

**Trip Report**  
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**Gwich'in Council International**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**  
**September 13-16, 2004**

**Purpose of Trip**

To attend the CAFF X Working Group meeting.

**Background Information**

**Monday Meetings, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**CPAN Specialist Group Meeting**

The primary purpose of this meeting was to prepare the CPAN subgroups action plan for the upcoming years.

Issues of primary interest include;

1. Developing a brochure to “engage society” and demonstrate the importance of protected areas.
2. The important connection between “sacred sites” and potentially creating protected areas for culturally important regions outside of current protected areas, and the implications they may have.
3. Expanding the participation of the expert group.
4. There is interest in linking CPAN goals with global protected areas priorities.
5. There is a need for re-vitalizing the CPAN, little active participation, few meetings, difficult to mark achievements.
6. New workplan priorities;
  - a. RAIPON sacred sites workshop, possibly in Yamal district or Moscow if cost is prohibitive.
  - b. There was also discussion to explore assisting the AIA & GCI in getting off the ground with their sacred sites projects.
  - c. Implementing their strategy & action plans.
  - d. Completing country updates.
  - e. Report on status, trends, & threats to protected areas report.
  - f. Assist in implementing the AMSP.
  - g. Support the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Project (CBMP).
  - h. Finish CPAN poster to improve protected areas and CPAN profile.
  - i. Develop issue papers on;
    - i. State of the Arctic Mapping Project
    - ii. Create a guide on “How To” protect areas.
    - iii. Develop a protected areas database.
    - iv. Create a more developed and stand-alone web page.

## **Heads of Delegation & Permanent Participants Meeting**

PP's & heads of delegations met each day to prepare for the meetings and to iron out meeting & process issues.

### **Tuesday Meetings, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **CAFF Meeting**

*Permanent Participants* presented a variety of important issues that seemed well accepted during opening statements including;

1. The importance of more and better involvement in all levels of CAFF projects, specialist groups, and research, etc.
2. The fact that there are many benefits from collaboration with as many partners as possible.
3. The importance with providing indigenous peoples' with the tools necessary for adaptation, especially in light of rapid and dramatic changes in bio-diversity and climate. These tools include;
  - a. Free movement across the landscape
  - b. Freedom to hunt across established seasons and bag limits and,
  - c. Ability to adapt new methods to meet their needs.
4. Importance of language preservation, especially in light of need to preserve bio-diversity and links to indigenous knowledge about landscape.
5. The need to elevate PP's authority in the Arctic Council
6. The necessity for sacred sites projects and vegetation identification from the indigenous language community-based perspective.

*Dr. Janet Hohn with IUCN*, discussed the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November. There will be four themes at this years congress;

1. Ecosystem management
2. Health, poverty, & conservation
3. Biodiversity loss & species extinction and,
4. Markets, business, & the environment

*Maria V. Gunnarsdóttir, CAFF Secretariat*, gave an opening remark about how the CBMP will be the cornerstone of the CAFF through 2010. She also said they look forward to involving the PP's through their Community-Based Monitoring component of the CBMP. She said that the CBMP proposal, when completed, can be used by any and all interested participants for background for individual funding requests.

*The CBird Specialist Group*, reported on their activities over the past two years including;

1. They are developing a report on birds of Arctic concern.
2. Seabird in bycatch report, due in February 2005.

3. Updating CBird harvest regimes, due in 2006.
4. Eider & Murre strategies.

*Stephen Talbott, The Circumpolar Flora Group*, reported on their activities which included,

1. Completion of the Arctic Vegetation Map.
2. Initiating a checklist of Lichens and Bryophytes.
3. Developing a Pan-Arctic flora checklist.
4. Updating the Atlas of Rare Arctic Vascular Plants.
5. They are also working with the AIA to incorporate indigenous knowledge on use and conservation of Arctic plants.

*Aevar Petersen, Icelandic Representative to CAFF*, provided an update on the status and objectives of the CBMP. Its purpose is to conserve biological diversity in the arctic, halt loss of bio-diversity, and to support sustainable use of arctic resources by indigenous people. More specific details include;

1. Increasing the understanding of bio-diversity.
2. Detecting changes and their causes.
3. Analyze threats.
4. Mitigate conservation problems.
5. Develop and evaluate current national and global problems.
6. Support sustainable use of Arctic resources.
7. Encourage timely sharing of research information.
8. Strengthen collaboration.
9. Develop regional and circumpolar models.

*Gunn-Britt Retter, IPS*, presented the PP's interest in creating a community-base monitoring process for inclusion into the CBMP. The main issues included;

1. Workshop need to further develop the main focus.
2. That PP's will most likely submit separate proposals since each has different priorities and not all may be prepared to participate. However, where we can we will collaborate.
3. Our desire to bring together existing community-based monitoring efforts and project results.

### **Wednesday Meetings, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

*CAFF Meeting Continued...*

Today consisted primarily of project, observer, and PP reports.

*Tiina Kurvits, ECORA*, discussed selection of 3 model areas in Russia for the project and that they received an endorsement by GEF.

*Ward Hagemeyer, Wetlands International*, discussed their global program to conserve wetlands and their birds. He discussed their interest in assisting with the CBMP in monitoring, conservation, and sustainable use.

*Stephan Norris, WWF*, reported on his interest in cooperating with CAFF and UNEP in development of a map of the state of protected areas.

*Mikhail Todishev, RAIPON*, gave a PowerPoint presentation of their completed sacred sites project. He also welcomed GCI & AIA, and others to learn from their project. RAIPON will be holding a conference in early 2005 to present results in Russia.

*Vladislav Peskov, RAIPON*, reported on their Youth Network project. They are involving youth from several countries in a variety of conservation projects to involve and prepare them for the future and teach them about environmental sustainability.

### **Thursday Meetings, September 16th**

#### *CAFF Meeting Continued...*

PP's & National Representatives spent the morning honing down the specialist groups workplan objectives for the 2006 ministerial meeting.