

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

The CAFF Work Plan for 2015-17 focuses on implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) recommendations, including the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-21 guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues for the coming decade. Work now underway to develop Work Plan for the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Key actions for 2015-2017 include: mainstreaming biodiversity; reducing stressors on migratory birds; ecosystem services evaluation; communications; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, in particular, on migratory species; invasive species; pollution; safeguarding critical areas; improving knowledge and public awareness, in particular, working to better incorporate traditional and local knowledge in CAFF monitoring and assessment activities.

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity

Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021 comprises the implementation plan for the ABA recommendations. Recommendations are primarily aimed at the Arctic Council, however, success in conserving Arctic biodiversity depends upon actions by non-Arctic states, regional and local authorities, industry and all who live work and travel in the Arctic. These recommendations therefore, also provide a guide for action for states, authorities, and organizations beyond the Arctic Council. Some of the ABA recommendations directly encourage cooperation with those outside the Arctic Council process.

Implementation builds on a solid framework of established CAFF activities, including the CBMP and the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS). It also builds on other

relevant Arctic Council working group initiatives and processes of international biodiversity conventions and organizations, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Some ABA recommendations provide specific directions for focusing and enhancing work through these programs and activities. Some recommendations call for action to remedy gaps and deficiencies in knowledge and in conservation.

An **Actions for Biodiversity tracking tool** has been developed to track progress and identify decisions needed on those actions scheduled during phase 2: 2015-2017. This tracking tool contains information those actions where CAFF is taking a lead role and where CAFF will contribute.

Summary of progress

Monitoring: CBMP

- 80 organizations provide staff time and/or funding
- Data collection, integration: ongoing
- Newsletter

Marine

- Implementation of *Marine Plan*: ongoing
- State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity (under review)
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (Oct. 2016)
 - Benthos, Plankton, Mammals, Sea Ice Biota, Fish expert networks (Oct. 2016)
- Publications
 - Annual report and workplan (Sep. 2016)
 - Country implementation reports for 2015
 - Expert network webpages
 - *Pan Arctic fish Atlas*: completed (May 2016)

Freshwater

- Implementation of *Freshwater Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (June 2016)

- Workshop (Oct. 2016)
- Publications
 - Country implementation reports

Terrestrial

- Implementation of *Terrestrial Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (April 2016)
- Products
 - Inventory of terrestrial monitoring programmes
 - Global goose Audit

Coastal

- Expert workshop (Oct. 2015; March 2016)
- Coastal Background Paper published
- Coastal Monitoring Plan: development ongoing

Indices & indicators

- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing
- Land cover change index: ongoing
- Protected areas: ongoing
- Products
 - Protected areas indicator report (Sept. 2016)

Assessments & Strategies

- TK & Wisdom-changes in the North American Arctic: ongoing
- Climate change impacts bearded seals: ongoing
- Invasive species strategy: ongoing
- Mainstreaming Arctic Biodiversity: ongoing
- Salmon Peoples of Arctic Rivers: ongoing
- Seabird conservation strategies, assessments: ongoing
- A Global audit of Arctic goose populations: ongoing
- State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity: ongoing
- State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity: ongoing
- State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity: ongoing

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Communication products for each flyway
- Implementation workshop, Netherlands (April 2016)
- Workshop, Singapore (January 2017)
- Programme evaluation December 2016
- Formal letters from SAO Chair to Observers re engagement in AMBI

Cross-cutting activities

CAFF works closely with the various Arctic Council WGs and task forces to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g., input into the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, the Ecosystem Approach, the AACA and work with PAME on marine protected areas. Memos provided to SAO Chair on CAFF activities related to oil and gas, economics and CAFF Strategies.

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Reidar Hindrum, Norway
2017- 2019 Chair: U.S

October 2016

U.S
 SAO Meeting
 ABA implementation
 CBMP Freshwater
 CBMP Coastal
 Iceland
 CBMP Marine
 Arctic Circle

November

Iceland
 CBMP Coastal

December

Iceland
 EPPR
 Canada
 ArcticNet
 Denmark
 Working Group
 Chairs meeting

January 2017

Norway
 Arctic Frontiers
 CAFF board meeting
 Singapore
 AMBI

February

Faroës
 CBird
 Iceland
 CBMP Terrestrial

March

U.S
 SAO meeting

Cooperation

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a changing Arctic
- Science conference

SDWG

- Traditional Knowledge initiative

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Framework

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group
- Strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

In addition, CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity*
- Ramsar*
- Convention on Migratory Species*
- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*

- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership*
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility*
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
- Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- Sub-Global Assessment
- Zoological Society of London
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- United Nations Environment Program GRID Arendal
- United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists*
- Wetlands International

** indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

Education

Educational kits to communicate information to schoolchildren in the Arctic (10-11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. Available in Russian, Inuktitut, Icelandic, French. Seeking additional translations.

Kits consists of a pocket guide for children and a leader's manual. Three versions produced focusing on different Arctic ecosystems:

- Life Linked to Tundra
- Life Linked to Ponds
- Life Linked to Spring

Distribution underway and funding sought to develop further toolkits.

Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- Website management
- ABDS data management
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Graphics development
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitate access to and archiving of data
- www.abds.is

Communication and Outreach

- Arctic biodiversity travelling photo exhibit: ongoing (Akureyri, Ottawa, Montreal, Reykjavik)
- Sessions planned for Arctic Circle (Oct.), CBD COP (Dec.)



Ministerial deliverables

To be finalized at CAFF Biennial meeting in February 2017

Name	Status	Languages
CBMP State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report	On track: under review	English
CBMP Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Background Paper	Completed	English
Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom: Changes in the North American Arctic	On track: under review	English
The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for the Arctic: A Scoping Study and Executive Summary	Completed	English
CBMP Indicators: a series of indices that provide information on status and trends of Arctic biodiversity (Arctic Species Trend Index; Land Cover Change; Audit of global goose populations, Protected Areas)	On track	English
Mainstreaming and Biodiversity Principles	On track: under development	English
Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan	On track: under review	English
Project Summary: Bering Sea Sub-Network II (BSSN)	Completed	English
Seabird Assessments and Strategies	On track	English
Digital Elevation Model	On track: Under development	English
The Alaska-Yukon Region of the Circumboreal Vegetation Map	Completed	English
<i>Education</i>		
Education kits comprised of leader's manuals and student pocket guides: Life linked to tundra; Life linked to spring; Life linked to ponds.	Completed	English. Childrens' pocket guides in Inuktitut, Icelandic, French, Russian. Other languages planned.
<i>Progress reports</i>		
Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021	On track: planned	English, Korean
Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): 2015-2017	On track: planned	English
AMBI package including Mid-term review, Texel Implementation report, crosswalk documents and implementation strategies	On track: under development	English
CAFF activities: Traditional Knowledge	On track: planned	English
CBMP ecosystem groups annual reports, workshop proceedings and national implementation reports (Marine, Freshwater, Terrestrial, Coastal)	On track	English
<i>Communication/Outreach products</i>		
The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): fact sheets (5)	Completed	English (applicable fact sheet available in Korean)
Arctic Biodiversity Through the Lens Photography travelling exhibition	Completed: ongoing use	English, Icelandic
Websites - CAFF: www.caff.is - Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): www.abds.is/www.abds.is/geo - Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Website: www.arcticbiodiversity.is - CAFF Social media (Twitter , Facebook , YouTube , Flickr , LinkedIn , Instagram)	On track	English
<i>Data</i>		
Datasets entered regularly to ABDS: linked interoperably to GBIF and OBIS (ABDS is Arctic OBIS Node)	On track: ongoing	English
<i>Administration</i>		
CAFF contribution to the SAO report to Ministers	On track: under development	English, Russian
CAFF Progress Reports to SAO meetings (4)	On track	English, Russian
CAFF Work Plan 2017-19	On track: under development	English, Russian

CAFF Board Meeting attendees in Svalbard, Norway, September 2016. Photo: Linnea Nordstöm



CAFF International Secretariat
Borgir, Nordurslod, 600 Akureyri, Iceland
www.caff.is
www.abds.is
www.arcticbiodiversity.is
+354 462 3350
caff@caff.is

