

## The Red Data Book

Species judged as threatened are listed by various agencies as well as by some private organizations. The most cited of these list is the Red Data Book. It is a loose-leaf volume of information on the status of many kinds of species. This volume is continually updated and is issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) located in Morges, Switzerland. "Red" of course is symbolic of the danger that these species both plants and animals presently experience throughout the globe. The Red Data Book was first issued in 1966 by the IUCN's Special Survival Commission as a guide for formulation, preservation and management of species listed. In this Book, information for endangered mammals and birds is more extensive than for other groups of animals and plants, coverage is also given to less prominent organisms facing extinction.

The pink pages in this publication include the critically endangered species. As the status of the animals changes, new pages are sent to the subscribers. Green pages are used for those species that were formerly endangered, but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened. With passing time, the number of pink pages continues to increase. There are pitifully few green pages.

Some of the species of animals and plants of Indian sub continent and neighbouring regions that have entered in the Red Data Book



### The Clouded Leopard:

Endangered species. The clouded leopard is protected throughout most of its range. Deforestation is the principle threat to the clouded leopard, although the seriousness depends upon further study of the species' tolerance of various degrees of forest clearance. The clouded leopard is also widely hunted for its teeth and pelt and for bones for the traditional Asian medicinal trade.



### The Nilgiri Tahr

In the district of Iddukki, Eravikulam, near Munnar is the home of Nilgiri Tahr(mountain goat). The tahrs that exist in the High Ranges in Kerala are a friendly lot. According to reports, the Tahr appears to have roamed at will in vast herds all over the grassy uplands of the higher plateau of the Nilgiris. By the closing years of the 19th century, uncontrolled hunting and poaching had however, reduced the tahr to such an extent that their numbers probably did not exceed a hundred.



### The golden lion tamarin

The golden lion tamarin's long, silky fur, particularly at the shoulders, gives it a lionlike mane. Tamarins are some of the smallest members of the primate family.



The Lion – tailed macaque

The lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*), named for its lion-like tail, is the most threatened primate in our rain forests. *Macaca silenus* seems unable to adapt to close proximity to humankind, preferring to live high in the treetops, rarely venturing down to the forest floor. The main threat to the lion-tailed macaque is the destruction of its habitat, occasional persecution as crop pests, as well as its unfortunate resemblance to Nilgiri langurs (*Trachypithecus johnii*) which are considered to have medicinal value.



The Malabar Civet Cat : The Malabar Large-spotted Civet 's original habitat was found in the Malabar Coast moist forests belt below the Western Ghats, where it lived in wooded plains and adjoining hill slopes. It was once very common in the coastal districts of Malabar and Travancore. Extensive deforestation has reduced the Malabar forests to a series of isolated patches. Cashew plantations are a refuge, which probably hold most of the surviving populations of the Malabar Large-spotted Civet, and are now threatened by large-scale clearance for rubber plantations.



The Red Panda: he red panda shares the giant panda's rainy, high-altitude forest habitat, but has a wider range. Red pandas are endangered, victims of deforestation. Their natural space is shrinking as more and more forests are destroyed by logging and the spread of agriculture.