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News: Arabian wolf and Arabian leopard

- At present times, both the Arabian wolf and Arabian leopard are critically endangered, with the leopard having lost 98% of its historical range and is believed to be extinct in its northern range, including the Negev and Judaeen deserts.

Arabian wolf

- The Arabian wolf is a **subspecies of the gray wolf**.
- The Arabian wolf holds the distinction of being the **world's smallest wolf, making it a unique and significant part of the region's wildlife**.

Geographical Spread

- These **wolves are native to the Arabian Peninsula, including regions such as the Negev Desert in southern Israel and parts of the Middle East**.

Significance

- In the **Negev Desert and Arava Valley of southern Israel, the Arabian wolf remains a resilient apex predator, playing a vital ecological role**. These **wolves are adapted to life in arid environments with limited productivity**.

- Arabian wolves are known to “suppress” populations of smaller canids like jackals and foxes, helping to regulate the ecosystem in the Negev Desert.
- These wolves are a crucial part of the desert ecosystem and contribute to maintaining herbivore populations and consuming carrion, which underscores their ecological importance.

Arabian Leopards

- The Arabian leopard is a critically endangered species native to the Arabian Peninsula.
- These leopards were historically found in various parts of the Arabian Peninsula, including the Negev and Judaeen deserts.

Geographical Spread

- Unfortunately, the status of the Arabian leopard in these regions is dire. A recent study published in 2023 reported that the Arabian leopard has lost most of its historical range, and its populations have become highly isolated and fragmented.
- In the Negev and Judaeen deserts, this species is considered extinct in its entire northern range.