

First record of margay in the Pantanal, Brazil

By F. S. Da Silva, J. A. Bachur, J. A. M. Júnior and C. E. Fragoso

We report the first known camera trap video of a margay *Leopardus wiedii* in the Pantanal, Brazil, which may be the first confirmed and reliable record of this small cat in the biome. Future studies may reveal if this rare record is only opportunistic or if the species distribution is increasing into the floodplain

First photographic evidence of leopard cats in Haryana, India

J. J. Sehgal and R. Kalsi

The distribution and population status of small cats in the state of Haryana in India are poorly known due to a lack of field studies. Kalesar National Park (KNP) is the only forest in Haryana dominated by sal *Shorea robusta* and classified as a dry deciduous forest. Here, we present the first photographic record of a leopard cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* in KNP. We conducted camera trapping from November 2018 to April 2020, which produced 23 photo-captures of small cats, including leopard cat, rusty-spotted cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus*, Asiatic wildcat *Felis silvestris ornata*, jungle cat *Felis chaus* and domestic cat *Felis catus*.

First high-elevation tiger record at Sundardhunga Glacier Valley, Kumaon, India

By R. Joshi, D. Pandey, G. Samelius and D. S. Martolia

This note documents a high-altitude record of the Bengal tiger *Panthera tigris* in the west-central Himalayas, within Uttarakhand, India. A camera trap used during a multi-species interaction study in the Sundardhunga Glacier Valley captured a tiger in May 2025 at 3,010 m asl. Along with recent records at high altitudes from other regions of the Himalayas in India, Bhutan and Nepal, our record confirms the use of high-altitude landscapes by tigers, likely influenced by ecological adaptability, climate change, and habitat connectivity. Photographic records at such high altitudes are also crucial indicators of the tiger's expanding use of high-elevation and subalpine habitats, emphasising the importance of conservation planning in mountain landscapes for wide-ranging carnivores.

Observations on orphaned rusty-spotted cat kittens

By R. Vyas and V. Mistry

Here, we present new information about a trio of orphaned rusty-spotted cat *Prionailurus rubiginosa* kittens found in agricultural fields of South Gujarat, India. We also include a literature review of breeding records of the rusty-spotted cat and discuss its breeding biology. The species' litter size ranges from two to three, and the breeding season varies.

Breeding record of mainland clouded leopard in Lamjung, Nepal

By J. Rai, N. Limbu, B. Adhikary, S. P. Suwal and N. Kunwar

We report a breeding record of the mainland clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa* in Lamjung District, Nepal. During a camera trap survey from 19 April to 16 July 2024 in spring and monsoon season, we documented an adult female with two cubs near cardamom plantations and livestock corrals, demonstrating reproductive success in human-modified mid-hill forests.

Pallas's cats recorded in Bhutan after a decade

By T. Dhendup, Tandin, J. J. Robinson, Letro, K. Wangdi, P. Dendup, U. Tenzin, J. E. Janecka and S. Wangdi

The Pallas's cat *Otocolobus manul* is one of the lesser-known species in the Himalayas, where it is rare and occurs in isolated patches. The Pallas's cat was first recorded in Bhutan in 2012, after which it was no longer detected. Almost a decade later, in 2022, the second nationwide snow leopard survey photographed the species in two regions: Jigme Dorji National Park JDNP in the northwestern region and Wangchuck Centennial National Park WCNP in the central region of the country. A subsequent survey employing camera traps and genetic analysis in JDNP further confirmed the continued presence of the species over a period of seven months. Owing to the species' rarity, the study recommends intensive use of camera stations with closer spacing, broader coverage and more frequent non-invasive sampling for future monitoring.

Camera trap record of a jungle cat at high altitude in Bhutan

By L. Norbu, K. Leki, S. Tobgay, P. Dorji, T. Wangdi, S. Wangmo, N. Dema, D. Tshering, P. Dorji and Z. Dorji

In 2023, we conducted a mammal Biodiversity Monitoring Grid survey using camera traps in Biological Corridor Nine, eastern Bhutan. The survey led to a single detection of a jungle cat

Felis chaus in a high elevation habitat at 3,100 m in March 2023. This represents the highest elevation record for the jungle cat in Bhutan.

First photo record of a rusty-spotted cat in Veerangna Durgavati TR, India

By S. Chouksey, A. A. Ansari, A. Gautam and A. Patel

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, the largest in Madhya Pradesh, spans 2,339 km². In February 2024, a Phase IV camera trap survey for the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) was conducted, with camera traps installed in 2 km² grids. The survey captured images of a rusty-spotted cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus*, characterized by short, rounded ears, large eyes, rusty brown spots, and a bushy tail, in the Dongargaon region of the reserve. This record adds to the reserve's known mammalian fauna. Further studies are recommended to understand the cat's behaviour and ensure its long-term conservation.

Usage matters: Wildcat versus wild cat

By J. Sanderson and A. Sliwa

The word “wildcat” and the phrase “wild cat” are neither interchangeable nor equivalent. We present the proper usage of both wildcat and wild cat and provide examples

New camera trap records of serval in the central highlands of Namibia

By E. Brouwer, M. de Schepper, K. Smith, T. Baetcke-Vilho, M. Mwaetako, N. Amadhila, S. Muyatwa, R. van Vuuren and M. van Vuuren

This short communication reports on the presence of serval *Leptailurus serval* in the central highlands of Namibia. While anecdotal sightings have been reported in the area, systematic camera trap evidence confirming their presence is largely lacking. The camera trap records from the N/a'an ku sê Reserve provide concrete evidence for servals outside of the known IUCN Red List range and highlight the need for continued monitoring, opportunistic camera trapping and data sharing to document this elusive species.

Updating the distribution range: new sand cat records in AIUla, Saudi Arabia

By H. Al Hikmani, N. Al Johani, A. Albalawi, M. Bu Ali and Benjamin P. Y-H. Lee

The sand cat *Felis margarita* is a little-known desert-adapted felid with a broad but patchily documented range across arid regions of North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and West and Central Asia. In Saudi Arabia, the species has been reported from multiple locations but no

confirmed records previously existed from the AIUla region in the northwest. Here, we present the first verified observations of sand cats in AIUla, based on thirteen documented sightings across five protected areas between June 2024 and July 2025. These findings fill a key distributional gap and suggest the likely presence of a resident population in the region. We recommend updating the IUCN Red List distribution map to include AIUla and highlight the need for systematic surveys to inform conservation planning.

Camera trap records of Eurasian lynx in the Central Kazakhstan Uplands

By A. Barashkova and I. Smelansky

A camera trap study carried out between 2013 and 2025 showed that the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* is still present in central and eastern Kazakhstan. Its distribution largely corresponds with data from older publications dating back 50 years or more. Our results support the results of a separate study carried out in the 2020s that used questionnaire-based surveys.

African golden cat community-based conservation in Uganda's Echuya Forest

By E. Akampurira and C. Byaruhanga

Embaka's community-based conservation in Uganda's Echuya Forest reserve focuses on the African golden cat *Caracal aurata* which is threatened by poaching, snares, habitat loss and roadkill in the ecologically sensitive Albertine Rift landscape. Using the TIME framework (Threat Assessment, Interventions, Monitoring and Evaluation), the project first combined camera-trap surveys and social research to confirm African golden cat presence and diagnose key threats and their socio-economic drivers: notably poverty, unemployment and dependence on bushmeat among adjacent communities, including Indigenous Batwa. In partnership with local stakeholders, the Embaka Community-Based Organisation and the African Golden Cat Conservation Alliance then co-designed livelihood-focused interventions—livestock “seed bank” support, high-value vegetable production and savings and credit cooperatives—to provide protein and income alternatives while building community institutions led by former poachers and marginalised groups. Between 2022 and 2024, the programme distributed 164 livestock to reformed poachers, capitalised seven

savings groups and expanded participation in anti-poaching associations to more than 450 community members, with early evidence from meetings and focus groups indicating improved livelihoods, reduced poaching and stronger local stewardship for Echuya's biodiversity.

Photo evidence of marbled cat in a non-protected forest of the Sikkim Himalaya

U. Lepcha, P. T. Lepcha, D. T. Lepcha, S. Tangjang and A. Pradhan

We report the first live photographic record of the marbled cat *Pardofelis marmorata* from a reserve forest in the Sikkim Himalaya, contributing new insights into its distribution in India. The species was opportunistically sighted on 10 March 2025 at 18:35 h during a routine botanical survey in Labdang, Gyalshing District, at an altitude of 1,835 m. A single individual was observed perched on a *Castanopsis* sp. tree and photographed using a Nikon COOLPIX P900. Unlike previous records in India, which are based solely on camera trap data, this is the first direct observation and photographic documentation of the species in its natural habitat. The sighting occurred within a broadleaved temperate forest, approximately 1,000 m from agricultural land and 1,560 m from human habitation, highlighting the species' possible tolerance to human-modified landscapes. This observation is located over 23 km from the nearest previously known record in Dzongu, suggesting a wider, possibly fragmented, range in Sikkim. The presence of this marbled cat in unprotected reserve forest underscores the conservation importance of buffer zones and community-managed forests. We recommend intensive ecological surveys to assess the distribution, population status, habitat use, and threats associated with marbled cats across the Sikkim Himalaya.