

RESOLUTIONS CONSERVATION OF SNOW LEOPARD

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SNOW LEOPARD SYMPOSIUM

PREAMBLE:

Recognizing the snow leopard as the symbol of fragile high altitude ecosystems, we, the participants of the Fifth International Snow Leopard Symposium, resolve the necessity for the following snow leopard conservation program on an international scale and on the basis of collective participation.

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION STATUS OF SNOW LEOPARDS AND THEIR HABITAT

- 1.1. Identification of high altitude habitat types across the range of distribution.
- 1.2. Review of existing protected areas by countries, identifying gaps or deficiencies in boundaries or in size.
- 1.3. Identification of new areas to fill up gaps and to include good habitats currently not protected.
- 1.4. Evaluation of management of protected areas and identification of deficiencies.
- 1.5. Evaluation of habitat quality outside protected areas as dispersal space for young adults and as corridors between protected areas in contiguous habitat ranges.
- 1.6. Status surveys of habitat conditions, prey species and snow leopard.

2. THREATS TO SNOW LEOPARD

- 2.1. Diversion of habitat to agriculture, which is irreversible, leading to fragmentation.
- 2.2. Degradation of habitat by over-use, particularly pasturing of livestock.
- 2.3. Disturbance of habitat from development and other related activities.
- 2.4. Poaching of prey and snow leopard.
- 2.5. Retaliatory killing by villagers.
- 2.6. Fur trade.
- 2.7. Unregulated tourism.

3. RESEARCH AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Conservation-oriented field research identified by the range countries as necessary to enhance understanding of the snow leopard, its habitat, prey, and related human activities, etc.. with a view to improving management.

3.2. Identification of other research needs by the countries concerned in the light of evaluation of snow leopard status and threats to its survival.

3.3. Simultaneous, multidisciplinary studies in different habitat types, taking samples of satisfactory and deteriorating areas.

3.4. Research in ecodevelopment measures and alternative livelihoods for local people and migrant graziers, so as to minimize pressures on habitat areas inside and outside protected areas.

3.5. Training of field research workers in range countries in techniques and methodology of survey, research, monitoring and evaluation.

3.6. Establishment of a data base supported by regular monitoring to ensure that it is up-to-date.

3.7. Establishment of channels of communication for two-way exchange of information between international and national data banks.

4. CONSERVATION ACTION

4.1. Establishment of additional protected areas, having regard to the need to maintain biome diversity and geographic distribution.

4.2. Development and implementation of snow leopard conservation programs by range countries in ways best suited to national perspectives and contributing to the objective of preserving viable populations of snow leopard in their natural ecosystems.

4.3. Communication of the rationale behind snow leopard conservation and of the value accruing to humans from protection of high altitude ecosystems to people at all levels of the community, including decision makers.

4.4. Launching of programs of ecodevelopment involving local people in selected protected areas in order to provide a model for other protected areas.

5. CAPTIVE BREEDING

5.1. Captive breeding of snow leopards as an Important means of sustaining the species as a hedge against extinction in the wild; for biological research needed to support conservation measures; and for display in naturalistic enclosures to promote public interest and support for snow leopard conservation.

(The Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Ministry of the Environment and Forest, Government of India, declares that sufficient captive-bred stock with a diverse gene pool already exists to sustain captive breeding programs, and that from time to time snow leopards will come into captivity, thus obviating the need for deliberate capture

from the wild. The Government of India, therefore, would not endorse capture from the wild for captive breeding.)

NOTE: It was agreed that the highest priority should be accorded equally to items 1.3 and 3.2. as follows:

1.3. Identification of new areas to fill up gaps and to include good habitats currently not protected.

3.1. Conservation-oriented field research identified by the range countries as necessary to enhance understanding of the snow leopard. its habitat, prey, and related human activities, etc.. with a view to improving management.