



WWF ARCTIC COUNCIL CONSERVATION SCORECARD

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WWF has produced the first-ever assessment of the implementation of Arctic Council (AC) direction. The scorecard provides a snapshot of the implementation of environment-related direction adopted during 2006-2013.

The scorecard was designed to help Arctic States and the Council to assess their implementation of agreed direction, identify gaps and set priorities for further work. It shows that as a collective body the AC has mostly delivered results, but the eight Arctic countries need to work on the commitments that they have made through the AC.

The Scorecard assesses six areas of the AC's work:

1. Conservation Areas
2. Biodiversity
3. Shipping
4. Cooperation on Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response
5. Black Carbon and Adaptation
6. Ecosystem-Based Management

WWF conducted a systematic screening to identify the most measurable AC directions. This direction could have been contained in reports, ministerial statements, or other Council products.

An AC direction was considered appropriate if it specified:

- a concrete action;
- a timeline;
- a party responsible for implementation.

Overall, WWF found less than half of all AC direction qualified for assessment under the Scorecard.

See the full Scorecard at panda.org/acscorecard

RATINGS

Scores were allotted in each area for both collective work under the Arctic Council, and for individual implementation efforts by Arctic states. These scores were based on an aggregation of indicators and criteria for each area.

A

More than 80% of the maximum score

Full or substantive implementation of the direction.

B

60-80% of the maximum score

Encouraging progress on implementation of the direction.

C

40-60% of the maximum score

Some progress on implementation of the direction.

D

Less than 40% of the maximum score

Little progress on implementation of the direction.

WWF intends to produce a Scorecard every two years, in sync with the AC ministerial cycle. Each Scorecard would consider direction from 2006 to the second-last ministerial meeting. The Scorecard will monitor progress, highlight successes and identify priority areas.

In some areas where states appear to have done well in following Arctic Council direction, the level of ambition contained in that direction is low. For instance, Arctic states have agreed to implement measures to share oil spill response equipment, but the amount, effectiveness, and siting of that equipment is nowhere near adequate to address the levels of risk.

In responding to the largest threat to the Arctic environment, climate change, the states have set very low targets for concerted action through the Council. They have taken actions related to black carbon, and to adaptation. While these are important, they are nowhere near sufficient to address the climate threat through mitigation measures.





What the Scorecard does not do

The Scorecard is an assessment of conservation and biodiversity-related agreed direction for the period of 2006-2013. WWF has not assessed Arctic states on:

- their implementation of conservation commitments made outside of the Arctic Council;
- state of the Arctic environment within their respective jurisdictions;
- the effectiveness of measures taken to follow up on Arctic Council direction.

WWF realizes that this gap may produce contradictory messages about overall progress toward efforts to enhance Arctic governance, environmental protection and sustainable development. We also believe that the value of this Scorecard is to encourage discussion about how we can all do more to safeguard the Arctic.

Implementation of collective actions (as the Arctic Council)

Conservation Areas	Biodiversity	Shipping	Cooperation on oil spills	Black carbon and Adaptation	EBM
					
1/1 100%	2/6 33%	12/12 100%	7/9 78%	5/5 100%	1/4 25%

National implementation

	Conservation Areas	Biodiversity	Shipping	Cooperation on oil spills	Black carbon and adaptation	EBM
Canada	 6/11 (55%)	 5/17 (29%)	 5/11 (45%)	 19/24 (79%)	 8/8 (100%)	 7/12 (58%)
Kingdom of Denmark	 7/11 (64%)	 6/17 (35%)	 5/11 (45%)	 22/24 (92%)	 7/8 (88%)	 3/12 (25%)
Finland	 3/4 (75%)	 7/14 (50%)	 2/4 (50%)	 12/12 (100%)	 6/7 (86%)	 4/6 (67%)
Iceland	 2/8 (25%)	 3/17 (18%)	 3/11 (27%)	 21/24 (88%)	 4/8 (50%)	 2/12 (17%)
Norway	 7/11 (64%)	 6/17 (35%)	 4/11 (36%)	 21/24 (88%)	 6/8 (75%)	 8/12 (67%)
Russia	 6/11 (55%)	 7/17 (41%)	 3/11 (27%)	 20/24 (83%)	 7/8 (88%)	 2/12 (17%)
Sweden	 1/4 (25%)	 7/14 (50%)	 2/4 (50%)	 12/12 (100%)	 6/7 (86%)	 3/6 (50%)
United States	 7/11 (64%)	 10/17 (59%)	 3/11 (27%)	 23/24 (96%)	 6/8 (75%)	 3/12 (25%)

RECOMMENDATIONS

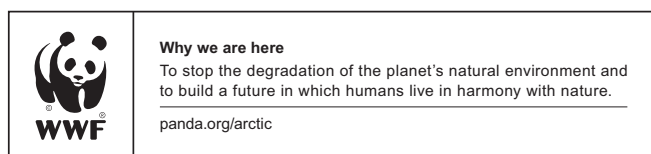
These are the scorecard's general systemic recommendations, more specific measures, together with the full report, can be found at panda.org/acscorecard

“The Council faces challenges related to... ensuring effective implementation of voluntary recommendations adopted by the member states.”

Joint Memorandum of a Multilateral Audit on the Arctic States' national authorities' work with the Arctic Council Conducted by the Supreme Audit Institutions of Denmark, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America 2015. *The Arctic Council: Perspectives on a Changing Arctic, The Council's Work, and Key Challenges.*

WWF recommends that:

- Arctic Council direction be more specific to provide effective guidance to implementing authorities, including the results that should be achieved and deadlines;
- Arctic states allocate adequate and sufficient resources to deliver on agreed direction both at national levels and through the Arctic Council;
- Arctic States establish an appropriate national process/body to coordinate actions for implementation of the direction agreed upon at the AC, and develop a national implementation plan;
- Arctic states develop a consolidated reporting template that would enable comparisons of national implementation actions, and develop a mechanism and schedule for regular national reporting on delivery against Arctic Council direction;
- Arctic states follow up on their political statements and coordinate joint input into international Arctic-relevant processes and negotiations, especially in the areas of climate change, shipping and biodiversity;
- Arctic states study the conservation effectiveness of the measures they implement through better measuring and reporting on the state of the Arctic environment.



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Learn more: panda.org/acscorecard