



Leopards have always been an integral part of SGNP and they do not follow man-made boundaries/maps and do venture outside the boundary. Sometimes people interpret merely their presence as dangerous, even if they have been using the area for years without harming anyone. The park and the leopards of Mumbai need your help to resolve these problems.

What worsens the conflict?

• A mob gathers around a leopard

If a desperate cat is cornered, it may attack someone in a bid to escape. Though a leopard can easily kill a person, they typically avoid people but may attack in self defence if it is cornered and surrounded. Thus always give it a way to go off and never surround a leopard.

• Pressurising the forest department to set up a trap cage

This intervention has the worst impact because as you remove leopards from an area, more of them will come in to fill the vacant territories. They may travel 100s of km effortlessly. A pattern has been observed whereby if you remove some individuals others come in and occupy the empty territory. Moreover, sometimes a mother is removed and her sub adult cub left behind, the cub may create more problems without the guidance of its mother, who would normally spend 2 to 3 years teaching the cub to hunt, avoid humans and other survival skills. So, if the leopards are living in an area without attacking humans, it is important that the same leopards be allowed to remain in the area, as they will not attack humans unless provoked.

• Poachers killing leopards

Like the situation explained above, if an adult leopard is poached or injured, we will have young cubs without a mother and that can have negative consequences for us.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Call the local police station if you anticipate a law and order situation or the police control room at 100 as well as the local fire station or the fire brigade control room at 101. Most often, it is a situation of humans cornering a desperate leopard and the police can help disperse the crowds.

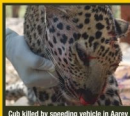
Control Room: 100, 022-22621855, 022-22621983, 022-22625020
 Borivali : 022-28906606, 022-28930145
 Aarey: 022-29272484, 022-29272494
 Dindoshi (Goregaon E): 022-28786300, 022-24691205

In case of a leopard emergency (say a leopard surrounded by mob or a person attacked), call:
 Sanjay Gandhi National Park control room: 022- 28866449.
 Thane Forest division control room number: 022-25445459.

Incase you're unable to reach any of the Control room numbers, please feel free to speak to our volunteers here:

Name	Location	Numbers
Rajesh Sanap	Aarey, Goregaon East	96649 87541
Sonu Singh	Mulund Darshan	9833678828
Yogesh Band	Borivali East	8097582519

Please follow speed limit in areas where leopards are present.



Cub killed by speeding vehicle in Aarey

Your residential areas/schools can help prevent accidents by erecting reflective boards stating the speed limit of 20 km/hr and by making rumble strips to reduce speed. If vehicles are moving slowly you could even have sightings of the leopards!



Living with Leopards

DO'S AND DON'TS TO MINIMISE CONFLICT

- ☑ Recognise that leopards are resident in the area and mere sightings do not translate into danger.
- ☑ Leopards do not recognise our maps of forest, national park, colony etc. However, they are sensitive enough to avoid contact with people and in fact do their best to avoid us.
- ☑ Be alert after dark (when leopards are active), especially ensuring that children are supervised by an adult if they are outdoor. You could also put on the music on the mobile phone so that it knows that the creature walking along is a human being which it goes out of its way to avoid.
- ☑ Do not move about alone after dark and ensure you have a companion. This will alert any leopard nearby and reduce any chance of you being mistaken for prey animal.
- ☑ If a leopard is sighted, give it right of way and allow it move off peacefully. Any loud actions or aggressive posturing may cause it to react with alarm (and panic), leading to unintended consequences.
- ☑ If a leopard is sighted in the area, do not form a crowd around it. Crowds invariably get excited and the mob behavior will cause the animal to panic and it might harm someone in its bid to escape. The forest department is responsible for managing the interactions between people and leopards but have little control over the movements of individual wild leopards.
- ☑ The only long term solution to avoid leopards within your colony or adjoining it is to ensure that garbage is disposed off well and that no feral dogs are present. If your colony has a dog then ensure its kennel is far away from the building because leopards are attracted to barking dogs from even 400 m away so they will come but once they know that the particular dog is well protected, they will decrease their incursions.
- ☑ Finally leopards do not recognise our man-made park boundaries and they will come outside the park - they always have. It is in our hands to reduce that attraction for them and it is in our hands to put pressure on the civic authorities to ensure better waste collection. The reduction in garbage which attracts dogs and pigs and the proper disposal of organic waste (including waste from butcher shops and *tabelas* in Aarey) can reduce leopard presence around your buildings.



CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE STUDIES



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