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CAFF Progress Report

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Progress Report

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)



The *CAFF Work Plan for 2015-2017* focuses on implementation of the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* (ABA) recommendations and the

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021* guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues for the coming decade.

Key actions for 2015-2017 include: mainstreaming biodiversity; reducing stressors on migratory birds; ecosystem services evaluation; communications; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, in particular, on migratory species; invasive species; pollution; safeguarding critical areas; improving knowledge and public awareness, in particular, monitoring and traditional and local knowledge, and indicator development.

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity

Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021 comprises the implementation plan for the ABA recommendations. Recommendations are primarily aimed at the Arctic Council, however, success in conserving Arctic biodiversity also depends upon actions by non-Arctic states, regional and local authorities, industry and all who live work and travel in the Arctic. These recommendations therefore also provide a guide for action for states, authorities, and organizations beyond the Arctic Council. Some of the ABA recommendations directly encourage cooperation with those outside the Arctic Council process.

Implementation builds on a solid framework of established CAFF activities, including the CBMP and the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS). It also builds on other relevant Arctic Council working group initiatives and processes of international biodiversity conventions and

organizations, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Some ABA recommendations provide specific directions for focusing and enhancing work through these programs and activities, while others call for action to remedy gaps and deficiencies in knowledge and in conservation.

An **Actions for Biodiversity tracking tool** has been developed to track progress and identify decisions needed on those actions scheduled during phase 2 of the implementation plan: 2015-2017. This tracking tool contains information on those actions where CAFF is taking a lead role and where CAFF is contributing. This tool will be updated prior to each CAFF Board meeting. Prior to the October SAO meeting, CAFF will host a workshop with Working Group Chairs and Executive Secretaries to discuss implementation of the **Actions for Biodiversity** plan.

Summary of progress

Monitoring: CBMP

General:

- Data collection, integration (ongoing)
- Newsletter

Marine

- Implementation of *Marine Plan* (ongoing)
- State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (Spring 2017)
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (Nov.)
- Products
 - Annual report and workplan (Sept.)
 - Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan (Sept.)
 - Country implementation reports (2014)
 - Expert network webpages
 - Pan Arctic Fish Atlas: (ongoing)

Freshwater

- Implementation of *Freshwater Plan* (ongoing)
- State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report (2018)
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (Oct.)

- Inventory of freshwater monitoring programmes (Oct.)
- Products
 - Country implementation reports (2014)

Terrestrial

- Implementation of *Terrestrial Plan* (ongoing)
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (Apr.)
- Products
 - Annual report and workplan (Sept.)
 - Inventory of terrestrial monitoring programmes (ongoing)

Coastal

- Meetings
 - Expert workshop (Mar.)
- Products
 - *Coastal Monitoring Background Paper* (Feb. 2016)

Indices & indicators

- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing
 - Arctic Migratory Birds Index report (Sept.)
- Arctic Land Cover Change index (ongoing)
- Protected areas (ongoing)

Assessments and Activities

- TK & Wisdom-changes in the North American Arctic
- Arctic invasive species management
- Mainstreaming Arctic biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Salmon Peoples of Arctic Rivers
- Seabird conservation strategies, assessments
- Sea-ice dependent mammals
- A global audit of Arctic goose populations
- Protected Areas (terrestrial and marine)
- Arctic flora inventory
- Arctic seabirds breeding in the AEWA area: status and trends, 2014

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Observer engagement
- AMBI website www.caff.is/ambi
- Fact sheets for each flyway produced
- Americas Flyway meeting (Dec.)
- Implementation workshop planned (Apr. 2016)

Cross-cutting activities

CAFF works closely with the Arctic Council WGs and Task Forces (TF) to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g., input into the Marine cooperation TF, the AACA and work with PAME on marine protected areas and invasive species.

Administration and Meetings

October 2015

U.S
SAO Meeting
Denmark
Freshwater CBMP
Iceland
Arctic Circle
SAO Chair meeting
Canada
Polar Data Forum
Arctic SDI DEM
South Africa
CBird

November 2015

Norway
Marine CBMP
Finland
CBD Business Forum
Russia
CAFF Seminar

December 2015

Iceland
EPPR
WG ES and Chair meetings
Canada
ArcticNet
AMBI- Americas and Circumpolar

January 2016

Norway
Arctic Frontiers

February 2016

Norway
CAFF board

March 2016

U.S
SAO meeting
ASSW/AOS
Canada
CBMP Coastal Workshop
Iceland
Invasive species workshop

April 2016

Netherlands
AMBI
Implementation meeting
Sweden
CBMP Terrestrial meeting

Current Chair: Reidar Hindrum, Norway

2017- 2019 Chair: U.S

Cooperation

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

SDWG

- Traditional Knowledge initiative

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine protected areas
- Invasive species

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group
- strategic partnerships with organizations that have mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity*
- Ramsar*
- Convention on Migratory Species*

- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership*
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
- Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- Sub-Global Assessment
- Zoological Society of London
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- United Nations Environment Program
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Global Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International
- Ocean Biogeographic Information System

** indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

Education

A webinar series developed to explore key projects, products and activities and to share expert knowledge behind them. The format includes presentations and a Q+A period. Recordings posted to our [YouTube channel](#).

Educational kits to communicate information to school children in the Arctic (10 - 11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. Kits consists of a pocket guide for children and a leader's manual on these topics :

- Life Linked to Tundra
- Life Linked to Ponds
- Life Linked to Spring
- Available in: English, Inuktitut, French, Russian
- Currently being translated into: Northern Saami, Norwegian, Icelandic, Greenlandic, Gwich'in
- Exploring options for additional kits, partnerships and expansion activities
- www.arcticbiodiversity.is/education

Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- CAFF, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment websites
- ABDS data portal
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications
- Arctic biodiversity travelling photo exhibit

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Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitates access to and archiving of data
- www.abds.is | <http://geo.abds.is/geonetwork>