

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 30/09/2013

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)
Implementation of EBM recommendations

The use of an ecosystem based approach to conservation and management is inherent in all of CAFF's work and has remained integral to all CAFF activities since its formation under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy in 1992. The release of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA – www.arcticbiodiversity.is) has placed renewed emphasis on EBM:

- One of the ABAs three cross-cutting themes focuses on the necessity of taking an ecosystem-based approach to management. It stressed the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the interconnected and complex challenges facing biodiversity and to ensure informed policy decisions in a changing Arctic.
- One of the six thematic groups into which ABA recommendations were divided focused on EBM and recommended to: *Advance and advocate ecosystem-based management efforts in the Arctic as a framework for cooperation, planning and development. This includes an approach to development that proceeds cautiously, with sound short and long-term environmental risk assessment and management, using the best available scientific and traditional ecological knowledge, following the best environmental practices, considering cumulative effects and adhering to international standards.*

EBM relevant activities

Examples of recent CAFF activities which build upon the nine EBM principles defined by the EBM task force and respond to the activities recommended by Ministers in Kiruna to advance EBM in the Arctic include:

- The ABA recommendation plan is underway.
- In cooperation with AMAP and SDWG the *Identification of Arctic marine areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) IIc* report.
- Release of the *Life Linked to Ice: A guide to sea-ice-associated biodiversity in this time of rapid change* report was completed.
- Completion of the *Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Plan*.
- Completion of the *CBMP strategic plan (2013-2017) phase II implementation of the CBMP*
- Implementation of the Arctic biodiversity Freshwater, Marine and Terrestrial monitoring Plans.
- Commencement of a scoping study on the Arctic's ecosystem services.
- Commencement of a project to address protection of Arctic lifestyles and people through migratory bird conservation.