

# Okapi

*Okapia johnstoni*

Endangered

Fact Sheet · Activities

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# Okapi — Fact Sheet

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<b>Scientific name</b>	Okapia johnstoni
<b>Conservation status</b>	Endangered
<b>Region</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), central Africa
<b>Habitat</b>	Dense tropical rainforest; prefers areas near streams and rivers
<b>Diet</b>	Herbivore — leaves, buds, twigs, fruits, fungi, and grasses
<b>Weight</b>	200–350 kg
<b>Size</b>	1.9–2.5 m long; 1.5–2.0 m at shoulder
<b>Lifespan</b>	20–30 years
<b>Wild population</b>	Around 10,000–35,000 estimated; declining

## Did You Know?

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- The okapi is the only living relative of the giraffe, despite resembling a horse or deer.
- Its tongue is prehensile and up to 45 cm long — long enough to clean its own eyes and ears.
- Okapis have striped hindquarters and forelegs similar to a zebra, but are unrelated.
- They were unknown to Western science until 1901, making them one of the last large mammals discovered.
- Okapis are solitary and very secretive, rarely seen even by experienced trackers.

## Threats to Survival

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1. Habitat loss from logging and illegal mining in the Congo Basin
2. Hunting for bushmeat
3. Civil conflict and instability in the DRC limiting conservation work
4. Illegal capture for zoological collections

# Okapi — Activities

## Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

I	E	C	B	I	F	E	Z	J	T	X	S
J	O	D	P	O	W	J	U	W	M	I	Q
R	P	A	O	S	C	T	B	G	A	N	E
X	K	K	T	O	F	I	A	C	N	P	C
O	E	H	V	L	S	O	I	S	I	O	A
Y	V	F	I	I	S	R	R	R	B	Y	T
Y	F	O	F	T	F	P	T	E	Q	U	O
I	F	G	S	A	N	S	U	P	S	C	P
L	N	N	K	R	R	K	V	D	F	T	K
N	W	O	P	Y	J	I	V	M	Y	R	B
O	C	C	K	I	K	D	G	Y	M	Q	A
V	R	O	N	B	G	Q	L	T	Y	P	U

OKAPI	GIRAFFE	CONGO	STRIPE
TONGUE	FOREST	AFRICA	SOLITARY

## Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

<b>Okapi</b>	the only living relative of the giraffe
<b>Prehensile</b>	able to grip or wrap around things
<b>Endemic</b>	native to and found only in one area
<b>Bushmeat</b>	wild animals hunted for food
<b>Rainforest</b>	dense tropical forest with high rainfall

## Fill in the Blanks

1. The okapi is the only living relative of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Okapis live in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Their long \_\_\_\_\_ can clean their own eyes and ears.
4. The okapi has striped \_\_\_\_\_ like a zebra.

Answers: giraffe / Congo / tongue / legs

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