



Arctic Council SAO Plenary meeting 8-9 March 2017,
Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A.

Meeting code: ACSAOUS204

Document Title

Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Work Plan
2017-2019

Agenda item number

3.4.3

Submitted by

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group

Document filename

ACSAOUS204_JUNEAU_2017_3-4-3_CAFF_Proposed_Work_Plan_2017-
19

EDOCS #

#4131

Number of pages, not including this cover sheet

6

Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Work Plan 2017-2019

Introduction

This document outlines the projects and activities CAFF plans to undertake for the 2017–19 ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed for the inter-ministerial period, but may be amended by the CAFF Board according to new opportunities and priorities. The timeline for each of the projects is to be completed as projects develop. CAFF's mandate and associated activities are integral to the success of Finland's Arctic Council Chairmanship priorities.

The Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-21: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) 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 convening the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Focus will continue on ongoing actions from phases 1 and 2 of the ABA Implementation Plan, 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.

List of individual projects and activities

Project/activity: Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-21: Implementing the recommendations of the ABA

Lead/co-leads: Components are led by different Arctic States, Permanent Participants, Working Groups and other Arctic Council subsidiary bodies

Rationale and overall objective: These ongoing activities follow up from the Kiruna and Iqaluit Declarations, with the objective of promoting ABA implementation among Arctic States and others.

Main activities: Implementation of ABA recommendations including many of the projects and activities listed in this section

Timeline: 2013-21

Project/activity: Continue implementation of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) including completion of the 2018-21 CBMP Strategy; implementation of the

Arctic Marine/Freshwater/Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plans; completion and follow-up on the State of Arctic Freshwater, Terrestrial, Marine Biodiversity Reports; complete the Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan; continue development of the CBMP suite of headline indicators; and revise the strategy for facilitating community based monitoring. Also includes trends and analyses such as climate change impacts on the distribution, abundance and ecology of bearded seals, Arctic Wetlands and the Arctic Peoples of Salmon Rivers.

Lead/co-leads: Overall leads: U.S., Kingdom of Denmark; Marine – U.S.; Freshwater – Sweden, Canada; Terrestrial – Sweden, Iceland; Coastal – Canada, U.S.

WG partners – AMAP, PAME Other Partners: Observers – France, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Poland, IUCN, NAMMCO; Others – ICES

Rationale and overall objective: This is a foundational program underlying implementation of CAFF's mandate, as well as the key to implementation of ABA recommendations.

Main activities: Harmonizing and integrating efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources and providing baseline and regular format for reporting, on the state and condition of key aspects of Arctic biodiversity

Timeline: ongoing

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Implementation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)

Lead/co-leads: Canada, Norway, Russia, U.S.

WG partners – None Other Partners: AC Observers – China, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, U.K. Non AC Observer states engaged – Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Mexico, Australia (next: Suriname*, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela). Others – Wetlands International, United Nations Environment Program, BirdLife International, East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wadden Sea Secretariat, Convention on Migratory Species, African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Wetlands and Wildlife Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, Manomet.

Rationale and overall objective: This project aims to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations.

Main activities: Implementation of the AMBI 2015-19 Work Plan

Timeline: 2015-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Implement the Arctic Invasive Alien Species strategy and Action plan (ARIAS) 2017-21

Lead/co-leads: Norway, U.S.

WG partners – PAME Other Partners: Observers – Observers to be confirmed when implementation commences: WGs, Observers to be confirmed when implementation commences; Others: WGs, Observers to be confirmed when implementation commences

Rationale and overall objective: To reduce the threat of invasive alien species by developing and implementing common measures for early detection, reporting, identifying and blocking pathways of introduction, and sharing best practices and techniques for monitoring, eradication and control.

Main activities: Implementation of the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan

Timeline: 2017-21

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: The 2nd Arctic Biodiversity Congress

Lead/co-leads: CAFF Chair, Finland

WG partners – All WGs: Observers – All Observer states; Others – Public, scientific community, TK holders, CAFF partners and expert organizations as relevant

Rationale and overall objective: To promote the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity focusing on the results of the CBMP State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports, progress on implementation of ABA recommendations, and attainment of Aichi Targets.

Main activities: Convene and report the results of the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress

Timeline: 2018

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Peaceful Arctic/The Arctic Home/A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council]

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection/Education

Project/activity: Community Observation Network for Adaptation & Security (CONAS): interim report

Lead/co-leads: AIA

WG partners – None Other Partners: Observers – None; Others – The University of Idaho, Center for Resilient Communities

Rationale and overall Objective: To utilize human observers as sensors to observe and document environmental changes, significant to understanding pan-arctic processes

Main activities: generating map and data products to inform decision making.

Timeline: ongoing

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection/ Connectivity/ Education

Project/activity: Mainstreaming Arctic biodiversity

Lead/co-leads: Sweden, Canada, ICC, U.S.

WG partners – All Other Partners: Observers – [tbc]; Others – Arctic Council Secretariat and others as relevant

Rationale and overall objective: To incorporate biodiversity objectives and provisions into all Arctic Council work and encourage the same for on-going and future international standards, agreements, plans, operations and/or other tools specific to development in the Arctic. This includes, but is not restricted to, oil and gas development, shipping, fishing, tourism and mining.

Main activities: Develop a set of biodiversity principles to incorporate biodiversity objectives and safeguards into Arctic activities

Timeline: 2016-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Arctic Flora and Seabird expert groups

Lead/co-leads: Overall chair: Norway (flora) and [Canada (seabirds)] with individual components led by different countries

WG partners – None Other Partners: Observers – France, U.K., The Netherlands; Others – None

Rationale and overall objective: The expert groups coordinate the conservation of Arctic flora/seabirds and enhance the exchange of information on factors affecting the status and trends in Arctic flora and seabirds. Activities include the implementation of seabird conservation strategies, completion of the Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map and the Arctic Flora Inventory.

Main activities: data compilation, analysis and coordination

Timeline: ongoing

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Follow-up on the Arctic Council cross-cutting initiatives

Lead/co-leads: CAFF Chair

WG partners – All Other Partners: Observers – As relevant; Others – As relevant

Rationale and overall objective: Activities include follow-up on recommendations of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) expert group; participation in the ecosystem approach expert group; Arctic Marine Strategic Plan; assist in the implementation of the framework for a circumpolar Arctic network of Marine Protected Areas and follow-up on the Arctic Council's Resilience framework.

Main activities: coordination of biodiversity input

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Peaceful Arctic/The Arctic Home/A Prosperous Arctic/A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: The Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) development including cooperation on the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)

Lead/co-leads: CAFF Secretariat

WG partners – PAME Other Partners: Observers – as relevant; Others – the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure¹ (Arctic SDI); Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF); Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS); Group on Earth Observations (GEO); Group on

¹ The Arctic SDI is an initiative led by the National Mapping Agencies of Arctic Council member states to share spatial data across organizations, working groups and countries. CAFF facilitates the initiative within the Arctic Council.

Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON); and the Polar Data Catalogue (PDC).

Rationale and overall objective: To facilitate access, integration, analysis and display of biodiversity information for scientists, practitioners, managers, policy makers. It will ensure that biodiversity data generated by the Arctic Council are organized to guarantee a lasting legacy.

Main activities: data rescue, development, standardization, integration, display

Timeline: ongoing

Kiruna Vision Element(s): Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection/ Education

Communications and outreach

CAFF's communication strategy 1) provides target audiences with timely, accurate, clear and complete information on conservation issues for use in policy and scientific and TK decision-making; 2) Increase the understanding and profile of Arctic biodiversity amongst target audiences and work to incorporate biodiversity conservation across various sectors, ensuring the sustainable use of the Arctic's natural resources; 3) Raise CAFF's profile amongst target audiences as a credible, reliable and authoritative voice in Arctic biodiversity research and policy; 4) Strategically employ a variety of ways and means to communicate, recognizing user needs, and the effectiveness of various channels; and 5) Provide adaptive, responsive and proactive communications support to CAFF audiences.

Main activities include development of communication tools and products, coordination and outreach, for each target. Examples of activities include reports, educational toolkits, social media campaigns, website development, webinar series, scientific posters, video production, photography competition, event hosting, presentations at key events, and press inquiries. Materials are translated into other languages when resources allow.