

what happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic



Dutch Arctic Circle

9 September 2021

Gert Polet

WWF-Netherlands

- **WWF in the Arctic**
- **ArcNet**
- **Arctic Governance**
- **A role for The Netherlands?**



WWF IN THE ARCTIC





FEMKE 10 YEARS WITH WWF-NL

Represented in all Arctic countries

Arctic WWF offices work together because the issues of- and solutions for the Arctic can not be achieved by offices working on their own

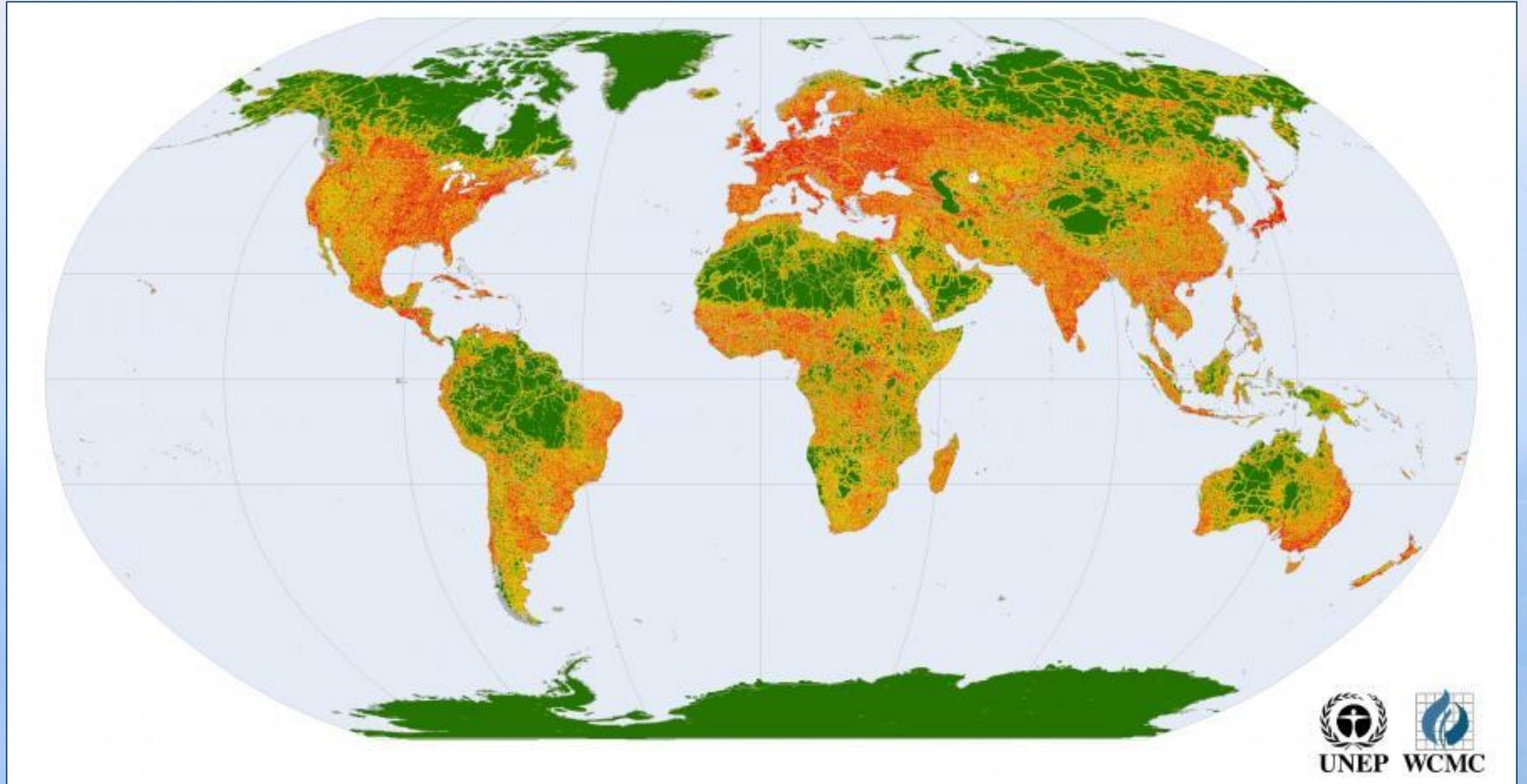
Only eNGO with a seat at the table in the Arctic Council





WHY THE ARCTIC?

Global Wilderness





WHY THE ARCTIC?

Ice Dependent Species



Unique
biodiversity
Ecosystems still
largely intact

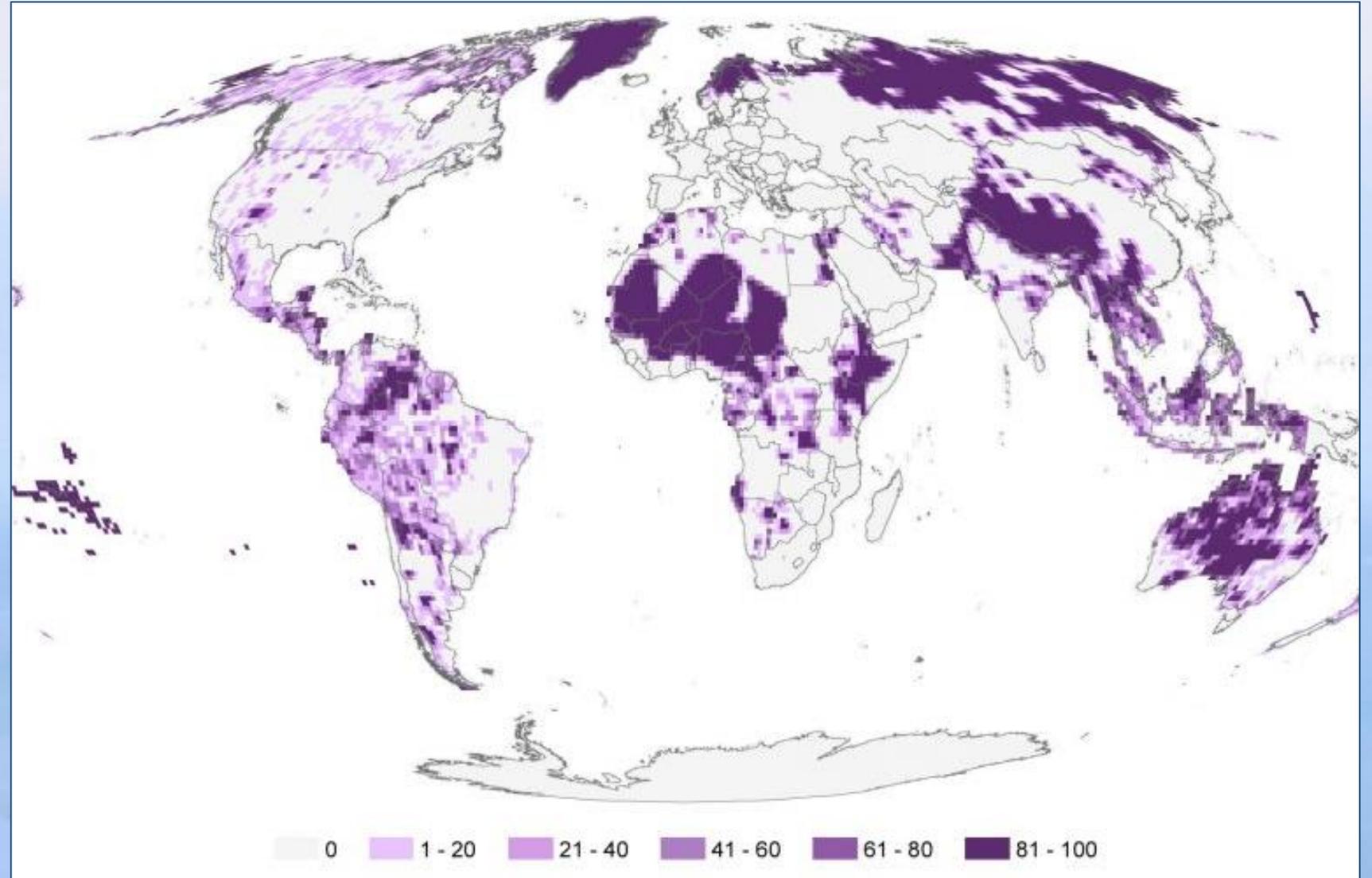




WHY THE ARCTIC?

Lands Managed by Indigenous People

- 4 million people
- 10% indigenous
- reliant on biodiversity



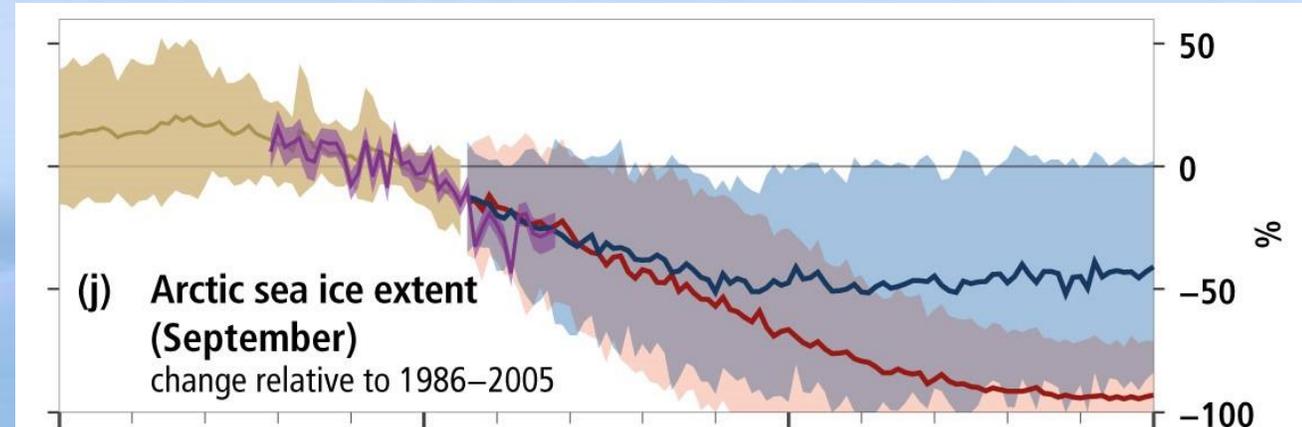
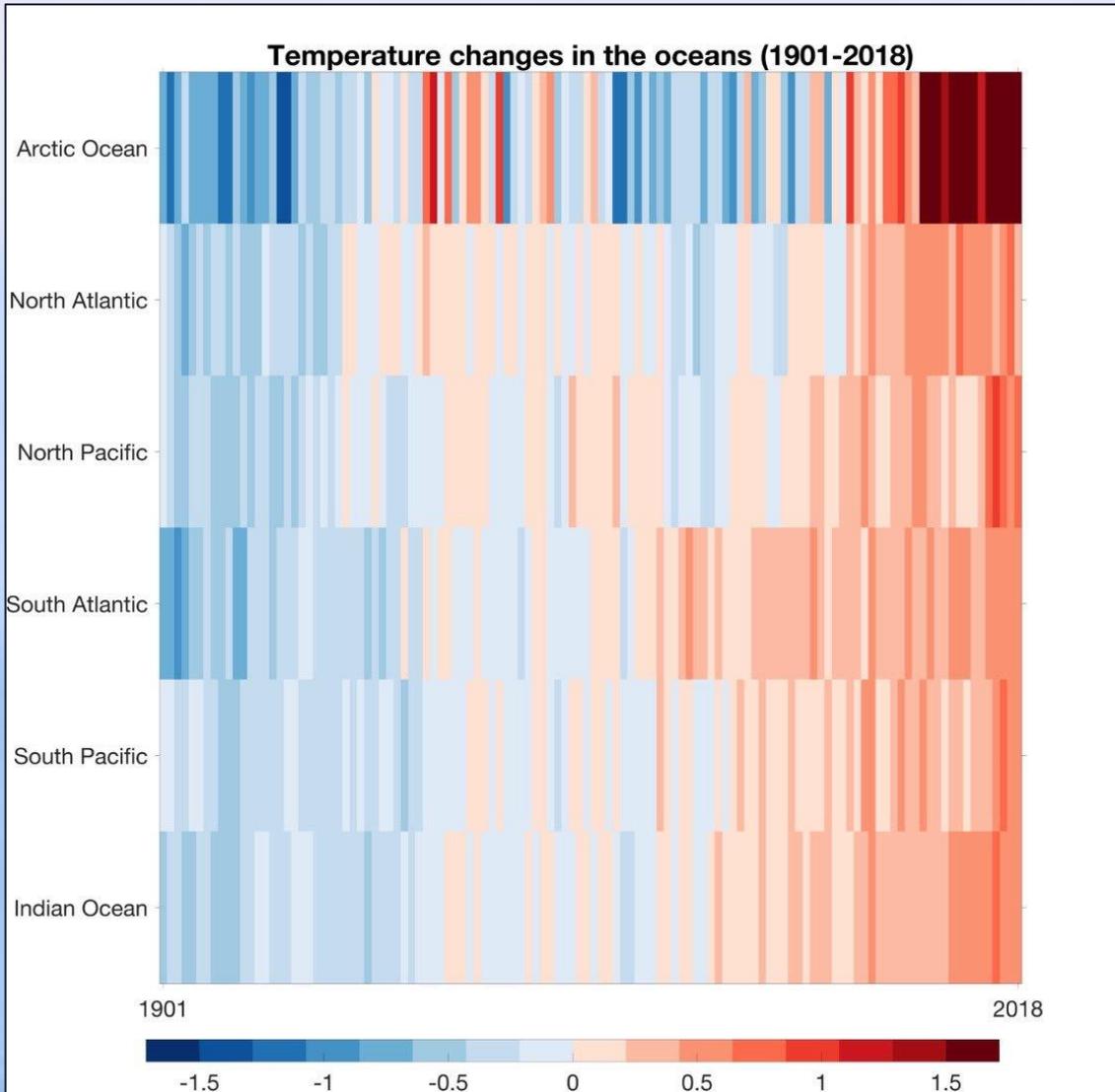


WHY THE ARCTIC?

Already passed +2°C

unprecedented irreversible change

(IPCC, 2019)



business as usual - without
GHG emission reduction

with stringent greenhouse
gas emission reduction







WHY THE ARCTIC?

with global consequences (IPCC, 2019)

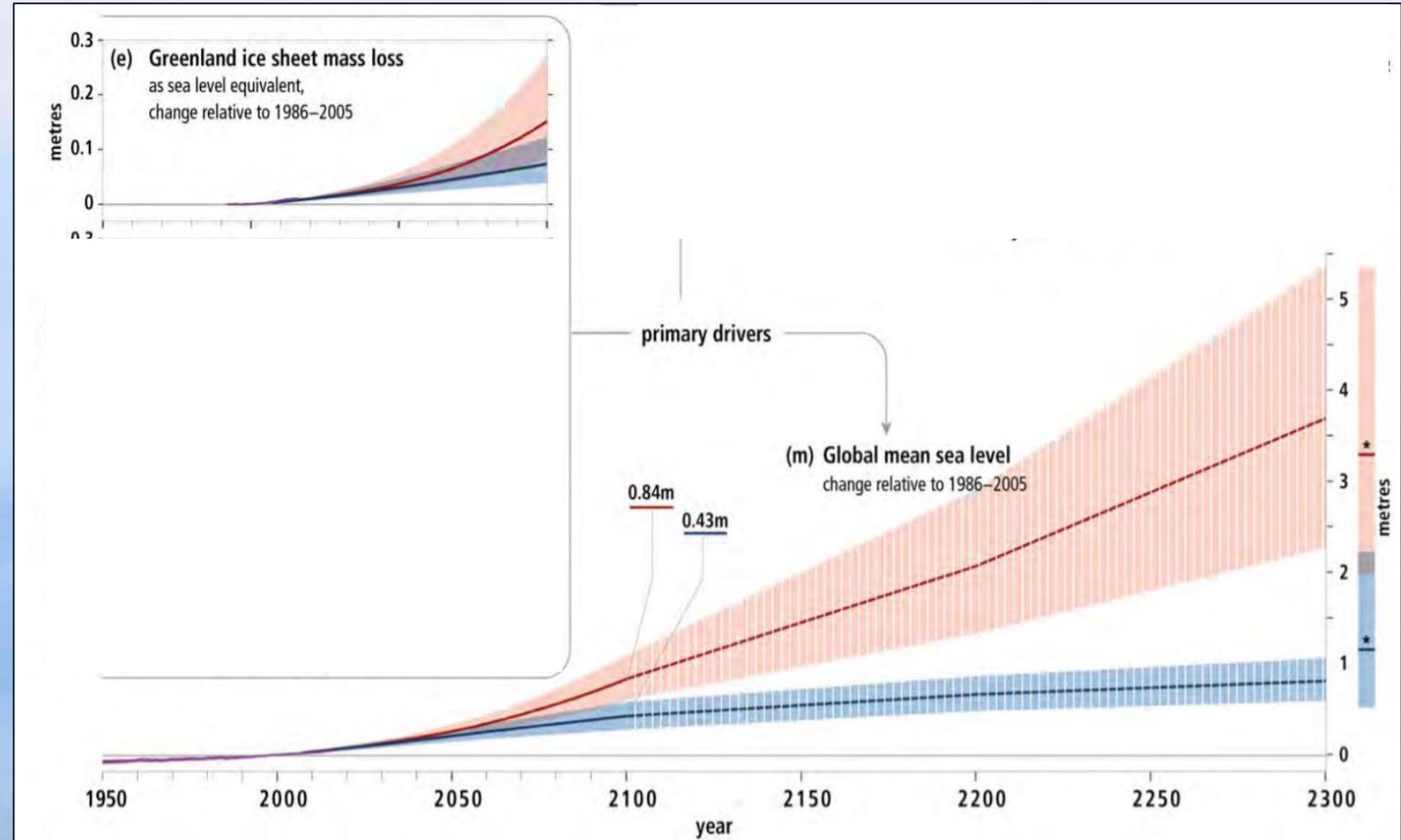
what happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic

global sea level rise

- melting Greenland most important contributant
- by 2100, +40 to +80 cm
- 1 billion coastal people vulnerable

business as usual -
without GHG
emission reduction

with stringent
greenhouse gas
emission reduction





WHY THE ARCTIC?

Why it matters



**THRIVING WITH
LIFE**



**DEVELOPMENT IS
GROWING**



**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS A THREAT**



**LAGGING ON
PROTECTION**



**COOPERATION IS
NEEDED**



WWF GLOBAL OUR AMBITION OUR WORK GET INVOLVED LATEST KNOWLEDGE HUB

ARCTIC WILDLIFE ▾ HOW WE WORK ▾ PLACES ▾ NEWSROOM ▾

OCEAN

ARCNET





ARCNET

An Arctic Ocean network of priority areas for conservation. This proposed network connects most crucial biodiversity hotspots and adjacent seas to help the region become more resilient and sustainable.



an open-source GIS tool which incorporates all existing biodiversity knowledge in different layers. Using own criteria, 800 features & functions can be combined to identify spatial priority areas.

brought together by world-class experts specializing in Arctic species and ecosystems.



a tool which invites stakeholders to jointly assess and agree on spatial management of their Arctic environment



five different aspects of the project: marine mammals, seabirds, fish, sea ice biota and benthos

ArcNet requires continuous data updates, knowledge and ways to assess the network's effectiveness



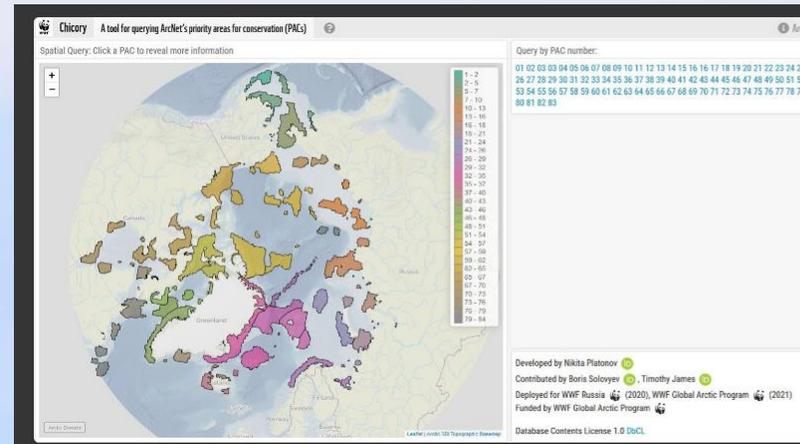
ARCNET

Purpose-built tools for Arctic marine conservation planning

to facilitate data access, support finer-scale conservation planning and guide the establishment of conservation measures using ArcNet, two web portals were created for database query and custom analysis.

To request access to either database please reach out to us by emailing

ArcNetinfo@arcticwwf.org

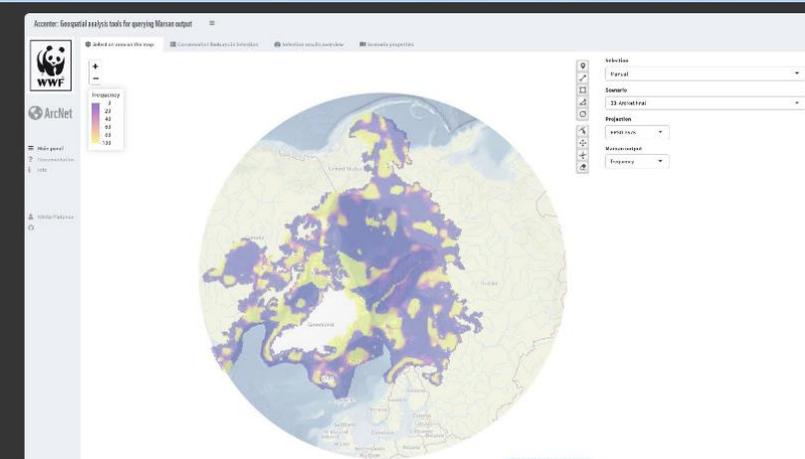


CHIKORY

CHIKORY is a portal for exploring the data layers that underpin each of the 83 PACs. It allows the user to query PACs by ID number or through a clickable map and to generate a report with any available information—for example, overlapping existing protected areas and the conservation features within the selected PAC.

ACCENTER

ACCENTER was developed with government planners, NGO advocates and other stakeholders in mind and acts as a webbased mini-GIS. It includes desktop GIS identification tools for instantaneously querying the Marxan analysis outputs through interactive spatial requests.





30% of the Arctic by 2030

Oil & gas moratoria:

~~US 2018~~

~~Russia 2016~~

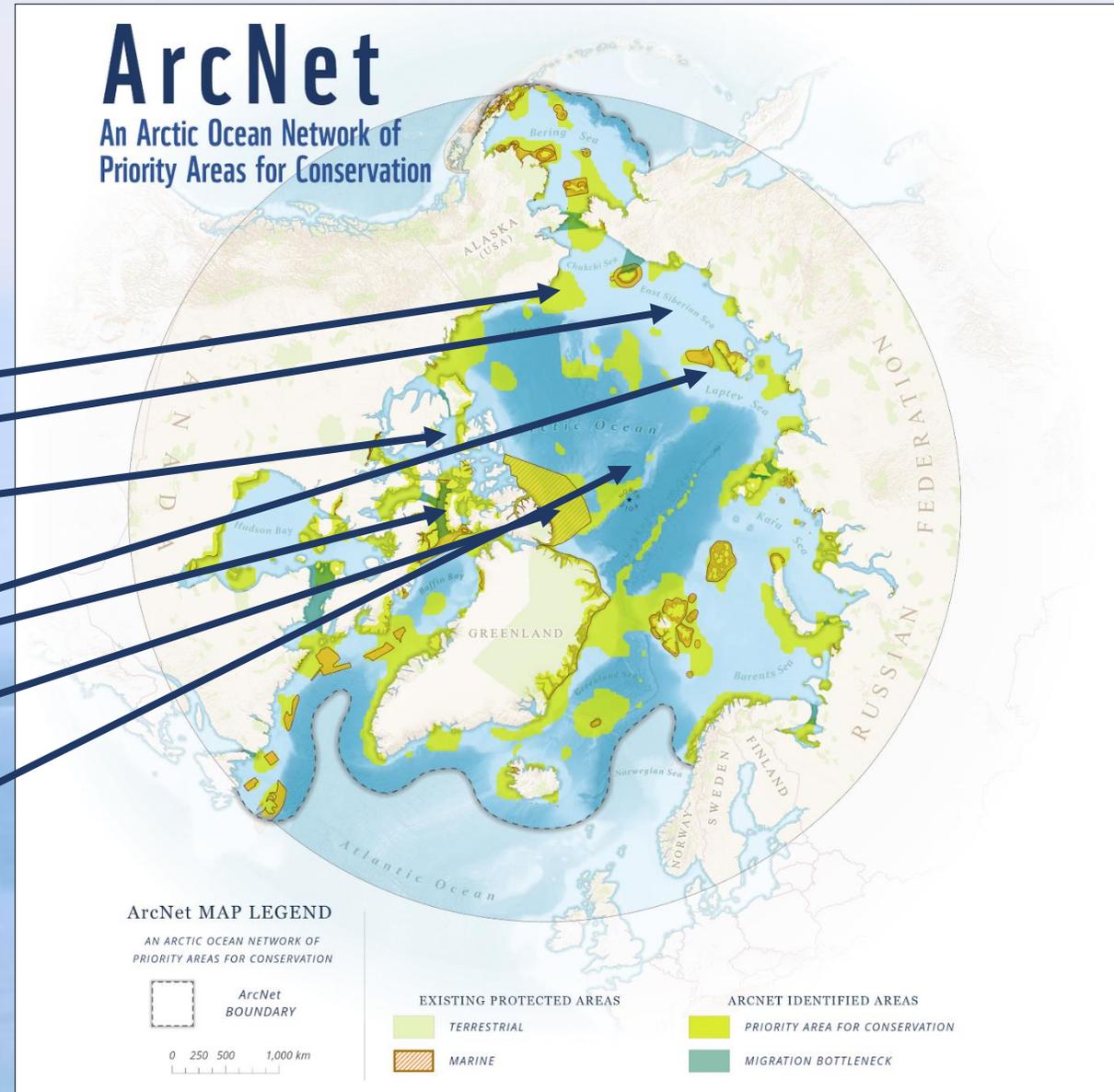
Canada 2017

New Siberian Islands Sanctuary: 66.000 km² in 2018

Lancaster Sound: 131.000 km² in 2016

Tuvaijuittuq conservation management area:
322.000 km² in 2019

Fisheries moratorium Arctic Ocean 2017



the Dutch in the Arctic





THE NETHERLANDS IN THE ARCTIC





Beantwoording Kamervragen over Nederlandse Polaire Strategie 2021-2025

Minister Blok beantwoordt vragen over de Nederlandse Polaire Strategie 2021-2025.

Download 'Beantwoording Kamervragen over Nederlandse Polaire Strategie 2021-2025'

PDF document | 23 pagina's | 377 kB

Kamerstuk: Kamervragen | 16-02-2021

Dit document is een bijlage bij

> Aanbieding antwoorden op Kamervragen over Nederlandse Polaire Strategie 2021-2025

Minister Blok stuurt de antwoorden op vragen over de Nederlandse Polaire Strategie 2021-2025.

Kamerstuk: Kamerbrief | 16-02-2021

Nederlandse Polaire Strategie
2016-2020
Samen voor duurzaam

the
PUBLIC



A STATE OF TRANCE

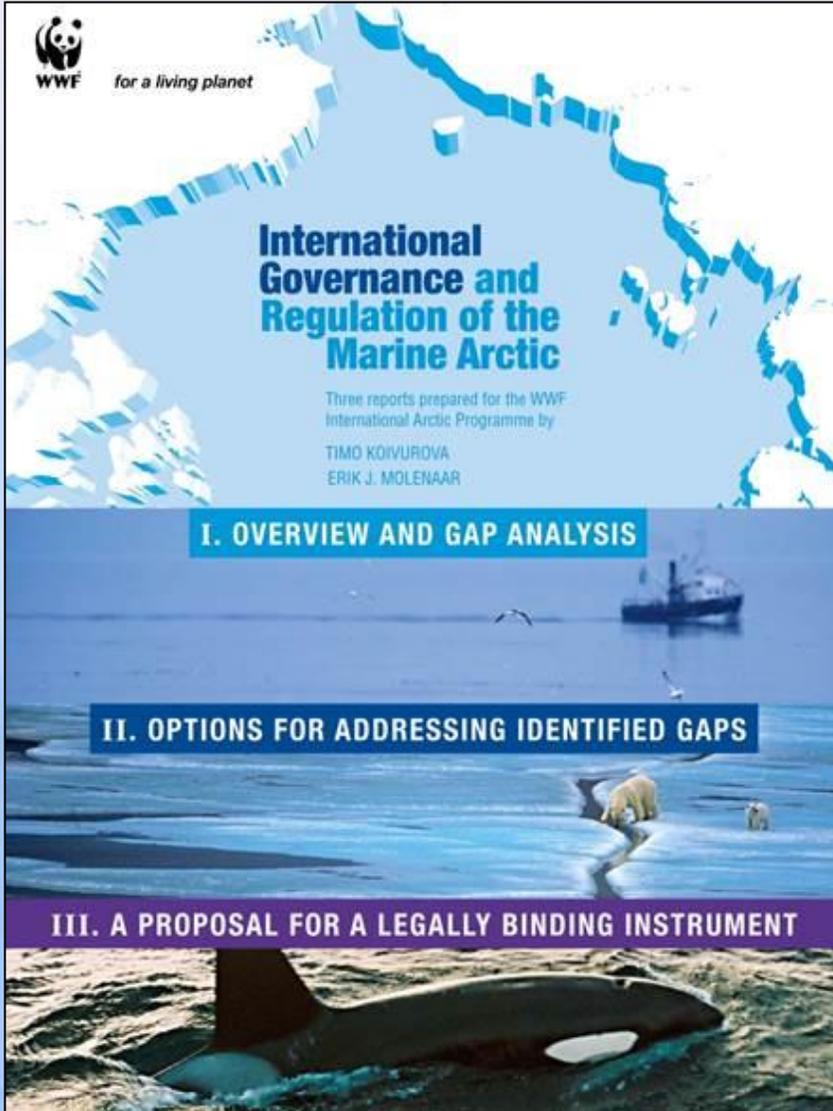


Ap Verheggen – Cool(E)motion





THE NETHERLANDS IN THE ARCTIC



Universiteit Utrecht

Filling governance & regulatory gaps required for the specific circumstances of the Arctic

- national rules & regulations of sectors and regional integration
- international conventions; UNCLOS, IMO, CBD, IPCC, BBNJ





THE NETHERLANDS IN THE ARCTIC

Netherlands Government positioning in:

- Arctic Council
- International Maritime Organisation
- UN Law of the Sea Convention (but not a coastal state)
- Convention on Biodiversity
- European Union
- Arctic Fisheries Agreement
- regional Agreements like OSPAR

Strengths & Weaknesses of the Arctic Council:

- only forum in which all Arctic States are represented and are in discussion
- less geopolitical tension compared to all other regions
- seat for indigenous peoples
- observed by several other States
- observed by eNGOs
- good studies & advise
- no regulating competency



THE NETHERLANDS IN THE ARCTIC

If we agree that a cross-sectoral integrated management of the Arctic is crucially important, than is the Arctic Council adequate?

- strengthen the Arctic Council; move beyond studies & advice → competency

or

- expand e.g. the Fisheries Agreement with an Agreement on Research with binding management conclusions?
- and expand to a Framework Convention / Secretariat for the Arctic

while

- adjusting sectoral Agreements to the specific circumstances of the Arctic
- ensuring fit-for-Arctic national legislation & regulations (sectoral and spatial)

thank you





UNDERWATER NOISE



Gert Polet, 2014



Gert Polet, 2014



Dependant on acoustic sound for navigation, feeding, etc

UNDERWATER NOISE



Unclear where large cetaceans are wintering. In the central parts of the Oceans? Where they are furthest away from shipping lanes, off-shore oil & gas, etc?

While the Arctic Ocean is still relatively free from human activities → an opportunity to get it right
But while oil & gas and shipping in the Arctic is expanding



WWF

MAGAZINE

No. 3

2018

**MAKING THE
RIGHT DECISIONS**

Sound is a way
of life for marine
species

6

**THE WHALES
ARE LISTENING**

Improving how we
manage cruise ship
traffic

10

**THE
CIRCLE**

PUBLISHED BY
THE WWF ARCTIC
PROGRAMME

THE RISING TIDE OF UNDERWATER NOISE

UNDERWATER NOISE

Putting issue of underwater noise on the agenda

- publication
- public petition to Arctic Ministers convening in the Arctic Council

Initiative in the International Maritime Organisation lead by the Gov of Canada

- recognising underwater sound as a form of pollution
- assessing development of anthropogenic underwater sound
- seeking regulation of underwater sound

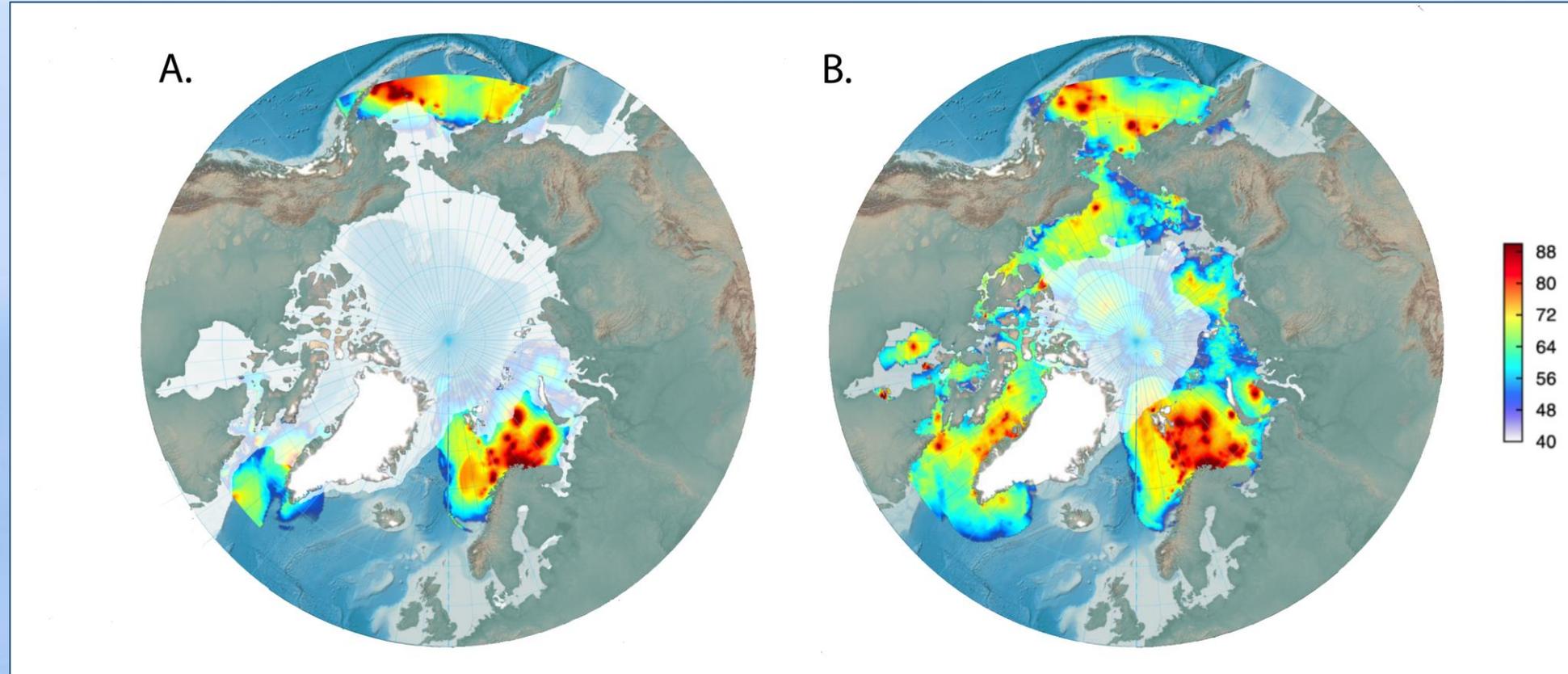


UNDERWATER NOISE

First-ever map of underwater sound in the Arctic by WWF with PAME



- 2013 – 2019: increase between 5dB to 10dB
- +10dB is doubling of noise level
- 3dB – 5dB can have masking effect hampering navigation of marine mammals (N Pacific experience)
- in N Pacific it took 30 – 40 years to get to a similar increase in sound





UNDERWATER NOISE

Can Netherlands Government support this initiative in IMO, also by providing expertise of Netherlands' knowledge institutes?

Can the Netherlands Government further support initiatives for safe operations in the Arctic, e.g. to halt the use of Heavy Fuel Oil in shipping?

Safe Operations in the Arctic is not only about using the best available techniques and a level playing field, it is also about safeguarding biodiversity values & ecosystem functions as the bottom-line guiding principle, incl. closing areas all together for economic developments.

What can & will the Netherlands Government and Business & Industry do to ensure that we do not engage in unsustainable use of the Arctic region?



thank you