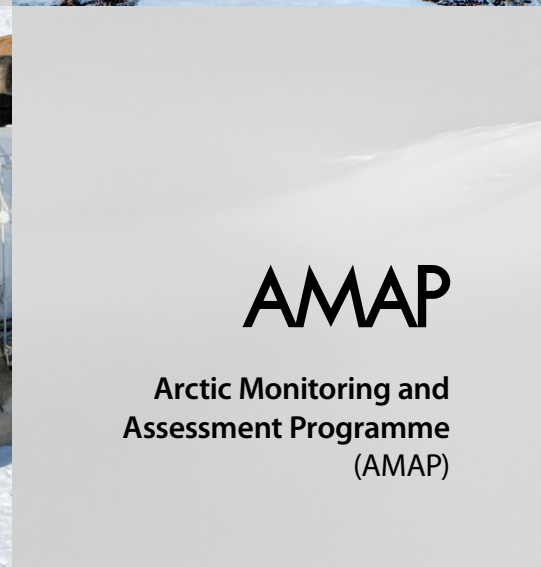
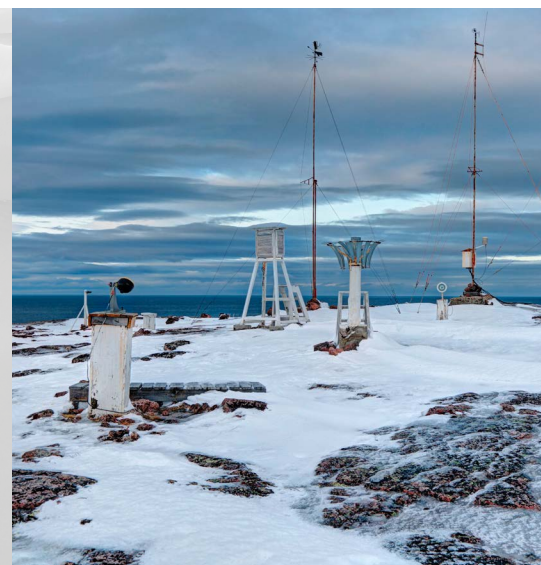
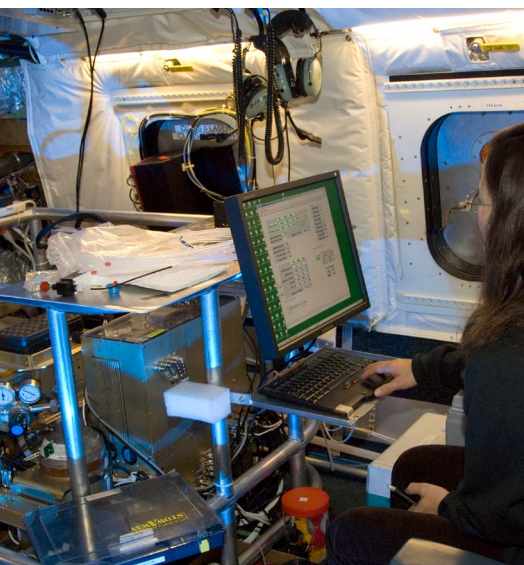




AMAP Strategic Framework 2019+



AMAP

Arctic Monitoring and
Assessment Programme
(AMAP)

Introduction

This document is intended to provide strategic direction to the work of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) for the period 2019+. AMAP is a working group under the Arctic Council responsible for monitoring and assessing the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change issues.

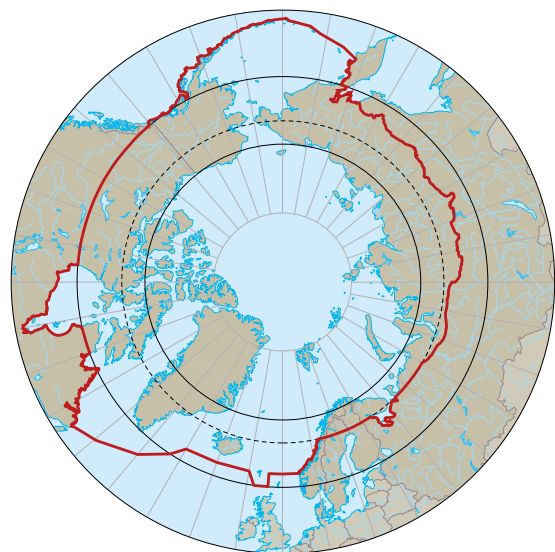
The Arctic is experiencing unprecedented change, including climate change, due to human activities within and outside the region. These changes are complex and are attracting global attention, resulting in a growing need for useful, timely and targeted information in order to make effective decisions and mitigate risks to people, governments, businesses and the environment. Looking ahead, the demand for reliable and accessible data and information will continue to grow. AMAP has a unique role in documenting and understanding Arctic change, predicting the future, assessing impacts, and informing Arctic and global communities by providing comprehensive, credible information and clear, direct science-based recommendations to protect the Arctic environment, its ecosystems and humans, as well as to mitigate threats and enhance sustainable development of the Arctic.

Over the past 25 years, AMAP has been at the forefront of raising awareness about Arctic challenges, and bringing them to the attention of the global community. AMAP has delivered high quality assessments documenting the status, trends and effects of pollution and climate change in the Arctic, covering the atmosphere, land, freshwater and ocean domains as well as interactions between Arctic ecosystems and people. These peer-reviewed Arctic-related assessments produced by highly qualified experts cover topics such as contaminants, radioactivity, ocean acidification, climate change, human health and adaptation to Arctic change. They form the basis for communication and outreach products that include summaries containing policy-relevant recommendations for actions.

AMAP's work is widely acclaimed by a broad range of key stakeholders, and by supplying, coordinating and communicating assessments of Arctic data and knowledge, AMAP supports well the needs of the Arctic Council, and has had significant influence on the development of a wide range of international policy addressing pollution and climate issues. Notable examples include the UN Environment, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and regional initiatives such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and the Arctic Council Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions.

In the coming decade, AMAP's continuing relevance, impact and success will depend on further progress to acquire and share relevant data and information; to produce and communicate high quality assessment reports in a timely manner; and to reflect the needs of the Arctic Council and the broader policy development community, as well as to engage and cooperate with Arctic residents, regional/pan-Arctic organizations and a wide variety of external partners and stakeholders.

AMAP was established in 1991 to implement parts of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) that was adopted by Ministers of the eight Arctic states (Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States of America) along with three indigenous peoples' organizations (Saami Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North). In 1996 the Arctic Council was established and assumed responsibility for the AEPS. Arctic Council members are the eight Arctic states, and six Permanent Participants (that is indigenous peoples' organizations: Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council). A number of states and organizations are observers to the Arctic Council.



Boundaries of the Arctic - - - - - Arctic Circle — AMAP

AMAP has established a circumpolar region as a focus for its assessment activities that includes both High Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. Where relevant to its assessment activities, AMAP's work extends beyond the Arctic to address global connections associated with long-range transport of contaminants, and global climate linkages.

1. AMAP's Mission and Vision

AMAP's work is directed by the Arctic Council. The AMAP mandate is established in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and Arctic Council Ministerial Declarations and related reports of the Arctic Council (AC) Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) (Box 1 and 2).

AMAP's mission is to monitor and assess the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change issues by (i) facilitating and advancing the coordinated implementation of relevant circumpolar monitoring and research, (ii) documenting levels and trends, pathways and processes, and effects on ecosystems and humans, (iii) distinguishing human-induced changes from changes caused by natural phenomena, and (iv) proposing actions to reduce associated threats for consideration by governments and relevant organizations.

AMAP's vision is to advance understanding of Arctic pollution and climate change issues, and to help transform Arctic knowledge into action. AMAP will achieve this vision by building on its legacy as an authoritative source of high quality science-based assessments, comprehensive analyses and public outreach products on a range of environmental issues for the circumpolar region. In the coming decades of anticipated environmental change AMAP will continue to provide strong, policy-relevant recommendations, based on best available science and other relevant knowledge, to inform decisions regarding the protection and sustainability of Arctic ecosystems and inhabitants.

2. Guiding Principles

AMAP applies the guiding principles described below to set the strategic goals that follow.

2.1 Scientific Integrity

All AMAP products undergo rigorous quality control and peer review as an essential part of the process to ensure objective and complete assessment of the state of knowledge.

The integrity, transparency and objectivity of scientific products are paramount to their value and utilization by decision-makers at all levels. AMAP commits to the objective production and dissemination of scientific information and other relevant knowledge, free of influence from conflicts of interest, including financial or political interests.

2.2 Value of Diverse Perspectives

AMAP is committed to encouraging and utilizing diversity in all of its activities.

Arctic issues are diverse and involve a wide range of knowledge needs, disciplines and expertise. AMAP supports interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and multi-knowledge approaches that take account of the complexity and interconnectedness of Arctic issues. AMAP recognizes that the most complete understanding of environmental and ecosystem changes that are occurring in the Arctic requires an integration of data, information and other relevant knowledge from a rich diversity of sources and perspectives.

AMAP seeks to foster and encourage input from diverse communities in all of its activities.

Human diversity of all types (such as gender, age, ethnic background, life experience) is important to the creation, assessment, and interpretation of knowledge. Encouraging and utilizing a diverse assessment community ensures a wide breadth of perspective and appreciation of present-day societal needs, while laying the foundation for the future.

2.3 Inclusion of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Residents

Permanent Participant organizations are an integral part of all Arctic Council and AMAP work, and AMAP is committed to working in partnership with Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local residents.

Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local residents are highly dependent on healthy Arctic ecosystems and their sustainable use. Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local residents are therefore most affected by pollution and environmental change in the Arctic. Because the Arctic is their home, Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local residents are recognized stewards of the Arctic environment.

2.4 Responsiveness to Emerging Challenges

AMAP will remain at the forefront of identifying and characterizing changing trends and emerging issues in order to continue to provide evidence-based and policy-relevant information.

AMAP's mandate encompasses the assessment of both existing and emerging pollution and climate change threats to the Arctic environment, ecosystems and inhabitants. Expert Groups established by AMAP will work in ways that are flexible and responsive in order to address emerging needs in a timely manner.

2.5 Knowledge Mobilization

AMAP commits to the development of such products that involve and target audiences appropriately and that are accessible both physically and intellectually to those audiences, and commits to the ethical collection and sharing of data.

The success of AMAP activities relies on access, sharing, and exchange of data, information and knowledge, as well as cooperative assessment to improve understanding of challenges and opportunities. Knowledge mobilization is between AMAP and other relevant Arctic Council bodies, indigenous peoples' organizations, research and educational institutions, international and partner organizations and other stakeholders, among many others. Products are most useful for target audiences when they are involved from the early stages of product development.

2.6 Cooperation, Coordination and Interaction

AMAP will encourage and facilitate cooperation and coordination among relevant bodies on cross-cutting issues.

Coordination across the bodies of the Arctic Council and with other relevant bodies is necessary to meet the requirements for a multidisciplinary approach in addressing complex challenges. It is also critical to the cost-effective use of scarce resources.

Under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, AMAP was established:

"to monitor the levels of, and assess the effects of, anthropogenic pollutants in all components of the Arctic environment."

The AEPS specified that actions should be undertaken in a step by step fashion.

- *"Distinguishing human-induced changes from changes caused by natural phenomena in the Arctic will require estimates and regular reporting by the Arctic countries of contaminant emissions and discharges, including accidental discharges, as well as transport and deposition. In addition monitoring of deposition and selected key indicators of the Arctic biological environment.*
- *As far as possible build upon existing programs. [...] one of the important tasks [...] will be to review and coordinate existing national programs, establish a data directory, and to develop these programs when appropriate in an international framework.*
- *As an initial priority [...] focus on persistent organic contaminants and on selected heavy metals and radionuclides, and ultimately to monitor ecological indicators to provide a basis for assessments of the status of Arctic ecosystems.*
- *[summarize AMAP results in] regular State of the Arctic Environment Reports."*

As a result of these actions, AMAP should

"provide information for: i) integrated assessment reports on status and trends in the condition of Arctic ecosystem; ii) identifying possible causes for changing conditions; iii) detecting emerging problems, their possible causes, and the potential risk to Arctic ecosystems including indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents; and iv) recommending actions required to reduce risks to Arctic ecosystem."

Rovaniemi Declaration, June 1991

In subsequent direction from Ministers, the AMAP mandate was extended in several areas, notably:

"... assessment of the effects of [...] climate change on Arctic ecosystems."

"... human health impacts and the effects of multiple stressors."

Alta Declaration, 1996

3. Strategic Goals

In keeping with the above mandate, vision, and guiding principles, AMAP has adopted five Strategic Goals.

Strategic Goal 1: *Improved knowledge and understanding of Arctic change through collaborative assessment processes, for use in evidence-based decision-making*

AMAP's goal is to produce timely and relevant science-based assessments and targeted communication and outreach products utilizing the best available scientific information and other relevant knowledge. These assessments provide the basis for sound policy-relevant recommendations intended to inform the decision-making process at local, regional and global levels.

Given the range of Arctic environmental issues and the relative paucity of information, assessments are critical to transform knowledge into action. They improve our understanding of challenges and opportunities; define our current state of knowledge, including the identification of uncertainties and gaps in knowledge; and improve our predictive capability. AMAP will continue to collaborate across the circumpolar community to answer key questions and address existing gaps in knowledge, to produce the best possible science-based assessments and develop policy-relevant recommendations for action. AMAP emphasizes the cumulative role of environmental stressors, their causes, and impacts on ecosystems and people. AMAP will increase its focus on emerging environmental issues, especially those that require the attention of decision makers. AMAP will engage indigenous and non-indigenous experts and scientists in the production of these assessments.

Strategic Goal 2: *A strong, sustained and coordinated circumpolar monitoring and observation network*

Access to relevant data and information is essential for AMAP's work. Data obtained through the AMAP network should be sufficient for detecting change, discerning trends and attributing reasons for these changes and trends over the entire Arctic region, for a wide range of environmental stressors including pollutants and climate forcers, and the interactions between them.

The Arctic has specialized challenges and needs for environmental monitoring in order to protect its inhabitants from the adverse impacts of environmental perturbation. Arctic monitoring is also necessary to understand global processes from ocean circulation to weather patterns. From the impacts of global change such as climate warming to the nature, extent, transportation and behavior of environmental pollutants, the Arctic requires specialized, consistent and long-term monitoring programs. Arctic monitoring and research is generally costly, and measurements and observations are often sparse and fragmented. AMAP will continue to collaborate and build on existing efforts, including national and international monitoring and research efforts and community-based monitoring, to secure access to relevant data. AMAP will also endeavor to take advantage of new approaches and tools to address growing knowledge needs and so facilitate more geographically and temporally comprehensive monitoring in the Arctic. AMAP also works to develop and implement Arctic monitoring guidelines for the standardized collection and analysis of samples, which are harmonized with guidelines applied under other relevant regional programs; to facilitate the quality assurance of observations and measurements; and to maintain appropriate data management systems.

Strategic Goal 3: *Enhanced understanding of Arctic change and its impacts through inclusive partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local residents*

Arctic Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately affected by pollution and environmental change in the Arctic and have a unique understanding of how natural systems interact and change. AMAP's Guiding Principles include the respectful and comprehensive inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in all AMAP activities. AMAP works in partnership with the Permanent Participants, who represent Arctic Indigenous Peoples at the Arctic Council.

Working closely with indigenous peoples' representatives and local residents, AMAP will endeavor to increase its use of their knowledge in assessments to better understand Arctic change and its impacts on Arctic communities. Co-development of knowledge will be facilitated by including indigenous and local experts in assessment planning and development, and supporting community-driven research and community-based monitoring projects relevant to AMAP's assessment work.

Strategic Goal 4: *Effective communication on Arctic challenges and global implications*

AMAP's goal 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.

Communication is key to the value of research products. Communication is a two-way process with information about consumers' needs feeding research directions; and research results in turn informing consumers' actions. 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.

Strategic Goal 5: *Support relevant international processes*

Results and key messages from AMAP assessments are reported to the Arctic Council and governments of Arctic and observer states as well as to relevant international organizations and processes that use AMAP results in their work. Arctic data can be crucial to the success of international processes such as those under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization, UN Environment, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. AMAP will continue to deliver data products and high quality assessments to support such international processes.

4. Implementing the AMAP Strategic Framework 2019+

AMAP's Strategic Framework aims to ensure that AMAP updates its assessments of priority issues and addresses emerging issues in an effective manner that meets the requirements of the Arctic Council, as well as the information needs of other relevant bodies and stakeholders.

The implementation of AMAP's Strategic Framework is detailed in two-year work plans that are agreed by the AMAP Working Group and approved by Arctic Council Ministers. These two-year work-plans are developed within the context of a multi-year work-plan agreed by the AMAP Working Group to accommodate longer-term planning needs (1).

Successful implementation of the Strategic Framework involves operationalizing its Strategic Goals in a measurable manner combined with periodic evaluation of achievements. For AMAP this implies several mechanisms, for example:

- A. Review existing and new initiatives in terms of their relevance to the Strategic Framework.
- B. Undertake multi-year and two-year work implementation planning that facilitates:
 - 1. Tracking of Strategic Goals by referring work plan items to the relevant Strategic Goal(s)
 - 2. Decisions concerning priorities within the AMAP Working Group in terms of relevant Strategic Goals and action items
 - 3. Identification of activities and resources that may facilitate achieving a particular action item
 - 4. Systematic monitoring of the impacts of recommendations
- C. Continue to develop a robust and comprehensive communications strategy (2), including a specification of the timing and frequency of assessments, which resonate with and serve the aims of the Arctic Council.

Implementation of the AMAP Strategic Framework is the responsibility of the AMAP Working Group (Representatives for the Arctic Council states, Permanent Participants and Observers), the AMAP Heads of Delegation (Representatives for the Arctic Council states and Permanent Participants), the AMAP Secretariat and the AMAP Expert Groups.

Decisions concerning the implementation of the AMAP Strategic Framework are made by the AMAP Heads of Delegation in consensus. The AMAP Secretariat coordinates work on the implementation of the Strategic Framework via AMAP Expert Groups, and national representatives facilitate its implementation at the national level. This is further outlined within the context of guidance documents prepared by AMAP (3, 4) and the Arctic Council, including for example the Arctic Council's own strategic framework, the Arctic Council *Rules of Procedure* (5), the Arctic Council *Working Group Common Operating Guidelines* (6) and the Arctic Council *Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies* (7).

5. Web references

- (1) AMAP two-year and multi-year work plans: <https://www.amap.no/about/strategy-and-workplan>
- (2) The AMAP Communication Strategy: <https://www.amap.no/documents/download/1816/inline>
- (3) AMAP Expert Appointment and Review Procedures: <https://www.amap.no/documents/doc/amap-expert-appointment-and-review-procedures/1227>
- (4) AMAP Editorial Guidance: <https://www.amap.no/documents/doc/amap-editorial-guidance/1228>
- (5) Arctic Council / Rules of Procedure: https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/940/2015-09-01_Rules_of_Procedure_website_version.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- (6) Arctic Council / Working Group Common Operating Guidelines: https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/1853/13184-v1_Procedural-Document_WG-Common-Operating-Guidelines.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y
- (7) Arctic Council / Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies: https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/939/EDOCS-3020-v1B-Observer-manual-with-addendum-finalized_Oct2016.PDF?sequence=8&isAllowed=y

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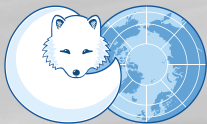
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This document was prepared by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and does not necessarily represent the views of the Arctic Council, its members or its observers.

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