

CAFF Work plan: DRAFT 12-02-15

This document outlines the projects and activities the CAFF Working Group plans to undertake for the 2015 – 2017 ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed for the inter-ministerial period, but may change according to new opportunities and priorities. The CAFF Board can amend the CAFF Work Plan as needed. The timeline for each of the projects is to be completed as projects develop. **CAFF’s** mandate and associated activities are integral to success of the U.S. Chairmanship priorities.

The **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021** will guide how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues for the coming decade. Key actions in phase 2 of this plan (2015-2017) include: Focus on mainstreaming biodiversity (Recommendation 4), reducing stressors on migratory birds (Recommendation 8), ecosystem services evaluation (Recommendation 12), communications and outreach (Recommendation 17), adaptation to climate change (Recommendation 2); addressing stressors on biodiversity, in particular, migratory species (Recommendation 8), invasive species (Recommendation 9) and pollution (Recommendation 11); safeguarding critical areas (Recommendations 5, 6, and 7); and improving knowledge and public awareness, in particular, monitoring and traditional and local knowledge (Recommendations 13, 14, and 15), and indicator development (Recommendation 16).

The CBMP is a fundamental guiding program for the CAFF Working Group and the **CBMP Strategic Plan: 2013-2017** also guides the work of CAFF over the next two years.

Many projects have in-kind country experts and additional support will be requested through grant applications and country contributions. Several projects have existing or pending funds. Actions in this work plan may be adjusted to be consistent with finalization of the U.S. Arctic Council Chair Program and final approved working group work plans.

Priority and projects	Leads/ Co-Leads	Rationale & Objective
Arctic Council Chair Priorities 2015-2017		
Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network	PAME and CAFF are WG leads. U.S. and others TBD.	Contribute to the pan-Arctic network of existing MPAs through implementation of the MPA framework; and implementation of Recommendations 5, 6 & 7 of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA).
Assist in the implementation of the framework for a pan-Arctic network of MPAs.	CAFF and PAME	
Provide technical information, including mapping areas of high species abundance, unique Arctic diversity and those important for sensitive life stages at a scale appropriate for use in planning.	U.S. and others TBD	

Priority and projects	Leads/ Co-Leads	Rationale & Objective
Analyze existing Arctic marine protected areas to identify gaps and priorities including identification of the most climate-change resilient Arctic areas, connectivity gaps and missing buffer zones.	U.S. and others TBD	
Water and Sanitation		CAFF's work in this area contributes to understanding the role and importance of Arctic freshwater systems to biodiversity and people. Responds to ABA recommendations 10, 12, 13 and 16
Continue work towards the State of Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report.	Canada & Sweden leads for CBMP Freshwater Monitoring Group. U.S. and the Kingdom of Denmark are co-leads for the overall CBMP program.	This report could inform an Arctic Freshwater Assessment and the proposed expansion of an Arctic Water Resource Vulnerability Index.
Arctic Climate Resilience		Improve our fundamental understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and impacts in the Arctic through expanded monitoring and assessment efforts. Responds to ABA recommendations 2, 9, 12, 13 and 16
Continue to implement all ecosystem monitoring plans of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and indicators (also relevant for CCISA below).	U.S. and Kingdom of Denmark for overall CBMP; Marine – Norway, Russia, U.S.; Freshwater – Sweden & Canada; Terrestrial – Canada, Sweden, Norway; Coastal – Canada and U.S.	Enhance monitoring, enable early warning systems, and increase efforts to engage PPs and TK.
Develop a strategy for the prevention and management of invasive species.	U.S., Norway	
Update CAFF's strategy and guidelines for community-based monitoring.	U.S.	Expands local environment monitoring through existing citizen-science monitoring networks and traditional knowledge documentation.
Case studies on the co-production of science and traditional knowledge.	AAC – salmon peoples project; U.S.-walrus project; AIA-Community Observation	As above including bringing together knowledge systems and working groups to provide a holistic understanding.

Priority and projects	Leads/ Co-Leads	Rationale & Objective
	Network for Adaptation and Sustainability (CONAS); Nomadic reindeer herders (Russia and the Saami Council)	
Follow up on the recommendations of the life linked to ice report and related research.	U.S., Norway	
Follow-up on the recommendations of the EBM expert group.	CAFF	Promote the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management approaches across the work of CAFF. Responds to ABA recommendation 3 Ecosystem approach is fundamental to both the Arctic Council's overall mandate and CAFF's mandate.
Climate Change Indicator System for Arctic (CCISA)		Support for CCISA. Responds to ABA recommendation 13
Continue development of the CBMP suite of indicators.	U.S. and Kingdom of Denmark are leads for the whole CBMP program	
Improving Arctic Climate Science: Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map (DEM)		Improve access to Arctic topographical information to facilitate monitoring and assessment activities and to inform decisions on development, land management and scientific analyses.
Undertake work with Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure towards the development of a DEM.	U.S.	
Strengthening the Arctic Council		Provides access to Arctic data for scientific, industry and other users to advance Arctic Council science and decision-making. Responds to ABA recommendations 13, 15 and 17
Continue to develop the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS).	Norway	

Priority and projects	Leads/ Co-Leads	Rationale & Objective
Engagement of observers, industry and international organisations in CAFFs activities.	Norway	Increase capacity for implementation of Actions for Arctic Biodiversity (full title) and mainstreaming of Arctic biodiversity
Public Diplomacy Campaign		Raise awareness on Arctic biodiversity, provide information and build partnerships across scales among youth, communities, and managers inside and outside the Arctic etc. Responds to ABA recommendations 15 and 17
Continue to implement CAFF's communication strategy.	CAFF Chair	
Youth engagement including development of educational tool-kits for school children.	CAFF Chair, U.S., Iceland	
CAFF Working Group Priorities 2015-2017		
Actions for Arctic Biodiversity: Implementing the recommendations of the ABA 2013-2021	CAFF, components led by different countries, PPs, working groups, other AC subsidiary bodies	These ongoing activities follow up from the Kiruna Declaration, requesting states to implement the ABA recommendations
Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) – Implement monitoring plans, develop State of Arctic Biodiversity Reports (marine, freshwater, terrestrial), develop coastal monitoring plan, implement and report on CBMP indicators and indices, update community based monitoring plan.	U.S. and Kingdom of Denmark for overall CBMP; Marine – Norway, Russia, U.S.; Freshwater – Sweden & Canada; Terrestrial – Canada, Sweden, Norway; Coastal – Canada and U.S.	Foundational program underlying implementation of CAFF's mandate.
Complete the State of Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report.	Norway, Russia and US leads for CBMP Marine Monitoring Group. United States and Kingdom of Denmark are co-leads for the overall CBMP program.	Provide the first CAFF assessment on the state of the CBMP Marine biodiversity. This will be a baseline and regular reporting format for future reporting, on the state and condition of key aspects and areas of Arctic biodiversity. Responds to ABA recommendations 4, 13 and 16
Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative	Canada, Norway, Russia.	Encourages engagement of observers in CAFF activity and implements ABA recommendation 8

Priority and projects	Leads/ Co-Leads	Rationale & Objective
Implement the Circumpolar Seabird Program.	Canada with individual components led by different countries.	Implements recommendation 13 of the ABA
Implement the Circumpolar Flora Program	Norway with individual components led by different countries.	Foundational information for Arctic floral conservation work and responds to ABA recommendation 13
Mainstreaming biodiversity including developing a set of principles on incorporating biodiversity objectives and safeguards into Arctic Council work.	CAFF	Encourage shared responsibility for biodiversity conservation across different organizations and stakeholders. Responds to ABA recommendation 4
Complete The Arctic Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Scoping Study and follow-up as appropriate.	Sweden (partners are WWF and UNEP) (Completion of TEEB Scoping study).	Implements recommendations 4 and 12 of the ABA
Use Arctic Biodiversity Assessment information to support Arctic assessments initiated by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.	CAFF	Ensure that the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment information is used in different global exercises, thereby promoting the Arctic Council and its work.