

POLAR BEARS



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING **SEA ICE TO MELT** THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE POLAR BEARS' HABITAT.

THIS SHIFT HAS HAD A SERIOUS EFFECT ON **POLAR BEAR POPULATIONS**, AS MANY OF THE ANIMALS ARE LEFT STARVING AND EXHAUSTED, WITH NO SEA ICE TO PERCH ON TO REST OR EAT.

Pollution, oil exploration, **habitat destruction** and overhunting are also threatening polar bears.

The **polar bear**, or *Ursus maritimus*, is the largest carnivorous land mammal in the world.

They inhabit several regions north of the **Arctic circle**, such as Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Norway (including the island, Svalbard).

Polar bears are being forced to **swim longer distances** between sea ice patches and land as sea ice shrinks.



Polar bears are classified as '**Vulnerable**' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Polar bears depend on sea ice for **hunting their primary prey** – the ringed seal, and to a lesser extent the bearded seal.

Climate change is the single **greatest threat** to the polar bear's survival. Global climate change is causing **sea ice to melt** throughout much of the polar bears' habitat.

Loss of Arctic sea ice due to **climate change** is the most serious threat to Polar Bears throughout their circumpolar range.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take action and write to your local government - Reduce your intake of animal based products - Say no to plastic - Spread the word

