

IPCAP UPDATE FOR ACAP Working Group Meeting Kiruna, Sweden, January 17-19, 2017

Project Update on Establishing a Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network

The CLEO project is closing out Phase One activities under the U.S. Chairmanship. New observer communities and hubs have been established in the U.S. and Canada, expanding the network capacity with LEO Hubs in Northwest Territories and British Columbia. The University of Victoria in British Columbia and the government of the Northwest Territories have determined funding for 3 years to support hub operations and observer training. The first training workshop convened in British Columbia in November 2016 and another is scheduled for February 2017 Northwest in Territories. Through these workshops and webinars with LEO partners, engagement with potential new collaborators is underway in Alberta, Nunavut, Yukon, and Quebec.

The LEO Network is growing quickly, nearly tripling the number of active observers over the last year, doubling the number of observations from the last year and expanding beyond the Alaska and the Arctic to the lower 48 states of the U.S. and Mexico, with new hubs managed by the Yurok tribe in northern California and Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Washington, and Grupo de Conservacion de Islas in Baja California, Mexico. The LEO Network now extends the length of the North American Pacific Coast and the North American LEO hub managers held their first webinar earlier this week. Partnering with academic institutions, especially those affiliated with tribes and First Nations, has been conducive to mobilizing observers and can serve as a model for future expansion in other regions.

In furthering Phase Two of the CLEO project, Sweden is hosting a two-day workshop in Kiruna concurrent to the ACAP working group meeting. Following on the first CLEO workshop hosted by Finland in June 2016 in Inari, the Kiruna workshop is focused on developing LEO activities with several projects identified by Fenno-Scandinavian partners.

In addition to the discussion of potential LEO projects, participants will review the Inari workshop report and further the development of the Framework for Expansion for LEO, a draft of which is being shared with ACAP for consideration and comment. The Framework will ultimately be presented to ACAP for approval to submit to SAO and Ministers for the 2017 Ministerial.

Arctic Indigenous Community Waste Workshop Update

Overview: A collaborative international workshop that builds upon US EPA's statewide household hazardous waste management efforts is underway in Alaska. This effort draws upon close and historic connections and working relationships between communities in the Bering Strait to share best practices on household and community solid and hazardous waste management, and strengthen public participation and community outreach. Experts from both Alaska and Chukotka will share approaches and tools to enhance household hazardous waste management in the Bering Strait area.

Location/Date Details: Nome, Alaska – September 19-22, 2016 – 2-day workshop and ½ day Bering Strait Messenger Network Meeting; 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.

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

Background: Drawing on close and historic connections and working relationships between communities in the Bering Strait, US EPA helped organize an ACAP approved workshop to bring together experts and indigenous groups internationally from the region to share best practices on household and community solid and hazardous waste management, and strengthen public participation and community outreach. US funding enabled the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce to engage communities, develop a Guidebook of best practices, Costing Tool, and other resources to share approaches to enhance waste management in the Bering Strait area. Demonstrations of onsite sub-regional recycling and backhaul facilities occurred during the workshop. Russian indigenous communities shared tools and resources through workshop presentations.

Action: Participants discussed the idea of developing a project proposal for an Arctic waste information clearinghouse 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.

For more information on the workshop and follow-up, please contact: buckley.katherine@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, with support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, will: assess, on a pilot basis, local sources of black carbon emissions from a representative 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 held detailed discussions and entered into partnerships with two Russian organizations – the All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection and SRI Atmosfera. Discussions with AIA's Russian partners led to an agreement to pursue cooperation and implement projects within the Russian territories of Kamchatka and/or Chukotka, where AIA has local partners; Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Northwest Russia.

In addition to these discussions, AIA 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. Opportunities for synergy were identified with 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. AIA would welcome this cooperation.

- *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 project 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 3 (demonstration project) 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: AIA and the NEFCO program officer are working closely together to proceed with a scope of work that provides a demonstration project which includes a desk study, air monitoring, and proof of the project concept allowing a subsequent FID for the full project scope. The expectation is that significant progress will be made during the next 6 months and so AIA will produce an interim project report outlining the status of the demonstration project and its expected outcomes.

Expanding IPCAP Activities and Participation

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.

Following the above meeting the IPCAP Interim Chair had a teleconference with IPS to further discuss how to operationalize the collaboration and it was decided to provide a briefing to the PPs during the next IPS Board Meeting which will take place in March 2017 in Juneau, Alaska.