

# World Wildlife Day: Raising Awareness for Critically Endangered Species

Category: Environment

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What do the orangutans of Borneo, the elephants of Sumatra, and the Black Rhino all have in common? Aside from all being totally cool animals that we watch on YouTube, the more sobering truth about these creatures is that they're all critically endangered species. But on [World Wildlife Day](#), the UN and its partners are planning to raise awareness of the gravity of this dire situation.

An animal is only placed on the critically endangered species list if the International Union for Conservation of Nature believes the animal faces a very high risk for extinction – extinction as in going the way of the dinosaurs and dodo. So what does critically endangered look like?

Current estimates put the number of living Black Rhinos at around 2,500 in the entire world. Russia's Amur Leopard, found in the far eastern recesses of the country, is on the verge of

extinction, with only about 40 left in the world. Unfortunately, this list goes on and on.

To raise awareness of endangered species and what we all can do, the UN is celebrating World Wildlife Day on March 3, marking the day the group signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

World Wildlife Day serves as a reminder that we share this planet with a diverse range of species, all of which play a crucial role in maintaining the delicate balance of our ecosystems. It is a day to recognize the importance of protecting and conserving these species for future generations.

## **Why are endangered species important?**

Endangered species are important for several reasons. Firstly, they contribute to the biodiversity of our planet. Each species has a unique role in its ecosystem, and the loss of even a single species can have far-reaching consequences. It can disrupt the food chain, affect pollination, and alter the overall health of the ecosystem.

Secondly, endangered species are often indicators of the health of our environment. Their decline can be a warning sign of larger environmental issues, such as habitat destruction, pollution, or climate change. By protecting and conserving endangered species, we can address these underlying environmental problems and work towards a more sustainable future.

# What can we do to help?

While the task of saving endangered species may seem daunting, there are several actions we can take to make a difference:

## 1. Support conservation organizations

There are numerous organizations dedicated to the conservation of endangered species. By donating to these organizations or volunteering your time, you can directly contribute to their efforts in protecting and preserving these species.

## 2. Reduce your ecological footprint

Our daily choices and actions can have a significant impact on the environment. By reducing our use of resources, recycling, and adopting sustainable practices, we can help conserve habitats and reduce the threats faced by endangered species.

## 3. Spread awareness

Education and awareness are key in the fight to save endangered species. Share information about endangered species on social media, organize awareness campaigns, or participate in local events that promote conservation. By spreading the word, we can inspire others to take action.

## 4. Support sustainable and ethical practices

Support businesses and industries that prioritize sustainability and ethical practices. By choosing products that are responsibly sourced and produced, we can reduce the demand for activities that harm endangered species and their habitats.

World Wildlife Day is a reminder of the urgent need to protect and conserve our planet's endangered species. It is a call to

action for individuals, communities, and governments to come together and make a difference. By working together, we can ensure a future where these incredible creatures continue to roam our planet for generations to come.