

Polar Bears Are On Thin Ice

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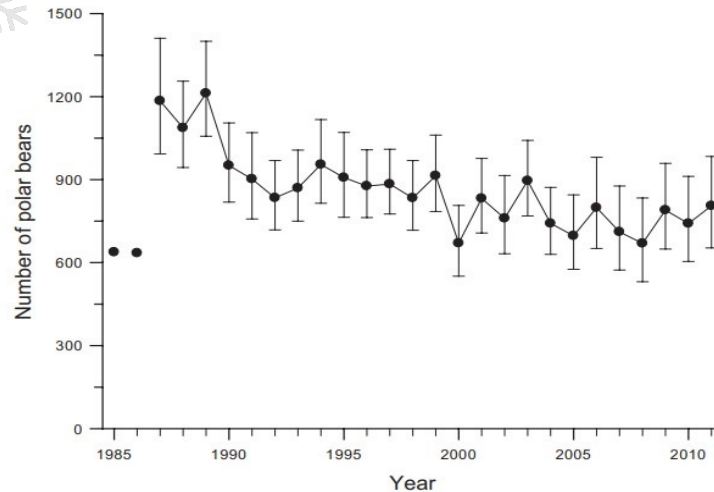
Polar bears are significant towards **balancing the Arctic food chain**, the entire ecosystem depends upon their species existing. Being a top predator, various species of prey such as seals & fish would become too dominant without the bears.

The specific effects of climate change on polar bears is **drastic** and has notably impacted the species ability to survive. Research has shown that the **diet and eating habits** of polar bears have been **forcefully changed** which then negatively affects **reproduction rates and bodily condition**. These adjustments to the **warming climate** and their **degrading habitat** are causing concern for the continuation of the polar bear species, which is vital to the Arctic region ecosystem. Through spreading awareness, especially about a species with such widespread popular appeal, there is hope that we can minimize the anthropogenic threats that are leading polar bears to **extinction**.

You can help the polar bears by eating fewer animal products, driving less, decreasing water & electricity intake, recycling, overall reducing emissions, and spreading awareness! These actions are much more **eco-friendly** & can help **limit climate change**.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, Polar Bear populations are projected to **decline by 30% by 2050**.

There are currently 19 distinct sub-populations of Polar Bears, of which 4 are significantly declining in numbers.



Polar bears are struggling due to climate change & loss of sea ice habitat. **Reducing emissions** can limit global warming, giving polar bears their habitats, bodies, eating habits, and lives back

Ecological factors (i.e., habitat and wildlife) are strongly affected by human economic and social practices such as **tourism, fisheries and shipping**

Threats to Polar Bears

Human activities- Hunting, Shipping, Industrialism, tourism

Arctic Temperature Rise- Sea Ice melts, disrupting polar bear hunting patterns and destroying their habitats.

Leading to

Fasting periods → and starvation -- induces disease and decreases body composition and reproduction rates.

Ocean Acidification – kills sea animals, reducing levels of prey for polar bears feed on.

We have done irreversible damage to the climate, so mitigation and adaptation will be tough & costly.

The endangerment of this species is in direct correlation with **climate change**. As temperatures rise due to CO2 & other greenhouse gas emissions, glaciers are melting, and the **Arctic sea ice habitat is being destroyed**.