

**Progress Report, Action #35**  
**2015-2017 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,**  
**Circumpolar Action Plan:**  
**Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear**



<b>Action</b>	Establishment of a Range State definition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and guidelines for the use of TEK in management decisions
<b>Timeline</b>	2015-2017
<b>Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table</b>	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 TEK Working Group (WG) will then work to establish guidelines for the Range States for including TEK in management decisions. The TEK WG will consider legal requirements in each Range States and the language of the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears.
<b>Baseline status</b>	Information exists but has not been standardized or compiled by the Range States
<b>Planned Outputs</b>	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
<b>Modifications</b>	After discussions, the TEK WG decided that it would be very hard to develop a list of recommendations for standards for collecting and reporting on TEK for management decisions. Therefore the group, with approval from the Heads of Delegation (HoD), modified the action to 'compiling a compendium of existing guidelines for the use of TEK in decision making' which can be used as reference material by the Range States and those who are interested. This compendium will evolve as more TEK information becomes available and will aim to have a section dedicated to the use of TEK in Wildlife Management specifically, as more information becomes available.
<b>Progress Report Date</b>	November 24, 2017

**Progress Report on Activity**

The definition of TEK was approved by the HoD in 2016. The compendium of existing guidelines for the use of TEK in decision making has been developed and will be shared at the 2018 Range States Meeting of the Parties.

**Next Steps**

Action is pending HoD approval, but biennially the compendium should be updated and, therefore, we suggest an ongoing action be added: Update the compendium of guidelines for the use of TEK in decision making on a biennial basis.