

Recycle Now: act out for action

Snow leopard

Clue: This big cat lives in cold climates and never changes its spots.

Fact: Snow leopards are one of the world's most elusive cats and are hard to see because the coat blends into the mountainous landscapes they live in.

Threats: Habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, human wildlife conflict, illegal wildlife trade.

Numbers: Snow leopards are classified as 'vulnerable' on the (IUCN) Red List, with as few as 4,000 left.

Orangutan

Clue: This ape has very long arms and ginger hair all over its body.

Fact: Of all wild animals, it's one of the most human-like. Orangutans' forests have disappeared, causing their numbers to be cut by around half in the last 60 years. They are known as 'gardeners of the forest', because they help to spread seeds.

Threats: Logging and agriculture, habitat loss and fragmentation, hunting, illegal wildlife trade.

Numbers: Bornean orangutans are classified as 'critically endangered' on the IUCN Red List, with only around 104,700 left in the wild.

Emperor penguin

Clue: This flightless bird is clumsy on land but a fantastic swimmer.

Fact: Emperors are the largest penguins, at around 115cm tall. They mate for life and work together to raise their young. They are adapted to live in the freezing weather conditions of the Antarctic and huddle together in large groups to keep warm.

Threats: Climate change.

Numbers: Emperor penguins are classified as 'near threatened' on the IUCN Red List with around 600,000 remaining. Populations have declined by up to 50% in some places and one colony off the Antarctic Peninsula has disappeared completely. The biggest threat is climate change due to changes in the sea ice they depend on.

African elephant

Clue: This mammal is recognised by its long trunk and floppy ears.

Fact: Around 20,000 African elephants are being killed every year for their ivory – that's around 55 every day. Even though elephant poaching is illegal,

it still goes on.

Threats: Illegal wildlife trade, human wildlife conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation.

Numbers: African elephants are classified as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List, with around 415,000 left. Around 90% of African elephants have been wiped out in the last 100 years.

Bottlenose Dolphin

Clue: A lot of people might think it's a fish because it lives in the sea, but it's actually a mammal.

Fact: Bottlenose dolphins are generally social creatures that live in groups called 'pods', which can contain hundreds of dolphins. By producing clicking sounds and interpreting the returning echoes, dolphins can tell the size, shape and speed of objects underwater – that's how they catch fish, squid and other food.

Threats: Climate change, fisheries, pollution (especially noise pollution).

Numbers: Dolphins are classified as being of the 'least concern' on the IUCN Red List, with around 600,000 remaining.

Marine turtle

Clue: This ancient sea creature is soft on the inside but has a hard outer shell.

Fact: Marine turtles have been in our oceans for over 100 million years. They're brilliant navigators, swimming hundreds or thousands of kilometres between feeding and nesting grounds.

Threats: Fisheries bycatch, habitat destruction, illegal wildlife trade, climate change.

Numbers: The Hawksbill Turtle is classified as 'critically endangered' on the IUCN Red List, with around 8,000 remaining.

Giant panda

Clue: This charismatic black and white bear is the logo of WWF.

Fact: Pandas are excellent tree climbers, but they spend most of their time feeding. They can eat for 14 hours a day, mainly bamboo, which counts for 99% of their diet.

Threats: Habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change.

Numbers: Thanks to conservation work, panda numbers are starting to recover but they are still at risk. Giant pandas are classified as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List with around 1,860 remaining.

Polar Bear

Clue: This big white bear lives in very cold climates.

Fact: Polar Bears spend most of their lives around water and sea ice (their Latin name 'Ursus maritimus' means 'sea bear'). They can swim for several hours to get from one piece of ice to another. They're at particular risk from global warming, which is melting the Arctic sea ice they depend on to hunt seals, travel around their range and find mates to breed.

Threats: Climate change, toxic pollution, oil exploration, human wildlife conflicts.

Numbers: Polar Bears are classified as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List with around 22,000 remaining.

African Rhino

Clue: It's Africa's armoured giant – like a tank on legs – and has a large horn.

Fact: The rhinoceros has been on our planet for millions of years. White rhinos got their name not from their colour but a reference to their 'wide' mouths. Black rhinos are slightly smaller, with a more pointed top lip.

Threats: Illegal wildlife trade.

Numbers: Black and white rhinos are both on the IUCN Red List. Conservation has helped southern white rhino numbers to recover slightly – around 20,000 remain. But between 1970 and 1992, around 96% of black rhinos were lost to wide-scale poaching and only around 5,200 are left.

Amur Leopard

Clue: You can recognise these big cats by their distinctive spots.

Fact: The Amur leopard is a nocturnal animal that lives and hunts alone – mainly in the vast forests of Russia and China. During the harsh winter, the hairs of that unique coat can grow up to 7cm long and it has a fluffy tail that it can wrap around itself to keep warm.

Threats: Illegal wildlife trade, climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, deforestation.

Numbers: After being driven to the edge of extinction, numbers appear to be rising thanks to conservation work. They are classified as 'critically endangered' on the IUCN Red List, with only around 100 remaining in the wild.