

Memorandum to SAOs 21-02-2014

Overview of the ABA Implementation Plan development *For information*

The goal is to create a six-year Plan for implementation of the seventeen ABA recommendations, incorporating the 4 recommendations from Life Linked to Ice (summarized in Figure 1). The Plan will show how ongoing work and new and proposed actions of CAFF will work together to implement these recommendations. The ABA recommendations were made to the Arctic Council as a whole, and some are being implemented through Arctic Council initiatives led by other working groups and task forces (for example, those related to climate change mitigation) or by bodies outside the Arctic Council. This plan focuses on actions that CAFF leads or plays a substantive role in, including through provision of data and expert advice.

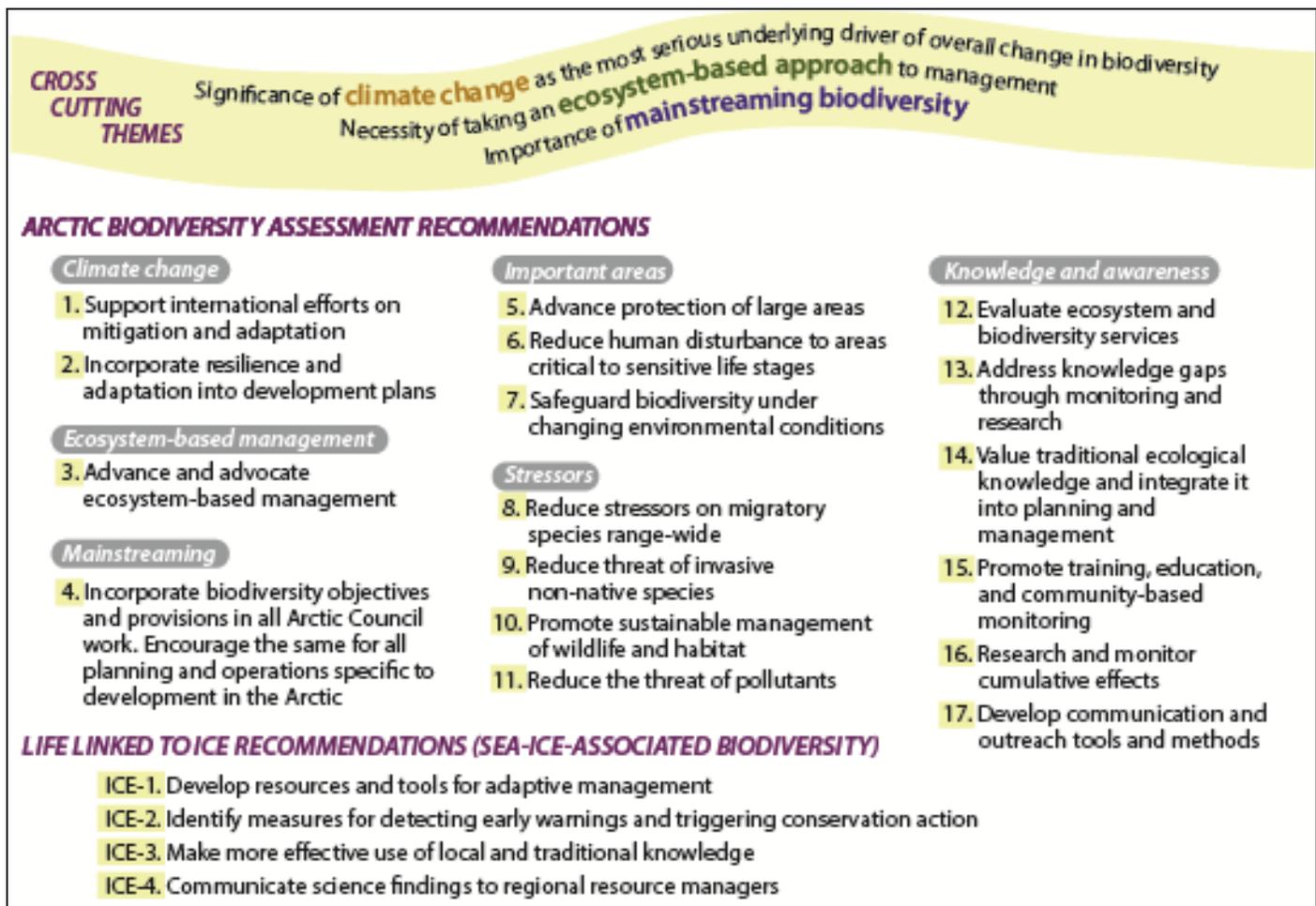


Figure 1. Cross-cutting themes and recommendations. Full text of the recommendations will be in an appendix.

Many of the actions in this plan contribute to implementation of several of the recommendations. Related actions are grouped and phased over three, two-year periods, corresponding to the cycle of rotation of the chairmanship of Arctic Council, and with each period finishing with a ministerial meeting. This should help in aligning priorities, resource allocation, and reporting the other Arctic Council work. The plan would be reviewed by the CAFF board annually. Each action is initially assigned a High, Medium, or Low priority, based on predefined criteria.

Time periods

- Early Implementation: release of Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (2013) to spring 2015
- Mid-term: spring 2015 to spring 2017
- Long-term: spring 2017 to spring 2019

The plan will include the following:

- An overview of the recommendations and the plan
- Methodology for developing the plan, reviewing and adapting it, and measuring progress
- Text and visual presentation showing how the action items form a coherent plan that addresses the recommendations, and showing how implementation progresses over the life of the plan
- A simplified implementation table that includes the rolled-up actions (short form), timeline, major linkages with other Arctic Council or external work, status (started or not), and if it is a topic in the Biodiversity Congress.
- Appendices with more detail on the actions recommended for early implementation, as well as the full text of the recommendations, for reference.

Plan development and status

The end result will be an overview report (for submission to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval) and a more detailed planning document in table form that will be a working document (for example, to add country leads and funding status as the actions are developed, to add performance measures, and to use in plan reviews).

1. Completing identification of the best set of action items for each recommendation and sub-recommendation, using this to evaluate coverage of the recommendations, and to see the natural groupings and the foundation actions that are needed.
2. Developing an action table (with actions grouped and summarized) showing how each action contributes to one or more recommendation, and how they are phased over the three time periods.
3. To conduct a priority setting exercise on these actions.
4. At the same time, develop the SAO overview report (in progress).
5. When the SAO report is finished, return to creating a more detailed tracking table, as well as a set of notes on the recommendations, to capture the material in the analyses and the important points from subsequent discussions and reviews.

Timeline

Scheduled for completion for CAFF Board meeting in August 2014.