

Progress Report, Action #18
2018-2020 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Action	IUCN/SSC PBSG to consider all the science-related actions in the CAP and to prioritize them into two and ten year actions with a report back to the Range States for their consideration. The report will include possible funding sources and applications will have been made, where appropriate
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Partner Countries	
Timeline Description as per 2018-2020 implementation table	Carried over from 2015-2017; task will be carried into 2018-2020 2-year cycle and through 2025
Baseline status 2015	CAP approved in MoP, meeting identified a need for further exploration of options for implementation of science-related actions and tasked PBSG with this.
Status 2018	PBSG in 2017 submitted a document with input on options for further specification of research activities related to these actions and funding requirements
Planned Outputs	Suggestions for concrete research projects tied to specific CAP actions to be presented to the parties as suggestions for follow-up in next 2-year implementation plan
Modifications made to date	Action redefined and further developed from a request to the PBSG to a Range State-led discussion and assessment process
Progress Report Date	September 30, 2019

Progress Report on Activity

This is a carry-over activity from 2015-2017. In the previous two-year period PBSG provided comments on CAP actions to the CAP Implementation Team (CAP IT) in 2016. In the current period, this work has been addressed from a new angle – by bringing together researchers from all range states for a workshop to make progress on the science-related actions.

As a follow-up of this, Norway in February 2019 hosted a researcher workshop with circumpolar participation with the goal of fostering discussion on ways in which management and research goals in the CAP could benefit by enhancement and coordination among ongoing monitoring and research programs currently in place. As it was not deemed feasible or productive to address all areas of research prioritized in the CAP, the primary objective of the workshop was

to focus on the collection and analysis of scientific data to estimate demographic parameters for polar bear subpopulations. Recommendations from the researchers for prioritization and funding of research activities that will contribute to completion of CAP actions will follow as part of the workshop outcome document, which is currently under review. Similar activities focusing on other areas of research could be held in the coming years.

The workshop was very productive in terms of useful discussions of priorities and possibilities, and for establishing or advancing specific collaborative projects. A core output was the identification of a list of projects/studies that should be prioritized to fulfill actions under CAP.

Next Steps

The list of the prioritized actions and studies should be discussed by the Range States in order to identify opportunities for backing these projects with the required support, funding and international cooperation opportunities. While there is agreement among the researchers that these projects will be productive ways of making progress both within their own research and in the implementation of the CAP, these projects have not necessarily secured funding, and Range States coordination/cooperation on this should be a major discussion item moving forward. The list of projects identified will be made available to all Range States, and the Range States should consider ways to secure national or international funding.

Considerations Going Forward:

A unison recommendation coming out from the workshop was that it was a very productive workshop – that facilitated collaboration and helped make progress on the science actions. The participants strongly recommend that this type of workshop is arranged every 2-years under CAP.