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## **ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

### **Brief summary of Draft AACA-C Implementation Plan (as of Oct. 1st.)**

#### **For the SAO meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, 21-23 October 2013 agenda item 6.3.1**

Taking a regional approach in three pilot regions (Baffin Bay/Davis Strait, the Barents Sea, and the Chukchi and Beauford) AACA-C activities will assess how climate change and other major drivers of change may effect key societal sectors and interests such as: Ecosystem health/ services, human health, sustainable communities, heritage/culture, socio-economic opportunities.

Stakeholder consultations will guide the scope of activities and the focus of AACA-C activities in the three regions. The purpose of the consultations is to identify and define the key issues and questions that stakeholders would want to see addressed in the regional AACA-C activities.

The specific goal of AACA-C is to:

Consider Arctic-focused climate and integrated environmental frameworks/models that can improve predictions of climate change and other relevant drivers of Arctic change

Key points of the AACA-C implementation plan are:

- AACA-C activities will take a regional approach in which national, regional and local authorities and other stakeholders will define key sectors and issues of interest;
- There will be a build-in flexibility about how to approach AACA-C in each pilot region;
- AACA-C activities will build on previous and ongoing work under the auspices of the Arctic Council and other relevant sources of information including traditional knowledge;
- Regional integrated assessments will use a common set of preconditions/scenarios and timelines with regard to the projection of relevant drivers of change;
- Building on regional integrated assessments, the project will produce an integrated pan-Arctic assessment by 2017 which will synthesize possible options for actions of adaptation as they relate to key drivers of change in the Arctic;
- Regional AACA-C activities will be implemented by Regional Implementation Teams led by regional co-chairs;
- Cross-regional coordination will be guided by an overall AACA-C Integration Team;
- The Integration Team will guide the production of a pan-Arctic integrated assessment due in 2017;

This will be achieved by:

- arranging regional workshops for each of the three pilot regions to define the scope of specific AACA-C within the region
- consulting stakeholders to document the key issues and questions that stakeholders would want to see addressed for policy relevance and decision-making purposes
- identifying the drivers of change in the Arctic, and predicting how these drivers on a short-term and long-term basis may change the Arctic environment, livelihoods of local and indigenous peoples and industrial development
- assessing the changes based on projected futures (trends and model projections)

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- assessing changes in the short term (2030) and long term (2080)
- identifying the changes that may occur in response to interactions among some of the most significant drivers
- working with relevant, recognized scientific organizations and other Arctic Council working groups
- providing best possible evidence based information to the governments, organizations and peoples of the Arctic region in order to support policy-making processes for adaptation to the identified changes
- identifying possible option for adaptation actions to the foreseen effects of climate change and other key drivers of change

The foreseen organization of the work includes:

There will be one **Regional Implementation Team** (RIT) for each of the three pilot regions. The Regional Implementation Teams will be the core element of the AACAC project. RITs will have the main responsibility for progress and deliverables in their region.

An overall **Integration Team** (INT) will provide oversight and general guidance to the process. The Integration Team will coordinate work between the three Regional Implementation Teams and produce the overall integrated report to the AC Ministerial Meeting in 2017.