

Cats in the news

First camera trap picture of lioness in Northern CAR in years

Since 2019, WCS has been carrying out extensive camera trap monitoring in Bamingui-Bangoran National Park in North-Eastern Central African Republic. So far, all captured lions were males. In August 2025, they released a picture showing the first lioness captured as part of their monitoring, which had been taken in April 2025. Moreover, the image indicates that she is lactating – hinting at the presence of cubs.

Source: WCS, <https://t1p.de/3aa9>

Camera traps record caracal and sand cat in Pakistan

A camera trap set by the Indus Fishing Cat Project recorded a caracal within Kirthar National Park, Pakistan. While the species is listed globally as Least Concern, it is deemed Critically Endangered within Pakistan. Meanwhile, a sand cat was pictured in Nushki, Pakistan. Sand cats are deemed to be possibly extinct in the country and were practically unknown this far east. However, there are sporadic sightings of sand cats in other parts of the country.

Source: Mongabay, <https://t1p.de/0plb6>

First sighting of mainland leopard cat in India's Pench Tiger Reserve

The Deputy Director of Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, India, announced the first record of a mainland leopard cat not only within the reserve, but in Central India in general. The cat was captured by a camera trap near Narahar village by a seasonal stream. This record challenges the previously held belief that the species does not occur in Central India and may catalyse further research on felid distribution patterns.

Source: Times of India, <https://t1p.de/y51rs>

Status of small cats in Tiger Landscapes of India

The Wildlife Institute of India published a report on the occupancy status and dynamics of nine small cat species in the country. The data include bycatches from the All-India Tiger Estimation 2018–2022. The jungle cat was the most widespread, followed by the rusty-spotted cat and leopard cat. The Asiatic golden cat was the least widespread, followed by marbled cat and clouded leopard. Overall, occupancy declined with increasing human disturbance.

Source: Wildlife Institute of India, <https://t1p.de/k05ev>

Jaguar population increases in Mexico

The census by the National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation in Mexico estimates a population of 5,236 individuals in the country. This is an increase of 11% since the last census in 2018, and 33% since 2010. However, the species is still regarded as Endangered. A minimum of 8,000 individuals would be needed to escape the risk of extinction. It is estimated that it will still take at least 30 years to achieve this goal.

Source: Mexico News Daily, <https://t1p.de/9fzgk>

Concerns that copper mine in Chile threatens Andean cat population

A new large-scale open-pit copper-molybdenum mine has been proposed in Chile's Valparaíso region. In 2020, Andean cats were recorded for the first time in that region. Whilst officials and courts have deemed the project compatible with the presence of the species, researchers are concerned about the impact of the mine. Local organisations have demanded that the area be declared a protected area.

Sources: Mongabay, <https://t1p.de/y8e1b>

Snow leopard population increases in Kyrgyzstan

According to the latest census in 2024, the snow leopard population in Kyrgyzstan stands at 511 individuals. This is a stark increase from the previous census in 2013, which resulted in an estimate of 282 individuals. The increase is thought to be the result of improved protection efforts and law enforcement and increased penalties for violations of the law. The snow leopard was recognised as the national emblem of Kyrgyzstan in 2023, and shall now also become the national symbol, with the respective logo to be developed for use across government, cultural and promotional initiatives.

Source: 24.kg, <https://t1p.de/ibsi0> and The Times of Central Asia, <https://t1p.de/iorh9>

First nationwide snow leopard count in Pakistan

For the first time, a robust nationwide estimate of snow leopards in Pakistan is available based on two methodologies: 1) camera traps were set up between 2010 and 2019 across northern Pakistan, resulting in an estimate of 155 snow leopards for the country; and 2) genetic samples were collected and analysed between 2017 and 2023, resulting in an estimate of 167 individuals (CI 95% 128–220). This was lower than the 200–420 individuals that had previously been guessed.

Source: Snow Leopard Trust, <https://t1p.de/2qc37>

First record of Manul in Arunachal Pradesh, India

A camera trap survey by WWF India (Jul 2024 – Sep 2024) produced the first photographic record of Manul in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, India. The survey was performed at altitudes above 4,200 m asl and also produced records of snow leopard and common leopard (scent-marking at the same location), clouded leopard and marbled cat. For common leopard (4,600 m asl), clouded leopard (4,650 m asl) and marbled cat (4,326 m asl), these constitute the highest elevation records in India, if not globally.

Source: WWF India, <https://t1p.de/xxbkh>

Jaguar Range States meeting secures a Regional Action Plan

In late September, representatives of Jaguar Range States, IGOs and NGOs met in Mexico City. They discussed and agreed on a Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation, serving as a strategic guide for collaborative efforts. The Participants also discussed key elements of an Intergovernmental platform and governance structure, a modular monitoring system on the illegal killing and trade in jaguars, as well as a draft Resolution and draft Decisions for jaguars in view of the upcoming 20th Conference of the Parties to CITES. Shortly after the meeting in Mexico City, the Environment Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean region met in Lima and adopted the Lima Declaration, which includes recognition of the importance of jaguar conservation.

Source: CITES, <https://t1p.de/r06am>

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