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Groningen, 29 March 2006

In my capacity as official representative for the Netherlands as observer in CAFF, as research professor of the Arctic Centre of the University of Groningen and as coordinator of the international IPY program BIRDHEALTH (Project #172), I am writing to you to express my support for and agreement with the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) IPY Proposal (Project #133).



The Arctic Centre of the University of Groningen hopes to become a key partner in the program. Our participation in the CBMP is seen as very beneficial to our interests in improving our capacity to understand and detect changes to Arctic biodiversity and implement appropriate conservation actions. Arctic biodiversity is under increasing pressure due to a variety of stresses such as climate change, contaminants and resource development. At present, much of the Arctic's current monitoring efforts are national or regional in focus and are mostly disconnected and uncoordinated with other monitoring programs, thereby reducing our ability to detect important changes, effectively communicate biodiversity under threat, and enable appropriate conservation actions. The CBMP's role as both a coordinating entity for Arctic biodiversity monitoring programs and a catalyst for building expanded and improved monitoring of biodiversity across the Circumpolar North will work towards resolving these deficiencies which will ultimately improve our own efforts for conserving biodiversity. Our organization's active participation in and support for the CBMP is also seen as improving Canada's ability to detect, report on and respond to critical threats to its own Arctic biodiversity.

Please accept this letter as proof of our organization's clear support for the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program's IPY proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maarten Loonen".

Dr. Maarten J.J.E. Loonen