

# ***International Forum on Conservation of Polar Bears and jubilee Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears***

## ***Draft agenda***

### **Goal and objectives:**

The Goal is to reaffirm full commitment of the Parties to the sustainable conservation of the Polar Bear and effective management of its populations throughout the whole range and to issue a joint declaration to continue to work actively with high level of political will to fully implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears.

The main objectives are:

1. To take the stock of implementation progress by the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears in the 40 years, since its signing, with special concern to last 10 years;
2. Announce at high ministerial level coordinated and concerted priority actions for implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears for the next 10 years;
3. Deepen the engagement in several critical thematic areas:
  - Acknowledging Threats to Polar Bear, especially potential impacts caused by climate change;
  - Combating Poaching, Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Polar Bear products;
  - Engagement of indigenous peoples in Polar Bear conservation and use of aboriginal traditional knowledge in decision making throughout the range;
  - Appropriate research, monitoring and sharing of information amongst Range States;
  - Raising Awareness and Support for Polar Bear conservation.

### **Participants of the Forum:**

- Range States Ministers responsible for polar bear research and management
- Range State delegates and technical experts
- Secretariats of international conventions for the conservation of biological diversity and conservation of threatened species, such as CBD, CITES, CMS
- IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and IUCN SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group
- Representatives of science and public organizations
- Financial institutions, foundations, donors and corporations with the interest to contribute to Polar Bear and Arctic conservation
- Speakers: Invited speakers for open sessions (keeping a geographical balance)
- Exhibitors: Support staff for WWF, other NGOs, indigenous groups and governments.

### **Participants of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement:**

- Range State official delegations (nominated by States)

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- IUCN SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group as the scientific advisory body to the Range States
- Observers: Secretaries of international conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS), representatives of science and public organizations, list of which is agreed by the Range States

**Venue:**

- Hotel Metropol (<http://www.metropol-moscow.ru/default-en.html>)

**All 3 days – Exhibitions**

When	What	Open to
9:00 - 16:00	Exhibitors are the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, WWF and other NGO's. Managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and WWF	All

**Day 0, December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday)**

When	What	Open to
Throughout the day	Guest arrival, registration, accommodation in the hotel	All invitees
Throughout the day	<b>Technical Session</b> (if needed) Discussion and finalization of key documents for the following days	Official representatives of range states & PBSG
18:00 -21:00	Informal welcome meetings for countries. Meeting rooms will be available.	All interested invitees are welcome

**Day 1, December 4<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

**International Forum on Conservation of Polar Bears  
with participation of Ministers responsible for polar bears in the Range States**

When	What	Open to
8:00 -9:00	Registration of participants	All invitees

9:00 - 10:00	<p><b>Opening Ceremonies attended by the Ministers responsible for polar bears in the Range States</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remark by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation <i>Sergey DONSKOY (15 min)</i></li> <li>• Welcome Remark from the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation <i>Dmitry MEDVEDEV</i></li> <li>• Welcome remarks from the range States ministers (5 min): Canada, Greenland, Norway, the USA</li> </ul> <p>Welcome Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Julia MARTON-LEFÈVRE</i>, IUCN Director General</li> <li>• Secretaries of key conservation conventions (5 min) <i>Braulio DIAS, Executive Secretary of CBD</i> <i>John SCANLON, Secretary-General of CITES</i> <i>Bradnee CHAMBERS, Executive Secretary of CMS</i></li> <li>• <i>James LEAPE</i>, WWF Director General</li> </ul>	All invitees, media
10:00- 13:00 (Includes a coffee break)	<p><b>International Forum on Conservation of Polar Bears. Plenary Session</b></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. Situation with Polar Bear before-and-after signing Agreement. New threats – new challenges and new approaches to Polar Bear (15 min) <i>Thor LARSEN, Independent Scientist</i></li> <li>• National efforts in Polar Bear conservation Ministers of Range States (10 min for country) <i>Canada</i> <i>Greenland</i> <i>Norway</i> <i>Russia</i> <i>USA</i></li> <li>• Engagement of indigenous peoples in Polar Bear conservation and use of aboriginal traditional knowledge in decision making (5 min for each group) <i>Co-presenters: representatives of indigenous communities of Canada, Greenland, Russia and the USA.</i></li> </ul>	All invitees, media

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of Polar Bear: biological status throughout the range; current and potential threats (20 min) <i>Dag VONGRAVEN, Chair of IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group</i></li> <li>• Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bear Conservation: an overview. (20 min) <i>Representatives of Canada and the United States</i></li> <li>• Polar Bear-Human Information Management System (10 min) <i>James WILDER, USA Fish and Wildlife Service</i></li> <li>• Combating poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of Polar Bear products. (10 min) <i>Ernie COOPER - TRAFFIC North America</i></li> <li>• Global climate change – new threat for Polar Bear (10 min) <i>Vladimir KATTSOV, Director of the Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory, Russia, Officer of the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP).</i></li> </ul>	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All invitees
14:00- 16:00	<p><b>International Forum on Polar Bear Conservation. Plenary Session (Continuation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement of initiative for preparing a mutual Declaration by the Ministers responsible for polar bear conservation of Range States (10 min). <i>Sergey DONSKOY, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation</i></li> <li>• National commitments for Polar Bear conservation towards next 10 years (10 min per country). <i>Ministers of the Range States:</i> <i>Canada</i> <i>Greenland</i> <i>Norway</i> <i>Russia</i> <i>USA</i></li> <li>• Ceremony of joint Range State ministerial commitment to the Declaration</li> </ul>	All invitees, media
16:00 – 16:30	Ministerial Press-Conference	Ministers and participants prepared to make

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		serious commitments
16:00 – 16:40	Coffee Break	All invitees
16:40 – 18:30	<p><b>International Forum on Conservation of Polar Bears</b> (continuation) <b>Panel Session: <i>Sustainable Development in the Arctic</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Topic 1: Industry development</i></b> (15 min) <i>Speaker: Representative of Gazprom</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><b><i>Topic 2: Building Partnerships for Polar Bear conservation.</i></b> (15 min) <i>Speakers: Representatives of Coca-Cola, GEF, MacArthur Foundation</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><b><i>Topic 3: Sustainable funding for Polar Bear conservation. Presentation of Russian model on financial GAP analysis</i></b> (15 min) <i>Speaker: Dr. Amirkhan Amirkhanov, Deputy Head of Federal Supervisory Service for Natural Resources Use</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>	All invitees, media
19:00 - 21:00	Reception hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Gazprom and Vernadskiy Foundation	All invitees

Day 2, December 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

## Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears

When	What	Who
8:00 - 9:00	Registration. Coffee and tea in the exhibition hall	Official Range State delegations, PBSG, invited observers, media

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9:00 - 10:30	<p><b>Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remark (5 min) <i>Sergey DONSKOY, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation</i></li> <li>• Circumpolar monitoring framework for Polar Bear (10-20 min) <i>Dag VONGRAVEN, Head of the Polar Bear Specialist Group</i></li> <li>• Local community: consultations and engagement in the conservation and monitoring of Polar Bear populations (20 min, 5 min for each group) <i>Representatives of indigenous communities:</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... , <i>Canada</i></li> <li>... , <i>Greenland</i></li> <li><i>RAIPON, Russia</i></li> <li><i>Alaska Nanuuq Commission, USA</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• The Bayesian model and scenarios for addressing climate change (20 min) <i>Representative of the USGS</i></li> </ul>	Official Range State delegations , PBSG, invited observers, media
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	

11:00 - 13:00	<p><b>Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Continuation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Research as main background for decision making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific priorities;</li> <li>- Needs;</li> <li>- What realistic be done</li> </ul> (10 min)  <i>Representative of the Polar Bear Specialist Group</i> </li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Trade and enforcement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Database on harvest, poaching, trade and trafficking</li> <li>- Cooperation on combating wildlife crime</li> <li>- Relationship with CITES</li> </ul> (60 min) </li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	<p>Official Range State delegations, PBSG, invited observers</p> <p>Official Range State delegations &amp; PBSG</p>
13:00 -14:00	Lunch	All invitees
14:00 - 18:00 (Includes a coffee break)	<p><b>Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Continuation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bear conservation, Chapters I – VII <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision and Goals</li> <li>- Threats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Approval of Chapters I – VII</li> </ul>	Official Range State delegations & PBSG
19:00 - 21:00	Official Dinner (Dinner hosted by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation for the State Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears), venue t.b.d.	Invitees of the Minister

Day 3, December 6<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

**Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Continuation).**

When	What	Who
9:00 - 13:00 (includes coffee break)	<p><b>Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Continuation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion of mitigation measures. Conception of future activities for Circumpolar Action Plan Implementation <i>Official delegates of Range States (10 min for each country)</i> Canada Greenland Norway Russia USA</li> <li>● Presentation and approval of Workplan to complete Circumpolar Action Plan. Procedures for organization of Range States work</li> <li>● Discussion of requirement for consultation process for CAP</li> <li>● Outreach and communication</li> <li>● Arrangement on time, frame and agenda for the next Range State meeting</li> <li>● Significant contribution to Polar Bear conservation: Award (10 min) <i>Representative of Canada</i></li> </ul>	Official Range State delegations & PBSG
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All invitees
14:00 – 17:00 (Includes coffee break)	<p><b>Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Technical Expert Meeting)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion of the most important areas for Polar Bear (involvement of experience of PBSG, PAME, AC, CAFF, CBMP, AMSA)</li> <li>● Discussion of regime and regulation for managed and protected marine areas</li> <li>● Best Practice – Norway Management Plan on Marine Ecosystem Management</li> <li>● Analysis of the situation at the CITES Conference. Look</li> </ul>	Official Range State delegations & PBSG

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	<p>forward on the next CITES Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enforcement and trade certification of Polar Bears products</li> <li>● Combating poaching, illegal trade and trafficking</li> <li>● Preventing Polar Bear-Human conflicts – best international practice</li> </ul>	
17:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Outcome document presentation</b>  <b>Closing of the Meeting</b></p>	All invitees, media

**Outputs of the Meeting:**

- 1 Declaration of the Ministers of Polar Bear Range States on key steps for Polar Bear conservation until 2023 (the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
- 2 General commitment of all Range States on finalizing, adoption and implementation of Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bear Conservation
- 3 Approved draft Chapters 1-7 (volume 1) of Circumpolar Action Plan for Polar Bear Conservation
- 4 Developed and agreed Workplan on completion of Circumpolar Action Plan
- 5 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the conservation of Polar Bear