Conservation Safari
Trail

Investigating the IUCN Red List

In 1965, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) set up the Red List. This is a list of species that are classified into groups based on how threatened they are. Species are placed on a list ranging from Least Concern through to Extinct based on the following characteristics:

- The total size of the population
- If the population size is increasing or decreasing
- Where the species is found
- The quality and extent of suitable habitat for the species
- What threats the species faces

Almost all of the animals we work with here at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo have been categorised by the Red List. Some are classified as ‘Least Concern’ so we know they are doing ok in the wild. But many are more threatened and ZSL is working to ensure their survival in the future.

Visit five different species as you make your way round the zoo and discover the story behind their Red List ranking and what ZSL is doing to help. Use the day planner map to locate them and don’t forget to check for any relevant talks that may be taking place.

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO (ASIAN RHINO)

Greater One-Horned Rhinos are classified as vulnerable. Why is this?

By working together, people can make a big difference to the conservation of endangered species. Name three groups of people who are helping to make a difference to the rhino’s long-term survival.

At Whipsnade, we also have White Rhinos. What are the differences between these two species? Think about what they look like, where they live in the wild and their behaviour.

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO (ASIAN RHINO)

This species has come close to extinction in the past. What role did ZSL Whipsnade Zoo play in ensuring this didn’t happen?

Captive breeding in zoos can help conserve species and prevent their extinction. If you were a keeper at Whipsnade, what would you need to provide for your herd of deer to make sure they were safe and healthy?

SCIMITAR HORNED ORYX

This species has come close to extinction in the past. What role did ZSL Whipsnade Zoo play in ensuring this didn’t happen?

By working together, people can make a big difference to the conservation of endangered species. Name three groups of people who are helping to make a difference to the rhino’s long-term survival.

At Whipsnade, we also have White Rhinos. What are the differences between these two species? Think about what they look like, where they live in the wild and their behaviour.

SCIMITAR HORNED ORYX

This species has come close to extinction in the past. What role did ZSL Whipsnade Zoo play in ensuring this didn’t happen?

By working together, people can make a big difference to the conservation of endangered species. Name three groups of people who are helping to make a difference to the rhino’s long-term survival.

At Whipsnade, we also have White Rhinos. What are the differences between these two species? Think about what they look like, where they live in the wild and their behaviour.

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO (ASIAN RHINO)

Greater One-Horned Rhinos are classified as vulnerable. Why is this?

By working together, people can make a big difference to the conservation of endangered species. Name three groups of people who are helping to make a difference to the rhino’s long-term survival.

At Whipsnade, we also have White Rhinos. What are the differences between these two species? Think about what they look like, where they live in the wild and their behaviour.
**BLACK-FOOTED (AFRICAN) PENGUINS**

Our penguins are classified as **endangered** on the Red List. What are the threats that have led to their decline?

What changes could we make to help reduce these threats?

Looking at these birds, what adaptations do you think they have for life in both a cold and aquatic environment?

---

**EGYPTIAN TORTOISE**

Head to the picnic area next to the **Butterfly House** to find these charismatic reptiles. With only a few individuals left in the wild in Northern Libya, why is this species **critically endangered**?

How could we stop people catching and illegally selling these animals for the pet trade?

If people want a pet, are there alternatives to taking animals from the wild?

---

To learn more about ZSL’s conservation work, visit zsl.org/conservation.

You can even help our scientists protect animals by helping spot animals in their photos from the wild – just visit instantwild.zsl.org

---

**CHEETAH**

The cheetah can run incredibly fast when chasing its prey. What species of animals does it hunt and eat?

What are the threats facing cheetahs in the wild?

If large carnivores such as the cheetah go extinct in the wild, what might be the effect on other animals and the environment?

---

**SPECIES ON THE RED LIST**

As you go around the zoo, see if you can find an animal that matches each of the categories below. Write the name of the animal above the category. Can you think of an animal that has gone extinct due to threats caused by human beings? Research this extinct animal back at school/home. Why did it become extinct?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOT EVALUATED</th>
<th>DATA DEFICIENT</th>
<th>LEAST CONCERN</th>
<th>NEAR THREATENED</th>
<th>VULNERABLE</th>
<th>ENDANGERED</th>
<th>CRITICALLY ENDANGERED</th>
<th>EXTINCT IN THE WILD</th>
<th>EXTINCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>EW</td>
<td>EX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>