

**Rare Animals and their Protection in the USSR//** Uzbekistan's Reservations and Natural Monuments. XIV General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1978. P.4.

Rare and disappearing animals in the USSR have been divided into two categories according to the risk of extinction. Category A comprises species whose numbers and habitats have sharply diminished and are continuing to diminish as a consequence of direct persecution, destruction of their habitat or other causes. These species cannot survive without man's active intervention. To preserve these animals special reservations must be organized or preserves set aside with especially strict regulations.

The **snow leopard** (*Pardus uncia*) inhabits the mountains of the Tien Shan range, Tarbagatai, Saur, Altai and the Sayans. Exploitation of mountain areas and depletion of stocks of wild ungulates (Siberian mountain goats and wild sheep) have led to a sharp reduction in the number of snow leopards. It is estimated that today only about one thousand leopards are left, and they have accordingly been placed under complete protection. Hunting and selective shooting are everywhere prohibited. Catching leopards is regulated by the articles of the international convention restricting trade in rare species of plants and animals.

Category B comprises the following rare species:

a) Species or subspecies rarely encountered anywhere in their area of habitation, species which are never numerous for natural reasons. As a rule, special measures are not required for the protection of such scanty species, but a constant watch must be kept on the situation throughout their area of habitation.

b) Species whose area of habitation is limited, either because they have become adapted to specific conditions found only in a small area, or for other reasons. Because of the vulnerability of such species, there must be constant monitoring of their numbers, and careful protection both of the animals themselves and the areas where they live.