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Document Title

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 25/9/2015: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Arctic (TEEB) scoping study.

Agenda item number

Due to fact that the agenda has not yet been finalized, an agenda item number is not yet available for all documents. This section will be revised as information becomes available.

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Submitted by

CAFF

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Status (e.g. draft, final if approved, etc.)

Memorandum

Memorandum to the Senior Arctic Officials 25/09/2015

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Arctic (TEEB) scoping study
For information/action

BACKGROUND:

The Arctic Council has recognized the significance of assessing and understanding the multiple services and values that ecosystems provide. This is evident in several initiatives such as Ecosystem Based Management, the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic, the Arctic Resilience Report, and in particular the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendations that were approved at the Arctic Council Ministerial in Kiruna in 2013.

In response, the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group initiated an effort to better understand ways that the Arctic Council can address this important topic. The TEEB Arctic scoping study led by Sweden was carried out by the CAFF, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) TEEB, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and GRID-Arendal as an important first step. It is submitted by the CAFF Board to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval at their October 2015 meeting.

ORGANISATION:

- Steering Group: Sweden, WWF Global Arctic Programme, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, UNEP TEEB, GRID-Arendal, CAFF Secretariat, Project consultant.
- Project funding and support came from the Nordic Council of Ministers, UNEP, WWF and CAFF
- Communication group: CAFF Secretariat, WWF, TEEB Office

NEXT STEPS:

The TEEB Arctic scoping study provides a basis for beginning a dialogue on the complexities of evaluating ecosystem services within the Arctic. Continuing in this dialogue CAFF is exploring possible next steps. CAFF will provide an update to the Senior Arctic Officials at their March 2016 meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Project [website](#)

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- **Senior Arctic Officials:** Approval of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Arctic Scoping study