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Cats on the 2009 Red List of Threatened Species

The IUCN Red List is the most authoritative global index to biodiversity status and is the flagship product of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its supporting partners. As part of a recent multi-year effort to re-assess all mammalian species, the family Felidae was comprehensively re-evaluated in 2007-2008. A workshop was held at the Oxford Felid Biology and Conservation Conference (Nowell et al. 2007), and follow-up by email with others led to over 70 specia-

lists participating in the assessment process. Distribution maps were updated and for the first time are being included on the Red List website (www.iucnredlist.org). Textual species accounts were also completely re-written. A number of subspecies have been included, although a comprehensive evaluation was not possible (Nowell et al 2007). The 2008 Red List was launched at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, and since then small changes



The fishing cat is one of the two species that had to be uplisted to Endangered (Photo A. Sliwa).

Table 1. Felid species on the 2009 Red List.

CATEGORY	Common name	Scientific name	Criteria	
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)	Iberian lynx	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>	C2a(i)	
	ENDANGERED (EN)	Andean cat	<i>Leopardus jacobita</i>	C2a(i)
	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	A2bcd, A4bcd, C1, C2a(i)	
	Snow leopard	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	C1	
	Borneo bay cat	<i>Pardofelis badia</i>	C1	
	Flat-headed cat	<i>Prionailurus planiceps</i>	C1, C2a(i)	
	Fishing cat	<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>	A2cd, A4cd	
VULNERABLE (VU)	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	A2acd, C1	
	Black-footed cat	<i>Felis nigripes</i>	C2a(i)	
	Guiña	<i>Leopardus guigna</i>	A2a; C2a(i)	
	Oncilla	<i>Leopardus tigrinus</i>	A3c	
	Sunda clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis diardi</i>	C1	
	Clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	C1, C2a(i)	
	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	A2abcd	
	Marbled cat	<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>	C1, C2a(i)	
	Rusty-spotted cat	<i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>	C2a(i)	
	NEAR THREATENED (NT)	African golden cat	<i>Caracal aurata</i>	
		Sand cat	<i>Felis margarita</i>	
		Pampas cat	<i>Leopardus colocolo</i>	
		Geoffroy's cat	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>	
		Margay	<i>Leopardus wiedii</i>	
Pallas's cat		<i>Otocolobus manul</i>		
Jaguar		<i>Panthera onca</i>		
Leopard		<i>Panthera pardus</i>		
Asiatic golden cat		<i>Pardofelis temminckii</i>		
LEAST CONCERN (LC)		Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>	
	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>		
	Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>		
	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>		
	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>		
	Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>		
	Eurasian lynx	<i>Lynx lynx</i>		
	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>		
	Leopard cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>		
	Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i>		
	Jaguarundi	<i>Puma yagouaroundi</i>		

Table 2. Felid subspecies on the 2008 Red List.

CATEGORY	Common Name	Scientific name	Criteria	
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)	Northwest African cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus heckii</i>	C2a(i)	
	Asiatic cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus venaticus</i>	D	
	Sumatran tiger	<i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>	C2a(i)	
	Javan leopard	<i>Panthera pardus melas</i>	C2a(ii)	
	Amur leopard	<i>Panthera pardus orientalis</i>	D	
	Arabian leopard	<i>Panthera pardus nimr</i>	C2a(ii), D	
	Iriomote cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis iriomotensis</i>	C2a(i)	
CR, POSSIBLY EXTINCT IN THE WILD (PEW) ENDANGERED (EN)	South China tiger	<i>Panthera tigris amoyensis</i>	D	
	Central American oncilla	<i>Leopardus tigrinus oncilla</i>	C2a(i)	
	Bornean clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis diardi borneensis</i>	C1	
	Sumatran clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis diardi diardi</i>	C2a(i)	
	Asiatic lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	D	
	Sri Lankan leopard	<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i>	C2a(i)	
	Persian leopard	<i>Panthera pardus saxicolor</i>	C2a(i)	
	Amur tiger	<i>Panthera tigris altaica</i>	D	
	Indochinese tiger	<i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i>	C2a(i)	
	Malayan tiger	<i>Panthera tigris jacksonii</i>	C2a(i)	
	Bengal tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	C2a(i)	
	VULNERABLE (VU)	Chinese Alpine Steppe Cat	<i>Felis silvestris bieti</i>	C2a(ii)
		Visayan leopard cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis rabori</i>	B1ab(i,ii,iii,v)
	EXTINCT (EX)	Bali tiger	<i>Panthera tigris balica</i>	C2a(i)
Javan tiger		<i>Panthera tigris sondaica</i>	C2a(i)	
Caspian tiger		<i>Panthera tigris virgata</i>	C2a(i)	

to the text took effect when the 2009 Red List was launched in November.

Tables 1 and 2 show species and subspecies included on the 2009 Red List, including the criteria (quantitative thresholds) used for the assigned category of threat (see the Red List website for category definitions and a key to the criteria). Sixteen species, or 44.4% of the 36 species in the family Felidae, are included in the three threatened categories. The number of Endangered species has increased from four to six with the inclusion of the flat-headed cat and fishing cat. Theirs was judged to be a genuine deterioration of status since the last assessment, reflecting the loss of Asian wetland habitat, infrequent encounter rates, and apparent local extinction of some known populations of fishing

Table 3. Changes from the 2007 Red List.

Increased in category of threat	Decreased in category of threat
<i>A. jubatus heckii</i>	<i>L. lynx</i>
<i>L. tigrinus</i>	<i>P. aurata</i>
<i>L. wiedii</i>	<i>P. concolor</i>
<i>P. b. iriomotensis</i>	<i>P. leo persica</i>
<i>P. pardus melas</i>	<i>P. temminckii</i>
<i>P. planiceps</i>	<i>P. tigris altaica</i>
<i>P. viverrinus</i>	
<i>P. pardus</i>	

Table 4. Threatened status of cats compared to canids and carnivores.

Group	# of threatened species	Total number of species	Percentage threatened
Felidae	16	36	44.4%
Canidae	6	36	16.6%
Carnivora	71	285	24.9%

cat. Most changes (Table 3), however, were non-genuine and due to improved information. The Asiatic lion and Amur tiger moved from Critically Endangered to Endangered because decades of conservation effort have led to stabilization of these very small populations. However, recent surveys which covered about 15-20% of tiger habitat in Russia may indicate a significant declining trend (D. Miquelle pers. comm.) and warrant uplisting of the subspecies to a more critical level of threat.

Even with 44.4% of the family in the top three categories, felids are not significantly more threatened than mammals in general (25%; Schipper et al 2008). This proportion is little changed from the last comprehensive Red List update in 2002 (Nowell 2002). Table 4 compares the threatened status of felids to canids and all carnivores. While habitat loss is the primary threat to terres-

trial mammals, like other carnivores felids are disproportionately threatened by over-exploitation. South and Southeast Asia stand out for having the highest proportion of threatened species, for both felids and mammals in general (Schipper et al 2008).

References

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