



Highly Commended

Science Writing

Year 5-6

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Endangered Species Recovery

by Emily Pike

What are endangered species?

A species is a living thing on earth such as plants, animals, fungus and coral - these things are also called biodiversity. Species become endangered for two main reasons: loss of genetic variation and loss of habitat.

Genetic variation is the diversity found within a species. Genetic variation allows species to adapt to changes in the environment so they can live and survive in their environment.

Loss of habitat can be caused by humans, such as clearing of land, but can also be caused naturally like floods or fires and it leaves the animals without a home. There are hundreds of endangered species and new species are becoming endangered every minute.

Here are some examples of endangered or critically endangered animals.....

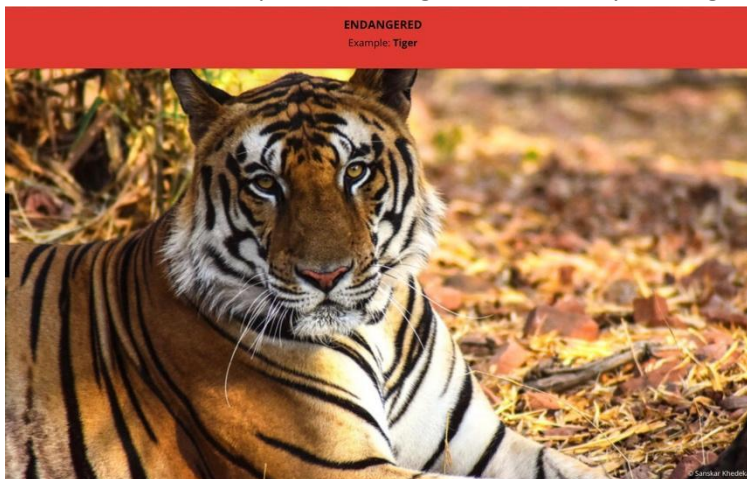


Image 1- tigers are becoming endangered because of habitat loss, climate change and poaching



Image 2- orangutans are endangered because of habitat loss due to palm oil extraction

Here's an interesting story....

Fourteen Red tailed Phascogales, which were locally extinct in NSW, were reintroduced to Mallee Cliffs National Park in western New South Wales on the 30th of March 2022 after being bred at Adelaide Zoo in captive breeding.

They were driven 450km and were released at night into nesting boxes in a 23,650 acre fenced predator-free refuge at Mallee Cliffs. They were being added to 60 Phascogales that were already released in November 2021.

When they got there, AWC (Animal Welfare Committee) ecologists did health checks on them as well as fitting them with specially designed tracking collars which will track them in their new environment.



Image 3- Red tailed Phascogale in its new environment

How can we help?

Because of global warming and climate change there has been so much effect on the earth that sometimes it seems that there is not much as individuals we can do, however here are some ways we can take action to help with recovering endangered species:

- Visit a national park, wildlife refuge or protected area. The entrance fee will provide money for the park to help save these animals from going critically endangered or even extinct. Going to a national park or zoo could give one animal a blanket to keep them warm in winter, vet care to keep them healthy or provide food so they can be full everyday.



Image 4 – donation box at Adelaide zoo

- Reduce, reuse and recycle. This will reduce waste and slow down pollution and climate change a little. Reuse items instead of purchasing new ones where possible. Rather than sending everything to landfill check if it could be recycled. It is important to respectfully get rid of your waste. For example a plastic bag that isn't recycled properly could blow away into the oceans and end up effecting sea life like sea turtles because they think it is a jellyfish and eat it which causes them to suffer or even sadly die. Remember a little bit can make a big difference.



Image 5

- When buying products be careful it is not made from ivory, tortoise shell, coral, rhino horn or palm oil because these things start to affect animal populations because of poaching or habitat loss. If you buy items made from alternatives you are helping stop these things from happening to the animals and plants and hopefully the species will be able to recover.



Image 6- these products contain palm oil

-Spread the word. If we educate our community on the impact humans have on animals such as clearing of land and not having a garden, it can help prevent any further habitat loss. People can also grow native plants, such as Waratah and Banksias, because they provide food for many animals. If you cover your landscape with plants your native animals will thank you. You could also keep your cats and dogs inside or in a fenced area so they cannot affect the animals.



Image 7- Waratah



Image 8- Banksia

[Here is another interesting story.....](#)

This is a Numbat. They are listed as endangered because their size attracts feral predators such as cats, foxes and dingoes as well as birds of prey. They are also under increased threat because of their habitat being destroyed.

Perth Zoo established its Numbat breed-for-release program in 1987 and the first successful breeding was in 1992. At eleven months of age, the young Numbats stopped breastfeeding and began their preparation for release into the wild. The first release of the Perth Zoo-bred Numbats took place in 1993. Since then, more than 244 Numbats bred at the Zoo have been released into the wild (as at 2018). Perth Zoo supports Project Numbat, a not-for-profit organisation teaching people about how to help numbats and other things about conservation. Protect Numbat also generously provides funds for the radio collars which the Numbats wear when sent out into the wild, enabling researchers to track their wild development and if they are coping in the new environment. You can help Numbats by keeping an eye out for them when you are travelling through potential Numbat habitats and report any sightings to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Doing this will help researchers know how many Numbats are out in the wild and if they are producing newborns.



Image 9- baby numbat about to be released into the wild

The future

The people on Earth are the key to helping endangered species recover. The planet relies on us to take care of the Earth, animals and plants so it is our responsibility and unless we change how we act there will be nothing left.

Bibliography

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<https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/saving-wildlife/breeding-conservation/numbat-breeding-program>

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Images

Image 1: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-does-endangered-species-mean>

Image 2: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-does-endangered-species-mean>

Image 3: <https://www.zoossa.com.au/phascogale-release/>

Image 4: <https://wildlifewarriors.org.au/get-involved/donation-box-program>

Image 5: <https://www.ck12.org/biology/conservation/lesson/Reduce-Reuse-and-Recycle-MS-LS/>

Image 6: <https://palmoilinterconnections.weebly.com/what-products-contain-palm-oil.html>

Image 7: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waratah>

Image 8: <http://www.migalakeflowers.com.au/banksia.html>

Image 9: <https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/saving-wildlife/breeding-conservation/numbat-breeding-program>

Thanks to...

Thanks to my mum and dad for giving me advice

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