

THE ENDANGEREDS

**PHILIPPE COUSTEAU
AND AUSTIN ASLAN**

The Endangerededs #1
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Arief, an orangutan with a big dream, to safeguard other endangered
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First Edition

ABOUT THE ANIMALS



ARIEF

Common Name

Orangutan

Scientific Name

Pongo abelii

Habitat

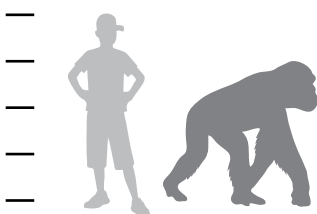
Sumatra, Indonesia

Weight

up to 180 lbs.

Height

3.5–4.5 ft.



Conservation Status:

Critically Endangered

Population in the Wild:

About 7,500 in Sumatra. Two other species exist, with about 800 in Tapanuli (a region of south Sumatra) and a larger population of about 104,000 on the nearby island of Borneo.

LEARN MORE:

Known for their distinctive red fur, orangutans are the largest arboreal (tree living) mammal, spending most of their time in trees. Long, powerful arms and grasping hands and feet allow them to move through branches. Did you know that these great apes are very smart and share more than 90% of our human genes? How cool is that? The name orangutan means “man of the forest” in the Malay language. In the lowland forests in which they reside, orangutans live solitary existences. They feast on wild fruits like lychees, mangosteens, and figs, and they slurp water from holes in trees. They also love to eat ants. They make nests in trees of vegetation to sleep at night and rest during the day.

Bornean and Sumatran orangutans differ a little in appearance and behavior. While both have shaggy reddish fur, Sumatran orangutans have longer facial hair. Sumatran orangutans are reported to have closer social bonds than their Bornean cousins. Both species have experienced sharp population declines. A century ago there were probably more than 230,000 orangutans in total, but the Bornean orangutan is now estimated at about 104,700 based on updated geographic range

(Endangered) and the Sumatran about 7,500 (Critically Endangered). They are threatened by deforestation and illegal capture for the wildlife trade.

A third species of orangutan was announced in November 2017. With no more than 800 individuals in existence, the Tapanuli (an isolated region in southern Sumatra) orangutan is the most endangered of all great apes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ORANGUTANS?

Orangutans are critically endangered animals, and only live in two places: in the countries of Borneo and Sumatra. Orangutans are threatened by destruction to their habitat. Their rainforest homes are being destroyed by deforestation—the cutting down of large amounts of trees at one time. Because rainforests need to be protected to protect orangutans, when your family buys things made of wood, you can look for responsibly sourced wood products that guarantee the wood product you are buying wasn't made from deforested trees.



NUKILIK

Common Name

Polar bear

Scientific Name

Ursus maritimus

Habitat

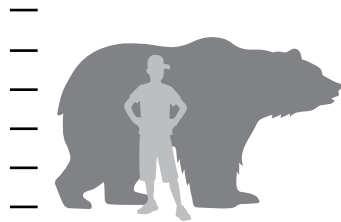
Arctic sea ice

Weight

800–1300 lbs.

Length

6–10 ft.



Conservation Status:

Vulnerable

Population in the Wild:

22,000–31,000

LEARN MORE:

Polar bears are one of the most important mammals in the Arctic and are vital to the health of that ecosystem.

They are known for their water-repellant fur coat that appears white but is actually made up of transparent hollow hairs. Did you know that polar bears have black skin under their white fur? It helps them absorb the heat from the sun! Polar bears spend over 50% of their time hunting for food by waiting on the ice for seals to come up for air.

Polar bears are classified as marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean. They have a thick layer of body fat and a water-repellant coat that insulates them from the cold air and water. Considered talented swimmers, they can sustain a pace of six miles per hour by paddling with their front paws and holding their hind legs flat like a rudder.

Because of ongoing and potential loss of their sea ice habitat resulting from climate change, polar bears were listed as a threatened species in the US under the Endangered Species Act in May 2008.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP POLAR BEARS?

What we do in our daily lives impacts polar bears because of our connection to Earth's ecosystem. What

we eat, how we use electricity, and how we travel effects the climate, which affects the Arctic ice habitat. Talk to your family, friends, and others in your community about making small changes in their daily routines. For example, waste less food at dinner, bike or walk to school, turn off the lights in your home when you leave a room—these are all small ways to make a big impact. You have the power to be a leader in your community just like the Endangerededs.



MURDOCK

Common Name

Narwhal

Scientific Name

Monodon monoceros

Habitat

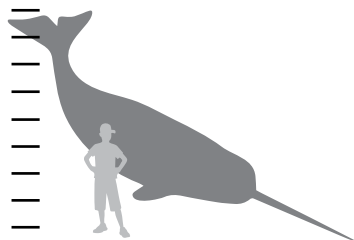
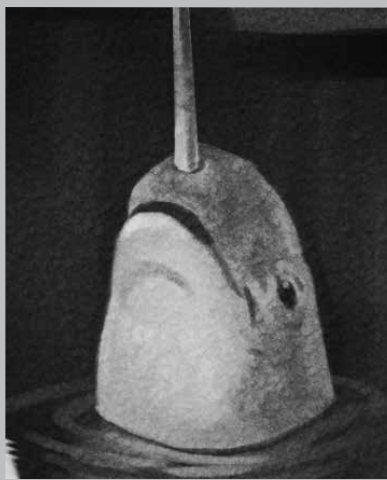
Arctic Ocean region

Weight

up to 4200 lbs.

Length

up to 17 ft.



Conservation Status:

Near Threatened

Population in the Wild:

More than 80,000

LEARN MORE:

The narwhal looks like a cross between a whale and a unicorn with its long, spiraled tusk jutting from its

head. For that reason, they are often referred to as the “unicorn of the sea.” Males most commonly have a tusk, and some may even have two. The tusk, which can grow as long as 10 feet, is actually an enlarged tooth. Ongoing research by WWF and collaborators indicates that the tusk has sensory capability, with up to 10 million nerve endings inside. The tusk may also play a role in the ways males exert dominance.

Narwhals spend their lives in the Arctic waters of Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia. The majority of the world’s narwhals winter for up to five months under the sea ice in the Baffin Bay–Davis Strait area (between Canada and western Greenland). Cracks in the ice allow them to breathe when needed, especially after dives, which can be up to a mile and a half deep. Like polar bears, narwhals live in the Arctic too, but they live under the water and like to eat cod, shrimp, and squid.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP NARWHALS?

Just like with polar bears, what we do in our daily lives impacts narwhals because of our connection to Earth’s ecosystem. What we eat, how we use electricity, and how

we travel affects the climate, which affects the Arctic ice habitat. Talk to your family, friends, and others in your community about making small changes in their daily routines. For example, waste less food at dinner, bike or walk to school, turn off the lights in your home when you leave a room—these are all small ways to make a big impact. You have the power to be a leader in your community just like the Endangerededs.



JILL AND HOBBS

Common Name

Black-footed ferrets

Scientific Name

Mustela nigripes

Habitat

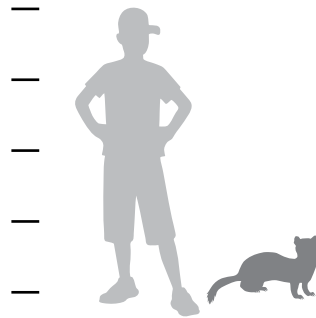
Western North America's intermountain and prairie grasslands, extending from Canada to Mexico

Weight

1.5–2.5 lbs.

Length

18–24 in.



Conservation Status:

Endangered

LEARN MORE:

Black-footed ferrets are known as the “masked bandits” of North America. They are nocturnal, meaning they

are mostly active at night. And they are also fossorial, meaning they mostly live underground. They are long and slender, which enables them to move very easily underground in prairie dog burrows.

Once thought to be globally extinct, black-footed ferrets are making a comeback. For the last thirty years, concerted efforts from many state and federal agencies, zoos, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, and private landowners have given black-footed ferrets a second chance for survival. Today, recovery efforts have helped restore the black-footed ferret population to nearly 300 animals across North America. Although great strides have been made to recover the black-footed ferret, habitat loss and disease remain key threats to this highly endangered species.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS?

Black-footed ferrets were once thought to be extinct, but due to efforts by many state and federal agencies, zoos, Native American tribes, and conservation organizations like World Wildlife Fund, they are making a comeback. The reintroduction of black-footed ferrets into prairie dog colonies—like the storyline of Jill and

Hobbs—is one of the many methods that are helping. But the work to save them is not over. You can join with friends and family and call your member of Congress to tell them you support the Endangered Species Act, one of the most effective laws to protect at-risk species—like the black-footed ferret—from extinction.



ALI

Common Name

Black-bellied or
long-tailed pangolin

Scientific Name

Phataginus tetradactyla

Habitat

Woodlands in
central Africa

Weight

4.4–7 lbs.

Length

2.5–4 ft.



Conservation Status:

Vulnerable

LEARN MORE:

Did you know the black bellied pangolin is also called the long-tailed pangolin because its tail can be twice as

long as its body! They live in central Africa and spend most of their time in trees. But they are only one of 8 different species of pangolin found in Africa and Asia.

Many people think pangolins are reptiles due to their scales, but pangolins are actually mammals and they are the only mammals covered fully in scales. Pangolins use their scales to protect themselves. If they feel threatened, they immediately curl up into a tight ball and use their sharp tails to defend themselves. Pangolins live in Asia and Africa and eat ants and termites!

Pangolins are solitary, primarily nocturnal (they are active at night) animals. Also called scaly anteaters because of their preferred diet, all species of pangolins are increasingly victims of illegal wildlife crime—mainly in Asia and in growing amounts in Africa—for their meat and scales. There is also growing demand in the United States for pangolin leathers, which are used to make products like boots and belts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PANGOLINS?

Sadly, pangolins are one of the most trafficked (meaning stolen or traded illegally) mammals in the world. Some people think their meat is special to eat, and others also

steal their scales to to make traditional medicines. You can learn more about how trafficking affects pangolins and other animals by visiting World Wildlife Fund's website. Tell your friends and family not to buy live animals or products made from animal parts when you go on vacation.

ABOUT WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF)



WWF's work is focused on how we are all connected to the natural world around us—and to each other. Its efforts put people at the center, and they work on six key areas: protecting wildlife (like the animals in this book!), preserving and restoring critical habitats like forests, oceans, freshwater rivers and streams, and preventing the worst threats to our planet like climate change and irresponsible food production. All these issues are connected. And you can help WWF protect the planet and its natural resources.

ABOUT EARTHECHO INTERNATIONAL

We hope that you have enjoyed *The Endangered*s. It is inspired by my deeply rooted belief that youth hold the key to building a better, more sustainable world and it is a part of my life-long dedication to empowering young people to recognize that power within themselves.

In the spirit of that idea, I wanted to share with you a little bit about my organization EarthEcho International,

a global non-profit I founded fifteen years ago to give young people the knowledge and tools to create a thriving water planet.

All over the world, EarthEcho works with young people just like you, youth who care about animals and the environment and are passionate about making the world a better place. We use adventure, storytelling, and education to empower and inspire young people worldwide to act now for a sustainable future.

If you loved *The Endangered*s and want to help the world, just like Arief and his team, EarthEcho is here to help.

We are building a movement of young people who care about the environment with a specific focus on the ocean, because whether you live along the coast or not, the ocean is the life support system of this planet. It regulates our climate (particularly important to Nuk's home), provides food to billions of people, and is a source of wonder and excitement for us all.

At EarthEcho, we have lots of different programs that are designed to help you learn about and take action to protect the environment in your very own communities. Our youth leaders have passed laws, raised critical

funds, started movements to protect land, founded successful businesses that help people and the planet, and so much more.

I know it seems like there is a lot of bad news about the environment these days, but I also know that there is tremendous hope. I have been all over the world and it is the optimism and determination that I see on the faces of young people just like you that reminds me of how much good there is in the world. There is a movement of young people who recognize that when we come together, just like Nuk, Arief, Wan, and Murdock did, there is nothing that we cannot achieve, no problem we cannot overcome, and no one who can stop us from building a better world.

So join us and become a part of the movement at www.earthecho.org.

Philippe Cousteau,
Founder, EarthEcho International