

Small Wild Cat Conservation *News*

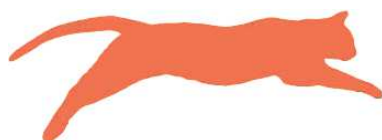
Proceedings

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11–14 September 2017, United Kingdom





Small Wild Cat Conservation *News*

The mission of Small Wild Cat Conservation News is to provide a timely outlet for conservation news from conservationists working together around the world to mitigate threats to small wild cat species. All issues are available for download free of charge at www.wild-cat.org/SWCCN.

You are welcome to submit manuscripts about small wild cats to swccn@wild-cat.org.

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The Aspinall Foundation and small wild cats: captive-breeding, habitat protection and conservation monitoring

Tony KING

The Aspinall Foundation is a registered charity founded in 1984 in the United Kingdom (UK), where it runs two wild animal parks, Howletts and Port Lympne. It has four overseas country offices, in Congo, Gabon, Indonesia and Madagascar, working primarily to conserve Gorillas *Gorilla*, Gibbons *Hylobates*, Langurs *Trachypithecus* and *Presbytis*, and Lemurs Lemuroidea. The Foundation also supports other conservation projects throughout the world through technical and financial support, and through provision of captive-bred animals for reintroduction programmes.



Clouded Leopard at Howletts. Photo credit: Tony King

The Aspinall Foundation has a strong history of captive-breeding of small wild cats, with 15 different species having been bred at the two parks in the UK. Breeding has been particularly successful with Clouded Leopard *Neofelis nebulosa* (>130 births), Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus* (>70 births), Rusty-spotted Cat *P. rubiginosus* (>40 births) and Pallas's Cat *Otocolobus manul* (>35 births). Such large numbers mean that lessons have been learnt from numerous pairs in terms of husbandry and behaviour. Our team's extensive experience is a global resource for advising on species breeding and veterinary issues.

The Aspinall Foundation's overseas conservation programmes protect extensive areas of small wild cat habitat, including two protected areas in the Batéké Plateau region of Congo and Gabon covering a combined total of 3,700 km² of forest-savannah mosaic. Wild cats that benefit from the habitat protection projects include Lion *Panthera leo*, Leopard *P. pardus*, African Golden Cat *Caracal aurata* and Serval *Leptailurus serval* in Gabon and Congo, with various melanistic and servaline forms of Serval recorded by camera-traps. In Indonesia our monitoring of primate reintroduction sites in Java has revealed the presence of Javan Leopard and of Sunda Leopard Cat *Prionailurus javanensis*. We have also unconfirmed reports of Javan Fishing Cat from one of our project sites.



African Golden Cat in the Batéké Plateau National Park, Gabon. Photo credit: The Aspinall Foundation



Serval in the Batéké Plateau National Park, Gabon. Photo credit: The Aspinall Foundation

The Aspinall Foundation is always open to new opportunities for collaboration, particularly regarding husbandry and captive-breeding advice, advice on health issues related to release projects, small wild cat population monitoring, and reintroduction projects.