

Progress Report, Action #35
2018-2020 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Action	Establishment of a Range State definition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and guidelines for the use of TEK in management decisions
Point(s) of contact or Lead country	TEK Working Group Heidi Hansen & Andrea Gordon hmha@nanoq.gl ; andrea.gordon@canada.ca
Partner Countries	All Range States
Timeline Description as per 2018-2020 implementation table	Carried over from 2015-2017; task may be carried into 2018-2020 2-year cycle and through 2025 Update – This action, as it relates to the updating of the TEK Compendium, will be ongoing through 2025.
Baseline status	Information exists but has not been standardized or compiled by the Range States
Planned Outputs	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
Modifications made to date	After discussions, the TEK WG decided that it would be very hard to develop a list of recommendations of 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. The audience for the compendium is the Range States and anyone who is 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.
Progress Report Date	September 30, 2019

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 was first shared at the 2018 Range States Meeting of the Parties. Since this time the document has undergone some re-organizing for readability and has been updated to include additional research.

Next Steps

The compendium will be updated in advance of each biennial meeting of the parties and made available on the Range States website.

Considerations Going Forward:

The TEK WG agrees that the compendium is a very helpful document and that making it available on the range states website helps bring attention to the breadth and variety of Indigenous Knowledge related research that has been undertaken and is ongoing. Given the definition was developed in 2017 the TEK WG suggests that the ongoing action be modified to: Update the compendium of guidelines for the use of TEK in decision making on a biennial basis.