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Introduction

The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group held its most recent Management Board Meeting on the 29th – 3rd October in Ilulissat, Greenland. This document summarizes the current status of CAFF projects and activities.

CAFF has continued to work on the projects listed in the 2006-2008 Work Plan as approved by the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs). A draft of the new CAFF 2009 –2011 Work Plan has been completed and is currently under review. There will continue to be a strong focus on Climate Change and building upon the recommendations contained in the Arctic Climate and Impact Assessment (ACIA). CAFF also has a strong focus on the International Polar Year (IPY) both through benefiting from IPY generated research and contributing to IPY legacy. CAFF as requested by the SAOs is also actively cooperating with other Working Groups and remains prepared to contribute to new projects as required.

1 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) Follow-up

ACIA and CAFF’s Flora & Fauna: Status and Conservation report both indicated that it was necessary to consider the status and trends of biodiversity in the Arctic. ACIA called for improved capacity to monitor and understand changes in the Arctic and to improve and enhance long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) are two of the primary vehicles via which CAFF is responding to these calls.

CAFF remains prepared to contribute to the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (AMAP) efforts on climate change monitoring and to the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) on adaptation efforts in the Arctic. CAFF will work on additional aspects of ACIA follow-up through IPY endorsed projects, and projects by CAFF’s expert groups, the Seabird Group (CBird) and the Flora Group (CFG).

1.1 The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment was endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in Salekhard 2006. Its purpose is to:

*Synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic.*

It will provide a much needed description of the current state of the Arctic’s ecosystems and biodiversity, create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments of Arctic biodiversity and a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work. The report will be produced in two phases. Phase 1 is a short 2010 Arctic Highlights Report. This will present twenty indicators of trends and is based on the suite of indicators developed by the CBMP. Authors are currently being identified for each indicator and it is anticipated that this report will be ready as an Arctic Council contribution to the United Nations 2010 Biodiversity Target and International Biodiversity Year, in 2010. Phase 2 will be a full Arctic Biodiversity Assessment scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Administration

The ABA is being led by Finland, Denmark/Greenland and the United States. Esko Jaakkola (Finland) is the Chair of the ABA Steering Committee (SC) and Janet Hohn (USA) is the Vice...
Chair of the SC. The Chair of the SC will rotate and next in line to take the Chair will be the US. Its Chief Scientist (provided by Denmark/Greenland) is Dr. Hans Meltofte. The administrative aspects of the ABA are currently conducted by the CAFF Secretariat.

Activities

The ABA SC has held several meetings since the last SAO meeting in Svolvær and much progress has been made in organising the structure and implementation of the ABA. The ABA is now well into its organizational stages. A chief scientist has been appointed and lead and co-lead authors are currently being identified. An ABA meeting is to be held in Moscow in November to discuss the Russian input to the ABA.

Action: CAFF will review progress to date on the ABA and ask for country lead and co-lead authors to be identified and for funding commitments. It will also stress that in order to conform to its timelines assistance will be required to identify further lead and co-lead authors and to ensure country commitments to support authors. SAOs are asked to note the recent progress to advance the ABA and are asked for assistance to identify and secure further lead and co-lead authors and particularly for funding commitments to support authors.

1.2 The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The CBMP is an international network of scientists and local resource users working together to enhance Arctic biodiversity monitoring to improve detection, understanding and reporting of important trends in biodiversity and to inform management decisions. The CBMP has over 60 global partners, 33 of which are Arctic biodiversity monitoring networks operating and linked to the CBMP. Many of these networks (e.g. CARMA, ITEX) have received substantial support from the IPY.

The program takes an ecosystem-based management approach, operating as a network of networks, coordinating existing species, habitat and site-based networks. The CBMP is also in the process of convening five Expert Monitoring Groups tasked with developing long-term integrated monitoring plans for the Arctic’s major systems (Marine, Coastal, Freshwater, Terrestrial, Vegetation and Fauna).
Administration

Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to lead the CBMP and fund the CBMP Office located in Canada - until September 2010, at which point Canada’s commitment will be reviewed. The program has received funding from multiple sources in Canada, the United States, Sweden, Norway, Finland and from the European Commission. In-kind support is currently received from all CAFF Countries, Permanent Participants and Observers (i.e. AAC, AIA, CAFF Secretariat, Canada, Denmark/Greenland, GCI, Iceland, IUCN, Norway, U.S, Russia, UNEP Grid Arendal and UNEP WCMC).

Activities

The full version of the CBMP’s Five Year Implementation Plan was presented to and endorsed by the SAOs at Svolvær, April 2008. A Five Year Implementation Plan Overview document, outlining the program’s key activities and costs, had previously been presented to and received endorsement at the SAO meeting in Tromsø April 2007.

The CBMP has continued strategic partnership engagement to expand program capacity in key areas, as identified in the CBMP Implementation Plan. This has involved targeting key organizations in Europe, Russia and North America with the aim of trying to establish a broad-based consortium for improved Arctic biodiversity monitoring and conservation. Activities have included the following:

- The CBMPs Marine Expert Monitoring Group has been formed and is now in the process of being organised. Norway and the US co-chair the Group and Russia, Denmark/Greenland, Canada, the Aleut International Association and AMAP are active members. Norway is funding a start-up workshop to be held on January 17 - 18th, 2009 in conjunction with the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromso. The CBMP is also seeking a member nominee from PAME to ensure close collaboration with PAME on this activity.

- CAFF/CBMP hosted a workshop at the World IUCN Congress in Barcelona October 2008. This workshop was very successful and highlighted Arctic biodiversity issues as well as promoting CAFF and the CBMP.

- The CBMP hosted a workshop in Vancouver, Canada, September 11 - 12th, which brought together fifty experts from across the Arctic to discuss formation of the CBMP’s Terrestrial and Freshwater Expert Monitoring Groups. The workshop was funded by the European Research Area-Canada initiative, Canadian IPY Secretariat, CAFF/CBMP and Environment Canada. This workshop was very successful in advancing the CBMP’s Expert Monitoring Group’s work and in identifying member organizations.

- The CBMP hosted a workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina on September 25th at the BirdLife Conference to discuss a broad circumArctic partnership with BirdLife Regional Partners and their Global Seabird Programme. This workshop was very successful in developing a number of partnerships with BirdLife in the areas of coordinated monitoring, indicator development and web-based data portal development.

- The CBMP has joined the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and will be responsible for the Arctic analyses of CBD relevant biodiversity indicators.

- The CBMP is the biodiversity component of SAON and is directly in line with SAON’s goals of sustaining and coordinating Arctic observing through the implementation of the Expert Monitoring Groups and development of a number of tools and products for facilitating improved coordination such as the web-based biodiversity data portal.

The CBMP worked with the SAON Canada working group to develop the 2nd SAON workshop which was held in Edmonton, Canada in April, 2008. Mike Gill (CBMP Chair) co-chaired the Terrestrial (Freshwater)
Observation Networks session at the 2nd SAON workshop. The CBMP was also actively involved in the 3rd SAON workshop in Helsinki in October 2008 and participated in drafting the final SAON report and recommendations to the Arctic Council.

- The Canadian GeoConnections funding body granted $46,000 Canadian dollars to develop the Seabird Information Network (SIN). This pilot project, funded by Canada and Norway, is the first step in developing an integrated, multi-disciplinary web-based data portal and involves UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environment Canada and CAFF’s CBird group as partners.

- The CBMP has just completed an outreach package for the CBMP consisting of a CBMP Brochure; a CBMP Presentation Folder, quarterly e-newsletters, CBMP Charter, new website, PowerPoint templates, letterhead and a new tagline ‘Coordinating for Arctic Conservation’.

The following CBMP documents have just been published:

- A Strategy for Developing Indices and Indicators to Track Status and Trends in Arctic Biodiversity. CAFF CBMP Report No. 12

- A Strategy for Facilitating and Promoting Community-Based Monitoring Approaches in Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring. CAFF CBMP Report No. 13

- Developing an Integrated and Sustained Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Network: The CBMP Five Year Implementation Plan. CAFF CBMP Report No. 14

- Framework for a Circumpolar Arctic Seabird Monitoring Network. CAFF CBMP Report No.15

The next steps will focus upon the further development of program partnerships and commencement of the development of the CBMP indicators and indices for use in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. The Expert Monitoring groups will be activated with the Marine Expert Monitoring Group already convened and operating.

The technical framework for the CBMP will be further enhanced through the creation of platforms for web-based data portals (CBMP website and SIN pilot). Other activities will include the:

- Development of a Manual for Initiating Community-based Monitoring Programs
- Convening a Community-based Monitoring Guidance Group
- Development of a Pilot Arctic biodiversity monitoring inventory (currently underway in Canada) and its expansion to other Arctic countries
- Expansion and updating of the Arctic Report Cards (a collaboration with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and AMAP)
- Publishing of the program’s Data Management Strategy (near completion)
- Publishing the Framework for Coordinated Arctic Marine Mammal Monitoring

Action: At the SAO meeting it will be stressed that the CBMP has now moved from a planning phase to an implementation phase and, as part of its implementation activities, is developing and organizing its Expert Monitoring Groups. CAFF will review progress on this activity and the status of the Expert Monitoring Groups.

It will be stressed that the CBMP, currently led by Canada, receives funding from a number of sources, but requires more to achieve full implementation. The CBMP currently receives 60% of the funding needed for full implementation. Commitments from other countries to the program will be sought in order to ensure full implementation at this critical point in the CBMP’s development. It will also be stressed that The CBMP has participated as a lead on the biodiversity monitoring component of SAON and will continue to be recognized as a major contributor to biodiversity monitoring for SAON and as a legacy to the International Polar Year.

SAOs will be asked to note the recent progress to implement the CBMP and for assistance to ensure its continued and full implementation. Country leads and co-leads for the remaining
The Proceedings of the Faroe Workshop have been published as CAFF Technical Report No. 15.

The submission of documentation to the IUCN in support of a proposed Red List of Arctic plant species - awaiting IUCN response.

The CFG Chair attended an IUCN Meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Links created on the CAFF website to country Red Lists and rare plant lists.

Completed an Evaluation of monitoring of local flora in Russia, and determined its application in a circumpolar context.

Checklist of Arctic lichens available on the CAFF website; planned for publication as a CAFF Technical Report in 2009.

The CFG website has been updated and revised - www.caff.is/cfg. All CFG publications are now available online and all presentations/PowerPoint’s from the meeting in the Faroe Islands are also available online.

2.2 CAFF Seabird Group (CBird)

CBird conducted its 14th meeting in Nuuk, Greenland in February 2008. CBird is currently focusing its attention on the following issues: The CBMP, Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database, Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan, Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern, International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy, Seabird Information Network, Harvest of Seabirds in the Arctic, and a Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends Report. Funding for the Seabird Information Network and Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database was recently obtained and promises to speed the completion of these projects.

Recent accomplishments of CBird have included the following:

- Seabird Harvest in the Arctic, CAFF Technical Report No. 16
The CBird website has been updated and revised - www.caff.is/cbird. All CBird publications are now available online. A new CBird logo has been created and will now be used on all CBird documentation. The next CBird meeting will be held in Iceland in September 2009. A further meeting has been scheduled for 2010 to coincide with the first Seabird world conference.

2.3 Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN)

CPAN has been an expert working group within CAFF since 1996. And initially it had a very active and productive start however it has had many challenges in the intervening years and it has proved difficult to find solutions on how CPAN should move forward. During its recent board meetings the CAFF management board has considered how to best move CPAN forward but they have had difficulty in finding a solution. It was recognised that CAFFs funds are limited and that CAFF has a heavy workload and must prioritize its activities.

However, in recognizing the importance of the issues CPAN addresses for achieving CAFFs mission it was realized that the issues CPAN deals with are reflected in other CAFF projects and activities. For example this can be seen in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessments 2010 report which includes a protected areas indicator as developed by CAFFs cornerstone programme the CBMP. It was thus decided at the recent CAFF Biennial meeting in Ilulissat that CPAN would not be placed on the 2009 – 2011 CAFF Work Plan.

3 CAFF Projects

3.1 ECORA

CAFF is continuing to contribute to ECORA, a 5-year Global Environment Facility (GEF) project between CAFF, the Russian Federation and UNEP/GRID-Arendal. ECORA is an integrated ecosystem approach to conserve biodiversity and minimize habitat fragmentation in the Russian Arctic. The immediate project objective is the development and implementation of Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) strategies and action plans in three model areas representing different ecosystems and anthropogenic pressures in the Russian Arctic: Kolguev Island, the Kolyma River Basin, and the Beringovsky District. Expected major outcomes of the project are:

- Strengthening the enabling environment for IEM.
- Strengthening knowledge base for IEM.
- Development of IEM plans and strategies in model areas.
- Pilot projects to test IEM implementation strategies.

Recent activities of ECORA have included the following:

- Baseline mapping of key ecological and socio-economic features completed and available in different formats
- Field studies on key ecological indicators completed and recommendations made regarding management of reindeer husbandry, waterfowl harvest, conservation of threatened species, etc., as appropriate.
- Community monitoring implemented in two Model Areas and soon to be initiated on Kolguev Island.
- Training and education activities completed, including environmental education for schools (primary, secondary, and college level), and training in traditional nature use.
- Pilot project initiated in each Model Area: Clean water, waste, and energy on Kolguev Island; Sustainable waterfowl harvest and Sustainable reindeer husbandry in Kolyma River Basin; and Development of cluster nature protected areas in Beringovsky.
IEM plans are in various stages of endorsement with the relevant regional administrations.

The semi annual report has been completed and submitted to the GEF.

A new website has been created for ECORA - http://www.grida.no/ecora.

Springer publishing house is to publish the project under the title: **Towards integrated ecosystem management in the arctic: lessons learned and the way forward.** This is to be published in English and possibly in Russian.

A proposal is being prepared to develop a follow-up project to ECORA that will build on the outcomes of the current project to enhance adaptation to climate change in biodiversity management in the Russian Arctic and support traditional lifestyles of indigenous peoples of the North through protecting traditional nature use. It will help support CAFF’s activities relating to the CBMP and ABA in Russia, as well as addressing recommendations from the ACIA.

3.2 The Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN)

The **BSSN International Community-Based Environmental Observation Alliance for the Arctic Observing Network** is a 2008-2009 IPY project implemented by the Aleut International Association in collaboration with the University of Alaska, UNEP-GRID Arendal and the Alaska Native Science Commission under the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working group of the Arctic Council.

BSSN is funded by the United States National Science Foundation (NSF) under the Cooperative Agreement ARC – 0634079. The overall goal of BSSN is to increase our understanding and knowledge of pan-Arctic processes, thereby enhancing the ability of scientists, Arctic communities, and governments to predict, plan, and respond to environmental changes and their subsequent socio-economic effects. The project’s pilot stage, which began in June 2007, runs through May 2009.

BSSN is a structured network that provides the means for the systematic collection of information about the environment by six indigenous coastal communities: three in the Russian Federation (Kanchalan — Chukchi, Tymlat — Koryak, and Nikolskoye – Western Aleut/Unangas) and three in the United Stated (Gambell – Siberian Yup’ik, Togiak — Central Yu’pik, and Sand Point— Eastern Aleut/Unangan). The semi-structured interviews are used to gather observations on the primary subsistence and commercial species of the Bering Sea, such as a variety of salmon species, Arctic char, halibut, walrus and seal, just to name a few. The network also provides for the efficient management of data gathered from community-based environmental observations. Thus far, emerging trends of interest include the difference in observations and perceptions of change in ice-dependent and non ice-dependent communities, as well as in health of species caught in Alaskan versus Russian communities.

A proposal for a five-year full project has been submitted to NSF for funding. Full phase, under the title **“Bering Sea Sub Network: a Distributed Human Sensor Array to Detect Arctic Environmental Change”** will focus on understanding of the variations in environmental and socio-economic conditions that have a meaningful impact on everyday life in indigenous communities in the Arctic; the evolution of past and present consequences of change and potential strategies in order to enhance communities’ capacity to adapt; and the interactions and feedbacks between the biophysical and social systems, so as to assess how changes in each impact one another.

4 Cooperation with other Working Groups

4.1 The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

CAFF-AMAP cooperation continues to develop. A joint meeting is scheduled to be held in December 2008 in Quebec to discuss the next steps in the integration and harmonization of monitoring between CAFF and AMAP. At the SAO meeting in Narvik CAFF and AMAP introduced the list of monitoring activities which were submitted under the Coordinated Monitoring Effort (CME). These projects are to present annual reports at SAO meetings. A status report has been compiled which reviews the current status of the CME and provides an overview of the current status of each project listed under the CME. The CAFF Secretariat is also cooperating with AMAP on
the issue of the use and management of spatial data within the Arctic Council – see item 4.2

4.2 Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

The CAFF, EPPR and AMAP Secretariats have been cooperating to consider how spatial information can best be managed and used within the Arctic Council. Two workshops have been held to discuss the use, availability and management of spatial information in the Arctic. CAFF created an information paper on spatial data and the Arctic Council and this was used as a basis for discussion.

CAFF in cooperation with EPPR and AMAP has used the discussions generated by the workshops and the CAFF paper to create an information paper which has been submitted to the SAOs at the Svolvær meeting. The purpose of this document was to inform the SAOs of progress to date with regards to discussions on how spatial information could be managed within the Arctic Council and how this could be conducted in cooperation with external parties. The information paper:

- Introduced Plans to present a more complete proposal to the Arctic Council.
- Outlined the current ‘vision’ for collaborative activities among the Arctic Council Working Groups.
- Considered how the Arctic Council and its Working Groups could co-operate with external parties with regards to spatial information.

Based upon the results of discussions between the Working Groups, the plan is to further develop this document and to submit a proposal for consideration/approval by the SAOs.

4.3 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

CAFF remains committed to contributing to further cooperation with PAME. However a common understanding needs to be reached between CAFF and PAME which will outline how this cooperation could take place. CAFF is actively exploring how to further develop cooperation which has thus far focused on:

- Contributions to PAMES Regional Programme of Action
- Exploring how CAFF and PAME can cooperate in relation to Large marine ecosystems and Marine sensitive areas
- PAME has been invited to participate in the CBMP’s Marine Expert Group

4.4 Sustainable development Working Group (SDWG)

CAFF is exploring how to further develop cooperation with the SDWG.

5 Cooperation with International conventions and organisations

CAFF cooperates and communicates with a wide variety of International organisations and conventions. These include:

- AEWA
- Arctic Parliamentarians
- Birdlife
- GEOSS
- CBD
- IASC
- IPICEA
- IPY
- IUCN
- Polar Bear Agreement
- RAMSAR
- UNESCO
- UNEP-GRID
- Arendal
- UNEP-WCMC
- Wetlands International
- WWF

Find below a summary of some recent actions taken with regards to cooperation with international conventions and organisations:
5.1 CAFF cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal

CAFF has continued cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal on the development and data management of the CBMP and a web-based portal. Both organisations are represented on the Steering Committees for the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the CBMP.

5.2 CAFF cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The CAFF Flora Group also now serves as the official Arctic Plants Specialist Group within the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN. CAFF is in the process of formulating a joint project with the Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) of the IUCN in connection with the CBMP. IUCN-US also hosted and contributed to organising the CBMP stakeholders’ workshop in Washington on March 6 – 7th, 2008.

CAFF/CBMP in cooperation with IUCN has held a workshop at the recent IUCN World Congress held in Barcelona on October 5th. The workshop was very successful and generated a lot of interest and was effective in highlighting Arctic biodiversity issues as well as promoting CAFF - the CBMP and ABA.

5.3 CAFF cooperation with oil and gas industry on biodiversity conservation efforts

CAFF is continuing dialog with the biodiversity working group of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), to develop possible joint projects. CAFF participated in the round table discussion held between representatives from Oil & Gas companies and the Working Groups in the Arctic Council.

5.4 The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

CAFF is in discussions with the Secretariat of the CBD on the potential for cooperation between CAFF and the CBD.

5.5 The Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON)

CAFF is participating in SAON and has participated in each of the SAON workshops. In support of the coordinated action requested by the SAOs regarding an Arctic observing network as referred to in the 2006 Salekhard Declaration the CBMP is recognized as the biodiversity component of SAON. CAFF through the CBMP helped to develop the 2nd SAON workshop held in Edmonton on 9 – 11th April, 2008. Mike Gill (CBMP Chair) co-chaired the Terrestrial Observation Networks session at the 2nd SAON workshop. CAFF also played an active role in the final SAON workshop which was tasked with developing the SAON report and recommendations to the Arctic Council.

5.6 The International Polar Year (IPY)

CAFF has been involved in IPY in a number of specific ways. (1) Through the endorsement of IPY projects; (2) through benefiting from Research generated by IPY projects and (3) through contributing to IPY legacy. The following list outlines those IPY proposals which have received CAFF support. These are projects which have no direct CAFF involvement or CAFF financing, and CAFF is not responsible for their implementation. However findings from these projects may assist CAFF efforts in the future.

- Arctic Biodiversity of Chars – Network for Monitoring and Research
- Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring and Research Network
- Arctic Portal
- Back to the Future (BTF)
- Bering Sea Sub-Network of Community-Based Environmental Monitoring, Observation and Information Stations
- BIRDHEALTH (Health of Arctic and Antarctic Bird Populations)
CAVIAR (Community Adaptation and Vulnerability In Arctic Regions)
- Conservation Status Assessments of Canadian Arctic Flora
- EALAT (the Reindeer Herders’ Vulnerability Study)
- Flora of the Canadian Arctic: diversity and change
- Greening of the Arctic (GOA)
- Predictive Modeling of the Circumpolar Pelagic Seabird Distribution
- Pan-Arctic Vegetation Change
- Temporal and spatial distribution of mercury and methyl mercury source types, transfer and impact in the North American arctic and sub-arctic food web using seabird eggs and feathers.

An example of how CAFF is benefiting from IPY will be through the role IPY generated research will play in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. The ABA also will provide a vehicle for IPY researchers to insure that their research will reach a wider audience. CAFFs cornerstone project the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme is itself an IPY endorsed project and it will play a significant role in contributing to IPY legacies. This can be seen in how it is recognised as the Biodiversity component of SAON.

6 Management and administration

6.1 Management Board Meetings

CAFF has held two management board meetings in 2008 in Nuuk, Greenland on February 12 – 14th and the CAFF biennial was held in Ilulissat, Greenland September 29th – October 3rd. A Joint CAFF – AMAP Board meeting is also scheduled to be held in Quebec in December 2008. A CAFF Board meeting is also scheduled to be held in Quebec on December 8 – 10th.

7 Guidance needed from the SAOs

It is important for the successful implementation of the CAFF Work Plan that CAFF secure the requisite involvement of National Representatives, Permanent Participants, Observers and Experts. This will then allow for a broad and active involvement in CAFFs activities. At the upcoming SAO meeting in Kautokeino in November 2008 CAFF will be looking for guidance and direction from the SAOs in the following areas:

- SAOS are asked to note the recent progress to advance the ABA
- SAOS are asked to ensure the continued and full implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment
- SAOs are asked to identify and secure further lead and co-lead authors and particularly for funding commitments to support authors
- SAOS are asked to note the recent progress to implement the CBMP
- SAOs are asked are asked for assistance to ensure the continued and full implementation of CBMP
- SAOs are asked in particular to nominate and support experts to the CBMP Expert Groups
- SAOs are asked to commit to be country leads for the Expert Groups that do not yet have leads
- SAOs are asked to ensure ongoing funding to support the CBMP within their countries and within the Arctic Council as a whole.

8 Submissions to the SAOs – Nov 2008

- The CAFF Progress Report
- A presentation on progress & status update for the ABA
- A presentation on progress & status update for the CBMP