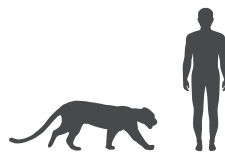


CLOUDED LEOPARD



DESCRIPTION

Clouded leopards are a medium sized cat that get their name from the cloud like markings on their body. These markings provide perfect camouflage in the dappled forest habitat. The colour of the coat varies from tawny brown to silvery grey, with black markings. The long thick tail is also covered in black rings and provides an excellent balancing aid, and their legs are quite short and stocky, providing a low centre of gravity for life in the trees.

They are one of the best climbers in the cat family, and are able to climb upside down, face first down a tree trunk and hang from branches by their hind legs. Their hind feet possess flexible ankle joints to allow this.

DIET

Birds, squirrels, monkeys, deer and wild pigs. It was originally thought they hunted in trees, though more recently it has been proven that most hunting takes place on the ground.

BEHAVIOUR

Primarily a crepuscular species (active dawn and dusk), very little is known of the social behaviour of wild clouded leopards. They are most likely solitary, unless breeding or with cubs.

THREATS

Clouded leopards face many threats in South-east Asia. Their habitat is being destroyed for logging and agriculture such as palm oil plantations, as well as poaching for their pelts and bones by both commercial and subsistence farmers.



WILD CAT
CONSERVATION
CENTRE

FAST FACTS

Scientific Name: *Neofelis nebulosa*

Conversation Status: Vulnerable

Wild Population: < 10000

Body Length: 120 - 180cm (incl. tail)

Weight: 14-24kg

Gestation: 85 to 93 days

Number of Young: 1 to 5

Habitat: Primarily lowland tropical rainforests, also dry woodlands and secondary forest on occasions.

Distribution: Historically their range covered most of Southeast Asia from Nepal and Southern China through Thailand, Indonesia and Borneo. This range has been reduced due to habitat loss and poaching.

