

Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

Statement: Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

Relevant to themes: 1-6

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[The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna^a](#) (CAFF) is the biodiversity working group of the [Arctic Council^b](#) 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^c](#) and [expert group^d](#) 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^e](#) (ABA) at the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting in May 2013, a project containing the best available science informed by traditional ecological knowledge on the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity and accompanying policy recommendations for biodiversity conservation. The ABA consists of five components:

- [Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change^f](#);
- [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: status and trends in Arctic biodiversity^g](#);
- [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: synthesis^h](#);
- [Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: report for policy makersⁱ](#); and
- [Life Linked to Ice: a guide to sea-ice-associated biodiversity in this time of rapid change^j](#).

In 2013, Arctic Council Ministers agreed to implement the [17 recommendations^k](#) articulated in the [ABA: Report for Policy Makers^l](#).

The [Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment^m](#) (ABA) is the implementation plan for the ABA's 17 recommendations and was approved at the Arctic Council Ministerial in 2015. This eight-year implementation plan, informed by the results of the [Arctic Biodiversity Congressⁿ](#) and discussions with Arctic Council countries, Permanent Participants, Working Groups, Task Forces, and Observers, will be key in guiding Arctic Council biodiversity related activities over the coming years.

The ABA recommendations are directed to the Arctic Council as a whole and while some activities are to be implemented through CAFF, others are intended to be led in full, or in part, by other Arctic Council working groups and other subsidiary bodies. Some recommendations will require action by national authorities, stakeholders, and international organizations.

The "Actions for Biodiversity" is a living document that will be reviewed and updated every two years. The plan is not meant to be exhaustive or to replace working group work plans; rather it is complementary, emphasizing specific actions that address the ABA recommendations. Successful implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) recommendations requires a combination of building on existing efforts and embarking in new directions.

For more information please visit: www.caff.is or contact caff@caff.is.

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

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

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

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

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

^f <http://www.caff.is/assessment-series/10-arctic-biodiversity-assessment/162-arctic-biodiversity-trends-2010-selected-indicators-of-change>

^g <http://www.caff.is/assessment-series/10-arctic-biodiversity-assessment/233-arctic-biodiversity-assessment-2013>

^h <http://www.caff.is/assessment-series/10-arctic-biodiversity-assessment/232-arctic-biodiversity-assessment-2013-synthesis>

ⁱ <http://www.caff.is/assessment-series/10-arctic-biodiversity-assessment/229-arctic-biodiversity-assessment-2013-report-for-policy-makers-english>

^j <http://www.caff.is/sea-ice-associated-biodiversity/sea-ice-publications/254-life-linked-to-ice-a-guide-to-sea-ice-associated-biodiversity-in-this-time-of-ra>

^k <http://arcticbiodiversity.is/policy>

^l <http://arcticbiodiversity.is/the-report/report-for-policy-makers>

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

ⁿ <http://arcticbiodiversity.is/congress>