

# DON'T SAY GOODBYE: ENDANGERED SPECIES

A species is endangered when its population decreases so rapidly that it is threatened with extinction.

Scientists around the world have created **The Red List of Threatened Species** – a catalogue of animals, fungi and plants at risk of disappearing from the face of the Earth forever.



Currently, more than 32,000 species are threatened with extinction. That is almost 27% of species assessed so far!

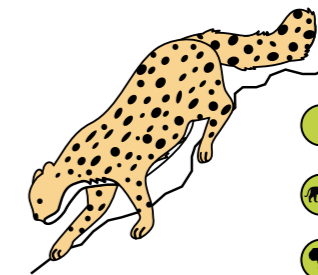
Meet some endangered animals:

## MOUNTAIN GORILLA



- STATUS**  
Endangered
- POPULATION**  
600 mature individuals
- HABITAT**  
Forests

## SNOW LEOPARD



- STATUS**  
Vulnerable
- POPULATION**  
2,710-3,386 mature individuals
- HABITAT**  
Forests, grasslands, mountainous rangelands

Some of the biggest threats to wildlife include:



### Habitat Loss

Seen as the main threat to most endangered species found in The Red List, habitat loss in forested areas is commonly caused by human activities such as logging.



### Poaching

People hunt animals for various reasons. Big cats like snow leopards are sought after for their pelts. Other animals are hunted for food or use in traditional medicine.



### Loss of Genetic Variation

A species with a reduced population size will have a smaller gene pool. This decreases their survival chances as its population cannot evolve in response to changing environments.

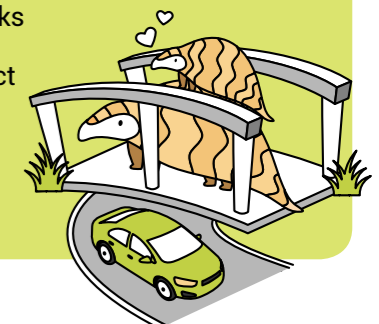
### An Overhead Bridge for Animals

Did you know that there is an overhead bridge for animals in Singapore?

Before the Bukit Timah Expressway (BKE) was built in 1986, the Central Catchment and Bukit Timah Nature Reserves made up one big forested area. The BKE has since separated the two nature reserves.

Some animals cross the BKE to make their way from one nature reserve to the other. Sadly, they occasionally fall victim to vehicles on the road.

In 2013, the National Parks Board (NParks) opened Eco-Link@BKE to connect the two nature reserves above the BKE. With the Eco-Link@BKE, there is finally a safe crossing for these animals!



**FUN FACT**

#### Sources:

"Losing their homes because of the growing needs of humans". *World Wildlife Foundation*, (n.d.), [https://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/wildlife/problems/habitat\\_loss\\_degradation/](https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/wildlife/problems/habitat_loss_degradation/). Accessed 13 April 2020.

Chew Hui Min and Rebecca Pazos. "Eco-Link@BKE: Safe passage for creatures over busy highway". *The Straits Times*, 2015. <http://graphics.straitstimes.com/ST/STIMEDIA/Interactives/2015/11/feature-ecolink-BKE-national-parks/index.html>. Accessed 13 April 2020.

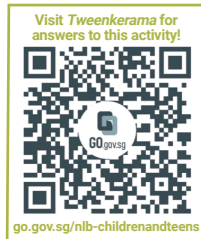
*The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species*, (n.d.), <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Accessed 10 September 2020.

# Categories of Threat

TRY THIS

ACTIVITY

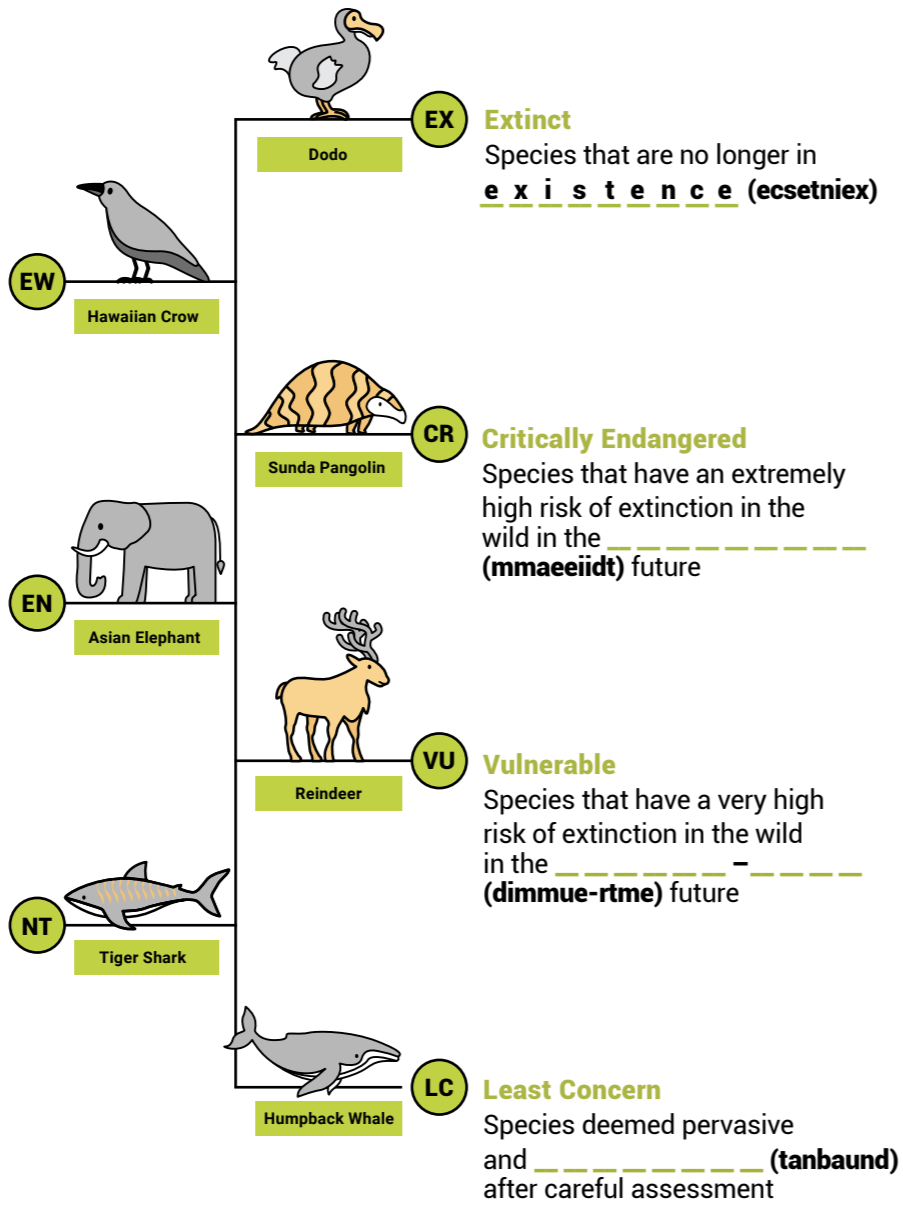
The Red List of Threatened Species sorts species into categories according to their risk of extinction. The categories below describe species studied by scientists so far. To find out more about them, unscramble the keywords in brackets. The first one has been done for you.



**Extinct in the Wild**  
Species whose members survive only in \_\_\_\_\_ (viptacity), or as artificially supported populations far away from their origins in the wild

**Endangered**  
Species that are not \_\_\_\_\_ (atiycreli) endangered but still face a very high risk of extinction in the wild

**Near Threatened**  
Species \_\_\_\_\_ (sleoc) to becoming threatened, or may meet the criteria for a threatened status in the near future



Recommended Reads

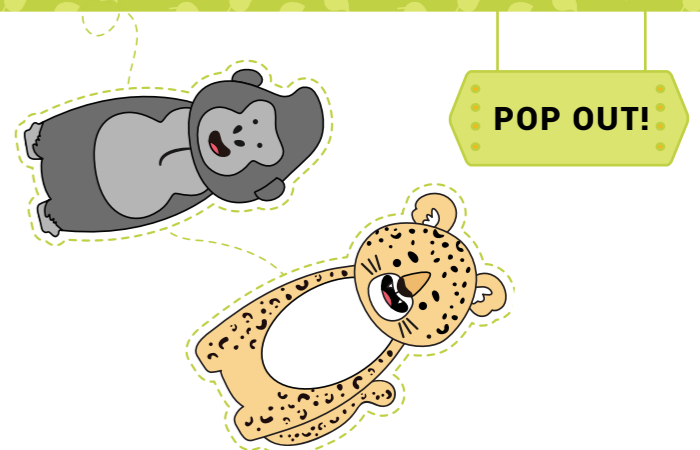
**Back from the Brink: Saving Animals from Extinction**  
Author: Nancy Castaldo  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.  
This title is available on eReads at [eresources.nlb.gov.sg/ereads](https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/ereads)

**Red Alert! 15 Endangered Animals Fighting to Survive**  
Author: Catherine Barr  
Call No. J 591.68 BAR  
Publisher: Otter-Barry Books, 2018.

**Dying Off: Endangered Plants and Animals**  
Author: Alex David  
Call No. J 577.2 DAV  
Publisher: Cavendish Square, 2020.

Sources:  
\*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species\*. Encyclopaedia Britannica, (n.d.), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/IUCN-Red-List-of-Threatened-Species>. Accessed 15 April 2020.  
Horris, Tim. South and Central Asia. Brown Bear Books, 2014.  
The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, (n.d.), <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Accessed 23 August 2020.

# Animal Bookmarks



POP OUT!

Have a snow leopard and a mountain gorilla mark out your favourite pages in a book!

Instructions:

- Pop the animals out along the perforated lines.
- Fold along the dashed lines. Slide the snow leopard's paws and the gorilla's hands through the slits on their upper bodies.
- Your bookmarks are now ready!

