



## Science and Research Highlights

### Climate Science

*Impact of this work: By sharing data on the impacts of climate change on polar bears and ringing alarm bells based on science, we can help motivate action.*

- A [new report](#) published in Communications, Earth and Environment predicts the localized extinction of Hudson Bay's polar bears if the Paris Climate Agreement is breached. Members of our research team contributed to the study, which generated widespread publicity on the need for climate action.

### Emerging Scientific Techniques

*Impact of this work: By supporting these efforts, we're expanding our understanding of polar bear and Arctic ecology while also mentoring the next generation.*

- Dr. Ruth Rivkin, our postdoctoral fellow at the University of Manitoba, co-authored a [new study](#) with partners showing that hybridization between polar bears and grizzlies is extremely rare. The study utilized a new genetic sequencing chip.

### International Meetings

*Impact of this work: By exchanging information on polar bears with scientists from the five polar bear nations, we can work together to set conservation and research priorities.*

- As active members of [IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group](#), two of our staff scientists, Dr. Steven Amstrup and Geoff York, took part in the group's recent meeting in Seattle, Washington. Members reviewed and discussed current science informing the status of the world's polar bear subpopulations.

## Management, Policy, and Advocacy Highlights

### Southern Hudson Bay Coexistence (Ontario, Canada)

*Impact of this work: By helping communities live safely with polar bears, we'll allow both to thrive.*



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- Our team conducted [community visits](#) in the Southern Hudson Bay area to provide requested polar bear deterrence equipment and training. We also delivered newly designed live bear traps at the request of two communities that anticipate the need to safely relocate bears.
- Our partners at Environment and Climate Change Canada committed to match all funds that we can secure to support human-polar bear coexistence in Southern Hudson Bay communities, up to \$201,000 CAD over the next two years.
- Our team is developing plans with partners to ensure that these programs become self-sustaining and community-led into the future, with potential to expand to other interested communities.

### **Churchill Coexistence (Manitoba, Canada)**

*Impact of this work: By supporting the efforts of the Churchill Bear Smart Working Group, we can help develop a model for others to follow.*

- Churchill's waste-management facility sustained a devastating fire in April. The [Churchill Bear Smart Working Group](#) is discussing what future bear-resistant waste management in town could look like, including investing in a modern incinerator if funding can be secured.
- After producing [safety videos](#) for visitors to Churchill last autumn, the working group is now creating flyers and posters to ensure that everyone in town can stay safe in polar bear country.

### **"Detect to Protect" Radar (Bear-dar)**

*Impact of this work: By developing an early warning technology that can detect approaching bears, we can help reduce conflict between polar bears and people.*

- We transported the tower on which our ["Bear-dar" early detection radar unit](#) is mounted to the polar bear exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, for the summer. This effort will greatly increase the number of "hits" the unit receives, accelerating the training of the AI to discriminate between polar bears and other moving targets on the landscape.

### **Policy and Advocacy**



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*Impact of this work: By encouraging policies that support polar bear conservation and engaging the public in advocacy, we can help sustain the polar bears' future.*

- Our policy team developed a messaging strategy and timeline for a two-month-long citizen engagement campaign that will launch in early fall. It will encourage voting with the climate in mind and engaging on climate change issues.
- The team also developed a video framework and completed the first of four video scripts in support of the campaign.

## Education and Outreach Highlights

### Education and Awareness

*Impact of this work: Our outreach highlights the issues facing polar bears and inspires people to take climate action.*

- Our [Ice House Interpretive Center](#) in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, opened in April for a pilot spring season that included targeted outreach to schools. It reopened in late June for the summer tourism season.
- In June, we launched our celebration of the 20-year anniversary of our [Arctic Ambassador Center network](#), composed of zoos and aquariums that share our commitment to polar bear conservation.
- Our own Marissa Krouse attended the [Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation](#) conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she reconnected with a large number of our Climate Alliance graduates and other program alumni working in conservation.
- Our [live cameras at Cape Churchill](#) with explore.org are back online! So far there have been sightings of rabbits, caribou, foxes, wolves, and geese, with polar bears likely to follow soon.

### Media Coverage

*Impact of this work: By sharing accurate information on polar bears and the threats they face with a global audience, we help combat misinformation and inspire action.*

- This quarter's media largely focused on recent scientific papers, including stories in [The New York Times](#), [ABC News](#), and others (Hudson Bay study) and [IFL Science](#), [BBC](#)



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Wildlife, and more (polar bear-grizzly hybrids study). In addition, Afar created a podcast interview with our own Alysa McCall and the Globe and Mail featured a touching remembrance of Dr. Ian Stirling, a long-time scientific advisor to Polar Bears International.

To view previous quarterly impact reports, visit the [Our Impact page](#) on our website