

CAFF WORK PLAN 1997-98

I. INTRODUCTION

CAFF's mandate and scientific direction are provided by the AEPS Declaration (1991) and the Arctic Council Declaration (1996), with additional directions provided by the AEPS and the Arctic Council through meetings of the Ministers and Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs).

General long-term guidance for the CAFF Program is found in the Cooperative Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Arctic Region. The Cooperative Strategy sets out the broad context within which CAFF activities are undertaken. In Alta, June 1997, the Ministers of the Arctic countries welcomed the Cooperative Strategy and noted the intention to develop a long-term plan to give it effect, based on five of its objectives identified as priorities by the CAFF Management Board and Permanent Participants. These objectives are:

1. Support and implement measures for the conservation of Arctic genetic resources, species and their habitats.
2. Manage activities outside protected areas in order to maintain the ecological integrity of protected areas and to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.
3. Enhance integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and policies.
4. Establish protected areas in the Arctic where they contribute to the conservation of ecosystems, habitats and species.
5. Enhance efforts to monitor Arctic biological diversity, paying particular attention to species, populations, habitats and ecosystems which are of greatest ecological, cultural and social value.

The long-term plan (Strategic Plan) to give effect to the Cooperative Strategy is under development with the intention to table the first draft at the SAO meeting in January 1998. This Strategic Plan will define further the five objectives or program areas in which CAFF's activities are to be focused over a five-year period. Following Arctic Council endorsement of a final draft, the Strategic Plan will serve as the framework for future annual CAFF Work Plans.

In Alta, the Senior Arctic Affairs Officials (SAAOs) further directed CAFF to prioritise the following activities:

- continue the implementation and further development of the "Circumpolar Protected Areas Network Strategy and Action Plan";
- assist countries with the implementation of the "International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan" and the "Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan" as needed;
- finish other ongoing projects as feasible and appropriate;
- outline ideas and proposals regarding the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic renewable resources; and
- report on all priority tasks at future Arctic Council meetings.

In addition the SAAOs noted that they look forward to receiving the following CAFF products:

- Atlas of Rare Endemic Vascular Plants of the Arctic (date not specified)
- Threats to Arctic Biological Diversity (January 1998)
- Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Commercial Fisheries in Circumpolar Countries (date not specified)
- Human Disturbance Guidelines for Seabird Colonies (date not specified)
- Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map (by year 2001)

- Recommendations on Procedural and Organisational Aspects for the CAFF Program (as soon as possible)

Until the long-term Strategic Plan is endorsed by the Arctic Council, CAFF adopts this Annual Work Plan with focus on the assignments set in Alta, including emphasis on finishing ongoing program work. A few new tasks have been added, all with deadlines before the next Arctic Council meeting in 1998.

CAFF program activities, sponsored by at least one Arctic country, are listed under the five priority objectives endorsed in Alta or under the heading of Program Management.

CAFF acknowledges that several programs and projects outside of CAFF are consistent with its purpose. To avoid duplication of effort, these programs and projects are invited to inform CAFF of their activities, and if so desired, to cooperate with CAFF for mutual benefit - at no additional financial cost for CAFF. These projects are termed “associated projects” and are listed in a separate section.

II. CAFF TASKS

1. Support and implement measures for the conservation of Arctic genetic resources, species and their habitats

1.1 Rare Circumpolar Endemic Arctic Vascular Plants

1.1.i) Publish the Atlas of Rare Endemic Vascular Plants of the Arctic as a CAFF Technical Report in 1998; establish a website for the Atlas and link it to the CAFF website by June 1998.

Lead: United States

1.1.ii) Specify, by CAFF VII, the list of rare non-endemic plant species of circumpolar concern on the basis of the draft prepared by Russia, and annotate it according to the scheme accepted for the endemic plants.

Lead: Russia

1.2 Pan-Arctic Flora Initiative

1.2.i) Finalise, by CAFF VII, the first draft of the annotated checklist of “Pan-Arctic Flora: Vascular Plants”.

Lead: Russia

1.3 Conservation of Arctic Seabirds

1.3.i) Implement the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan by completing five-year action plans for each circumpolar country in 1997. At CAFF VII, report on each country’s progress in implementing the murre strategy, including the status of the circumpolar murre catalogue database (Canada/USA), the murre monitoring plan (USA), the North

Atlantic murre banding plan (Iceland), and the North Atlantic murre banding recoveries report (Norway).

Lead: As noted

1.3.ii) *Implement the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan by completing national 5-year action plans by CAFF VII.*

Lead: All

1.3.iii) *Complete, by December 1997, CAFF Technical Reports, including “Harvest of Seabirds” (Greenland/USA), “Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Commercial Fisheries” (Norway), and “Human Disturbance Guidelines at Seabird Colonies” (Canada), as well as the third edition of the “Circumpolar Seabird Bulletin” in 1998 (USA).*

Lead: As noted

1.4 Migratory Birds Outside the Arctic

1.4.i) *Complete the CAFF Technical Report “Global Overview of the Conservation of Arctic Migratory Species” and summarise the report’s recommendations for presentation to the SAO meeting in April 1998.*

Lead: Russia in cooperation with the Netherlands and the Bonn Convention Secretariat

1.5 Circumpolar Database on Terrestrial Migratory Species

1.5.i) *Continue compiling a circumpolar GIS database of the breeding and moulting areas of terrestrial migratory bird species and prepare a progress report by CAFF VII.*

Lead: Russia, in collaboration with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and Wetlands International

1.6 Threatened Species and Species of Common Conservation Concern

1.6.i) *Complete, by May 1998, an evaluation of the feasibility of adding CAFF lists of rare and vulnerable species and species of common conservation concern in the circumpolar Arctic to the CAFF website*

Lead Canada in cooperation with the CAFF Secretariat

2. Manage activities outside protected areas in order to maintain the ecological integrity of protected areas and to ensure the conservation of biodiversity

2.1 Report on Threats to Arctic Biodiversity

2.1.i) *Circulate to countries, by 1 November 1997, the next version of draft Report on Threats to Arctic Biodiversity (Finland); provide comments to Finland by December 1, 1997 (All); submit the final draft to the SAO meeting in January 1998 (Finland).*

Lead: As noted

2.2 Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Mapping Project (CAVM)

2.2.i) *Continue efforts to complete the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map and prepare a progress report for CAFF VII.*

Lead: United States

2.3 Ice Edge Ecosystem Pilot Mapping Project

2.3.i) *Complete, by CAFF VII, habitat maps and descriptions for bowhead whales, polar bears and walrus.*

Lead: United States in cooperation with the Arctic Network

3. Enhance integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and policies

3.1 Report on Sustainable Use of Northern Timberline Forests

3.1.i) *Prepare, by January 1998, a discussion paper for circulation (Finland); provide comments to Finland by March 1998 (All); hold a workshop on Sustainable Use of Northern Timberline Forests in Whitehorse, May 10-11, 1998 (in conjunction with the Arctic Sustainable Development Conference), using the discussion paper as a background document (Finland); by July 1998, publish proceedings of workshop for use in other Arctic fora (Finland).*

Lead: As noted

4. Establish protected areas in the Arctic where they contribute to the conservation of ecosystems, habitats and species

4.1 Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN)

Gap Analysis for CPAN

4.1.i) *Conduct a limited gap analysis for the Russian Arctic territory related to selected priority themes (based on existing data sets and ongoing CAFF activities), and present a report to CAFF VII.*

Lead: Russia in cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal and WCMC

Pan-Arctic Protected Areas Registry (PAPAR)

4.1.ii) *Review, by December 1997, the Discussion Paper on Structure and Functions of a Pan-Arctic*

Protected Areas Registry (PAPAR), and provide input on this to Norway (All). Based on the inputs, by CAFF VII, present a draft version of a PAPAR of terrestrial, freshwater and marine candidate sites for future action (Norway in cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal).

Lead: *As noted*

CPAN Implementation Reporting and Evaluation Guide

4.1.iii) *Review, by December 1997, the Draft CPAN Implementation Reporting and Evaluation Guide, and provide input on this to the CAFF Secretariat (All). Based on this input, by May 1998, complete the CPAN Implementation Reporting and Evaluation Guide (CAFF Secretariat). Using the revised Guide, by CAFF VIII, undertake a full evaluation of national implementation of CPAN (All). (Lead to prepare a report based on these national reports will be identified at CAFF VII).*

Lead: *As noted*

Marine Protected Areas

4.1.iv) *Prepare, for the May 1998 meeting of the National Representatives and Permanent Participants, a paper summarising the jurisdictional responsibilities for Arctic marine ecosystems and national frameworks for conservation of the Arctic marine environment.*

Lead: *Canada*

Sacred Lands as a Part of CPAN

4.1.v) *Prepare, by August 1998, a discussion paper “Possibilities for including sacred lands and graveyards of the indigenous people in the CPAN framework.”*

Lead: *AIPON in cooperation with Canada and Russia*

<p>5. <i>Enhance efforts to monitor Arctic biological diversity, paying particular attention to species, populations, habitats and ecosystems which are of greatest ecological, cultural and social value</i></p>

5.1 Monitoring Biological Diversity

Overview

5.1.i) *Compile, by April 1998, an overview of current biological monitoring efforts in the Arctic.*

Lead: *Greenland*

Biodiversity Monitoring Network

5.1.ii) *Prepare, by August 1998, a progress report on the Biodiversity Monitoring Network at the local flora level in the Asian Arctic, in the context of the general task of creating a circumpolar Arctic biodiversity monitoring network.*

Lead: *Russia*

6. CAFF ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

6.1. A Circumpolar Case Study on Tourism in Relation to CPAN

6.1.i) *Develop a Circumpolar Case Study on tourism in relation to protected areas using existing or potential CPAN sites and methodology and design selected by the CAFF countries. The Study will show how the countries are addressing the increase in nature-based tourism and the impacts on biodiversity and will cover, inter alia, conservation measures, tourism data collection and assessment, and involvement of local communities.*

Phase One: Site Selection, Study Methodology and Design (May 1998)

Phase Two: Implementation, Analysis and Reporting (1999/2000)

Lead: IUCN

7. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

7.1 CAFF Program Delivery

CAFF Strategic Plan

7.1.i) *Prepare, by 1 November 1997, a discussion outline of the CAFF Strategic Plan (Iceland in co-operation with the CAFF Secretariat); prepare first draft of the Strategic Plan for submission to SAOs by January 1998 (CAFF Secretariat in cooperation with All).*

Lead: As noted

CAFF Communication Strategy

7.1.ii) *Develop, by April 1998, an outline for a communication strategy for CAFF.*

Lead: Iceland in cooperation with UNEP GRID-Arendal and the CAFF Secretariat

CAFF Operating Guidelines

7.1.iii) *Prepare, by September 1998, draft operating guidelines for the CAFF Program for approval by the SAOs.*

Lead: Canada and United States

Translation of CAFF Documents Into Russian

7.1.iv) *Translate into Russian, by August 1998, a set of documents and reports of CAFF beginning with the CAFF Technical Report “Global Overview of the Conservation of Arctic Migratory Species” and the CAFF Habitat Conservation Reports.*

Lead: Russia in cooperation with the Netherlands

7.2 Future Meetings of the CAFF International Working Group

May 1999 - Canada

Fall 2000 - Norway