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## CAFF Deliverables for March SAO Meeting

At the CAFF Biennial meeting on February 1-5 the following deliverables were approved for submission to the SAOs as part of CAFFs package of Ministerial deliverables:

- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (START)
- State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR) 2021 update: Seabirds
- SAMBR 2021 update: Marine Mammals
- CBMP-Freshwater Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment Progress Report 2020
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining Progress Report
- Wetlands Key Findings and Recommendations
- Revised Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) Work Plan 2019-2023
- AMBI Mid-term evaluation summary report
- Working with Indigenous Communities on Migratory Birds- case studies relevant to AMBI
- CAFF Arctic Youth Engagement Strategy 2021-2026
- Actions for Biodiversity: Implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) Recommendations: Progress Report
- Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) Progress report 2019-2021

The following short texts provide a brief summary of each deliverable

### CBMP Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The CBMP is an international network of scientists, States, Indigenous organizations, and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic Biodiversity, including the Arctic's living resources in an ecosystem based and holistic approach. The CBMP's efforts are organized around the major ecosystems of the Arctic: coastal freshwater, marine, and terrestrial. It utilizes existing monitoring capacity in the Arctic through enhanced coordination and integration of established monitoring resources. This Strategic Plan defines the overarching goals of the CBMP for 2021-2025 and outlines objectives and relevant activities in support of those goals. It guides the management of the program and helps ensure the program's continued relevance to the needs of the Arctic States, Permanent Participants, Scientific and Arctic communities, and International and other partners.

### State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (START)

The START is a product of CAFFs Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). It is a synthesis of the state of knowledge about biodiversity in Arctic terrestrial ecosystems, detectable changes, and important gaps in our ability to assess state and trends in biodiversity across Focal Ecosystem Components (FECs) of the Arctic's terrestrial ecosystem. Changes in FECs status likely indicate changes in the overall terrestrial environment. By compiling available information, this report provides an important first step to identify knowledge gaps in circumpolar biodiversity monitoring efforts.

### State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR): 2021 update: Seabirds

In 2017, the SAMBR synthesized data about biodiversity in Arctic marine ecosystems around the circumpolar Arctic. The SAMBR a product of CAFFs Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) highlighted observed changes and relevant monitoring gaps using data compiled through 2015 (CAFF

2017). This document provides an update on the status of seabirds in the circumpolar Arctic using data from 2016–2019.

### [State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report \(SAMBR\): 2021 update: Marine Mammals](#)

In 2017, the SAMBR synthesized data about biodiversity in Arctic marine ecosystems around the circumpolar Arctic. The SAMBR a product of CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) highlighted observed changes and relevant monitoring gaps using data compiled through 2015 . This document provides an update on the status of marine mammals in the circumpolar Arctic using data from 2016–2019.

### [CBMP-Freshwater Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment Progress Report 2020](#)

CBMP-Freshwater is the freshwater expert group of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The CBMP is working with partners to harmonize and enhance long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring efforts. A major goal of CBMP-Freshwater is to facilitate the detection and communication of environmental and biological change in the Arctic, to support adaptive holistic decision making and stimulate societal responses to significant trends and pressures. This is accomplished by an international group of experts that forms the Steering Group and Freshwater Expert Networks in the Arctic States. This report provides an overview of implementation and next steps.

### [Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining Progress Report](#)

CAFF began work on the *Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Arctic Mining* (MBAM) project in 2017. The project's goal is to provide guidance for the incorporation of biodiversity objectives and provisions into plans, operations, and other aspects of mining activities in the Arctic. Since 2017, CAFF has engaged hundreds of experts through facilitated roundtable dialogues, virtual panel discussions, online feedback, and interviews. This progress report summarizes the process to date and presents advice as well as potential next steps for CAFF's consideration as this project moves forward.

### [Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands: Key Findings and Recommendations](#)

The purpose of the *Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands (RAW)* initiative is to strengthen engagement on the roles and functions of wetlands as a resource to support sustainable development and resilience in the Arctic. Phase 1 (2017-2019) mapped the state of knowledge on resilience and management of Arctic wetlands in response to global drivers such as climate change or more local drivers such as changes in land use. Phase 2 (2019-2020) identified case studies of wetlands management and conservation, considered indigenous participation in wetlands management, and explored approaches to make national inventories more comparable; and Building upon the outcomes of Phases 1 and 2, Phase 3 (2020-2021) developed a series of key findings and recommendations designed to maintain and even strengthen the resilience of wetlands. Many of these findings and recommendations are highly relevant both within and outside the Arctic, and Arctic States have the opportunity to act as role models for sustainable use of wetlands.

## Revised Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) Work Plan 2019-2023

The AMBI Workplan defines the goals and objectives for AMBI during 2019-2023. This revised workplan provides a list of objectives and actions that have been revised after the 2019-2020 AMBI Mid-term evaluation. Actions were revised to offer better clarity and provide opportunities for changing conservation context and increased opportunity for implementation. This document is intended to be an accompanying document to the original Work Plan, which contains more information and context for AMBI activities.

## Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): Mid-term evaluation summary report

This document provides an implementation update of the 76 actions identified in the AMBI Work Plan 2019-2023, as well as the overarching supportive activities necessary to implement AMBI from 2019-2020 (i.e., the first half of the work plan).

## Working with Indigenous Communities on Migratory Birds- case studies relevant to AMBI

This document is a first step towards illustrating the importance of Indigenous Knowledge inclusion and community participation to identify and implement activities that help fulfil AMBI, and how inclusion into the AMBI work plan can help researchers, institutions and community members build support for this work. It is hoped that actions will help identify relationships that should continue to be built and reinforced at the international and national level. This document may aid AMBI in advancing discussions on the development of processes to support the meaningful engagement of Permanent Participants, Indigenous Knowledge holders and Indigenous communities more directly.

## CAFF Arctic Youth Engagement Strategy 2021-2026

CAFF has been working for many years to provide a platform for youth from around the world to help raise awareness about the Arctic and to engage in international discussions about Arctic issues, strategies, and policies. This platform seeks to advance a number of CAFF Working Group priorities and broader Arctic Council mandates expressed in Ministerial Declarations having to do with meaningful engagement of Arctic communities, international collaboration, and engagement with observers. This document outlines the need for youth engagement and why it is valuable; it also addresses some key considerations and possible opportunities that CAFF should take into account as it implements future work. This strategy was developed with direct input from youth leaders who served as key advisers in developing this document.

## Actions for Biodiversity: Implementation of the ABA recommendations Progress Report

At the 2015 Arctic Ministerial in Iqaluit CAFF presented the Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (Actions for Biodiversity). This Actions for Biodiversity guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues and describes actions to be undertaken in response to the findings of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). At the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2021, a new Actions for Biodiversity was due to be presented along with a final report on the implementation of the Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021. However, development of the new Actions for Biodiversity has been delayed due to COVID-19 related challenges, including delays in international processes informing this process i.e., the post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In response, the lifespan of the current Actions for Biodiversity was extended until 2023 and

over the next 2-years a new Actions for Biodiversity will be developed for delivery to the 2023 Arctic Council Ministerial. To inform this process this report provides an overview of work on biodiversity in the Arctic Council and in particular in CAFF and how this work can influence change. The report also includes a status on progress towards implementation of the current Actions for Biodiversity.

### Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) Progress report 2019-2021

Comprehensive biodiversity data can inform decision- and policy-making. While many such data already exist, the challenge lies in finding, accessing, and making sense of existing, but dispersed pieces of data. Data are not always encoded in accordance with international data standards and best practices and often lack the necessary contextual metadata required to correctly apply and interpret it. Accessing Arctic biodiversity data from a range of sources and in variable formats can require a lot of effort from users to gather and assemble information. In response, CAFF, initiated the development of the Arctic ABDS to serve as the data management system for biodiversity data generated via its monitoring and assessment activities. This report provides an overview of the ABDS and its work during 2019-2021.