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Russia

Manul (referred as *Felis manul*) is listed in the Red Data Book RDB of the Russian Federation (Dronova 2001), category 3 (rare species on the border of its range).

Listing in the RDB RF implies (1) hunting the species is strongly prohibited, (2) any keeping, commercial use and trade of live animals or their derivatives are strongly prohibited, (3) taking animals from the wild is only possible for conservation reasons (breeding ex-situ, saving an animal in emergency, etc.) with special permission, (4) the species' habitats ought be protected (its destruction is formally prohibited). Violations of regulations are dealt with by the federal administrative law or the federal criminal law. Presence of the species listed in the RDB RF usually serves as the most important reason for establishment of new PAs.

As Russia is a federative state every unit of the Russian Federation (i.e. Province/Oblast, Republic, or Territory) has its own Red Data Book. In the Russian Federation, the manul has been confirmed in 5 provinces but the species is presented in provincial RDBs of 7 provinces:

- **Altai Republic** – RDB list issued in 2017. Category 2 – very rare;
- **Tyva Republic** – RDB list issued in 2017. Category 3 (Least Concern) – rare species;
- **Buryatia Republic** – RDB list issued in 2013. Category 3 (Near Threatened) – rare species, having local (restricted) occurrence, with decreasing number;
- **Khakassia Republic** – RDB list issued in 2014. Category 0 – extremely rare, little studied (considered as disappeared from the Republic, probably extremely rare vagrant);
- **Krasnoyarsk Territory** (Krasnoyarskii Krai) – RDB list issued in 2012. Category III – rare for the territory;
- **Transbaikalia Territory** (Zabaikalskii Krai) – RDB list issued in 2013, changed in 2014. Category 5 – recovering in the region;
- **Irkutsk Province** (Irkutskaya Oblast) – RDB list issued in 2010. Category 4 – rare species on the edge of its range, vagrant in the region.

The categories have no legal specificity. All the species listed in the RDB RF, including manul, are formally managed by the federal executive body, the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service acting under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. The Service is a national administrative organ for CITES (including the manul) and the executive body issuing permissions for any handling (for taking from the wild, *ex-situ* holding, transporting within Russia and abroad, etc.) of the species listed in the RDB (Dronova 2001, Medvedev 2010, Sokolov 2011, Borisova & Medvedeva 2013, Smirnov 2014, Kirilyuk 2012, Barashkova 2017, Kuksin 2018, I. Smelansky, pers. comm. 2018).

Kazakhstan

The legally approved National List of rare and endangered species of animals (2006/2012) is a legal base for the RDB of Kazakhstan (RDB RK 2008). Manul is listed in the both (as *Felis (Otocolobus) manul*) and has in the RDB the category 3 – rare everywhere in the range (Grachev 2008).

National legislation prohibits hunting the animals officially recognised as “rare and endangered”. The Code on Administrative Offences and the Penal Code specify the administrative or criminal punishment for violation of the regulations. The governmental body empowered to manage the species listed, is the Committee of Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Kyrgyzstan

Pallas’s cat is in the list of mammals of the Red Data Book of Kyrgyz Republic, as Category 6, Near Threatened. The status guarantees that hunting, capturing, and breeding in captivity are not allowed. Capture for scientific purpose requires a special permit, which is issued by the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry based on special recommendation of the Biology Institute of the Academy of Sciences. The official state body which is responsible for the protection of rare and red-listed species is the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (Davletkeldiev et al. 2006).

Turkmenistan

In the Red Data Book of Turkmenistan (2011) manul is listed as an endangered species (Category II; Rustamow et al. 2011).

Uzbekistan

Manul is listed in the Red Data Book of Uzbekistan as far back as 1983 (before Uzbekistan gained its sovereignty from the Soviet Union). In the RDB of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2009) manul is not listed as its presence in the national territory has not been confirmed.

However, other national legal acts include manul. The Hunting Regulations in force (approved in 2006) consider manul as a species to be protected and not allowed for hunting (Azimov et al. 2009).

Tajikistan

Manul is not listed in the actual Red Data Book of Tajikistan (2015) as its presence in the national territory has not been confirmed for many decades (Rahimi et al. 2017). The current status of Pallas’s cat in Tajikistan is unclear.

Armenia

In the Red Book of Armenia (2010) manul has the status of Regionally Extinct, as it has not been confirmed since 1935 (Khorozyan 2010).

Azerbaijan

The National Red Book (2013) lists manul as a threatened species with the status Near Threatened under Criteria 1.3 – Sharply reduced in numbers in the past and currently remaining at the same level, and 4.1 – Insufficient information to assess the distribution and status in Azerbaijan. The species has not been recorded in the country for many decades and can be recognised as regionally extinct (Askerov et al. 2013).

China

In the Red List of China’s Vertebrate Species (Wang, 1998) Pallas’s cats has the status of Endangered and as Class II in the Chinese key list (Jutzeler et al. 2010).

Pakistan

Included in the Red List of Pakistan's Mammals and is listed as Near Threatened and protected species by law (Sheikh et al. 2004).

Afghanistan

The species has been legally fully protected since 2008. Afghanistan does not have a Red Data Book (NEPA 2008, 2017).

Bhutan

Legally protected. Bhutan does not have a Red Data Book (Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 1995).

India

Protected as a Schedule 1 species. No current red list status could be found (Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act 1978).

Iran

Species is protected by law. Iran does not have a Red Data Book. The responsible authority is the Wildlife Bureau of Iran Department of Environment (Farhadinia et al. 2016).

Nepal

Considered as Data Deficient for both Red List status and legal status (Amin et al. 2018).

Mongolia

Recorded as Near Threatened in the 2006 Mongolian Red List of Mammals. However, the species has currently no protection status (Clark et al. 2006).

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