



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

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CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA (CAFF) WORK PLAN 2013 — 2015



The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) is the biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council.

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CAFF Designated Agencies:

- Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Reykjavik, Iceland
- The Ministry of Housing, Nature and Environment, Greenland
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

CAFF Permanent Participant Organizations:

- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) – Greenland, Alaska and Canada
- Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council

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This document outlines the projects and activities CAFF plans to undertake during the 2013 – 2015 Ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed and may change according to new opportunities and priorities. As such the CAFF Board can amend the CAFF Work Plan as needed. The timeline for each of the projects is to be completed, where possible, within the 2013 – 2015 Ministerial period.



— CAFF Designated Area



1. Introduction

This document outlines the projects and activities CAFF plans to undertake for the 2013 – 2015 ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed for the inter-ministerial period, but may change according to new opportunities and priorities. The CAFF Board can amend the CAFF Work Plan as needed. The timeline for each of the projects is to be completed where possible in the 2013-2015 ministerial period.

CAFF's mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources. It does so through various monitoring, assessment and expert group activities. The results of CAFF projects are intended to bridge the science/policy gap and to suggest options based on sound evidence from both scientific and traditional knowledge for appropriate circumpolar actions.

Common priorities for the Arctic Council for 2013-2015 are: Responsible Arctic Resource Development, Safe Arctic Shipping and Sustainable Circumpolar Communities. CAFF's mandate and associated activities are integral to success of these priorities

2. Monitoring

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) is an ongoing CAFF program which will continue into the 2013-2015 period. CBMP is the biodiversity component of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) and the official Arctic biodiversity observation network of the Global Earth Observation's Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON). CBMP activities are structured around the major Arctic ecosystems: marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal. In the 2013-2015 period CBMP will continue implementation of completed monitoring plans and finish plans that are under development. Emphasis will continue to be placed upon data management, capacity building, reporting, coordination and integration of Arctic monitoring, and communications, education and outreach. Canada has provided the overall leadership for CBMP since 2005. In 2013, leadership will transition to Greenland/Denmark and the United States, with Canada playing an advisory role during the transition. As in the past, sub-components of CBMP, such as development and implementation of ecosystem based monitoring plans, will continue to be led by different countries. For more information: www.cbmp.is

- a. Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP): implement - *Lead : Denmark/Greenland, United States, and Canada*
- b. CBMP Strategic workplan 2013-2017 - *Lead : Denmark/Greenland, United States*
- c. Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan - *Lead: To be determined*
- d. Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan - *Lead: Canada, Norway*

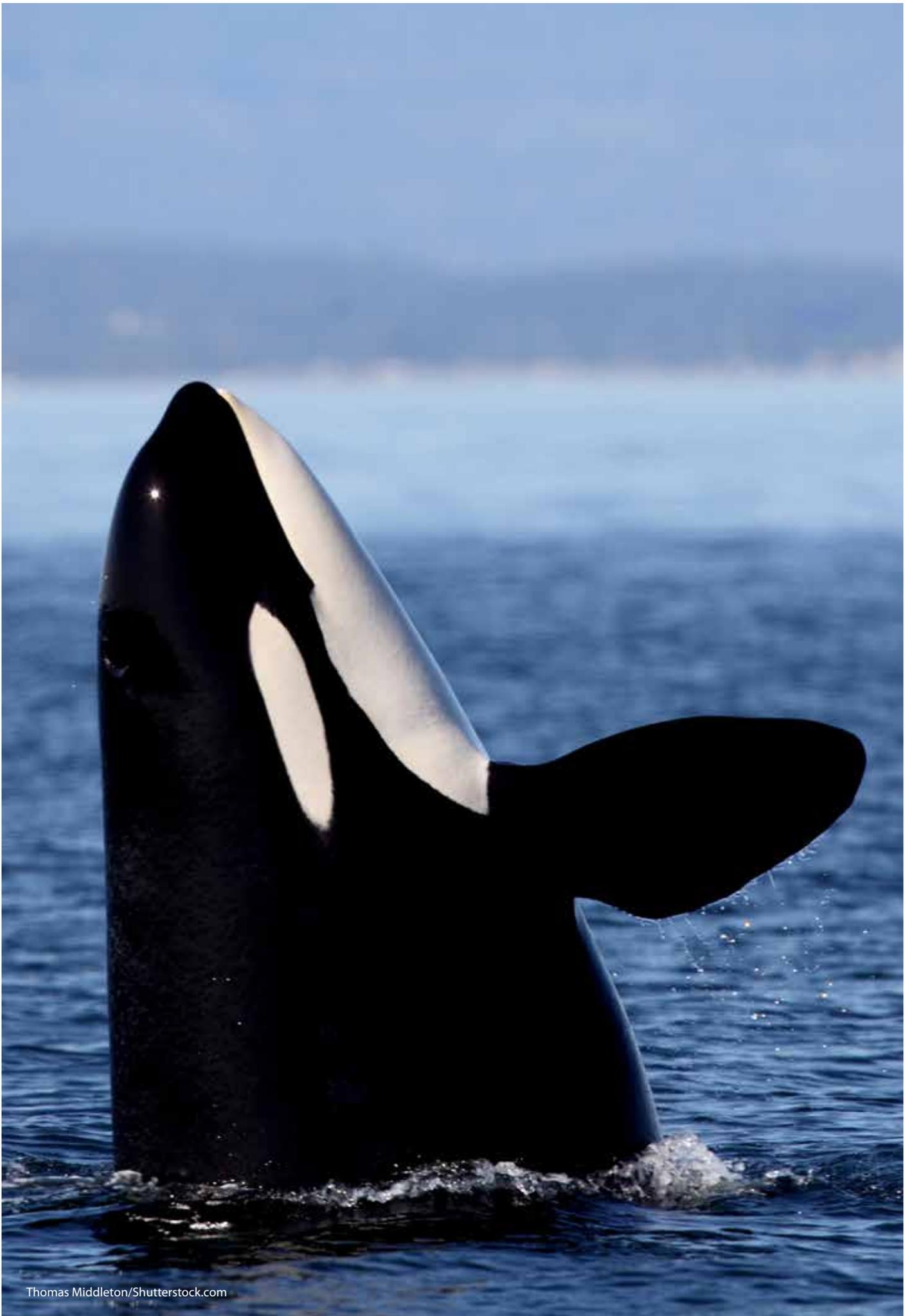


- e. Freshwater monitoring expert networks - *Lead: CAFF*
- f. Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan - *Lead: Canada, Greenland, Iceland*
- g. Marine monitoring expert networks - *Lead: Canada, Denmark/Greenland*
- h. Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan - *Lead: Denmark/Greenland, United States*
- i. Terrestrial monitoring expert networks - *Lead: Denmark/Greenland, United States*
- j. Indicators and indices: develop new and update existing indices and indicators - *Lead: CAFF*
- k. Community based monitoring registry - *Lead: CAFF*
- l. Community Observation Network for Adaptability and Sustainability (CONAS) - *Lead: AIA*
- m. Circumpolar seabird monitoring plan - *Lead: United States*
- n. Thick-billed murre geolocator study: develop - *Lead Norway*
- o. Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey (ABBCS) - *Lead: Russia*
- p. Monitoring of red list plants - *Lead: Sweden*
- q. The Circum-Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment network (CARMA) - *Lead: Canada*

3. Assessment

CAFF just completed a major assessment of Arctic biodiversity. - the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) which consists of four components: (1) Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change, completed in 2010 as an Arctic Council contribution to the 2010 global target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss; (2) the full ABA Scientific Report and synthesis, which describes in detail status and trends of Arctic ecosystems and species and scientific synthesis; (3) a compendium of traditional ecological knowledge which will consider biodiversity from an indigenous perspective; and (4) the ABA Summary for Policy Makers, which summarizes the main findings and provides recommendations for action. In 2013-2015 CAFF will prepare a plan to implement the ABA-recommendations and will undertake early actions to address priority recommendations. For more information: www.caff.is/assessments

- a. Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) implementation plan: develop - *Lead : Canada and Norway*
- b. State of the Arctic freshwater biodiversity report - *Lead: To be determined*
- c. State of the Arctic marine biodiversity report - *Lead: To be determined*
- d. State of the Arctic terrestrial biodiversity report - *Lead: To be determined*
- e. Decline of glaucous gulls in the Arctic - *Lead: Norway, Iceland*
- f. Influence of shipping and off-shore development on seabirds - *Lead: Canada, Denmark, United States*
- g. Arctic terns status and trends - *Lead: Canada*
- h. Panarctic moss checklist - *Lead: Canada*
- i. Panarctic lichens checklist - *Lead: Iceland*
- j. Ecosystem services - *Lead: Sweden*
- k. Conservation of biodiversity in a changing Russian Arctic - *Lead: Russia*
- l. Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) - *Lead: United States*
- m. Life linked to ice - *Lead: CAFF*



4. Strategies

CAFF and its expert groups and collaborators conduct a wide range of monitoring activities, and analyses of flora and fauna issues. These enable CAFF to produce circumpolar strategies to conserve particular threatened species and ecosystems. During 2013-2015 CAFF will initiate a new project on migratory birds, with the objective of developing conservation strategies and plans for seabirds and shorebirds that include countries throughout the birds' entire range. For some of the seabirds these conservation plans will be updates (e.g. eider and murre), while for others they will be new. For shorebirds, early work will focus on species most endangered (e.g. on the Asian/Australasian flyway) while species on all flyways will be considered throughout the project. A red list for Arctic plants and a checklist of Arctic mosses are being developed and the lichen list updated. A conservation strategy for ecosystems or lifestyles unique to particular regions is the subject of a project on nomadic reindeer herding. Further work will focus on migratory birds and conservation outside of the Arctic. For more information: www.caff.is/caff-strategies

- a. Circumpolar Eider conservation strategy and action plan - *Lead: Canada*
- b. International Murre conservation strategy and action plan - *Lead: Norway*
- c. International Ivory Gull conservation strategy and action plan - *Lead: Canada, Norway*
- d. Kittiwake conservation strategy and action plan - *Lead: Norway, United States*
- e. Nomadic herders: enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders - *Lead: Russia*
- f. Migratory birds and conservation outside of the Arctic - *Lead: Russia*

5. Data management

Most CAFF projects produce data in varying forms, scales and formats. Consolidating this large and diverse amount of disaggregated data across all Arctic sub-regions and biomes will be completed through the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (www.abds.is). The ABDS is an online, interoperable and circumpolar data management system that accesses, integrates, analyzes and displays biodiversity information for scientists, practitioners, managers, policy makers and others working to understand, conserve and manage the Arctic's wildlife and ecosystems. It will provide an interactive, web-based repository for up-to-date Arctic biodiversity information and emerging trends, and serve as a common platform for all CAFF programs and



projects. This system will permit the combination of geo-referenced data from various spatial, temporal, and taxonomic scales (e.g., populations, regions, nations, circumpolar, biomes, habitats) allowing users to explore relationships and factors driving change. All information within the ABDS will be publically available, subject to conventional user agreements. Data management will be in accordance with the Conservation Commons and the International Polar Year data policies. Data contained in existing CAFF reports will be housed in the ABDS by the end of the Canadian Chairmanship. For more information: www.abds.is

- a. Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) - *Lead: CAFF*
- b. Arctic Plant Portal - *lead: CAFF*
- c. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) - *Lead: Denmark/Greenland*
- d. Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA) - *Lead: United States*
- e. Seabird Information Network (SIN) - *Lead: United States*

6. Communications

- a. Develop a consistent approach to CAFF-wide organizational communications activities and platforms according to the CAFF communications Strategy, and ensuring consistency with the broader Arctic Council communications strategy. This includes the design, development, coordination and implementation of, but not limited to, websites, reports, films, presentations, news articles, press packages, media relations, brochures, posters, side events and presentations - *Lead: CAFF*
- b. Develop communications materials including brochures, posters, films, websites, presentations and other products that support priority CAFF monitoring, assessment, expert group and Arctic Council activities - *Lead: CAFF*
- c. Continue development of partner priority activities i.e. Arctic Council Secretariat communication activities, the Arctic Report Cards - *Lead: CAFF*
- d. Participate in relevant international symposia, meetings and other appropriate venues to communicate CAFF's results and ongoing activities - *Lead: CAFF*



7. Cooperation

CAFF develops strategic partnerships with key international and regional organizations and institutions to develop and deliver timely and accurate information to inform processes of mutual interest e.g. the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON). CAFF also has Resolutions of Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). - *Lead: CAFF*

A full list of CAFF's partners can be found here: www.caff.is/international-partnerships

