

### Spotted Cats in Danger

Despite stern warnings from leading conservationists, the fashion trade for coats, and other articles made of leopard, tiger, clouded leopard, and other spotted cats is still the main reason for their alarming decline. The hundreds of endangered cats for sale to foreign tourists in various shops throughout Bangkok provides dramatic evidence for their growing scarcity in Thailand's forests.

There are some encouraging signs in the campaign to save the endangered cats. Recently, the International Fur Trade Federation has banned trade totally in snow leopard, clouded leopard, and tiger, and for three years in leopard and cheetah. Commercial export of tiger and leopard skins from India has been banned for some time, and recently the tourist export of tiger and leopard skins has been outlawed. A United States Federal law, effective August 1970, prohibits the import of skins, and articles made from skins, of 246 endangered species. The export of leopard and cheetah skins has been outlawed in Kenya. The East African Wildlife Society has asked all governments and Heads of State to control or prohibit all imports of skins and other products from endangered spotted cats. The Furriers Joint Council of New York has decided to no longer cut, fashion, or fabricate skins of leopards, tigers, clouded leopards, and other endangered species.

Developments such as these give conservationists reason to feel optimistic that soon all governments and furrier organizations will live up to their responsibility to help protect and save the world's endangered cats.



Sumatran Rhinoceros.  
Drawn by:-  
Dr. Boonsong Lekagul

### Sumatran rhinos killed in Chaiyaphoom Province

The Forestry Department recently received word that three Sumatran Rhinoceroses (*Didermoceros sumatrensis*) had been killed in Chaiyaphoom Province in the northeastern part of Thailand. This news was received with some scepticism at first, since Sumatran rhinos had not been reported from the Northeast in many years; later investigations proved that there had indeed been a rhino kill.

These rhinos now exist only in very isolated jungle areas, because this is the only habitat left which is not occupied by man. There were an estimated 26 Sumatran rhinos left in Burma at last count, mostly in the Tenasserim Range along the Thai border; it is possible that these animals occasionally wander across the border into Thailand, and Karen tribesmen have reported sighting rhinos on the Thai side of the border. Sumatran rhinos are also rumored to exist in Krabi and

Trang Provinces, and there may still be some left in Chaiyaphoom.



Skins in Bangkok  
Tourist shop

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