

## Protecting endangered species

### Objective

To become aware of the need to save endangered species.

### Background

All the living organisms, be it plants, animals or microorganisms, have a specific role to play in the ecosystem in which they exist. Some of these organisms face the risk of becoming extinct because of decreasing numbers that are caused by destruction of their habitat, hunting, poaching, excessive utilisation, etc. These are called endangered species. Many countries, including India, have laws that forbid hunting of such species. Endangered animals are also preserved in reserved forests. However, some species are also dying silently. We need to do something to prevent their extinction in order to maintain the ecological balance.



### Methodology

1. List ten endangered species, each under the categories of birds and other animals of both land and water in our country.
2. Locate and describe the regions to which they belong (for example on a map).
3. Find out the causes of their declining numbers.
4. Prepare a flow chart to show the decrease in their numbers over the past ten years.
5. List the sanctuaries, national parks and reserve forests where these endangered species are looked after.
6. List steps which can save them from extinction.



## Conclusion

Every creature in nature is valuable. Extinction of even a single creature shows intense effect in the food web. If all the sparrows disappear from our surroundings, insects will increase tremendously. It shows impact on crops. Yielding will be reduced. Hence, our activities should be helpful for all the creatures to live.

Prepare a report on the basis of your study giving pictures and habitats of the animals.

## Follow-up

1. Try to publish your study report in a magazine or a newspaper.
2. Try to find out the reasons why certain species have become extinct in the past.
3. Organise a debate in your class on whether cloning of endangered animals is an appropriate solution for their conservation.



About 500 one horned rhinoceros have been killed by poachers over the past 20 years in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. Experts believe that the rhinohorns, purported to have aphrodisiac properties, are smuggled to China or sold in other Asian markets. In the Middle East the horns are used to make ornamental dagger handles. A kilogram of horns can sell for up to 35000 US dollars.