

DAGINA



IMAGE CREDIT: BEZHAD LARRY



LOCATION:

Tost region of
Mongolia

SPECIES:

Snow Leopard

GENDER:

Female

YEAR OF BIRTH:

2009

NICKNAME:

'Super Mom'

Dagina is one of the most well studied snow leopards in history, she has been tracked by our ground-based conservation partners the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) since her birth in 2009.

She was first encountered as a 2-month old cub with her mum Agnes on the very edge of Mongolia's Tost Tosonbumba mountains, in a very barren and desolate area. Despite her harsh surroundings, Dagina developed into an independent adult, after leaving her mum, she found and settled down in her own nearby territory.

In 2012, Dagina was fitted with her first GPS collar for monitoring. In Dagina's territory her preferred prey is hard to come by, and there are surprisingly few of the steep, rugged cliffs which these elusive big cat's like to use for shelter or to wait in ambush. It's a habitat that no one would have considered suitable for a snow leopard – however Dagina has proven us all wrong by finding innovative ways to live in these harsh conditions.

Since then, Dagina has not only survived, but thrived and has welcomed four known litters of cubs, the first being in 2012, followed by three cubs in 2014. Once these cubs reached adulthood and moved off on their own in 2016,

Dagina spent some time alone and was fitted with a new collar to get further insights into her life. In 2017, at the age of 8, Dagina gave birth to another two cubs, followed by her latest litter of three cubs in 2019. These events make her the oldest known snow leopard mother in the wild, giving birth to her fourth litter at 10 years old. In 2019, it was confirmed that her latest three cubs were doing well and had started to explore the great outdoors with their mother.

Now 12 years old, Dagina is still going strong and continues to contribute to cutting-edge science allowing conservationists to better understand and protect their species. Scientists previously had very little data on snow leopard behaviour but Dagina has provided vital information to help broaden our understanding of her species, providing insights about where snow leopards can survive and crucial insights into breeding behaviours.

As we follow Dagina's incredible story, we recognise that her legacy will live on for generations and our partners will continue to monitor and protect them for as long as possible. With your help, by adopting Dagina, this vital work can continue.