

The CAFF Work Plan 1999-2000

I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan 1999-2000, specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic countries to be undertaken by CAFF under the auspices of the Arctic Council during the period of April 1999 to October 2000.

The CAFF Work Plan 1999-2000 follows the format of and represents steps towards implementing the "Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity", which was endorsed by the Arctic Ministers in 1998 as a framework for future CAFF activities.

1. 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

*1.1. Design a program to monitor circumpolar biodiversity for consideration by the second Arctic Council meeting in year 2000: hold an expert workshop in Iceland in fall 1999 to initiate this process and develop a first draft program for consideration by countries (**Iceland/CAFF Secretariat**).*

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

Flora

*2.1. Continue efforts to complete the critical annotated checklist of Pan-Arctic Flora and revise the list of rare non-endemic plants of circumpolar conservation concern. Provide a status report to CAFF VII (**Russia**)*

*2.2. Work towards completion of the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map in year 2001 as per timeline provided in at CAFF VI in Nuuk 1997. Conduct a field transect in the Canadian Arctic during the summer of 1999 to verify the North-American continental map (**USA**)*

2.3. *Assess CAFF's role with respect to Arctic flora conservation in light of other circumpolar and international initiatives and provide a discussion paper to CAFF VIII (USA/Russia) .*

Fauna

2.4. *Co-ordinate the national and circumpolar implementation of the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF VIII and to the second Arctic Council Meeting (All/CSWG)*

2.5. *Co-ordinate the national and circumpolar implementation of the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF VIII and to the second Arctic Council Meeting (All/CSWG)*

2.6. *Complete by fall 1999 a CAFF Technical Report on Harvest of Seabirds in the Circumpolar Region (All/CSWG)*

2.7. *Prepare recommendations to CAFF and the Arctic Council concerning incidental mortality of seabirds in commercial fisheries in the Arctic region: conduct a workshop on this topic in Halifax, Canada, in spring 2000 (Canada/USA)*

2.8. *Evaluate recommendations of the CAFF Technical Report No 4, "Global Overview of Conservation of Arctic Migratory Breeding Birds Outside the Arctic" and address other issues related to protection of Arctic migratory birds for consideration of CAFF and the Arctic Council: conduct a workshop on this topic in Wageningen, The Netherlands, in spring 2000 (Russia/The Netherlands)*

<p>3. <i>Establish protected areas in the Arctic where they contribute to the conservation of ecosystems, habitats and species</i></p>
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3.1 *Finalise by fall 1999 a report summarising the jurisdictional responsibilities and national frameworks for conservation of the Arctic marine environment (Canada)*

3.2 *Advance circumpolar efforts by CAFF, PAME and IUCN to protect the Arctic marine environment: cosponsor a Circumpolar Marine Workshop in Montreal, Canada, September 1999 (All/PAME/IUCN)*

3.3 Establish by fall 2000 a Pan-Arctic Protected Areas Registry (PAPAR) as specified in the CPAN Strategy and Action Plan (Norway/UNEP GRID-Arendal)

3.4 Develop ways to enhance support and sustainability of Russia's Arctic protected areas: hold a workshop on this topic in Anchorage, Alaska, October 1999 (USA/Russia).

3.5 Review and evaluate recommendations made by CAFF VII with respect to CPAN and prepare by CAFF VIII a discussion paper on ways to advance CAFF's CPAN effort (USA)

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

4.1 Prepare, in collaboration with AMAP and IASC, an assessment on impacts of climate change and UV-B on Arctic ecosystems (Sweden)

5. Enhance integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and policies. Identify approaches and develop strategies by which information on the conservation of Arctic biological diversity can be made available in an appropriate manner to those making socio-economic decisions.

5.1 Prepare an authoritative, illustrated report, "Arctic Conservation Issues: Status and Trends of Arctic Flora, Fauna and Habitats". Submit an advanced draft to the second meeting of the Arctic Council in year 2000, anticipating publication in year 2001. (Finland/CAFF Secretariat)

5.2 Develop by fall 1999 a draft CAFF communications strategy for consideration by the SAOs (Iceland)

ADMINISTRATION

- *Prepare by fall 1999 draft CAFF Operating Guidelines for consideration by the SAOs (USA)*

