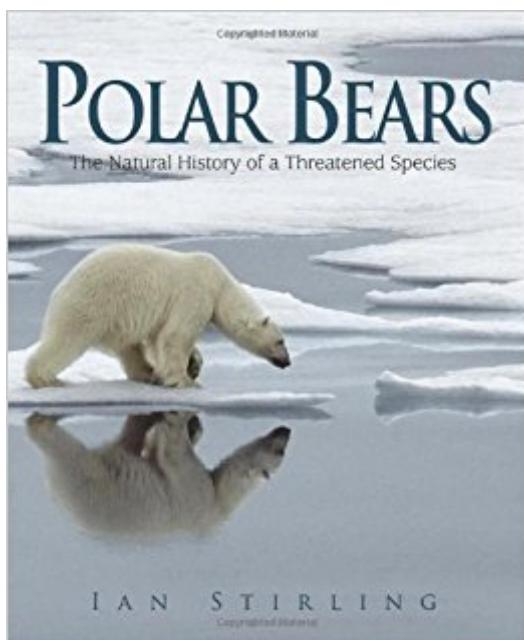


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# Polar Bears: A Natural History Of A Threatened Species



## Synopsis

Dr Ian Stirling, the best known polar bear scientist in the world, compresses the major new discoveries of the last 40 years of research on this iconic mammal into a new easily readable and scientifically comprehensive book about the ecology and natural history of polar bears. He explains how polar bears evolved, how they were researched, aspects of their behaviour and how the threat of global warming is jeopardizing the survival of this magnificent hunter.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With this book the best ever to be written about polar bears - we are blessed with the opportunity to benefit from Ian Stirling's extensive knowledge and life-long experience with this magnificent animal. When he began his study of polar bears more than 40 years ago, knowledge was limited and research methods were crude. Ian and his many colleagues now use modern techniques, ranging from satellite imagery to telemetry equipment to DNA-analyses. The outcome is exciting and fascinating. Ian Stirling is not only a brilliant scientist he has also a profound love for the Arctic's nature and wildlife. He shows us that the far North is not a barren and hostile environment, but unique and beautiful. The fragile Arctic is, however, affected by climate change, transboundary pollution and other disturbances. The new knowledge presented in this book is crucial for conservation and management of Arctic nature and its polar bears. Read Ian Stirling's book, admire the pictures and enjoy. And if you go North, be as careful as he is. Leave nothing but your

footprints. Dr. Thor S. Larsen. Founding member of the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group and former Head of Biology Department and Director of Research at the Norwegian Polar Institute. "For over thirty years now, whenever there is debate over polar bears, I have turned to Ian Stirling not just for definitive facts and figures, but for genuine wisdom and perspective. To work with Ian in the field is to experience a man entirely at home in the Arctic environment, not unlike the bears he knows so well." Monte Hummel, President Emeritus, WWF-Canada.

As a research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta, Dr. Ian Stirling has studied the behavior, population, ecology and predator-prey relationships of polar bears for 40 years. His research on polar bears in western Hudson Bay provided the first clear demonstration of how climate change was having clear, negative consequences on polar bears there. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 articles and three books.

I got this book to read in preparation for a trip to Svalbard. I wasn't disappointed. It is a thorough background of polar bears, their habits, their history and an educated look at their future. It is well worth reading whether merely curious about the bears and their environment or interested in finding out what native peoples and scientists have learned over the years. You won't want to scan or skip any of it: it is that interesting and well written.

I am a Polar Bear fanatic. I love this book because it covers the origins of Polar Bears, gives a lot of information on where the bear population is stable, where it is declining, a lot of interesting facts I did not already know - and best of all, unlike a TV show, if I think there will be something bad or sad happening, I can just skip to the next page! Pictures are great. My bucket list included seeing Polar Bears in the wild while there still bears to be seen.

Book came in excellent condition. I just returned from a trip to the Arctic lead by the author, Ian Stirling, so it was especially meaningful. Written well with lots of detailed information on these fascinating creatures, their threatened habitat and great photographs.

Comprehensive, Objective, Well Written...Excellent

Beautiful and informative book. Lovely photos and high quality printing.

This is not the customary coffee table book with lots of neat photos of one of my favorite mammals. Rather, it also shows the blood, hunger and death by starvation that are all part of this species' life history. It has the broadest approach to this species I have ever come across, including such chapter titles as "the Origin of Polar Bears" (from Grizzlies, and still being able to cross breed), "Polar Bears and Humans", "What makes a Polar Bear Tick", "How do you study Polar Bears", "Some Highlights of Conservation, Past and Present", "The Future..." to just name a few. A book essentially dealing with the arctic habitat in general, and polar bears in particular. Thus highly recommended for a much wider readership than just polar bear enthusiasts.

Great for information, used it for a few papers and presentations.

Excellent

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