

Snow Leopard Survival Strategy Summit

The International Snow Leopard Trust is pleased to announce that the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS) Summit has been rescheduled for May 2002. As many may remember, much of 2001 at the Trust was dominated by the preparation of the SLSS, a comprehensive "blueprint" for conservation of the species.

The original date for the SLSS Summit was postponed due to the tragic events of September 11th. However, re-scheduling the Summit Workshop in May has allowed for further deliberation and inclusion of government decision makers and a broader range of professionals from the range countries. After the Strategy is finalized at the Summit, it will then be made available to concerned government agencies and NGOs in snow leopard range countries for further fine-tuning and implementation. The SLSS will serve as a tool for these agencies to use in the development of conservation programs at the country level.

Invitations have been extended to authorities from the twelve range states as well as to professionals around the world who are involved in the fight to save the snow leopards. The Summit will be held at the Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ), which has generously donated its facilities in support of this event. ISLT is also in debt to the WPZ Docent! Volunteers who are putting in many hours of work to help with the logistics of such a large event. Please feel free to write an e-mail to info@snowleopard.org if you are interested in more information about the SLSS Summit meeting.

Show Your Creativity: Enter our Logo Contest

The International Snow Leopard Trust is in search of a new logo and we need your creativity! Help us to update our current logo to better reflect our mission of conserving the endangered snow leopard while

considering the needs of local people. While our current logo is beautiful, it is difficult to utilize on the variety of print and electronic media we use every day.

The winner will be recognized in our website and newsletter, receive a one-year membership with ISLT, and the choice of an all-expense paid trip to Mongolia valued at \$2,500 (airfare not included) or a cash award of \$500. The winner will be announced on May 31st.

Anyone can participate, so please tell your friends about the contest.

Help the Trust to develop a new graphic representation of our work to save these beautiful cats.

ISLT LOGO CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- The contest is open to everyone.

Participants can submit as many designs as they wish, but to help us each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper or as a separate electronic file.

- The logo must be black and white and must be clear in a variety of sizes (as small as business cards or as large as a poster).

- Submissions should be no larger than 4 inches by 4 inches (10cm by 10cm)

- Entries must be received by email or postmarked by April 26, 2002. Email entries should be sent to logo@snowleopard.org and mail should be sent to: International Snow Leopard Trust; Logo Contest; 4649 Sunnyside Ave. North; Suite 325; Seattle, WA 98103 USA. Mailed entries must arrive by May 3rd to be considered.

- All submissions become property of ISLT and will not be returned. ISLT reserves the right to refine or alter the winning design.

Serious Snow Leopard Fun and Games in Pakistan

As always, Saeeda Inayad, Education and Community Conservation Officer for ISLT in Pakistan, has been busy over the past few months. Working with teachers and directly with school children, Saeeda's infectious sense of fun and passion pervades all her conservation outreach activities. Recently, Saeeda organized an essay writing competition for school children in five different schools in the Chitral area of the North West Frontier Province. After an hour of activities and learning about the mountain wildlife of Pakistan, students were given an assignment to interview parents and grandparents about their memories of wildlife. The following entry struck Judges Javed Khan (ISLT India Program Director) and Ahmed Ashiq Khan (WWF Regional Director) as a winner:

A True Story of Snow leopard from Chitral.

During my youth I was very fond of hunting. In 1969 my friend and I went to a village named "Shaoor" for hunting Markhors. From there onwards we proceeded to a mountain named "Oharit" at around midnight. On our way a lunar eclipse started and in no time it was pitch darkness. It was almost impossible for us to proceed

any further and we were forced to sit where we were.

As the moon eclipse ended we proceeded further. By dawn we reached a village of nomadic herders. In our village

these villages are referred to as Dogar and the houses are constructed of big rocks placed up on one another. After having our breakfast we proceeded towards the high mountain peaks. We reached a height of twelve thousand feet approximately but were unable to sight any Markhor and so decided to go back.

As we turned back we saw six to seven Markhors coming towards us. We sat anxiously waiting for them to come into our firing range. The moment they entered our firing range I fired two shots with my gun, killing a Markhor with each shot. We slit their throats

This snow leopard may look like he can take care of himself but they still need your help.

dance to Islamic Practices. Since they were

too heavy for us to carry them we left them near a stream and walked back to the nomadic village that we reached by mid night.

We left our luggage at the village and started back to where we had left our hunt accompanied by two nomads from the village. The nomads were in front of us, one had a gun and the other a torch.

When we reached the place where we had left the hunt, the nomads suddenly started running towards us. When they reached us they were shivering with fear. They informed us that a huge Snow Leopard was standing over our hunt.

I loaded my gun and proceeded towards the leopard. On seeing me the leopard took a few steps back and stood motionless. Though I was afraid of

the leopard attacking me, I still took courage and went to my hunt. On reaching the spot I observed that the leopard had not even touched the hunt. On seeing me standing near the hunt the nomads also got heart and picked up the hunt and started our downward journey. I also started following them with an eye on the leopard that was standing motionless. The leopard impressed me tremendously, as it would not even touch that which somebody else hunts.

After this episode one day I saw a female leopard sleeping with two cubs beside her. I sat for quite a while observing them, after a while the cubs awoke

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Mission to Mongolia 2002

Have you ever seen a ghost?

In September of 2002, the International Snow Leopard Trust will lead a group of conservation buffs on the annual Mission to Mongolia and you

The fourteen-day adventure begins on September 1st in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of this important snow leopard range country. Over the next two weeks, Mission

habitat concerns.

The Trust, in collaboration with tour

operator Karakorum Expeditions of Mongolia and marketing partner Australian Geographic, is currently accepting booking reservations for the Mission. Karakorum Expeditions and last year's Mission to Mongolia won the 2001 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award for Best Ecotourism Trip, and the 2002 trip is sure to be even better!

For more information please visit the Trust's website at www.snowleopard.org/isit/involved/mongolia.html, or contact us by email at info@snowleopard.org. Space is very limited, so don't wait to sign on for the 2002 Mission to Mongolia!

Snow Leopard Fun

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and started suckling their mother. Suddenly I realized that these animals were a rare gift of nature that has added tremendous beauty to our landscape.

Now we are educating people on the importance of wild life. We are telling them that it is our duty to save these animals from extinction. This is not an easy job as in Chitral people have centuries old belief in the magical powers of the

SPRING CLEANING TREASURES

As you work through your basement, attic, or office, remember that your cast-offs may be of value to the Trust!

We make every effort to use our funds as wisely as possible. Before purchasing new products, we want to first check with you in case you have access to some of the items on our list, or are willing to provide services on a volunteer basis.

- . New or used Color laser Printer
- . New or used Computer Projector to show Power Point Presentation
- . Volunteer to help create a professional Video (most footage is already shot - we need help editing and adding voice-overs)
- . Volunteer to aid in the development of educational materials
- . GPS units with computer-link compatibility
- . Spotting scopes (variable, Le. 15x-45x power) . Compact binoculars (8x or 10x power) . Slide Projector (220 volt for use overseas)

Leopards body parts. To name a few:

It is believed that who ever keeps the claws of a leopard, that person becomes rich.

By placing the claws of a leopard around the neck of a new born, the newborn is saved from mortality.

Killing of snow leopard is considered a sign of pride and power in Chitral in general and in Kalash valley in particular.

As well as essay writing competitions, Saeeda is coordinating the production of a series of posters and wall charts for various audiences: one for herders on strategies to reduce conflict between humans and snow leopards; one for schools on mountain biodiversity and she is also developing a series of stickers featuring snow leopards to further motivate Nature Club members.

participants will take part in snow leopard research and conservation efforts underway in the mountains of the Great Gobi Desert, take in exotic sights, and maybe, just maybe see an elusive snow leopard in the wild.

While the chances of seeing the ghostly cats are slim at best, you can rest assured that they will see you! Participants will assist our Mongolian Program Staff to monitor the snow leopard population in this region by using Snow Leopard Information Management System (SLIMS) methodologies. Members of the trip will be instructed in research techniques by ISLT Mongolia Program Director, Bariushaa

-- Munkhtsog. The group will also meet with nomadic herding families in the Gobi Dessert and conduct interviews to determine attitudes towards wildlife and

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Another Doctor on the *Team*

In December 2001, Charudutt Mishra, ISLT Program Director for India was awarded his PhD from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Under Professor Herbert Prins, Charu has for the past several years been studying interactions between wild ungulates, domestic livestock and pasture quality in the region of Spiti in Northern India. His research focussed on the village of Kibber - among the highest villages in the world - and includes fascinating analysis of the indigenous resource management structures as well as the scientific study of the pastures and food habits of both wild and domestic ungulates.

One of Charu's most important conclusions is that much of the pastureland in his study area is overpopulated with domestic livestock.

As a result, pasture quality is becoming degraded with widespread implications on the entire ecosystem.

Not being satisfied with his academic achievement and research results, Charu worked with the Kibber village

council to find a mutually beneficial way of alleviating this situation. The council, a highly democratic decision-making body, agreed to set an entire valley aside from domestic grazing to allow the wild ungulate population to revive in exchange for an agreed compensation sum. This initiative has been supported by the Van Tienhoven Foundation, which is based in the Netherlands.

One of Charu's next objectives is to work with the village to find sustainable conservation incentives: handicrafts and eco-tourism are among the activities they are currently exploring.

Charu's dissertation is available to ISLT members upon request. It is a highly readable account of a fascinating conservation paradigm in Northern India.