

# International Snow Leopard Trust, Conservation and Education Program for 1999

## Full Text:

### **Primary Goals and Objectives**

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1. In participation with range country NGOs, government and communities, refine existing and test new community-based conservation initiatives aimed at reducing livestock depredation by snow leopards and resulting people-wildlife conflict and retribution.
2. Through training workshops, promote wildlife management and integrated biodiversity conservation skills in order to build local capacity and increase self-reliance among in-country partner organizations.
3. Foster NGO-government collaboration for endangered species and protected area management.
4. Undertake targeted field surveys to generate critical baseline information on status, distribution, threats and conservation priorities for snow leopard and its large prey species.
5. Support selected research projects aimed at developing and testing new methodologies for inventorying and conserving high-altitude species and habitats,

Community-based initiatives and research endeavors should attempt to link biodiversity conservation, community development and local stewardship in ways that better protect snow leopards, their prey and habitat, using incentives, signed agreements and co-financing arrangements. Project design criteria should encompass the following elements: (1) Activities that are environmentally sound and do not result in negative environmental impact, and which are consistent with protected areas management plans or regulations; (2) Procedures which encourage full participation by all stakeholders at each stage and with an equitable distribution of project benefits in ways that build local ownership, capacity and sustainability; (3) Activities which are low cost, financially feasible and technically appropriate; (4) Conditional reciprocal co-financing commitments (materials, services, labor or capital) from each partner (village, local government, NGO and donor); and (5) Implementation and monitoring in accordance with a specified Action Plan, preferably signed by each key stakeholders. Project documents need to identify objectives, inputs and outputs, roles and responsibilities, scheduling, funding sources and indicators for measuring the impact and success of key interventions.

To the extent possible, ISLT's projects are implemented by in-country Snow Leopard Conservationists or SLC's who are hired under funding from ISLT for an initial period of at least 3 years. Currently, we have SLC's in China (Dr. Zou Hongfei), India (Dr. Yash Veer Bhatnagar), Mongolia (Mr. Bariushaa Munkhtsog) and Pakistan (Mr. Ahmad Khan). Field associates have been hired for Ladakh, India (Rinchen Wangchuk and Rinchen Angmo) and Russia (Dr. Eugene Koshkarev). Collaborative MOUs have been signed with a number of organizations, including the Wildlife Institute of India, WWF-Pakistan, MACNE, The Mountain Institute (USA), GTZ (Mongolia) and the College of Wildlife Resources, Northeast Forestry University, China.

### **COUNTRY ACTIVITIES**

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##### **AFGHANISTAN:**

- Wildlife status survey of Wakhan Corridor with emphasis on Marco Polo sheep (with WWF-Pakistan and SAVE, political conditions permitting)

##### **PAKISTAN:**

- Livestock corral improvement and community-conservation program in Chitral Gol National Park
- 1-2 snow leopard status and distribution surveys in Chitral District, NWFP and Northern Areas
- Distribution of the Snow leopard Web of Life poster in NWFP and the Northern Areas
- Conservation education slide-shows and related activities (Chitral District)
- Training workshop for Northern Areas wildlife department field staff

*INDIA:*

- SLIMS Information development and possible establishment of research facility in Ladakh (with WII)
- Status report of snow leopard in the Trans-Himalayan Region, India
- Households surveys and analysis of livestock depredation patterns in Hemis National Park
- Livestock pen or corral improvement design alternative development
- Distribution of food web posters to schools and related environmental education activities
- Village-based workshop to resolve snow leopard B human conflicts in the Hemis National Park, Ladakh
- SLIMS training session for Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh Wildlife Department field staff
- Biodiversity A hotspot mapping of selected mountain ungulates in the NW Himalaya (with WII and USFWS)
- Establish regular dialogue with Chief Wildlife Wardens of J&K, UP, HP and Sikkim
- Distribution of conservation posters in Sikkim (with TMI, Khangchendzonga National Park & Forest Department)
- Conduct 1-2 snow leopard and prey surveys (Pin Valley and another location)

*BHUTAN:*

- Production and distribution of food web posters (with WWF-Bhutan)

*NEPAL :*

- SLIMS training workshop for Dept National Parks and Wildlife Conservation park field staff
- Snow leopard and prey species status survey of Shey-Phoksundo National Park (with WWF-Nepal)

*CHINA:*

With NE University:

- Install SLIMS and develop baseline information on China=s nature reserves which support or may support snow leopards
- Conduct 1-2 wildlife status surveys
- Train students in SLIMS survey techniques

With Tibet Forest Department and TMI:

- Implement corral improvement programs in Qomolangma Nature Preserve
- Conduct wildlife and habitat field surveys in QNP
- Distribute food-web conservation posters and snow leopard video program
- Train QNP staff and county leaders in community-based rangeland inventory and management techniques and implement at least one conservation agreement with local herders

*MONGOLIA: (with MACNE)*

- Snow leopard status surveys and baseline research in Uvs and South Gobi areas, under the SLC=s Master=s degree program at University of Tromso, Norway
- Development of SLIMS information database
- Production and distribution of a Web of Life calendar/poster
- Continued implementation of the Herder Incentive Conservation Program
- Support for radio-broadcasts of wildlife conservation programs focussed on snow leopard and their prey

*OTHER:*

- Non-invasive DNA study using samples from Mongolia, Russia and the Himalaya
- Country-based depredation control strategies and production of handbook
- Development of programs for CIS states (former USSR republics)
- Develop strategy for addressing medicinal trade of snow leopard body parts
- Assess snow leopard fur and bone trade in India (possible project with WPSI and Cat Action Treasury)
- Develop herder/villager education programs aimed at reducing capture of cubs (Ladakh, Pakistan)