**WILD CATS: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan**

*compiled and edited by*  
Kristin Nowell and Peter Jackson,  
IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. 1996.  
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“Wild Cats” is the most comprehensive review of the status and the conservation needs of the wild living cats. It was compiled by Kristin Nowell and Peter Jackson with the support of most of the members of the Cat Specialist Group and published by IUCN in 1996. The main body of the book is divided into three parts:

**Part I: Species data sheets**

There are data sheets for all the 36 species of wild cats. They include a list of local names throughout their range, description and behaviour, biology, habitat and distribution, population status, occurrence in protected areas and major threats. Where a cat is found in several regions, a principal account is given for its major range, and supplementary accounts for other regions. Detailed range maps are provided for each species.

**Part II: Major Issues in Cat Conservation**

The survival of the wild cats depends on a number of major factors, which are dealt with in six chapters.

1. **Cats and Habitat Loss**

   Human expansion, settlement and activities are rapidly converting wild lands into areas which are often unsuitable for wild cats, thereby leading to a decline in numbers. The status of various habitat types is reviewed and critical habitats for cats highlighted.

2. **Management of Big Cats**

   Cats are supreme predators. The big cats often pose serious problems in livestock areas. These problems are reviewed, as well as methods minimizing stock losses.

3. **Research**

   The species accounts show how little is known about even familiar wild cats. The necessary research is reviewed and gaps are highlighted.

4. **Trade**

   Spotted cat furs have been highly prized for centuries and exploitation reached a recent peak in the 1960s and 1970s. The implementation of CITES reduced this exploitation. Management systems are examined in the light of their suitability for use in conserving other wild cats.

5. **Cats in Captivity**

   The status of various species in captivity is reviewed, along with recommendations for future developments.

6. **Reintroduction**

   Experience with various cats is reviewed, along with recommendations for future developments.

**Part III: An Action Plan for Conservation of the Wild Cats**

The Action Plan lists over 100 priority projects for wild cat conservation in the 1990s.

**References**

Over 1500 references are given to documentation which has been used to compile the species accounts and discussion chapters.
Emphasized in *Wild Cats* is the principle that the plan is geared to ensuring the survival of cats in natural surroundings, but captive breeding (which is well researched and presented) has several roles to play. Education and reintroductions are both promoted and deservedly so, as most species have been bred in captivity and the valuable data gathered in the process must assist in the conservation of cats. In conclusion, *Wild Cats* is an extremely valuable and well researched volume which should receive global attention from all concerned with the survival of some of the world's most valuable species. Dr George R. Hughes. Natal Parks Board, PO Box 622, Pietermaritzburg 3200, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan. Technical Report (PDF Available) January 2004 with 6,086 Reads. How we measure 'reads'. Among medium-sized carnivores, red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and domestic cats (*Felis silvestris catus*) are the most abundant species in human-dominated landscapes worldwide. Both are known to be generalist predators that exploit a wide range of prey groups (e.g., mammals, birds, and invertebrates). Identifying red fox and domestic cat predation pressure on shared prey could shed light on their ecological role in shaping wildlife communities in human-dominated landscapes.