

**Progress Report, Action #17**  
**2018-2020 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,**  
**Circumpolar Action Plan:**  
**Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear**



<b>Title</b>	Develop Operations, Protocols, and Procedures of the Range States
<b>Timeline</b>	2015-2019
<b>Description of Activity from 2017 Implementation Table</b>	Explore and develop options for making the operations of the Range States more standardized and/or formal. A working group will be created to develop options for consideration by the Range States in 2017. Options should include a full range from formally adopting rules of procedure and protocols to consideration of a Secretariat, and associated costs and funding options to implement the Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP)
<b>Baseline status</b>	Recommendations not developed
<b>Planned Outputs</b>	Establish an Operations, Protocols and Procedures Working Group (OPP WG) and present recommendations at the 2018 Range States Biennial Meeting of the Parties (MoP)
<b>Modifications</b>	None

**Progress Report on Activity**

An Operations, Protocols and Procedures Working Group (OPP WG) was created with representation from each of the Range States.

Since the 2018 Meeting of the Parties, the OPP WG has accomplished the following:

1. Finalized “1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears Rules of Procedure for Contracting Parties”- Adopted in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, February 4, 2018. Revised March 12, 2019.
2. Finalized “1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears Terms of Reference Role of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group as Scientific Advisors to the Polar Bear Range States”- Adopted in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, February 4, 2018. Revised March 12, 2019.
3. Developed “Memorandum of Understanding between the parties to the Polar Bear Agreement (PBA) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF)” for Administrative support for a Polar Bear Agreement Project Officer. This document awaits resolution of how to deal with an expected shortage of funding for Russia’s share of contribution before it can be finalized.

**Next Steps**

The work of the OPP WG to address HoD requests is largely complete. Next steps for completing the MoU with CAFF are:

Action 1 - Norway and CAFF to share a version of the MoU ready for signature. This will include a revised budget.

Action 2 – Range States to proceed with signing the MoU.

Action 3 – Range States to work bilaterally with CAFF to determine a funding arrangement.

Action 4 – Russia to proceed with seeking funds once MoU has been signed.