

CAFF Progress Report to SAO's; Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021

2017-02-10

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Arctic Council Secretariat

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Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group

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#4125

Number of pages, not including this cover sheet

3

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021

CAFF has focused on implementing the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment** (ABA) and, as requested, conducted an evaluation of progress for the Arctic Council Ministerial.

The **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity** guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues.

Key actions in phase 3 of this plan (2017-19) include: safeguarding biodiversity under changing conditions; cumulative effects; and improving knowledge and public awareness, including by contributing to the Convention on

Biological Diversity assessment on achievement of the United Nations Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and convening the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Focus will continue on ongoing actions from phases 1 and 2 of the ABA Implementation Plan, which include: mainstreaming biodiversity; ecosystem services; communications and outreach; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, protecting migratory species, addressing invasive species and pollution; and indicator development.

Many projects have in-kind support from Arctic states and Permanent Participants. Additional support will be requested through grant applications and state contributions.

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The CBMP, CAFF's cornerstone program, is an international network of scientists, government agencies, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources.

The CBMP continues to work to improve involvement of Arctic Indigenous organizations and Traditional and Local Knowledge holders within its networks. Efforts are organized around the Arctic's major ecosystems (marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal) with key actions including: indicator development; data aggregation and rescue; identification of knowledge gaps; development and implementation of coordinated monitoring plans; and reporting of status and trends.



Marine

- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity:** completed
- Implementation of **Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Freshwater

- **State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- Implementation of **Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Terrestrial

- **State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- Implementation of **Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Coastal

- **Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing
- Coastal Background Paper and workshop reports published

Indices & indicators

- Land Cover Change Index: ongoing
- Protected Areas: 2017 update completed
- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing

www.cbmp.is

Assessments and Strategies

- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report:** summary completed, scientific report ongoing
- **Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan:** ongoing
- **TK & Wisdom: Changes in the North American Arctic:** completed
- **A Global audit of Arctic goose populations:** ongoing
- Mainstreaming Arctic Biodiversity: ongoing
- Salmon Peoples of Arctic Rivers: ongoing
- Seabird conservation strategies, assessments: ongoing
- Climate change impacts bearded seals: ongoing
- **State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- **State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report:** ongoing

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Observer engagement with over 20 countries
- Implementation workshop, Netherlands (April 2016)
- Technical Workshop, Singapore (January 2017)
- Mid term evaluation (February 2016)



www.caff.is/ambi

Cross-cutting activities

CAFF works closely with the various Arctic Council Working Groups and Task Forces to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g., input into the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, the Ecosystem Approach, the AACA and work with PAME on marine protected areas and invasive alien species.

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Reidar Hindrum, Norway
2017- 2019 Chair: Cynthia Jacobson, U.S.

February 2017
 Norway
 CAFF Board

March 2017
 U.S.
 SAO meeting
 Iceland
 CBMP Terrestrial
 Arctic Flora Inventory
 CAFF Flora Group
 Faroes
 CBird

April 2017
 U.S.
 AMAP Conference:
 International
 Conference on Arctic
 Science: Bringing
 Knowledge to Action

May 2017
 U.S.
 Arctic Council Ministerial
 Sweden
 CBMP Freshwater

September 2017
 U.S.
 CAFF Board

October 2017
 Iceland
 Arctic Circle
 U.S.
 CBMP Marine

Cooperation

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a changing Arctic
- International Science conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Framework

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group
- Strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

In addition, 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 Programme
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International
- International Arctic Science Committee

** indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

Education

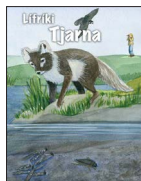
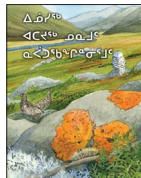
Educational kits to communicate information to school children in the Arctic (10-11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. Available in Russian, Inuktitut, Icelandic, Finnish, Inari Saami, Northern Saami French. Seeking additional translations.

Kits consists of a pocket guide for children and a leader's manual. Three versions produced focusing on different Arctic ecosystems:

- Life Linked to Tundra
- Life Linked to Ponds
- Life Linked to Spring

Distribution underway and funding sought to develop further toolkits.

www.arcticbiodiversity.is/education



Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- Website management
- Data management
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Graphics development
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

Communication and Outreach

- Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2 to be held in 2018 in Finland.



Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitate access to and archiving of data

www.abds.is

Ministerial deliverables

status of deliverables as of CAFF Board meeting February, 2017

Name	Status	Languages
CBMP State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report	Completed	English
Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan	TBC	English
Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan	Completed	English
CBMP Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Background Paper	Completed	English
Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom: Changes in the North American Arctic	Completed	English
The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for the Arctic: A Scoping Study and Executive Summary	Completed	English
CBMP headline indicators: Arctic Species Trend Index Migratory Birds; Land Cover Change; Audit of global goose populations, Protected Areas	TBC	English
Mainstreaming and Biodiversity Principles option paper	TBC	English
Project Summary: Bering Sea Sub-Network II (BSSN)	Completed	English
Arctic Seabirds Breeding in the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement area	Completed	English
The Alaska-Yukon Region of the Circumboreal Vegetation Map	Completed	English
Education		
Education kits: leader's manuals and student pocket guides: Life linked to tundra; Life linked to spring; Life linked to ponds.	Completed	English. Childrens' pocket guides in Inuktitut, Icelandic, Inari Saami, Finnish, French, Northern Saami, Russian. Other languages planned.
Progress reports		
Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021 evaluating the implementation of the ABA recommendations	Completed	English
Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): 2015-2017	Completed	English
AMBI package including Mid-term review, Texel Implementation report, crosswalk documents and implementation strategies	Completed	English
AMBI Workshop report, Singapore	TBC	English
CAFF activities: Traditional Knowledge	TBC	English
CBMP ecosystem groups annual reports, workshop proceedings and national implementation reports (Marine, Freshwater, Terrestrial, Coastal)	Completed	English
Communication/Outreach products		
Videos: State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report, Land Cover Change webinar, The Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan	Completed	
The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): fact sheets (5)	Completed	English (applicable fact sheet available in Korean, Mandarin, Russian)
Arctic Biodiversity Through the Lens Photography travelling exhibition	Completed: ongoing use	English, Icelandic
Websites - CAFF: www.caff.is - Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): www.abds.is/www.abds.is/geo - Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Website: www.arcticbiodiversity.is - CAFF Social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, LinkedIn, Instagram)	Ongoing	English
Data		
Datasets entered regularly to ABDS: linked interoperably to GBIF and OBIS	Ongoing	English
Digital Elevation Model for the Circumpolar Arctic	Ongoing	English
Administration		
CAFF contribution to the SAO report to Ministers	Completed	English
CAFF Progress Reports to SAO meetings	Completed	English
CAFF Work Plan 2017-19	Completed	English