

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021

CAFF has focused on implementing the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: Implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment** (ABA) and, as requested, conducted an evaluation of progress for the Arctic Council Ministerial in May.

The **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity** guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues.

Key actions in phase 3 of this plan (2017-19) include: safeguarding biodiversity under changing conditions; cumulative effects; and improving knowledge and public awareness, including by contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity assessment on achievement of the

United Nations Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and convening the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Focus will continue on ongoing actions from phases 1 and 2 of the **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity**, which include: mainstreaming biodiversity; ecosystem services; communications and outreach; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, protecting migratory species, addressing invasive species and pollution; and indicator development.

Many projects have in-kind support from Arctic states and Permanent Participants. Additional support will be requested through grant applications and state contributions.

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The CBMP, CAFF's cornerstone program, is an international network of scientists, government agencies, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources.

The CBMP continues to work to improve involvement of Arctic Indigenous organizations and Traditional and Local Knowledge holders within its networks. Efforts are organized around the Arctic's major ecosystems (marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal) with key actions including: indicator development; data aggregation and rescue; identification of knowledge gaps; development and implementation of coordinated monitoring plans; and reporting of status and trends.



Marine

- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity:** completed
- Implementation of **Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Freshwater

- **State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- Implementation of **Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Terrestrial

- **State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report:** ongoing
- Implementation of **Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing

Coastal

- **Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** ongoing
- Coastal Background Paper and workshop reports published

Indices & indicators

- Land Cover Change Index: ongoing
- Protected Areas: 2017 update completed
- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing

www.cbmp.is

Assessments and Strategies

- **State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report:** due 2018
- **State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report:** due 2019
- **Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan:** due 2018
- **Mainstreaming Arctic Biodiversity:** ongoing
- **Seabird conservation strategies, assessments:** ongoing
- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report:** completed
- **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report: key findings & advice for monitoring:** completed

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Observer engagement with over 20 countries
- Technical Workshop, Singapore (January 2017)
- Workplan revision: ongoing
- Flyway coordinators in place for 2018
- Implementation workshop planned for 2018



www.caff.is/ambi

Cross-cutting activities

CAFF works closely with the various Arctic Council Working Groups and Task Forces to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g., input into the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, the Ecosystem Approach, the AACA and work with PAME on marine protected areas and invasive alien species.

**CAFF Progress Report to SAOs
Oulo, Finland, October 2017**

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Cynthia Jacobson, U.S.

2019- 2021 Chair: Sweden

March 2017

Iceland

CBMP Terrestrial
Arctic Flora Inventory
CAFF Flora Group

April 2017

U.S.

AMAP Conference

May 2017

U.S.

CAFF US Chairmanship
launch

August 2017

Iceland

CBMP INTERACT
workshop

September 2017

U.S.

CAFF Board

October 2017

U.S.

CBMP Marine
CBMP Coastal
CBMP Freshwater
Iceland
Arctic Circle
Youth exchange

Cooperation

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic
- International Science conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Framework
- Invasive species

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group
- Strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

In addition, CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity*
- Ramsar*
- Convention on Migratory Species*
- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership*
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility*
- Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
- Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure

- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- United Nations Environment Programme
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International
- International Arctic Science Committee
- International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

** indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

Education

CAFF's work on education is directed towards children, youth and early career scientists. Ongoing activities include:

Educational kits to communicate information to school children in the Arctic (10-11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. Available in: Russian, Inuktitut, Icelandic, Finnish, Inari Saami and Northern Saami French. Seeking additional translations. Distribution underway and funding sought to develop further toolkits.

www.arcticbiodiversity.is/education

Arctic youth engagement program: working to more effectively engage youth in sharing their perspectives, learning about leadership roles related to Arctic issues and ways to advance conservation of natural and cultural heritage in their communities across the Arctic. US and Iceland are participating in the first Youth exchange in Oct.



Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- Website management
- Data management
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Graphics development
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

Communication and Outreach

- Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2018 to be held in October in Rovaniemi, Finland.



Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitate access to and archiving of data

www.abds.is