

Polar bears could become extinct by 2100

World Polar Bear Day is celebrated on 27 February and on this occasion WWF Italy raises the alarm about the risk of losing this Arctic giant, already classified as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red Lists



global warming endangers the lives of polar bears

In less than 80 years, all polar bears on Earth could be lost due to climate change. The progressive reduction of the hunting space produces long-term effects. Less food also means less chance for reproduction, and as a result there will not be substantial polar bear communities in their natural habitat.

The alarming hypothesis comes from a study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change and conducted by experts from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada, who argue that some populations have already reached their survival limits while the ocean's sea ice Arctic continues to decline. "Polar bears - explains Stephen Molnar of the University of Toronto - use sea ice to hunt seals, and without this precious resource, predators are forced to wander long distances or to the shore, where they struggle to find food and feed the puppies".



polar bears are forced to move due to ice melting

The white bear represents the symbol of climate change. "Polar bears are among the endangered species in the list drawn up by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), they are already on top of the world, without ice they no longer have a natural habitat. The researchers' work represents an estimate of the timing of the survival of this precious species.

As their natural habitat melts, white polar bears are also forced to move their hunting areas, thus changing their habits and lifestyle. The polar bear population most affected by the melting of the ice pack is the one living in the Beaufort Sea area, an area that extends north of the coasts of Alaska and Canada. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the species

should be categorized among the "vulnerable" animals". Future mothers will not have enough body fat to produce milk and in some areas of the Arctic this phenomenon could already be started".



melting ice and the consequences on bears



polar bears at risk, because of the heat they can no longer feed

Scientists stress the importance of taking action as soon as possible to remedy the current situation. "The efforts made are not enough - observes a researcher - but if the societies and nations of the world join forces we can save the species, but the benefits would obviously also be our advantage". The researcher argues that a scenario of high greenhouse gas emissions like the one we experience today could lead to the disappearance of polar bears by 2100, with sea ice melting at an average 10-year rate of 13 percent since the late 1970s

Sources : [www.wwf.it › news › notizie › Il-27-febbraio-e-la-Giornata...](http://www.wwf.it/news/notizie/Il-27-febbraio-e-la-Giornata-internazionale-della-tigre)
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