



CAFF held its latest management board meeting in Salekhard, Russia, on February 28 - March 1. Several new projects were approved and progress was made on building CAFF's cooperative and outreach activities. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment project is preparing for policy recommendation development and plans for a launch in 2013.

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

- An ABA policy development workshop is scheduled for May 14-15 in Stockholm where scientists and policy makers will meet to develop potential ABA policy recommendations.
- An Arctic Biodiversity Symposium is planned to launch the ABA and SAOs will be asked to provide guidance on this issue.
- Compendiums of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) will be developed.
- A film on Arctic Biodiversity is underway and scheduled for completion in 2012.

The ABA is on schedule for completion in May 2013

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)

- The development of freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem monitoring plans are progressing well and the marine plan is in the process of implementation.
- The challenge to secure Permanent Participant involvement was raised. In response, a memo outlining the challenges has been submitted to the SAO Chair.
- Three new reports from the Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI) are being prepared for release and will be presented at the SAO meeting. These consist of (1) an analysis of status and trends for marine species; (2) a spatial and temporal analysis of data in the ASTI and (3) an overview of the key findings from these two technical reports.

The CBMP is maturing into the tool necessary to assist the Arctic Council to detect, explain and respond to biodiversity threats.

Activities

- A background paper is being developed with ICC on how TEK has been included within CAFF activities.
- It was suggested CAFF should, in cooperation with PPs, consider organising a short two hour seminar directly before the SAO meeting where each working group and PP would be invited to provide contributions and comments on the process of TEK inclusion within their work and the resultant challenges and successes.
- Concern was expressed that there was insufficient inclusion of TEK into the cultural component of the AMSAII (C) study on marine sensitive areas.
- The issue of migratory birds outside the Arctic was acknowledged as an issue of concern and work has begun to clarify the challenges and potential responses.
- Nomadic herders and their role in resource management is the focus of a new study which will explore how to enhance the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders.



Cooperation

The next meeting of the CAFF management board will take place in Chukotka on October 1-3, 2012

- Agreement was reached on Resolutions of Cooperation with the Ramsar convention and with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).
- CAFF is to hold a side event at Ramsar COP11 in July 2012.
- CAFF will be represented at the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP11, October 2012.

