

PAME I-2020: Agenda item 8.1(a)

Joint Group of Experts on the Ecosystem Approach to Management

Progress Report on work on the Ecosystem Approach to management in the marine Arctic for the 2019-2021 work plan period

Prepared by the EA co-leads

Background

PAME established an expert group on the Ecosystem Approach to Management (the EA-EG) in 2007. This was broadened in 2011 to become a PAME-led joint expert group with participation also of other Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF and SDWG). Norway and USA are co-lead countries for the theme 'Ecosystem Approach to management' (EA) under PAME.

The EA-EG has held 6 workshops and one conference on various aspects of the Ecosystem Approach to management (EA) in the Arctic between 2011 and 2016. Progress reports on the work have been prepared regularly. The group prepared a progress report for the 2015-2017 work plan period, and a report on 'Status of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to management in the Arctic', by the end of the U.S. chairmanship in spring 2017.

The various reports prepared by the EA-EG as referred to above are available at the PAME webpage under the Ecosystem Approach topic.

We report here on the progress of EA work during the 2019-2021 work plan.

2019-2021 Work Plan

The EA work is part of the PAME Work Plan 2019-2021 under the item AMSP (Arctic Marine Strategic Plan) Goal 2: Conserve and protect ecosystem function and marine biodiversity to enhance resilience and the provision of ecosystem services. The EA work plan is included in Annex 1 of this Progress Report and contains four elements:

1. Convening of the 2nd International Science and Policy Conference on Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic in Bergen, Norway 2019
2. Convening of the 7th EA Workshop in 2020 with a focus on element No. 5 of the EA framework: Value the cultural, social, and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystems
3. Report on development in defining or setting Ecological Objectives
4. Report on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) of the Central Arctic Ocean.

1) 2nd International Science and Policy Conference on Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management

The conference was held on 25-27 June 2019 in Bergen, Norway. It was organized by the EA-EG with support from a planning group with members also from Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF, PAME, SDWG) and international organizations (ICES, PICES, WWF). The conference was attended by 57 participants from 9 countries and several organizations including ICES, which was an official co-sponsor of the conference, NAMMCO, and WWF.

We were especially pleased with strong participation from indigenous communities and organizations in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Norway; 14 persons in total including Harry Brower, mayor of Utqiagvik and the North Slope Borough, and Fred Phillip, chairman of the Bering Sea Elders Group in Alaska. Session 3 was called '*Voices from the North – a conversation about people, nature, and sustainability*'.

We have prepared a report from the conference where the outcomes of session 3 as well as the other sessions are reflected. The draft report was welcomed by PAME during the PAME II 2019 meeting. The report will form the basis for a status report on EA implementation in the Arctic to be prepared by the end of the current work plan period.

2) 7th EA Workshop in 2020 with a focus on element No. 5 of the EA framework: Value the cultural, social, and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystems

We have started planning the 7th workshop which we propose to hold 29 September – 1 October 2020 at the University of Alaska campus in Nome, Alaska. We prepared a draft prospectus which was welcomed at PAME II 2019. The current version of the prospectus is included as Annex 2 to this Progress Report. We have formed a planning committee comprised of members from the EA-EG, from the other Working Groups (SDWG, CAFF and AMAP), and from permanent participants and other indigenous organizations (Saami Council and the Bering Sea Elders Group).

3) Report on development in defining or setting Ecological Objectives

A plan was welcomed at PAME II 2019 to prepare the 'Report on development in defining or setting Ecological Objectives'. There will be two main parts: concepts related to ecological objectives, and experiences gained from practical application of ecological objectives. An extended outline has been prepared by EA co-leads, and circulated for PAME I 2020. A first draft will be prepared with input from PAME members and the EA expert group in 2020. EA co-leads plan to prepare a final draft for approval by PAME I-2021 as a potential deliverable for the 2021 Ministerial. The outline is included within PAME I-2020 agenda item 8.1(b).

4) Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) of the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA).

WGICA is a joint working group of ICES (International Council for Exploration of the Sea), PICES (North Pacific Science Organization), and PAME. The group was established in autumn 2015 and has worked for three years (2016-2018) to prepare a first version Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) report for the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO). The report has the subtitle 'Ecosystem description and vulnerability characterization' and is now in the final stages of preparation and editing. It will be published as a Cooperative Research Report by ICES following peer review and technical editing. Most chapters are written and will soon be posted and reviewed by the WG.

WGICA has renewed Terms of Reference for a new 3-year period (2019-2021). The group had its fourth meeting in Sapporo, Japan, in May 2019, where plans for a second version IEA for the CAO was made. This report will contain a more detailed assessment of the impacts of climate change on species and habitats in the CAO, and will also include assessment of pollution, dependent on expertise available.

The next WG meeting will be at ICES in Copenhagen, 27-29 April 2020 (Monday to Wednesday).

Hein Rune Skjoldal is stepping down as co-chair and Lis Lindahl Jørgensen from IMR will replace him. Dr. Jørgensen is a highly qualified and enthusiastic benthic ecologist involved among other things in CBMP Marine and the UN Global Ocean Assessment. Dr. Skjoldal will continue as a member of WGICA for a few more years.

Annex 1 EA-EG Projects for inclusion in the PAME Work Plan (2019-2021)

1. Convening of the 2nd International Science and Policy Conference on Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic in Bergen, Norway 2019 (Leads: Norway/USA in close collaboration with the EA expert group)
2. Convening of the 7th EA Workshop in 2020 with a focus on element No. 5 of the EA framework: Value the cultural, social, and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystems (Leads: Norway/USA in close collaboration with the EA expert group)
3. Report on development in defining or setting Ecological Objectives (Leads: Norway/USA in close collaboration with the EA expert group).
4. Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) of the Central Arctic Ocean (ongoing crosscutting initiative in cooperation with ICES, PICES and the EA expert group).

Annex 2 Prospectus for 7th EA Workshop

Joint Ecosystem Approach Expert Group – PAME, AMAP, CAFF, SDWG

Seventh EA Workshop

Values and valuation of the cultural, social and economic goods and services produced by Arctic ecosystems

Venue: University of Alaska, Nome

Time: 29 September – 1 October 2020

Workshop objectives:

1. Explore the relation between cultural and social values and the issue of valuation of ecosystem goods and services.
2. Consider the compatibility and approaches to deal with monetary and other non-monetary values (e.g. cultural and spiritual).
3. Identify next steps for work on the element of valuation in the Ecosystem Approach framework.

Background:

The Joint Ecosystem Approach (EA) Expert Group (EA-EG) has held 6 workshops in 2011-2018 on various aspects of development of EA to the management of Arctic marine ecosystems and two international conferences on EA implementation in the Arctic (Fairbanks, Alaska, August 2016, and Bergen, Norway, June 2019). To guide the development and implementation of the EA to Arctic marine ecosystems, the joint EA-EG prepared an EA framework that was used as a basis for the report '**Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic**' in 2017, and '**Guidelines for Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems**' that were welcomed by Arctic Council ministers in Rovaniemi in May 2019.

'Value the cultural, social and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystem' is one of the six elements of the EA framework. There has been limited work done so far by the EA-EG on this element. Taking the full economic picture of human development into account, including the downside in the form of costs associated with environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, is an important part of what has been called 'greening of the economy'. On the other hand, there are spiritual (religious) and cultural values that perhaps should not be equated with money, but which nevertheless need to be brought into the 'equation' when options for future development are considered.

The basic value systems differ substantially between Indigenous Peoples and more industrialized and urban societies, which needs to be recognized up front. There is a relation between the basic values you hold as a society, and the way you go about valuing the ecosystem. If the ecosystem is your 'home' or your 'garden', and if you depend on it through subsistence harvest for nutritional, cultural, and spiritual well-being, you are likely to value 'ecosystem goods and services' in a different manner from those who regard nature as a commodity to be used for economic development.

At the workshop we aim to explore the relationship between value systems and the issue of valuation to provide a better understanding of the fundament for the further work on this element.

We will explore options for valuation of ecosystem goods and services by examining approaches and methods that have been proposed or used elsewhere, and by holding conversations about our value systems. Based on this, the workshop will consider next steps regarding this element to strengthen the implementation of EA in the Arctic.

Planning committee:

Lis Jorgensen (Norway, EA-EG co-chair)

Libby Logerwell (USA, EA-EG co-chair)

Hermann Karrikallio (Finland, EA-EG)

Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami, Saami Council, SDWG) TBC

Tom Christensen (Kingdom of Denmark, CBMP, CAFF)

Cecilie von Quillfeldt (Norwegian Polar Institute, CBMP, CAFF)

Mellisa Johnson (Maktuayaq Inupiaq, Bering Sea Elders Group)

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