

## Endangered Species: Chimpanzees

The population of chimps has decreased by 90% in the past 20 years.

**Main Threats:** habitat destruction, hunting, and disease.

### Comparisons to Humans:

- share 98% of human's genetic blueprint
- humans possibly share a common ancestor that lived 4-8 million years ago

### Looks:

- height: 4-5.5 feet (male & female) weight:  
M = 88.2-132 pounds F = 70.5-104 pounds
- all black, born with pale faces and a white tail tuft - both darken with age
- males and females have white beards and prominent ears

### Life span:

- live to be 40-45 years of age (captive chimpanzees live longer)

### What can we do to help the chimpanzees?

- Stop deforestation - replant forests and jungles
- Maintain ongoing research efforts
- Set up conservation and education programs to inform others
- Limit the number of tourists allowed to see the chimps
- Donate money to foundations that support saving chimps (Ex: Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary)



### Diet:

- omnivore
- generally fruit and plant eaters, but they also consume insects, eggs, and meat
- tremendously varied diet that includes hundreds of known foods

