

Submission to the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

✓ Information:

Decision:

**Issue:** Circumpolar Action Plan for the Management and Conservation of Polar Bears-Part II.

**Background:**

In 1973 the governments of Canada, Denmark (now represented by Greenland), Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (now Russia), and the United States, collectively known as the polar bear Range States, signed the *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears*. This committed the Range States to coordinate national measures to protect the species, and to collaborate on polar bear research and conservation initiatives. One such initiative is the preparation of a Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP) to avoid, and mitigate threats to the polar bear, and ensure the persistence of the species throughout its historic range. This plan will focus on issues that benefit from international coordination (e.g. best management practice for marine shipping) and will not address issues that are better managed at national or lower levels (e.g. harvest management). Environment Canada represents Canada on the Range States Committee. Departmental officials have been involved in the drafting of this Plan and are consulting with wildlife management boards across the north.

As you will recall, we engaged in discussion with you on Part I of the Circumpolar Action Plan in the fall of 2014. As noted during those meetings, Part II is now being finalized. Part II contains best management practices that could be used by Canada and other range states, and outlines action items to be undertaken (for example, the development of a circumpolar population inventory schedule) by the Range States. Being that the NWMB is an active participant in the management of polar bear in Canada; Environment Canada would like to discuss Part II of the CAP.

That said, an official from the Canadian Wildlife Service would like to take 10-15 minutes to present Part II of the Action Plan at your upcoming meeting, and address any questions you may have. After allowance for questions we recommend a total time of 20-30 minutes for this agenda item.

**Consultation:**

Consultations on Part I of this Action Plan were conducted in Fall 2014 with all of the northern wildlife management boards.

The second round of consultations with the wildlife management boards, including the NWMB, will occur over the winter of 2014/2015 and spring of 2015. Simultaneously other Polar Bear Range States will be consulting and seeking comments on the document from relevant authorities within their own jurisdictions.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that you accept this submission and afford Environment Canada the opportunity to present the Circumpolar Action Plan –Part II for the NWMB's comments.

Prepared by:

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Date:

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# Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bear

## Part II

### INTRODUCTION

- a. Reference principles, goal, objectives from Part I
- b. Participation of Indigenous people in management and research

### STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THREATS

#### 1. Adaptive management and conservation

##### a. General/overarching actions

- i. Adaptive Management
  - Climate
  - Habitat
  - Prey
  - Disease
- ii. Best Management Practices
  - Oil & gas
  - Mining
  - Contaminants
  - Tourism
  - Shipping
  - Human/Bear Interactions

##### b. Threat specific management actions

- i. Unsustainable harvest/poaching

#### 2. Monitoring and research

##### a. General/overarching actions

- i. Inventory schedule for each subpopulation
- ii. Traditional Ecological Knowledge inventory schedule for each subpopulation
- iii. Identification of essential habitat
- iv. Coordinated national monitoring of prey species
- v. Polar Bear-Human Interactions

##### b. Threat-specific research actions

- i. Climate change
- ii. Contaminants
- iii. Disease
- iv. Shipping

#### 3. Communication and outreach

##### a. General/overarching actions

- i. Website
  - Best Management Practices

- Reports
- Fact sheets
- Educational Material
- Links to other websites
- ii. Outreach to/participation in other fora/organizations
- iii. Educational material
- b. **Threat-specific actions**
  - i. Climate change communication
  - ii. CITES Trade Working Group report

## **IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

Living document – revisited every two years.

**Table: Summary of actions and threats, that details:**

- Responsible jurisdiction
- Estimate costs
- Timeline to implement
- Measureable targets

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

- Biennial report tabled at the Meeting of the Parties
- Review and evaluation of the Action Plan
- Achievement of plan objectives and goals

## **CONCLUSION**

## **REFERENCES**

## **APPENDICES**



# POPULATION ASSESSMENT OF POLAR BEARS IN WESTERN HUDSON BAY

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut  
2014

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