



<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/16/en>

SNOW LEOP-
ARDS
An Endangered
Cat

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<http://cache.gawkerassets.com/assets/images/gizmodo/2009/08/Leopard-eating3.jpg>



<http://www.xinjiangsnowleopards.org/gifs/snow-leopard.jpg>

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Introduction

You're climbing a mountain in the Himalayas, when you feel a gust of wind pass your face and look to see two eyes sticking out of the snow. You look for a body, but your search is to no avail. What you may have just seen is the rare Snow Leopard, one of the world's most amazing and endangered animals.

Names

The Snow Leopard has many names and is a very scarce species. The Snow Leopard's common name is Snow Leopard. The Snow Leopard's scientific name is in the genus *Panthera pardus*, and the species *Uncia uncia*. The estimated Snow Leopard population in 2003 was 2,000 to 5,000, but there are even fewer



now. Scientists estimate population by counting scat they find in the Snow Leopard's habitat.

<http://snowleopardssaveus.blogspot.com/>



http://www.redorbit.com/education/reference_library/science/1/mammalia/2578128/snow_leopard/

Description

The Snow Leopard's body is adaptive to its habitat.

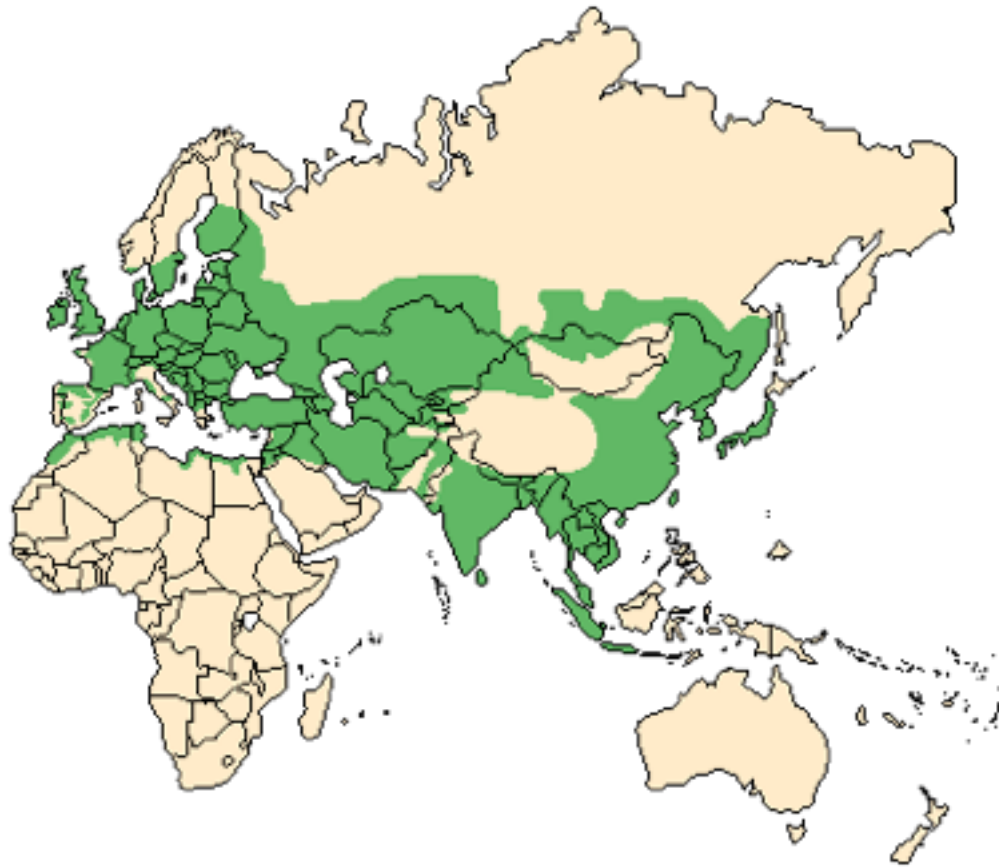
Snow Leopards have a four-inch long coat of fur that

changes colors from gray to white because of the

http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2008/bishop_kayl/reproduction.htm



changing conditions in the terrain where they live throughout the year. They also have fur-covered paws that



change colors. Snow Leopards are strong, and can

take down an animal three times their size. They are

approximately seven feet long when full-grown.

When they are young (up to age three), they can

jump 20-50 feet. By age four, they can jump 50 to

100 feet! As you can see, the Snow Leopard is a

very strong and unique animal.

This map shows the range throughout Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia, where Snow Leopards are most often found.

http://www.ultimateungulate.com/Images/Sus_scrofa/S_scrofa_map.gif

Habitat and Range

The Snow Leopard's habitat is a harsh and unforgiving place in the winter, but can be very warm in the summer. The Snow Leopard lives in very cold, remote parts of Tibet in China at altitudes of 9,800 to 17,000 feet. In their habitat, they hunt many



different prey. Some of the better known animals include wild sheep, goats, rodents, hares, sport hunting birds, wild boars, mice, gazelles, deer, and farmer's livestock. They also hunt some unfamiliar animals, such as the marmot, a relative of the beaver and raccoon, with a red belly and black head. They also hunt bobak, tahr, and marlcor.

Life Cycle and Mating Habits

The Snow Leopard is a solitary creature except during mating season. Their mating season is from January to mid-March. They have one to four cubs in a litter. The mother carries the cubs from 99 to 110 days in her belly the cub stays with their mother for the first winter of their life. The female and male are able to have sexual intercourse from the age of two or three years old.

Threats

The main reason that Snow Leopards are endangered is poaching. Another reason is loss of habitat and food, because people are killing their food and eating it, People are also selling the hide or selling the Snow Leopard as a pet. One more reason is that people are illegally overkilling them for their bones to make medicine. At the current rate, the poachers are going they kill 50 Snow Leopards a day and kill 350 a week The Snow Leopards are going to be extinct in early 2014 to late 2013. So now is the time to

help the Snow Leopard-
ard.



<http://www.whirlwind.nu/tag/clothes/>

Solutions

The only solutions I see are that people leave the Snow Leopards alone and to stop killing them and their food.

Snow Leopards are skilled masters of hide and seek, and have incredibly difficult lives. For that, I truly look up to them.



<http://whitleyaward.org/wp-content/uploads/1998/12/hussain-snow-leopard-in-baltistan.jpg>

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