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Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Pampas Cat

The **Pampas Cat**, *Leopardus colocolo*, is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It occurs in central Brazil, and from the Peruvian Andes to south-western South America, where, as the name suggests, it is typically associated with pampas grasslands, although it can be found in a very broad range of habitats.

Until international trade ceased in 1987, the Pampas Cat was hunted extensively for pelts. Today, habitat destruction is likely to be the main threat, with much of the pampas grasslands having been converted to agriculture or heavily grazed. The Pampas Cat is also killed in retaliation for taking poultry, and for traditional cultural purposes in some areas.

Hunting of the Pampas Cat is prohibited in a number of countries, although the species currently receives no legal protection in Ecuador. The Pampas Cat occurs within a number of protected areas in Argentina, and a few protected areas within the Brazilian savannas (Cerrado). Further research into its ecology, taxonomy, and distribution has been recommended to help in its conservation.

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