

# Polar Conservation

The polar regions are amazing places but sadly these areas are at risk! Air temperatures in the Arctic are increasing at least twice as fast as the global average.

Increased greenhouse gases are warming our planet faster than ever before. This means that there is less sea ice in the Arctic, and a warming ocean will only make the problem worse.

The ice plays an important role in reflecting heat back into space too. This is known as the Albedo Effect. [Click here](#) to watch a short video we created as part of #DynamicEarthOnline to explain how this affects our planet.

## So What Can We Do?

### Conservation in the Arctic

You may have heard of Marine Protected Areas (or MPAs) as a way of conservation and protecting the ocean. In a similar move, some governments are now creating Indigenous Protected Areas (or IPAs) to protect areas with populations of native peoples. IPAs rely on Indigenous knowledge and expertise to help protect areas of land and conserve the animals and plants that are found there, while conserving the local people's way of life.



*Caribou (or reindeer) are native to the Arctic and travel in herds eating moss found under the snow.  
Image Credit: Saad Chaudhry, Unsplash*

In 2018, Canada announced the first of several IPAs in an Inuit area of the Canadian Arctic containing lots of iconic animals - including caribou!

### What can we do?

While the Arctic nations work to manage the damage caused by climate change (loss of biodiversity, less sea ice, and warming oceans), we can all do our part to reduce our carbon footprint and help reduce our impact on the environment.

By making little changes we can all reduce the amount of energy we use, and summer is a great time to make a start! Keeping the heating off, growing food in your garden and walking instead of taking the car are all great ways to do your bit to look after the planet. We'd love to know how you reduce your carbon footprint in your family. Let us know by tagging us on Twitter @ourdynamicearth and using the hashtag #FridaysForFuture.

### More info:

[WWF "Saving the Arctic"](#)

[WWF Carbon Calculator](#)

[Mongabay - "Canada Working Towards New Future For Indigenous Led Conservation"](#)

