



Geographical range

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Amazing Species: Pallas's Cat

<u>Pallas's Cat</u>, *Otocolobus manul*, is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. This small wild cat is widely distributed but rare, occurring primarily in the central Asian steppe grassland regions of Mongolia, China and the Tibetan Plateau. In Russia, it occurs sporadically in the Transcaucasus and Transbaikal regions.

A serious threat to the Pallas's Cat is the depletion of its food source brought about by the poisoning and over-hunting of its prey (pikas and marmots). Its habitat is also being widely degraded by over-grazing and agricultural practices. This species has long been hunted for its fur, with large annual harvests in China and Mongolia. However, since the 1980s, international trade in the cat's pelts has largely ceased. Pallas's Cats are killed by domestic dogs and often shot when mistaken for marmots which are commonly hunted.

The Pallas's Cat is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which strictly regulates international trade in its pelt, although law enforcement and protection are often limited by lack of funding. Hunting of this species has also been prohibited in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.







