

# Animal Conservation

**Some conservationists are experts in finding ways to help conserve endangered animals.**

An endangered animal is an animal that is in danger of becoming extinct. An animal can become endangered in many ways. Here are some examples:

- People hunt the animal too often.
- People hunt the animal's food, so the animal has nothing to eat.
- People destroy the animal's habitat so it has nowhere to live.

Conservationists have to come up with creative ways to help the endangered animals. Here are some examples:

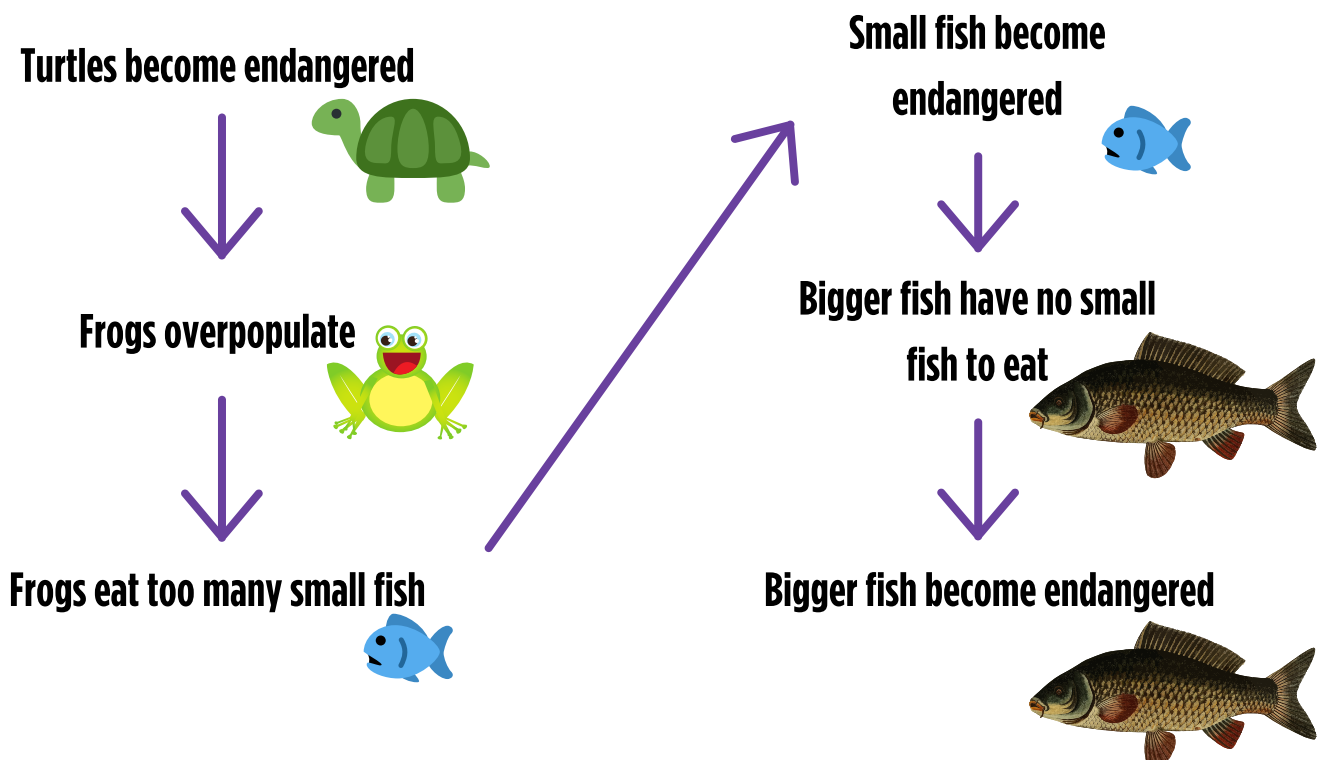
- Conservationists help write laws that protect the endangered animal's habitat. If people trespass or hunt on the protected land, they can get in trouble with police.
- Conservationists help close illegal markets. Some countries have markets for products made from animals, like ivory from elephant tusks. Conservationists help law enforcement locate and close illegal markets.
- Adopt-a-Zoo-Pet Programs: Some zoos hire conservationists to help them create programs to teach the public about animals that are endangered. One program is called Adopt a Zoo Pet, where zoo visitors can "adopt" a zoo animal! When people adopt an animal, their donation goes towards the animal's care and daily feeding.



# Animals and the Environment

**Animals are all intertwined with their environment. Because of this, a change in an animal population can affect the entire ecosystem. Here is an example:**

- Imagine a specific type of turtle in a river ecosystem becomes endangered due to hunting. People are hunting the turtle, which removes too many turtles from the environment.
- Without the turtles, the river environment is changed. This is because the turtles are a part of the food web of the river. A food web is a diagram that shows how animals eat each other, eat plants, or other food in the environment.
- Normally, the turtles eat frogs. If the turtles become extinct due to hunting, there will be no animal eating the frogs. This means there will be too many frogs! Having too many frogs is not good because then they eat too many small fish. This means there are not enough small fish for the bigger fish. The entire food web will go out of balance because one predator was removed from the environment.



# Tracking Devices

Take a look at these tracking devices on different animals.



# Building a Tracking Device

Follow the steps below to build a new tracking device.

## Step One: Choose an Animal

Read the characteristics about each endangered animal. Then, choose an animal to build a tracking device for. (Circle your choice).

### South Asian River Dolphin

- Use their long snout full of teeth to clamp prey in their jaws
- 1 fin on the top and 2 fins on the side
- Live in rivers in Asia



### Furcifer Chameleon

- 4 legs
- Skin can change colors
- Live in hot, humid environments



### Amur Leopard

- Carries prey into trees to eat
- Has thick fur
- Live in cool temperate forests



# Lesson: Protecting Species

## Step Two: Build an Animal

Use clay and art supplies to build a model (a small version) of your chosen animal.

## Step Three: Build a Tracking Device

Use art supplies to build a model tracker that will attach to your animal.

### Your model must meet the following requirements:

- Must be lightweight.
- Must be attached to the animal. It shouldn't fall off if the animal moves around!
- Comfortable for the animal.
- Must have a GPS locator to tell conservationists where the animal is.