

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 17/09/2014

ABA Implementation Plan *Status report*

OVERVIEW

CAFF released the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) in May 2013. The Report for Policy Makers presents 17 recommendations for addressing the 9 key findings of the ABA. In the Kiruna Declaration “... *the Arctic Council instructs Senior Arctic Officials to ensure that a plan for further work under the Arctic Council to support and implement its recommendations is developed, and that a progress report is delivered to the next ministerial meeting.*”

CAFF is developing an **Implementation Plan** for the ABA recommendations, incorporating the 4 recommendations from Life Linked to Ice. The Plan will show how ongoing work and new and proposed actions of Arctic Council will work together to address and implement these recommendations. The ABA recommendations were made to the Arctic Council as a whole, and some are being implemented through Arctic Council initiatives led by other working groups and task forces (for example, those related to climate change mitigation) or by bodies outside the Arctic Council.

A draft of the implementation plan was presented and discussed at a workshop in Cambridge Bay, Canada, 25 August 2014. After this workshop and discussions at the last CAFF Board meeting, the draft plan is under review.

FRAMEWORK

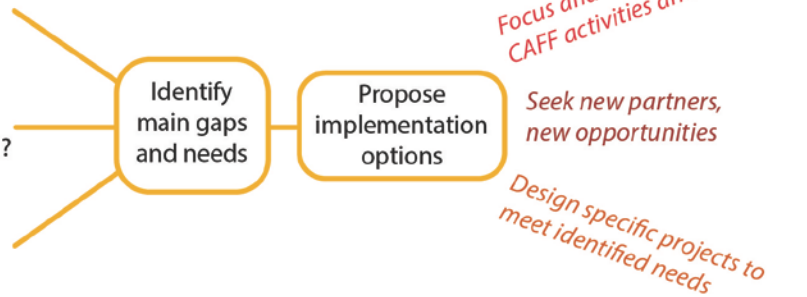
- The plan is organized over four two-year implementation periods, corresponding to the cycle of rotation of the chairmanship of Arctic Council and CAFF. It will be a living document with the main actions and deliverables reviewed and confirmed every two years as progress is evaluated, information increases and priorities change.
- Each period finishes at a Ministerial Meeting. This delineation was selected to assist with aligning priorities, resource allocation, and reporting within the Arctic Council.
- A progress report that shows major revisions to the implementation plan and progress in implementation of the recommendations will be submitted to the SAOs in advance of the Ministerial Meetings of 2015, 2017, and 2019.
- A final report, including recommendations for follow-up, will be tabled at the 12th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2021.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT STEPS

1. Analysis of each recommendation to identify gaps and propose implementation options -- Arctic Council countries, PPs, and Observers led analyses for some recommendations; a CAFF-appointed steering group coordinated the remaining analyses.

For each recommendation, ask:

- What is CAFF doing now that addresses this recommendation?
- What recent and ongoing Arctic Council work is related?
- What work external to Arctic Council is relevant?



How recommendations were analysed.

2. Reviewed implementation options and developed sets of actions for each recommendation -- The actions are described in various levels of detail reflecting the relevance to CAFF's mandate, the timeline for implementation, and the level of knowledge about what needs to be done.
3. Set priorities for implementation actions.

TIMELINE

- November/December: CAFF review
- February 10-12: Scheduled for approval at CAFF Biennial
- February: SAO Review
- April 24-25: Ministerial Deliverable

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- SAOs and PPs asked to take note of progress so far and provide guidance.