

Cat Specialist Group



Co-Chairs: Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten & Urs Breitenmoser

We are based in Muri, Switzerland, and work in many different countries. We are affiliated with KORA, Switzerland.

The group has 201 members from 57 countries.

2011 Update

- Regional Red List assessment of the cats on the Arabian Peninsula.
- Regional Conservation Strategy for the leopard in the Caucasus ecoregion implementation workshop.
- Conservation monitoring course for the leopard, co-predators and prey in the Caucasus ecoregion.
- First Borneo Carnivore Symposium, Kota Kinabualu, Sabah, Malaysia.
- WWF Spain involvement in the Iberian lynx recovery program evaluation.
- Assessment of status and conservation needs of cats in Iran.
- Assessment of leopard reintroduction in Sochi area, Russia.
- Balkan lynx recovery programme extension to Kosovo & Montenegro initiated.

Success Stories

- Increased knowledge on status and conservation needs for many of the cat species in Borneo and in Iran.
- Driving the implementation of the Regional Conservation Strategy for the leopard in the Caucasus.
- Maintenance of a high profile for the Cat SG through products such as Cat News, the website and the Digital Cat Library.

Challenges

The world's focus is on charismatic big cats and spectacular projects. Half of all cat projects concern *Panthera* species (lion, tiger, jaguar, snow leopard and leopard), but we have very limited information about the distribution, trends and conservation needs of the remaining 32 cat species.

Future Goals

- Facilitate development and implementation of Conservation Strategies and Action Plans for threatened species / populations.
- Assess the status and conservation needs of cats in South Asia.
- Initiate cat conservation projects in NW Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.
- Recruit new members from under-represented regions.
- Review of felid taxonomy.
- Develop capacity via the Cat Conservation Course and in-country training where needed.



Photo: Naein DoE