

# ADAPTATION ACTIONS FOR A CHANGING ARCTIC



## Enabling more informed, timely and responsive policy and decision-making related to adaptation actions in a rapidly changing Arctic

Climate, environmental, and socio-economic drivers may interact and amplify the difficulty in making decisions in an unpredictable and rapidly changing Arctic. Cumulative changes may increase existing pressures in the Arctic, while others may bring new opportunities.

Conventional assessments of climate, environmental and socio-economic issues in the Arctic have mostly focused on single drivers: climate, ocean acidification, persistent organic pollutants, health, oil and gas exploration and development, to name just a few.



These assessments have provided valuable information, but there is currently little understanding on how these drivers of change may interact. Consideration of the interactions of multiple drivers as they relate to critical sectors or other areas of human interest is necessary to inform stakeholders and decision makers as they respond to a changing Arctic.

To respond to these challenges and opportunities, the Arctic Council initiated the flagship project "Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic" (AACAA). The project is conducted under the auspices of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment



Programme (AMAP), and is integrating input from the other Arctic Council working groups, local knowledge, stakeholders, and the scientific community.

AACAA will develop three regional reports, in addition to an integrating pan-Arctic report. All reports will cover both marine and terrestrial areas, and will be forward looking covering current conditions in addition to short and medium term interactions.



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AACAA will break new ground by integrating knowledge from many different fields of expertise, and across regions with large cultural diversity, multiple uses and users of local resources, and ambitious development plans for the future.

Developing a comprehensive knowledge base on how the drivers of the rapidly changing Arctic interact will provide decision makers with resources they need to respond to the challenges, and prudently take advantage of opportunities.

## Timeline

AACAA will deliver final integrated reports to the Arctic Council at the 2017 Ministerial Meeting. The regional reports will be finalised during 2016 and the pan-Arctic report spring of 2017. All reports will undergo peer review.

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