

CAFF WG Progress Report to SAO Whitehorse.

2013

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

CAFF International Secretariat

<http://hdl.handle.net/11374/1251>

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Response to AC Priorities

Responsible Resource Development

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation

Safe Shipping

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans implementation
- AMSA IIC

Sustainable Circumpolar Communities

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation
- TEK across many projects
- Migratory bird conservation
- Ecosystem Services scoping project

CAFF contributes to various Arctic Council cross-cutting projects and activities intended to fulfill Canadian chairmanship priorities including the Circumpolar Business Forum, Sustainable Tourism initiative, AACCA (C), Ecosystem-based Management, etc.

Summary of progress on CAFF projects

Monitoring: CBMP

General: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

- Leadership transition to Greenland/Denmark and the U.S.A. from Canada (May 2013)
- *CBMP Four Year Strategic Plan* (Sept. 2013)
- Newsletter Fall 2013 (Sept. 2013)
- Map CBMP outputs to CBD Aichi targets (Sept. 2013)
- Arctic Biodiversity Data Service: www.abds.is in development
- Community based Monitoring Registry: in development
- 80 organizations provide staff time and/or direct funding to various projects

Marine

- Implementation of *Marine Plan*
- Implementation meeting (Oct. 2013)
- Workplan developed (Sept. 2013)
- Data collection, integration: ongoing

Freshwater

- Implementation of *Freshwater Plan*
- Implementation meeting (May 2013)
- Workplan developed (Sept. 2013)
- Freshwater video (Aug. 2013): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxsb4A94UVc>
- Freshwater poster (June 2013)
- Data collection, integration: ongoing

Terrestrial

- *Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* (Oct. 2013)

Indices

- Arctic Species Trend Index: in development
- Migratory Bird Index: in development
- Land cover change index: in development

Arctic Report Cards (NOAA)

- CBMP is editor of Terrestrial and Marine ecosystem chapters (Dec. 2013)

Assessment

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

- Implementation Plan (Aug. 2013)
- ABA recommendation analysis and priority-setting exercise (Oct. 2013)
- ABA Symposium: in development
- *ABA scientific report* finalized (Oct. 2013)
- *ABA scientific synthesis* report finalized (Oct. 2013)
- *ABA summary for policy makers* (English, Russian, French, Inuktitut- May 2013)
- ABA TEK Compendiums: in development
- ABA TEK lessons learned document: in development
- ABA film (February 2013): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGhSUKSGil>
- Over 260 scientists, over 50 policy/program experts

Sea Ice Biodiversity Assessment

- Life linked to ice report (October 2013)
- Over 260 scientists, over 50 policy/program experts

AMSA IIC

- Developed report with AMAP and SDWG (Sept. 2013)

Ecosystem Services scoping project

Expert Groups

CAFF Flora Group

- Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA) workshop proceedings published (Sept. 2013)
- Red List for Arctic vascular plants (2014)
- Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM): workshops to develop project (Sept. and Nov. 2013)
- Arctic Plant Portal: in development

CBird

- Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan: in development
- Analysis of glaucous gull decline: in development
- Analysis of black-legged kittewake status and trends: in development
- Analysis of ivory gull status and trends: in development
- Analysis of Arctic tern status and trends: in development
- Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy: in development

Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- CAFF, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment websites
- ABDS data portal: www.abds.is
- Report generation
- Media and side events
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

There is currently no accurate method to provide a total project cost (salary, in-kind, direct contributions, etc.), but there are activities underway in an attempt to provide concrete figures.

Key Deliverables for 2015 Ministerial

CAFF's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program are two key contributions towards understanding changes in the natural environment, what is causing those changes, how those changes affect human use of living resources and ultimately the development for peoples of the North.

After its release at the last Ministerial, the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment has moved to an implementation stage. Results from the implementation plan will be a key CAFF contribution to the next Ministerial. The Arctic Biodiversity Symposium will bring together scientific, industry and policy leaders to discuss ABA results and concrete actions for implementation across countries and industries.

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program is coordinating and feeding harmonized and integrated biodiversity monitoring information into Arctic Council process and other relevant international fora.

These activities will create a dynamic process in which information remains up-to-date, relevant and easily accessed by scientists, decision makers and Arctic residents. Reporting will include a suite of well-established communications products as well as the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service.

In addition, a range of other deliverables will contribute to Canadian Chairmanship priorities, including an Ecosystem Services scoping project, continued work on the incorporation of TEK into Arctic Council work and new partnerships and projects that focus on migratory birds.

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Risa Smith, Canada

Next CAFF Board meeting: Kuujuaq, Canada, Feb. 2014

June 2013		July 2013		September 2013		October 2013		November 2013		December 2013		January 2014	
Sweden	Freshwater	Germany	IPBES	Greenland	Ramsar NorBalWet workshop	Iceland	CBMP leadership meet	Finland	CBVM workshop	USA	CBMP meeting	Denmark	Terrestrial implementation
Iceland	AMSAIIC	USA	stakeholder consultation	USA	CBVM workshop	Canada	Marine implementation	Norway	Arctic Energy Summit	Canada	CBMP meeting		
AMSP	Benthos MEN	EAAF				Norway	Arctic Circle		SAO Meeting (side event)	Finland	Rovaniemi conference		
							Working Group chairs		AEWA MOP				
							SAO Meeting (side event)						

Collaboration

AMAP

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment: IIC
- Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks
- Arctic Report Cards (NOAA)

SDWG

- AMSA IIC
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Traditional Knowledge

PAME

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment: IIC
- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan

EPPR

- Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment

Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

Participate in process, component C

Arctic Resilience Report

On project steering committee.

Ecosystem-Based Management

Participate in process.

Communications

- AC communications group
- strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

In addition, CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity*
- Ramsar*
- Convention on Migratory Species*
- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership*
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- Sub-Global Assessment
- Zoological Society of London
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

- United Nations Environment Program GRID Arendal
- United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International

*indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation



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