*IB ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES*

*SUMMER WORK*

*For your summer work, you are required to research and create fact files for three different conservation case studies. Read the background information and follow all of the success criteria in order to get a Level 7.*

*The case studies are:*

1. *A* ***recently******extinct*** *animal which has gone extinct due to human activities. (NO dinosaurs please! It must be within the last 400 years).*
2. *An animal which is* ***critically endangered****.*
3. *An animal whose conservation status has been improved by* ***human intervention****.*

*A reflection also needs to be completed on why your animal for both case studies 2 and 3 should be conserved. You need to consider ethical, economic, aesthetic, ecological and any other reasons as to why your animal should be conserved.*

***Case Study 1 – Extinct Animal – Success Criteria:***

* ***Choose and state*** *an extinct animal’s name. It MUST be an animal which has recently gone extinct.*
* ***Describe*** *the animal.*
* ***Outline*** *the* ***ecological role*** *of the animal. (Where would it be in the food chain? Draw a simple food chain to illustrate. What did it eat?)*
* ***Explain why*** *the animal went extinct due to human activity. (Was it hunting for food? Was it because humans introduced a non-native species?). Be specific and give details.*
* ***Explain*** *the consequences of the disappearance. What happened to the ecosystem after that animal left?*

***Case Study 2 – Critically Endangered Animal – Success Criteria:***

* ***Choose and state*** *a critically endangered animal’s name. It MUST be critically endangered as listed by the* ***IUCN*** *(see website list).*
* ***Describe*** *the animal.*
* ***Outline*** *the* ***ecological role*** *of the animal. (Where would it be in the food chain? Draw a simple food chain to illustrate. What did it eat?)*
* ***Explain why*** *the animal is critically endangered with reference to* ***human activities****. (Was it hunting for food? Was it because humans introduced a non-native species?). Be specific and give details.*
* ***Outline*** *the* ***conservation strategies*** *that have been put in place currently.*
* ***Evaluate*** *whether these strategies are working. As the animal is still listed as critically endangered, what are the* ***difficulties*** *that conservationists face?*
* ***Explain*** *what the potential consequences to the ecosystem would be if this animal were to go extinct. (Consider the impact on prey/predators, impact on the habitat etc.)*

***Case Study 3 – An animal whose conservation status has been improved by human intervention – Success Criteria:***

* ***Choose and state*** *an animal whose conservation status has been improved by human intervention. It must have improved by at least one conservation status as listed by the* ***IUCN****.*
* ***Describe*** *the animal.*
* ***Outline*** *the* ***ecological role*** *of the animal (Where would it be in the food chain? Draw a simple food chain to illustrate. What did it eat?).*
* ***Explain why*** *the animal was critically endangered/vulnerable with reference to* ***human activities****. (Was it hunting for food? Was it because humans introduced a non-native species?). Be specific and give details.*
* ***Explain*** *the* ***conservation strategies*** *that were put in place to conserve that species.*
* ***Evaluate*** *the success of these conservation strategies. What is the future for this species? What further work is needed?*

***Reflection – Why should we conserve species ‘x’?***

*Consider the ethical, economic, aesthetic, ecological and any other reasons as to why your animals should be conserved.*