

Primary 7 Level C

Animal Conservation



Aim

The aim of this topic is to demonstrate that there is a need for animals to be held in captivity for the purposes of conservation through captive breeding programmes.

Attainment Targets

Interaction of living things and their environment:

To be able to explain and demonstrate an understanding of how living things and their environment can be protected by giving examples.

Social and environmental responsibility:

To be able to demonstrate an awareness of the interaction between living things and their environment. Furthermore, to show a development towards an awareness of a positive attitude to the conservation of endangered species.

Teachers Notes

Useful resources:

www.Bornfree.org.uk

www.zoofederation.org.uk

www.eaza.net



BLAIR DRUMMOND SAFARI AND ADVENTURE PARK

Animal Conservation



Information

Within the safari park we are currently keeping and breeding two species of animal. These are the white rhino and the Ring tailed lemur.

We are looking after them as there are not many of them in the wild. We keep them here at the park so that we can help look after the wild populations and to make sure that they do not become extinct.



Below is some information about the white rhino and ruffed lemur and why these animals are in trouble in the wild. Read the information and try to answer the questions below.

Lemurs

The main threats to the survival of the ruffed lemur are habitat destruction, hunting for their meat and fur, and exportation. The lemur breeds well in captivity and has thus benefited from a long-term, organised and well-managed breeding program. There are now over 225 individuals held in more than 50 North American institutions. Individuals from these populations will be released to established natural reserves in Madagascar. Education also plays an important role in the conservation of the lemur. The two zoos of Madagascar with ruffed lemur exhibits are developing educational programs to help the Malagasy people become more environmentally aware.





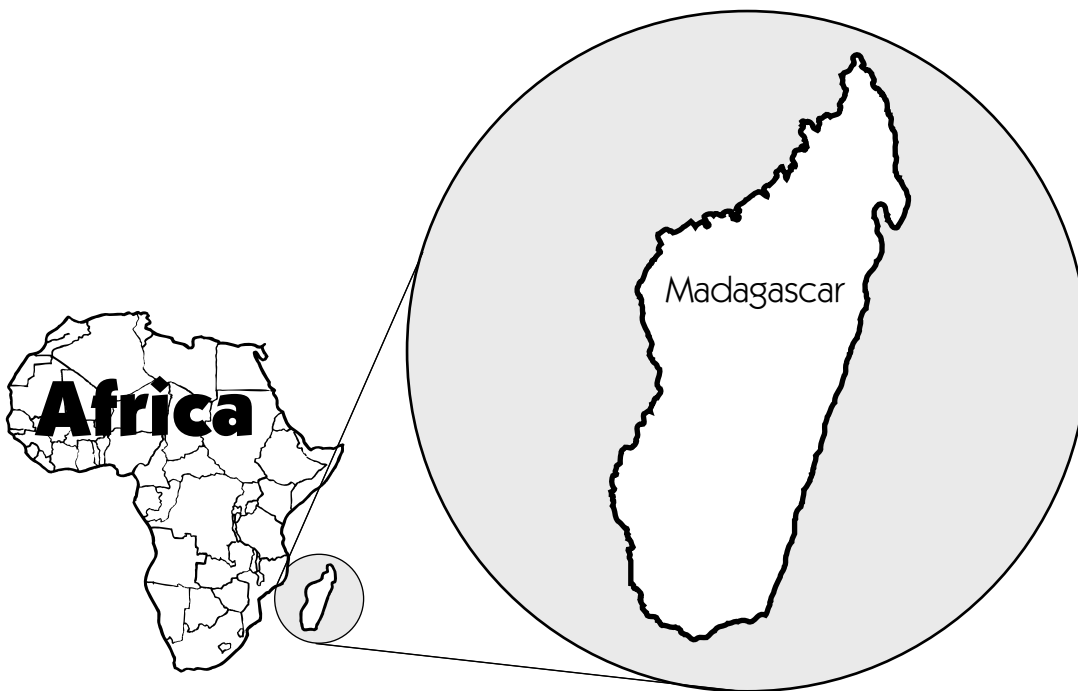
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Lemur

Madagascar is considered among the highest of conservation priorities because many of the animal and plant species are found nowhere else in the world. Lemurs are one large group of animals found only in Madagascar. There are 48 species of lemurs ranging from the smallest living primate, the pygmy mouse lemur weighing only one ounce, to the long-legged sifaka that can weigh up to 15 pounds. Free of competition from monkeys and apes, lemurs diversified to fill the varied environments that exist in Madagascar. But Madagascar is also one of the poorest countries in the world and the impact of human agriculture, fuel wood collection and livestock activities has resulted in wide-range habitat loss. Human populations have decimated the lemur populations and their habitats, leaving at least 15 species extinct and 17 endangered. Conservation efforts not only help the survival of this species but also provide valuable information for releasing other lemurs in the wild into the future.

Questions:

- (1) Lemurs only come from Madagascar? T/F -----
- (2) Lemurs are hunted for their fur? T/F -----
- (3) Lemurs need to be conserved because they can not find enough food? T/F -----
- (4) Lemurs breed well in captivity? T/F -----
- (5) Madagascar is a rich country? T/F -----
- (6) Lemurs can be released back into the wild from captivity? T/F -----



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White Rhino

The white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) used to have a range discontinuous and across a smaller area than the black rhino, because this species lives in grasslands and savannah woodlands. The white rhino is also called square-lipped rhino, because of the shape of its mouthpiece adapted to its grazing habitat.

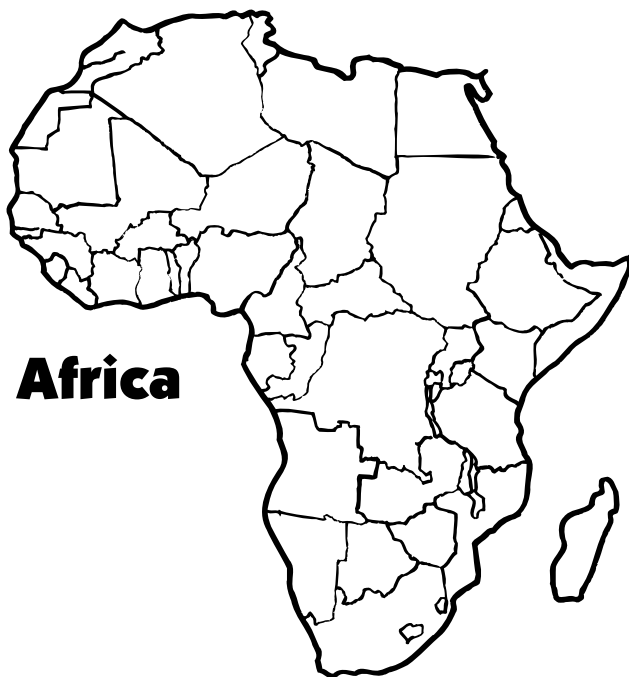
Two subspecies are recognised: the northern white rhino (*C. s. cottoni*), which survives in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and the southern white rhino (*C. s. simum*), which used to range across much of southern Africa. The SADC Rhino Conservation Programme targets only the southern sub-species.



In 1895 only 20 southern white rhino were left as a result of intensive hunting and the reclamation of land for agriculture. This small population was in the Umfolozi area of South Africa.

Since then, due to intensive management and protection and the development of techniques for successful translocation of rhino, numbers have climbed back to over 10,000 (over 11,000 including all the southern white rhino in captivity).

As a result of one of the few conservation success stories, populations were gradually re-established through translocation to other sites in South Africa and other countries. Such as the Far East and in the Gulf. This is also linked to a complex set of factors amongst which poverty in Africa plays a major role. 94% of the present wild population lives in South Africa. Smaller populations also exist in Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Reintroductions in Mozambique and Angola failed. SADC range states account for 98% of the present population of the southern sub-species (the populations in Kenya and Ivory Coast are out of range).



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White Rhino








Questions:

- (1) In 1895 there were only 20 southern white Rhino left in the wild? T/F
- (2) The white rhino is called the rectangular lipped rhino? T/F
- (3) White rhino live on beaches in the wild? T/F
- (4) There are now over 11 000 rhino in the world? T/F
- (5) Most white Rhino live in South Africa? T/F
- (6) Poverty in Africa has affected the numbers of white rhino in the wild? T/F

Task 2: animals in captivity (for the teacher)

Below is a list of statements about keeping animals in captivity. Cut out the statements and use them to discuss why animals are held in captivity.

(Statements on big colourful cards with pictures)

-  Sometimes you can only find a certain animal in a safari park. E.g. Pere David's deer that are extinct in the wild
-  Some people hunt animals or destroy where they live. In captivity the animals always have somewhere to live
-  Animals in captivity get all the food and water they need unlike in the wild where there might be a drought.
-  If an animal gets hurt in a safari park the keepers and vets look after it. In the wild an animal may suffer pain for a long time as there is no one to look after them if they get hurt.
-  People like to see the animals they are helping if they support conservation of an animal species.
-  Many safari parks are breeding animals in captivity that are going to be released back into the wild if there are not enough of them. This means that the babies will be healthy as they have been looked after by the keepers and have had the best start in life.
-  Animals live longer in captivity. (Reasons for = vets, right diet, no parasites or disease)

