



Memorandum to the Senior Arctic Officials 19/10/2012

Status of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

PURPOSE:

To update the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) on status of the ABA.

ABA PRODUCTS

- ABA products include the (1) Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 report; (2) the scientific assessment; (3) TEK compendium (4) the summary document for policy makers; and a range of communication and outreach material and tools.

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT

- Includes 20 technical chapters and a synthesis
- All chapters are expected to be completed by January. All texts will be finalized but all chapters may not have gone to layout.

TEK COMPENDIUM

- Under review and scheduled to be circulated for country/PP review in November.

SUMMARY FOR POLICY MAKERS

- A draft will be ready for consideration at the January SAO meeting. The document will be finalized at the CAFF Biennial held February 12-15th 2013;
- A drafting group has been formed to develop the policy document, including recommendations¹
- Timeline for development of the policy document:
 - November 4th first draft circulated to the CAFF board;
 - November 14-15th SAOs will be presented with an update and general direction of recommendations;
 - November 19th revised draft circulated for country/PP review. At this stage the lead authors of scientific assessment will also be asked to review the summary of the science and the key findings components of the summary for policy makers document;
 - December 15th comments from country/PP review to be received;
 - January 4th final draft circulated.

SYMPOSIUM

- The CAFF Board agreed that there is not enough time to organize a scientific symposium before the Ministerial in May 2013. In addition, the full scientific assessment may not be published (printed) at that time. It was therefore decided that CAFF no longer wishes to hold a symposium affiliated with the Ministerial and will consider holding a symposium or some comparable event later in 2013 with a potential focus on follow-up/implementation of the ABA.

¹ This group includes representatives from the US, Canada and Sweden.



COMMUNICATIONS

- Film approved by the CAFF board and will be screened during the SAO meeting in Haparanda. The film is undergoing finalisation and once ready will be circulated to the SAOs in advance of the Haparanda meeting.

DATA MANAGEMENT

- Work has begun to plan for and ensure that data from ABA is ready in appropriate format for ease of access and use when ABA is released.