

Gobi Bear Facts

Mongolian name: Mazaalai

Size: 80-120 kgs, small compared to most bears

Colour: light brown with noticeably darker head, belly and legs; light stripe on the neck

Differs from brown bears of Europe & North America; same genetic structure as *Ursus isabellinus*

Location: 3 main areas in the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area in southwest Mongolia

Number in the wild: 22-28 (1/3 are females)

Number in captivity: 0

Status under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): very rare, critically threatened with extinction

Threats: Trophy hunting, harvesting for Chinese medicine, increasing illegal mining and loss of habitat due to climate change