



WWF

FACTSHEET

# WWF POLAR BEAR CAP SCORECARD

WWF’s Polar Bear CAP Scorecard summarises the first two years of work on the *Circumpolar Action Plan for the Conservation of Polar Bears* (CAP). The 10-year implementation strategy was agreed to by the five Polar Bear Range States: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States.

The primary habitat of polar bears – sea ice – is shrinking rapidly due to climate change and Range States must continue to demonstrate their leadership by sticking to their goal to implement the CAP by 2025 to ensure a future for the species.

The number of polar bears worldwide is estimated at 22 000 – 31 000. Scientists predict that by 2050, or within three polar bear generations, we will lose a third of the world’s polar bears without is urgent action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Approximately one third of polar bears move across national boundaries. The CAP is the only international mechanism that brings all five Range States together to manage polar bears.

62  
actions in  
total

43  
remaining

9 overdue

7 ongoing

3 complete

## To encourage effective and transparent pan-Arctic polar bear conservation, WWF makes the following recommendations:

**At the current rate of implementation, the Range States will not meet their 10-year target.**

Given the rapid changes happening to polar bear habitat due to climate change, it is imperative that Range States show true leadership and raise their level of ambition to achieve their stated goals.

- **The completion status of the CAP is at 5%, or 3 actions out of 62, leaving 95 % of actions to be implemented in eight years.**
- Range States must take a more strategic approach that includes setting milestones and ensuring funding for implementation.
- Secure scientific support and incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge into CAP implementation to enable effective management.
- Make more information publicly available to increase accountability and understanding of what is being achieved.

**Range States need to work collectively rather than through individual, parallel actions due to the transboundary nature of polar bear conservation.**

- The scale of cooperation will determine the scale of successful conservation. Polar bears don’t have passports: they roam freely across national boundaries so true circumpolar collaboration is needed to ensure a future for the species.

**Start talking about climate change NOW**

- Under the CAP, Range States have a special responsibility to speak with one voice to global political leaders, policy-makers and the public about the importance of reducing global GHG emissions for the conservation of polar bears.

**MORE INFORMATION: [PANDA.ORG/POLARBEAR](https://panda.org/polarbear)**

# Overall performance by Range States across all assessment areas

	OVERALL	JOINT ACTION	PBSG*
<b>Conservation performance</b>			
Minimise threats			N/A
Communicate climate change			N/A
Preserve polar bear habitat		N/A	
Monitor populations & manage harvest		N/A	
Manage human-polar bear conflict			N/A
Ensure sustainable trade		N/A	N/A
Incorporate TEK			N/A
<b>Management activities</b>			
CAP operations			
Performance measurement			N/A
Transparency			N/A
<b>Overall score</b>			
	<b>76%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>58%</b>

- <40% of maximum score  
Little or no progress on implementation
- 40-60% of maximum score  
Some progress on implementation
- 60-80% of maximum score  
Encouraging progress on implementation
- > 80% of maximum score  
Full or substantive implementation
- No data  
Data not publicly available or not shared with WWF

\*The Polar Bear Specialists Group, a scientific advisory body to the Range States.



**Why we are here**  
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
[panda.org/arctic](http://panda.org/arctic)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Leanne Clare  
Head of Communications, WWF Arctic Programme  
[lclare@wwfcanada.org](mailto:lclare@wwfcanada.org)

Melanie Lancaster  
Senior Specialist, Species, WWF Arctic Programme  
[mlancaster@wwfcanada.org](mailto:mlancaster@wwfcanada.org)