

*Memorandum 2/11/2018*

## **IAB5: Transboundary management of Arctic biodiversity**

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session IAB5 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Finland and DFO Canada.

**Attendance:** 35

**Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:**

- Addressing stressors
- Identifying and safeguarding important areas

**Key points raised in the session that were important to note:**

- Some key components of cooperation that are key to success are: governance and solid structure; some type of written arrangement/agreement; shared goals; long-term commitment at many levels; a champion; building trust; investing in local people; involvement of many types of stakeholders.
- You can have varying approaches in ways of achieving common goals in different countries of have shared vision and goals, principles.
- Areas for cooperation can include: management/action/work plans, monitoring and research, outreach and education, training and capacity-building, reporting, fund-raising.
- Often cooperation starts at the technical level but real change needs cooperation at level of management.
- Even when have a Treaty or other formal mechanism, cooperation can fall apart due to changing politics and decisions at highest level.
- There is a need to ensure dispute resolution mechanisms are included.
- We can learn from each other and adapt models, even if developed for single species (Arctic fox, lesser white-fronted goose).
- Nature has no borders, so cooperation is crucial element in Transboundary conservation and cooperation. Cooperation builds on trust and needs structures. You need to invest on people and your networks. Based on strong cooperation you can further build like joint projects.
- Working with nature and biodiversity means long term cooperation. It takes time to enhance biodiversity. And working with nature, you have to reassess your targets and measures on a regular basis.
- One of the challenges is getting partners on institute level. Governments to be committed to the work.
- Even after 30 years of actions, mitigation actions can turn out to be isolated actions may not be effective (Caribou case in Canada).

**Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:**

- Need to enhance long term cooperation and invest in people and networks.

**Take home message from the session:**

- Transboundary cooperation is essential to Arctic biodiversity conservation and it needs to happen at many scales and using a variety of tools. It takes time, requires trust and long-term commitment.