

PAME I-2019: Agenda 4.4(b) Arctic Protected and Important Areas

Joint CAFF and PAME activity for the 2019-2021 work plan within the MPA Theme

(7th January 2019)

BACKGROUND: CAFF and PAME developed the 2017 Arctic Protected Areas: Indicator (API) [Report](#). It provides an overview of the status and trends of protected areas in the Arctic. The data used represents the results of the 2016 update to the Protected Areas Database submitted by each of the Arctic Council member states. This report uses the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Categories for protected areas, which include a wide range of Management Categories – from strict nature reserve to protection with sustainable use. Consequently, the level of protection and governance of these areas varies throughout the circumpolar region and its countries.

CAFF and PAME will in 2019 update the Arctic Protected areas indicator to incorporate newly protected areas established since 2016. In addition the API is being compared with the data for the Arctic contained within the ProtectedPlanet database. The purpose of this comparison being to determine differences between the two databases and update each database accordingly.

Protected Planet is a global database with information on protected areas, updated monthly with submissions from governments, non-governmental organizations, landowners and communities. It is managed by the UNEPs World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP-WCMC](#)) with support from IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas ([WCPA](#)).

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Provide a 2019 update of the API and identify any discrepancies between the API and ProtectedPlanet and update each database as relevant.
- 2) Enhance work on a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas and contribute to the near-term action listed in the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs no 5: *Refine and map the existing draft inventory of MPAs, “other effective area-based conservation measures” and MPA networks, in order to identify opportunities to enhance and apply network design properties such as, representativity, replication, and connectivity at the pan-Arctic scale.*

MAIN COMPONENTS AND TIMELINE:

- May 2017: [Protected Areas indicators report](#) released
- May 2017: Protected Areas database [online](#)
- Sept 2018: UN Environment WCMC provided with 2017 API
- Sept 2018: CAFF and PAME Secretariats deliver review on the status of actions taken by CAFF and PAME in response to Arctic Council recommendations and goals on protected areas
- Oct 2018: UN Environment WCMC compared the Protected Areas data with the data for the same area within the Protected Planet database
- Oct 2018: extended 2-hour session on Arctic Protected areas at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress

- Nov 2018: extended session report - [IAB3: Arctic marine protected areas: identification, effectiveness, co-management and cooperation](#) available. Used to inform possible next steps/actions.
- Jan 2019: session reports on other protected areas related sessions from the Arctic Biodiversity Congress available and which may contribute to potential next steps on protected areas in the Arctic.
- Jan-Apr: outline of the updated protected areas indicator report in cooperation UN Environment WCMC based upon comparison with Protected Planet database and creation of Arctic area on Protected Planet database.
- Feb: CAFF and PAME Secretariats deliver review on the status of actions taken by CAFF/PAME in response to Arctic Council recommendations and goals on protected areas
- March: Report detailing outcomes of API and Protected Planet analysis completed and database providing combined data from analysis delivered to CAFF/PAME and used to update the API.
- Apr-May: updated API prepared and sent out to member states for comments.
- June-July: API revised as needed based upon outcomes of member state review
- Aug: revised version submitted to CAFF/PAME Sept meetings for review and approval
- Sept: final draft for approval at CAFF/PAME meetings
- Oct: API and Protected Planet updated as relevant
- Nov: 2019 API released
- Nov 2019: Arctic protected areas information site provided on Protected Planet

Project team:

CAFF and PAME Secretariats in collaboration with UN Environment WCMC.