



The View From Up Here

Arctic Biodiversity in a Warming World

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Overview

- Arctic biodiversity: of global importance
- The **Arctic Council (AC)** and the **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)**
- Cooperation between CBD and CAFF
- The **Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)**
- The **Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)**





Arctic Biodiversity

- Globally significant
 - 279 migratory bird species travel to the arctic annually
 - Several million reindeer and caribou
 - 80% of the global goose population
 - Unique species
- Arctic ecosystems are critical to the biological, chemical and physical balance of the globe
- Dramatic changes underway (*The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment 2004*)
- Threats to resiliency and sustainability
- Global repercussions affecting the planet's biodiversity





Stressors

- Climate Change
- Invasive species
- Increased shipping
- Environmental contamination
- Resource development
 - *(e.g. Oil and gas exploration)*





Arctic Council



- The Ottawa Declaration (1996) formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum
- Consensus based body
- Promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states with involvement from Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants
- Focus on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection
- 6 Working Groups, NGOs, non-Arctic states, intergovernmental and interparliamentary organizations



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

- Biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council
- Board members from eight Arctic countries six Indigenous organizations
- Observers from non Arctic countries, international organizations
- Main activities:
 - Monitoring Arctic biodiversity
 - Assessment of Arctic biodiversity
 - Conservation of Arctic species and ecosystems
 - Global Issues/ Affecting policy and international co-operation
 - Education and Outreach



CAFF presence at CBD

- 2009: MOC between CAFF and CBD
- 2010: CAFF contributions to GBO 3:
 - contained and an Arctic component for the first time
- 2010: Trends report and side event at COP10
- 2011: SBSSTA15 report and participation
- 2012: Arctic biodiversity regional workshop





Cooperation between CBD and CAFF

- Cooperative Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Arctic Region
- How can CAFF contribute to the CBD process?
 - Pan-Arctic Monitoring Plans (Marine, Freshwater, Terrestrial and Coastal) will be generating ongoing data on status and trends in various components of Arctic biodiversity
 - Compiling and archiving existing data (e.g. 1900 Arctic and boreal vertebrate trend datasets)
 - Generating indicators (e.g. Arctic Species Trend Index)
 - Generating the integrated baseline information required to inform policy makers





CAFF presence at CBD

COP10 decision X/13 on new and emerging issues

Invites the Arctic Council to provide relevant information and assessments of Arctic biodiversity, in particular information generated through the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) of the Arctic Council³ Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Doc. UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/14 (SBSTAA submission)

(Sample from submission)





Context: Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Efforts

- Annual investment of \$500 million
- Limitations:
 - Uncoordinated efforts operating in isolation
 - Lack long term committment and funding
 - Inaccessible formats
 - Lack of local involvement
- Shortcomings lead to:
 - Lack of circumpolar perspective
 - Incomplete coverage
 - Limited ability to detect change
 - Weak linkages
 - Reduced ability to inform policy makers





Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)

- International network improving detection, understanding and reporting of Arctic biodiversity trends
- Focal point for current and credible Arctic biodiversity information
- Bridging the information-policy gap
- Linked: GEO Network, SAON component, CBD Post-2010 Affiliate





CBMP Objectives

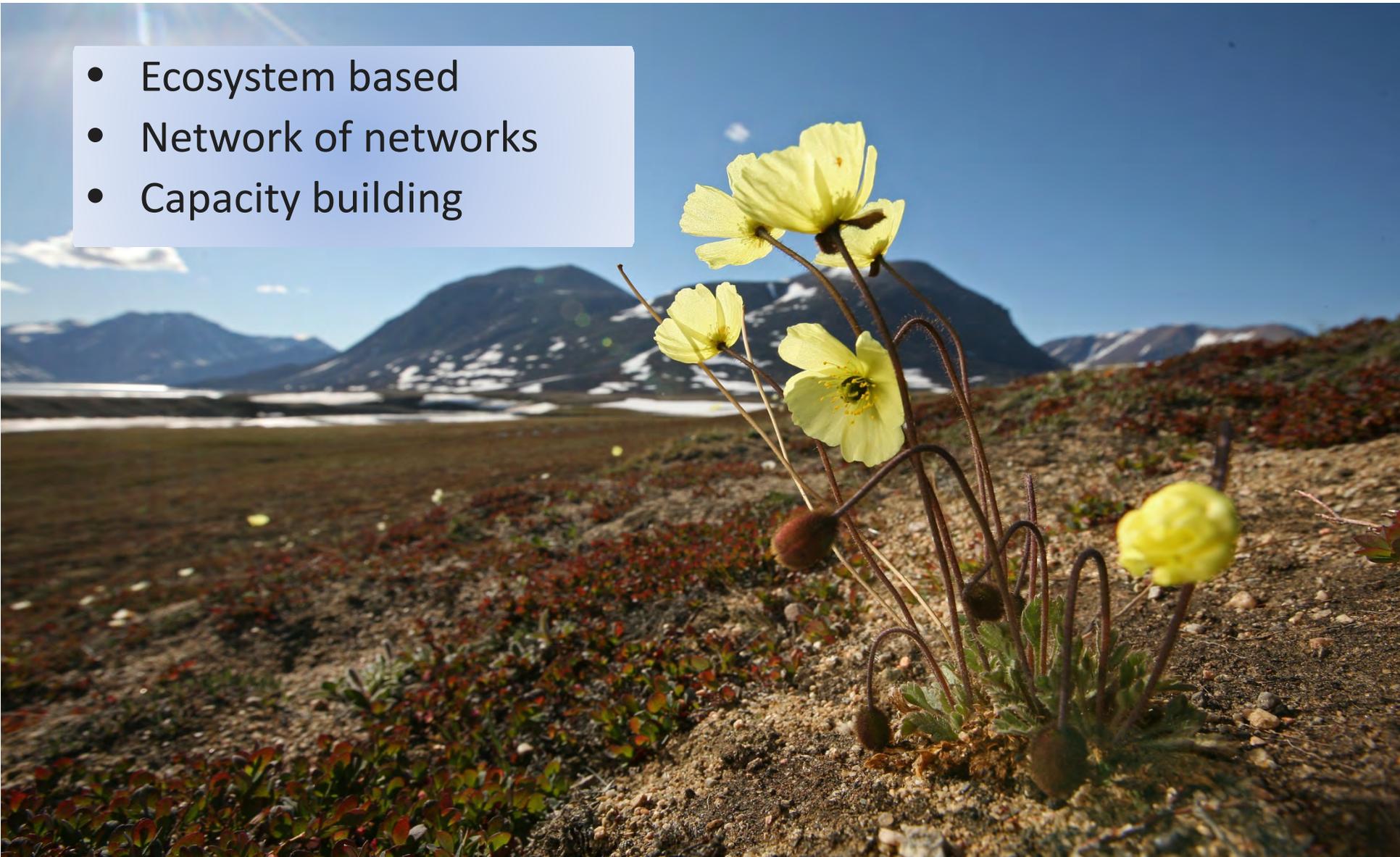
- Monitoring networks coordinated, integrated and cost-effective
- Best monitoring practices utilized and promoted
- Arctic people involved in monitoring
- Current, timely and accurate information on Arctic biodiversity accessible to decision-makers, scientists and the public





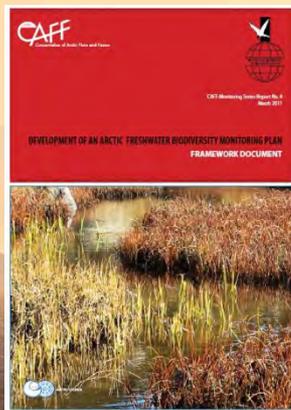
CBMP Approach

- Ecosystem based
- Network of networks
- Capacity building



CBMP: Coordinated Monitoring

- Expert Monitoring Groups
 - Marine
 - Freshwater
 - Terrestrial
 - Coastal
- Development of integrated monitoring plans



CBMP Data











Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

Purpose:

- To synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic

The aims of the ABA are to:

- provide a description of the current state of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity
- create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments of biodiversity
- provide a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work
- provide up-to-date scientific knowledge
- identify gaps in the data record
- identify key mechanisms driving change
- produce scientific and policy recommendations



ABA Project Leads

Steering Committee:

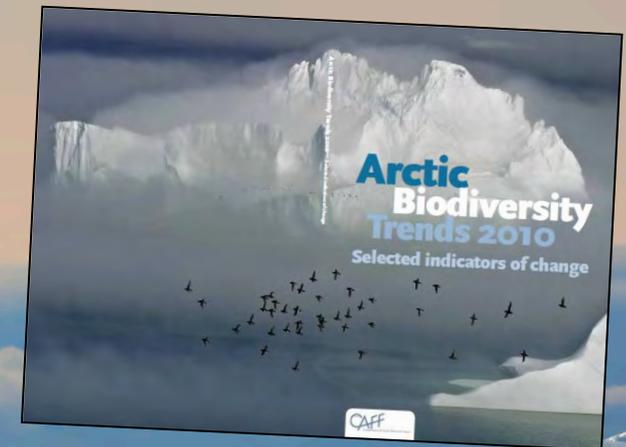
- Chaired by Sweden
- Lead countries
 - Finland
 - USA
 - Canada
 - Greenland/Denmark
 - Sweden
- Arctic Athabaskan Council/Gwich'in Council International
- UNEP/WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal
- CAFF Secretariat



ABA Project Drivers

Three components

- 2010 : *Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change*
- 2013: Full scientific assessment
- 2013: Policy recommendations



Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010

Key findings:

- 1) Unique Arctic habitats for flora and fauna, including sea ice, tundra, thermokarst ponds and lakes, and permafrost peatlands have been disappearing over recent decades
- 2) Although the majority of Arctic species examined in this report are currently stable or increasing, some species of importance to arctic people, or species of global significance are declining.



Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010

Key findings:

3) Climate change is emerging as the most far reaching and significant stressor on Arctic biodiversity. However, contaminants, habitat fragmentation, industrial development and unsustainable harvest levels continue to have impacts. Complex interactions between climate change and other factors have the potential to magnify impacts on biodiversity



Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010

Key findings:

4) Since 1991, the extent of protected areas in the Arctic has increased, although marine areas remain poorly represented

5) Changes in Arctic biodiversity are creating both challenges and opportunities for Arctic peoples



Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010

Key findings:

6) Long-term observations based on the best available traditional and scientific knowledge are required to identify changes in biodiversity, assess the implications of observed changes, and develop adaptation strategies

7) Changes in Arctic biodiversity have global repercussions

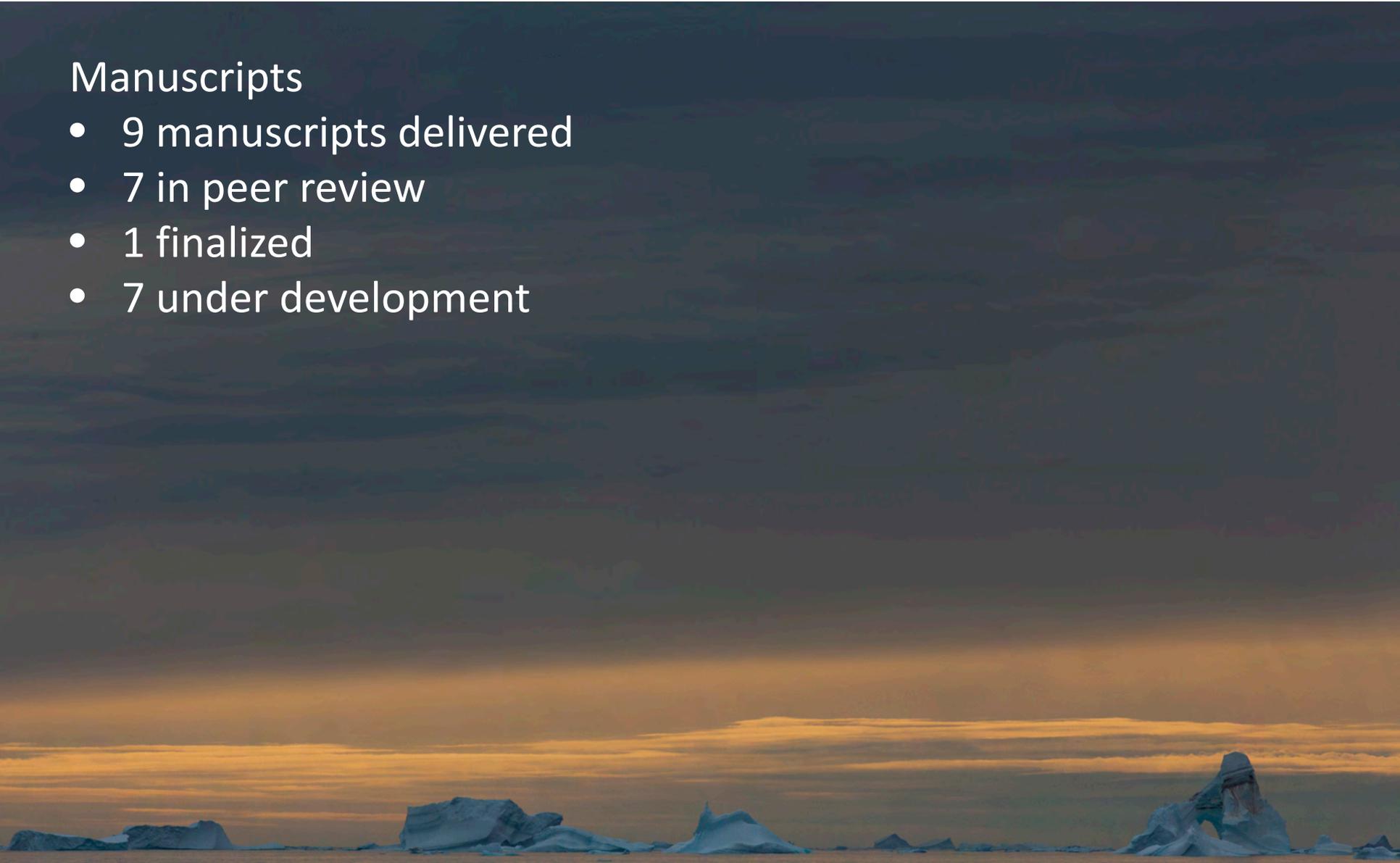




Scientific Assessment

Manuscripts

- 9 manuscripts delivered
- 7 in peer review
- 1 finalized
- 7 under development





Policy Development

- Lead authors workshop May 2012
- A policy development workshop May 2012
- Recommendations for SAO review autumn 2012
- ABA completed spring 2013
- Arctic Biodiversity Symposium spring 2013



Recommendations

- Recognize the critical work on biodiversity issues carried out within the CAFF (AC)
- Recognize the AC as the regional fora for arctic biodiversity issues and encourage to support the work of CAFF
- Recognize CAFFs CBMP as a crucial tool to enhance arctic biodiversity monitoring to improve our understanding of status and trends in Arctic biodiversity
- Invite CAFF (AC) to provide information and expertise from CBMP and the ABA to inform the IPBES
- Take Note and anticipate the ABA scientific report to be released in 2013



Thank you

For more information please visit:

www.caff.is

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