

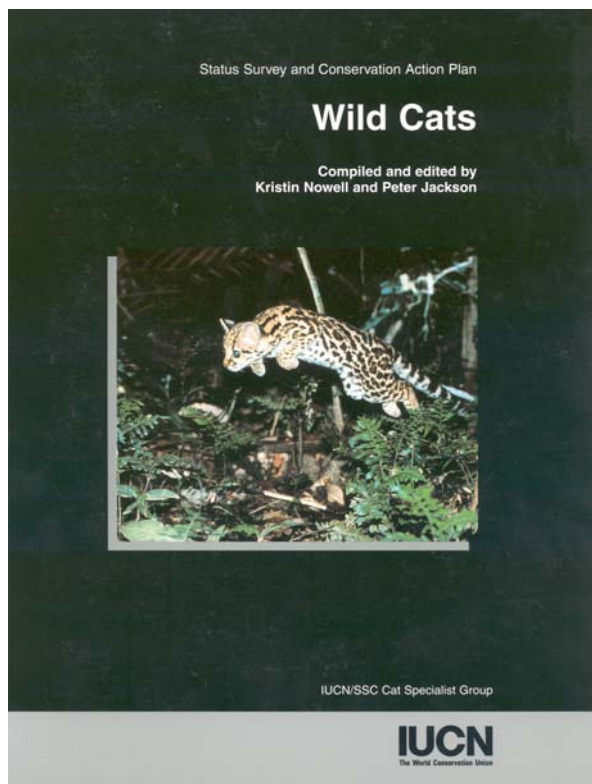
WILD CATS: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan

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.

for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is published twice a year, and is available to members and the Friends of the Cat Group. Cat Specialist Group KORA, Thunstrasse 31, 3074 Muri, Switzerland. The classification presently used by the Cat Specialist Group was published in *Wild Cats – Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* edited by K. Nowell and P. Jackson (published by IUCN 1996) and is based on the state of research in the early 1990s. Since then mainly studies using more advanced morphological, biogeographical and, foremost, molecular techniques have provided new insights into cat phylogeny and variation, suggesting several important changes with regard to species and subspecies, and the evolutionary relationships between genera and species.