

# Leopard

*Panthera pardus*



For more information visit [Panthera.org](https://www.panthera.org)

Photo by: Craig Taylor



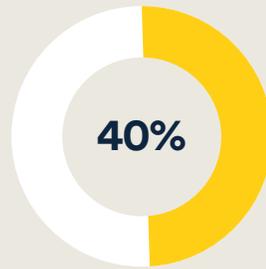
**LEOPARDS HAVE THE LARGEST RANGE OF ALL THE BIG CATS, AND OCCUPY A WIDE VARIETY OF HABITATS, FROM THE CONGO RAINFOREST TO THE DESERTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. DESPITE THEIR REMARKABLE ADAPTABILITY, LEOPARD POPULATIONS ARE IN STEEP DECLINE ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA.**

#### LEOPARD CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critically Endangered
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● **CURRENT** Leopard Range    ● **HISTORIC** Leopard Range



Leopards have vanished from at least 40% of their historic range in Africa and over 50% of their historic range in Asia.

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**LEOPARDS ARE EXTINCT IN SIX COUNTRIES/REGIONS: HONG KONG, KUWAIT, LIBYA, SINGAPORE, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, AND TUNISIA**

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**LEOPARD PRESENCE IN SIX ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES IS VERY UNCERTAIN: IRAQ, KAZAKHSTAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, LEBANON, LESOTHO, AND MAURITANIA**

## 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 frequently cling to survival in human-dominated landscapes, increasing the likelihood of human-leopard conflict.
- 3** Poorly managed trophy hunting in East and Southern Africa is contributing to the decline in leopard populations.
- 4** 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 roughly 75 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 leopard is classified as "Endangered" in Central Asia and Sri Lanka and "Critically Endangered" in the Middle East, Russia, and on the Indonesian island of Java.

#### SAVING THE LEOPARD

Panthera has partnered with the IUCN Cat Specialist Group to develop the first range-wide conservation strategy for leopards.

In addition to leading the two most comprehensive long-term studies of leopards ever undertaken, Panthera has partnered with authorities from several range states to rigorously track leopard population trends in order to identify populations in need of conservation attention, and to inform and evaluate effective management of the species.

Through our Furs for Life Leopard Project in partnership with the Peace Parks Foundation, Panthera is working with local communities in southern Africa to reduce the demand for leopard skins used in traditional ceremonies by providing high-quality faux replicas.