



Arctic Council SAO plenary meeting
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CAFF Progress Report to SAOs, Hveragerdi, Iceland, November 2019

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The CAFF mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021

CAFF is focused on implementing the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment** (ABA) and, as requested, conducted an evaluation of progress for the Arctic Council Ministerial in May.

The **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity** guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues. The plan ends in 2021 and the focus for this final implementation period is on completing projects, implementing strategies and plans developed in early phases, evaluating progress, and designing follow-up.

Focus will continue on ongoing actions from phases 1-3

of the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity**, which include: mainstreaming biodiversity; ecosystem services; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, protecting migratory species, addressing invasive species and pollution; indicator development; safeguarding biodiversity under changing conditions; improving knowledge and public awareness, including by contributing to the CBD Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, and starting organisation for the third Arctic Biodiversity Congress.

A key focus of the Swedish Chairmanship of CAFF is developing the Action Plan that will come after this current plan expires in 2021.

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The CBMP, CAFF's cornerstone program, is an international network of scientists, government agencies, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources.

CBMP efforts are organized around the Arctic's major ecosystems (marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal) with key actions including: indicator development; data aggregation and rescue; identification of knowledge and monitoring gaps; development and implementation of coordinated monitoring plans; and reporting of status and trends.

The CBMP continues to work to improve involvement of Arctic Indigenous organizations and Traditional Knowledge holders within its networks including implementing a platform for the co-production of knowledge through the CBMP Coastal Group.

Marine

- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity:** completed
- Implementation of **Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Freshwater

- **State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report:** completed
- Implementation of **Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Terrestrial

- **State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- Implementation of **Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Coastal

- **Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** completed and implementation underway

Indices & indicators

- Land Cover Change Index: completed
- Protected Areas: 2020 update ongoing

www.cbmp.is

The CBMP Strategic Plan (2018-2021) contains 4 goals & 19 objectives. 97 actions are identified to serve as metrics for measuring effectiveness towards achievement of these goals and objectives. A progress report on status of implementation was delivered to the May Ministerial.

Resilience of Wetlands

- Phase 2 underway with a report on indigenous participation in wetland protected areas completed.

ARIAS

- Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Project Steering Committee moving forward on implementation.

ArcticFire

- Arctic Wildland Fire Ecology Mapping and Monitoring Project (Arctic FIRE) Project Steering Committee convened.

Salmon Peoples of Arctic rivers

- Phase 1 development of an assessment of "salmon peoples" based on Traditional Knowledge underway.

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Focus is on implementation of AMBI workplan and cooperation with Observers to ensure implementation
- Observer engagement with over 20 countries

www.caff.is/ambi

Cross-cutting activities

CAFF works closely with the various Arctic Council Working Groups and Task Forces to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g., with PAME on marine protected areas and invasive alien species, and with AMAP on scoping for an assessment on climate change impacts in the Arctic.

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Mark Marissink, Sweden

2019- 2021 Chair: Sweden

May 2019

Sweden
CBMP Terrestrial
Arctic Business Forum

June 2019

Sweden
CBMP Freshwater
Sweden
CAFF Mining

Sept 2019

Sweden
CAFF Board
CBMP
INTERACT

Oct 2019

Iceland
Arctic Circle
Arctic Youth eco-Forum
Panama
AMBI
Sweden
CBMP Freshwater

Nov 2019

India
Migratory Waterbirds conference
Greenland
CBMP Coastal
CBMP Marine
Columbia
OBIS biodiversity data

Dec 2019

Canada
ArcticNet

Feb 2019

India
UN CMS COP

Cooperation

AMAP

- Scoping on potential assessment on climate change impacts
- Sustained Arctic Observation Networks
- Monitoring marine plastics

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Framework
- Invasive Alien species
- Marine litter

SDWG

- Resilience of Arctic wetlands
- Mainstreaming: mining

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group

- Strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

In addition, CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Convention on Migratory Species
- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network

- Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- United Nations Environment Programme
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International
- International Arctic Science Committee
- International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

Youth and Education

Educational kits to communicate information to school children in the Arctic (10-11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. Available in: Russian, Inuktitut, Icelandic, Finnish, Inari Saami and Northern Saami, French. Seeking additional translations. Funding sought to develop further toolkits: www.arcticbiodiversity.is/education.

Arctic youth exchange: working to more effectively engage youth in sharing their perspectives, learning about leadership roles related to Arctic issues and ways to advance conservation of natural and cultural heritage in their communities across the Arctic.

CAFF IASC Fellowship: Two early career fellows will follow CBMP and AMBI in 2020 to follow the process of taking research results through to policy recommendations.

Inspiring Arctic youth strategy under implementation including Youth session(s) at Arctic Circle and support to development of Arctic Youth Network.

Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- Website development and management
- Data management
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Graphics development
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitates access to and archiving of data

www.abds.is

Communication and Outreach



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna www.caff.is

Arctic Biodiversity Data Service www.abds.is

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment www.arcticbiodiversity.is

State of Arctic Biodiversity Reports:

- *Marine* www.arcticbiodiversity.is/marine
- *Freshwater* www.arcticbiodiversity.is/freshwater