International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on taxa that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are Data Deficient); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. are Near Threatened).

Classification	Description	Species
Critically Endangered (CR)	Population size fewer than 250 mature individuals; continuing decline; no subpopulation with more than 50 mature individuals; extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.	Iberian Lynx
Endangered (EN)	Population size fewer than 2,500 mature individuals; a continuing decline; no subpopulation estimated to contain more than 250 mature individuals; very high risk of extinction in the wild.	Tiger, Snow Leopard, bay cat, Andean cat
Vulnerable (VU)	Population fewer than 10,000 mature individuals; continuing decline; no subpopulation with more than 1,000 mature individuals; high risk of extinction in the wild.	African lion, cheetah, clouded leopard, Asiatic golden cat, African golden cat, Chinese mountain cat, black-footed cat, marbled cat, flat-headed cat, rusty-spotted cat, fishing cat, kodkod
Near Threatened (NT)	Do not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable now, but are close to qualifying in the near future.	Eurasian lynx, sand cat, manul, jaguar, puma, little spotted cat, pampas cat, Geoffroy's cat

Classification	Description	Species
Least Concern (LC)	Widespread and abundant.	Leopard, caracal, jungle cat, wild cat, serval, leopard cat, jaguarundi, ocelot, margay, Canada lynx, bobcat

Other Categories:

EXTINCT (EX)

A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)

A taxon is Extinct in the Wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed Extinct in the Wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

DATA DEFICIENT (DD)

A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that threatened classification is appropriate. It is important to make positive use of whatever data are available. In many cases great care should be exercised in choosing between DD and a threatened status. If the range of a taxon is suspected to be relatively circumscribed, and a considerable period of time has elapsed since the last record of the taxon, threatened status may well be justified.

NOT EVALUATED (NE)

A taxon is Not Evaluated when it is has not yet been evaluated against the criteria.