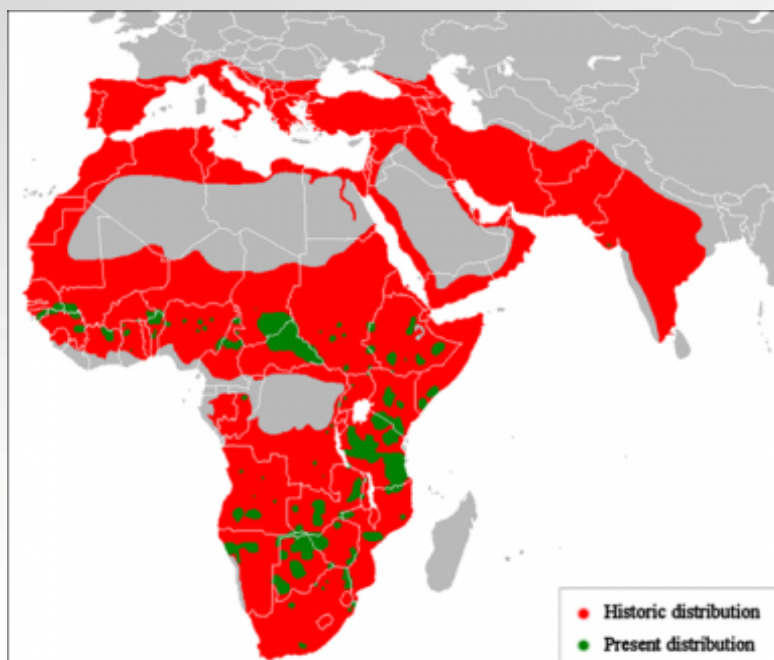


BIG CATS

- There are 4 members of the Panthera family: **lion, tiger, jaguar and leopard.**
- They are the only felids (taxonomy) able to roar.
- Other big cats include the cheetah, clouded leopard, snow leopard and cougar.

LIONS:

- Lions have lost 80% of their original range.
- They are **extinct from 26 countries** where they were previously found.
- 28 countries in Africa contain Lions, but only 7 have populations over 1000.
- In the past hundred years the population has dropped from **200,000** to less than **30,000**.
- Asiatic lions are even more endangered than the African lion; the population is estimated to be in the region of **290**.



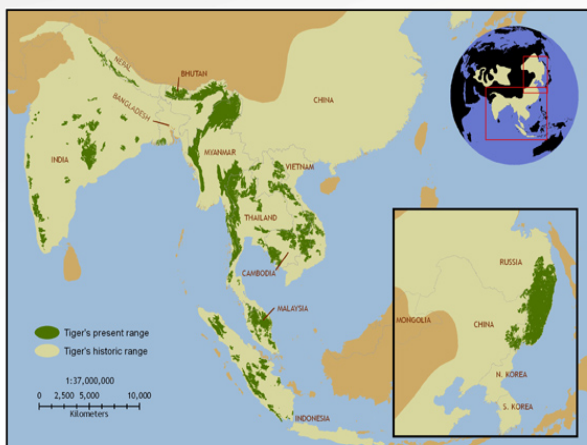


THREATS TO LIONS:

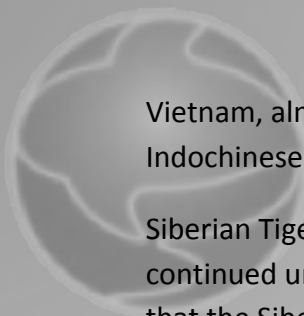
- **Hunting** for sport, as they are prized as trophies. During the World Cup in South Africa, package deals were sold for people who were interested in football and hunting. A good trophy lion can fetch more than **U.S \$20,000**, and the ranch owners earn a good deal more by providing the hunters with board and lodging.
- **Habitat loss** from logging and agriculture.
- **Farmers** often shoot lions on sight, as they can kill livestock and are considered vermin. Some go as far as to leave poison.
- **Geographical isolation** results in inbreeding, and also reduced genetic diversity.

TIGER:

- There are nine subspecies of tiger, three of which are extinct.
- In the past Tigers were found throughout Asia, today the range of the tiger is only 7% of what it used to be.
- Within the past decade alone, the estimated area known to be occupied by tigers has declined by 41%.
- They are continually threatened by poaching and habitat destruction.



The Indochinese Tiger - **ENDANGERED** (1,200 to 1,800 left globally), with only several hundred left in the wild. In



Vietnam, almost three-quarters of the tigers killed provide stock for Chinese pharmacies. No Indochinese tigers have been seen in China since 2007.

Siberian Tiger - **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**. Legal tiger hunting within the Soviet Union continued until 1947 when it was officially prohibited. In the mid 1980s, it was estimated that the Siberian tiger population consisted of approximately 250 animals.

Sumatran Tiger - **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**. In 1998 the population of tigers was 400-500; this has fallen to 300 in 2008. **100** live in unprotected areas that will soon be lost to agriculture. Deforestation resulting from the production of palm oil is a major threat to the Sumatran Tiger. Many are still killed by poachers despite conservation efforts.

South China Tiger – **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**. The most critically endangered subspecies and one of the 10 most endangered animals in the world. Currently there are 59 known captive South China tigers. The tigers were considered pests and became widely persecuted; their wild population fell from more than 4,000 to less than 200 by 1982. The South China tiger has not been seen in the wild for 50 years.

JAVAN TIGER – EXTINCT 1980

The clearing of land led to the extinction of the tiger. With the forest decreasing to only 8% in 1975. During the period of civil unrest after 1965 armed groups retreated to reserves, where they killed the remaining tigers.

BALI TIGER –EXTINCT 1937

Was limited to the island of Bali, no Balinese tiger was ever kept in captivity.

They were hunted to extinction by people.

CASPIAN TIGER – EXTINCT 1950

The Russian government had worked heavily to eradicate the Caspian tiger, by instructing the Russian army to exterminate all tigers.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRwOgGn6OmQ>

MAIN THREATS

Illegal trade of tiger skins

Poaching

Hunting for medical supplies - E.g. **\$170** for a tiger's eye

Powdered tiger humerus bone brings up to **\$1,450** lb.

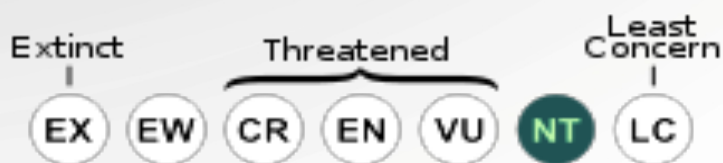
The price is estimated to be **\$140-\$370** per kilogram for bone.

Habitat loss, from deforestation and agriculture.
Killed as they are viewed as pests.



JAGUAR

- Jaguar populations are declining rapidly.
- Jaguars once ranged as far as the Grand Canyon in the North, to the southern tip of the South American continent.
- It is now thought that they have lost **40 - 50%** of their original territory.
- They may have disappeared entirely from El Salvador, Uruguay, Nicaragua and Guatemala.
- In the 1960s, **15,000** jaguar skins were brought out of the Brazilian Amazon yearly.



MAIN THREATS

Although hunting for their pelt has decreased dramatically, illegal poaching continues as laws are not always effectively enforced.

Farmers often kill jaguars in order to protect their livestock and their families from the perceived threat.

Deforestation across its habitats, and land clearance for grazing.

Competition with people for food.

Geographical Isolation.



AMUR LEOPARD

It is one of the rarest felids in the world with an estimated **30 to 35** individuals remaining in the wild.

The IUCN has deemed the Amur leopard critically endangered, meaning that it is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.



Poaching

- There appears to be poaching of leopards as well as their prey species. Russian hunters kill many more deer than is officially allowed and Amur leopards are sometimes caught in snares as well.

Deforestation

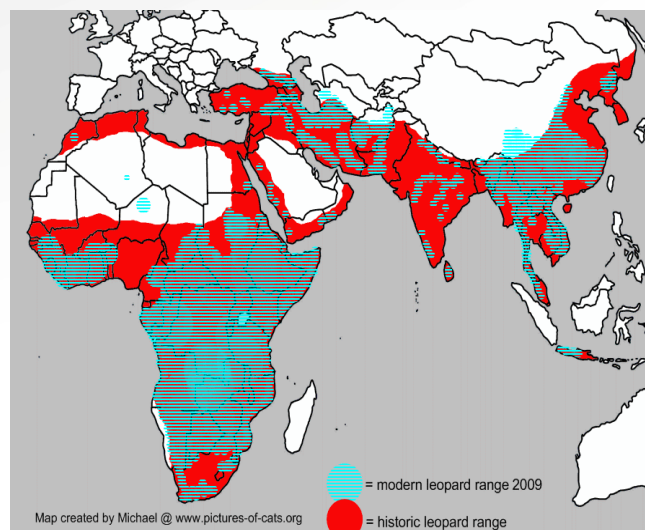
- The forests on which Amur leopards depend have slowly disappeared as a result of frequent fires. Local villagers start fires for various reasons, but mainly to stimulate the growth of ferns that are a very popular ingredient in Russian and Chinese dishes.

Inbreeding

- Loss of genetic diversity in the small and isolated Amur leopard population may cause inbreeding, resulting in more disease.

Development projects

- Their habitat is an attractive area for infrastructure projects such as new railways, gas and oil pipelines, and ports. In 2005 and 2006 the Zoological Society of London and other ALTA partners led a successful international campaign against a plan to build an oil pipeline terminal on the coast of the Sea of Japan in the leopard's range.





WHAT WE CAN DO

There are possible cat projects across the range of our project bases, (the species highlighted below indicate species where **we can** already collaborate with local projects).

We can create project teams which deepen collaborations with existing projects and/or **we can** develop research programmes to establish population dynamics from which we can develop education and conservation initiatives, building local project capacity in the process.

- Sri Lanka – **Leopard Rusty-spotted Cat- (Vulnerable)**, Fishing Cat (Endangered), and the Jungle Cat (Least concern)
- Vietnam – **Indochinese Tiger**, Marbled cat (Vulnerable), Leopard cats (Least concern)
- Argentina – Andean cat (Endangered)
- Malaysia- Malayan Tiger, Otter Civet (Endangered) Clouded leopards (Vulnerable)
- Bolivia – Andean mountain cat (Endangered) Jaguar (near threatened) Ocelot (least concern)
- Ghana – Lions, Leopards, **Genet cat**
- Sierra Leone - African Lion (vulnerable) Leopard (near vulnerable) different subspecies of civet and Serval. (Least concern)