To: PAME WG
From: *WWF Global Arctic Programme*

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Project proposal to PAME MPA-EG for inclusion into the PAME 2015-2017 work plan

Project title

An inventory of area-based conservation measures for achieving effective long-term conservation of Arctic biodiversity in networks of marine protected areas.

Project objective

The project objective is to develop guidance for the development of MPA networks in the Arctic. The project will produce this guidance in form of an inventory of area-based conservation measures that contribute to the long-term conservation of important elements of Arctic biodiversity in a pan-Arctic MPA network that is integrated in ecosystem based management. The aim is to generate a toolbox that links suitable area-based conservation measures with categories of Arctic biodiversity by rationalising measure effectiveness for achieving long-term biodiversity conservation.

Rationale

While PAME's 'Framework for a Pan-Arctic MPA Network' document recognises that individual Arctic countries pursue MPA development based on their own authorities and priorities, advancing the design and ultimately the biodiversity conservation success of the pan-Arctic network clearly benefits from further technical work and coordination at the pan-Arctic level. To further such aspects WWF is proposing to include in the PAME work plan 2015-2017 a new project under the theme of '*Enhance PAME's work to develop a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas'* and contributing to the proposed next steps 2 ('*Describe how this framework will be implemented in the context of ecosystem-based management'*), 3 ('*Identify types of important marine areas for protection at the pan-Arctic scale based on common criteria'*), and 4 ('*Develop a consistent approach for integrating ecological network design properties'*).

The implementation of a pan-Arctic network of marine protected areas in ways that further the goals and objectives outlined in PAME's framework document should proceed in the context of ecosystem-based management and considers an *"ecologically representative and well-connected collection of individual marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures"*, *"to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values"*. What are available and appropriate area-based conservation measures that achieve long term

conservation of Arctic nature? What are current and anticipated pressures and threats for important elements of Arctic biodiversity, what is their sensitivity to these pressures and threats, and what area-based measures are therefore effective for achieving long-term conservation? Which measures are available and is there a need for further development, for example to provide conservation of Arctic biodiversity elements that are dynamic in space and time? How can these measures be considered in ecosystem based management? The project will answer these questions considering available information on Arctic biodiversity elements, such as important species, habitats, features, ecosystem processes, ecosystem services and cultural values.

Final product

The project's final product will be an inventory of area-based conservation measures that are effective for achieving the long-term conservation of Arctic biodiversity and associated ecosystem services including cultural values, and for furthering MPA network goals and objectives as rationalised in PAME's MPA framework document. It will

- comprehensively consider area-based measures available across all relevant governance scales and sectors,
- provide an analysis –including the identification of gaps– of existing area-based measures that are effective for achieve long term conservation of Arctic nature,
- link specific area-based measures to categories of Arctic biodiversity –including key features and habitats vital for life history stages of important species, ecosystem processes and linked ecosystem services – by means of available knowledge of their sensitivity to known pressures and threats,
- rationalise how these area-based conservation measures are effective for achieving long-term protection of respective biodiversity elements, therefore providing guidance for network design and a toolbox for network development, and
- inform the development of ecosystem based management practices and schemes in the Arctic.

Milestones/Details

Milestone	Format	Completion by
Inventory of available area-based conservation measures	Desktop research	
Catalogue of important categories of Arctic biodiversity	Desktop research	
List of known pressures and threats	Desktop research	
Characterisation of sensitivity of biodiversity categories to known pressures and threats	Desktop research, expert consultation, and workshop	
Toolbox linking biodiversity categories with effective area-based conservation measures	Desktop research, expert consultation, and workshop	
Gap analysis of area-based conservation measures for effective long-term conservation	Desktop exercise	
Final product	Report	*TBD*

External Partners

External experts with experience in MPA network design (e.g. from IUCN) should be invited to contribute to the project. Contributions from experts on EBM are essential and could be facilitated by PAME's EA-EG.

Lead Country /organisation

TBD

Funding

TBD

Links to PAME work plan 2015-2017 and to Arctic Council policy frameworks

The implementation of this project proposal would contribute significantly to:

1) Implementing PAME work plan thematic area 2 '*Enhance PAME's work to develop a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas*' and contributing to the proposed next steps 2 ('*Describe how this framework will be implemented in the context of ecosystem-based management*'), 3 ('*Identify types of important marine areas for protection at the pan-Arctic scale based on common criteria*'), and 4 ('*Develop a consistent approach for integrating ecological network design properties*')

2) Achieving *Near Term Action 6* as listed in the latest draft of the PAME Framework: *Identify practical measures to addressing change in the Arctic through adaptive management of MPA networks, including developing options for management measures designed to address changing conditions (e.g. special management for marginal ice zone, seasonal MPAs, etc);*

3) Supporting Arctic Council recommendations to further develop the EA in the management context. The final report of the 2013 EBM Expert Group includes a recommendation for periodic reviews of EBM in the Arctic to exchange information on assessment and "management experiences, including highlighting examples from Arctic States.";

4) Achieving Goal 2 (and 3) of the draft Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015-2025 as one of the Strategic Actions (7.2.5) is to *Encourage the Arctic states to implement appropriate measures, – or to pursue such measures at international organizations with the relevant competence to protect Arctic marine areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance, focusing on species and ecosystems particularly at risk from climate change and cumulative impacts, including areas of refuge for ice-associated species that are, or are expected to become particularly important to Arctic marine biodiversity under future climate conditions.;*

5) Supporting the implementation of the 2013 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment policy recommendation 3: Advance and advocate ecosystem-based management efforts in the Arctic as a framework for cooperation, planning and development.