

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