

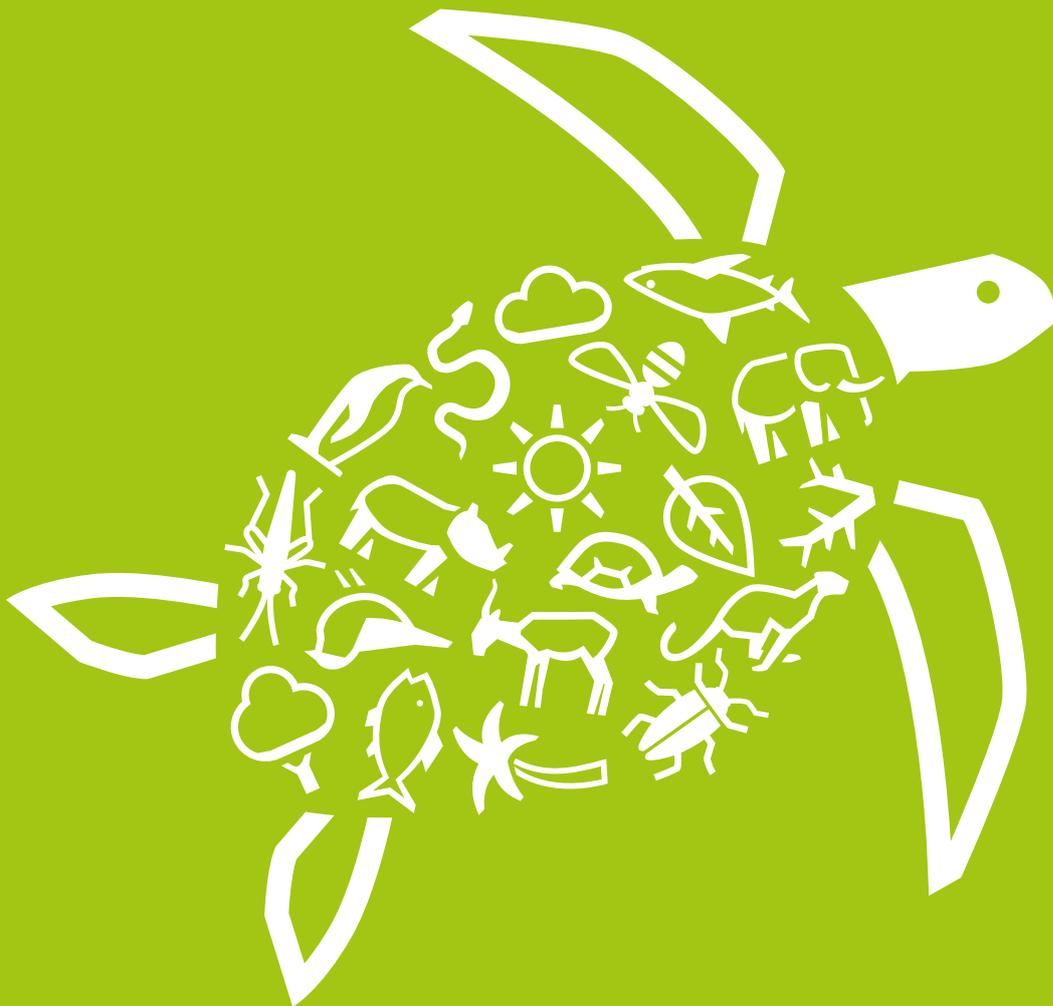


Workbook for participants #8

Interactive worksheets for distance learning



Protecting wild animal habitat



Full name Group/class

Email address

Phone number Date



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Dear teachers and parents,

The following **workbook for participants** is part of the learning pack "Protecting wild animal habitat." It is aimed at **students and project participants** working through this learning pack in online classes.

Instructions on using the learning pack should be issued by a **teacher**. Teachers can find further information on this as well as other learning packs at [› dw.com/learning-environment](https://www.dw.com/learning-environment)

Most worksheets require a program compatible with PDF files, such as [› Adobe PDF-Reader](#) or similar. These are free of charge and enable participants to fill out forms. You will need a stable internet connection to watch the films.

i Help

Dear student,
Dear participant,

This **workbook** relates to the issue of "Protecting wild animal habitat."

You can fill out the worksheets on the computer or laptop and save them. There are some helpful tips below.

How do I fill out the worksheets?

1. Go to the worksheet you wish to use.
2. Read the task thoroughly. Add your answers to the text field on the worksheet. Keep your answers as short as possible. You can only write in the text field.
3. Once you have filled out all the text fields, rename the PDF document and save it. If no file name has been agreed upon, it should include your last name (the file name should not be too long and should not contain any special characters).
4. You can now send your teacher your work in the saved PDF file, for example, as an attachment.

Before you begin, write your name and contact information on the **▶ title page**.

How do I find films and articles?

Watching films

On some worksheets, you will be asked to watch a **film**.

By clicking on a film title, you will be taken to the web page where you can watch the film. If that doesn't work, you can copy the link in brackets into the search box of your browser.

Reading articles

Other worksheets relate to articles you will need to read in order to complete certain tasks. Each article is included with the corresponding worksheet.

By clicking on the title of an article, you will be taken directly to the article without having to scroll.

Tip

At the top of each page, you will find a navigation menu.

By clicking , you will return to the page you last looked at.

The  will take you to this help page.

Click [→ table of contents](#) to go back to that page.

You can use the arrows  and  at the bottom right of the page to move between pages.

Something isn't working?

If there is anything you don't understand or if you are having technical problems (such as with the internet or the PDF file), please ask an adult for help!



Worksheet 1.1

Quiz: Diversity in the animal kingdom

How well do you know the rich animal world? Answer the following quiz **questions**. Choose one answer from **a)**, **b)** or **c)** and mark your answer. Don't forget to save your work!



1. **What benefits do Caribbean manatees reap from their own farts?**

- a) Caribbean manatees fart in order to dive
- b) The intense smell of their farts keeps predators away
- c) The farts act as a kind of turbo boost. When danger lurks, special muscles allow them to explosively release their intestinal gas



2. **What do bears, seals and kangaroos have in common?**

- a) They are all descended from dinosaurs
- b) They can all delay their pregnancies
- c) All three live in the wild on the Australian island of Tasmania



3. **A wildlife camera team filmed an incredible interaction between puffer fish and dolphins. What were they doing?**

- a) Puffer fish were trying to get close to the dolphins, which is where they find food
- b) Dolphins and puffer fish protect each other from predators
- c) Dolphins are thought to get high on puffer fish toxins



4. **What do the Nile crocodile and a bird known as the water thick-knee have in common?**

- a) The water thick-knee is the Nile crocodile's favorite food
- b) The bird warns the crocodile of danger
- c) The water thick-knee sings for the crocodile every morning



Worksheet 1.2



5. Wild animals travel long distances to escape winter. The Arctic tern is the world record holder. How many kilometers do the sea birds travel each year?

- a) 25,000 km b) 50,000 km c) 80,000 km

6. What is the heaviest land animal?

- a) Hippopotamus b) Elephant c) Rhinoceros

7. What is the fastest land animal?

- a) Ostrich b) Mexican pronghorn c) Cheetah

8. What is the heaviest animal ever to live on planet Earth?

- a) Blue whale b) Argentinosaurus c) Whale shark



9. Why did dinosaurs die out?

- a) An asteroid struck Earth and destroyed their habitat
b) Prehistoric man killed them off
c) An infectious illness did them in



10. When settlers imported rabbits to Australia more than 100 years ago, they became a pest. How is the problem handled today?

- a) Armed drones hunt the rabbits
b) Electric fences are designed to keep rabbits off fields
c) Deadly viruses and poisoned bait are used to reduce rabbit populations



11. Mammoths died out at least 4,000 years ago, but there are plans to bring them back using genetic engineering. Why?

- a) Humans feel bad that their ancestors killed them off
b) They will trample and thereby flatten the permafrost in North America
c) They are destined for an amusement park to attract tourists



Worksheet 1.3



12. How many animal species live in our tropical rainforests?

- a) Only 1% of all known animal species
 - b) About 90% of all animal species that have been discovered so far
 - c) Around half of all known animal species
-



13. How long can turtles live? Up to...

- a) 80 years
 - b) 200 years
 - c) 500 years
-



14. What does the word orangutan mean?

- a) Red-haired giant
 - b) Forest-dwelling humans
 - c) Tree-dwellers
-



15. How many hours a day do sloths sleep?

- a) 10 hours
 - b) 15 hours
 - c) 20 hours
-



16. What was zoologist Robert Treat Paine, who died in 2016, known for?

- a) He discovered a rare subspecies of koala on an Australian island
- b) Paine came up with the concept of keystone species, still in use today
- c) He was the first US citizen to win the Nobel Prize for Biology



Worksheet 2

Declining animal habitat

Many aspects of human behavior lead to loss of animal life, which has wide-ranging consequences for the species concerned.

Watch the > **film "Habitat loss: Addressing a global problem"** (dw.com/p/3sspK).

1. Start by naming the animals featured in the **film**:

.....
.....

2. Then fill out the **table**:

FOREST AND FIELDS	ROADS	URBAN AREAS	OCEANS
Why are animal habitats under threat?			
.....			

What are the consequences of animal habitat loss?

Where possible, give examples from the film

.....			

Which solutions are suggested in the film?

.....			



Worksheet 3

Fewer animals worldwide

The **article** "Biodiversity: Mass decline over the past decades" reveals a steep decline in the number of vertebrates living in the wild compared to a few decades ago.

Read the **article "Biodiversity: Mass decline over the past decades"** carefully and answer the following **questions**.

1. What exactly did the "Living Planet Report 2020" study? What did it not study? What is the most important finding in the report?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Name one vertebrate. Give a short definition of a vertebrate and name the five groups of vertebrates. Name three examples of vertebrates common in your region.

.....

.....

3. How high is the percentage decline in wildlife populations by region? In your own words, what does it mean for the region where you live?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. In the article, what are the main reasons given for the decline in population sizes?

.....

.....

5. What examples of particularly endangered animals does the text give?

.....

.....

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Article 1

Biodiversity: Mass decline over the past decades

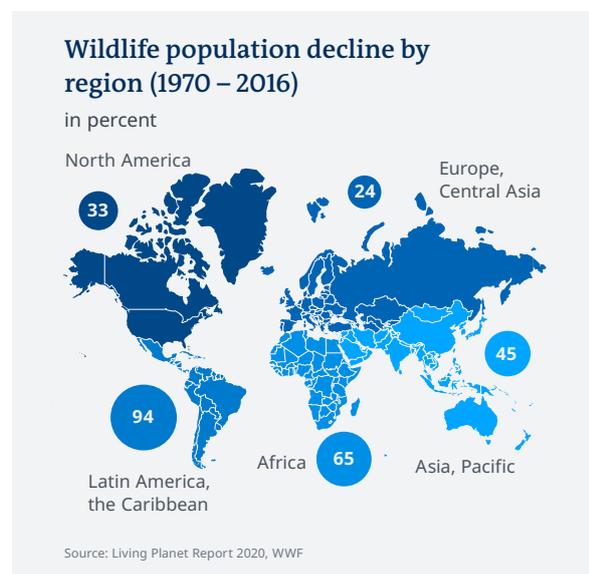
Research has found more than two-thirds of global animal populations have declined since the 1970s. And human beings are the main cause.



Alone in the depths of the Pacific Ocean: Leatherback turtles are also facing an acute threat

A report published by the conservation organization WWF and the Zoological Society of London revealed the decades-long and ongoing decline of many vertebrates around the world.

The “Living Planet Report 2020” provides insight into some 21,000 populations of more than 4,400 threatened and non-threatened species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. It did not research extinction, but declining numbers, which impact ecosystems when there is an interdependence among different species.



Researchers found an average 68% reduction in populations between 1970 and 2016. In the 2018 version of the report, the decline in observed populations averaged 60%.

Head of nature conservation at WWF Germany, Christoph Heinrich, says the study only represents a small proportion of biodiversity, and that there are believed to be some 10 to 20 million animal and plant species worldwide. Not all of them, however, are consistently tracked. And the report doesn't include insects.

Humans carry the blame

The reasons behind the declines are generally human in origin. The biggest problem is habitat destruction caused by changing land use, such as clearing trees for agricultural purposes.

The second is overexploitation through hunting and poaching, but invasive species, imported diseases and environmental pollution are also contributing factors. The report considers climate change to be less of a cause of biodiversity decline, except in South and Central America.

On the list of critically endangered species, the WWF includes the eastern lowland gorilla in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the leatherback turtle in Costa Rica and sturgeon in the Yangtze, China's longest river. The population of the migratory fish has dropped 97% since 1970.

In Germany, partridges and the Eurasian lapwing are at particular risk from agricultural land use. The numbers of larger birds such as the white-tailed eagle, however, have increased thanks to targeted conservation efforts.

Biodiversity is declining at varying rates in different parts of the world. In South and Central America, it has dropped by an average of 94%. Europe and Northern Asia appear to be doing better with a recorded average decline of 24%. But Heinrich says the figure is misleading because the biggest changes to landscapes in those regions happened before 1970, which was before monitoring began.

10.09.2020 | *ust/rb (dpa, afp, WWF)*



Worksheet 4.1

Healthy coral reefs thanks to sharks

Carefully read the > **article "Sharks: Why a young vet is protecting predators,"** and then answer the following **questions**:

1. Where do *bull sharks* give birth to their young?

.....

2. Why are *bull sharks* endangered?

.....
.....

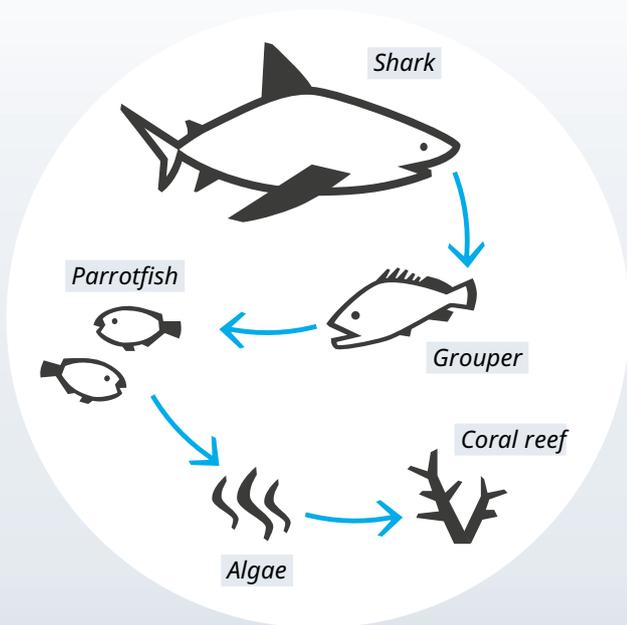
3. What is a keystone species?

.....

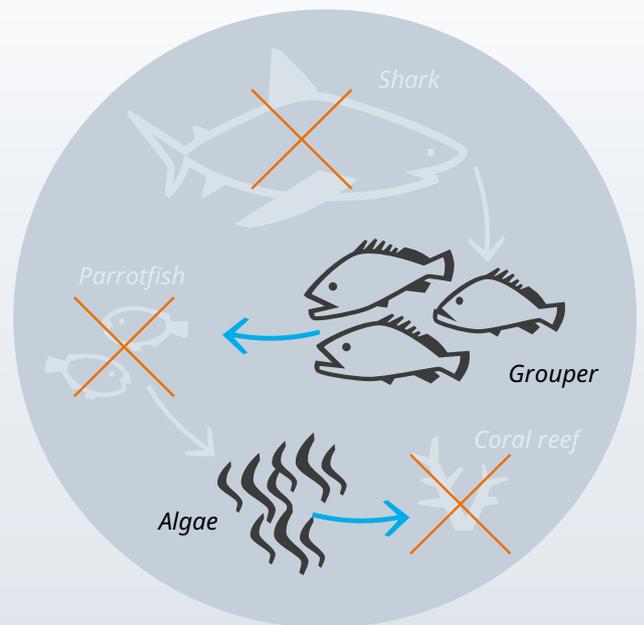
4. Look at the **diagram** about **keystone species: shark** below. Using your own words, explain why *sharks* are an important keystone species for the health of *coral reefs*.

.....
.....
.....

Healthy coral reef



Unhealthy coral reef



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Article 2

Sharks: Why a young vet is protecting predators

Wild animal vet Hannah Emde has treated big cats, huge constrictor snakes and young sharks. DW spoke to the author and conservationist about her motivation to work with what are perceived to be dangerous predators.



*The bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) is one of the most important predators in coastal regions. It can grow to lengths of 3.3 meters long and can weigh up to 230 kilograms.*

DW *Your association, Nepada Wildlife, is working on the Southeast Asian island of Borneo to protect the little known Sunda clouded leopard. Why this animal?*

Hannah Emde I got to know this extremely rare and beautiful species of big cat when I was a student. They have very special markings on their fur that are reminiscent of clouds, and as nocturnal animals, they climb through the trees at night, almost like ghosts in the forest.

The biggest problem they face is habitat loss because of the vast numbers of oil palms being planted on Borneo. Palm oil is a hugely profitable vegetable oil used in many food products, but also in biofuel and cosmetics, so forests are cut down to make way for plantations.

DW *Why can't the clouded leopard live in the palm oil plantations?*

Hannah Emde There's nothing for them to eat there. The use of toxic pesticides means no other fruit grows in the plantations, which in turn means

there are no small rodents or monkeys, on which the clouded leopards feed. In addition, the plantations offer no protection, so at some point the animals will no longer be able to reach fellow clouded leopards in other fragments of the forest in order to breed. Ultimately, that will lead to the species dying out.

DW *What would be the implications for the rainforest in Borneo if the clouded leopard did die out?*

Hannah Emde The Sunda clouded leopard is the biggest predator on Borneo. It's right at the top of the food chain. These animals are important because they keep other populations such as rodents or monkeys in check. When the most important predator in the food chain dies out, the other populations explode and take up much too much space, which means the whole ecosystem collapses.

DW *You have also worked with sharks ...*

Hannah Emde That was a project with marine biologist Elpis Joan Chávez in Costa Rica. She has been researching bull sharks – which have a bad reputation – for a long time. They are often described as being particularly aggressive. Although that's not true. It's just important to stick to the rules and not threaten the animals.

Bull sharks are born in estuaries and other fresh water regions, which is why – unlike the great white shark, for example – they swim near the coastline. Because there is a lot of fishing activity close to the shore, the young animals take the bait on fishing lines. Instead of throwing them back into the sea, fisherfolk often leave them to die on the beach.



Vet Hannah Emde at work in the rainforest in Guatemala

i

Article 2

I found several small dead sharks on the beach, and it was a horrible sight. Because the animals don't reach sexual maturity until the age of 15, this behavior contributes to species extinction. Therefore, it's very important to explain the situation to local people so they understand the value of the animals.

DW *Why are sharks so important for our oceans?*

Hannah Emde Sharks are what is known in ecology as a keystone species. That means they are extremely important for upholding biodiversity in our oceans.

DW *How can sharks be a key to greater diversity if they eat other animals?*

Hannah Emde It's through their eating habits that sharks ensure a balance between predators and prey in the food chain. Sharks eat other, smaller predatory fish, such as the grouper. Sharks are pretty much the grouper's only enemies, so if they didn't eat them, there would be many more groupers and other smaller predatory fish.

Because these smaller predatory fish, which unlike sharks, also feed on algae-eating species such as the parrotfish, there are further implications. The algae-eating fish are eaten more quickly than they can reproduce, which results in their declining numbers. That, in turn causes a problem for corals, which become colonized by macroalgae. So what was once an intact coral reef with a shark becomes an ailing one without it.

DW *What are the impacts of coral reef loss?*

Hannah Emde Coral reefs are both nurseries and pantries for thousands of other species. If the corals die, so do many fish, crabs and small species that live in and from them.

DW *What advice would you give young people who are thinking of becoming vets?*

Hannah Emde Courage and hope. Studying to become a vet is extremely hard, but it's worth it. However, you don't have to become a vet in order to do something for global conservation. When we develop an awareness of the products we buy in the supermarket and understand their effects on animals in other parts of the world, we have taken the first step toward conservation.



Hannah Emde examining an animal on the island of Borneo

This interview was conducted by Kerstin Palme in February 2021

Tip

To find out more about the clouded leopard and other endangered species, visit the website of Hannah Emde's non-profit organization Nepada Wildlife: nepadawild.life



Worksheet 4.2

Bonus task “keystone species”

Wolves, rhinos and starfish are also keystone species. Conduct your own research and present your **findings**:

- 1. Which keystone species live in your region? Choose one you would like to study further:

.....

- 2. If your keystone species were wiped out, what would the consequences be for other plants and animals? Would there be any direct effect on humans? In your own words, describe the functions of the keystone species you chose.

.....
.....
.....
.....

- 3. Draw a **diagram** of the keystone species you chose on a piece of paper. Take a photo of your diagram and paste it here:

Click here to paste your picture



Worksheet 5.1

Wild animals in danger: Climate change

Imagine you are a member of a conservation organization. You have been invited to hold a five-minute **presentation** at an international conference about species extinction.



© imageBROKER/picture-alliance

Your subject is: "How climate change is affecting animals' migratory behavior."

Prepare your short presentation using the > film "Nature on the move" (dw.com/p/3gX5F).

Make notes in the **table** below while you watch the film.

<p>Problem</p> <p>How are climate change and migratory patterns connected?</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>How many migratory species exist and why do they travel?</p>
<p>Facts</p> <p>Use fascinating details to make your presentation more interesting.</p>	<p>Solutions</p> <p>What can be done to support the return of natural migratory patterns?</p>



Worksheet 5.2

Wild animals in danger: Poaching

Imagine you are a member of a conservation organization. You have been invited to hold a five-minute **presentation** at an international conference about species extinction.



Your subject is: "Poaching: Rhino protection in Uganda."

Prepare your short presentation using the > film "Can Uganda bring back rhinos poached to extinction?" (dw.com/p/34ckA).

Make notes in the **table** below while you watch the film.

<p>Problem</p> <p>Jot down how poaching has affected the southern white rhinoceros in Uganda.</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Write down how the southern white rhinos' situation has changed in Uganda over the years, and the hopes for its future development.</p>
<p>Facts</p> <p>Use fascinating details about the animals and the organization Rhino Fund to make your presentation more interesting.</p>	<p>Solutions</p> <p>How is the Rhino Fund organization helping local animals and humans?</p>



Worksheet 5.3

Wild animals in danger: Environmental pollution

Imagine you are a member of a conservation organization. You have been invited to hold a five-minute **presentation** at an international conference about species extinction.



Your subject is: "Environmental pollution is damaging penguins in Argentina."

Prepare your short presentation using the > film "Protecting Argentina's imperiled penguins from plastic waste" (dw.com/p/3cT2h).

Make notes in the **table** below while you watch the film.

Problem

Write down how environmental pollution is threatening penguin colonies in Argentina and how climate change and increasing tourism are hurting the animals.

Background

What kinds of penguins live in Tierra del Fuego and how many colonies are there?

Facts

Use fascinating details to make your presentation more interesting.

Solutions

Which projects for the protection of penguins are named in the film?



Worksheet 5.4

Wild animals in danger: Invasive species

Imagine you are a member of a conservation organization. You have been invited to hold a five-minute **presentation** at an international conference about species extinction.



© Imago/ZUMA Press

Your subject is "Invasion of Burmese pythons in Florida's Everglades."

Prepare your short presentation using the > **article "The Burmese python and the fight for the Florida Everglades."**

Make notes in the **table** below while you read the article.

<p>Problem</p> <p>Make a note of why the Burmese python is a problematic invasive species in the Everglades.</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>How did the Burmese python get into the area and how did its population develop there?</p>
<p>Facts</p> <p>Use fascinating details to make your presentation more interesting.</p>	<p>Solutions</p> <p>What are the plans for reducing the number of Burmese pythons?</p>

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Article 3

The Burmese python and the fight for the Florida Everglades

The Everglades are famous throughout the world, with alligators as perhaps their best-known inhabitants. However, there's a new predator in town - and it is wreaking havoc on this remarkable ecosystem.



The Everglades are known internationally for their alligators, but now another reptile has become king: the invasive Burmese python

At a coffee shop in Davie, Florida, I'm waiting for wildlife biologist Ian Bartoszek. He causes a huge stir as he walks in with a giant platter of what could easily be choux pastries. Patrons look on confused, some approaching to ask if they are potatoes.

"These are Burmese python eggs," he tells them. "Right now in the field, there are many female pythons we didn't catch sitting on a clutch like this that will probably hatch."

The clutch of 40 desiccated eggs he carries is a highly effective hammer to drive home his point. Bartoszek, who works for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, feels it is necessary to do everything he can to bring people's attention to the havoc these creatures are wreaking.

Florida's Everglades are known internationally for their alligators. But now another reptile has become king in the unique wetland: the invasive Burmese python. Native to South and Southeast Asia, the snake species was first sighted in the Everglades in the 1970s, after irresponsible pet owners released them into the ecosystem.

The subtropical environment, with its ideal temperatures and abundance of defenseless prey, helped their population explode. Today, the consequences are being felt.

Eating their way through native wildlife

By some estimates, their numbers may now exceed 150,000. The huge reptiles, which can grow to lengths of 23 feet (7 meters), and which weigh in at 250 pounds (113.4 kilograms), have eaten their way through much of the native wildlife, including raccoons, foxes, marsh rabbits, and birds.

"We have recorded a 99% reduction of fur-bearing animals," says Michael Kirkland, a biologist specializing in invasive animals at South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). "They are now preying on wading birds and even the occasional alligator."

As populations of smaller mammals dwindle, the effects ripple up the food chain, and native predators like alligators and endangered Florida panthers lose their primary food sources.

"The pythons have essentially wiped out their prey base in Miami-Dade County, Everglades National Park and surrounding areas. We suspect they are going to be expanding their territories both west and north," says Kirkland.

The Everglades ecosystem, which once sprawled across more than 6,250 square miles (16,187 square kilometers), has been reduced to half its original size by agriculture and urban expansion, and now the pythons threaten to make the 'glades barren of life.

"Doing nothing is not an option," Kirkland asserts. To protect the remaining wildlife, the SFWMD has licensed a select group to participate in its python hunting program, which began last year.

Recording its 1,100th python catch recently, the agency has extended the program and the Everglades National Park is joining the effort, recruiting python hunters to remove the snakes and permitting the use of shotguns.

"I believe the park is really the epicenter of the python invasion," asserts Kirkland.

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Article 3



Ian Bartoszek and one of his colleagues found a python that was 4 meters long and weighed 43 kilos

Hunting in the dark

The Everglades are a tough environment – a vast, slow-moving waterway with a surprising variety of terrain and dramatic seasonal changes. With oppressively sticky heat, biting flies, razor-sharp sawgrass and even poisonous trees, it's no walk in the park.

Hunters can spend a whole week of 12-hour days looking for pythons without finding a single one, so perseverance is key. Thomas Rahill, one of those authorized to remove the snakes, is founder of the Swamp Apes, a group mostly composed of military veterans dedicated to fighting invasive species. He is well aware of the perils of the job.

"When you come across a big python, I don't care where you are, it is a very dangerous animal, you have to know what you are doing," he says.

Once the sun sets, impenetrable darkness quickly descends over the 'glades. Firing up a spotlight mounted on his car roof, Rahill looks for pythons crossing on the levees, which are the perfect places for these cold-blooded predators to warm up.

They are one of largest snakes in the world and are ectotherms, meaning their body temperature regulation depends on external sources, such as sunlight or a heated rock surface.

Rahill says most of the 500 snakes the Swamp Apes have caught were found while road cruising on the levees, especially at night.

Swamp Ape python hunters also walk along the sides of the levees, searching every hole and burrow,

looking for python nests with a borescope camera. As they move on, they cover the holes with dried sawgrass, returning later to check for disturbances.

Rahill's team also takes boats out to tree-covered islands, where they push through dense vegetation on foot – a technique they call "jungle busting."

Apex predators

Back at the coffee shop, biologist Ian Bartoszek expands on the urgent need to understand the pythons' behavior. The team at Conservancy of Southwest Florida has implanted male pythons with transmitters and tracked them, with definite success.

Their research area now covers 50 square miles, having expanded significantly over the past five years. In February this year, an implanted snake they named "Argo" led them to a 99-pound pregnant female python. Three days later, Argo was released and tracked again to seven snakes, including a 115-pound female.

In four years of tracking, the team has removed 10,000 pounds of python biomass from their research area.

"We are interested in busting up those breeding aggregations. We are not looking for the street dealers, we are looking for the distributors," explains Bartoszek.

The conservancy now has 20 male snakes working for them. Other researchers are attempting to synthesize the python's pheromones to attract larger numbers of pythons.

"I have a feeling we're definitely gaining some ground in some key areas," Bartoszek tells DW.

The Burmese python's reign is challenging the Everglades apex predator, the alligator. Recently, Mike Kimmel, a hunter with the SFWMD, rescued a 4-foot alligator from the grip of a 10-foot python.

As Mike Kirkland puts it, "pythons really are the apex predator now – a large python and a large alligator, either one could win that battle. The alligator is about the only native animal down here that could possibly win."

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Article 3



Earlier this year, conservancy biologists from Collier-Seminole State Park, a Florida State Park located on the southwest coast of the US state, discovered an 11-foot-long female python with a white-tailed deer inside its mouth.

“That was a 31.5-pound python that had a 35-pound white-tailed fawn in it. It was eating 111% of its body weight,” says Bartoszek.

It is the largest documented prey-to-predator ratio for a Burmese python.

“I’m holding it in my hands looking at this small jaw. It was a turning point,” remembers Bartoszek. “I knew then the beast we’re dealing with and what it is capable of.”

11.07.2018

Author *Maria Bakkalapulo*
dw.com/p/318OU



Worksheet 6.1

My profile of an orangutan

Click here to paste your orangutan picture

Watch the > film **"Dora's path to the wilderness"** (dw.com/p/2rJRY).

Fill out the below **profile**. You can research orangutans and the people helping them online in order to find out more information.

1. Where does the animal live?
2. Reasons why it is endangered:
.....
.....
3. Current situation for the animal species:
.....
4. Which animal do you get to know better in the report?
5. Further information about this animal:
.....
.....
6. Who is helping the animal:
7. Does he or she work for a project?
8. Name of the organization/project:
9. This is how the animals are being helped:
.....
.....
10. These goals have already been reached:
.....
.....
11. These are the goals for the future:
.....
.....



Worksheet 6.2

My profile of a koala

Click here to paste your koala picture

Read the > **article "Koala rescue: An orphaned joey, and her species' fight for survival."**

Fill out the below **profile**. You can research koalas and the people helping them online in order to find out more information.

1. Where does the animal live?
2. Reasons why it is endangered:
.....
.....
3. Current situation for the animal species:
.....
4. Which animal do you get to know better in the report?
5. Further information about this animal:
.....
.....
6. Who is helping the animal:
7. Does he or she work for a project?
8. Name of the organization/project:
9. This is how the animals are being helped:
.....
.....
10. These goals have already been reached:
.....
.....
11. These are the goals for the future:
.....
.....

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Article 4

Koala rescue: An orphaned joey, and her species' fight for survival

When Kailas Wild saved a baby koala, it gave him hope for the future of a whole species under threat.



One morning in February, after the worst of Australia's devastating bushfires had smoldered out, Kailas Wild headed out into the charred blue gum plantations of Kangaroo Island, off the country's southern coast.

A tree surgeon who had come to the island to help rescue koalas in the aftermath of the blaze, Wild was worried to see how much of the foliage that they depend on for food was burned. Then, something else caught his eye: a gaunt baby koala curled up in the blackened leaves, her coat visibly scorched.

"She was the first injured, orphaned joey I found – the most overwhelming and upsetting sight, I just felt so bad for her," Wild recalls.

Wild scaled the tree, caught the little joey, and drove her an hour to Kangaroo Island's animal hospital.

"The whole time I thought, I'm just doing this to save you from worse suffering," he says. Wild wept as he handed the tiny creature to the vets, convinced she would have to be euthanized.

Instead, they announced she stood a good chance of survival. Wild named her after himself – Joey Kai – and began to feed her each day.

"I just couldn't help it, there was something special about her. I have never felt attached to anything as I did to her," Wild explains.

Already listed as vulnerable to extinction, thousands of koalas were killed in last summer's bushfires, whose severity has been linked to climate change. For Wild, the plight of one marsupial baby has become emblematic of her entire species.

It all comes down to habitat loss

Wild first fell in love with koalas as a volunteer at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital in Beerwah, Queensland. They were brought in suffering from chlamydia, hit by cars or attacked by dogs.

"It all stems from the loss of habitat," Wild says.

Koalas would have little need to leave the treetops if their habitat were left intact. But as forests are destroyed by fire, or felled to make way for farming, mining and urban development, they are forced to the ground where they are vulnerable to dogs and traffic.

Habitat loss also makes them more vulnerable to chlamydia, a highly infectious disease that healthy koala populations can weather, but which can be catastrophic for those already under stress.



A wild koala scales a gum tree in burned bush on Kangaroo Island

Seeing the suffering of these animals firsthand at the wildlife hospital "was an eye-opening moment," Wild says. "I saw the impacts of climate change on koala populations and realized that there's no point in trying to rehabilitate koalas if we don't preserve their natural habitat."

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Article 4

Rescue mission to Kangaroo Island

Kai Wild rescues a koala on Kangaroo Island

Wild was in Sydney when the fires hit and was volunteering with emergency services to fight them. Then one day in late January, he got a message from a wildlife carer on Kangaroo Island.

“They were looking at a koala that needed help, but they couldn’t reach it,” Wild says.

After a 20-hour drive and a ferry ride across the Backstairs Passage strait, Wild arrived at the forested island, two-thirds of which had gone up in flames.

Over the next seven weeks, he rescued 107 koalas from charred, swaying trees. But knowing the numbers of those he rescued was tiny compared to those killed in the fires, or starving in the denuded forest, was overwhelming. “I cried every day for weeks,” he says.

Protecting koalas’ last forests

Now, back in New South Wales, Wild is campaigning to protect what last summers’ blazes spared. The fires covered over 5 million hectares (12 million acres) of land in the state and wiped out 71% of its koala populations. Yet the publicly owned New South Wales Forestry Corporation continues to cut down the animals’ remaining habitat.

On a recent visit to the Lower Bucca State Forest with the state’s Nature Conservation Council to document the loss of Koala habitat, Wild says he could hear trees crashing to the ground and saw signs of koala claws on felled branches.

“This is some of the last unburned, intact, quality habitat that remains on the north coast of the state. I don’t understand how they can justify this,” he says.

In June, a parliamentary inquiry found that without “urgent government intervention,” koalas will be extinct in New South Wales by 2050. State Environment Minister Matt Kean responded by telling Australian media that he wanted instead to double koala numbers by that date. Yet, Wild said, Kean is “part of the same government that is still logging these unburned forests.”

This contradiction points to a fierce tension in Australian politics.

Divisive politics

On the one hand, the future of one of the country’s most iconic species demands urgent conservation measures. On the other, the financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic has prompted authorities in New South Wales to fast-track commercial projects in a bid to boost the economy.

One such project is the expansion of a German-owned rock quarry at Brandy Hill, which the state environment minister approved in late October. It is set to destroy 52 hectares of pristine native forest that experts say are home to a breeding population of koalas.

“If we continue to clear 50 hectares here and 50 hectares there, we fragment the habitat of koalas,” says Ryan Witt, a conservation scientist at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, explaining that the animals need space to roam.



Koalas in happier times

i

Article 4



Logging in New South Wales threatens important areas of koala habitat

In recent months, the state's governing coalition has come close to splitting over environmental regulations to increase the range of protected koala habitat, as well as an amendment to allow property owners to clear 25 meters of forest on either side of boundary fences as a firebreak.

According to an analysis by conservation organization WWF Australia, the latter could – if all landowners were to act on the amendment – put 12,000 hectares of koala habitat at risk.

A symbol of hope

Wild is working to get the public firmly on the koalas' side in this fraught political debate.

"The only hope is to make people care," he says. His social media campaigns and his book, "The 99th Koala," which chronicles his experiences on Kangaroo Island, are an attempt to do just that. And Joey Kai plays a starring role.

Because for this one orphan, whose fate looked so bleak when Wild found her cowering in the scorched forest, there is a happy ending: Joey Kai was released on Kangaroo Island in early September. "I felt this real exhilaration, my heart was racing, I was very happy," he says. "She represents hope."

30.11.2020

Author *Manuela Callari*
[dw.com/p/3lzuV](https://www.dw.com/p/3lzuV)



Worksheet 6.3

My profile of a sloth

Click here to paste your sloth picture

Watch the > film **"Saving Suriname's sleepy sloths"** (dw.com/p/2lu0h).

Fill out the below **profile**. You can research sloths and the people helping them online in order to find out more information.

1. Where does the animal live?
2. Reasons why it is endangered:
.....
.....
3. Current situation for the animal species:
.....
4. Which animal do you get to know better in the report?
5. Further information about this animal:
.....
.....
6. Who is helping the animal:
7. Does he or she work for a project?
8. Name of the organization/project:
9. This is how the animals are being helped:
.....
.....
10. These goals have already been reached:
.....
.....
11. These are the goals for the future:
.....
.....



Worksheet 7

Rescuing wild animals in need



How can you help animals in need yourself? What do you have to keep in mind?

Pick a wild animal you find particularly interesting.

My wild animal:

Carry out your research (online, in books, etc.) and answer the following **questions**. Please make note of the sources you used.

1. What should I do if I find this animal in the wild that might need help?

.....

2. How do I know that the animal really needs help?

.....

3. Is there a special number I can call if I find an animal in need?

.....

4. Should I also try to help the animal myself? If so, how can I best do that?

.....

5. Can I do anything in my everyday life to ensure animals don't end up in these situations?

.....

6. Further interesting facts about my wild animal:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Sources:

.....
.....



Worksheet 9

Instructions for making a bird bath

Some 15% of all bird species around the world face extinction. Without birds, the world would be a very different place. They eat pests such as snails, mosquitoes and other insects, and spread seeds through their droppings, thereby contributing to greater biodiversity.



You can help the birds near where you live. They need water – particularly when it is hot and dry – not only to drink but to clean themselves by splashing about.

You will need:

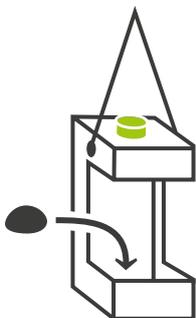
- 1 empty **drink carton**
- **Scissors** or a **knife**
- **Paintbrush** and **waterproof paint**. *Warning: The paint should be rainproof, otherwise it will make the water dirty*
- Double-sided **sticky tape** and **natural materials** (Example: shells, sticks, dried leaves, etc.)
- 1 piece of **rope** and some **wire**
- 1 **stone**
- Clean **water**

Consider the following points before you start:

- *Only put the bird bath in places where your feathered friends will be protected from enemies such as cats or birds of prey.*
- *Change the water every day or two and clean the container thoroughly. If you don't do this, bacteria can spread and make the birds sick.*

Instructions

1. Take an empty drink carton and clean it thoroughly.
2. Cut a square in the front and the sides of the carton.
3. Paint the outside of the drink carton. Once it is dry, you can stick your natural materials to the outside.
4. Punch a small hole in each of two opposite sides of the carton. Pull a piece of rope through them.
5. You can now hang up your bird bath. If it is wobbly, make it more stable by using a piece of wire or another piece of rope to fix it to a branch, the balcony or similar.
6. Fill your bird bath with clean water and place a rough stone inside. This will protect the birds from drowning, as they can take a rest on the stone.



Have fun watching the birds!

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Global Ideas

The multimedia environment magazine

Around the world, imaginative people and innovative projects are working to protect our climate and biodiversity. Global Ideas tells their stories on TV and online every week.

Global Ideas is Deutsche Welle's multiple award-winning, multimedia environment magazine supported by the German Environment Ministry's International Climate Initiative. Established in 2009, it showcases TV reports, background articles, web specials and much more, as a means of informing people all over the world about best practice initiatives to protect the planet.

Global Ideas is more than just television. Think interactive specials such as a visit with Africa's wild animals or easy-to-understand explainers that answer complex questions like "does global warming really exist?" The magazine also has an educational element in the form of carefully crafted "learning packs" on key environmental topics. Available free of charge in German, English and Spanish, these learning materials include videos, articles, worksheets and teacher handouts, as well as other educational materials such as posters, picture cards and practical experiments. The learning packs are available in booklet form with an accompanying DVD, as well as online.

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