

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

CAFF



CIRCUMPOLAR PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (CPAN)

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

**CAFF Habitat Conservation
Report No. 4**

About CAFF

The Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) was established to address the special needs of Arctic species and their habitats in the rapidly developing Arctic region. It forms one of four programs of The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) which was adopted by Canada, Denmark / Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States through Ministerial Declaration at Rovianemi, Finland in 1991. The other programs of the AEPS include the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) and the programs for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME).

Since its inaugural meeting in Ottawa, Canada in 1992, the CAFF program has provided scientists, conservation managers and groups, and indigenous peoples of the north with a distinct forum in which to tackle a wide range of Arctic conservation issues at the circumpolar level.

CAFF's main goals, which are achieved in keeping with the concepts of sustainable development and utilization, are:

- to conserve Arctic flora and fauna, their diversity and their habitats;
- to protect the Arctic ecosystems from threats;
- to improve conservation management laws, regulations and practices for the Arctic;
- to integrate Arctic interests into global conservation fora.

CAFF operates through a system of Designated Agencies and National Representatives responsible for CAFF in their respective countries. CAFF also has an International Working Group which meets at least annually to assess progress and to develop CAFF Work Plans. It is headed up by a chair and vice-chair which rotate among the Arctic countries and it is supported by an International Secretariat. When needed, CAFF also sets up Specialist and Experts Groups to handle program areas.

The majority of CAFF's Work Plan activities are directed at species and habitat conservation and at integrating indigenous peoples and their knowledge into CAFF. Some examples are: work on rare, vulnerable and endangered plants and animals of the Arctic; developing circumpolar conservation strategies for certain species; work on Arctic vegetation, analyzing and making recommendations on threats to Arctic species and habitat; an Arctic strategy on biodiversity conservation; an indigenous peoples mapping project. Most of CAFF's work is carried out through a system of Lead Countries as a means of sharing the workload. Some projects are also assigned to the CAFF Secretariat. Whenever possible, CAFF works in cooperation with other international organizations and associations to achieve common conservation goals in the Arctic.

**PROGRAM FOR THE
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References: IUCN Management Categories/Guidelines for Transnational and for Marine Protected Areas

Ramsar Criteria for Wetlands of International Importance (Cagliari, Montreux)

BirdLife International Criteria for Important Bird Areas

CIRCUMPOLAR PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (CPAN)

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

I INTRODUCTION

The Arctic is an expansive, sensitive and relatively undisturbed region characterized by highly adapted flora and fauna capable of living within a harsh climate, characterized by low temperatures and long periods of darkness followed by almost continual light. It is peopled, to a large extent, by indigenous populations whose way of life is inextricably interwoven with the natural environment.

This spectacular region, unique on the globe, is shared by the eight Arctic countries, each of which individually and as a group, has committed to the conservation of its diverse biosystems using a variety of techniques. One effective mechanism used extensively by the countries is to establish protected areas as an important tool for ecosystem, species and habitat conservation. The countries have agreed to extend this practice and to work together to create a network of protected areas that will encompass the entire circumpolar Arctic region. Named the Circumpolar Protected Area Network, or CPAN, this Network is being developed in recognition that the Arctic is a shared ecosystem with its species predominantly circumpolar in distribution. It responds to the requests of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) Ministers and to the exigencies of the various conservation Conventions and agreements to which the countries are Party and which call on members to cooperate for common conservation objectives. The countries have further agreed to strive for compatibility and a common, regional approach to protecting Arctic areas in ways which will be important for the continuing viability of the biodiversity of the Arctic region.

The countries have also acknowledged that the traditional way of life and current economic activities of Indigenous Peoples have their basis in the healthy ecosystems of the Arctic and that protecting these resources is vital for the continued strength of indigenous peoples and cultures. While cultural protection is not a direct goal of CPAN, it is an important benefit and measure of an effective CPAN.

The following principles and guidelines are intended to facilitate a common, regional approach to area protection among the eight countries and to selecting and designating important sites within the Arctic.

II OBJECTIVES OF CPAN

There are several objectives for the Circumpolar Protected Area Network (CPAN) which the principles and guidelines are designed to meet.

First, CPAN, (which will include existing and future protected areas and will reflect regional characteristics, including socio-economic conditions) will promote: (i) *ecological linkages* to respond to species, habitat and ecosystem requirements at a circumpolar level; (ii) *informational linkages* through information exchange and liaison with other organizations and programs, both within and outside the AEPS, and with other CAFF

activities; and (iii) *managerial linkages* through designating common objectives, goals, mechanisms and approaches to protected area management in response to circumpolar needs. It will also promote (iv) *interjurisdictional linkages* with other jurisdictions for the protection of populations and habitats of species which migrate outside of the Circumpolar Protected Area Network or between CPAN countries.

Second, CPAN is intended as a mechanism to:

- *provide a common process* by which Arctic countries may advance the formation of protected areas in the Arctic region
- *link and foster coordination* among the Arctic countries in their national efforts to use protected areas as an important tool to conserve biodiversity at all hierarchical levels (genetic, species and ecosystem)
- *promote international cooperation* and coordination in site selection, designation and management
- *share processes, criteria and strategies* among member nations as a basis for enhancing and improving national efforts

Third, CPAN will assist in *minimizing and preventing the adverse impacts* of economic exploitation, urban expansion and human population growth on the biodiversity of the Arctic in a region on the verge of major development activity while, at the same time, providing for indigenous use and for educational, recreational, tourist and other human needs.

Fourth, CPAN is intended to *respond to needs at the management and political levels* by providing an international cadre of expertise with an Arctic focus that will serve to enhance individual domestic efforts and facilitate a regional, ecosystem perspective in national and/or local activities. As well, it will deliver on the Ministerial direction given in Principle 2.2 viii of the AEPS that calls for a network of protected areas and will assist countries in delivering on Articles 6, 8, and 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity that ask countries to develop protected areas and to cooperate. In addition, CPAN will aid CAFF countries in meeting their obligations to other Conventions, agreements or programs to which they are Party (e.g. Wetlands of International Importance, Important Habitats in Europe, Migratory Species, Polar Bear Agreement, World Heritage, Barents Euro-Arctic Environment Programme).

III FUNCTIONS OF CPAN

Once in place, CPAN is intended to:

- provide for the legal protection of important Arctic habitats, ecosystems and landscapes through an integrated system of protected areas and migration corridors, established within the context of an Arctic-wide conservation strategy
- provide for the maintenance of essential ecological processes or life-support systems

- provide critical habitat to conserve, protect, and restore Arctic species and sustain the genetic diversity of their populations, including those species on CAFF Lists of Rare, Vulnerable and Endangered Species, Species of Common Conservation Concern and species of particular focus in CAFF's specialist sub-groups (e.g. seabirds)
- provide core sites and facilities for a wide range of biodiversity-related Arctic research and monitoring using a systematic, regional and needs-based approach
- provide a framework and a context for countries contiguous to a sensitive area to collaborate for area protection (e.g. Russia/USA, Russia/Norway, Canada/Greenland)
- provide an infrastructure to maintain and facilitate:
 - natural, including biological, diversity of the Arctic
 - the dynamic equilibrium of natural systems
 - a healthy human environment
 - ecological and evolutionary processes
 - traditional natural resource utilization
- provide protection of ecosystems, habitats or species which are unique to a specific Arctic country or locality and not found elsewhere in the Arctic region
- provide additional stimulation to countries to take further steps for the protection of their Arctic ecosystems, habitats and species

IV PRINCIPLES FOR CPAN

The following general principles are offered to guide countries in the design and implementation of the Network and in the selection, establishment and management of sites.

Principle 1:

CPAN will be predicated and based on the national protected area regimes of the Arctic countries

Principle 2:

CPAN will incorporate other relevant international mechanisms and the objectives of existing global conservation instruments including, inter alia, networks of Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites, Important Bird Areas

Principle 3:

CPAN will include marine, terrestrial and coastal zone sites

Principle 4:

CPAN will be designed and implemented in coordination with other work of CAFF, the AEPS, and other organizations or programmes to ensure complementarity of purpose and action

Principle 5:

Site designation within CPAN will give priority to species, habitat and ecosystem conservation

Principle 6:

Site selection in CPAN will give priority to vulnerable, rare or unique ecosystems or sites with a high level of biodiversity

Principle 7:

Sites within CPAN will incorporate several different designations and uses ranging from strict nature reserve to multiple use and, where applicable, IUCN Management Categories will be applied

Principle 8:

Sites in CPAN will be designed and managed in keeping with the "precautionary" and "wise use" principles (see below)

Principle 9

Sites in CPAN will be evaluated on the basis of their conservation function nationally and internationally and assigned an appropriate designation to meet the requirements of both in an optimum manner

Principle 10:

In the design, planning and management of sites in CPAN, countries will cooperate with each other, with local communities, with indigenous peoples and, where feasible, with economic development interests

Principle 11:

In the design, planning and management of sites in CPAN, countries will make every effort to use buffer zones, and to apply the "corridor concept", the principle of

¹"Wise Use" is interpreted to mean "sustainable utilization for the benefit of humankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the ecosystem" (from Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)

"connectivity" and the "cluster" principle, where the latter will maximize scope and size of protection

Principle 12:

When selecting sites, particular attention will be paid to sites of special socio-economic importance for Indigenous Peoples and, when selecting and designating any protected areas in the Arctic, Indigenous Peoples Organizations who would be affected will be invited to participate.

V. GUIDELINES FOR SITE SELECTION AND DESIGNATION

The following guidelines have been designed to be applicable at a regional, circumpolar level and to be used by each Arctic country within its own legislative framework. They complement, supplement and enhance domestic and international criteria (e.g. Management Categories of the IUCN) already adopted by the member countries through treaties or accepted practice. They are intended to foster consistency and a common approach across the Arctic region for ecosystem and species protection, to assist in the analysis of gaps in protection at the national and international levels, and to select new sites for special protection. They are derived, in part, from national criteria common in the eight countries as well as from internationally accepted criteria developed through, for example, conservation Conventions and organizations. Guidelines are provided under the following categories: Ecosystems, Species and Habitat, Physical Characteristics, Socio-Economic Values, Use and Access.

V.i Ecosystems

These guidelines are predicated on the following definitions of "ecosystem".(See note)

"An ecosystem is an interconnected community of living things, including humans and the physical environment with which they interact". (from US Interagency Ecosystem Management Task Force)

"The ecosystem is an energy-processing cybernetic system, receiving abiotic and biotic inputs. The driving force is the energy of the sun. The system consists of a set or collection of interdependent parts or subsystems enclosed in a defined boundary...The system processes inputs in a set way with each subsystem performing set functions". (from R.L. Smith, Ecology and Field Biology)

"Ecosystems are subdivisions of the global ecosphere, vertical chunks which include air, soil or sediments, and organisms (including humans)." (from Towards an Ecosystem Approach to British Columbia)

Note: Among the eight Arctic countries, there is a diversity of physical, geographical and landscape classification systems and approaches to delineate "ecosystems" and establish consistent boundaries. (At least four are presented in CAFF's Habitat

Conservation Report No. 1.) As part of the CPAN process and in developing the Habitat Conservation Strategy, work is underway to achieve compatibility among these various systems.

The Arctic consists of several interrelated systems that include, *inter alia*,: the taiga/tundra dotted with Arctic meadows (e.g. sedge) and seasonal or permanent wetlands; the boreal/tundra northern transition forest; fresh water ponds and lakes; the permanent ice cap and glaciers; the Arctic ocean, several regional seas and estuaries; the circumpolar, seasonally fluctuating ice-edge zone; an extensive coastline; and the Arctic desert. Each of these systems is home to unique, sensitive and specialized biological communities or systems that have adapted to the conditions of their environment. Because of the low energy and nutrient flows, these systems are slow to rebound from disturbance. The rebound time is often measured in decades and even longer in the most northerly portions of the Arctic.

The goal for Arctic ecosystem conservation is to ensure that all these natural ecosystems and their functions across their range are sustained. For this purpose, the Arctic countries individually, and as a group, aim to achieve the following:

- formal protection of representative samples of the full range of Arctic ecosystems and species whose members use the Arctic regions for part of the time
- identification and formal protection of all candidate sites and the creation of circumpolar sub-networks of Arctic Ramsar sites, Man and the Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites and others as necessary
- identification and protection of areas that contribute to the maintenance of essential evolutionary or ecological processes or life-support systems (e.g. source of larvae for downstream areas)

V. ii Species and Habitats

A priority consideration for site protection in the Arctic is to ensure that the environmental conditions necessary to support its biodiversity are maintained and that its biophysical systems continue to function at a level which will guarantee the long-term survival of species in a healthy state and provide for their habitat and nutrient needs.

In comparison to most other regions, the Arctic has a paucity of resident species although the numbers rise sharply during the short summer season with the massive influx of migratory species. Because of the low number of resident species and their highly adapted physiological characteristics, species replacement is difficult and loss of a single species has a more disruptive influence on the Arctic ecosystems and their processes than in other regions. It is important, therefore, to ensure that all Arctic species are adequately conserved. Fundamental to this task is conservation of their habitats throughout their range, including along migration routes.

Arctic Flora, whether marine or terrestrial, is the cornerstone and lifeblood of the Arctic food chain on which ultimately, all other inhabitants of the Arctic depend. Arctic flora is adapted

to existence in a frost-dominated environment and to long periods below freezing without photosynthesis where "... only those species able to withstand constant disturbance of the soil, buffeting by the wind, and abrasion from windcarried particles of soil and ice can survive". Most Arctic plants are structurally simple and growth is slow. Most of the biomass and functional activity are confined to a relatively few groups. For example, the dominant tundra vegetation is a cotton grass-sedge-dwarf heath complex. Growing and reproductive seasons are short. Much of the vegetation is perennial and reproduces vegetatively rather than by seed. Some sites in the Arctic are particularly high in flora diversity and plant life and are known as "hot spots". Others are important for marine primary production or for unique, rare or endangered species.

In the selection and designation of Arctic sites for flora conservation and maintenance of genetic diversity, priority should be given to identifying, selecting and designating the following:

- sites of high flora diversity ("hot spots")
- sites important for marine primary production
- sites of rare, endangered or unique flora (endemic, relic or colonial)
- sites with flora having significant food value to fauna or local or indigenous peoples
- sites with high potential for scientific research, including as monitoring sites

Arctic Fauna are either resident, migratory or occasional visitors. In the case of **resident species**, as is the case with Arctic flora, the diversity and number of species is low with a few assuming a role vital to the subsistence lifestyle of local and indigenous peoples. Typical resident **terrestrial mammals** of the Arctic are polar bear, muskox, caribou/reindeer, arctic hare, lemming, weasel. Typical resident **birds** include the raven, ptarmigan and snowy-owl. Arctic **marine fauna** include several seal species, the narwhal and beluga whales, and fish species, such as Arctic cod. Like the vegetation, these species have adapted to the harsh Arctic conditions and to its specialized nutrients. Most are also dependent on few key sites for reproduction and feeding and these sites should come under protection. **Invertebrate fauna** in the Arctic is scarce, as are amphibians and reptiles. During the short summer, the Arctic becomes summer home and breeding ground to myriads of **migratory species** including waterfowl and shorebirds who arrive when the ice is out and return south before winter sets in. Arctic waters also become the home and feeding grounds for several marine migrants such as the humpback whale. These migratory species are also dependent on key sites both during winter, during migration and on arrival.

When selecting and designating Arctic sites for fauna² conservation and to maintain genetic diversity, priority should be given to the following:

²More research and data are needed on invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians to guide in site selection and protection.

- sites important as congregating, breeding and feeding grounds, paying particular attention to those species used by local and indigenous populations for subsistence (e.g. caribou, muskoxen, beluga) (*Note: Maps depicting species distribution will assist in the site identification, selection and designation process*)
- sites important internationally for Arctic fauna with emphasis, at the outset, on sites important for shared populations
- sites significant as breeding, staging, moulting, and/or feeding grounds for waterfowl based on the Ramsar Cagliari and Montreux Criteria and BirdLife International Criteria
- sites of high fauna diversity and containing a variety of habitats
- sites important as seabird colonies and feeding grounds with emphasis on sites of circumpolar significance (*Note: Maps depicting species distribution will assist in the site identification, selection and designation process*)
- sites important for circumpolar Species Conservation Strategies and Action Plans (e.g. Murre, Eider, Polar bear)
- sites important for rare, vulnerable or endangered fauna or Species of Common Conservation Concern listed by CAFF
- sites containing important specialized habitat (e.g. wetlands, old-growth forest, river basins and littoral zones, islands, coastal zones such as estuaries and intertidal zones and cliffs, Arctic oases etc) (*Note: Maps depicting these specialized habitats will assist in the site selection and designation process*)
- important polynias, upwellings and marginal icefront zones (*Note: Maps depicting these features will assist in the site selection and designation process*)
- important spawning grounds and fish migration routes
- important feeding and reproductive grounds for migratory marine mammals (*Notes A: Maps depicting these sites will assist in the selection and designation process; B: Reference should be made to IUCN Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas*)
- sites of important fauna habitat threatened by economic development, including tourism activities (*Note: Maps depicting sites of economic development should be used in the process*)

V iii Physical Characteristics

The Arctic is a massive territory with much of it in a relatively wild state and dotted with important sites for flora and fauna. Many of its species are widely dispersed and mobile to take advantage of the patchwork of suitable habitat and nutrient supply. For example, barren-

ground caribou trek hundreds of kilometres from their wintering grounds to their traditional calving grounds. Murres move on water with their young over extensive sections of ocean to reach their feeding grounds (e.g. across Baffin Bay to Greenland). In order to maximize the benefits derived from area protection and to optimize ecosystem and species conservation, the physical characteristics of sites, including size, shape, linkages to other sites, and environmental status prior to protection, are important considerations. The following are guidelines respecting the physical characteristics to consider when delineating sites in the Arctic.

- sites in a state of wilderness (or naturalness) with large, unfragmented landscapes
- sites of a shape to promote maximum species mobility and a high-degree of species and genetic interchange at boundaries (*Note: generally, a round shape is preferable*)
- sites sufficiently large to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem and populations and to sustain the original purpose for which the area was established
- sites sufficiently large to allow for the continuing exercise of ecologically compatible subsistence, cultural and traditional practices by indigenous peoples and local populations
- sites in a cluster or situated within regional wildlife corridor systems/migration routes to protect key habitat needed during the various phases of life cycles for many Arctic wide-ranging species (*Note: This method is used in Russia where a much greater percentage of territory can be protected than would be possible through designating one single site*)
- flexibility as to site size, shape and location to protect the movable range of migratory species or grazers or during spawning, etc. (*Note: This method is used in Greenland as a tool in species conservation of, for example, Arctic charr, caribou*)
- marine sites sufficiently large to accommodate the critical habitat needs of marine species

V iv Designation, Use and Access

While some protected areas in the Arctic may require a prohibition of human activity to safeguard critical habitat and life-functions, others may not and can accommodate a certain level of activity. This is especially true for indigenous peoples who, traditionally, have tended to inhabit areas of high biodiversity. These traditional uses also need to be safeguarded. As well, the Arctic is facing an increase in development and recreational activities. The six IUCN categories, which allow different levels of human activity and access, can be used as a guide in the designation process.

The IUCN Categories are:

- I. Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness
- II. National Park
- III. Natural Monument
- IV. Habitat /Species Management Area
- V. Protected Landscape/Seascape
- VI. Managed Resource Protected Area.

To retain species and their habitats in their undisturbed state, countries should attempt to designate Arctic sites within Categories I and II.

Note: As a general rule, human access and activity should be regulated in accordance with the conservation values, vulnerability and conservation goals of each particular protected area. In large protected areas, regulations should be differentiated according to a zonation that includes core areas and peripheral buffer zones.

Note: All practices that can have serious negative environmental consequences should be prohibited inside protected areas, including in marine areas. In core areas, human activity should be strictly regulated, and if necessary, prohibited.

CAFF nations should consider the following when deciding on designation, access and use in non-core areas.

- will access to Protected Areas be guided by the purpose of the Protected Area?
- is seasonality of access and/or use an important variable?
- will traditional uses and access by indigenous groups conflict with the objectives of CPAN and objectives of the site(s)?
- can ecotourism be allowed in all but the most sensitive core areas (subject to stringent controls and enforcement in accordance with the ecological sensitivity of the protected area)?
- can research and monitoring needs be accommodated and encouraged (subject to strict guidelines)?
- should resource extraction activities be permitted, and if so, are there Arctic-oriented resource-conserving technologies available?
- can a "multiple use" designation be assigned to allow a gradation of use intensity from the core reserve to the developed landscape?
- can, and should, the site be designated a Ramsar Site, a Man and the Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, other?

- can ecologically-compatible uses of sites protected primarily for their importance to migratory species be accommodated during times of species absence?
- what recreational activities could be allowed in all but the most sensitive areas and what detrimental practices should be regulated and severely curtailed and how could this be done?
- could activities such as grazing be permitted provided they do not lead to ecological damage (e.g. overgrazing, persecution of predators, serious disruption of other species, etc) and what precautions would need to be put in place?

V v Socio-Economic and Cultural Values

Although priority for site selection and designation in the Arctic and as part of CPAN is given to a site's importance for ecosystem, species and habitat conservation, other values may be considered including a site's economic, social and cultural value. Protecting sites that have multiple-values may be practical and expedient. The following non-ecological site values that should be considered in order of priority include:

- site is culturally or traditionally important for indigenous peoples of the North
- site has value for non-consumptive recreational use (i.e. tourism and ecotourism) and/or for consumptive recreational use (i.e. hunting, fishing)
- site has potential to contribute to the economy by virtue of its protection (e.g. protection of an area for recreation, subsistence or other use by traditional inhabitants, appreciation by tourists and others or as a refuge nursery area or source of economically important species)
- site has existing or potential value for the local, national or international communities because of its heritage, historical, cultural, traditional, aesthetic, or educational values
- site selection has social and political acceptance and communal support

VI MANAGEMENT OF CPAN - FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The primary aim in the development of Principles and Guidelines for CPAN has been to facilitate a common approach across the Arctic region for selecting and designating protected areas in the circumpolar Arctic, to foster consistency in ecosystem and species protection through the use of protected areas and to assist in the analysis of gaps in protection at the national and international levels. Consequently, common approaches to the management of protected areas has not been the main focus. Nevertheless, Section 9, Article i of the AEPS calls on the Arctic countries to "seek to develop more effective laws, regulations and practices for the conservation of Arctic flora, fauna, their diversity, and their habitats in close cooperation with Arctic indigenous peoples". Furthermore, the Convention on Biological Diversity calls on the countries to "develop, where necessary, *guidelines for the ...management* of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to

conserve biological diversity" and further recommends that countries examine means of implementing the Convention and its clauses on a regional level.

It is recognized that each country already has in place its own protected area management regime and studies show there are many similarities. Consequently, it is worthwhile examining the possibility of devising common approaches to protected area management that would result in improved overall management of protected areas in the Arctic and facilitate more effective functioning of CPAN. Areas where common management approaches should be considered during the further development and implementation of CPAN.

- developing mechanisms to actively involve indigenous peoples organizations, in particular those that are AEPS observers, in site selection and management processes and in helping to determine appropriate kinds and scales of renewable resource use
- developing common management plan guidelines for protected areas in the Arctic
- linking protected area management plans to species management plans (i.e. those being developed by CAFF)
- investigating a common protected area classification scheme for the Arctic (based on the 1994 IUCN system, modifying it to incorporate other protected area systems in place in the Arctic countries)
- seeking harmonized protected area policies among the eight countries
- investigating a common circumpolar approach to Conventions or programmes that contribute sites to CPAN (e.g. Ramsar, MAB, World Heritage)
- developing common guidelines for protected area access and use in the Arctic
- establishing common linkages with other jurisdictions for species migrating outside CAFF countries to ensure habitat conservation throughout the range of migratory species utilizing the Arctic

VII CONCLUSION

Applying a common set of principles and guidelines to protected areas in the Arctic will be instrumental in sustaining the proper functioning of Arctic ecosystems, in ensuring that species requirements are secured throughout their entire range, and in making certain that valuable tracts of Arctic wilderness are secured as a legacy for future generations.

Achieving a regional approach calls for cooperation and a commitment to work together for ecosystem-wide habitat conservation and to apply the CPAN principles and guidelines. Countries are asked to consider each others', as well as their own, habitat and species requirements, and those of local and indigenous peoples, when designing and managing their national protected area systems in order to develop the optimum network in which their own current or proposed protected areas will support and be an integral part of the broader Arctic regional system.

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