# Ecology Unit 2: Endangered Species Project

Directions: Each of you must present your project to the class, but you may choose how to do so. I have included a copy of the rubric so you can see how it will be graded. Let’s get started!

1. **Obtaining Information**: This was your research, you’ve already done most of this! You will do a bit more below in the Evaluating Information section.
2. **Evaluating Information**:

Part 1: Describing the Problem

You must 1st make a claim supported by evidence and reasoning about WHY your animal is endangered. To do this, you will need to determine the root cause of their shrinking populations. This might be things like pollution (habitat degradation), deforestation, habitat loss, illegal hunting, global warming, invasive/ exotic species destroying their habitat or interrupting their food web, loss of genetic diversity leading to inbreeding and lowered birth rates, or overexploitation of them by humans a resource.Use the template before to start developing your argument

Claim: \_My animal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is endangered because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Evidence: Start by explaining WHY the disturbance to your species is happening. It may be that they’re directly targeted because they are sold as a commodity. On the other hand, their shrinking populations may be an unintended consequence of burning fossil fuels which leads to global warming… Whatever the case, explain your claim here, and then identify the specific evidence you have found that supports your claim. You must cite the evidence and its source. Only cite evidence you will analyze. Your audience needs to understand how the material works as evidence (how it supports the claim). If you do not discuss the material you cite, the audience will not understand what the purpose of the quotation is. Good examples of evidence include data, statistics, tables, or graphs showing your population before and after a particular activity or event. In this way, you can show the population of your species used to be bigger before X but after it has gotten smaller. On the lines below, describe your evidence and make sure to cite your source! Evidence should only be obtained from credible sources the end in .edu or .gov. You may start looking for evidence on Wikipedia, but only as a stepping-stone to credible evidence. YOU MAY NOT CITE WICKIPEDIA! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reasoning: This must be the longest section of the paragraph. It is not enough to assert that the evidence reveals something; you need to show how it does so and connect it to big ideas in biology such as: heredity, matter & energy, interacting systems, evolution…. For example, if an invasive species is outcompeting your animal for food, then your animal is having a difficult time obtaining matter and energy; if your habitat is being destroyed by pollution or people, then that’s an interacting systems problem… If you need help connecting to a Big Idea please let me know. Once you’ve selected a big idea to focus on, make sure you clearly explain the connection between the evidence you cited above and your animals endangered status. If you overestimate how clearly and fully you have explained the connection between evidence and analysis, the result will be an unconvincing argument. A good claim and appropriate evidence require extensive analysis. To do this you must make a connection to the concept of evolution by natural selection.

1st circle the Big Idea you want to focus on: **heredity/ matter & energy/ interacting systems/ evolution** Once chosen check with me and get my initials here\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before you move on to make sure you will be able to make a good argument based on your evidence

Once I approve your Big Idea, use the space below to explain the connection between the evidence and your Big Idea.

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Part 2: Designing a Conservation Plan (Solution)

You must next make a claim supported by evidence and reasoning about HOW WE CAN HELP your animal. To do this, you will need to look the root cause of their shrinking populations that you determined above, and propose a solution. The solution might be Use the template before to start developing your argument

Claim: \_My animal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is endangered because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_SO to help stabilize my animals population numbers we should\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Evidence: Identify specific evidence you have found that supports your claim. You must cite the evidence and its source. Only cite evidence you will analyze. Your audience needs to understand how the material works as evidence (how it supports the claim). If you do not discuss the material you cite, the audience will not understand what the purpose of the quotation is. In this section, you will refer back to the evidence you cited above for claim 1. You may also look to see if conservation biologists have already started employing the conservation method you made in your claim, and if there is any data to show that it’s working. Good examples of evidence include data, statistics, tables, or graphs showing your population before and after a particular activity or event. In this way, you can show the population of your species used to be bigger before X but after it has gotten smaller. On the lines below, describe your evidence and make sure to cite your source! Evidence should only be obtained from credible sources the end in .edu or .gov. You may start looking for evidence on Wikipedia, but only as a stepping-stone to credible evidence. YOU MAY NOT CITE WICKIPEDIA! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reasoning: This must be the longest section of the paragraph. It is not enough to assert that the evidence reveals something; you need to show how it does so and connect it to the big idea you chose above. For example, if an invasive species is outcompeting your animal for food, then your animal is having a difficult time obtaining matter and energy; so how does your conservation plan help your organism obtain matter & energy? If your habitat is being destroyed by pollution or people, (an interacting systems problem), how does your conservation plan help stabilize that system? You must connect to the Big Idea you chose in Part 1. Make sure you clearly explain the connection between the evidence you cited above and your conservation plan. If you overestimate how clearly and fully you have explained the connection between evidence and analysis, the result will be an unconvincing argument. A good claim and appropriate evidence require extensive analysis. To do this you must make a connection to the concept of evolution by natural selection.

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1. **Communicating Information**

Here is where you have some freedom of choice. How would you like to communicate all of this to an audience? Options include the following:

* PowerPoint / Prezi/ Google Slides presentation
* Informational Brochure
* Childrens Book
* Designing a Website
* Making a Poster &/or 3D model
* Filming a PSA (Public Service Announcement) 🡪 basically making a movie
* Creating an animation for people to watch

When making your selection consider your talents and skill set. Also consider the criteria laid out in the rubric!