

Amur Leopard - Threats



With a wild population of fewer than 100 individuals, the Amur leopard is critically endangered as a result of human activities.

Poaching: Poaching of both leopards and prey is a serious threat. Forests in Southwest Primorye are relatively accessible, the area is more densely populated than most of the Russian Far East, and Russia has a hunting culture both for sport and for food. The two main cities Vladivostok and Ussurisk are only two or three hours drive away, so the leopard's range holds some of the most popular hunting grounds for city residents.

Forest fires: Fires are a direct threat to Amur leopards as they reduce the animals' natural forest habitat, replacing it with grasslands that leopards prefer to avoid.

Disease: Diseases such as Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), are threatening the isolated and vulnerable Amur leopard population.

Inbreeding: With a population that dwindled to 35 individuals only a few decades ago, camera trap evidence of white paws and short tails seen in the wild population could reflect genetic mutation.

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