



TREASURE TROVE

Camera Trap Pictures of Bhutan's Wildlife

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Treasure Trove

Camera Trap Pictures of Bhutan's Wildlife

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Disclaimer:

All texts accompanying species pictures have been adapted from Wikipedia.

Supported by:



Dedicated to the foresters of Bhutan who keep the heart of wild Bhutan pulsing



Royal Patron
Bhutan Ecological Society
July 2021

FOREWORD

The world may be finally seeing hope in the form of a vaccine to contain COVID-19. Here in Bhutan, under His Majesty's selfless and courageous leadership, we have avoided the worst of the pandemic for which we remain ever grateful.

It is this same foresight, fortitude and leadership of His Majesty the King and His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo that we in Bhutan continue to enjoy and benefit from the bounties of nature. We are one of the only two carbon negative countries in the world. And our forests in addition to storing and sequestering carbon hold an immense diversity of wildlife.

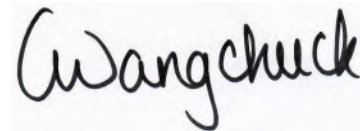
This publication on 'wild cats' by the Bhutan Ecological Society in partnership with the Bhutan Tiger Center under the Department of Forests and Park Services showcases, for the first time, the incredible diversity of Bhutan's forests. It is truly a celebration of life and nature and demonstrates unequivocally that Bhutan is indeed the last biodiversity refugia of the eastern Himalayas.

The pictures in this book were captured by camera traps placed by staff and scientists of the Department of Forests and Park Services across our country. I take this opportunity to thank and commend all the foresters who continue to protect Bhutan's incredible biological wealth and wild natural landscapes. This wealth is for all Bhutanese and needs to be conserved into perpetuity to be cherished and appreciated across generations.

As we tread into the future and explore opportunities for our youth, nature-based solutions such as expansion of eco-tourism hold immense potential to contribute substantially to income generation and employment creation.

Nature must assume a central role in our endeavors as we recover from COVID-19 and resume normal lives. The magnificence of the wild should rekindle our humanity and help us appreciate the inconceivable role played by nature in our wellbeing.

Tashi Delek.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wangchuck". The script is fluid and cursive, with the 'W' and 'C' being particularly prominent.

HRH Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck
Royal Patron



མོ་ནམ་དང་ནགས་ཚལ་ལྷན་ཁག
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Thimphu : Bhutan



FOREWORD

Bhutan has been a bastion of environmental and wildlife conservation since the early days of our development. The policy of conservation has been enshrined in our Constitution and is safeguarded as one of the Four Pillars of GNH.

Out of 38 species of wild cats worldwide, the forests of Bhutan are home to no less than 11. As a key part of the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot, we have an immense responsibility to nurture and preserve these magnificent creatures.

Department of Forests and Park Services supported by many other government and civil society agencies have taken remarkable stewardship of this cause and Bhutan is a proud leader in the worldwide conservation regarding environment and wildlife. Institutions like Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER), Global Tiger Center, as well as many Civil Society Organizations have been at the forefront of this work. We have also seen immense support from the international organizations like UNDP, Global Environment Facility and INGOs like WWF in Bhutan's efforts of biodiversity conservation.

The tiger is an important animal in our folklore. The origin of Buddhism in Bhutan starts with the story of Guru Padmasambhava arriving in the country on a flying tigress to Taktshang, the Tiger's nest. It is a matter of great pride that Bhutan has continued to preserve and protect the majestic creature in its natural habitat through the centuries.

I would like to heartily congratulate the Bhutan Ecological Society, the Department of Parks and Forest Services, and the UNDP GEF-SGP for compiling this wonderful coffee table book that showcases the rich biodiversity of our forests across different altitudes.

This book showcases not only the big cats but also shows them in the wilder context of their habitats, and their prey. I doubt that anyone can flip through the pages and fail to be awed by the diversity within. I sincerely hope that it will serve as a reminder of the treasure with which we have been entrusted, and inspire our conservation efforts going forward.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Yeshey Penjor', written in a stylized, cursive script.

Yeshey Penjor.

A Treasure Trove of Life

Bhutan's forests have always been and will continue to remain central to ensuring our collective prosperity and wellbeing. From regulating our water flows to provisioning for wood, medicine and a whole host of ecosystem services, Bhutan's forests remain more important than ever before. It is therefore fitting that Bhutan's constitution mandates the maintenance of 60% of Bhutan's landmass under forests for all times to come. To ensure the meeting of our collective aspirations laid out in the constitution, over 50% of Bhutan's land is formally conserved under a network of protected areas and biological corridors (see map on page xi). The wisdom and farsightedness of Bhutan's peerless monarchs blaze forth in such exemplary, bold and visionary actions.

Today, forests in Bhutan which stretch from sub-tropical lowlands all the way to the high reaches of alpine grassland and scrubs, continue to sequester carbon and moderate environmental flows. Importantly, they continue to provide safe habitat for a wide array of species. Given the loss and disappearance of habitats across much of Asia and the globe, Bhutan remains one of the last refugia for biodiversity within the Himalayas.

Bhutan's commitment to conservation and habitat protection is buttressed by and anchored in a low-environmental-impact approach to development. This approach is in keeping with the tenets of Gross National Happiness which stipulates for harmony between man, nature and progress. Due to this, Bhutan remains the only carbon negative country in the world.

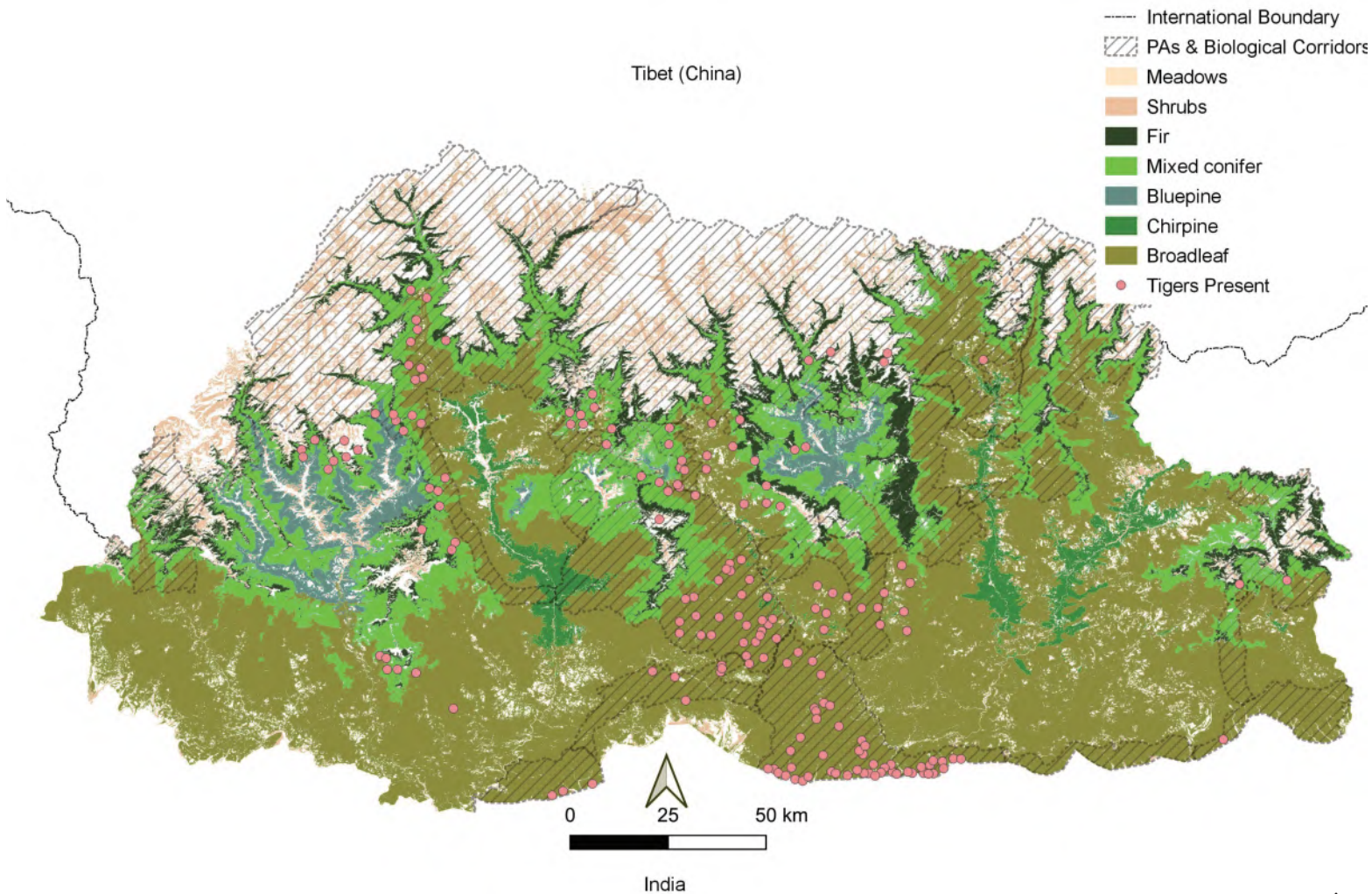
A development approach which is environmentally benign has also allowed Bhutan's forests to house a treasure trove of wildlife. Significantly, Bhutanese wildscapes are home to ten species of wildcats,

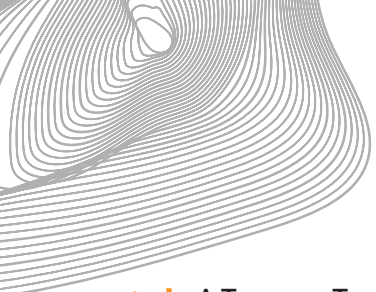
accounting for 10% of all wildcat species in the world. From snow leopards in the north to the tigers which roam across all habitat types, Bhutanese wildcats are potent symbols of a country which accord life, in all its form, the highest value and esteem.

Bhutan harbours over 90 snow leopards and 103 tigers. For a country of its size, these numbers are of global significance. In addition to these mega-carnivores, Bhutan is also home to the clouded leopard, marbled cat, golden cat, jungle cat, common leopard, fishing cat, and the Pallas' cat. This incredibly rich cat diversity is indicative of fecund habitats which allow for, and host a wide variety of prey species and associated biodiversity.

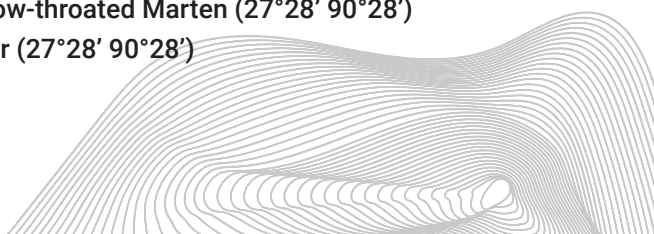
Only a tiny fraction, a very small sampling of the diversity that is Bhutan, is presented in the pages of this suja table book. As the world continues to grapple with increasing challenges from a rapidly changing climate, biodiversity loss, and development needs, it is imperative that Bhutan's biodiversity be conserved and nurtured. A world where biodiversity thrives will allow for resilience against pandemics, such as COVID-19, which the world is fighting to contain at the moment.

The Bhutanese led by our unequalled monarchs have risen to challenge of allowing nature to thrive. And Bhutan demonstrates that human wellbeing and verdant nature are inseparable in the pursuit of Gross National Happiness.





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- 

Tiger

Panthera tigris tigris

27°28' 90°28' | 1200 masl

A tiger is walking through a dense bamboo forest. The tiger is seen from the side, moving towards the left. Its orange fur with black stripes is clearly visible. The forest is filled with tall bamboo stalks and green ferns on the ground. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

The tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) is the largest living cat species and a member of the genus *Panthera*. It is an apex predator, primarily preying on ungulates such as deer and wild boar. It is territorial and generally a solitary but social predator, requiring large contiguous areas of habitat, which support its requirements for prey and rearing of its offspring. Tiger cubs stay with their mother for about two years, before they become independent and leave their mother's home range to establish their own.

Asiatic Golden Cat

Catopuma temminckii

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl

Near threatened

The Asiatic Golden Cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) is a medium-sized wild cat native to the northeastern Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and southern China. It has been listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List since 2008.

2011-02-06

1:31:11 PM

M 2/3

○ 20°C



The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is one of the five extant species in the genus *Panthera*, a member of the cat family, Felidae. It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in some parts of Western and Central Asia, Southern Russia, and on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Common Leopard

Panthera pardus

26°49' 90°50' | 500 masl

2011-02-08

3:46:23 PM

M 1/3

18°C



Common Leopard

Panthera pardus

26°49' 90°50' | 500 masl

2010-11-19

1:37:56 PM

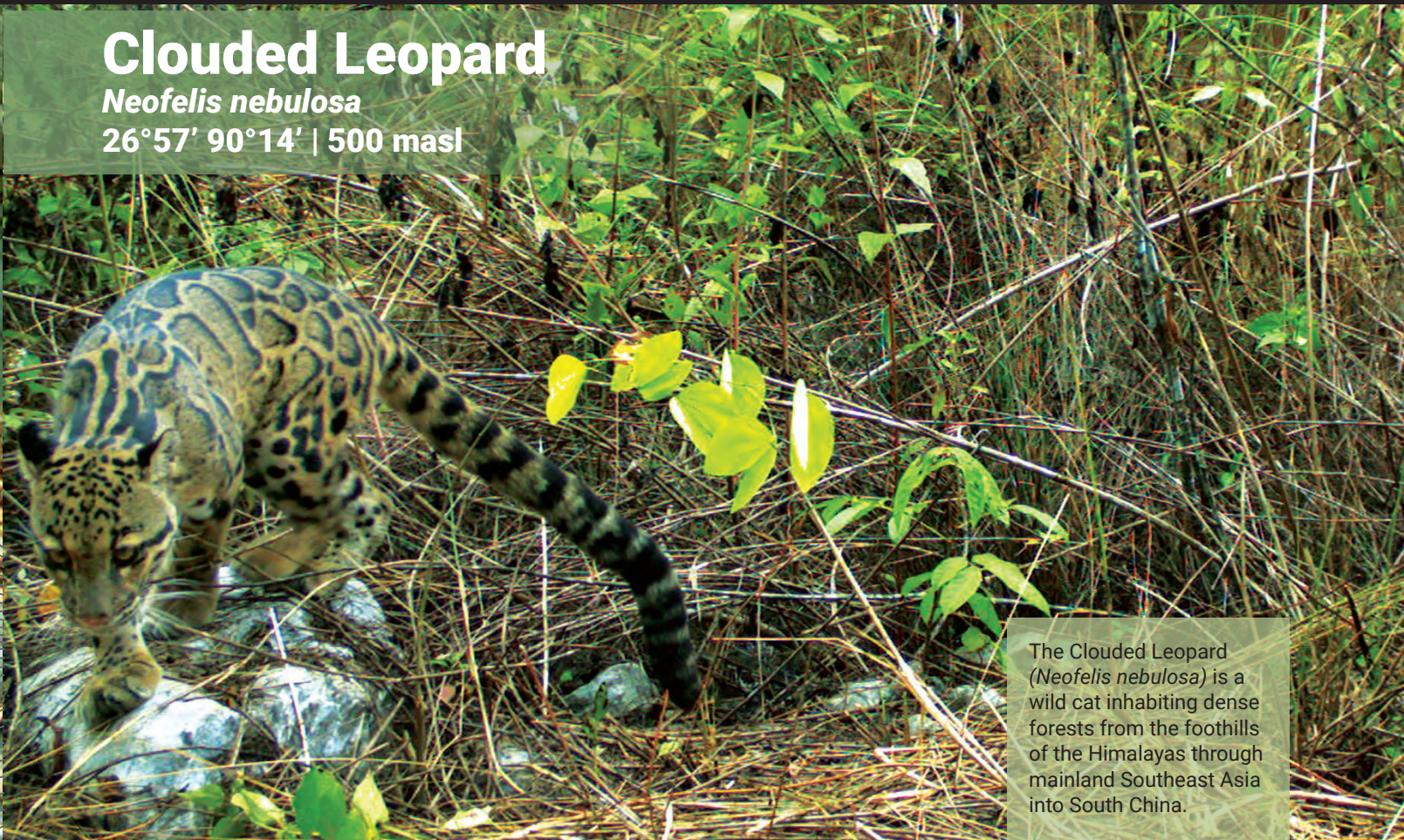
M 3/3

● 25°C

Clouded Leopard

Neofelis nebulosa

26°57' 90°14' | 500 masl



The Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) is a wild cat inhabiting dense forests from the foothills of the Himalayas through mainland Southeast Asia into South China.

2013-11-27

4:53:57 PM

M 3/3

18°C



Tiger

Panthera tigris tigris

27°28' 90°28' | 1200 masl

Wild Pig

Sus scrofa

27°28' 90°28' | 1200 masl



The wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), also known as the wild swine, common wild pig, or simply wild pig, is a suid native to much of Eurasia and North Africa, and has been introduced to the Americas and Oceania. The species is now one of the widest-ranging mammals in the world, as well as the most widespread suiform. It has been assessed as least concern on the IUCN Red.

2014-04-01

8:38:26 AM

M 3/3

○ 8°C



Tigers

Panthera tigris tigris

27°18' 90°32' | 2000 masl

The Satyr Tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*) also known as the crimson horned pheasant, is a pheasant found in the Himalayan reaches of India, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. They reside in moist oak and rhododendron forests with dense undergrowth and bamboo clumps. They range from 2400 to 4200 meters in summer and 1800 meters in winter.

Satyr Tragopan

Tragopan satyra

27°18' 90°32' | 2000 masl



2014-06-10

11:09:20 AM

M 2/3

16°C

Wild Pig & Litter

Sus scrofa

27°18' 90°32' | 2000 masl



The Marbled Cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*) is a small wild cat native from the eastern Himalayas to Southeast Asia, where it inhabits forests up to 2,500 m (8,200 ft) altitude. As it is present in a large range, it has been listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List since 2015.

Marbled Cat

Pardofelis marmorata

27°22' 90°37' | 2000 masl



2013-12-12

10:43:34 AM

M 1/3

9°C

Asiatic Golden Cat

Catopuma temminckii

27°22' 90°37' | 2000 masl



2013-04-26

12:58:25 PM

M 3/3

● 29°C



Common Leopard

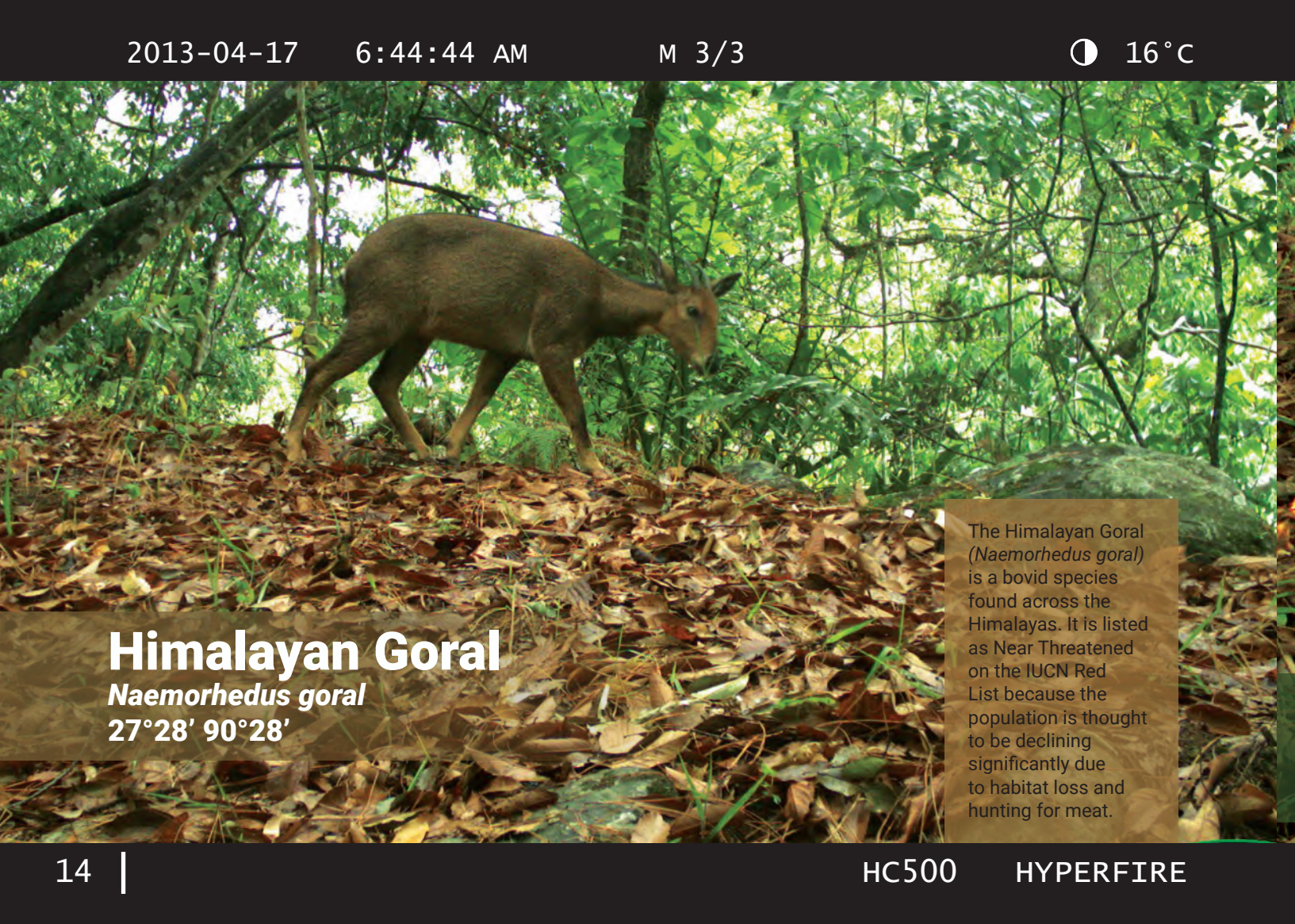
Panthera pardus

27°22' 90°37' | 2000 masl

HC500

HYPERFIRE

| 13

A photograph of a Himalayan Goral (Naemorhedus goral) standing on a forest floor covered in dry, brown leaves. The animal is facing right, looking down at the ground. It has a brown coat and small, dark horns. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and tree trunks.

Himalayan Goral

Naemorhedus goral

27°28' 90°28'

The Himalayan Goral (*Naemorhedus goral*) is a bovid species found across the Himalayas. It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List because the population is thought to be declining significantly due to habitat loss and hunting for meat.



Red Junglefowl

Gallus gallus

27°28' 90°28' | 2000 masl

The Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) is a tropical bird in the family Phasianidae. It ranges across much of Southeast Asia and parts of South Asia. Red Junglefowl are the primary ancestor of the domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*); the grey jungle fowl, Sri Lankan Red junglefowl and green jungle fowl have also contributed genetic material to the gene pool of the chicken.

2013-05-16

2:32:03 PM

M 2/3

15°C

The gaur (*Bos gaurus*), also known as the Indian bison, is a bovine native to South and Southeast Asia, and has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List since 1986. The global population was estimated at a maximum of 21,000 mature individuals in 2016. It has declined by more than 70% during the last three generations, and is extirpated from Sri Lanka and most likely Bangladesh. Populations in well-protected areas are stable and increasing.

Gaur

Bos gaurus

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl

2013-04-23

5:45:45 AM

M 2/3

7°C

Golden Cat

Catopuma temminckii

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl



HC500

HYPERFIRE

17

2013-04-25

1:38:58 PM

M 3/3

● 13°C



Tiger

Panthera tigris tigris

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl

2013-04-26

6:59:16 AM

M 1/3

● 10°C

Wild Pig

Sus scrofa

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl



HC500

HYPERFIRE

| 19

2013-04-30

2:36:58 PM

M 3/3

14°C

Satyr Tragopan

Tragopan satyra

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl



2013-05-08

2:17:06 PM

M 2/3

○ 12°C

Marbled Cat

Pardofelis marmorata

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl



HC500

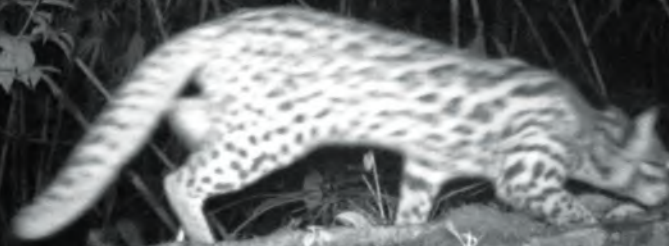
HYPERFIRE

| 21

The Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) is a small wild cat native to continental South, Southeast, and East Asia. Since 2002 it has been listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List as it is widely distributed although threatened by habitat loss and hunting in parts of its range.

Leopard Cat

Prionailurus bengalensis
27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl



2013-06-17

12:47:28 PM

M 2/3

17°C

A photograph of a Serow, a medium-sized goat-like or antelope-like mammal, standing in a lush, green forest. The animal is dark brown with lighter patches on its legs and is facing right. The background is filled with dense foliage and trees.

The serows are four species of medium-sized goat-like or antelope-like mammals of the genus *Capricornis*.

Serow

Capricornis sumatraensis

27°28' 90°28' | 2300 masl

Hill Partridge

Arborophila torqueola

27°28' 90°28' 2300 masl

The common hill partridge, necklaced hill partridge, or simply hill partridge (*Arborophila torqueola*) is a species of bird in the pheasant family found in Asia.



2013-08-22

2:18:40 PM

M 2/3

⚡ ● 15°C

A hunt ||

Wild dogs attacking a sambar deer

27°28' 90°28' | 2500 masl



PC850

PROFESSIONAL

| 25

The dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) is a canid native to Central, South, East, and Southeast Asia.

Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole)

Cuon alpinus

27°28' 90°28'



2013-05-18

12:12:22 PM

M 3/3

5°C

Asiatic Golden Cat

Catopuma temminckii

27°28' 90°28' | 3000 masl



HC500

HYPERFIRE

| 27

The Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*), also known as the Impeyan monal and Impeyan pheasant, is a pheasant native to Himalayan forests and shrublands at elevations of 2,100–4,500 m (6,900–14,800 ft). It is part of the family Phasianidae and is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

Himalayan Monal

Lophophorus impejanus

27°28' 90°28' | 3000 masl

Asiatic Golden Cat

Catopuma temminckii

27°28' 90°28' | 4100 masl



Yellow-throated Marten

Martes flavigula

27°28' 90°28' | 4100 masl

A photograph of two Yellow-throated Martens (Martes flavigula) on a grassy hill. One marten is in the foreground, facing left, and the other is slightly behind it, also facing left. Both have dark fur with a distinctive yellow throat and chest. The background shows a misty, mountainous landscape under a cloudy sky.

The Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) is a marten species native to Asia. It is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. The yellow-throated marten is also known as the *kharza* and *chuthraul*, and is the largest marten in the Old World, with the tail making up more than half its length. Its fur is brightly colored, consisting of a unique blend of black, white, golden-yellow and brown. It is an omnivore, whose sources of food range from fruit and nectar to small deer.

2013-02-19

11:55:43 PM

M 2/3

52°F

Wild Dog (pups)

Coun aplinus

27°28' 90°28' | 4100 masl



HC500

HYPERFIRE

| 31

2013-01-24

6:10:46 AM

M 3/3

46°F

Himalayan Monal

Lophophorus impejanus

27°28' 90°28' | 3000 masl



Red Panda

Ailurus fulgens

27°28' 90°28'

The Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is a carnivoran native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List because the wild population is estimated at fewer than 10,000 mature individuals and continues to decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and inbreeding depression. Despite its name, it is not closely related to the giant panda.





The Asiatic Black Bear is a medium-sized bear species native to Asia that is largely adapted to an arboreal lifestyle. It lives in the Himalayas, southeastern Iran, the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, the Korean Peninsula, northeastern China, the Russian Far East, the islands of Honshū and Shikoku in Japan, and Taiwan. It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, and is threatened by deforestation and poaching for its body parts, which are used in traditional.

Asiatic Black Bear

Ursus thibetanus laniger

27°28' 90°28'

Yellow-throated Marten

Martes flavigula

27°28' 90°28'





Tiger

Panthera tigris tigris

27°28' 90°28'



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

