

**Progress Report, Action #53**  
**2015-2017 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,**  
**Circumpolar Action Plan:**  
**Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear**



<b>Action</b>	Maintenance of Website Established for 2015 Range State Meeting and Establishment of a permanent Range State website
<b>Timeline</b>	2015-2025/2015-2017
<b>Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table</b>	A Range States Communications Working Group (Comms WG) will be created to develop a website and long-term funding plan for the related costs. The existing website for the 2015 Range States Biennial Meeting of the Parties (MoP) will be maintained until a permanent solution is in place. The permanent website will be in place on December 1, 2017.
<b>Baseline status</b>	Not developed.
<b>Planned Outputs</b>	Range States website.
<b>Modifications</b>	None.
<b>Progress Report Date</b>	November 24, 2017

**Progress Report on Activity**

Under an existing agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the U.S. provided funding (\$5,000 USD) to the CAFF for the development of a Range States website.

The Range States website is set to be live by December 1, 2017 in advance of the 2018 Biennial MoP.

Planned output is a website with a very basic structure (see below for menu items) and a few key elements.

- About Us – History of the Range States and the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and access to key documents
- Polar Bear Management – Information about national and bilateral actions/agreements for management
- Circumpolar Action Plan – Information about the Plan and access to key documents
- Polar Bear Biology – General information on polar bear biology
- Working Groups – Brief descriptions of the working groups and key documents
- Resources – A resource page will be available to the public.

Additionally, a password-protected page will be available for Range State partners to share documents.

**Next Steps**

The Comms WG will continue to develop and populate the Range States website as an ongoing action during the next two year work period. Changes to the website will be facilitated through a Range States Website Editorial Board, which was approved on November 14, 2017, by the Heads of Delegation and consists of members from each Range State as well as individuals from the Comms WG.

Website hosting and maintenance is expected to cost approximately \$2,500 USD per year. Future funding of the website will be the responsibility of the Range States host country for each 2-year cycle; Norway will assume the role of host country in February 2018 after the Biennial MoP in the U.S.