

**Progress Report, Action #13**  
**2015-2017 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,**  
**Circumpolar Action Plan:**  
**Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear**



<b>Action</b>	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
<b>Title</b>	Documenting and assessment of existing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
<b>Timeline</b>	2015-2017
<b>Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table</b>	Each Range State will compile existing national literature. Russia will amalgamate all of the information into a circumpolar summary.
<b>Baseline status</b>	Information exists but has not been analyzed at the circumpolar level.
<b>Planned Outputs</b>	Circumpolar assessment report based upon the current state of knowledge.
<b>Modifications</b>	Information on this activity from some Range States was received later than planned, thus, the timeline for circumpolar summary preparation also was modified.
<b>Progress Report Date</b>	December 6, 2017

**Progress Report on Activity**

Oil and gas activities in the Arctic are considered in the Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP) as one of the key threats to polar bear.

For the purposes of conducting an integrated assessment the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection developed a template for information gathering that the polar bear Range States were asked to complete. The structure of the assessment report was developed and agreed upon by the Range States. The following related questions were included in the assessment report:

1. The resource base of oil and natural gas in the water area of the Arctic seas, which are under jurisdiction of the Range States.
2. Prospects of oil and gas production in the Range States.
3. Short overview of a present-day level of development of oil and gas complex (the largest projects, available or planned production and transport infrastructure).

4. Description of license area, permission to which were issued before December 31, 2015 (map and a short description, the names of companies which have obtained licenses).
5. Classification of license area from the point of view of prospects of development of oil and gas resources (probability of resources extraction: high, average, low – for the short-term (10 years) and mid-term (20-30 years) horizon).
6. External factors defining development of oil and gas fields in the water area of the Arctic seas which are under jurisdiction of the Range States (environmental and other restrictions).
7. Allocation of the areas potentially dangerous in case of emergency oil spill.
8. Readiness of the companies which have obtained licenses to carry out a set of measures for elimination of emergency oil spills.
9. Coordination and mutual aid in case of emergency oil spill.

As of November 2017, all Range States have provided their national reviews. At present, Russia is amalgamating the information into a single circumpolar summary.

### **Next Steps**

Each Range State has been asked to compile existing national literature on relevant issues, including official documents related to oil and contaminant spill emergency response plans and examples of BMPs for oil and contaminant spill emergency response to protect essential polar bear habitat. Compilation of a list of these publications and existing documents is a planned output of this action.

Action will be completed before biennial meeting.