

# Conservation Of Arctic Flora and Fauna

## Arctic Biodiversity Assessment from plan to action during times of rapid environmental change



# The Arctic Council

## Arctic Council:

- Eight nations
- Six Indigenous organizations
- CAFF one of six working groups



SDWG

AMAP

ACAP

EPPR

PAME

# CAFF Area



**32 million km<sup>2</sup>**

- **>6 % of earth's surface**
- **Over 21,000 species**
- **Multiple jurisdictions**
- **Sensitive ecosystems**
- **High, Sub, Low Arctic**



# Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) [www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)



- Biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council
- Goal is conservation and sustainable use
- Work program that includes:
  - Monitoring
  - Assessments
  - Cooperation
  - Communications
  - Data Management



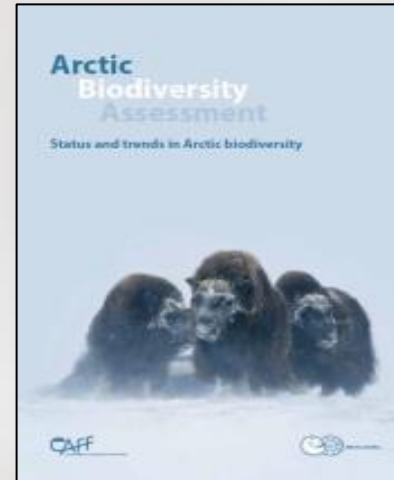
# Unprecedented Change

- Climate change
- Industrial development
- Pollution
- Local disturbances
- invasive alien species



# Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

[www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)



[www.arcticbiodiversity.is](http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is)

- Completed May 2013



# Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

The ABA provide 9 key findings. It provides 17 policy recommendations under Three Cross-Cutting Themes:

- Climate change as the most serious underlying driver of overall change in biodiversity
- Necessity of taking an ecosystem-based approach to management; and
- Importance of mainstreaming biodiversity by making it integral to other policy fields, for instance by ensuring biodiversity objectives are considered in development standards, plans and operations.



# Ecosystem Based Management

- The EBM task force of the Arctic Council produced EBM recommendations to the Kiruna Ministerial
- In cooperation with AMAP and SDWG the *Identification of Arctic marine areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) IIc* report.
- Participation in PAME Ecosystem Approach Expert Group
- Release of the *Life Linked to Ice: A guide to sea-ice-associated biodiversity in this time of rapid change* report was completed.
- Completion of the *CBMP strategic plan (2013-2017) phase II implementation of the CBMP*
- Implementation of the Arctic biodiversity Freshwater, Marine and Terrestrial monitoring Plans.
- Commencement of a project to address protection of Arctic lifestyles and people through migratory bird conservation.





# ABA Implementation Plan

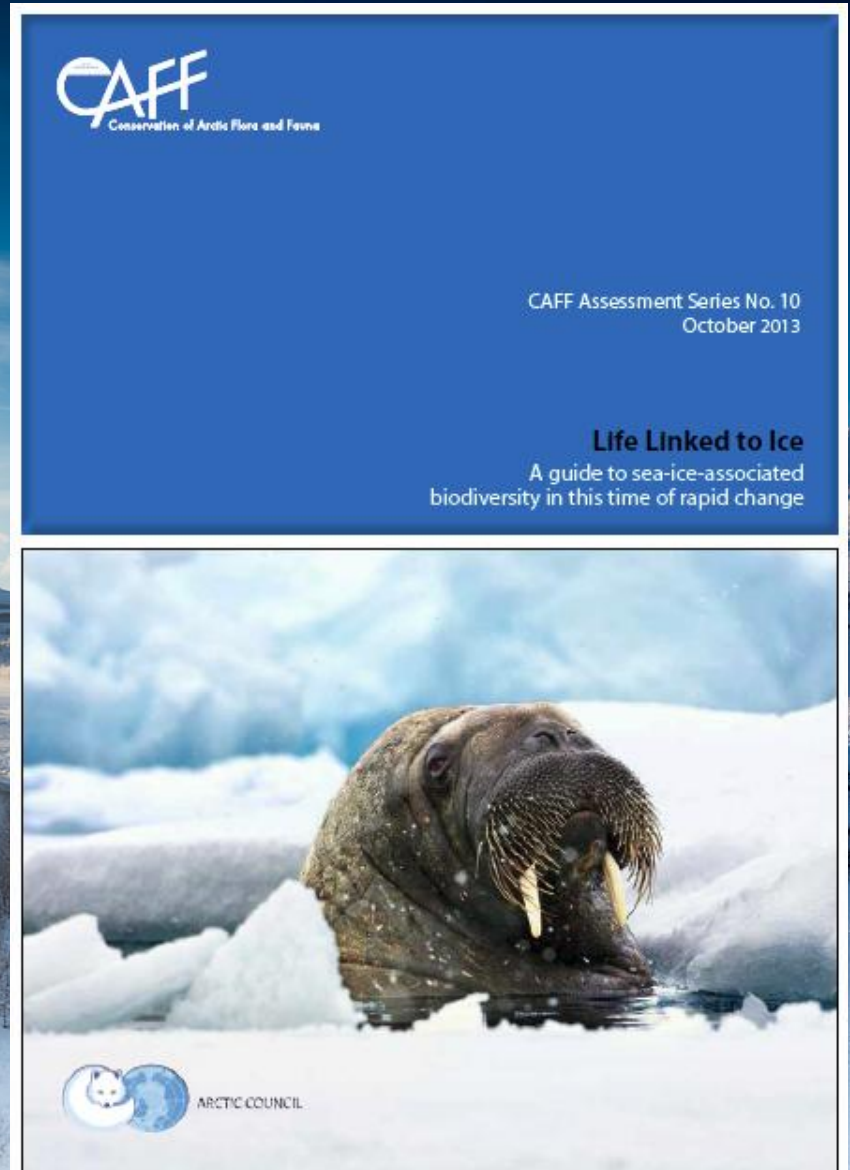
Development of implementation plan for the recommendations from the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: report for policy makers* and *Life linked to ice* report is underway.

This process will:

- Complete analysis of recommendations;
- Synthesize the analyses and recommended implementation actions in a form that can be easily understood by Senior Arctic Officials and other Policy makers
- Clearly maintain the linkages to the recommendations, so that CAFF board/SAOs can see how actions are building on the ABA and how they will lead to results in the conservation of Arctic biodiversity;

# Life Linked to Ice

- Most obvious negative impacts of rapid changes in sea ice are species that depend on ice as habitat. (ice algae, ice amphipods, ringed seals and polar bears)
- The influence on species that depend partially on ice is less clear. (polar cod, sea birds etc)
- Impacts on human mixed and uncertain, threatens notable coastal indigenous people



# ***Life Linked to Ice* recommends...**

1. Move to more flexible, adaptable wildlife and habitat management marine planning approaches that can respond quickly to rapid changes in Arctic marine biodiversity.
2. Identify ways to detect early warnings of biodiversity change that will trigger conservation actions.
3. Make more effective use of local and traditional knowledge in Arctic Council assessments and, more broadly, in ecological management.
4. Target resource managers when communicating research, monitoring and assessment findings.



# Ecosystem Services (Arctic Teeb) Scoping Study

## Local:

- Food and water (provisioning services)
- Safe spaces to dwell and travel (regulating services)
- The everyday context and basis for social and cultural identity and spirituality (cultural services).

## Global:

- Arctic commercial fisheries harvest millions of tonnes annually, including more than 10% of global marine fish catches by weight
- Provisioning and regulating services for the global economy and climate.



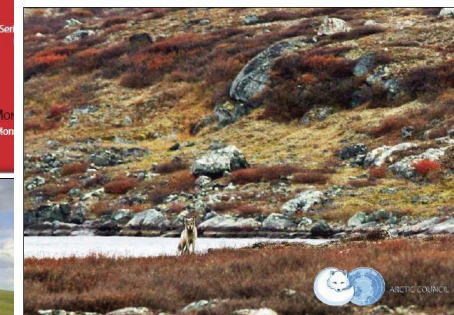
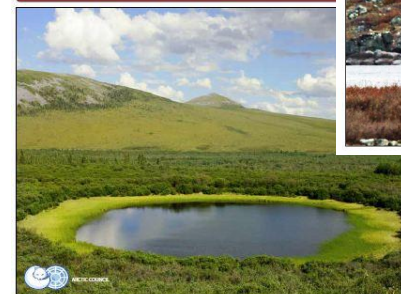
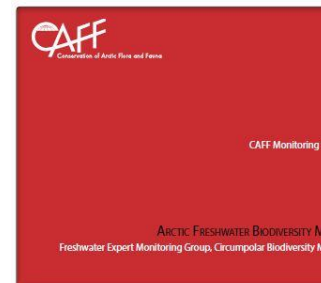
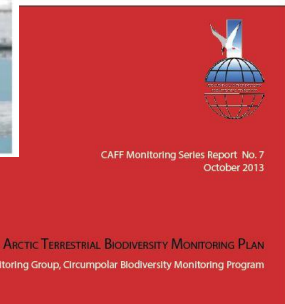
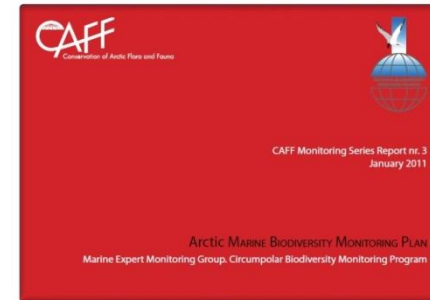
# Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)

- Arctic Council's response to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment's recommendation to expand and enhance Arctic biodiversity monitoring
- Coordination activities= cost-savings and value added for current investment
- provides a scaled, circumpolar, ecosystem-based approach that not only identifies trends in biodiversity, but also identifies underlying causes
- detect and report on change within a "management" time frame



# CBMP Approach: Coordinated Monitoring

- Expert Monitoring Groups (EMGs):
  - **Marine, Coastal, Freshwater, Terrestrial**
  - Ecosystem-based, network of networks
  - Forum for scientists and community experts
  - Pan-Arctic, integrated monitoring plans



- CBMP Arctic BON of GEO BON
- CAFF flora expert group functions as the Arctic Plants specialist group within IUCN
- The Circumpolar Boreal Vegetation Map initiative has been recognised as an official Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

## **RESOLUTIONS OF COOPERATION**

RoCs have been signed with the CBD (2009); APECS (2010); AEWA (2012); Ramsar (2012); CMS (2013); and EAAFP (2013). Discussions are beginning with GBIF on data sharing and access.

## The **Arctic Biodiversity Congress** will:

- Present and discuss the main scientific findings of the ABA
- Facilitate inter-disciplinary discussion, action and status updates on the policy recommendations in the ABA
- Provide scientific, policy, management, NGO, academia, Indigenous peoples and industry audiences the opportunity to collaborate around the themes of the ABA
- Advise CAFF on national and international implementation of the ABA recommendations and on the development of an *ABA Implementation Plan* for the Arctic Council
- Highlight the work of CAFF and the Arctic Council on circumpolar biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
- Contribute to mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services, ensuring that the recommendations of the ABA are implemented by not just governments, but many organizations and people across disciplines



# Thank you

For more information please visit:

[www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)

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