ENDANGERED IN SUMATRA

With 201 mammal species and 580 bird species, the forests of Sumatra and Borneo are some of the world's most biologically diverse habitats. However, over the past 22 years, about 12 million hectares — or 50 per cent — of the forests have been lost.

Sumatran orang utan (Pongo abelii)
Critically endangered

- Population: About **7,300**.
- Restricted range in North Sumatra and Aceh, Indonesia.
- Regular widespread forest fires destroy orang utan habitats at an extremely high rate.
- Thousands of orang utans are thought to have burned to death, unable to escape the flames due to their slow-moving nature.

Its population has declined by 85 per cent since 1900.

Poachers shoot and/or kill orang utan mothers in order to capture their infants to be trafficked for the illegal pet trade.

Without their mothers, orphaned baby elephants are unable to fend for themselves and face starvation.

Vulnerable to poaching for their tusks to be sold to the illegal ivory trade.

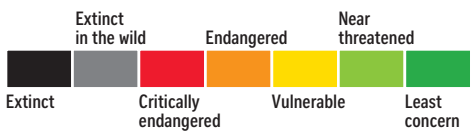
Sumatran elephant (Elephas maximus sumatrensis)
Critically endangered

- Population: **2,400 to 2,800**.
- Found in Sumatra, Indonesia.
- About 70 per cent of its habitat was destroyed in about 25 years.
- As a result of the destruction of their natural habitat, they often come into contact with human settlements. Sometimes the people affected retaliate by shooting or poisoning the elephants.

In 2012, its conservation status was changed from "endangered" to "critically endangered" because its population was halved in about 25 years.

STATUS CATEGORIES

The population status and threats to the survival of each species are evaluated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) every five years. Based on that information, each species will be assigned to a category by the IUCN.



THREAT CATEGORIES

Climate change
- Affects species indirectly by causing seasonal events to happen at the wrong time.
- Examples of seasonal events: Migration and reproduction.

Habitat loss and degradation
- Modification of the living environment of a species that results in reduced quality or complete loss of the habitat.
- Examples: Logging, fragmentation of rivers and unsustainable agriculture.

Invasive species and disease
- Introduction of new species and diseases previously not present in the environment negatively impacts native species.

Pollution
- Affects species directly by making the environment unsuitable for survival or indirectly by affecting food availability and water supply.
- Examples: Oil spills, ocean acidification, noise pollution and air pollution.

Species overexploitation
- Unsustainable hunting, poaching and harvesting are direct forms of overexploitation.
- Indirect overexploitation can also happen in cases where non-target species are killed unintentionally.

BIGGEST THREATS

Terrestrial species
Habitat loss and degradation

Freshwater species
Habitat loss and degradation

Marine species
Species overexploitation

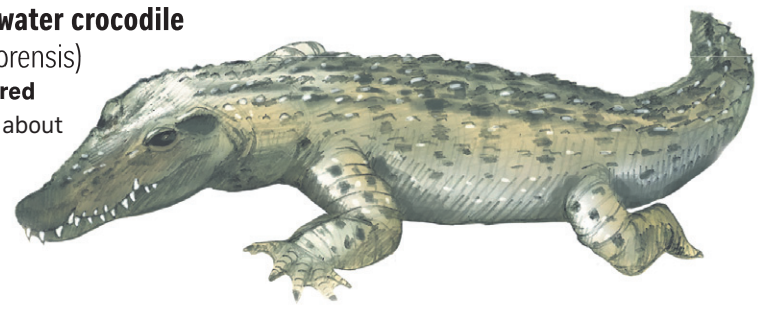
OTHER ASIAN WILDLIFE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

Philippine eagle
(Pithecophaga jefferyi)
Critically endangered
250 to 750 eagles are left.

Sunda pangolin
(Manis javanica)
Critically endangered
Based on reported seizures, **116,990 to 233,980** pangolins were killed between 2011 and 2013.

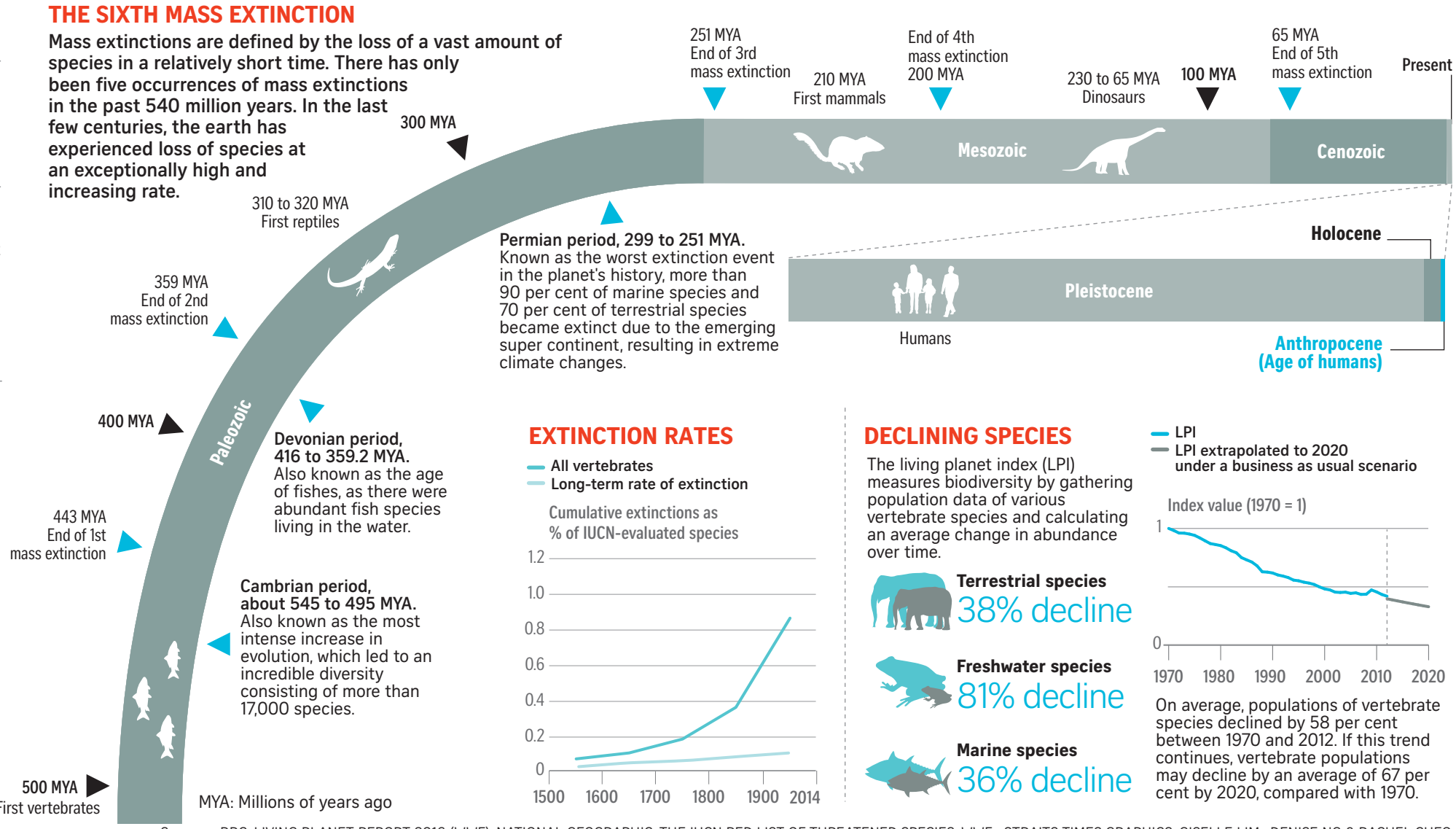
Sumatran tiger
(Panthera tigris ssp. sumatrae)
Critically endangered
About **400** Sumatran tigers remain in patches of forests in Sumatra.

Philippine freshwater crocodile
(Crocodylus mindorensis)
Critically endangered
In 2013, there were about **250** crocodiles.



THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

Mass extinctions are defined by the loss of a vast amount of species in a relatively short time. There has only been five occurrences of mass extinctions in the past 540 million years. In the last few centuries, the earth has experienced loss of species at an exceptionally high and increasing rate.



EXTINCTION RATES

DECLINING SPECIES

The living planet index (LPI) measures biodiversity by gathering population data of various vertebrate species and calculating an average change in abundance over time.

Terrestrial species
38% decline

Freshwater species
81% decline

Marine species
36% decline

On average, populations of vertebrate species declined by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012. If this trend continues, vertebrate populations may decline by an average of 67 per cent by 2020, compared with 1970.

Sources: BBC, LIVING PLANET REPORT 2016 (WWF), NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES, WWF STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS: GISELLE LIM , DENISE NG & RACHEL CHEO