

# Rare Sri Lankan leopards born in French zoo

July 29 2014

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Two female Sri Lankan leopard cubs, born on July 1, 2014, play in their cage in Maubeuge zoo, northern France, on July 29, 2014. The Sri Lankan leopard is a threatened species, with an estimated 700 living in the wild and 65 in captivity

Two rare Sri Lankan leopard cubs have been born in a zoo in northern France, a boost for a sub-species that numbers only about 700 in the wild, the head of the facility said Tuesday.

"There are only a few of them in captivity with about 60 spread across some 20 European zoos," said Jimmy Ebel, of Maubeuge Zoo. "These

[leopards](#) are under great threat due to deforestation and poaching."

The cubs were born on July 1 at the zoo, close to the Belgian border, which houses about 300 animals including Asian elephants.

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