

Progress Report, Action #42
2018-2020 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Action	Compile the state of knowledge on (both global and local source) contaminants affecting polar bears and prey
Point(s) of contact or Lead country	Norway Andreas Schei, Karen Lone andreas.benjamin.schei@miljodir.no ; karen.lone@miljodir.no
Partner countries	n/a
Timeline Description as per 2018-2020 implementation table	Task proposed for 2018 – 2020 Proposed Timeline: February 2018 – June 2018: Range states will compile existing information and describe current research and monitoring efforts on contaminants, pollution and marine debris affecting polar bears or their prey. June 2018 – December 2018: The Norwegian Polar Institute will compile and analyze received information and create a draft report with input and communication with relevant scientific partners in other RS. Spring 2019: After review of draft report, final report will be completed and posted to RS Website.
Baseline status	Compilation not yet started, but national literature exists.
Planned Outputs	
Modifications	
Progress Report Date	September 30, 2019

Progress Report on Activity:

The Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI) has taken the lead compiling the state of knowledge on contaminants affecting polar bears throughout their circumpolar range, resulting in a comprehensive review article.

- Routti H, Atwood T, Bechshoft T, Boltunov A, Ciesielski TM, Desforges JP, Dietz R, Gabrielsen GW, Jenssen BM, Letcher RJ, McKinney M. "State of knowledge on current exposure, fate and potential health effects of contaminants in polar bears from the circumpolar Arctic." *Science of the Total Environment* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.02.030>

Based on this updated state of knowledge, the NPI has produced a short report with input from specialists from all RS. The report identifies knowledge gaps and what types of studies are needed to fulfill the actions related to knowledge on contaminants under CAP (actions #43-46). A summary of the state of knowledge based on the review article is included in this report, which will be made available on the RS website.

Next Steps:

Nov 2019 - The short report outlining research needs and priorities will be posted on the RS website after it has been published as part of NPIs short report series.

Considerations Going Forward:

With the publishing of the report to the RS website, this action will be complete. The report should be used to inform the discussions on specific projects to implement of actions #43-46 going forward.