



### About leopards :

- Leopards are very shy and secretive animals who are afraid of humans and avoid us
- Leopards stay in forests, tea gardens, agricultural fields and even near human habitations
- Leopards eat monkey, deer, hare, goats, dogs and cows
- Easy food like dogs, goats and cows bring leopards near human habitations
- Tea gardens provide food and shelter to leopards
- Tea gardens are home to leopards and resident leopard know how to avoid humans
- Capturing leopards from a tea garden will bring in new leopards to this empty home, new leopards may harm people accidentally since the area is unknown to the new animal
- Leopards released inside forests will try to come back to its home, on its way it will be very agitated and may cause damage to humans and also fight with other leopards on the way

### How to people and leopards share space safely:

- Leopards are scared of humans and do not consider humans are food
- All attacks on people in the tea gardens are in self defense when the leopard has no place to run away
- Tea gardens are home to people as well as leopards
- Removing leopards from tea gardens will mean new leopards will come, problem may increase and one can never remove all leopards from tea gardens just like how no quarter remains empty in a tea garden. As soon as people vacate it, new people come in and stay there.
- Leopards are protected by law, causing harm to them will attract penalty and even imprisonment

### How to avoid direct encounters with leopards:

- Direct encounters with leopards are most common while people are working in tea gardens
- Before starting work, make loud noises with tins or drums from one side, this will warn the leopard and it will move away.
- Always work from one side of the section so that other sides are open for leopards to move away
- Never chase a leopard or gather around it when it is seen, it will attack in self defense
- If cubs are seen in a section, please discontinue work in that particular section, check again after a week. Leopard mothers are very scared and protective and they keep moving their cubs from one place to another to protect them.
- Do not let children play outside homes in the tea sections after sunset and before sunrise, leopards are most active between 5 pm to 6 am
- Do not walk alone in the tea garden sections after dark, go in groups.
- If you are moving in the garden after dark, carry torch light and play song in mobile or talk in loud voices, this is warn the leopard and it will move away.
- Do not let goats and cows graze in tea garden, it attracts leopards. Protect them while grazing and also when they are at home so that leopards cannot get them easily
- Make sure only adults are engaged in herding goats and cows
- Do not hunt deer, hare or peacocks so that leopards have wild prey to eat