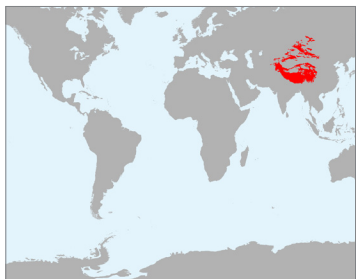




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Snow Leopard

The **Snow Leopard**, *Panthera uncia*, is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is the least well-known of the 'big cats' owing to its shy and elusive nature and the inaccessibility of much of its range in the mountains of Central and South Asia.

It is an iconic species and an ideal flagship for the conservation of the high mountain ecosystems it inhabits, and which provide a vital source of fresh water for hundreds of millions of people living downstream in the lowlands. The main threats are a reduction in the prey base through poaching and competition with domestic livestock, as well as habitat degradation and overgrazing. Some snow leopards are killed illegally for sale of their skins.

Snow leopards occur in many protected areas and they are protected by law in all 12 countries where they occur. The species is also listed in Appendix I of CITES which prohibits international trade. Many conservation organizations are actively involved in conservation of snow leopards and their habitat through community-based conservation, education and awareness, livestock protection, population monitoring and scientific research.

Knowledge
Experts
Action
Get Involved



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.