

Circumpolar Action Plan: Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear 2015-2017 Implementation Table of Bilateral and Multilateral Actions

No.	Actions	Sub-actions	Activities
Adaptive Management			
	Document and protect essential habitat		
1		<p>Identify essential polar bear habitat and redefine it as changes occur over time</p> <p>10-year action table sub-actions: 2 & 3</p>	<p>Title: Define and Identify Essential Polar Bear Habitat and Document Change over Time</p> <p>Description: Range States will determine the status of the identification of essential habitat for polar bear in the 19 subpopulations. Additionally, the PBSG will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a suite of broad sea-ice metrics that characterize essential polar bear habitat, examine changes over time based on past observations, and project changes into the future. 2. A peer-reviewed paper describing results 3. An outline for future work and a suggested work plan that would include identification of essential terrestrial habitat. <p>Countries Involved: Greenland lead, all Range States</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025 (work has started, and will continue onwards till 2025)</p> <p>Outputs: Status report that would lay the groundwork for the Range States to take climate change effects into account in polar bear management.</p>
	Consider the impact of diet changes		
2		<p>Develop strategies for responding to the potential for large numbers of nutritionally-stressed bears being close to communities and consider the consequences including those for human</p>	<p>Title: Strategies for dealing with large numbers of nutritionally-stressed bears near communities</p> <p>Description: A report will be prepared which summarizes the existing information on nutritionally-stressed bears and strategies for addressing the risks to human safety. The report will, if possible, identify the geographic areas where the likelihood of such events is higher</p>

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		<p>safety and transmission of disease between bears</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 7</p>	<p>Countries: All Range States through the Conflict Working Group</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: Draft report for consideration at the 2017 Meeting of the Parties</p>
Best Management Practices			
3		<p>Consider, implement as appropriate, recommendations from the Range States' Trade Working Group</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 12</p>	<p>Title: Polar Bear Range States' Trade Working Group Recommendations</p> <p>Description: Implement the six recommendations adopted by the Range States based on completion of the Trade Working Group's project <i>International Cooperation for Better Enforcement, Reporting and Data for Polar Bears</i> to fulfill the statements set forth in the <i>Declaration of the Responsible Ministers of the Polar Bear Range States</i> to counter threat of poaching and illegal trade and to strengthen international cooperation to improve the clarity of legal trade data.</p> <p>Countries Involved: The Range States and other CITES Parties as appropriate. Canada to lead.</p> <p>Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the agreed Terms and Units used by the Polar Bear Range States in their CITES Annual Reports circulated to the CITES Parties for their use in their CITES annual reports. 2. Use of the agreed Method to Estimate the Number of Polar Bears in International Trade for Range States when analyzing the CITES trade data. 3. Use of the agreed Administrative Procedures to Verify CITES Export Permits for CITES Management Authorities. 4. Develop a Polar Bear Range States Wildlife Enforcement Network for information sharing between the Range States.

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			<p>5. Implementation of agreed tagging procedures for harvested bears and bears taken in defense of life and property.</p> <p>6. Canada will post an online report of Canadian CITES Export Permits Issued for Bears Harvested in Canada annually.</p>
	Mineral and energy resource exploration and development		
4		<p>Assess the adequacy of existing oil and contaminant spill emergency response plans to protect essential polar bear habitat, and prevent polar bears from being exposed to oil</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 13</p>	<p>Title: Documenting and assessment of existing Best Management Practices</p> <p>Description: Each Range State will compile existing national literature. Russia will amalgamate all of the information into a circumpolar summary.</p> <p>Countries: Russia, with input from all Range States</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: Circumpolar assessment report based upon the current state of knowledge.</p>
	Tourism and Related Activities		
5		<p>Establish working relationships with tourism organizations</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 19</p>	<p>Title: Establish working relationships with tourism organizations</p> <p>Description: Each Range State will identify key tourism operators and engage in discussions with them about their current practices to minimize the impacts of their activities on polar bears and the risk to humans of tourism in areas where polar bears are present.</p> <p>Countries: Norway with input from all Range States</p>

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			<p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: Range States will develop a baseline of information about tourism operators, while building a working relationship with them, in their respective countries and begin discussions at the Range state level to help inform BMPs</p>
	Human-Bear Interactions		
6		<p>Reduce the risk of injury and mortality to humans and bears as a result of their interactions by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. continuing to support the work of the Range State Conflict Working Group; b. implementing and making available to all Range States the Polar Bear-Human Information Management System (PBHIMS); c. developing and implementing appropriate data-sharing agreements among the Range States and making the data available to Range State management authorities; d. entering all available data on human-bear interactions into the PBHIMS database on an ongoing basis; and e. developing BMPs on tools and techniques for use in preventing and mitigating human–bear conflicts 	<p>Title: Continuation of the Conflict Working Group</p> <p>Description: Continue to support the work of the Range States Conflict Working Group, towards a fully-functioning, international database.</p> <p>Countries: All Range States through the Conflict Working Group.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: To have completed Terms of Reference, data-sharing agreement and a requirements document. Continued population of the PBHIMS and publication of peer-reviewed papers.</p>

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		10-year action table sub-action: 22	
Monitoring and Research			
	Obtain Information on all Polar Bear Subpopulations		
7		<p>Share research plans among jurisdictions to encourage consistency of methods and data</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 27</p>	<p>Title: Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration in Support of Consistent Research Methods and Data Sets for Polar Bears</p> <p>Description: Researchers from the Range States will endeavor to develop and apply, where appropriate, common research techniques and data reporting. This will be achieved, for example, through the PBSG, exchange among research personnel of the Range States, and other fora</p> <p>Countries: All Range States with PBSG lead.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025</p> <p>Outputs: Technical/scientific publications and procedural manuals</p>
8		<p>Obtain population size estimates for all 19 subpopulations of polar bears according to the inventory schedule provided in this Plan (see Appendix V)</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 29</p>	<p>Title: Determination of population size estimates as per the Inventory Schedule</p> <p>Description: Subject to priorities each Range State will conduct population assessments as per the Inventory Schedule (see Appendix V)</p> <p>Countries: All Range States</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025</p> <p>Outputs: New subpopulation information, Agency Reports etc.,</p>
9		Have the relevant scientific authorities	<p>Title: Annual population Assessments for each of the Polar Bear Subpopulations</p>

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		<p>conduct regular population assessments</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 33</p>	<p>Description: Population assessments of all 19 subpopulations will be conducted on an annual basis for each of the subpopulations. If there is no new information the assessment for an individual subpopulation may remain unchanged from the previous year. The assessment reports will be made generally available in a timely manner.</p> <p>Countries: The PBSG will conduct population assessments for 19 subpopulations. Additionally, the PBTC will assess the 13 Canadian subpopulations.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025</p> <p>Outcomes: Annual reports</p>
10		<p>Obtain TEK as per the acquisition schedule (Appendix VI) and consider, in conjunction with scientific data, in management decisions, where appropriate</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 34</p>	<p>Title: Obtaining TEK for each Subpopulation</p> <p>Description: Subject to priorities each Range State will compile TEK for each subpopulation as per the Acquisition Schedule (Appendix VI)</p> <p>Countries: Canada, United States, Greenland and Russia. Canada and Greenland to lead in the development of a status report.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025</p> <p>Outputs: Circumpolar status report on what has been collected is presented at the 2017 RS meeting.</p>
11		<p>Determine what kinds of TEK are most useful for conservation and management and develop objectives, guidelines, and standards for collection and reporting of such information to maximize its utility</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 35</p>	<p>Title: Establishment of a Range State definition of TEK and guidelines for the use of TEK in management decisions</p> <p>Description: A TEK Working Group (Canada, Greenland, United States and Russia) will be formed and will work to establish an agreed-upon definition of TEK. The working group will then work to establish guidelines for the Range States for including TEK in management decisions. The RS TEK Working Group will consider legal requirements in each Range States and the language of the Agreement.</p> <p>Countries: US, Canada and Greenland to lead, with input from Russia.</p>

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			<p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: Development of an agreed upon definition of TEK to be used by the Range States and a list of recommendations for standards for collecting and reporting on TEK which will be used in management decisions.</p>
Communications and Outreach			
	Website		
12		<p>Establish and maintain a Range States' website to disseminate information and provide links to relevant information sources</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 53</p>	<p>Title: Maintenance of Website Established for 2015 Range State Meeting and Establishment of a permanent Range State website</p> <p>Description: A Range States Communications Working Group will be created to develop a website and long-term funding plan for the related costs. The existing website for the 2015 Range States Meeting will be maintained until a permanent solution is in place. The permanent website will be in place on or before 2017</p> <p>Countries: All Range States through the Communications Working Group.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p>
	Targeted Outreach		
13		<p>Develop and implement a communications plan that includes regular information updates about the outcomes of this Plan</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 55</p>	<p>Title: Communications Plan</p> <p>Description: The Range States Communications Working Group (Canada, Greenland, Norway and the United States) will develop a communications plan for the CAP.</p> <p>Countries: All Range States through the Communications Working Group.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2025</p> <p>Output: A communications plan will be presented at the 2017 Range States meeting.</p>

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	Communication on Climate Change		
14		<p>Develop and implement a communications strategy on climate change in order to bring global focus to the threat to the Arctic and to polar bears and the need for the global community to reduce GHG emissions</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 59</p>	<p>Title: Communications Strategy for Promoting Polar Bear Conservation during a Changing Climate</p> <p>Description: A Range States Communications Working Group will be created to develop a report which strategically identifies appropriate messages regarding climate change threats to polar bears and the means to communicate these messages to the global audience</p> <p>Countries: All Range States. Norway to lead through the Communications Working Group.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Outputs: Circumpolar document describing a communications strategy to bring global focus on climate change threats to polar bears will be tabled at the 2017 RS meeting.</p>
Performance Measurement			
15		<p>Regular reporting of the results of the Plan will be done according to Table 4 in the Circumpolar Action Plan. The reports will be made public</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) Biennial reviews will be made before each Meeting of the Parties, measuring progress on the action points</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b) A more in-depth mid-term review will be made after four years, measuring progress on the objectives</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 60</p>	<p>Title: biennial reviews based on Table 4 of the Action Plan</p> <p>Description: The CAP Implementation Team will develop a biennial report which will include national updates as well as a progress report on actions related to the Plan. The reports will be posted on the website shortly after each Range State meeting.</p> <p>Countries: All Range States. Canada to lead through the CAP Implementation Team</p> <p>Timeline: (biennially from 2015-2025)</p> <p>Outputs: Biennial reports</p> <p>*midterm review will be addressed in implementation schedule for 2017-2019.</p>

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16		<p>Baseline values for reporting on indicators on all levels will be presented prior to the biennial meeting in 2017</p> <p>10-year action table sub-action: 61</p>	<p>Title: Establish baselines for measurement of action plan performance</p> <p>Description: The CAP Implementation Team will develop baseline values for all the agreed indicators of the performance measurement system of the plan. It is important to note that this concerns baseline values of the indicators of success of the CAP, not scientific baselines values pertaining to specific research or monitoring activities in the plan. These baseline values will document the current situation for the targets or activities that the different actions in the plan address and serve as the starting point for measuring progress</p> <p>Countries: All countries through the CAP Implementation Team. Norway lead</p> <p>Timeline: Proposal to be presented at the meeting of the Parties in 2017</p> <p>Outputs: All countries will provide an assessment of baseline values for relevant action points. A complete set will be presented as an update to the implementation and performance measurement framework of the plan in 2017</p>
17		<p>Develop Range States Operations, Protocols and Procedures</p>	<p>Title: Operations, Protocols, and Procedures of the Range States</p> <p>Description: Explore and develop options for making the operations of the Range States more standardized and/or formal. A working group will be created to develop options for consideration by the Range States in 2017. Options should include a full range from formally adopting rules of procedure and protocols to consideration of a Secretariat, and associated costs and funding options to implement the CAP.</p> <p>Countries: Canada and the US to lead with input from all Range States.</p> <p>Timeline: Proposal to be presented at the meeting of the Parties in 2017</p> <p>Outputs: Establish an OPP WG and present recommendations at the 2017 RS meeting.</p>
8		<p>Determine two and ten year priorities for</p>	<p>Title: Determine priority research needs considering the monitoring framework, national mandates</p>

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		<p>science-related actions</p>	<p>and funding options.</p> <p>Description: IUCN/SSC PBSG to consider all the science-related actions in the CAP and to prioritize them into two and ten year actions with a report back to the Range States for their consideration. The report will include possible funding sources and applications will have been made, where appropriate.</p> <p>Countries: All Range States, with advice from PBSG. CAP Implementation Team to provide Range State priority information needs to the PBSG.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017 (RS Heads of Delegation to assess PBSG advice following their 2016 meeting).</p> <p>Output: Prioritized list of all science-related actions necessary to fulfill the items of most immediate importance identified in the CAP during 2016. Research and monitoring plan for consideration by the Range States at the 2017 Meeting of the Parties.</p>
19		<p>Improved design of polar bear population studies</p>	<p>Title: Explore methods for improving the design of improving polar bear population studies.</p> <p>Description: IUCN/SSC PBSG to develop recommendations for improving the design of population studies/assessments in order to increase the efficiency of how resources are utilized.</p> <p>Countries: PBSG, led by US members.</p> <p>Timeline: 2015-2017</p> <p>Output: Progress report to the Range States at the 2017 Meeting of the Parties. Peer-reviewed publication in 2018.</p>