

## CAFFs Draft Work Plan for 2011 – 2013

### Introduction

The Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna Working Group (CAFF) is the Biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council and its mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.

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 the challenges which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth. This work is based upon cooperation between all Arctic countries, indigenous organizations, international conventions and organizations. The objectives of CAFF are:

- 1) to collaborate for more effective research, sustainable utilization and conservation;
- 2) to cooperate to conserve Arctic flora and fauna, their diversity and their habitats;
- 3) to protect the Arctic ecosystem from human-caused threats;
- 4) to seek to develop more effective laws, regulations and practices for flora, fauna and habitat management, utilization and conservation;
- 5) to work in cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic;
- 6) to consult and cooperate with appropriate international organizations and seek to develop other forms of cooperation;
- 7) to regularly compile and disseminate information on Arctic conservation;
- 8) to contribute to environmental impact assessments of proposed activities.

CAFFs work in 2009 – 2011 has emphasized climate change, integrated resource management, conservation, communication and outreach. Stress has been placed upon the need for an effective response, producing updates on changes in Arctic biodiversity e.g. due the impacts of climate change and using the best available knowledge. The Key findings from the *Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010* report reflect the concerns and directions outlined in the Tromsø Declaration and the common priorities agreed upon for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Chairmanship period of the Arctic Council.

### 1. Monitoring

#### Monitoring groups

- a. Implementation of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP).  
*Lead – Canada*
- b. Continue development of the CBMPs Expert Monitoring Groups and development and implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans.
  - Freshwater Expert Monitoring Group. *Lead Canada and Sweden*
  - Marine Expert Monitoring Group and development of the Marine Expert Monitoring Advisory Committee (MEMAC). *Lead: Norway and the United States*
  - Terrestrial Expert Monitoring Group. *Lead: Denmark/Greenland and the United States*
  - Coastal Expert Monitoring Group. *Lead: To be determined*

Monitoring networks and plans

- c. Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey (ABBCs) CBMP. *Lead: Canada*
- d. Bering Sea Sub-Network (BSSN): A Distributed Human Sensor Array to Detect Arctic Environmental Change. *Lead: Aleut International Association*
- e. Participate in GLORIA (Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine environments) - a worldwide monitoring network for climate change impacts on the ecology of high mountain systems (CFG). *Lead The United States*
- f. Seabird Information Network (SIN) (CBird). *Lead: United States*
- g. The Circum-Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network (CARMA) (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*
- h. Development of additional monitoring networks (CBMP). *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- i. Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan (CBird). *Lead: United States and United Kingdom*
- j. Develop a protected areas monitoring framework (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*
- k. Polar bear Monitoring plan (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*

Monitoring Projects

- l. Arctic Vegetation Database - interlinked Arctic Flora and Vegetation databases (Circumpolar Flora Expert Group - CFG). *Lead: United States*
- m. Biodiversity, traditional nature use and climate change in the Russian Arctic: assessment and adaptation strategy development. *Lead: Russia*
- n. Conduct monitoring of Red list plants (CFG). *Lead: Sweden*
- o. Develop a Red list for Arctic Vascular Plants (CFG). *Lead: To be confirmed*
- p. Monitoring vegetation change in Greenland (CFG). *Lead: United States*
- q. Thick-billed Murre North Atlantic geocator study (CBird). *Lead: Norway*
- r. Development of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) Indicators and Indices. *Lead: Canada.*

**2. Assessments**

- a. Conduct the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment - *Lead Canada, Finland, Greenland, Sweden and the United States*
- b. Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) follow-up. *Lead: Iceland*
- c. Analysis and update of protected areas in the Arctic. *Lead: Iceland*
- d. Analysis of the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic (CBird). *Lead: Iceland and Norway*
- e. Analysis of marine protected areas in the Arctic. *Lead: Iceland*
- f. Analysis of murre banding recoveries (CBird). *Lead: Iceland and Norway*
- g. Arctic Marine sensitive areas: AMSA IIC follow-up. *Lead: Canada and Greenland/Denmark*
- h. Analysis of population and productivity data on circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake status and trends (CBird). *Lead: Norway and the United States*

- i. Analysis of the Status and Trends of the Arctic Tern (CBird). *Lead: Greenland*
- j. Arctic Species Trend Index 2011: Marine analysis (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*
- k. Analysis of Arctic Sea Ice associated biodiversity. *Lead Canada and the United States*
- l. Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) CFG. *Lead: United States*
- m. Complete the Panarctic Moss Checklist (CFG). *Lead: Canada*
- n. Complete the Panarctic Flora annotated checklist (CFG). *Lead: Norway*
- o. Update the checklist of Arctic lichens (CFG). *Lead: Iceland*

### 3. Conservation Strategies

- a. Implementation of the Eider conservation strategy (CBird). *Lead: Canada*
- b. Implementation of the Murre conservation strategy (CBird). *Lead: Norway*
- c. Implementation of the Ivory Gull conservation strategy (CBird). *Lead: Canada and Norway*
- d. Develop a strategy to respond to the Key findings from the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 report. *Lead: ICC and the Saami Council*
- e. Implement priority CAFF-relevant action items of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP). *Lead: The CAFF chair*

### 4. Methods and Tools

- a. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI). *Lead: Greenland*
- b. Compendium of TEK information from the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). *Lead: Canada, Finland, Greenland, Sweden and the United States*

### 5. International Coordination

Cooperation with International Conventions, Agreements and Organizations - current actions include developing cooperation with the following: *Lead: The CAFF Chair*

- a. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- b. The Arctic Parliamentarians
- c. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- d. The Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR)
- e. The European Union (EU)
- f. The European Environmental Agency
- g. GEO BON Biodiversity Observation Network
- h. The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)
- i. Cooperation on the development of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) process
- j. The International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)
- k. The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- l. The International Polar Year: Participate in planning and development of IPY Legacy issues
- m. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- n. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- o. The Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG)
- p. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- q. The oil and gas industry on biodiversity conservation efforts
- r. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- s. The United Nations Environment Programme Global Resource Information Database (UNEP GRID – Arendal)
- t. The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- u. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- v. Wetlands International
- w. Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

## 6. Communication and Outreach

- a. CircumArctic Plant portal (CFG). *Lead: To be determined*
- b. Continued development of the Arctic Report Cards (CBMP). *Lead: Canada*
- c. Cooperation with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- d. Develop promotional brochures, posters, films and other communication products for CAFF. *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- e. Development of CAFF publication series. *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- f. Participate in relevant international symposia and international meetings to communicate CAFF's results and ongoing activities. *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- g. ArcticData.is - (Web portal which allows access and download of data published through CAFF and PAME). *Lead: The CAFF Chair*
- h. Development of Arctic Biodiversity portal. *Lead: The CAFF Chair*

## 7. Permanent Expert Groups

- a. Circumpolar Seabird expert group (CBird). *Lead: Canada and the United States*
- b. Circumpolar flora expert group (CFG). *Lead: The United States*