



CANADA

FACTSHEET

Living Planet Report
Canada 2020

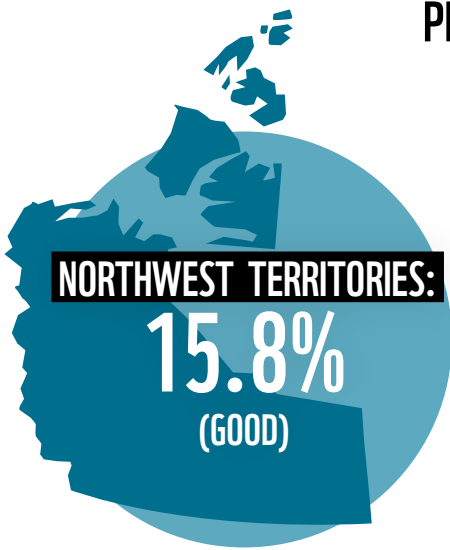


© Jeremy Harrison / WWF-Canada

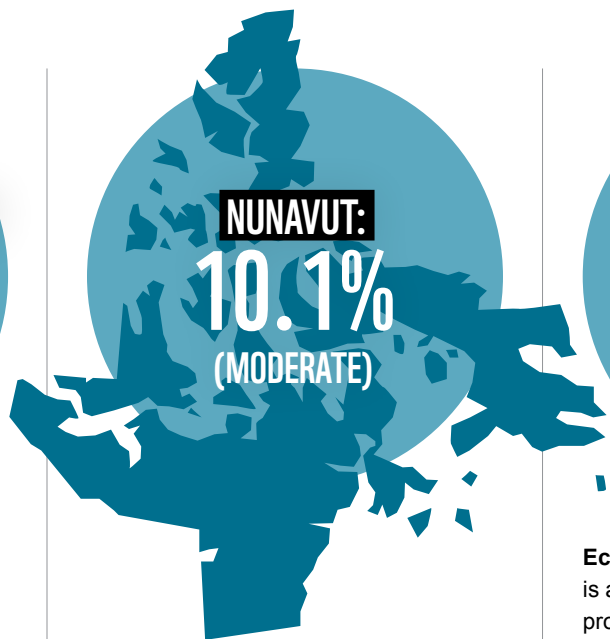
ARCTIC MESSAGES

Primary threats: Warming air and ocean temperatures from climate change are reducing ice habitat and facilitating industrial development, two of the main threats to Arctic species.

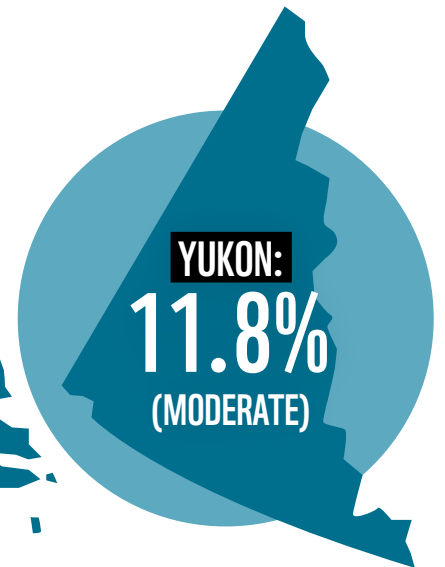
PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS:



The Northwest Territories' rich and wide-ranging habitats, from forests to wetlands to tundra, are home to iconic and Threatened species like the barren-ground caribou and wood bison. High levels of soil carbon storage and climate refuges makes the Northwest Territories an important region for nature-based solutions to climate change. Yet, despite a few large protected areas, the majority of the physical habitats in the Northwest Territories are unprotected.

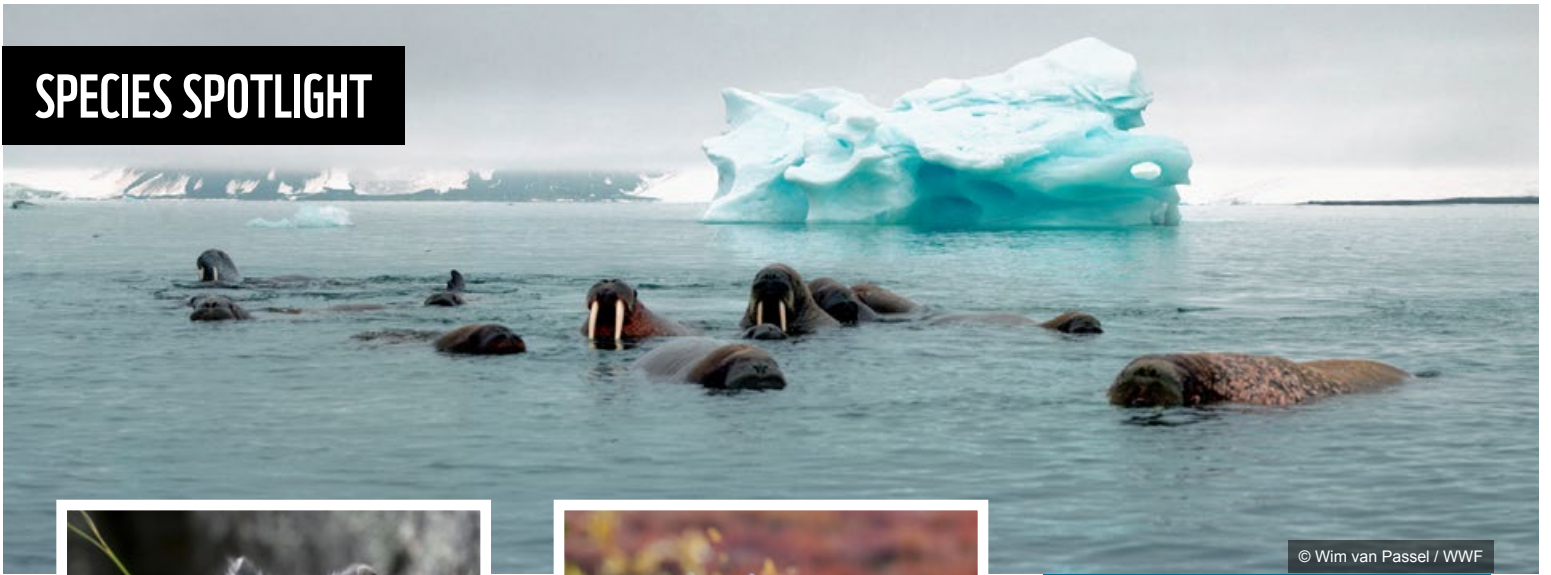


While much of Nunavut is unprotected, the existing protected areas are high-quality and well-positioned. More protections will improve the ability of wildlife to move between habitats and provide much-needed stability as the climate changes.



Ecological representation in the region is a story of extremes. Areas that are protected, are of high quality and provide good coverage of physical habitats. But the territory also has one of the highest proportions of unprotected physical habitats in the country. The significant gaps in Yukon's protected area network happen to be among the most important for nature-based climate solutions and therefore should be a national priority.

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT



© Wim van Passel / WWF



© Shutterstock

COLLARED PIKA

IUCN Status: Least Concern
COSEWIC Status: Special Concern

Unlike species occupying southern Canada, where human footprint is high, habitat disturbance is comparatively low throughout the collared pika's range. However, the northern, high-altitude, mountainous habitat of collared pikas is currently being altered by climate change — their primary threat, and one that is anticipated to accelerate and intensify over the long term. Collared pikas are considered indicators of climate change as they are sensitive to climate variability.



© Robert Bowhay

BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU

IUCN Status: Vulnerable
COSEWIC Status: Threatened

Barren ground caribou have experienced dramatic declines, some up to more than 90% of their peak numbers. Science and Indigenous knowledge tell us these animals go through population cycles but compared to the last time these herds were at population lows 50 years ago, the North is a lot warmer, there's a lot more development, a lot more disturbance in food sources and, along their migration route, greater human presence and greater human pressure.

ATLANTIC WALRUS

IUCN Status: Near-Threatened
COSEWIC Status: Special Concern

Although the two remaining Atlantic walrus populations are considered to have relatively stable population trends, climate change is anticipated to negatively impact the population. As the climate changes and as sea ice continues to shrink, human encroachments on Atlantic walrus habitat result in noise pollution and new routes for shipping and oil tankers. This expansion of the human footprint and encroachment means that vessels are likely to pass more closely to the sensitive breeding, feeding and haulout (large congregation) areas of the Atlantic walrus and their young calves.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Help restore ecosystems. Nature-based climate solutions — like protected areas and restoration — can help to stop wildlife loss by addressing multiple threats to biodiversity while reducing climate change by sequestering carbon in natural ecosystems.



A Canada with abundant wildlife, where nature and people thrive.

wwf.ca

© 1986 Panda symbol WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (also known as World Wildlife Fund).
® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark. WWF-Canada is a federally registered charity (No. 11930 4954 RR0001), and an official national organization of World Wide Fund For Nature, headquartered in Gland, Switzerland. WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the U.S. Published (March 2020) by WWF-Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Any reproduction in full or in part of this publication must mention the title and credit the above-mentioned publisher as the copyright owner. © text (2020) WWF-Canada. No photographs from this production may be reproduced. All rights reserved. wwf.ca