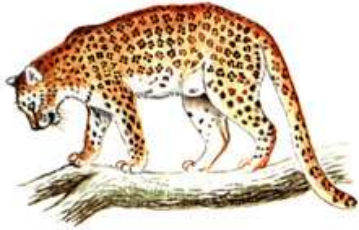


Amur Leopard



VERTEBRATA

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: Panthera

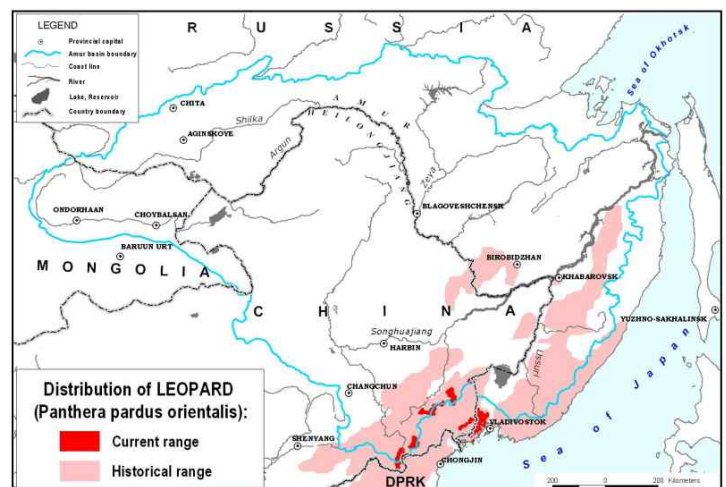
Category: 1 – critically endangered species at the territory of Russia

The Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*), also named Manchurian leopard, Korean leopard, Far-Eastern leopard and Siberian leopard, is categorized as a rare, critically endangered subspecies of leopard by IUCN and the Russian Federation.

Distribution & Population

Amur leopards used to live in the south of the Russian Far East, forested mountain areas of northeastern China, and the Korean peninsula. The leopards are currently on the brink of extinct, with only about 30 individuals left in the wild. In particular, about 20 are inhabited in the Amur River Valley along the China-Russia Border while about 10 live in Ussuri River Valley along the China-DPRK border. The only remaining habitats for the Amur leopard are the Sikhote-Alin Mountains of the Russian Far-East and the Hunchun Nature Reserve in Jilin Province, China. The Amur leopard population in China was formed as a result of migration from the Russian Federation. This confined habitat scope and small population size make leopards extremely vulnerable to human-made and natural catastrophe.

Distribution of Amur Leopards



Source: <http://amur-heilong.net/map/003MAPS/speciesrange/index.html>

Physical features and habitats

The mature female leopard requires an area of 35-45 km², while the males need an area 4-6 times larger. Amur leopards prefer living in the mountain areas covered by forests with narrow watershed ridges and steep slopes up to heights of 300-500 meters above sea level. The Amur leopard does not approach higher altitudes of the mountains, especially during winters. The vegetation in their habitat range is presented with cedar broadleaf, oak broadleaf, and black fir forests. Steady decline of suitable habitats of Amur leopards was brought upon by deforestation of coniferous species, mature oaks, and ash trees, as well as by new road constructions that prohibit access to the most remote and hospitable lands. The preferred preys of Amur leopards are roe deer and sika deer. Also, a number of species, such as badger, raccoon dog, and Manchurian hare play minor role in the leopard nutrition. As for reproduction, after a gestation period of 90-105 days, kittens are born in litters of one to four. The Amur leopard is a solitary lifestyle species. The kin is represented with the female with kittens, in some cases there are females with

kittens of different ages. The young specimens are separated at 12-16 months. As result, the ranges of the same-sex adult will not collide.

Priority actions for NEASPEC

1. Encourage and support three range countries to take appropriate actions to ensure healthy population of prey species
2. Ensure law enforcement in each member country on both international and domestic trade of all leopard specimens, parts and derivatives, and encourage and support range countries to strengthen law enforcement
3. Encourage and support range countries to involve local public in planning and implementation of conservation work as well as local development to reflect their interest and needs
4. Encourage and support range countries to work together for conservation of the species, including
5. Promote awareness raising on conservation needs of the species in each Government as well as general public and international community
6. Support range countries to work together in capacity-building on habitat management, population management, monitoring and research, law enforcement, environmental education and community development
7. Support the participation of NGOs in conservation activities.