

**Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**  
**and**  
**Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna**  
(Working Group of the Arctic Council)



**Resolution on Cooperation (RoC) between the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group**

**Background**

1. The Arctic plays host to a globally significant array of biodiversity, including migratory species. The size and nature of Arctic ecosystems make them of critical importance to the biological, chemical and physical balance of the globe. Dramatic changes (e.g. climate change) now underway are threatening the resiliency and sustainability of the Arctic's biodiversity and the overall balance of its ecosystems. Continued rapid change in the Arctic will have global repercussions affecting the planet's biodiversity as a whole.

*Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF):*

2. The Arctic Council (AC) is an international, intergovernmental circumpolar forum with eight member countries (Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States) and six Indigenous Peoples' organizations, which are known as Permanent Participants (The Aleut International Association (AIA), The Athabaskan Arctic Council (AAC), the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the Saami Council (SC)).
3. The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) program is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. Its mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and 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. In order to successfully conserve the natural environment and allow for economic development, baseline data on long-term status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health is required. CAFF's projects provide data for informed decision making on biodiversity issues.
4. The core objectives of CAFF are:
  - To collaborate for more effective research, sustainable utilization and conservation
  - To cooperate to conserve Arctic flora and fauna, their diversity and their habitats
  - To protect the Arctic ecosystem from human-caused threats
  - To seek to develop more effective laws, regulations and practices for flora, fauna and habitat management, utilization and conservation
  - To work in cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic
  - To consult and cooperate with appropriate international organizations and seek to develop other forms of cooperation
  - To regularly compile and disseminate information on Arctic Conservation

*Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):*

5. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an intergovernmental treaty administered by the United Nations Environment Programme, dedicated to the conservation of migratory species on a global scale. Since the Convention's entry into force, its membership has grown steadily to include 118 (as of 1 December 2012). Parties come from Africa, South and Central America and the Caribbean, Asia, Europe and Oceania<sup>1</sup>.
6. Wild terrestrial, aquatic and avian species that migrate across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries are particularly vulnerable to human pressures all along their migration routes. The protection of these species and their habitats requires concerted and coordinated actions by all States across their migration range in order to maintain or restore a favourable conservation status as a prerequisite to any form of shared sustainable use and poverty reduction.
7. CMS acts as a framework Convention: so far 26 agreements at a regional or global level have been concluded to meet the conservation needs of single species or groups of species throughout their migratory ranges.

**Mandates and Synergies**

8. Article IX of CMS requires the CMS Secretariat to maintain liaison with, inter alia, international organizations concerned with migratory species. The CMS Strategic Plan stresses the need for cooperation in areas of mutual interest. CMS Resolution 7.9 and subsequent decisions of the CMS Conference of the Parties have emphasized the need for cooperation with relevant key partners and the capturing of synergies in pursuit of shared targets. Further, CMS Resolutions 9.9 and 10.10 recognize the importance of the Arctic and requests the CMS Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with the Arctic Council (in particular CAFF).
9. CAFF's mandate is outlined above in clauses 3 and 4.
10. Both the CMS and CAFF objectives and activities complement one another in that CAFF as a Working Group of the Arctic Council provides a vehicle for knowledge and action in the Arctic region while CMS provides an important global framework for biodiversity efforts as related to migratory species. CMS can help place Arctic migratory species within a global framework while CAFF can help inform CMS on the status and trends of migratory species in this globally significant region.
11. Cooperation is also relevant on issues of common interest between CAFF and some of CMS's independent species agreements and memoranda of understanding. This is already evidenced by CAFF's RoC with the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 8th, of the Arctic Council countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are CMS Parties and signatories of selected CMS instruments (species agreements or MOUs); Russia and USA are not CMS Parties but have signed selected species instruments; Canada and Iceland have signed neither the CMS parent convention nor any CMS species instrument.

## **Objectives**

12. In the face of increasing threats to Arctic biodiversity, cooperation with regards to understanding biodiversity changes within this fragile and unique ecosystem is extremely important. A resolution of cooperation between the Secretariats of CMS and CAFF can contribute to building and sharing knowledge, creating awareness and enhancing capacity for understanding change. This cooperation can help focus more attention on migratory species in this period of a rapidly changing Arctic climate. Governments and other Stakeholders may see the activities of CAFF and CMS as mutually supportive. This RoC will contribute towards international cooperation and capacity regarding the conservation of migratory species.
13. The CMS Secretariat intends to use relevant and available opportunities to promote the importance of Arctic biodiversity, including status, trends and threats, at CMS meetings and the dissemination of CAFF material where appropriate.
14. CAFF intends to seek opportunities to raise awareness and to use relevant and available opportunities to promote the importance of migratory species. CAFF's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme provide concrete opportunities to include migratory species related information.

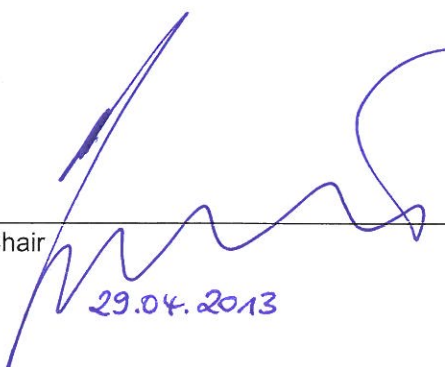

## **Joint Activities**

15. Possible joint activities in the future could include:
  - CMS participation in key CAFF activities as the Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI), the CAFF Assessments, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP), and work under the CAFF expert group on Seabirds (CBIRD).
  - CAFF participation in CMS Scientific Council working groups on flyways, birds and climate change, and a future CMS strategic review of protected area systems and ecological network initiatives for migratory species.
16. Potential areas of cooperation can be identified in a separate Joint Work Plan which can be appended to this RoC and updated as required.

## **General Provisions**

17. The Parties also agree to the following provisions related to use of logos, status of staff and termination:
  - Use of either Party's logo will be approved in advance by the other Party, and not be used for commercial purposes.
  - The Parties will each maintain a clear distinction between their identities as well as the identity of the CMS Secretariat as an organ of the United Nations. Neither Party will represent the other without approval in advance.

- Staff of the CAFF are neither "staff members" under the Staff Rules and Regulations of the United Nations nor "officials" for the purpose of the Convention of 13 February 1946 on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
- This RoC will take effect upon signatures by both Parties unless terminated by either Party giving three months' written notice, or if it is replaced by another new agreement.
- In the event of termination of this RoC, the Parties will ensure that their rights and obligations on any on-going joint activities are completely fulfilled.
- The Parties will use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of the implementation of this RoC. Any mediation will take place according to a procedure agreed by both Parties, and if such mediation fails to achieve an amicable settlement, the RoC will terminate immediately.
- The Parties will each be solely and completely responsible and accountable for all services performed by their own staff members or agents.

	
CAFF Chair	UNEP/CMS Deputy Executive Secretary
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