ENDANGERED SPECIES

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With all of the animals in this world, you would think that they would be here forever and that we would be able to see them every day, for years to come. Nevertheless, that might not be the case. Negative human interference is making some species be in great danger. These negative actions are affecting some animals, such as the Giant Oceanic manta ray, the Amur leopard and the Ivory-billed woodpecker.

One of the animals affected is the Giant Oceanic manta ray. The manta ray lives in tropical and subtropical waters, found in waters from 66 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit (19 to 22 Celsius). They eat planktonic organisms such as euphausiids, copepods, mysids, decapod larvae and shrimp. They live up to 45 years and weigh to 5,300 pounds and their status is endangered. They don’t have very large populations. The largest being in Ecuador with 22,000 individuals. Their main threat is commercial fishing, with them being targeted and caught by global fisheries. Their gill plates are in high demand in Asia, since they are used as medicine.

Another animal affected is the Amur leopards. Amur leopards live in the Russian Far East, near the border of Russia and China. They live alone and can live up to 10-15 years in the wild and 20 in captivity. They can also run at speeds up to 37 MPH and have a population that is more or less 100 remaining. Their main threat is the poaching of their beautiful skin. They are poached so much that they are known as the world’s rarest cat! In 1999, an undercover group recovered a female and male Amur leopard skin being sold for $500 and $1,000 in a village in Barabash, which is not far from the Kedrovaya Pad Reserve in Russia.

The last of the animals affected is the Ivory-billed woodpecker. The Ivory-billed woodpecker can be found on the Ohio River, west to Texas and east to Florida. They are also found in cypress and mature bottomland forests. They are also known as swamp dwellers. Their food mostly consists of beetle larvae. A lot of people think it’s extinct, since the last confirmed person seeing them was in 1944. Habitat destruction is the main threat to these birds, since they rely on cypress and dead pine trees for nesting.

Due to negative human involvement, all these animals mentioned are currently endangered and are struggling to survive this changing world. At this pace and with the inability to take proper action to stop all these human activity in our nature, it won't be too long until we will be only seeing these beautiful species in books. The fauna is unique, and it needs to be protected.