

Progress Report, Actions 19 & 20
2018-2020 Bilateral and Multilateral Actions,
Circumpolar Action Plan:
Conservation Strategy for the Polar Bear



Actions	19: Establish working relationships with tourism organizations 20: Collect occurrence data, and develop BMPs, with the goal of minimizing the impact of tourism-related activities and their impact on polar bears
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Partner Countries	All Polar Bear Range States
Timeline Description as per 2018-2020 implementation table	#19 carried over from 2015-2017; will be combined with #20 and tasks expected to be completed in 2018-2020 2-year cycle Proposed timeline: February 2018 – September 2018: Part 1 September 2018 – February 2019: Part 2 Spring 2019: Part 3
Baseline Status	Action 19 – existing information about the quickly developing tourism sector has not been analyzed Action 20- data has not been compiled into a database. BMPs have not yet been developed.
Planned Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A compendium of Best Management Practices and related information to tourism operators in polar bear habitat posted on the Range States website 2. A summary of occurrence data related to interactions between tourism operators/tourists and polar bears from each of the Range States collated and posted on the Range States Website
Modifications made to date	In 2018 these actions were combined given the overlapping scope. In 2019 these actions were re-scoped given existing information, limited capacity and other priority actions. Key modifications – Action 19 – relevant jurisdictions within the Range States should be encouraged to engage with Tourism Operators at the working level to share BMPs and ensure compliance with any regulations or conservation efforts in their area of operation as it relates to polar bear.

	<p>Action 20 - many of the relevant Tourism Operators and Jurisdictions within the Range States already have existing BMPs relevant to the regions in which they work. To avoid duplication of efforts the Range States determined that the best approach would be to collate this information into a publically accessible compendium of information which will be updated biennially and made available on the Range States website. Range State parties should share the compendium with all relevant jurisdictions and operators to ensure existing regulations and/or guidelines keep bears and people safe.</p>
<p>Progress Report Date</p>	<p>September 30, 2019</p>

Progress Report on Activity:

A summary of occurrence data related to human-bear interactions in tourism-related settings during 2000-2019 is being collected but not complete at time of reporting.

The current status by range state:

US: data submitted

Greenland: data submitted

Canada: data submitted

Norway: no data reported

Russia: no data reported

Once complete the data will be made available on the Range States website.

A compendium of Best Practices and research related to minimizing the impact of tourism-related activities on polar bears has been developed and will be posted on the Range States website. This will be updated biennially and posted on the Range States website in advance of the biennial Meetings of the Parties.

Next Steps:

Ongoing activities – Action 19 – should be flagged for individual Range States to do with the relevant jurisdictions and removed from the work plan.

Action 20 – ongoing activities will be updating the compendium of best practices and the overview of tourism-related incidences by range state in advance of each biennial meeting of the parties and posting it on the Range States website.

Considerations Going Forward:

The compendium of best practices and related material, as well as an overview of tourism-related incidences by range state should be updated in advance of each biennial meeting of the parties and the revised version of the document should be made available on the Range States website.

It would be helpful to modify the Action to reflect this.

Suggested text for Action 20: during each 2-year work plan, provide of tourism-related incidences by range state update Compendium related to Best Management Practices and related research for minimizing the impact of tourism related activities on polar bears and their habitat. The revised version of the document should be made available on the Range States website in advance of each biennial meeting of the parties.