

HIPPOPOTAMUS



Conservation Status:
Vulnerable

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Hippopotamidae

Genus: *Hippopotamus*

Species: *amphibius*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 3,000 to 9,900 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 11 to 16 ½ feet

Height: up to 5 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: average 45 years in captivity, less in the wild

Gestation: 8 months

Number of young: 1

Range: East Africa, south of the Sahara

Habitat: Rivers, swamps and protected areas

Diet: Herbivore, prefers to eat short grasses

DID YOU KNOW?

- The eyes, ears, and nostrils of hippos are on top of their head, making it easy for them to hear, see, and breathe while most all of their body is under water.
- Hippos don't have true sweat glands. Instead, they secrete a thick, red substance from their pores known as blood sweat. This mucous layer protects the hippo's skin from sunburn, helps keep it moist and potentially acts like an antibiotic.

Ecology & Conservation

The Hippopotamus has been listed as vulnerable because of habitat loss and illegal hunting for meat and ivory (found in the canine teeth). Illegal trade in hippo ivory increased sharply after the international ban on the trade of elephant ivory in 1989.

Hippos are an important part of the ecosystem. At night hippos feed on grass and during the day they go back to the water where they defecate. This provides food for microscopic animals living in the water, which in turn is fed on by larger animals.

LION



Conservation Status:
Vulnerable

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: *Panthera*

Species: *leo*

Subspecies:

Panthera leo (African)

Panthera leo persica (Asian)



FAST FACTS

Weight: 265 - 550 pounds

with males being larger than females

Length: 4 ½ - 8 ½ feet (not including the tail)

Height: 4 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: Average 15 years in the wild, up to 30 in captivity

Gestation: 4 months

Number of young: average of 3 to 4 in a litter

Range: Today the Asian Lion is only found in the Gir Forest in India. The African Lion is now mainly found in sub-Saharan regions of Africa.

Diet: Carnivore, eats zebra, antelope, wildebeest and other African animals

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Swahili word for lion is simba, meaning “king,” “strong,” and “aggressive.”
- A lion can spend up to 21 hours a day lying around and napping.
- Lions are the only cats who live in large groups, called a pride, consisting of 3 to 30 lions.

Ecology & Conservation

Habitat loss and conflicts with humans are the lion’s greatest threats. The lion’s natural habitat is now only found in protected reserves and little is known about where lions go or what they do outside of the park boundaries.

AFRICAN BUFFALO



Conservation Status:

not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Genus: *Syncerus*

Species: *caffer*



FAST FACTS

Weight: approximately 1,500 pounds

Length: up to 11 feet

Height: up to 65 inches at the shoulder

Life Span: up to 18 years in the wild

Gestation: 11-12 months

Number of young: Average 1 calf every 2 years

Range: Found in the northern and southern savannas as well as the lowland rain forests in Africa near a permanent source of water.

Diet: Herbivore, primarily eats grass

DID YOU KNOW?

- The African buffalo depends on water and does not live in regions with less than 10 inches of rain a year.
- Buffalo can live in herds of a few hundred, but have been known to gather by the thousands during the rainy season.

Ecology & Conservation

The introduction of foreign diseases by non-native species is currently the biggest threat to African wild cattle, including the African buffalo.

Though their populations may be large in size, the number of buffalo is mainly regulated by the abundance of food sources and not by predators. Without fresh green grass, a buffalo's body condition tends to deteriorate quickly.

STELLER SEA LION



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Pinnipedia

Family: Otariidae

Genus: *Eumetopias*

Species: *jubatus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 770 - 3,000 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 9 - 12 feet

Life Span: 20 years

Gestation: 9 months

Number of young: 1

Range: Northwestern California into Alaska's Bering Sea to the Bering Straits. They can also be found in areas around Russia and Japan.

Diet: Carnivore, eats fish, squid and octopus

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sea lions produce loud roars. This helps explain where the name sea lion originates from. Males of some sea lion species even grow manes around their necks!
- Marine mammals, like the sea lion, have a slower heart rate while diving. A sea lion's heart rate may average 95 beats per minute, but may slow to 20 beats per minute while diving. A slower heart rate allows them to conserve oxygen while under water.

Ecology & Conservation

Sea lions were once hunted for their skin and oil. At one time their whiskers were even used for pipe cleaners. Many populations of sea lions were wiped out because of this. Sea lions are now protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 which made it illegal to hunt or harass any marine mammal in U.S. waters.

CHEETAH



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: *Acinonyx*

Species: *jubatus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 85 - 140 pounds

with males being larger than females

Length: 3 ½ to 4 ½ feet (tail is an additional 26 to 33 inches)

Height: 2 - 3 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 12 years in the wild, up to 17 in captivity

Gestation: 3 months

Number of young: 1 to 8, normally 3 to 5

Range: various parts of Africa

Diet: Carnivore, eats small mammals and birds

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cheetahs don't need to drink water! They get the moisture they need from their prey.
- Cheetahs can accelerate to 70 miles per hour in just a few strides and are the only cats that are able to turn in midair while sprinting.
- Cheetahs cannot roar like tigers or lions. However, they are quite vocal and make a bird-like call when excited.

Ecology & Conservation

Cheetahs are listed as endangered for many reasons. One reason being a genetic bottle neck that occurred long before humans began impacting cheetah habitat. A genetic bottle neck is an event in which a population's or species size is greatly reduced. Other reasons causing declines in cheetah populations are; loss of habitat, loss of prey species, and disease.

WHITE RHINOCEROS



Conservation Status:
Endangered



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Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Perissodactyla

Family: Rhinocerotidae

Genus: *Ceratotherium*

Species: *simum*

FAST FACTS

Weight: 3,100 to 7,900 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 12 to 13 feet

Height: up to 6 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 40-45 years

Gestation: 15 to 16 months

Number of young: 1

Range: Eastern and southern Africa

Diet: Herbivore, primarily eats grass or leaves

DID YOU KNOW?

- The name rhinoceros comes from the Greek words *rhino* (nose) and *ceros* (horn).
- A white rhinoceros' head can weigh 800 to 1,000 pounds!
- Although rhinoceros are considered *pachyderms* (thick-skinned), their skin is actually sensitive to sunburn and biting insects. That's why they like to wallow in the mud!

Ecology & Conservation

For centuries, rhinos have been hunted for the suspected medicinal value of their horn. However, like our hair and fingernails, a rhino's horn is made of keratin and has no medicinal properties. In order to prevent poaching, some countries dehorn their rhinos. This process is painless and removes the valuable horn, making it less attractive to poachers.

SEA OTTER



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Mustelidae

Genus: *Enhydra*

Species: *lutris*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 65 - 85 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 55 - 58 inches

Life Span: 15 years

Gestation: 4 to 9 months, with a delayed implantation period

Number of young: 1 to 5

Range: Coastal regions throughout the eastern North Pacific Ocean

Diet: Carnivore, eats sea urchins, crabs, abalone, clams, mussels, fish and octopus

DID YOU KNOW?

- Otters are made for the water! They have sleek, streamlined bodies perfect for swimming and diving. Their back feet act like rudders and they have flattened tails that propel them through the water.
- Keeping their fur clean is important, so otters spend a lot of time grooming.
- Sea otters have a high metabolism and may eat up to 20 pounds of food a day!

Ecology & Conservation

Sea otters were once abundant before fur hunters nearly caused them to go extinct. They have been protected since 1911 and have made a comeback.

Otters, like other marine animals, are negatively affected by oil spills. Oil mats their fur and can damage their ability to hunt for food or stay warm causing hypothermia.

SALMON



Conservation Status:

Listed as least concern, threatened, endangered or extinct depending on the species

Scientific Classification

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Clupeiformes

Family: Salmonidae

Genus: *Salmo*,
Oncorhynchus,
Salvelinus

Species: various



FAST FACTS

Weight: Most salmon species weigh 3 to 15 pounds.

Length: varies depending on species

Life Span: varies depending on species

Number of young: up to thousands, however, few survive to become adults

Range: Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and land-locked lakes

Diet: Carnivore, eats insects, crustaceans and fish

DID YOU KNOW?

- Most salmon species are *anadromous*. They are born in fresh water, migrate to the ocean and then return to fresh water to reproduce.
- Salmon make an amazing journey, sometimes traveling hundreds of miles upstream against currents and thousands of feet in elevation in order to spawn.
- The size of salmon is usually related to age. The Chinook salmon can live up to 9 years, which is why it can grow to over 100 pounds!

Ecology & Conservation

After spawning, most salmon die. When thousands of mature salmon die they provide a source of nutrition allowing many animals to survive the winter. When salmon populations experience declines other species such as bear, otter, eagle and mink also suffer population losses.

Numerous salmon species have seen declines in their populations over the last hundred years. It is thought disease transfer from salmon farms to wild salmon populations, overfishing, loss of suitable habitat and the construction of dams and other barriers all play into declining populations.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND RED CRAB



Conservation Status:

not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Malacostraca

Order: Decapoda

Family: **Gecarcinidae**

Genus: *Gecarcoidea*

Species: *natalis*



FAST FACTS

Length: 5 inches

Weight: 17 ounces

Life Span: over 12 years

Number of young: a female may brood up to 100,000 eggs

Range: Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean

Diet: Scavenger, eats fallen leaves and flowers and occasionally animals

DID YOU KNOW?

- Red Crabs are known for their famous annual mass migration to the sea in order to lay their eggs. They migrate by the millions and can be seen from the air!
- Outside of the breeding season, red crabs are solitary and live in a humid burrow for most of the year.
- The eggs released by the female hatch immediately upon contact with the water.

Ecology & Conservation

It is possible that the extremely large population of the Christmas Island Red Crabs may have been caused by the extinction of Maclear's Rat. This rat was thought to have been a possible predator of the crab, keeping their populations in check.

Humans also affect the red crab population. Thousands of crabs are crushed each year while crossing roads. In order to reduce the number of crabs killed by cars each year, crab crossings are being constructed. A crab crossing consists of a tunnel dug under the road in areas of dense migrations for the crabs to pass through.

POLAR BEAR



Conservation Status:
Threatened

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *maritimus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 330 - 1,760 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 6 - 10 feet

Height: up to 5 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: up to 25 years in the wild

Gestation: 6 months

Number of young: 1 to 4

Range: Alaska, Canada, Norway, Greenland, Russia

Diet: Carnivore - eats seals, caribou, walrus and beached whales

DID YOU KNOW?

- A polar bear's nose is so sensitive that it can smell a seal on the ice up to 20 miles away!
- A polar bear's hair is not white, but is instead a clear, hollow tube filled with air.
- A common misconception is that polar bears eat penguins. This is not true. Polar bears inhabit the Arctic regions of the world and all species of penguin are found below the equator.

Ecology & Conservation

Polar Bears and their prey have evolved to live in extreme conditions. They depend on Arctic sea ice to hunt, reproduce and rest. Today, polar bear populations are facing unprecedented threats due to climate change. Although the ultimate effects of climate change on polar bears are not certain, it is recognized that even small changes to the climate could have a profound effect on these bears.

BROWN BEAR



Conservation Status:

not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *arctos*



FAST FACTS

Weight: up to 1,300 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 6 to 9.8 feet

Height: 3 to 4 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 25 years in the wild, up to 40 in captivity

Gestation: 6 to 8 months, including a 5 month delayed implantation period

Number of young: 1 to 4, average is 2

Range: Northwestern North America, Europe, northern Asia, Atlas Mountains of Africa

Diet: Omnivore, most of their diet consists of plant matter, but they will eat meat if they can find it

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bears do not defecate or urinate for the entire time they are in winter sleep. Doctors have been able to help patients with kidney failure by studying the way bears recycle urine.
- During the winter, bears live off of the body fat they have stored up over the summer and fall. When they emerge from winter sleep, they may have lost up to 1/3 of their body weight!

Ecology & Conservation

The brown bear once ranged throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but due to hunting for meat and medicinal purposes, and a lack of understanding, their population has shrunk considerably. As humans continue to place growing pressures on these bears, it will become increasingly difficult for humans and bears to coexist.

AMERICAN BLACK BEAR



Conservation Status:
not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *americanus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 90 - 300 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 50 - 80 inches

Height: up to 3 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 30 years

Gestation: 220 days, including a period of delayed implantation

Number of young: 2-3

Range: Northern and western U.S., Canada and Mexico with small populations in the south and east U.S.

Diet: Omnivore, eats mostly plant matter, but will eat meat

DID YOU KNOW?

- Black bears can have black, brown, blonde or white fur. Although they are different colors, they are still black bears.
- Black bears have brown eyes, but when they are born their eyes are blue.

Ecology & Conservation

In the past, bears were often seen as a threat to livestock and a nuisance to humans and are sometimes still viewed in such a way today. Because of this, they have been eliminated from much of their original range. Black bears are sometimes hunted for their gallbladders which are thought to have healing properties in Asian markets.

ZEBRA



Conservation Status:

Grevy's & Mountain Zebras are

Endangered

Scientific Classification

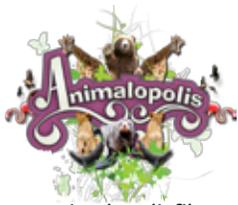
Class: Mammalia

Order: Perissodactyla

Family: Equidae

Genus: *Equus*

Species: *grevyi* (Grevy's)
zebra (mountain)
quagga (plains)



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FAST FACTS

Weight: 550 - 900 pounds

Height: 4 - 5 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 25 years

Gestation: 12 to 14 months

Number of young: 1

Range: Eastern and southern Africa

Diet: Herbivore, eats mainly grasses

DID YOU KNOW?

- A zebra spends many hours per day chewing on grass. All of this chewing wears down the teeth, so their teeth keep growing all of their lives!
- A zebra's stripes act as a camouflage, making it difficult for a predator to pick only one zebra out of the herd. Zebra stripes are also unique to individuals and even to species. The further south in Africa you travel, the farther apart a zebra's stripes become.

Ecology & Conservation

Zebras are good at grazing! In fact, they prefer to eat the tough tips of grass that other grazers don't like or aren't able to digest. The biggest threat to the Grevy's zebra is the introduction of livestock that compete for grazing land and hunting for the zebra's hides.

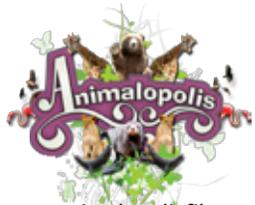
FRIGATE BIRDS



Conservation Status:

Two species listed as

**Vulnerable or
endangered**



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Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Fregatidae

Genus: *Fregata*

Species: various

FAST FACTS

Weight: average 3 pounds

Wingspan: up to 7 feet

Incubation: up to 61 days

Number of Young: as few as 1

Range: Found in tropical waters around most of the world

Diet: Fish, squid, jellyfish and occasionally young seabirds

DID YOU KNOW?

- Frigate birds are the only seabirds where the male and female look noticeably different.
- Frigate birds are also known as Man-o'-war birds due to their aggressive behaviors toward other birds. Frigates poke and bite at other birds, which sometimes causes them to drop or disgorge any food they have recently caught or eaten. The frigate bird then consumes the meal.

Ecology & Conservation

The Christmas Island frigate bird (*Fregata andrewsi*) is listed as critically endangered because approximately 25% of their breeding area was cleared for phosphate mining before 1946.

Many breeding colonies were deserted due to dust fall-out from the mine. Other threats to these birds include over-fishing, marine pollution and housing and resort development.

ALBATROSS



Conservation Status:
Depending on the species
Albatrosses are listed as
**Vulnerable or
endangered**

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: Diomedidae

Genus: various

Species: various

FAST FACTS

Weight: up to 22 pounds

Wingspan: up to 11 feet

Incubation: 70-80 days, longer for larger albatrosses

Number of Young: 1

Range: Southern oceans and the North Pacific

Diet: Carnivore, feeding mainly on squid and fish

DID YOU KNOW?

- Albatrosses drink salt water and excrete the excess salt through glands above their eyes.
- Some albatross species have been known to have life spans of 50 years of age in the wild!
- Albatross are rarely seen on land and gather only to breed.

Ecology & Conservation

Every year, thousands of albatross are killed by drift nets, marine pollution and introduced predators. Some albatross species were hunted for feathers that were used in the manufacture of women's hats.



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY



Conservation Status:
not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Sulidae

Genus: *Sula*

Species: *neboxii*



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FAST FACTS

Weight: 3 pounds

Wingspan: up to 5 feet

Incubation: 40-45 days

Number of Young: 1 to 3

Range: Western coasts of Central and South America

Diet: Carnivore, mainly eating fish

DID YOU KNOW?

- Male blue-footed boobies are proud of their blue feet. During mating rituals they show off their feet to females with a high-stepping strut and dance. The bluer the feet, the better.
- These birds take their name from the Spanish word “bobo” which means “stupid”. It is thought that early European colonists viewed these birds as clumsy and awkward when they saw them on land.

Ecology & Conservation

Overall, it is believed that blue-footed booby populations are steady, with global populations estimated to be 100,000 to 500,000 individuals.