

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA CAFF

WORK PLAN 2002 – 2004

I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan for 2002-04 specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic Council members states to be undertaken during the period in cooperation with Permanent Participants, Arctic Council Observers, and other interested parties. The CAFF Work Plan 2002-2004 follows the format of and represents steps toward implementing the strategic document, “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation”, which has been submitted for endorsement at the Third Arctic Council ministerial meeting in October 2002. Work Plan items are carried out in a cooperative fashion under the leadership of an assigned lead country or countries. Work Plan items will be implemented by CAFF X, unless an earlier date is provided.

CAFF recognises the need for capacity building in the Arctic region, where rapid changes in globalisation, climate change, transitional economies, and growing pressures on ecological and culture resources require the development and application of new approaches and new solutions. In implementing its work plan, the CAFF program will make efforts to actively contribute to advancing the capacity building agenda of the Arctic Council. CAFF will also enhance efforts to communicate its work and the results of CAFF projects to ensure that communities, regional organisations, national audiences and international organisations are aware of CAFF’s work, and the contribution of these efforts to the well being of Arctic residents and the conservation of Arctic flora and fauna.

II. WORK PLAN

1. Conserving Arctic Species

Flora

- 1.1 Complete and distribute the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map. *Lead: US.*
- 1.2 Initiate a checklist of Arctic lichens and bryophytes as an essential first step to the assessment of rare taxa. *Lead: Iceland.*
- 1.3 Complete the Panarctic Flora Checklist, and initiate a revised Atlas of Rare Vascular Plants of the Arctic, based on the checklist. *Lead: Norway.*
- 1.4 Review report on the monitoring of local flora (presence and abundance) in Russia, including evaluating its circumpolar application. *Lead: US and Russia.*

- 1.5 Subject to funding, plan and host in Greenland a second International Workshop on the Classification of Arctic Vegetation. *Lead: Greenland with assistance of US.*
- 1.6 Scope process to gather and incorporate traditional knowledge pertaining to the use and conservation of arctic plants. *Lead: US and Permanent Participants.*
- 1.7 Hold CAFF Flora Group Workshop in 2003 to assemble experts and distribute information on ongoing activities. *Lead: US.*

Fauna

- 1.8 Complete a CAFF Technical Report on Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern, including identifying their migration routes and wintering areas and applicable conservation instruments. *Lead: US in cooperation with UNEP/WCMC and Wetlands International.*
- 1.9 Report on seabird gillnet bycatch initiatives, and complete a review on this issue. *Lead: US and Canada.*
- 1.10 Update CAFF Technical Report No. 5, Seabird Harvest Regimes in Circumpolar Nations, for CAFF X. *Lead: US.*
- 1.11 Continue implementing applicable action items in the “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan”. *Lead: Canada and US.*
- 1.12 Continue to develop a framework for a circumpolar seabird monitoring network. *Lead: US and Iceland.*

2. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats

- 2.1. By 2003, complete country updates on recent protected area establishment, management and legislative initiatives. *Lead: Canada.*
- 2.2. Organize a workshop to discuss the ecological value of protecting large unfragmented areas and prepare proceedings. *Lead: Canada*
- 2.3. For 2003, prepare a proposal for a workshop to assemble existing data sets and identify additional data needs for a Compendium of Ecologically Important Marine Areas. *Lead: US.*
- 2.4. Analyse regional and international agreements and evaluate their potential to contribute to CAFF’s protected areas initiatives by CAFF X. *Lead: US and Finland.*
- 2.5. Organize a circumpolar workshop and prepare a technical report on outcomes and recommendations on the Indigenous Sacred Sites project. *Lead: RAIPON and Russia.*
- 2.6. Complete detailed project planning and begin implementation of the main phase of ECORA, subject to confirmation of funds from the Global Environmental Facility. *Lead: Russia, Norway and UNEP GRID-Arendal.*

3. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

- 3.1. Develop a framework for a circumpolar biodiversity monitoring program, which includes community-based monitoring, and seek the resources required for implementation. *Lead: Iceland and Permanent Participants.*
- 3.2. Co-ordinate the CAFF biodiversity monitoring program with the AMAP contaminants monitoring program and other global monitoring initiatives to support ACIA and other assessments. *Lead: US and Iceland.*

4. Global Issues

- 4.1 Through the ACIA Assessment Steering Committee, continue to coordinate the development and review of the ACIA scientific report and overview. *Lead: Norway and Canada.*
- 4.2 In cooperation with AMAP, lead in the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document group. *Lead: US.*

5. Engaging Society

- 5.1 Develop a brochure and poster based on the publication “Protected Areas of the Arctic: Conserving a Full Range of Values”. *Lead: Canada, US, and WWF.*