

Hundreds of actions to protect NWT species at risk captured in three new reports

The Conference of Management Authorities, established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* to conserve and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT), is reporting on progress to manage polar bears and amphibians in the NWT and recover boreal caribou.

The three progress reports released today highlight the actions taken by management partners across the NWT (and in the case of polar bears, in Yukon as well) to implement the management plans and recovery strategy for these species at risk, along with progress towards meeting the objectives laid out in the plans. They also identify areas where more work is needed.

Progress reporting is required every five years under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. These are the first progress reports for these NWT species.

The reported actions range from ongoing monitoring efforts to the development of new research techniques, better incorporation of Indigenous knowledge into decision-making, public awareness campaigns and guidance for developers operating in species at risk habitat. These actions are provided by wildlife co-management boards and governments—however, all residents can support and implement conservation and recovery actions for the benefit of species in the NWT.

The full progress reports and additional information on [polar bears](#), [amphibians](#), [boreal caribou](#) and other NWT species at risk are available at: www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca.

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BACKGROUND:

Under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, twelve species are “at risk” of disappearing and are legally listed in the NWT as either Special Concern or Threatened.

Polar bears (2018-2021)

- **NWT Listing:** Special Concern
- **Threats:** Numerous threats from climate change and reduced sea ice
- **Management:** The [Inuvialuit Settlement Region Polar Bear Joint Management Plan](#) (2017) was developed by co-management partners in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).

Amphibians (2017-2021)

- **NWT Listing:** [Western toad](#) and [northern leopard frog](#) listed as Threatened
- **Threats:** Disease, and human activities that alter habitat or prevent movement
- **Management:** The [Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories](#) (2017) was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities to guide the management of all amphibians across the NWT.

Boreal caribou (2017-2021)

- **NWT Listing:** Threatened
- **Threats:** Ongoing habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation from human activity, wildfire and climate change
- **Conservation and Recovery:** The [Recovery Strategy for the Boreal Caribou in the Northwest Territories](#) (2017) was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities to ensure a healthy and sustainable boreal caribou population that offers harvesting opportunities for present and future generations.

LINKS:

- [Progress Report on the Management of Polar Bear \(*Ursus maritimus*\) in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region \(2018-2021\)](#)
- [Progress Report on the Management of Amphibians in the Northwest Territories \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Progress Report on the Conservation and Recovery of Boreal Caribou \(*Rangifer tarandus caribou*\) in the Northwest Territories \(2017-2021\)](#)

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