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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Red Panda

The **Red Panda**, *Ailurus fulgens*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The taxonomic position of the Red Panda has sparked significant debate, but it is now assigned to a family of its own – Ailuridae. Red Pandas have no close living relatives, and their nearest fossil ancestors, *Parailurus*, lived 3-4 million years ago. This arboreal mammal has a scattered distribution across the Himalayas and mountainous regions of northern Myanmar and southern China.

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The principle threat to the Red Panda is the loss of its high-altitude forest habitat, due to logging, agriculture and firewood collection, to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing human population. It may also be hunted for its meat or fur which may be used in traditional dress. Hunting is a particularly significant problem in China.



The Red Panda is protected by law in most range states and occurs in a number of protected areas. However, outside of reserves, hunting of this species continues largely unabated and its habitat is dwindling. Improved protection of its remaining habitat and better law enforcement are crucial for the survival of this species.



Species of the Day is sponsored by



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