



## 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?



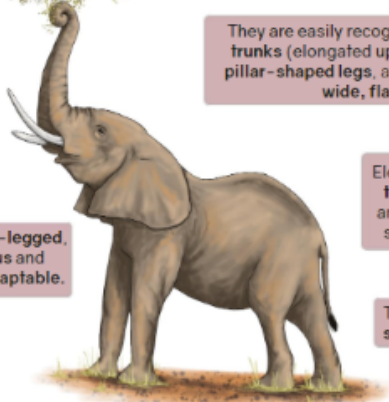
Elephants are the largest living land mammals on earth – they belong to the family Elephantidae.

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.

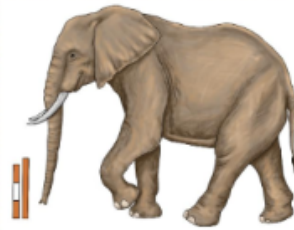


They are found most often in savannas, grasslands, and forests but occupy a wide range of habitats, including deserts, swamps, and highlands in tropical and subtropical regions in both Africa and Asia.

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

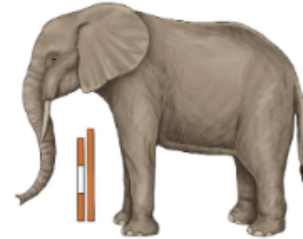
THERE ARE 3 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF ELEPHANTS:



### AFRICAN SAVANNAH ELEPHANT

*Loxodonta africana*

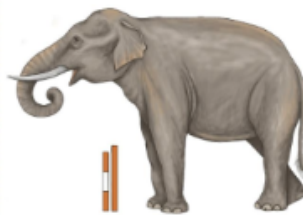
- The African Savanna elephant weighs up to 7,000 kg and stands 3.5 to 4 metres at the shoulder.
- Adult bulls have wide rounded heads compared to narrow pointed heads of female elephants.
- They have long curved tusks.



### 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 Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/borneo-elephants>