

# Snow Leopard



Species: *Panthera uncia*  
Order: Carnivora  
Family: Felidae  
Locomotion: Scansorial

## Habitat Range

Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan

## Diet

Carnivorous. Cusp pattern secodont, but they have pairs of carnassial teeth. Main species that they prey on are, the blue sheep, Asiatic ibex, and the Argali. Depending on what is available at the time is a large factor to what they eat. They are opportunistic predators; take advantage of what they can when it is available

## Threats

Climate Change, Poaching  
Disease: Zoonotic Pathogens from ticks, Plague, Anthrax, Rabies

## Communication

Snow Leopards do not roar like some cats. Lack the specific morphology of their vocal cords in their larynx. They do growl, hiss, spit, and make sort of chuffing sounds to communicate with others

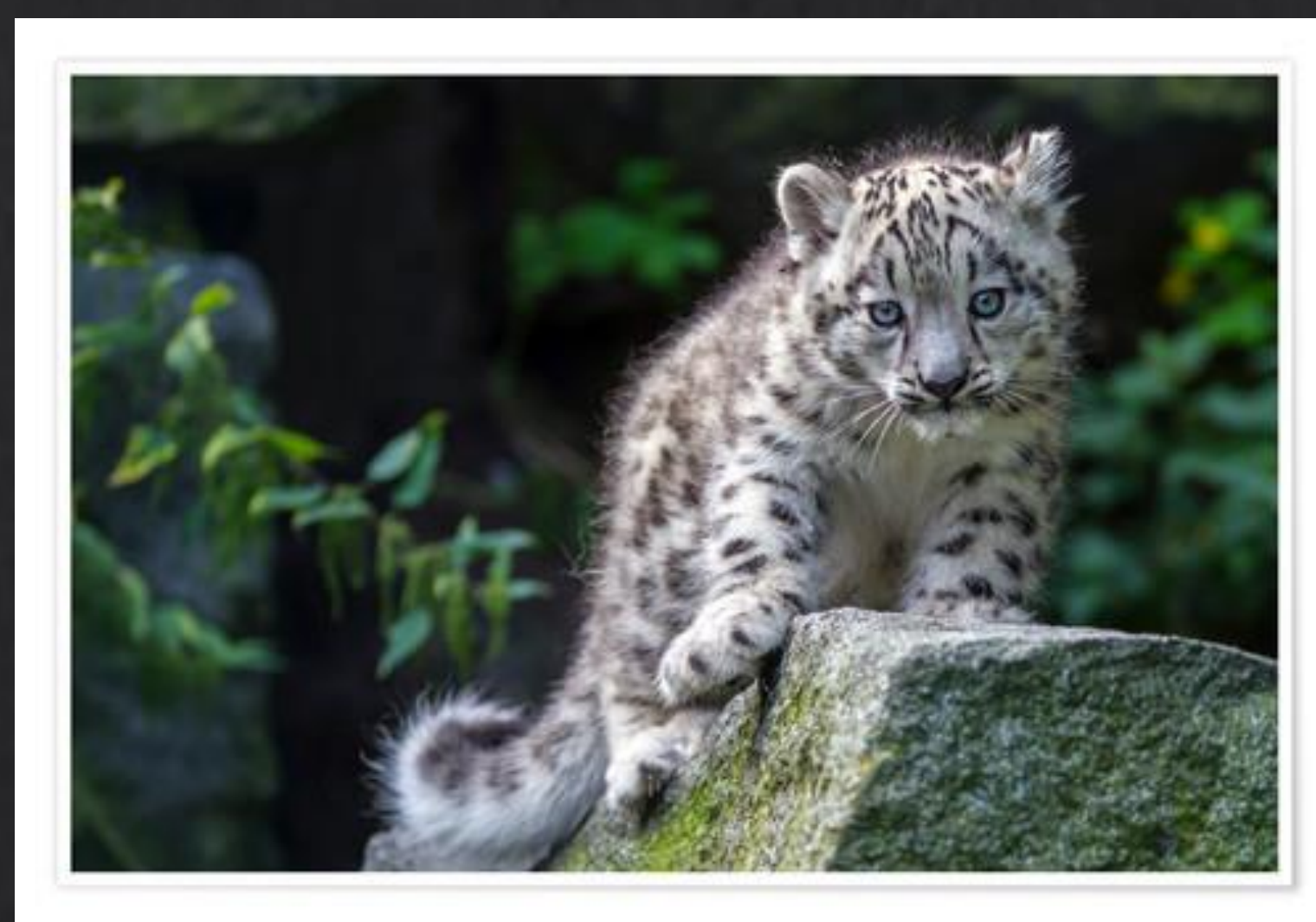
Snow Leopards are a threatened species. They have been listed as vulnerable on IUCN Red List in 2017, before this they were listed as endangered, beginning in 1986

Conservation Efforts: There are websites and organizations who spread awareness/ provide information about this species and the role they play in the environment.



## Unique Body Adaptions

Long tail extremely beneficial. Helps them balance on the rocky slopes where they live, and they can wrap it around their body to stay warm in cold temperatures. Can jump large distances in one leap, as far as 15m. Huge paws keep the cat from sinking into the snow, like snowshoes. Their paws also have very thick skin that protects them from the rock and sharp edges. Digitigrade foot position.



## Environment Adaptions

Live in high elevation areas. Evolved strong lungs that help them travel many miles. The leopard's nasal cavity is well adapted to warm cold inhaled air before it reaches the lungs. So, their lungs don't get cold. The spotted pattern on their fur helps them not only with camouflage but keeps them warm and insulated. Since running water isn't always available, the leopard will eat snow to get water when supply is low. Eating snow reduces energy and time that it would take for finding water

## Mating Season

Live alone most of their life unless they are seeking a mate. Leave markings such as leaving scrape marks on rocks, spraying rocks with urine, scratching on trees, and rubbing their faces on rocks to spread their scent. When spreading they use scent glands located under the base of their tail. When feces is spread this acts as a signal to others marking topographic features along ridgelines and cliffs. Makes it easier to find each other and identify boundaries between home ranges. Usually mate between December- March. After mating, the male leaves. They occasionally hunt together before mating; it gives them better success. Female has between 1-5 cubs. Cubs are born helpless and are dependent on their mother for around 2 years

By: Karisa Mitchell