

Red Panda

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ailuridae

Genus and Species:

Ailurus fulgens

They are the only species in this family!



Habitat and Range

- They reside in small mountain territories, that are above 4000m, in the bamboo forests of the Himalayan and Heng-Duan Mountains
- Their habitat extends through the regions of Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Southwest China
- They like areas with a high density of fallen logs and near water



Reproduction

- Mating occurs in late winter, gestation lasts for about 135 days, and cubs are born in June
- Cubs stay in the nest for about 90 days, after which they start to explore, and at 120 days, they are independent
- They are monogamous, and there is no paternal care in the wild, but fathers will play with their cubs in captivity



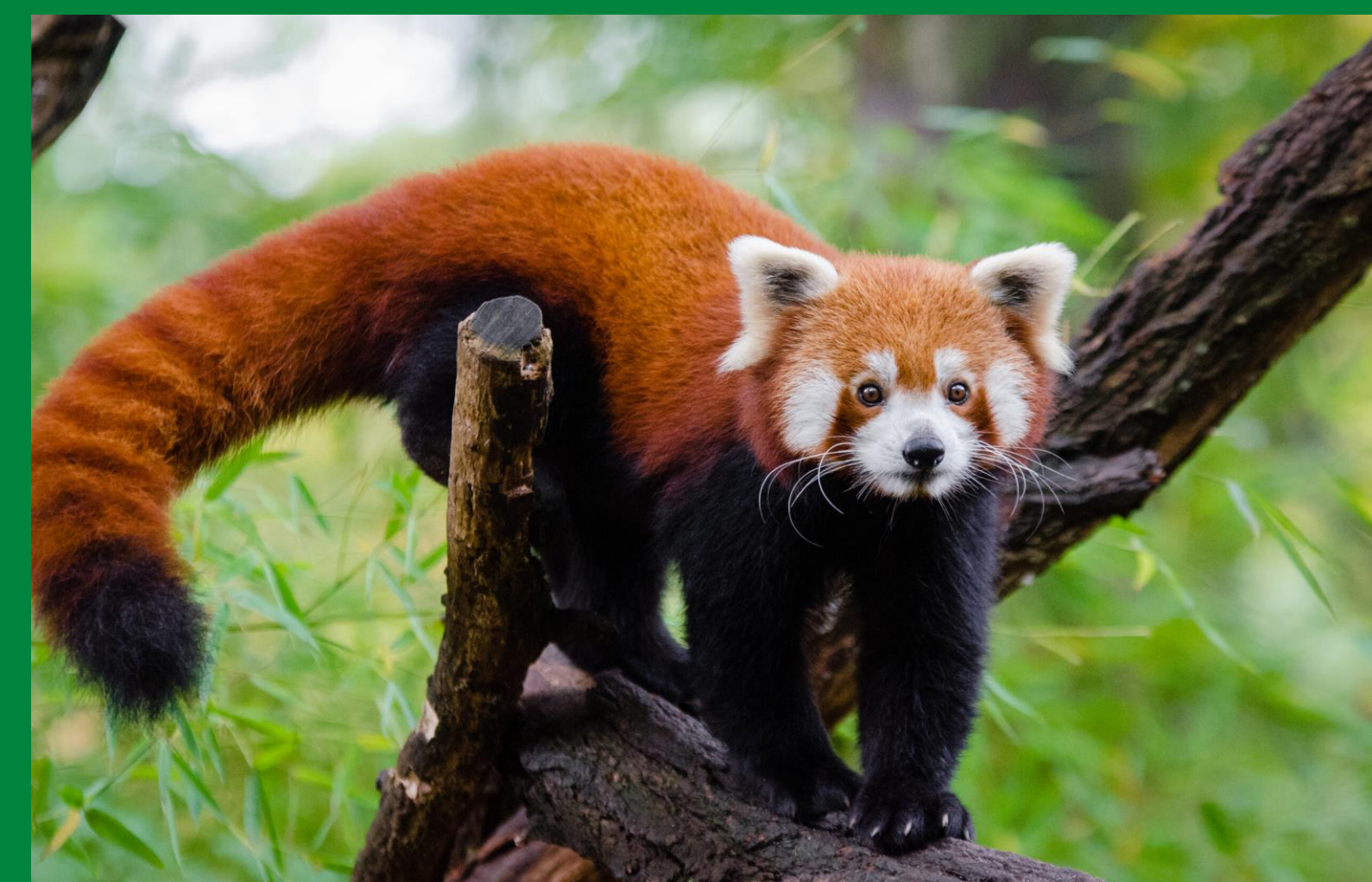
Conservation Status

- Endangered as of 2015
- Estimated to be less than 10,000 in the wild
- Some factors that endanger them are climate change, deforestation/habitat degradation, poaching and hunting and human expansion
- The population is estimated to have decreased by 40% over the last 50 years



Behavior

- Scansorial locomotion
- Solitary except for breeding season
- They use scent marking to mark their territory
- Spend most of their time in trees and are most active during dawn and dusk
- When aggressive, they will stand on their hind legs with their arms extended in order to lunge. This can also be used for playing when not aggressive
- Also use staring and huffing in order to communicate



Diet

- Their diet consists mainly of bamboo, with their favorite parts being the shoots and tender leaves
- They will also sometimes eat fruit and berries when available
- Even though they have a simple carnivore stomach, they are able to digest cellulose
- They only digest about 24% of the bamboo they eat, but are able to receive enough nutrients by eating up to 30% of their body weight daily



Conservation Efforts

- The Red Panda Network work with local communities that live alongside red pandas to ensure sustainable livelihoods and help them live harmoniously with each other

