

Developing a Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas

“A Polar Journey” – World Parks Congress
November 2014



Framework for a Pan-Arctic MPA Network

- Expert Group co-led by Canada, U.S. and Norway
- Initiated in 2012
- Builds on previous protected areas work by Arctic Council (CPAN)
- Currently in Draft



Draft Vision

An ecologically connected, representative and well-managed network of protected and specially managed areas that protects and promotes the resilience of the biological diversity, ecological processes and cultural heritage of the Arctic marine environment, and the social and economic benefits they provide to present and future generations.



Network Goals

- To strengthen ecological resilience to direct human pressures and to climate change impacts, to promote the long-term protection of marine biodiversity, ecosystem function and special natural and cultural features in the Arctic.
- To support the integrated stewardship, conservation and management of living Arctic marine resources and their habitats, and the cultural and socio-economic values and ecosystem services they provide.
- To enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Arctic marine environment and rich maritime history and culture.

Common Principles

1. Coherent or systematic approach.
2. Respect existing rights and activities.
3. Ensure open and transparent processes.
4. Utilize the full suite of best available knowledge.
5. Focus on resilience and adaptation to change.
6. Take cultural and socio-economic considerations into account.
7. Apply appropriate protection measures.
8. Employ best management practices.



What Counts as an MPA?

- Conforms to the IUCN definition of a marine protected area
- Contributes to achieving at least one of the pan-Arctic MPA network goals and one or more objectives
- Has a management plan, or protection regime being implemented.

An Arctic Approach

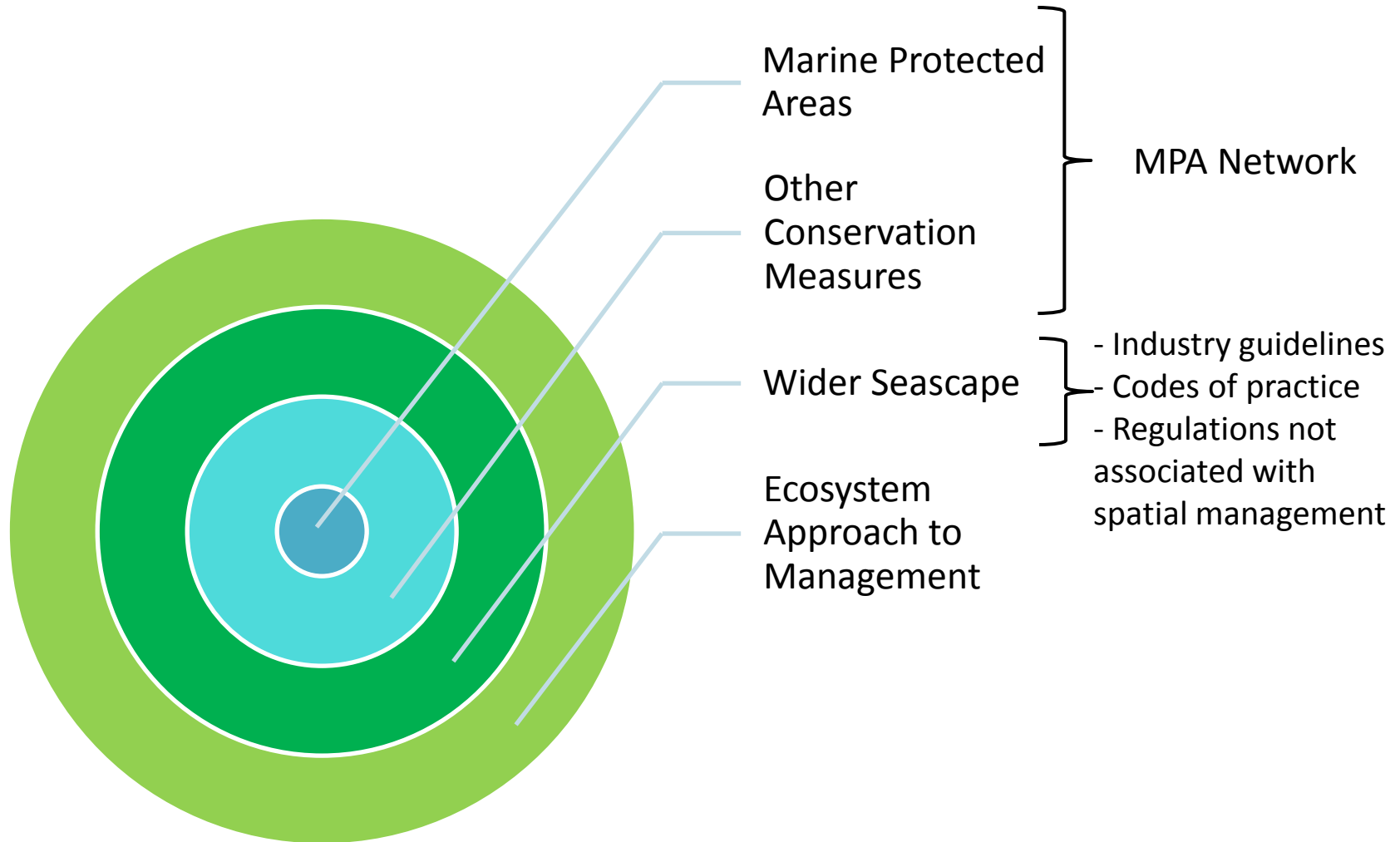
- Managing for change
- Being flexible
- Engaging indigenous people
- Communicating about MPAs
- Protecting a shared marine environment
- Building on and connecting with related Arctic Council work



Aligns with Aichi Target 11

By 2020, at least...10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider... seascape. (CBD 2010)

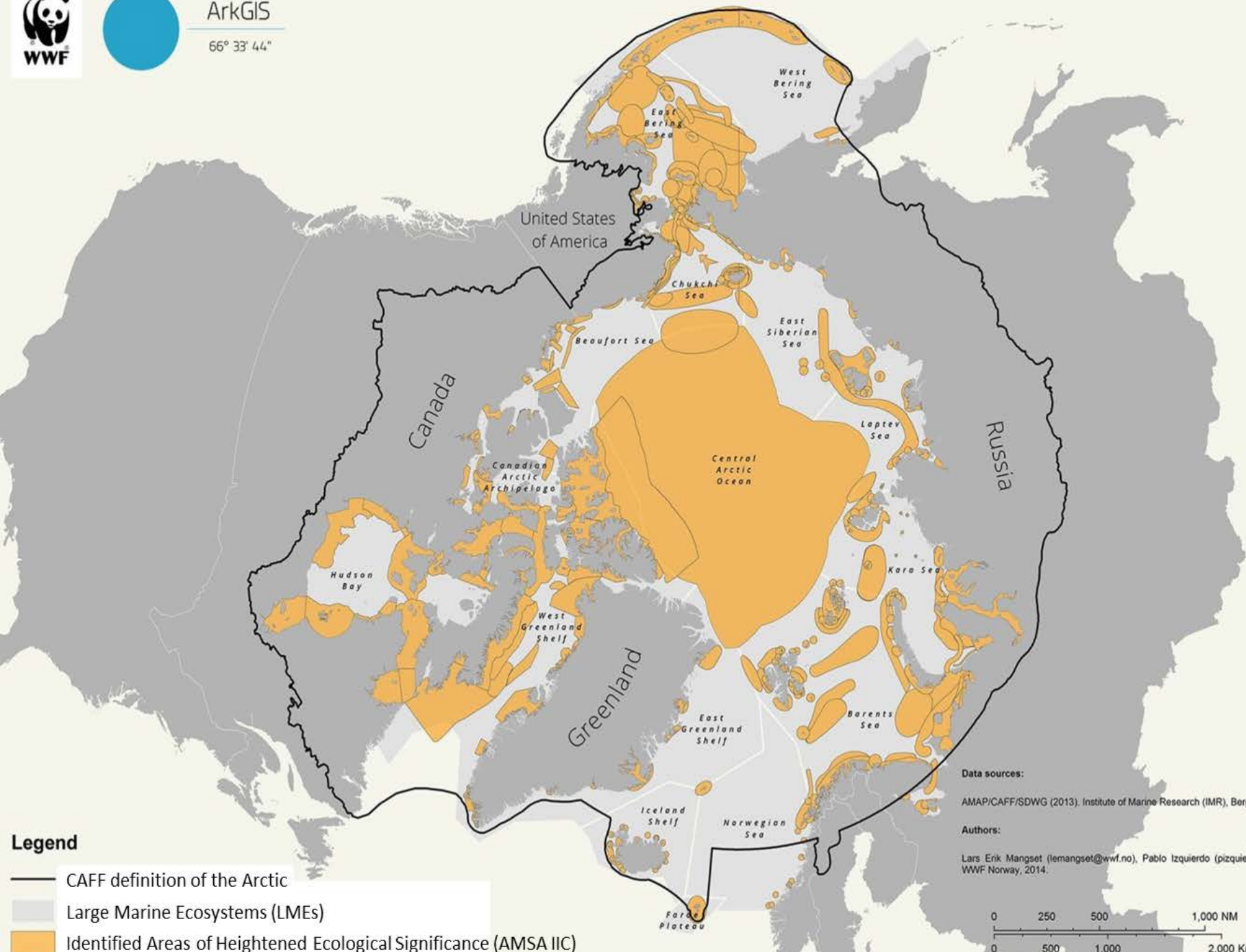
MPA Networks as Part of an Ecosystem Approach to Management





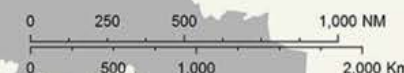
ArkGIS

66° 33' 44"





Data sources:
 AMAP/CAFF/SDWG (2013). Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Bergen, Norway.

Authors:
 Lars Erik Mangset (lemangset@wwf.no), Pablo Izquierdo (pizquierdo@wwf.no), WWF Norway, 2014.



Legend

-  CAFF definition of the Arctic
-  Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)
-  Identified Areas of Heightened Ecological Significance (AMSA IIC)

ARCTIC STATE:	Total area of EEZ (km2)	Total # MPAs (within the EEZ)	Total Area of MPAs (km2)	Total % EEZ in MPAs
CANADA	3,587,926	40	29,892	0.83%
USA	2,001,420	16	481,840	24.07%
NORWAY	819,620	8	255,695	10.20%
FINLAND	No national marine area in Arctic	NA	NA	NA
SWEDEN	No MPAs in the Arctic	NA	NA	NA
DENMARK and GREENLAND	2,287,815	5	96,889	4.08%
ICELAND	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	4,195,875	55	100,701	2.40%

Short-Term Actions (2015-2017)

- Develop communications tools
- Describe how this Framework will be implemented within the context of ecosystem-based management
- Develop a consistent approach for achieving ecological network design properties
- Refine and map the existing draft inventory of MPAs
- Identify types of important marine areas for protection at the pan-Arctic scale
- Identify practical measures to addressing change in Arctic through adaptive management of MPA networks

Longer-Term Actions (2018--)

- Work with other Arctic Council workgroups to identify and collaborate on shared issues.
- Establish a regular mechanism for reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of the pan-Arctic MPA Framework.



Next Steps

- Draft Framework out for review
- Presented to Arctic Council Ministers for approval in April 2015
- U.S. assumes Chairmanship of Arctic Council – May 2015
- Expert Group has strong interest in continued collaboration to implement Framework

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water in the foreground, with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image.

THANK YOU