



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

# CAFF PROGRESS REPORT SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

Stockholm, Sweden, March 20-21 2013



Photo: Susan Morse



ARCTIC COUNCIL

**Note:** This report is a summary of key activities and developments from November to April 2013 and does not represent a comprehensive list of CAFF activities, priorities and projects. Timelines and dates are subject to change.

## Response to AC Priorities

Photo: jelle, shutterstock.com

The common priorities agreed upon for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Charmanship period (2007-2013) are concerned with climate change, integrated resource management, the International Polar Year (IPY), Indigenous peoples, local living conditions, management issues and biodiversity.

These priorities are integral to CAFF's mandate and objectives to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.

CAFF's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program are two key contributions towards understanding the impacts of climate change and other stressors on biodiversity and the sustainable use of the Arctic's living resources. In 2013 the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment will:

- provide the first description of the current state of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity
- create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments of biodiversity
- provide a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work
- provide up-to-date scientific

knowledge

- identify gaps in the data record
- identify key mechanisms driving change
- produce scientific and policy recommendations

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program is coordinating and feeding harmonized and integrated biodiversity monitoring information into Arctic Council processes.

These activities will create a dynamic process in which information remains up-to-date, relevant and easily accessed by scientists, decision makers and Arctic residents.

## Summary of progress on CAFF projects

Three products will be released in May 2013

### 1) Full scientific technical report:

Current status: 19/20 chapters have undergone peer and country review.

### 2) Scientific Synthesis:

Current status: Synthesis stand alone document is being finalized.

### 3) Summary report for policy makers

Current status: Summary document is being finalized.

### 3) TEK Compendiums

Current status: in development

A communications plan is in place and an accompanying film has been developed and released in cooperation with UNEP-GRID Arendal. Arctic Biodiversity Symposium to be held some time after the ABA release and will bring together those with an interest in Arctic biodiversity to discuss ABA findings and implementation.

April 2012 Lead author workshop at IPY	May 2012 Policy development workshop	July 2012 CAFF Board review underway	October 2012 Science writer begins work on summary report	Jan-Feb 2013 Summary report for policy approved at CAFF Biennial	May 2013 ABA scientific and summary report released at Ministerial
May 2010 Phase one complete: Release of <i>Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: Selected Indicators of Change</i>	July 2012 Finalized manuscripts start undergoing layout	Feb-March 2013 Summary and report delivered for SAO approval			

### Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

#### FOR SAO DECISION

Resolution of language in *Recommendation 10C* and approval of ABA *Summary Report for Policy Makers*.

### Arctic Sea Ice Associated Biodiversity

A report that acts as a follow up to ABA and SWIPA findings

**Phase one:** Identify issues, authors, outline and actions that will form the substance of a technical report. Phase complete.

**Phase two:** March 2012 Saint Petersburg meeting provided input into technical report. Russia agreed to be co-lead with Canada and the U.S.A.

**Phase three:** Report and accompanying recommendations submitted for SAO approval in March.

**Phase four:** Communication of the results and recommendations to a non-technical audience- launch after the Ministerial.

### Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment - IIC

Environmental component is complete, approved by CAFF and AMAP and delivered to PAME. Currently an intercessional process is ongoing to resolve technical issues. Cultural component completed.

#### FOR SAO DECISION

Welcome *Life Linked to Ice report* and approve its recommendations

[www.caff.is/assessments](http://www.caff.is/assessments)

[www.caff.is/aba](http://www.caff.is/aba)



## The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

- Denmark/Greenland and the US announced they will take over leadership of the CBMP in May 2013 and guide it through a new phase of implementation after successful Canadian leadership since 2005. A four year workplan is in development to ensure smooth transition. Canada will advise during a one year transition period.
- Convened three Expert Monitoring Groups developing and integrating **long-term monitoring plans** for marine, freshwater, and terrestrial Arctic ecosystems. These groups/plans are in various stages of development.
- The **Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS)**, a coordinated web-based data management system that accesses, integrates, displays and analyzes biodiversity data according to various user needs, was released at the IPY. Data is currently being added as it becomes available. This effort will provide a focal point for current and credible Arctic biodiversity data facilitating more timely and effective decisions while also facilitating data access for scientists, policy makers, Arctic communities and the public.
- Increased focus in engaging **industry partners** in contributing to and utilizing CBMP data efforts.
- **Community based monitoring** registry project to identify and maintain inventory of local/TEK knowledge and datasets. Metadata base initiated and pilot plan underway.
- Contributor and reviewer of major international efforts including:
  - NOAA's Arctic Report Cards; Biodiversity Journal; Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's (SCAR) Terrestrial Biodiversity Observing Network; Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB) France's National Biodiversity Indicators; Global Earth Observation- Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON); Developing the Arctic Biodiversity Coalition with IASC, ISAC, WWF, INTERACT, AMAP, APECS, University of the Arctic, with the support of SAON.

### Marine

The *Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* has been approved and is being implemented by the Marine Steering Group (MSG). Five new and one existing Marine Expert Networks (MENs) will coordinate long-term Arctic marine biodiversity monitoring data management and reporting. December 2012 meeting reviewed progress and discussed second year of implementation. Please see separate information package for more details.

### Terrestrial

The *Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* to undergo intercessional CAFF Board approval.

### Freshwater

Final *Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* approved in October 2012. First implementation workshop in June 2013.

September 2012  
Arctic Freshwater Monitoring Plan CAFF Board approved

January 2013  
Arctic Terrestrial Monitoring Plan ready for Board approval

[www.cbmp.is](http://www.cbmp.is)

September 2012  
TEMG meeting to advance Plan development

December 2012  
Marine Steering Group to meet during the ArcticNet conference in Vancouver

February 2013  
Denmark/Greenland/ USA announce leadership transition. Canada to advise.

## (CFG) Plants

Photo: ozAxe, shutterstock.com

- A September 2012 meeting in Russia helped further develop the **Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM)** project, an integrated map of boreal vegetation designed to better meet the needs of conservation and management at a circumboreal scale. Proceedings being prepared for publication.
- **International Arctic Vegetation Database (IAVD)** will create a circumpolar data management classification system for the benefit of research, conservation, education and policy-making.
- Developing a **Red List for Arctic Vascular Plants** anticipated for March 2013
- Developing an online **Arctic Plant Portal** to house information on plant species. Will be available on ABDS.
- CFG is also the IUCN Arctic Plants specialist group.
- CFG and IAVD meeting to be held in Poland, April 2013.

## Seabirds (CBird)

Photo: Wild Arctic Pictures, shutterstock.com

- A research proposal is in development to support a geolocator study of the thick-billed murre. This technology has provided dramatic new results in habitat use and can assist in international cooperation for conservation.
- The **Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan** is scheduled to be finalized in March 2013.
- A report on circumpolar glaucous gull declines is undergoing review and scheduled for completion in 2013.
- Data is being compiled for a status and trends report of the black-legged kittewake in order to assess the species circumpolar conservation concerns.
- Undergoing review of ivory gull status and monitoring.
- The **Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy** is undergoing review and will be ready in 2013.
- Annual meeting to be held in US, March 2013.

## Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI)

To provide a short update of the development of the non-legally binding MoU between the mapping agencies and plans for a ceremony where the MoU could be signed.

# Administration and Meetings

**Current Chair:** Evgeny Syroechkovskiy, Russia

**2013- 2015 Chairmanship:** Risa Smith, Canada

## Prominent Meetings and Presentations

<p>December 2012: USA Arctic Report Cards released</p>	<p>January 2013: Norway AMAP SDWG meetings</p>	<p>February 2013: Sweden Environment Ministers meeting Russia CAFF Biennial NEFU University</p>	<p>March 2013: USA CBird meeting Sweden SAO meeting</p>	<p>April 2013: Poland CAFF Flora Group meeting IAVD meeting Canada Arctic Observing Summit Russia CBMP meeting</p>	<p>May 2013: Sweden CBMP Freshwater meeting AC Ministerial ABA Launch event Iceland CBMP Marine Nordic meeting</p>	<p>June 2013: Sweden CBMP Freshwater implementation workshop</p>
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## Collaborations

### AMAP

- AMSA IIC
- SAON
- Arctic Report Card

### SDWG

- AMSA IIC
- AACA
- CSR

### PAME

- AMSA IIC
- Arcticdata.is
- Ecosystem based approach

### Ramsar

July 2012 CAFF signed a with Ramsar at the COP11 in July 2012. CAFF hosted a side event. Ramsar representative attended Biennial. CAFF to attend Ramsar workshop in Greenland, September 2013

### African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

July 2012 CAFF signed a with Ramsar at the COP11 in July 2012. CAFF hosted a side event. Exploring RoC with Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). CAFF representative to attend AEWA standing committee meeting.

### Arctic Resilience Report

Participate in process.

### Ecosystem Based Management

Participate in process.

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

SBSTTA Working Group, under recommendation XV/7, recommended the COP adopt a decision to welcome the CAFF report on Arctic Biodiversity and to welcome continued collaboration and utilization of CAFF monitoring and assessment information. The Conference of the Parties (COP) met to discuss. CAFF was represented at CBD COP11 in Hyderabad India, October 2012.

### Ongoing partnerships

In addition, CAFF cooperates with many international organizations and conventions. Some current partners include:

- Zoological Society of London
- GEOSS, GEOBON
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- UNEP/GRID Arendal
- UNEP WCMC
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists (APECS)
- Wetlands International
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders

## Ongoing Communications Activities

- CAFF, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment websites
- ABDS data portal
- Report generation
- Media events, response and issues management
- Social media presence
- CAFF representation to Arctic Council communications contact group
- Side event organization for major conferences and meetings
- Internal communications
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications: including events, publications, multimedia, outreach materials for ABA, the CBMP, and expert groups

## Deliverables for 2013 Ministerial

Photo: Wild Arctic Pictures, shutterstock.com

**A range of CAFF activities and projects will be presented to the Ministerial, key deliverables include:**

### Deliverable #1

#### Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

Will deliver the scientific report and summary report and recommendations for policy makers to the 2013 Ministerial.

### Deliverable #2

#### Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Will deliver the *Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* to the 2013 Ministerial. These plans will coordinate long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring and assemble existing data to establish a better understanding of the changes occurring in the Arctic freshwater environment.

### Deliverable #3

#### CAFF Work Plan 2013-2015 and Ministerial Progress Report detailing CAFF projects and activities

CAFF will deliver its 2013-2015 Work Plan detailing CAFF projects and activities and Ministerial Progress Report during the 2013 Ministerial.

# Planned Deliverables for 2013 Ministerial

Photo: Wild Arctic Pictures, shutterstock.com

## Monitoring

- **Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program Newsletter**
  - Fall 2012
  - Spring 2012
  - Winter 2012
  - Summer 2011
- **Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program information poster**
- **Arctic Report Cards**
  - Terrestrial chapters
  - Marine ecosystem chapter

## Assessments Series

- **Arctic Biodiversity Assessment**
  - The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment scientific report
  - The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment scientific synthesis report
  - The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment summary for policy makers (also in Russian)
  - Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Website: [www.arcticbiodiversity.is](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is)
  - Arctic Biodiversity Assessment film: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGhSUKSGil>
- **Sea Ice Biodiversity Assessment**
  - Life linked to ice
  - Sea ice associated biodiversity: Vancouver, Canada workshop report
  - Sea ice associated biodiversity: St. Petersburg, Russia workshop report
- **Arctic Species Trend Index**
  - The Arctic Species Trend Index 2011: Key findings from an in-depth look at marine species and development of spatial analysis techniques
  - The Arctic Species Trend Index 2011: Tracking trends in Arctic marine populations
  - The Arctic Species Trend Index 2011: Tracking trends in Arctic vertebrate populations through space and time
- **CBird Assessments**
  - Analysis of glaucous gull decline
  - Analysis of ivory gull status and trends
  - Analysis of Arctic tern status and trends

## Terrestrial

- Background Paper of the CBMPs Terrestrial Expert Monitoring Group
- Terrestrial Expert Monitoring Group: Designing an Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan workshop report
- Understanding Biodiversity Changes and Causes in the Arctic- Synergies in Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Research and Monitoring, joint workshop report

## Freshwater

- Arctic Biodiversity Freshwater Expert Monitoring Plan
- Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring promotional video
- Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring brochure
- Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring poster
- Freshwater Expert Monitoring Group Uppsala workshop report

## Marine

- Marine implementation annual report
- Marine implementation one page update
- Marine Biodiversity Monitoring promotional video
- Marine Biodiversity Monitoring brochure
- Marine Biodiversity Monitoring poster

## Seabird

- Seabird Information Network and population trend index
- Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan

## Sea Ice Biota

- Pan-Arctic biodiversity of marine pelagic and sea ice unicellular eukaryotes: a first attempt assessment
- Macrofauna database: published and unpublished data
- Maps of locations where sea ice macrofauna sampling
- Sea ice biota indicators and parameters suggested for the Norwegian-Russian Barents Sea monitoring program

## Plankton

- Map: Probability of detecting Pacific copepods in Arctic waters
- Map: Zooplankton (*Calanus finmarchicus*) abundance prediction

## Fish

- Arctic Fishes Species List

## Benthos

- Identification of Indicators for monitoring coral and sponges in Baffin Bay/Davis Strait
- Identification of mega- macrobenthic Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas in Hudson Bay Complex, the Western and Eastern Canadian Arctic
- Benthos Data Sharing Agreement
- Benthos chapter in the Arctic Report Cards

*At the time of printing, not all deliverables have been finalized, but are scheduled for completion before the Arctic Council Ministerial in May 2013.*

## Cross-cutting

Contributing to:

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (A and C)
- Arctic Resilience Report
- Ecosystem Based Management
- Ecosystem Approach
- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment
- Arctic Ocean Review

## Strategy Series

- Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy
- An International Arctic Vegetation Database: A foundation for pan-Arctic biodiversity studies
- Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) Mapping the Green Halo Concept Paper
- CFG/CBVM the 7th International CFG workshop report
- CBVM Vladivostok workshop report

## Administrative Series

- CAFF Website revised and updated: [www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)
- Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS): [www.abds.is](http://www.abds.is)
- Administrative Series- CAFF Work plan 2013-2015
- Administrative Series- CAFF Progress Report to Arctic Council Ministers 2011-2013
- Progress reports to the SAO reports
  - March 2013: Stockholm
  - November 2012: Haparanda (also in Russian)
  - March 2012: Stockholm
  - November 2011: Lulea (also in Russian)
- Resolution of Cooperation with United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - Arctic biodiversity report delivered to Subsidiary Body in Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/15)
  - Statement delivered at SBSTTA 15
  - Side event at SBSTTA 15
  - CBD CoP Decision XI/6 D page 52-53
- Resolution of Cooperation: Ramsar Convention
  - Side event hosting at Ramsar CoP
- Resolution of Cooperation: African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)



CAFF held its Biennial meeting in Yakutsk, Russia, February 11-14, 2013, hosted by the Northern Forum and the Ministry of Federative and External Relations of the Sakha Republic. The President, Vice-President and two ministers of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) welcomed the participants. This biennial is the final CAFF Board meeting under the Russian chairmanship of CAFF as leadership transfers to Canada after the Ministerial in May 2013. Biennial participants are photographed below. Photo: Courtney Price

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