



CIRCUMPOLAR SEABIRD GROUP

CBIRD XIII

**Stockholm, Sweden
28 February – 3 March 2007**

Meeting Report

March 2007



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

CIRCUMPOLAR SEABIRD GROUP

CBIRD XIII

**Stockholm, Sweden
28 February – 3 March 2007**

Meeting Report

March 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>I. Executive Summary</i>	3
<i>II. CAFF/Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan, 2006-2008,</i>	3
<i>Progress in 2006</i>	3
<i>III. Summary of Deliverables Due on or before CBird XIV</i>	7
<i>IX. Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan Recommendations: 2006-2007</i>	9
A. Conserving Arctic Species	9
1. International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy	9
2. Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy	9
3. Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy	9
4. Seabird Harvest in the Arctic	10
5. Seabird Gillnet Bycatch in Commercial Fisheries in the Arctic	10
B. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats.....	10
C. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity	10
1. Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program	10
Participate in the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program as the Coordinator of the Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network.	10
2. Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern	11
3. Circumpolar Seabird Status and Trends Report.....	11
4. Seabird Information Network	11
5. Glaucous Gull Decline Paper	11
6. Circumpolar seabird colony distribution.....	12
7. Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends.....	12
D. Global Issues	12
1. CBirdSTAMP Project	12
2. Arctic Tern IPY Proposal.....	12
E. Engaging Society	12
1. Continue updating the CAFF CBird Website	12
<i>V. Discussion of New Issues</i>	13
<i>VI. Future Circumpolar Seabird Group Meetings</i>	14
<i>VII. List of Participants</i>	14
<i>VIII. Appendices</i>	17
1. List of CBird Products	17
2. List of CBird Meetings.....	17

I. Executive Summary

The concept of a Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird) was approved by CAFF in 1993 in recognition that Arctic countries have many seabird species in common and often share the same populations and conservation issues, and therefore share a joint and equal responsibility for their conservation. CBird first met in 1994, this year was CBird's 13th meeting, during this period CBird has been instrumental in addressing and raising the visibility of priority circumpolar Arctic seabird conservation issues. It has published two Conservation Action Plans (Murre and Eiders), six CAFF Technical Reports, two editions of the Circumpolar Seabird Bulletin, three posters, 12 Progress Reports, and participated in numerous meetings and workshops. CBird has been successful in meeting its objectives because the members are united and focused on their desire to conserve Arctic seabirds. CBird meets once a year to ensure progress is made on their action items and projects.

CBird conducted its 13th meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 28 February to 3 March 2007. This was the first meeting to be held in Sweden. It was very successful and made possible by the efforts of our Swedish colleagues and for that we would like to express our gratitude. The meeting was attended by about 25 seabird specialists and managers representing the eight Arctic countries (Denmark is represented by both Greenland and the Faroe Islands), and an official observer from Great Britain along with several interested local attendees. CBird primarily focused its attention on the following issues: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern, International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy, Seabird Information Network, Harvest of Seabirds in the Arctic, Seabird Gillnet Bycatch, Arctic Seabird Status and Trends Report, a Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends Report. The Nordic countries have completed a database of seabird colonies, there is also an existing North Pacific Seabird Colony Database, and we have proposed to create a Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database, which would be web-based and make data readily available to all users. The next year promises to be very busy as CBird has 6 products that are high priority for completion. These include: (1) CAFF Technical Report on Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern, (2) Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Framework, (3) Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan, (4) International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy, (5) Technical Report on Seabird Gillnet Bycatch, and (6) Harvest of Seabirds in the Arctic. For more details please see the Meeting Report that follows and the CAFF website www.caff.is/ for the complete CBird XI Meeting Report with all appendices attached.

II. CAFF/Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan, 2006-2008, Progress in 2006

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Work Plan 2006 - 2008

A. Conserving Arctic Species

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

1.1 Implement conservation strategies on Murres, Eiders, and Ivory Gulls (3 projects). *Lead: Canada, Norway*

Countries continued to implement applicable action items in the CAFF report “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and related national implementation plans, and report progress at the CBird XIII meeting. A draft “Thick-billed Murre Population Model for the Atlantic Region” was completed and discussed a final report will be finished soon. A paper on murres and climate change was completed and submitted to the journal *Global Change Biology*, we are waiting to see if was accepted.

Countries continued to implement the “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan”. We completed a draft “Common Eider Colony Poster” of the circumpolar region for all four eider species.

A draft Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy was completed and discussed. The draft will be reviewed and finalized.

1.2 Report on Seabird Harvest in the Arctic (two projects). *Lead: Greenland*

Country representatives reported on seabird harvest and implementation of applicable recommendations in CAFF Technical Report No. 5.

The harvest report was discussed. It was decided that we would complete a CAFF Technical Report on updated seabird harvest information by December 2007.

1.3 Begin work on writing a “Technical Report on Seabird Gillnet Bycatch” (one project). *Lead: US*

Each country reported on seabird gillnet bycatch issues at CBird XIII. As a result of discussion on the gillnet bycatch issues it was determined that we would write a CAFF Technical Report that will be finished by February 2008.

B. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats

Contribute to PAME’s IOM and LME projects as requested.

C. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

3.1 Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan (one project). *Lead: US*

Before a Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan is written we must complete the Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network (CSMN) Framework. We have completed a draft CSMN Framework and will complete the final by May 2007. The Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan was discussed at CBird XIII, species to be included in the plan were decided upon. The draft Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan will be completed by June 2007.

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

3.2 Conduct analyses for papers on “The Status and Trends of Black-legged Kittiwakes” and “The Decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic” (two projects).

Lead: Norway, Iceland, Canada and US

An inventory of all data on Black-legged Kittiwakes in the Arctic was completed and a summary of general trends showed that kittiwakes are declining throughout the Arctic. CBird decided to examine the data more carefully and continue discussing ideas for a publication on the status and trends of kittiwakes.

The Glaucous Gull paper was discussed at CBird XIII and a draft will be completed by November 2007.

3.3 Begin work on creating a web-based “Seabird Information Network” and a “Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database” (two projects). *Lead: Norway, Canada,*

US

Canada has agreed to fund about one half of the Seabird Information Network and the other CAFF countries have agreed to fund the other half. Canada is completing a contract with a firm to complete Phase One, creating the web-based data entry system.

The Circumpolar Seabird Colony Database was discussed at the meeting and Norway presented the draft pilot Circumpolar Murre Colony Database. It was decided that the pilot looked good and we should continue and add all seabirds and complete a demonstration by November 1, 2007.

D. Global Issues

4.1 Implement the CBird-STAMP Project (one project). *Lead: Norway, US*

A proposal was completed with the concept being that CAFF would conduct the seabird population and productivity monitoring through CBird and that AMAP would conduct the seabird pollutant monitoring through STAMP. CAFF and AMAP are still discussing the joint project.

E. Engaging Society

5.1 Continue to produce the Circumpolar Seabird Bulletin (one project).

Lead: US

The members of CBird decided that while the Circumpolar Seabird Bulletin is a worthwhile product that with the new initiatives associated with CBMP, CBird will not continue producing the bulletin.

5.2 Hold CBird XIII in Sweden, February 2007; and CBird XIV in Greenland, February 2008. *Lead: Sweden, Greenland*

CBird XIII was held in Sweden, which was the first CBird meeting in Sweden. The meeting was very successful. We plan to meet in Greenland March 2008.

5.3 Continue updating CBird and CFG products on the CAFF Website.

Lead: CAFF International Secretariat

CBird will continue working with the CAFF Secretariat to update the CAFF website.

III. Summary of Deliverables Due on or before CBird XIV

Due

- May 30 1. Complete a final “International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy”.
Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist/Norway-Hallvard Strom
- May 15 2. Complete a Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network Framework.
Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen/US-David Irons
- Nov 1 3. Complete a CAFF Technical Report on Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern.
Lead: US-Kent Wohl
- June 1 4. Complete a Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan.
Lead: US-David Irons, UK-Jim Reid
- Dec 15 5. Update CAFF Technical Report on Seabird Harvest for 2006.
Lead: Greenland-Flemming Merkel
- Feb 1, 2008 6. Write a CAFF Technical Report on Seabird Gillnet Bycatch.
Lead: US-Kent Wohl

Summary of other ongoing work

Seabird Information Network: Action: Complete project, get on web, populate with data
Lead US-David Irons
Due: July 1

Circumpolar Seabird Status and Trends Report: Action- Complete Final Draft
Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen
Due: Sept 30

Glaucous Gull Decline Paper: Action- Complete draft
Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen
Due: Nov 1

Murre population model for the Atlantic Report: Action- Complete final report
Lead: Canada-Greg Robertson
Due: Dec 15

Circumpolar Seabird Colony Distribution: Action- Work to obtain funds to complete project, create demo
Lead: Norway-Hallvard Strom, Canada-Grant Gilchrist, US-David Irons
Due: Data Submission: Nov 1, Demo CBird XIV

CBirdSTAMP Project: Action- Work with AMAP to implement if selected
Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett, US-David Irons
Due: CBird XIV

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

Kittiwake Status and Trends Data: Action- Analyze data for relation to climate shifts

Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett, Tycho Anker-Nilssen, Canada-Greg Robertson, US
David Irons

Due: CBird XIV

Arctic Tern Migration and Population Trends: Action- Pull together available information
on population trends and migration routes

Lead: Greenland-Carsten Egevang

Due: CBird XIV

IX. Circumpolar Seabird Group Work Plan Recommendations: 2006-2007

A. *Conserving Arctic Species*

1. International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy

Complete a final “International Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy”.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist/Norway-Hallvard Strom

Schedule:

Draft sent out for comments	March 15
Comments returned	April 15
Final Strategy	May 30

2. Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy

Countries will continue implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan Countries” and related national action plans, and report progress at CBird meetings.

Lead: Canada-Grant Gilchrist

Schedule: CBird XIII

3. Circumpolar Murre Conservation Strategy

Countries will continue implementing applicable action items in the CAFF report “International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and related national implementation plans, and report progress at CBIRD meetings.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule: CBird XIII

Develop a Thick-billed Murre population model for the Atlantic Region.

Lead: Canada-Greg Robertson

Schedule:

Send out Draft	June 1
Comments Due	Oct 1
Final	Dec 15

Complete a peer-reviewed publication Seabirds and climate change, a circumpolar seesaw.

Lead: US-David Irons/Norway-Tycho Anker-Nilssen

Schedule: Submitted to Global Change Biology Done

4. Seabird Harvest in the Arctic

Countries will continue to report on seabird harvest and implementation of applicable recommendations in CAFF Technical Report No. 5.

Lead: Greenland-Flemming Merkel

Schedule: CBird XIII

Update Technical Report on Harvest

Lead: Greenland-Flemming Merkel

CBird XIII

Schedule: April 1

5. Seabird Gillnet Bycatch in Commercial Fisheries in the Arctic

All countries will continue to report on seabird bycatch initiatives including implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization/Committee on Fisheries International Plan of Action to Reduce Seabird Bycatch in Longline Fisheries of the World and related national implementation plans.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule: CBird XIII

Write a technical report on Seabird Gillnet Bycatch.

Lead: US-Kent Wohl

Schedule:

Country Drafts Nov 1

Draft Report Dec 15

Comments Due Jan 15

Final Feb 1

B. Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats

Contribute to PAME's IOM and LME projects as requested.

C. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

1. Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Participate in the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program as the Coordinator of the Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Network.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule: Ongoing

Complete a CSMN Framework.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen/US-David Irons

Schedule:

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

Draft	April 1
Comments Due	May 1
Final	May 15

Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan.

Lead: US-David Irons UK- Jim Reid

Schedule:

Draft	CBird XIII
--------------	-------------------

2. Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern.

CBird will complete a CAFF Technical Report summarizing the results of each country's BACC status report and prioritized recommendations.

Lead: US-Kent Wohl

Schedule 2006:

Kent sends Text to Everyone	March 15
Send Material to Kent	Oct 1
Draft BACC Technical Report	June 1
Final BACC Technical Report	Nov 1

3. Circumpolar Seabird Status and Trends Report

Write report on the status and trends of Arctic seabirds.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen/US-David Irons

Schedule:

Draft	April 1
Comments back to Aevar	May 1
Final	Sept 30

4. Seabird Information Network

Create a Seabird Information Network (SIN) on the web in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC and CBMP.

Lead: US-David Irons

Schedule:

Next version on web	July 1
----------------------------	---------------

5. Glaucous Gull Decline Paper

Write paper for peer-reviewed journal on the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic.

Lead: Iceland-Aevar Petersen

Schedule: Draft paper	Nov 1
------------------------------	--------------

6. Circumpolar seabird colony distribution

CBird agreed to produce a circumpolar seabird colony web-based distribution maps.

Lead Norway - Strom, US - Irons, Canada - Gilchrist

Schedule:

Due: Obtain Funding to put Database on web

Data Submission: Nov 1

Demo CBird XIV

7. Circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake Status and Trends

Summarize all data collected in circumpolar countries on kittiwake population trends and productivity.

Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett, Tycho Anker-Nilssen / US-David Irons

Schedule:

Summarize data similar to murre paper

May 1

Review results

May 30

Revise analyses and decide how to proceed

Sept 30

Present results

CBird XIII

D. Global Issues

1. CBirdSTAMP Project

Implement CBirdSTAMP project to CAFF and AMAP as a joint CAFF/AMAP project.

Lead: Norway-Rob Barrett, US-David Irons

Schedule:

CBird XIV

2. Arctic Tern IPY Proposal

Pull together available information on population trends and migration routes.

Lead: Greenland-Carsten Egevang

Schedule:

Due

CBird XIV

E. Engaging Society

1. Continue updating the CAFF CBird Website

Put documents on website

Lead: CAFF Secretariat

Schedule:

June 1

V. Discussion of New Issues

We revised the species that will be included in our Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan.

A final list of the top 23 species to be monitored throughout the circumpolar region is below, by feeding guild.

Surface Piscivores:

- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Northern Fulmar
- Arctic Tern

Surface Planktivores:

- Leach's Storm Petrel
- Fork-tailed Storm Petrel

Diving Piscivores:

- Common Murre
- Thick-billed Murre
- Atlantic Puffin
- Tufted Puffin

Diving Planktivores

- Least Auklets
- Dovkies

Benthic feeders:

- Common Eider
- King Eider
- Black Guillemot
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Shag
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Great Cormorant

Omnivores:

- Glaucous Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Herring Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull

We discussed the format of the meeting report and decided to follow the headings in the CAFF Work Plan. Also next year we will spend about 1 day in small breakout groups working on projects.

We discussed how to address proposals from scientists that do not attend CBird meetings. We wrote a draft policy statement that is attached.

Please add anything that I missed -David

VI. Future Circumpolar Seabird Group Meetings

It was proposed that the next Circumpolar Seabird Group Meeting be in Nuuk, Greenland, in 2008, Iceland volunteered to host the 2009 meeting and we also support the idea of a World Seabird Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada in September 2010.

Lead: US-David Irons,

Schedule:

Sept 2007

VII. List of Participants

List of Participants, CBird XIII, Stockholm, Sweden 28 February – 3 March 2007

Name	Institution	Address	E-mail
Anker-Nilssen, Tycho	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	NO-7485 Trondheim Norway Tel.: +47 73 80 14 00 Cell: +47 93 46 67 71 Fax: +47 73 80 14 01	tycho@nina.no
Barrett, Rob	Tromsø Univ. Museum	Zoological Department Tromsø Univ. Museum NO-9037 Tromsø Norway Tel.: +47 77 64 50 13	robb@tmu.uit.no
Carsten, Egevang	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	Post Box 570 3900 Nuuk, Greenland Tel.: +299 36 1241	egevang@natur.gl
Ekker, Morten	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management	Tungasletta 2 NO-7485 Trondheim Norway Tel.: +47 73580730 Fax: +47 73580501	morten.ekker@dirnat.no
Knud Falk		Teglstrup Vej 6A.1.TV. DK-2100 Copenhagen Denmark	knudfalk@hotmail.com
Gavrilo, Maria	Arctic & Antarctic Research Institute (AARI)	Bering st., 38 St. Petersburg 99397 Russia 1 Tel. +7 812 3522246 W Tel. +7 812 3774109 H	mashuka@aari.nw.ru m_gavrilo@mail.ru

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

Hario, Martti	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute	P.O. Box 2 FIN-00791 Helsinki Finland Tel.: +358 205 751 273 Fax: +358 205 751 201	martti.hario@rktl.fi
Irons, David	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1011 E. Tudor Rd. (MS-201) Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 USA Tel.: +907 786 3376 Fax: +907 786 3641	david_irons@fws.gov
Kadin, Martina	Stockholm University	Fjardingsmansv. 200 SE-19270 Sollentuna Sweden Tel.: 467 39 93 4305	Martina_kadin@hotmail.com
Merkel, Flemming	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	NERI-Arctic P.O. Box 358 Fredriksborgvej 399 DK 4000 Roskilde Denmark Tel +45 46301933	fme@dmu.dk
Mosbach, Anders	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	NERI-Arctic P.O. Box 358 Fredriksborgvej 399 DK 4000 Roskilde Denmark Tel +45 46301933	amo@dmu.dk
Olsson, Olof	Need Address		olof.olsson@mistra.org
Olsen, Berger	Faroese Fisheries Laboratory	Noatun Fo – 100 Tórshavn Faroe Islands Tel.: +298 352 327 Fax: +298 352321	berguro@frs.fo
Petersen, Aevar	Icelandic Institute for Natural History	P.O. Box 5320, Hlemmur 3 IS-125 Reykjavik Tel.: +354 5900 500 Fax: +354 5900 595	aevar@ni.is

CAFF, Circumpolar Seabird Group, CBird XI, Aberdeen, Scotland

Reid, Jim	Seabirds & Cetaceans	Joint Nature Conservation Committee 7 Thistle Place Aberdeen AB10 1UZ Scotland UK Tel.: +44 1224 655 702 Fax: +44 1224 621 488	jim.reid@jncc.gov.uk
Robertson, Greg	Environment Canada	6 Bruce Street Mount Pearl NC AIN 4T3 Canada Tel.: 709 772 2778 Fax: 709 772 5097	Greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca
Sasndstrom, Cecilia (representing Maarten Loonen)	The Arctic Centre, The Netherlands (Uni Groningen)	+316 16 04 1911 +467 06 20 1901	Cecilla810409@hotmail.com
Strøm, Hallvard	Norwegian Polar Institute	Polar Environmental Centre NO-9296 Tromsø Norway Tel.: +47 777 50 548 Fax: +47 777 50 501	hallvard.strom@npolar.no
Sundberg, Jonas	Stockholm University	Contact address: Lupingrand 6 SE-13537 Tyrso Sweden Tel +46 86565468 Tel (mob) +46739387969	jonasdelawarensis@hotmail.com
Wohl, Kent	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1011 E. Tudor Rd. (MS-201) Anchorage Alaska 99503 USA Tel.: +907 786 3503 Fax: +907 786 3641	kent_wohl@fws.gov

VIII. Appendices

1. List of CBird Products

2. List of CBird Meetings

3. Policy Statement: Endorsement of Seabird Proposals by CAFF/CBird

The CAFF/ CBird Group often receives unsolicited seabird proposals from investigators seeking the endorsement of CBird. Endorsements are often sought to improve the likelihood of a proposal being successfully funded. CBird will endorse “Arctic” seabird proposals that meet the criteria below.

- Proposals must promote the objectives of the CAFF program.
- CBird must be acknowledged if CBird reports or information are used in resulting publications.
- Proposals must contain enough description of methodology to satisfy concerns of the CBird Group.
- CBird endorsement of proposals does not obligate CBird members to provide information to the proposer unless specifically agreed to by individual CBird members.

Reports can be found at the CAFF website www.caff.is/