



EMPEROR PENGUIN



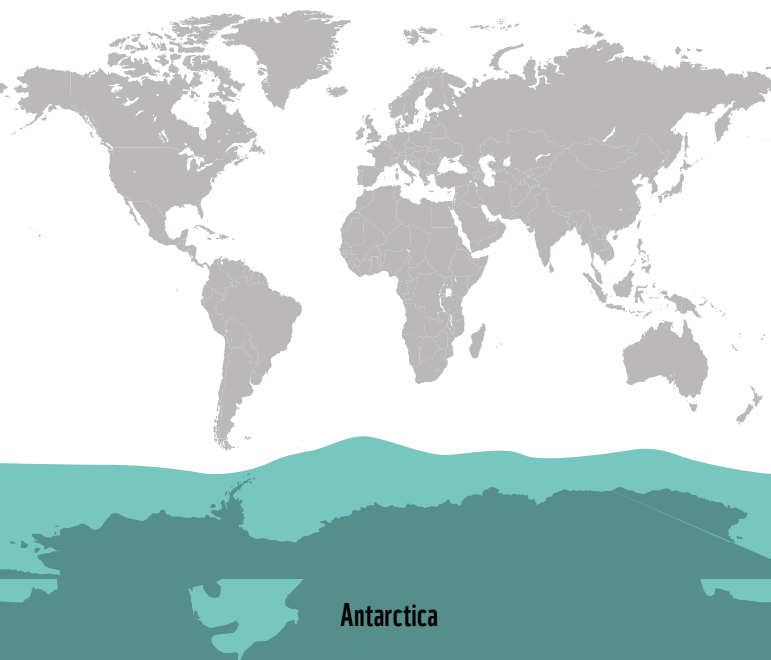
The emperor penguin is the largest of all the penguins. They are one of only two penguin species that spend the winter in Antarctica.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica, which is a polar desert surrounded by the ocean. It's extremely cold but they can survive the harshest of winters. **www.**

bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/wildlife/penguins/emperor-penguin/



CHARACTERISTICS

- To preserve heat, emperor penguins have a dense double layer of feathers and large fat reserves.
- Smaller beaks and flippers compared to other penguins, help Emperor penguins to keep warm and retain more heat.
- More than 1m tall and weigh up to 40 kg.
- Like all penguins they can't fly, so waddle clumsily on land or slide along the ice; in water however, they glide and dive effortlessly.

FAMILY

When a female lays an egg she passes it to the male who keeps it warm by balancing it on top of his feet and covering it with a flap of skin. While the female penguin returns to the sea for two months to feed, the male incubates the egg.

Huge colonies of males huddle together to stay warm, with individuals taking turns to stand at the outer edge of the huddle where it is coldest. Males do not eat while they incubate the egg and can lose up to 45% of their body weight.

After two months the chicks hatch and the male brings up food from his stomach to feed it. Then the female penguin returns from the sea and takes

DID YOU KNOW

Emperor penguins are the world's largest living penguin. To prevent heat loss, they have a proportionally smaller beak and flippers compared to other penguins.

FEEDING

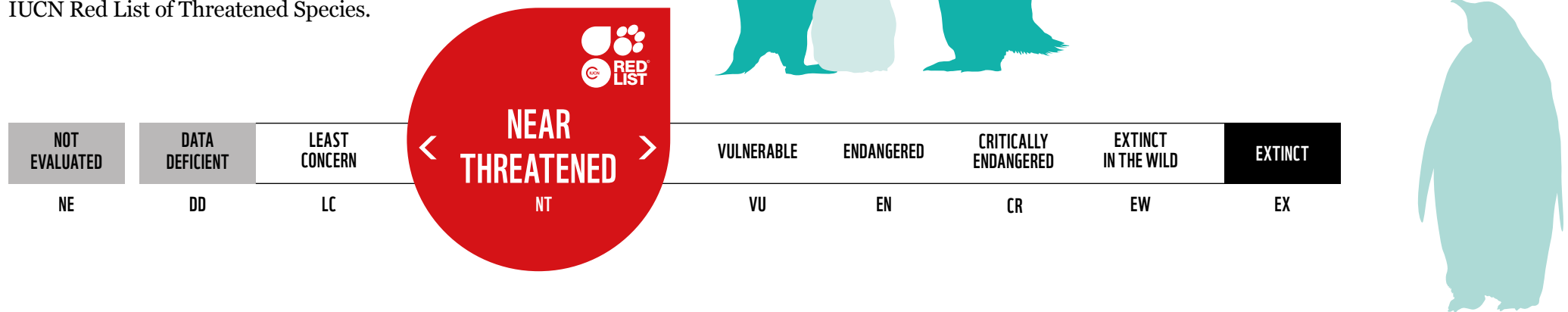
- They hunt in the open sea or underneath the sea-ice.
- They feed mainly on fish, squid and krill.

DID YOU KNOW

Emperors have by far the deepest and longest dives of any bird. They often reach depths of over 200 metres, and can stay submerged for up to 22 minutes.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



STATUS

Climate change and warming oceans are predicted in the longer term to reduce the extent of Antarctic sea-ice, which would result in the loss of large areas of their breeding habitat.

Overfishing and oil pollution from shipping accidents are also threats to their population and environment.

Their population is projected to undergo quite a rapid decline over the next three generations due to the effects of climate change. Conservation efforts are being undertaken to improve the way Antarctica is managed and also working to reduce the impacts of climate change.



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

The Ganges river dolphin lives in one of the most populated regions in the world - and is considered as a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Ganges river dolphins can only live in freshwater and inhabit the river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. They share their habitat with crocodiles, freshwater turtles and wetland birds.

www.worldwildlife.org/species/ganges-river-dolphin



CHARACTERISTICS

- They have a stocky body with a long beak that thickens at the tip.
- As a calf their skin is brown, this becomes paler as an adult to grey-brown in colour.
- They have large flippers that help them swim.
- Weighs up to 170kg.
- Ganges River Dolphins are essentially blind but find their food by making clicking sounds which bounce off their prey and tell them more about its size and shape.

DID YOU KNOW

Being a mammal, Ganges river dolphins can't breathe in the water and must surface every 30-120 seconds for air.

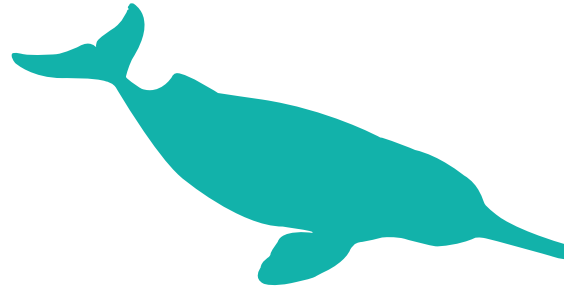
FAMILY

As a calf, they are dependent on their mother until the age of one. They can be found in groups of other Ganges river dolphins, known as 'pods', the average size of which is two individuals.



FEEDING

- Their diet includes a variety of fish and invertebrates such as prawns and clams.
- The dolphin has the peculiarity of swimming on one side so that its flipper trails the muddy bottom. This behaviour is understood to help it to find food.

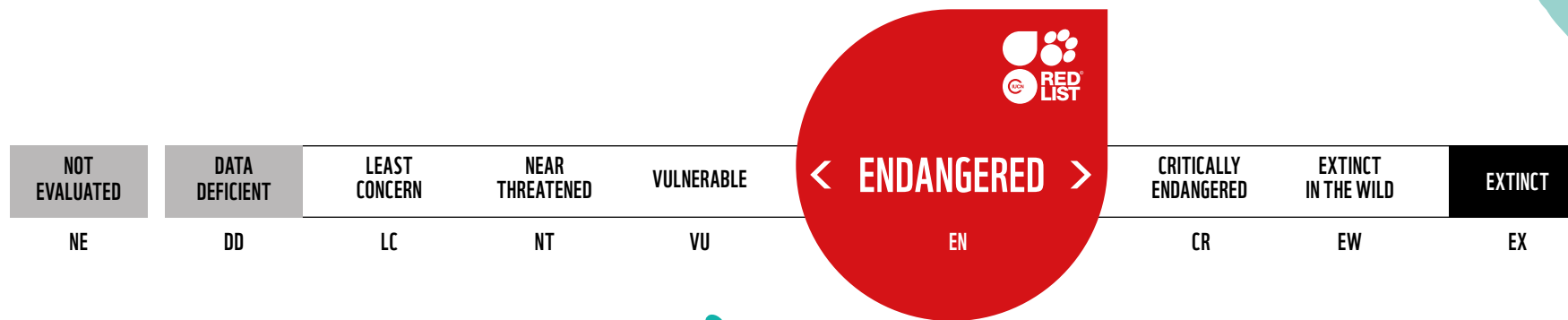


DID YOU KNOW

Ganges river dolphins are essentially blind - they hunt by sending out ultrasonic sounds, which bounce off fish and other prey, enabling them to 'see' an image in their mind.

CLASSIFICATION

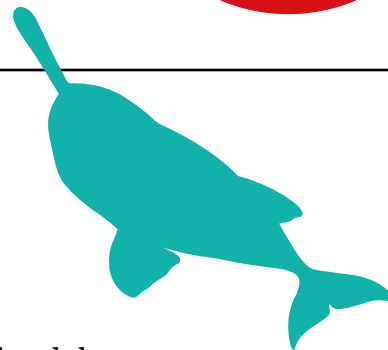
Classified as **Endangered** by the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

Their survival is threatened by the construction of dams and water development projects that isolate them from other river dolphins and limit their access to prey.

They like to live in areas of the river where fish are plentiful and the water current is slower. For the same reason, people also like to fish in these areas and sometimes the Ganges river dolphins get caught accidentally in fishing nets. The Ganges river dolphin is still hunted for meat and oil, which are both used medicinally. The oil is also used to attract catfish in net fishery.



It is estimated that the total population for the species is 1,200 -1,800 individuals.

Pollution is also a problem to the species, in particular chemical pollution that makes the freshwater they live in polluted.

www.worldwildlife.org/species/ganges-river-dolphin



GIANT PANDA

The giant panda is universally admired for its distinctive eyes and seemingly gentle demeanour.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.



© naturepl.com / Edwin Giesbers / WWF

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Giant pandas inhabit temperate montane forests in south-western China. There are around 1,860 giant pandas in the wild. They are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List having recently been

downlisted from endangered following decades of conservation work that's now seeing a rise in their wild population numbers.

wwf.org.uk/wildlife/giant_panda/



CHARACTERISTICS

- They have a larger head and shorter legs than most bears. They have a distinctive black and white coat, most of their body and belly are white, contrasting sharply with their black ears, black limbs and shoulders, and black patches over the eyes.
- They have large muscular jaws, while their teeth are wider and flatter than those of other bears, allowing them to grind bamboo.
- Weight: 85 -125kg.
- Most of their time is spent eating and sleeping, but they can climb using muscly forearms. From 3-5 months of age, young pandas walk alongside their mothers but can occasionally be seen piggy backing too!

FAMILY

The female giant panda usually gives birth to one, sometimes two cubs between August and September, although usually only one cub survives. As a cub, they are helpless after birth for the first few weeks of their life and their mother cares for them in a den located in the base of a hollow tree or in a cave. They remain dependent on their mother until around 18 months old. As an adult, they lead a solitary lifestyle, rarely meeting other pandas unless it's the mating season.



VIDEO
Watch footage:

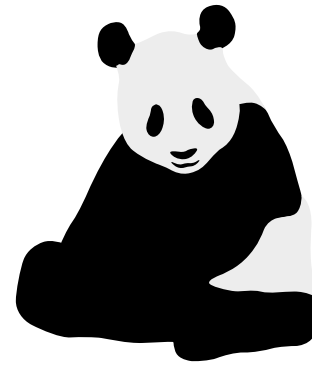
- [youtube.com/watch?v=GRcihHbqo10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRcihHbqo10)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=R_8JAU9n2SU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_8JAU9n2SU)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=jQ2YHAm_tFQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ2YHAm_tFQ)

DID YOU KNOW

Giant pandas have a 'thumb', it's actually a modified wrist bone that enables them to grasp bamboo stalks.

FEEDING

- Their diet is extremely specialised, compared to other bears.
- They mainly eat bamboo, which makes up 99% of their diet but they are really an omnivore and can sometimes eat meat other predators leave!
- Pandas can eat up to 15kg of bamboo roots, stems, shoots and leaves per day – but are also capable of eating up to 39kg of ‘new’ bamboo shoots per day.

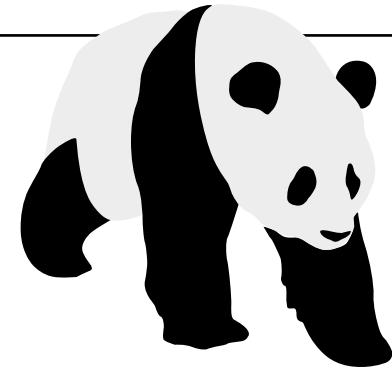


DID YOU KNOW

Although giant pandas are good swimmers and excellent tree climbers, they spend most of the time feeding - about 14 hours a day!

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List. After years of decline, however, the population is now slowly recovering in the wild.



STATUS

Fragmentation and climate change are the greatest threats facing their population today. Historically large areas of China's natural forest have been cleared for agriculture, timber and firewood, to meet the needs of the large and growing human population.

Roads and railways are increasingly cutting through the forest, which isolates panda populations and prevents them from breeding and finding new sources of food.



Their habitat is also affected by livestock grazing and people collecting medicinal herbs and harvesting bamboo – their main source of food.

There are around 1,860 pandas remaining in the wild and conservation efforts seek to grow this number.

Although poaching has been a problem in the past, the introduction of high penalties for poaching has reduced it to levels which are no longer believed to pose a significant threat to giant pandas.



JAVAN RHINO

The Javan rhino is one of the world's rarest mammals. Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.



© WWF Greater Mekong

WHERE THEY LIVE

Javan rhinos inhabit dense lowland rainforests with mud wallows and plenty of water. You can find them living in just one location – Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia, south-east Asia. It's only 50km away from Anak Krakatau, an active volcano.

gowild.wwf.org.uk/regions/asia-fact-files/javan-rhinoceros



Indonesia

CHARACTERISTICS

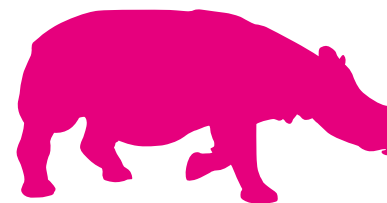
- They are a dusky grey colour and have armour plated skin.
- They can weigh around 1,500kg.
- They have the smallest horn of all rhino species, the average measuring less than 25cm in length.
- Mainly solitary, they spend most of their time browsing in the forest or submerged in mud wallows.

DID YOU KNOW

- The name rhinoceros derives from the Greek for 'nose horn'.
- They share their home which is a World Heritage Site with more than 270 species of birds and 29 species of mammal.
- Javan rhinos are very rare and hard to see in the wild so little is known about their behaviour and ecology.

FAMILY

Female Javan rhinos can give birth to a single calf every one to three years. When they are young they stay close to their mother, however, as an adult they live mostly on their own.

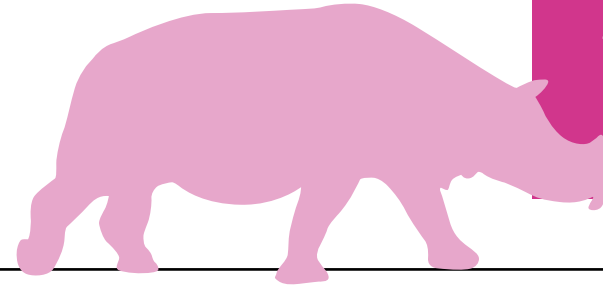


VIDEO
Watch footage:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed9c1GzmIJo>
- wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/rhinoceros/asian_rhinos/javan_rhinoceros/

FEEDING

- Their upper lip is pointed and can be used to grasp food and bring it to their mouth.
- They feed on leaves, twigs, fruits and shoots.

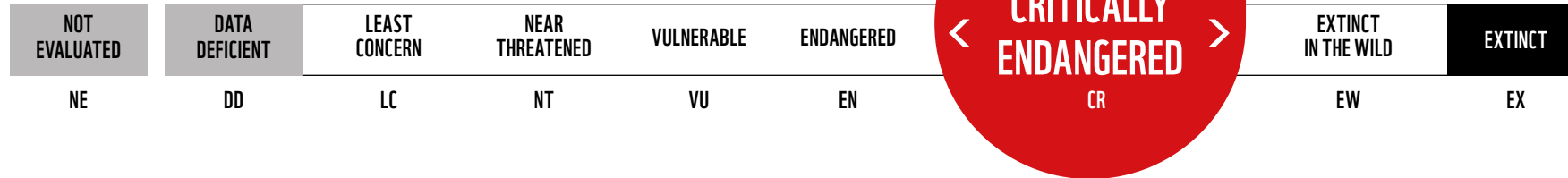
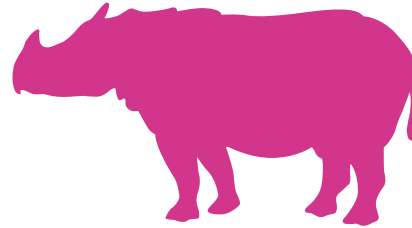


DID YOU KNOW

Javan rhinos are the most threatened of the five rhino species, with 68 individuals that live only in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN Red List.



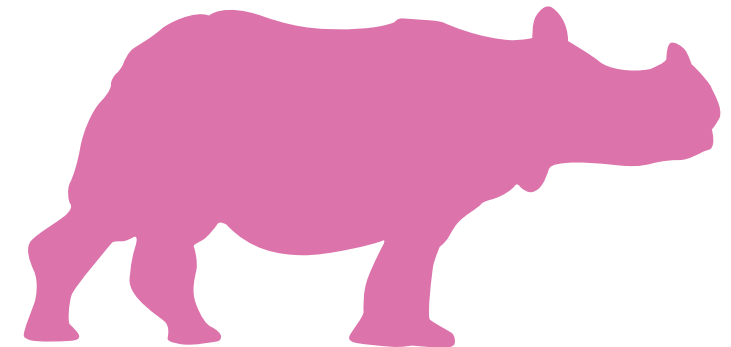
STATUS

Only one small population of Javan rhinos remains, which makes the species vulnerable to disease, poaching and natural disasters (they are very close to an active volcano).

60% of their habitat has been overrun by arenga palm, an invasive species which inhibits the growth of rhino food plants.

It is estimated there are 68 Javan rhinos remaining in the wild. The devastating decline in their species has been largely due to hunting for their horn which is used in traditional Asian medicine, or as a status symbol.

www.wwf.org.uk/wildlife/asian_rhino___/





MOUNTAIN GORILLA

The mountain gorilla is a subspecies of the eastern gorilla. The other subspecies, the eastern lowland gorilla, is on average bigger, but mountain gorillas are still powerful and strong.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Mountain gorillas live in tropical forests, in high altitudes between 2,500 metres and 4,000 metres in central Africa. Here there are just two isolated populations: one in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

in Uganda, and one in the Virunga volcanoes – which span the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/where-we-work/places/virunga-bwindi>



CHARACTERISTICS

- They have a heavy body shape and dark coat.
- Male mountain gorillas can weigh up to 180kg and females up to 90kg.
- They have a broad chest and long arms.
- They mainly move around on the ground. They walk on all fours using clenched fists and flat feet. They can climb trees if they need to.



FAMILY

Mountain gorillas generally live in groups with several females and their young, and one dominant male. They usually live in a group of about 10 gorillas – but groups of 65 have been seen.

Dominant males are known as ‘silverbacks’ because they have a patch of silver hair on their back and hips.

DID YOU KNOW

Males defend their females and offspring using their large size in intimidating displays involving charging and chest-beating.

FEEDING

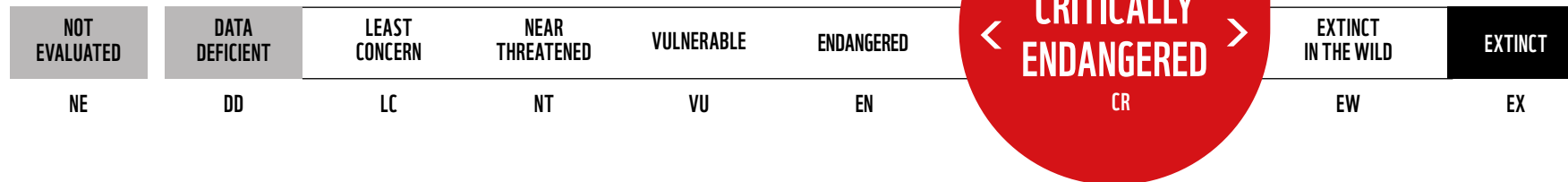
- They are omnivores.
- They mainly eat leaves, shoots and stems, and they spend about a quarter of their day eating.

DID YOU KNOW

As mountain gorillas eat lots of different leaves, shoots and stems over a wide area, the natural balance in the food chain would be disrupted without them.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, but conservation efforts are taking place to protect the population and secure their number and to make sure the environment remains healthy for the people and wildlife that depend on it. In fact, mountain gorillas are the only great ape whose numbers are believed to be increasing.



STATUS

Mountain gorillas live in places where there are lots of people who are often living in extreme poverty and struggling to survive. This pressure means that habitat loss threatens the species. Humans also use the natural resources found in their habitat such as wood for fuel, or water for drinking. Mountain gorillas are at risk from catching human diseases from the people that enter their habitat.

The area where they live has been affected by years of conflict between people and this can make efforts to conserve the species even more difficult.

Traps that are set in the wild to catch other wildlife may accidentally injure and even kill mountain gorillas too.

It is estimated there are around 1,004 mountain gorillas left in the wild.

wwf.org.uk/wildlife/mountain_gorilla/



BORNEAN ORANGUTAN

The orangutan is the largest tree-dwelling mammal in the world. Alongside its cousins the Sumatran and the Tapanuli orangutan, they are the only species of great ape to be found in Asia.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Bornean orangutans can only be found on the island of Borneo.
wwf.org.uk/wildlife/orang_utan/



CHARACTERISTICS

- Distinctive body shape, with very long arms that may reach 2.2 metres in length.
- Coarse, shaggy, reddish coat and grasping hands and feet.
- They weigh between 40-85kg.
- There are two different types of adult male orangutan: 'flanged' and 'unflanged'. Flanged males have a long coat of dark hair on their back, a facial disk, flanges (cheek pads) and a throat sac used to make a very loud sound called a 'long call' which is used to attract females.
- They live up in the canopy of the rainforest, where they climb and swing and even build a nest by weaving branches.

DID YOU KNOW

Each night, an orangutan builds a nest from bent branches on which to sleep, high up in the trees. In wet weather, they sometimes add a roof.

FAMILY

The female orangutan usually gives birth to a single infant every six to eight years. When they are an infant, they spend the first 2-3 years being carried constantly, and will still remain close to their mother up to 7 years of age.

Adult orangutans are generally solitary, although temporary groups are occasionally formed in areas of abundant food.



VIDEO
Watch footage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ft2ntmJTm7Y>

FEEDING

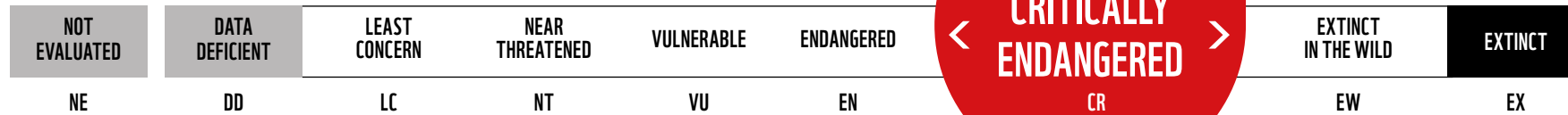
- Orangutans' diet includes hundreds of different types of food including fruit which forms around 60% of their diet.
- They will also feed on leaves, shoots, insects, tree bark, soil, and sometimes even eggs and small vertebrates.
- They obtain water not only from fruit, but also from tree holes.

DID YOU KNOW

Bornean orangutans are a 'gardener' of the forest, playing a vital role in seed dispersal.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

Habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation, together with hunting in Indonesian Borneo, are by far the greatest threats to their population. Their lowland forest habitats are quickly disappearing. Between 1973–2010, 98,730 sq km of prime orangutan habitat was lost in Borneo and less than 60% of Borneo's remaining forests are suitable for orangutans. They are being cut down for timber or burned to make

way for oil palm plantations and other agricultural developments.

The species has experienced sharp population declines over the past few decades. It's estimated that there are about 104,700 Bornean orangutans remaining in the wild.

Because they are large and slow, they are an easy target for hunters either for meat or in retaliation

to stop crops being raided. Young orangutans are also kept as pets, but there are conservation efforts to bring an end to this illegal wildlife trade as well as help conserve their habitat and promote sustainable forestry and agriculture.

www.wwf.org.uk/wildlife/orang_utan/



POLAR BEAR



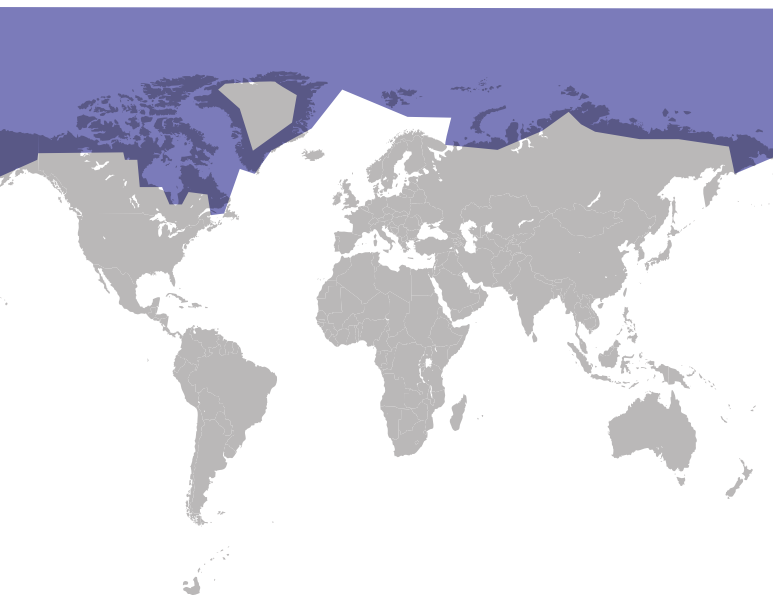
The polar bear is the largest living land carnivore. They're instantly recognisable from the distinctive white colour of their thick fur.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Polar bears live in the Arctic on land and ice-covered waters. They can be found in five countries: the United States (Alaska), Canada, Russia, Greenland and Norway.

wwf.org.uk/wildlife/polar_bear/



CHARACTERISTICS

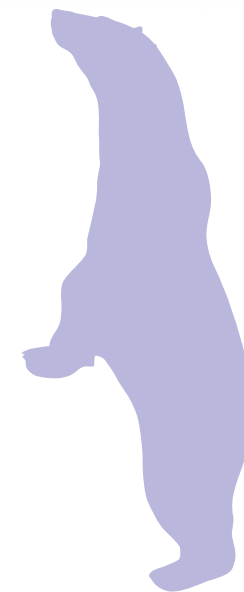
- Polar bears have more hair on the bottom of their paws than any other bear. These furry foot pads may increase their grip on slippery sea ice and also help keep their feet warm.
- They can grow up to 3 metres in length.
- Males are much bigger than females – weighing 300-650kg, but can weigh up to 800kg.
- Strong swimmers, they spend most of their life around water.
- They may be big, but they're also fast. They stalk their prey moving low and slow, camouflaged by the ice then they charge at speeds of up to 30mph!

DID YOU KNOW

Pregnant female polar bears don't eat for up to eight months - while they give birth and nurse their young.

FAMILY

Female polar bears give birth in snow dens to a litter of cubs (twins are common). The mother will nurse and care for the cubs for two and half years until they are independent, during this time she will wait and not have any more cubs. Adult males live alone throughout the year.



FEEDING

- They are the top predator in their food chain.
- Polar bears' main prey are ringed seals and bearded seals. They also scavenge on whale carcasses. When this is not available, they will eat small mammals, birds, eggs and vegetation.
- They make use of the direction of the wind to conceal their scent from prey.

DID YOU KNOW

Polar bears have an incredible sense of smell; they're able to detect prey nearly a kilometre away and up to a metre under snow.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

- Climate change is the single greatest threat to polar bears.
- The Arctic is warming up, causing the sea ice they depend on to hunt and breed, to melt away.
- The number of their species remaining in the wild is estimated to be between 22,000-31,000.

- Loss of sea-ice also threatens their main prey, seals, which depend on sea-ice to raise their young and rest. Hungry polar bears sometimes enter towns and villages to find food. Encounters between bears and people can be dangerous and even deadly - to people or to the bears. Other threats to the species include illegal hunting, pollution and disturbances from industrial activities.



SNOW LEOPARD

The snow leopard is one of the world's most mysterious cats.
Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.



WHERE
THEY
LIVE

Snow leopards can be found in twelve countries across central Asia, and the Himalayas.

wwf.org.uk/wildlife/snow_leopard/

Snow leopard territory

CHARACTERISTICS

- A thick tail is used for balance and can be wrapped around their body for warmth.
- Their coat is a white to smokey-grey colour, with patterned dark-grey to black rosettes and spots.
- Adults can weigh between 35-52kg.
- Short forelimbs and long hind limbs enable them to move quickly in their steep and rocky habitat.
- Extremely agile and a superb jumper. They can spring and pounce on prey up to 15m away!

FAMILY

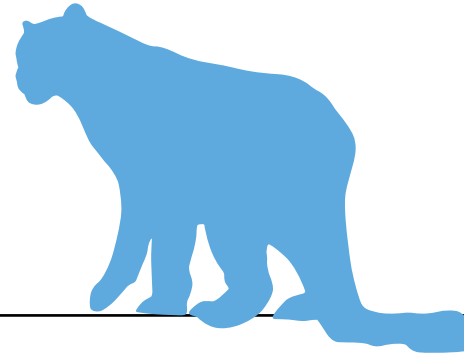
Female snow leopards give birth to a litter size of two to three cubs, which are born with black spots. They become independent from their mother when almost two years old. As an adult they tend to live and hunt alone.

DID YOU KNOW

Their beautiful coats are grey with dark rosettes and spots with shading to white on the belly. The coats are thick and keep the leopards well insulated.

FEEDING

- Their prey includes sheep and goats that share their mountain habitat.
- They usually hunt at dawn and dusk.
- They are a strong predator, able to kill prey up to three times their own weight.

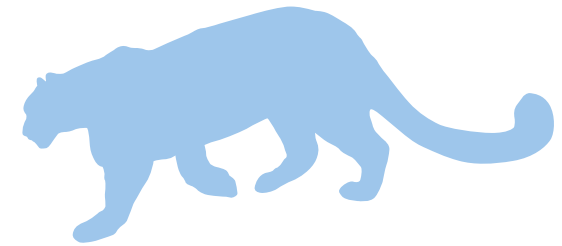


DID YOU KNOW

Unlike other big cats - like lions and tigers - snow leopards can't roar.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

Snow leopards are affected by loss of prey, poaching and the degradation and fragmentation of their habitat. Climate change may also further reduce snow leopard habitat. Snow leopards sometimes prey on livestock which can result in herders losing valuable income, and killing a snow leopard in retaliation.

Snow leopards are also killed for their fur and bones which are illegally traded.

It is estimated that there are approximately 4,000 to 6,500 individuals remaining in the wild. However it is very challenging to estimate populations of such an elusive animal that lives in such remote areas.

