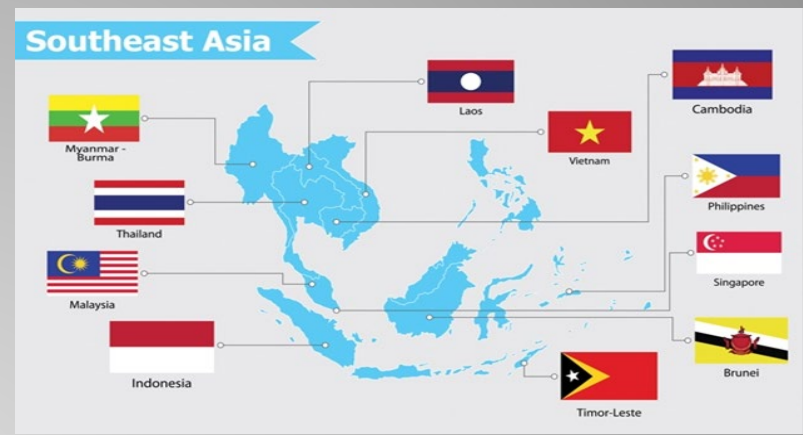


# Our Amazing Animals

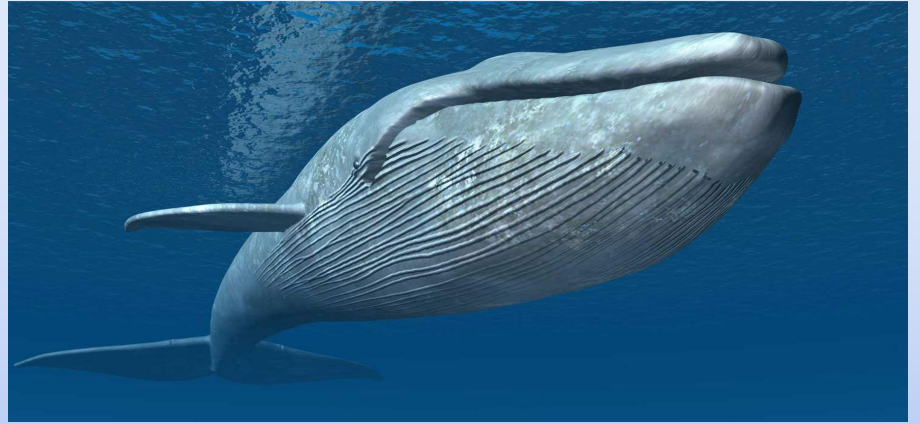
# The Asian Elephant

Hi everyone my name is Ellie and I'm an ecosystem engineer! I live in around 13 different countries in Asia but unfortunately we are an endangered species. We play a big role in our ecosystem by clearing out all the plants and grass around the area which allows other animals to be able to walk through the forests. We eat plenty of plants, flowers, fruit and grass. We're also so big that we always make a pathway and when we do, we spread out seeds so that the plants can continue to grow and other herbivores - that's a fancy word for a plant eater - can also eat and fill their bellies. Our tusks are used to help us getting hard to reach fruit and plants stuck up on trees up high and helps us defend ourselves against predators. Unfortunately our tusks are also one of the reasons why we are endangered. Humans hunt us and use them for trophies, jewelry and even medicine in some parts of the world. It's really tough with how our forests are getting smaller and being hunted doesn't help us either.



# The Blue Whale

Ahoy mateys! I'm Wally and I'm the largest animal to ever live on planet Earth, even larger than dinosaurs! I eat about 4 tons of krill a day! Those are small little shrimp looking animals and 4 tons is a lot, that's like 4 of your human cars! We're very important to our oceans, our poop actually helps other animals in the ocean and even animals on land by helping produce oxygen. That's what you breathe. We're also an endangered species because of over hunting a long time ago. People would use parts of us for soaps, perfumes and oils. We aren't hunted as much now a days but pollution of toxic chemicals and garbage is harming our oceans and it's had a big affect on our population. If we take care of our oceans we can live around 80-90 years old! Our oceans are very important to the overall climate of our beautiful planet and everyone needs to do their part to help keep it clean!



# The Polar Bear

Hey guys I'm Teddy the polar bear! I live in the Arctic which is in the northern hemisphere, not to be confused with Antarctica which is in the southern hemisphere. Both are really cold but I like the North! I'm one of the largest apex predators in the world and I'm a meat eater - a carnivore unlike my cousins like the brown and black bear who are omnivores - they eat both plants and other animals. My job in my ecosystem is to make sure I control population of fish, seals and any other animal that I can get my paws on! I don't get many meals because hunting in the cold frozen tundra is really hard! I'm also a really good swimmer which really helps me catch those pesky seals! We're also endangered species mainly because of climate change. The planet is getting hotter and hotter and the Arctic is melting.





# The California Condor

Hi I'm Connie the California Condor and I'm part of the clean up crew! I'm the largest bird in North America, my wingspan can reach up to 10 feet! I'm what you call a scavenger. Which means I don't actually hunt for my food, I wait for a predator to hunt and kill animals and then I swoop in after they're done eating. This actually helps the ecosystem because diseases from those dead animals doesn't spread to the ones that are alive. As you can tell by my name I live for the most part in California but you can find me in other western states in the US. We actually become extinct in the wild in 1987 but thankfully to some amazing work by conservationists our numbers are increasing but we are still endangered and under threat.



# THE MOUNTAIN GORILLA

Hi there! I'm Mojo Jojo the mountain gorilla and I live in the mountains and bamboo forests of Eastern-Central Africa. I'm not lazy at all but I do spend a lot of my day just grazing and eating plants, leaves, stems and the occasional snail and ants. Yummy! You've met several ecosystem engineers and I'm not different. I also spread seeds so that plants can regrow and since I'm so big and strong I move plants and trees so that sunlight and help plants that normally don't get much light. Just like my other friends on here I'm also an endangered species. Our main problem is also deforestation and humans destroying our habitat. Also, we share a lot of the same DNA as humans so any sickness like the flu can also have a severe impact on us. Our numbers are recovering but we still have a long way to go.

