

FEEDING

- They are the top predator in their food chain.
- Polar bears' main prey are ringed seals and bearded seals. They also scavenge on whale carcasses. When this is not available, they will eat small mammals, birds, eggs and vegetation.
- They make use of the direction of the wind to conceal their scent from prey.

DID YOU KNOW

Polar bears have an incredible sense of smell; they're able to detect prey nearly a kilometre away and up to a metre under snow.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

- Climate change is the single greatest threat to polar bears.
- The Arctic is warming up, causing the sea ice they depend on to hunt and breed, to melt away.
- The number of their species remaining in the wild is estimated to be between 22,000-31,000.
- Loss of sea-ice also threatens their main prey, seals, which depend on sea-ice to raise their young and rest. Hungry polar bears sometimes enter towns and villages to find food. Encounters between bears and people can be dangerous and even deadly - to people or to the bears. Other threats to the species include illegal hunting, pollution and disturbances from industrial activities.