

**CAFF WORK PLAN**  
**2009 - 2011 Ministerial Period**



# Acknowledgements

## **CAFF Designated Agencies:**

- Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Reykjavik, Iceland
- The Environment and Nature Agency, Greenland Home Rule Government, Greenland (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

## **CAFF Permanent Participant Organisations:**

- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Conference - (ICC) Greenland, Alaska and Canada
- Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council

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— CAFF Designated Area

## Executive Summary

The Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna Working Group (CAFF) is the Biodiversity Working group of the Arctic Council. It is guided by the CAFF Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity and biennial Work Plans. CAFF's mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate the 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 requires baseline data on long-term status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem health. CAFF's projects provide data for informed decision making in resolving conflicts which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth. To this end CAFF's activities are centred around cooperation on:

- Nature and biodiversity management issues
- The use of living resources in the arctic
- Climate change
- Adaptability
- Sustainability
- Communication and outreach

The 2009 – 2011 Work Plan places a strong focus on Climate Change and building upon the recommendations contained in the *Arctic Climate and Impact Assessment (ACIA)*. The ACIA and CAFF's *Flora & Fauna: Status and Conservation-report* both indicated that it was necessary to

consider the status and trends of biodiversity in the Arctic. The ACIA called for improved capacity to monitor and understand changes in the Arctic and to improve and enhance long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program are two of the primary vehicles via which CAFF is responding to these calls. CAFF will also place a strong focus on the International Polar Year (IPY) both through benefiting from IPY generated research and contributing to IPY legacy.

This document outlines the projects and activities which CAFF plans to undertake for the 2009 – 2011 Ministerial period. The CAFF Work Plan is not fixed for the inter-ministerial period, but may change according to new opportunities and priorities. Both CAFF Working Group and Board meetings can amend the CAFF Work Plan.

- A green circle denotes a Work Plan item continued from the 2006 - 2008 Work
- A red circle denotes a Work Plan item new to the 2009 - 2011 Work Plan



## 1 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Follow-up

### 1.1 The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment - *Lead Finland/Greenland/Denmark/US*

- a. Conduct the Arctic Biodiversity Assessments *Arctic 2010 Biodiversity Highlights Report* ●
- b. Conduct the ABA Scientific Report ●
- a. Update the map of protected areas in the Arctic - *Lead Canada* ●

### 1.2 The Circumpolar Biodiversity monitoring Programme (CBMP)

- a. Implement the Circumpolar Biodiversity monitoring Programme - *Lead: Canada* ●
- b. Hold a workshop on the monitoring of protected areas - *Lead Canada/US* ●
- c. Create a web based Seabird Information Network (SIN) in conjunction with UNEP CMC and CBMP - *Lead: US* ●
- d. Continue development of the Arctic Report Cards - *Lead: Canada* ●
- e. Continue development of the CBMPs Expert Monitoring Groups (representing the major Arctic biomes - marine, coastal, freshwater, terrestrial vegetation and terrestrial fauna) - *Lead: The CAFF Chair* ●
- f. Continue development of the CBMPs Indicators and Indices - *Lead: The CAFF Chair* ●

## 2. CAFF Expert Groups

### 2.1 CAFF Flora Group (CFG)

- a. Complete a report on checklists of Arctic lichens and bryophytes - *Lead: Iceland/Canada* ●
- b. Develop the Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map - *Lead: United States* ●
- c. Develop collaboration within CAFF to delimit floristic regions in the circumpolar Arctic - *Lead: US/Canada/Russia* ●
- d. Encourage the use of GLORIA, a worldwide monitoring network for climate change impacts on the ecology of high mountain systems - *Lead: United States/Canada* ●
- e. Develop interlinked Arctic Flora and Vegetation databases - *Lead: To be determined* ●
- f. Monitoring vegetation change in Greenland - *Lead: United States* ●



- g. Create a CFG Education/Outreach Subcommittee - *Lead: Canada* ●

## 2.2 CAFF Seabird Group (CBird)

- a. Complete the circumpolar Eider conservation strategy - *Lead: Canada* ●
- b. Complete the Circumpolar Murre conservation strategy - *Lead: United States* ●
- c. Complete the report on birds of Arctic conservation concern - *Lead: Finland/Greenland* ●
- d. Complete the report on seabird gillnet bycatch in commercial fisheries in the Arctic - *Lead: United States* ●
- e. Develop a Thick-billed Murre population model for the Atlantic region - *Lead: Canada* ●
- f. Write paper for peer-reviewed journal on the decline of Glaucous Gulls in the Arctic - *Lead: Iceland* ●
- g. Complete a peer-reviewed publication on seabirds and climate change - *Lead: United States/Norway/Canada* ●
- h. Complete a circumpolar seabird monitoring plan - *Lead: United States/United Kingdom* ●
- i. Complete the report on the status and trends of circumpolar seabirds - *Lead: Iceland / United States* ●
- j. Complete an analysis of population and productivity data on circumpolar Black-legged Kittiwake status and trends - *Lead: Norway/United States* ●
- k. Implement the CBird-STAMP project - *Lead: Norway/United States* ●
- l. Conduct Arctic Tern Project - *Lead: Greenland* ●
- m. Develop an online circumpolar seabird colony database - *Lead Norway /United States/ Canada* ●

## 3. Projects

### 3.1 ECORA

- a. Complete the ECORA project in the three model areas in Russia - *Lead: Russia/Norway/RAIPON/UNEP GRID Arendal* ●
- b. Biodiversity, traditional nature use and climate change in the Russian Arctic: assessment and adaptation strategy development - *Lead: not yet determined* ●



### 3.2 The Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN)

- a. Continue to implement the Bering Sea Sub-Network: International Community-based Environmental Observation Alliance for Arctic Observing Network (BSSN) - Lead: Aleut International Association ●

### 4. Cooperation with other Working Groups

- a. Work with Arctic Council Working Groups on the SAON process - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- b. The CAFF-AMAP Coordinated Monitoring Effort - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- c. Work on an Arctic Council spatial strategy with AMAP and EPPR - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- d. Implement priority CAFF-relevant action items of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) - Lead: To be determined ●

### 5. Cooperation with International Conventions, Agreements and Organizations - current action items include the following:

- a. Cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP/GRID-Arendal - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- b. Cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Lead The CAFF Chair ●
- c. Cooperation with the oil and gas industry on biodiversity conservation efforts - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- d. Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- e. Cooperate on the development of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) process - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- f. The International Polar Year: Participate in planning and development of IPY Legacy issues - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●
- g. Cooperation with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AWEA) - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●

### 6. Communications and Outreach

- a. Participate in relevant international symposia and international meetings to communicate CAFF's results and ongoing activities - Lead: The CAFF Chair ●



- b. Develop promotional brochures, posters and other communication products for CAFF - *Lead: The CAFF Chair* ●
- c. Develop promotional brochures, posters and other communication products for the CBMP - *Lead: Canada/The CAFF Chair* ●
- d. Develop CAFFs publication series - *Lead: The CAFF Chair* ●

