

Snow Leopard Conservation Annual Progress Report

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6. Executive Summary:

Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) - the Queen of the Mountains, a flagship species - is at the peak of the food chain. It is a species found in the high mountain ecosystem. Its importance lies in its rarity and its importance as an indicator species of the high altitude ecosystems. These ecosystems support rich flora and fauna but widespread human encroachment and development activities threaten snow leopard habitat and prey species. Classified as an endangered species by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the snow leopard is disappearing from many parts of its range throughout the world. By protecting snow leopards, one also protects the habitat for a host of other plants and animals.

To focus on the conservation of this 'flagship' species, WWF Nepal initiated the "Nepal-Snow Leopard Conservation Project" from February 1999 with the support of WWF - UK. The project has successfully trained 8 Nepali field level professionals in survey techniques for the study of snow leopard/prey species and conducted a snow leopard/prey species survey in Shey Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) with the co-operation of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal and the International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT).

This fiscal year, the project concentrated on increasing awareness for conservation of the snow leopard in the SPNP and the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), where WWF Nepal run integrated projects. Local level meetings and workshops were held at both places which led to strong decisions to report and control poaching. At the same time, monitoring was continued both in the SPNP where permanent transects have been established and in the KCA, where regular monitoring is done by a trained local person. A number of educational materials were also produced in this fiscal year. An important publication was the 'Snow Leopard manual - Field Study Techniques for the Kingdom of Nepal'. Others include translation and printing of the snow leopard booklet in Nepali, production of stickers and reprinting of the English booklet. These materials have been distributed to local people, school children and concerned agencies.

7. Introduction:

The snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) is among the world's rarest cats. It is distributed in twelve central Asian countries. Nepal is one of the important range countries where the species is protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. In Nepal, the species has been reported from the high mountain protected areas such as the Shey-Phoksundo National Park (3,555 km²), the Annapurna Conservation Area (7,629 km²), the Makalu Barun National Park & Conservation Area (2,248 km²) and the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (2,035 km²). In 1981-1985, Jackson and Shah carried out the first successful radio-tracking study of the snow leopard in the Shey-Phoksundo National Park. Similarly, Madan Oli carried out his doctoral research on the species in the Annapurna Conservation Area in 1991. The total population of snow leopard in Nepal is estimated between 300-500.

Information vital to conserving the snow leopard, such as its status, distribution and habitat requirements is little known. Due to the remoteness of Nepal's northern mountains, few have visited the sparsely populated (approximately 3,500 people living in some 12 settlements in the Shey Phoksundo National Park) area until recently. These mountain communities are known for their centuries old trade across the Himalaya. Occasionally, they hunt wildlife or trap snow leopard that repeatedly prey on their sheep and goats. Earlier, the populations of these mountain people were low, limited as they were to a few isolated settlements and travel routes. However, the relatively pristine landscape is being subjected to increasing pressures from a changing economy and increasing pressures of tourism. Local people are increasingly complaining about livestock losses to carnivores like the snow leopard whose numbers they claim have increased.

8. Wider Context

The kingdom of Nepal has adopted a parliamentary form of democracy with the King as a constitutional monarch since 1990. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 1999 is reported to be a low US\$123.7 billion. Finance and technological limitations has meant little industrial growth has occurred within the landlocked country. Over 80% of the economically active population are dependent on agriculture. The topography of the country, a result of the range in altitude extending from 60m asl to 8848m asl has given the country a uniquely diverse range in climate and geography for the relatively small area it occupies (147,181 sq.km). It is noted for its exceptionally high biodiversity, 847 species of birds including 6 endangered species, about 640 species of butterflies, 6,500 species of flowering plants and 175 mammal species. The home range of the snow leopard in Nepal is the northern border of the country with Tibet (China), a mountainous region that is rich in its unique biodiversity. The snow leopard is important for being an environmental indicator of the health of the high mountains.

Snow leopards are fully protected in Nepal under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. Penalties for buying and selling a pelt is placed at NRs. 50,000 - 100,000 (US\$ 666 -1333) or 5-15 years in prison. However, enforcement is difficult as the home range of the animal is in remote and inaccessible parts of the country where the local people are heavily dependent on animal husbandry. These locals see no advantage in co existing with the snow leopards. Awareness of the conservation need of the animal is low in its home range areas and other parts of the country. Conflict with humans and illegal hunting and sale of pelts remain primary threats.

2001 has been a year of political upheavals for Nepal. The Maoist insurgency, that has been going on for over 5 years, has gained momentum in the rural parts of the country and entered urban areas. The country entered a period of national crisis when it was rocked by the tragic deaths of the entire royal family in June 2001. Very recently, in July 2001, Prime Minister Girija P. Koirala resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba of the ruling Nepali Congress. A positive note is that the opposition parties and even the revolutionary Maoists have voiced their support of the new leadership. With the new monarch, His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, an active and recognised environmentalist, there is hope for increased conservation awareness and actions. A major achievement of WWF Nepal has been the signing of the Supplementary Agreement with the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation on 13 July 2001. The agreement will be valid for 5 years and specifies co-operation for the conservation of species and forests, for sustainable development and landscape level planning.

Among constraints to snow leopard conservation in the country is the lack of snow leopard expertise in the country. The habitat of the snow leopard is in the high mountains of Nepal where accessibility is difficult and operational costs are high. At the same time, communication between range countries for information sharing is poor. There appears to be low interest in the endangered cat internationally due to low publicity and likely due to fact that its habitat is difficult to reach for the ordinary tourists. Moreover, the animal is elusive and rarely sighted in the rugged mountainous terrain. These factors affect interest in the conservation of the endangered cat and need to be overcome.

9. Objectives:

The goal of this project is to create an information base for an action plan for snow leopard conservation in Nepal, and promote public participation for its protection. The specific objectives of the project are:

1. Complete a series of surveys on snow leopard, its prey species and habitats, including interactions with local communities, in three phases - covering critical snow leopard habitat areas in Nepal i.e. the north-western part (Shey Phoksundo National Park); the north-central part (Annapurna Conservation Area); and the north-eastern part (Kanchenjunga Conservation Area),
2. Create an information base on snow leopard, its prey species and habitats in an adapted format styled along the lines of Snow Leopard Information Management System (SLIMS) adopted by the ISL T.
3. Establish a cadre of well-equipped national professionals and field level wildlife technicians for snow leopard survey through in-country training and provision of survey equipment and instruments.
4. Develop public awareness programs for the protection of the species.
5. Develop a mechanism of public participation for the co-existence of livestock and snow leopard.
6. Develop an action plan for long-term snow leopard conservation in Nepal on the basis of scientifically correct and socio-economically relevant information.

10. Changes

Status Survey of Snow Leopard in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area could not be carried out as

planned. The national experts in snow leopard, who are very few, could not provide their services for the program in the survey season. International Snow Leopard Trust (ISL T) was unable to provide their support as they did not have the budget for such activity in Nepal in the fiscal year and the project budget was too small for hiring international expert (s) to conduct the survey. So instead of the full fledged survey, regular monitoring of the snow leopard is being done in the area with the help of a local person and park staff who were trained on snow leopard survey techniques under this project in 1999 in the Shey Phoksundo National Park.

Instead of the proposed action plan, it is planned to develop a strategic plan in the coming fiscal year for long term snow leopard conservation. This change is due to the constraints of expertise and funds, a strategic plan is achievable and it can provide the base for developing the action plan at a later date. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has also suggested that a Strategic Plan is feasible.

II. PROGRESS

11.1 Snow Leopard Conservation Awareness

The educational materials developed in the last fiscal year are being distributed to schools, related offices and the public. These include snow leopard booklets in English and Tibetan, a two page flier, posters and stickers.

Snow Leopard Sticker

5000 snow leopard stickers were printed, half of these were in Nepali and half in English. The slogan used was "Join paws to save the snow leopard. Nepal's wildlife, earth's heritage". The stickers are targeted to the general Nepali public to raise awareness on the existence and conservation need of the snow leopard. Copies of the sticker are being sent by post.

Booklet translation

The snow leopard booklet was translated into Nepali and 1000 copies printed in June 2001. At the same time, 500 copies of the English version were also reprinted. It will be distributed to schools and eco clubs and local community based organisations in the snow leopard areas. The booklet provides information on the characteristics, distribution and habitat of the animal. A copy of the booklet is being sent by post. The field workshops conducted among local people had brought up the need for more educational materials which these recent publications will be able to meet.

11.2 Capacity building in Snow Leopard Conservation

Snow Leopard/Prey Species Survey Training Manual

The snow leopard manual was completed and 1000 copies of it were printed in February 2001. The manual was prepared by Senior Conservation Officer of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) Mr. Shyam Bajimaya and edited and formatted by Ms. Kirsten.

Froede with technical support from Dr. Rodney Jackson, the Snow Leopard expert from the Snow Leopard Conservancy. The manual is produced with the cooperation of the DNPWC. This manual provides necessary guidance, techniques and scientific knowledge to the wildlife officers, rangers, researchers and wildlife students in conducting field survey of snow leopard and its prey species, and their conservation. The manual has been distributed to the DNPWC, other concerned agencies and individuals. A copy of the manual is being sent by post with the hard copy of this progress report.

Snow Leopard monitoring by local people

The snow leopard monitoring assistant, Mr. Himali Chungdak Sherpa, is continuously conducting snow leopard monitoring in and around the Ghunsa area of the KCA. At the same time, snow leopard sightings by the residents are being reported to the snow leopard monitoring assistant. In the SPNP, the monitoring of the transects was conducted by a team of people including a local, Mr. Sitar Baiji of Rigmo village. Both Mr. Sherpa and Mr. Baiji are now capable of training others for monitoring which is crucial for maintaining continuous monitoring as park staff trained in SLIMS (Snow Leopard Management Systems) developed by the ISLT are frequently transferred from their stations.

Formation of Snow Leopard Conservation Committees (SLCC)

There are 5 snow leopard conservation committees in the prime habitat areas of Saldang and Vijer VDCs. These committees keep records of animals killed by the snow leopard in their area and meet regularly every three months. It is planned to form a SLCC in the KCA in the coming fiscal year. Meetings and workshops were held with local people and SLCCs of SPNP and SPNP which helped to increase awareness and mobilised them to make strong decisions for conservation (more under Community Participation for the co-existence of livestock and snow leopard in Shey Phoksundo National Park)

Study Tour Planned

Due to the budget revision and subsequent reduction, the planned study tour could not take place. The study tour had been planned to send related individuals involved in snow leopard conservation to another range country for experience sharing.

11.3 Community Participation for the co-existence of livestock and snow leopard in Shey Phoksundo National Park

There are 5 snow leopard conservation committees in the prime habitat areas of Saldang and Vijer VDCs. These were formed by the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP), implemented by WWF Nepal Program in the area with support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). There is one committee in Vijer VDC and the rest four are in Karang, Saldang, Namdo and Komas villages of Saldang VDC. Each committee has seven to eleven members of local people including women, livestock herders and local leaders.

Each committee keeps records of animals killed by the snow leopard in their area and meets regularly every three months. They have been provided a format to fill out which gives details of the owner and number, age and type of animal killed along with the time and place. This data gives

information on how many animals are killed each year by the snow leopard, prime areas for preying, as well as the time and season that preying usually occurs in.

These committees are working for the conservation of the snow leopard by educating local people on the importance of the endangered cat in the high mountain ecosystem in an effort to stop retaliatory killings. To cite a case of a local incident, in the third week of November 2000, a pony belonging to a poor family was killed by a snow leopard. The owner gathered villagers and chased the snow leopard down to the riverside to kill it. It is very easy to kill the cat once it is on the riverside or on flat land. It cannot run fast and tires very soon. It then tries to hide in corners and people grab its tail, hit it with sticks or stones and kill it. The cat normally does not turn to attack the person holding on to its tail. At the riverside, there were two cubs with the mother leopard. Fortunately, a snow leopard conservation committee member, Mr. Thinlay, was at the scene and stopped the villagers from killing the animal. In these situations, committee members find it difficult to stop the killing of the leopards. To minimize such incidences, the field staff recommends that committees should have some funds to provide partial compensation.

In June 2001, meetings were held with the SLCCs of Vajer, Namdo and Saldang villages. The objectives of these meetings were to discuss and document snow leopard conservation issues and the means of resolving them. Altogether, 85 villagers including SLCC members, school teachers, monks and local people participated in the meetings. The villagers informed that poaching had not taken place in their area during this year and they would report it to the national park authorities if it should take place in the future. They mentioned that both sightings and predation had decreased this year. The villagers requested educational materials and programs to increase conservation awareness on the snow leopard. They wanted knowledge on legal matters related to snow leopard conservation.

The NMCP has provided NRs.200,000 to the SLCCs for snow leopard conservation. The committees will decide on their own how the money shall be used and inactive committees will not be awarded funds.

11.4 Monitoring of the snow leopard transects in the Shey Phoksundo National Park

The Project Manager, Mr. Dhana Rai, of NMCP with a team of people carried out the monitoring of 6 snow leopard transects in the SPNP. The team included ranger, Mr. Ram Prasad Bagali, game scout and a local person, Mr. Sitar Baiji of Rigmo village who had received the SLIMS training. They covered 4.38 kilometres using Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) co-ordinates to locate the transects. The team also recorded blue sheep sightings. The two years monitoring records are presently with the NMCP office in Rigmo village.

11.5 Snow Leopard Monitoring in the Kanchenjunga National park

The snow leopard monitoring assistant, Mr. Himali Chungdak Sherpa, is continuously conducting snow leopard monitoring in and around the Ghunsa area. At the same time, snow leopard sightings by KCA residents are being reported to the snow leopard monitoring assistant.

Table 1. List the major snow leopard sightings during this reporting period.

Table 1. Major snow leopard sightings in the KCA.

| S/N | Date | Sighting |
|-----|----------------|---|
| 1. | July 6, 2000 | Live snow leopard: single (age/sex unidentifiable) animal sighted with a female yak kill at Doyarma Kharka at 6:00 am. (Sighting reported by yak-herder Ngima Lundok.) |
| 2. | July 15, 2000 | Live snow leopard: single (age/sex unidentifiable) animal sighted with a female sheep kill at Syakangba Kharka at 4:00 pm. (Sighting reported by yak-herder Karula.) |
| 3. | Aug 2, 2000 | Snow leopard feces: sighting near eaten sheep kill at Jimbu Bari by yak-herder. |
| 4. | Aug 3, 2000 | Live snow leopard: single (age/sex unidentifiable) animal sighted with a half-eaten yak calf kill at Sumdokma Kharka at 7:00 p.m. (Sighting reported by Gyabla resident, Mr. Pemba Sherpa.) |
| 5. | Aug 6, 2000 | Live snow leopard: single (age/sex unidentifiable) animal sighted at a distance of approximately 5m. in Gimigilla at 3:00 pm. (Sighting reported by yak-herder Mr. Nima Gyamjo Sherpa accompanied by a dog. The dog, which chased the snow leopard, was attacked and injured.) |
| 6. | Aug 12, 2000 | Snow leopard pug-marks: fresh pug-marks of less than 1-week old snow leopard cub sighted at Pangpema Base Camp of dimensions – length 12 cm and width 10 cm. |
| 7. | Aug 18, 2000 | Near Dudh Pokhari pasture: single (age/sex unidentifiable) animal sighted with a sheep kill. |
| 8. | April 2, 2001 | Pugmarks and feces: fresh pugmarks and feces found beside dead 4-year old female yak of Mr. Kherapla Bhotia at Chhusyar tar. |
| 9. | April 16, 2001 | Dead animal: one dead female snow leopard found near Yangma village of Walangchung Gola VDC. The snow leopard pelt is currently retained in the Ghunsa sector office. |

In addition to snow leopard monitoring, wildlife monitoring is also being conducted in the KCA. Four wildlife monitoring programs were conducted by KCA Rangers and local youth groups in the Ghunsa, Lelep, and Walangchung Gola sectors. These monitoring programs have resulted in the collection of nearly 200 wildlife traps made of iron and/or nylon, 2 guns, skins of 2 musk deer and 1 barking deer.

The snow leopard and wildlife monitoring programs continue to indicate the presence of snow leopards and other endangered wildlife in the KCA. However, these programs also clearly indicate that the threat to wildlife from poaching exists. Considering this, anti-poaching programs in the KCA are proving increasingly necessary.

11.6 Workshops with the local people of Kanchenjunga Conservation Area

Workshops were conducted by KCAP staff in the villages of Yamphudin, Tseram VDC and Ghunsa of Lelep VDC. Altogether 51 local people, mostly local Yak herders and owners, participated in these workshops. The main objective of the workshop was to give awareness to the people on the urgent need of snow leopard conservation and to find out problems and possible solutions. The workshops covered the following topics: snow leopard's biological information, need for conservation focussing on ecosystem, religion and tourism and prey and predator relationship. Mr. Himali Chungda also shared his experience of snow leopard monitoring.

There were 6 participants in the workshop in the village of Yamphudin, Tseram Voc. Discussions led to decisions to stop the hunting of blue sheep and other prey species of the snow leopard, and to inform KCAP of professional poachers. The villagers also decided not to keep livestock pens in the home range of the snow leopard and increase vigilance of their livestock. They arranged to keep local informants in two places to pass on information on poachers to the project office.

The workshop in Ghunsa was attended by 23 people. This workshop identified problems and possible solutions. The problems identified by the workshop participants were:

1. Snow leopard preying on domestic animals such as yak, jhon (cross breed yak and cow) and sheep.
2. Snow leopards may attack people in the future.

Solutions suggested were:

1. Need to create a snow leopard compensation trust.
2. Need to form a compensation evaluation team.
3. Vigilance of domestic livestock should be increased by owners.
4. Workshops for using preventive measures should be held.
5. Database study of the snow leopard in the Kanchenjunga should be carried out.
6. Related workshops, training and study tours to the local people should be carried out for awareness raising.
7. The Nepali version of the snow leopard booklet should be provided to villagers.
8. Audiovisual shows on conservation needs should be conducted.
9. Regular wildlife monitoring, including snow leopard monitoring should be carried out by KCAP staff and local people. If possible, it should be twice a month.

Following the workshops, a snow leopard *chhyatipurti* (compensation) evaluation committee was formed comprising of 5 people from the villages of Ghunsa, Gyabla and F olay.

For effective monitoring, the following equipment are required by KCAP staff: tent, sleeping bag, water proof jacket, shoes, rain coat, torches, record player to record wildlife sounds, first aid kit, woolen ropes, gloves, binoculars, kitchen utensils, night vision goggles and Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) equipment.

11.7 Study on Illegal Trade

A study on the illegal trade of snow leopard parts is being conducted and will be completed by August 2001. A consultant, Mr. Navin Singh Khadka, who has carried out similar studies on

illegal trade, particularly the trade on 'shatoosh' has been hired to carry out the study. The consultant has already been to Dolpo and spent three weeks there to investigate and study the issue there. He has visited the lower Dolpo area and all villages of Upper Dolpo namely Vijer, Shey, Saldang, Dho and others. There are indications that snow leopard parts are going to Tibet en route to the main oriental market, and there are also indications that the materials are being sent to Kathmandu and Pokhara. The consultant is currently in Kathmandu following the investigation.

11.8 Conservation Initiative in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA)

A joint snow leopard conservation initiative has started with the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) and King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation! Annapurna Conservation Area Project KMTNC/ACAP. Under this initiative, two main activities will be implemented in the Manang area of the ACA. These are:

(i) Train ACAP staff in snow leopard survey methods with special emphasis on people/wildlife conflicts resulting from the depredation of livestock. Develop sustainable measures of reducing losses.

Identify how best to link snow leopard protection and conservation with tourism related opportunities along the main Annapurna Circuit trek. One output of this will be a project proposal and design concept document for guiding the incremental development of snow leopard ecotourism initiatives in the Manang area.

(ii)

12. Constraints

Constraints faced are a lack of snow leopard expertise and trained staff in the country. Communication between range countries for information sharing is also poor. Operational costs of programs in the remote mountains of the country are high. The transfer of government staff who have been trained in snow leopard monitoring hampers the monitoring program. There is need for more community level workshops for improved planning and implementation. Participatory conservation of the snow leopard is crucial for its survival and the project in the future needs to develop means of reducing the human/wildlife conflict. This would include improved livestock management, increased awareness programs and indirect compensation schemes. Indirect compensation could be stipends to children to pursue education. These children would be selected from families affected by snow leopard attacks. WWF Nepal program has carried out a similar program successfully in the buffer zone of the Royal Bardia National Park to assist local families affected by wildlife attacks.

13. Impacts

The major impact has been in raising the awareness of the general public, school children and particularly local communities living in high mountains regions that are the snow leopard's habitat. There is increased involvement of the local people in monitoring and conservation efforts. The monitoring activity is continuous in SPNP and KCA. It has not only increased the capacities of park staff but also that of the local people.

Some real impacts have been as follows:

- (i) Increased awareness for conservation among local people in SPNP and KCA.

- (ii) The actual prevention of retaliatory killing of a snow leopard in NMCP.
- (iii) Decision by the local people to increase vigilance of livestock.
- (iv) Decision by the local people to report poaching.
- (v) 2 local informants nominated by the villagers in KCA to report poaching.
- (vi) Local people are making the effort to find ways of co existing with the snow leopard.

14. Lessons

The major lesson *is* that for conserving this unique *species*, the mobilization and involvement of the local communities remains of utmost importance. Along with the scientific surveys to determine the status of this species, *its* habitat and prey base, strong public awareness programs are needed. At the local community-level, activities to reduce the people-wildlife conflicts and find ways of *co existence* should be planned and implemented with local people's participation. At the same time, for the long-term conservation of the snow leopard, the strategic plan for snow leopard conservation in Nepal should be prepared.

The other important lesson is that the wide scope of the focus and interventions required for the conservation of the snow leopard is beyond the logistical and financial capacity of a single institution. There must be a collaborative initiative between the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, international organizations like WWF, International Snow Leopard Trust, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and particularly the local communities. More focus should be *given* to capacity building and developing national expertise within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and local NGOs.

15. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project's activities of this period are local communities, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, school students, local conservationists and national and international scientists.

16. Organizational Linkages

The project was implemented in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal and International Snow Leopard Trust (ISL T). The project will continue to communicate and collaborate with these organizations and others, such as KMTNC, which is involved in similar activities and seek advice from the Snow Leopard Conservancy.

More focus will be given in building partnerships with local level users' groups and committees such as Snow Leopard Conservation Committees and Range land Management Committees.

17. Conclusions

During this reporting period, the main focus was given to increasing public awareness, specially targeting the local *communities in* the field and school students, both *in* rural and urban *areas*, and also to monitoring the snow leopard in Shey Phoksundo National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

More cooperation and coordination is needed among the government and non-government organizations working in conserving this unique species. The mobilization and involvement of the local communities is the most important aspect in conservation efforts and lessons learned in the field must be used to improve on actions taken so far. Along with scientific surveys to determine the status of this species, its habitat and prey, strong public awareness programs and solutions to reduce retaliatory killings are needed.

18. Recommendations

1. Continue snow leopard monitoring in Shey Phoksundo National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.
2. Continue monitoring of snow leopard with local people's participation in the Almapurna Conservation Area. This is being initiated in the coming fiscal year.
3. Develop and conduct awareness programs targeting local communities, policy level government officials, park staff and general public.
4. Conduct surveys on the snow leopard and prey species in other national parks and areas with snow leopard habitat (Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, ACAP).
5. Intensive programs to raise public awareness on snow leopard conservation in SPNP, KCA and ACAP.
6. Form and strengthen local committees to develop mechanisms for minimizing livestock damage by the snow leopard and preventing retaliatory killings of the leopard.
7. Develop and implement mechanisms for preventing retaliatory killings of the snow leopard with the participation of the local people.
8. Run regular snow leopard conservation campaigns in the local area and the capital.
9. Target snow leopard conservation education activities and program to school children in the local area.
10. Initiate Anti Poaching Units involving local people's participation.
11. Strengthen and increase communication and coordination among range countries in sharing knowledge and information and building partnerships in snow leopard conservation initiatives.
12. Prepare a Strategic Plan on Snow Leopard Conservation in Nepal.
13. Initiate indirect compensation schemes such as education stipends to children of families affected by snow leopard attacks.

19. Financial Progress: Financial report submitted separately.

20. Planned Activities and Outputs for the next fiscal year July, 2001 to June 30, 2002.

- (i). Continue monitoring of snow leopard in Shey Phoksundo National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area using SLIMS technique.
- (ii). Conduct public awareness and capacity building programs on snow leopard conservation in Shey Phoksundo National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.
- (iii). Form a Snow Leopard Conservation Committee in KCA. Strengthen existing SLCCs in SPNP.
- (iv). Prepare a Strategic Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Nepal.
- (v). Train ACAP staff in snow leopard survey methods. Initiate snow leopard monitoring in the

Manang area of ACA.

(vi). Develop ways of linking snow leopard conservation to tourism along main Annapurna Circuit.

(vii). Run an awareness campaign on snow leopard to coincide with 2002 being Year of the Mountain.