

Memorandum to the Senior Arctic Officials 27/04/2013

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP www.cbmp.is)

Focus remains on implementing the Arctic Marine, Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plans including development of the Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan. Emphasis also placed on communication/outreach, capacity building and development of support tools for integrated biodiversity monitoring e.g. Community Based Monitoring tools and data management support

CBMP-MARINE PLAN (www.caff.is/marine)

Approved in 2011 and in second year of implementation. The Marine Steering Group is currently co-chaired by Canada and Greenland. The plan contains six Marine Expert Networks (Sea-Ice Biota, Seabirds, Plankton, Benthos, Fish, and Marine Mammals). A *State of the Marine Arctic* report is planned for 2015.

CBMP-FRESHWATER PLAN (www.caff.is/freshwater)

Approved in October 2012 and in first year of implementation. Implementation is underway and a Freshwater Steering Group has been established co-chaired by Canada and Sweden. National Freshwater Expert Networks (FENs) and the CBMP Freshwater Steering Group are cooperating to gather existing and new data on (1) biodiversity and (2) abiotic components that strongly affect biota for the purpose of undertaking circumpolar freshwater assessments. A *State of the Freshwater Arctic* report is planned for 2016.

CBMP-TERRESTRIAL PLAN (www.caff.is/terrestrial)

Approved in September 2013 and co-chaired by Greenland/Denmark and the United States. The first implementation workshop is scheduled for January 2013 with a *State of the Terrestrial Arctic* report planned for 2017.

CBMP FOUR YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2013 – 2017) – Phase II implementation of CBMP.

A new four year strategy for the CBMP was approved in September 2013 which replaces the first five-year CBMP implementation plan. The new CBMP strategic plan will focus on implementing strategies to build and maintain a comprehensive and cost effective CBMP while continuing to interpret, integrate and communicate biodiversity information. This includes continuing efforts to establish and maintain steering groups and to develop implementation plans and coordinated monitoring across the Arctic.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Work continues on development of the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS – www.abds.is) with current focus on supporting activities related to data discovery, establishment of distributed data nodes, interoperability and metadata holdings. These include contributing biodiversity monitoring metadata to the Polar Data Catalogue, and a basic data display ‘site’ for data cataloguing and viewing. In the future, more attention to data aggregation, analysis and synthesis will be conducted as monitoring plan implementation teams prepare to assess and report on Arctic biomes. The ABDS is being continually expanded with a focus on including data aggregations compiled as part of the development of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). View the [overall concept here](#). The distributed, interoperable data concept has been piloted through [the Seabird Information Network \(SIN\)](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT

To facilitate the successful incorporation of Community Based Monitoring (CBM) and Local Traditional Knowledge, development has begun on an inventory of current Arctic CBM/LTK biodiversity monitoring programs and datasets. An inventory survey has been developed and is being used to begin compilation of the inventory.

REPORTING OUTPUTS AND TOOLS

The first *State of Arctic Biodiversity* reports are targeted for production in 2015 - 2017, two – to four years after the release of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. The ABA will provide the fundamental baseline in relation to described trends and the *State of Arctic Biodiversity reports*.

CAFF produces a range of communication tools and products to facilitate development of and communication activities relating to the CBMP e.g.:

- A suite of indicators and indices have been identified. Indices developed include Protected areas, Arctic Species Trend Index and Linguistic diversity) with work ongoing to develop an Arctic migratory birds index and a land cover change index.
- The CBMP cooperates with NOAA and AMAP on the [annual State of the Arctic Report Cards](#) which attract widespread media attention. The CBMP is the editor of the Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems chapters of the report cards.
- A range of standard communication products/tools are produced for each of the Expert Monitoring Groups (EMGs) e.g. [Freshwater monitoring portal](#); [Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring](#) poster [Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) film.
- The CBMP newsletter is distributed to over 1000 subscribers. Latest issue in September 2013 focused on international partnerships.

LEADERSHIP

Canada's lead of the CBMP concluded in May 2013. Denmark/Greenland and the US have taken over leadership with Canada continuing to play an advisory role.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

SAOs may wish to comment on progress over the past 5 years and provide guidance on the path forward for the next four years.