

Title: **Improving science impact on policy and decision making** – how to proceed from discussions to actions, Arctic perspective

Harpa, Norðurljós, Wednesday 4th of March 16:30-17:45.

The Arctic is experiencing increasing rates of change, caused by climate change, resource utilisation and infrastructure development making larger parts of the Arctic accessible. The ongoing changes are placing pressure on Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity compromising their resilience. Access to data and improved monitoring are essential to help inform the actions needed in response. The seminar brings together representatives from different entities to cast light on what is being monitored in the Arctic, what needs to be monitored and how to improve the harmonisation of monitoring and data sharing. The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) is the cornerstone programme of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Arctic Council Working Group and represents an agreement between the Arctic States on how to cooperate and harmonise monitoring.

Format: Series of short presentations (8-10 minutes) followed by a panel discussion

Chair/Moderator: Soffía Guðmundsdóttir, Executive secretary of PAME (the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment working group)

- **Science and policy – the Arctic Council**– Aðalheiður Inga Þorsteinsdóttir, Deputy Senior Arctic Official for Iceland
- **From science to policy, the case of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment** – Kári Fannar Lárusson, CAFF secretariat
- **Harmonised monitoring at INTERACT research stations in the Arctic - lessons learned from Rif Field Station.**– Hrönn Guðmundsdóttir, Rif Field station, northeast Iceland.
- **The plight of upland birds: monitoring populations and habitats.** - Ólafur K. Nielsen, ornithologist at the Icelandic Institute of Natural History.
- **Whales in the changing Arctic** – Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Iceland.
- **Monitoring Arctic biodiversity – the CBMP of CAFF** – Starri Heiðmarsson, co-chair of CBMP terrestrial steering group.