

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The [Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program \(CBMP\)](#) is an international network of scientists, governments, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources. The CBMP is the cornerstone program of the [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna](#), the biodiversity working group of the [Arctic Council](#). The CBMP is currently being co-chaired by the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark.



Our goal is to facilitate more rapid detection, communication, and response to the significant biodiversity-related trends and pressures affecting the circumpolar world.

What does the CBMP do?

The CBMP is collecting information from the many monitoring activities happening around the Arctic to get a better understanding of the changes happening in Arctic wildlife and ecosystems. This information is shared with Arctic policy-makers to help them understand and make decisions.

The CBMP coordinates [marine](#), [freshwater](#), [terrestrial](#) and [coastal](#) monitoring activities in the Arctic while establishing [international connections](#) to global biodiversity initiatives.

Marine

Led by a [Marine Steering Group](#) with expertise from [Marine Expert Networks](#):

- [Sea ice biota](#)
- [Plankton](#)
- [Benthos](#)
- [Fishes](#)
- [Seabirds](#)
- [Marine mammals](#)

Produced an [Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) to coordinate efforts.

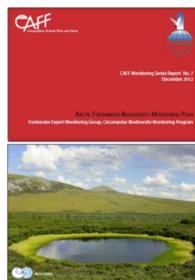


Freshwater

Led by a [Freshwater Steering Group](#) with expertise from country expert networks.

- Fish
- Benthic invertebrates
- Zooplankton
- Benthic algae
- Phytoplankton
- Macrophytes
- Riparian vegetation
- Aquatic birds

Produced an [Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#).



Terrestrial

Led by a [Terrestrial Steering Group](#) with expertise from [Terrestrial Expert Networks](#):

- [Vegetation](#)
- [Invertebrates](#)
- [Birds](#)
- Mammals including: [caribou/reindeer](#), [muskox](#), Arctic fox, [small mammals](#)

Produced an [Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#).



Coastal

Led by a [Coastal Expert Monitoring Group](#).

In the process of discussing what these efforts will look like, and what aspects of the coastal ecosystem will be a focus for a future Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan.

For more information:

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What do these groups do?

These ecosystem steering groups and expert networks are working to:

- produce and implement CBMP Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans
- identify knowledge gaps
- identify existing datasets for aggregation
- refine the indicators used to report on the state and function of ecosystems
- meet annually to review program implementation
- produce regular reports and publications
- review and adjust the monitoring approach

Why do we need the CBMP?

There are hundreds of monitoring programs currently underway in the Arctic. But these monitoring efforts are not usually coordinated across regions and countries.

This limits the ability to detect and understand circumpolar changes in Arctic wildlife and ecosystems. A lack of coordination and information can reduce the ability to make informed and effective decisions.

Meanwhile Arctic biodiversity faces many pressures and stressors leaving communities vulnerable and increasing the urgency to act.

The CBMP was set up under the Arctic Council's biodiversity working group, the [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna \(CAFF\)](#), to help coordinate efforts and ensure biodiversity efforts are coordinated.

How is the CBMP connected to other efforts?

The CBMP is the biodiversity component of [Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks \(SAON\)](#) and has been endorsed by the Arctic Council. CBMP reports and outcomes are submitted to the Arctic Council structure and decision-making processes.

The CBMP is the Arctic BON of the [Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observing Network \(GEOBON\)](#) and cooperation is

detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding.

CAFF and the CBMP provide information into [the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(UN CBD\)](#), through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The CBMP is also connected to [UNEP's Biodiversity Indicators Partnership \(BIP\)](#) and is integrating data systems with the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#), as detailed in a Memorandum of Cooperation, and is the Arctic node of the [Ocean Biogeographic Information System \(OBIS\)](#).

What does the CBMP value?

The CBMP operates under an ecosystem-based approach that considers the integrity of entire ecosystems and their interaction with other ecosystems. See more about [coordination of efforts](#).

The CBMP recognizes and values the traditional knowledge of Arctic indigenous peoples and works with Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council to integrate efforts to increased understanding of the Arctic environment.

The CBMP can help new programs develop and existing programs expand. See more about [capacity building](#).

The CBMP strives for free and open access to data. We are working with partners to ensure our data systems are compatible. See more about the [Arctic Biodiversity Data Service](#).

The CBMP aims to make frequent and compelling reports on the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity in order to close the gap between monitoring and meaningful results. See more about [reporting](#).

The CBMP strives to provide information relevant to Arctic residents, northern communities, decision-makers, the scientific community, industry, and others. See more about [communication, education and outreach](#).

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