

# WILDLIFE AT RISK

Imagine your neighbourhood without any squirrels, rabbits, or birds. You might be glad to have no insects, but a world without wild animals would be very hard. Scientists are worried that we might soon have that kind of world unless we change the way we act.

The World **Wildlife** Fund has recently **published** its 2018 Living Planet Report about what has been happening to over 4000 different **species** of animals. Between 1970 and 2012, the world lost over half of its wildlife, and we are losing wildlife faster than before. Over three-quarters of water animals like fish and whales are gone. The report says that people are a big part of the reason for this **crisis**.

The three biggest issues are pollution, the loss of forests, and climate change, according to the report. Pollution poisons animals, the loss of forests takes homes from animals and reduces the quality of the air they breathe, and climate change makes it difficult for animals to find food or places to live.

For example, the melting ice at the North Pole can make it impossible for polar bears to hunt for food. Many people also believe that certain chemicals are killing bees, which are important for **pollinating** plants for our food.

While this is not good news, it might still be possible to change. The World Wildlife Fund wants to set aside new



protected areas for animals to live where people are not allowed to hunt, fish, or build factories or other businesses. Using renewable energy like wind power instead of fossil fuels like oil would help reduce pollution. Strong rules against damaging the environment when people dig mines or build houses could also help. The world needs to protect the wild animals that are left.



**Wildlife:** Wild animals living in their natural environment.

**Publish:** To produce and distribute a book, magazine, newspaper, or any other printed material so that people can buy it.

**Species:** One of the groups into which animals and plants are divided according to shared characteristics.

**Crisis:** A time of danger and difficulty.

**Pollinate:** To carry or transfer pollen from one flower to another so it can be fertilized and produce seeds.

# WILDLIFE AT RISK QUESTIONS

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ has recently published its 2018 Living Planet Report.
2. How many different species of animals were included in the report?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Between 1970 and 2012, the world lost \_\_\_\_\_ of its wildlife, and we are losing wildlife faster than before.
4. The report says that \_\_\_\_\_ are a big part of the reason for this crisis.
5. What are the three biggest issues?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ takes homes from animals and reduces the quality of the air they breathe.
7. The World Wildlife Fund wants to set aside new \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for animals to live where people are not allowed to hunt, fish, or build factories or other businesses.
8. Using \_\_\_\_\_ like wind power instead of fossil fuels like oil would help reduce pollution.