

Statements from Rovaniemi 2018 Observer Special Session: Observer Organizations

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ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

Contributions to the Thematic Discussion: Biodiversity in the Arctic

The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) is a not-for-profit research institute located in Canada. AINA was established by Canadian Parliament in 1946 with a broad mandate for Arctic research and education, and a mission to advance knowledge for a changing. AINA has been an Observer at Arctic Council since 2000.

Safeguarding Biodiversity in the Arctic

AINA contributes to Arctic Council and Arctic Council working groups with respect to safeguarding biodiversity in the Arctic in a number of ways at the international, national and local levels. We are home to the International Study of Arctic Change, and through that program we support long-term monitoring at a pan-Arctic scale through the shared coordination with SAON and the International Arctic Science Committee of the biennial Arctic Observing Summit which seeks to provide guidance for the implementation of a Sustained Arctic Observing System that includes collection of biodiversity observations. The most recent Summit occurred Davos in June 2018. Reports are available online at www.arcticobservingsummit.org.

At the national scale, we conducted (2013-2015), on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada, a study of the feasibility of implementing the CBMP Terrestrial Monitoring Plan across Canada using the infrastructure of the Canadian Network of North Research Stations (CNNRO). We continue to work with CNNRO towards finding ways to establishing a baseline monitoring program leveraging these facilities and the scientific community that utilizes them, and to provide training in monitoring in our local communities.

At the local scale, we began to implement (2018) some aspects of CBMP activities that are sustainable for AINA with respect to our capacity and financing, at our Kluane Lake Research Station (KLRS) in Yukon. The objective is to provide baseline data useful to the Vegetation Expert Working Group, and the Mammal Expert Working Group through a vegetation monitoring program and a wildlife monitoring program that includes habitat enhancement for certain potentially threatened species, and a program of local education and outreach related to specific wildlife diseases that appear to be moving north. This initiative complements our recent inclusion into the WMO World Cryosphere Watch – CryoNet, the core component of the GCW network, as a contributing station (<https://globalcryospherewatch.org/cryonet/sites.php>). Much of the data collected at KLRS and the other CryoNet stations is pertinent to CBMP objectives around understanding and managing threats to biodiversity

Expectations for Cooperation with Arctic Council

AINA is open to developing a Resolution of Cooperation with CAFF to better coordinate our monitoring activities with other CAFF partners, making our monitoring data available and accessible, and working with CAFF such that AINA's academic journal *Arctic* may serve as a venue for special journal issues, and journal articles based on CBMP products, as appropriate, to serve as the scientific foundation for the State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports (CBMP Objectives 1.1 and 1.4). AINA has made a long-term commitment to working in partnership with SAON and with the International Arctic Science Committee to the ongoing development and implementation of a sustained Arctic Observing System that includes space for pan-Arctic biodiversity monitoring.