

# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fifteenth meeting

Montreal, 7-11 November 2011

**WORKING GROUP II**

Agenda item 4.4

## ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY

*Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs*

### I. GENERAL

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice*

1. Welcomes the report on Arctic biodiversity prepared by the International Secretariat of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council;

### II. REQUEST TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to include in documentation on ecologically or biologically significant areas in marine areas being prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice reference to the work carried out under the Oslo and Paris Conventions for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic and by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission on this subject;

### III. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

3. Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the Resolution of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council, *encourages* the increased collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Working Group;

1. Welcomes the report on Arctic biodiversity prepared by the International Secretariat of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council and *notes* in particular that:

(a) The Arctic plays host to a vast array of biodiversity, including many globally significant populations of fauna and flora;

(b) A significant proportion of Arctic species are migratory; such populations are thus shared by numerous non-Arctic Parties and other Governments whose cooperation is needed for their conservation;

(c) Arctic ecosystems provide essential services including for the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities;

(d) Climate change is emerging as the most far-reaching and significant stressor on Arctic biodiversity;

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- (e) Changes in Arctic biodiversity have global repercussions;
  - (f) The conservation of Arctic biodiversity contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
2. *Decides* to consider relevant aspects of Arctic biodiversity through the Convention's consideration of existing programmes of work and cross-cutting issues;
  3. *Invites* relevant non-Arctic Parties, other Governments, international organizations and multilateral environmental agreements and processes, which either play host to migratory Arctic species for part of their life-history and/or which collate information about the status of such species, to collaborate with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council by, *inter alia* contributing to the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme and relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements concerned with the conservation of migratory Arctic species, and to share their data on monitoring and/or assessment of such species;
  4. *Welcomes* progress in the implementation of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme, including on the more rapid detection and communication of significant biodiversity-related trends and pressures affecting the Arctic environment and *encourages* the development of further Arctic ecosystem resilience assessments and reports;
  5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, as appropriate, to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and relevant programmes of work of the Convention in the Arctic environment;
  6. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to make available through their national clearing-house mechanisms, as appropriate, data and information generated through research and monitoring activities in the Arctic, including those contributing to the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme, the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Arctic Change Assessment, and to make full use of it in their reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions, where relevant;
  7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite the Arctic Council to share through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity biodiversity related information and reports generated by the Arctic Council, including from the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme, the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Arctic Change Assessment;
  8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make full use of data and information generated by the Arctic Council, *inter alia* in the preparation of future editions of Global Biodiversity Outlook;
  9. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and other relevant organizations to collaborate with indigenous peoples of the Arctic, based on the principles of full and effective participation and free prior and informed consent, in all research projects and programmes regarding Arctic biodiversity.

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