TASIUJAQIUAQMIUT SHEEWETAGANAPOI CONSORTIUM

26 February 2025

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

CONSEIL DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES FAUNIQUES DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EEYOU

Mushkegowuk – Eeyou Istchee Polar Bear Research Collaboration

Vicki Sahanatien, PhD
Knowledge & Research Manager
Lands and Resources Department
Mushkegowuk Council

Photo: J. Katiquapit

Research & Monitoring Collaborations

- Critical for long term success ~ capacity, knowledge, funding …
- Requires connections, network, time, openness, trust …
- SPARK – Intersection of interests, questions, concerns
- Northern Biodiversity call for proposals May 2024

Weston Family Foundation

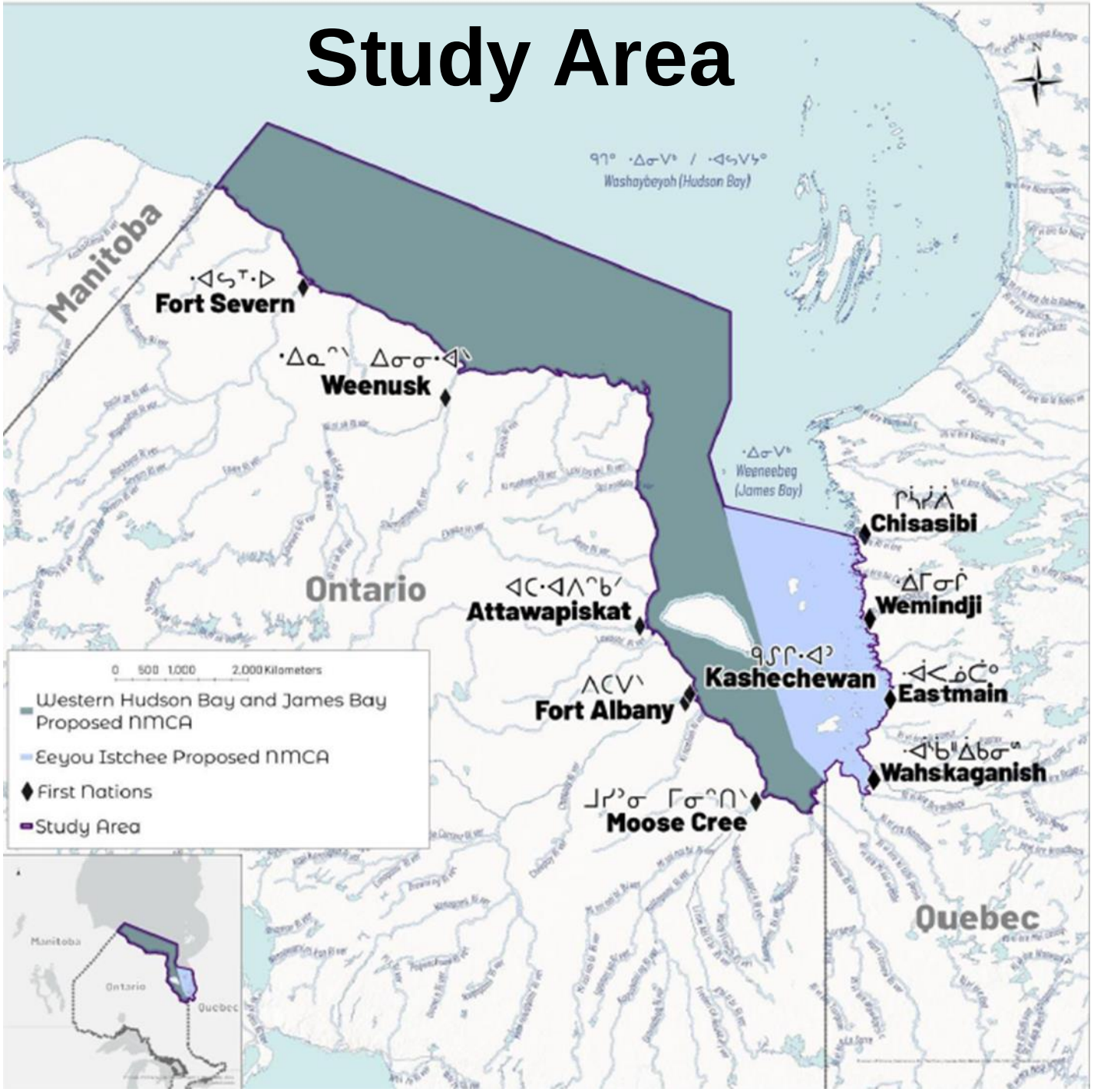
Conserving Subarctic Biodiversity
Building comprehensive understanding of the world's southern most polar bears in the face of climate change

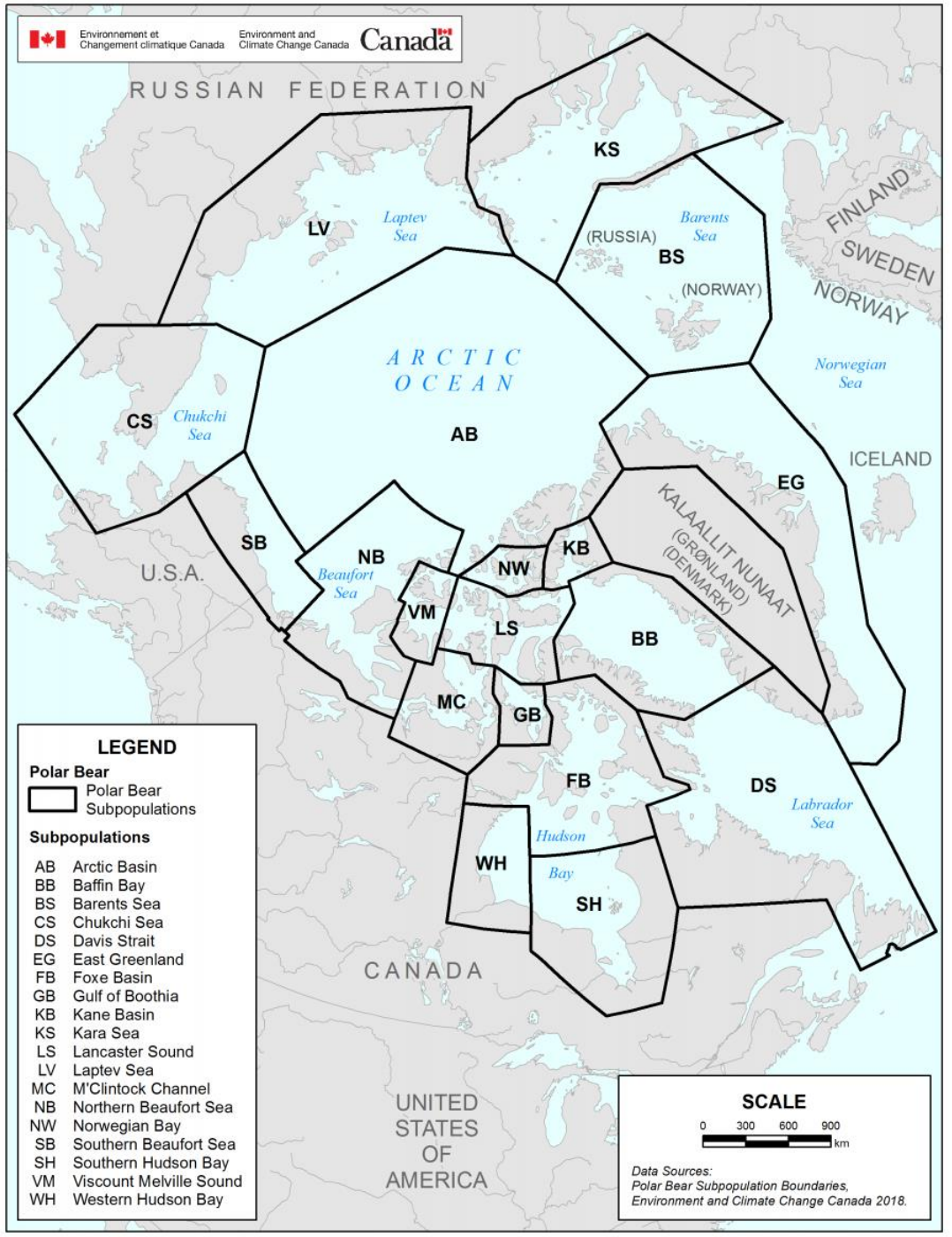
- Principle Applicant: Vicki Sahanatien, Mushkegowuk Council
- Co-applicants
  - Angela Coxon, Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
  - Joe Northrup, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
  - Guillame Gzor, Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec
  - Greg Thiemann, York University
  - Alexandra Langwieder, McGill University
  - Caroline Sauve, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Collaborators
  - Evan Richardson, Environment Climate Change Canada
  - David McGeachy and Andrew Derocher, University of Alberta
  - Julienne Stroeve, University of Manitoba
  - Nick Pilfold, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
  - Stephanie Vardy, Cree Trappers Association
  - Maya Longpre Croteau, Cree Nation Government

Study – 3 years

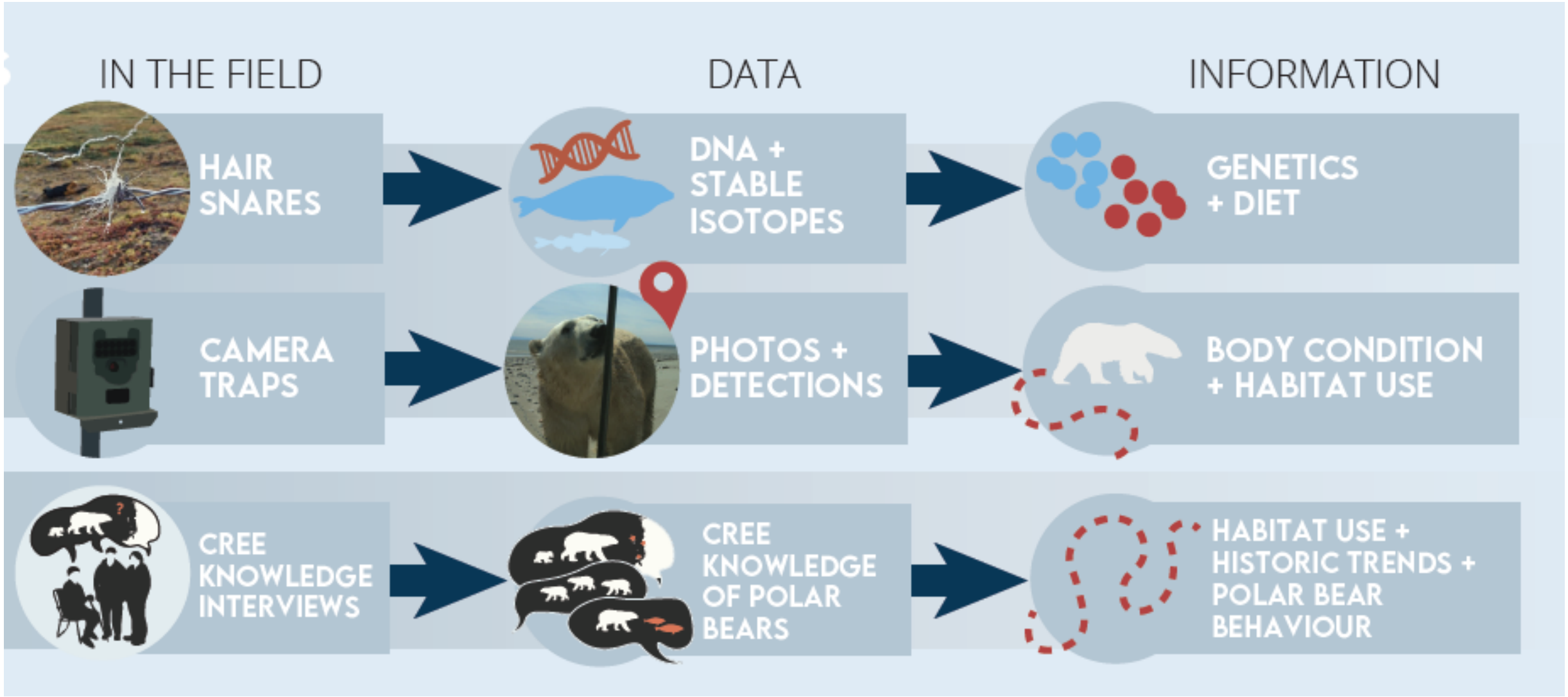
- Question
  - How will continued climate-warming influence sea ice dependent and associated species at the southern edge of their range.
- Objectives
  - Learn more about the ice-free season (summer, fall) polar bear ecology
    - Diet, movements, genetics, body condition, reproduction
  - Understand the role of remnant sea ice
  - Understand the ecological and genetic uniqueness polar bears in James Bay
  - Develop better understanding of polar bears by incorporating Cree knowledge
  - Develop models of polar bear distribution and habitat to guide decision making

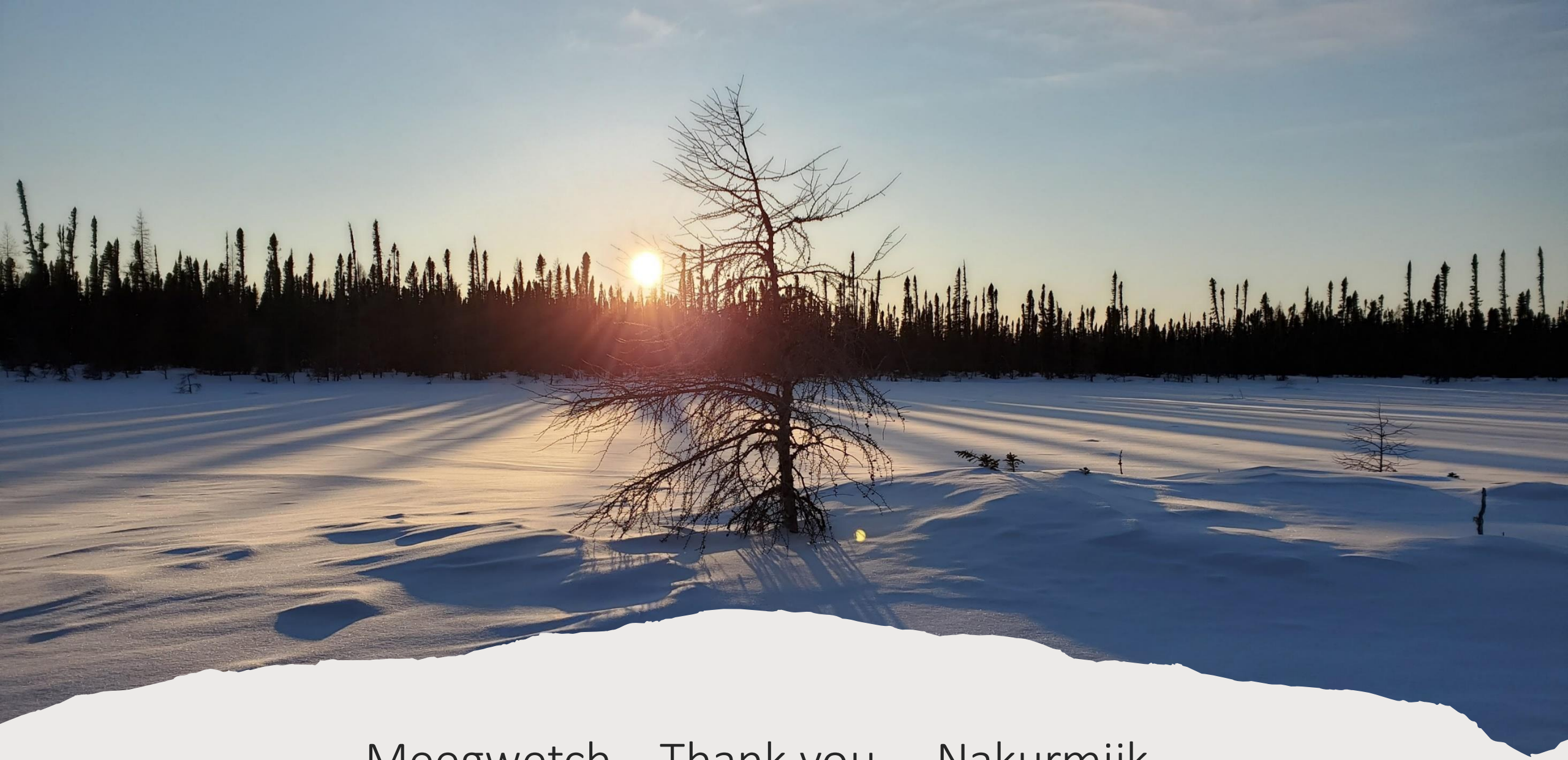
Study Area


Manitoba
Ontario
Quebec
Fort Severn
Weenusk
Attawapiskat
Kashechewan
Fort Albany
Chisasibi
Wemindji
Eastmain
Wahskaganish
Moose Cree
Washaybeyah (Hudson Bay)
Weeneebeg (James Bay)
0 500 1,000 2,000 Kilometers
Western Hudson Bay and James Bay Proposed NMCA
Eeyou Istchee Proposed NMCA
First Nations
Study Area


Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canada
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FINLAND
SWEDEN
NORWAY
ICELAND
U.S.A.
CANADA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ARCTIC OCEAN
Laptev Sea
Barents Sea
Norwegian Sea
Chukchi Sea
Beaufort Sea
Hudson Bay
Labrador Sea
(RUSSIA)
(NORWAY)
KALAALLIT NUNAAT (GRØNLAND) (DENMARK)
KS
LV
BS
CS
AB
EG
SB
NB
NW
KB
VM
LS
BB
MC
GB
FB
DS
WH
SH
LEGEND
Polar Bear
Polar Bear Subpopulations
Subpopulations
AB Arctic Basin
BB Baffin Bay
BS Barents Sea
CS Chukchi Sea
DS Davis Strait
EG East Greenland
FB Foxe Basin
GB Gulf of Boothia
KB Kane Basin
KS Kara Sea
LS Lancaster Sound
LV Laptev Sea
MC M'Clintock Channel
NB Northern Beaufort Sea
NW Norwegian Bay
SB Southern Beaufort Sea
SH Southern Hudson Bay
VM Viscount Melville Sound
WH Western Hudson Bay
SCALE
0 300 600 900 km
Data Sources:
Polar Bear Subpopulation Boundaries,
Environment and Climate Change Canada 2018.

Bringing Knowledge Together
Methods, Analysis & Interpretation





Meegwetch Thank you Nakurmiik