

PAME I-2020: Agenda item 5

Protection from Invasive Species: *Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS)*

Summary update for information

Background:

PAME II-2019 RoD: PAME welcomes and encourages a discussion between the CAFF and PAME Chairs on next steps for the implementation of the Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) action plan and will inform PAME I-2020 on any results.

The PAME and CAFF Chairs and Executive Secretaries met in October 2019, at the margins of the Arctic Circle in Reykjavik, Iceland to discuss next steps in implementation of the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS). CAFF informed PAME of plans to create a new Steering Committee (SC) for ARIAS implementation and discussed how PAME might wish to engage. CAFF Board members have been asked to coordinate with their PAME counterparts.

The outcome was that CAFF planned the first meeting of the ARIAS Steering Committee (SC) and so far Finland, Sweden, US, and Canada have indicated that they wish to be part of this process. The purpose of this call was to consider implementation actions from the ARIAS Strategy to be undertaken.

1st Project Steering Committee: Teleconference summary 26th Nov 2019

Participants:

Gilbert Castellanos and Linda Shaw (US), Kimberley Howland (Canada), David Schonberg-Alm (Sweden), Mark Marissink (CAFF Chair) and Tom Barry (CAFF Secretariat).

Purpose of the call:

This was the first teleconference of the new Steering Committee (SC) for ARIAS. The meeting focused on: 1) considering implementation actions from the ARIAS Strategy to be presented to the Feb CAFF Board meeting; and 2) how to arrange the Chair of the Steering Committee who would be expected to chair SC meetings and provide guidance on SC activities.

SC Chair and membership:

- US indicated interest in potentially chairing the SC once it is clarified if Chairing the SC is on a rotational basis; or based on specific projects
- CAFF Secretariat to follow-up with Norway and Russia regarding appointing members to the SC

Potential ways forward:

- Development of community based monitoring or citizen science tools might be used to implement ARIAS goals and objectives was suggested as one possible way forward.
- Assess what information on Invasive species for the Arctic is available and what databases might be relevant to help us understand what is available and gaps in knowledge.
- Canada noted that they had recently completed a literature review of Invasive species based on Large Marine Ecosystems for the Arctic which could form a first step when considering marine species.

- US noted that their Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management is soliciting input on a potential study on the detection of non-native marine species in the US Arctic Shelf.
- US noted its work on community outreach activities e.g. bioblitz events which might be a model that ARIAS could look at when considering communication activities.
- The Circumpolar Local Environmental Observation initiative (CLEO) was suggested as a possible tool for ARIAS when considering community based monitoring efforts.
- The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) have contacted the Secretariat to explore potential for cooperation on a communications campaign regarding invasive alien species in the Arctic. CAFF Secretariat to follow-up with Norway to determine if this is a formal proposal from Norway to support ARIAS implementation.
- Sweden noted that there is a cooperative project between Finland and Norway within the Barents-Euro-Arctic Cooperation to look at what information is available in that area, and this may be relevant for ARIAS.
- There will be a need once planning has advanced and tasks agreed upon there will be a need to consider a workshop to advance ARIAS.

Actions

- **Each SC Member asked to submit by Dec 7** to the CAFF Secretariat information:
 - Describing current initiatives of relevance to ARIAS underway in their states;
 - Highlight any specific projects they might wish to expand upon within ARIAS; and
 - Indicate any new initiatives they feel could be addressed under ARIAS.

CAFF Secretariat will draft a memo based on these informations for the Feb CAFF Board meeting

- Canada to circulate the above mentioned literature review to the SC
- CAFF Secretariat to circulate information on the current status of CLEO and how wide its usage is
- Once proposal for next steps are clarified to discuss with PAME their engagement

PAME I-2020: To explore possible engagement based on CAFFs outcomes on their 1st discussion