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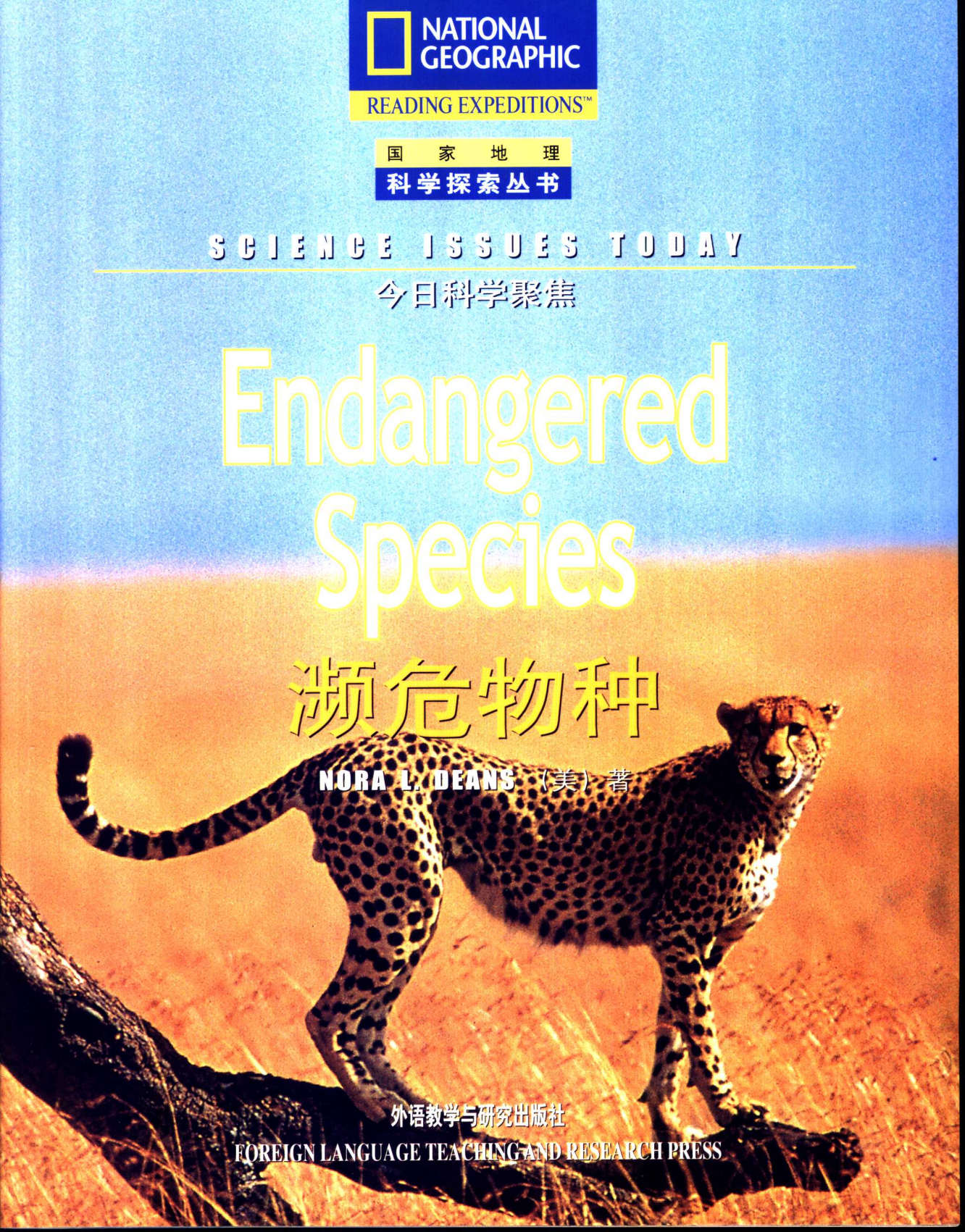
# Endangered Species

## 濒危物种

NORA L. DEANS (美) 著

外语教学与研究出版社

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NORA L. DEANS (美) 著

关静瑞 注

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**如**果你希望读到地道的英语，在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野，这套由外语教学与研究出版社与美国国家地理学会合作出版的“国家地理科学探索丛书”正是你的选择。

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这套丛书以英文注释形式出版，注释由国内重点中学教学经验丰富的英语教师完成。特别值得推荐的是本套丛书在提高青少年读者英语阅读能力的同时，还注重培养他们的科学探索精神、动手能力、逻辑思维能力和沟通能力。

本丛书既适合学生自学，又可用于课堂教学。丛书各个系列均配有一本教师用书，内容包括背景知识介绍、技能训练提示、评估测试、多项选择题及答案等详尽的教学指导，是对课堂教学的极好补充。

本套丛书是适合中学生及英语爱好者的知识读物。

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# Vanishing

**You may have heard of a dodo<sup>1</sup>, but it's a sure thing you've never seen one. Do you know why?**

Dodos are extinct<sup>2</sup>—gone forever from this planet<sup>3</sup>. Is there anything we can do to protect plants and animals from this fate<sup>4</sup>? The answer is complicated<sup>5</sup>. The dying out<sup>6</sup> of species is a natural process<sup>7</sup>. It has happened since the beginning of time. Often it happens slowly, and it doesn't affect<sup>8</sup> many species at once. Sometimes it happens more quickly, and then the whole balance<sup>9</sup> of nature is affected. We need many kinds of living things to keep our planet a healthy place.

Today many species are dying out at an alarming<sup>10</sup> rate<sup>11</sup>. In this book we'll look at how people are affecting endangered species—types of living things that are in danger of dying out. Then we'll look at an experiment<sup>12</sup> with gray wolves<sup>13</sup> in Yellowstone National Park<sup>14</sup> and you'll see that protecting some species isn't always easy.

1. dodo	<i>n.</i>	(产于毛里求斯 现已绝种的)渡渡鸟
2. extinct	<i>adj.</i>	灭绝的
3. planet	<i>n.</i>	行星(此处指地球)
4. fate	<i>n.</i>	命运
5. complicated	<i>adj.</i>	复杂的
6. die out		消失; 灭绝
7. process	<i>n.</i>	过程

8. affect	<i>v.</i>	影响
9. balance	<i>n.</i>	平衡
10. alarming	<i>adj.</i>	惊人的
11. rate	<i>n.</i>	速度
12. experiment	<i>n.</i>	实验
13. gray wolf		灰狼; 狼
14. Yellowstone National Park		黄石国家公园
15. Siberian tiger		西伯利亚虎





# ng Act

## 物种的消亡

The Siberian tiger<sup>15</sup> is an endangered species. Only about 300-400 are left in the wild.

(注释见第 4 页)





Many groups, including zoos, are helping endangered species to survive<sup>1</sup>. For example, the National Zoological Park<sup>2</sup> in Virginia<sup>3</sup> is helping to protect this endangered species of deer, called Eld's deer<sup>4</sup>.

- |                             |    |           |
|-----------------------------|----|-----------|
| 1. survive                  | v. | 活下来       |
| 2. National Zoological Park |    | (美国)国家动物园 |
| 3. Virginia                 |    | 弗吉尼亚州     |
| 4. Eld's deer               |    | 泽鹿        |





# How Well Are We Doing?



## Good News

- Thanks to<sup>1</sup> the Endangered Species Act<sup>2</sup>, conservation<sup>3</sup> groups and government agencies<sup>4</sup> are working together to protect endangered species.
- Thirteen species on the endangered species list, including the gray whale<sup>5</sup> and American alligator<sup>6</sup>, have recovered<sup>7</sup> enough to be taken off<sup>8</sup> the list.
- Better field research techniques<sup>9</sup> give us faster and better data<sup>10</sup> about endangered species.
- Many groups, including<sup>11</sup> zoos and aquariums<sup>12</sup> that breed<sup>13</sup> rare<sup>14</sup> and endangered species, are trying to help many species survive.

1. thanks to		幸亏; 由于
2. Endangered Species Act		濒危物种法案
3. conservation	<i>n.</i>	(对自然资源的)保护
4. agency	<i>n.</i>	机构
5. gray whale		灰鲸
6. American alligator		美洲鳄
7. recover	<i>v.</i>	恢复
8. take off		拿掉
9. technique	<i>n.</i>	技术
10. datum	<i>n.</i>	( <i>pl. data</i> )数据

## Bad News

- Not everyone agrees on the best way to help endangered species, especially when people's jobs or way of life may be threatened<sup>15</sup>.
- More research has to be done before hundreds of plants and animals can be included on the endangered species list.
- Since being listed on the endangered species list, seven species have become extinct. Some scientists think that thousands of unlisted species are becoming extinct each year.
- The presence<sup>16</sup> of an endangered species may halt<sup>17</sup> a construction<sup>18</sup> project<sup>19</sup>, cause people to lose their jobs, or even threaten their way of life.

11. include	<i>v.</i>	包括
12. aquarium	<i>n.</i>	水族馆
13. breed	<i>v.</i>	饲养
14. rare	<i>adj.</i>	稀有的; 珍贵的
15. threaten	<i>v.</i>	威胁
16. presence	<i>n.</i>	存在; 出现
17. halt	<i>v.</i>	使停止
18. construction	<i>n.</i>	建设; 建造
19. project	<i>n.</i>	规划; 项目
20. illegal	<i>adj.</i>	非法的
21. Indonesia		印度尼西亚

Many human activities—like the illegal<sup>20</sup> clearing of this forest in Indonesia<sup>21</sup>—have made it difficult for some species to survive.



A World of Interaction

相互作用的世界

# Protecting the Few

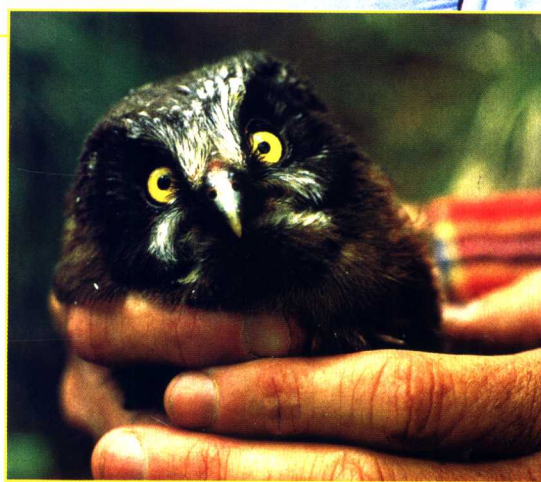
## 保护稀有物种

*Beep! Beep! Beep! Your alarm goes off<sup>1</sup> and you hop<sup>2</sup> out of bed. You wash your face, chat with your family, eat your breakfast, and jump on the school bus. Even before you get to school, you have interacted with many people and things. Believe it or not, all of the things you do—your activities, what you eat and drink, how you travel from place to place—have an impact<sup>3</sup> on the world around you.*

The way we live our lives affects the environment. Your environment is all of the living and nonliving things around you. All across Earth, humans are changing the environment in small and large ways. We cut down trees for lumber<sup>4</sup> to build houses. We plow fields to grow crops. We pave<sup>5</sup> roads and build parking lots<sup>6</sup>. We pour<sup>7</sup> waste into rivers, lakes, and oceans. We use larger nets and bigger boats to catch huge numbers of fish. Activities like these affect plants and animals as well as nonliving things like the soil and water in the environment.

- |                |    |        |
|----------------|----|--------|
| 1. go off      |    | 响起     |
| 2. hop         | v. | 跃起     |
| 3. impact      | n. | 作用; 影响 |
| 4. lumber      | n. | 木材     |
| 5. pave        | v. | 铺      |
| 6. parking lot |    | 停车场    |

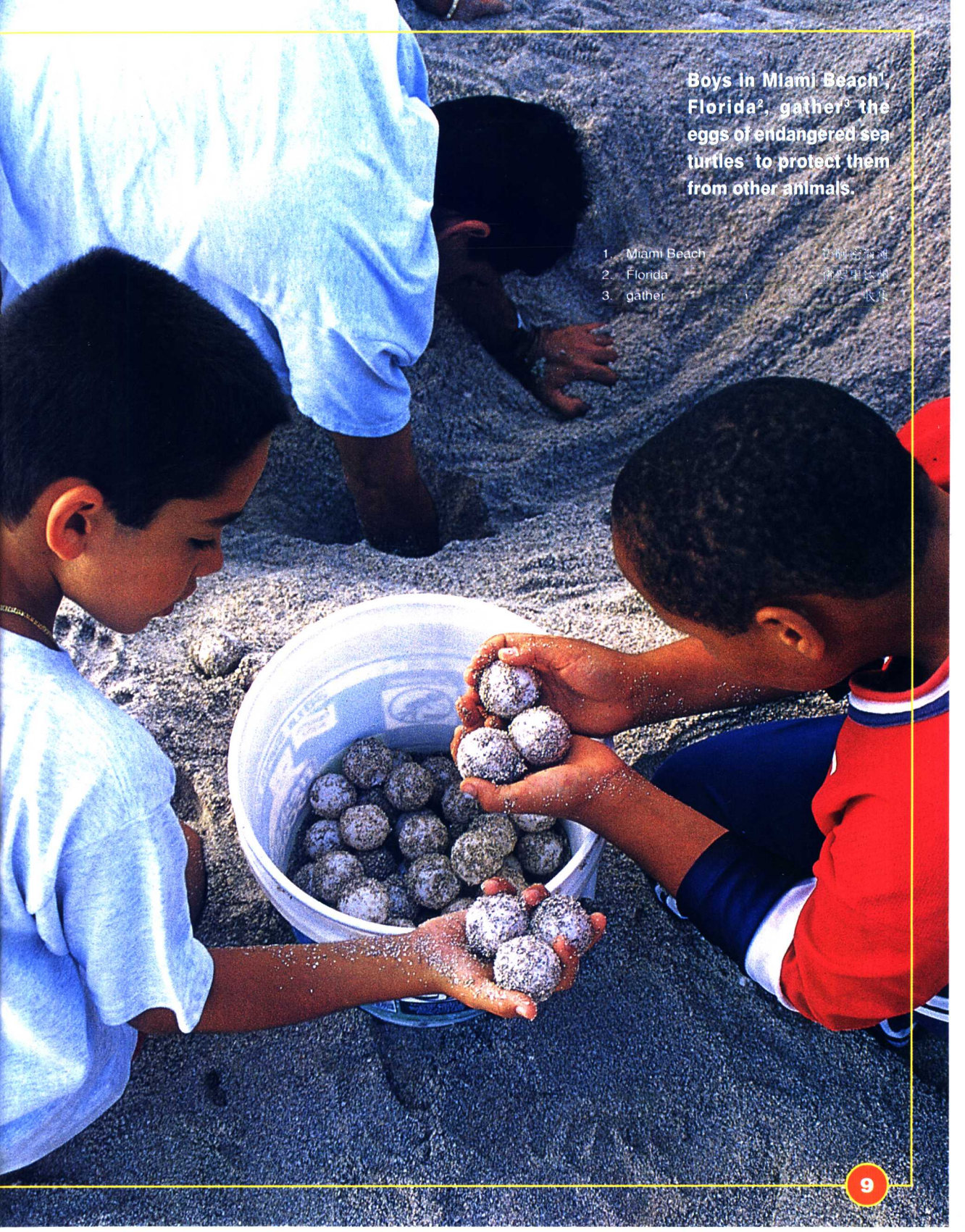
- |                             |    |         |
|-----------------------------|----|---------|
| 7. pour                     | v. | 倒       |
| 8. band                     | n. | (鸟足)标记环 |
| 9. boreal owl               |    | 鬼鸮      |
| 10. Payette National Forest |    | 佩埃特国家森林 |
| 11. Idaho                   |    | 爱达荷州    |



Scientists put a band<sup>8</sup> on this boreal owl<sup>9</sup> in the Payette National Forest<sup>10</sup> in Idaho<sup>11</sup> to help keep it off the endangered species list.







Boys in Miami Beach<sup>1</sup>,  
Florida<sup>2</sup>, gather<sup>3</sup> the  
eggs of endangered sea  
turtles to protect them  
from other animals.

1. Miami Beach

迈阿密海滩

2. Florida

佛罗里达州

3. gather

收集



Sometimes our actions<sup>1</sup> allow<sup>2</sup> a certain plant or animal population<sup>3</sup>—or the total number of individuals<sup>4</sup> in a group—to get larger. For example, if you planted tulips<sup>5</sup> in your yard<sup>6</sup>, the tulip population in your area would increase<sup>7</sup>. Or if you put seed out for the birds in your area<sup>8</sup>, the bird population might get larger.

Our activities also can lead<sup>9</sup> to smaller plant and animal populations. What would happen to the plants and animals in a neighborhood park if the park were turned into an apartment building<sup>10</sup>? Well, they would either die or move someplace else—and the area's plant and animal populations would shrink<sup>11</sup>.

Overhunting<sup>12</sup>, pollution<sup>13</sup>, and other activities sometimes cause the population of a species to become so small that it cannot survive. A species that is in danger of dying out is called an endangered species. When a species can no longer survive and dies out, it becomes extinct. A species that is extinct is gone forever.

1. action	<i>n.</i>	行为; 举动
2. allow	<i>v.</i>	容许; 允许
3. population	<i>n.</i>	种群
4. individual	<i>n.</i>	个体
5. tulip	<i>n.</i>	郁金香
6. yard	<i>n.</i>	院子
7. increase	<i>v.</i>	增加
8. area	<i>n.</i>	地区
9. lead	<i>v.</i>	导致

10. apartment building		公寓大楼
11. shrink	<i>v.</i>	减少
12. overhunting	<i>n.</i>	过度捕猎
13. pollution	<i>n.</i>	污染
14. whooping crane		美洲鹤; 高鸣鹤



**These girls have increased the population of some plants by planting a garden.**

**The whooping crane<sup>14</sup> is an endangered species whose population dropped to less than 20 in the 1940s. Today there are more than 300 of these cranes in North America.**







1. habitat	n.	栖息地
2. tear up		撕开
3. wetland	n.	湿地; 沼泽地
4. introduce	v.	引进; 添入
5. life form		生物
6. crowd out		(以占据某个空间的方式)挤掉
7. chemical	n.	化学物质
8. over-consumption	n.	过度消费

Pollution affects the environment and can lead to smaller populations of plants and animals.

Did you  
ever  
wonder...

...why some species of plants and animals are in danger of dying out? An easy way to remember the threats facing plants and animals today is **HIPPO**. It stands for:

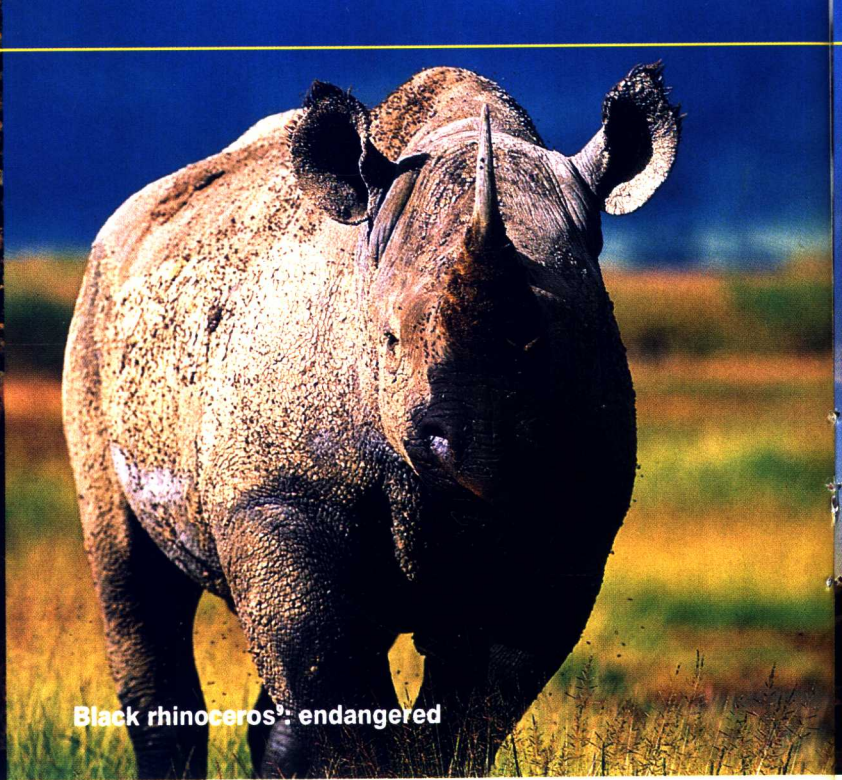
- **Habitat<sup>1</sup> loss**—cutting down trees, tearing up<sup>2</sup> the land, filling in wetlands<sup>3</sup>; such activities often leave plants and animals with no place to live
- **Introduced<sup>4</sup> species**—bringing in new life forms<sup>5</sup> that crowd out<sup>6</sup> or feed on the ones that were there
- **Pollution**—chemicals<sup>7</sup> and wastes that damage or even kill living things
- **Population growth**—more and more people who need more food and more land
- **Over-consumption<sup>8</sup>**—hunting and fishing and harvesting too many plants or animals

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**Silversword<sup>8</sup>: endangered**



**Black rhinoceros<sup>9</sup>: endangered**

## Making the List

As groups of plants and animals began to disappear<sup>1</sup>, people began to look for<sup>2</sup> ways to protect these species. In the early 1900s laws were passed to protect certain animals. However, the big breakthrough<sup>3</sup> came in 1973 when the U.S. government passed the Endangered Species Act. This act lists species that are in danger of becoming extinct. The act also makes it illegal to disturb<sup>4</sup>, harm, pursue<sup>5</sup>, shoot, wound, kill, trap<sup>6</sup>, capture<sup>7</sup>, or collect any of the species on the list. The act protects not only the listed species but also the areas where they live.

1. disappear	v.	消失
2. look for		寻找; 寻求
3. breakthrough	n.	突破
4. disturb	v.	打扰
5. pursue	v.	追捕

6. trap	v.	诱捕
7. capture	v.	捕获
8. silversword	n.	夏威夷银剑菊
9. black rhinoceros		黑犀
10. golden-shouldered parrot		金肩鹦鹉



**Golden-shouldered parrot<sup>10</sup>: endangered**





**Aloe<sup>6</sup> (*aloe pilansii*): endangered**



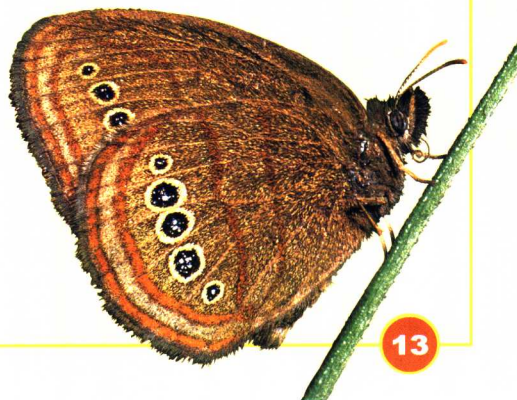
**Manatee<sup>7</sup>: endangered**

Many species are on the list, but they're not all classified<sup>1</sup> the same way. Species are listed as either endangered or threatened. An endangered species is one in danger of becoming extinct. A threatened species is a species that could become endangered without protection.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS<sup>2</sup>) is the government agency that enforces<sup>3</sup> the Endangered Species Act. Many of the scientists at FWS keep a close watch on<sup>4</sup> endangered and threatened plants and animals. They track<sup>5</sup> the populations of the species on the list and collect information about the areas where the species live.

- |                                  |    |                  |
|----------------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1. classify                      | v. | 分类               |
| 2. FWS                           |    | (美国)渔业及<br>野生动物局 |
| 3. enforce                       | v. | 实施               |
| 4. keep a close<br>watch on      |    | 密切注意             |
| 5. track                         | v. | 追踪               |
| 6. aloe                          | n. | 龙舌兰              |
| 7. manatee                       | n. | 海牛               |
| 8. Mitchell's satyr<br>butterfly |    | 米切尔眼蝶            |

**Mitchell's satyr  
butterfly<sup>8</sup>: endangered**





If the collected information shows that the population of a threatened species is getting a lot smaller, the species could be reclassified<sup>1</sup> as an endangered species. If the population of an endangered species gets larger, it could be downlisted<sup>2</sup>, or changed to a threatened species. If the population of a species gets large enough, it could be taken off the list entirely.

The scientists at FWS have a challenging<sup>3</sup> job. They look after all the species on the list. And other species in need of protection are always being identified<sup>4</sup>. The only way that a species can be added<sup>5</sup> to the list, removed<sup>6</sup> from it, or reclassified is through an act of Congress<sup>7</sup>. In the United States about 300 species are currently<sup>8</sup> being considered<sup>9</sup> for the endangered species list. Many more at-risk<sup>10</sup> species cannot be considered for listing until research is done.

## Key Points

- Our activities affect the environment and can have an impact on populations of plants and animals.
- Some of our activities have made it difficult for certain plant and animal populations to survive.
- The Endangered Species Act identifies and protects species of plants and animals that are in danger of dying out.
- Although many plants and animals are protected under the Endangered Species Act, many other at-risk species cannot be protected until research is done.

These kittens<sup>11</sup> are Florida panthers<sup>12</sup>, an endangered species living in the Florida Everglades<sup>13</sup>.

Bald eagles<sup>14</sup> have been downlisted from endangered to threatened.

1. reclassify	v.	重新分类	8. currently	adv.	当前
2. downlist	v.	从名单中摘出	9. consider	v.	考虑
3. challenging	adj.	挑战性的	10. at-risk	adj.	处境危险的
4. identify	v.	识别	11. kitten	n.	幼小动物
5. add	v.	添加	12. panther	n.	豹
6. remove	v.	去掉, 除去	13. Everglades		佛罗里达大沼泽地
7. Congress	n.	美国国会	14. bald eagle		白头鹰

