

WWF proposal for the Arctic Council Kiruna Ministerial Declaration

1. The Arctic Council should improve and formalize **implementation** to bolster stewardship responsibility:
 - Develop a set of agreed rules, procedures and mechanisms to evaluate and monitor the implementation by governments of the Council's recommendations.
 - Encourage Arctic states to establish inter-ministerial and interagency coordination mechanisms needed for an effective implementation by governments of the Arctic Council's recommendations.
2. The Arctic Council should follow-up on the **ecosystem-based management** Expert Group recommendations:
 - Urge member states to further the integration of national governance regimes enabling ecosystem-based management for the Arctic.
 - Pilot practical implementation of EBM principles in the Arctic trans-boundary regions based on enhanced bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation.
 - Facilitate the coordination, development and integration of long term, standardized and spatially referenced scientific and traditional ecological knowledge data and facilitate access to it.
3. The Arctic Council should ensure full and effective implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation on Arctic **Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response**:
 - Develop common pan-Arctic technical environmental standards to become an integral part of oil and gas operations in the Arctic.
 - Complete, update and maintain the Operational Guidelines (as annexed to the Agreement).
 - Request EPPR/PAME/CAFF to review existing and new methodologies and best practices for oil spill environmental sensitivity mapping.
4. Establish a Task Force to develop an international instrument or related initiative on **marine oil spill prevention**.
5. The Arctic Council should strive to ensure safe and environmentally sound **shipping** in the Arctic:
 - Create a coordinated response by Arctic states to update Arctic-specific shipping measures addressing the mutually dependant issues of environment and safety in relevant international instruments (e.g. Polar Code, MARPOL, SOLAS, and Ballast Water Management Convention).
 - Create a coordinated response by Arctic states to ensure that the provisions of the IMO Polar Code are consistent with the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report recommendations.
 - Promote integrated marine spatial planning to manage increasing shipping activities in the Arctic.
6. The Arctic Council should facilitate the establishment of **spatial management regimes** following the recommendations of the AMSA, ABA, AOR and EBM reports:
 - Apply the ecosystem approach in terrestrial and marine Arctic regions aiming at fostering regional and pan-Arctic resilience.
 - Establish an expert group to develop recommendations for the next 2015 Ministerial meeting to advance spatial management to integrate identified areas of biological, ecological and cultural significance, and advance the creation of a pan-Arctic network of specially managed areas underpinning biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.