



# Daniel J. Cox

## A Labor Of Love

Since 2006, Lowepro has been underwriting Polar Bears International's Polar Bear Population Project. This scientific research studies the effects of global warming on the polar bear habitat and helps raise awareness about this dire threat. Daniel J. Cox shares this commitment, supporting work that is near and dear to our hearts. We're proud to bring you his story.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, Daniel J. Cox has authored a full set of encyclopedias. His images capture the majesty of Mother Nature as well as the animals dwelling within her realm. A conservationist since the beginning of his career, he has traveled the world documenting wildlife from Antarctica to Zaire. Since the age of 26, though, his heart has belonged to the polar bears of the great north.

A natural pairing of two great passions (photography and polar bears) has led him to dedicate a tremendous amount of his time and talent in support of Polar Bears International (PBI), a non-profit group founded by wildlife photographer Dan Guravich in 1992 and dedicated to the worldwide conservation of the polar bear and its habitat through research and education. Cox, along with wife Tanya and the staff at Natural Exposures, is keeper of virtually all the media produced for PBI including his own personal collection of images

and the historically valuable Guravich Library which documents the flora and fauna dating back to the early 1960's.

As any artist can attest, having your work appreciated is very satisfying. In Cox's case, however, his greatest sense of fulfillment comes from being able to change people's minds and motivate them to action with his moving images. "Good natural history photography is not exclusively about pretty pictures," says Cox. "It's important to show real life situations, the good and the bad."

Case in point: one of his most famous images, published by *Life Magazine* in the mid 1990's and again by *National Wildlife* magazine, is a poignant portrait of a mother polar bear standing watch over her dying cub. A heart wrenching photo essay that spanned almost five days, these images (inset), with the accompanying story, garnered the highest reader response ever received by *National Wildlife*.

© Daniel J. Cox. naturalexposures.com



Frozen Moment Of Maternal Instinct (Left) A mother polar bear mourns over her dead cub, just its muzzle protruding out of the snow.

Cox currently spends about 50% of his time working pro bono with the PBI team. He takes images for their newsletters, participates in the "Churchill Season" when Tundra Buggies from Frontiers North take research scientists, photographers and polar bear watchers from around the world out onto the tundra to see the bears up close and personal, and provides in-depth coverage of the research the PBI scientists are doing.

The scientists track and tranquilize bears to gather data: collecting blood, fat, fecal and hair samples; recording age, weight, sex fat content (critical to survival and reproduction); and finally tagging the bears to track their daily movement—all to try and determine the effect of climate change on these animals and their habitat.

His time with the scientists can last for as many as 14 hours a day, not counting the lab work and clean-up after returning to base. Cox is in a helicopter much of that time to record their efforts.

This work is not for the faint of heart. The flying conditions are dangerous and more than one biologist has lost his life when his helicopter crashed in a whiteout. And then there are the close calls with the bears themselves. One bear roused from its tranquilized state for a matter of seconds, just long enough to bite the leg of the scientist working on it before falling soundly back to sleep.

For Cox and the scientists, it's not a matter of money. It's a passion for preserving the delicate balance between mankind and the environment. "I don't have a new truck or as nice a house as many others, but I do have tremendous feelings of doing something important for a species and a habitat I dearly love."

When it comes to conservation, Cox states, "What do we have to lose by cleaning up our act?" If his images can provide a catalyst for change, he'll consider it a job well done.

To help, visit [polarbearsinternational.org](http://polarbearsinternational.org)

## Biography

For nearly 30 years, Daniel J. Cox has traveled all seven continents in search of images that inspire his art and inform his audience. Internationally recognized, he has twice been awarded 1st runner-up in the prestigious British Broadcasting *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* competition; and he's placed first in the *Natures Best Photography* contest. Cox's natural history images have been featured in *Nikon House in New York*, the *Natural History Museum in London* and the *National Museum of Wildlife Art*. He is a regular contributor to natural history publications worldwide. Cox has hundreds of magazine covers to his credit, including two cover stories for *National Geographic Magazine*. He is the sole photographer of thirteen books, a *Nikon Legend*, and serves on the *Advisory Board for Polar Bears International*.



© Daniel J. Cox. naturalexposures.com



© Daniel J. Cox. naturalexposures.com

Two Male Polar Bears (Top) Interaction during a session of play fighting near Churchill, Manitoba.

Mother Polar Bear And Her Two Cubs (Bottom) Making their way across a frozen lake near Churchill, Manitoba while waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze over.

A Lone Polar Bear (Opposite page) Crossing the ice at sunset in Cape Churchill, Manitoba.

"It's inspiring to be commended for a job well done, but it's even better to draw people into your way of thinking when it comes to saving an animal or habitat."

Daniel Cox