

ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS 2018

Rovaniemi, Finland 9-11th October 2018

Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2018 sessions

The approach taken to structure this call is slightly different than the 2014 Congress. We will be issuing a call for abstracts (i.e., presentations and alternative submissions such as story-telling, art, dance etc.) to be organised under pre-determined session headings. When an abstract is submitted, the person submitting will have to indicate the top three sessions that their presentation best addresses. At the same time we will create space for additional session proposals, to accommodate session ideas that are not captured below. This allows the call for content to be both 1) better structured according to ABA implementation and 2) much more streamlined an organization process, thus speeding up the logistics behind the event and ensuring that the submitters self-select their best “fit”:

- There will be 45 total of 90-minute session spaces similar to the last Congress. There will be fewer sessions if they are required to be lengthened due to popularity of submissions.
- The organizing committee has listed a possible 41 sessions under which people will be invited to submit presentations.
- 4 sessions were kept as "extras" (empty) in case we have too many presentations for one session and need to break it into two sessions, or get proposals for something we didn't consider.
- An additional 6 spaces are labelled as “other” to gather presentations that don't necessarily “fit” into other session headings

The pre-determined session headings and topics listed below were developed and guided by the ABA policy summary, ABA Action Plan and the previous Arctic Biodiversity Congress 2014 program. Sessions are intended to be diverse and broadly worded so as not to be too restrictive, and to ensure that people can see their work under numerous headings.

The sessions are grouped under the six themes used to group the recommendations in the ABA summary report: climate change, ecosystem based management, mainstreaming biodiversity, identifying and safeguarding important areas for biodiversity, improving knowledge and public awareness.

In addition to ensuring highly relevant subject matter, and ease of organizing, using this approach will allow for 1) easier reporting out of the Congress, 2) better tracking of actions and progress on ABA recommendations, and 3) ensure that potential presentations are as relevant as possible to CAFF concerns and work.

This approach is similar to other conferences of this size including the ArcticNet Arctic Change Conference, and the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity.

Below is the list of sessions, with an example draft session description and potential list of presenters/topics

Climate change

CC1: Impact of reduced ice cover in the Arctic marine environment

- Example description: The ice-associated ecosystem in the Arctic Ocean is changing rapidly due to warming Arctic climate with commensurate reductions in sea ice extent and thickness. Reductions in sea ice have already caused changes in diversity, abundance and production of sea ice biota and animals at higher trophic levels that utilize sea ice. Trends are difficult to assess, however, because basic diversity inventories are incomplete, time series are lacking and cumulative effects on different trophic levels are poorly studied. This session describes current knowledge, trends and opportunities
- Example presentations:
 - Scientific representative from the CBMP marine monitoring group going over changes in biota from recent SAMBR report
 - Local walrus hunter describing impacts to the community from reduced walrus take due to shifting ice patterns
 - An industry (shipping, oil and gas, fishing, etc.) discussing how their operations are planned with risk and uncertainty in mind
 - NGO presents their project to help understand

CC2: Biodiversity and climate change: impacts on non-marine ecosystems

CC3: Resilience and adaptation in the Arctic environment

CC4: Early warnings: approaches to assessing and measuring change in biodiversity

CC5: Climate change: other

Ecosystem Based Approach to Management

EBM1: Ecosystem based approach to management across the Arctic

EBM2: Scenario planning for reduced risk

EBM3: Arctic biodiversity in regional and international targets

EBM4: Biodiversity as a fundamental component of environmental impact assessments

EBM5: Monitoring as a tool for ecosystem based approach to management

EBM6: Conservation and sustainable harvest

EBM7: Ecosystem based approach to management: Other

Mainstreaming biodiversity

MB1: Arctic ecosystem services and natural capital

MB2: Biodiversity objectives in Arctic development and industry

MB3: Innovative partnerships for biodiversity conservation

MB4: Reporting and communicating Arctic biodiversity

MB5: Worldwide partnerships to conserve migratory birds

MB6: Mainstreaming other

Addressing stressors and cumulative effects

AIS1: Invasive species in the Arctic: prevention, detection and response

AIS2: Contaminants, wildlife and health

AIS3: Oil spill prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic

AIS4: Pollution and waste: impacts to wildlife on land and sea

AIS5: Reducing effects of shipping, commercial fishing, tourism and infrastructure development on biodiversity

AIS6: Managing human-wildlife conflicts in the Arctic

AIS7: Understanding cumulative effects

AIS8: Stressors and cumulative effects: Other

Identifying and safeguarding important areas for biodiversity

IAB1: Hot spots, connectivity and sensitive areas for biodiversity conservation benefit

IAB2: Safeguarding habitats for Arctic species under changing environmental conditions

IAB3: Mitigating disturbance in sensitive areas

IAB4: Arctic protected areas: identification, effectiveness, co-management and cooperation

IAB5: Biodiversity, cultural heritage and land-use planning

IAB6: Identifying and safeguarding important areas for biodiversity: Other

Improving knowledge

KNO1: Circumpolar Marine Biodiversity Monitoring

KNO2: Circumpolar Freshwater Biodiversity Monitoring

KNO3: Circumpolar Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring

KNO4: Circumpolar Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring

KNO5: Education, outreach and engagement

KNO6: Traditional knowledge and science under a co-production of knowledge

KNO7: Improving data management, coordination and access

KNO8: Advances in Arctic biodiversity monitoring and modelling

KNO9: Knowledge: Other