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Sympatric small felids of the Aravalli landscape in southern Haryana, India

By Hitesh Kumar, Subhadra Barik, Sumit Dookia, Anthony J. Giordano, Tharmalingam Ramesh and Riddhika Kalle

We recorded four species of small felids with camera traps and as roadkill in an ongoing study on the functional ecology of scavenging vertebrates at carcass dump sites. A total camera-trapping effort of 725 trap nights at 25 sites, comprising forest trails and carcass sites in an intensive sample area of 105 km^2, yielded a total of 105 images of small felids, of which 81 were jungle cat *Felis chaus*, 21 rusty-spotted cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus*, two Asiatic wildcat *Felis lybica ornata* and one feral cat *Felis catus*. Our roadkill evidence and camera trap records of the Asiatic wildcat are the first to be reported in the Aravalli landscape in southern Haryana as earlier reports were from northern parts of the state. Jungle cats spatially overlapped with Asiatic wildcats, rusty-spotted cats and feral cats, revealing their relatively wider distributions and co-occurrence patterns. The distribution of feral cats near rural settlements and agricultural land and from roadkill evidence along linear infrastructure highlights the risk of feral cats to other small felids in these areas. Along with trail photographs of small cats, we also recorded their predatory behaviour and occasional feeding at livestock carcasses. We found that the small cat habitat in the Aravalli landscape is exposed to high anthropogenic pressure from linear infrastructure, rock/sand mining, and forest fragmentation. We advocate for habitat conservation and restoration for the conservation of lesser-known small felids and their prey in Haryana.

First rescue and translocation record of a snow leopard in Upper Mustang, Nepal

By Umesh Paudel, Prakriti Chataut, Rabin Kadariya, Rajan Prasad Paudel and Rabin Bahadur K.C.

This is the first documentation of the rescue, translocation, and post-release monitoring in the wild of a snow leopard *Panthera uncia* in Nepal. On 20 February 2025, a snow leopard that was trapped in a corral house (killing 13 Himalayan goats) in Samar, Upper Mustang, was safely captured without any sedation and translocated 62 km north (25.4 km aerial distance) to Thurlungphant, where it was hard released. The rescue and release locations were monitored using 24 camera traps over 34 trap nights. While two snow leopards were detected near the rescue site, none were detected at the release site. Additionally, locals reported that the captured snow leopard returned, but due to a lack of clear photograph, we were unable to verify it as the same individual. No livestock depredation was reported in the release area or in the capture site following the event. This study highlights the challenges of large carnivore translocation, the need for standardised protocols, and the importance of post-release monitoring to evaluate conservation outcomes.

Camera-trap record of melanistic leopard from Kavrepalanchok, Nepal

By Nischal Shrestha, Ishan Subedi, Sandeep Shrestha, Shashank Poudel, Sabanam Pathak and Ashish Bashyal

Between May 2024 and January 2025, melanistic leopards *Panthera pardus fusca* were recorded by camera traps at two locations in the Bhumlu region in Kavrepalanchok district, central mid-hills of Nepal. The first detection occurred at 17:59 h at 640 m altitude (27.658070°N / 85.719959°E) in Kerabari Community Forest, where an adult melanistic leopard and a normally pigmented sub-adult were captured in the same video clip within two seconds of each other. The second detection occurred seven days later at 06:45 h at an altitude of 1,172 m (27.64708425°N / 85.73018678°E) in Bagkhor Ratmate Community Forest, approximately 1,583 m from the first location. Both camera stations were located within an average distance of 271 m from human settlements. This camera-trap record provides rare documentation of a melanistic leopard in close association with a normally pigmented individual. Our record, combined with previous documentation of melanistic leopards from the Bhumlu region, may suggest a local recurrence of melanistic individuals in this area. We recommend targeted camera-trap surveys to understand the extent of melanism in leopards across Nepal.

Breeding record of the Persian leopard from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq [corrected version]

By Soran H. Ahmed and Soma I. Majeed

The Persian leopard *Panthera pardus tulliana* persists in small, fragmented populations in the mountainous areas of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with confirmed breeding records remaining extremely rare. Bamo Mountain is one of the most important habitats for the subspecies in the country, supporting a small breeding population. Here, we report an additional reproduction record of the Persian leopard from Bamo Mountain based on camera trap observations on 31 October 2025. It included a known female with two cubs, one male and one female. These findings highlight the critical conservation value of this transboundary landscape for the recovery of the Persian leopard in its western range.

Conservation actions to secure Brazil's "Tiger Cat Kingdom" in Mirador State Park, Brazil

By Tadeu De Oliveira, Vitor Moura, Ana C. Calixto-Campina, Lester Fox-Rosales, Anna Luiza M. Oliveira, Gleyce R. Oliveira, Vinicius Corrêa Oliveira, João Pedro Mendonça, Karen E. Santos, Bruno N. Lacerda, Sara Porto, Elienê Pontes-Araújo, Alana L. Sousa and Ana Carolina Ribeiro

Mirador State Park, in Brazil's northern savannas, harbours a viable population of tiger cats *Leopardus tigrinus*, one of seven felid and 17 carnivore species, making it a global hotspot. We protect endangered savanna tiger cats through vaccination of domestic animals and environmental education. Community involvement and student training support conservation efforts. Habitat conversion to grain threatens populations outside the protected areas, as shown by satellite imagery. Population monitoring revealed that tiger cat numbers declined after a distemper outbreak outside park borders in the Cágados outpost area. Following extensive

vaccination campaigns on domestic/feral animals throughout the park since 2019, carnivore abundance has increased significantly. Preventing extinction requires persistent conservation action and monitoring.

First jaguar record in Azul Meámbar National Park, Honduras

By Andres Reyes-Barahona, José Hernández, Kennet Calderón-Arostegui, Luis Ulloa-Varela, Gabriela Rubio-Rodríguez, Robinson Sánchez, Kevin Hernández, Yeraldhyn Chávez-Martínez, Yohan Rodriguez, Nerlin Gonzales, Alma Santos, Ivo Alvarado, Franklin E. Castañeda and Hefer D. Ávila-Palma

We report the first camera trap photographic record of the jaguar *Panthera onca* at Azul Meámbar National Park in the Yojoa Biological Corridor, Honduras. This is the first conclusive evidence of jaguar´s presence in this area despite extensive surveys carried out over the past 15 years, the closest record being a jaguar hunted in Santa Bárbara Mountain National Park in the 1960s. Resident populations of the other four species of wild cats known in Honduras, including mountain lions have been registered in this park. This record not only reflects the strong conservation status of the park's core area but also underscores the need for conservation efforts both within the park and at the landscape level.

A new altitudinal record of the jaguar in Bolivia

By Ximena Velez-Liendo and Sara Flores-Equice

The jaguar *Panthera onca* is primarily associated with lowland tropical forests, wetlands and savannas, with most confirmed occurrences below 2,000 m. Here we report a new high-elevation record from the inter-Andean dry forest and Boliviano-Tucumano Forest transition zone in Tarija Department, southern Bolivia. In August 2025, an adult female jaguar was documented at 2,580 m, representing the highest confirmed altitudinal record for Bolivia and among the highest recorded for the species regionally. This finding extends the known elevational range of jaguars in Bolivia and highlights the importance of community-managed landscapes for conserving large carnivores at the southern edge of the species' distribution.

First photo record of the Asiatic golden cat outside protected areas in Meghalaya

By Joanica Delicia Jyrwa, Garcia Pynkmenlang Fancon, Triplestar Thongni, Bigel Khardewsaw, Yomto Mayi and Giridhar Malla

We report the first photographic record of Asiatic golden cat *Catopuma temminckii* outside protected areas in Meghalaya, India. The species was photographed by a camera trap on 19 December 2024 in the coal belt landscape of the West Khasi Hills District. Earlier photographic evidence from Meghalaya was restricted to Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary. Our finding extends confirmed occurrence in a human-modified coal mining landscape, highlighting the persistence of this elusive felid in community-managed forests. This record underscores the conservation value

of non-protected landscapes in sustaining rare species and calls for systematic surveys across Meghalaya.

Fishing cats scavenging on sea turtles in the Bhitarkanika mangroves of eastern India

By C S Ashik, Ajinkya Bankar, Bijoy Kumar Das and Govindan Veeraswami Gopi

We present evidence of a fishing cat *Prionailurus viverrinus* scavenging on the carcass of an olive ridley sea turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* in the Bhitarkanika mangroves, India. Although a wide range of prey species has been inferred from scat analyses of the fishing cat, its hunting and scavenging behaviour has rarely been documented directly. These observations of facultative scavenging provide valuable insights into the feeding ecology and behaviour of this species.

New detections of the Borneo bay cat in East Kalimantan, Indonesia

By Namrata B. Anirudh, Katie Spencer, Nicolas. J. Deere, Mikel, Juliantino Usat, Rustam, Jatna Supriatna and Matthew J. Struebig

The Borneo bay cat *Catopuma badia* is among the least-known wild felids. Its elusive nature means that much of its ecology, behaviour, and distribution remain poorly understood. We report three independent camera-trap detections of the bay cat in Lesan Protection Forest, East Kalimantan, between April and June 2025. All detections were of the red morph and occurred in the early morning, supporting previous spatio-temporal evidence. One sequence implies a predator-prey interaction with a Bornean crested fireback *Lophura ignita*, a likely prey species. Our records provide the first unequivocal detection in Lesan Protection Forest and offer new insights into the species' ecology, highlighting the conservation value of well-managed protection forests.

Recent flat-headed cat records in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan, Indonesia

By Cristiar Samosir, Joseph Hedges, Nurul Ramadhanty Aos, Monalisa Pasaribu and Christopher Wiggs

Flat-headed cats *Prionailurus planiceps* are a species of high conservation importance, and all new detections make a valuable contribution to our understanding of their spatial ecology. Through extensive camera trap surveys conducted between August 2024 and January 2026, we obtained six separate detections of flat-headed cats from the Bentarum Landscape in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. These detections reinforce this area as a priority landscape for the conservation of flat-headed cats. It is essential that further efforts are made to assess its distribution and better understand the threats facing this rare felid.

Prey carrying in the flat-headed cat

By Susan M. Cheyne, Agnes Ferisa, M. Khairul Ikhwan and Jito Sugardjito

As part of an ongoing project to identify and assess the distribution and population status of Bornean felids in the Sebangau Peat-swamp forest, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, a flat-headed cat *Prionailurus planiceps* has been photographed carrying prey. This represents the first documented photographic evidence of prey-carrying behaviour in flat-headed cats from Sebangau National Park since this project began, and is among very few records globally.