



Lead Author e-mail: [isj@hi.is](mailto:isj@hi.is)

**Title:** *Shaping forces of biodiversity in the Arctic*

**Ingibjörg Svala Jónsdóttir**<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Iceland*

<sup>2</sup>*University Centre in Svalbard*

Knowledge on Biodiversity in the Arctic is still rather fragmented, but both documentation and monitoring is attracting increasing attention from various organizations and research groups (CAFF/CBMP, INTERACT, and others). Through these activities we will gradually gain better knowledge on biodiversity patterns within various groups of organisms and, eventually, how it is changing in response to different drivers. However, questions related to what shapes the biodiversity patterns that we observe or why those patterns might change in response to different drivers have received less attention in the Arctic. Such knowledge is of scientific interest as well as being fundamental for successful management of biodiversity. It will become especially valuable if the above questions are addressed within a coherent research framework across disciplines.

One reason for why this issue has not received full attention yet is the complexity of the Biodiversity term, encompassing all organisms and their diversity at various levels of organization (genetic diversity within and among populations, species diversity within and among communities, community and ecosystem diversity within and among landscapes and regions). Different factors and processes may be responsible for shaping diversity for different organisms. In addition, for each organism group different factors may operate at different scales both in time and space. The key factors may therefore often be overlooked. Finally, it is a great challenge to address overarching biodiversity questions because different methodologies need to be applied for different organism groups.

A small workshop was organized 21-22 January this year in Reykjavik to discuss this issue and explore the feasibility of such coherent research framework. In this talk I will present the workshop outcomes.