

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 30/09/2013

## ABA IMPLEMENTATION: APPROACH AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION

Process, Timeline, Milestones and Products

### Task

This document outlines the approach, timelines and milestones for implementation of the ABA recommendations.

### Approach

A dual track approach has been adopted which outlines (1) a way to create and implement the plan; and (2) a way to get an early start on implementation. The steps involved are:

- Phase 1: Activity mapping - completed

A matrix in the form of an excel database has been developed wherein all current/planned activities by the Arctic Council that respond to the ABA recommendations have been identified and mapped [[access ABA Implementation Matrix here](#)]. This matrix describes the status of relevant work undertaken by CAFF, other Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies. The matrix allows for the identification of:

- Issues for CAFF to address;
- Recommendations which other components of the Arctic Council should address;
- Issues that organisations outside of the Arctic Council may want to consider;
- Issues that have received no action; and
- On-going or planned actions of relevance in other organizations/instruments.

The resulting matrix has been reviewed by all Arctic Council working groups (except ACAP).

- Phase 2: Model analysis - completed

A model analysis of recommendation #8<sup>1</sup> was conducted as an example of how to identify and prioritize implementation actions [[access ABA Implementation template and criteria here](#)]. A similar analysis is planned for each recommendation which will consider:

- Actions already being taken (both within and outside the Arctic Council) to implement the recommendation in question;
- Ways in which CAFF is currently involved in implementation;
- Gaps in implementation of the recommendation; and
- Suggestions for ways CAFF could implement the recommendation.

The results of the analysis allow CAFF to identify priorities for implementation of a particular recommendation, and propose ways that CAFF can implement (or further implement) the recommendation. Early implementation of this particular ABA recommendation has started to occur, following approval by the CAFF board. For those recommendations outside CAFF, relevant experts will be engaged in the analysis.

- Phase 3: Analysis of recommendations - underway

At the CAFF meeting in Yellowknife (September 10-12<sup>th</sup>), it was agreed to divide up the work on preparing short (1-2 page) analyses for each ABA recommendation. These will then be used to help assess priorities for implementation. To facilitate this process a set of common criteria and template to be used when conducting the ABA recommendation analysis were developed. [[access ABA Implementation template and criteria here](#)]. Analyses are due for completion on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> #8 - Reduce stressors on migratory species range-wide, including habitat degradation and overharvesting on wintering and staging areas and along flyways and other migration routes - <http://arcticbiodiversity.is/index.php/policy#individstressors>

- Phase 4: Approach to implementation  
This approach described herein has been approved by CAFF board approval and a progress report to be presented to the SAOs in October 2013. Progressive implementation of the ABA recommendations, as determined from the analyses, will continue through the rest of 2013 and into 2014.
- Phase 4: Mid-point implementation review  
Present implementation status, including successes and challenges, at the Arctic Biodiversity Symposium in September 2014. Gather input from participants and revise path forward as necessary.
- Phase 5: Finalisation  
Report to the 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial on the status of implementation of the ABA recommendations and long term plan for implementation of ABA recommendations.

### Timeline and Reporting

A timeline spanning roughly 1.5 years from September 2013 to the Arctic Council Ministerial in 2015 is envisioned for the preparation and implementation of the plan. Regular reports on status of implementation will be delivered to the CAFF Board and to the Senior Arctic Officials.

### Milestones

Key milestones are highlighted in bold:

- July 19<sup>th</sup> - Completion of the activity mapping –*Completed*;
- August 10<sup>th</sup> - Completion of Approach and proposal for early implementation –*Completed*;
- August 10<sup>th</sup> - Completion of the model analysis –*Completed*;
- August 11<sup>th</sup> – Circulation for board review of project plan, activity mapping, model analysis – *Completed*;
- **September 12<sup>th</sup> – Approval of project plan by CAFF Board –*Completed*;**
- **October 21-23 – report to and feedback from the Senior Arctic Officials;**
- **October/November- *early implementation of model analysis recommendation begins*;**
- October 2013 to January 2014 – Analysis model applied to each recommendation, in order of priority
- November 2013 to February 2014- – Integration of analysis. Implementation begins, with priority recommendations/actions being implemented first
- January XX 2014 – Circulation of project status report for Board review;
- **February XX 2014 – Approval and revision as needed by CAFF Board;**
- March XX - 2014 – Report to Senior Arctic Officials ;
- April to September 2014 - ongoing implementation;
- **November 2014 – Arctic biodiversity Symposium input from the science community on Plan and its implementation; and**
- **2015 – Presentation of Status of ABA implementation to the Arctic Council Ministerial.**

### Project Steering Group (PSG)

The Steering group responsible for developing and implementing the project plan includes:

- Canada: Vicky Johnston
- Norway: Marthe Haugan
- CAFF Secretariat: Tom Barry

### Action required

SAOs may wish to comment on progress and provide guidance on approach to implementation of ABA recommendations