

# Exploring Conservation in the Curriculum



## Overview

Sadly, many of the precious and unique species on our planet are under threat of extinction. Animal populations are being threatened by many factors including habitat loss, introduced species, poaching, smuggling, disease, low breeding rates, imbalances in the population of males and females, reduced genetic diversity resulting from low population numbers... so many threats, and unfortunately for some species, so little time.

Education and action are vital to ensure the conservation of threatened species.

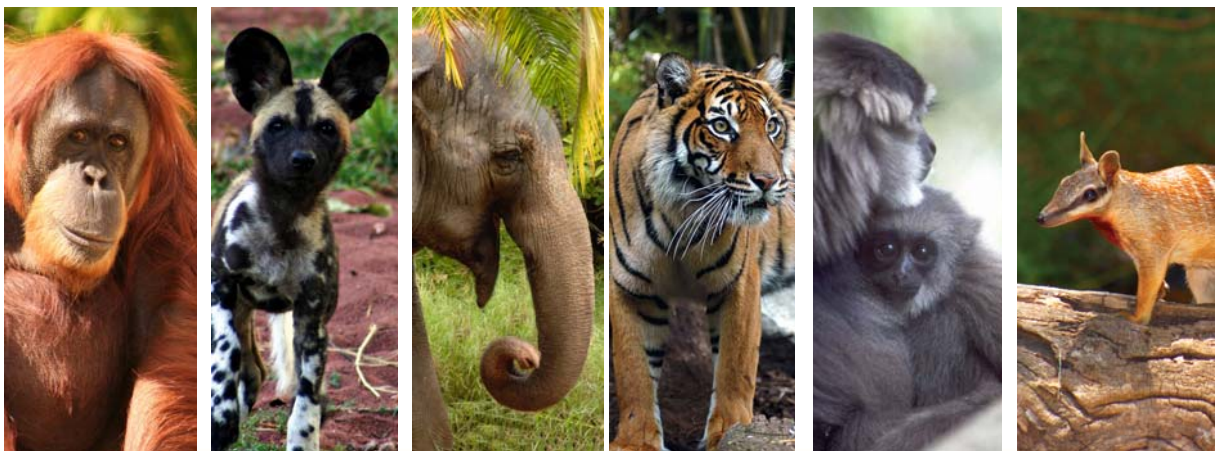
## Exploring Conservation Issues

Exploring conservation issues as part of the school curriculum can be an effective way to increase student knowledge, but actually exploring the environment will help them develop a connection to the wild world.

Ultimately, enabling students to make a difference through positive conservation action will empower them, providing them with hope for their future, as well as the future of the planet.

## Making the Links

Exploring topics about threatened species can easily be integrated into studies in many of the curriculum areas. The ideas listed in this document are designed to serve as a springboard for teachers planning a topic on threatened species, and are by no means an exhaustive list.



## Research

- Research threatened species
  - within Western Australia
  - within Australia
  - from other countries
- Compare population counts of threatened species
- Investigate the reasons behind, and the effects of
  - habitat loss
  - introduced species
  - poaching and smuggling
  - climate change
  - the palm oil crisis, and how alternative fuels may threaten some species
- Explore links between a country's economy and the decline of species found there
- Research different ecosystems around the world and the species found within them
- Explore biodiversity hotspots
- Discover adaptations that animals have that help them survive in their environment
- Find out about the role of modern zoos

## Debates

- We should significantly increase resources and funds to protect threatened species
- We should only focus on protecting threatened species from Australia
- We should stop all logging immediately
- Poor people in other countries have the right to make money any way they like, even if it is to the detriment of threatened species

## The Role of Perth Zoo

- Research the role of modern zoos
- Find out which threatened species can be found at Perth Zoo
- Find out how Perth Zoo contributes to the conservation of threatened species
- Discover how Wildlife Conservation Action aims to help threatened species in the wild
- Visit the Zoo

## Get Creative

- Explore unique animal patterns
- Create an artwork about threatened species
- Create prints based on animal camouflage
- Make a film or write a song about threatened species
- Use photography as a vehicle to communicate about conservation issues

## Useful Web Links

### [www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au](http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au)

- For information including Wildlife Conservation Action, animal fact sheets and links to projects in the wild

### [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

- Information on the world's threatened species