

Endangered Animals

The phrase 'endangered animals' is an umbrella term used to describe creatures that are at risk of extinction. Endangered animals are categorised using index called the 'Red List', developed by International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Species are ranked on the 'Red List' according to the current severity of the risk to their existence. There are various levels of severity of endangerment ranging from 'least concern', meaning the animal has only just been added to the list, up to 'extinct in the wild' or 'extinct' - meaning a species either only exists in captivity or has disappeared altogether.

The Javan rhinoceros is a creature on the brink of extinction. They are the most endangered of the five species of rhino and now only exist in one small area of protected parkland: Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia. Although they are closely related to other rhinoceros species - such as the greater one-horned rhinoceros found across Pakistan and India - they are much smaller. Observers have also commented that the less prominent skin folds across their bodies give the impression of armoured plating. Some of the main threats to the Javan rhinos are natural disasters, habitat loss and diseases.



1

Find and copy one phrase which is an expression that means 'to cover a broad category of things'.

2

Give one piece of evidence which you think shows that Javan rhinos may become extinct in the near future.

4

Where do Javan rhinoceros live?

4

What does IUCN stand for?

5

Thinking about what you have learnt from this text, what predictions can you make about the Javan rhinos' future?



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