

Progress Report, Action #29
2015-2017 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Action	Determination of population size estimates as per the Inventory Schedule
Timeline	2015-2025
Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table	Subject to priorities, each Range State will conduct population assessments as per the Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP) Inventory Schedule (Appendix V)
Baseline status	Inventory schedule begins 2015; population estimates reflect ongoing national efforts.
Planned Outputs	Population assessments.
Modifications	None.
Progress Report Date	January 24, 2018

Progress Report on Activity

Each Range State conducts population monitoring to support management and conservation actions as part of their national conservation plan or bilateral agreements, subject to national priorities. Each Range State conducts these assessments as per the Inventory Schedule in Appendix V of the CAP; however, the specific order of monitoring projects may change due to operational or logistical constraints or priorities. Appendix V was updated to reflect population assessment activities conducted from 2015 to 2017 and activities planned from 2018 to 2030 (see table, below). Population trend rows included in the original CAP Appendix V were removed because recent trend information was not available at the time of this report. If trend information becomes available before the next 2-year reporting period, the table will be updated accordingly. The table was also revised to include hyperlinks to each subpopulation's information page on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) website.

To ensure population monitoring projects are completed, the PBSG has suggested that the Range States adequately fund the implementation of their individual national plans.

Next Steps

This action is on-going and will remain an on-going and recurring action for the full 10-year action plan period (i.e., until 2025). The Appendix V Inventory Schedule will be revised during each 2-year reporting period.

January 2018 Update

Appendix V: Circumpolar Polar Bear Subpopulation Inventory Planning Schedule, Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP)

Subpopulation*	Arctic Basin**	Baffin Bay	Barents Sea	Chukchi Sea	Davis Strait	East Greenland	Foxe Basin	Gulf of Boothia	Kane Basin	Kara Sea	Lancaster Sound	Laptev Sea	M'Clintock Channel	Northern Beaufort Sea	Norwegian Bay	Southern Beaufort Sea	Southern Hudson Bay	Viscount Melville Sound	Western Hudson Bay
Jurisdictional sharing:	All	Canada, Greenland	Norway, Russia	Russia, US	Canada, Greenland	Greenland	Canada	Canada	Canada, Greenland	Russia	Canada	Russia	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada, US	Canada	Canada	Canada
Last survey carried out:	N/A	2011-2013			2005-2007	N/A	2008-2010	1998-2000	2012-2014		1994-1997		1998-2000	2003-2006	1994-1997	2001-2006	2016	2012-2014	2016
2015			A (Norwegian portion of range)	O-MR & B		MR & B		B					MR/B			O-MR & B			O-MR
2016				O-MR & B		MR & B		MR/B					B		MR/B	O-MR & B	A		O-MR & A
2017				O-MR	B	MR & B	A & B	MR & B							MR/B	A			O-MR
2018				O-MR & B	B	MR & B									MR/B	O-MR & B			O-MR
2019				O-MR & B		MR & B					B			MTBD	MR/B	MTBD			O-MR
2020						MR & B					B			MTBD	MR/B	MTBD			O-MR
2021		B				A	A & B		B		B			MTBD	MR/B	MTBD			O-MR
2022		B							B							O-MR & B	MR		O-MR & A
2023																O-MR & B			O-MR
2024																O-MR & B			O-MR
2025																O-MR & B			O-MR
2026																O-MR & B			O-MR
2027																O-MR & B			O-MR
2028		MR/B														O-MR & B			O-MR
2029							A									O-MR & B			O-MR
2030																O-MR & B			O-MR

LEGEND & NOTES:

A	Aerial survey
B	Biopsy darting (genetic mark-recapture)
MR	Traditional mark-recapture
MR/B	Traditional mark-recapture or biopsy darting (TBD)
MR & B	Combination of traditional mark-recapture and biopsy darting
MTBD	Survey method has not yet been determined
O-MR/B	Ongoing surveys (O-) conducted at lower intensity (and potentially in only a portion of the subpopulation) than pulsed surveys, but on an annual basis. For methods used, see other legend codes
(prelim)	Preliminary assessment/pilot study
	Planned activities; Annual MR by Canada near Churchill, Manitoba
	Planned activities; Annual MR & B by US in Alaska only
	Activity completed
	Activity partially completed
	Activity rescheduled
	Activity not completed

Note: Not all surveys will result in new population estimates. For example, the ongoing MR work in Western Hudson Bay will not yield a population estimate each year as this work is research-focused, rather than a monitoring activity.

* Each heading is hyperlinked to the individual subpopulation's information page on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) website, <http://pbsg.npolar.no/en/index.html>.

** The Range States recognize that it may be useful to survey the Arctic Basin subpopulation at some point in the near future, however, neither the timing nor method has yet been determined.

The above represents planned activities as of January 2018. Monitoring activities are subject to change as additional needs and/or resources are identified.