

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA

CIRCUMPOLAR PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK EXPERT GROUP (CPAN) CHARTER

I. INTRODUCTION

The Arctic is a climatically extreme and ecologically unique region characterized by expansive, sensitive, and relatively undisturbed habitats populated by highly adapted flora and fauna. The region is shared by eight Arctic nations, each of which individually and as a group has committed to the conservation of its diverse biosystems using a variety of techniques, including establishing protected areas as an important tool for the ecosystem, species, and habitat conservation. Under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), and later, the Arctic Council (AC), the countries agreed to work together to create a protected areas network that will encompass the circumpolar Arctic. This Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN) is being developed in recognition that the Arctic is a shared ecosystem, with many species having circumpolar distribution, and many common conservation issues

The CPAN process is a cooperative effort to protect important areas of the unique Arctic environment, including all levels of biodiversity through a system of protected areas. CPAN is intended to help member nations in a number of ways, including providing a baseline for identifying the most significant gaps in national protected areas networks and by being an instrument for practical cooperation among participants. Additionally, CPAN promotes extant domestic and international policies and legislation with regard to protected areas throughout the Arctic.

The activities of CPAN are guided by the CPAN Strategy and Action Plan, which outlines recommended actions to be taken on national and circumpolar levels. The Strategy and Action Plan was ratified by the AC Ministers in 1996.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Goals

1. To promote the development of a protected area network that has a high probability of maintaining ecosystem health and dynamic biodiversity of the Arctic region.
2. To improve the implementation of the CPAN Strategy and Action Plan.

B. Objectives

3. Identify current and emerging protected area issues and concomitant initiatives to resolve them.

4. Exchange information on, and harmonize management for, protected areas in the Arctic.
5. Facilitate development and coordination of cooperative projects which support ecological linkages among protected areas within and outside the Arctic.
6. Periodically review and revise the CPAN Strategy and Action Plan.
7. Develop protected area activities and initiatives for the CAFF Work Plan.
8. Complement and coordinate with other global and regional protected area programs and initiatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.
9. Develop and implement a standard protocol for reporting on protected area issues in the circumpolar countries.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Participation

The CPAN Expert Group comprises representatives from each Arctic Council national government, Permanent Participants and Official Observers. National Representatives of CPAN will be selected by their respective CAFF National Representatives; representatives of Permanent Participant and Observer organizations will be selected by their respective organizations. Participation in CPAN meetings is open to any environmental and protected area experts interested in Arctic conservation and protected area management.

B. Leadership

The CPAN Expert Group is administrated by a chair or co-chairs approved by the CAFF National Representatives. The chair or co-chairs serve for two year terms which can be renewed at the discretion of the Expert Group and approved by the Caff National representatives. The chair or co-chairs facilitate and coordinate work of the Working Group between and during meetings. Meeting agendas are developed by the Chair or Co-chairs in cooperation with other CPAN members. The Chair or Co-chairs are responsible for overseeing meeting logistics and ensuring preparation and distribution of all meeting materials and records.

C. Meetings

The CPAN Expert Group holds meeting as necessary and possible in order to fulfill its goals, objectives, and approved action items. Participating countries host CPAN meetings on a rotational basis, unless prior agreements have been made. Host countries will manage all logistics and in-county meeting expenses.

D. Expenses

Unless prior agreements have been concluded, CPAN participants are responsible for their travel and per diem expenses.