





# HELPING FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

A photograph of two polar bears standing on a small, isolated ice floe in the middle of a vast, deep blue ocean. The bears are white with yellowish-tan fur, and they are looking towards the left. The ice floe is irregularly shaped with some ridges and shadows. The water is a deep, clear blue with gentle ripples. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, showing the bears' full bodies and the surrounding water.

The Polar Bear is under threat of extinction. The chief threat to the polar bear is the loss of its sea ice habitat due to global warming. "For anyone who has wondered how global warming and reduced sea ice will affect polar bears, the answer is simple - they die," says Richard Steiner, a marine-biology professor at the University of Alaska.

A Giant Panda is perched on a thick, moss-covered tree branch. The panda is looking down and slightly to the left. Its black and white fur is clearly visible. The background shows a forest with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The lighting is bright, and the overall scene is peaceful.

Global warming, with frequent droughts and wildfires, has already caused extinctions in the most sensitive habitats and more than a million species worldwide could be driven to extinction by 2050. Already frogs are spawning early, butterfly ranges are shifting and toads are disappearing. The cute and cuddly Giant Panda may remain a childhood memory, if its home in China is not protected. Efforts are being made by various organizations including World Wildlife Fund to save the habitat and bamboo groves, of the best-known endangered species on the planet.