

NATURE CANADA'S MISSION:

*Together we protect nature,
its diversity, and the processes
that sustain it.*

Nature Canada
85 Albert St., Suite 900
Ottawa, ON K1P 6A4
1-800-267-4088

Download this brochure and others like it at
www.naturecanada.ca, or contact us for
more information at info@naturecanada.ca.



Your Hands-on Guide to Species at Risk

Polar Bears on Thin Ice

Disappearing ice floes rob polar bears of their hunting grounds, leaving them too thin to reproduce.



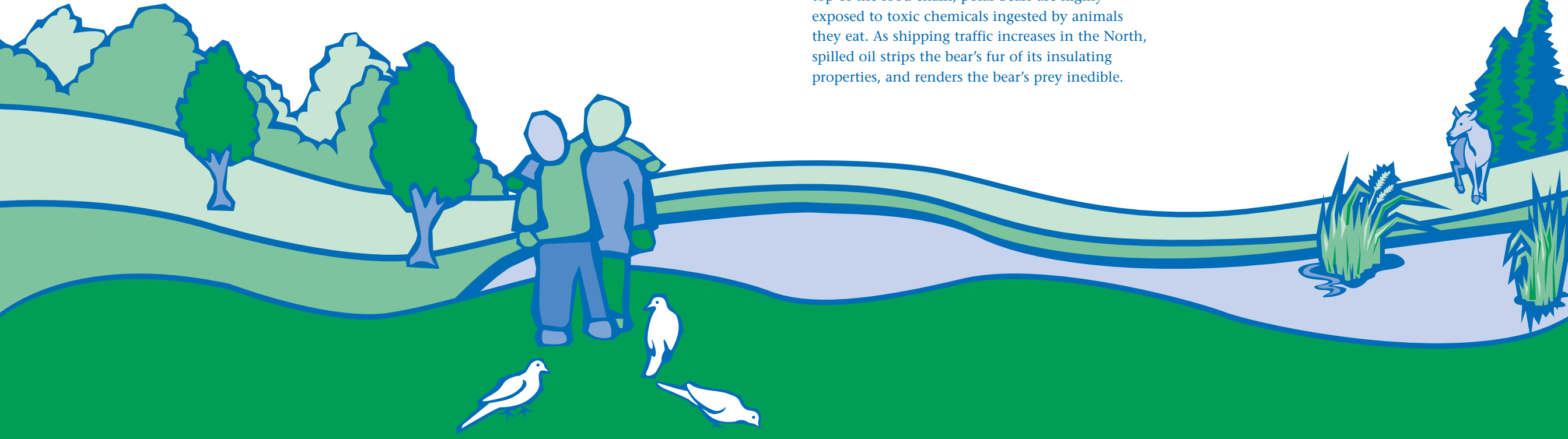
Polar bears are the world's largest land predators, and the most majestic creature of the Far North. But dramatic changes taking place in the Arctic threaten the survival of this spectacular species.

Global warming is melting the polar ice caps, robbing the bears of the ice floes they need to hunt prey. As the annual sea ice melts, polar bears are forced ashore to spend their summers fasting. If the arctic ice cap continues to melt sooner and form later, polar bears will become too thin to reproduce and they will become extinct by the end of this century.

Increased human activity in the north brings other threats to the polar bear. Because they are at the top of the food chain, polar bears are highly exposed to toxic chemicals ingested by animals they eat. As shipping traffic increases in the North, spilled oil strips the bear's fur of its insulating properties, and renders the bear's prey inedible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Support Nature Canada and our efforts to save the Polar Bear's habitat by making a donation at www.naturecanada.ca. Nature Canada is working to protect Canada's Far North from industrialization and the effects of global warming.
- **Write to the Prime Minister!** Tell him to enforce the Species at Risk Act.
- **Stay informed!** Go to our web site and download our report on SARA.



Climate change affects everyone

humans and bears alike! Do your part to slow global warming:

ON THE ROAD: reduce the amount you drive; walk, bike, carpool and use public transit more



often; don't idle your vehicle; keep your vehicle properly tuned and tires properly inflated; consider fuel efficiency when buying a vehicle.

At HOME: buy energy efficient appliances; shut off lights and equipment when not in use; use fluorescent bulbs, lower your thermostat and water heater temperature; insulate and weatherproof your home; conserve water; hang laundry; plant trees; reduce, reuse, recycle.

MAJESTIC CREATURE OF THE NORTH

Common Name:	Polar Bear
Latin Name:	Ursus Maritimus
Status:	Special Concern (according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada)
Size:	Males are typically between 2 and 3 m long and weigh up to 500 kg, though a few weigh as much as 800 kg. Females weigh between 150 to 250 kg.
Population:	22,000 to 27,000
Life Span:	20 to 25 years
Range:	Most polar bears live in Canada, but other populations exist in Alaska, Russia, Greenland and Norway.
Threats:	Air pollution, climate change, oil spills, toxic chemicals

Species at Risk Act: Lost Opportunities?



NATURE CANADA IS SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: CHOOSE RECOVERY OVER EXTINCTION FOR SPECIES AT RISK.

The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) was proclaimed in June 2003 to address the mounting threats to Canada's endangered species. But today, Canada is failing to fulfill its duty of care toward our nation's wildlife.

Read about the four ways the Species at Risk Act is failing to protect Canada's endangered species, and what Nature Canada recommends the government do about it.

Go to www.naturecanada.ca and download our report, Species at Risk Act: Three Years Later.

HERE'S A SUMMARY:

1. The legal species at risk list grows more political and less scientific each year.

The federal government has delayed listing decisions, imposed cost-benefit analyses on what should be science-based judgments, and refused to list several endangered species due to potential socio-economic consequences.

2. **Protection of critical habitat under SARA is too limited and too late.** Despite rhetoric about "safety nets", the federal government has refused to issue emergency orders to protect critical habitat on non-federal lands. And while SARA habitat protections are not required until recovery strategies or action plans are complete, the government has allowed 9 of 16 strategies due January 2006 to remain overdue.
3. **The federal government has failed to meet the Act's requirements to maintain a comprehensive public registry.** SARA's public registry is outdated, confusing, and lacks critical documents required by law. This important tool simply does not provide the public with easy access to information.
4. **Stewardship has been left the greatest burden for saving species without a corresponding increase in funding.** Stewardship has become the federal answer to recovering species on non-federal lands. So much is expected of voluntary stewardship, yet not enough is done to mobilize and fund potential stewards.

Canada is failing to fulfill its duty of care toward our nation's wildlife.

