

# Statements from Rovaniemi 2018 Observer Special Session: Observer States

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**Arctic Council / SAO Meeting  
Rovaniemi, 1-2 November 2018**

**Observer Special Session  
17.2 Interventions by Observers: Biodiversity in the Arctic**

Statement by Germany

The goal of finding solutions together is a key aspect of Finland's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. „Exploring Common Solutions“ is the theme of the chairmanship program. It fits this approach of togetherness that the Finnish chair invites observer countries like Germany to cooperate. Germany expresses its appreciation for the possibility to present its work on biodiversity in the Arctic. Germany would like to inform about two activities related to biodiversity:

**1. The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)**

**African Eurasian Flyway Coordinator**

At the Trilateral Governmental Conference on the protection of the Wadden Sea in Leeuwarden in May this year, Germany together with Denmark and the Netherlands declared to extend the cooperation in the context of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, especially towards the Arctic. Germany as the current Presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation therefore very much welcomes the new cooperation with CAFF on the African Eurasian Flyway and the location of Sergio Rejado Albaina as AMBI African Eurasian Flyway Coordinator at the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat in Wilhelmshaven/Germany.

The cooperation with CAFF contributes significantly to the objectives of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, on the conservation, management and research of migratory birds. In this context, we are also looking forward to the update of the AMBI work plan 2.0 to further strengthen the cooperation by identifying possible fields of concrete actions and measures.

**2. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

The idea of Marine Protected Areas has gained prominence and momentum recently. CCAMLR has been successful in establishing a large MPA in Antarctica after quite

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some discussion. The BBNJ process is moving forward. OSPAR has the task to establish an ecologically coherent and representative network of protected areas in the North-East Atlantic, which includes Arctic waters.

In 2015, Germany as chair of the OSPAR working group on MPAs had taken on the responsibility for carrying out a scientific review and completing an expert proposal on setting up an Arctic High Seas MPA. This proposal was presented to the relevant OSPAR bodies. The proposal was supported in spring 2016 by a majority of OSPAR Parties. However, at the request of some Arctic Contracting Parties to OSPAR, the proposal was subsequently not discussed any further within OSPAR but forwarded to the Arctic Council. Germany is interested in substantive – science-based – feedback on the draft MPA proposal. Being aware of the sensitivity of the issue for Arctic coastal states, we are interested in learning how the Arctic Council would like to proceed on this matter. Against the background of the standing agreement by OSPAR ministers to establish a coherent and representative network of MPAs including the Arctic region, Germany still faces strong interest from the public and members of parliament on this issue.

I would like to stress that Germany is profoundly interested in intensifying its cooperation on the issue of environmental protection in the Arctic with the Arctic Council in its many different working groups and in many different ways.

Germany would like to thank the Finish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council for offering many possibilities of cooperation.