

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: <i>the elephant's natural habitat</i>
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

B The rhino

Under threat: the rhino¹

- **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: <i>be under threat</i>	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: <i>pose a threat/risk/problem</i>	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: <i>Wolves are territorial animals.</i>
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 decorativeal 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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TEST YOURSELF