

## **Last male northern white rhino's death highlights 'huge extinction crisis' - 20 March, 2018**

Conservationists have warned that the death of the last male northern white rhinoceros in Kenya shows that humans are causing mass extinctions around the world. Sudan, who lived in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, was put down after the pain from an illness became too great. Now, there are only two females left – his daughter and granddaughter.

Colin Butfield, campaigns director at WWF (the World Wide Fund for Nature), said the death of such a well-known animal was a great tragedy and he said it showed there is a wider crisis.

“There is a huge extinction crisis and this death is just a small part of that,” he said. Since 1970, average populations of vertebrate animals have more than halved, according to Butfield, and about 10,000 “less well-known” species become extinct every year.

There were about half a million rhinos in Africa and Asia in 1900. But, because of poaching and habitat loss, that number fell to 70,000 by 1970. Since then, the northern white rhino has become one of several types of rhino that are nearly extinct. But Sudan, who was 45, had survived.

1. Who has died?
2. What have conservationists warned?
3. Where did Sudan live?
4. How did he die?
5. Who are the last two survivors?
6. What did Colin Butfield say?
7. What crisis is the world facing?
8. What has happened since 1970?
9. How many lesser known species become extinct every year?
10. How many rhinos were there in Africa and Asia in 1900?
11. Why has the northern white rhino become nearly extinct?
12. How old was Sudan when he died?