

GE 2211 Environmental Science and Engineering

Unit – II

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Endangered and Endemic Species of India

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Endangered species

- An **endangered species** is a population of organisms which is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental or predation parameters.

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International Union for Conservation of Nature - Classification

2001 Categories & Criteria (version 3.1)	Description
<p>Extinct</p> <p>EX EW CR EN VU NT LC</p> <p>Threatened</p> <p>Least Concern</p>	Vulnerable (VU) , considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild
<p>Extinct</p> <p>EX EW CR EN VU NT LC</p> <p>Threatened</p> <p>Least Concern</p>	Endangered (EN) , considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
<p>Extinct</p> <p>EX EW CR EN VU NT LC</p> <p>Threatened</p> <p>Least Concern</p>	Critically Endangered (CR) , facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

EW – extinct in the wild

Asiatic Lion



The **Asiatic Lion** which survives today only in the Gir Forest of Gujarat, where it is also known as the **Indian lion** or **Persian lion**. In 2005, the Gujarat government reported that 359 Asiatic lions were sighted in the Gir forest

Indian Elephant

- The current population of the Indian Elephant is in the range of 20,000-25,000. The Indian Elephant was assessed as an endangered species in 1996 by the Asian Elephant Specialist Group.
- Indian Elephants are threatened by poaching for the ivory of their tusks, by the loss of habitat due to human pressure on forested areas and due to human conflict.



Nilgiri Tahr

- The **Nilgiri Tahr** (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is an is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India.
- It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu
- Called as Varai aadu in Tamil

Nilgiri Tahr



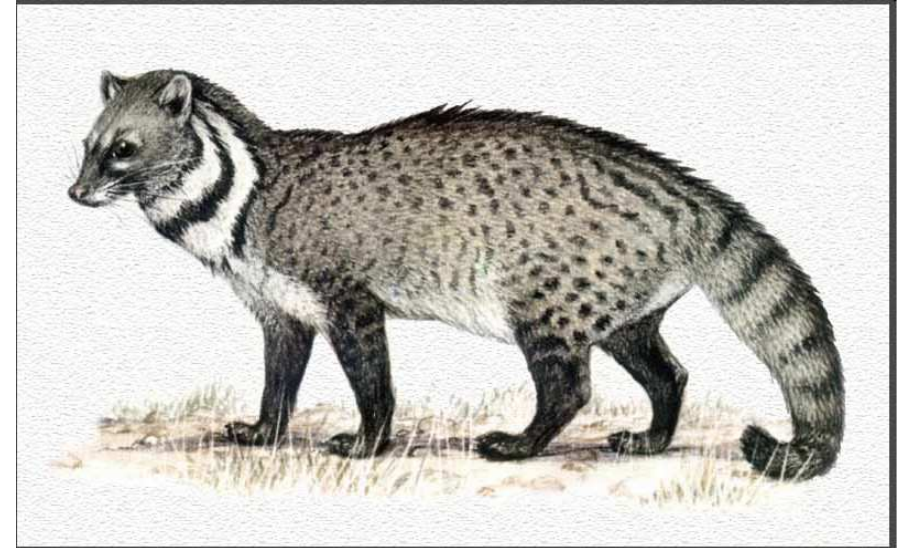
Critically Endangered Species in India

- Malabar Large-spotted Civet
- Salim Ali's fruit bat
- Sumatran Rhinoceros
- Namdapha flying squirrel

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Malabar Large-spotted Civet

- The **Malabar Large-spotted Civet** (*Viverra civettina*), is a civet. It is also known as the **Malabar Civet** and called **Jawad** in Malayalam, the local language of Kerala.
- The species was once common along the lowland coastal tracts of Kerala and Karnataka in South India. It became rare by the beginning of the 20th century, but was still often used for producing civet musk in the 1960's.
- In 1999, fewer than 250 mature individuals were thought to survive in the wild
- Threatened by large-scale clearance of forests for planting rubber



[www.animalinfo.org/species/carnivor/viverra.htm](http://www.animalinfo.org/species/carnivor/viverridae/viverra.htm)

SSN

Salim Ali's fruit bat

- Endemic to India
- It was first identified by Angus Hutton, a planter and naturalist in the High Wavy Mountains in the western ghats of Theni district, Tamilnadu in South India in 1948
- It was named after the famous Indian ornithologist Salim Ali in 1972



Sumatran Rhinoceros

- It is the smallest rhinoceros, standing about 120–145 cm high at the shoulder, with a body length of 250 cm and weight of 500–800 kg
- The decline in the number of Sumatran Rhinoceros is attributed primarily to poaching for their horns, which are highly valued in traditional Chinese medicine, fetching as much as US\$30,000 per kilogram on the black market
- They are solitary animals that are widely scattered across their range, but they are estimated to number around 300



Namdapha flying squirrel

- It is an arboreal (tree living), nocturnal (active in night) flying squirrel endemic to India, and is listed as a critically endangered species due to habitat loss
- In the jungles of Northeast India
- Endemic to India

