



## Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia*

**Geographical Range:** Mountains of central Asia, parts of Siberia and the Himalayan Mountains, usually above 8,000 feet.

**Habitat:** The snow leopard inhabits rocky mountain sides above the tree line and usually below the snow line.

**Exhibit Location:** The snow leopard can be found in the Vanishing Animals Exhibit.

**Physical Characteristics:** The fur coloration is whitish or grayish with a pattern of dark and indistinct rosettes on the upper parts. Well adapted to living in harsh climate, the snow leopard's long, thick coat is two inches thick along the back and tail and four inches thick on the belly to protect it from the cold. The feet are large and fur covered to help in locomotion across snow.

**Diet:** In the wild, they feed on ibex, markhor, wild sheep, and birds. In captivity they receive commercially prepared feline diet along with treats of hard bones, chopped liver, or chicken gizzards.

### Did you know?

- Snow leopards will wrap their tails around their face when sleeping in the winter to avoid frostbite.
- Since the 1970's, scientists estimate the snow leopard population to be approximately 500, including about 100 in captivity.
- It has been hunted for its fur and shot because it kills livestock.

**Status:** Endangered or threatened internationally – CITES and in the U.S., SSP