Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*)

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

The African wildcat is the wild ancestor of the domestic tabby cat and is similar in appearance, but it has longer legs and a more upright seated posture, and their nose coloring is more pink. The wildcat is variable in appearance but is generally gray to buff; in some cases it can also be black or orange.

**Fun Facts:**

1. African wildcats have excellent night vision that is thought to be around seven times better than that of humans.

**Habitat**

Wildcats are found in a wide variety of habitats, from deserts and scrub grassland to dry and mixed forests. They are absent from rainforests and coniferous forests.

**Diet**

Rodents, small birds, amphibians, and insects

**Predators**

Other cats; large birds of prey, including owls and hawks

**Behavior**

African wildcats are solitary and primarily nocturnal. Female African wildcats defend a core area that sits within the territory of at least one male. Males’ territories will typically overlap with the ranges of three females. African wildcats have extremely sensitive hearing and are able to detect slight movements, which help make them such effective hunters.

**Breeding**

Wildcats typically breed once a year. After a gestation period of 56 to 60 days, females give birth to a litter of two to five kittens, usually during the rainy season.

**Size**

Length: 50-63 cm

Height: 35 cm

**Weight**

3-6.4 kg

**Life Span:** 12 to 15 years

**Gestation Period:** 56-60 days

**Average number of offspring:** 2-5