



# CANADA

Across the Arctic region, the loss of sea-ice habitat caused by climate change has forced polar bears to spend more time on land. The loss of sea ice also means polar bears cannot hunt for seals, their preferred source of food. As a result, they are searching for alternative food sources while they wait for the sea ice to form.

As polar bears spend more time on land, there are increasing numbers of human-polar bear conflicts. Communities have found an increased need to protect their homes and public spaces.

In the Inuit communities of Arviat and Igloodik, northern Canada, WWF is working closely with organisations, governments and communities to keep citizens and polar bears safe by reducing encounters between polar bears and communities. **11** **13**

For example, WWF is supporting a polar bear patrol programme in Arviat and the piloting of a new heat-sensor technology system which detects incoming polar bears and gives early warning to communities.

Through the polar bear patrol programme, the number of bears killed as a result of conflict has dropped from an average of five to eight bears per year to an average of zero to two polar bears. **13** In Arviat, three individuals have been employed **8** to work on polar bear monitoring.



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