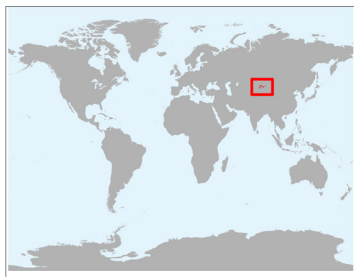




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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<b>&lt; ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Ili Pika

The **Ili Pika**, *Ochotona iliensis*, is listed as Endangered on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is one of the rarest of all pika species occurring in a highly restricted geographic range in a spur of the Tian Shan mountains, extending into Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China.

The Ili Pika was discovered in 1983, and over the next decade only 27 confirmed identifications of this elusive species were made. Following a 10-year break, intensive searches in 2002 and 2003 determined that the Ili Pika could only be found in six of the original fourteen localities where it had been previously located (and no visual sightings during this census were observed). Further searches to find living Ili Pikas were unsuccessful until the summer of 2014, when they were seen for the first time since the early 1990s.

Although its habitat is remote, increasing grazing pressure from livestock, coupled with climate change, are thought to have caused the decline of the Ili Pika. The species was originally found at elevations between 3,200-3,400 m, but the recent discovery shows them to have retreated to 4,100 m. Establishment of a nature reserve is vital for the protection of this iconic “magic rabbit”.

**Knowledge** <sup>📖</sup>  
**Experts** <sup>👤</sup>  
**Get Involved** <sup>👉</sup>



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