

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Panthera unica* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Mammalia

1.2 Carnivora

1.3 Felidae

1.4 *Panthera unica* Schreber, 1775

1.5 Common names: Snow leopard (English)  
Schnee leopard (German)  
Léopard des neiges (French)  
Sniesnyj bars (Russian)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: High mountain massifs of Central Asia, in particular Himalayas. Northern boundary of range extends as far as Afghanistan, the USSR and Mongolia, southern boundary reaches as far as India and Pakistan.

2.2 Population: Few studies have been made; the data available suggest that the species occurs everywhere in "very small" numbers only (approx. one thousand or some thousand individuals), with the population trend being described as declining (as far as known).

2.3 Habitat: Inaccessible mountainous areas; in the summer: treeless, alpine and sub-alpine zones in regions with concentrated occurrence of rock goats; in the winter: southern slopes of mountains as far as the zone of mountain forests.

2.4 Migrations: The snow leopard hunts in very large districts and goes on seasonal (depending on snow cover and food supply) vertical migrations, often over large distances. Only part of the population, however, migrates beyond national borders (mountainous border regions).

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### 3. Threat data

- 3.1 Direct threat to the population: Pursued by the population (herdsmen), (trophy) hunting is less frequent (mostly illegal).
- 3.2 Habitat destruction: In recent times, it has partly become a custom for herdsmen to drive their cattle into higher-lying mountain areas which were formerly not used for grazing purposes.
- 3.3 Indirect threat: Strong decline in the number of large mountain mammals (i.a. as a result of hunting), which are the main food source of the snow leopard.
- 3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Since the migration routes are well-known and the time of migration can easily be determined, shooting is mostly successful during the animal's migration to lower-lying mountain areas.

### 4. Protection status and needs

- 4.1 National protection status: Legally protected in India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal and USSR but enforcement is difficult.
- 4.2 International protection status: Listed in Appendix I of the Washington Convention.
- 4.3 Additional protection needs: To set up protected zones in mountain areas (and to exempt large mammals indigenous to the area from hunting); to put an absolute ban on the shooting of snow leopards for commercial and sporting reasons (especially by hunters from rich industrial countries); to control the prohibition of trade more strictly; to restrict tourism in areas where the animal occurs; to inform the local mountain population, in particular the herdsmen; to pay compensation for losses of cattle, if necessary.

### 5. Range states

Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, USSR.

6. Comments from range states

None

7. Additional remarks

The species is listed in the IUCN Red Data Book (1978) as being "endangered" and in the Red Book of the USSR as being "threatened with extinction".

8. References

Goodwin et al. (1979): Red Data Book, Vol. 1 - Mammalia, Sheet 12.108.3.4

Grzimek, B. et al. (1968): Grzimek's Tierleben, Vol. 12. - Zürich (Kindler) - see pages 334-336

USSR Ministry of Agriculture (1978): Red Data Book of USSR. - Moscow (Lesnaja Prom.) - see pages 17-18