



PAME II-2020 PLENARY MEETING

Agenda item 5: Protection from Invasive Species

ARIAS Implementation

For information and possible next steps

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. 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) stepped forward to lead the ICG. 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:** noted 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. www.caff.is/invasive-species

STATUS:

A new Steering Committee (SC) was formed within CAFF and a first call held in November 2021. Participants included: US, Sweden, CAFF Chair Secretariat. This was the first teleconference of the new Steering Committee (SC) for ARIAS and no communication and/or proposed follow-up activities have been formally submitted in an effort to advance the ARIAS implementation.

PAME I-2020 ROD:

PAME recognizes the need to further explore ways and capacity in which PAME can become more engaged in the joint PAME/CAFF effort to implement the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS) as it relates to marine actions. PAME members are encouraged to coordinate with their CAFF counterparts to explore ways forward for a possible project on this topic for inclusion into the PAME 2021-2023 Work Plan.

PAME II-2020 Action:

Decide if PAME is to include ARIAS Implementation in the PAME Work Plan 2021-2023. If so, then one or more PAME Member State and/or PP to come forward with a project proposal idea with a timeline to further develop such a proposal for agreement at PAME I-2021 for inclusion into the work plan