



Borneo Elephants

[Source: IUCN](#)

Recently, **Borneo elephants (*Elephas maximus Borneensis*)** have been classified as '**Endangered**' on the [IUCN Red List](#).

- Only about 1,000 Borneo elephants remain, with 400 of them being breeding adults.
- The main threat to them is **human-elephant conflict, poaching**, and **habitat loss** caused by **logging and oil palm plantations**, leading to the loss of about **60% of their forest habitat** in the last 4 decades.

Bornean Elephants:

- It is a subspecies of the [Asian elephant \(*Elephas maximus*\)](#) that is native to the island of Borneo.
 - They are primarily located in **Sabah, Malaysia** and **Kalimantan, Indonesia**.
- They are **genetically distinct** from other **Asian elephant** populations, characterised by their **smaller size and unique skull shape**.
- **They are herbivores, and live in family groups led by a matriarch and typically found near water sources such as rivers.**

- Protection Status of Asian Elephants:
 - [IUCN Red List Status](#): **Endangered**.
 - [CITES](#): **Appendix I**.
 - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): **Schedule I**.
- **Borneo** is the world's **3rd largest island**, shared by **Malaysia** and **Brunei** in the north and **Indonesia** in the south.

//

LARGEST LAND MAMMALS

WHAT ARE ELEPHANTS?



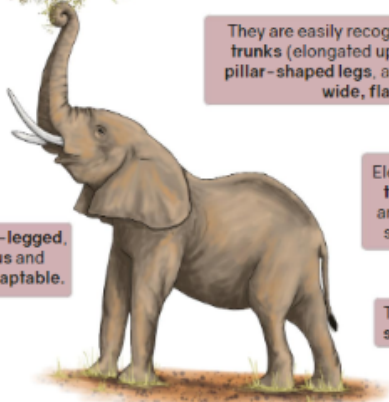
Elephants are the largest living land mammals on earth – they belong to the family Elephantidae.

They are easily recognised by their long trunks (elongated upper lip and nose), pillar-shaped legs, and huge head, with wide, flat ears.

Elephants are grayish to brown in colour, and their body hair is sparse and coarse.

There are 3 different species of elephants

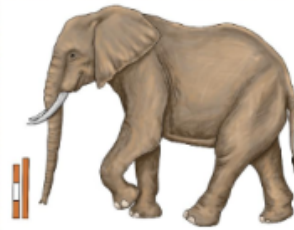
They are four-legged, herbivorous and extremely adaptable.



- They are found most often in savannas, grasslands, and forests but occupy a wide range of habitats, including deserts, swamps, and highlands in tropical and subtropical regions in both Africa and Asia.
- Only one hundred years ago, there were 10 million African elephants inhabiting the African continent. By 2016, however, their numbers were reduced to only about 450,000.

ELEPHANT SPECIES

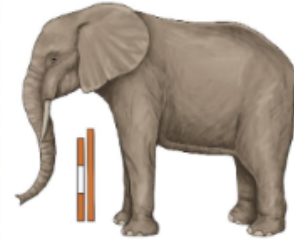
THERE ARE 3 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF ELEPHANTS:



AFRICAN SAVANNAH ELEPHANT

Loxodonta africana

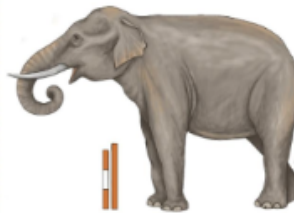
- The African Savanna elephant weighs up to 7,000 kg and stands 3.5 to 4 metres at the shoulder.
- Adult bulls have wide rounded heads compared to narrow pointed heads of female elephants.
- They have long curved tusks.



AFRICAN FOREST ELEPHANT

Loxodonta cyclotis

- Forest elephants live in rainforests, and were recognized as a separate species in 2021. They are slightly smaller than Savanna elephants and rarely larger than 5,000 kg.
- They have slender, downward-pointing tusks and rounder ears.



ASIAN ELEPHANT

Elephas maximus

- The Asian elephant includes three subspecies: the Indian, or mainland (E. maximus indicus), the Sumatran (E. maximus sumatranus), and the Sri Lankan (E. maximus maximus).
- They weigh about 4,000 kg and have a shoulder height of up to 3 metres.





Read more: [IUCN Red List Update 2023](#), [World Elephant Day 2023](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/borneo-elephants>