



Leopard

Panthera pardus

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Photo by: Craig Taylor

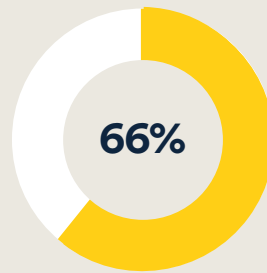
Leopards have the largest range of all the big cats, and occupy a wide variety of habitats, from Central Africa’s tropical rainforests to Middle Eastern deserts. Despite their remarkable adaptability, leopard populations are in steep decline across Africa and Asia.



● **CURRENT** Leopard Range ● **HISTORIC** Leopard Range

LEOPARD CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern Near Threatened Vulnerable Endangered Critically Endangered



13

Leopards are extinct in 13 countries across Africa and Asia

11

Leopard status is uncertain in 11 countries across their historic range, based on recent IUCN assessments

Leopards have vanished from at least two-thirds of their historic range in Africa and 84 percent of their historic range in Eurasia

Threats to the Leopard

- 1 Rampant bushmeat poaching depletes prey populations and poses a direct threat to leopards; they are often caught and killed in wire snares and traps set for other species.
- 2 As leopards lose their habitat to human development, they are increasingly killed in retaliation for the real and perceived threat they pose to livestock. Leopards may inhabit human-dominated landscapes, increasing the likelihood of human-leopard conflict.
- 3 Poorly-managed trophy hunting in East and Southern Africa is contributing to decline in leopard populations. Leopards are often killed illegally for their skins and other body parts, which are widely sought after across their range for ceremonial regalia.

POPULATION

The leopard’s range spans 62 countries across much of Africa and Eurasia. Likely the most persecuted big cat, leopards are listed as “Vulnerable” on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The Javan and Persian leopard subspecies are listed as Endangered, while the Arabian, Amur and Indochinese subspecies are listed as Critically Endangered.

SAVING THE LEOPARD

Panthera conducts research with partners across Africa to monitor the status and behavior of leopard populations.

In 2019, Panthera and the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) entered into a historic partnership to recover the Critically Endangered Arabian leopard as well as leopard populations around the globe. Panthera and RCU work to reduce human-wildlife conflict and eventually reintroduce the Critically Endangered species back into the wild in Saudi Arabia.

Through our Furs for Life Leopard Project, Panthera is working with local communities in southern Africa to reduce the demand for leopard skins used in traditional ceremonies by providing high-quality synthetic “Heritage Furs”.