

Programs to Expand Thanks to Annual Appeal Funds

The International Snow Leopard Trust wishes to thank all of its members who contributed to the 2000 annual appeal. Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$50,000 for our snow leopard conservation programs. This money is sorely needed, as the plight of the snow leopards is still quite bleak. Current estimates of worldwide snow leopard populations in the wild have only 3,500 - 7,000 of these beautiful cats remaining. Despite the efforts of ISLT and our partner organizations World Wide Fund for Nature in Pakistan, India's Nature Conservation Foundation, central Asia's Asia-Irbis, and the Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and the Environment (MACNE), there is still much to be done if we are to ensure the survival of the ghosts of the Himalayas.

The monies donated in the Annual Appeal will go to support a variety of new pro-

grams and expansion of existing ones. The situation in the Kyrgyz Republic of the former Soviet Union is especially troubling (see story on page 3). While ISLT will continue to work on ensuring the success of programs in countries where we are already established, the level of poaching in the Kyrgyz Republic demands that ISLT initiate conservation efforts there immediately.

Existing programs in China, India, Mongolia, and Pakistan will undergo significant expansion in the coming year thanks to the support of our members. A new Snow Leopard Conservationist (SLe), Charudutt Mishra, has been hired in India to develop a

comprehensive conservation program by working closely with people living in snow leopard habitat. The success of the Irbis Enterprises conservation incentive model makes it a prime choice for a program to be expanded, both to other areas of Mongolia (the country where it was initiated in 1998), as well as to other countries.

In Mongolia, through collaborations with Peace Corps, MACNE, and WWF-Mongolia, we will continue to monitor snow leopard populations through country-wide SLIMS surveys and research, especially in areas where Irbis Enterprises is active. Plans for ISLT's Pakistan programs include the new strategy of introducing improved guard dogs to protect livestock from snow leopards and thus reduce potential for conflict, as well as the expansion of Irbis Enterprises. In China, ISLT hopes to hire another staff member to conduct SLIMS surveys in selected sites in country.

Thanks to the vital support of our members who responded to our Annual Appeal, our programs will grow and diversify as our mission to save the endangered snow leopard continues.

Zoo and ISLT Mark Passing of Snow Leopard Cub

The International Snow Leopard Trust and Woodland Park Zoo mournfully mark the passing of Manas, a 7 month-old male snow leopard cub that was born at Woodland Park Zoo on May 28, 2000. The cub passed away on December 19, 2000 after a month-long fight with a rare form of cancer. He leaves behind his parents, Vaz and Nadia, and two littermates, veterinary oncologist Dr. Kerri Meleo. Together the team decided the best way to approach the disease was to surgically remove the tumor, and then follow up with a form of radiation therapy.

Immediately, the staff had to consider how the best to proceed. Zoo Associate Veterinarian Darin Collins, DVM says "we wanted to ensure that the cancer treatment procedure we decided upon would result in Manas being able to live as normal a life as possible."

Dr. Collins and zoo staff conferred with his parents, Vaz and Nadia, and two consulting zoo surgeon Dr. Ken Sinibaldi and littermates, veterinary oncologist Dr. Kerri Meleo. Together the team decided the best way to approach the disease was to surgically remove the tumor, and then follow up with a form of radiation therapy.

The zoo's contact with Dr. Meleo led to the addition of another member to the team in working to save Manas's life, the University of Washington Radiation Oncology Department of 2000.

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Irbis Enterprises National Coordinator Visits Seattle

Stock Gifts to ISLT

by Priscilla Allen ISLT P.O.

In January of this year, a lucky travel schedule and a generous contribution from a snow leopard fan brought Aiyararga, the national coordinator of Irbis Enterprises in Mongolia, to Seattle for a few days. Aiyara met with ISLT founder Helen Freeman, spent many hours planning and plotting with Priscilla Allen, ISLT Program Officer, and even squeezed in a short trip outside Seattle into cougar habitat. State wildlife officer Rocky Spencer took us around to see areas where there is poten-

tial for conflict between people and this great cat: inadequate livestock protection, or inappropriate housing developments. It was a great opportunity to discuss the challenge of finding ways for humans and predators to co-exist. We hope to build on this idea to develop educational materials that focus on the issue, and draw together communities from all ecosystems that contain large predators

*Top: Aiyara with Rocky Spencer
Left: ISLT founder Helen Freeman meets with Aiyara*

A Raffle for the Snow Leopard

by Dorothy McLean (ag'),
Wellington, New Zealand

This Christmas I organized a raffle to help raise money for the International Snow Leopard Trust. I had seen the story in their newsletter about Woodland Park Zoo prom-

ets on New Year's Eve at a family party. The raffle was drawn at midnight. My grandmother and my second cousin won the prizes. My Dad sent the money to the Trust over the Internet. It was altogether \$50 American.

I did this because snow leopards are one of my favourite animals. They are beautiful and I feel sorry for them because they are endangered. There are only 3,500 left in the wild. I don't want them to become extinct. I hope my money will make a difference.

Editor's Note - The staff here at the Trust are very grateful for Dorothy's help and will continue the fight to save the endangered snow leopards throughout their mountain kingdom.

70-year-old Dorothy McLean of New Zealand pulls the winning names in a raffle she organized to benefit ISLT.

ising that they would match up to \$65,000 that the Trust could raise. I decided to raise some money myself. I set up a raffle, selling 110 tickets at NZ\$1 each.

There were two prizes; each one was a box of Rose's chocolates which cost \$5 each. I sold a large percentage of the tick-

Several ISLT supporters were generous enough to enhance their charitable giving by donating stock to help support the Trust's programs. ISLT would like to extend a warm and sincere thank you to the following members who made much-appreciated stock gifts:

**Bob Pennell a Addi Brooks
Gordon and Kaysea Ray
Sandra Moss
Steven Kearsley
Ruth Redington**

Gifts of stock are always welcome and can be an advantageous way to support a charitable cause. People who make donations of stock may be eligible for tax deductions based upon the current value of the stock, and they can avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated securities.

How to donate:

Contact us via phone (206-632-2421) or email (info@snowleopard.org) and let us know the name of the stock and the number of shares you wish to donate. We need this information to process a receipt for you. You can also contact our investment advisor to make the donation:

Dain Rauscher Investment Services, Mr. Dick Glassburn, 1201 Third Ave., Suite 2500, Seattle, WA 98101, (800) 766-3246, (206) 621-3242

The information you will need to make the transfer is:

International Snow Leopard Trust
Dain Rauscher Acct. #:

1101-4261-6545

DTC#:0235

ISLT Tax ID#: 91-1144119

ISLT Wants You!

ISLT is looking for dedicated supports to serve as state or regional representatives for the Trust. Duties will include facilitating outreach, raising funds and educational programs.

We would appreciate volunteers from any part of the country, but are espe-

cially interested in finding people in the Calgary, Des Moines, Sacramento, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Columbus, San Antonio or San Diego areas.

Please contact the Trust for further information!

Situation Worsens in Kyrgyz Republic

What was once believed to be the area of the former Soviet Union with the highest population of snow leopards is now considered by many to be a snow leopard "population sink." Excessive poaching in the

Kyrgyz Republic has led to a serious decline in the leopard's numbers, and few measures have been taken to reverse this trend.

Widespread poverty in the rural areas of the Republic makes depredation of livestock by snow leopards intolerable to local herders, who retaliate by hunting down the offending cats. Retaliatory killings are but one form of poaching, however. The high levels of poverty following the breakup of the

Soviet Union also contribute to the increase in the peddling of snow leopard pelts and bones, a practice that has become an attractive source of income. The increase in trade with neighboring China, where snow leopard bones are in high demand for use in traditional medicines, has created a viable market for trafficking in these illegal goods.

The poaching that took place in the 1990's reduced the snow leopard populations in this area by as much as 75%. Current estimates place the number of snow leopards residing in the Kyrgyz Republic at as few as 150-200 cats'.

The International Snow Leopard Trust has made conservation efforts in the Kyrgyz Republic

Passing of Snow Leopard Cub

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ment. Radiation treatments were prescribed twice daily for three days and required the sedation of the cat and delivery to the University's facilities, once in the morning and once in the evening of each day.

Although the incredible efforts from this diverse team were not able to save Manas, they were appreciated by everyone following the story. According to Zoo Director Mike Waller, "we knew the cub's prognosis was

public one of its highest priorities for 2001.

ISLT sees the Kyrgyz Republic as a priority for expansion of the successful Irbis Enterprises model. Many of the same challenges facing the snow leopard's survival

in Mongolia, where Irbis Enterprises was developed, are present here as well. In addition to providing an economic incentive for conservation, the program offers an opportunity to educate local people of the positive aspects of having a healthy ecosystem, including a robust snow leopard population.

ISLT's plans in the Kyrgyz Republic also include initiating data collection programs using SLIMS (Snow Leopard Information Management System) to verify current population estimates and to create a baseline to monitor population

growth or decline. The monitoring of snow leopard prey species populations and the hiring of a Snow Leopard Conservationist in this region are also priorities.

With the continued support of our members, we hope to initiate programs in the Kyrgyz Republic that will make both an immediate and a long lasting impact on the survival of these beautiful cats.

(Statistical information was gathered from the work of Evgeniy Koshkarev, a member of the Conservation Program Planning Board of the International Snow Leopard Trust and Vitaly Vyrypaev, member of Asia-Irbis, International Research Group).

guarded, but we remained very optimistic about its survival. The zoo is extremely grateful to the University of Washington, the International Snow Leopard Trust, and Dr. Sinibaldi and Dr. Meleo for all of their help trying to save this genetically important cub:

It is truly a sorrowful occasion when one of these beautiful, endangered cats is lost. Several of our members were kind enough to make donations in his memory. For that, we wish to express our most sincere thanks.

ISLT Wish List

We make every effort to use our funds as wisely as possible, so before purchasing new products or services we want to first check with you in case you have access to some of the items on our list, or are willing to provide services on a volunteer basis. The following is the Trust's current wish list that you may be able to help with:

- New or Used Color Laser Printer
- New or Used Computer projector to show powerpoint Presentation
- Volunteer to help create a professional Video (most footage is already shot - we need help editing and adding voice-overs)
- Volunteer Graphic Artist to create booth for use at events and to develop Irbis Enterprises marketing materials
- GPS units with computer-link compatibility
- Spotting scopes (variable, i.e. 15x-45x power)
- Compact binoculars (8x or 10x power)
- Slide projector (220 volt for use overseas)
- Slide projector (110 volt for use in USA)
- Frequent Flyer Miles (Preferably with Northwest, Alaskan Air, American, or United Airlines)

If you have an item to donate or would like to volunteer, please contact Owen Rogers at 206-632-2421 or send an email to: info@snowleopard.org

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