Quarterly Conservation Impact Report Q2 2026

This update highlights the work from our science, education, advocacy, and outreach teams in the second quarter of 2026. Thank you for being such an integral part of our work.

Science and Research Highlights

Foundational Research That Informs Conservation

Conserving polar bears begins with an in-depth understanding of their life history and needs.

- Building on our groundbreaking den monitoring work in Svalbard, Norway, we're laying the foundation with partners to install a **den cam in Manitoba's Wapusk National Park** in early 2027. This next phase of research will add den emergence behaviour data from the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population to our existing data sets from Alaska and Svalbard.

New Scientific Techniques and Young Scientists

We are expanding our understanding of polar bears and Arctic ecology while mentoring the next generation of polar bear scientists.

- Our science assistant will be presenting **a new mathematical model** at this year's Ecological Society of America's annual meeting. This model represents a new approach to understanding a key ethological question: How many animals do you need to track in order to understand entire populations? Feedback from peers will help inform how the model can be improved upon.
- We supported the work of a postdoctoral student who examined the i**mpact of tourism on polar bears** in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Churchill visitors assisted in collecting real-time data to help inform tourism practices that minimize disturbance to the bears.

Management, Policy, and Advocacy Highlights

Keeping People and Polar Bears Safe

We are committed to helping people stay safe when living, working or recreating in polar bear country.

- For the first time, our Bear-dar bear-detecting radar **prevented a surprise encounter** in early June. The Nunavut radar system spotted an approaching bear family and gave an early warning to staff, who then safely moved the bears away. We have plans to expand the application of this system to other locations.

- We launched a partnership with the University of Manitoba and Noble Northern to develop fully engineered open-source plans for a **modern polar bear live trap**. This new trap model will improve safety for trap operators and the polar bears being relocated.

Bringing Science to the Decision-Makers

Encouraging policies that support polar bear conservation and engaging the public in advocacy helps sustain a future for polar bears.

- Our VP of science and policy joined a group, led by Churchill's Chamber of Commerce, that met with Manitoba's provincial government to discuss improvements to **viewing guidelines for polar bears in Wapusk National Park.**
- In June, our program coordinator attended **Capitol Hill Ocean Week and the Upwell Youth Conference,** interacting with U.S. decision-makers and sharing about polar bears' need for sea ice. We also sponsored the attendance of two policy fellows from our youth advocacy partner, the Aquarium Conservation Partnership.

Education and Outreach Highlights

Sharing Polar Bears Far and Wide

Our education and outreach highlights the issues facing polar bears today and empowers people to take climate action.

- In April, we supported **Climate Connections Manitoba's Youth Video Challenge**, helping to amplify youth voices in the climate conversation. In addition to sharing polar bear-focused educational content, our team attended the film's red-carpet premiere and awards ceremony shortly after Earth Day.
- Our work was **featured in major media outlets**, including CBC and BBC Discover Wildlife, which covered our Bear-dar bear-detecting radar successfully preventing an encounter between people and polar bears. Through stories like these, we reached audiences around the world with our call to action for polar bears and the Arctic.

To view previous quarterly conservation updates, please visit Our Impact on the Polar Bears International website.