



NDF WORKSHOP
WG 5 – Mammals
CASE STUDY 4 SUMMARY
Panthera pardus
Country – **South Africa**
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LEOPARD (*PANTHERA PARDUS*) CASE STUDY

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In 2004 South Africa applied for and received an increase in its CITES quota for legal take of leopards (*Panthera pardus*) from 75 to 150 individuals. In response to this proposed increased quota, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) conducted a multi-stakeholder Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2005 to evaluate the current status of leopards in South Africa and the potential impact of increased trophy hunting through an increased quota. Published data and expert opinion were used to estimate current population size, structure, carrying capacity and loss of leopards through legal and illegal take. An individual-based computer simulation model (Vortex) was used to project population viability under various harvest regimes. Although accurate demographic, population and harvest data are scarce, the model and process suggest that increased harvest may lead to local extinctions of leopards across portions of its range in South Africa given the best estimates of population size and potential illegal take. Additional data collection and monitoring are needed to accurately project the impact of legal harvest on leopard populations.