



Press Release

Off and Away! Around the World for Conservation

The graceful snow leopard cub Naina is leaving the litter and moving from Berlin's animal park (Tierpark) to California. After Berlin, her first stop is Frankfurt, then Zurich, and finally Los Angeles. A journey in the name of conservation: Naina is part of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) and will be introduced to the young snow leopard male Karim (born on 8 July 2013 in Stuttgart Wilhelma Zoo) when she arrives in Rosamond, California.

From then on, she will be integral to the conservation mission at the "Feline Conservation Center" and hopefully add some playful cubs to the population of this endangered big cat species. Her new home is a zoo exclusively dedicated to breeding and studying wild cat species. "The conservation of endangered animals is very important for zoological gardens and takes place in a global, highly networked context. Now our snow leopardess Naina can play a small part towards the conservation of this fascinating and sadly heavily endangered species," stated Tierpark and Zoo director Dr Andreas Knieriem.

Naina and her sister Alya were born in Berlin's animal park on 27/05/2014, where up until now, they lived with their father Bataar (born on 30/04/2011) and mother Maya (born on 08/06/2011). The two cubs are the young snow leopard couple's first litter. Soon after Naina's departure, Alya will be saying goodbye to Berlin, too. As recommended by the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) and the American SSP programme (Species Survival Plan of the North American zoo association), she will be paired with a suitable mate, the young cub Moutig, in Como Park Zoo and Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota. "Once Naina and Alya move out, we hope the genetically valuable breeding pair will have more cubs again soon", declared curator Christian Kern.

All over the world, zoos are cooperating on a national and international scale to ensure the survival of endangered species by means of exchange. These so-called ex situ populations function as safe reserve populations for the endangered wildlife stock, but also as ambassadors for their wild counterparts in zoos. Naina is already the third native offspring of Berlin's animal park to travel to the USA for her honeymoon. In 2008, the Berlin snow leopard Askai left for the Bronx Zoo in New York and became the father of twins in Central Park Zoo in 2013. The factors of endangerment vary from region to region. Snow leopards are heavily endangered both due to illegal poaching and a reduction in the numbers of their prey, which has forced them turn to domestic animals, placing them in direct competition with humans. An estimated 4,000-6,500 animals still live in the wild in the Central Asian highlands. The North-Chinese leopard Buthan (born on 12/04/2010) is also moving to Thoiry Zoo in France today as part of the EEP. Buthan has lived in Berlin's animal park since 2012. His relocation will allow the construction work on the Alfred Brehm house to go forward. The animal park will have to part with this rarely kept leopard species for the duration of the renovation. The long-standing tradition of keeping North-Chinese leopards in the Tierpark Berlin, which has been ongoing since 1959, will be continued



in the planned Asian-themed area in generously sized enclosures, fully up-to-date with modern standards of animal care.

Published by Zoologischer Garten Berlin AG - press office -
Hardenbergplatz 8 - 10787 Berlin
presse@zoo-berlin.de - Telephone: +49 (0)30 - 25401-221 (Zoo) -
Telephone: +49 (0)30 - 51531-169 (Tierpark) -
www.zoo-berlin.de - www.tierpark-berlin.de