Arctic Protected and Important Areas

CAFF, PAME, UNEP-WCMC initiative

(31st January 2020)

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 are preparing a 2019 update to 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 World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The purpose of this comparison being to determine differences between the two databases and update each database accordingly.

The WDPA is a joint project between United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The compilation and management of the WDPA is carried out by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in collaboration with governments, non-governmental organisations, academia and industry. Monthly updates of the data are made available through the Protected Planet website where the data are viewable and downloadable.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1) Provide a 2019 update of the API and identify any discrepancies between the API and the WDPA 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:

Date	Task	Status
May 2017	Complete Protected Areas indicators report	Report released
May 2017	Protected Areas database online	Completed
Sept 2018	Deliver review on the status of actions taken by CAFF and PAME in response to Arctic Council recommendations and goals on protected areas	Completed

PAME(I)/20/4.3/ Summary of follow-up activities based on joint PAME and CAFF collaboration with UNEP-WCMC on Arctic PA Indicator Report

Oct 2018	Compare (UNEP-WCMC) the Protected Areas data with the data for the same area within the WDPA	Completed
Oct 2018	2-hour session on Arctic Protected Areas at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress	Completed
Nov 2018	Extended session report – available to inform possible next steps/actions (IAB3: Arctic marine protected areas: identification, effectiveness, co-management and cooperation)	Completed
Oct 2019	Arctic Protected Areas database merged and processed with protected areas data for the Arctic from the WDPA	Compelted
Dec 2019	Request made to Arctic States to review current data and provide updates and information on Arctic protected areas as needed	Completed
Feb-March 2020	Data updates and information received from Arctic States and processed	Planned
April	2019 protected areas database ready and analysis completed	Planned
April	WDPA Arctic protected areas data updated	Planned
May	Draft 2019 Protected Areas indicators report ready for CAFF and PAME review	Planned
June	CAFF/PAME Review completed and report revised as needed and finalised	Planned
July-Sept	Arctic protected areas information site provided on Protected Planet	Planned

Project team:
CAFF and PAME Secretariats in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

ARCTIC COUNCIL