAO and Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, September 14-18, had planning meetings with CAFF, EPPR and PAME.

At the ministerial meeting in Iqaluit the Aleut International Association was approved as permanent participants, and the World Wide Fund for Nature and Standing Committee for Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region as observers, and have thereby the same status in AMAP.

### **2: Follow up after the 10<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting**

#### **2.1. AMAP Monitoring Programme and National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for 1998 - 2003**

At the 11<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting in Girdwood a time schedule for the development of the AMAP monitoring programme and NIPs was decided upon (point 5 in the Minutes). This plan has been followed, except that only Canada provided NIPs prior to the meeting in Helsinki. The draft sub programmes for the AMAP monitoring programme was written in different styles and a large rework had to be done to achieve a document with one style. After the decisions in Helsinki the final programme will be developed with necessary text to explain the tables and strategies. The overview of NIPs will also have to be done after the Helsinki meeting. Both the programme and NIPs will be presented to the next SAO meeting.

#### **2.2. The programme to monitor and assess effects due to changes in climate and UV/ozone**

At the 10<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting in Århus, USA took the lead to develop a policy paper regarding this programme. AMAP and CAFF arranged in March a joint workshop in Rovaniemi, Finland (report has been circulated), and at an International conference on Global Change in Polar Regions held in Tromsø, Norway, in August, AMAP and CAFF arranged four joint sessions to discuss the content of such a programme. At this meeting USA presented the draft discussion paper called "An implementation strategy for assessing the potential consequences of climate changes in the Arctic". This draft report has also been circulated to the AMAP WG. More than 30 experts attended the joint sessions. A draft report from the meeting has been circulated to those who attended the meeting, and the final report will soon be ready. USA has prior to the AMAP WG meeting in Helsinki prepared an updated discussion paper, partly based on the discussion held in Rovaniemi and Tromsø.

### **2.3. The programme to monitor and assess combined effects**

The AMAP Secretariat has been responsible for arranging an international workshop on "Biological effect methods to be applied to detect combined effects in the marine environment". This workshop was arranged together with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), in Copenhagen November 16-17. The workshop was sponsored by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen). 60 experts mainly from European coastal states attended the workshop. The minutes and recommendations from the workshop are now circulated among the participants, and will make a fruitful input to the AMAP work on this issue. Most participants attending the workshop also attended a special session the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, initiating a process to send research applications on this issue to the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework for EU. The research that hopefully can be initiated will be of great interest for the AMAP work in the future.

### **2.4. Assessment products**

At the Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, the ministers approved the SAO report and by that the tentative plan for assessment reports for the next five years. The Board has based on this decision prepared and circulated a plan for the production of assessment reports to the Heads of Delegations prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting. Based on the decisions made at the 12<sup>th</sup> AMAP WG meeting a final plan will be prepared and presented to the next SAO meeting.

As a part of the assessment work, international symposia is an efficient way to bring together experts and get the most updated information of the table. For the assessment work to be done the AMAP Secretariat has been involved in planning of the 4<sup>th</sup> International conference on environmental radioactivity in the Arctic. This will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, September 1999. This will be a joint conference between the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, International Union of Radioecologist and AMAP. Some other international workshops are under planning, but are awaiting support from other national and international organizations.

### **2.5. AMAP Assessment Report (AAR)**

The AAR was ready from the printer in August and presented to the Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. This presentation was done since the presentations from all the working group Chairs was removed from the programme. The report, 859 pp and 3.7 kg has been circulated to all the Heads of Delegations to AMAP WG according to the number ordered, to all participants attending the AMAP Symposium in Tromsø, and all experts that have had an active contribution to the assessment work. The AMAP Secretariat has a stock of 750 reports for sale (100 US dollars + handling charges).

### **2.6. The ministerial meeting in Iqaluit**

In addition to the AAR, no special report reports were presented to the ministerial meeting. The AMAP Chair and Secretariat were asked to prepare draft text to the SAO report to Ministers and the ministerial declaration. At the SAO meeting in May in Whitehorse the Draft Outline for the AMAP Work Plan for 1998 - 2003 was approved as the Work Plan for AMAP. At the meeting in Iqaluit ministers made decisions affecting the AMAP work for the next five years, e.g. expected assessment products. Based on these decisions the Board has included these decisions into the Work Plan and renamed it to Strategic Work Plan.

## **2.7. Sources**

AMAP Secretariat has attended the work going on under OSPAR regarding source quantification, see special report from a meeting held in Oslo, Norway. Most focus has, however, been on development of the PCB project in Russia to detect sources of major consequence for the Arctic.

## **2.8. The PCB project in Russia**

At the Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit this project got a great focus and support. At present all eight Arctic countries have raised financial support to this project. Experts to implement this project have been nominated both in Russia and in Western countries. In addition the Netherlands that are observers to Arctic Council, has expressed great support to this project.

A first meeting among the experts were held i Oslo, November 18, back to back to a seminar on PCB between Norway and Russia. The tasks for the experts were discussed, and experiences from similar type of work in western countries were presented and discussed. The AMAP Secretariat is ready to sign the contract with the Russian contractor that will be involved in this project. A Steering Group meeting will be held in Helsinki back to back to the AMAP WG meeting. The practical work is then planned to be initiated early next year, and final report from phase one is expected within a year.

## **2.9 Thematic Data Centres (TDCs)**

Based on the kind offer from Denmark, a TDC for human health data is now under construction at the University of Århus, Denmark.

# **3. International cooperation**

## **3.1 IASC**

AMAP has requested and received observer status in IASC. The planning of the programme on climate change of UV/ozone has produced a proposal that AMAP, CAFF and IASC establish an Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) to coordinate the work to be implemented on these issues. The group will be open for other international organizations involved in monitoring, research and assessment of climate change and UV/ozone in Arctic regions.

## **3.2. UN-ECE**

Preliminary discussions are under way between the AMAP Board and the Working Group on Effects under the LRTAP Convention regarding a close collaboration on the effect monitoring.

# **4. Finances**

At the ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, the ministers did not agree on a mandatory strategy for financing joint costs, as secretariats. The voluntary strategy was continued. The AMAP Secretariat has over the years got a basic funding from Norway, but also substantial contribution from some of the other Arctic countries and Nordic Council of Ministers to finance joint projects. For 1999 the budget for AMAP Secretariat is approximately 3.0 million Norwegian Kroner (410.00 US dollars, exchange rate 7.4). The Norwegian Ministry of Environment has allocated 2.2 million NOK, leading to a difference of 700.000 NOK or 100.000 US dollars. Part of this difference can be covered by the projects the AMAP

Secretariat is administrating, but not all. The Arctic Countries are kindly requested to contribute with voluntary contributions to the AMAP Secretariat so necessary supports for the working group can be continued.

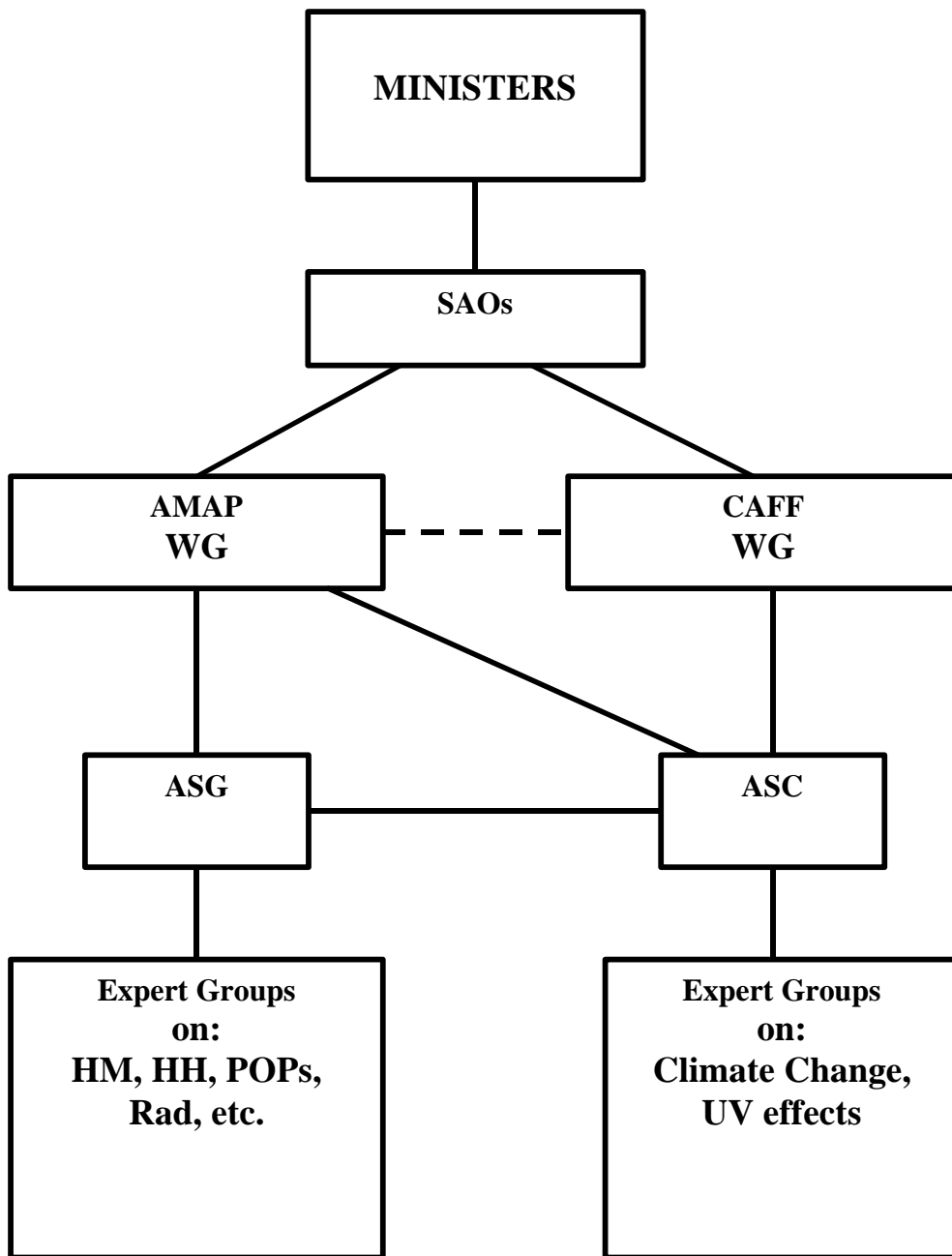
**Timetable for the AMAP Assessment Reports**

Assessment item	Year of reporting			
	Adopted		Tentative	
	2000	2002	2004	2006
Human Health	P (I)	M	I	M
POPs	P	M	I	M
Hg and other HMs	P	M	I	M
Radioactivity	P	M	I	M
Acidification	P	P	P	M
Oil and PAHs	P	P	M	P
TBT	P	P	M	P
Climate effects	I	M	P	M
UV-B effects	I	M	P	M
Combined effects	P	P	M	P

P – progress report (information on progress in preparation of an assessment report included into the AMAP Progress Report to the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council);

I – interim report (intermediate report on the results obtained after the last assessment, including the major results reported at the conferences/symposia organized under the AMAP auspices);

M – main report (detailed report on the results obtained by AMAP, in cooperation with the other fora, according to the request of the Ministers, including recommendations for actions).





## **Terms of Reference for the Assessment Steering Group (ASG)**

### **Membership and Scope**

The AMAP Board and the Lead Country Experts (LCEs) shall be responsible for drafting the assessments on human health, heavy metals, POPs, radioactivity, acidification, oil/PAHs, TBT, and combined effects. AMAP Working Group delegates may participate in the ASG. The AMAP Secretariat shall provide support for the work of the ASG.

### **Responsibilities**

1. To oversee the assessment process for human health, heavy metals, POPs, radioactivity, acidification, oil/PAHs, TBT, and combined effects and, together with the AMAP Secretariat, to coordinate all work related to the preparation of the assessment reports;
2. To ensure that the assessment reports are prepared according to the decisions made by the AMAP WG;
3. To foster cooperation and cross-fertilization between the LCEs/expert groups;
4. To plan and implement, together with the AMAP Secretariat, the submission of special inputs from the observing organizations and countries;
5. To ensure, together with the AMAP Secretariat, distribution of the drafts to experts of all the participating countries and the observers, and receipt of comments from them;
6. To forward draft assessments, including conclusions and recommendations, to the AMAP WG;
7. To advise the AMAP WG regarding coordination of monitoring programs;
8. To work with the Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) to coordinate with its activities on climate and UV and on combined effects with regard to these areas;
9. To cooperate with appropriate international organizations in producing the assessments.

## **Terms of Reference for the Assessment Steering Committee (ASC)**

### **Membership and Scope**

Representatives designated by the AMAP and CAFF Working Groups and the Lead Country Experts (LCEs) shall be responsible for drafting the assessments on climate and UV. Delegates to the AMAP and CAFF Working Groups may participate in the ASC. Representatives of other international organizations may be invited, as appropriate. The AMAP and CAFF Secretariats shall provide support for the ASC.

### **Responsibilities**

1. To oversee the assessment process for climate and UV, and, together with the AMAP and CAFF Secretariats, to coordinate all work related to the preparation of the assessment reports;
2. To ensure that the assessment reports are prepared according to the decisions made by the AMAP and CAFF WGs;
3. To foster cooperation and cross-fertilization between the LCEs/expert groups;
4. To plan and implement, together with the AMAP and CAFF Secretariats, the submission of special inputs from the observing organizations and countries;
5. To ensure, together with the AMAP and CAFF Secretariats, distribution of the drafts to experts of all the participating countries and the observers, and receipt of comments from them;
6. To forward draft assessments, including conclusions and recommendations, to the AMAP and CAFF WGs;
7. To work with the Assessment Steering Group (ASG) to coordinate with its activities as appropriate, including work on combined effects;
8. To cooperate with appropriate international organizations in producing the assessments.

## AMAP Work Programme for 1999.

No	Activity	Date	Persons responsible
<b>Organizational activities</b>			
1.	Letter to SAO concerning UV issues in the Arctic, based on the US report to the AMAP WG	January	Secretariat
2	Nomination of UV experts	January	HoDs
3	Election of the Vice-Chair	February	Board
4	Request to the AC Secretariat to present a preliminary timetable of the AC related meetings	February	Secretariat
5	Letter to SAO on proposals concerning delivery of special reports from AMAP to international organizations and meetings (e.g. RIO+10)	February	Board
6	Establishment of ASG	Spring	Board, Secretariat
7	1st ASG meeting	Spring	Secretariat
8	Establishment of ASC	Spring	Board, CAFF, IASC
9	Finalization of Lead Countries nomination	Spring	Secretariat, Iceland, Norway, USA
10	Proposal on the cooperation plan between the AMAP HH group and the AC Project on Children and young of the Arctic	Spring	HH group, Canada
11	Instruction for using Website for document distribution	Spring	Secretariat
12	Information to the Secretariat on the activities related to specimen banking	Permanent	Participating countries
13	13 <sup>th</sup> AMAP WG Meeting, Canada	November	Board, Secretariat, Canada
<b>Development of monitoring programme</b>			
1	Letter with the proposal on final title of the AMAP Effect Monitoring Programme	Spring	Secretariat
2	Trend Monitoring Programme	Spring	Secretariat, LCs
3	Draft UV Programme	March	USA, experts
4	Presentation of the Effects Monitoring Programme to the WG	November	Secretariat, LCs
5	Presentation of NIPs	November	Participating countries
<b>Conferences, Symposia, Workshops</b>			
1.	4 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Radioactivity in the Arctic, Edinburgh, Scotland	September 20-23	Secretariat, NRPA, SEPA
2	Workshops on Climate Change and UV-B effects, Tromsø, Norway	April	Secretariat, USA, Norway, CAFF, IASC
3.	Workshops on POPs and Human Health	Autumn	
4.	International Conference on biomarkers of human health, Bethesda, Maryland	Autumn	USA
5.	Workshop on biological effects of mercury	?	Denmark, USA
6.	Workshops on modelling of pollutant fate and pollution sources	Spring	?
<b>Publications and data handling</b>			
1	Consultation on publication of the CD-ROM version of SOAER	January	Secretariat, Olson & Olson
2.	Strategic Plan for 1998-2003	Spring	Secretariat
3	Synopsis on the pollution issues to assist Norway in preparation of ACAP	March	Secretariat
4.	Updating of the AMAP Homepage	March	Secretariat