

IPCAP UPDATE FOR ACAP Working Group Meeting Anchorage, Alaska, November 7-9 2017

General Update

IPCAP will be holding their semi-annual meeting in-person in Anchorage, Alaska on November 7 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be the first meeting chaired by the new Chair of the IPCAP Expert Group, Ms. Liza Mack of the Aleut International Association (AIA or Aleut International). Liza was named the Interim Executive Director on July 18, 2017 and IPCAP welcomes her to the Expert Group and looks forward to her leadership.

Expanding IPCAP Activities and Participation

During the June 2017 ACAP meeting in Helsinki, the ACAP Secretariat gave an update on ACAP with an emphasis on IPCAP work and existing projects to the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) and expressed the importance of PPs participation in both the ACAP working group meetings and IPCAP project development and implementation. There was a discussion of how IPS could assist Permanent Participants and the ACAP Secretariat with tasks such as follow-up project work, meeting preparation and report writing.

Project Update on Establishing a Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network

The Framework for Establishing a Circumpolar LEO (CLEO) Network was approved and submitted to Ministers in Fairbanks on May 11, 2017. The document reflects the success of the network and looks forward as a commitment to continue to support the growth and development of the network.

The CLEO Project has successfully established a North American LEO Network, with northern LEO hubs in Alaska, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and additional hubs in the lower 48 of the U.S. and Mexico. More than new 200 observers have been trained in Arctic communities in Canada and the U.S.

Phase Two of the project is broadening the network to bring together observers and groups in the Fenno-Scandinavian region. Over the last 15 months, Sweden and Finland have hosted three combined workshops, in Kiruna and Jokkmokk, Sweden and Inari, Finland. Sami groups and communities have expressed interest in establishing projects and hubs in the region. The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry has also stated their intent to establish a LEO hub that will conduct two pilot projects, one in the Sami region of northern Europe and a second in the Mongolian taiga. At the most recent workshop in Jokkmokk, two Sami student groups from Norway and Finland took part in introductory sessions on CLEO given by Mike Brook of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Additional efforts to expand the project and develop Fenno-Scandinavian partners include a feasibility study by the Norwegian county government of Finnmark. The study, with results expected at the end of October, will evaluate the potential for expansion of the network in their region.

Project partners are also looking to collaborate with other working groups on projects of mutual interest. CAFF has been particularly interested in working on the ARIAS (Arctic Research on Invasive Alien Species) project and developing a group of observers that identify and monitor invasive alien

species across the Arctic. We will be discussing this with CAFF during the ACAP meeting in November and will update the group on the outcome.

Finally, the technical advancements to the LEO website now enable direct communication through the network between all observers, algorithms to provide predictions for changing weather by GPS locations, additional categories for observations, and newly translated materials. The network is still hoping to complete the promised translation and proofreading of LEO materials for Arctic member state languages, including Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Russian, and Indigenous languages.

Arctic Indigenous Community Waste

Overview: An ACAP Arctic workshop held in Nome, Alaska September 19-22, 2016, shared best practices on household and community solid and hazardous waste management, and tools on strengthening public participation and community outreach. 40 participants including 16 Russian experts, 13 of whom were Indigenous representatives from various parts of Chukotka. Groups such as ANTHC, AIA, ICC (Alaska and Russia) also participated as did several Alaskan NGOs. Building on this workshop, participants called for increased information and tool sharing on sustainable waste management, within the Arctic region.

Key Partners: Institute of the North, Kawerak, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska and Chukotka, Aleut International Association, and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Action: Participants discussed the idea of developing a project proposal for an Arctic waste information clearinghouse and pilot to be considered by ACAP at a future meeting. Such an information sharing approach was called for during the workshop given the value of having best practices, innovative tools, and resources materials translated in Russian and English and put online into a clearinghouse of resources that could be drawn upon for future community planning efforts by local representatives working with utilities and various levels of government to manage waste. To that end ACAP members are working to get the waste workshop materials on an ACAP webpage so that ACAP group members and the community can have shared access to these materials and resources. Additionally, ACAP has offered to collaborate with SDWG partners to provide best practices and tools for their Solid Waste Management Project that is seeking PSI funding. This will be a topic of focus during the semiannual face-to-face meeting of IPCAP.

For more information on the workshop and follow-up, please contact: gay.santina@epa.gov

Community-based Black Carbon Assessment

Overview: This project, which is a collaboration of the Aleut International Association, Arctic Alliance, Alaska Native Science Commission, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks will: assess, on a pilot basis, local sources of black carbon emissions from a sampling of Arctic Alaskan and Russian villages; provide a broad characterization of associated risks to public health; explore short and long-term mitigation options; assess and, where possible, strengthen local capacities to identify, mitigate and prevent black carbon pollution; draft a framework tool for community-based assessments of black carbon emissions and health risks; and educate local communities about black carbon emissions and risks.

During 2015, following ACAP's approval of the Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Project and with the support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the AIA project team entered into partnership with the All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection and held detailed discussions with SRI Atmosfera. Discussions with AIA's Russian partners led to an agreement to explore opportunities for cooperation and implement projects within the Russian territories of Kamchatka and/or Chukotka, where AIA has local partners; Arkhangelsk Oblast, Nenets Autonomous Okrug and/or Northwest Russia. More recently, the project team has been in discussions with Roshydromet's Typhoon Center regarding possible cooperation.

In addition to these discussions, Aleut International participated in field missions and meetings with NEFCO staff in order to explore potential synergies between AIA's project and ongoing or prospective NEFCO/PSI projects in Russia. In particular, AIA traveled to Arkhangelsk and Naryan-Mar to participate in discussions with regional and local officials. Potential opportunities for synergy were identified with, e.g., the following NEFCO/PSI projects:

- *Energy Supply Conversion from Diesel in Dolgoshcheliye and Leshukonskoye*: NEFCO is submitting an application for funding of a pilot investment stage project in two villages in Arkhangelsk Oblast. The application envisages an add-on component that would incorporate all or elements of the Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project.
- *Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO)*: AIA participated in discussions with Okrug officials, the head of the Reindeer Herders union and organizations that have implemented wind-diesel projects in NAO and gained preliminary expressions of interest in cooperation. NAO has identified three villages (Karataika, Indika and Nes) for wind-diesel projects with possible co-funding by the EU's Kolarctic programme.
- *Valday Cluster Upgrade for Black Carbon Reduction in the Republic of Karelia*: The AIA team is available to provide follow-up monitoring and community outreach regarding black carbon emissions and health threats in the five settlements where NEFCO and USEPA have been working and in the three where future work is anticipated.
- *Wind diesel project at Agricultural Cooperative "Tundra"*: Although NEFCO and USEPA have concluded this project's activities; AIA would be interested in exploring the potential for establishing partnerships with the Sami communities in Northwest Russia associated with this project.

Decision by the PSI Committee: At its meeting of March 22, 2016 the PSI Committee decided to approve a final investment decision (FID) allocation of up to EUR 135,500 to finance a study that covers Task 2 (desk study) of the IPCAP project "Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment", also requesting the fund managers to develop the project further to enable a FID for the remaining components of the project by the PSI Committee at a future meeting, or intersessionally.

Decisions at the Last ACAP Meeting: At the ACAP meeting in Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation, August 31 – September 2, 2016 the following decision was recorded:

ACAP was supportive of the progress made, noting the importance of clarifying the process by which reporting from the project will be presented back to ACAP for approval, and further information dissemination.

Ongoing Activities: NEFCO has entered contracts with Aleut International and the Alaska Native Science Commission, and an agreement is currently being reviewed by the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection. The project team is about to commence Task 2 Desk Study activities, which include identifying 3-4 target communities in Alaska, Russia and possibly a Saami community, developing a black carbon concentration monitoring protocol, sample monitoring in one Alaskan community, drafting a community survey, exploring all relevant legal frameworks, and establishing cooperation with relevant authorities from the federal government to community levels. It is anticipated that the Desk Study activities will be completed and AIA will produce a draft or final Desk Study during the next six months.