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Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining (MBAM)

Progress Report 2021

Introduction	1
Background	2
Engagement	2
Engagement of Permanent Participants	4
Next Steps	5
Related Initiatives.....	7
Conclusion.....	10
References.....	11

Introduction

The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group of the Arctic Council, began work on the *Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Arctic Mining* (MBAM) project in 2017. The project’s goal is to provide guidance for the incorporation of biodiversity objectives and provisions into plans, operations, and other aspects of mining activities in the Arctic.

Since 2017, CAFF has engaged hundreds of experts through facilitated roundtable dialogues, virtual panel discussions, online feedback, and interviews. This *progress report* summarizes the process to date and presents advice as well as potential next steps for CAFF's consideration as this project moves forward.

Overarching findings from this project included consensus among the participants that CAFF should: build on the MBAM dialogue; that the broad perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, Arctic communities and Indigenous Knowledge holders need to be more fully considered; and, that cross-sectoral support, and the information generated from it, is important for future discussions. It was also noted by many participants that MBAM is unique among other efforts to mainstream biodiversity worldwide, because of its focus on the circumpolar Arctic region.

To advance the MBAM project, the following observations regarding engagement and potential activities were identified:

- A. Engagement of Permanent Participants and Arctic Indigenous Peoples in every aspect of MBAM is necessary for CAFF to be truly successful, rather than approaching this engagement as an isolated step or activity. Working through meaningful partnerships with Permanent Participants, CAFF should develop and implement an approach to facilitate the direct and equitable involvement and input of Indigenous Knowledge holders, representative organizations, and Arctic Indigenous communities about the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining project and any future relevant work.
- B. Consider specific collaborations and/or products that CAFF can start right away.
 - B.1. Map Arctic mining activities, potentially including full lifecycle considerations, and their relationship to biodiversity.
 - B.2. Develop summaries of different types of mining currently taking place in the Arctic, as well as possible future mining activity, and the potential impacts on biodiversity of various approaches and processes related to these operations.

- B.3. Encourage harmonization of existing monitoring and data approaches and implement new opportunities for collection and sharing biodiversity data related to mine planning and operations.
 - B.4. Collate and share good practices and lessons learned.
 - B.5. Develop a community guide that can help residents of Arctic regions considering new or proposed mining activity to make informed decisions, recommendations, or requests related to those mining activities and processes.
- C. Conduct new outreach and engagement to inform people about the MBAM project, disseminate products when developed, and invite more partners to contribute.
 - D. Incorporate other potential project ideas based on organizational, national, or other priorities from CAFF members.

Background

CAFF's *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* included recommendations recognizing the important contributions that external partners, including industry, non-Arctic states, regional and local authorities, and others, could make towards the conservation of Arctic species and habitats in pursuit of sustainable development across the region (CAFF 2013).

Recommendation #4 of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment reads as follows: *“Require the incorporation of biodiversity objectives and provisions into all Arctic Council work and encourage the same for on-going and future international standards, agreements, plans, operations and/or other tools specific to development in the Arctic. This should include, but not be restricted to, oil and gas development, shipping, fishing, tourism and mining.”* While the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment acknowledged that multiple industries were active in the Arctic, CAFF chose to begin with a focus on the mining sector given the growing significance of this industry across the circumpolar region and its relevance to Arctic biodiversity.

The results of Phase 1 of the MBAM project are summarized in an earlier CAFF report, *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining: Challenges and Proposed Solutions* (CAFF 2019). The report identified nine general near-term actions where CAFF could contribute. These actions provided the starting point for the MBAM Steering Committee, led by Canada, Sweden, and the U.S., to develop this progress report.

Engagement

CAFF's ability to engage with experts was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This MBAM progress report was consequently developed with extensive input through (A) virtual panels, (B) online feedback, and (C) one-on-one discussions/interviews by videoconference.

- A. Virtual Panels – The facilitated panel discussions included both single-sector (government, industry, biodiversity) and cross-sectoral panels, and involved more than 50 experts and audience members offering rich feedback and advice on the MBAM project. One Permanent Participant organization provided commentary in the cross-sectoral discussion.
- B. Online Feedback – In total, more than 115 individuals completed the online feedback form. Those identifying themselves as government representatives submitted 41 percent of responses, with industry supplying an additional 24 percent. Approximately a third of respondents did not identify with one sector, selecting 'other' instead.
- C. One-on-one Interviews – Building on the virtual panels and online feedback responses, interviews were conducted with selected experts to dig deeper and gather their advice and

comments. The interviews were semi-structured and followed a set list of questions while also allowing interviewees the opportunity to share experiences. They also were invited to provide specific input to highlight opportunities for engagement with CAFF, or to advance common priorities related to MBAM. Interviewees included representatives from the mining industry and government, as well as biodiversity and conservation experts.

The organizations listed below have provided feedback—though not explicit endorsement—on the potential future activities for MBAM report. More information on the process and methodology is available from the CAFF Secretariat and contained in the *MBAM Engagement Report* developed by North Star Group, 2020.

Phase 2 The list below reflects orgs who have participated in one or more aspects of phase 2

Aarhus University	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)	United Nations Environment Program
Alaska Department of Fish & Game	Latitude 66 Cobalt Oy	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Ministry for Ecological Transition, Spain	University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research
Aleut International Association	Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, Iceland	University of Groningen
Alfred Wegener Institute	Ministry of Research and Environment, Greenland	University of Zurich
Anglo American	Ministry of the Environment, Finland	Vitus Energy
Arctic Athabaskan Council	MITECO	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
Arctic Economic Council (AEC)	NANA Regional Corporation	The Wilson Center Polar Institute
Aurora Geosciences Ltd	Natural Resources Canada	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Arctic Program
Baffinland	NatureServe	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Denmark
BOEN-AKR	Nordic Working Group on Biodiversity (NBM)	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Germany
Boliden Mineral AB	North Star Group	
Botnia Exploration Holding AB	Norwegian Environment Agency	
Canadian Wildlife Service	NovaGold	
Commonwealth & Development Office, UK	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	
Copenhagen Business School	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
Czech Geological Research Group (CGRG)	Rio Tinto	
Dene Nation	Saami Council	
DF Dickins Associates, LLC	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	
EDI Environmental Dynamics	SLU Swedish Species Information Centre	
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council	
Fairfields Consulting	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	
GEO BON	Talga Group	
Geological Survey of Finland	Teck Alaska, Red Dog Operations	
Geological Survey of Norway	U.S. Department of the Army	
Government of Greenland	U.S. Department of the Interior	
Greenland School of Minerals and Petroleum	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
Gwich'in Council International	U.S. Geological Survey	
Hokkaido University	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	
Institute of Marine Research		
IntegrityOne, LLC		
International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)		

Engagement of Permanent Participants

While appreciating the excellent input provided by dozens of groups to the MBAM project, the Steering Committee recognizes that additional effort is needed to enhance the equitable engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the MBAM project. As a member of the SC the Inuit Circumpolar Council provided reflections and recommendations from the Inuit perspective that directly informed the potential next steps included in this progress report. These comments are included here in ICC's own words so they will continue to inform the implementation of a process developed with all interested Permanent Participants as discussed in the potential next steps.

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) brings decades of history, leadership, and ongoing participation within international biodiversity forums, and as representatives of over 180,000 Inuit across Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland to all work within CAFF and within the Arctic Council. A crucial element to this work is aiding and working with CAFF in understanding how to apply a holistic approach to understanding the Arctic that includes Inuit understanding of the interconnections between biodiversity and food security, food sovereignty, language, and overall well-being.

Inuit communities bring a body of knowledge of the Arctic amassed from thousands of years of thriving in Inuit Nunaat including resourceful and innovative approaches that are responsive to the Arctic environment. This knowledge, alongside Inuit values and decision-making processes, are embedded in the way Inuit communities continue traditional practices, engage governments, and operate Inuit owned businesses, including those in resource development (ICC AK 2020). ICC supports the advancement of CAFF's work and emphasizes that Indigenous input in the next phase of the MBAM project is crucial because of the implications for food security, food sovereignty and the economic independence of Arctic communities.

While those involved in this project have made efforts to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples and organizations, ICC, as a Permanent Participant, continues to face many challenges. Many of these challenges within this project arise from working within a process that does not support Indigenous world views, values, and knowledge. For example, the Inuit are strongly opposed to the commoditization of wildlife and land resources, which is considered an important aspect of mainstreaming biodiversity to potentially offset the impacts of development (CAFF, Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining: Challenges and Proposed Solutions 2019). Commoditization of these resources is counter to Inuit traditional ways of life which place value on all resources within the Arctic beyond monetary means and numbers.

For the next phase of the project, the following challenges and recommendations need to be shared:

- *Participation of ICC and other Inuit should not be misconstrued as providing concur with recommendations that support the commoditization of wildlife and land resources.*
- *Ensuring meaningful engagement of Permanent throughout all phases of the project, in recognition of the long-term consequences of this project for Indigenous communities – with potential impacts on food security, food sovereignty, the right to participate in economic development (utilizing Inuit values), or other matters impacting Inuit traditional ways of life.*
- *Reducing the risk of polarization of both conservation and development in Arctic communities by ensuring that government, industry, and NGOs work in meaningful*

partnership with Indigenous Peoples, inclusive of their values, knowledge, and world views. This includes support and recognition of Indigenous governance structures and management practices.

- *Involvement of the Permanent Participants in developing and agreeing upon a process that supports the meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples – such as identifying the questions, methodologies, analysis processes, and outputs.*

The next phase of MBAM should include and focus on meaningful engagement of Permanent Participants through the following recommendations:

- *Work with the Permanent Participants to develop and agree upon objectives and activities and methodologies to achieve those objectives before work to move this project forward begins. This includes working with Permanent Participants to agree upon workshop approaches that enhance Indigenous participation and leave room for Indigenous ways of building consensus on recommendations.*
- *Provide adequate time for participants to consult with leadership within their own communities to provide consent on providing views for priorities that guide future CAFF efforts.*
- *Permanent Participant participation should include representation for those working in the conservation and resource development sectors.*

Build the capacity of the project steering committee and leads to enhance understanding and knowledge of the Indigenous cultures represented by Permanent Participants, along with their approaches and perspectives on what is needed to achieve meaningful engagement. Many reports put forward by Inuit provide this type of information. For example, the Inuit Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance report is an important resource with insights from Inuit regarding meaningful engagement.

Next Steps

From the start, the MBAM project has sought to build common ground among the mining industry, government(s), Indigenous Peoples, conservation organizations, biodiversity experts, and Arctic communities. Based on this, proposed next steps for MBAM were developed according to three general criteria: (1) reflect activities where there is strong existing support, (2) align with and deliver on CAFF's mandate and strengths, and (3) avoid duplication with other efforts and achieve innovative and useful results.

As noted in the suggested potential activities section at the start of this progress report, there is a need for CAFF to engage with Permanent Participants to develop and implement future work on MBAM in a way that facilitates the equitable and meaningful involvement of Indigenous People, communities, and Indigenous Knowledge holders. While adjustments may be warranted in the future based on broader conversations regarding Permanent Participant engagement in CAFF activities, the MBAM project could benefit from specific and meaningful collaboration in the near-term.

The potential activities below are presented for CAFF's consideration as ways to sustain and grow the cross-sectoral approach taken throughout the MBAM project. This may include continued workshops, roundtable dialogues, virtual sessions, and other outreach as circumstances allow. This approach would provide new opportunities for building trust and establishing communications among diverse groups while also contributing to the work of collating, assessing, and sharing

information about mainstreaming biodiversity in Arctic mining. These potential activities are therefore not intended to be exhaustive and may be refined or modified.

1. **Map Arctic mining activities, potentially including full lifecycle considerations, and their relationship to biodiversity.** Such a map would provide a circumpolar picture of different types of activities—or potential activities—around the Arctic, related to the mining sector, so that CAFF and outside partners can clearly prioritize where and when to engage. Such a map, or maps, could be used along with other data to identify abandoned or closed mines, existing mining sites, potential new mining areas, data gaps, overlaps or interactions with biodiversity hotspots, culturally important sites, and/or other biodiversity considerations. It could also help identify potential additional goals for outreach.
2. **Develop one or more brief overviews of the different types of mining taking place, or likely to emerge, in the Arctic and potential impacts on biodiversity of various approaches and processes related to these operations.** This could include the full lifecycle of a mining operation, including exploration, ingress/egress, staging, processing, shipping, reclamation, and cumulative impacts. The purpose of this project would be to build a shared understanding of the scope and context of mining in the Arctic and impacts to biodiversity, as well as provide a means to identify leading practices for reducing impacts to biodiversity.
3. **Refine existing approaches and implement new opportunities for collection and sharing biodiversity data related to mine planning and operations.** The Arctic mining map (suggested in B.1 above) could be a first step to identify areas where existing or planned mining activities overlap with or otherwise impact important biodiversity areas (such as protected areas), as well as identify what data may be available from mining companies, regulators, other organizations, or business partnerships to help fill gaps in CAFF's Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS), and provide important new information about Arctic species and habitats. Developing an inventory of metadata available from mining operations also could be a next step toward identifying opportunities to harmonize data collection methods, perhaps in keeping with the ecosystem monitoring plans from CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). This could begin with a pilot project in one or more location(s) as a first step and would include consideration of priority data needs.
4. **Collate and share good practices and lessons learned.** Compiling and vetting good practices and lessons-learned with a cross-sectoral group of experts could assist CAFF in providing relevant and useful information about practices across the Arctic. Topics identified include:
 - 4.1. Mitigating biodiversity impacts from Arctic mining operations, over and above required actions, and monitoring effectiveness.
 - 4.2. Improving understanding of shifts in biodiversity and shifts in other environmental (abiotic) baselines and how they are affected by climate change, as well as how this information can be useful in the context of mainstreaming biodiversity at newly proposed and existing Arctic mines. Managing impact mitigation could also be informed by this (i.e., adaptive management, infrastructure implications, etc.)
 - 4.3. Meaningful and equitable engagement of communities in the identification of relevant and useful information related to biodiversity, food security and other issues of importance related to mining, including potentially co-developing and implementing useful next steps.
 - 4.4. Development of a community guide (or a series of guides) that can be tailored to specific communities to help residents of an area make informed decisions, recommendations, or requests related to Arctic mining activities. This could be developed based on some of the other collaborative products already mentioned above. The effectiveness of such a guide would be contingent on having broader

engagement, especially at the community level, to determine what information would be most useful, and in identifying priority questions or concerns.

5. Conduct ongoing outreach and engagement to inform people about the MBAM project, disseminate products when developed, and invite more partners to contribute.

- 5.1. Continue to share MBAM project information on the CAFF website, with the MBAM email list, and through new public-facing events, e.g. with appropriate venues in Arctic communities and at events such as the Wilson Center, Arctic Circle, Arctic Frontiers, and similar settings.
- 5.2. Present the latest updates on MBAM at conferences and events (panels, presentations, side events, etc.) to share products and invite new participants. This includes, for example, CAFF presenting at mining conferences (e.g., Prospectors and Developers Conference - PDAC), and mining companies presenting at biodiversity-related events (e.g., the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)). CAFF members are encouraged to find opportunities to present the MBAM project to new audiences both internationally and domestically.

6. Incorporate other potential project ideas based on organizational, national, or other priorities from CAFF members.

- 6.1. Summarize legislation and regulatory practices across the Arctic related to mining, highlighting differences and commonalities, with a goal of identifying good practices and new opportunities to mainstream biodiversity.
- 6.2. Recommend that specific focal ecosystem components (FECs) and methods, as identified by CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, be considered as part of mining industry data collection efforts and that this data be shared with CAFF. Other opportunities may exist for cooperative efforts with CBMP as well.
- 6.3. As identified in one of the proposed collaborative products above, CAFF should consider developing a comparison or compilation of approaches on options in the mitigation hierarchy while prioritizing methods for mitigating impacts.

Related Initiatives

CAFF recognizes and embraces the fact that MBAM needs to be informed, and seeks to build on existing work, by organizations and groups already engaged with the mining sector and/or working to advance mainstreaming biodiversity. This will help avoid duplication and serves as a good way of identifying possible new partnerships.

This section identifies examples of efforts related to mainstreaming biodiversity in the mining sector that are being carried out by intergovernmental organizations, national programs, and industry. Many of these efforts have already been highlighted in MBAM. This is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all the activities related to mainstreaming biodiversity in the mining sector, nor should it be construed as endorsement by CAFF, but instead is aimed at providing context to the CAFF Board regarding the range of activities and possible opportunities for further collaboration.

Intergovernmental Organizations

- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three main goals: (1) the conservation of biological diversity, (2) the sustainable use of biological components, and (3) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources (CBD 2020). The Convention has acknowledged the centrality of mainstreaming to achieve the Convention's

post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The framework includes several targets directly related to mainstreaming. Mining, along with energy, was considered at COP 14 in 2018. The outcome was Decision 14/3, which includes references specific to the mining sector. Parties have also requested the development of a Long-Term Approach to Mainstreaming, which was done through an Informal Advisory Group (IAG) composed of 15 parties, 15 organizations, and experts representing all other sectors of society, including business and finance. CBD indicates that these documents will be submitted to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Group on Implementation, presumably in the first half of 2021, and can be viewed at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-03> (SBI/3/13 and its Add.1). In 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in the Energy and Mining Sector (CBD 2018) reflecting a growing need for collaboration between the mining industry and biodiversity advocates.

- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) promotes implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. Related to the mining industry, UNEP works with policy makers to promote the integration of environmental sustainability in the governance of the extractive sector, and with industry to encourage innovation, better business practices and increased biodiversity awareness.
- The 2030 agenda for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by United Nations' member states in 2015, includes 17 goals related to economic, social, and environmental issues. While the overall effort is not focused on mining, linkages between the mining sector and each of the Sustainable Development Goals have been identified (Sonensson et al 2016).
- United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) works with industry and partners in the conservation community to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the extractive sector through the Proteus Partnership (Proteus Partners, 2020). This collaboration with the extractive industry focuses on developing and strengthening biodiversity data and improving the World Database on Protected Areas. This partnership reflects the need for collaboration between the mining industry and global participants to create effective partnerships (Proteus Partners, 2020).
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) works to understand the factors that drive economic, social, and environmental change. One of the 26 topic areas addressed focuses specifically on maintaining biodiversity amid a changing world. OECD has highlighted good examples and remaining challenges in the Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development report (OECD 2018a) and published other reports on Evaluating the Effectiveness of Policy Instruments on Biodiversity (OECD 2018b) and Biodiversity Offsets: Effective Design and Implementation (OECD 2016). In the extractives context, OECD Mining Regions and Cities is a project that develops recommendations for improving regional development outcomes for areas linked to the extractives industries. The initiative develops a toolbox and produces case studies to inform and help regions develop and implement policies and serves as a global platform for these regions through events that foster dialogue and knowledge sharing among governments, industry, and communities. Three global Mining Regions and Cities meetings have been held annually since 2017 (except for 2020, due to Covid-19) with a fourth planned for 2021 in Karratha, Australia. While each meeting has a special focus, the general context is how mining can be a driver of improved regional well-being while also contributing to environmental sustainability.
- Mining and Mineralogy Regions of The European Union (MIREU) is a project to establish a network of mining and metallurgy regions across Europe, to identify ways to ensure the EU

has access to a sustained and sustainable supply of mineral raw materials, and to promote investment, innovation, and growth in this sector (MIREU,2020).

International Industry-led Initiatives

- The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) facilitates business-to-business activities and responsible economic development in the Arctic. The AEC is an independent organization that was created by the Arctic Council during the 2013-2015 Canada chairmanship with a goal to share and advocate for best practices, technological solutions, and standards. It supports market accessibility and provides advice and a business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council. AEC members represent a wide range of businesses operating in the Arctic, including mining and shipping companies, reindeer herders, and Indigenous economic development corporations. This mix of interests across business sectors ensures that the AEC's work is carried out in an inclusive and sustainable manner. AEC's Responsible Resource Development Working Group (RRDWG) is producing a framework for responsible resource exploration and development in the Arctic. AEC published the 2019 report Responsible Mineral Development (AEC, 2019), which identified potential impacts of development and best practices for business conduct balanced with the priorities and concerns of Indigenous residents and communities across the Arctic region. That report focused on five pillars of responsible resource development: (1) Human Capital, (2) Built Infrastructure, (3) Regulatory and Permitting (4) Data Sharing and Accessibility, and (5) Economic Viability. RRDWG's next body of work will expand its focus on energy, including renewable sources, acknowledging that access to energy is critical to the lives of Arctic inhabitants and Arctic energy resources can present positive opportunities for business development, provided that traditional and Indigenous lifestyles and sustainability are recognized and protected.
- European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining is a private sector network established in response to the European Commission's commitment to boost sustainable mining. Network partners include European mining industry associations and national authorities and governmental bodies (The European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining 2020).
- International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) is an international organization dedicated to safe, fair, and sustainable mining and metals industries. ICMM has developed good practice guidance for mining and biodiversity (Good Practice Guide for Mining and Biodiversity, n.d.) and principles related to both sustainable development (ICMM, 2020a) and managing biodiversity (ICMM,2020b). In 2003, ICMM began a formal relationship with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to improve sustainable development performance throughout the mining industry. Together, they conducted a biodiversity performance review (IUCN, 2020). ICMM members support the efforts of the Convention on Biological Diversity to mainstream biodiversity values across the mining industry and to establish a post 2020 global biodiversity framework which can enable society to reach the CBD's 2050 vision. Such a commitment is part of ICMM membership requirements and progress is demonstrated through ICMM's site-level validation and reporting process. To contribute to conservation biodiversity, ICMM members have pledged to design and operate their mines in a manner which does not compromise the biodiversity value of any protected area and to implement the mitigation hierarchy with the goal of achieving no net loss of biodiversity.
- SveMin, the Swedish mining industry association, published the Mining in Nature road map report in 2020 to serve as a guide for the international mining community to preserve and

develop biological diversity. The road map proposes a target of a biodiversity net gain by 2030 and offers recommendations for how this target can be achieved. (SveMin, 2020)

National-level Programs

- Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP, 2020a) was launched by the Canadian Government in August 2017 to lay the foundation for lasting success both domestically and internationally. CMMP was developed in collaboration with industry, Indigenous Peoples, innovators, and other stakeholders. It includes a series of Strategic Directions, such as “The Environment,” which recognizes that strong economic and environmental performance requires efforts to reduce mining’s footprint and the loss of habitat and biodiversity. The Strategic Direction on “Increasing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples” in the sector includes land access and land use, as well as the importance of using local knowledge to reduce risks associated with mineral exploration and to support solutions to mitigate the social and environmental impacts of development. Action Plan 2020 was released to introduce pan-Canadian initiatives to operationalize the CMMP (Action Plan 2020b). Subsequent Action Plans will be released in 2021, 2022 and every three years thereafter.
- Mining Association of Canada (MAC) has been the Canadian mining industry’s national voice since 1935 (MAC, 2020). Working alongside its members, MAC promotes the industry nationally and internationally, works with governments on policies affecting the mining sector, and educates the public on the mining industry’s value to the Canadian economy and daily life. The Towards Sustainable Mining initiative focuses specifically on developing tools and indicators to account for sustainable mineral development. Within this initiative, three indicators have been developed that set biodiversity expectations for Canada’s mining industry (TSM, 2019, Biodiversity Conservation Management Protocol, 2019, Biodiversity Conservation Management Framework, 2019)
- Finnish Sustainable Mining Network is a forum for discussion and cooperation between the mining industry and its stakeholders in Finland which promotes more responsible and sustainable mining. The network published the Finnish Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Standard including protocols covering the entire lifecycle of mining operations. (Finnish Mining Network, 2020)
- Sweden’s Minerals Strategy (2013) is a framework for the sustainable use of Sweden’s mineral assets. The Minerals Strategy includes five strategic objectives and 11 action areas, each containing specific recommendations (Sweden’s Minerals Strategy, 2013).

Conclusion

The MBAM project connects directly to the Arctic Council’s core mission of pursuing opportunities to advance sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. MBAM also connects directly to CAFF’s mandate, which includes providing “a mechanism to develop common responses on issues of importance for the Arctic ecosystem such as development and economic pressures, conservation opportunities and political commitments.”

There is broad support for CAFF to continue the MBAM project, with recognition that while there are other efforts that relate to mainstreaming biodiversity in mining operations, CAFF brings a unique cross-sectoral approach and that work in this area is the only such effort with a focus on the circumpolar Arctic. The potential future activities outlined in this document are informed by cross-sectoral input, with further work needed to meaningfully engage with Permanent Participants including the direct involvement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and communities in the project going

forward. It is in CAFF's interest to consider this plan and how it might be useful in advancing cooperation and partnerships to implement the proposed activities.

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