

ReadMe for Learning from the past to prepare for the future: Felids face continued threat from declining prey richness. By Sandom, Christopher, Faurby, Søren, Svenning, Jens, Burnham, Dawn, Dickman, Amy, Hinks, Amy, Macdonald, Ewan, Ripple, Bill, Williams, Jake, Macdonald, David.

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This readme file describes the data files for the publication listed above.

“Felid mammalian prey over present-natural range” is a dataset listing all the mammals that occur in each extant and recently extinct felid’s present-natural range. Based on data collected in Sandom et al. 2017 Deconstructed cat communities: quantifying the threat to felids from prey defaunation, Diversity and Distributions, the importance as prey of each mammalian species for each felid was estimated and recorded under DietCategory. See the paper and supplementary methods for full details.

| Variable name | Variable definition | Units | Storage type | Range numeric values | Categorical variables | Missing value codes |
|----------------|--|-------|--------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| ID | Numerical identifier for the diet record. | N/a | Character | 1 - 33480 | N/a | NA |
| Felid | Binomial of the felid. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| Prey | Binomial of the prey item. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| PreyOrder | Taxonomic order of prey item. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| PreyFamily | Taxonomic family of prey item. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| PreyGenus | Taxonomic genus of prey item. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| PreySpecies | Species epithet of prey item. | N/a | Character | N/a | N/a | NA |
| PreyMass | Mass of the prey-species. Source: (Faurby & Svenning, 2016). | kg | Character | 0.0016 - 8000 | N/a | NA |
| DietCategory | Categorical variable of prey items importance to the felid. | N/a | Character | 1 - 4 | 1 = Primary, 2 = Secondary, 3 = Occasional, 4 = Non-Prey | NA |
| DataQuality | Taxonomic level the prey item was reported at. | N/a | Character | N/a | Species, Genus, Family, Order, Extrapolated | NA |
| FelidMass | Mass of the felid-species. Source: (Faurby & Svenning, 2016) | kg | Character | 1.3 – 433.2 | N/a | NA |
| PreyThreatened | Categorical variable indicating the IUCN threat status of the prey species. | N/a | Character | 0 - 1 | 0 = Not threatened, 1 = Threatened | NA |
| PreyDecreasing | Categorical variable indicating the IUCN declining status of the prey species. | N/a | Character | 0 - 1 | 0 = Not declining, 1 = Declining | NA |