

## **IPCAP UPDATE FOR ACAP Working Group Meeting Helsinki, Finland, June 14-16, 2017**

### **Project Update on Establishing a Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network**

The Framework for Establishing a Circumpolar LEO Network was approved and submitted to Ministers in Fairbanks on May 11. 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.

To date, the project has closed out Phase One activities with new observer communities and hubs established in Northwest Territories and British Columbia. The University of Victoria in British Columbia and the government of the Northwest Territories are operating the hubs and conducting additional outreach and training for potential LEO communities in Alberta, Nunavut, Yukon, and Quebec. Over the last two years, 2 training workshops were held in BC and Northwest Territories with more than 100 new observers trained in-person. In addition, monthly webinars have brought additional observers, with the network having now grown from 450 observers in January 2016 to more than 1700 observers worldwide. The LEO Network now extends the length of the North American Pacific Coast.

Advancing Phase Two of the project is now underway, with efforts to expand beyond North America. Sweden and Finland have hosted workshops in Kiruna and Inari and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry stating their intent to establish a hub that will conduct two pilot projects, one in the Sami region of northern Europe and a second in the Mongolian taiga. Additional efforts to develop Fenno-Scandinavian partners will see a feasibility study on the potential for the network in the region conducted by the county government of Finmark this year with results expected later this year.

There has been interest from SDWG and CAFF in coordinating specific LEO projects on these issues. Moving forward, we will increase the coordinated activities with these working groups and are also looking to strengthen ties to Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) and other science-based monitoring networks active in the Arctic. To that end, an introductory meeting and follow-up meeting were held in mid-May with LEO and SAON representatives attending.

Finally, the technical advancements to the 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 looking for translation proofreading for Arctic member state languages, including Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Russian, and indigenous languages.

### **Arctic Indigenous Community Waste Workshop Update**

**Overview:** A collaborative international workshop that builds upon US EPA's statewide household hazardous waste management efforts was held in Nome, Alaska September 19-22, 2016. This effort drew 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. 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)

**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. To that end, US EPA is 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.

**For more information on the workshop and follow-up, please contact:** [buckley.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:buckley.katherine@epa.gov)

### **Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health 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, as well as the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection and SRI Atmosfera, will: assess, on a pilot basis, local sources of black carbon concentrations from a representative sampling of Arctic Alaskan, Russian and, when possible, Saami 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.

Following ACAP's approval of the Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project in 2015, and with the support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the AIA project team held detailed consultations with stakeholders in Alaska, Russia and Fenno-Scandinavia. AIA also participated in field missions and meetings with NEFCO staff in Archangelsk and Nenets Autonomous Okrug in order to explore potential synergies between AIA's project and ongoing or prospective NEFCO/PSI projects in Russia. Opportunities for synergy were identified with a number of NEFCO/PSI projects, including: *Energy Supply Conversion from Diesel in Dolgoshcheliye and Leshukonskoye*, in Archangelsk Oblast; and in three villages (Karataika, Indika and Nes) in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug where wind-diesel projects may be possible with co-funding by the EU's Kolarctic programme. In March 2016, the PSI Committee approved a final investment decision (FID) allocation of up to EUR 135,500 to "finance a study that covers Task 2 and enables a scoping of Task 3 (demonstration project)" and also requested 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. It is anticipated that in the next weeks, NEFCO/PSI will deliver to AIA the initial FID funding and that AIA will commence work on Task 2. Significantly, AIA has received in-kind offers of support from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Air Quality (a loan of three black carbon monitoring devices (aethalometers) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (technical assistance regarding monitoring).

**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 IPCAP Interim Chair provided a briefing to the PPs during the IPS Board Meeting which took place in March 2017 in Juneau, Alaska. It is hoped that there will be expanded PP involvement in IPCAP and ACAP activities during the next two year Chairmanship period.