

Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Kingdom of Denmark 2014 Implementation



The [Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) outlines the framework for improving circumpolar monitoring efforts in Arctic freshwaters, including ponds, lakes, rivers, and their associated tributaries and wetlands. The [Freshwater Plan](#) provides Arctic countries, monitoring professionals and volunteers with a set of guidelines for common approaches and indicators in future monitoring activities, and for collecting existing data. The [Freshwater Plan](#) will facilitate information collection and analysis, identify and fill knowledge gaps, and provide better information for use in policy and decision-making.

The [Freshwater Plan](#) is the second of four long-term, integrated biodiversity monitoring plans produced by the [Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program \(CBMP\)](#) of the [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna \(CAFF\)](#), the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, and was approved in 2013.

Canada and Sweden co-led the [Freshwater Plan's](#) development, which involved the work of experts from Arctic nations, Permanent Participants and other Arctic Council working groups. These experts identified focal ecosystem components, key drivers and indicators, and designed optimal sampling schemes, common parameters and standardized monitoring protocols for application across circumpolar Arctic freshwaters.



Registering plant diversity and distribution of goose dropping near a shallow lake at Zackenberg, North-East Greenland. Photo: Kirsten Christoffersen

Top CBMP Freshwater Priorities in 2015

- Finalize the collection of national metadata summarizing existing paleo, historical and contemporary monitoring data (Project 1)
- Create maps for focal ecosystem components (Project 2)
- Produce reports describing existing data (Project 2)
- Aggregate existing data, national and regional dataset compilations, QA/QC, data agreements, and formatting (Project 3)
- Secure funding to support the activities of national Freshwater Expert Networks
- Promote and share the work of the CBMP Freshwater group at key international meetings and conferences, increasing partnerships and collaboration with Arctic colleagues

Links with National Priorities

The CBMP's [Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) align with national Arctic priorities including:

The **National Arctic Initiative** launched at a workshop at Hindsgavl Castle, September 2014. [Learn more here.](#)

The Kingdom of Denmark Strategy for the Arctic 2011-2020

The purpose of this strategy is to focus attention on the Kingdom's strategic priorities for future development in the Arctic towards 2020. The aim is to strengthen the Kingdom's status as global player in the Arctic. Read the full [Kingdom of Denmark Strategy for the Arctic 2011-2020](#).

The Greenland Ecological Monitoring (GEM) program

An integrated monitoring and long-term research programme on ecosystems and climate change effects and feedbacks in the Arctic. The GEM contributes substantially to the basic scientific understanding of Arctic ecosystems and their responses to climatic changes and variability as well as the potential local, regional and global implications of changes in Arctic ecosystems. See [Greenland Ecological Monitoring](#) for more information.

The **Isaaffik Arctic Gateway** is a web platform meant to connect Arctic research, education, consultancy and logistics within the Kingdom of Denmark. Visit the [Isaaffik Arctic Gateway](#).

Freshwater Expert Network Summary of 2014 Achievements

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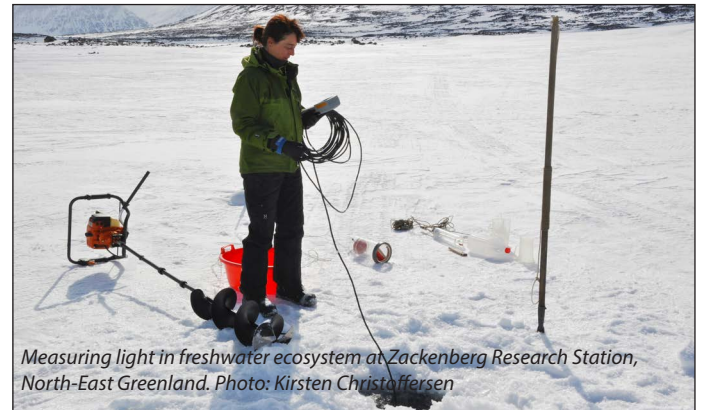
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Funding

Funding for 2015 has been secured through a grant from the Danish Environmental Research Agency to all national CBMP-leads to cover basic activities. The home institutions support the network through allocation of the time need for meeting and data searching.

Communication

The national network provides input to CAFF reports and publication as well as contributes with talks and poster at conferences and workshops.



Measuring light in freshwater ecosystem at Zackenberg Research Station, North-East Greenland. Photo: Kirsten Christoffersen



Students gather for lunch during field work at Disko Island, Greenland. Photo: Kirsten Christoffersen

Data

The network have successfully collected relevant data all sorts of literature i.e. research papers and report, expeditions reports, monitoring data and in-house (grey) publications. In 2014 a pilot sampling of 13 streams from 3 areas in Greenland (Zackenberg, Nuuk and Disko) were performed with the aim to include those in the database. Data analyses are ongoing.

For more information

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