

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.

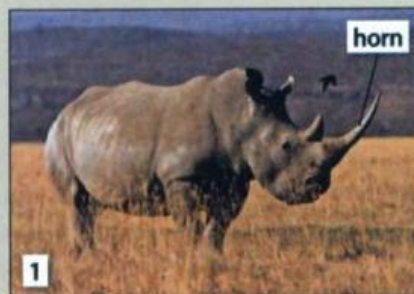


TEST YOURSELF

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 : 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.

- 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.



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