

# 47 Wildlife under threat

## A Conservation

With the ongoing **clearing** of forests (also called **deforestation**), many animals are losing their **natural habitat** and starting to **decline** in numbers. In some **regions**, **conservation** groups **point out** that some animals are already **dying out** and are **in danger of extinction**. One **instance** of this is the African elephant, which is now **considered to be an endangered species**.

### SPOTLIGHT *extinction* n and *extinct* adj

If a plant or animal is **extinct**, it no longer exists.

- Some sharks are **becoming extinct**.
- Some sharks are **in danger of extinction**.
- This species is **on the verge of extinction**. (= very close to extinction)

### GLOSSARY

<b>clear</b>	remove sth that may not be wanted
<b>habitat</b>	the place where a plant or animal is usually found: <i>the elephant's natural habitat</i>
<b>decline</b>	become smaller, weaker, or less good <b>decline</b> n: <b>be in decline</b>
<b>region</b>	a part of a country or the world <b>regional</b> adj
<b>conservation</b>	the protection of the natural world <b>conserve</b> v
<b>point sth out</b>	mention sth in order to give people information about it and make them notice it
<b>die out</b>	disappear
<b>instance (of sth)</b>	an example or case (of sth): <b>for instance</b>
<b>consider sb/sth to be sth</b>	think of sth/sb in a particular way ALSO <b>consider sb/sth as sth</b>
<b>endangered</b>	in danger of becoming extinct (see spotlight)
<b>species</b>	a group of plants or animals that are all similar and can breed together

### 1 Is the meaning of the sentences the same or different? Write S or D.

- 1 The tiger population is in decline. / There are fewer tigers than there were. ....
- 2 We are destroying their natural habitat. / We are destroying their natural habits. ....
- 3 Tigers are on the verge of extinction. / Tigers are almost extinct. ....
- 4 There are laws to conserve their habitat. / There are laws to clear their habitat. ....
- 5 Flooding is a regional problem. / Flooding is a problem everywhere. ....
- 6 This species of butterfly is endangered. / This species of butterfly has died out. ....
- 7 I've seen widespread deforestation. / I've seen many forests cleared. ....
- 8 Large numbers are declining. / Large numbers are dying out. ....

### 2 Complete the phrases with suitable words.

- 1 in ..... of extinction
- 2 point something .....
- 3 ..... habitat
- 4 ..... decline
- 5 on the ..... of extinction
- 6 endangered .....

### 3 Complete the dialogues with a single word in each space.

- 1 Has the dodo died ..... ? ~ Yes, it's .....
- 2 Are forests still being ..... ? ~ Yes, it's all part of the process of .....
- 3 25% of birds are in danger of ..... . ~ Yes, and many more are in .....
- 4 Are there water shortages everywhere? ~ Yes, but they're a lot worse in some .....
- 5 You can see animals in a zoo. ~ Yes, but it's better to see them in their natural .....
- 6 Which animals in particular are ..... ? ~ Well, the snow leopard, for .....
- 7 What can people do to help with ..... ? ~ It's mostly about education and being aware of your surroundings.
- 8 Many birds are also ..... in numbers. ~ Yes, and if we're not careful some of our birds could ..... out altogether.
- 9 We can't go on consuming as much energy as we do. ~ I know. I keep ..... this out to my family.
- 10 Your aunt knows all about this. ~ Oh yes, she is ..... an expert on conservation.



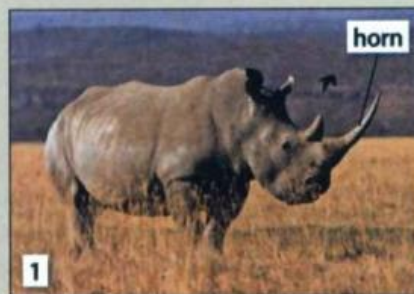
### TEST YOURSELF



## B The rhino

### Under threat: the rhino<sup>1</sup>

- **Poaching** poses the greatest threat to this species, despite the ban on trade in **rhino horn**, which is **sought after** for **decorative** purposes and used in some forms of medicine.
- **Civil war**: War **diverts funds** from conservation, and the high levels of poverty in affected areas increase the **likelihood** that people will **end up** poaching. In some African countries, civil war has led to a serious decline in rhino populations.
- **Habitat loss**: Deforestation has **wiped out** a great deal of rhino **territory**, with a serious drop in the numbers of rhinos that are **breeding**.



#### GLOSSARY

<b>threat (to sb/sth)</b>	the possibility of trouble or danger: <b>be under threat</b>	<b>divert sth/sb (from sth, to sth)</b>	change the direction of sth, especially away from its original purpose
<b>poaching</b>	hunting animals, birds, etc. illegally. The person is a <b>poacher</b> .	<b>likelihood</b>	SYN <b>probability</b>
<b>pose</b>	create or give sb sth that they must deal with: <b>pose a threat/risk/problem</b>	<b>end up (doing sth)</b>	find yourself in a place/situation that you did not plan/expect to be in
<b>sought after</b>	wanted by many people because it is of high quality or rare	<b>wipe sth out</b>	destroy sth completely
<b>decorative</b>	(of an object or a building) intended to look attractive or pretty	<b>territory</b>	an area that an animal considers as its own <b>territorial adj</b> : Wolves are <b>territorial animals</b> .
<b>civil war</b>	war between groups from the same country	<b>breed</b>	(of animals) have sex and produce young animals

#### 4 Cross out the error in each sentence. Write the correct word at the end.

- Cash will need to be divested from one project to another. ....
- They want to increase numbers but some animals won't feed in zoos. ....
- The factory puts a real danger to wildlife in the area. ....
- Opposing groups have been fighting a civic war for years. ....
- This disease could kill out the whole breed. ....
- The horn of the animal is sought over by poachers. ....
- Rhino horn and elephant tusk have a decorational use. ....
- This poses a threaten to both humans and wildlife. ....

#### 5 Complete the sentences.

- The disagreement could result in ..... war.
- Poachers want rhino .....
- Can we ..... the money from there to here?
- Crocodile skin is highly sought .....
- We could end ..... in a difficult situation.
- Poaching ..... a real danger to the species.
- This breed of penguin could be wiped .....
- Poachers are a real ..... to the rhinos' survival.

#### 6 Replace the underlined word(s) with a word or phrase that has the same meaning.

- There is little probability of things improving soon. ....
- You should avoid going into the lions' land. ....
- He was sent to prison for illegal hunting. ....
- These animals are in real danger. ....
- The animal is extremely protective of its land. ....
- He is a person who kills tigers illegally. ....
- Some species find it difficult to produce young animals. ....
- We finally found ourselves in the middle of the forest. ....



TEST YOURSELF