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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 has 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.

Key actions in phase 3 of this plan (2017-19) include: safeguarding biodiversity under changing conditions; cumulative effects; and improving knowledge and public awareness, including by contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity assessment on achievement of the

United Nations Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals, and convening the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Focus will continue on ongoing actions from phases 1 and 2 of the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity**, which include: mainstreaming biodiversity; ecosystem services; communications and outreach; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, protecting migratory species, addressing invasive species and pollution; and indicator development.

Many projects have in-kind support from Arctic states and Permanent Participants. Additional support will be requested through grant applications and state contributions.

### 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 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 and Local Knowledge holders within its networks including developing a platform for the co-production of knowledge through the Coastal Expert Monitoring 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:** ongoing
- 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:** ongoing
- Coastal Background Paper and workshop reports published

#### Indices & indicators

- Land Cover Change Index: ongoing
- Protected Areas: 2017 update completed
- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing

[www.cbmp.is](http://www.cbmp.is)

### Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2018

Held October 9-11, 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland

[www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress)

*To facilitate inter-disciplinary discussion, action and status updates on implementation of ABA policy recommendations among scientists, government officials, policy makers, industry representatives, indigenous peoples and more.*

- Program Advisory Committee convened
- Industry Advisory Committee convened
- Seeking keynote speakers
- Exploring additional funding opportunities
- Call for content open, closes March 30
- Registration open, closes September

### ARIAS

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

### Wetlands

- Scoping for Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands project underway

### Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Observer engagement with over 20 countries
- Workplan revision: ongoing
- Flyway coordinators recruited
- Technical workshop planned for 2018 (China)

[www.caff.is/ambi](http://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., input into the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, the Ecosystem Approach, the AACA and work with PAME on marine protected areas and invasive alien species.

## Administration and Meetings

**Current Chair:** Cynthia Jacobson, U.S.

**2019- 2021 Chair:** Sweden

### October 2017

U.S.  
CBMP Marine  
CBMP Coastal  
Iceland  
Arctic Circle  
Youth exchange  
CBMP Freshwater  
Norway  
INTERACT

### Nov. 2017

Iceland  
NAMMCO  
Belgium  
EU Arctic Seminar  
Iceland  
AB Congress: call for content open

### Dec. 2017

Canada  
ArcticNet  
Belgium  
OBIS training

### Jan. 2017

U.S.A.  
EA workshop  
Arctic Youth  
Iceland  
Wetlands  
workshop  
Norway  
CBMP Coastal  
(Scandinavia)

### Feb. 2018

U.S.  
CAFF Board  
Polar Bear Range States  
Canada  
TFAMC  
PAME  
Finland  
AB Congress: site visit

### March 2018

U.K.  
CBird  
Iceland  
AB Congress: call for content close

### April 2018

Finland  
CBMP Freshwater

## Cooperation

Recent cooperation: CAFF/IASC Fellowship, AMBI flyway coordinator hosting multipartner participation on the Arctic Biodiversity Congress Program Advisory Committee and Industry Advisory Committee

### AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic
- International Science conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action

### PAME

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

### 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
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- 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

*\* indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

## 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. Distribution underway and funding sought to develop further toolkits: [www.arcticbiodiversity.is/education](http://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.

**Arctic Youth Summit:** Project Steering Committee guiding the process to organize and host an Arctic Youth Summit from October 5-12, 2018 during the Arctic Biodiversity Congress.

**CAFF IASC Fellowship:** Two early career fellows will track CBMP and AMBI in 2018 to analyse the process of taking research results through to science policy recommendations.

## 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](http://www.abds.is)

## Communication and Outreach



**Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna** [www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)

**Arctic Biodiversity Data Service** [www.abds.is](http://www.abds.is)

**Arctic Biodiversity Assessment** [www.arcticbiodiversity.is](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is)

**Arctic Biodiversity Congress** [www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress)

**State of Arctic Biodiversity Report** [www.arcticbiodiversity.is/marine](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/marine)