

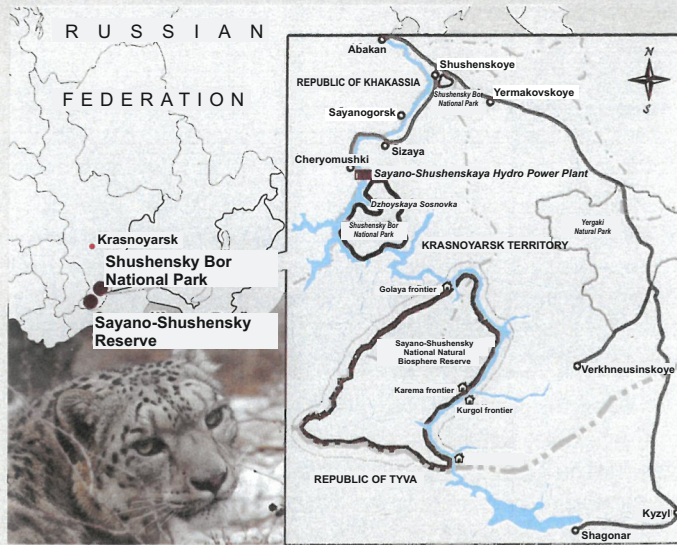


Ounce, or Snow Leopard, or Uncia (Latin: *Panthera uncia*; previously: *Uncia uncia*) is a large mammal predator from the cat family that can be found in the mountains of the Central Asia. It is listed in the IUCN Red Book (2000) as an endangered species.

The northern border of the Snow Leopard's Russian and global home range is the Sayano-Shushensky Reserve.



Snow Leopard is often called a "snow ghost" due to its stealthiness and subtle behavior.



### SAYANO-SHUSHENSKY RESERVE

The Sayano-Shushensky National Natural Biosphere Reserve is located in a difficult-to-access region of the Zapadny Sayan in the south of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, on the left bank of the Yenisey river, in the Sayano-Shushenskoye reservoir influence zone. Since 1985, the reserve forms part of the UNESCO biosphere reserve system. The area of the reserve equals to 3,904 km<sup>2</sup>.

Its wild life is abundant and diverse; the reserve is inhabited by 38 species listed in the Red Book of the Russian Federation and 195 species listed in the Red Book of the Krasnoyarsk Territory.

Our address: 7 Zapovednaya st., Shushenskoye, 662710  
Krasnoyarsk Territory.

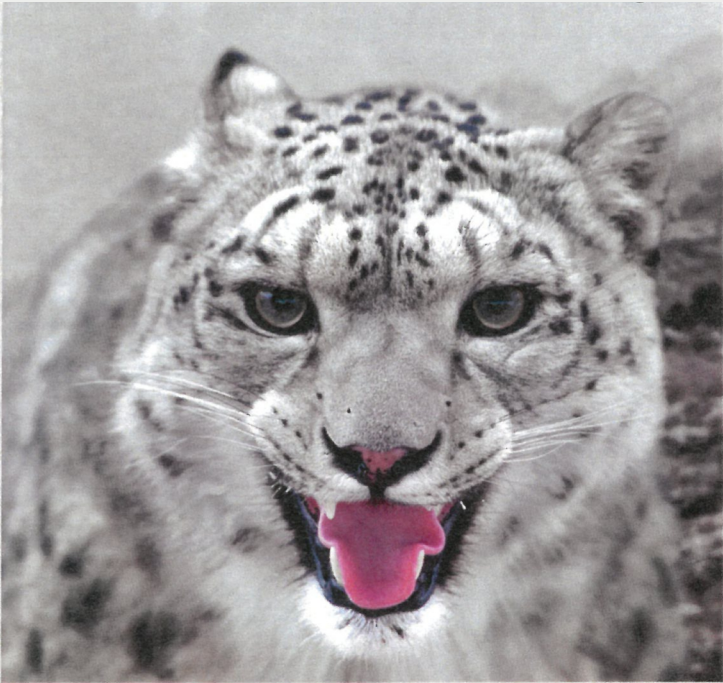
☎ 8 (39139) 3-18-81, e-mail: [zapoved7@yandex.ru](mailto:zapoved7@yandex.ru),  
[www: sayanzapoved.ru](http://www.sayanzapoved.ru)

Prepared and translated by: Oskar Tornqvist  
Photographs by: Roman Afanasyev; Sergey Chumakov;  
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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGY  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
JOINT DIRECTORATE OF THE SAYANO-SHUSHENSKY RESERVE  
AND THE SHUSHENSKY BOR NATURAL PARK



## SAYANO-SHUSHENSKY RESERVE – THE TERRITORY OF THE SNOW LEOPARD



FEDERAL SYSTEM  
OF PROTECTED  
AREAS







The reserve features a mountain terrain, including heights from 500 to 2,735 m. It is a unique habitat of Snow Leopard, because the species has been registered all over the world at a height over 1,500 m above sea level. Uncia is able to survive at a height of up to 6,000 m above sea level due to its strong constitution adaptable to severe environment conditions.

A thick coat protects it from cold weather, and its broad paws enable it to easily move across the snowbound land.



The major part of the reserve is covered with woods, where the core value is the Siberian pine. The area of the cedar woodland exceeds 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>.



Snow Leopard hunts singly, sneaking up or ambushing. When it is some tens of meters away from the prey Uncia jumps out from the hide and quickly catches the prey up in 6 to 7 meters long leaps. In case of a miss it chases after the prey for the maximum of 300 m or abandons the chase at all. Mountain goat, musk deer, roe deer, marmot, hare and Altai snowcock form the nutritional basics of Uncia in the Sayano-Shushensky Reserve. It is only in the summer when Uncia eats greens and grass in addition to the meat diet.



Snow Leopard is a lone animal, except during the mating season and the period when females bring up their cubs. Males do not see after their cubs, but stay around.



The main threat to the size of the Snow Leopard population in the Zapadny Sayan is loop-trapping of musk deer. In the loop traps set up to hunt musk deer other animals get caught, including Snow Leopard.

The federal program "Snow Leopard is a living symbol of the Zapadny Sayan" is being implemented in the Sayano-Shushensky Reserve, where scientific research and environmental protection measures are being conducted.



As of 2023, nine Snow Leopards live in the reserve. They are continuously recorded on wildlife trap cameras, and sometimes the reserve employees get to observe them visually.