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Did you know that there are many endangered animals in the world?
What's that? You've never heard of the word "endangered"?
Well then, let's start by explaining what an endangered animal is,
and how many types there are in the world.

Prof. Konica Minolta







Mammals

Roughly one out of five species



Endangered

Mammals discovered by humans

5,501 species

Endangered species

1,140 species



Birds

Roughly one out of eight species



Endangered

Birds discovered by humans

10,064 species

Endangered species

1,313 species

Amphibians

Roughly one out of three species



Endangered

Amphibians discovered by humans

6,771 species

Endangered species

1,931 species



Why should we protect animals that are on the brink of extinction?

For instance, plants produce the oxygen that we need to breathe. The life of a plant relies on pollen carried by insects and minerals found in animal carcasses. In other words, the earth has many life forms whose lives depend on one another. This is called biodiversity. When an animal or other life form becomes extinct, it breaks its link with other life forms, and threatens our lives as well.





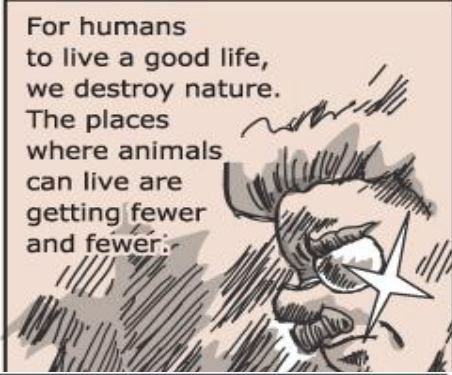


Take a look at this orangutan.

That too heavy for me!

Cool it!

Doctor, that's scary!



For humans to live a good life, we destroy nature. The places where animals can live are getting fewer and fewer.



Huh?



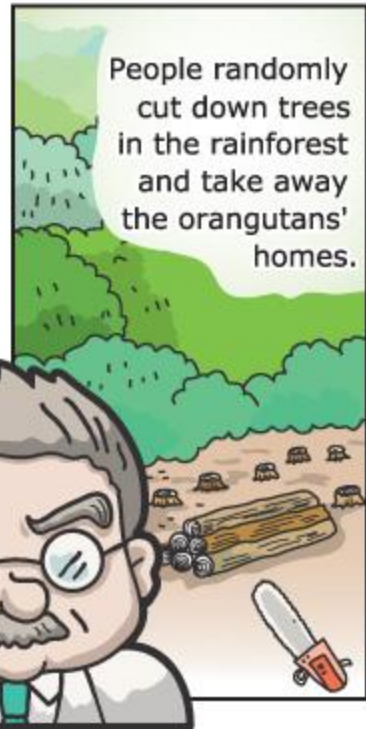
This orangutan is an endangered species too!

It's cuter than Kirarin!

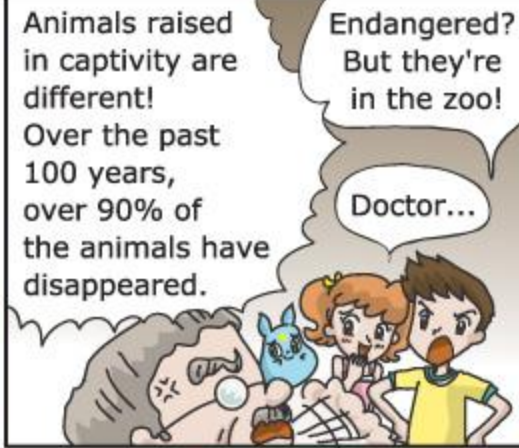
Isn't he cute? I love his eyes.



Poachers kill the mothers and take the babies away to sell them as pets.



People randomly cut down trees in the rainforest and take away the orangutans' homes.



Animals raised in captivity are different! Over the past 100 years, over 90% of the animals have disappeared.

Endangered? But they're in the zoo!

Doctor...



And it's all because of people.

Th... that many?

That's the spirit.

The first step is to know more, understand more, and investigate more.



That's horrible!

The orangutans have almost disappeared.



Hunting to sell their furs.



Hunting to make medicine out of their tusks and claws.



Hunting to keep as pets.



Hunting to eat for food.

Humans have been eating animals since long ago, and have lived off the money earned from selling furs and animals horns.



What do you mean?

There are times when we must eat or sacrifice animals in order to survive. It is very important that we be grateful to animals for that. But it is also important that we protect endangered animals.



Doctor, how do we stop this? How cruel!



Oh no!

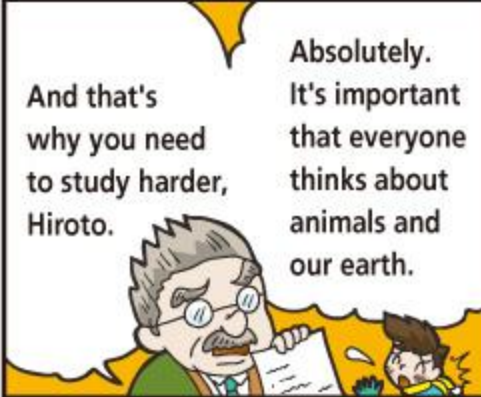
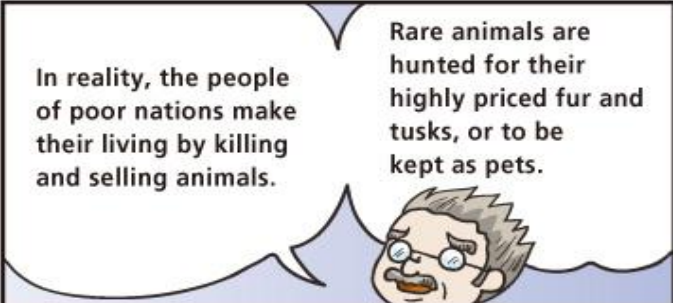
If the balance of nature were lost throughout the world, it could make life impossible for humans.

The impact on animals and plants when a single species becomes extinct is enough to disrupt the ecosystem.

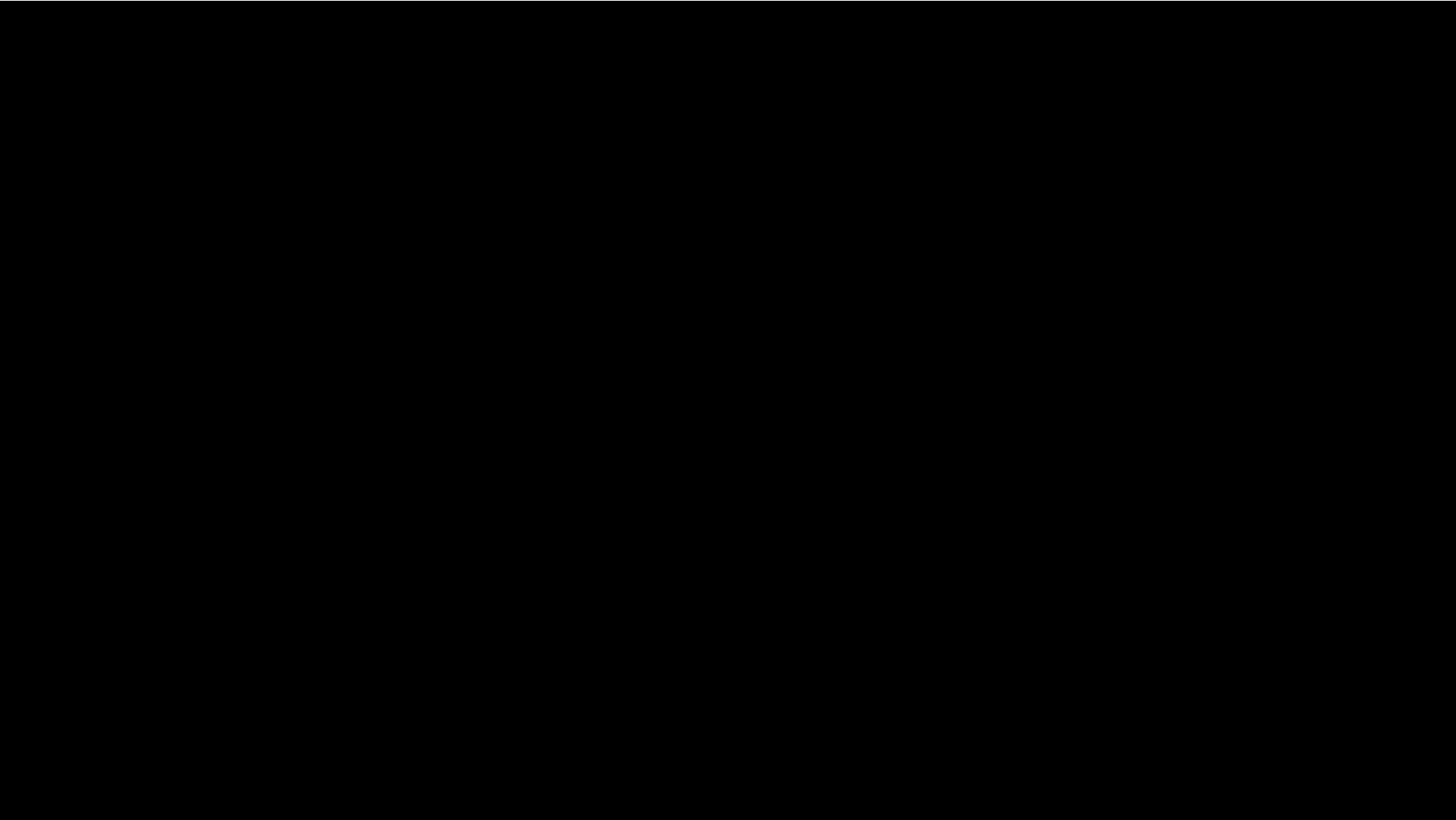




That's why various countries conduct activities to protect endangered animals. There is even a promise amongst the world's countries to prevent acts like poaching called the Washington Convention.



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