

Resolutions Conservation of Snow Leopard, Seventh International Snow Leopard Symposium

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PREAMBLE:

Recognizing the snow leopard as an indicator species of its high altitude ecosystem, we, the participants of the Seventh International Snow Leopard Symposium, recommend the following conservation programs on an international scale and endorse the basis of collective participation to carry out such programs:

1. Based on critical habitat and ecological needs, possibilities should be explored to identify and establish **transboundary parks**, both across province boundaries within each snow leopard country and between adjoining countries, with particular notice regarding the Khunjerab National Park and the Taxkorgan Nature Reserve on the PakistanChina border. Other transboundary examples are the Sagarmatha and the MakaluBarun National Parks in Nepal and Qomolangma Nature Preserve in Tibetan China.
2. In view of both national and international **trade in snow leopards and their parts**, the symposium urges all countries to enact legislation, if it is not already existing, and actively enforce hunting laws and CITES rules, and to train, educate and equip all officials responsible for preserving and managing such wildlife laws.
3. Because of the fragmented nature of snow leopard populations, the symposium urges all countries having snow leopard populations to join the **Snow Leopard Information Management System (SLIMS)** for gathering fundamental data which could then be used in critical and crucial decisions regarding the conservation and management of snow leopard reserves.
4. Realizing the critical role of communities, especially graziers, in the overall survival of snow leopard, the symposium urges all governments in the snow leopard zones to initiate **ecodevelopment programs** within and around parks for the economic uplift of such communities, so that the existing conflict between local communities and snow leopard conservation can be mitigated and subsequently resolved.
5. Realizing the significance of livestock losses because of snow leopard predation, the symposium urges all respective governments in the snow leopard zones to explore appropriate ways of **incentives** for livestock owners who suffer losses because of such snow leopard predation.
6. Certain countries in the snow leopard zones, as well as certain provinces within a country (such as Qinghai Province in China) have no **specific conservation programs for snow leopard**. Such programs should be initiated, with the help of international funding agencies if local full funding is not available.
7. On the request of the Russian delegation to the Seventh International Snow Leopard Symposium, the Mongolian scientists will study the feasibility of creating a **corridor between GobiAltai and Southern Siberia**. If feasible, a proposal will be prepared for the legal establishment of such corridor.
8. Keeping in view the importance of the Altai Mountains for snow leopards, the symposium urges the government of **Mongolia** to continue its bioecological studies there.
9. Keeping in view the availability of good snow leopard populations in all of the **former socialistoriented countries**, the symposium urges these new governments to initiate joint cooperative programs for the conservation and management of snow leopards and their habitat.
10. Realizing the importance of the Kokoxili area in China as habitat of rare animals such as snow leopard, wild ass, Tibetan gazelle, wild yak, etc., the symposium urges the government of the Peoples Republic of China to create a **nature reserve in Qinghai Province**, this reserve to cover approximately 83,500 sq. km. (39 degrees, 20 minutes to 36 degrees north latitude, 89 degrees 30 minutes to 93 degrees east), and to also consider the following reserves in Sichuan and Gansu Provinces:

- * Arksai County Snow Leopard Reservation Area
- * Liqiaru Snow Leopard Area
- * Arba Snow Leopard Reservation Area
- * Ganzi Snow Leopard Reservation Area
- * Baoxin Snow Leopard Reservation Area

11. Realizing the proven and potential negative impacts of organochlorines and other related compounds on upper trophic level predators such as snow leopard, the symposium urges countries in the snow leopard zones, especially the Himalayan region, to abandon the use of such **toxic and persistent pesticides**.
12. Realizing the fact that most of the nature reserves and national parks in the snow leopard zones have no management plans, the symposium urges all the governments to initiate efforts to **develop and implement management plans** (e.g., the participants emphasized implementation of the management plan developed for the Pin Valley National Park in India).
13. Realizing the **need for cooperative efforts both in the wild and captivity** to protect snow leopards, the symposium urges all governments, institutions and scientists working on snow leopards to exchange information and material.
14. Considering the abundance of captive snow leopards and the high genetic variability now existing in zoos of North America and Europe, the symposium encourages the zoos in the above regions to assist all **qualified zoological gardens to obtain their snow leopards through cooperative captive programs** before considering taking them from the wild.
15. Realizing the fact that most of the Resolutions of the Snow Leopard Symposia have been difficult to implement and monitor, the participants of the Seventh International Snow Leopard Symposium urge the International Snow Leopard Trust to create a **monitoring committee to assess the status of the followthrough on the Resolutions and to report their status at subsequent symposia**.