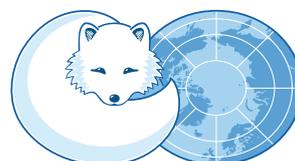




PAME Work Plan 2009-2011

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



ARCTIC COUNCIL



Work Plan 2009-2011

PREFACE

The purpose of the PAME Work Plan is to provide a framework for PAME's work related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment for the period of 2009 – 2011.

PAME's Working Group activities are directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. PAME consists of National Representatives responsible for its work in their respective countries. Permanent Participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, also participate in PAME, as well as representatives of several observer countries and interested organisations. PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic marine environment issues.

The PAME Working Group generally meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair, which rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat. PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years.

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INTRODUCTION

The PAME working group is the Arctic Council body that addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment from land and sea-based activities.

The PAME Work Plan 2009 – 2011 was developed according to its mandate and priorities of the Arctic Council Chairmanship. This Work Plan is based on three objectives followed by a set of specific actions which in some instances represent a continuation of ongoing activities. The aim is to respond to emerging issues in line with the priorities of the Arctic Council Chairmanship and further advance the implementation of specific strategic actions of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2004) that outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

OBJECTIVE I:

Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic marine background

RATIONALE:

The Arctic Ocean stands at the threshold of significant changes. Climate change and the melting of sea ice have a potential impact on vulnerable ecosystems, the livelihoods of arctic inhabitants and coastal communities. The utilization of natural resources is also changing.

Continued sea ice reductions will likely lengthen the navigation season in all regions and increase marine access to the Arctic's natural resources. Activities such as development of hydrocarbon and mineral resources, cruise ship tourism and commercial fishing are expected to expand with increased accessibility and marine transportation in the Arctic. This will require greater infrastructure support and will pose increased environmental risks to the Arctic marine environment and its ecological processes, including the introduction of alien species and **potential for pollution**. These challenges are further addressed in the follow up activities of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), the Arctic Council Regional Programme of Action (RPA) and the Arctic Council Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
1) Review the assessment of Arctic marine shipping (see 7.1.5) and, based on the findings, develop recommendations to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and others, as appropriate, to guide the management of Arctic marine shipping. <i>(From section 7.2.2 in the AMSP)</i>	Activities to be added based on the outcomes/findings of the approved AMSA and as agreed to by SAOs/Ministers in 2009.	TBD
2) Follow up on the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2009)	Examine the need to develop general guidelines for the scope and composition of EIAs for Arctic offshore oil and gas activities.	USA

OBJECTIVE II:

Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance

RATIONALE:

Promote the implementation and compliance of applicable international instruments and governmental commitments through increased coordination and collaboration and trends towards integrated approaches such as ecosystem approaches in addressing the challenges of the coastal and marine environment. The environment faces pressure from multiple uses, and an integrated ecosystem approach to management requires a holistic management perspective that minimizes impacts on the environment and integrates thinking across environmental, socio-economic, political and sectoral realms.

The Arctic Council has an opportunity to provide international leadership on the global sustainable development agenda through the adoption and application of an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to managing the Arctic marine environment, consistent with existing legal framework.

Many countries are now in the process of reviewing and developing their oceans management policies in order to base their management and use of the oceans on ecosystem considerations. Differences in circumstances and contexts have to be taken into consideration as ecosystem-based oceans management is context sensitive. There is not one single method for ecosystem-based management. A number of different practices and understandings of the concept appear to work. As a result, PAME is expanding its work in this regard to try to reflect the breadth of approaches that may be applied to achieve ecosystem-based management.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>1. Continue the work on ecosystem-based approach (7.4 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>(i) Examine how the reported activities and conclusions from the BePOMAr-project could be followed up by the Arctic states and how these activities can be coordinated with activities in the LME process (Project description to be developed by PAME and approved by the SAO intersessionally).</p> <p>(ii) Develop and implement pilot projects to operationalize the 5 module LME assessment and management approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ US/Canada (Beaufort Sea LME) ➤ US/Russian Federation (West Bering Sea LME) <p>(iii) The LME Expert Group will review proposals for the 2 LME pilot projects in relation to the applicability of the indicator suites selected as part of the 5-module operationalization activity.</p> <p>(iv) The LME Expert Group will take into consideration any proposed boundary changes to the Arctic LME map.</p> <p>(v) Maintain the working map of 17 Arctic LMEs</p> <p>(vi) Report on the use of the 5 modules and assessment underway by the US in areas within and proximal to the PAME area including in the Gulf of Alaska and East Bering Sea LMEs.</p> <p>(vii) Review the Terms of Reference of the ecosystem based management/LME group.</p> <p>(viii) Maintain liaison with AMSA, CAFF, CBMP, SDWG and AMAP</p>	<p>NORWAY</p> <p>USA/CANADA USA/RUSSIA</p> <p>USA</p> <p>USA</p> <p>USA</p> <p>USA</p> <p>USA/NORWAY</p>
<p>2) Continuing the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) (From section 7.3.3 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>(i) Contribute to the 2011 GPA review. (From section 7.7.2 in the AMSP) through correspondence/network group to work in advance of the next GPA review conference.</p> <p>(ii) Further development of PAME website to provide sources for best practices in Arctic coastal zone management including adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
<p>Proposed New PAME Project on Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) (project description in Appendix I)</p>	<p>Phase I to include scoping, outreach, communication and information gathering through hosting thematic workshops, compiling and preparing reports, and disseminating findings from other Arctic Council activities on the Arctic marine environment.</p>	<p>Iceland Norway Canada</p>

OBJECTIVE III:

Facilitate partnerships, programmes and technical cooperation and support communication and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council.

RATIONALE:

There is a need to coordinate work with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations and programmes, local authorities and indigenous organizations in an effort to promote capacity building, sharing of information and technology transfer on the state of the Arctic marine environment

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>1) Information outreach and efforts to increase cooperation and collaboration with international/regional organizations. <i>(From section 7.5.2 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>(i) Provide AMSP progress reports to the Arctic Council with assistance of all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>(ii) Information exchange with UNEP Regional Seas Programme regions, and other regional programs.</p> <p>(iii) Follow the development of the UNEP's Ocean Strategy which is expected to include the following four areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy seas and oceans (pollution) • Marine ecosystems for humanity • Reconciling resource use and conservation • Vulnerable people and places <p>(iv) Liaise with fisheries organizations and organizations associated with marine-related conventions and agreements to inform and be informed of possible cooperative opportunities including information exchange.</p>	<p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
<p>2) Build the capacity and engagement of indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants. <i>(From section 7.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>(i) Ongoing development of communication products and activities to support understanding and involvement in implementation of the AMSP. <i>(From Section 8.0 in the AMSP)</i> and other PAME-related activities.</p> <p>(ii) Promote oceans education and training related to best operating practices through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PAME homepage ○ Brochures and posters ○ Providing our information to other organizations for posting on their websites. 	<p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
<p>4) Collaborations with Arctic Council Working Groups</p>	<p>(i) Continue to respond to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the taking account of new information on climate change. <i>(From section 7.2.1 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>(ii) Continue to respond to findings and recommendations of the Oil and Gas Assessment</p> <p>(ii) Monitor and consider any new climate change information to determine PAME involvement, if any, in such activities undertaken by other Arctic Council Working Groups. Such projects may include: <u>Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACC – Norway lead)</u>, the <u>AMAP led Cryosphere Project Proposal - Climate Change and the Cryosphere – Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic – SWIPA</u></p> <p>(iii) PAME will work with CAFF on <i>1) the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)</i> – participation in the Marine Expert Monitoring Group of CBMP and on <i>2) the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)</i></p>	<p>All</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
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APPENDIX I - PAME PROJECT ON ARCTIC OCEAN REVIEW

I. Project Title and Product

Arctic Ocean Review – a multi-phased project that will result in a review of the global and regional measures that are in place for the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment. This project will address both sea and land-based activities. The final report will be presented to the Arctic Council Ministers in 2013.

II. Background

- There are numerous global and regional instruments that call for action at the global, regional and national levels to prevent, reduce and control impacts to the marine environment, including pollution, such as the UN Law of the Sea Convention, Agenda 21, and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
- At the global and regional levels, the work of the Arctic Council and its working groups is related to other international instruments and processes such as conventions, multilateral and bilateral agreements, and action programmes. These Arctic Council efforts help States build on national efforts and address commitments made in international bodies such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations (UN), and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The Arctic oceans program and associated PAME Working Group was established in 1993 by the Ministers of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), and it was reconfirmed by the Ottawa Declaration creating the Arctic Council in 1996.
- The 1996 PAME Report addressed source by source assessment from land-based activities, dumping of wastes at sea, shipping activities and offshore oil and gas activities with regard to inputs of pollutants to the Arctic marine environment, followed by an analysis of existing international instruments and recommendations.
- The 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) provides the foundation for the Arctic Council and PAME's mission and objectives. It also includes an objective to stay current with respect to protection measures, as stated below:

Periodically review the status and adequacy of international/regional agreements and standards that have application in the Arctic marine environment, new scientific knowledge of emerging substances of concern, and analyze the applicability of a regional seas agreement to the Arctic. (Strategic Action 7.3.4)
- The 2004 Arctic Human Development Report is the first comprehensive assessment of human well-being covering the entire Arctic region and represents the knowledge base for the work of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme. This report, and other work within the Arctic Council, recognizes the

increased importance of Permanent Participant's involvement in the working groups of the Arctic Council. The relationship of Arctic inhabitants to the Arctic Ocean is especially close, and the state of the Arctic marine environment is central to the future of Arctic inhabitants.

III. Rationale

The Arctic Council, through PAME, has a mandate and commitment to respond to trends and help provide advice on how to address growing pressures affecting the quality of the Arctic marine environment. Given the climatic, economic, environmental and socio-cultural changes occurring in the Arctic and the trends resulting in increasing pressures on the marine and coastal environments, it is particularly timely in for the Arctic Council to conduct a review of global and regional environmental protection measures in the Arctic. The impetus for such a review is provided for by a number of commitments, trends and initiatives, including:

- The implementation of the 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) that outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment;
- Commitments by the global community to protect marine biodiversity and the marine environment through the application of the ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management.
- Norwegian, Danish, Swedish common objectives for their successive chairmanships of the Arctic Council throughout 2006-2013, in particular the integrated resource management and climate change themes as the apparent ocean focus places a great importance and emphasis on the PAME mandate and work plans;
- New knowledge, as a result of the findings and outcomes of Arctic Council assessments, as it relates to the protection of the Arctic marine environment and interests of indigenous and other residents of the Arctic in the protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of its resources.
- Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in increasing opportunities, threats and the use of the Arctic marine and coastal environments;
- Over the past 5-6 years, the rate of loss of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has increased more rapidly than projected causing permafrost to be vulnerable to thawing and threatening the coastal zone areas with physical alterations and destruction of habitats which are of vital importance to maintaining ecosystem and socio-economic health; and,
- The implementation of and compliance with relevant international instruments and governmental commitments through increased coordination and collaboration and trends towards integrated ocean management approaches, such as the ecosystem approach, in addressing the challenges of coastal and marine environment.
- Arctic priorities and strategies outlined in new policy statements and communications by Arctic States and others.

IV. Project Objective

The question of whether current global and regional measures (legal, policy, programs, guidelines, etc.) for the Arctic Ocean are effective, necessitates a clear

understanding of not only demands/uses, but also of the measures, instruments or initiatives that are being used or are relevant to the management and governance of the Arctic Ocean. There is a need to have a common understanding or knowledge base of global and regional measures, and further, to communicate to the local, regional and global communities the efforts of the Arctic Council, especially those of coastal states, with respect to the stewardship of the Arctic Ocean.

The key objectives of this multi-phased project are to:

- Compile and disseminate information on past and current ocean initiatives of the Arctic Council and related actions of others;
- Analyze global and regional protection measures for environmental, economic and social/cultural outcomes; and,
- Develop a report addressing protection measures for the Arctic marine and coastal environment, including possible impediments to achieving a regionally integrated, sustainable development approach to the Arctic Ocean in light of current and emerging trends.

V. Project Scope

This project does not intend to initiate a new assessment, but will produce a report on the global and regional measures in place to protect the Arctic marine and coastal environment based on recent or ongoing projects within the Arctic Council and other relevant fora.

Examples of projects from Arctic Council Working Groups and other organizations that may be of relevance to this project are:

- PAME – the 1996 PAME review of pollution sources in the Arctic marine environment, outcomes from ongoing projects, in particular the Ecosystem Approach/Large Marine Ecosystem project, the Regional Programme of Action, and the findings and research agenda coming out of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA);
- CAFF – Outcomes and findings of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the marine component of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP);
- AMAP – Outcomes and findings of the Oil and Gas Assessment (OGA), 2009 State of the Arctic Environment Report (overview report based on ongoing scientific assessments – SOAER), the project on Climate Change and the Cryosphere - Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA);
- Ocean-related projects within EPPR and SDWG, in particular the work on oil spill prevention and response, and coastal community adaptation to climate change;
- Efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including future work on the Arctic Guidelines (Polar Code) as it may relate to AMSA recommendations, and preventive measures covering marine pollution by ships (MARPOL 73/78);
- Efforts of regional ocean-related bodies, including the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, HELCOM, and OSPAR;
- EU Marine Strategy Directive signed by the EU Council and the European Parliament on 21 May 2008. The main objective of the Marine Strategy Directive

is to achieve environmentally healthy marine waters by 2020. Reviewing environmental protection measures will be an important component of acting on the EU Strategy; and

- The work of international bodies addressing threats and pressures affecting the Arctic marine environment.

VI. Project Management Structure

It is proposed that this project will be implemented in two phases over the next 4 years, and will be based on and closely coordinated with the work of PAME and other Arctic Council working groups. This project will be done under the overall leadership of PAME using a lead country(s) approach. PAME will collaborate with other relevant organizations and activities, such as within the IMO and UN. This Project will evolve based on step-by-step guidance and direction from the SAOs and will be presented to Arctic Council Ministers in 2013.

VII. Project Implementation

Phase I (2009-2011) – Outreach, Communication and Information Gathering

The first phase of this Arctic Ocean review project will be comprised of scoping, outreach, communication and compiling information about global and regional environmental protection measures in the Arctic. It will be done in close coordination with Permanent Participants and other working groups of the Arctic Council. It is proposed that the gathering and dissemination of information will be done through various means, including hosting thematic workshops, preparing reports, and findings from other activities on the Arctic marine environment. This will act as a means of outreach, as well as getting input from others and new information/knowledge, such as from IPY initiatives and possibly new research findings on climate change. Full account will be taken from the findings of key Arctic Council projects, such as ACIA, OGA, AMSA, BePOMAr, and the PAME Ecosystem Approach project.

Phase 1 Deliverables - Status Report to SAOs and Communications Products (brochures, improved websites, etc.)

Phase II (2011-2013) – Analysis of information & Reporting to the Arctic Council

The second phase of this project will consist of conducting a review of existing global and regional environmental protection measures in the Arctic and identifying impediments to an integrated, sustainable development approach based on the outcomes of Phase I. A report will be produced with the intention to make the three aspects of sustainable development interact and support each other, and will aim to strengthen the joint knowledge base and contribute to both the regional and global ocean agenda on integrated ocean management. This report will be presented to Arctic Council Ministers in 2013.

Phase 2 Deliverables - Report to Arctic Council Ministers.

VIII. Financial Considerations

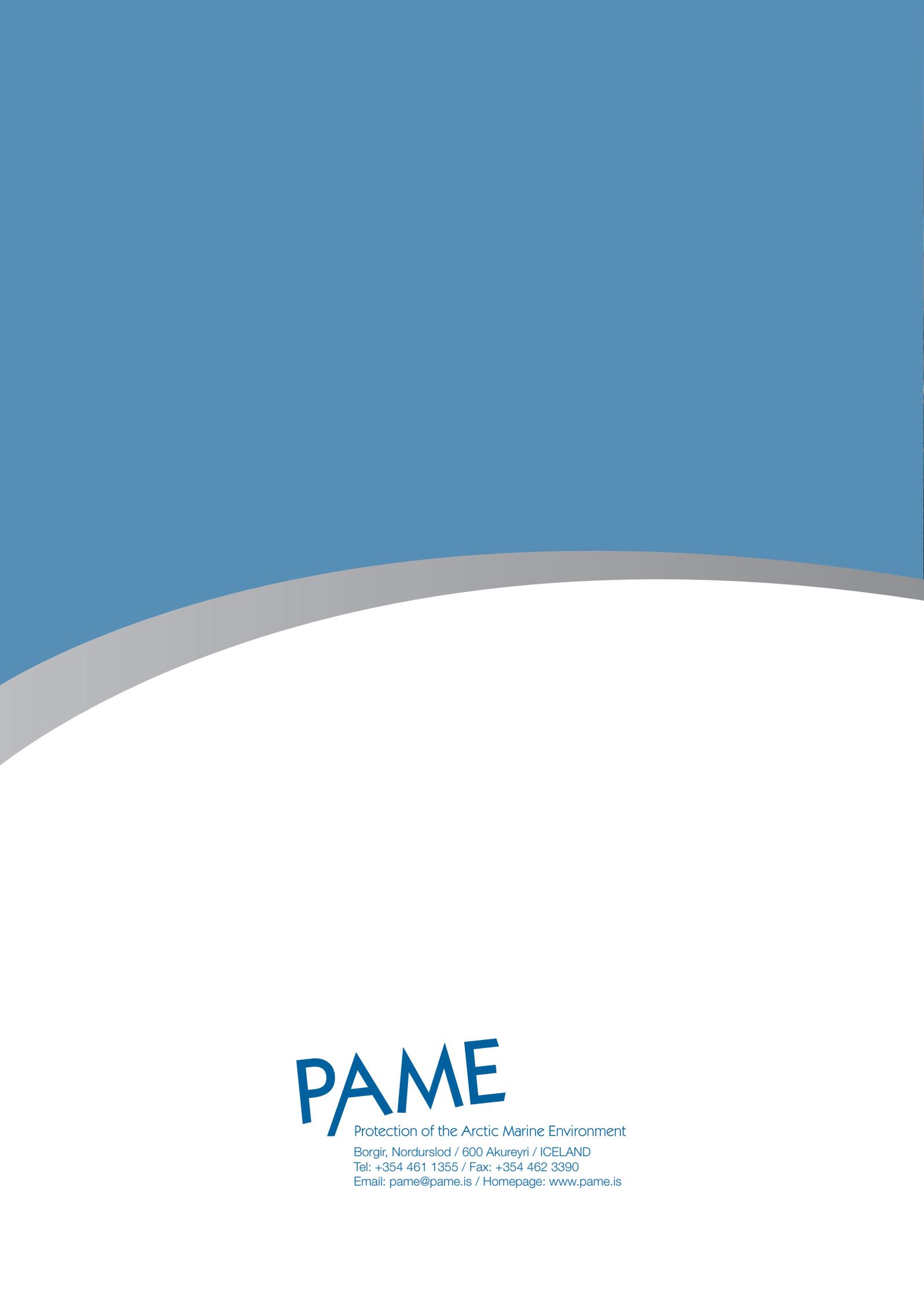
Consistent with the over-all Arctic Council approach, this Project will be financed through voluntary contributions. As this Project does not require the collection of new data and is being implemented over a 4 year period, the total cost and cost per year are expected to be fairly modest. The proposed stepwise approach with SAO approval required for each phase will facilitate financial planning and budgets.

Lead countries will carry the main costs of staff time with other countries providing in-kind support. The costs for Permanent Participants participation will need to be determined in consultation with them. The PAME Secretariat will provide administrative support from its normal annual budget.

Given this is a multi-year, multi-phased project, it is difficult at this stage to propose a budget for Phase 2, however, below is a proposed budget for Phase 1.

Proposed Budget for Phase 1 (2009-2011):

ACTION / ITEM	COST (Approx.) <i>*cost in USD</i>
1. Compile a list of all ocean-related initiatives of the Arctic Council since 2002.	In-kind
2. Information package on the main reports in item 1, including an overview brochure profiling all initiatives/measures, a fact sheet on each activity.	\$20,000
3. Conduct two medium size workshops	\$80,000
4. Produce a status report for SAOs.	\$20,000
5. Support for Permanent Participants to participate in the project and workshops.	\$20,000 (TBD)
TOTAL	\$140,000



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