

***REFERENCE E-BOOK***

***Constructions in present-day English***

***Thematic section***

***ENVIRONMENT CONSTRUCTIONS***

**Immediate constructions** (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

## ENVIRONMENT-CONSTRUCTIONS

Compiled by Liz Kostiuk, Karina Omelianenko, Helen Ostapenko,  
Oksana Romanenko and Oksana Zinchenko

### SPEAKING ABOUT EXTINCTION

#### \* *extinction-constructions*

Cheetahs heading towards extinction as population crashes

The sleek, speedy cheetah is rapidly **heading towards extinction** according to a new study into declining numbers

This would help focus international conservation support on a species that the authors fear is heading for extinction at an increasing pace.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

The question of extinction most recently surfaced at the talks on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – the treaty meant to save endangered species from the devastating effects of trade.

But there is so-called "background" extinction as well – species fading out year by year, creatures quietly losing out to others and disappearing.

Charles Darwin wrote of extinction in his landmark On the Origin of Species.

So what are the arguments for resisting extinction?

And that casts the threat of extinction – and our role in it – in a very different light.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-21866456>

Primates facing 'extinction crisis'

The world's primates face an "extinction crisis" with 60% of species now threatened with extinction, according to research.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38652196>

#### \* *crash/declining-constructions*

Cheetahs heading towards extinction as population crashes

The sleek, speedy cheetah is rapidly heading towards extinction according to a new study into **declining numbers.**

As a result, the animal struggles because these lands are increasingly being developed by farmers and the cheetah's prey is declining because of bushmeat hunting.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

This also revealed that 75% of species have populations that are declining.

He told the BBC that it was his "strong belief" that "with a concerted effort by the world's governments and conservationists, primate declines can be halted and populations stabilised".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38652196>

### *\* plight-constructions*

"Given the secretive nature of this elusive cat, it has been difficult to gather hard information on the species, leading to its **plight being overlooked**," said Dr Sarah Durant, from the Zoological Society of London, UK, and the report's lead author.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

But more broadly, "we need to raise local, regional and global public awareness of **the plight of the world's primates** and what this means for ecosystem health, human culture, and ultimately human survival.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38652196>

### *\* range/roam-constructions*

According to the study, more than half the world's surviving cheetahs live in one population that **ranges across six countries** in southern Africa.

Because the cheetah is one of the **widest-ranging** carnivores, it **roams across lands far outside protected areas**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

## ***SPEAKING ABOUT THREATS TO ENVIRONMENT***

### *\* trafficking-constructions*

Another of the big concerns about cheetahs has been the illegal **trafficking** of cubs, fuelled by demand from the Gulf states, as reported by the BBC earlier this year.

According to the Cheetah Conservation Fund, some 1,200 cheetah cubs are known to **have been trafficked out of Africa** over the past 10 years but around 85% of them died during the journey.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

### *\* threats to species-constructions*

Professor Jo Setchell from Durham University, a member of the team, explained that the main threats were "massive **habitat loss**" and **illegal hunting**.

"And primates **are hunted for** meat and trade, either as pets or as body parts."

The study also cited poverty and civil unrest as a **driving force for hunting** – in the poorest parts of the world many people **are being driven to hunting primates** in order to feed themselves.

Other threats - all driven by human behaviour - are **forest clearance** for livestock and **cattle ranching**; oil and gas drilling and mining.

The researchers also pointed to some personal choices that people could make as consumers, particularly in the west, to avoid contributing to **tropical deforestation**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38652196>

## ***SPEAKING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

### ***\* conservation status-constructions***

A global study, involving more than 30 scientists, **assessed the conservation status** of more than 500 individual species.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38652196>

The authors are calling for an urgent **re-categorisation of the species** from vulnerable to endangered.

To fully recognise the scale of the threat that the cheetah now faces, the report is calling on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) **to change the categorisation** of the fastest animal on its Red List from vulnerable to endangered.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>

### ***\* tackle-constructions***

At the recent CITES conference in South Africa, governments agreed to put new measures in place **to tackle this issue**, clamping down on the use of social media to advertise cheetahs for sale.

However if the species is to survive long term then urgent efforts must be made **to tackle the wider question** of protected areas and ranges.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38415906>