

Thousands of endangered orangutans are under threat in South East Asia because the tropical rainforests where they live are being cut down illegally.

Experts say that if nothing is done to stop people destroying the forests in Sumatra and Borneo, most of them will have disappeared within 15 years.

People are chopping down the trees to make money from selling the wood, even though they're not supposed to do it.

Other wildlife including rhinos, tigers and elephants would also be affected.

In a report for the United Nations Environment Programme, experts said the current situation was a conservation emergency.

In the past four years, the number of orangutans in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra is thought to have halved from 60,000 to just 30,000.

For many of the creatures, the forests are their last remaining habitat.

Article from "Newsround", February 07

Comprehension Questions

Name:

Date:

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. What animal is the text talking about?

2. Describe the habitat that is under threat in the text?

3. On which islands do orangutans live?

4. What other wildlife are in danger?

5. Which organisation was the report written for?

6. What does it mean that "the current situation was a conservation emergency"?

7. The number of orangutans has halved from 60,000 to 30,000. Over how many years has this happened?

8. Copy a phrase from the passage that tells us that people are chopping down trees illegally.

9. What word is used instead of animals?

10. In how many years do experts say the forests of Borneo and Sumatra will disappear?
