

## CAFF Board meeting 4-6<sup>th</sup> October Moscow

This was the first CAFF board meeting under the Russian Chairmanship of CAFF. Participants included representatives from the Arctic Council countries, Permanent Participants (AIA, ICC, RAIPON), Observer organisations (WWF, Wetlands International, RAMSAR). Please find here a short overview of items of interest from the meeting:

### 1. *Assessment*

- The process for developing the recommendations which will come from the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) was planned. A policy development workshop is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Deputy Ministers meeting in May 2012.
- An ABA lead authors technical workshop is scheduled for early 2012.
- A workshop is scheduled for January 2012 to complete the report on sea ice associated biodiversity and develop the recommendations which it will produce.

### 2. *Monitoring*

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) is now in year 3 of its 5 year implementation plan. Recent highlights include the following:

- One of four planned Arctic biodiversity ecosystem based monitoring plans (Marine) has been completed and started implementation;
- To implement the marine monitoring plan a marine steering group and five new marine expert networks have been formed;
- Two plans are under development (Freshwater and Terrestrial) and expected to be completed shortly;
- A marine and spatial analysis of the Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI) is underway;
- A number of new biodiversity indices are being considered e.g. red list, land cover to add to the existing indices (ASTI, Protected areas and Linguistics);
- CAFF has been facilitating the development of a circumpolar monitoring plan for polar bears as a contribution to the Range states meeting in October 2011.

### 3. *Cooperation - current activities of interest include:*

- CAFF is participating in the CBDs SBSSTA15 being held in November in Canada, a side event will be held, CAFF has also submitted a document summarising activities on Arctic biodiversity;
- Discussions on request from RAMSAR convention to develop further cooperation;
- AEWA (The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement) have requested closer cooperation and have developed a draft MoC for consideration by CAFF;
- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development RIO+20 is being held in June 2012 and it was decided to bring this to the SAOs attention and ask for guidance on whether CAFF should participate and if so how.

### 4. *Communication and outreach*

Increased emphasis is placed upon communication and outreach activities and components of this have included:

- The appointment of a communications officer at the CAFF Secretariat
- A new communications plan is currently under review
- A film on Arctic Biodiversity is under development and also a series of items focusing on the CBMP
- Contributions to the ongoing work within the Arctic Council to develop an Arctic Council communications strategy and to the new Arctic Council portal.
- Cooperation with PAME to make working group data accessible via the ArcticData portal

#### 5. Arctic Council

- The CAFF US representative will attend the upcoming the meeting of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) expert group and contribute to the development of that process
- CAFF and AMAP held a joint meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> which focused on insuring that their respective activities are coordinated to the best effect.
- The project identifying marine sensitive areas in the Arctic in response to recommendation IIC from the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) is scheduled to be completed by April 2012. This is a unique project which involves 3 working groups (CAFF, AMAP, SDWG) cooperating to respond to a request from PAME. It was suggested that an Arctic Council event to launch the report could be arranged.