

Memorandum 5 August 2019

ARIAS Implementation Coordinating Group

PAME II-2019 agenda 5.1: For information and guidance

CONTEXT:

The [ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan](#) was approved at the May 2017 Ministerial and an Implementation Coordination Group (CG) co-led by CAFF and PAME was formed to facilitate implementation of ARIAS. The purpose of the ICG was to guide implementation of ARIAS and provide recommendations regarding potential implementation actions and progress on areas of interest to the CAFF and/or PAME Working Groups. See Annex 1 for last progress report on ICG activities (Jan 2019).

www.caff.is/invasive-species

STATUS:

The CG was co-led by the US and Canada. However, the Canadian (PAME) lead withdrew in November 2018 and the US (CAFF) lead withdrew in December 2018. Since then no State(s) have stepped forward to lead the ICG and no activities have been undertaken.

This issue was discussed at the CAFF Feb 2019 Biennial and at the PAME Feb 2019 meeting with the following decisions:

- **CAFF:** is interested in implementation of ARIAS and the incoming CAFF Chair (Sweden) will lead a process to determine ways forward in consultation with the PAME Chair and the Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) members.
- **PAME:** notes the decision by the CAFF to take the lead in a new governance process to coordinate moving forward on the ARIAS action plan items. PAME supports CAFF in that decision, requests the PAME Secretariat to continue liaising with the CAFF Secretariat on the developments of the ICG, and encourages its members to continue to communicate on developments within the ICG through their national delegations and representatives to the ICG.

Subsequently ARIAS implementation was included as a workplan item in both the CAFF and PAME 2019-21 workplans. The CAFF Workplan also noted that the CAFF Chair would:

- Engage with the PAME Chair and ICG to propose a new approach for ARIAS implementation.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- Guidance on how to proceed with implementation of ARIAS
- Identification of Lead(s) for ARIAS

ANNEX 1: Progress report on ICG Activities Jan 2019

Tasks	Timeline
Establish a Joint CAFF/PAME ICG to oversee coordination of ARIAS implementation, taking into account all ecosystems (i.e. terrestrial, fresh, coastal and marine) – co-Led by Canada and the US.	Decision at CAFF and PAME meetings in Feb 2018
AC WGs (SDWG, AMAP, ACAP, EPPR) have also been sent a request to fill out a form to help determine what is of interest for collaboration.	July 31
ARIAS steering committee co-chairs report to CAFF and PAME on progress, comments and next steps, including potential inclusion of invasive alien species projects in the CAFF and PAME 2019-21 work plans.	Sep
Terms of reference for ICG approved	Sept
Session at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress: “Arctic Invasive Alien Species Action Plan: National implementation and empowering decision making by mobilizing, sharing, and analysing Arctic Invasive Alien Species (IAS) data”	Oct 10
ARIAS implementation briefing during the Arctic Biodiversity Congress	Oct 11
CAFF and PAME chairs report to SAOs on status and progress of the ARIAS implementation.	Nov 1
Project plans circulated for review on IAS projects for CAFF/PAME 2019-21 workplans.	Nov-Jan 2018
A form circulated to Arctic States and PPs to complete and help determine "priorities among the priority actions" listed in the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan.	Completed
2019	
Data mobilization workshop, Washington	Jan (<i>cancelled</i>)
ICG Implementation meeting, Washington	Jan (<i>cancelled</i>)
Note: The ICG has currently no co-chairs due to circumstances beyond our control. Based on this there will be no report to CAFF and PAME on progress.	Feb 2019
CAFF and PAME chairs to report to SAOs on status of the ICG, note delays in progress and provide a suggested way forward during the period 2019-21.	No report delivered