

ACTIVITY 5 RACE FOR SURVIVAL

As you learned in the film *Wild Cats 3D*, humans are the cause of most of the threats to wild cat populations in Africa. As the population of humans grows, the effect on nature, including animals, increases. The following paragraphs describe some of the ways wild cat populations are being affected. Read each paragraph, then follow your teacher's instructions as you brainstorm ways to reduce the impact of humans.



1: LAND

As we learned from Kevin Richardson in the film's introduction, Africa's human population is expected to double from 1 billion to 2 billion within the next few decades. When the population

grows, humans need more space for cities, towns and villages, and often move into wild cat habitat to get this space. In addition, to grow more food, humans often convert wild cat habitat to farmland. This loss of habitat affects the prey animals as well.



3: CONTACT

As a result of their shrinking habitat, wild cats are more often in contact with humans and domesticated animals. When the cats kill these animals for food, humans often retaliate or even kill the cats

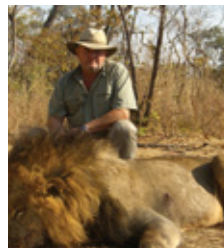
as a precaution. For many people living near their habitat, wild cats are dangerous pests.



2: WATER

To increase the water supply for homes, farms, factories and power plants, humans are creating dams and channels that divert water from the natural habitats of the wild cats. Even the

mighty Victoria Falls is in danger from such plans. Without ample water, the cats cannot survive. The animals that make up their prey are threatened by dwindling water resources as well.



4: HUNTING

Human hunters also pose a threat to wild cat populations, whether they are tourists hunting for a trophy or poachers hunting wild cats for their valuable pelts.

BRAINSTORMING NOTES:
