

Statement to the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) on the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) Strategic Plan, 2021-2025

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The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program is the biodiversity monitoring program of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. The CBMP, created in 2010, is an international network of scientists, States, Indigenous organizations, and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor Arctic biodiversity using an ecosystem-based approach.

The CBMP exists to facilitate more rapid detection, understanding, prediction, communication, and response to the significant biodiversity-related trends and pressures in the Arctic. The CBMP's four Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans, one for each ecosystem (Coastal, Freshwater, Marine, Terrestrial), follow the steps required for an adaptive, ecosystem-based monitoring program. Each plan identifies Focal Ecosystem Components which may indicate changes in the ecosystem. CAFF recognizes the importance of utilizing Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge within its activities and increasingly seeks to enhance the meaningful engagement of Permanent Participants and Indigenous organizations within CBMP.

CBMP Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is the third such plan guiding CBMP's activities. It was approved in 2021 by the CAFF Board as a living document, allowing for updates as CAFF revises its own action plan. The CBMP Strategic Plan describes three goals, thirteen objectives, and numerous activities to ensure that CBMP is **relevant, adaptive, and sustainable** in the years to come.

Goals and Objectives 2021-2025

Goal 1: CBMP remains relevant by providing high quality information about biodiversity trends to support decision making at global, national, regional, and local levels.

- Identify priority ways CBMP can support reporting and decision-making.
- Ensure that the CBMP Strategy is aligned with the new Action Plan for 2020-2030.
- Strengthen International Collaborations that enhance the use of CBMP products and data among others via the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS), as well as support CAFF's framework of agreements with international biodiversity-relevant conventions and organisations.
- Include where relevant Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in CBMP.
- Promote awareness of the CBMP and its value towards improving decision-making, for example develop outreach material specific to each State and PP that presents nationally relevant key findings and activities of the CBMP.

Goal 2: The CBMP is an adaptive, integrated monitoring program that provides timely information about status, trends, and changes in Arctic biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Integrate lessons learned and advice for monitoring outlined in the SABRs into next steps of CBMP.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing and new methods and technologies as a tool to support biodiversity monitoring and assessment.
- Identify experts relevant for CBMP and invite relevant networks to participate in the CBMP, including regional, Indigenous, and citizen science networks, and enhancing engagement of experts from Observer states.
- Increase access to Arctic biodiversity data.
- Continue and strengthen cross-cutting activities among the CBMP Steering Groups.
- Consider how to develop more targeted and integrated reporting, initiate steps to integrate work between the four groups, and design and develop a plan to include modeling and predictive science.
- Via expert networks, develop user manuals and test implementation of CBMP Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans in the field.

Goal 3: The CBMP is sustainable, and its organizational structure facilitates achievement of its goals.

- Sustain Steering Group structure and coordination or other needed support for each group, and ensure clear and timely scheduling of meetings, agendas, notes, etc.
- Align future production of Steering Group workplans to facilitate integration efforts.
- CBMP is sustainable through relevancy.
- Conduct an evaluation, including a qualitative and where possible a quantitative evaluation on CBMP after further input from the CAFF Board.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan builds on the outcomes and lessons learned from the State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports (CAFF 2017; 2019; 2021) to continue to improve monitoring and reporting; continue integration across the four CBMP monitoring groups; ensure more targeted and flexible reporting across ecosystems; identify new issues; support and guide the four CBMP Steering Groups and expert networks; and ensure the program sustainable and relevant to multiple and diverse international audiences.

Further information:

- www.cbmp.is
- Strategic Plan 2021-2025: <https://caff.is/monitoring-series/all-monitoring-documents/545-circumpolar-biodiversity-monitoring-program-strategic-plan-2021-2025>