**PAME I-2019: AGENDA 9.2**

**Project Plan**

**Phase II: Marine Litter in the Arctic**

***First version of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic***

**(Track chanes 7 Jan 2019)**

*The development of a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter in the Arctic builds upon a Phase I Project “(Draft) Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Micro-plastics in the Arctic (2019)”, which was based on best available science and information. It is envisioned that the RAP may be updated in subsequent bienniums to address new and emerging information and priorities; therefore the structure needs to be realistic and adaptable. This project will address both sea and land-based activities, focusing on e.g., Arctic-specific marine litter sources and pathways, which will play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States’ stewardship efforts towards reducing negative impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, to the Arctic marine environment.*

# Project Title:

Developing a first version of a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic

# Phase II (2019-2021):

* Develop a first version of a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic based on the Desktop Study on Marine Litter (Phase I).
* Collaborate with other Arctic Council working groups, working on marine litter activities, such as AMAP’s work on monitoring, CAFF’s work on impacts of marine litter on wildlife, ACAP’s work on solid waste management, and others as relevant to marine litter in the Arctic to ensure that this work is adaquetly refelected in the first version of the Regional Action Plan.
* Continue the development of outreach and communication material.
* Develop an outline for activities during the 2021-2023 period.

# Background

, and marine litter is one of the most pervasive pollution problems affecting the marine environment globally. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines marine litter as ‘any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment’. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, storm water or winds; or accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather.

Arctic Council Ministers adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Arctic RPA) in 1998 and updated it in 2009. The Arctic-RPA is a dynamic programme of action that uses a step-wise approach for its implementation and recognizes the continually evolving situation in the Arctic environment and the need for an integrated and holistic approach. It is the regional extension of the **Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities** (GPA), and as such provides a framework for addressing the main pollution source categories and responding to the global concerns. Marine litter is one of eight contaminant categories of the GPA and the Arctic RPA. Other international organisations such as UNEP, the International Maritime Organisation, and Regional Sea Conventions such as OSPAR have instigated processes to combat marine litter.

This project represents Phase II of PAME’s Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (further information [here](https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-pollution)). Phase I focused on the development of the Desktop Study with the aim to provide information on the current status on this topic in the Arctic.

The [draft] Desktop Study lists a number of findings, gaps, and recommendations on next steps for PAME’s and other Arctic Council working groups considerations as relevant to their respective mandates.

# Objectives

The overarching objective is to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter addressing both sea and land-based activities, focusing on e.g., Arctic-specific marine litter sources and pathways. The flexible structure will allow for periodic updates, as appropriate, as new and emerging information and priorities are identified through e.g., ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council, the Arctic States, and others, as relevant.

## Phase II Objectives (2019-2021):

* Develop a first version of a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic based on the Desktop Study on Marine Litter (Phase I).
* Consult and coordinate with other Arctic Council working groups as relevant in scoping out a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic, in particular AMAP, which is developing a regional litter monitoring plan.
* Continue the development of outreach and communication material to enhance knowledge and awareness of marine litter in the Arctic.
* Engage with relevant stakeholders.
* Contribute to the prevention and/or reduction of marine litter in the Arctic and its impacts on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety, and society.

In the long term, a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter can assist Arctic States in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, target 14.1: “*by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”*

# Scope and Approach

This project will address both sea and land-based activities, focusing on e.g., Arctic-specific marine litter sources and pathways, which will play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States’ stewardship efforts towards reducing negative impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, to the Arctic marine environment. It is envisioned that the Regional Action Plan may be updated in subsequent bienniums, as appropriate, based on emerging information (e.g., ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council, the Arctic States, and others, as relevant) and/or evolving priorities. Thus it is important that the Regional Action Plan be realistic, flexible, and structured in a manner that can easily be adapted to modified scope and content .

It may be necessary to revisit the scope and approach at a later stage as work proceeds.

# Main activities during the 2019-2021 period:

1. **Develop a first version of a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic:**
* Compile and disseminate information from various sources, including from the Desktop Study on Marine Litter (Phase I), national and regional efforts, other guidelines (e.g. UNEP Regional Seas Design Guide), as relevant.
* Take into account the ecosystem approach.
* Consider the themes listed below for potential sections of the Action Plan as guidance in developing a stepwise approach in selecting action measures. It is preferable that actions be supported by scientific assessments on marine litter at the regional level to allow baselines to be set:
* Actions to combat sea-based sources of marine litter
* Actions to combat land-based sources of marine litter
* Removal Actions and Disposal
* Monitoring/Science
* Education and Outreach
* Build capacity and identify additional data gaps and research needs, as relevant and in close collaboration with other Arctic Council Working Groups.
* Example of criteria for setting priority actions:
	+ Data and information in Phase I: Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Micro-plastics in the Arctic.
	+ Stakeholder input, as appropriate.
	+ Major sources and pathways of marine litter.
	+ Efforts and priorities of other Arctic Council Working Groups.
	+ Setting of actions will be revisited and feedback provided as required.
* Identify stakeholder engagement as work proceeds.

**Outreach and communication:** Develop a project video, on-line brochures, launch of “plastic-in-bottle”. An education package will be launched August 2020, including an international litter competition, targeting students to increase awareness of marine litter and how to decrease the challenge with litter.*(main responsibility: PAME, in close coordination with other AC working groups)*

1. **Coordination and collaboration**: With other working groups of the Arctic Council.
2. **Prepare next steps:** Develop an outline for activities during the 2021-2023 period, based on outcomes during the 2019-2021 period.

 **Example of a roadmap for developing a regional action plan for marine litter in the Arctic**

The Development of a first version of the Regional Action Plan is an iterative process with formulation of detailed measures which may be revised or revisited during future phases of this work, or when further knowledge and information has been gained.

# Timeline and Major Milestones (2019-2021):

In addition to the main activities, this phase will follow-up with activities from phase I, including outreach and communication. It is envisioned that the project will commence an expert group workshop to advance this work, in addition to meetings and teleconferences as needed.

**Main tasks:**

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| April 2019 | Arctic Council Ministerial – approval of PAME Work Plan |
| May 2019 | Establish an advisory group on monitoring with representatives from the Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF) and observers with monitoring programmes |
| May 2019 | First teleconference to develop Terms of Refernce (ToR) for the advisory group |
|  |  |
| June 2019 | Follow-up expert group teleconference |
| September 2019 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| 2019 | Potential workshop/conference to advance the Regional Action Plan development and monitoring programme |
| October 2019 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| February 2020 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2020 |
| March 2020 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| August 2020 | Launch the Arctic information and marine litter competition package for educational purposes. |
| September 2020 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2020 |
| October 2020 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| February 2021 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| September 2021 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| March 2021 | Submission of an outline of a Regional Action Plan outline to SAOs for approval |
| Mars/Apr 2021 | Final layout and preparation for Ministerial |
| April 2021 | Arctic Council Ministerial |

# Overall estimated budget: Phase-II (2019-2021)

Consistent with the overall Arctic Council approach, the development of this project will be financed through voluntary contributions and in-kind support from member governments. The proposed stepwise approach, with PAME approval required for each phase, will facilitate financial planning and budgets. Financial contributions will be sought from other sources as well, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI).

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| **Item** | **Budget (USD/in-kind)** |
| Project management, coordination, consultation and outreach | 100.000 |
| External expert(s) | 20.000 |
| Workshop | 40.000 |
| Editing, final layout and printing | 10.000 |
| Arctic information and marine litter competition package | 50.000 |
| Estimated total | 220.000 |

# Project team Structure/Lead Countries

* Leads: Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Canada (tbc), USA, AIA, OSPAR, others?
* Each Arctic State government and Permanent Participants’ organization to appoint a project team member.
* Collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, as relevant, and other organizations e.g., OSPAR, PICES and ICES on the monitoring programme, and as relevant, from e.g., UNEP/GPA (GPML), as appropriate.
* The PAME Secretariat will provide administrative and project assistance.
* Other Arctic Council working groups will be consulted accordingly.

# Annex: communication and outreach activities

Details will be provided in the 7th of Jan. 2019 version