

## ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES

Our planet is continually changing, causing *habitats* to be *altered* and *modified*. Natural changes *tend* to *occur* at a *gradual* pace, usually causing only a slight *impact* on individual species. However, when changes occur at a fast *pace*, there is little or no time for individual species to react and adjust to new *circumstances*. This can create *disastrous* results, and for this reason, *rapid* habitat loss is the *primary cause* of species endangerment. The strongest forces in rapid habitat loss are human beings. They hunt them just for the sake of their pleasure. The greed and money forces people to kill such an extraordinary animals.

*Disease, pollution, and limited distribution* are more reasons that threaten *various* animal species.

By destroying their ecosystems, we also destroy a part of ourselves. We need animals and also plants so that nature's balance doesn't destroy itself.

I'm going to tell you just the *several* types of endangered species, but you must realize, that there are more animals, which are threatened to be extinct.

Well known endangered species are : elephants, whales, lions, gorillas, wolves, tigers, pandas, rhinoceros, condors and sharks.

ELEPHANT : The African and Asian elephant are *classified* as an endangered species. Hunting of the African elephant is now *banned* in several countries, but *poaching* for *ivory* still exists.

WHALE : The right whale was once the most hunted of all whales, and is now protected by law. The blue whale is the largest mammal to have lived on the earth, but it feeds on some of the smallest marine organisms: plankton. These whales have *reduced* their population to at least 50 % which is caused by hunting for their flesh and *fat* to produce oil.

LION : The golden lion tamarin is known as a *critically* endangered species due to the fact that it only exists in severely *fragmented populations*. The golden lion tamarin is one of the most endangered of all mammals.

GORILLA : Most of us believe that gorillas are the most gentle creatures that walked on the face of the earth. They are still illegally hunted in China and Africa for *trophies* and their *knuckles*. It is the largest and most powerful *primate* alive, but is a peaceful and sociable animal.

TIGER : The tiger is hunted by the color of their coat especially in India and Africa.

PANDA : I simply admire pandas and it's very unfortunate to see them get extinct. The giant panda feeds mainly on bamboo, even though it is **classified** as a **carnivore**. They can be mostly found in Eastern Asia.

RHINOCEROS : One of the endangered species known to us is surely the rhino. It is one of many critically endangered animals, as it has reduced its population for 80 % . They are hunted for trophies, their skin and **tusks**.

CALIFORNIAN CONDOR : This one is probably the most extinct animal species on earth. By the results of several biological investigations their population counts only 50 **mature** individuals, and can be found only in United States of America.

Now, you found out the truth about almost extinct species. We can just hope that it isn't reality.

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP ENDANGERED SPECIES**

- To protect their habitats permanently in national parks, nature reserves or wilderness areas. There they can live without too much interference from humans. It is also important to protect habitats outside reserves such as on farms and along roadsides.
- When you visit a national park, make sure you obey the wildlife code : follow regulations; leave your pets at home; leave flowers, birds' eggs, logs and bush rocks where you find them; put your rubbish in a bin or, better still, take it home.

- **a habitat** : a place where a particular type of animal or plant is normally found = *bivališče*
- **to alter** : to become different, to make sb/sth different = spremeniti, prekrojiti
- **to modify** : to change sth slightly, especially in order to make it more suitable for a particular purpose = prilagoditi, spremeniti, omejiti
- **to tend** : to be likely to do sth or to happen in a particular way, because, this is what often or usually happens = težiti k nečemu, usmeriti se, imeti za cilj; negovati, čuvati
- **to occur** : to happen = pripetiti se, dogoditi se
- **gradual** : sth happening slowly over a long period, not sudden = postopen
- **impact (verb)** : to have an effect on sth; to hit sth with great force = trčenje, udarec
- **pace** : the speed at which sth happens = korak, hoja, tempo, hitrost, stopati, koračiti
- **circumstances** : the conditions and facts that are connected with an affect a situation, an event or an action = okoliščina, položaj
- **disastrous** : very bad, harmful or unsuccessful = katastrofalen, poguben
- **rapid** : sth happening very quickly = nagel, deroč
- **primary** : main; most important = prvi, glaven, osnoven
- **cause** : the person or thing that makes sth happen = povod, razlog, pravda
- **for the sake of sth** : in order to get or keep sth = zaradi, na ljubo
- **extraordinary** : unexpected, surprising or strange = izreden, čuden
- **disease** : an illness affecting humans, animals or plants, often caused by infection = bolezen
- **pollution** : the process of making air, water, soil etc. dirty; the state of being dirty = onesnaževanje, onečiščevanje, polucija, omadeževanje

- **distribution** : that way that sth is shared or exists over group of people = razdelitev, razporeditev
- **various (adj.)** : several different = različen, več, mnogo
- **several** : more than two but not very many = več, nekaj, poedin, poseben
- **to adjust** : to change sth slightly to make it more suitable, for a new set of conditions or to make it work better = urediti, poravnati, prilagoditi
- **to classify** : to arrange sth in groups according to features that they have in common = razvrstiti, razporediti
- **a feature** : sth important, interesting or typical of a place or thing = lastnost
- **to be banned out** : to be excluded, to be expelled = izključiti, prepovedati, izobčiti
- **to poach** : to illegally hunt animals on sb else's property or without permission = tatinsko loviti, biti divji lovec; srkniti jajce)
- **ivory** : a hard yellowish-white substance like bone that forms the tusks (=long teeth) of elephants and some other animals = slonovina, slonova kost
- **a mammal** : any animal that gives birth to live babies, not eggs, and feeds its young on milk = sesalec
- **to reduce** : to make sth less or smaller in size, quantity, price etc. = zmanjšati, znižati
- **fat** : (of a person's or an animal's body) having too much flesh on it and weighing too much = maščoba, mast
- **critically** : expressing disapproval of sb/sth and saying what you think is bad about them = kritično
- **severely (sevierli)** : extremely bad or seriously = strogo, resno, brezobzirno, pikro, ostro)
- **fragmented (adj) : a fragment** : a small part of sth that has broken off or comes from sth larger = odlomek, delec
- **population** : the total number of people who live in a particular area = prebivalstvo
- **a trophy** : an object that you keep to show that you were successful in sth, especially hunting or war = trofeja

- **a knuckle** : on the hands = členek
  - **primate** : any animal that belongs to the group of mammals that includes human beings, apes & monkeys = človeku najbolj sorodna opica
  - **carnivore** : any animal that eats meat = mesojedec
  - **tusks** : the elephant's mouth (also of other animals) = okli
  - **mature** : behaving in a sensible way, like an adult = zrel, odrasel
  - **extinct (EX)** : a taxon is extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.
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- **extinct in the wild (EW)** : a taxon is extinct in the wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed extinct in the wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.
  - **critically endangered (CR)** : a taxon is critically endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.
  - **endangered (EN)** : a taxon is endangered when it is not critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
  - **vulnerable (VU)** : a taxon is vulnerable when it is not critically endangered or endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.
  - **lower risk (LR)** : a taxon is lower risk when it has been evaluated, but does not satisfy the criteria for any of the categories critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. Taxa

included in the lower risk category can be separated into three subcategories.

- **Ecosystem** : a group of species in a specific area or environment.

**ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES**

**1. What forces people to kill animals? What do you think ?**

**2. How do you think we can help these endangered animals ?**

**3. Why do people hunt (also state your opinion):**

**a) elephants :**

**b) whales :**

**c) lions :**

**d) gorillas :**

**e) tigers :**

**f) pandas :**

**g) rhinos :**

**h) condors :**