



ACIA

International Scientific Symposium  
Climate Change in the Arctic

Reykjavik  
Iceland  
9-12 November 2004



**SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**

An aerial photograph of a frozen river or stream, showing complex, swirling patterns of white and blue ice. The water is dark blue, and the surrounding land is a mix of brown and green. The image is used as a background for the text.

## BACKGROUND

Climate variability and change, and more recently, notable increases in UV radiation, have become important issues in the Arctic region over the past few decades. These issues have also prevailed in the international scientific and political scene for over a decade through major programmes of scientific research (e.g., WCRP), through intergovernmental assessments (e.g., AMAP, IPCC, and WMO), and through international treaties, protocols and conventions.

The results of scientific research and indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge have increasingly documented climatic changes in the Arctic. Models indicate that these changes will be more pronounced in the Arctic region than in other regions of the world and will be critical to our understanding of global-scale climatic processes.

The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) was formally adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Arctic Council at Point Barrow, Alaska, in 2000. Two of the Arctic Council's working groups, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), in association with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), were given the task by the ministers to conduct the ACIA. As specified in the Barrow Declaration, the goal of the ACIA is to "evaluate and synthesize knowledge on climate variability and change and increased ultraviolet radiation, and support policy-making processes and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." The assessment is to address "environmental, human health, social, cultural and economic impacts and consequences, including policy recommendations."

More than 250 scientists and six circumpolar indigenous peoples' organisations have participated in the ACIA. Two documents will be delivered to Ministers at the Arctic Council Ministerial Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, in November 2004:

- Scientific document, a fully referenced and detailed scientific assessment report;
- Synthesis/overview document, a popular version of the scientific document aimed at communicating the science and the traditional knowledge of climate change in the Arctic to the general public.

The ACIA scientific symposium will be convened at Nordica Hotel Sudurlandsbraut 2, in Reykjavik, Iceland, 9-12 November 2004, just prior to the Fourth Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting.

The ACIA scientific symposium will be convened at Nordica Hotel Sudurlandsbraut 2, in Reykjavik, Iceland, 9-12 November, 2004

Organised and supported by:  
The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) under the auspices of the Arctic Council working groups: the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), and Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), in association with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

The Environment and Food Agency of Iceland



The Icelandic Institute of Natural History



The Icelandic Meteorological Office



## TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

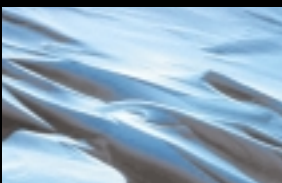
The symposium will address a variety of issues connected to climate change in the circumpolar Arctic and its environmental and societal consequences, including:

- the Arctic climate system and its role in the global climate system;
- past, present and future changes in physical and biological systems;
- impacts of a changing climate on human activities, such as health care, fisheries, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, hunting and gathering;
- impacts on wildlife and other conservation issues;
- possible feedbacks on the global climate system.

Identification of knowledge gaps and priorities for new research and monitoring will be an important issue at the symposium.

The ACIA scientific assessment report will be the primary document under consideration at the symposium. The scientific results and their background, including indigenous peoples' perspectives and observations, will be presented and discussed in an integrated circumpolar context. The ACIA assessment will also be discussed within the context of global, regional and sub-regional environmental management and policy development. Presentations of significant national, bilateral and multilateral activities that have contributed to ACIA, and presentations of topics of relevance to climate change in the Arctic that are not directly dealt with by ACIA are all welcome.

The symposium also forms an important part of the process by which ACIA will communicate its results and conclusions to Arctic stakeholders and to politicians. A brief summary report from the discussions and presentations at the symposium will be delivered to the Ministers at their meeting the week following the symposium.



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The symposium is directed towards interest groups including:

- scientists working on Arctic and climate change issues;
- administrators, managers and decision-makers with responsibility at local and regional levels;
- indigenous people and their organizations; and
- representatives of industries and international and non-governmental organizations with interest in the Arctic, and/or global climate change issues.

## ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

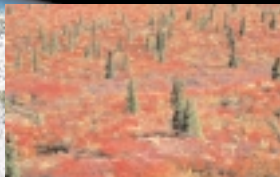
The symposium will start with a presentation of the main ACIA scientific results (9 Nov.), continue with two parallel sessions (10 and 11 Nov.), and conclude with a panel discussion (12 Nov.) in which scientists, environmental managers, and representatives from the indigenous peoples' groups and NGOs will participate. The themes for the parallel sessions are:

Session I: Arctic climate and its role in the global system. Past, present and future changes in physical and biological systems. Arctic feedbacks on the global climate system, and other global consequences.

Session II: Impacts of a changing climate on people's lives and on economies. Impacts on wildlife, biodiversity and other conservation issues. National and international policy issues and recommended actions.

Keynote speakers will be invited. Other oral presentations and poster presentations will be selected from abstracts submitted before 15th of April 2004. Accepted abstracts, max. three pages, will be printed in proceedings from the symposium.

The symposium language will be English, with Russian translation if necessary.



## Timetable

Submission of short (1 page) abstracts	15 April 2004
Notification of acceptance of papers	1 June 2004
Symposium preliminary programme	1 July, 2004
Delivery of extended (max. 3 page) abstracts	1 September 2004
Early registration (250 Euro)	1 August 2004
Symposium	9-12 November 2004

## Abstracts

Please submit extended abstracts (max. 3 pages) of accepted presentations by 1 September 2004 and short (1 page) abstracts by 15 April 2004 to:

ACIA Secretariat, International Arctic Research Center

P.O. Box 757740

University of Alaska Fairbanks,

AK 99775-7740, USA

Fax: 1 907 474 6722, E-mail: [bhameister@iarc.uaf.edu](mailto:bhameister@iarc.uaf.edu)

## Programme and Symposium Fees

The symposium preliminary programme will be issued on 1 July 2004, together with further information on logistics and registration. Updates about the symposium will also be posted on [www.acia.uaf.edu](http://www.acia.uaf.edu), [www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no), [www.iasc.no](http://www.iasc.no), [www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is).

Electronic registration: [www.amap.no/MiscTempFiles/ACIA-Symp.htm](http://www.amap.no/MiscTempFiles/ACIA-Symp.htm)

The fee of the symposium has been set to 300 Euro, or 250 Euro if paid before 1 August. The fee covers a copy of the ACIA scientific assessment report, a copy of the symposium abstracts/proceedings, the symposium dinner, and refreshments.

The symposium has a capacity for ca. 350 participants. A block booking has been made at Reykjavik hotels. Further information on registration, hotel reservations, excursions, etc., will be included in subsequent announcements of the symposium. If you responded to the first announcement, you are already on our distribution list.

## Local Organising Committee

Svanhvit Bragadottir, Ust.

Birna B. Berndsen, Congress Reykjavik

Snorri Baldursson

Helgi Jensson

[svanhvit@ust.is](mailto:svanhvit@ust.is)

[birna@congress.is](mailto:birna@congress.is)

[snorri@ni.is](mailto:snorri@ni.is)

[helgij@ust.is](mailto:helgij@ust.is)

## Programme Committee

Robert Corell, IASC. Halldór Björnsson, Iceland. Terry Callaghan, Sweden.

Gordon McBean, Canada. Pål Prestrud, CAFF. Lars-Otto Reiersen, AMAP. Jan-Idar Solbakken, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat. Gunter Weller, ACIA secretariat.