**Basic Information: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)**

**Names: Leopard**

**Identification pointers:** Large, stickily built cat; fur a russet yellow colour with rosette spots covering the body; lacks the black tear-drop lines of the cheetah; ears rounded; head large and powerful; sexes similar, males larger than females.

**Can be confused with:** cheetah, serval

**Activity period:** mainly nocturnal, but will occasionally hunt and patrol in the mornings and evenings.

**Length:** 180cm **Height:** 60-80cm **Weight:**  20-90kg

**Gestation period:** ±3 months

**Lifespan:** ±11-15 years

**Diet:** a huge variety of prey species including rodents, reptiles, birds, large mammals and even fish. Will also eat carrion.

**Predators:** Lions, hyaenas

**Preferred habitat:** Occur in most habitats from Southern Africa to East Asia

**Red List status:** Near threatened

**Population:** decreasing

**Threats:** Widely persecuted by livestock and wildlife farmers for real or perceived livestock killing. They often fall victim to shooting, poisoning and leg traps. Habitat loss is also a problem, but leopards can often survive in close proximity to people. Their body parts are used in traditional medicine, and their skins are used in traditional ceremonial dress.