

CAFF

Summary of Presentation to Senior Arctic Officials

Tromsø, Norway

12-13 April 2007

(refer to CAFF Progress Report for details)

Follow-up of Salekhard Declaration

(bullets are in order of the text in the Declaration)

Climate Change and ACIA Follow-up:

- CAFF continues active efforts to implement the ACIA recommendations on mitigation, adaptation, research, monitoring and outreach through the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). (*Presentation of CBMP Flow Diagram*).
- Community-based monitoring through the CBMP is being implemented to gather and compile indigenous and local knowledge of the effects of climate change. Traditional knowledge will also be incorporated into the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment.
- Indigenous communities rely on biodiversity (healthy ecosystems) for social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Primarily through the CBMP but also with other specific projects on the CAFF Work Plan, CAFF is working on assisting in enhancement of capacity of indigenous and other Arctic residents to adapt to environmental, economic and social changes, and enable them to benefit from the results of scientific research. Recognizing the importance of the data CAFF is accumulating, CAFF is putting emphasis on communications, education and outreach through reports, and the latest in internet technologies.
- In regard to an Arctic observing network, CAFF has offered to work with AMAP and has offered the CBMP as the biodiversity component of an Arctic observing network.

IPY

- CAFF has endorsed several projects being submitted for funding under IPY. The CBMP is CAFF's primary program for cooperation with IPY projects. IPY funding from Canada has been awarded to two existing and two potential networks under the CBMP. Three IPY projects related to the CBMP have now been submitted for possible NSF funding. A complete list of all funded IPY projects linked to CAFF and the CBMP will be listed in the 2007 CBMP Annual Report.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

- As requested by SAOs, member states are continuing support of the CBMP for the long-term monitoring of Arctic biodiversity and ecosystems.
- SAOs endorsed the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, and requested CAFF to deliver a detailed Work Plan, including identification of lead countries, and funding strategy for Spring 2007. *A Work Plan and Financial Strategy have been completed. However, this document requires final CAFF Board review before submission to SAOs. Once SAOs have reviewed this document, CAFF requests decision on lead countries for this Assessment, so that work may proceed.*
- CAFF is working to strengthen cooperation with international organizations. Cooperation has been established with IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, and is working on cooperation with the oil and gas industry through IPIECA, and AEWa.

Recently or soon to be finalized projects

- 1) An international CBMP workshop was organized in Anchorage in November 2006 where over 100 participants helped in the development of a draft Implementation Plan (CAFF Work Plan Item: 3.7). *A draft Implementation Plan Overview Document is being presented to the Senior Arctic Officials for this meeting (information only – no SAO decision needed).*
- 2) The Arctic Marine Mammal Workshop for Ringed Seals and Beluga Whales was conducted 4-6 March in Spain (CAFF Work Plan Item: 5.7). Discussions on developing circumpolar monitoring strategies are proceeding.
- 3) RAIPON will hold the Sacred Sites Workshop in Salekhard 6-7 April 2007 (Work Plan Item 2.4). This is in follow-up to the Sacred Sites report of 2004. The Swedish National Representative from the CAFF Management Board is attending on behalf of CAFF.
- 4) CBird conducted its 13th annual meeting 28 Feb-3 March 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden. A progress report from this CBird meeting will be posted on the CAFF Website in April (CAFF Work Plan Item: 5.2).
- 5) The Flora Group meeting is scheduled for 15-18 May 2007 in Torshavn, Faroe Islands (CAFF Work Plan Item: 5.3).
- 6) CAFF and AMAP are now preparing a *Green Paper* which takes the process of harmonizing monitoring between the two Working Groups to the next level (CAFF Work Plan Item: 3.9).
- 7) Regarding the 2010 ABA, a work plan and financial strategy have been completed, and will be submitted for endorsement by the SAOs, after final CAFF Board review (CAFF Work Plan Item: 3.8).
- 8) Pan Arctic Checklist of Lichens has been completed and posted on the CAFF website (CAFF Work Plan Item: 3.4).
- 9) Links to the Red Lists of endangered plant species for each of the CAFF countries are now being put up on the new CAFF website (Work Plan item 1.5).

Expected deliverables to the next Ministerial

- 1) 2007 CBMP Annual Report
- 2) 2008 CBMP Annual Report
- 3) Status report on the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment
- 4) Status report, annual report or other resulting from joint CAFF/AMAP cooperation on monitoring.
- 5) 5-7 deliverables from CBird Expert Group
- 6) 2-4 deliverables from Flora Expert Group

Special issues where directions from the SAOs are required

- 1) CAFF requests SAOs to assist with identification of lead country for CPAN (Circumpolar Protected Area Network Expert Group of CAFF), so that CPAN work can resume in support of the CBMP, integrated oceans management, and the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (CAFF Work Plan Item: 2.2).
- 2) CAFF requests SAOs to assist with funding the boreal vegetation mapping project supported in the SAO Report to Ministers 2006 and the Reykjavik Declaration 2004 (CAFF Work Plan Item: 2.3). This mapping project did not receive funding through the Nordic Council of Ministers in Dec 2006. All life forms depend on vegetation, and information on vegetation changes is fundamental to understanding how ecosystems are being affected by climate change.
- 3) As requested by the SAOs in Salekhard, the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Work Plan and Financial Strategy have been completed, but have to undergo final CAFF Board review before submission to SAOs. Once this document is received by, and has been reviewed by the SAOs, CAFF requests decision on lead countries for the 2010 ABA. Finland has offered to co-lead conditional upon other countries also co-leading.