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Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 9/3/2018

Sustainable Development Goals CAFF: Arctic Biodiversity

PURPOSE:

Sustainable development lies at the heart of the Arctic Council's mandate and the Finnish Arctic Council Chairmanship program for 2017-2019 commits to exploring how the Agenda 2030 framework can be used in Arctic cooperation noting that:

"The Arctic is developing into an important hub of the twenty-first century. The economic potential of the region should be harnessed in a way that brings prosperity to, and guarantees the livelihood and social progress of, Arctic inhabitants and communities. Sustainable economic development is the key to resilient communities".

This memo provides an overview of select CAFF activities and how they may contribute to supporting implementation of the UN CBD Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

CONTEXT:

CAFF's *Co-operative Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Arctic Region* (1997) was intended to provide strategic direction related to the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and served as an overall framework to guide CAFF's work. In the subsequent 20 years the Aichi Targets, SDGs and a range of other global measures were developed. Over this time CAFF released the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* (ABA) and the *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the ABA recommendations*, which now serves as the framework to guide how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues. Until now, these activities had not been mapped against the global Aichi Targets and SDGs to demonstrate how they may support implementation of Agenda 2030.

AGENDA 2030:

The SDGs include 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. CAFF activities relate most directly to Goals 14, 15 and 17 as well as several targets within goals 6, 11, 12, and 13. The ABA contains 17 recommendations, which are mapped against the relevant Aichi Targets and the SDGs 14, 15 and 17 in Annex 1.

The *CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets are recognized as setting the global framework for priority actions on biodiversity. The SDGs and the Aichi Targets are mutually supportive and reinforcing, and the implementation of one contributes to the achievement of the other.

CAFF has a number of ongoing efforts that may contribute to implementation of these in the Arctic and could help track progress through, for example:

- Facilitating partnerships between Arctic states, indigenous organisations, the private sector and civil society to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, thereby helping to promote practices that promote the sustainable use of the Arctic's living resources;
- Providing a means to inform evaluations of progress towards achieving SDGs in the Arctic; and
- Providing access to biodiversity data through the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) to ensure collaboration and cooperation.

The following are examples of how CAFF activities could contribute implementation of specific SDGs.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH [SDG 14, 15]:

Evaluating progress towards achieving SDGs in the Arctic requires understanding the current status and trends of Arctic biodiversity. CAFF through its Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP), coordinates circumpolar efforts to monitor and report on the state of Arctic biodiversity. The CBMP has identified key components of the Arctic’s terrestrial, marine, freshwater and coastal ecosystems that may indicate significant change and provides the means to assess the health of Arctic ecosystems. This is necessary to track progress towards achieving SDGs across the Arctic.

PARTNERSHIPS [SDG 17]:

Ensuring effective partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society is key to achieving progress towards the SDGs. The second Arctic Biodiversity Congress scheduled for October 2018 is an example of how CAFF is working to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity through facilitating dialogue and cooperation between scientists, Indigenous peoples, policy-makers, government officials, industry, students, and civil society.

CAFF is focusing on mainstreaming biodiversity, to strengthen and develop the incorporation of biodiversity provisions into the work of relevant partners, particularly industry.

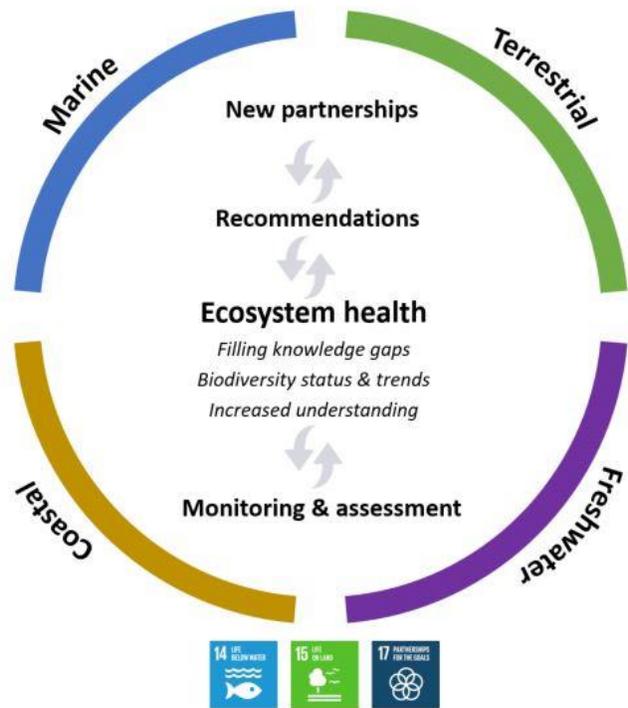
CAFF is also working to engage youth from around the world to raise awareness about the Arctic, share knowledge and encourage and promote effective conservation and sustainable development across the Arctic.

This figure illustrates how CAFF’s activities help fill knowledge gaps; identify status and trends in Arctic biodiversity; develop recommendations for action; and develop partnerships to enact change.

SDG 14 Life below water: aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 15 Life on land: aims to Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 17 Partnership for the goals: aims to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development through partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society



| Sustainable Development Goals | Sustainable Development Targets | Relevant Aichi Targets | Relevant ABA Recommendations |
|--|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development | | | |
| | 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution | 8 | 2,3,4,11.-c |
| | 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans | 6, 11, 15 | 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 |
| | 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels | 10, 19 | 16 |
| | 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics | 5, 11 | 2,3,4,10 |
| | 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information | 5,11 | 5-7 |
| | 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation | 3,4 | ----- |
| | 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism | 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 17 | ----- |
| 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss | | | |
| | 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements | 4,5,7,11,14,15 | 2,5,6,7 |
| | 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally | 4,5,7,14,15 | 2,3 |
| | 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world | 4,5,15 | ----- |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------|--------|
| | 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development | 11,14,15 | 7a |
| | 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species | 5,12 | 5,6,7 |
| | 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed | 16 | ----- |
| | 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products | 12 | ----- |
| | 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species | 9 | 9 |
| | 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts | 2 | 3,4,12 |
| 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development | | | |
| | 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | 20 | ----- |
| | 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed upon | 19 | 8 a-b |
| | 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed | 19 | ----- |
| | 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation | 17 | 14,15 |
| | 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development | 2,17 | 2-3 |
| | 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing states, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts | 19 | 14,15 |