



Red Panda

Unlike its name may suggest, the red panda is not closely related to the **giant panda**: as a member of the **Ailuridae** family, it is related to the **weasel**, the **raccoon** and the **skunk**. It is an **arboreal mammal** slightly larger than a domestic cat, native to the **Himalayas** and to Southwestern **China**. It mainly feeds on bamboo, even though it is **omnivorous**. It has recently been classified as an **endangered species**, as its population totals less than 10,000 wild individuals. Its decline is mainly caused by **habitat loss** (due to the increasing urbanization of forest areas in China) and **inbreeding depression**.



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