

Technology

1 Work with a partner. Look at the photos of the animals and discuss this question:

Why do you think there are fewer and fewer of these animals remaining in our world today?

2 Quickly read the text. Which statement best describes what it is about?

- a Introducing technology to increase the number of endangered animals in the wild
- b Preventing the illegal sale of animal body parts
- c Using new methods to track criminals who exploit wildlife



It is estimated that 100,000,000 sharks are killed each year for their fins.



In the last three years, poachers have killed about 100,000 elephants.



HOW TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING THE FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRIME

We don't only come across crime in the human world, a growing number of people are exploiting the endangered wildlife of our planet too. They are known as poachers or animal traffickers and their criminal activity is threatening the survival of more and more of our animal population.

Poachers focus on capturing or killing animals with body parts that are worth a lot of money – tiger skins and bones, rhino horns, shark fins or ivory from elephants – and they sell these items illegally.

Fortunately, we now live in a world that is making use of technology more than ever, and there are some excellent high-tech methods used to look for these criminals and help combat animal crime.

- 1 Some endangered animals wear smart collars to track their movements. These collars have a GPS system inside that tells investigators where the animal is at any time, and therefore helps keep it safe from traffickers.
- 2 High-tech flying devices called drones are increasingly used to cover large and remote regions and can help locate criminals illegally hunting wildlife in these areas.

3 In some parts of the world, robotic animals are used to trick poachers. This method has already worked for criminals hunting deer, and perhaps it could prove successful to use robotic elephants and tigers too.

4 The DNA analysis of illegal animal goods, like elephant ivory or shark fins, helps investigators locate where they come from, and this can bring them closer to finding out who the criminals are, therefore protecting these animals in the future.

5 Mobile apps like WILDSCAN now exist to help investigators keep track of animal trafficking by providing photos and information on wildlife in danger.

These methods of technology are all making improvements in the hunt for poachers and with plenty of other techniques also in use, one day animal crime can hopefully be stopped altogether.

3 Read the text again. Decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 A poacher is somebody who investigates a crime. T/F
- 2 The increase in animal trafficking is resulting in more endangered wildlife. T/F
- 3 New technology methods are helping criminals sell animal body parts illegally. T/F
- 4 Some traffickers are using smart collars to find out the location of animals. T/F
- 5 A robot of a tiger could be used in the future to help combat animal crime. T/F
- 6 Investigators can use DNA analysis and mobile apps to collect more evidence on criminals. T/F

4 Write the correct method of technology.

- 1 something an animal wears around its neck to keep it safer:
.....
- 2 a device that can locate poachers from the sky:
.....
- 3 investigators analyse this to find out where illegal animal goods come from:
.....
- 4 an animal that isn't real:
.....

5 Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 How important do you think technology is in protecting endangered animals?
- 2 In what way can satellite cameras help stop poaching?

PROJECT

- 1 Find out about another technology that is used to help prevent animal crime. Describe the key features of the technology and how it works to protect wildlife. Present the information to the class.
- 2 Research an endangered animal and include ways in which technology is used to help protect the animal in the wild. Present the information to the class.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

combat [v]: fight, prevent

endangered [adj]: when something risks disappearing

exploit [v]: treat somebody/something unfairly to benefit others.

fin [n]: thin flat part sticking out from the body of a fish.

high-tech [adj]: the most modern or advanced of technology.

horn [n]: hard pointed part growing out of an animal's head.

illegal [adj]: not allowed

ivory [n]: the bone that an elephant's tusks are made of.

poacher [n]: somebody who illegally catches or kills animals.

survival [n]: trying to live in very difficult conditions.

threaten [v]: cause harm to somebody or something.

trafficker [n]: somebody who buys and sells things illegally.

?? DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to some technology tests using drones in an important wildlife area in Kenya, poaching has reduced by 96%.

The West African giraffe is a success story for endangered animals – about 15 years ago there were only 50 of them left in the world, but this has increased to 200 today partly thanks to the use of smart collars that some of the animals now wear to protect them from poachers.