Fishing cats are wetland-adapted wild cat species and one of about 40 other species of wild cats like tigers, lions, pumas and bobcats.

As their name suggests, fishing cats prey on fish and other life forms (like crabs and even birds) found in lakes, rivers, and estuaries. However, a lot remains to be learned about this cat.
Fishing cats range across South and Southeast Asia, but in fragmented populations, including some yet to be discovered.

Where we work and have worked during 2014 – 2017

Extant (resident)  
Possibly Extant (resident)  
Presence Uncertain  
Presence Uncertain & Origin Uncertain
Fishing cats were listed as an **Endangered** species by the IUCN in 2008.

While further studies continue to help assess and re-assess their current status, they are still threatened by widespread **habitat loss** due to anthropogenic developments, illegal hunting (poaching), pet trade, and a general **lack of public awareness** across their known range.

**Mangrove forests**, which are probably **prime habitat** for fishing cats, not only provide local people with fish and protect entire communities from natural disasters like tsunamis, but also sequester more than five times the carbon as tropical forests.

But an estimated 50-80% of the historic coastal mangrove cover in South and Southeast Asia has been lost mainly to **agriculture** and **aquaculture**. Protecting the remaining mangrove areas is vital for the survival of both human and animal communities.
We work with **local communities**, and **build their capacity** to study, **protect and restore** their backyards to help **protect fishing cats** and their globally important **wetland and mangrove** habitat.
We explored, discovered, documented and mapped the presence of fishing cats in eight undesignated coastal mangrove patches outside protected areas.

We trained and equipped more than 20 local youth and adults (including tribals and forest personnel) in tracking, photographing, and reporting fishing cat-related evidence.

We setup 12 awareness sign boards and educated over 800 local people and schoolchildren in over 25 coastal villages about the importance of protecting fishing cats, sympatric species, and mangroves.

For more information check out our social media page and to help us out with our first zero-waste Conservation Education Center and long-term community-managed monitoring program, visit our website: www.fishingcatconservancy.org