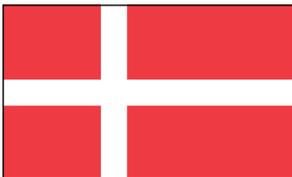
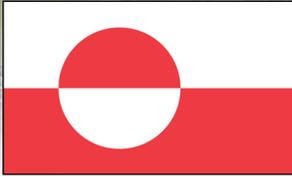


Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Kingdom of Denmark 2015-16 Implementation



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.



Zackenber field station, Greenland. Photo: Kirsten Christoffersen

Top CBMP Freshwater Priorities in 2017

- Finalize the strategy to manage differences in sampling and processing methodologies among data sources, to facilitate circumpolar comparisons of data (Project 4)
- Assess regional and circumpolar spatial and temporal trends in Arctic freshwaters using aggregated circumpolar dataset (Projects 5 and 6)
- Develop first draft of State of Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report and first drafts of papers for an accompanying special issue of a scientific journal (Projects 5 and 6)
- Secure funding for Freshwater Expert Network activities (data assessment and report writing)
- Secure funding for Freshwater Steering Group Science Coordinator (to facilitate writing and completion of State of Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report)

Links with National Priorities

The Kingdom of Denmark Freshwater network links with:

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. See [Greenland Ecological Monitoring](#) for more information.

Danish Strategy for Arctic Research, Education and Innovation: focuses on the research framework as well as the areas in which the Ministry of Higher Education and Science by way of its instruments, network and policy-building efforts may contribute to the development of the Arctic research, education and innovation. See [Danish Strategy for Arctic Research, Education and Innovation here.](#)

Institutions in Greenland:

- [ASIAQ Greenland Survey](#)
- [Greenland Institute of Natural Resources](#)

Freshwater Expert Network Summary of 2015-16 Achievements

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Funding

Basic activities i.e., steering group meeting, workshop and searching for metadata has been secured through a grant from Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate. However, data acquisition, production of maps and scientific deliverables for project 3 (circumpolar dataset) and 4 (data harmonization) are unfinanced and these activities have, so far, drawn on goodwill.

Communication

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

Data

Identified and integrate national data sets from monitoring sites (Zackenbergl, Nuuk and Disko), scientific publications, reports and similar sources into the Project 3 database. At around 500 locations are included.

Contributing to outline national sample methods and protocols as well as harmonization of data for bio assessment (project 4).

Discussions of the potential for establishing an ecosystem monitoring program in Disko Bay including an onsite workshop 1 August 2016 with relevant partners.

Contribute to the formulation and budgeting of the Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) strategy 2017-2021.

For more information

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