

# 29 I can discuss wildlife under threat

## A Threats to wildlife in general

Word	Example	Meaning
<b>habitat</b>	<i>Some birds are in danger of losing their <b>habitat</b>.</i>	the place where a plant or animal is usually found ( <b>natural habitat</b> ).
<b>deforestation</b>	<i><b>Deforestation</b> is a real threat.</i>	the act of <b>clearing</b> forests (= removing trees).
<b>endangered species</b>	<i>The African elephant is an <b>endangered species</b>.</i>	<b>endangered</b> in danger because numbers are falling. <b>species</b> a group of animals, plants, etc. whose members are similar and can breed with each other.
<b>under threat (of sth)</b>	<i>Many wild animals are <b>under threat</b>.</i>	likely to be harmed or damaged; also <b>threatened with sth</b> .
<b>reserve</b>	<i>We can protect certain species by creating <b>reserves</b>.</i>	a protected area for plants, animals, etc. (a <b>wildlife/nature reserve</b> ).
<b>in the wild</b>	<i><b>In the wild</b>, giant pandas eat bamboo exclusively.</i>	in a natural environment not controlled by people.
<b>in captivity</b>	<i>The bear was born <b>in captivity</b>.</i>	kept in a zoo or park, etc.
<b>in decline</b>	<i>Snow leopard populations are <b>in decline</b>.</i>	continuously decreasing in number, quantity, etc. ( <b>gradual/steady decline</b> ).
<b>breed v</b>	<i>Eagles <b>breed</b><sup>1</sup> in spring. We <b>breed</b><sup>2</sup> eagles in captivity.</i>	1 (of animals) have sex and produce young. 2 keep animals in order for them to produce young.
<b>wipe sb/sth out</b>	<i>Deforestation is <b>wiping out</b> certain species.</i>	destroy or get rid of sth completely.
<b>die out</b>	<i>This species of cat is <b>dying out</b>.</i>	become less common and eventually disappear.

### spotlight **extinct, extinction**

If a plant or animal is **extinct**, it no longer exists. *Are sharks **becoming extinct**?*

*The species is **in danger of extinction**. It is **on the verge of extinction**. (= very close to extinction)*

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 the nature reserves.	
3 It is on the verge of extinction.	It is almost extinct.	
4 They breed better in the wild.	They feed better in the wild.	
5 This species is endangered.	This species is under threat.	
6 I've seen widespread deforestation.	I've seen many forests cleared.	
7 In time, it will die out.	In time it will gradually disappear.	

2 Complete the dialogues with a single word in each space.

- Has the dodo been wiped \_\_\_\_\_? ~ Yes, it's \_\_\_\_\_.
- They're in steady \_\_\_\_\_, aren't they? ~ Yes, it's just a \_\_\_\_\_ process.
- These birds are in \_\_\_\_\_ of extinction. ~ That's awful. Can they \_\_\_\_\_ more?
- Did you see them \_\_\_\_\_ captivity? ~ No, I was lucky – I saw them in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I went to a nature \_\_\_\_\_ last year. ~ It's great to see animals in their natural \_\_\_\_\_.
- There's far too much fishing of cod. ~ Yes, many \_\_\_\_\_ of fish are \_\_\_\_\_ extinct.

## B Threats to an endangered species 🎧

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

- **Poaching:** This **poses** the greatest **threat** to this species, despite the ban on trade in **rhino horn**<sup>2</sup>, which is particularly **sought after** for medical or decorative use.
- **Civil disturbance:** War **diverts funds** from conservation, and the high levels of **poverty** in affected areas increase the **likelihood** that people will turn to poaching. In some African countries, civil disturbance has **taken a heavy toll** on rhino populations.
- **Habitat loss:** If people **encroach on** the rhinos' **territory** through deforestation, the consequences are a lack of food and a limited **gene pool** for breeding.



### Glossary

poaching	the illegal hunting of animals, birds, etc. (the person is a <b>poacher</b> ).
pose a threat to sb/sth	create a threat (also <b>pose a risk/danger</b> to sb/sth).
sought after	wanted by many people but not easy to get.
divert sth (from sth)	use sth for a purpose that is different from its original purpose.
funds	PL money available to be spent ( <b>raise funds</b> = collect money).
poverty	the state of being poor.
likelihood	SYN <b>probability</b> .
take a heavy toll on sth/sb	have a bad effect on sth.
encroach on/upon sth	FML gradually cover more and more of an area.
territory	an area an animal regards as its own and defends against others. <b>territorial</b> ADJ.
gene	a unit of information inside a cell which controls what the living thing will be like (the <b>gene pool</b> is the total of all the genes in a species).

### 3 Cross out the error in each sentence. Write the correct word(s) at the end.

- 1 Cash will need to be divested from one project to another. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Pollution is putting a heavy toll on the seabird population. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The factory puts a substantial danger to wildlife in the area. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 You hear people talk about the genes pool all the time. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I'm worried that the new developments are encroaching in the countryside. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The horn of the animal is sought over by poachers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 It's important to raise fund to support conservation. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 This poses a threaten to both humans and wildlife. \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Write a word at the end of the sentence with the same meaning as the underlined words.

- 1 There is little probability of things improving soon. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 You should avoid going into the animals' land. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 He was sent to prison for illegal hunting of birds' eggs. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I saw a large heavy animal with a horn on its nose at the zoo. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The animal is extremely protective of its land. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Living in a situation with very little money is common in Africa. \_\_\_\_\_