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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B The rhino

Under **threat**: the rhino[1]

- **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

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

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

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

5 **Complete the sentences.**

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

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

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

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LIVEWORKSHEETS