

3.2.2 AMAP Work Plan for 2019-2021

Introduction

AMAP has developed its *Strategic Framework* which has been coupled with its work plan. AMAP's work reflects the long-term commitment of the Arctic Council to monitor and assess changes in the level of pollution and climate change and their impact on Arctic ecosystems and human populations. AMAP presents its assessments as key prerequisites to sound policy- and decision-making, and the assessments also serve information needs of other relevant bodies and stakeholders. The *Strategic Framework* outlines mechanisms to ensure the appropriate operationalization of AMAP's strategic goals and the evaluation of AMAP's achievements and implementation.

AMAP's *Strategic Framework* has five goals:

1. Improved knowledge and understanding of Arctic change through collaborative assessment processes, for use in evidence-based decision-making;
2. A strong, sustained and coordinated circum-polar monitoring and observation network;
3. Enhanced understanding of Arctic change and its impacts through inclusive partnership with indigenous peoples and local residents;
4. Effective communication on Arctic challenges and global implications; and,
5. Support to relevant international processes.

The WP was also developed within the context of a multi-year schedule for updating assessments of issues under AMAP's mandate. It reflects near-term priorities for the period 2019-2021 identified by AMAP and considers timing and allocation of resources, the needs and requirements of the Arctic Council as well as relevant international organizations and processes that use AMAP results in their work.

The WP takes note of incoming Icelandic Chairmanship priorities, in particular concerning ma-

rine plastics, as well as issues related to the cryosphere; climate change and water in a warming world; the need for sustained Arctic observations to strengthen the understanding of Arctic climate and weather extremes; and the need to provide information as a basis for adaptation and resilience.

As outlined in the *Strategic Framework*, Goal 3 is to achieve the Enhanced Understanding of Arctic Change and its Impacts through Inclusive Partnership with Indigenous Peoples and Local Residents. In addition, the WP also recognizes the potential contributions of Observers to its workings.

List of individual projects and activities

PROJECT/ACTIVITY: Addressing Issues on Climate Change and its Impacts

Lead/co-leads: Lead: United States. Co-leads: Norway and Sweden

WG partners: Parts of the work connect to other Arctic Council WGs, specifically CAFF (effects of climate change on ecosystems and ecosystem feedbacks to climate).

Other partners: Observers, WMO (meteorological cooperation), IPCC.

Rationale and overall objective: Work conducted in support to the preparation of the IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* (SROCC) and ultimately the *Sixth Assessment Report* (AR6) and connect to UNFCCC/IPCC priority: Food security and action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Main activities: Planned work on Arctic climate issues include:

- An evaluation of the performance of global climate models in the Coupled Model Inter-comparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) for climate parameters in the Arctic;
- Investigation of Arctic/mid-latitude weather connections;
- Examination of Arctic thresholds and ex-

tremes, and carbon cycling in the Arctic;

- A review of time series trends and patterns of key Arctic parameters, including sea-ice extent, snow cover duration; and,
- Work to strengthen guidance on monitoring to improve quantification of future climate change and climate change effects is also being conducted.

Understanding how climate change will affect ecosystems and ecosystem services is key to human livelihoods in the Arctic. From the policy perspective, an assessment of how climate change affects species and ecosystems upon which Arctic residents depend, particularly indigenous peoples, has been identified as a high priority within AMAP. It will follow-up with CAFF to scope stepwise work to jointly review and assess climate impacts on Arctic marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems and ecosystem feedbacks to climate.

Timeline: A compilation and overview of the results of the above work will be prepared as a scientific report comprising of an update on Arctic climate issues for the 2021 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iceland. An assessment of climate impacts on Arctic ecosystems is planned for 2023.

Funding: Participating national experts will have national support.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY: Addressing Contaminants and Human Health Issues

Lead/co-leads: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Sweden (persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and contaminants of emerging concern); Canada, Kingdom of Denmark (mercury); Norway, Russian Federation (radioactivity); Canada, Kingdom of Denmark (human health); Finland, Norway, United States (air pollution/SLCPs); Canada, Norway (microplastics and marine litter).

WG partners: Parts of the work connect with that of other Arctic Council WGs, specifically ACAP (chemicals and SLCPs), CAFF (pollution

effects on biota), EPPR (radioactivity), PAME (marine litter and microplastics), SDWG (human health), and EGBCM (SLCPs).

Rationale and overall objective: The aim is to support further development and implementation of the UNEP Stockholm (POPs) and Minamata (mercury) conventions, CLRTAP, and connect to UNFCCC/IPCC priority (food security) and the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): #2 on food security, #3 on ensuring healthy lives, #6 on access to safe drinking water, and #13 on action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Main activities: An update assessment of mercury in the Arctic is planned for 2021 as an update to the 2011 assessment. Work on POPs focuses on the development of an updated review of contaminants-climate change interactions. Further follow-ups on the assessment of chemicals of emerging concern will also be undertaken as well as work to prepare data products for use in the next Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation. An updated human health assessment, including the consideration of health effects of dietary transitions in Arctic populations and risk communication, has been initiated with delivery aimed for 2021/2022. An updated assessment of radioactivity issues of concern is planned for 2023. Contributions from human health monitoring are also an important part of the planned input to the Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation.

AMAP is mid-way through an updated assessment of SLCPs. A new generation of emissions scenarios is being developed. It will be used in modelling work to investigate impacts of these pollutants in a more integrated manner. Impacts to be considered will go beyond those of direct climate forcing. In addition, the implications of air pollutants for both climate change and air quality and a wider suite of impacts will be considered. The results of the assessment will be delivered in 2021. The work on SLCPs will be conducted in coordination with work done under other bodies, including the EGBCM, CLRTAP bodies and other relevant groups, including

coordination activities in relation to the EU and proposed OECD initiatives on black carbon.

AMAP will follow-up on PAME's *Desktop Study on Marine Litter Including Micro-plastics in the Arctic* and the recommendation to develop a regional action plan on marine litter in the Arctic. AMAP's contribution will be to develop the monitoring programme and guidelines to accompany the action plan. AMAP will also follow-up with PAME on future work to implement an ecosystem-based approach to marine management. For both activities, the follow-up is also meant to ensure an appropriate division of roles and responsibilities in future work addressing these issues.

Timeline: The activities are part of a coordinated plan for activities with deliverables in 2020 (POPs and human health targeting Stockholm Convention information needs); 2021 (mercury update assessment; integrated air pollution/SLCFs assessment), 2022 (human health update assessment), 2023 (radioactivity update assessment).

Funding: National experts will have national support.

Administration

The AMAP WG Chair is elected by the AMAP Head of Delegations (HoDs) for a period of two years. During the years 2017-2019, the Chair has been from Norway. A new AMAP Chair (Sweden) and Vice Chairs (Norway, Russia, United States) for the period 2019-2021 were elected at an AMAP HoDs meeting in January 2019.

The AMAP Secretariat relocated to Tromsø in April 2018. Secretariat staff currently comprises an Executive Secretary and three Deputy Secretary positions, and the AMAP Administrative Officer. The Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer are based in Tromsø in office space shared with the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS). A Deputy Secretary position vacancy is expected to be filled in Tromsø in 2019. The AMAP Secretariat engages accounting services assistance and other occasional part-time assistance to

help with administrative and project-related work as necessary. Core funding for the AMAP Secretariat is provided by Norway with additional contributions from other countries and funding bodies.

AMAP Secretariat manages information on specific AMAP activities, the products of AMAP's expert groups, AMAP's relations with the Arctic Council and the ACS, and all other AMAP external processes and envisaged workloads.

Communications and outreach

One of AMAP's goals is to:

inform its target audiences by producing sound evidence-based, policy-relevant assessments, communications, and outreach products for use in policy- and decision-making processes as well as raising awareness in the general public. AMAP will work closely with other Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants, governments, Observers, educational institutions, the media, and other organizations to promote AMAP results. (AMAP Strategy 2019+).

To that end, AMAP produces peer-reviewed scientific and technical reports that target scientific and educational communities. These reports provide validated documentation for statements and conclusions communicated in AMAP deliverables to Arctic Council Ministerial meetings.

In addition to the deliverables for Arctic Council Ministerial meetings, AMAP undertakes a range of outreach initiatives based on the results of its assessment work:

- AMAP work is translated into other languages and provides the basis for a large number of scientific journal publications;
- AMAP work is presented at several international conferences and other events; and,
- AMAP continues to upgrade and further develop AMAP website services and has implemented AMAP social media feeds (Facebook and Twitter).

AMAP will routinely evaluate the ways in which information on climate and pollution issues is consolidated and delivered. For climate issues, the rapid changes may point to a need for more frequently updated products, which is why the work plan focuses on trends and patterns in selected climate parameters and on summarizing these in shorter updates on climate issues of concerns.