

**CAFF FLORA GROUP (CFG) COMMENTS FOR THE
CAFF MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

1. Summary of where you are with the Work Plan 2004-2006

FLORA

**1.1 *Complete checklists of Arctic lichens and bryophytes.*
*Lead: Iceland and Canada***

Comments from Iceland: "My work on the Panarctic Lichen checklist is still exactly in the same stage as when we met last year in Tromsø. I have not managed to devote any time for that work yet. As you may remember, Maria Victoria Gunnarsdóttir was interested in opening the checklist on the Caff Web Page, but I have not heard from her since then. I think I should contact her about this, because I think it will be of benefit for my coworkers to have access to it. Michail Andreev, I heard, has been in the Antarctic the last months. My main problem is to find a time to get this work move forward. I will try my best until our next meeting."

No response from Dr. Rene Belland, Canada, regarding the bryophyte list.

**1.2 *Complete a project on "Traditional Use and Conservation of Plants from the Aleutian, Pribilof, and Commander Islands by 2006.*
*Lead: Aleut International Association***

Comments from the AIA: "I am going to the CAFF meeting and will have an update on our plant project. I am in Hawaii till 01.23 so I would not be able to meet you dead line but I will send you a copy of my report before I go."

1.3 *Publish results of the "Second International Workshop on Circumpolar Vegetation Classification and Mapping" by 2006. Lead: Norway, Greenland and US*

Comments from the Chair, CFG: Publication of the proceedings of the Tromsø workshop will be published 2005 as special issue of Phytocoenologia, vol . 35, no. 4. The volume will contain approximately 10 papers. The title of the special volume is "Classification and Mapping of Arctic Vegetation" (Eds. Daniels-FJA, Elvebakk-A, Talbot-SS and Walker-DA). The final versions of the accepted papers will be sent to the editor at the end of February; two manuscripts are still in the review process. I think the proceedings are on schedule!!! and will appear at the end of 2005!

III. Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

3.3 *Complete an evaluation of monitoring of local flora in Russia, and determining its application in a circumpolar context by 2006. Lead: Russia and US*

Comment from the Chair, CFG: The death of Dr. Boris Yurtsev this month brings about a period of uncertainty with the status of the paper. Dr. Yurtsev agreed to have his revised edition to the CFG by the end of January. I have contacted the Komarov Botanical Institute and requested an update.

2.Upcoming meetings: The CFG proposed a workshop to be held in Helsinki in May 2005. We are awaiting confirmation from the CAFF National Representative from Finland as to whether Finland will be able to host the workshop. The place and date also need to be decided.

3. Discussions you have had on various projects or issues (hopefully that includes IPY ?): Scientists from each country appear to have submitted their own proposals for IPY. Each scientist appears to be protective of his or her own area.

The Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, submitted an IPY proposal that includes some items of interest to CAFF including an initiative for a boreal vegetation map (see Appendix).

4. Problems, comments, questions.

The CFG is searching for a replacement for Dr. Boris Yurtsev. In the past the Russian Federation designated Dr. Sergey Balandin, Moscow State University, to serve with Dr. Yurtsev. However, Balandin never became actively involved. We are in contact with Balandin and trust that he will agree to actively serve. Travel funding will be an issue if he is to attend the workshop; the host country will probably be asked to help with his travel expenses.

The CFG Chair is searching for funding to support a workshop to develop a boreal vegetation map as advocated the Ministerial Declaration. My sincere thanks to the CAFF Executive Secretary and to the CAFF National Representatives for supporting the initiative.

Comments from Fred Daniels: This boreal mapping project is of importance, however, there are still so many more detailed mapping necessary projects in the Arctic, that in my opinion it is too early for this project. Moreover it is a huge project, which certainly will takes 25 years!! How to realize this?? I think it is more important to establish permanent vegetation monitoring sites according to the GLORIA project design. There are hardly such sites in the Arctic, so there is a great need to establish them. We like to try to get one established in Greenland in the context of the IPY.

As you know we are studying altitudinal vegetation zonation in West Greenland as a kind of follow up of the CAVM approach. In near future we like to test the altitudinal model for another, more high arctic region in Greenland. We CAVM experiences have to be taken into account by future scientific activities in the Arctic. We might concentrate on the hot spots and typical arctic landscape where changes are to be expected. Also pay attention to the conservation of important biodiversity in landscape in the more southern regions of the Arctic, e.g. in Greenland.

The comments of Fred Daniels comments should be discussed at our next CFG meeting.