



© Andrew E. Derocher

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	<b>&lt; VULNERABLE &gt;</b>	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Polar Bear

The **Polar Bear**, *Ursus maritimus*, is classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The polar bear is the largest living land carnivore in the world today and they live throughout the ice-covered waters of the circumpolar Arctic.

It is recognised that climate change has already had an impact on some polar bears and their sea-ice habitat, affecting access to their prey and to den areas. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) also pose a threat to polar bears - if accumulated at elevated levels, these compounds can cause neurological, reproductive and immunological changes. Hunting of polar bear is now controlled, although in some places over-harvesting is a concern that is being addressed.

A number of countries have signed the 'International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears' which identifies the right of local hunters to harvest polar bears sustainably, and to outlaw hunting from aircraft and large ships. The threats caused by climate change are now the main concern – the complexity of these issues will demand international cooperation if this species is to survive.

[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
<http://pbsg.npolar.no>  
**Help Save Species**



Species of the Day is sponsored by



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), Birdlife, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.