

Transboundary Protected Areas and Snow Leopard Conservation

Full Text:

Introduction

The snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) inhabits some of the most remote and inhospitable terrain in the world - the mountains of Central Asia, notably the Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Himalaya in the south, Pamir and Tien Shan in the west, and the Altai and Transaltai Gobi in the north (Green 1989). As these high mountain ranges form the frontiers between many of the 13 countries that lie within the snow leopard's distribution, transfrontier conservation initiatives, such as the establishment and collaborative management of protected areas across a common border, are crucially important for the future survival of this and other widely ranging species.

The potential for transboundary protected areas to promote peace, conserve biodiversity and maintain cultural values is receiving increasing prominence within the programmes of international conservation agencies such as IUCN (Thorsell 1990; Arends et al. 1995; Cerovsky 1996; Hamilton et al. 1996), UNEP (Westing 1993), Wildlife Conservation Society (Ji and Rabinowitz 1995) and the International Snow Leopard Trust (this and previous symposia). A total of 70 locations where protected areas meet across international borders were originally identified by Thorsell and Harrison (1990), but well over 100 such locations have since been recorded as part of an ongoing review (D. Zbicz pers. comm.).

The purpose of this paper is to assess the importance of transboundary protected areas for conserving the snow leopard, an endangered species (IUCN 1996). Conversely, it provides an opportunity to explore the potential for using this charismatic species as a flagship for promoting cooperation in biodiversity conservation across international borders.

Methods

Previously compiled information on protected areas in which snow leopard is reported to occur (Green 1989, 1993) was updated. This updated list was supplemented with other protected areas lying within potential snow leopard habitat, using the map produced by the National Biological Service, Fort Collins and the International Snow Leopard Trust in November 1995. The total area of potential snow leopard habitat is estimated to be 3,024,728 km² (Hunter and Jackson, this symposium).

The location of these protected areas known to be inhabited by snow leopard, or located within potential snow leopard habitat, was plotted on a geopolitical map, using the World Conservation Monitoring Centre's (WCMC) Geographic Information System, in order to identify those adjacent to international borders. Those meeting across such borders were identified as transboundary protected areas (TPAs); those lying on only one side of a border were recorded as potential transboundary protected areas.

In the case of TPAs, a preliminary attempt was made to assess the extent to which they are managed on a collaborative basis. This assessment was based on readily available information held at WCMC,

there being insufficient time in which to carry out a questionnaire survey among relevant protected area managers.

Results and Discussion

Protected areas: A total of 109 protected areas, covering 276,123 km², were identified as known to have snow leopards present or as lying within potential snow leopard habitat (see Table 1 at end of article). This represents 9.1% of total potential snow leopard habitat. However, not all habitat within these protected areas is suitable for snow leopard, a notable example being the vast A Er Jin Shan Nature Reserve which accounts for 16% of the 276,123 km² under protection. A comprehensive spatial dataset for protected areas is in the process of being compiled by WCMC and the International Snow Leopard Trust in order to estimate and monitor more accurately the extent of potential snow leopard habitat lying with protected areas.

Based on a minimum viable population of 50 breeding individuals for short-term survival of serious inbreeding and its deleterious effects (Soule and Wilcox 1980), protected areas need to be at least 1,000 km² in high density areas of five snow leopards per 100 km² (Jackson and Ahlborn 1990). A total of 1,000 individuals is considered necessary for long-term survival of populations (Frankel 1983), which equates to 20,000 km² of high density snow leopard habitat. Only 35 (32%) of the 109 protected areas exceed 1,000 km² and three exceed 20,000 km² (see Table 1). The former account for some 90% of the total extent of protected areas. The latter are A Er Jin Shan and Qomolangma nature reserves in China and the Transaltai Gobi National Park in Mongolia.

Transboundary protected areas: Of the 276,123 km² of snow leopard protected areas, TPAs comprise 31%, potential TPAs 35% and other protected areas 34% (see Table 1). The geographical distribution and extent of protected areas with respect to political boundaries is summarized in Figure 1. Protected areas, in general, and TPAs, in particular, are most extensive in China, followed in order by Mongolia and Russia.

Currently, there are five TPAs in snow leopard range countries (Figure 2), comprising a total of 13 protected areas (see Table 1). TPAs provide an effective means of increasing the size of protected areas, thereby enhancing the long-term viability of snow leopard populations. Thus, Khubsugul Nuur National Park in Mongolia and Tunkinskiy National Park in Russia comprise a single unit of 20,218 km², and there are four protected areas in Nepal which abut Qomolangma, China, to form a vast 40,188 km² complex (see Table 1).

Potential transboundary protected areas: There are a total of 36 protected areas that lie on international borders, with nothing compatible on the neighbouring side (see Table 1). By far the greatest potential for creating new TPAs for snow leopard conservation is in the countries bordering Mongolia. There are also significant opportunities for new TPAs along the borders with Kazakhstan, Nepal and Bhutan (see Figure 1). In practice, there may be significant political, socio-economic, cultural and other constraints in establishing new protected areas along borders adjacent to protected areas in neighbouring countries. Such constraints must obviously be weighed up against the benefits of establishing larger protected areas for this fairly widely

ranging species, and possible opportunities to collaborate and even share resources and expertise with neighbouring countries.

Collaborative management: Transboundary protected areas are at an early stage of collaborative management in snow leopard range countries. According to available information, collaboration is underway in only one of the five TPAs, namely the Langtang, Makalu-Barun, Sagarmatha (Nepal)/Qomolangma (China) complex. Here NGOs have played a key role in establishing informal cooperation at the local level under a cooperative agreement (Hamilton et al. 1996)

This state of affairs is to be expected given that protected areas in the mountainous regions of Central Asia are often poorly managed, due to a lack of adequate human and financial resources (Green 1994).

Conclusions

Almost one third of potential snow leopard habitat within protected areas is shared across common international boundaries, highlighting the vital importance of the five existing TPAs in the conservation of this endangered species. There is considerable scope for establishing many more TPAs, as there are many protected areas already existing on one side of an international border. Awareness of such opportunities needs to be raised among policy and decision-makers, and the snow leopard provides an ideal flagship for doing so, given its charismatic nature and symbolism for mountain wilderness.

In view of the importance of TPAs for snow leopard conservation, a priority is to establish and effectively implement transboundary cooperative agreements. Experience from other parts of the world should be drawn upon to promote such cooperation.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------|------------|-----------|---------|---|
| BHUTAN | | | | | | |
| 3 | Jigme Dorji National Park | 1993 | 428,000 | | | |
| 428,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 4 | Torsa Strict Nature Reserve | 1993 | 64,400 | | | |
| 64,400 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 5 | Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary | 1993 | 61,000 | | | |
| 61,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 6 | Kulong Chu Wildlife Sanctuary | 1993 | 118,200 | | | |
| 118,200 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 671,600 | 0 | 671,600 | 0 |
| CHINA | | | | | | |
| Sichuan | | | | | | |
| 7 | Wolong Nature Reserve | 1975 | 200,000 | | | |
| 200,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Xinjiang | | | | | | |
| 8 | A Er Jin Shan Nature Reserve | 1985 | 4,512,000 | | | |
| 4,512,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 9 | Hanas Nature Reserve | 1980 | 250,000 | | | |
| 250,000 | MFAT 1995 | | | | | |
| 10 | Taxkorgan Nature Reserve | 1984 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | | |
| No. 68 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 11 | Toumuer Protected Area | | 100,000 | | | |
| 100,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 12 | Buergenb Protected Area | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | |
| | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| Xizang (Tibet) | | | | | | |
| 13 | Medog Nature Reserve | 1985 | 62,620 | | | |
| 62,620 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 14 | Qomolangma Nature Reserve | 1989 | 3,500,000 | 3,500,000 | | |
| No. 55,56,57,59 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 10,129,620 | 5,000,000 | 355,000 | |
| 4,774,620 | | | | | | |
| INDIA | | | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | | | | | | |
| 15 | Namdapha National Park | | 198,524 | | | |
| 198,524 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | |
| 16 | Manali Sanctuary | 1954 | 3,127 | | 3,127 | |
| | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 17 | Pin Valley National Park | 1987 | 80,736 | | | |
| 80,736 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 18 | Rupi Bhabha Sanctuary | 1982 | 85,414 | | | |
| 85,414 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Jammu-Kashmir | | | | | | |
| 19 | Dachigam National Park | 1981 | 14,100 | | | |
| 14,100 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 20 | Hemis National Park | 1981 | 410,000 | | | |
| 410,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 21 | Kanji Sanctuary | 1988 | 25,000 | | | |
| 25,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----|-----------|---|
| 22 | Kishtwar | National Park | 1981 | 31,000 | | | |
| | 31,000 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Sikkim | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Khangchendzonga | National Park | 1977 | 84,950 | | | |
| | 84,950 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Govind | National Park | 1991 | 47,208 | | | |
| | 47,208 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 25 | Govind Pashu Vihar | Sanctuary | 1954 | 48,104 | | | |
| | 48,104 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 26 | Kedarnath | Sanctuary | 1972 | 97,524 | | | |
| | 97,524 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 27 | Nanda Devi | National Park | 1982 | 63,033 | | | |
| | 63,033 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 28 | Valley of Flowers | National Park | 1982 | 8,950 | | | |
| | 8,950 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | 1,197,670 | 0 | | 84,950 | |
| | 1,112,720 | | | | | | |
| KAZAKHSTAN | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Aksu-Dzhabagly | Zapovednik | 1926 | 75,094 | | | |
| | 75,094 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 30 | Alma-Atinskiy | Zapovednik | 1931 | 73,342 | | | |
| | 73,342 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 31 | Markakol'skiy | Zapovednik | 1976 | 75,040 | | | |
| | 75,040 | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 32 | Verkhnekoksuisky | Game Reserve | 1981 | 240,000 | | | |
| | 240,000 | Annenkov 1990 | | | | | |
| 33 | Alma-Atinskiy | Zakaznik | 1978 | 724,000 | | | |
| | 724,000 | 8th ISL Symposium (pers. comm.) | | | | | |
| 34 | Lepsinskiy | Zakaznik | 1972 | 258,000 | | | |
| | 258,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 35 | Toktinskiy | Zakaznik | 1981 | 187,000 | | | |
| | 187,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | 1,632,476 | 0 | | 1,632,476 | 0 |
| KYRGYZSTAN | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Ala-Archa | National Park | 1976 | 19,400 | | | |
| | 19,400 | Green 1994 | | | | | |
| 37 | Besh-Aral'skiy | Zapovednik | 1979 | 114,000 | | | |
| | 114,000 | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 38 | Chatkal'skiy | Zakaznik | 1980 | 600 | 600 | No. 105 | |
| | | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 39 | Dzhety-Oguzskiy | Zakaznik | 1958 | 31,100 | | | |
| | 31,100 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 40 | Issyk-Kul'skiy | Zapovednik | 1948 | 40,800 | | | |
| | 40,800 | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 41 | Narynskiy | Zapovednik | 1983 | 86,000 | | | |
| | 86,000 | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 42 | Sary-Chelekskiy | Zapovednik | 1959 | 23,868 | | | |
| | 23,868 | Koshkarev 1990 | | | | | |
| 43 | Teploklyuchenskiy | Zakaznik | 1958 | 32,100 | | | |
| | 32,100 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 44 | Toguz-Torouskiy | Zakaznik | 1977 | 10,000 | | | |
| | 10,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | | | |
| 45 | Kapchagaiskiy | Zakaznik | 1978 | 800 | | | |
| | 800 | Annenkov 1990 | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | 358,668 | 600 | | 154,800 | |
| | 203,268 | | | | | | |

MONGOLIA

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| 46 | Dzungarian Gobi (B) | National Park | 1976 | 881,000 | |
| | 881,000 | Schaller et al. 1994 | | | |
| 47 | Transalti Gobi (A) | National Park | 1976 | 4,419,000 | |
| | 4,419,000 | Schaller et al. 1994 | | | |
| 48 | Khasagt-Khayrkhan Reserve | | 1965 | 33,600 | |
| 33,600 | | Schaller et al. 1994 | | | |
| 49 | Khokh Serkh Nature Reserve | | 1977 | 23,700 | |
| 23,700 | | Schaller et al. 1994 | | | |
| 50 | Bulgan-gol Nature Reserve | | 1965 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| | | | | | presence unconfirmed |
| 51 | Khubsugul Nuur | National Park | 1992 | 838,100 | |
| 838,100 | No. 85 | | | | presence unconfirmed |
| 52 | Uvs Nuur Watershed | Nature Reserve | 1994 | 771,600 | |
| 771,600 | No. 89 | | | | presence unconfirmed |
| Subtotal | | | 6,969,500 | 1,609,700 | 5,336,100 |
| 23,700 | | | | | |

NEPAL

| | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 53 | Annapurna | Conservation Area | 1992 | 266,000 | |
| 266,000 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 54 | Dhorpatan | Hunting Reserve | 1987 | 132,500 | |
| 132,500 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 55 | Langtang | National Park | 1976 | 171,000 | 171,000 |
| No. 14 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 56 | Makalu-Barun | Conservation Area | 1991 | 83,000 | |
| 83,000 | No. 14 | | | | Green 1994 |
| 57 | Makalu-Barun | National Park | 1991 | 150,000 | |
| 150,000 | No. 14 | | | | Green 1994 |
| 58 | Rara National Park | | 1977 | 10,600 | |
| 10,600 | | Dhungel 1994 | | | |
| 59 | Sagarmatha | National Park | 1976 | 114,800 | 114,800 |
| No. 14 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 60 | Shey-Phoksundo | National Park | 1984 | 355,500 | |
| 355,500 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 1,283,400 | 518,800 | 621,500 |
| 143,100 | | | | | |

PAKISTAN

| | | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|------|---------|---------|
| 61 | Askor Nallah | Game Reserve | 1987 | 12,955 | |
| | 12,955 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 62 | Astore | Wildlife Sanctuary | 1975 | 41,472 | |
| | 41,472 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 63 | Baltistan | Wildlife Sanctuary | 1975 | 41,457 | |
| 41,457 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 64 | Chassi/Baushdar | Game Reserve | 1975 | 37,053 | |
| | 37,053 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 65 | Chitral Gol | National Park | 1984 | 7,750 | |
| 7,750 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 66 | Danyor Nallah | Game Reserve | 1974 | 44,308 | |
| | 44,308 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 67 | Kargah | Wildlife Sanctuary | 1975 | 44,308 | |
| | 44,308 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 68 | Khunjerab | National Park | 1975 | 226,913 | 226,913 |
| No. 10 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 69 | Kilik/Mintaka | Game Reserve | 1975 | 65,036 | |
| 65,036 | | Green 1994 | | | |
| 70 | Nar/Ghoro Nallah | Game Reserve | 1975 | 7,255 | |
| 7,255 | | Green 1994 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 71 | Nazbar Nallah | Game Reserve | 1975 | 33,425 | |
| | 33,425 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 72 | Pakora | Game Reserve | 1975 | 7,515 | |
| | 7,515 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 73 | Sher Qillah | Game Reserve | 1975 | 16,842 | |
| | 16,842 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 74 | Agram Bastil | Wildlife Sanctuary | | | 29,866 |
| | 29,866 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 75 | Manshi | Wildlife Sanctuary | | | 2,321 |
| | 2,321 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 76 | Goleen-gol | Game Reserve | | 49,750 | |
| | 49,750 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 77 | Gehrait-gol | Game Reserve | | 4,800 | |
| | 4,800 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 78 | Chinar/Purit-gol | Game Reserve | | | 6,446 |
| | 6,446 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 79 | Drosh-gol | Game Reserve | | 2,060 | |
| | 2,060 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 80 | Tooshi | Game Reserve | | 1,545 | |
| | 1,545 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 81 | Central Karakorum National Park | | | | 200,000 |
| | 200,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| | Subtotal | | 883,077 | 226,913 | 306,493 |
| | 349,671 | | | | |
| RUSSIA | | | | | |
| 82 | Altaiskiy | Zapovednik | 1932 | 869,500 | |
| | 869,500 | Green 1994 | | | |
| 83 | Azas | Zapovednik | 1985 | 337,290 | |
| | 337,290 | Koshkarev 1992 | | | |
| 84 | Sayano-Shushenskiy | Zapovednik | 1976 | 390,368 | |
| | 390,368 | Smirnov et al. 1990 | | | |
| 85 | Tunkinskiy | National Park | 1991 | 1,183,700 | 1,183,700 |
| | No. 51 | Smirnov et al. 1990 | | | |
| 86 | Katunskiy | Zapovednik | 1991 | 150,079 | |
| | 150,079 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 87 | Tchazy | Zapovednik | 1991 | 11,825 | |
| | 11,825 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 88 | Maluy Abakan | Zapovednik | 1993 | 97,829 | |
| | 97,829 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 89 | Ubsunurskaya | Kotlovina | Zapovednik | 1993 | 39,600 |
| | 39,600 | No. 52 | | | presence unconfirmed |
| 90 | Ininskiy | Zakaznik | 1973 | 103,300 | |
| | 103,300 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 91 | Kosh-Agachskiy | Zakaznik | 1966 | 241,300 | |
| | 241,300 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 92 | Shavlinskiy | Zakaznik | 1973 | 178,000 | |
| | 178,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| 93 | Khindiktig-Kholskiy | Zakaznik | 1978 | 32,000 | |
| | 32,000 | presence unconfirmed | | | |
| | Subtotal | | 3,634,791 | 1,223,300 | 150,079 |
| | 2,261,412 | | | | |
| TAJIKISTAN | | | | | |
| 94 | Dashti-Dzhumskiy | Zapovednik | 1983 | 19,700 | |
| | 19,700 | Kashkarev 1990 | | | |
| 95 | Iskanderkul'skiy | Zakaznik | 1970 | 30,000 | |
| | 30,000 | Buzurukov and Muratov 1994 | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| | 96 | Muzkul'skiy Zakaznik | 1972 | 68,000 | | |
| | | 68,000 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | 97 | Pamirskiy Zakaznik | 1974 | 50,100 | | |
| | | 50,100 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | 98 | Ramit Zapovednik | 1959 | 16,100 | | |
| | | 16,100 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | 99 | Sangvorskiy Zakaznik | 1972 | 51,000 | | |
| | | 51,000 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | 100 | Tigrovaya Balka Zapovednik | 1938 | 49,900 | | |
| | | 49,900 Buzurukov and Muratov 1994 | | | | |
| | 101 | Zorkul'skiy Zakaznik | 1972 | 16,000 | | |
| | | 16,000 Buzurukov and Muratov 1994 | | | | |
| | 102 | Sari-Khosorskiy Zakaznik | 1959 | 180,000 | | |
| | | 180,000 presence unconfirmed | | | | |
| | 103 | Nurekskiy Zakaznik | 1984 | 30,000 | | |
| | | 30,000 presence unconfirmed | | | | |
| | 104 | Dashti-Dzhumskiy Zakaznik | 1972 | 50,100 | | |
| | | 50,100 presence unconfirmed | | | | |
| | | Subtotal | 560,900 | 0 | 135,700 | |
| | | 425,200 | | | | |
| | | UZBEKISTAN | | | | |
| 38 | 105 | Akbulakskiy Zakaznik | 1973 | 12,600 | 12,600 | No. |
| | | presence unconfirmed | | | | |
| | 106 | Chatkal'skiy Zapovednik | 1947 | 35,686 | | |
| | | 35,686 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | 107 | Gissarskiy Zapovednik | 1983 | 87,500 | | |
| | | 87,500 Koshkarev 1990 | | | | |
| | 108 | Zaaminskiy Zapovednik | 1959 | 15,600 | | |
| | | 15,600 Koshkarev 1990 | | | | |
| | 109 | Uzbekistan National Park | 1978 | 31,503 | | |
| | | 31,503 Green 1994 | | | | |
| | | Subtotal | 182,889 | 12,600 | 170,289 | |
| | | 0 | | | | |
| | | Grand Total | 27,612,529 | 8,591,913 | 9,686,925 | |
| | | 9,333,691 | | | | |

TABLE 1: List of protected areas within the distribution of the snow leopard. Sources are provided for protected areas in which snow leopard has been confirmed present. Protected areas adjacent to international borders are identified as potential TPAs, and those sharing common borders as TPAs.

| COUNTRY | National Designation | Year created | Area (ha) | TPA (ha) | Potential TPA Area (ha) | Borders with |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | Other PA | Source | | | | |
| | Potential TPA Area (ha) | Other PA | | | | |
| Country | National Other PA | Year | Area | TPA | Potential TPA | |
| No. Protected Area | Area (ha) | Designation | Created | (ha) | Area (ha) | Borders |
| | | Area (ha) | | | | |
| Afghanistan | | | | | | |
| 1 | Ajar Valley | Wildlife Reserve | 1978 | 40,000 | | |
| | 40,000 | a | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 2 | Pamir-i-Buzurg | Wildlife Reserve | 1978 | 67,938 | | | |
| | 67,938 | a | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | | 107,938 | 0 | | 67,938 |
| | 40,000 | | | | | | |
| Bhutan | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Jigme Dorji | National Park | 1993 | 428,000 | | | |
| | 428,000 | a | | | | | |
| 4 | Torsa | Strict Nature Reserve | 1993 | 64,400 | | | |
| | 64,400 | * | | | | | |
| | Sanctuary | | 1993 | 61,000 | | | Wildlife |
| | 1993 | | | 61,000 | | | * |
| 6 | Kulong Chu | Wildlife Sanctuary | 1993 | 118,200 | | | |
| | 118,200 | * | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | | 671,600 | 0 | | 671,600 |
| | 0 | | | | | | |
| China | | | | | | | |
| Sichuan | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Wolong | Nature Reserve | 1975 | 200,000 | | | |
| | 200,000 | a | | | | | |
| Xinjiang | | | | | | | |
| 8 | A Er Jin Shan | Nature Reserve | 1985 | 4,512,000 | | | |
| | 4,512,000 | a | | | | | |
| 9 | Hanas | Nature Reserve | 1980 | 250,000 | | | |
| | 250,000 | b | | | | | |
| 10 | Taxkorgan | Nature Reserve | 1984 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | | No. |
| 68 | | a | | | | | |
| 11 | Toumuer | Protected Area | | 100,000 | | | 100,000 |
| | * | | | | | | |
| 12 | Buergen | Protected Area | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | |
| | * | Xizang (Tibet) | | | | | |
| 13 | Medog | Nature Reserve | 1985 | 62,620 | | | |
| | 62,620 | a | | | | | |
| 14 | Qomolangma | Nature Reserve | 1989 | 3,500,000 | 3,500,000 | | No. |
| | 55,56,57,59 | a | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | | | 10,129,620 | 5,000,000 | |
| | 355,000 | 4,774,620 | | | | | |
| India | | | | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Namdapha | National Park | | 198,524 | | | |
| | 198,524 | a | | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Manali | Sanctuary | 1954 | 3,127 | | | |
| | 3,127 | a | | | | | |
| 17 | Pin Valley | National Park | 1987 | 80,736 | | | |
| | 80,736 | a | | | | | |
| 18 | Rupi Bhabha | Sanctuary | 1982 | 85,414 | | | |
| | 85,414 | a | | | | | |
| Jammu-Kashmir | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Dachigam | National Park | 1981 | 14,100 | | | |
| | 14,100 | a | | | | | |
| 20 | Hemis | National Park | 1981 | 410,000 | | | |
| | 410,000 | a | | | | | |
| 21 | Kanji | Sanctuary | 1988 | 25,000 | | | |
| | 25,000 | a | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------|-----------|---|--|--------|
| 22 | Kishtwar National Park | 1981 | 31,000 | | | |
| | 31,000 a | | | | | |
| Sikkim | | | | | | |
| 23 | Khangchendzonga National Park | 1977 | 84,950 | | | |
| | 84,950 a | | | | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | |
| 24 | Govind National Park | 1991 | 47,208 | | | |
| | 47,208 a | | | | | |
| 25 | Govind Pashu Vihar Sanctuary | 1954 | 48,104 | | | |
| | 48,104 a | | | | | |
| 26 | Kedarnath Sanctuary | 1972 | 97,524 | | | |
| | 97,524 a | | | | | |
| 27 | Nanda Devi National Park | 1982 | 63,033 | | | |
| | 63,033 a | | | | | |
| 28 | Valley of Flowers National Park | 1982 | 8,950 | | | |
| | 8,950 a | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 1,197,670 | 0 | | 84,950 |
| | 1,112,720 | | | | | |

Sources found at end of Table 1

| Country | National | Year | Area | TPA | Potential |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| TPA | Other PA | Source | | | |
| No. Protected Area | Designation | Created | (ha) | Area (ha) | Borders |
| Area (ha) | Area (ha) | | | | |
| Kazakstan | | | | | |
| 29 | Aksu-Dzhabagly Zapovednik | 1926 | 75,094 | | 75,094 |
| | a | | | | |
| 30 | Alma-Atinskiy Zapovednik | 1931 | 73,342 | | 73,342 |
| | a | | | | |
| 31 | Markakol'skiy Zapovednik | 1976 | 75,040 | | 75,040 |
| | c | | | | |
| 32 | Verkhnekoksuiskey Game Reserve | 1981 | 240,000 | | |
| | 240,000 d | | | | |
| 33 | Alma-Atinskiy Zakaznik | 1978 | 724,000 | | |
| | 724,000 e | | | | |
| 34 | Lepsinskiy Zakaznik | 1972 | 258,000 | | |
| | 258,000 * | | | | |
| 35 | Toktinskiy Zakaznik | 1981 | 187,000 | | |
| | 187,000 * | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 1,632,476 | 0 | 1,632,476 |
| | 0 | | | | |
| Kyrgyzstan | | | | | |
| 36 | Ala-Archa National Park | 1976 | 19,400 | | |
| | 19,400 a | | | | |
| 37 | Besh-Aral'skiy Zapovednik | 1979 | 114,000 | | 114,000 |
| | c | | | | |
| 38 | Chatkal'skiy Zakaznik | 1980 | 600 | 600 | No. 105 |
| | c | | | | |
| 39 | Dzhety-Oguzskiy Zakaznik | 1958 | 31,100 | | |
| | 31,100 * | | | | |
| 40 | Issyk-Kul'skiy Zapovednik | 1948 | 40,800 | | 40,800 |
| | c | | | | |
| 41 | Narynskiy Zapovednik | 1983 | 86,000 | | |
| | 86,000 c | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| 42 | Sary-Chelekskiy | Zapovednik | 1959 | 23,868 | | | |
| | 23,868 | c | | | | | |
| 43 | Teploklyuchenskiy | Zakaznik | 1958 | 32,100 | | | |
| | 32,100 | * | | | | | |
| 44 | Toguz-Torouskiy | Zakaznik | 1977 | 10,000 | | | |
| | 10,000 | * | | | | | |
| 45 | Kapchagaiskiy | Zakaznik | 1978 | 800 | | | |
| | 800 | d | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 358,668 | 600 | | 154,800 | |
| | | | 203,268 | | | | |
| Mongolia | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Dzungarian Gobi (B) | National Park | 1976 | 881,000 | | | |
| | 881,000 | f | | | | | |
| 47 | Transalti Gobi (A) | National Park | 1976 | 4,419,000 | | | |
| | 4,419,000 | f | | | | | |
| 48 | Khasagt-Khayrkhhan | Reserve | 1965 | 33,600 | | | |
| | 33,600 | f | | | | | |
| 49 | Khokh Serkh | Nature Reserve | 1977 | 23,700 | | | |
| | 23,700 | f | | | | | |
| 50 | Bulgan-gol | Nature Reserve | 1965 | 2,500 | | 2,500 | |
| | * | | | | | | |
| 51 | Khubsugul Nuur | National Park | 1992 | 838,100 | 838,100 | | No. |
| 85 | | * | | | | | |
| 52 | Uvs Nuur Watershed | Nature Reserve | 1994 | 771,600 | 771,600 | | No. |
| 89 | | * | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 6,969,500 | 1,609,700 | | | |
| | 5,336,100 | 23,700 | | | | | |
| Nepal | | | | | | | |
| 53 | Annapurna | Conservation Area | 1992 | 266,000 | | | |
| | 266,000 | a | | | | | |
| 54 | Dhorpatan | Hunting Reserve | 1987 | 132,500 | | | |
| | 132,500 | a | | | | | |
| 55 | Langtang National Park | | 1976 | 171,000 | 171,000 | | No. 14 |
| | | a | | | | | |
| 56 | Makalu-Barun | Conservation Area | 1991 | 83,000 | 83,000 | | No. |
| 14 | | a | | | | | |
| 57 | Makalu-Barun | National Park | 1991 | 150,000 | 150,000 | | No. |
| 14 | | a | | | | | |
| 58 | Rara | National Park | 1977 | 10,600 | | | |
| | 10,600 | g | | | | | |
| 59 | Sagarmatha | National Park | 1976 | 114,800 | 114,800 | | No. |
| 14 | | a | | | | | |
| 60 | Shey-Phoksundo | National Park | 1984 | 355,500 | | | |
| | 355,500 | a | | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 1,283,400 | 518,800 | | | |
| | 621,500 | 143,100 | | | | | |

| Country | National | Year | Area | TPA | Potential |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| TPA No. | Other PA Protected Area Area (ha) | Source Designation Area (ha) | Created | (ha) | Area (ha) Borders |
| Pakistan | | | | | |
| 61 | Askor Nallah 12,955 | Game Reserve a | 1987 | 12,955 | |
| 62 | Astore 41,472 | Wildlife Sanctuary a | 1975 | 41,472 | |
| 63 | Baltistan 41,457 | Wildlife Sanctuary a | 1975 | 41,457 | |
| 64 | Chassi/Baushdar 37,053 | Game Reserve a | 1975 | 37,053 | |
| 65 | Chitral Gol 7,750 a | National Park | 1984 | 7,750 | |
| 66 | Danyor Nallah 44,308 | Game Reserve a | 1974 | 44,308 | |
| 67 | Kargah 44,308 | Wildlife Sanctuary a | 1975 | 44,308 | |
| 68 | Khunjerab 10 | National Park a | 1975 | 226,913 | 226,913 No. |
| 69 | Kilik/Mintaka 65,036 | Game Reserve a | 1975 | 65,036 | |
| 70 | Nar/Ghoro Nallah 7,255 a | Game Reserve | 1975 | 7,255 | |
| 71 | Nazbar Nallah 33,425 | Game Reserve a | 1975 | 33,425 | |
| 72 | Pakora 7,515 a | Game Reserve | 1975 | 7,515 | |
| 73 | Sher Qillah 16,842 | Game Reserve a | 1975 | 16,842 | |
| 74 | Agram Bastil 29,866 | Wildlife Sanctuary * | | 29,866 | |
| 75 | Manshi 2,321 * | Wildlife Sanctuary | | 2,321 | |
| 76 | Goleen-gol 49,750 | Game Reserve * | | 49,750 | |
| 77 | Gehrait-gol 4,800 * | Game Reserve | | 4,800 | |
| 78 | Chinar/Purit-gol 6,446 * | Game Reserve | | 6,446 | |
| 79 | Drosh-gol 2,060 * | Game Reserve | | 2,060 | |
| 80 | Tooshi 1,545 * | Game Reserve | | 1,545 | |
| 81 | Central Karakorum 200,000 | National Park * | | 200,000 | |
| Subtotal | | | 883,077 | 226,913 | |
| | 306,493 | 349,671 | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Russia | | | | | | |
| 82 | Altayskiy | Zapovednik | 1932 | 869,500 | | |
| | 869,500 | a | | | | |
| 83 | Azas | Zapovednik | 1985 | 337,290 | | |
| | 337,290 | h | | | | |
| 84 | Sayano-Shushenskiy | Zapovednik | 1976 | 390,368 | | |
| | 390,368 | i | | | | |
| 85 | Tunkinskiy | National Park | 1991 | 1,183,700 | 1,183,700 | No. |
| 51 | | i | | | | |
| 86 | Katunskiy | Zapovednik | 1991 | 150,079 | | 150,079 |
| | * | | | | | |
| 87 | Tchazy | Zapovednik | 1991 | 11,825 | | |
| | 11,825 | * | | | | |
| 88 | Maluy Abakan | Zapovednik | 1993 | 97,829 | | |
| | 97,829 | * | | | | |
| 89 | Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina | Zapovednik | 1993 | 39,600 | | 39,600 |
| | No. 52 | | * | | | |
| 90 | Ininskiy Zakaznik | | 1973 | 103,300 | | |
| | 103,300 | * | | | | |
| 91 | Kosh-Agachskiy | Zakaznik | 1966 | 241,300 | | |
| | 241,300 | * | | | | |
| 92 | Shavlinskiy | Zakaznik | 1973 | 178,000 | | |
| | 178,000 | * | | | | |
| 93 | Khindiktig-Kholskiy | Zakaznik | 1978 | 32,000 | | |
| | 32,000 | * | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | | 3,634,791 | 1,223,300 | |
| | 150,079 | | 2,261,412 | | | |
| Tajikistan | | | | | | |
| 94 | Dashti-Dzhumskiy | Zapovednik | 1983 | 19,700 | | |
| | 19,700 | c | | | | |
| 95 | Iskanderkul'skiy | Zakaznik | 1970 | 30,000 | | |
| | 30,000 | j | | | | |
| 96 | Muzkul'skiy | Zakaznik | 1972 | 68,000 | | |
| | 68,000 | a | | | | |
| 97 | Pamirskiy | Zakaznik | 1974 | 50,100 | | |
| | 50,100 | a | | | | |
| 98 | Ramit | Zapovednik | 1959 | 16,100 | | |
| | 16,100 | a | | | | |
| 99 | Sangvorskiy | Zakaznik | 1972 | 51,000 | | |
| | 51,000 | a | | | | |
| 100 | Tigrovaya Balka | Zapovednik | 1938 | 49,900 | | |
| | 49,900 | j | | | | |
| 101 | Zorkul'skiy | Zakaznik | 1972 | 16,000 | | |
| | 16,000 | j | | | | |
| 102 | Sari-Khosorskiy | Zakaznik | 1959 | 180,000 | | |
| | 180,000 | * | | | | |
| 103 | Nurekskiy | Zakaznik | 1984 | 30,000 | | |
| | 30,000 | * | | | | |
| 104 | Dashti-Dzhumskiy | Zakaznik | 1972 | 50,100 | | |
| | 50,100 | * | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | | 560,900 | 0 | 135,700 |
| | 425,200 | | | | | |
| Country | National | | Year | Area | TPA | Potential TPA |
| | Other PA | Source | | | | |

| No. | Protected Area Area (ha) | Designation Area (ha) | Created | (ha) | Area (ha) | Borders |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Uzbekistan | | | | | | |
| 105 | Akbulakskiy | Zakaznik | 1973 | 12,600 | 12,600 | No. |
| 38 | | * | | | | |
| 106 | Chatkal'skiy | Zapovednik | 1947 | 35,686 | 35,686 | |
| | a | | | | | |
| 107 | Gissarskiy | Zapovednik | 1983 | 87,500 | 87,500 | |
| | c | | | | | |
| 108 | Zaaminskiy | Zapovednik | 1959 | 15,600 | 15,600 | |
| | c | | | | | |
| 109 | Uzbekistan | National Park | 1978 | 31,503 | | |
| | 31,503 | a | | | | |
| Subtotal | | | 182,889 | 12,600 | | |
| | 170,289 | 0 | | | | |
| Grand Total | | | 27,612,529 | 8,591,913 | | |
| | 9,686,925 | 9,333,691 | | | | |

Table 1

List of protected areas within the distribution of the snow leopard. Sources are provided for protected areas in which snow leopard has been confirmed present. Protected areas adjacent to international borders are identified as potential TPAs, and those sharing common borders as TPAs.

Sources

- a Green 1994
- b MFAT 1995
- c Koshkarev 1990
- d Annenkov 1990
- e ISLT 8th Symp. (pers.comm.)
- f Schaller et.al., 1994
- g Dhungel 1994
- h Koshkarev 1992
- i Smimov et.al. 1990
- j Buzurukov & Muratov 1994

* presence unconfirmed

Figure 1: Distribution of transboundary, potential transboundary, and other protected areas in snow leopard range countries.

Figure 2: Size of transboundary protected areas in snow leopard range countries