

TAKE ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

So you want to help bring endangered animals* back from the brink?
There's a lot you can do!

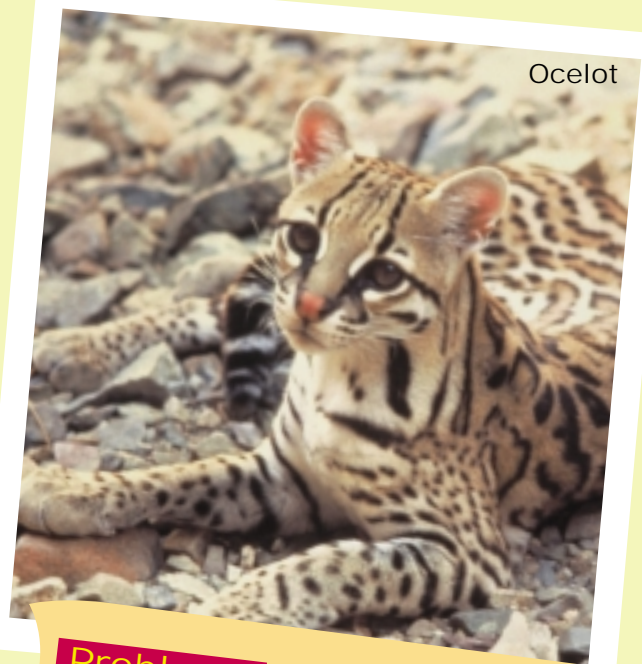


Photo: Tom Smylie/USFWS

Problem:

HABITAT LOSS

Habitat is the forest, desert, or ocean where an animal lives, finds food, and raises its young. But people can change or destroy a habitat when they move in and cut down forests or grasslands to make room for houses, offices, roads, resorts, and shopping malls.

Solutions:

- Make your backyard or schoolyard a wildlife habitat. Get tips at: www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat
- Plant wild flowers to attract butterflies.
- When you're on holiday, try activities like canoeing, windsurfing, or cross-country skiing that are quiet and don't disturb wildlife.

Problem: POLLUTION

Industries spew chemicals into the air, farms spray pesticides onto crops, and tankers spill oil into the oceans, poisoning animals or destroying their homes. Everyday pollution is a problem too: car exhaust, human sewage, and litter can be harmful or toxic to animals.

Solutions:

- Walk, bike, or take public transit instead of driving, when possible.
- Grab your friends and organize a clean-up day. Pick up litter from streams or parks. Animals can choke on bits of plastic.
- Don't throw dead batteries or other household chemicals in the garbage. Ask your parents to get rid of them at a hazardous waste depot.

*An endangered species is a rare plant or animal that's in danger of disappearing forever.

Problem:

HUNTING and TRADE

Too much hunting or fishing can send a species to the brink of extinction. Over-hunting has almost wiped out species like the right whale. And sometimes people try to sell products made from endangered animals, like ivory carvings or shoes made from some crocodile skins.

Solutions:

- Be careful what you buy, both at home and on vacation. It's against the law to bring many wildlife souvenirs back to Canada and the U.S.
- Don't pick wild flowers or collect wild creatures like frogs or lizards for pets.
- Watch out when you're pet shopping. Some "exotic" animals are brought to North America illegally and may in fact be endangered.

**FOR MORE INFO,
CHECK OUT THESE SITES:**

www.wwf.ca/satellite/wwfkids/main-k-t.html

www.ec.gc.ca/eco/wycd/school3_e.html

www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

<http://educators.fws.gov/students.html>