

Response to AC Priorities

Responsible Resource Development

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation

Safe Shipping

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans implementation

Sustainable Circumpolar Communities

- ABA implementation
- CBMP monitoring plans and implementation
- TEK across many projects
- Migratory bird conservation
- Arctic TEEB (Ecosystem Services) 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

Monitoring: CBMP

General: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

- Multiple sessions at Arctic Biodiversity Congress
- 80 organizations provide staff time and/or funding
- Data collection, integration: ongoing
- Newsletter (Oct. 2014)
- Arctic Biodiversity Data Service: www.abds.is: ongoing

Marine

- Implementation of *Marine Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Implementation meeting (Sept. 2014)
 - Benthos network (June 2014)
 - Plankton network (Feb. 2014)
- Publications
 - Annual report and workplan (May 2014)
 - Country implementation reports (April 2014)
 - The Atlantic Gateway: benthos monitoring (Oct. 2013)
 - Arctic Report Cards (Sea ice biota, Fishes, Benthos) (Dec. 2013)
 - Expert network webpages and updates
- *Pan Arctic fish Atlas and ID guide*: ongoing

Freshwater

- Implementation of *Freshwater Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Implementation meeting (June 2014)
 - Benthos network (June 2014)
- Publications
 - Annual report and workplan (Jan. 2014)
 - Country implementation reports (March 2014)
 - Freshwater brochure (June 2014)

Terrestrial

- Implementation of *Terrestrial Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Implementation meeting (Feb. 2014)
- Products
 - Annual report and workplan (April 2014)
 - Inventory of terrestrial monitoring programmes
 - Implementation workshop report (April 2014)

Coastal

- Canada joins US as co-lead
- First workshop (Sept. 2014)

Indices

- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing
- Migratory Bird Index: ongoing
- Land cover change index: ongoing

Assessment

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) implementation

- Arctic Biodiversity Congress planning: ongoing
- *ABA Implementation Plan*: ongoing
- *ABA Implementation workshop* (Aug. 2014)
- *ABA scientific synthesis* translated: Danish, Greenlandic
- *ABA summary for policy makers* translated: Russian, French, Inuktitut, Danish, Greenlandic
- *Understanding TK of Biodiversity Change in NA*: ongoing
- ABA TEK lessons learnt document: ongoing
- Arctic biodiversity photo competition: ongoing

Arctic TEEB (Ecosystem Services) scoping study

- Workshops (Jan, May 2014)
- Communications plan (June 2014)
- Sessions planned for Arctic Circle (Oct.), CBD COP12 (Oct.) and Arctic Biodiversity Congress (Dec.)

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Workshops (Montreal, Feb., Washington, Sept.)
- Public events (Kuujuuaq, Feb. Cambridge Bay, Aug.)
- Workshop report (May 2014)

Expert Groups

CAFF Flora Group

- Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA): ongoing
- Red List for Arctic vascular plants: ongoing
- Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM): ongoing

CBird

- Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan: ongoing
- Glaucous gull decline: ongoing
- Black-legged kittewake status and trends: ongoing
- Ivory gull status and trends: ongoing
- Arctic tern status and trends: ongoing

Ongoing Secretariat Activities

- Project management, coordination
- Partnership development
- Strategic communications
- CAFF, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment websites
- ABDS data portal
- Report generation
- Media and side event organization
- Social media
- Internal communications
- Public inquiry response
- Project specific communications

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 has moved to an implementation stage. Results from the implementation plan will be a key CAFF contribution to the 2015 Ministerial. The **Arctic Biodiversity Congress** will bring together scientific, industry and policy leaders to discuss ABA results and concrete actions for implementation across countries 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.

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 an **Arctic TEEB scoping study**, continued work on the incorporation of TEK into Arctic Council work, mainstreaming activities and new partnerships and projects that focus on migratory birds.

Administration and Meetings

Current Chair: Risa Smith, Canada

Next CAFF Board meeting: Whitehorse, Canada, Feb. 2014

2015- 2017 Chair: Norway

June 2014 Iceland Freshwater CBMP	Aug 2014 Canada CAFF Board ABA workshop	September 2014 Iceland Sea duck conference Coastal CBMP Greenland Marine CBMP	October 2014 Iceland Arctic Circle Canada Working Group chairs SAO Meeting Rep. Korea CBD COP12 side event(s)	December 2014 Norway Arctic Biodiversity Congress Flora group Remote sensing workshop AMBI workshop	February 2015 Canada CAFF Biennial
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Collaboration

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a changing Arctic (AACAC)

SDWG

- Traditional Knowledge initiative

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan

Ecosystem-Based Management

- Participate in process

Communications

- AC communications group
- strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

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

- Convention on Biological Diversity*
- Ramsar*
- 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
- 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

**indicates a signed Resolution of Cooperation*

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