

CAFF PROGRESS REPORT
SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS MEETING



Acknowledgements

The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) is the biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council.

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- Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Reykjavik, Iceland
- The Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment, Greenland
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

CAFF Permanent Participant Organisations:

- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Conference - (ICC) Greenland, Alaska and Canada
- Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council

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— CAFF Designated Area

Progress Report Arctic Council

Senior Arctic Officials

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1. Response to Arctic Council Priorities

“For us, so-called subsistence activity is far more than subsistence. Hunting is more than food on the table. It is a fundamental part of who we are.”

Labrador Inuit Association - Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 .

The Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna Working Group (CAFF) is the Biodiversity Working group of the Arctic Council. It is guided by the CAFF Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity and biennial Work Plans. CAFF’s mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate the findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic’s living resources. This document summarizes the current status of CAFF projects and activities since the last SAO meeting held in Ilulissat in April 2010.

In order to successfully conserve the natural environment and allow for economic development baseline data and status and trend analyses of Arctic biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health are required. CAFF’s projects provide data for informed decision making in resolving conflicts which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth.

The common priorities agreed upon for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Chairmanship period of the Arctic Council are concerned with climate change, integrated resource management, the International Polar Year, Indigenous peoples, local living conditions and

management issues. The Danish/Greenlandic/Faroe Chairmanship has added biodiversity to this list.

CAFF’s work reflects the emphasis placed on these priorities e.g. with a focus on outreach/communication, Arctic Council efficiency, working group cooperation, data integration, spatial information, circumpolar datasets and analyses.

CAFF’s Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP), the Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN), ECORA, the work of CAFF’s expert groups and CAFF projects are important contributions towards understanding:

- The impacts of climate change on nature and biodiversity (management and science issues).
- Adaption to climate change and consequences thereof for sustainable use of living resources in the Arctic.

CAFF has placed a strong focus on the International Polar Year (IPY) both through benefiting from IPY generated research and contributing to IPY legacy. As requested by the Senior Arctic Officials CAFF is actively cooperating with other Working Groups to help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council.



Mark Marissink

1.1 Arctic Climate & Impact Assessment (ACIA) - followup

CAFF's 2009 – 2011 Work Plan places a strong focus on climate change and building upon the recommendations contained in the *Arctic Climate and Impact Assessment* (ACIA 2004). The ACIA and CAFF's *Flora & Fauna: Status and Conservation* (2002) reports both indicated that it was necessary to consider the status and trends of biodiversity in the Arctic. ACIA called for improved capacity to monitor and understand changes in the Arctic and to improve and strengthen long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (www.caff.is/aba) and the

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (www.cbmp.is) are two of the primary vehicles via which CAFF is responding to these calls.

CAFF remains prepared to contribute to the activities of the other Arctic Council Working Groups. CAFF will work on additional aspects of ACIA follow-up. An analysis led by Iceland is being conducted to assess how CAFF has responded to the biodiversity relevant recommendations from ACIA. CAFF is also participating in the Steering Committee for the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process.

1.2 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

The purpose of the ABA is to:

Synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic.

It will provide a much needed description of the current state of the Arctic's ecosystems and biodiversity, create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments of Arctic biodiversity and a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work. It will provide up to date scientific and traditional ecological knowledge, identify gaps in the data record, identify key mechanisms driving change and produce recommendations.

Activities

The ABA is being produced in three phases. Phase 1 was completed with the release of the *Arctic biodiversity trends – 2010: selected indicators of change* report. This report was launched in conjunction with the Arctic Council Deputy Ministers meeting in Copenhagen on May 27th 2010 and during the IPY Science conference in Oslo, June 2010. In conjunction with the reports launch a portal dedicated to the report was opened - www.arcticbiodiversity.is.

The report is aimed at a broad audience including governments and residents of the Arctic. It is the Arctic Council's contribution to:

- The United Nations 2010 Biodiversity Target
- The International Biodiversity Year in 2010
- Towards measuring the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

- The CBD's third Global Biodiversity Outlook report.

At the previous SAO meeting the Senior Arctic Officials stressed the importance of follow-up on the key findings of the report. In response a number of projects have been initiated e.g. sea ice ecosystems and biodiversity (*see items 3.2 and 3.6*).

Phase 2 is a full scientific Arctic Biodiversity Assessment scheduled to be completed in 2013. Phase 3 will consist of a policy recommendations document to be completed in 2013.

Administration

The ABA is led by Canada, Finland, Greenland, Sweden and the United States. Greenland is the current Chair of the ABA Steering Committee. The Chair rotates and next in line to take the Chair will be Finland in 2011. Members include each of the lead countries and also UNEP GRID Arendal and UNEP WCMC, the Gwich'in Council International, the Arctic Athabaskan Council and the CAFF Secretariat. Its Chief Scientist is provided by Greenland/Denmark.

The ABA has received direct funding from each of the lead countries, the Nordic Council of Ministers and UNEP GRID Arendal. In-kind support is being received from all CAFF Countries, Permanent Participants and Observers. Greenland/Denmark has provided the Chief Scientist for the assessment. Its team of lead and co-lead authors are drawn from all the Arctic Council countries.

1.3 The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)



The CBMP is an international network of scientists and local resource users working together to enhance Arctic biodiversity monitoring to improve detection, understanding and reporting of important trends in biodiversity and to inform management decisions. The CBMP has over 60 global partners, 33 of which are Arctic biodiversity monitoring networks operating and linked to the CBMP. Many of these networks have received substantial support from the International Polar Year.

The program takes an ecosystem-based management approach, operating as a network of networks, coordinating existing species, habitat and site-based networks. A series of Expert Monitoring Groups are being activated, each dealing with one of the Arctic's major systems (Marine, Coastal, Freshwater, Terrestrial). These will serve as an umbrella mechanism for coordinating existing biodiversity monitoring activity in the Arctic. Each Expert Monitoring Group is tasked with developing long-term integrated monitoring plans.

Two out of the planned Expert Monitoring Groups have been formed:

- Marine –led by Norway and the US
- Freshwater – led by Canada and Sweden
- Terrestrial - The Kingdom of Denmark has agreed to co-lead and another co-lead country is being sought.

Also convened is a focus group which is developing a protected areas monitoring framework. A community monitoring guidance group will also be activated. In support of the Expert Monitoring Groups and their circumpolar monitoring plans, Seabird and Marine Mammal monitoring frameworks have been developed and the CBMP is currently working with partners to develop an Arctic Polar Bear Research and Monitoring Framework. The CBMP is also developing coordinated reporting and outreach tools including a suite of arctic biodiversity indicators and indices as well as a web-based data management and mapping tool (data portal) for biodiversity data.

Activities

The period since the last SAO meeting in Copenhagen in March 2010 has been an active and productive time for the CBMP. It has accomplished many important tasks and embarked upon a number of exciting projects which will be of critical importance in enhancing our understanding of the status and trends of Arctic Biodiversity.

- The Marine expert monitoring group is led by Norway

and the US with members from Russia, Greenland/Denmark Iceland, Canada, the Aleut International Association, PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) and AMAP. A background paper on Marine Monitoring in the Arctic has been published. A Marine Monitoring Plan has been developed and at this Arctic Council meeting the Senior Arctic Officials are being asked to review the Monitoring plan intercessionally.

- The Freshwater expert monitoring group is led by Sweden and Canada with members from Norway, Iceland, Russia, the Gwich'in Council International, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, and Wetlands International as an expert observer. A background Paper is in development and the first International Workshop is scheduled to be held in Sweden in November 2010.
- A Pan-Arctic Protected Areas Monitoring Plan is under development. A focus group has been organised with members from each CAFF country and including The Gwich'in Council International and UNEP-WCMC as an observer. The group is currently developing a background paper and a workshop, hosted by the US and Canada, is scheduled to be held in Anchorage, in January 2010.
- As part of the community based monitoring strategy a Community-based Monitoring Handbook has been developed and presented to the SAOs at this meeting. The Handbook will facilitate the development and promotion of community-based monitoring techniques for Arctic biodiversity monitoring programs.
- A prototype web-based data portal has been developed (The Seabird Information Network) for managing and depicting a diversity of arctic biodiversity data. The portal serves as a focal point for current information on biological resources and trends throughout the Arctic. The Seabird Information network is undergoing further development with new



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analytical tools being developed and further national seabird datasets being incorporated. The priorities for the coming year include:

- Development of data node & analysis tools to support expert networks within the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan
- Seabird colony registry
- Population index development
- Case study of serving national needs started in Canada.
- The biodiversity portal is currently being expanded to include wild caribou/reindeer population trend data as well as shorebird trend data and data layers from NASA.
- Polar bear monitoring: The US Marine Mammal Commission has provided funding to develop a Polar Bear Research and Monitoring Framework. This is being conducted in cooperation with the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group.
- The Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI www.asti.is) is being further developed with a new release planned for early 2011.
- The Arctic Report Cards are being further developed. The CBMP serves as the editor for the biological components. This a collaboration between CAFF, AMAP and The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Report Cards are a means of presenting clear, reliable and concise information on recent observations of environmental conditions in the Arctic, relative to historical time series records.

Recently published report cards focused on State of Wild Reindeer Herds, Marine Mammals, Murres, Fisheries in the Bering Sea and the status of the Barents Sea Ecosystem

- The next edition of the Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey for 2010 is under development

The CBMP will continue to focus upon further development of its biodiversity indicators, of its web-based data portal and activation of its Expert Monitoring Groups. The technical framework for the CBMP will be further enhanced through the creation of data management platforms (CBMP web-based data portal and Polar Data Catalogue), pan-arctic biodiversity indicator datasets (e.g. Arctic Species Trend Index) and implementation of the CBMP's integrated monitoring plans and frameworks. The CBMP is also a partner of the global 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

Administration

Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to lead the CBMP and fund the programme office located in Whitehorse, Canada - until 2013 when a new lead country will take over. The program has received funding from multiple sources in Canada, the United States, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the European Union, the European Commission and UNEP. In-kind support is currently received from all CAFF Countries, Permanent Participants and Observers (e.g. UNEP WCMC).

Recent and upcoming workshops and meetings:

- Arctic Environment Ministers meeting held in Ilulissat, Greenland in June 2010

- A Freshwater Expert Monitoring Group Workshop is being held in Sweden in November 2010.
- A workshop to develop a Pan-Arctic Protected Areas Monitoring plan is scheduled to be held in January 2011 in Anchorage.
- A Marine Expert Monitoring Group workshop is scheduled for February 2011 (location to be confirmed).
- A Protected Areas workshop hosted by the US and Canada, is scheduled to be held in Anchorage, in January 2010.

Communication and Outreach

The CBMP will continue to focus upon strategic partnership i.e. expanding program capacity in key areas. This involves targeting key organizations in Europe, Russia and North America with the aim of further developing a broad-based consortium for improved Arctic biodiversity monitoring and conservation.

The CBMP has partnered with the GEO-Biodiversity Observation Network group and is now recognized as a regional Biodiversity Observation Network ('Arctic-BON'). Agreement has been made with the Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey (ABBCS) and the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network (CARMA) to cooperate and integrate their data into the CBMP's

web-based data portal. The CBMP, as the biodiversity component of SAON, is serving on the SAON Steering Group

A series of outreach and communication tools and approaches have been created and are being constantly refined e.g. videos, newsletters and targeted outreach. The CBMP made a presentation at the recent Arctic Environment Ministers meeting in Ilulissat in June 2010.

Translations: The CBMP's Five-Year Implementation Plan, Indicators Strategy, Community-based Monitoring Strategy and brochure have been translated into Russian to assist in increasing outreach activities in the Russian Federation.

Recent and upcoming Publications

- Arctic Marine Monitoring Background paper, CAFF CBMP Report No. 16 (December 2009).
- Arctic Species Trend Index, CAFF CBMP Report No. 20 (March 2010).
- Community Monitoring handbook (due for publication in October 2010).
- Arctic Marine Monitoring Plan, CAFF CBMP Report (in development).

The activities of the CBMP have resulted in a wide range of publications. A full list of which can be accessed on the CAFF website - www.caff.is and/or www.cbmp.is.



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2. Foundation work

The following sections outline the progress made in CAFF's various expert groups and projects, each of which contributes to the foundation upon which cornerstone projects such as the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Programme are built.

2.2 Circumpolar flora group

With botanical expertise drawn from Arctic Council and observer countries the CFG promotes, encourages and coordinates internationally the conservation of biodiversity of arctic flora and vegetation, habitats and research activities in these fields. It also works to enhance the exchange of information relating to arctic flora and vegetation and factors affecting status and trends in arctic flora.

Activities

The period since the last SAO meeting has been an active and productive time for the CFG. One of its most important challenges is in working towards the development of the Circumboreal Vegetation Map (www.cbvm.org), the creation of which will mark a significant contribution towards monitoring, research and policy making on the Arctic environment. Recent activities :

- A successful workshop was held in March 2010 in Finland to organize work on the next stage of the CBVM. The workshop was funded by Finland, the Canadian Forestry Service and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).
- The CBVM has been recognized as a working group under the International Association for vegetation science (IAVS).
- The proceedings of the CBVM workshop held in November 2008 have been completed. The workshop and report development was funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Canada
- A checklist of Arctic lichens has been published.
- The Panarctic Flora annotated checklist is in the final stages of development.
- The Panarctic Moss Checklist is in the final stages of development..

2.1 CAFF Expert Groups

CAFF currently has two expert groups: which ensure that scientists, conservationists, and managers interested in arctic flora and fauna have a forum to promote, facilitate, and coordinate conservation, management, and research activities of mutual concern. These groups have been invaluable in synthesizing, coordinating and publishing research.

New projects in development include:

- A Red list for Arctic Vascular Plants
- The development of an Arctic Vegetation database.
- Monitoring of Red list plants

Administration

The US Chairs the Circumpolar Flora Group

Meetings

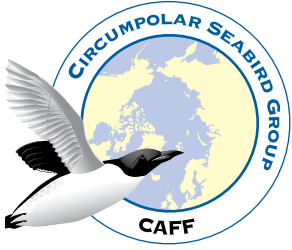
- CBVM Workshop - Prototype Maps of Representative Boreal Regions, January 28-29th, Akureyri, Iceland.
- Arctic Vegetation Database workshop, January 30th, Akureyri, Iceland.
- Workshop focusing on monitoring on Red listed plants, development of a circum-arctic Plant portal and a red list for Arctic Vascular Plants, 31st, Akureyri, Iceland.

Recent and upcoming publications

- A checklist of Arctic lichens. CAFF Technical Report No. 20, July 2010.
- Proceedings of the CBVM workshop, October 2010. CAFF Technical Report No. 21, October 2010.
- Proceedings of 5th International Flora group meeting (*in press*).

The activities of CFG have resulted in a wide range of publications a full list of which can be accessed on the CAFF website - www.caff.is/cfg.

2.3 Circumpolar seabird group



The Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird) facilitates seabird conservation, management and research activities between circumpolar countries, and works to improve communication between seabird scientists

and managers both within and outside the Arctic. Conservation issues include alien predators, habitat alteration, oil pollution and contaminants, seabird bycatch, harvesting, unregulated harvesting and climate change. CBird also promotes the conservation of migratory seabirds outside of the arctic, coordinates the circumpolar seabird monitoring network in addition to developing various seabird initiatives.

During the period since the last SAO meeting has been an active and productive time for CBird. Recent activities have focused on the following:

- Seabird Information Network
- Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database
- A Status and trends of Arctic seabirds chapter for the Arctic Biodiversity trends 2010 report.
- Seabird Chapter for the Arctic Biodiversity Scientific Assessment
- A paper on the decline of the Glaucous Gull
- The creation of an Arctic Report Card on murrens and climate change

The Seabird Information Network is making good progress and the US has committed \$40,000 towards development of the SIN productivity index and the Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database. A successful

Arctic Tern paper was produced and has attracted much attention. CBird has also completed texts on Murrens, Seabird Harvest and Eiders for the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 report.

Administration

CBird was a member of the International Steering Committee for the 1st World Seabird Conference which was held in Canada in September 2010. The Chair of CBird was also the Chair of the International Steering Committee for the World Seabird Conference. Canada is preparing to take over the chair of CBird from the US. During the next year Canada will serve as Incoming Chair and will become Chair at the end of the next CBird meeting

Meetings:

CBird held a very successful meeting in Tofino Canada in September 2010. The report from this meeting will be made available on the CBird website (www.caff.is/cbird). The venue for the next CBird meeting in September 2011 is being discussed.

Recent and upcoming publications

- Tracking of Arctic terns *Sterna paradisaea* reveals longest animal migration - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (January 2010).

The following texts were developed for the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 report:

- Seabirds – murrens (guillemots)
- Seabirds – common eiders
- Seabird harvest

3. Projects

3.1 The Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN)



The BSSN International Community-Based Environmental Observation Alliance for the Arctic Observing Network is an IPY project implemented under CAFF by the Aleut International Association in collaboration with

the University of Alaska, UNEP-GRID Arendal and the

Alaska Native Science Commission. BSSN is funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF). The goal of BSSN is to increase our understanding and knowledge of pan-Arctic processes, enhancing the ability of scientists, Arctic communities, and governments to predict, plan, and respond to environmental changes and their socio-economic effects. The project's pilot stage began in June 2007 and was completed in May 2009.

BSSN provides the means for the systematic collection of information about the environment by six indigenous coastal communities: three in the Russian Federation and three in the United States. Semi-structured interviews are used to gather observations on primary subsistence and commercial species of the Bering Sea. The network provides for the efficient management of the data gathered from community-based environmental observations. Thus far, emerging trends of interest include the difference in observations and perceptions of change in ice-dependent and non ice-dependent communities, as well as in health of species caught in Alaskan versus Russian communities.

The first phase of the BSSN was a pilot to see if such a network was feasible. The second phase has now begun and has received funding from the National Science Foundation. It has been funded for five years and will run from September 1st, 2009 - August 31st, 2014.

Phase 2 entitled - *A Distributed Human Sensor Array*

to Detect Arctic Environmental Change focuses on understanding variations in environmental and socio-economic conditions that have a meaningful impact on everyday life in indigenous communities; the evolution of consequences of change; potential strategies to enhance communities capacity to adapt and interactions and feedbacks between biophysical and social systems, so as to assess how changes in each impact one another.

Recent Activities:

- A final report is being prepared and will published as a CAFF technical report. The report will also be translated into Russian.
- The survey has been revised and now consists of three questionnaires focusing on harvest locations, harvest species, and environmental observations. The surveys will begin in winter of 2010 in Alaska and in Russia.
- A data manager has been hired and a spatial mapping system is being developed.



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3.2 Arctic Sea Ice associated species

It was decided at the CAFF board meeting in Akureyri in October 2009 to explore this emerging issue through the development of a background paper which would address the whole suite of species and not just the top mega fauna. This paper has been completed and its development was led by the US. Canada and the US are leading this project.

This issue emerged from the Arctic Biodiversity 2010 Trends Report where it was identified as one of the indicators to be monitored. It will be further developed with the aim of identifying the state of current knowl-

edge, gaps in information, monitoring priorities, research needs, and emerging issues. It will consider the risk to biodiversity associated with the loss of sea ice i.e. what are the impacts on people of the loss of biodiversity. It is intended to draw on both western science and traditional knowledge. The project will aim to develop a communication tool to inform people about the importance of the sea ice ecosystem in the north.

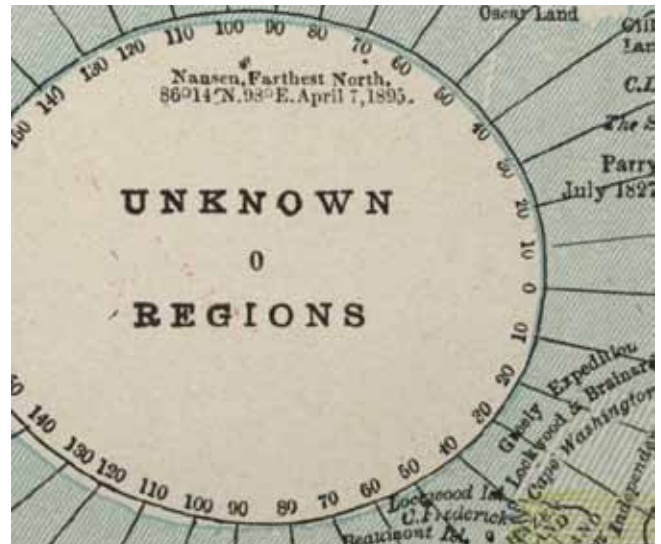
A series of workshops are planned with the first scheduled for Vancouver in February 2011 and the second workshop later in the year in Russia.

3.3 Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

In 2008 CAFF issued a discussion paper on the need for an Arctic SDI. The Nordic Mapping agencies subsequently further developed this concept and encouraged its further development. The Arctic SDI will allow for the creation of a harmonized map covering the entire arctic region. This will facilitate more robust handling and manipulation of data for both research and management purposes.

The Arctic SDI will be developed, maintained and administered by the circumpolar National Mapping Agencies. The mapping agencies will provide the Arctic SDI with the necessary experts, national geographic information and systems to allow the development of the Arctic SDI. The project is being led by Greenland, via CAFF who will facilitate and coordinate the development of the Arctic SDI with the other Arctic Council working groups. CAFF will also supply regular reports to the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council on the status and progress of the Arctic SDI.

All Arctic Council countries have now approved the ASDI project and the planning stage is underway. A kick-off workshop is being held in Brussels on October 14 - 15th 2010 where representatives from each of the Arctic National mapping agencies, and the CAFF Secretariat will be present to plan the coming years activities. At this workshop the project structure, organization and implementation plan will be agreed



upon. The results of the workshop will be released as a CAFF report.

The Arctic SDI will make use of technologies, data and other experiences gathered in ongoing SDI projects. In 2008 a regional SDI - GITBarents - was completed for the Barents Region where Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia created a harmonized interactive map for the Barents Region (www.gitbarents.com). The project is based on global standards for spatial information access and integration e.g. INSPIRE. It is intended to use the GITBarents as the model on which to base the development of the Arctic SDI. The Arctic SDI project is organised in three phases (1) structuring 2011 (2) establishment 2011 -12 (3) operational 2012.

3.4 ArcticData.is

CAFF and PAME are cooperating in the development and management of a web portal /data management

system whereby data collected through CAFF and PAME activities is being made available for download

and access. All other Working Groups have also been invited to participate. The portal can be accessed through www.arcticdata.is.

This is a project which touches upon many of the key themes of the Arctic Council at this time. It focuses on furthering cooperation between the working groups, and relates to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council - by grappling with the issues of access to Arctic Council information and making it more available

3.5 Protected areas in the Arctic

CAFF has updated the protected areas dataset for the Arctic. The first protected areas dataset for the Arctic was created by CAFF in 1994 and most recently updated in 2010. This updated dataset has been submitted as an Arctic component to UNEP WCMCs World Protected Areas Database.

3.6 Marine sensitive areas in the Arctic

CAFF in cooperation with AMAP and SDWG is coordinating the development of the AMSA recommendation II(C) which deals with Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance. This

to the public and scientific communities. It relates to the Arctic Spatial data infrastructure e.g. by providing access to arctic wide spatial datasets which have been developed by the Arctic Council. It provides an active and accessible outreach and communication tool for Arctic Council data both spatial and otherwise.

Through the ArcticData portal CAFF is cooperating with PAME in fulfilling the AMSA recommendation to provide for the necessary AMSA database accessibility.

Iceland is leading a project focusing on those protected areas which have a marine/coastal component. This project will further develop the information on these areas and compile a dataset detailing the nature and extent of the protection afforded.

project is led through CAFF by Canada and Greenland and through AMAP by Norway and the United States. A team of authors and project leads have been appointed and are in the process of finalising the project plan and report outline.

4. Cooperation with other working groups

In Salekhard 2006, Ministers requested Senior Arctic Officials to continue to examine the organization of the Arctic Council and their work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council.

4.1 AMAP

CAFF is cooperating with AMAP in the development of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Process (SAON) – see *item 5.5*. CAFF and AMAP are also cooperating on the organisation and development of the AMSA II(C) project on Arctic marine sensitive areas (see *item 3.6*).

4.2 SDWG

CAFF is exploring the development of cooperation with the SDWG e.g. on the development of a human health index. CAFF also along with SDWG cooperates on the further development of the SAON process and on the AMSA II(c) project on marine sensitive areas (see *item 3.6*).

Bearing this in mind CAFF has been developing cooperation's with other Working Groups which would contribute towards increased efficiency.

4.3 PAME

CAFF's priority is to cooperate with PAME on the AMSA recommendations. The recommendations of relevance to CAFF include (1) Uniformity of Arctic Shipping Governance; (2) Survey of Arctic Indigenous Marine Use; (3) Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance; (4) Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas; (5) Protection from Invasive Species; (6) Addressing Impacts on Marine Mammals. The most pressing is recommendation II(C) – see *item 3.5*. CAFF and PAME are also cooperating on the development of the ArcticData.is project - see *Item 3.4*

5 International Cooperation



CAFF cooperates and communicates with a wide variety of international organisations and conventions. These include:

- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Arctic Parliamentarians (CPAR)
- The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)
- The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- The United Nations Environment Programme Global Resource Information Database (UNEP GRID – Arendal)
- The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Wetlands International
- Working Group of the International Petroleum Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)
- The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)
- The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- The International Polar Year (IPY)

Find below a summary of some recent actions taken with regards to cooperation with international organisations, agreements and conventions.

5.1 Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD)

CAFF has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the CBD. CAFF has contributed to the development and the upcoming third Global Biodiversity Outlook report from the CBD. This synthesis of which contains

a box text on Arctic sea-ice and biodiversity and a subsection on Arctic indigenous languages. CAFF is also holding a side event at the COP10 in Nagoya, Japan on October 28th which will focus on Arctic biodiversity.

5.2 UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID Arendal

CAFF cooperates with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal on the development and data management of the CBMP and a web-based portal. Both organisations are represented on the Steering Committees for the

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme. UNEP Grid Arendal also acted as editor for the *Arctic biodiversity trends – 2010: selected indicators of change* report.

6. Management

6.1 Outreach and communication

A series of brochures and posters have been developed for CAFF projects. A range of communication tools have been developed for CBMP activities. Similarly a wide range of outreach/communication products are being developed in connection with the ABA and the

release of the 2010 ABA report. Focus is also being placed on the continuing development of the CAFF web portals. All CAFF web portals are being restructured into an Arctic Biodiversity portal to allow for easier management, communication and outreach activities.

6.2 Administration

The CAFF International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has a staff of three (1) the Executive Secretary, (2) Executive Assistant (3) Data manager and (4) it is planned to hire a communications officer. The CAFF web system has been updated. Iceland stepped forward to take the Chair from Greenland at the 2009 Ministerial. Russia

has also now taken the position of Vice-Chair of CAFF and will succeed Iceland as Chair after the Ministerial in May 2011.

CAFF has held its three management board meeting under the Icelandic Chairmanship. The most recent being held in Hvalsöllum in September 2010.