

**Report of Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)**  
**to**  
**Senior Arctic Official (SAO) Meeting in**  
**Reykjavik, Iceland**  
**October 23-24, 2003**

**A. CAFF Activities Since Last SAO Meeting**

Key activities of the CAFF Working Group and CAFF Sub-groups:

- The CAFF has been extensively involved in the ACIA Scientific Report and Policy Document.
- The CAFF has been preparing a discussion paper on ecosystem approaches to biodiversity and conservation for the PAME-led AC Arctic Marine Strategic Plan Workshop, and will be actively participating in the workshop in Reykjavik from October 20 to 22, 2003.
- The CAFF Secretariat worked with CAFF's Icelandic representative in exploring European Union (EU) funding and developing a draft funding proposal for Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program. This opportunity resulted in part from the intercession of the Arctic Council (AC) to the EU. Therefore, CAFF would like to acknowledge these efforts of AC, and welcomes their continuance.
- During this period, the Faroe Islands nominated a representative to CAFF Management Board. Additionally, the Netherlands government nominated a representative to the CAFF Working Group as an Observer. There has also been the ongoing active participation of Netherlands and UK as Observers, including meetings in their respective countries.
- CAFF, through its Norwegian representative and Grid-Arendal, has been involved in ongoing efforts in the implementation of the ECORA Project.
- The CBIRD report has been completed, documenting the CBIRD IX meeting in January 2003.
- The brochure, Protected Areas of the Arctic: Conserving a Full Range of Values", has been printed by Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN), with the funding and support of Canada. A poster, based on this brochure, was presented at the World Parks Congress in South Africa in September 2003.
- The Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map has been printed by Circumpolar Flora Group (CFG), with the funding and support of the US.

Meetings of CAFF Sub-groups:

- There was a CFG meeting in Helsinki, Finland from April 28 to 30, 2003.
- Two CPAN-sponsored workshops took place:
  - CPAN and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas jointly sponsored a two day workshop entitled "Wild Places for Wild Life" held September 9-10, 2003 in Yellowknife, Canada, and
  - Compendium of Circumpolar Ecologically Important Marine Areas will be held in Akureyri, Iceland from October 16 to 18, 2003.

## **B. Ongoing CAFF Activities**

- There have been ongoing activities and meetings of the CAFF Working Group, the CAFF Secretariat, and the different CAFF sub-groups: CBIRD, CFG and CPAN. Information on these activities and meetings are provided in the monthly reports of the CAFF Secretariat, which are copied to the CAFF Working, AC Secretariat, AC Working Groups, and interested parties.
- Ongoing efforts of CAFF Working Group in broader projects such as the ACIA Scientific Report and Policy Document, the CBMP, the ECORA Project, and Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern.
- Ongoing liaison with other AC Working Groups and AC Observers, as well as programs seeking AC participation and support. One developing activity is collaboration with SDWG on the Russia-led AC Sustainable Development Action Plan.

## **C. Future CAFF Activities and Plans**

- CAFF will be emphasising, in cooperation with AMAP and ACIA, the review of the ACIA Scientific Report; and, cooperation with AMAP, on completing the ACIA Policy Document for the May 2004 SAO meeting.
- In March 2004, CAFF and AMAP are scheduled to conduct an ACIA Policy Document Approval Workshop.
- CAFF will be completing a framework document and continue to seek funding and partners for CBMP. CAFF will be designing this program to coordinate with the requirements for biological and physical monitoring suggested in the ACIA Policy Document.
- CAFF will continue to actively participate in future efforts for the PAME-led AC Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.
- The CAFF is continuing to explore connections and meet with other programs and networks external to the AC: such as SCANNET, ENVINET, CEON and the Northern View Project. The connections and links will be used to support and effectively implement CAFF activities and projects.
- With AMAP, CAFF will be organizing in a Monitoring Coordinating Meeting for late 2003.
- CAFF will actively participate in an ECORA Project Coordination Meeting, which will be held in Moscow in early 2004.
- The CAFF Management Board will hold meetings in Homer, Alaska in November 16 to 18, 2003; and St Paul, Pribilof Islands, Alaska in May 2004. The CAFF X meeting will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in August 2004.

## **D. Questions to SAOs**

No questions at this time.

## APPENDIX

### 1. CAFF Work Plan 2002 – 2004

(Ongoing implementation effective September 23, 2003)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan for 2002-04 specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic Council members states to be undertaken during the period in cooperation with Permanent Participants, Arctic Council Observers, and other interested parties. The CAFF Work Plan 2002-2004 follows the format of and represents steps toward implementing the strategic document, “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation”, which has been submitted for endorsement at the Third Arctic Council ministerial meeting in October 2002. Work Plan items are carried out in a cooperative fashion under the leadership of an assigned lead country or countries. Work Plan items will be implemented by CAFF X, unless an earlier date is provided.

CAFF recognises the need for capacity building in the Arctic region, where rapid changes in globalisation, climate change, transitional economies, and growing pressures on ecological and culture resources require the development and application of new approaches and new solutions. In implementing its work plan, the CAFF program will make efforts to actively contribute to advancing the capacity building agenda of the Arctic Council. CAFF will also enhance efforts to communicate its work and the results of CAFF projects to ensure that communities, regional organisations, national audiences and international organisations are aware of CAFF’s work, and the contribution of these efforts to the well being of Arctic residents and the conservation of Arctic flora and fauna.

#### II. WORK PLAN

##### 1. Conserving Arctic Species

###### Flora

- 1.1 Complete and distribute the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map. Lead: US. ***Map printed in summer 2003.***
- 1.2 Initiate a checklist of Arctic lichens and bryophytes as an essential first step to the assessment of rare taxa. Lead: Iceland. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.3 Complete the Panarctic Flora Checklist, and initiate a revised Atlas of Rare Vascular Plants of the Arctic, based on the checklist. Lead: Norway. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.4 Review report on the monitoring of local flora (presence and abundance) in Russia, including evaluating its circumpolar application. Lead: US and Russia. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.5 Subject to funding, plan and host in Greenland a second International Workshop on the Classification of Arctic Vegetation. Lead: Greenland with assistance of US. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.6 Scope process to gather and incorporate traditional knowledge pertaining to the use and conservation of arctic plants. Lead: US and Permanent Participants. ***Ongoing.***

- 1.7 Hold CAFF Flora Group Workshop in 2003 to assemble experts and distribute information on ongoing activities. Lead: US. ***Workshop held in Helsinki, Finland from April 28 to 30, 2003.***

#### Fauna

- 1.8 Complete a CAFF Technical Report on Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern, including identifying their migration routes and wintering areas and applicable conservation instruments. Lead: US in cooperation with UNEP/WCMC and Wetlands International. ***CAFF Technical Report will be completed for 2003.***
- 1.9 Report on seabird gillnet bycatch initiatives, and complete a review on this issue. Lead: US and Canada. ***CAFF Technical Report will be completed for mid 2004.***
- 1.10 Update CAFF Technical Report No. 5, Seabird Harvest Regimes in Circumpolar Nations, for CAFF X. Lead: US. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.11 Continue implementing applicable action items in the “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan”. Lead: Canada and US. ***Ongoing.***
- 1.12 Continue to develop a framework for a circumpolar seabird monitoring network. Lead: US and Iceland. ***Framework Document will be completed by February 2004.***

## **2. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats**

- 2.1. By 2003, complete country updates on recent protected area establishment, management and legislative initiatives. Lead: Canada. ***CAFF Technical Report completed by 2003.***
- 2.2. Organize a workshop to discuss the ecological value of protecting large unfragmented areas and prepare proceedings. Lead: Canada. ***CPAN and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas jointly sponsored a two day workshop entitled "Wild Places for Wild Life", from September 9-10, 2003 in Yellowknife, Canada.***
- 2.3. For 2003, prepare a proposal for a workshop to assemble existing data sets and identify additional data needs for a Compendium of Ecologically Important Marine Areas. Lead: US. ***A Workshop for a Compendium of Circumpolar Marine Ecologically Important Areas is being held in Akureyri, Iceland from October 16-18, 2003, with results from this workshop being delivered during the October 2003 workshop for the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.***
- 2.4. Analyse regional and international agreements and evaluate their potential to contribute to CAFF's protected areas initiatives by CAFF X. Lead: US and Finland. ***Finland defining criteria for analysis, with draft report by 2004.***
- 2.5. Organize a circumpolar workshop and prepare a technical report on outcomes and recommendations on the Indigenous Sacred Sites project. Lead: RAIPON and Russia. ***Ongoing.***
- 2.6. Complete detailed project planning and begin implementation of the main phase of ECORA, subject to confirmation of funds from the Global Environmental Facility. Lead: Russia, Norway and UNEP GRID-Arendal. ***Project implementation began in spring 2003 and is ongoing.***

### **3. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity**

- 3.1. Develop a framework for a circumpolar biodiversity monitoring program, which includes community-based monitoring, and seek the resources required for implementation. Lead: Iceland and Permanent Participants. ***Further funding avenues explored in summer 2003.***
- 3.2. Co-ordinate the CAFF biodiversity monitoring program with the AMAP contaminants monitoring program and other global monitoring initiatives to support ACIA and other assessments. Lead: US and Iceland. ***Ongoing discussion and scheduled meetings between CAFF and AMAP.***

### **4. Global Issues**

- 4.1 Through the ACIA Assessment Steering Committee, continue to coordinate the development and review of the ACIA scientific report and overview. Lead: Norway and Canada. ***Ongoing.***
- 4.2 4.2 In cooperation with AMAP, lead in the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document group. Lead: US. ***Next meeting of ACIA PDT will take place in London on October 7 to 9, 2003, with outcomes being reported at SAO meeting in October.***

### **5. Engaging Society**

- 5.1 Develop a brochure and poster based on the publication “Protected Areas of the Arctic: Conserving a Full Range of Values”. Lead: Canada, US, and WWF. ***Brochure and poster completed in summer and fall 2003.***