

# **Report to Senior Arctic Officials**

## **Espoo, Finland, 5-6 November 2001**



**Flora on Hornstrandir, northwest Iceland**

# CAFF Report to Senior Arctic Officials

## Espoo, Finland, 5-6 November 2001

### 1. Mandate from Barrow

The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council endorsed the following activities under CAFF's five objectives:

#### *Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity*

- continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive network to monitor biodiversity, focusing on key species and species-groups of ecological and economic value;
- play an integral role in the completion of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment;
- develop and implement monitoring activities in collaboration with AMAP in support of ACIA and other assessments.

#### *Species and habitat conservation:*

- support the further development of the flora group to address priority flora and vegetation issues and to support ACIA, biodiversity monitoring, and CPAN;
- finalise the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map;
- continue coordinating the implementation of the murre and eider strategies;
- address the recommendations from CAFF's work on seabird bycatch and the conservation of migratory birds outside the Arctic.

#### *Protected areas:*

- continue coordinating the implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, with specific focus on the full range of values of Arctic protected areas, marine protection in collaboration with PAME, electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers, and integrating protection of indigenous sacred sites into CPAN.

#### *Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas*

- complete the project development phase of the UNEP/GEF/CAFF project on "An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic, including securing the necessary funds to complete the development phase and to initiate the Full Project.

#### *Integration and information sharing:*

- complete the full CAFF Overview Report on Arctic conservation issues;
- prepare recommendations based on the Overview Report;
- use the Overview Report and recommendations to enhance awareness among the public and decision-makers about important Arctic biodiversity concerns.

### 2. Developments since Rovaniemi, June 2001

#### 2.1 Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity/ACIA assessment

The CAFF Board met in Uppsala, Sweden, August 29-30, 2001 and decided to strengthen its support to the expert monitoring networks already established. A meeting between network coordinators and the CAFF Board is planned in early 2002. ITEX (International Tundra Experiment) reported its interest to focus the program increasingly on plant/vegetation monitoring in the Arctic and include in its next ITEX Manual provisions to that effect.

CAFF and AMAP met in Stockholm, August 31, 2001 to discuss ACIA and monitoring needs in the Arctic. The meeting discussed further coordination of CAFF/AMAP monitoring activities and decided to prepare a **proposal to the SAOs for an Integrated Arctic Monitoring Network to be developed during 2002-2004 for adoption at the AC Ministerial in 2004**. This integrated monitoring network would ensure coordination of biological and chemical monitoring activities of the countries as appropriate, harmonisations of indicator species and data management. CAFF accepted AMAPs offer to use the AMAP Project Directory for listing projects related to biodiversity monitoring. The meeting further discussed the planning of the ACIA Policy Document and, as a result, a **draft proposal for the strategy to prepare the ACIA Policy Document has been prepared for SAO attention**.

With support from the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, a GLOBE protocol is being developed to monitor seasonal markers of climate change focusing on the sea shore (i.e. arrival of migratory birds and seaweed phenology). This initiative, intended for selected Arctic schools, could be an important public/community element of CAFF's conservation and biodiversity monitoring work.

## **2.2 Species and habitat conservation**

A planned CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Working Group (CSWG) meeting in Anchorage, 20-24 September, 2001, had to be cancelled due to the events in New York and postponed till January 2002. This meeting will *inter alia* discuss the preparation of an **Arctic strategy to reduce seabird bycatch** in gillnet fisheries, and a **report that identifies Arctic migratory bird populations at risk** due to disturbance to staging and wintering areas outside of the Arctic region.

## **2.3 Protected Areas**

The CAFF Board meeting in Uppsala, 29-30 August 2001, decided to advance CPAN in two important ways:

- To prepare a project proposal to list and describe **ecologically important marine areas** in the Arctic as a basis for further development of CPAN in the marine environment, as well as a basis for preparing any relevant guidelines for marine user groups.
- To prepare a project proposal to evaluate the **full value** (ecological, cultural, economic) of Arctic protected areas

The CPAN Standing Committee will meet in early 2002 to scope these tasks. The CAFF Board **invited PAME to participate in the work of the CPAN Standing Committee**, especially on the first task mentioned above.

A website on Arctic protected areas, specifically designed for the needs of protected areas' managers is under construction.

The RAIPON/CAFF project "Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic: A Case Study in Northern Russia" is on track in the Koryak and Yamalo-Nenets regions and has created much attention among indigenous people's leaders in other regions and among external organizations.

## 2.4 ECORA/Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas

At the SAO meeting in Rovaniemi, CAFF reported that the PDF-B phase of the UNEP/GEF/CAFF project “An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic (ECORA)” had been delayed pending resolution of management issues within Russia.

CAFF is very pleased to announce that these issues have now been settled and the project is moving ahead as planned. The practical coordination and financial administration of the ECORA project has been moved to the Centre of Project Preparation and Implementation in Moscow (CPPI) ([www.cppei.ru](http://www.cppei.ru)). However, the Ministry of Natural Resources c/o Amirkhan Amirkhanov, still maintains the overall management responsibility for the project.

Feasibility Reports have been received from all regions involved, except Yamalo-Nenets, which has withdrawn from the project. Missions to the regions, to verify local support and evaluate the proposed model areas, have been completed or are ongoing. A meeting of the project’s Expert Task Team is planned October 31 to November 2 to assess these reports, decide on model areas, take the pulse on other project activities, and plan the writing of a Full Project Brief. **An oral update will be provided at the SAO meeting in Espoo.**

Fundraising activities for the Full Project will be intensified over the months to come.

## 2.5 Integration and information sharing

The CAFF overview report *Arctic Flora and Fauna: Status and Conservation* has been distributed widely in the Arctic region through the CAFF National Representatives and has received excellent reviews. The report is currently available at two internet bookstores ([www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com); [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com)) for approximately 30 USD. The CAFF Secretariat also carries considerable stock of the report for further distribution.

The overview report will be mounted on the CAFF homepage, which is currently under reconstruction, in an interactive format similar to the AMAP SOAER.

CAFF has prepared a draft outline of “*Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation*” for SAO attention. This is meant to be a stand-alone document (20-25 pp) built on the conclusions of and in a similar format as the overview report. It will contain general recommendations for actions for the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity. **SAOs are kindly requested to review this outline and provide comments. CAFF proposes to use this document also as a basis for its input to the WSSD in Johannesburg.**

## 2.6 CAFF Administration and Management

The CAFF Board held its last meeting in Uppsala, 29-30 August 2001 and a joint meeting with AMAP in Stockholm, 31 August 2001.

Upcoming meetings include Second ECORA Expert Task Team meeting in Moscow 31 October to 2 November, 2001; ACIA Assessment Steering Committee meeting in Ottawa, 3-5 December 2001; CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Working Group meeting in Anchorage, second week of January 2002; CAFF Biodiversity Monitoring meeting in Reykjavik, early 2002; and CPAN Standing Committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for Ottawa, early 2002.

The CAFF Secretariat will be operating with a \$254 000 US budget in 2001 and 2002, approximately 55% of which is provided by the Icelandic government. The staff consists of an Executive Secretary (100%), Senior Advisor (100%) provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Administrative Assistant (60%).

### **3. Deliverables for the Third AC Ministerial in Inari**

CAFF intends to deliver the following main products to the Third AC Ministerial Meeting:

- “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation”
- A full Project Brief for the UNEP/GEF/CAFF ECORA project.
- A report on the Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples.
- A Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map and Database.
- Progress report on ACIA, together with AMAP and IASC.
- Progress/final reports on other CAFF program activities as appropriate.

### **4. External developments which may influence CAFF’s priorities**

Any AC decisions regarding organisational and structural matters and decisions on input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (RIO+10) in Johannesburg, may affect the work and priorities of CAFF.

### **5. Activities needing coordination with other WGs**

At the last SAO meeting, CAFF highlighted three interfaces with the mandate and work of other working groups:

- Between CAFF and AMAP related to environmental monitoring and the ACIA. These issues are being coordinated between CAFF and AMAP (see 2.1 above).
- Between CAFF and the SDWG concerning issues related to sustainable use of living resources. The Executive Secretary of SDWG participated in the CAFF Board meeting in Uppsala, 29-30 August. No formal cooperation has been decided.
- Between CAFF and PAME related to habitat protection in the marine environment. As noted above PAME has been invited to participate in CAFF’s

### **6. Developments calling for SAO guidance**

SAO guidance is sought on the progress report in general and plans outlined therein. SAOs are specifically requested to:

- Comment the idea of a an Integrated Arctic Monitoring Network (CAFF/AMAP) to be developed during 2002-2004 for adoption at the AC Ministerial in 2004. A proposal could be developed for the next SAO meeting.

- Comment the “Draft proposal for a strategy to prepare the ACIA Policy Document” - submitted separately by AMAP and CAFF.
- Comment the draft outline of “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation” – submitted separately by CAFF.
- Take note of the planned fundraising efforts for the ECORA project.
- Take note that CAFF will be developing proposals for new projects on:
  - A compendium of ecologically important marine areas in the Arctic.
  - Full value of protected areas in the Arctic.
  - An Arctic strategy to reduce seabird bycatch
  - A report on Arctic migratory birds at risk outside the Arctic region
- Take note of the interface between CAFF and the SDWG concerning issues related to sustainable use of living resources.

# CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA CAFF

## UPDATED WORK PLAN 2000 – 2002

NOVEMBER 2001

### I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic countries to be undertaken by CAFF, under the auspices of the Arctic Council, during the period September 2000 to fall 2002.

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 follows the format of and represents steps towards implementing the “Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity,” which was endorsed by the Arctic Ministers in 1998 as a framework for future CAFF activities.

### II. WORK PLAN

#### *1. Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity*

- 1.1. Facilitate establishment of nine networks of experts to identify priority elements of a program to monitor biological diversity **(All)** and report progress as it relates to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment at CAFF IX. **(Iceland)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 1.2. Hold a meeting among monitoring network coordinators and the CAFF Board in early 2002 to discuss progress, funding, organisational issues, and message to the AC Ministers (Iceland). NEW
- 1.3. Collaborate with AMAP to harmonize biological diversity monitoring activities. **(Sweden, as CAFF Chair/CAFF Secretariat)**. IN PROGRESS
- 1.4. Collaborate with AMAP and the International Arctic Science Committee to prepare the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment for delivery to the Ministers in 2004. **(Norway/Canada/CAFF Secretariat)** IN PROGRESS

#### *2. Species and habitat conservation*

##### **Flora**

- 2.1. ~~Establish the CAFF Flora Group to address priority flora and vegetation issues in support of CAFF priorities including the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network and circumpolar monitoring. A charter will be prepared for the April 2001 CAFF management meeting. (USA/All) DONE~~

- 2.2. Review issues identified in the *ad hoc* CAFF Flora Group discussion paper tabled at CAFF VIII at a workshop to be held in Fennoscandia in 2001, and make recommendations to CAFF IX on priority action items. **(USA/All)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.3. Continue preparation of a taxonomically unified checklist of Pan-Arctic Flora, and revise the list of rare non-endemic plants of circumpolar conservation concern. Provide a status report at CAFF IX. **(Russia/CAFF countries as appropriate)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.4. Complete the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map in 2002, and present the map at CAFF IX. **(USA)**. IN PROGRESS.

### **Fauna**

- 2.5. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**. IN PROGRESS.
- 2.6. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**. IN PROGRESS.
- ~~2.7. Review recommendations of the CAFF Seabird Bycatch Workshop and CAFF Technical Report No. 1, "Incidental Take of Seabirds in Arctic Countries," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)** DONE~~
- 2.8. Review recommendations of CAFF Technical Report No. 5 "Seabird Harvest Regimes in the Circumpolar Nations," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(USA/ Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**. DEFERRED TO JANUARY 2002
- 2.9. ~~Review recommendations of the CAFF workshop on "The Conservation of Migratory Birds Outside the Arctic," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(Russia/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)** DONE~~

### **3. Protected Areas**

- 3.1. Further develop electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers and others, by updating and expanding the CAFF web-site, and by establishing an electronic means, such as a list server, to distribute information on protected area initiatives and other CAFF activities. **(USA/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)** IN PROGRESS.
- 3.2. Analyse the conservation value of sacred sites of indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic, their current status and ways to enhance their protection through the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, and report findings to CAFF IX. **(RAIPON/Russia/CAFF Secretariat)**. IN PROGRESS.

- 3.3. Prepare by April 2002 a preliminary project proposal to demonstrate the full range of values of Arctic protected areas. **(Canada/ CPAN Standing Committee/)** NEW
- 3.4. Prepare by April 2002 a preliminary project proposal to prepare a compendium of ecologically important marine areas **(Canada/ CPAN Standing Committee/)** NEW

#### ***4. Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas***

- 4.1. Complete by December 2001, a PDF-B for a Main Global Environment Facility Project “Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic.” Begin implementation of the Main Project in 2002. Implementation of both phases will be dependent upon receipt of matching funds. **(Russia/Norway/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)** COMPLETION OF FULL PROJECT BRIEF DELAYED TO MARCH 2002

#### ***5. Integration and information sharing***

- 5.1. ~~Complete the CAFF overview report on Arctic conservation issues, and present it to the Senior Arctic Officials in June 2001, in conjunction with the meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. **(Finland/All)** DONE~~
- 5.2. Develop recommendations for further actions based on the information and conclusions presented in the overview report, for presentation to the Ministers in 2002 **(Sweden, as CAFF Chair/All)** FIRST DRAFT SUBMITTED TO SAOs

#### ***6. Outstanding Administration and Management Actions***

- 6.1. ~~Revise and finalize CAFF’s draft operating guidelines and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(USA)** DONE~~
- 6.2. ~~Revise and finalize CAFF’s draft communication strategy and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(Iceland)** DONE~~