Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna:

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and the Importance of incorporating different knowledge systems

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Kári Fannar Lárusson
**CAFF Program Officer**

Arctic Council:

- **Eight nations**
- **Six Indigenous organizations**
- **CAFF one of six working groups**

SDWG

AMAP

ACAP

EPPR

PAME

How do we **better harness** our **knowledge and capacity** to help make **informed, timely** and **effective decisions** in the face of **cumulative** and **accelerating change**?

Rapid assessments for rapid change

Move towards dynamic, forward-looking analysis
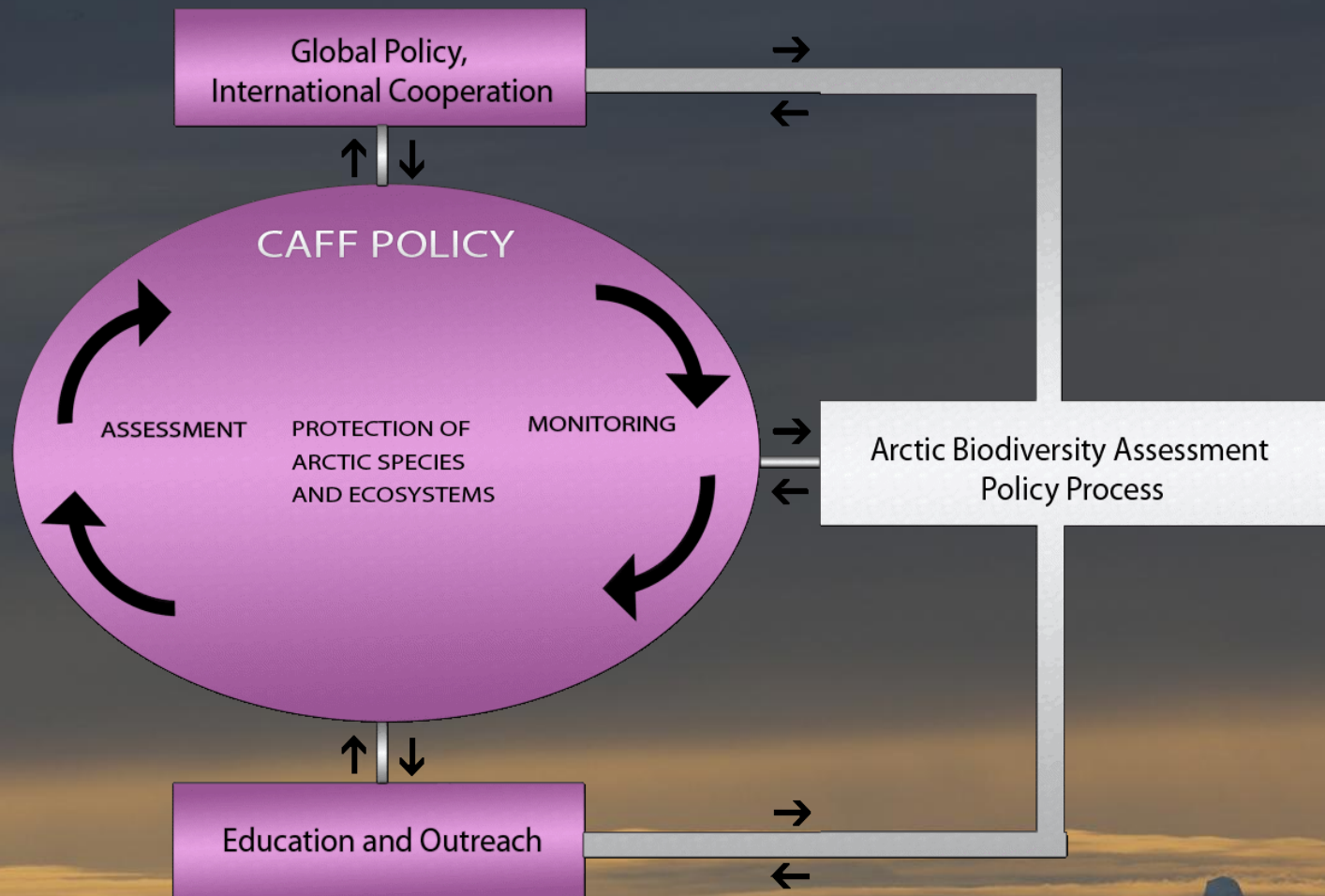
Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)

Purpose:

- To synthesize and assess the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity

The ABA will:

- provide a description of the current state of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity
- create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments
- provide a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work
- provide up-to-date scientific- and traditional knowledge
- identify gaps in the data record
- identify key mechanisms driving change
- produce scientific and policy recommendations

ABA Reports

- **2010 : *Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: selected indicators of change***

- **2013: Traditional Ecological Knowledge Compendium**

- **2013: Full scientific assessment**

- **2013: Summary for policy makers**

CBMP: Coordinated monitoring

- International network improving detection, understanding and reporting of Arctic biodiversity trends

- Focal point for Arctic biodiversity information

- Development of integrated monitoring plans
  - Marine (2011)
  - Freshwater (2012)
  - Terrestrial (2013)

- Indices and indicators
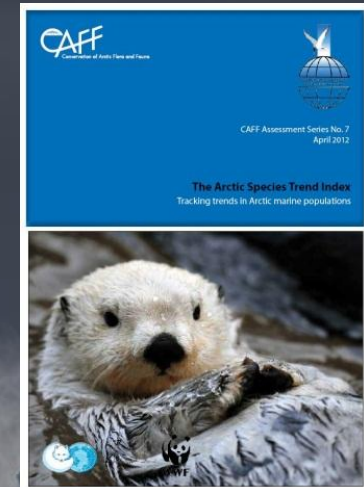
Benefits of incorporating different knowledge systems

- Information from various sources increases the effectiveness of the assessment.

- Inclusion of stakeholders ensures buy in and contributes to being successfully able to carry out an assessment

- TEK offers valuable insights into biodiversity. For example, identify emerging trends and create historical baselines.

- Identify natural cycles in flora and fauna and helps to identify and further possible drivers of change.

- Sharing of knowledge runs both ways: knowledge holders learn from each other

- "Inclusion is closely related to empowerment"

General Challenges

- Methodological Approach
    - Review
    - Collection
    - Access: oral tradition (easily reduced to quotes/ integration problems – cherry picking)
- Romanticizing TEK
- Ownership
- Knowledge at risk

Community Based Monitoring

"The world can tell us everything we want to know. The only problem for the world is that it doesn't have a voice. But, the world's indicators are there. They are always talking to us."
  Quitsak Tarkiasuk, Ivujivik

- A number of successfull community based project are being conducted in the Arctic. The problem is to harness the knowledge and put it forth in a circumpolar context.

1. Building a community based monitoring registry: Identify what exists (access to data)
2. Workshops- Pre-Workshop- select a short list of potential pilot analysis and a planning and development workshop
3. Conduct selected analysis and integration (Pilot) Aggregate and analyse selected Arctic people's knowledge to inform CBMP process

Thank you