

Photo courtesy Emmanuel Keller



CONSERVATION STATUS

- (EX) Extinct
- (EW) Extinct in the wild
- (CR) Critically endangered
- ▶ (EN) ENDANGERED ◀
- (VU) Vulnerable
- (NT) Near threatened
- (LC) Least concern

IUCN Red List of Endangered Species

Habitat

Snow leopards inhabit a mountainous region which ranges from 1,000 to 4,000m above sea level.

Tail

The snow leopard's long flexible tail helps them to balance on rocky outcrops and can be wrapped around them to provide a warm, furry scarf.

Fur

The speckled fur of the snow leopard helps it to blend into its rocky surroundings and sneak up on prey.

Legs

Snow leopards have short front-legs and long hind-legs helping it to leap across rocky ravines to catch their prey. They can jump up to 30 feet (6 times its body length) in a single leap!

Ears

The short, round ears of the snow leopard reduce heat loss.

Nose

Snow leopards have special, wide nasal cavities which warm the cold air before it enters the lungs.

Paws

The snow leopard has large paws to prevent it from sinking into thick snow.

There are between 3,500 and 6,500 snow leopards left in the wild with a range of over 2 million sq km across twelve countries.

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) funds the monitoring and protection of snow leopards in Mongolia alongside engagement with local communities. www.davidshepherd.org



SNOW LEOPARD