

# Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Polar Bears in the Northern Eeyou Marine Region, Québec, Canada

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## APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

Age:

Community:

Years living in community:

Where are you going to hunt or fish (for each season/use map)?

Do you ever see polar bears? What time of year? Where?

Has the timing of polar bears being on land changed in the past 20 years?

Do polar bears use the same areas each year? Which areas? (use map)

How far inland do polar bears go?

What are bears doing when you see them on land? If they're traveling, which direction are they going?

Where do polar bears den? What sort of habitat do they use to den?

Are polar bear numbers increasing, decreasing, or not changing in this area compared to 20 years ago? Why do you think this is?

Do you ever see polar bears hunting on the ice? What do you see them hunting? When do you see them hunting?

Have you observed any other changes in polar bear hunting behaviour in the past 20 years? What kind of changes?

Do you see polar bears eating when they are on land? If so, what do they eat?

Do they eat different things at different times of the year?

Have you observed any changes to what polar bears eat on land in the past 20 years? What kind of changes?

Are polar bears fatter, skinnier, or the same as 20 years ago? Why do you think this is?

Have you noticed changes in the weather in this area over time?

Do you think or have you observed that changes in weather have an impact on polar bear numbers or behaviour?

Have you observed changes in the sea ice in this area in terms of freeze-up or breakup in the past 20 years?

What kinds of seals do you see in this area?

Have you noticed changes in where seals are found in this area in the past 20 years?

Have you noticed changes in the kinds of seals in this area in the past 20 years?

Have you noticed changes in the numbers of seals in this area in the past 20 years?

Do you have any problems with polar bears?

How would you describe problem bears? Do problem bears tend to be of a certain age? Do they tend to be larger or smaller bears?

What do the bears do when they come to town or cabins?

Do you have more problems with polar bears in town in recent years?

Do you have more problems with polar bears at cabins in recent years?

Do polar bears disturb trappers' activities (e.g., damage traps, eat trapped animals)?

What do you think about scientists counting polar bears through aerial surveys?

What do you think of scientists studying polar bears or darting with drugs and handling bears?

What would you say that scientists should try to learn about polar bears in this region?

Is there anything this interview did not cover that you would like to share regarding your knowledge of polar bears in this area?

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