



23rd September 2026

Introduction

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) is a Working Group of the Arctic Council.

In 2019, AMAP established its Litter and Microplastics Expert Group (LMEG), which is addressing AMAP's mandate with regards to plastic pollution:

- To monitor and assess the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change issues.
- To document levels and trends, pathways and processes, and effects on ecosystems and humans, and propose actions to reduce associated threats for consideration by governments.
- To produce sound science-based, policy-relevant assessments and public outreach products to inform policy and decision-making processes

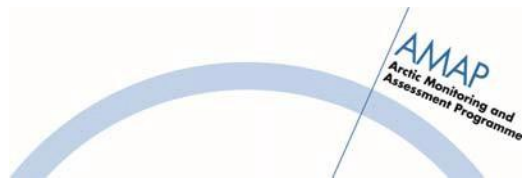
The Secretariat of AMAP has accreditation to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP.

Cluster A: • National plans • Reporting • Implementation and compliance • Information exchange • Effectiveness evaluation

Q2. How could provisions on reporting, implementation and compliance, information exchange, and effectiveness evaluation support the overall implementation of the instrument, and what is the relationship between these articles?

A; In 2021, AMAP published its plan for environmental monitoring for plastic pollution in the Arctic ([link](#)). It identifies four so-called environmental *priority compartments* that should be monitored for litter and microplastics: beaches/shorelines, sediments (freshwater and marine), water, (freshwater and marine), and seabirds. The plan is accompanied by a technical document (monitoring guidelines, [link](#)), which guides nations and institution to do the actual sampling, analysis and data reporting for environmental monitoring. The document harmonises a number of existing approaches to environmental monitoring.

Q3. What will be the role of information exchange in the overall implementation of the instrument and how can it contribute to its effectiveness?



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A; The environmental monitoring described under Cluster A, question 2 could inform the instrument's effectiveness evaluation.

Cluster B: • Releases and leakages • Existing and legacy plastic pollution • Plastic waste management • Plastic products design • Plastic products

Q1. What considerations should guide decisions on determining which plastic products will require possible global measures, actions or cooperation?

A: The AMAP LMEG has published the scientific report 'The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Arctic Biota' ([link](#)). It documents effects on Arctic animals in terms of entanglement, ingestion/uptake and plastic additive chemicals. The report is accompanied by a Summary for Policy-Makers ([link](#)), which formulate policy as well as science recommendations. The policy recommendations support the efforts to reduce plastic litter. The science recommendations recommend that knowledge gaps in terms of entanglement, ingestion/uptake and plastic additive chemicals are addressed.

Q2. What type of enabling factors should be considered to address existing and legacy plastic pollution, including the process to identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones and subsequent remediation efforts?

A; The environmental monitoring described under Cluster A, question 2 could address the question of existing and legacy plastic pollution and identify and evaluate the locations or accumulation zones.