

Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

Statement: The Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS)

Relevant to themes: 1-2

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“Improve circumpolar cooperation in data gathering and assessment ...” (Recommendation #10, Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: Summary for Policy Makers^a)

[The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna^b](#) (CAFF) is the biodiversity working group of the [Arctic Council^c](#) and has a mandate to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic’s living resources. It does so through various [monitoring](#), [assessment^d](#) and [expert group^e](#) activities. CAFF’s projects provide data for informed decision making to resolve challenges arising from trying to conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth. This work is based upon cooperation between all Arctic countries, Indigenous Organizations, international conventions and organizations.

CAFF released the [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment^f](#) (ABA) a comprehensive report based on the best available scientific and traditional knowledge about the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, included specific recommendations for action to address major pressures on biodiversity and knowledge gaps. In responding to ABA recommendation #10, CAFF has established the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS www.abds.is). The ABDS is the data-management framework for information generated by projects and programs of CAFF. It is a publicly accessible, online, interoperable data management system that serves as a focal point and common platform for all CAFF programs and projects as well as a dynamic source for up-to-date circumpolar Arctic biodiversity information. The goal of the ABDS is to facilitate access, integration, analysis and reporting of biodiversity information for scientists, practitioners, managers, policy makers and others working to understand, conserve and manage the Arctic's wildlife and ecosystems. It works to ensure that biodiversity data are organised to guarantee a lasting legacy in a manner which facilitates:

- Data discovery and accessibility;
- Increased understanding;
- Informed and more rapid decision making;
- The widest possible exchange of relevant data;
- Highlight ongoing research; and
- Improve the visibility of the work of CAFF and its partners.

The ABDS framework is constructed using GeoServer and GeoNetwork built over a PostgreSQL database - open source solutions designed to facilitate sharing of information.

ABDS cooperates with partners such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Oceanic Biogeographic Information Systems (OBIS), the Polar Data Catalogue (PDC) and the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) to work towards enhancing the quality and scope of information relating to Arctic biodiversity available to science and society. This includes increasing interoperability of data management frameworks, avoiding data duplication, applying common standards and processes for exchanging existing data, and for sharing future datasets.

For more information please visit: [ABDS Website^g](#); [ABDS GeoNetwork^h](#)

^a Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). 2013. Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: Report for Policy Makers. CAFF, Akureyri, Iceland. <http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/the-report/report-for-policy-makers>

^b <http://www.caff.is/>

^c <http://www.caff.is/arcticcouncil>

^d <http://www.caff.is/assessments>

^e <http://www.caff.is/expert-group>

^f <http://www.caff.is/administrative-series/24-all-administrative-documents/293-actions-for-arctic-biodiversity-2013-2021-implementing-the-recommendations-of-th>

^g <http://www.abds.is/>

^h <http://geo.abds.is/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/home>