

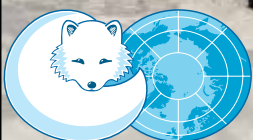


Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

## CAFF PROGRESS REPORT SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

Yellowknife, Canada, March 25-27 2014

Photo: Carsten Egevang/ARC-PIC.com



ARCTIC COUNCIL

**Note:** This report is a summary of key activities and developments from October 2013 to February 2014 and does not represent a comprehensive list of CAFF activities, priorities and projects. Timelines and dates are subject to change.

## Response to Arctic Council Priorities

### Responsible Resource Development

- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment implementation
- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) monitoring plans and implementation

### Safe Shipping

- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation
- AMSA IIC

### Sustainable Circumpolar Communities

- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation
- Traditional Knowledge integration in projects
- Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Arctic Scoping Study

CAFF contributes to various Arctic Council cross-cutting projects and activities intended to fulfill Canadian chairmanship priorities including the Arctic Economic Council, Sustainable Tourism initiative, AACA (C), Ecosystem-based Management, etc.

## Summary of progress on CAFF activities

### ABA Implementation

#### Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

- Implementation Plan under development and scheduled for CAFF board review in July.
- ABA recommendation analysis and priority-setting exercise and mapping of recommendations to Arctic Council activities (Oct. 2013-Feb. 2014)
- [ABA scientific report](#) finalized (Oct. 2013)
- [ABA scientific synthesis](#) report finalized (Oct. 2013)
- [ABA report for policy makers](#) (English, Russian, French, Inuktitut- May 2013)
- [ABA film](#) produced and released (Feb. 2013): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGhSUKSGil](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGhSUKSGil) (English and Greenlandic)

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

#### Arctic Biodiversity Congress

- Large meeting to discuss findings and implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment to be held in Trondheim, Norway, December 2-4, 2014
- Gathering of scientists, policy-makers, Arctic residents, industry representatives, NGOs and intergovernmental representation, etc.
- Hosted by CAFF in partnership with Government of Norway (Norwegian Environment Agency)
- Organising Committee (CAFF Secretariat, Chair-Canada, Norway) and Program Advisory Committee established (countries, PPs, observers, scientists, industry representatives)
- Biodiversity related meetings to be held on the side with focus on Arctic
- Initial funding secured, continued support necessary

[www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress)

#### The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Arctic Scoping Study

- Scoping study to explore the values (monetary and non-monetary) of Arctic biodiversity to better understand how biodiversity contributes to human well-being
- Partnership with CAFF, TEEB, UNEP, WWF, GRID-Arendal
- To deliver a technical report for 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial

#### Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

*Protecting Arctic lifestyles and people through migratory bird conservation*

- Led by Canada, Norway, Russia AMBIs goal is to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations.
- Proposed actions (Aug. 2014)
- Expert workshop (Feb. 2014)
- [Project Plan](#) finalized (Dec. 2013)

#### Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

- Co-production of knowledge to be a cross-cutting theme at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress (Dec. 2014)
- Lessons learnt on inclusion of TEK in the ABA being prepared (Aug. 2014)
- Indigenous Perspectives on Biodiversity Change in the North American Arctic - report outline (Mar. 2014)
- Participated in IPS-SDWG TK workshop (Feb. 2014)
- The report on indigenous Perspectives on Biodiversity Change in Eurasia was not possible to complete due to concerns as to how the information might be used once it is in the public domain

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## Monitoring

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### General: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

- Co-Leads: transition to Kingdom of Denmark (Aarhus University) and the U.S.A. (Bureau of Land Management/ North Slope Science Initiative) from Canada (Environment Canada) (May 2013)
- Coordination meetings with CAFF Secretariat, U.S.A and Danish/Greenlandic chairmanship and Canadian advisors (Oct. 2013)
- [CBMP Four Year Strategic Plan](#) (Sept. 2013)
- [Newsletter Winter 2014](#): focus on Invasive Alien Species in the Arctic (Feb. 2014)
- Map CBMP outputs to CBD Aichi targets (Sept. 2013)
- [Arctic Biodiversity Data Service: \[www.abds.is\]\(http://www.abds.is\)](#): ongoing
- Community-based Monitoring Registry: in development and contributing to ICC's Community Based Monitoring Atlas project
- 80 organizations provide staff time and/or direct funding to various projects

### Marine

- Co-Leads: Kingdom of Denmark (Greenlandic Institute of Natural Resources) and Norway (Norwegian Environment Agency)
- Data collection, integration: ongoing
- CBMP Marine State of the Ecosystem report: developing outline for 2016 report
- Implementation meeting (Oct. 2013)
- [Marine Expert Networks](#) progressing on deliverables: [www.caff.is/marine/marine-expert-networks](http://www.caff.is/marine/marine-expert-networks): ongoing
- [Proposal for gathering long-term standardized benthic invertebrate information in the North Atlantic](#) (Oct. 2013)
- [List of Marine Fishes of the Arctic Region](#) (Oct. 2013)

### Freshwater

- Co-leads: Canada (Environment Canada) and Sweden (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)
- [Freshwater Annual Report 2014](#) (Dec. 2013)
- Data collection, integration: ongoing

### Terrestrial

- Lead: Canada (Environment Canada)
- [Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) released (Oct. 2013)
- First implementation meeting (Feb. 2014)
- [Scientific poster](#) and [promotional brochure](#) developed (Dec. 2013 and Feb. 2014)

### Coastal

- U.S.A. (USGS) to lead the development of the CBMP's Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan
- Countries to nominate representatives to the Coastal group

### Indices

- Arctic Migratory Bird Index: in development
- Land cover change index: in development

### Arctic Report Cards (NOAA)

- CBMP is editor of Terrestrial and Marine ecosystem chapters (Dec. 2013)
- Report cards from CBMP included Sea Ice Biota, Marine fishes and Benthic communities
- Widely publicized in mainstream media

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



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## Expert groups

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### Circumpolar Seabird expert Group (CBird)

- Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan: in development
- Analysis of glaucous gull decline: in development
- Analysis of black-legged kittewake, ivory gull, Arctic tern status and trends: in development

[www.caff.is/seabirds-cbird](http://www.caff.is/seabirds-cbird)



### Circumpolar Flora expert Group (CFG)

- Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA) workshop proceedings (Sept. 2013)
- Red List for Arctic vascular plants (2014)
- Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM): workshops (Sept, Nov. 2013 and Feb. 2014)

[www.caff.is/flora-cfg](http://www.caff.is/flora-cfg)



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## Data Management

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### Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS)

- Business plan component 1 completed (Feb. 2014)
- Online data management system for CAFF programs and projects
- Data being added from CBMP monitoring plans, networks and indices (Ongoing)
- Information and data from the ABA being added (May 2014)
- Older datasets rescued and archived (Ongoing)
- Metadata registered in Polar Data Catalogue (Ongoing)
- Data services made available to partners (Ongoing)

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

## Key Deliverables for 2015 Ministerial

CAFF's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program are two key contributions towards understanding changes in the natural environment, what is causing those changes, how those changes affect human use of living resources and ultimately the development for peoples of the North.

After its release at the last Ministerial, the **Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)** has moved to an implementation stage. The ABA implementation plan and early implementation actions will be a key CAFF contribution to the next Ministerial. The **Arctic Biodiversity Congress** will bring together scientific, industry and policy leaders to discuss ABA results and concrete actions for implementation across countries, civil society and industries.

The **Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program** is coordinating and feeding harmonized and integrated biodiversity monitoring information into Arctic Council process and other relevant international fora.

In addition, several other projects will have deliverables, including **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Arctic Scoping Study**, which will present a technical report to the 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial. The study will

document how a priority range of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity contribute to human well-being and livelihoods, as well as provide contextual information on how human activities affect these ecosystems including their functions and ability to sustain the provisioning essential services.

The **Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI), protecting Arctic lifestyles and peoples through migratory birds conservation** is a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. For the 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial, assessment of the state of knowledge for top priority species/habitats, actions for high priority species, and implementation will be delivered.

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. Reporting will include a suite of well-established communications products as well as the **Arctic Biodiversity Data Service**.

In addition, a range of other deliverables will contribute to Canadian Chairmanship priorities, including continued work on the **incorporation of TEK into CAFFs work**.

## Administration and Meetings

**Current Chair:** Risa Smith, Canada

**2015- 2017 Chair:** Norway

**Previous CAFF Board meeting:**  
Kuujuaq, Canada, Feb. 2014

**Next CAFF Board meeting:**  
Cambridge Bay, Canada, Aug. 2014

<p><b>Oct. 2013</b> Canada CAFF Board meeting SAO meeting Whitehorse Iceland CBMP Co-Chair meeting Arctic Energy Summit Arctic Circle CBMP Marine Implementation meeting</p>	<p><b>Dec. 2013</b> Finland In the Spirit of the Rovaniemi Process USA/Canada CAFF outreach meetings Denmark Use of TK to monitor natural resources symposium Canada ArcticNet meeting</p>	<p><b>Jan. 2014</b> U.S.A. Alaska Marine Science Symposium</p>	<p><b>Feb. 2014</b> Canada CAFF Board meeting Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative workshop Iceland SDWG TK workshop CBMP Terrestrial meeting Finland CBVM workshop</p>	<p><b>March 2014</b> Finland UNEP EBSA workshop Norway Arctic Biodiversity Congress working meetings Belgium 4th European Marine Board</p>	<p><b>April 2014</b> Finland Arctic Science Summit Week</p>
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## Ongoing CAFF Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- CAFF, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment websites
- Report generation
- Media and side events
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications
- Data collection, quality control and publication

# Cooperation

## AMAP

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment: IIC
- Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks
- Arctic Report Cards (NOAA)

## SDWG

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment: IIC
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Traditional Knowledge

## PAME

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment: IIC
- Ecosystem approach expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan

## EPPR

- Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment

## Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

Active in integration team, component C

## Arctic Resilience Report

On project steering committee

## Ecosystem-Based Management

Active in process

## Communication partnerships

- Arctic Council communications and outreach group
- strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals
- Submission to UN Convention on Biological Diversity Global Biodiversity Outlook-4

## Ongoing partnerships

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

- Convention on Biological Diversity\*
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands\*
- Convention on Migratory Species\*
- Africa Eurasian Waterbird Agreement\*
- East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership\*
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Birdlife International
- Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network
- Zoological Society of London
- The Conference of the Arctic Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- United Nations Environment Program GRID Arendal
- United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- European Environment Agency
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- WWF Arctic Program
- Association of Early Polar Career Scientists\*
- Wetlands International
- Arctic Spatial data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

*\*indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

## Review

Conducting a review of CAFF activities to identify how they can contribute to the attainment of global biodiversity goals and targets identified by the biodiversity-related multi-lateral agreements and relevant global organizations (Aug. 2014)



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