

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

1 An endangered **species** is a species that is at risk of becoming extinct. It might be at risk because its **territory** is threatened, or because there are very few mature individuals left.

2 The natural extinction rate would be 1–5 species per year. The current rate could be as high as 2,000 per year. There are at least 25,000 species in danger of extinction right now.

3 Every species plays a part in the global **ecosystem**. They also provide humans with food, medicines and materials for building and clothing. Moreover, they all have their own unique value and beauty.

4 Humans are to blame for the problem. Animal **habitats** are destroyed by **pollution** and climate change. Humans have also **hunted** or fished many animals so much that the populations cannot recover by **reproduction**.

5 If we don't want extinction to go on at its current rate, we need to support the organizations that are working to **conserve** endangered species and their natural habitats. We also need to stop buying products that damage the environment. This will help to preserve the diversity of life on our planet.

EXAM TASK Read the texts. Match choices (A–H) to (1–5). There are three choices you do not need.

- A All species are important _____
- B No turning back _____
- C Shocking statistics _____
- D International agreements may help _____
- E What makes a species endangered? _____
- F Ways to help _____
- G Funding for environmental projects _____
- H Harm caused by people _____