

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest. The scene is dimly lit, with a circular glow highlighting a sloth perched on a branch in the upper right quadrant. The sloth is looking towards the viewer. The background shows a dense forest with some trees and a misty or smoky atmosphere. The overall tone is somber and mysterious.

Endangered

Species

Sachiko Purser



Endangered Species

Sachiko Purser

I am trying to raise awareness of the wave of extinction in the natural world by creating images of vanishing animals and birds and communicating this important environmental issue to the public. We come from nature, and without sustaining the balance of nature we won't be able to survive.

I capture their existence by creating images of ghostly humanised animals. Japanese Sumi-ink paintings of animal portraits were combined with monochrome photographs of environmental backgrounds. Finally, it was digitally adjusted for the Photopolymer printing method.

Within the ecosystem, each species has a reason to exist and a link to each other, sustaining the balance of nature. But we have been destroying nature to build our civilisation. Animals and birds are vanishing in the world because of their habitat loss, poaching, exposure to toxic pesticides and spread of invasive species. Climate change has impacted on the world's weather patterns. Severe weather has caused flooding and drought in some parts of the world. It has also caused Amazonian fires and fires in Australia, where lots of animals are losing habitats and dying. We are losing the balance of nature and are now at a crisis point in terms of extinction. Every year the list of critically endangered species increases and some become extinct.

Are we able to call ourselves human if we do not value the natural world around us and our fellow creatures?



Three toed Sloth

The decline in sloth populations is due to deforestation and urbanisation, which poses many risks to sloths. Due to habitat loss, sloths are more often landing on the ground and are therefore vulnerable to dog attacks, car strikes and poaching.





Tapanuli Orangutan

Tapanuli orangutan was recognised as a distinct species in Sumatra in 2017 and is already facing extinction. The threat of hunting, and the loss of habitat due to agriculture. New threats are also emerging, such as infrastructure construction, gold mining, geothermal and hydropower plant development.



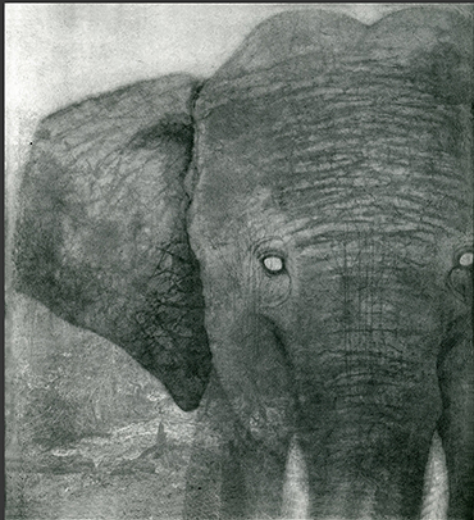
Philippine Eagle

The Philippine eagle is one of three of the largest eagles in the world. The expansion of logging, mining and agriculture have greatly reduced habitat, and put populations at risk. Uncontrolled hunting and pesticide poisoning have created further pressures.



Sumatran Elephant

Sumatra has experienced one of the highest rates of deforestation within the Asian Elephant's range. Over two-thirds of its natural lowland forest has been destroyed in one generation.





Sunda Tiger

Accelerated deforestation and the epidemic of poaching mean that this noble creature can become extinct like the creatures of Java and Bali. Sunda tiger suffers from loss of habitat and prey, while poaching is an ever-present threat.



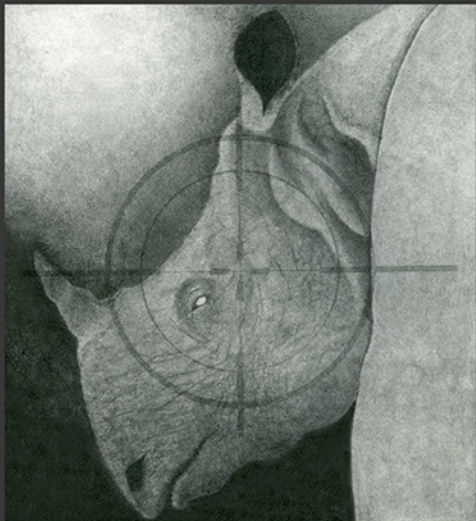
California Condor

Lead poisoning from spent ammunition is the number one cause of death among adult California Condors in the wild. Human development has significantly degraded or destroyed the habitat Condors require for foraging, nest and roosting.



Javan Rhino

One of the most threatened large mammal species on Earth. Javan Rhino is only survived in the Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia. They are extremely vulnerable to extinction due to habitat loss, diseases, poaching, and potential inbreeding.





Saola

Saola is one of the rarest large mammals in the world, discovered in Vietnam in May 1992. The main threats to the Saola are hunting and fragmentation of its range through habitat loss.





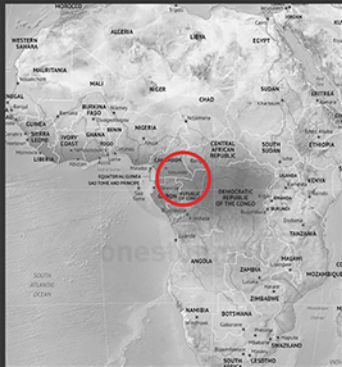
Japanese Ptarmigan

Due to global warming, the climate is becoming unfavourable for Japanese Ptarmigans living in high mountains, and it is becoming an environment where animals living at lower levels can also live. Wild animals such as monkeys, deer and foxes invade alpine areas causing serious damage to Ptarmigans habitat.



Cross River Gorilla

The Cross River Gorilla is the most threatened ape in Africa. They were formerly much more widespread and abundant than they are today. Hunting and habitat loss have reduced their territory to a small mountain area on Cameroon-Nigeria border.





Panda

Wild pandas once roamed bamboo groves in China, Vietnam, Laos and Burma. Today, wild pandas can only be found in China. They only eat bamboo. Habitat destruction is one of the main reasons for panda population decline and food shortages.

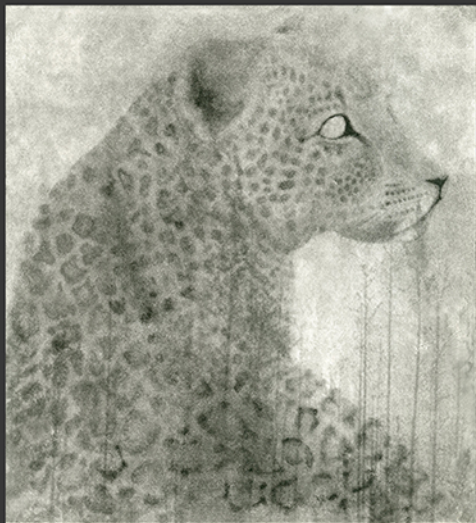




Lapwing

Lapwings generally feed on pastures. Wet grasslands are a particularly important source of food. Many of these pastures have been replaced by agricultural land and the loss of this major habitat has reduced their numbers significantly.





Amur Leopard

Amur leopards are native to the Primorye region of southeastern Russia and northern China. They are mainly poached for their beautiful spotted fur. Human-initiated fires, logging and development are all eroding the small remaining areas of habitat. The very small population of the Amur leopard also makes it more susceptible to disease due to inbreeding.





Blue-throated Macaw

The blue-throated macaw was thought to be extinct for many years until 1992, when a wild population was discovered in South America. One of the biggest threats facing blue-throated macaws is illegal pet trading.





Pangolin

Pangolin's meat is considered a delicacy in China and Vietnam and scales are used in traditional medicine. They are the most trafficked mammals in Asia and increasingly, Africa.



Kakapo

Kakapo is a large, flightless nocturnal parrot that can only be found in New Zealand. Their numbers are also suppressed by predators such as stoats, cats, dogs and rats introduced by European settlers. Kakapos lives only on sanctuary islands with no predators.



