

ICCI 2011 Annual Report

SUMMARY:

ICCI in 2011 has moved forward in establishing a truly trans-cryosphere network between the Arctic, Himalayas, Andes and more recently, the Alps and alpine regions of Eastern Europe. ICCI has also begun cooperative efforts on cyrosphere-related impacts on countries outside polar and alpine regions, such as Bangladesh and small island states threatened by flooding. Also significantly in 2011, ICCI has become established as a trusted partner on climate policies related to the cryosphere with both the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

These UN-based networks will help ensure the “voice of the cyrosphere” is heard among a broad range of climate and environmental policymakers. At the same time, the challenge to ICCI in 2012 will be to respond to these new partners and build, without spreading the organization too thin amidst multiple new requests for support.

2011 REVIEW:

Founded immediately after COP-15, ICCI grew out of the Arctic short-lived climate forcer (SLCF) effort begun by the Clean Air Task Force and Climate Policy Center, as it became apparent that the scientific and policy picture of Arctic climate change applied in other cryosphere regions as well, especially in the Himalayas and Andes. The challenges facing these regions, and the climate dynamics behind them, are very much the same. Bringing these disparate regions together in a more coherent way was ICCI’s major goal in 2011. This effort culminated at the COP-17 climate negotiations in Durban, shaping a powerful global message.

Major accomplishments in 2011 included:

- Providing a leadership role in UN Environment Programme (UNEP) efforts to design a “near-term climate strategy” aimed at mitigation efforts parallel to the main climate negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). ICCI drafted and reviewed cyrosphere-related portions of the UNEP/WMO Assessment on Black Carbon and Ozone, participating in its release at the annual UNEP meetings in Nairobi as part of a panel including the Swedish and Bangladesh environment ministers. ICCI then was asked to serve as a lead author of the follow-on Action Plan aimed at more concrete policy measures; and also (representing Sweden) on the Action Plan Steering Group. As part of its COP-17 activities in Durban, ICCI organized, on behalf of UNEP and Sweden, the launch of the Action Plan at a side event that eventually included four ministers as well as the UNEP Executive Director (Attachment 1).

- The UNEP effort also serendipitously provided ICCI an effective vehicle **for the creation in 2011 of a “pan-cryosphere” network**. In May, UNEP and the sponsoring governments asked ICCI to assist in shaping two regional “near-term climate” conferences, one in Latin America and one in the Himalayas, from a cryosphere perspective in early fall; in addition to working on the Action Plan report itself. All these efforts led to contacts and new partnerships in the Himalayan and Andean regions, such as an offer by the Himalayan organization ICIMOD to host ICCI staff at their offices in Kathmandu.

ICCI held a pan-cryosphere strategy meeting with Himalayan, Arctic and Andean participation on the margins on COP-17; and in turn participated in ICIMOD’s “Mountain Day,” an off-site seminar in Durban, where IPCC Chair Pachauri voiced explicit support for such a pan-cryosphere climate effort. Also in Durban, ICCI initiated cooperation on the Alps and alpine regions of central and eastern Europe at the request of the inter-governmental Regional Environment Centre (REC) based in Budapest, and the Alpine Convention secretariat in Vienna.

Pan-cryosphere strategizing will continue on a more regional basis in 2012, with the possibility to bring even more regions together at the Qatar climate talks in December at COP-18.

-- **Commitments from several governments, both donor and recipient, to launch a “Prototype Methane Financing Facility” (PMFF) in 2012.** Flora funded the first phase of work by ICCI in support of the Methane Blue Ribbon Panel in 2010. In addition to Mexico, Bangladesh and UNEP, the governments of Sweden and Norway are now taking the internal administrative steps necessary for monetary commitments totaling approximately \$20 million in guarantees that should leverage between \$200-\$400 million in methane carbon credits. An official announcement of the PMFF’s formation currently is anticipated in concert with the SLCF Initiative announcement in February in Washington DC (below).

The PMFF effort in turn led to Mexico and Sweden, with ICCI support organizing the **first-ever ministerial meeting focused on SLCFs, in Mexico City on September 12**, in conjunction with the regional Latin American UNEP meeting immediately preceding. Twelve ministers and fourteen additional national representatives participated in the ministerial, which included presentations by ICCI’s Bodin and by Ken Newcombe of the Methane Blue Ribbon Panel (see Attachment 2).

As a result of the ministerial, six nations (Sweden, Mexico, Bangladesh, the U.S., Canada and Ghana) have moved forward towards the creation of a **Global SLCF Initiative with launch planned for Washington DC in February 2012**, where Hilary Clinton is expected to represent the U.S. ICCI is participating in preparatory work for this meeting, and reaching out to additional countries such as Norway and the Maldives.

-- **Consensus on the first-ever binding international treaty obligations for black carbon emissions: the Gothenburg Protocol** revision under the Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), encompassing most of Eurasia and North America. ICCI throughout 2011 drafted treaty language, participated in negotiations and through targeted meetings and media, shifted the positions of certain key governments to gain consensus for black carbon provisions as “basic obligations” under the Protocol. While those obligations are not strong ones, they are legally binding and provide a precedent and model for addressing black carbon in other regions (and we have also introduced new text for more rapid future amendments that could rapidly tighten those provisions in the near future).

- Expansion of Arctic Council efforts aimed at short-lived forcers. The first forum to ever address these substances, the Council should also continue to innovate and lead. After the May 2011 Nuuk Ministerial meeting, ICCI drafted a concept paper on a **Black Carbon Arctic Treaty** and gained the support of the new Swedish Council Chair for the concept. Sweden has since conducted consultations with the other seven Council governments and anticipates starting negotiations in spring 2012. ICCI continues to support the SLCF Task Force co-chairs as a secretariat, now strengthened with the addition of a Swedish co-chair; and has moved to include methane and ozone in the new work of the Task Force.

- Also in the Arctic, **ICCI intensified its work with Russia** (the largest Arctic nation and the source of most short-lived forcer emissions, primarily black carbon from crop burning) and hired a new part-time Russia director to better enable this work. We also initiated work on the second most important source of Arctic black carbon, wood stoves in Scandinavia, with the Danish Ecological Council (a coalition of NGOs). Together with the proposed Arctic Black Carbon Agreement, these two efforts will comprise a major push for the Arctic cryosphere region in 2012.

- ICCI also has begun to realize its goal **to become a go-to resource for both information and financing for climate-related issues in the cryosphere context**. Perhaps the most significant example arose from our work with the UNFCCC, to which ICCI formally wrote early in 2011 to suggest a cryosphere focus as part of science-policy meetings planned to take place prior to the June round of climate negotiations. The UNFCCC took us up on our offer to help organize a cryosphere section; and ICCI reached out to its evolving network of scientists and policy makers to present at these meetings, and funded their participation.

On financing, ICCI has provided direct support to several partner organizations, helping draft grant proposals that resulted in significant new financing for those partners, including \$400,000 for regional SLCF meetings in developing countries (U.S. Department of State, to SEI/IUPPA); \$260,000 for a new methane fund secretariat (Oak Foundation, likely to be housed at the UN Foundation); and \$50,000 for design of an agricultural burning project in Russia (Swedish environment ministry, to Bellona-Russia, that is intended to become multi-year funding of over \$500,000 in 2012). ICCI also provided support to the application for funding of the

new ECLIPSE project, a consortium of 11 research institutions focused on SLCFs that received a \$3.5 million award from the European Union for a three-year exploration of the climate impact of SLCF pollutants on the Arctic; and will serve on its advisory board. While these activities in support of financing for cryosphere-related activities provide little or no funding for ICCI, they fulfill the mandate of ICCI to be a network that enables expansion of effective programs by existing organizations, rather than the creation of new ones (except where none exist) or worse yet, duplicative ones.

ICCI also has begun to **design programs that combine adaptation with SLCF, near-term climate mitigation**. This primarily took place in 2011 through ICCI's participation with UNEP as a Lead Author and/or Steering Group members in the Action Plan, which detailed explicit measures to slow near-term warming region by region, and especially those near the cryosphere. It has also taken place more concretely through ICCI's work in Russia on alternative agricultural methods that will cut black carbon and methane releases, and at the same time introduce crops better able to survive in a changing northern climate. The Swedish government recently awarded grant money to expand this work to ICCI together with Bellona-Russia and the Swedish Institute for Agricultural Technology.

Woodstoves and cookstoves remain an area of active interest for which ICCI continues to seek support, primarily with the Danish Ecological Council (a coalition of Danish environmental groups), with good hopes of Norwegian support. ICCI also has participated in the climate and the finance committee of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. An Andean conference that includes a focus on wood burning will form the first deliverable of the new Andes staff person in spring 2012.

THOUGHTS ON 2012 PRIORITIES, PLANS AND GOALS:

Himalayas/Andes: Initial plans for ICCI to create a pan-cryosphere network in 2011 saw the use of two new part-time staff persons to provide initial outreach to those regions. Instead, the unexpectedly rapid development of the "UNEP track" aimed at slowing near-term climate change, with the cryosphere as the chief reason for so doing, presented multiple opportunities for existing staff to conduct that outreach early and directly; while at the same time allowing local governments like Ecuador, and organizations such as ICIMOD to provide more detailed input as to the kind of staff they would find most useful. As a result, recruitment was put off until more discussions took place on the margins of COP-17. Based on that input, the positions are now advertised with several promising prospects; and should be filled very early in 2012. Rather than creating a pan-cryosphere network through initial outreach, the positions will focus on expanding contacts, and solidifying priorities and needs in the two regions.

Effective expansion of UNEP's near-term climate work to the regional level, with a focus (for ICCI) on cryosphere regions.

Effective follow-up to the SLCF Initiative launch in February, in particular to keep the focus on SLCFs as complementary to action in the UNFCCC forum more focused on CO2 and longer-lived GHGs.

Ensuring adoption of the current agreed Gothenburg Protocol (GP) text in April.

Beginning a new negotiation on a black carbon Arctic Council agreement that goes beyond the GP with more stringent, aiming at conclusion of the AC in May 2013 at the Swedish Arctic Council ministerial in Kiruna.

Woodstoves efforts in the Arctic, and cookstoves in the Himalayas, Andes and globally.

Finally, Hurricane Irene provided an unexpected opportunity out of the tragedy for ICCI to bring a focus to the U.S. cryosphere and mountain regions impacted by climate change, something that became apparent at Mountain Day during COP-17 when ICCI was the only representative of any North American mountain region. We are exploring what this might mean for a future emphasis on impacts for the North American cryosphere.

2011 Financial Report

Grants Income:

Climate Works Foundation (Arctic Program)	\$49798
Climate Works Foundation (CLRTAP)	\$75,000
Flora Foundation: (Pan-cryosphere Network and general support)	\$60,152
Oak Foundation: (Methane and Open Burning)	\$40,000
Total 2011:	\$224,950

Expenses:

Administration	\$ 7108
Programs:	
Global Methane Fund: Methane Blue Ribbon Panel	\$49,609
Arctic Program: \$22112 Arctic Council, indigenous networks	
Agricultural Burning: Russia and Eastern Europe	\$15,116
Pan-cryosphere Network: UNFCCC, UNEP	\$18710
CLRTAP: Black Carbon Commitments	\$76010
Total Program:	\$181,557
Total Expenses:	\$188,665
Carryover 2012 Program:	\$ 36,285