



Preparing for an Ice-Free Arctic: Mitigating Human-Polar Bear Conflicts

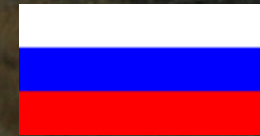


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Senior Biologist, WWF

Co-Chair, Polar Bear Range States

Conflict Working Group























International Cooperation on Polar Bear Conservation

- **1965**: Formation of **Polar Bear Specialist Group**
- **1973**: **Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears**
 - largest threat: commercial overexploitation
- **2013**: **Ministerial Declaration of the Polar Bear Range States**
 - recommitment to the 1973 Agreement, recognizing climate change as the key threat



Circumpolar Action Plan 2015-2025

	OVERALL	JOINT ACTION	PBSG*
Conservation performance			
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			

	<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



Actions 19/20: minimizing the impact of tourism-related activities

Action to date:

- Norway workshop with most tourism operators on Svalbard to review current practices and produced shared rules of conduct

Current Actions:

- Compilation of main tourism operators and tourism hotspots in remaining range states
- Summary of conflict incidences with tourism
- Compilation of existing guidelines/regulations/BMPs to minimize impact of tourism
- Recommended BMP for tourism and tourism-related activities in polar bear range



Action 59: Standardized Safety Messaging

Objectives:

- Compile bear safety message
 - database and literature
 - indigenous communities
 - polar bear experts
- Develop guidance document by sectors

If a bear charges:

- **stand your ground and be prepared to fight!**
Focus on hitting the bear in sensitive areas, especially the face and nose if possible. Bluff charges are rare.

IF A BEAR ATTACKS

Defend yourself

If attacked by a female with cubs, get away and remove yourself as a threat — do not fight back



Action 22: Best Management Practices to reduce risk of injury and mortality to humans and bears

Action to date:

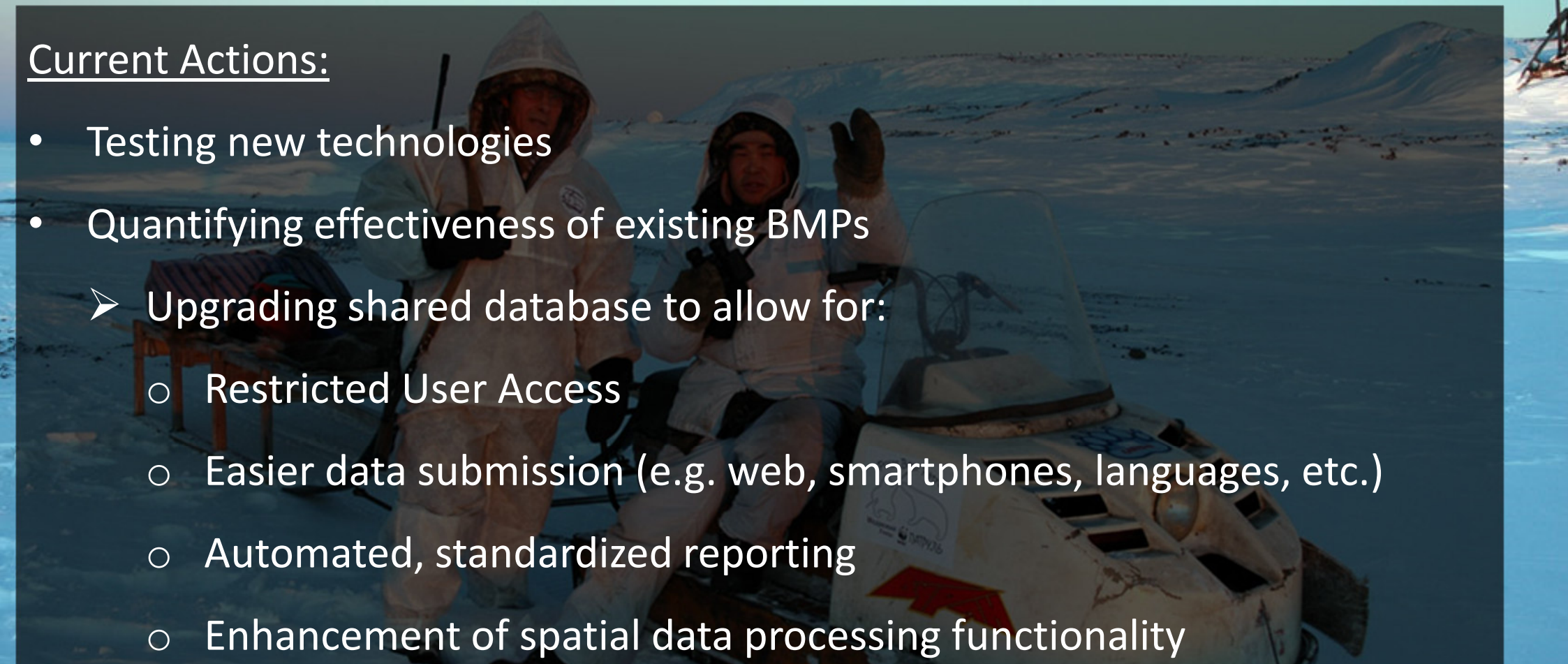
- Compilation of existing BMPs and tools
- To evaluate BMPs:
 - Standardized data collection agreed to by all range states
 - Shared databased developed and accessible to all range states



Action 22: Best Management Practices to reduce risk of injury and mortality to humans and bears

Current Actions:

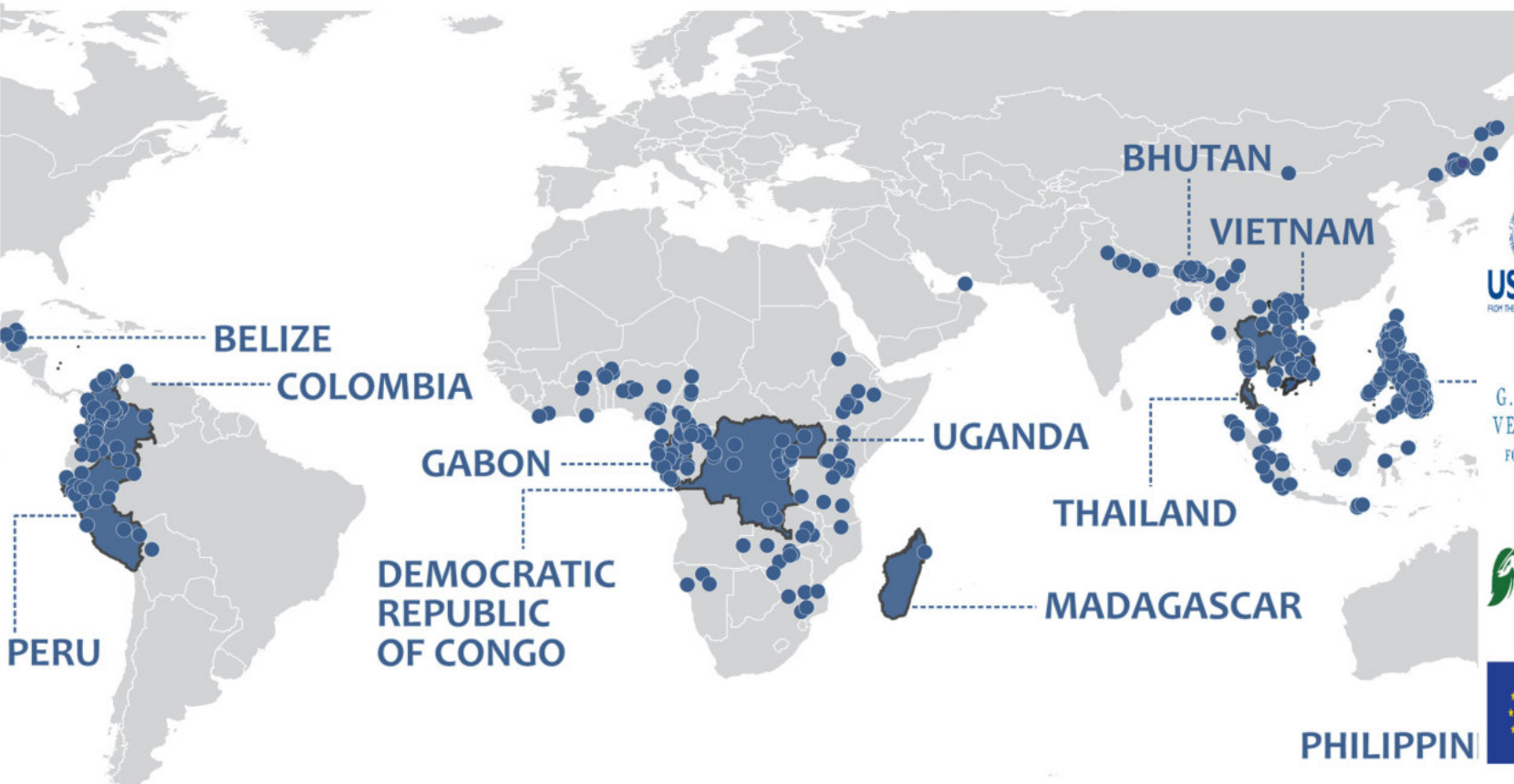
- Testing new technologies
- Quantifying effectiveness of existing BMPs
- Upgrading shared database to allow for:
 - Restricted User Access
 - Easier data submission (e.g. web, smartphones, languages, etc.)
 - Automated, standardized reporting
 - Enhancement of spatial data processing functionality



Global SMART Partnership



**GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**



**GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION**



**WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE**





Key Features: Mobile, Restricted Data Collection, GIS analysis



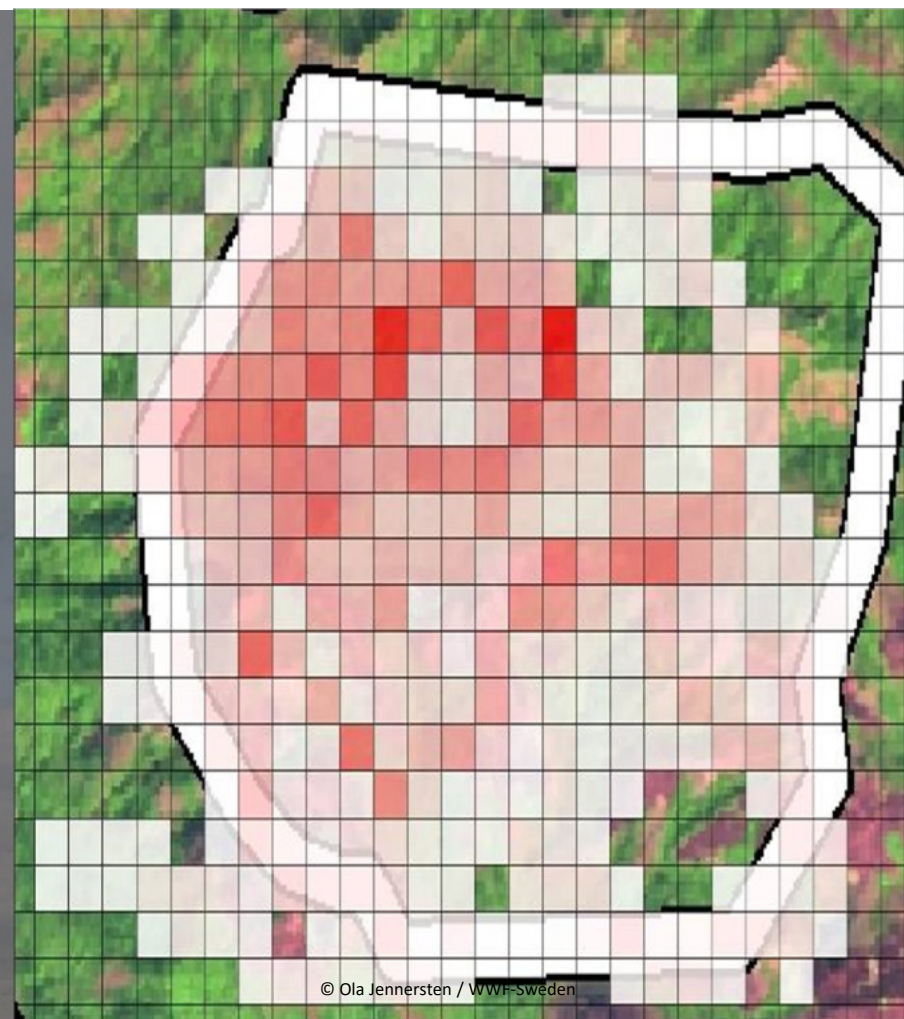
WORLDWIDE PROJECTS									
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Year	Project Name	Location	Start Date	End Date	Project Manager	Project Manager	Project Manager	Project Manager	Project Manager
2010	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2011	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2012	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2013	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2014	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2015	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2016	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
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2022	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2023	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
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2025	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2026	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2027	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2028	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2029	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART
2030	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART	SMART



In 11 languages including Russian



smartconservationtools.org



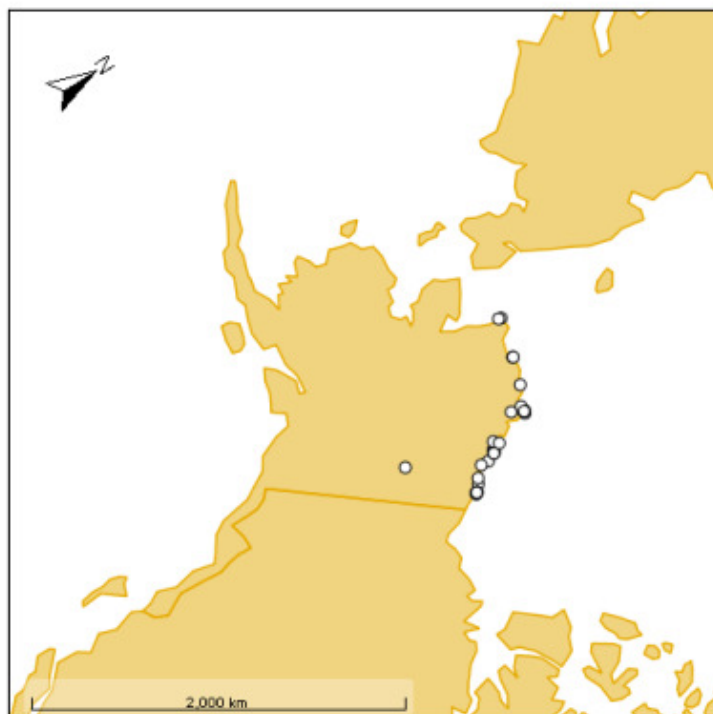
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POLAR BEAR
RANGE STATES

PBHIMS Report
1881-01-01 to 2017-12-12

Summary



Casualty Summary

Bears Wounded	Bears Severely Wounded	Bears Killed	Humans Injured	Humans Killed
0	0	40	3	3

Location Type	Number of Incidents
Unknown	10
Cabin	1
Field area	16
Industry	5
Settlement / Town	12
Other	4
	48



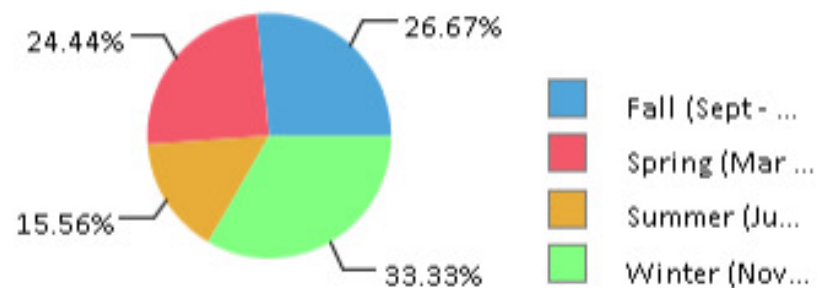
PBHIMS Report
1881-01-01 to 2017-

Detailed Break

Bear Attack Deta

Bear Attacks	Number of Incident
Unknown	22
No	12
Yes, attempted attack	8
Yes, attacked	6
	48

Breakdown by Season





THANKS

