

Progress Report, Action #27
2015-2017 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Action	Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration in Support of Consistent Research Methods and Data Sets for Polar Bears
Timeline	2015-2025
Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table	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 International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG), exchange among research personnel of the Range States, and other forums.
Baseline status	No systematic approach to sharing research plans exists between jurisdictions.
Planned Outputs	Technical/scientific publications and procedural manuals.
Modifications	None.
Progress Report Date	November 24, 2017

Progress Report on Activity

The PBSG currently collaborates inter-jurisdictionally to the best extent possible.

Next Steps

This action is ongoing, will be carried into next 2-year cycle, and will require further refinement through discussions with the Circumpolar Action Plan Implementation Team and PBSG.

Additionally, this action will be best implemented when applied to specific research questions, such as action #30: *Obtain information, where possible, on vital rates for all 19 subpopulations of polar bears. Improve methods to evaluate ecological indicators (e.g., reproduction) as proxies for robust estimates of vital rates.*

To fully implement this action, more formalized procedures for Range States' communications with the PBSG will be required. The Operations, Policies, and Procedures Working Group is currently working to develop these procedures.