

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2010

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NEW DEVELOPMENT: HISTORIC STUDY OF SNOW LEOPARDS DOUBLES IN SIZE WITH COLLARING OF 12TH CAT

Panthera & Snow Leopard Trust Cheer New Milestone in Mongolia Project

Videos and Still Images of Snow Leopards Available

SOUTH GOBI, MONGOLIA - A team of wild cat researchers from [Panthera](http://www.panthera.com) and the Snow Leopard Trust were recently successful in collaring their twelfth snow leopard, for study and tracking 6,500 feet high in South Gobi, Mongolia's Tost Mountains. The collaring of the female cat is historic in that the South Gobi team is now monitoring twice the number of cats ever monitored in any previous study of the species.

This most recent snow leopard, temporarily named F4 until the team chooses a name, is a female snow leopard weighing 81 pounds. The GPS-satellite collar she was fitted with will allow scientists to track her movements for the next 20 months, giving insight to the information needed to save the elusive wild cats from extinction. There are believed to be between 3,500 and 7,000 snow leopards remaining in the wild today.

The collaring of "F4" is particularly exciting because the researchers believe she is the mother of another nearly grown female that was fitted with a collar just a few months ago. The team has determined that F4 is still travelling with her cub, so this will be the first time scientists are able to learn how snow leopards rear their cubs and prepare them to leave home to establish their own territory.

"Following a mother-daughter pair and seeing when the younger female leaves home and where she establishes her own home range is an exciting possibility," said **Panthera Snow Leopard Director Dr. Tom McCarthy**. "This collaring, and the ones before it, has helped us reach a new level of understanding about these iconic cats; an understanding that could help us bring them back from the brink of extinction."

As a part of this study, high-tech digital camera-traps are used to identify the animals from their unique spot patterns, providing an indication of how many snow leopards remain in the wild. But to gain a much greater understanding, researchers also work to safely outfit cats with a collar containing a GPS device that collects critical data on their movements and behavior. The data are then relayed back to the researchers via satellite telephone several times a day.

Still images and short videos taken by the camera traps in the Mongolian study can be viewed [here](#). All of the videos were taken in the Tost Mountains at a study area in South Gobi, Mongolia. The video of the adult female and three cubs titled [Snow Leopard Female and Kittens](#) features a snow leopard named Khasha after the Mongolian word for Jade stones.

The project in Mongolia is a collaboration between Panthera and the Snow Leopard Trust. For more information on this study and to follow F4 and the other cats, visit <http://www.panthera.org/species/snow-leopard>.

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About Panthera

Panthera was founded in 2006 to ensure the future of wild cats through scientific leadership and global conservation action. By pairing sound science with decades of first hand field experience, Panthera's researchers collect and convert data into pragmatic conservation actions that continue to produce results in the countries where they operate. Panthera applies a strict filter to all of their conservation programs that assesses what wild cats need to survive, what strategies have a proven track record, and what is possible on the ground and in-country. Visit <http://www.panthera.org/>