

# ACTIONS FOR ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY 2025-2035

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

## CAFF Designated Agencies:

- Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Natural Science Institute of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Ministry of Nature and Environment, Government of Greenland. Kingdom of Denmark
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

## CAFF Permanent Participant Organizations:

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

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— CAFF Designated Area

# ACTIONS FOR ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY 2025-2035

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the Arctic Council Ministers and Permanent Participants approved the Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021-2030 which lays out the Council's Strategic Vision for the Arctic and the Arctic Council in 2030, including that: "The Arctic will be a region where it is firmly established that healthy ecosystems and habitats are of critical importance and the uniqueness and fragility of the Arctic environment is respected by all in the region and beyond." (Arctic Council, 2021).

The Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2025-2035 (AAB 2025-2035) guides the Arctic Council efforts on biodiversity for the coming decade. It sets out four overarching themes and 16 underlying areas to respond to unprecedented changes in the Arctic environment and to fulfill the Arctic Council's Vision.

The AAB 2025-2035 builds on the previous Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2023: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessments and broadly aligns its structure with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while recognizing the unique context of the Arctic. The foundation for the overarching themes and actions is rooted in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (2013) and following work. It is purposefully built around the uniqueness of Arctic biodiversity and the peoples inhabiting this area, specifically Indigenous Peoples and their Knowledge.

The AAB 2025-2035 is a living document, and the actions will be reviewed regularly to respond to current and emerging pressures and conservation priorities.

## PURPOSE

The Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2025-2035 (AAB 2025-2035) provides the long-term strategic framework under which CAFF operates, and it guides Arctic Council work and cooperation on biodiversity loss and conservation. The AAB 2025-2035 outlines themes and actions to address biodiversity conservation in the Arctic for the coming decade.

It fulfills CAFF's mandate "to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources" which closely aligns with the vision of the [Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021-2030](#) and supports achievement of the Arctic Council strategic goals. The AAB 2025-2035 may also provide information for action by states, authorities, and organizations beyond the Arctic Council.

The AAB 2025-2035 builds on the work of the previous Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2023. The AAB 2025-2035 sets the stage for Arctic Council project-level work and collaboration on biodiversity.

## ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Arctic ecosystems – terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, marine, and the interfaces between, are unique and home to a vast array of species. These ecosystems also provide valuable services to Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples inhabiting the Arctic rely on these ecosystems for food and sustenance of their health and ways of life.

Climate change is the key overarching pressure on biodiversity globally but in the Arctic these effects are magnified. As of 2024, according to latest estimates, the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the world, with profound consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems in the Arctic and beyond (AMAP 2025). The Arctic is also subject to other pressures including habitat change, resource development, pollution, and invasive alien species. Arctic biodiversity is not only impacted by effects within the Arctic but also by changes globally, for example, habitat destruction faced by migratory species.

While research and monitoring efforts have increased in recent decades and our knowledge of Arctic biodiversity and its state, pressures and responses has improved, considerable gaps in knowledge and data collection continue to exist. As part of the effort to further understand and address gaps, established and new efforts to strengthen and improve our inclusion and utilization of different knowledge systems, including Indigenous Knowledge, are needed. The AAB 2025-2035 provides a framework to increase our knowledge and thereby our ability to react and implement solutions to mitigate harmful changes.

## HISTORICAL AND STRATEGIC CONTEXTS

The [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment](#) (ABA) was released at the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting in May 2013. The accompanying [ABA Report for Policy Makers](#) outlined nine key findings, and seventeen policy recommendations designed to act on these findings. It is these recommendations which provided the foundation for the first [Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2023: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment](#). The AAB 2013-2023 guided and informed the Arctic Council work on biodiversity, provided a trackable plan for more than a decade and created the foundation for the updated AAB 2025-2035.

The [12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting](#) of the Arctic Council held in Reykjavik, Iceland on May 20, 2021, adopted the [Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021-2030](#). This plan reflected the shared values and joint aspirations of the Arctic States and Permanent Participants to advance sustainable development, environmental protection and good governance in the Arctic, and provided direction for biodiversity-related work. The AAB 2025-2035 has been developed with the Arctic Council Strategic Plan in mind.

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) seminal [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), 4 goals and 22 targets, was adopted at the 15th CBD Conference of the Parties (COP-15) on December 18, 2022, as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).



PHOTO: VLADIMIR / ADOBE STOCK

The development of the AAB 2025-2035 is another important milestone for the Arctic Council and CAFF due to its linkages to the KMGBF. That there exists an Arctic, regional strategy that is mapped to a global framework is valuable in the Arctic Council context. It allows for reporting on implementation of the KMGBF in the Arctic. The alignment to a global context maintains the Arctic identity and integrity while facilitating global understanding of the profound changes underway in Arctic biodiversity, the challenges it faces, and how the Arctic and global contexts are interconnected.

The AAB 2025-2035, following its delivery at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arctic Council in May 2025, will continue to inform the Arctic Council's and CAFF's efforts on biodiversity conservation for the next decade. The projects and initiatives that will deliver on the AAB 2025-2035 will take place on the homelands of Indigenous Peoples, which makes ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Peoples and with Indigenous Knowledge essential in this work (see Box 1).

As stated in the [Ottawa Indigenous Knowledge Principles](#) agreed upon by the Permanent Participants, the inclusion, promotion and use of Indigenous Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council is a collective expression of Arctic Council States in supporting the domestic and international rights, roles, and place of Indigenous Peoples in the circumpolar Arctic. The role of Indigenous Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council has been formally recognized in numerous Ministerial Declarations, including the 1996 Ottawa Declaration on the establishment of the Arctic Council, the Tromsø Declaration (2009) and the Kiruna Declaration (2013) which called for the Arctic Council to recognize that the use of Indigenous Knowledge is "essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic."

The 2021 Reykjavik Declaration recognized "the rights and the special circumstances of Indigenous Peoples and the unique role of the Permanent Participants within the Arctic Council and [noted] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

The Arctic Council's Strategic Plan promotes co-production of knowledge in decision making, recognizes Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives, and is aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Included in the Strategic Plan is Goal 6 on Knowledge and Communications which states that the Arctic Council will generate, collect, analyze and communicate science, Indigenous Knowledge and the knowledge of other Arctic communities.

Recognising the Arctic Council's declarations and agreed upon goals, and taking due note of UNDRIP, the AAB 2025-2035 will contribute to these efforts by

## BOX 1

Reference to "the best available knowledge" should be understood to refer to both science and Indigenous Knowledge as distinct and equally valid knowledge systems. The projects and initiatives of the AAB 2025-2035 can draw upon the working definition of Indigenous Knowledge agreed upon by the Permanent Participants in the Ottawa Indigenous Knowledge Principles:

Indigenous Knowledge is a systematic way of thinking and knowing that is elaborated and applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and linguistic systems. Indigenous Knowledge is owned by the holders of that knowledge, often collectively, and is uniquely expressed and transmitted through indigenous languages. It is a body of knowledge generated through cultural practices, lived experiences including extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has been developed and verified over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation.

For guidance on how to engage ethically and equitably with Indigenous Knowledge, the AAB 2025-2035 will draw upon the CARE Principles as a minimum, but where Permanent Participants have developed their own principles, such as the Saami Council's Sámi Ownership and Data Access (SODA) Principles and the Inuit Circumpolar Council's Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Ethical and Equitable Engagement, these should be applied.

fostering collaboration that respects and promotes the rights, knowledge, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples. This includes enabling the full and effective participation of Permanent Participants and representatives of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation, and evaluation of AAB 2025-2035 activities and actions.

## STRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The AAB 2025-2035 contains four overarching themes:

- Address individual and cumulative effects of stressors and drivers of Arctic biodiversity loss
- Promote sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity
- Advance enabling conditions to support implementation of actions
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for implementation of Actions for the Arctic Biodiversity 2025-2035

Under these themes lie a number of focused intervention areas and under these, specific actions that are reflected in and inform Arctic Council activities that address biodiversity. It is through these actions that the impact of the efforts can be measured, a process designed to align with KMGBF reporting and other relevant biodiversity mechanisms, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The AAB 2025-2035 includes existing actions identified in the AAB 2013-2023, with key updates to be relevant for today and the next decade. Revisions have been made following comprehensive consultation with Arctic States and Permanent Participants, and Observer States and Organizations as well as other Arctic Council Working Groups.

The AAB 2025-2035 is intended to be a living, agile document to adapt to evolving needs and priorities. To maintain relevance, updates and modifications will be made, for example, actions will be removed and new ones added as needed. Evaluation will occur at two-year intervals, aligned with the CAFF Work Plans (i.e., 2025-2027, 2027-2029, etc.), allowing for four periods of assessment and updating until 2035. The AAB 2025-2035 will inform CAFF Work Plans, and activities will be expected to deliver on the strategic framework. An action may be relevant to one or multiple projects or initiatives. This approach will ensure the AAB 2025-2035 has long-term relevance while still being adaptable to shifting priorities.

These evaluations coincide with Arctic Council meetings and declarations, allowing strategic input into processes, alignment of priorities, consideration of resource allocation, and joined up reporting. To ensure continued relevance, the AAB 2025-2035 will also undergo a midterm review in 2030, aligning with the end-term of the Arctic Council 2021-2030 Strategic Plan and the KMGBF's 23 targets for urgent action by 2030.

Implementing the AAB 2025-2035 requires a combination of building on existing, established and proven efforts and embarking on new, innovative pathways that hold promise. Implementation has been built on a solid framework of established CAFF activities and initiatives, including the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) which, through its monitoring and assessment activities, provides a forum for strategic efforts and actions to be implemented and tracked (see Box 2), and the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS). Implementation has additionally been built on relevant initiatives led by other Arctic Council Working Groups.

## BOX 2

CAFF's cornerstone initiative, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) provides a mechanism for advancing knowledge about Arctic biodiversity and its state, pressures and responses. The CBMP is the biodiversity monitoring programme under CAFF and is recognized and endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is the official Arctic Biodiversity Observation Network of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON).

The CBMP works to leverage monitoring activities of networks and establish international linkages to global biodiversity initiatives and links to the long-term monitoring and assessment efforts established by the Arctic Council. The CBMP provides a platform for Arctic national monitoring initiatives to inform policy and decision-making at the global, national, regional, and local levels and improves understanding of Arctic biodiversity.

The ecosystem-based approach in CBMP integrates information across ecosystems, species, and their interactions, and lends itself to monitoring central aspects of Arctic ecosystems called Focal Ecosystem Components (FECs). Changes in FEC status likely indicate changes in the overall environment which CBMP can monitor and track.

The CBMP also emphasizes data management (through the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) ([www.abds.is](http://www.abds.is))), capacity building, reporting, coordination and integration of Arctic monitoring, and communications, education, and outreach.

CBMP organizes its efforts around four (marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal) biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring plans, and is guided by a series of multi-year strategic plans approved by the Arctic Council. The CBMP Strategic Plan: 2022-2027, focuses on how CBMP can continue to be relevant for local, national, regional and international users of data on Arctic biodiversity and also takes a further step on updating long term biodiversity monitoring guidelines considering new technologies and methodologies. Additionally, there is a focus on the CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and other international agreements and indicator development. The CBMP works closely with other international partners including other Arctic Council Working Groups (e.g., AMAP and PAME).

Increased coordination, facilitated by the CBMP, has already resulted in more harmonized and standardized monitoring. Various published CBMP assessments including the State of The Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR) 2017, the State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report (SAFBR) 2019, and the State of The Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (START) 2021 and various updates, showcase progress and impact.

## ACTIONS

The AAB 2025-2035 is a living document and will continue to be developed and updated, with implementation monitored in a tracking tool. The tables below include specific actions to be taken to address the focussed intervention areas (A1-A6, B1-B3, etc.) of the four overarching themes (A-D). Actions that have been completed since the AAB 2013-2023 have been removed. Actions that have not started (in red) have been reviewed and approved during the 2023-2025 update for inclusion into the AAB 2025-2035. Ongoing actions (in green) have been carried over from the AAB 2013-2023 and the tracking tool and have therefore been previously approved but may include minor editorial changes. Ongoing actions (in green) will undergo review and revision during 2025-2027, with potential new actions also to be identified in the process.

## A. ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF STRESSORS AND DRIVERS OF ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Action	Lead WG	ABA recommendation	Action-Plan 2013-2021	AC Strategic Plan 2021-2030	KM GBF target
A1. Enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions to minimize the impact of climate change on Arctic biodiversity					
A 1.1 Addressing short-lived climate forcers		1	1.1	1.4	8
a(i). Follow-up on implementation of BCM Framework	EGBCM				
a(ii). Facilitate projects with a focus on activities that reduce emissions of blackcarbon, methane and other SLCPs, transported and/or deposited in the Arctic	ACAP				
b. Implement existing Arctic Council recommendations on short-lived climate forcers	SAOs	1	1.1b		
e. Prepare scientific assessments on blackcarbon and tropospheric ozone and methane	AMAP	1	1.1e		
f. Follow-up projects on reducing black carbon	ACAP	1	1.1f		
f(i). Arctic Black Carbon Case Studies Platform	ACAP	1	1.1f		
f(iv). Conveninga conference on best practices on contaminant reduction in Indigenous communities	ACAP	1	1.1f		
g. Arctic Wildland Fire Ecology Mapping and Monitoring Project(ArcticFIRE)	CAFF				
A 1.2 Ensure accessibility of science results relevant to maintaining and increasing resilience of biodiversity to climate change through the ABDS and outreach	CAFF	2	2.4	1.3	8
A 1.3 Develop ecosystem models that project ecosystem response to climate change and contaminant-related factors	AMAP	11	11.3		

A 1.4 Assess the combined effects of contaminants and climate change	AMAP	16	16.6		
<b>A2. Contribute to reducing the threats of pollution to Arctic biodiversity</b>					
A 2.1 Provide information necessary for assessment of trends in, among others, contaminant levels in ecosystems, biological effects, and improve predictive capacity (Trends and Effects Monitoring Programme)	AMAP	11	11.1		7
A2.2 Implement the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, including executing international exercises and maintaining and updating the Operational Guidelines	EPPR	11	11.4		7
A 2.3 Organize an information conference on best practices on contaminant reduction in Indigenous communities	ACAP	11	11.7		7
A 2.4 Prepare an update assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants and resulting biological effects	AMAP	11	11.2		
<b>A3. Provide scientific knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge to support management actions to enable recovery and conservation of species and ecosystems</b>					
A 3.1 Operationalizing a One Health approach in the Arctic, Part 3 (OneHealth)	SDWG	2	2.11		5
A 3.2 Implement the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) to cooperate on the conservation of migratory Arctic birds and prepare collaborative flyway-based workplans	CAFF	8	8.1		4
A 3.3 Identify species that could benefit from, but are not covered by, range-wide adaptive management strategies and follow-up as appropriate	CAFF	8	8.3		4
A 3.4 Inventory on-going seabird projects and develop a common reporting template for all seabird conservation strategies	CAFF	8	8.4		4
A 3.5 Continue implementation of existing species conservation strategies and develop others as appropriate (Black-legged Kittiwakes, caribou)	CAFF	8	8.5		4
A 3.6 Investigate the impact of shipping and offshore development on seabirds	CAFF	8	8.6		5
A 3.7 Improve data and assessments on populations, harvest, and harvest management, including both Indigenous Knowledge and Western science, as foundation for harvest management (e.g., Arctic Geese)	CAFF	10	10.1		5

A 3.8 Develop range-wide adaptive management strategies for those harvested species identified under Action A3.3	CAFF	10	10.3		5
A 3.9 Update CAFF reports on incidental take of seabirds in commercial fisheries in the Arctic	CAFF	10	10.5		5
A 3.10 Provide technical information, including mapping areas of high species abundance, unique Arctic diversity and those important for sensitive lifestages, at a scale appropriate for use in planning	CAFF	6	6.1		1.4
A 3.11 Identify management actions that will enhance resilience of species in adapting to rapid change	CAFF	7	7.3		4
A 3.12 Address monitoring and research gaps in scientific knowledge identified as priorities in the ABA and Arctic Biodiversity Congress, including components critical to ecosystem functions including invertebrates, microbes, parasites, and pathogens	CAFF	13	13.3		MF
A 3.13 Develop and update taxonomic lists where there are gaps including:	/	13	13.6		MF
a.Red List for Arctic Vascular Plants	CAFF	13	13.6a		MF
A 3.14 Continue to develop and report on key robust indicators of Arctic biodiversity, in particular ones that can be used to track and understand cumulative effects	CAFF	16	16.3		MF
a. Update the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010; selected indicators of change report	CAFF	16	16.3a		MF
c. Protected areas using data from CAFF and PAME	CAFF/ PAME	16	16.3c		MF
e. Invasive species	CAFF	16	16.3e		MF
A 3.15 Complete the Arctic coastal biodiversity monitoring plan and begin implementation	CAFF	13	13.2		MF
A 3.16 Consider impacts of stressors and drivers within reviews of the CBMP ecosystem monitoring plans	CAFF	16	16.2		MF
A 3.17 Report on changes in Arctic species, ecosystems, and the effects of stressors through state of Arctic biodiversity reports	CAFF	13	13.4		MF
a. Marine species and ecosystems	CAFF	13	13.4a		
b. Terrestrial species and ecosystems	CAFF	13	13.4b		
c. Freshwater species and ecosystems	CAFF	13	13.4c		
d. Coastal species and ecosystems	CAFF	13	13.4d		

A 4. Support efforts to minimize the threat of invasive alien/non-native species to Arctic biodiversity					
A 4.1 Incorporate common protocols for early detection and reporting of non-native invasive species in the Arctic into CBMP monitoring plans	CAFF	9	9.2		6
A 4.2 Implementation of the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan	CAFF/ PAME	9	9.3		6
A 5. Contribute to area-based conservation measures including Indigenous-led and managed, protected, or conserved areas, and restoration of degraded Arctic ecosystems					
A 5.1 Provide information (including Indigenous Knowledge) to Arctic Council initiatives that include, or are developing, an ecosystem approach including the principles for incorporation of biodiversity	CAFF	3	3.1		1
A 5.2 Ongoing activities based on the revised TOR of the Joint Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (marine), including: Ecosystem Approach expert group (EA-EG); Preparation of Guidelines for EA/EBM Implementation in the Arctic; Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (Co-led with ICES and PICES); Sixth EA workshop scoping guidelines for implementing EA in the Arctic, with a focus on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment; Factsheet series on the 18 Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems (LME's); Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic; and Status of Setting Ecological Objectives in the Arctic	PAME	3	3.2		1
A 5.3 Follow-up to the Ecosystem-Based Management Expert Group work on advancing ecosystem-based management in the work of the Arctic Council	AC	3	3.3		1
A 5.4 Reporting on progress/implementation of the 2015-2025 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)	PAME	3	3.6		
A 5.5 Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD)	PAME	3	3.7		1
A 5.6 Develop and follow-up on a framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that sets out a common vision for regional cooperation in MPA network development and management	PAME	5	5.2		3

A 5.7 Update for 2020 Arctic Protected Areas indicator and work to integrate with the World Protected Areas Database (ProtectedPlanet.net)	CAFF/ PAME	5	5.4		
A 5.8 Develop guidelines for including the values of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and of other Arctic residents into protected areas planning and management, including exploring how best to promote and facilitate “multiple values” protected areas -- areas conserved and cooperatively managed based on the Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and other ecological values and local knowledge	CAFF	5	5.7		3
A 5.9 Modelling Arctic Oceanographic Connectivity to further develop PAME’s Marine Protected Areas Toolbox	PAME	5	5.6		3
A 5.10 Provide technical information, including mapping areas of high species abundance, unique Arctic diversity and those important for sensitive life stages, at a scale appropriate for use in planning	CAFF	6	6.1		1
A 5.11 Develop options for safeguarding potential marine and terrestrial refuge areas, including areas that will maintain multi-year ice (related to AMSA IID)	CAFF	7	7.1		3
A 5.12 Assess options and recommend most effective methods to manage connectivity, in light of climate change, including identification of sub-populations, species and regions for which connectivity is most critical (including for increasing genetic resilience)	CAFF	7	7.2		3
A 5.13 Broker commitments by non-Arctic countries to safeguarding important Arctic migratory bird habitats outside the Arctic, as part of the AMBI	CAFF	8	8.2		3
A 6. Promote appropriate measures to reduce human disturbances					
A 6.1 Assess the effects on marine mammals of ship noise, disturbance and strikes in Arctic marine waters and, where needed, develop mitigation strategies (AMSA IIG)	PAME/ CAFF	16	16.7		4
A 6.2 Develop, where needed, guidelines or other tools, for safeguarding sensitive areas for biodiversity (outside protected areas) that are vulnerable to human activity and/or contribute to international processes developing such guidelines, including potential refugia that will maintain multi-year ice	CAFF	6	6.2		1.3

## B. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY

Action	Lead WG	ABA recommendation	Action-Plan 2013-2021	AC Strategic Plan 2021-2030	KM GBF target
<b>B1. Enhance science and Indigenous Knowledge and monitoring to support sustainable management of species and ecosystems</b>					
B 1.1 Develop harvest indicator for Arctic seabirds	CAFF	8	8.7		5.9
B 1.2 Improve data and assessments on populations, harvest, and harvest management, including both Indigenous Knowledge and Western science, as a foundation for harvest management (e.g., Arctic Geese)	CAFF	10	10.1		5.9
B 1.3 Develop the community observation network for adaptation and security (CONAS) to increase the contribution of community-based monitoring and knowledge from Arctic peoples to existing knowledge	CAFF	14	14.5		MF
B 1.4 Update CAFF's strategy and guidelines relating to community-driven and Indigenous-led monitoring and strengthen integration with CBMP	CAFF	15	15.1		MF
B 1.5 Identify species that could benefit from, but are not covered by, range-wide adaptive management strategies and follow-up as appropriate	CAFF	8	8.3		4
<b>B2. Contribute to sustainable management of species and ecosystems, using an ecosystem approach</b>					
B 2.1 Develop examples of an ecosystem approach to cumulative effects from a keystone species' perspective, integrating, over the species annual range, effects from climate change, infrastructure, and human activity	CAFF	16	16.8		4
<b>B3. Protect and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples including the rights to use, manage, and conserve their lands and waters</b>					
B 3.1 Maintain and further develop sustainable and resilient reindeer husbandry (EALLU Arctic Indigenous Youth Climate Change and Food Culture)	SDWG	10	10.7		9
B 3.2 Salmon Peoples of the Arctic	CAFF	14	14.4b		9

## C. ADVANCE ENABLING CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

Action	Lead WG	ABA recommendation	Action-Plan 2013-2021	AC Strategic Plan 2021-2030	KM GBF target
C1. Strengthen opportunities to inform and interact with international and national processes					
C 1.1. Provide status and trend information to international fora and national agencies to promote the importance of Arctic biodiversity and to facilitate reporting through multilateral environmental agreements and other international processes	CAFF	17	17.3		K
a. Reframe the results of the ABA as a regional biodiversity outlook for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and as a contribution to the biodiversity and ecosystem services regional reports for the Americas and Europe and Central Asia being prepared for Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	CAFF	17	17.3		K
b. Report to the CBD on progress of the Arctic region towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.	CAFF	17	17.3		K
C2. Strengthen Arctic Council and CAFF networks to better address biodiversity conservation and ensure engagement of key partners					
C 2.1 Develop options for safeguarding potential marine and terrestrial refuge areas, including areas that will maintain multiyear ice (related to AMSA IID).	CAFF	7	7.1		3
C3. Mobilize people, funding and infrastructure to support implementation					
[NB: for development in 2025-2027]					
C4. Improve communication on the importance of Arctic biodiversity and sustainable management, including challenges, needs and successes					

C 4.1. Implement CAFF's communications strategy and update as needed	CAFF	17	17.1		K
<b>C5. Support the participation of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Participants, to enable continued Indigenous-led conservation and management of Arctic biodiversity</b>					
C 5.1. Strengthen and develop new strategic partnerships, particularly with industry, to seek innovative solutions and expand responsibility for taking care of biodiversity	CAFF	4	4.1		15
C 5.2. Arctic Indigenous youth, food knowledge and Arctic change (EALLU)	SDWG	4	4.15		22
C 5.3. Enhance the use of both existing Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge and community-based monitoring approaches in the work of the Arctic Council	AC	12	12.3		22
C 5.4. Increase engagement of youth and early career scientists in the activities of CAFF to train the next generation of conservation leaders	CAFF	15	15.2		20
<b>C6. Support mainstreaming biodiversity, including in sectors driving biodiversity loss and/or of importance in the Arctic</b>					
C 6.1 Develop a set of biodiversity principles for the Arctic Council, Observers, and stakeholders on incorporating biodiversity objectives and safeguards into their work, apply these principles to the activities of Arctic Council Working Groups and other Subsidiary Bodies, and evaluate the extent to which these activities respond to the ABA recommendations	CAFF	4	4.5		14
C 6.2 Provide information, expertise, and recommendations on conservation of Arctic ecosystems to policymakers	CAFF	3	3.1		14
C 6.3 Provide information (including Indigenous Knowledge) to Arctic Council initiatives that include, or are developing, an ecosystem approach including the principles for incorporation of biodiversity (Action 4.3).		3	3.1		14
C 6.4 Mainstream biodiversity into the climate change agenda, including adaptation and mitigation, through outreach	CAFF	1	1.2	1.2	8

## D. ESTABLISH A MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS FOR ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY

Action	Lead WG	ABA recommendation	Action-Plan 2013-2021	AC Strategic Plan 2021-2030	KM GBF target
D1. Develop indicators to monitor implementation of the Actions for Arctic Biodiversity, assess and evaluate effectiveness of implementation, and report in relevant fora					
D 1.1 Develop and implement outreach products to communicate the outcomes of this plan	CAFF	17	17.5		K

## REFERENCES

AMAP, 2025. Arctic Climate Change Update 2024: Key Trends and Impacts. Summary for Policy-makers. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Tromsø, Norway. 16 pp



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