CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA
CAFF

WORK PLAN 2000 – 2002

September 8, 2000 – Final text as approved in Plenary

I. INTRODUCTION

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 specifies actions agreed upon by the eight Arctic countries to be undertaken by CAFF, under the auspices of the Arctic Council, during the period September 2000 to fall 2002.

The CAFF Work Plan 2000-2002 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. Facilitate establishment of nine networks of experts to identify priority elements of a program to monitor biological diversity **(All)** and report progress as it relates to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment at CAFF IX. **(Iceland)**

2. Collaborate with AMAP to harmonize biological diversity monitoring activities. **(Sweden, as CAFF Chair/CAFF Secretariat)**

3. Collaborate with AMAP and the International Arctic Science Committee to prepare the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment for delivery to the Ministers in 2004. **(Norway/Canada/CAFF Secretartiat)**

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

Flora

1. Establish the CAFF Flora Group to address priority flora and vegetation issues in support of CAFF priorities including the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network and circumpolar monitoring. A charter will be prepared for the April 2001 CAFF management meeting. **(USA/All)**

2. Review issues identified in the *ad hoc* CAFF Flora Group discussion paper tabled at CAFF VIII at a workshop to be held in Fennoscandia in 2001, and make recommendations to CAFF IX on priority action items. **(USA/All)**

3. Continue preparation of a taxonomically unified checklist of Pan-Arctic Flora, and revise the list of rare non-endemic plants of circumpolar conservation concern. Provide a status report at CAFF IX. **(Russia/CAFF countries as appropriate).**

4. Complete the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map in 2002, and present the map at CAFF IX. **(USA)**

Fauna

5. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**

6. Co-ordinate national and circumpolar implementation of the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and report on progress to CAFF IX. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**

7. Review recommendations of the CAFF Seabird Bycatch Workshop and CAFF Technical Report No. 1, "Incidental Take of Seabirds in Arctic Countries," and report to the April 2001CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(USA/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**

8. Review recommendations of CAFF Technical Report No. 5 "Seabird Harvest Regimes in the Circumpolar Nations," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(USA/ Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**

9. Review recommendations of the CAFF workshop on "The Conservation of Migratory Birds Outside the Arctic," and report to the April 2001 CAFF management meeting on priority activities for implementation. **(Russia/Circumpolar Seabird Working Group)**

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

1. Further develop electronic linkages to facilitate communication among protected area managers and others, by updating and expanding the CAFF web-site, and by establishing an electronic means, such as a list server, to distribute information on protected area initiatives and other CAFF activities. **(USA/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)**

2. Analyse the conservation value of sacred sites of indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic, their current status and ways to enhance their protection through the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network, and report findings to CAFF IX. **(RAIPON/Russia/CAFF Secretariat)**

3. Prepare by CAFF IX a discussion paper and preliminary project proposal to demonstrate the full range of values of Arctic protected areas. **(Canada)**

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

1. Complete by December 2001, a PDF-B for a Main Global Environment Facility Project "Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic." Begin implementation of the Main Project in 2002. Implementation of both phases will be dependent upon receipt of matching funds. **(Russia/Norway/CAFF Secretariat/UNEP GRID-Arendal)**

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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 app ropriate manner to those making socio-economic decisions

1. Complete the CAFF overview report on Arctic conservation issues, and present it to the Senior Arctic Officials in June 2001, in conjunction with the meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. **(Finland/All)**

2.   Develop recommendations for further actions based on the information and conclusions presented in the overview report, for presentation to the Ministers in 2002 **(Sweden, as CAFF Chair/All)**

Outstanding Administrative and Management Actions

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1.   Revise and finalize CAFF's draft operating guidelines and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(USA)**

2.   Revise and finalize CAFF's draft communication strategy and submit to the Senior Arctic Officials for approval in June 2001. **(Iceland)**