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Agency views on user needs within Biodiversity and Ecosystems in the circumpolar Arctic.

From my own perspective I like to focus on the needs and ways to meet the needs of biodiversity and ecosystems information by using some examples. There is obviously different user needs among the countries. *The CBMP compilation of monitoring data is one way to find commonalities that can be introduced more widely.*

User needs from a CBMP biodiversity and ecosystem perspective have been expressed by the national representatives of CAFF and the CBMP working secretariat. *CBMP is a possible main biodiversity component of SAON.*

On way to pinpoint Agency needs is to recognize relevant conventions. The conventions express the need to follow up on both biodiversity and social issues. *The variety of issues include needs to follow up even on trade and of course catch data from fisheries and hunting. The conventional Biodiversity concept includes four levels: Landscape – ecosystems; Stand – Habitats; Species and Genetics.*

We do not at all know enough about the Genetics. The issue of Protected Areas has been highlighted by the CBD and before that in the EU Natura 2000 network of protection. The basic principle is to achieve favourable conservation status of the species and/or habitats that is to be protected according to the objectives of each Natura 2000 area. This is a very obvious need for follow up.

All circumpolar countries have Protected Areas. How they are monitored or followed up certainly vary considerably. Speaking of Sweden it is not until three years ago since a broad systematic approach to the follow up of Protected Areas was decided and funded.

What is certainly a gap in this field is a lack of Protected Marine Areas. World Heritage Sites is a further opportunity to conserve and develop nature and culture values.

Another area we need to focus on is the threat from alien species and to create awareness in this field. There is a good practice on how to tackle this issue demonstrated by NOBANIS. Their web site is: www.nobanis.org .

There is a strong need from biodiversity and ecosystem point of view to follow up on effects of land use and try to change to a sustainable use of ecosystem services. To demonstrate how this can be done Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) has been introduced.

Today's monitoring to meet needs is a map of broader and very specific details. The compilation made by CBMP shows what it looks like. In my view coordination of existing networks can certainly sustain and improve the

effectiveness of the Arctic Observing Networks but I also do hope new funding can provide better opportunities.