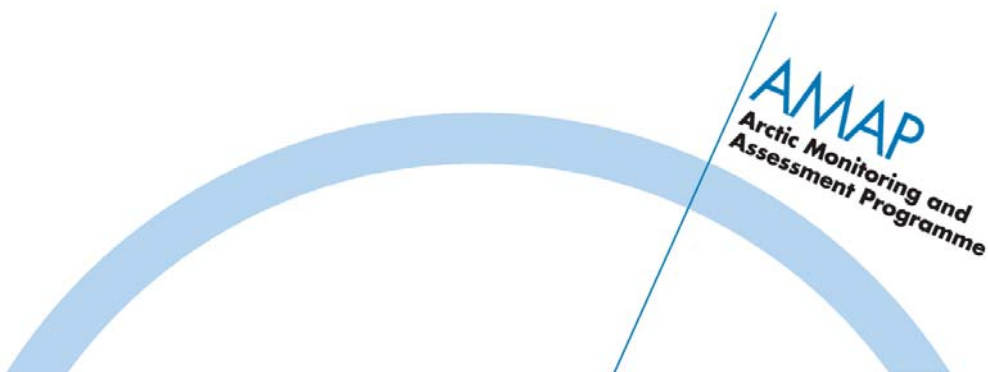


**Progress report from AMAP for the period 2005-2006
to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting
in Salekhard, Russia, October 26, 2006**



1. Administrative issues

Director Yury Sychev of the Polar Foundation in Russia has been employed by the AMAP Secretariat since 1 May 2005 to work out of Moscow with main responsibility to follow-up issues related to Russia and the Barents region as a replacement for Vitaly Kimstach who was lost in the tsunami of 2004. Jon Øyvind Odland has been engaged from mid-August 2005 to work in a half-time position with environment/health related issues.

Due to the financial situation for the administration of AMAP, staff members today work out of their hometown; Simon Wilson in Rotterdam, Yury Sychev in Moscow, Jon Øyvind Odland in Bodø and Lars-Otto Reiersen in Oslo. Electronic communication makes this an acceptable and cost-effective solution. The members of the AMAP WG and Observers are shown in Annex 1.

2. Update on ongoing work

The AMAP Work plan for 2004-2006

AMAP has followed the workplan for the period 2004-2006 that was approved at the Ministerial meeting in Reykjavik in 2004.

The main tasks for AMAP since the last Ministerial meeting have been the following:

Work on the production of: (1) the AMAP Assessment 2006: Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic, and (2) the Arctic Council Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic (OGA).

(1) AMAP Assessment 2006: Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic (AAHA)

The AMAP WG is pleased to present to the Ministers the AAHA Scientific report and the Overview report. The work started after the Ministerial meeting in 2000, a substantial amount of data has been collected and the reports have been through a thorough scientific process, including national and international peer review process. The reporting of data - environmental observation and emissions - remains uneven among the Arctic countries. For future assessments of Acidification and Arctic Haze this needs to be improved.

The AMAP WG would like to thank Finland for its excellent work leading the assessment and providing additional in-kind resources to ensure delivery of the assessment products at the Ministerial meeting. Further the WG would like to thank all the scientists that have contributed, and also the scientific secretary, the technical and linguistic editor, the graphical production and layout person for their excellent work. The reports are available as hard copies and electronically from www.amap.no. The reports will be distributed among the Arctic countries, Permanent participants and observing countries and organizations. The UNECE has expressed a special interest in this new report.

2 Arctic Council Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic (OGA)

The OGA Scientific assessment report and Overview report have unfortunately been delayed due to very late contributions from some of the participating countries. The AMAP WG regrets to inform the SAOs and Ministers that it is not in a position to deliver these reports to the Ministerial meeting in 2006 as originally planned. This decision was taken bearing in mind the view of the SAOs and the AMAP WG not to compromise the scientific quality of

the assessment in order to meet a predetermined schedule. Part of the reason for delayed delivery is also the expanded scope of the report relative to the original plan. This means that the scientific report will be larger and therefore also more costly to produce. Additional financial support will be needed to complete production of these reports. Another reason for the delay is the difficulties that were experienced in securing the involvement of key experts from some countries. AMAP would like to draw the attention of the SAOs to the increasing problems that are being experienced in ensuring that relevant experts have the opportunity and necessary support from their countries to contribute to assessment activities requested by SAOs and Ministers, and consider options to improve this situation.

The final draft chapters of the Scientific report have been circulated to countries for national comments and to international independent reviewers. At the Lead Author's meeting held in Victoria in September the comments were discussed and acceptable changes made.

Considerable work still remains, e.g. technical and linguistic editing, graphical production and lay out have to be done before the scientific report is ready for printing.

Drafting of the OGA Overview report has started some time ago, but the final writing has been awaiting the conclusions of scientific report. The AMAP WG now plans to approve the overview report and related recommendations to the Arctic Council at its next meeting mid-March 2007. The final printed overview report is expected in early summer 2007.

When the Scientific report is published it will be a comprehensive assessment including past, current, and future oil and gas activities; socio-economic impacts; sources fate and concentrations of oil and gas contaminants in the Arctic; biological effects, and ecosystem sensitivities and vulnerabilities.

The ACIA Scientific Report was printed in 2005 in 2000 copies and has been distributed to all those that ordered the report. Extra copies are available from the AMAP Secretariat. The report is for sale on the open market through Cambridge University Press (CUP). The report is also available electronically from www.amap.no/acia.

Translation of the ACIA Overview report. In addition to the English version, the ACIA Overview report has been produced in five other languages; (Dutch, German, Russian, Norwegian and Saami). Production of a French version is underway. All reports are available from the AMAP Secretariat and electronic versions are also posted on the AMAP website, www.amap.no.

Follow-up of ACIA has been initiated. AMAP has been active in the Focal Point (FP) and hosted some of the meetings held. A special report from the FP will be presented to the Ministerial meeting. The AMAP Chair John Colder has acted as Chair for all FP meetings.

Following the AMAP workshop on ACIA Follow-up held in June 2005 in Oslo, an AMAP Climate Expert Group (CEG) was established to address climate and UV issues. The AMAP CEG held its first meeting in Oslo, February 15-16, 2006. The co-chairs of this group are John Walsh (USA) and Pål Prestrud (Norway). The group prepared draft priority programme recommendations for AMAP's follow up of the ACIA, and is continuing to work on updating the AMAP monitoring programme for climate and UV related variables. At the AMAP WG meeting in June these project recommendations were discussed and several were approved for incorporation in the AMAP Workplan for 2007-2008 (Annex 2). These recommendations were also presented to the Focal Point.

The AMAP Secretariat provided assistance in the arrangement of a side event held during the COP-10 in Buenos Aires in December 2005, and also the side event "Arctic Day" held

during the COP-11 in Montréal in December 2005. Several presentations were made at both events and the ACIA Scientific report was distributed to participants.

Since the presentation of the ACIA in November 2004, the ACIA Chair, Vice Chair and AMAP Executive Secretary have presented the ACIA report to several international and national meetings. The report has been highly appreciated by a wide audience and received considerable attention in the international media. It is also being used as educational material.

The AMAP Executive Secretariat was requested to make a presentation on the ACIA at the meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 27-31, 2005. A very engaged group of parliamentarians had an excellent discussion and raised several questions on the assessment and the current situation.

The AMAP Secretariat presented the ACIA results to an EU meeting on European Climate Change Programme – Impacts and Adaptation in June 2006, in Brussels. This was one out of several workshops preparing an EU strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change: The European Dimension that will be presented December 1st 2006.

The AMAP Secretariat also contributed material from the AMAP and ACIA assessments to an Exhibition “**Vulnerable Arctic**” held at the European parliament in Brussels in March. The Exhibition has been posted outside the EU Commission from March - May 2006. This exhibition may travel to several places during the summer and autumn.

International Conferences

The AMAP International Symposium on Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic was arranged as part of the 7th International Conference and Exhibition of Offshore Oil and Gas Development (RAO/CIS 2005), in St. Petersburg, September 13 – 15, 2005. Approximately 180 experts participated in the AMAP Symposium and 350 in the RAO/CIS Conference.

The programs for both events were relevant to the Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic (OGA) that is under preparation. The abstracts are available from the AMAP website, www.amap.no.

The 6th International Symposium on Radioactivity in the Arctic and Antarctic was held in Nice, October 2-5, 2005. AMAP was one of the co-organizers together with the International Union of Radioecology (IUR), US Department of Energy, ROSHYDROMET and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency. The next International Symposium is planned for 2008.

In May 2006, AMAP and IASC arranged a joint **Human Health Symposium** in Reykjavik. This Symposium was specially directed at encouraging young scientists to become involved in future work.

AMAP was one of the sponsors of the **ICARP II conference** held November 10-12, 2006 in Copenhagen. At the request of the organizers, AMAP prepared and arranged the session on contaminants.

Process to strengthen the AMAP Expert Groups on Human Health, Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Radioactivity, and to update the AMAP Monitoring Programme.

The AMAP expert groups has been renominated and includes now several new experts together with the core experts involved in past work to ensure continuity, which provides a good basis for future work. The expert group on Radioactivity met in January 2006 at Livermore near San Francisco, USA, The POPs group met in Burlington, Canada in March 2006. The Human health group met, in Reykjavik, Iceland in May 2006, and the Heavy Metal (Mercury) group will hold a workshop to evaluate mercury time series in biota in Stockholm in the autumn. As discussed above, the AMAP Climate Expert Group met in Oslo, February 15-16, 2006. The groups have discussed their workplans and started work to update the AMAP monitoring programme based on recommendations made by AC and the AMAP WG.

AMAP Data handling

AMAP continues to operate the following Thematic Data Centres (TDCs):

- Atmospheric TDC located at Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Norway;
- Marine TDC located at International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Denmark;
- Freshwater & Terrestrial TDC located at University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF), USA;
- Radioactivity TDC located at Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency (NRPA), Norway.
- Human health data is handled by the AMAP Secretariat and the health expert group.

The Arctic countries, observing countries and organizations have all been called upon several times to report relevant data to these TDCs so that the data are available to experts engaged in production of ongoing and future AMAP assessments. However, the response to this call from some countries has not been as good as might be hoped. The Arctic countries are again kindly requested to ensure that AMAP relevant data are reported to the AMAP TDCs, and also provide financial support for the continued operation of these TDCs.

National Implementation Plans for AMAP

At the AMAP WG meeting in Stockholm, June 2006, some countries presented updated overviews of national monitoring conducted in 2005, and plans for monitoring to be performed in 2006/2007 that is relevant to AMAP (i.e., information regarding their AMAP National Implementation Plans, (NIPs). Countries that have not yet done so are kindly requested to submit their new AMAP NIPs to the AMAP Secretariat as soon as possible.

The AMAP Project Directory (www.amap.no >> Resources & Projects >> Project Directory) currently holds information on ca. 450 projects, of which ca. 250 have been registered through AMAP and others through the ENVINET collaboration (involving European research stations/infrastructures). In addition to AMAP and ENVINET, the PD has also been adopted for use by CAFF. A request that countries complete the registration of relevant projects (in particular their NIP projects) in the PD has been repeated on several occasions during the last year, however, again not all countries have responded to this call. Once again, we kindly ask countries to ensure that their scientists and experts register (or update existing registrations) concerning all projects that are relevant to the work of AMAP, and in particular projects that might contribute to ongoing and planned assessments.

AMAP Website

New information is routinely added to the AMAP website. All AMAP reports, including AMAP assessment reports and ACIA products are available as electronic documents from the AMAP website. Maps and graphics produced for the AMAP assessments are also available from the website. Work to develop an online GIS application to present data from AMAP and other Arctic Council WGs is being implemented in cooperation with UNEP GRID-Arendal. The AMAP WG would like to thank UNEP GRID-Arendal for its continuing offer to host the AMAP website.

Atmospheric monitoring network in Russia and Alaska

Based on funding from Norway and Canada, the atmospheric monitoring of mercury at Amderma in northern Russia has been continued. There are still no sites in Alaska and northern Russia where POPs or mercury monitoring is currently being conducted. Of particular concern is the fact that monitoring contaminants in air at Barrow has ceased. AMAP are discussing possibilities to establish POPs monitoring in northern Russia, where a POPs sampling device is located but funds for its operation are currently lacking.

AMAP Ring tests (analytical intercalibration) on POPs in human blood

The ring tests have been a great success and improved the analytical quality of a number of participating laboratories. The ring tests, which are now an important component of several international and bilateral programmes, are continuing under the lead of Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (contact Jean-Philippe Weber).

Special Projects

RAIPON/AMAP/GEF project '*PTS, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North*'

This programme, which was completed in 2004, was subject to a programmatic audit in 2006, by an independent auditor appointed by UNEP and received very good scores. Follow up proposal for projects have been prepared by Russian health and environmental authorities in close cooperation with RAIPON and AMAP. These projects cover both monitoring of some new geographical areas and indigenous peoples, adaptation and mitigation projects to assist peoples and areas documented to be most affected. Local and Federal governments view the PTS report as a very important document, and resources to implement the follow up have been allocated, and this is the basis of the SDWG/AMAP Human Health risk reduction project. Further support from UNEP/GEF will partly depend on the outcome of the audit and the situation regarding Russian ratification of the Stockholm Convention.

Effect of Contaminants on health

Based on support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, AMAP has initiated a project on the Effect of Local and Long-range transported contaminants on human health in Nordic and northwest-Russian territories. The results will be used in the AMAP 2008 update assessment of human health and contaminants in the Arctic.

The project '*Climate change, sound water management, and flood preparedness at Lena and other Siberian rivers*'

The Russian government and scientific community have taken the initiative to develop further integrated activities, including a proposal for a GEF medium-sized project '*Climate*

change, sound water management, and flood preparedness at Lena and other Siberian rivers'. The project has received positive responses from experts in Canada, Norway and USA and it has been established a close cooperation between this project and the international project Arctic HYDRA and CliC programme under WMO. A project meeting between Russian authorities, experts and AMAP was held in Moscow in December 2005 and a workshop involving Russian and foreign experts to detail the content of the project were held in St Petersburg in May 2006. This workshop was sponsored by the Netherlands. A detailed project plan is now ready to be sent to GEF. Russia has presented this project as an IPY project.

Remediation of Contaminated Areas of Franz Josef Land

The Russian government has initiated a project to clean up contaminated sites at Franz Josef Land, and at the same time open to the establishment of a research and monitoring station at these islands. The AMAP Secretariat has assisted the Polar Foundation in planning and implementation of the first survey of sites in 2004, and analyses of samples. AMAP Secretariat contributed to the follow-up planning and took part in the Project meeting held in the Russian State Duma, January 24, 2006. This project could be a very interesting joint project between several Russian institutions and international organizations, such as AC and the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC). For AMAP, the possible establishment of a monitoring and research station on Franz Josef Land during the IPY, to perform monitoring and research on climate, UV/ozone, contaminants, and basic Arctic physical, chemical and biological parameters is potentially of great interest.

Project on combined effects of climate change and contaminants

Following an approach from the World Bank (WB), the AMAP Secretariat produced a concept paper for a possible project on climate and contaminants. This document has been delivered to the WB for their consideration. We have been informed that due to change in personnel at the WB the progress of this project has been delayed. SAOs will be informed of any further developments in relation to this proposal.

Based on financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers and National contributions, AMAP has initiated a project on combined effects between climate change, UV and contaminants on Arctic ecosystems and humans. Modelling work on potential effects on transport and precipitation of acidifying components and radionuclides has been performed during 2005/2006. An expert group to oversee the project has been established and several subprojects are under development.

3. Collaboration with other organizations

Collaboration with AC WGs

AMAP is working closely with several other Arctic Council WGs on the implementation of the Oil and Gas assessment and the follow up of ACIA.

Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP)

ACAP was originally established by the Arctic Council to address pollution issues documented by AMAP. In this context, AMAP has maintained a close collaboration with

ACAP in all of its projects, and is coordinating project work on some ACAP projects, including:

ACAP project '*Multilateral Cooperative Project on Phase-out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-contaminated Wastes in the Russian Federation*'

In 1998 AMAP Secretariat was asked to be the co-lead together with Russia for the PCB project to be implemented in Russia. During phase 1 and 2 of this project a fruitful cooperation was established between the ACAP project and AMAP. A lot of valuable information was collected and has been used both to initiate phase 3 of the project and in AMAP assessments. During phase 3 the Executive Secretary of AMAP has continued to act as the only co-lead to secure a continuity of the project, although the benefit for AMAP's work is much less. At the ACAP meeting in September 2006 in Halifax, the AMAP Secretariat proposed that the ACAP Secretariat take over the role of secretariat for the PCB project and that a new co-lead be appointed. The AMAP Secretariat would like to thank all experts involved in phases 1, 2 and 3 of the PCB project for a stimulating and interesting work and hope that the projects that have been initiated are successfully implemented.

Phase 1 of the ACAP project on '*Brominated Flame Retardants*'.

The AMAP Secretariat and AMAP POPs experts have been supporting the ACAP BFR project in relation to project administration, data compilation, and preparation of reports, especially from Russia. AMAP Experts have prepared a review article on BFR in the Arctic that was used as a basis for an AMAP Fact Sheet on this issue that can be used by Arctic decision-makers as a source of background information on this issue. For more details, see the report from the ACAP Steering Committee.

Phase 1 of the ACAP project on *Mercury*,

The AMAP Secretariat has participated in this project as far as capacity has allowed. Information has been gathered that will be used in future AMAP assessments on Mercury. A joint Fact Sheet on mercury in the Arctic has been produced by AMAP and ACAP under the lead of Denmark.

Phase 1 of the ACAP project on *Obsolete pesticides*

The AMAP Secretariat has participated in this project as far as capacity has allowed. Information has been gathered that will be used in future AMAP assessments on POPs. The AMAP Secretariat is administrating the financial accounting for this project for all sources of funding except from the USA.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

AMAP and CAFF have been working in close cooperation on the preparation of a proposal for coordination of monitoring programs.

A joint workshop of core experts that will examine the monitoring programs from both WGs scheduled for late May 2006 had to be delayed and is tentatively rescheduled for late 2006 or early 2007.

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

AMAP and EPPR, together with UNEP GRID-Arendal have been cooperating to develop an online GIS system that can be used to present and overlay data from the various Arctic Council WGs. The project also aims to harmonize work between the different groups that are engaged in mapping and GIS activities under the Arctic Council WGs. A pilot system

has been produced for demonstration purposes. The AMAP WG agreed that the AMAP Secretariat should continue to support the development of this activity, using the limited resources available and report progress to the AMAP WG. Representatives of the CAFF and PAME Secretariats and WWF expressed an interest in participating in this activity in the future. The UNEP representative also indicated that they were interested in continuing their work on this project.

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

PAME has requested that AMAP contribute to the Arctic Marine Strategy. AMAP has requested clarification from PAME on their specific needs in this respect.

PAME has also requested that AMAP (and CAFF) develop their joint monitoring programs and thereby assist PAME with science issues related to Large Marine Ecosystems.

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Both AMAP and SDWG are engaged in activities relating to human health issues. A joint project: *Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic* has been prepared. The AMAP human health expert group have worked together with Russian experts in the preparation of this project. This project will be an important activity during the coming years.

International cooperation

UNEP

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on POPs entered into force on 17th May 2004. Article 16 of the Convention requires periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the Convention, the first such evaluation to be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties four years after entry into force.

A Canadian/AMAP/UNEP Chemicals informal consultation on effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention was held in Bangkok March 14-16, 2006. Thirty nine experts from 24 countries and organizations participated. The meeting discussed several options for how a global monitoring of POPs might be implemented and related problems and constraints. Experiences from the implementation of the AMAP programme were presented and the AMAP programme and implementation strategy is of great interest for the planning of the Global programme and implementation. A paper was prepared by UNEP Chemicals that was presented to the COP-II meeting in Geneva, May 2-6, 2006.

The AMAP Secretariat has also been called upon to assist UNEP Chemicals in the preparation of the first Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting to be held in Brno in mid October.

UN ECE

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)

The UN ECE Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants under the LRTAP Convention has now entered into force. Article 10 of this agreement requires that there be periodic reviews of the 'effectiveness and sufficiency' of the Protocol, the first of which was reviewed by the Convention's Executive Body in December 2005. Following a request from the UN ECE Task-Force on POPs, and in accordance with the approved AMAP Strategic Plan 2004+, AMAP has actively supported the preparation of the documentation for the first review that has been prepared by the LRTAP Convention's Task Force on POPs.

The AMAP WG and the SAOs have previously noted the potential contribution of AMAP to this type of activity and in this connection, the AMAP WG will contribute in a similar manner to the first review of the effectiveness of the LRTAP Metal Protocol that is due to be prepared in 2006/2007.

EU

Under an EU initiative to develop a European Marine Strategy (EMS) several working groups have been established. These include groups on Strategic Goals and Objectives (SGO), Ecosystem approach (EAM), Hazardous substances (HS), and European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA); there are also linkages with the work under the EU group on Species and Habitats. Within the EU, this activity is co-led by DG Environment and the EEA, and is strongly linked to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and its possible extension to the marine offshore areas. The AMAP Secretariat has participated in meetings of the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment group (EMMA), the last meeting of which was held in Copenhagen (April 2006). The proposals for the establishment of a European Marine Strategy, and also a wider-ranging Maritime Policy (that will also address issues such as fishing and shipping) are currently being discussed within the European Parliament.

The AMAP Secretariat has continued discussions with relevant partners concerning the possible development of a research proposal for funding under the EU's 7th Framework programme. So far, however, these initiatives have not been successful. One of the problems appears to be that, despite the adoption of the 'Northern Dimension', research proposals focusing on northern areas alone do not receive the support necessary to gain approval/financing, and within the context of pan-European projects, the Arctic region is of marginal interest.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

AMAP has had a close cooperation with WWF over the years, and welcome the way AMAP information has been disseminated through the WWF-Arctic Programme's '*Arctic Bulletin*'.

World Water Forum 4 and Dialogue on Water and Climate

The focus of the World Water Forum 4 (WWF4) sessions held in March 2006 in Mexico City was mainly on actions and policy. AMAP was requested to present the result of the Lena River basin pilot study and the plan for the follow up projects on Siberian Rivers. However, due to resource constraints, the AMAP Secretariat was unable to participate at the WWF 4. The cooperation will however continue.

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

The AMAP Secretariat participated in the BEAC Ministerial meetings in Rovaniemi Finland on October 18-19, 2005 and presented information on plans for the follow up to ACIA. The BEAC has expressed a strong interest in the ACIA follow-up, and in initiating projects addressing 'Hot Spots' identified in the report prepared by AMAP for NEFCO. BEAC has also expressed an interest in the Oil and Gas Assessment.

The International Polar Year (IPY)

Several projects relevant to the AMAP programme were submitted to the IPY by the deadline of January 31st 2006. The AMAP Secretariat and the IPY Secretariat has met and discussed joint cooperation in the years to come on project implementation, data handling/storage, and assessment of new data. The AMAP Secretariat expects to assist the IPY Secretariat in the coming years, and through such cooperation secure access to new data that may be used in future joint AMAP/IPY assessments.

Furthermore, it is hoped that, among other things, the IPY will provide an opportunity to establish/re-establish some air monitoring stations that can actively contribute to monitoring and research of POPs, mercury, climate and UV/ozone in areas that are not presently covered, however, the fact that IPY funding is essentially restricted to financing national projects as opposed to 'international' projects is an obstacle.

IASC

The AMAP Human Health Group is working closely with IASC, providing a consultative group on matters relating to initiation of scientific effect studies on human health and contaminants. By providing travel support for young scientists, IASC is engaging experts that may in the future become active members of the AMAP Human Health Expert Group. IASC is represented on the ACIA Focal Point.

ICARP II Conference

The AMAP Secretariat arranged a special session on contaminants during the ICARP II conference in Copenhagen in November 2005. The background document for this session will be included in the ICARP II Proceedings.

WHO

AMAP work on pollution, health and climate related issues were presented at a meeting at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Rome in January 2005. WHO expressed a wish to establish closer cooperation with AMAP on these issues.

Arctic Observatory Network (AON)

In 2004, the US National Research Council initiated a special study on priorities for Arctic research and monitoring. This work has now been finalized and the report is available. The AMAP Executive Secretary and some of the lead experts involved in the ACIA served on the international committee responsible for preparing the report. The resulting proposals for future research and monitoring networks in the Arctic are highly relevant to future AC and AMAP work on monitoring Arctic climate, ecology, pollution, social and human health issues.

26th International Conference on DIOXIN (DIOXIN 2006)

At DIOXIN 2006, held in Oslo, September 2006 the work of AMAP received special attention. The AMAP Executive Secretary gave the opening speech to the 850 participants, AMAP POPs experts arranged a special Arctic session, and the lead author of the AMAP report on Changing Pathways, Robie Macdonald, gave the closing plenary presentation on combined effects of climate change and POPs. Several experts involved in the AMAP work presented results of recent Arctic studies at the Conference.

4. Requests to the SAOs

Funding Situation

Core funding for the AMAP Secretariat is provided by Norway, however this is insufficient to meet all the ongoing costs of the Secretariat, and costs associated with funding other AMAP core activities, despite efforts to make Secretariat operations as cost-effective as possible. AMAP would like to express its continuing appreciation to Norway, Canada, Finland, and the Nordic Council of Ministers for providing financial support during 2005/2006 to fund AMAP Secretariat operations and other AMAP core activities and projects. AC Member Countries are kindly requested to investigate the possibilities to provide financial support in 2007/2008.

The costs of producing the AC Oil and Gas Assessment are considerably higher than originally anticipated, due to the extended scope of the assessment and large volume of material being assessed. Even with substantial in-kind contributions and financial support during 2006, further financial support during 2007 will be needed to finalize the production.

Monitoring and Observation activities

SAOs are kindly requested to secure the necessary funding to allow AMAP to fulfill its work-plan as requested by Ministers and SAOs. It is also vital to ensure that observations of levels, trends and effects of contaminants in the Arctic continues, even during the periods between major assessments, in order to guarantee uninterrupted time series and ensure that future assessment reports presented by the AMAP WG are complete and reliable. In addition to the ongoing assessment production work, AMAP is currently considering the detailed plans for work in the years to come, in particular in relation to possible ACIA follow-up (see Annex detailing the draft AMAP Workplan and proposed deliverables). Continuation of core observations and establishment of both baseline and long-term records are especially important in this connection.

Annex 1, AMAP members, Permanent participants, Observing countries and Organizations.

Member countries:

Canada, Denmark/Greenland/Faroe, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States.

Indigenous peoples organizations:

Aleut International Association (AIA), Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Gwitch'in Council International (GCI), Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), Saami Council.

AMAP observing countries:

France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom.

AMAP observing international organizations:

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), Arctic Circumpolar Route (ACR), Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH), Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR), European Environment Agency (EEA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Radioecology (IUR), International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Nordic Council (NC), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), Northern Forum (NF), OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA), OSPAR Commission (OSPAR), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), University of the Arctic (UArctic), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Annex 2; AMAP Workplan for 2007 – 2008 and Tentative list of deliverables 2007 – 2012.

- Complete the 2006 Oil and Gas Assessment.
- Continue ongoing monitoring and assessment activities, including (long-term) temporal trend studies, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects in the Arctic, with special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined effects of climate (and UV) and contaminants (including radionuclides), preparing reports on emerging issues, and improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment).
- Further develop appropriate monitoring, assessment, and special climate related projects to implement ACIA follow-up by performing the following activities:
 - 1) Convening an Arctic Carbon Cycle Synthesis Workshop (ACS)
 - 2) Convening a workshop on Pan Arctic Downscaling of Climate Model Output (PAD)
 - 3) Investigating possibilities to produce State of Arctic (Climate) Annual Reports
 - 4) Convening a workshop to further develop an Arctic Observing Network
 - 5) Convening a workshop on Synthesis of Post-ACIA Model Projections for the Arctic and related Arctic Information from the IPCC 4th Assessment.
 - 6) Further developing and implementing AMAP project activities relating to Climate Change and Contaminants/Human Health
 - 7) Further developing the AMAP programme activities relating to coupled UV/biological monitoring.
- Translate and print the ACIA Overview report in French.
- Prepare updated reports on issues of concern, e.g., related to POPs and Mercury, see proposed timetable for AMAP deliverables.
- Continue to review the AMAP Monitoring Programme and update the AMAP Guidelines for Monitoring and Assessments to reflect the requests from Ministers and latest recommendations from science (concerning methodology, etc.).
- Produce additional fact sheets reflecting AMAPs assessments.
- Continue to support ACAP projects, in particular those on mercury, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, FJL clean-up, and other relevant projects as identified in the workplan for ACAP, including the development of AMAP/ACAP joint fact sheets.
- Continue a close cooperation with international bodies to avoid duplicating work and to coordinate work programmes in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Participate in planning and implementation of the IPY.
- Participate in the further development and implementation of special projects such as the project on the Lena and other Siberian rivers, and communicate this to SAOs for their consideration.
- Participate in relevant international meetings and symposia to communicate AMAP results and information on ongoing activities.

- Complete development of harmonized monitoring activities jointly with CAFF when common objectives can be addressed through such harmonization.
- Implement, together with SDWG the Human Health Risk Reduction Project
- Coordinate GIS related activities with other WGs.
- Improve the financial support for the AMAP work.

Tentative AMAP deliverables and timeline for their production during 2007 - 2012

For	Delivery date	Product	Expert group
Arctic Council			
AC 2006	2006	AMAP Assessment of Acidification and Arctic Haze	AAH assessment group
AC 2006	2006	Progress report on status of AC Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic	OG assessment group
AC 2006	2006	Proposals for AMAP activities related to ACIA follow-up	AMAP climate expert group
AC 2007	2007	Proposals for joint AMAP/CAFF monitoring sites (for pilot implementation of harmonized monitoring)	Relevant AMAP expert groups (together with CAFF CBMP group)
AC 2007	2007	Update report/review on mercury trends in biota	Hg expert group
AC 2007	2007	Update report/review on mercury depletion events (MDEs)	Hg expert group (atmospheric)
AC 2007	2007	AC Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic	OG assessment group
AC 2007	“	Human health and Hg effects update	HHAG
AC 2008	2008	Updated time trend assessment for POPs and review articles on new contaminants	POPs expert group
AC 2008	2007/2008	Report on AMAP/CAFF pilot study(ies)	POPs/Hg/metals expert groups and/or climate expert group?
AC 2008	2007	Comprehensive update assessment on effects of contaminants on human health of Arctic populations	HHAG
AC 2010	2009	Comprehensive update assessment on mercury	Hg expert group
AC 2010/2012	2009/2011?	Update assessment on climate and contaminants?	POPs/Hg/metals expert groups and/or climate expert group?

For	Delivery date	Product	Expert group
AC 2012/2014	2011/2013?	Comprehensive update assessment on Arctic climate change (impacts, including ozone and UV)?	Climate assessment group
AMAP WG			
AMAP 2007	2007	Updated version of the AMAP Trends & Effects Programme	All AMAP expert groups
AMAP 2008	2006-2007	Assessment of the Arctic Carbon Cycle	Sub-group of the AMAP climate expert group?
External Groups (UNEP, UN ECE)			
UN ECE Metals Protocol – effectiveness review 2007	2006	Time trend data products (Hg and other metals)	Hg (metals)
UNEP Governing Council – Hg review status – Feb 2007	2006	Time trend data products (Hg and other metals)	“
UNEP Governing Council – Hg review status – Feb 2007	2006	Human health and Hg effects update	HHAG
UNEP Stockholm Convention review of (regional) monitoring data - 2009	2008	Time trend data products POPs	POPs expert group
UN ECE POPs Protocol – effectiveness review 2009	2008	Time trend data products POPs	“
UN ECE POPs Protocol – sufficiency review 2009	2008	Scientific review of information on BFRs, PFOS/A, etc	“
UN ECE POPs Protocol – sufficiency review 2009	2008	Human health and POPs effects update?	HHAG