

THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN 2023:

1. **Amur Leopard:** Only around 84 individuals remain in the wild due to poaching for their valuable coats and bones. Habitat loss and prey scarcity further threaten them.
2. **Rhino:** Highly poached for their horns, three rhino species are critically endangered: the black rhino, Javan rhino, and Sumatran rhino.
3. **Orangutan:** Bornean and Sumatran orangutans face population declines due to deforestation driven by palm oil production.
4. **Gorilla:** Three out of four gorilla species/subspecies are critically endangered due to poaching, habitat loss, disease, and slow reproduction rates.
5. **Saola:** Known as the Asian unicorn, the elusive saola has a population of less than 750 and is rarely seen.
6. **Vaquita:** The smallest marine mammal globally, with only about 10 individuals remaining, the vaquita is threatened by illegal totoaba fishing.
7. **Sunda Tiger:** Tigers are at the brink of extinction, with Sunda tigers, in particular, vulnerable due to deforestation and poaching.
8. **Yangtze Finless Porpoise:** Found in the Yangtze River, this species is threatened by fishing gear entanglement, boat traffic, and pollution.
9. **Turtle:** Sea turtles face threats from hunting, habitat loss, bycatch, pollution, and climate change, with some populations critically endangered.
10. **Elephant:** While African elephant populations vary, overall numbers are decreasing due to poaching and habitat loss. Asian elephants, especially Sumatran elephants, are also at risk.

Conservation efforts are crucial to protect these endangered species and ensure their survival for future generations.