

GEM

Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring



GEM Workshop report

AMAP Conference: Bringing Knowledge to Action

Reston, Washington, USA

24 April 2017

The Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) programme held a workshop on linkages between national programmes and Arctic/international networks, programmes and organisations at the AMAP conference 'Bringing knowledge to action', Washington, USA, at 24 April 2017.

The workshop included two main sessions:

1) Synthesis of the first 20 years of Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring with presentations of the GEM Strategy 2017-2021 and the five BasisProgrammes (ClimateBasis, GeoBasis, BioBasis, MarineBasis and GlacioBasis). Presentations focused on disciplinary coverage, results and linkages to international networks, programmes and projects.

2) Linkages between national monitoring programmes and Arctic and international organisations, networks and programmes with presentations by IPCC, IPBES, IASC, AMAP, CAFF/CBMP, INTAROS, INTERACT and the Danish Ministry for Climate and Utilities. Presentations focused on how assessments are made and how national programmes can contribute to this, with specific focus on GEM.

Key issues and outcomes identified during discussions

The GEM workshop brought together representatives from international intergovernmental assessment organisations, Arctic Council monitoring programmes, scientific organisations and thematic networks, and national monitoring programmes and sub-programmes. The GEM Synthesis session provided participants with an overview of



GEM Secretariat

c/o Aarhus University,
Department of Bioscience
Frederiksborgvej 399,
4000 Roskilde, Denmark

g-e-m@au.dk

www.g-e-m.dk

the GEM Programme and detailed results of the first 20 years of the programme. Information essential for discussing how this information can be used in regional and international monitoring and assessment initiatives.

The session on linkages between national monitoring programmes and international organisations, networks and programmes had presentations from relevant government institutions, organisations and projects presenting within following themes:

- National implementation of global/regional programmes
- Designing regional monitoring programmes to facilitate informed decision making
- The Global perspective on change and the need for cooperation and data

From the presentations it was evident that GEM is represented in most relevant international and Arctic programmes and networks, where GEM related scientists participate (most often membership is by person, not by programme). Furthermore, GEM programme representatives have leading roles in Arctic Council monitoring and assessments organisations and in several thematic scientific networks.

An issue that was raised in the panel discussion was how to ensure that national representatives in international organisations would ensure that all relevant national input is included in monitoring and assessment efforts. The identification and selection process by government institution for identifying national contributors to assessment could in some cases be more transparent and coordinated with a clearly defined role and responsibilities to be the link between all relevant national initiatives and the regional and global body.

Also, the fact that Greenland is sometime part of an international convention through Denmark, means that the ministry responsible for the convention is unaware of the relevant input from Greenland to some regional and global assessments. During this workshop it became apparent that Greenland was part of an American assessment under the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that had already been drafted. It also came out that the Circumarctic Biodiversity Monitoring Programme under Arctic Council did not contribute to the report, despite the North American Arctic is vast and a significant part of American ecosystems. At the workshop contacts were established to ensure GEM and CBMP input to the assessment

[Post workshop note: Comments have been submitted by CBMP and GEM combined through the Danish CBMP co-lead).

This serves as an example of the crucial role of national representatives in international organisations, networks and programmes to thoroughly link these with regional and national initiatives.

Participants

GEM Scientific Leader: Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University

GEM Secretariat: Elmer Topp-Jørgensen/ Aarhus University

GEM ClimateBasis: Andreas Westergaard-Nielsen/University of
Copenhagen

GEM GeoBasis: Thomas Friborg/ University of Copenhagen

GEM BioBasis: Lærke Stewart/ Aarhus University

GEM MarineBasis: Mikael K. Sejr/ Aarhus University

GEM GlacioBasis: Andreas Ahlstrøm/ GEUS

Danish Energy Agency: Morten Skovgård Olsen

AMAP – Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme: Lars Otto
Reiersen

CAFF/CBMP – Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme: Tom
Barry/CAFF

INTAROS – Integrated Arctic Observing System: Andreas
Ahlstrøm/INTAROS

IASC - International Arctic Science Committee: Allan Pope

IPBES - Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Services: Jake Rice

IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Greg Flato

INTERACT – International Network for Terrestrial Research and
Monitoring in the Arctic: Elmer Topp-Jørgensen

GEM Session Agenda

Linking national monitoring programmes with arctic and global initiatives

- The Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) programme as a case

PART 1 – The Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring Programme – synthesis of 20 years monitoring

- 09:00 Welcome and outline of session (Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University)
- 09:10 The first 20 years of GEM (Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University)
- 09:25 GEM ClimateBasis (Andreas Westergaard-Nielsen/University of Copenhagen)
- 09:50 GEM GeoBasis (Thomas Friberg/ University of Copenhagen)
- 10:15 GEM BioBasis (Lærke Stewart/ Aarhus University)
- 10:40 GEM MarineBasis (Mikael K. Sejr/ Aarhus University)
- 11:05 GEM GlacioBasis (Andreas Ahlstrøm/ GEUS)
- 11:30 The future of GEM: GEM Strategy 2017-2021 (Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University)

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

PART 2 – Linking national monitoring programmes to regional and global science agendas, with Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring as a case

- 13:00 Welcome to part II (Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University)
- 13:10 National implementation of global/regional programmes
 - From a government perspective (Morten Skovgård Olsen/ Danish Energy Agency)
 - The Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring Programme (Torben R. Christensen/ Aarhus University)
 - i. What is GEM?
 - ii. The GEM Strategy 2017-2021
 - iii. Overview of GEM Sub-Programmes and how they feed into international organisations, programmes and scientific networks
- 13:45 Designing regional monitoring programmes to facilitate informed decision making
 - AMAP – Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (Lars Otto Reiersen/AMAP)

- Designing and implementing regional monitoring programme
 - Linking to decision making and global initiatives
- CBMP – Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (Tom Barry/CAFF)
 - i. Designing and implementing regional monitoring programme
 - ii. Linking to decision making and global initiatives
- INTAROS – Integrated Arctic Observing System (Andreas Ahlstrøm/INTAROS)

14:45 The Global perspective on change and the need for cooperation and data

- International Arctic Science Committee (Allan Pope/IASC)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – IPBES (Jake Rice/IPBES)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC (Greg Flato/ IPCC)
- INTERACT – International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (Elmer Topp-Jørgensen/INTERACT)

16:00 Panel discussion: linking local data and knowledge systems to regional and global targets and agendas - challenges and solutions

16:30 End of Session