

## Summary of CAFFs Work Plan for the 2009 – 2011 Ministerial Period

The Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna Working Group (CAFF) is the Biodiversity Working group of the Arctic Council. It is guided by the CAFF Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity and biennial Work Plans. CAFFs mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate the findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.

In order to successfully conserve the natural environment and allow for economic development requires baseline data on long-term status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health. CAFF's projects provide data for informed decision making in resolving conflicts which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth. To this end CAFFs activities are centred around cooperation on:

- Nature and biodiversity management issues
- The use of living resources in the arctic
- Climate change
- Adaptability
- Sustainability
- Communication and outreach

The 2009 – 2011 Work Plan places a strong focus on Climate Change and building upon the recommendations contained in the *Arctic Climate and Impact Assessment (ACIA)*. The ACIA and CAFF's *Flora & Fauna: Status and Conservation report* both indicated that it was necessary to consider the status and trends of biodiversity in the Arctic. The ACIA called for improved capacity to monitor and understand changes in the Arctic and to improve and enhance long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program are two of the primary vehicles via which CAFF is responding to these calls. CAFF will also place a strong focus on the International Polar Year (IPY) both through benefiting from IPY generated research and contributing to IPY legacy.

This document outlines the projects and activities which CAFF plans to undertake for the 2009 – 2011 Ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed for the inter-ministerial period, but may change according to new opportunities and priorities. Both CAFF Working Group and Board meetings can amend the CAFF Work Plan.

Project/Activity	Description	Delivery Date	Lead
<b>Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Follow-up</b>			
<i>The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)</i>	Conduct the <i>Arctic 2010 Biodiversity Highlights Report</i>	2009	Finland, Greenland /Denmark, United States
	Conduct the ABA Scientific Report	2013	Finland, Greenland /Denmark, United States
	Update the map of protected areas in the Arctic	2009	Canada
<i>The Circumpolar Biodiversity monitoring Programme (CBMP)</i>	Implement the CBMP	ongoing	Canada
	Hold a workshop on the monitoring of protected areas	2009	Canada, United States
	Create a web based Seabird Information Network (SIN) in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC and CBMP	2009 -2011	United States
	Continue development of the Arctic Report Cards	ongoing	Canada
	Development of the Expert Monitoring Groups (representing the major Arctic biomes - marine, coastal, freshwater, terrestrial vegetation, and terrestrial fauna)	ongoing	The CAFF Chair
	Development of long-term integrated monitoring plans for each of the Arctic biomes	ongoing	The CAFF Chair
	Development of the CBMPs Indicators and Indices	ongoing	The CAFF Chair
<b>CAFF Expert Groups</b>			
<i>CAFF Flora Group (CFG)</i>	Complete a report on checklists of Arctic lichens and bryophytes	2009	Iceland and Canada
	Develop the Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map	ongoing	United States
	Develop collaboration within CAFF to	2009 -2011	United States,

	delimit floristic regions in the circumpolar Arctic		Canada, Russia
	Develop interlinked Arctic Flora and Vegetation databases	2009 -2011	To be determined
	Encourage the use of GLORIA, a worldwide monitoring network for climate change impacts on the ecology of high mountain systems	ongoing	United States, Canada
	Monitoring vegetation change in Greenland	2009 -2011	United States
	Create a CFG Education/Outreach Subcommittee	2009 -2011	Canada
<i>CAFF Seabird Group (CBird)</i>	Complete the circumpolar Eider conservation strategy	2009 -2011	Canada
	Complete the Circumpolar Murre conservation strategy	2009 -2011	United States
	Complete the report on birds of Arctic conservation concern	2009 -2011	Finland/Greenland
	Complete the report on seabird gillnet bycatch in commercial fisheries in the Arctic	2009 -2011	United States
	Develop a Thick-billed Murre population model for the Atlantic region	2009 -2011	Canada
	Write paper for peer-reviewed journal on the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic	2009 -2011	Iceland
	Complete a peer-reviewed publication on seabirds and climate change	2009 -2011	United States, Norway, Canada
	Complete the circumpolar seabird monitoring network framework	2009 -2011	Iceland
	Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan	2009 -2011	United States, United Kingdom
	Complete the report on the status and	2009 -2011	Iceland, United

	trends of circumpolar seabird		States
	Complete an analysis of population and productivity data on circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake status and trends	2009 -2011	Norway, United States
	Implement the CBird-STAMP project	2009 -2011	Norway, United States
	Conduct the Arctic Tern Project	2009 -2011	Greenland
	Develop an online circumpolar seabird colony database	2009 -2011	Norway, United States, Canada
<b>CAFF Projects</b>			
<i>ECORA</i>	Complete the ECORA project in the three model areas in Russia	2009 -2011	Russia, Norway, RAIPON, UNEP/GRID-Arendal
	Biodiversity, traditional nature use and climate change in the Russian Arctic: assessment and adaptation strategy development		To be determined
<i>The Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN)</i>	Continue to implement the Bering Sea Sub-Network: International Community-based Environmental Observation Alliance for Arctic Observing Network (BSSN) -	ongoing	Aleut International Association
<b>Cooperation with other Working Groups</b>			
<i>Sustaining Arctic Observing Network</i>	Work with Arctic Council Working Groups on the SAON process	ongoing	CAFF Chair
<i>AMAP</i>	The CAFF-AMAP Coordinated Monitoring Effort	ongoing	CAFF Chair
<i>AMAP and EPPR</i>	Work on an Arctic Council spatial strategy with AMAP and EPPR	ongoing	CAFF Chair
<i>PAME</i>	Implement priority CAFF-relevant action items of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)	ongoing	To be determined
<b>Cooperation with International Conventions, Agreements and Organizations</b>			

Cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal	ongoing	CAFF Chair
Cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	ongoing	<i>CAFF Chair</i>
Cooperation with the oil and gas industry on biodiversity conservation efforts	ongoing	<i>CAFF Chair</i>
Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
Cooperate on the development of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) process	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
Participate in the planning and development of the International Polar Year (IPY) Legacy issues	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
Cooperation with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AWEA)	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
<b>Communications and Outreach</b>		
Participate in relevant international symposia and international meetings to communicate CAFFs results and ongoing activities	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
Develop promotional brochures, posters and other communication products for CAFF	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>
Develop promotional brochures, posters and other communication products for the CBMP	ongoing	<i>Canada and The CAFF Chair</i>
Development of CAFF publication series	ongoing	<i>The CAFF Chair</i>