

Memorandum 16/01/2019

## ARIAS Implementation Coordinating Group

*For information and guidance*

### CONTEXT:

The ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan was approved at the May 2017 Ministerial and an Implementation Coordination Group (CG) co-led by CAFF and PAME was formed to facilitate implementation of ARIAS. The purpose of the ICG is to guide implementation of ARIAS and provide recommendations regarding potential implementation actions and progress on areas of interest to the CAFF and/or PAME Working Groups. Any joint projects will need to be approved by both the CAFF and PAME (for marine) and by CAFF (for terrestrial).

### ORGANISATION:

The CG is co-led by the US and Canada. However, the nominated Canadian (PAME) lead had to withdraw in November and the USA (CAFF) lead withdrew in December.

<i>Steering Committee members:</i>			
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### STATUS:

Recognizing the importance of cooperation and integration of activities between Arctic Council working groups, CAFF and PAME are working to ensure effective use of resources, leverage capabilities, and avoid



duplication of efforts. Initiated in May the ICG has held 4 teleconferences and the following table outlines tasks and status:

Tasks	Timeline
Establish a Joint CAFF/PAME ICG to oversee coordination of ARIAS implementation, taking into account all ecosystems (i.e. terrestrial, fresh, coastal and marine) – co-Led by Canada and the US.	Decision at CAFF and PAME meetings in Feb 2018
AC WGs (SDWG, AMAP, ACAP, EPPR) have also been sent a request to fill out a form to help determine what is of interest for collaboration.	July 31
ARIAS steering committee co-chairs report to CAFF and PAME on progress, comments and next steps, including potential inclusion of invasive alien species projects in the CAFF and PAME 2019-2021 work plans.	Sep
Terms of reference for ICG approved	Sept
Session at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress: “Arctic Invasive Alien Species Action Plan: National implementation and empowering decision making by mobilizing, sharing, and analysing Arctic Invasive Alien Species (IAS) data”	Oct 10
ARIAS implementation briefing during the Arctic Biodiversity Congress	Oct 11
CAFF and PAME chairs report to SAOs on status and progress of the ARIAS implementation.	Nov 1
Project plans circulated for review on IAS projects for CAFF/PAME 2019-2021 workplans.	Nov-Jan 2018
A form circulated to Arctic States and PPs to complete and help determine "priorities among the priority actions" listed in the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan.	Completed
<b>2019</b>	
Data mobilization workshop, Washington	Jan ( <i>cancelled</i> )
ICG Implementation meeting, Washington	Jan ( <i>cancelled</i> )
Note: The ICG has currently no co-chairs due to circumstances beyond our control. Based on this there will be no report to CAFF and PAME on progress.	Feb 2019
CAFF and PAME chairs to report to SAOs on status of the ICG, note delays in progress and provide a suggested way forward during the period 2019-2021.	March 2019

**Actions required from CAFF and PAME:**

- Provide direction on status of ARIAS implementation and next Steps, including:
  - Confirmation of leads/co-chairs to continue the work of the ARIAS ICG for the 2019-2021 period.
  - Provide placeholders in CAFF and PAME work plans 2019-2021 for intersessional submission of project proposals.