

TURKMEN CARACAL: AN ENDANGERED MAMMAL

Tursunbayeva Sagila, Djumabayev Sherimmat, Ravupov Azamat
Oktog - Tomdi State Reserve

Abstract:

This article talks about the Turkmen caracal mammal, which is currently on the verge of extinction. The qualities of this animal and the reasons for its decline are explained.

Keywords: *Turkmen caracal, mammals, rare species.*

Introduction

There are animal species that we have never met before and may never see again because they are disappearing. One such species is the Turkmen caracal, which belongs to mammals. This species is on the verge of extinction. The Turkmen cat is a medium-sized wild cat native to the arid regions of the Middle East, Central Asia, and northwestern Pakistan and India. His body has an unusual structure. The legs and teeth are long, and the tail is relatively short. The ears are also long and hairy. Weight is about 8-19 kg. The length of the body is 40-50 cm.



Picture 1. The Turkmen caracal

The Turkmen caracal survives by hunting small rodents, rabbits, snakes and hedgehogs, and sometimes small ungulates. In the summer months, it comes out only at night. It lives mainly in desert and desert areas. As a result of human exploitation of the areas where it lives, and as a result of increased persecution, this species is considered to have decreased greatly. Also, the lack of food in the winter season, competition with animals such as foxes and wolves is the reason for the decline of this species. Currently, the Turkmen caracal is being bred in several zoos around the world. Representatives of this species mate in January-February. The gestation period lasts two and a half to three months. 2-4 leaves sometimes up to 6 offspring. Life expectancy in captivity is 16-19 years.

Only a few dozen representatives of this species have survived. Despite this, sometimes there are threats from people against this creature. In order to prevent the disappearance of the species, measures are being taken, such as conducting explanations and providing information among the population, creating suitable conditions for them in nature reserves in order to protect this species, and trying to breed from them. In particular, representatives of this species were taken under protection in Kyzylkum Reserve and Saigachiy Reserve.

On April 14, it was observed that a Turkmen blackbird fell into a photo trap installed in the territory of Oktog - Tomdi State Reserve.



Picture 2. Turkmen blackbird caught in a photo trap

This situation is evaluated as an opportunity for the preservation and reproduction of this species, and this situation has been taken into account by the administration of the reserve, and monitoring work is currently being carried out.

Conclusion

The Turkmen caracal, also known as the Persian lynx or the Asian caracal, is a species of wild cat found in Turkmenistan and other parts of Central Asia. They are distinguished by short reddish-golden fur and distinctive feathery ears. The Turkmen caracal is a solitary and elusive creature that preys mainly on small mammals and birds. Their population is now endangered due to habitat loss and hunting.

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