

Appendix IV: CAFF Expert Group Charters

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA

CAFF FLORA EXPERT GROUP (CFG)

CHARTER

During the next few decades the Arctic will be strongly affected by forces within and from outside the region, including the impacts of global climate change, resource development, changes in numbers of wildlife species, increases in permanent residents, and burgeoning tourism. The relatively simple and often fragile arctic ecosystems are dramatically altered through changes to the species composition of the vegetation, destruction of wetlands, and thawing of ice-rich permafrost, as well as through feedbacks of these effects to global hydrologic and atmospheric systems. To preserve plant diversity, conservation programs must be guided by the biological requirements of species and ecosystem components as biological diversity ensures a healthy biosphere.

Traditionally, conservation and research activities for arctic plants have not been well coordinated in terms of common direction, concerns, reporting, and information exchange. Except for two CAFF action items, Panarctic Flora Project (PAF) and Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Mapping Project (CAVM), governmental and non-governmental groups are often organized bilaterally. Therefore, plant conservation and research activities have not had a fully circumpolar perspective. Creating the CAFF Flora Group (CFG) within the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) of the Arctic Council, will ensure that scientists, conservationists, and managers interested in arctic flora and vegetation will have a forum to promote, facilitate, and coordinate conservation, management, and research activities of mutual concern. To these ends, the CFG is created.

I. GOALS

With botanical expertise drawn from CAFF member countries, to promote, encourage, and coordinate internationally the conservation of biodiversity of arctic flora and vegetation, habitats, and research activities in these fields; and to enhance the exchange of information relating to arctic flora and vegetation and factors affecting them.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. Seek international opportunities to support the conservation needs of the biodiversity of arctic flora and vegetation.
2. Create conservation partnerships within the Arctic.
3. Support research and education for conservation partnerships.
4. Exchange published information and unpublished data concerning arctic flora and vegetation.
5. Develop cooperative botanical activities for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna annual work plan.

III. DESCRIPTION

The CFG complements global and other regional botanical committees of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The CFG is comprised of up to three representatives from each of the eight Arctic Council member states, representatives from the Permanent Participants, as well as observer countries and organizations of the Arctic Council, as interest and expertise dictates. In addition, special experts may be invited to participate on special projects, as needed. The CFG meetings are open to botanical specialists of all governmental and non-governmental organizations with proven interest and expertise in the Arctic.

A chairperson administers the CFG and suggests appointments to the CFG for approval by the Management Board of CAFF. The chairperson facilitates and coordinates the work of the CFG between annual meetings and facilitates the annual meeting. The meeting agenda is developed by the chairperson in consultation with the other representatives.

The CFG conducts meetings as necessary to fulfill its goals and objectives. The meetings will be conducted in Europe whenever possible for maximum efficiency and to minimize costs; otherwise the meetings will be conducted in each country on a rotational basis.

Materials and records of each CFG meeting are provided to each CAFF National Representative, CFG representative, and other attendees as soon as possible following a meeting. The chairperson is responsible for preparing and distributing the materials unless other arrangements are concluded during the meeting.

Unless there is prior agreement for logistics, the host country is responsible for all in-country meeting expenses and arrangements for the CFG representatives. Expenses for lodging, meals, and transportation are the responsibility of each representative, unless prior arrangements are concluded.

Contact Person: Stephen S. Talbot, Chairman, CAFF Flora Group, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 USA; E-mail: Stephen_Talbot@fws.gov; Tel: +1 907 786 3381; Fax: +1 907 786 3905.

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA

CIRCUMPOLAR SEABIRD EXPERT GROUP (CBIRD)

CHARTER

I. INTRODUCTION

Marine and coastal ecosystems are socio-economically and biologically important features in circumpolar regions. Populations of seabirds in the circumpolar region are large and diverse. About 16 species of seabirds have circumpolar distributions while several other species are shared between two or more countries. Arctic countries often share the same seabird populations. Consequently, there is a joint and equal responsibility for the conservation of seabirds in and outside the Arctic. Arctic countries also share common population and habitat threats in marine and coastal ecosystems that seabirds depend on for their survival.

Traditionally, conservation, management, and research activities for seabirds in the Arctic have been poorly coordinated in terms of common direction, concerns, field methods, reporting and information exchange. Existing governmental and non-governmental regional seabird groups are organized in a north-south or latitudinal manner and not in an east-west or longitudinal manner. Therefore, seabird activities have been poorly coordinated in a circumpolar context. Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird) was a recognition that seabird conservation, management, and research activities could most effectively be achieved and harmonized by a multilateral approach of all Arctic countries. It was in this simple context that CBird was approved in 1993 within the organizational structure of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna program, a component of the Arctic Council. CBird will ensure that scientists and managers interested in northern seabirds will have a common forum to promote, facilitate and coordinate conservation, management, and research activities of mutual concern.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. GOAL

To promote, facilitate, coordinate, and harmonize seabird conservation, management and research activities among circumpolar countries, and to improve communication between seabird scientists and managers in and outside the Arctic.

B. OBJECTIVES

- To identify current and emerging seabird conservation, management, research, monitoring, and public outreach problems and opportunities in the Arctic and corresponding information and coordination needs.
- To facilitate exchanging and publishing seabird information of mutual interest to scientists and managers in the circumpolar countries.
- To facilitate harmonizing objectives, field methods and data analyses for similar studies of seabirds in the Arctic.

- To facilitate development and coordination of cooperative research and management projects and conservation plans for circumpolar seabirds of mutual concern in the Arctic.
- To promote and facilitate coordinating conservation initiatives for those Arctic seabirds that primarily winter outside the Arctic.
- To coordinate CBird initiatives with activities of other seabird groups as appropriate.
- To develop an integrated package of cooperative seabird activities or initiatives for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna annual work plan.
- Coordinate the CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network project.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Membership

The CBird complements other international seabird working groups of governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The CBird is comprised of up to 16 National Representatives; i.e., up to two representatives from each of the eight member countries of the Arctic Council, and representatives from the Council's Permanent Participants and Arctic Council Official Observer countries and organizations. CBird National Representatives are appointed by their respective CAFF National Representatives. The representatives represent the range of organizations and geographic areas important to seabird research, management and conservation in the Arctic. Participation in CBird meetings, however, is open to seabird experts of all governmental and nongovernmental organizations interested in Arctic seabirds. Decision-making within the CBird is by consensus of the designated official representatives.

B. Leadership

The CBird is administered by a Chair or Co-chairs. The Chair or Co-chairs selected from the group of official Representatives. The Chair or Co-chairs are selected by the CBird and approved by CAFF National Representatives. They serve for two-year terms which can be renewed at the discretion of CBird representatives. The Chair or Co-chairs are responsible for scheduling and facilitating meetings, preparing and distributing materials prior to meetings, and completing appropriate records of meetings. Materials and records are provided to CAFF National Representatives, the Secretariat, and all attendees within 60 days of completed meetings. Meeting agendas are developed by the Chair or Co-chairs in consultation with other CBird representatives. The Chair or Co-chairs also coordinate the work of CBird between meetings.

C. Meetings

The CBird will conduct meetings as necessary and possible to fulfil its objectives and approved action items. The Chair or Co-chairs, in consultation with other CBird representatives will determine the timing and location of meetings. Generally, meetings will rotate among the eight member countries. The CBird representatives from the host country are responsible for meeting logistical arrangements.

D. Expenses

Unless there is prior agreement, CBird representatives and other meeting attendees are responsible for their travel and per diem expenses.

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.