

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

CAFF



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ARCTIC COUNCIL

CAFF and the Arctic Council

- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council
- monitoring, assessment and expert group activities
- 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



The ABA synthesizes and assesses status and trends of Arctic biodiversity.

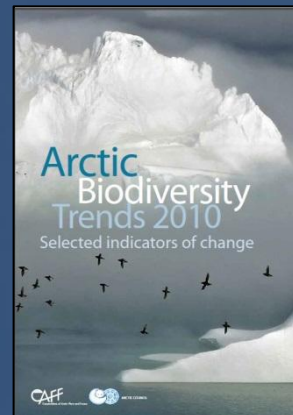
- provides a description of the current state of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity
- creates a baseline for use in global and regional assessments
- provides a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work
- provides up-to-date scientific knowledge
- identifies gaps in the data record
- identifies key mechanisms driving change
- produces scientific and policy recommendations



ABA: Area covered



ABA components



Recommendations

Directed to:

- Arctic Council: member states, Permanent Participants
- Non-Arctic states
- Regional and local authorities
- Industry
- Arctic citizens and visitors

Three cross-cutting themes

1. climate change
2. ecosystem-based approach to management
3. mainstreaming biodiversity



Climate change

1. Actively support international efforts addressing climate change, both reducing stressors and implementing adaptation measures, as an urgent matter.
2. Incorporate resilience and adaptation of biodiversity to climate change into plans for development in the Arctic.



Ecosystem-based management

3. Advance and advocate ecosystem-based management efforts in the Arctic as a framework for cooperation, planning and development



Mainstreaming biodiversity

4. Require the incorporation of biodiversity objectives and provisions into all Arctic Council work and encourage the same for on-going and future international standards, agreements, plans, operations and/or other tools specific to development in the Arctic



Identify and safeguard important areas for biodiversity

5. Advance the protection of large areas of ecologically important marine, terrestrial and freshwater habitats, taking into account ecological resilience in a changing climate.
6. Develop guidelines and implement appropriate spatial and temporal restrictions to reduce human disturbance, for example along transportation corridors, to areas critical for sensitive life stages of Arctic species.
7. Develop and implement mechanisms that best safeguard Arctic biodiversity under changing environmental conditions, such as loss of sea ice, glaciers and permafrost.

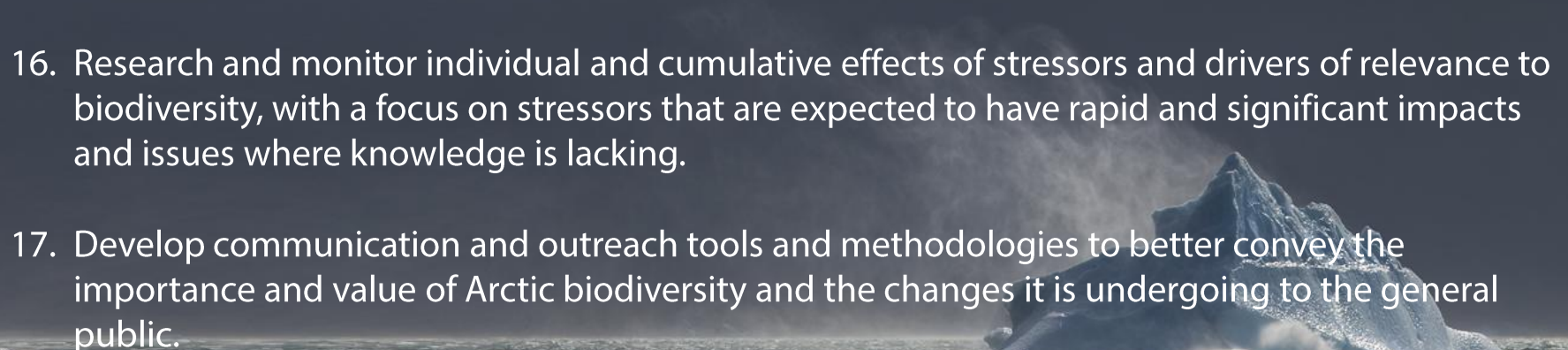


Address individual stressors on biodiversity

8. Reduce stressors on migratory species range-wide, including habitat degradation and overharvesting on wintering and staging areas and along flyways and other migration routes
9. Reduce the threat of invasive alien species to the Arctic by developing and implementing common measures for early detection and reporting, identifying and blocking pathways of introduction, and sharing best practices and techniques for monitoring, eradication and control
10. Promote the sustainable management of the Arctic's living resources and their habitat
11. Reduce the threat of pollutants to Arctic biodiversity



Improving knowledge and public awareness

12. Evaluate the full range of services provided by Arctic biodiversity in order to determine the costs associated with biodiversity loss and the value of effective conservation in order to support improved decision making.
 13. Increase and focus inventory, long-term monitoring and research efforts to address key gaps in scientific knowledge identified in this assessment to better facilitate the development and implementation of conservation and management strategies.
 14. Recognize the value of traditional ecological knowledge and work to further integrate it into the assessment, planning and management of Arctic biodiversity.
 15. Promote public training, education and community-based monitoring, where appropriate, as integral elements in conservation and management.
 16. Research and monitor individual and cumulative effects of stressors and drivers of relevance to biodiversity, with a focus on stressors that are expected to have rapid and significant impacts and issues where knowledge is lacking.
 17. Develop communication and outreach tools and methodologies to better convey the importance and value of Arctic biodiversity and the changes it is undergoing to the general public.
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Outcomes (general)

- Arctic Council Ministerial Declaration approval of recommendations and mandate to follow up
- CAFF's ABA implementation plan developed
- Arctic Biodiversity Congress December 2014
- Release of the *Life Linked to Ice* report (Can/US/Russia co-leads)

More specific actions as a result of specific recommendations



TEEB for the Arctic scoping study

Key Finding: Arctic biodiversity is being degraded, decisive action taken now can help sustain Arctic ecosystems & the services they provide.

Rec #.12: Evaluate the range of services provided by Arctic biodiversity in order to determine the costs associated with biodiversity loss and the value of effective conservation in order to assess change and support improved decision making.

Action: TEEB for the Arctic Scoping Study



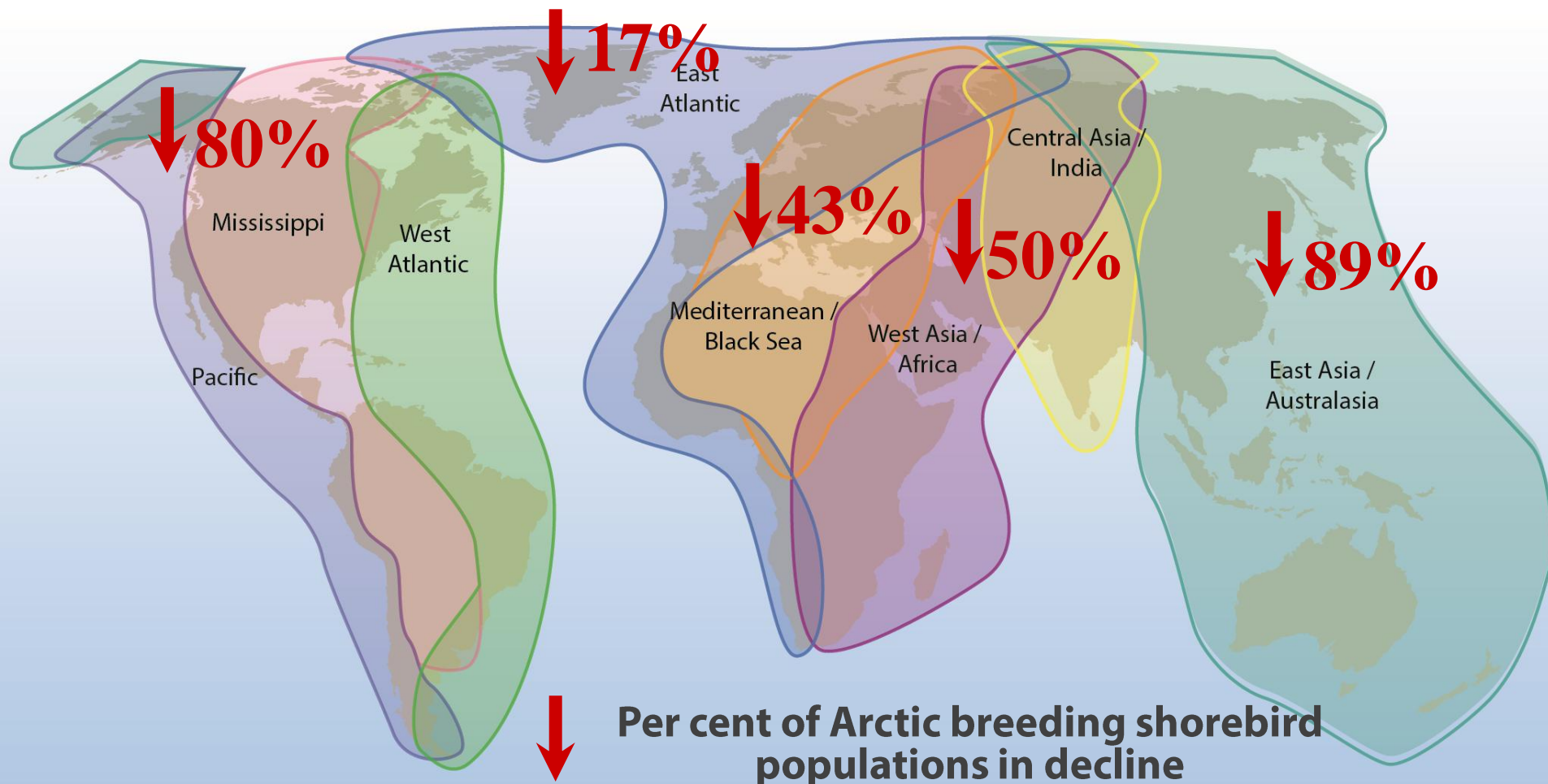
Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative



Photo: Mark Medcalf/Shutterstock.com

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

Key finding: Many Arctic migratory species are threatened by overharvest and habitat alteration outside the Arctic.



AMBI project structure

Step 1: Prioritizing species/ habitats based on conservation need

Step 2: Assessing state of knowledge

Step 3: Taking actions including reducing threats, recovering habitat, enforcing regulations, ensuring sustainable use



Progress

- Priority species/groups of species/ecosystems identified
- Key threats identified
- Flyway workplans to be completed Feb. 2015
- Arctic Biodiversity Congress, Dec. 2-4, Trondheim, Norway
- Second Arctic Migratory Bird workshops Dec. 5



Next steps

- Identify and fill essential knowledge gaps
- Identify and take conservation actions
- Tracking progress
- Invitation to participate



Thank you

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