

## Thanks Again to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle

In September 1999 Woodland Park Zoo Society (WPZS) pledged \$165,000 in support of *in situ* snow leopard conservation in the form of two matching grants: \$65,000 in 2000 and \$100,000 in 2001. Last year, thanks to the generous support of our membership and Board of Directors, ISLT was able to meet the \$65,000 challenge! This year, with your help we are confident of being able to meet the Year Two matching grant of \$100,000.

The Trust will approach its membership with its Annual Appeal drive in late November. Funds donated will be applied towards the WPZS matching grant. Every new dollar raised will be matched up to \$100,000 by the challenge grant. Members can donate to this year's Annual Appeal at

our website, [www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org), through our secure online store. The initial \$65,000 was used to hire key personnel both in our home office in Seattle and in our field programs. ISLTs Conservation Director, Program Officer, and Program Directors for India and Pakistan were all appointed thanks in part to these funds. The Year Two grant will be used to develop field programs. Research, education, and conservation initiatives identified

by the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (see story on page 2) will be funded by these monies.

This generous commitment from WPZS is a great example of how zoos can impact wildlife conservation. With this support, and that of many zoos around the world through the Natural Partnerships Program, ISLT is able to implement programs to ensure these beautiful cats roam their mountain habitat forever.

## Mongolia's Conservation

### Leader Passed Away

On 20 September 2001, Dr. J. Tserendeleg, a dear friend of the Trust and champion of conservation, passed away after a short battle with cancer. Tserendeleg was well known in his homeland as the leader of the Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (MACNE). He was the first Mongolian to visit Antarctica where he lived for a year in the early 1970s at the Russian base, where he played chess by

shortwave radio with the US Commander of McMurdo Base. Tserendeleg had a great love for wildlife, and turned his hand to conservation early in his career. One of his many contributions was the role he played in the reintroduction of the Takhi, the world's last wild horse, to its native Mongolian steppe home.

In the early 1990s, Tserendeleg sought cooperation between ISLT and MACNE for

snow leopard research and conservation in Mongolia, a partnership that lasts to this day and has yielded many successes. Without his personal support and guidance my own long-term snow leopard study in Mongolia would not have been possible. Earlier this year Tserendeleg was deservedly awarded his nation's highest honor for a conservationist in recognition for his lifelong work.

To say he will be missed or that his passing leaves a void in the Mongolian conservation community seems insufficient. He was a leader, a wonderful husband and father, and to me a friend, brother and mentor. He left us far too soon.

- Tom McCarthy  
Conservation Director

ISLT and  
*Tserendeleg with his*

# The Presence of Trust

## ISLT & The Nature Conservancy Team-up in China

About ten years ago I was in the Khyber Pass on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It was a volatile area even then and special permits and an armed guard were required. I was with Mohammad Mumtaz Malik, the Conservator of Wildlife for the Northwest Frontier Province, and several days earlier I had asked Dr. Malik if we could go to the Pass. Because I was his guest he had put in extra effort to make the trip possible. Several colleagues and I had traveled to Pakistan to develop collaborative programs for the snow leopard with conservation leaders there.

So here we were traveling a winding road through brown hills that were so washed out, the soil had no real color. Every once in awhile there were a few houses and each of them had a separate wall around it. Then we passed a cemetery where there was no wall and I couldn't help but wonder why you had to be dead to not have a wall.

I said to Mumtaz, "It all looks so barren. Does nothing natural grow here?" and he replied, "The local people say there is too much blood in the soil." Now with the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11th and the reprisals that have followed I think again about those hills and wonder if it is possible they could be even more barren.

I also think about the symposia the International Snow Leopard Trust has co-sponsored in seven countries. At

each meeting I would walk around the room and listen to the different languages and accents. The conversations would be animated as people made their individual points but the end results were always the same: ways were found to work together to help the endangered snow leopard.

Our efforts for cooperation have come about not by accident but on purpose. Since the early days of the Snow Leopard Trust we have thought of the snow leopard as an emissary for bringing people together across borders to talk. The snow leopard is our ambassador of wildlife and although the species is threatened, working for its benefit is non-threatening.

This column is to let you know we will continue to work in snow leopard countries in cooperative projects with local people. We will continue to have international meetings. There will be even more emphasis on dialogue in an open manner. Although the strategy workshop scheduled for this November has had to be postponed, it is only a postponement. For the last word of our name is Trust and it was not picked lightly. We have endeavored for twenty years to earn your trust and we will continue to do so.

The snow leopard is a beautiful animal able to cross borders without a passport. We will work together to assure that the mountains always feel its soft step.

*-Helen Freeman, Founder  
International Snow Leopard Trust*

China, home to more snow leopards than any other country, has long been a priority of ISLT. The Trust and TNC have agreed to do cooperative snow leopard research and conservation work as part of the TNC Meili Snow Mountains Conservation Project in Yunnan. ISLT will be responsible for:

- Surveying high mountain zone fauna;
- Establishing SLIMS database with links to range-wide snow leopard research;
- Advising on feasibility of community-based conservation programs
- Training counterparts in SLIMS for long-term monitoring of conservation impacts

Partnerships with TNC and others help stretch our conservation dollars while increasing the impact of our important work.

### Snow Leopard Survival Summit Postponed

The focus of much of our energy over the past eight months has been on preparing a Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS) in conjunction with conservation and research experts from around the world. As the drafting moved forward, all eyes were on a meeting scheduled for November 13-16 in Seattle where the document would be fine-tuned and taken back to the field for implementation.

In the wake of events of September 11th and subsequent changes to the world political climate, it became apparent that holding the meeting in the scheduled timeframe was not feasible. This change of plan has provided us with an opportunity to gather further input from more people. The ultimate product will be much stronger as a result of participation from a wider group.

The Snow Leopard Survival Summit will be rescheduled as soon as we have

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# ISLT WISH LIST

We make every effort to use our funds as wisely as possible. Before purchasing anything, we like to check with members in case you can help. The following items and services are currently on our wish list:

- New or Used Color laser Printer
- New or Used Projector for PowerPoint Presentations
- Volunteer to help create professional video (footage already shot, editing and voice-overs required)
- Volunteer Graphic Artist to design International Snow leopard Trust marketing materials
- Volunteer to help with mailing of product shipments
- GPS units with computer-link compatibility
- Spotting scopes (variable, i.e. 15x-45x power)
- Compact binoculars (8x or 10x power)
- Slide Projector (110 volt for domestic use)
- Slide Projector (220 volt for use overseas)

If you would like to donate or volunteer, contact Owen Rogers at 206-632-2421 or [info@snowleopard.org](mailto:info@snowleopard.org)

Thanks to Phoebe Wray for her slide projector and Earl Conteh-Morgon for his gift of three pairs of binoculars!! These contributions have already been put to good use!

The ISLT is a so 1{c}3 nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

## Surf On Over!

Our amazing new website finally launched! [www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org) now boasts new photos and video, secure online store, electronic postcards and e-news. THANKS to Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo and designers Grant Thompson and Nicole Bell for going far beyond the call of duty.

## Survival Summit

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gained these much-needed contributions and the world political climate becomes more conducive to such a gathering. Visit us at [www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org) and click on the 'News' link to find out latest developments. Meanwhile rest assured that lively discussions between the world's snow leopard experts are ongoing in the ether!

## Mongolia's Snow Leopards in the News

ISLT Program Director B. Munktsog and Irbis Enterprises Manager A. Bayarjargal were sweating in the limelight earlier this fall. A media crew accompanied our dedicated team into the Gobi. For ten days they hiked ridgelines, noted snow leopard sign, scrapes, and even sniffed rocks where the cats had recently sprayed! They also interviewed nomadic herders who participate in Irbis Enterprises.

All this was documented on camera for CNN, Seattle's Evening Magazine, and ABC. The story has also been covered in a major spread by the Seattle Post Intelligencer and others.

Many thanks to Karakorum Expeditions for facilitating the trip and enabling

the media crew to reach the remote mountains of the Snow Leopard safely and comfortably. Anyone interested in going on next year's trip contact Owen Rogers at [info@snowleopard.org](mailto:info@snowleopard.org) or 206-632-2421.

## Volunteers for Snow leopards

In August 2001, ISLT partnered with Volunteers and Docents from zoos across the US to raise monies for snow leopards. Volunteers from Blank Park Zoo (Des Moines, IA), Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (Cleveland, OH), Columbus Zoo (Powell, OH), Sacramento Zoo (Sacramento, CA), and Tulsa Zoo (Tulsa, OK) took part in "Volunteers for Snow Leopards."

Participants secured donations from friends and family as pledges for each hour of volunteer time worked or in lump sum donations. Jan Agler, Docent Volunteer Coordinator at Columbus Zoo, really energized her team who came out

on top in the battle to raise the most funds. All Columbus Zoo participants received T-shirts

in recognition for their winning efforts. Dan Sullenberger, a Columbus Docent, raised \$450! In thanks

for his efforts, ISLT awarded Dan a plush snow leopard toy.

The following participants also deserve special mention for raising the largest amount of funds at their respective zoos:

Kathy Krogmeier, Blank Park Zoo  
Lynn Szalay, Cleveland

Metroparks Zoo

Michele Hapgood, Sacramento  
Zoo Diane Zemke, Tulsa Zoo

"Volunteers for Snow Leopards" joins ISLT's Natural Partnerships Program in providing avenues for zoos

and staff to directly impact field conservation efforts. These two programs have brought in over \$122,000. The funds will support ISLTs in novative community-based conservation efforts in snow leopard range countries.

*lydisplayshisprizes.* Thanks everyone! We look forward to your participation next year.

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## From Cozy Mitts to Tea-Cozies

Exciting times for Snow Leopard Enterprises, ISLTs conservation incentive program for herders in Mongolia.

Product development officer Doljinsuren just spent two weeks in Seattle working with Michele Wipplinger, fabric designer and natural dye master. Together they have developed a fun new product line of wild and whimsical felt items including a miniature snow leopard!

Doyo is now back in Mongolia gathering participating herders together to learn the new line and fulfill next year's order. Over two hundred herder households now participate, some of them

quadrupling the amount of money they could get selling the wool raw as they used to. They are all much more aware of the importance of snow leopards and very proud that people all over the world are buying their handiwork!

The new product line will be available next summer, but right now ear-bands, mittens and colorful felt trivets are available on the ISLT secure website. Visit soon to get perfect last-minute Christmas presents: [www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org).