


Newsletter of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

March 2007

Contents

- A) What's happening: Updates on where CBMP is at**
- B) Good news: Funding situation**
- C) Progress of Pilot Projects**
- D) How you can participate**

What's happening: Update on where the CBMP is at

The goal of the CBMP is to bring all Arctic Nations together to report changes in Biodiversity and assist with adaptation and mitigation to environmental change.

The program was launched in September 2005 and quickly attracted the participation of key conservation organizations. Canada took the program lead in late 2005 and funded a secretariat. A series of workshops developed data management and communications strategies and began to implement the program. Several pilot projects were launched in quick succession (updates on these are provided further down) and a communications strategy was developed.

Most recently, an international workshop brought together over 100 experts from all Arctic countries in Anchorage, Alaska in November 2006 to develop an implementation strategy. A writing team translated these discussions into a plan, that is now available and will be presented to the Senior Arctic Officials at their April meeting.

The latest draft of the Implementation Plan is attached for your information. This version is a relatively short overview. The writing team is continuing work on a longer version, that will provide detailed guidance on all aspects of the CBMP.

The Implementation Plan will now serve as a basis for the following next steps:

- Engaging Partners: There is enormous goodwill to contribute to this international effort. Partners will now be approached to contribute information, assist in data base and web site development and
- Fund raising: A donor agency workshop is planned in Washington DC in early fall 2007. Before this, key foundations will be approached as well as potential industrial partners.
- Development of further pilot projects
- Getting data together and displaying trends
- Communicating results

We have now done the legwork of developing an organization, writing an implementation plan and attracting initial funding. Next comes the more fun task of making the program work, getting the information together and out and starting to influence conservation decisions as well as informing Northerners and the General Public.

We look forward to work with you to realize the dream of all Arctic Nations and peoples working together to look after our land during a time of great challenges.

Good news: Funding situation

Since Canada has taken the lead of the CBMP in 2005, it has funded the CBMP secretariat and has made significant contributions to pilot projects, workshops and the data management and communications strategies. Close to 500'000 Can \$ are being spent in the fiscal year 2006 / 07 alone. In addition, individual science projects that have links to the CBMP have applied for International Polar Year funding in Canada. Several of these have now been successful, as was announced on March 1, 2007 by the IPY secretariat. In all, over 10 Million Can \$ of additional funding have been allocated to these projects over a 5 year period (2006 – 2010). Among the successful projects are:

Project Title: Monitoring the Impacts of Global Change on Caribou and Wild Reindeer and their Link to Human Communities.

Project Leader: Don Russell, Yukon College

Description: An international network of scientists, managers and community representatives will work to improve our understanding of the impacts of changes in the Arctic on caribou and wild reindeer herds, as well as the people that depend on them for survival.

Location(s): Northwest Territories

Project Title: Arctic Freshwater Systems

Project Leader: Environment Canada

Description: Field studies and laboratory analyses will be carried out to develop new knowledge and information to assess the hydrology and ecology of northern freshwater ecosystems.

Location(s): Numerous field sites and communities across Canada's North (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut)

Project Title: Climate Change Impacts on Canadian Arctic Tundra

Project Leader: Greg Henry, University of British Columbia

Description: The project will examine how tundra ecosystems respond to climate variation using warming experiments and transects across a wide variety of tundra landscapes. It will provide the most complete assessment of tundra ecosystems in Canada, which can be used to evaluate climate changes in the future. The information from this project will be useful to Northerners, land and wildlife managers, and policy makers who need to understand the role of tundra in carbon populations.

Location(s): Canadian Arctic

Project Title: Climate Variability and Change Effects on Chars in the Arctic

Project Leader: James Reist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Description: This project is focused on understanding the effects of climate change on char (species of freshwater fish) biodiversity, how this responds to climate change, and the consequences of this to human beings. The work also examines linkages between climate change and mercury bioaccumulation.

Location(s): Nunavut, Nunavik, Labrador and the Northwest Territories

Progress of Pilot Projects

Polar Bear

Seabirds

CARMA

Terrestrial Vegetation

How you can participate

The CBMP is approaching partners for contributions of data or information on changes in Arctic Biodiversity.

-

-

- (add your ideas in here please....)

The e-CMBP is produced monthly. For contributions or subscription information: martin.raillard@ec.gc.ca