

Himalayan Wolf

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The Himalayan Wolf has been officially categorized as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.



[Ref: DTE]

About Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*):

- The Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*) is a distinct **lupine predator** inhabiting the Himalayas.
- Initially puzzling taxonomically, recent studies have confirmed its **unique genetic lineage**.
- Genetically basal to the **Holarctic grey wolf**, it shares genetic markers with the **Tibetan, Mongolian, and African wolves**.
- No significant morphological differences are noted between **Himalayan and Tibetan wolves**.

Habitat and Distribution:

- Predominantly found **above 4,000 meters** in the **Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau, and Central Asian mountains**.
- Adapted to **low-oxygen environments**, differentiating it from other wolf species.

Population:

- The mature Himalayan Wolf population is estimated to be **2,275-3,792 individuals**.
- Across **Nepal, India, and the Tibetan Plateau**, all individuals are members of a single subpopulation.
- The Himalayan region of India is home to approximately **227-378 mature people**.

Threats

- **Habitat loss and degradation** are significant issues.
- Conflict with humans, primarily due to **livestock depredation**, is a major concern.
- Hybridization with **feral dogs**, particularly in **Ladakh** and **Spiti**, poses a growing threat.
- **Illegal hunting** for fur and body parts, despite legal protections in many range states.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable with an
- **CITES:** Appendix I