

Trip Report
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Oslo, Norway
April 12-18, 2004

Purpose of Trip

To attend the CAFF Working Group and the joint CAFF-AMAP Working Group meetings in Oslo, Norway.

Background Information

CAFF and AMAP scheduled separate and joint working group meetings. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment is nearing completion and will be reviewed and future steps are being discussed. The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program will provide information to address climate change impacts and sustainability. There is a community based monitoring component where indigenous people can be involved in the process. CAFF also presented program reports from their subgroups and cooperative working group project reports.

Wednesday Meetings, April 14th

I attended the CAFF WG meeting. *Kent Wohl, Chair*, The WG believes that the future direction of all working groups is to work collaboratively with each other on most research projects. This could require additional staff for each project in order to coordinate these joint projects & meetings.

Paul Pestrud, ACIA, provided an overview of the ACIA process and its current status. Both working groups must approve the final and forward it to the SAO's in preparation for the Ministerial meeting. Most of the chapters are in the technical editing stage. There are three documents in the works; the Scientific Document, the overview document, and the policy document. The policy document will be addressed upon completion of the first two documents. The ACIA group is looking for countries to sponsor translation into languages other than English. Currently the overview document will be published into Norwegian, Saami, Russian, Danish, and Greenlandic.

Aevar Petersen, CAFF, discussing the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, stated that it was still in the formative stages. The WG is requesting that the SAO's; further develop the CBMP, produce overview of status& trends of arctic biodiversity, develop a discussion paper on community-based monitoring, develop a web portal for data exchange, discussion paper on relationship of CBMP with other global programs, objectives of shared monitoring efforts of CAFF & AMAP, and identify monitoring gaps for arctic species, habitat, etc.

Thursday Meetings, April 15th

Joint CAFF-AMAP Meeting

This was the 3rd joint meeting. The primary discussion was on accepting the ACIA. *Bob Corell* gave an excellent overview on what we've learned and what the implications of climate change may be. 10 key findings were identified. He's stated that all chapters should be completed and signed by the authors by July. It was decided that Cambridge will publish the documents at a cost of \$60.00 and \$6.00 for the scientific report and overview document. The reports will be made available on the internet.

Paul Pestrud, ACIA, indicated that there will be an ACIA Symposium from 9-12 November presenting scientific results and panel discussions.

Friday Meetings, April 16th

Joint CAFF-AMAP Meeting Cont...

This morning work focused on finalizing the transmittal letter for submitting the ACIA to the SAO's and Ministers. There was discussion on maintaining the momentum of the ACIA. Two follow-up workshop ideas were presented. One that would allow us to develop research ideas the second that would look at what's next-This discussion would address assessment and possibly mitigation.

Samantha Smith, World Wildlife Fund, and I went to her office and discussed two projects they are working on. The climate witness program is a global program with numerous sub-projects that may provide funding to indigenous organizations to provide information relation to indigenous knowledge regarding climate change. July is the proposed application deadline. The global toxics campaign is a project where WWF anticipates the European Community begins a chemical testing program that will identify potentially hazardous substances before they are authorized for released into the environment with an intent to prevent negative environmental and human impacts before they occur.

Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen, GRID Arendal, is developing a mapping project relating to pollution and its effects on indigenous peoples. They are concerned with major environmental challenges and identifying methods of adaptation to rapid changes in the environment. They would like to cooperate with indigenous organizations to accomplish these projects. I spoke to her about the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments years of experience conducting environmental and traditional use mapping projects. They were impressed and would like to cooperate on several joint projects with the Gwich'in Council International on similar project ideas.

Conclusion

The trip was very successful. I accomplished my main goal of becoming more familiar with the ACIA scientific and overview document and the process it must go through to be

accepted and strategies for implementation of mitigation procedures. I also made numerous comments regarding the increased involvement of indigenous peoples in the scientific process and in communicating the ACIA results to government, industry, indigenous peoples and the broader public, as a means of insuring our viewpoint is included. I also made contact with two organizations that are supportive of working cooperatively with indigenous organizations, namely the Gwich'in Council International, to accomplish common goals.