

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

The *CAFF Work Plan for 2015-2017* focuses on implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) recommendations, including the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021* guides how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues for the coming decade.

Key actions for 2015-2017 include: mainstreaming biodiversity; reducing stressors on migratory birds; ecosystem services evaluation; communications; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, in particular, on migratory species; invasive species; pollution; safeguarding critical areas; improving knowledge and public awareness, in particular, monitoring and traditional and local knowledge, and indicator development.

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity

Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021 comprises the implementation plan for the ABA recommendations. Recommendations are primarily aimed at the Arctic Council, however, success in conserving Arctic biodiversity depends upon actions by non-Arctic states, regional and local authorities, industry and all who live work and travel in the Arctic. These recommendations therefore, also provide a guide for action for states, authorities, and organizations beyond the Arctic Council. Some of the ABA recommendations directly encourage cooperation with those outside the Arctic Council process.

Implementation builds on a solid framework of established CAFF activities, including the CBMP and the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS). It also builds on other

relevant Arctic Council working group initiatives and processes of international biodiversity conventions and organizations, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Some ABA recommendations provide specific directions for focusing and enhancing work through these programs and activities. Some recommendations call for action to remedy gaps and deficiencies in knowledge and in conservation.

An **Actions for Biodiversity tracking tool** has been developed to track progress and identify decisions needed on those actions scheduled during phase 2: 2015-2017. This tracking tool contains information those actions where CAFF is taking a lead role and where CAFF will contribute. This tool will be updated prior to each CAFF Board meeting.

Summary of progress

Monitoring: CBMP

General:

- Data collection, integration: ongoing
- Newsletter (Jan)

Marine

- Implementation of *Marine Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Annual meeting (Nov)
 - Writing workshop (Apr)
 - Expert networks (Apr)
- Publications
 - Annual report and workplan (Sep)
 - Seabird monitoring plan (Sep. 2015)
 - Country implementation reports (2014)
 - Expert network webpages
 - Pan Arctic Fish Atlas: ongoing

Freshwater

- Implementation of *Freshwater Plan*: ongoing
- Meetings
 - Writing workshop (Oct)
 - Inventory of marine monitoring programmes (Oct)
 - Annual meeting (May)
- Publications
 - Country implementation reports (2014)

Terrestrial

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

Coastal

- Expert workshop (Oct)
- *Coastal monitoring plan*: ongoing
- *Background paper*: ongoing

Indices & indicators

- Arctic Species Trend Index: ongoing
 - Arctic Migratory Birds Index report (Sep)
- Land cover change index: ongoing
 - Land Cover Change initiative: report (Sep)
- Protected areas: ongoing

Assessments

- *Arctic TEEB (Ecosystem Services) Scoping Study* (Oct.2015)
- *TK & Wisdom-changes in the North American Arctic*: ongoing
- *Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map (CBVM): Yukon-Alaska* (Sep.2015)
- Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN) Final report (Sep. 2015)
- Invasive species management: ongoing
- Mainstreaming Arctic biodiversity: ongoing
- Salmon Peoples of Arctic Rivers: ongoing
- Seabird conservation strategies, assessments: ongoing
- Sea-ice dependent mammals: under development
- A Global audit of Arctic goose populations: ongoing

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

- Steering Committee activated
- AMBI website launched - www.caff.is/ambi
- Communication products for each flyway
- Americas Flyway meeting (Dec.)
- Implementation workshop planned (Spring 2016)
- Arctic Circle session (Oct. 2016)

Cross-cutting activities

- CAFF works closely with the Arctic Council WGs and Task Forces (TF) to ensure biodiversity information and perspectives are provided as needed e.g. input into the Marine cooperation TF, the AACCA and work with PAME on marine protected areas.

Administration and Meetings

October 2015

U.S.
SAO Meeting
Denmark
Freshwater CBMP
Iceland
Arctic Circle
Canada
Coastal CBMP
Polar Data Forum
Arctic SDI DEM
South Africa
CBird

November 2015

Norway
Marine CBMP
Arctic Frontiers
Finland
CBD Business Forum

December 2015

Iceland
EPPR
Canada
ArcticNet

January 2016

Norway
Arctic Frontiers

February 2016

Norway
CAFF board meeting
AMBI workshop (TBD)

March 2016

U.S.
SAO meeting

Current Chair: Reidar Hindrum, Norway

2017- 2019 Chair: U.S

Cooperation

AMAP

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

SDWG

- Traditional Knowledge initiative

PAME

- Ecosystem expert group
- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Framework

Communications

- Arctic Council communications group
- strategic partnerships with organizations with mutual goals

Ongoing partnerships

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
- Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- 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*

Education

Educational kits to communicate information to school children in the Arctic (10-11 years old) about key Arctic ecosystems and processes. These kits consists of a pocket guide for children and a leader's manual. Three versions produced focusing on different Arctic ecosystems:

- Life Linked to Tundra
- Life Linked to Ponds
- Life Linked to Spring

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

Arctic Biodiversity Data Service

- Data management framework for CAFF/CBMP
- Facilitate access to and archiving of data
- Over 500 datasets and services
- www.abds.is

Communication & Outreach

- Arctic biodiversity travelling photo exhibit: ongoing (Akureyri, Ottawa, Montreal, Reykjavík)
- Sessions planned for Arctic Circle (Oct.), Polar Data Forum (Oct.), CBD Business & Biodiversity Forum (Nov.)

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