

Memorandum 2/11/2018

EBM3: The State of the Arctic Biodiversity Terrestrial Report: the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, Terrestrial

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session EBM3 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the Swedish Species Information Centre, the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the CBMP.

Attendance: 80

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

- Climate change
- Addressing stressors

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

- The State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report is forthcoming and based on extensive efforts and coordination of scientists working in circumpolar countries.
- Significant gaps in knowledge of terrestrial biodiversity in the Arctic -- particularly invertebrates.
- Invasive species are known to occur but there are also gaps in knowledge of baseline communities
- Stressors include increased tourism/transport of invasive species.

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

- Studying eDNA may help fill gaps in understanding about invertebrate biodiversity (can be taken from soil though processes and limitations different than for water)
- Best practices for tourism can help reduce impacts - e.g., cleaning shoes of seeds/etc before walking ashore and again upon re-boarding ship
- Pan-Arctic standards and definitions regarding taxonomy and monitoring can help fill gaps
- Monitoring results must be relevant to be sustainable - must involve stakeholders in developing the questions
- Zonation programs provides one tool that can be used to identify areas for conservation/management (used in Finland)

Take home message from the session:

- While there remain gaps in monitoring, there are opportunities to fill these gaps to enhance the circumpolar understanding of terrestrial biodiversity - however, it will be critical to ensure that the information being generated is aligned with the data needs of policy makers and resource managers.