



147. Endangered species

Sarah: Wentworth, I heard that animal smuggling has become a fifteen billion dollars-a-year industry worldwide. What do you think about this?

W: I think it's a real shame and human greed is threatening the existence of many species.

Sarah: an estimated 38 million creatures, from butterflies to alligators, panthers and monkeys, are removed from the wild just in Brazil each year. Isn't it awful?

W: definitely. For me the explanation is that with human populations growing, many countries are experiencing habitat destruction and human-wildlife conflict.

Sarah: what makes me sad is so many species are on the brink of extinction, and nobody is reacting.

W: I don't think so. Some animal rights activists are pretty active, and fight against poaching, animal trafficking and smuggling.

Sarah: how can you explain then that the world lost more than 90% of its tiger population in the twentieth century? And what about the whales? Over a thousand of them are killed each year despite a moratorium on commercial whaling! Where are the animal rights activists?

W: Well, they do their best by creating wildlife sanctuaries, by banning ivory trade, and crack down on illegal trading. The problem is they aren't numerous and powerful enough to tip the balance in favour of the animals. Unfortunately, only humans can halt the worst wave of extinction since the dinosaurs died and ensure the survival of many species.



GLOSSARY:

Endangered species: les espèces en danger	Creatures : créatures
To become : devenir	Butterflies : des papillons
To threaten : menacer	Alligators : des alligators
To estimate : estimer	Panthers : des panthères
To remove : enlever	Monkeys : des singes
To grow : grandir	The wild : la vie sauvage
To experience : être confronté	The explanation : l'explication
To be on the brink of extinction : être en voie d'extinction	Human populations: les populations humaines
To react: réagir	Habitat destruction: destruction de l'habitat, ici du biotope
To fight: se battre	Human-wildlife conflit: le conflit entre l'humain et la faune et la flore
To explain: expliquer	Animal rights: les droits des animaux
To lose/lost/lost: perdre	Activists: activists, défenseurs
To kill: tuer	Poaching: le braconnage
To do one's best: faire de son mieux	Animal trafficking: le trafic d'animaux
To create: créer	Tiger: un tigre
To ban: interdire	The twentieth century: le vingtième siècle
To crack down: réprimer	Over a thousand of them: plus de mille d'entre eux/elles
To tip the balance: faire pencher la balance	A moratorium: un moratoire
To halt: mettre un terme	Commercial whaling: la pêche commerciale de la baleine
To die : mourir	Wild life sanctuaries : des réserves naturelles
To ensure : assurer	Banning ivory trade: interdire le commerce de l'ivoire
Animal smuggling : la contrebande d'animaux	illegal trading: le commerce illegal
A real shame : une vraie honte	the worst wave of extinction: la pire vague d'extinction
Human greed : la cupidité humaine	The dinosaurs : les dinosaures
The existence : l'existence	The survival : la survie
Many species : de nombreuses espèces	Worldwide : mondial, planétaire
A whale : une baleine	Each year : chaque année
	Awful : horrible, atroce
	Nobody : personne
	Pretty active : assez actif, plutôt actif
	Despite : malgré
	Numerous : nombreux
	Powerful : puissant
	In favour of : en faveur de