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Cover note by the Chairmanship

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Thematic discussion: biodiversity in the Arctic

The Working Groups will in the SAO meeting 2 November present their activities that promote *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-21*. CAFF has prepared a background memorandum (see attached) summarizing the content of the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* and its implementation plan, *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-21* and the current state of the realization of this plan.

The SAOs are invited to discuss three themes: advancing conservation, informing decisions and engaging people, and how the Arctic Council should address these issues in the coming years. Questions for the SAOs to consider include:

- How to facilitate implementation of the Arctic Council recommendations related to biodiversity?
- How to speed up action towards ecosystem-based management in the Arctic and mainstreaming of biodiversity into the Arctic development agenda?
- How to sustain and develop Arctic Council's work to monitor biodiversity (Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme – CBMP) in the Arctic?
- What could the Arctic Council do to promote more sustainable use of protected areas?
- The role of the Arctic Biodiversity Congress the biodiversity work of the Arctic Council?