Reflections on the First Radio-tracking Study of Snow Leopard

Snow Leopard in Nepali Currency Note

GSLEP Meeting held in Kathmandu
Nepal supports a significant population of Snow Leopard, and has a commendable record for protecting this rare cat. The Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC), is proud to partner with the Nepal government and local NGOs. Rodney Jackson, SLC’s Founder Director, was the first person to radio-collar snow leopards (see story on page 6).

Three decades later, Nepali scientists from the Department of National Parks (DNPWC) and Wildlife Conservation, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and WWF Nepal attached GPS collars to three snow leopards, including the first female cat, in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. These cats have been moving between Nepal, India and China (Tibet), highlighting the importance of international collaboration for their conservation.

SLC is now partnering with three NGOs- NTNC, Global Primate Network (GPN) and Mountain Spirit (MS) - to implement the following activities; (i) savings & credit groups, where the interest on micro-loans supports conservation activities, (ii) construction of predator-proof corrals to prevent loss of livestock and retaliatory killing of snow leopards; (iii) testing of electronic deterrents like Foxlights and solar-electric fencing; (iv) outreach programs for youths, including “Snow Leopard Scouts” & (v) Snow leopard-themed radio program reaching 200,000+ rural and urban listeners.

In January 2017, the Nepal Government hosted the 2nd Steering Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem & Protection Program (GSLEP), involving all 12 snow leopard range countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Participants discussed the status of management plans to secure 20 snow leopard “landscapes” by year 2020. These landscapes are to be located in all 12 range countries, cumulatively covering an area of 500,000 sq. km., and are intended to provide habitat and prey of sufficient quality enabling each to support viable populations of 100 breeding snow leopards. Four issues emerged as requiring immediate attention: 1) resource mobilization; 2) capacity building; 3) illegal wildlife trade; and 4) climate change adaptation.

A highlight of the Steering Committee Meeting was the appearance of Nepal’s Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who pledged a contribution of $500,000 from the Nepali government for snow leopard conservation.

We hope that the third edition of “The Snow Leopard Magazine”, which focuses on Nepali efforts to conserve snow leopards, will inform and entertain you and in the process, promote recognition for Nepali efforts to conserve snow leopards.
Field is the Class Room
Students working in the Snow Leopards Scouts Camp.

A vulture sat on a tree doing nothing........

When a Rabbit thought to do same and sat on the ground.

A Snow Leopard came and ate.

Moral: To sit and do nothing, you need to be on TOP.

A Vulture sat on a tree doing nothing........

When a Rabbit thought to do same and sat on the ground.

A Snow Leopard came and ate.

Moral: To sit and do nothing, you need to be on TOP.
I came across an interesting incident while conducting research and study on Snow Leopard in Langu valley of Mugu district in 1984. That day, early morning while I was observing various activities of a group of more than 30 Himalayan Tahrs using a spotting scope, I saw an adult snow leopard closing in on these Himalayan Tahrs. When the snow leopard reached near these Himalayan Tahrs, about within a distance of 30 meters, it started to slowly crawl on its stomach wagging its tail. As these Tahrs were grazing and slowly climbing uphill, within 5 minutes the Snow Leopard reached precariously close to them for an attack. I guessed that the snow leopard would then any minute run and attack one of the unaware Himalayan Tahrs. But contrary to my assumption, the Snow Leopard did not attack them but rather than crawling on the ground, it resumed its normal position and started to walk uphill to that very direction from where it came. It walked on the snow-covered ground, approximately 300 meters, and disappeared on the other side of the cliff.

It is said that if a large predator like snow leopard is not hungry, it would refrain from unnecessary killing of its prey species. I think that was the main reason the snow leopard did not attack these Himalayan Tahrs. Indiscriminate killing of prey species would definitely cause food scarcity in the days to come. The snow leopard makes sure that the area does not fall short of natural food.

But the inhabitants of the Himalayan region sustain heavy losses due to a particularly nasty habit of the snow leopard. Sometimes a snow leopard enters the barn of sheep and goats, killing them in huge numbers (sometimes more than 50) but leaves without eating them. It is called ‘multiple or surplus killing’ in English language. Recently similar incidents took place in Manang and Mustang districts of Nepal. Although the specific reason behind such killings is still not known, it is assumed that Snow Leopard committed such thing out of confusion. Once the Snow Leopard enters the barn, the sheep and goats are terrified and create loud noises milling about with nowhere to escape. As a consequence the Snow Leopard is also perhaps confused and tries to get out of the barn but could not find the way out. In confusion it kills all the sheep and goats that come across its way.

Although these two behaviors of Snow Leopard seem contradictory and unusual, we can conclude that many behavior of wild animals is situational.
हिउँचितुवाको
असामान्य लागने स्वभाववरु

- करन बहादुर शाह

सल १९८४ मा गुरुङ जिल्लाको लाङ्ग उपत्यकाका हिउँचितुवा र त्वस्को
अवधारण अनुसन्धान गरेर सिलिसिनाला प्रक दिन अपराधको दुरुश
देखिए । र्यो दिन भिखाने र्योपक्षको नामांकनबाट ३० वटा ब्याए
बढी कार्यकलापको विकल्प निजामाकलापहरूको न अवलोकन गरेर विचार,
अव्याक नामांकनबाट प्रदट्ट प्रबन्ध हिउँचितुवा कार्यकलाप हरेका
जाने देखे । जब हिउँचितुवा कार्यकलाप अवदान ३० मिनेटको दुरुश
पुर्यो उसले आफ्नो ठालाइ जितना सुखानौ तथा अनुकूल हाराई देखाउँदै
कार्यकलाप नली नामांकन बित्त केही दिनहरूको पोव निजीकटको अवधारणहरू हिउँचितुवा कार्यकलापको देख
विज्ञ पुर्यो, कार्यकलाप उसबाट आक्रमण हुँवैँको रचितिका पुर्यो ।
अत: हिउँचितुवाले दर्शकें बनेको दुब्डा कार्यकलाप आक्रमण गर्दै
होला नले खली लल्ला । तर नेले मानिस निष्पादन सो हिउँचितुवाले
ती कार्यकलाप आक्रमण गरेँ, चाल नले हिउँ खली र सञ्चालन्य
अव्याक लाभकर उगर्ने नामांकन निजीकटको विचार त्वस्क त्वस्क
वायस्काको नृत्य उगर्ने नहुने ।

हिउँचितुवाले यस्ती कार्यकलाप नलाई निजीकटक आक्रमण गर्दै
कार्यकर्ता कार्यकलाप ने अव्याक वलिए आफ्नो विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ
सफल अव्याक सङ्कर उगर्ने नामांकन अफसोस आफ्नो आक्रमण
हाले हिउँ खली ।

तर हिउँचितुवाले प्रदट्ट अव्याक त्वस्क वलिए आफ्नो विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ
कार्यकर्ता कार्यकलाप ने विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ विज्ञ पनि भिखाने
कार्यकर्ता कार्यकलाप ने अव्याक विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ ने विस्तार
विज्ञ पनि भिखाने नले आफ्नो विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ ने विस्तार
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विज्ञ पनि भिखाने । तर हिउँचितुवाले प्रदट्ट अव्याक त्वस्क वलिए
कार्यकर्ता कार्यकलाप ने अव्याक विस्तार जस्तो हुँवैँ ने विस्तार
विज्ञ पनि भिखाने ।
Reflection on the First Radio-Tracking Study of Snow Leopard

Although Nepal’s snow leopard habitat is only some 30,000 sq. km along the northern border with Tibet (China), this country has the distinction of having pioneered research on this rare, endangered species. Project Investigator, I myself, and co-investigator, Karan Shah were the first to radio-collar a wild snow leopard in January 1982, with funding from the 1981 Rolex Awards for Enterprise and a series of National Geographic grants. Our study area was located at an altitude of 3,000m in the Langu Valley in Mugu District, upstream of Dolphu village, where a small settlement of hardy Tibetans cultivated potatoes and barley, and herded yak, cattle-crossbreeds, sheep and goats.

Our 5-person team spent four years, studying this elusive cat in one of the most remote regions of the world, gathering information on its movement patterns, habitat and prey preferences, and social interactions. We lived in tents throughout this time, enduring cold and snowy winters, and surviving on the Spartan Diet of the high Himal.

In 1982-1983, we radio-collared 5 snow leopards -- three males and two females -- and worked hard to track them closely from October through June of the following year. Poor visibility and the surging waters of the Langu River made field work during the monsoon season very difficult, despite being in the “rain-shadow” area of Nepal. The snow leopard’s footprints were easy to see during the winter following snowfall, but we could not match the cat’s agility on the precipitous rocks and high cliffs that dominated the Langu valley. Indeed, we found it extremely difficult work, moving through steep and rugged terrain, carrying a small tent and food for up to a week on our backs as we monitored each cat’s identifying radio-signal.

We fixed their position through triangulation, noting if they were resting or travelling within their home ranges. Once or twice a month, we would take turns at continuous, 24-hour monitoring of their activity pulse, quickly learning these snow leopards were most active in the early morning or late afternoon -- a pattern scientists label as “crespuscular” activity. Unlike the African lion, which lives in prides of 3-20 individuals, snow leopards are solitary creatures; however, we quickly learned that they regularly communicated with one another by leaving scented signs (tracks, scrapes, scats) along their favored travel routes -- typically narrow ridge lines, the base of cliffs, or along drainages. The odor and pheromones contained in the scat, urine or anal gland scent secretions helped each cat to identify, which leopard deposited the sign, how long since they had passed by. And, in the case of a female, whether she was ready to breed (in estrous) or not. We found that snow leopard scent-mark far more often than...
other large cats, like tigers or mountain lions. We believe that this behavior to be an adaptation for the efficient use and sharing of limited resources. Indeed, snow leopards stay on their kill for up to 7 days, until nothing is left -- unless its stolen by a wolf or in the case of livestock, recovered by the herder -- as long as the meat is still fresh enough to consume.

Our study remained the seminal research effort on the species for almost 20 years, until the advent of satellite collars, which have enabled biologists to sit comfortably in their warm offices and follow each cat's movements every 7-10 hours over the internet. However, while these biologists can overlay the snow leopard's travel path on a map or satellite image of the Earth's surface, they stand to miss exciting opportunities to peer more closely into the cat's daily life -- such as visiting a kill site and noting which prey species is taken, or how much has been consumed. When supplemented with other tools, -- such as remote digital cameras set at kill sites or along wildlife trails, or the collection of scats, -- one can learn so much more without being intrusive or unduly disturbing this incredibly well-camouflaged big cat. You can read in much greater detail about our adventures studying snow leopards in the book titled *Vanishing Tracks* by Darla Hillard, my wife.

As I reflect back on my time in remote western Nepal, I am happy that Nepal continues to play a leading role in promoting conservation of Panthera uncia, as it is known to scientists. This past January, the Government of Nepal hosted an international meeting that brought together biologists and managers from all 12 snow leopard range states under the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) which aims to identify and protect significant, landscape-sized areas, with the objective of securing 20 populations numbering at least 100 breeding snow leopards and with sufficient wild prey by the year 2020 -- hence the slogan 20 x 2020. Please spread the word and help conserve this Ambassador Animal of the High Mountains!

As I move into retirement age, my overriding goal is to mentor the next generation of snow leopard biologists and conservationists, sharing my 40 years of experience and knowledge with them, and helping to develop innovative, non-invasive research tools and protocols to deal with changing conditions brought about by both rural, economic development and climate change. I am completely dedicated to helping local communities better co-exist with the snow leopard and other large predators like the wolf. I appreciate the anger that a shepherd feels on waking in the morning and seeing most of his flock of sheep, goats, or yaks, lying dead from snow leopard predation. Known as “multiple killing,” such incidents are disastrous to owners and feline culprit alike: with the sheep and goats unable to run away, the cat goes on a killing spree until there is no more movement within the poorly constructed night-time pen, or corral. When this happens, its the equivalent of a herder’s life savings been wiped out. Following the snow leopards’ attacks on the livestock, herders retaliate by trapping or poisoning the big cats.

Fortunately, such events can be essentially eliminated after night-time corrals are “predator-proofed” with heavy gauge wire and other building materials or outfitted with flashing Foxlights (both provided by the Snow Leopard Conservancy and its partners) which scare the big cats away. The other important conservation action involves finding ways of offsetting the herder’s economic loss by providing alternative sources of income, including diversifying rural livelihood opportunities. By ensuring that affected households do not have to rely so heavily on animal husbandry, we can better guarantee that herders will become effective stewards and well-respected guardians of the endangered snow leopard and its fragile high mountain ecosystem. Also, in this way, Nepal can continue to stay at the forefront of snow leopard research and conservation, with the next generation making sure this incredibly beautiful cat continues to roam the high mountains.
हिउँचितुवाको पहिलो रेडियो कलर गर्ने अध्ययनको सम्भना

- डा. रहजी ज्यादाशन

लेखकहरूले हिउँचितुवाको कारण 30,000 वर्ष तिनी प्राकृतिक खोज्यात यो तिनी आध्यात्मिक वास्तविकता छ। रेडियो प्राइजेन्स 98कसैं र लेखाले उद्योगको वृद्धिलाई अधिक संयोजनाको परिवर्तनखाना भएको छ। र सह-अनुसंधानकर्ता कलर शाक सन १९८५ को जनवरी महिनामा जागाली हिउँचितुवाको गर्ने उपज्यामहिमालाई निर्देशित र उचितता छ। र हालो अभ्यास श्रेणी

लेखकहरूले हिउँचितुवाको पहिलो रेडियो कलर गर्नेपछि उपज्यामासम 3000 रेडियो कलर गर्ने छ। र हालो अभ्यास श्रेणी।

लेखको हिउँचितुवाको पहिलो रेडियो कलर गर्ने प्राकृतिक वास्तविकता छ। र अघिकता अर्थात् हिउँचितुवाको पहिलो रेडियो कलर गर्ने प्राकृतिक वास्तविकता छ। र हालो अभ्यास श्रेणी।
Vanishing Tracks

Panthera uncia
LAMENT OF
Red Panda

Struggling I grew up enduring grief and pain
Not a moment in life to enjoy and entertain
Thanks to the poaching, risky home of jungle
Hunter chase us with a gun, evil and cruel

Our number stumbles, hunting is the very reason
Once they capture, trade us little money millions
Vanish may we soon, nobody bothers nonetheless
Live becomes very tough in the receding wilderness

Life we on eating only the leaves of bamboo
We do no harm to you, kindly spare us
Jungle is our safe residence; we are not for a game
Do not trade in our lives you may never see us again

Simple, naïve, easy going and we are very plain
Our conservation will give you a great deal of gain
Save us and help us! This is our only wish

Reena Budhachhetri
Class 10, Shree Laxmi High School
Roots and Shoots Group
Mamangkhey -5, Taplejung
PROTECTING THE ENEMY:
How a Nepalese Herder Befriended the Snow Leopard?

Growing up in a herding community in the Nepalese mountains, Dr. Ghana S. Gurung knew two things about snow leopards. They killed his family’s livestock and they needed to be killed in return. © WWF-Nepal

Ghana spent his childhood summers in the upper Mustang region with his grandfather, herding his family’s goats, sheep and yaks. They were their main source of livelihood. But they were also easy prey for snow leopards.

“During that time, snow leopards used to attack my goats, sheep and young yaks – killing seven, eight, and even ten in one go,” said Ghana. “It made me angry.”

For people like Ghana and his community that relied so heavily on their livestock, snow leopards were not beautiful creatures that needed conservation. They were a direct threat that had to be eliminated.

“I saw traps being laid out for them, poison being prepared and snow leopards being killed,” said Ghana.

It was the same story in many parts of the snow leopard range in Asia’s high mountains – herding communities killing snow leopards in retaliation for attacks on their livestock. This conflict was one of the main reasons for the 20 percent decline in snow leopard population over the past twenty years.
It is assumed that human-snow leopard conflict remains a major threat to the survival of the species.

But nowadays, Ghana is doing everything he can to end this conflict—for the benefit of herding families and snow leopards. And his work is paying off.

For Ghana, the turning point was when he started working in conservation after graduating from Lincoln University in New Zealand. Seeing snow leopards through a different lens, he realized how important it was to protect them and also how rarely they were being seen.

In 1998, when he joined WWF, snow leopard sightings were rare in Kanchenjunga and indirect signs were hardly encountered of the beautiful “ghost of the mountains.”

However, 14 years later, a survey identified 23 snow leopards in Kanchenjunga, amongst them three individuals had been satellite transmitter collared.

The reason? Years of dedicated work with local communities by Ghana and others to change their attitude towards the snow leopards. The result? There had not been a single retaliatory killing of a snow leopard in the area for eight years.

Ghana believes that a conservation success of this magnitude is only possible when you believe in the local communities, when you trust them and make them responsible for the future of the snow leopard.

This was critical to the success of the snow leopard related insurance scheme that Ghana had started. This innovative initiative compensated the herders for any livestock that they lose to snow leopards, providing them with the financial support they need to cope with their losses and a reason not to kill a snow leopard in retaliation.

The insurance scheme is just one part of WWF’s extensive community-based snow leopard conservation programme. The programme also involves raising awareness about the importance of snow leopards, training of citizen scientists to monitor snow leopards and their prey, developing community-led institutions for snow leopard conservation, and providing alternative livelihood options such as eco-tourism.

“When you are a herder you do not know how important or endangered the snow leopard is. It is a threat to your livelihood, and you do not want to see it around – that’s it,” said Ghana. “But when you understand its importance and know how endangered it is, then you have an immediate empathy toward it.”

After working closely together, the communities eventually took on ownership of the efforts to protect snow leopards, especially after they were provided with ways to prevent snow leopards from attacking their livestock or with compensation when they do.

“Having once felt that anger myself, I know the root cause of it,” added Ghana. “I still see that anger in people and unless we address the cause we cannot conserve snow leopard.”

Ghana and his colleagues from WWF-Nepal and the government are doing just that and the result is communities and snow leopards living in increasing harmony together.
શાસ્ત્રનો સૂત્રકા:  
કસરી પ્રોટા લેપાલી ગોઠલા હિંદુચિતુવાકો મિત્ર બને?

- પ્રણી રાજ

લેપાલી હેલ્બેલી ગોઠલા સહ્યોગાર સહાય ગુજરાતના હિંદુચિતુવાકો બારેલા દુકાન

દુકાન બુક-લેઝીસ્ટ લેપાલી પરિવારો આશર તારી રૂપકોના બદલાલ ભારતીય-ફોટોફેસ કોદરા અને હિંદુચિતુવાકો બારેલા દુકાન

જરીવસ્તુયાણ જાણાં આપણે બદલાલ હુજરુંબાલુ સાથે મળીને માલિકને 

જરીવસ્તુયાણ દર્શન ને ઉમેદ કરીને પરિવારોની જીવન વાતાવ્ર્ણ લિખાં હતા પરિવારોની મુખ્ય આખી હું હતું હતું 

'જરીવસ્તુયાણ, હિંદુચિતુવાકિની સત્તા, આથ કાણીવચ્ચે એક પ્રેમા દર્શાવતા બોલી આપી હતી, બારા અને સાના ઓછી વાણીઓ, ફળ સરકરકાર, 

જે તરીકે આપણે સંશેષ જો જરીવસ્તુયાણ આઇડલની સ્થાપના અને ધાર્મિક સંદર્ભોના જ જ ઉપરીત ત્રયાસલી સંરક્ષણ ગુજરાત જણાવે બનાવે હતે હતે 

હિંદુચિતુવાકો ઉન્નતિ કરતા સમય સમય સૂધારી જેવી પાલછી પ્રથાઓ 

'જેલ હિંદુચિતુવાકો લાંખા પાલ્યો ઉપર વધારે જરુર રહેવે હતે હતે, હિંદુચિતુવાકો આપેલ હતે હતે, જે રાજ 

નાના હિંદુચિતુવાકિ વસાષ્ટ્ર સાથે હેલ્બેલી મોહમદ હોસ્ણલા ગોઠલા સહ્યોગારશે આપણે વસાષ્ટ્ર માને હેલ્બેલી હિંદુચિતુવા 

નાના હિંદુચિતુવાકો વસાષ્ટ્ર ફક વસાષ્ટ્રની ઉપર હેલ્બેલી હોસ્ણલા ગોઠલા સહ્યોગારશે આપણે વસાષ્ટ્ર વસાષ્ટ્રની જગ્યા 

કાદમ પદધતિ પદધતિ દર્શાવ અનુસાર બારેલા હેલ્બેલી હિંદુચિતુવાકો આપણે વસાષ્ટ્ર વસાષ્ટ્રની જગ્યા 

તર હેલ્બેલી, ગોઠલા પરિવારો ઉપાદક રિ હિંદુચિતુવાકો સંરક્ષણના 

તર હેલ્બેલી, ગોઠલા પરિવારો ઉપાદક રિ હિંદુચિતુવાકો સંરક્ષણના 

નૃયુત્લિઓકર લિખન યુનિભોસટીહા સામગ્રી સાક્ષાત કરની આશ્રય અને સંશેષાના કારે સાથ પણ જગ્યાપતિ નાના વધારે જગ્યાપતિ નાના 

નૃયુત્લિઓકર લિખન યુનિભોસટીહા સામગ્રી સાક્ષાત કરની આશ્રય 

સાધ પહેલે પહેલી હિંદુચિતુવાકો કાલ જગ્યા જગ્યા જગ્યા 

સાધ પહેલે પહેલી હિંદુચિતુવાકો કાલ જગ્યા જગ્યા
Mountain Spirit (MS) in partnership with and funding from the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) conducted several three-day Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) workshops for four Snow Leopard Savings and Credit Management Groups from the villages of Phortse, Thamo, Thame and Thameteng of Khumjung and Namche Village Development Councils of the Sagarmatha National Park’s Buffer Zone.

The workshops organized between November 23 and December 5, 2016. All together 64 members of four Snow Leopard Saving & Credit Management groups took part in the workshop (Thameteng 15, Thame 17, Thamo 16 and Phortse 16).

SLC formed these groups in 2010 and 2011 with USD 2,000 seed funding and for the purpose of improving local livelihoods as an incentive for protecting snow leopards, their prey and habitat in the face of potential economic loss due to livestock depredation.

The Groups have been operating since then, making monthly savings deposits, mobilizing loans for small businesses, collecting loan instalment interest, total transactions of four groups have reached Rs. 32,38,040 as of late February 2017. Group size varies from 16 to 118 for a total of 175 members.

Mr. Lhakpa Tenji Lama, Dr. Mingma Norbu Sherpa and Mr. Ngawang Thapke Sherpa, APPA practitioners, conducted the training with support from Dr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Kami Doma Sherpa and Pasang Lhamu Sherpa in the field. Ms. Chhing Lhamu Sherpa played key role in workshop planning and report preparation.

The workshop’s specific objectives were to: discover the strengths and needs of each Group; explore potential enterprise opportunities;
and to prepare a Three-year Livelihood Improvement Action Plan based on each Group's shared vision. The workshop identified the key enterprise opportunities: establishing a small grocery store, and tailoring and weaving enterprises to benefit the Khumbila Group members in Phortse village; vegetable farming and rock climbing for tourists to benefit the Thamo Group members; a grocery shop linked to festival events, and a small-scale mineral water plant for the benefit of the Sumdur Peak Group members in Thame; and a grocery store and bakery for the benefit of the Thameteng Group members.
Snow Leopard is one of the endangered species of Nepal. An injured Snow Leopard that had been rescued in the Annapurna Conservation Area of Mustang district on July 18, 2016 died the following day at 8.15pm. It was taken to the High Altitude School of the Nepal Army in Jomsom for treatment. According to a technician involved in the treatment the Snow Leopard was an approximately 7 year old male and very weak at the time of rescue owing to an injury to one of its legs.

There is no wildlife treatment centre or hospital within Annapurna Conservation Area so it took some time to fulfill the legal procedures in order to move the endangered animal from the place of rescued to the treatment location. However, everything that was possible had been done to treat the injured animal, said a high ranking official of National Trust for Nature Conservation. “Although a technical team from the Central Zoo was also involved in the treatment, we were unable to save the badly injured and weak Snow Leopard” he said.

Once the written directive had been received from the Liaison Office of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the headquarters of Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), Pokhara to destroy body of the dead Snow Leopard, it was cremated after completing the due process in the presence of Deputy Superintendent of Police, representatives of District Administration Office, Mustang and District Office of Soil Conservation, media people and stakeholders in the premises of Area Conservation Office of Annapurna Conservation Area, Jomsom.

2063 Shrawan 3 गते सेवाबार नुस्लाई जिल्लालाई अवल्पूर्ण संस्कृति केत्रको नुस्लाई बाहिर्निक फेर्ने संक्षेप भद्रिचित्र श्रावण 6 गते तिमालाबार बेलुका सो ५५ फिलेट जी हाम्रो छ। उपाधारका लागि उक्त हितिचित्रवालाई लहानी सेवाको ओकोनोजस्विन भए निविदाचुै पूरा लागेको वृत्ताङ्क कारण ती विलाससुवासी हुन जानो भएलाई आफुकरए यन्त्रान्वेषण साप्ताहिक उपाधार गरेको नस्तिक प्रकृति संस्कृति कोषका एक उच्च अधिकारीको बलात भए। 'कोष अवल्पूर्णको सन्दर्भ निदिर्शणासाथि गाईलेस्बीटाहरुको प्राथिक होली उपाधारा संरक्षण संस्कृति गरिस्कि केहीला अवसर अर्थात् रेडियालाई बनाउन सकिनुहोस्', उनले अन्त्यकरण गरेका छ।
NEW PARTNER TO CARRY OUT

Snow Leopard
Initiatives in Nepal

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Global Primate Network Nepal (GPN-Nepal) and Snow leopard Conservancy (SLC), USA to carry out research and conservation projects in Nepal for 2016 to 2019.

GPN-Nepal has started radio programs from the 1st week of July 2016, focusing on snow leopard related conservation and awareness. The radio program is transmitting from 8:30 – 8:45 pm on every Sunday from 1st July 2016 via Radio Lamjung 91.8 MHz, Radio Mustang 98.8 MHz and radio Myagdi 104.4 MHz. The program has been broadcasted in Lamjung, Myagdi, Kaski and Mustang districts.

The listener of the program Pema Dolma from Mustang mentions that she has been suffering from predator livestock conflict since many years. The program taught her to manage the problem. "We should be always cautious while grazing livestock", Dolma says, "Predator proof corral and foxlight can be good measures to reduce predator livestock conflict"."
FOXLIGHTS DISTRIBUTED in Manang & Upper Mustang

Foxlights are flashing lights that scare snow leopards away from corral.

Four Foxlights were distributed in Upper Mustang in Dhiple pastureland, Marang village while 13 Foxlights were distributed and installed in Manang area specifically at Pripche, Pripche Thang, Pripche Poo, Kyarken, Ti, Tankarshya, Neku (icelake), Kesto (icelake) pastures. Pema Lowa Lama under the Global Primate Network (GPN) distributed Foxlights in Upper Mustang while Tashi R. Ghale installed them in Manang between May- September 2016.

During the monitoring exercises, the local herders informed GPN staff that they have been very much benefitted and could sleep without fear of predators visiting their Goth. “It is protecting our livestock which is connected with our livelihoods”, says Daple Gurung, a yak herder who lives in the Diple pastureland of Lo Manthang. Another herder from Marang, Tsepten Gurung, thinks that Foxlights will help keep their corrals safe from "mass killing" incidents which happened last year when he and his neighbors lost 104 sheep/goats in just 2 nights.
International Snow Leopard Day
Celebrated in Annapurna Conservation Area

On the occasion of the International Snow Leopard Day on October 23, 2016, a student rally along with a Flash mob organized at Parche of Siklesh Village, Kaski. The Rally walked around the village while the local people, domestic tourists, teachers, Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) officials attended the flash mob which was successfully accomplished at the Sabhachowk. The program was locally organized by Alumni Association for Conservation Development (AACD) and the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara with the technical and financial support of Global Primate Network, Snow Leopard Conservancy and ACAP under the National Trust for Nature Conservation.

On the occasion, Free Art and an Essay Competition was also organized by the students of the Annapurna Secondary School to generate awareness about importance of snow leopard conservation.

In the Rally, students of grade 8, 9 & 10 were involved while grade 8 & 9 participated in the Free Drawing Competition. Likewise the Free Essay writing competition was held among the 10th graders.

Photo: Rinzin Lama/GPN
Tibetan Argali
Sighted in Upper Dolpo

A group of researchers has reported the sighting of a young male Tibetan argali (Ovis ammon hodgsoni) in upper Dolpo, for the first time in more than four decades.

The animal locally known as Nayaan and Nayan in Nepali is the largest of all the wild sheep in the world and was captured on camera on July 19, 2016 in Dingarsa of Chharka VDC in Upper Dolpo, at an elevation of 4,796 metres.

This is the first time a live animal was photographed in the region,” said Naresh Kushi.

A research paper on the distribution and status of Tibetan argali in Nepal, published in 2002 by Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah, a wildlife expert, had mentioned that the Tibetan argali was not found in any locality other than the upper Mustang area in Nepal. It used to be found in Mugu, Dolpa, Sankhuwasabha, Gorkha and Rasuwa districts about three-four decades ago.

“Hunting for meat and trophy, and heavy winter snowfall are prime factors that drove the Tibetan argalis to extinction in Dolpo in the past,” says Kushi, adding that the recent sighting indicates that some of the animals are drifting over from Tibet and are settling in Dolpo.

The People of Chharka told the researchers about the presence of a pair of Tibetan argali in the area during the last four years. “However, two individuals do not represent a viable population and is very fragile,” said Geraldine Werhahn, a member of the research team associated with the Wildlife Conservation and Research Unit at Oxford University.

This is an endangered species and is legally protected by Nepal government’s National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. It is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that regulates its international trade. Tibetan argalis are also found in India, Bhutan and China.

Photo: Naresh Kushi
The awareness event organized under the theme of “Lend a Hand for the Snow leopard” on the occasion of the International Snow Leopard Day on October 23, 2016. The event was held in the historic Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur where people from all walks of life came together to contribute their hand prints to a community canvas, as a symbol and in solidarity with the elusive cat which converted into a stunning picture of a snow leopard.

The awareness event was organized by WWF Nepal, as part of the USAID funded Conservation and Adaptation in Asia’s High Mountains (AHM) Project, in partnership with Sattya Media Arts Collective and WWF Nepal’s The Generation Green Campaign.

“Being part of this unique event with the active support of people for the snow leopard has given us hope for the continued success of conservation efforts in Nepal, and elsewhere.” Said, Dr. Karl Wurster, Environment and Energy Team Leader at USAID-Nepal.

“Nepal has been leading the way in snow leopard conservation, pioneering new approaches that have become global models for the conservation of the snow leopard and high mountain ecosystems,” said Dr. Ghana S. Gurung, Sr. Conservation Program Director at WWF Nepal.

Source: WWF Nepal
Once upon a time, when a herder was looking after his goats in the pastureland encountered the ghost of the mountain, the snow leopard. The herder screamed.

The snow leopard dragged the goat into the pasture land and just vanished.

So, without harming the snow leopard, the herder saved his goats with the help of foxlight.
I was very happy and excited about our observation visit the next day i.e. June 5, 2016.

The visit was organized by Annapurna Conservation Area Project office (ACAP). I was already aware of the purposes of the visit, i.e. to experience the natural habitat of snow leopard, how to employ camera traps for monitoring snow leopards, and to support the local students learning about the food supply of snow leopard. The next day, a conservation teacher, my friend Norbu and I reached the ACAP office and met teachers and students of Lo Cunfen Rastriya Lower Secondary school. We packed up food, water and juice provided by ACAP office and started our journey at 9 am in the morning from Lomanthang to the eastern high hills. The journey was pleasant because friends from other schools were also with us. We saw Himalayan Hare and Himalayan Marmot. "Sometimes snow leopard hunts them", explained our teacher from ACAP. He told us many interesting stories on wildlife. After walking nearly two hours, we reached Marchung Lek.

Pema sir from ACAP used the GPS device and told us that Marchung Lek is situated at an elevation of 3900 meters and we all six students noted down this information on our note book. We also learned that Marchung Lek is the main habitat of snow leopard. After a long and careful inspection of the ground, Pema sir called us and said “Look! It is a pugmark of snow leopard”. I was very much happy and excited because that was the first time ever I saw any footprint of a snow leopard. Pema sir explained more about that footprint. We then learned that Pema sir is an experienced wildlife expert who had carried out many researches and studies on snow leopard and other wild animals. Once we moved little forward from Murchang lek (grassland), we found some bones and horns of a Blue Sheep which had died a couple of years ago. We observed the surrounding hills with the help of a pair of binoculars. Pema sir explained to all of us that snow leopard mostly feeds on Blue Sheep which graze on similar hilly areas and cliffs.

Eating lunch at around 2 pm Pema sir clarified us camera trap which is used in researches and take photographs of the wild animals. Taking group photo we returned to our school. Once at school we shared our experience with our friends about the visit to Marchung Lek, particularly about the habitat of snow leopard.
Lhakpa Gurung, of Samdzong village of Lomanthang recalls “25-30 goats and sheep used to be killed by predators in the traditional corral each year, just recently in Marang village, dozens of goats and sheep were killed by the snow leopard in the same corral.” The corral used to be open, just 3 feet in height, seemed weak so that Jackal, wolf and snow leopard could easily approach and attack in the midnight. However Lhakpa’s destiny has been changed due to the improved predator proof corral.

The National Geographic Project with the technical help of Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) and Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) provided a grant to construct this Predator Proof Corral. However, the user like Lhakpa provided some matching funds for the project including transportation and labor costs.

He has 400 sheep and goats, 4 horses and 5 cows and has been rearing livestock since he was a child. Many years ago in one cold winter night, he recalls, he got injured while rescuing of his sheep from a predator. That happened due to poorly constructed corral.

The predator proof corral is constructed in the Seterah pasture which is mostly used during the winter season. There are approximately 1400 livestock rearing in three corrals. About six herder families live together there. Lhakpa and his friend routinely graze 800 sheep and goats. “Now, I can take a long breathe, for I have not lost a single goat since I kept them in the predator proof corral”, Lhakpa says. “Livestock is my only source of earning and when it is killed by the predators, I get very angry and feel like I want to kill the predator whether it is fox or the snow leopard’. But he knows well that these wildlife are protected and he cannot even hurt them. He is afraid of the laws and does not want to become involved in the problem. “Predator proof corrals are helping to protect our livestock anyways so there is no conflict too.”, he further adds.

Lhakpa and his friends have encountered Snow leopards several times while grazing in the pasturelands, however the snow leopards never harmed their livestock due to their serious presence. “We guard very carefully so that our cattles are safe”, says Lhakpa. However they can not guard them all the time. This is the reason that predators have killed their livestock in traditional corral which a predator finds easy to enter. If livestock were killed, Lhakpa used to go to ACAP Office and complaint. “Compensation is very nominal”, says Lhakpa.

And not only a predator proof corral, he also got other measures to reduce conflicts such as Foxlight and a solar light. Lhakpa is impressed with foxlighting system in his corral. “I think good lighting facility around the corrals helps to keep the predators away from livestock.” Lhakpa is among many herders who has has attended awareness camp several times and which were organized by the ACAP office.
परमभौतिक गोठले 
गाईवर्तुङ्गो नीक्षानी घटायो

- पेमा थ्रिंग लोका

लाभाखानी सामग्रिक लाभ हुँदै साभक्षण, ‘हरेक वर्ष परमभौती जनतुङ्गो नीक्षानी गोठले २५ देखि ३० वटासंख्या बेसेशते नक्षत्रदेखि हीकेककाहिले दर्जनी बेसेशते नक्षत्रको बाहेजो ।’ त्यसै गॉठले सुल्ला.३ फिट उचाइको र प्रमथा कणजोर देखि ठयो, चर्म, ब्योजो र हीकेककाहिले दुस्को र बजारवरणालाई आकाश गाईवर्तुङ्गो नीक्षानी गोठले ।’ तर हिमोवासु हुँदैति परमभौती रोदक जोठका कारण लाभाखानी बियहार बनिने नदेे ।

सनो लेरिहे कणजोरको र माटिदु प्रकृति सरक्षण नियमको अनुपूरण सर्जको शैक्षणिक मानुसको चेतना आयोजनाको प्रविधिक सर्जको प्रस्ताव जोनाल जोनालेको परिवर्तन नालिले लाभाखानी परमभौती-रोदक जोठ देखि नियममा आयोजनालाई सर्जको उपलब्ध गरीयो हो तर लाभाखानी जस्ती अनुय अनुय उफानले पाइँदै सोर तिमानाले सर्जका युगलको क्रममा ‘हुँदैति सन्तलको लाभाखानी हाम्रो तियाहार हो’, उनी ग्यर्न ।

लाभाखानी ४०० गेवो बाजारकुङ्ग, चार घोडा र पीघ जाईहुनको नामका बजारको उन्नत मेगो देखि हो । उनी सर्जकको, घेरौ वर्ष पादिते जालो र जालो बजारको सुना र जालो बजारको परमभौती जनतुङ्गो बाजारको ठाउँ पुरुषको दिन । कणजोर गोठले कारण त्यसै नामको उनी ग्यर्न ।

सेवना लेरिहे परमभौती-रोदक जोठ बजारको स्ना दिन हुँदै नियममा जोजनको नुभु कुरुवा बजारको सर्जकको उपलब्ध गरीयो हो । त्यसै कृपाला गोठले सुल्ला.३ फिट उचाइको सर्जकको बजारको ५५ वटासंख्या बजारको । लाभाखानी र उनका दिलार्ना सामीले दिन बिनाह कुरु गॉठले साभक्षण पालिने नियममा ि नियममा ‘अब तो नैले आजलौको साभिता हुँदै’, नामका सर्जकको, ‘सबलको परमभौती-रोदक जोठले बडा पाइँदै तिमानाले सर्जकको बजारको दिनका ग्यर्न । गाईवर्तुङ्गो नीक्षानी जस्ते तिमानाले सर्जकको प्रदूर्भ दिन हो त्यसै पाइँदै बाजारको जोनाल जोनालेको कहिला हुँदैको होस्त कि प्रयासमा नामिदाह हुँदै दिन ।’ तर उन्नामा शाहा दिन ती सर्जकमा जनतुङ्गो हुँदै र तिमानाले अस्तथति पाइँदै क्षति पुनरावृत्त हुँदै । उनी नियमाल्ल पत्रकाल देखि तयो निर्णयमा पाइँदै तिमानाले । जे आयोजन परमभौती-रोदक जोठले बजारको बर्जी जोनालेको हुँदै र तिमानाले गाईवर्तुङ्गो नीक्षानी गोठले ।’ उनी हुँदै नामक ।

लाभाखानी र उनका दिनसँगी गोठले नैटा झुँक परमभौती देखि । आसारी नै गोठले बजारको देखि तिमानाले बाजारको निर्णयमा ग्यर्न । तर उन्नामा दिनसँगी बजारको बर्जी बजारको सर्जकको प्रदूर्भ पाइँदै लाभाखानी परमभौती-रोदक बजारको पत्रकाल झर्नुहुँदैले तयो सर्जकको नामका साभक्षण पालिने नियममा ि नियममा ‘हुँदै नियममा तिर निर्णयमा जस्ते तिमानाले घरेलू हुँदै’, उनी ग्यर्न ।

परमभौती-रोदक गोठले हेतु उनी निर्णयमा जनतुङ्गो र नामको बीच घरेलू निर्णयमा पाप्लोको लागि फ्यास्लाइट र सोल्स्लाइट पाइँदै । गोठले चारघरेलू उपलब्धको रामो प्रविधिक बजारको जनतुङ्गो जनतुङ्गो बाजारको । तिमानाले नियममा जस्ती नियममा सर्जकको प्रदूर्भ पाइँदै । प्रयासमा सर्जकको सर्जकमा निर्णयमा सर्जकको जनतुङ्गो आयोजन परमभौती जोनालेको लाभाखानी पालिने नियममा घरेलू गोठले निर्णयमा दिनका घरेलू घरेलू पालिने घरेलू कहिला हुँदै।

Photo: Pema Tsering Lowa/SLC

Photo: Pema Tsering Lowa/SLC
On September 2, 2016, a team of researchers surveying snow leopard signs and prey species in the upper valley of Khangsar, Manang were not expecting anything out of the ordinary. But at 4:40 pm, on their way back to camp, they saw a pack of Himalayan wolf roaming on the remote pastures of the area.

It was the first time in more than four decades that a wolf has been sighted in this area. “It happened so quickly,” says biologist Tashi R Ghale, a member of the Global Primate Network (GPN) team, “We were able to snap a few quick pictures before they disappeared behind the cover of rocks.”

The GPN team has been conducting camera trapping of snow leopard and Pallas’s cat in the region in collaboration with the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). “We had first captured images of a wolf pair in one of our camera traps at an elevation of 4590m on March 31, 2015. But we thought the
wolves might just be roaming and speculated that they would go back where they came from,” Ghale says.

“But now the wolf pair seems to have successfully reproduced and colonised the upper pasture of Khangsar, which has a wide valley and a good prey base. We sighted a pack of five wolves altogether,” says Rinpud Phunjok Lama, principal investigator of the team, “The successful colonisation of the wolves might compete with the valley’s apex predator, the snow leopard”

In April this year, a wolf related report, published by a team headed by researcher Madhu Chetri, grabbed headlines around the world. The team that had been studying its scat samples in Upper Mustang since 2001 confirmed the presence of the Himalayan wolf in the Mustang region. The paper entitled, Ancient Himalayan wolf lineage in Upper Mustang of the Annapurna Conservation Area, published in the journal Zoo Keys, also speculated that Himalayan wolf, which is genetically distinct from European grey wolves, merit to be classified as a species of its own, namely Canis himalayensis.

As part of the research, the team interviewed hundreds of local herders, livestock owners and nomads, who admitted that wolves are perceived as a threat to local livelihoods. “These genetically distinct Himalayan wolves deserve special conservation attention, at the same time that the conservation of this species in a context of human-wildlife conflict is challenging,” the paper concluded.

Inevitable conflict

Locally known as ‘chaangu’, GPN-Nepal researchers confirmed that the locals are concerned by the return of this predator to the Manang valley. Mr. Bhuchung Gurung, a herder from Tanki Manang, remembers sighting a wolf chasing goats in the Karche pasture as a child. According to him, wolves have not been sighted in the region for the last four decades. “Now that the wolf has again returned to the valley, it will be dangerous for the livestock.

Ganga R. Regmi, the Executive Director of GPN Nepal, says that while wolves can play a big role in balancing out the food chain and easing pressure of grazing pastures, eventual conflict is all but inevitable. “Because wolves are robust pack hunters they will inevitably come into conflict with not just other predators like the snow leopard, but also humans,” he says, “A yak will cost a herder roughly Rs 100,000, there are bound to be retribution killings in the future, if long-term conservation policies and herd protection measures are not formulated. Poisoning of the wolves by herders has played a significant role in the dwindling of their numbers in the past.”

According to Regmi, lack of comprehensive study has made it impossible to ascertain the population of the wolf that roam Dolpa, Humla, Kanchenjunga, Mustang and now in Manang. Wolves are listed as least concern in IUCN Red List Book (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/3746/0) and are legally protected by the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 of the Government of Nepal. “Tigers, rhinos and red pandas have received plenty of worldwide attention in the past decades and giant strides have been made in their conservation. The endangered Himalayan wolf deserves concerted conservation efforts as well.” Given the abundance of prey in the valley, Regmi emphasizes that the wolves that have already colonized Khangsar are bound to flourish—making the need for further study and proactive action all the more urgent.

For now though, he and his team are overjoyed that the howl of wolves will ring the valleys of Manang once more. Tourists may be happy as well.
The Snow Leopard | Page 28
Facts About SNOW LEOPARD

- Snow Leopard is found only in 12 countries in the world they are Nepal, China, India, Bhutan, Mongolia, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Perhaps 4500 to 7500 Snow Leopards exist in the world.
- In Nepal, the estimated population of Snow Leopard ranges from 350 to 500.
- The Langu valley of the Shey Phoksundo National Park supports the highest density of Snow Leopards (10 to 12 Snow Leopards per 100 square km) in Nepal.
- Nepal’s National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 (BS 2029) has listed Snow Leopard as a protected priority species. It is illegal to hunt Snow Leopard. As per the fifth Amendment of this Act 2016, any one found guilty of poaching, hurting Snow Leopard and trading of its body parts will be punished with penalty of Rs. 5,00,000 to Rs. 10,00,000 or 5 to 15 years of imprisonment or both.
To date, I have completed pika’s survey in Mustang, Pallas’s cat’s survey in Manang & Mustang, Snow leopard’s survey in Manang and Humla, livestock depredation survey in Sagarmatha National Park. The areas where I have worked were between 4000 and 5500m elevation and these are areas where snow leopards often leave their markings. Thorang, Kangla and Tilicho are some of the high elevation areas in Manang district where I conducted my surveys.

Snow leopard, which occurs in 12 countries in South and Central Asia, is known to inhabit some of the most difficult terrain in the world. Frequently changing weather, challenging terrain, limited time and resources and most of all the elusive nature of this species represent big challenges to its systematic study. Winter and early spring are the best time for snow leopard field work as the chances of encountering this cat’s signs are very high. But, in the high mountains snowfall is high and the cold and rough terrain hinders one’s ability to cover large areas. Thus most studies have
manual picture of wolf from Manang provides the first evidence of the return of the wolves to Manang. We also have several movie footages and pictures of Pallas’s cat, Beech Marten, Weasel, Jackal, Pika, Blue sheep from our camera traps. Manually we photographed, Tibetan wild ass, Himalayan marmot, Royal’s Pika, Wolf, Tibetan argali, blue sheep, and many game birds.

The sighting of the snow leopard was the happiest moment in the field, especially having known the fact that the elusive predator provides rare sightings. Sometimes, something unexpected happens like the recent survey in Manang where we sighted a pack of wolf. This was the first direct sightings of wolves after more than four decades due to their return to Manang. Such surprising encounters also happen in the field beside the hope of sighting the elusive snow leopard.

Well planned research designs including realistic objectives and methods are the primary requirement for successful scientific research. High mountain areas are not easy to work in, so good mental as well as physical preparation are required. One needs to have good field gear that suits the mountain climate. Some background information on the study area, terrain, climate and culture are very helpful, indeed critical knowledge, prior to undertaking any survey.

I feel very lucky to have opportunity of conducting research one of the most rare and beautiful cats in the world: snow leopards and secondly I have good support of one of the best teams working in the high mountains in Nepal.

to confine to small areas or survey undertaken during non-snowfall season like the summer and autumn when the chances of encountering sign encounter are lower compared to the winter and early spring.

The primary objective of my trips was to survey snow leopards, their prey and the intensity of conflict with local people over livestock depredation so that we bring scientific information from the field that will allow us to prepare and implement better conservation plans.

I have conducted snow leopard related research in two areas, Annapurna Conservation Area and Humla as Principle Investigator. During the course of our research, my team successfully "captured" snow leopard's images in both the areas. The camera trap picture from Humla was the first photographic evidence of snow leopard outside the current network of protected areas in Nepal. Similarly, the camera trap as well as
हिउँचितुवा जून दिवसीय व नाच दिवसीय ९२ वटा देशहरुको पाइवा, संसारका सबैभन्दा काठिन बुखारको बस्ती हो । बराबर खराब परिवर्तन हुने तापमान, पूर्वी देखि, जिरिनको स्तर र बुखारको विस्फोटक व्यवस्थाको समयमा त्यहाँ किसिको सोवारहरू त्यस्तानो खुलाउने गर्ने गर्दछ। उज्ज्वल शोभावत बढी हुने र विस्तृत बुखारको कारण हुने बुखारको पूर्व र खुलाउने गर्ने समयमा सोवारहरू त्यस्तानो।

हवा आवाजको प्राकृतिक उद्धव हिउँचितुवा र उसको आवाजको समयका गरेको, पराकारको आवाजको प्राकृतिक आवाजकाको बुखारको तयारी हुनेछ। त्यस्तान सरल र मनोरंजक दिवसीय हिउँचितुवा दिवसीय एवं बुखारको त्यस्तान समयमा निम्नलिङ्ग ठाउँमा जीवित रहेको छ।

हिउँचितुवा देखि आशा बालक व स्वाभाविक भौमाथ्यको व्याख्यान बुखारको बढाई दिन।
Briefly tell us about Nepal’s snow leopard conservation work and how DNPWC has observed it.

The snow leopard is an inhabitant of the high mountain areas, far from roads and thus with poor access. The government of Nepal has established more than 12 Protected Areas in the mountain ecosystems focusing on this iconic and flagship species. Habitat management, control of poaching and illegal trade and reducing human-snow leopard conflict are the major focus of the government at present. In the recent days, the government of Nepal has particularly focused on research and monitoring together with local communities and conservation partners. Trans-boundary cooperation with India and China is the other focus of snow leopard conservation in Nepal.

What are the major challenges that the DNPWC has been facing for snow leopard conservation in Nepal?

Major challenges of snow leopard conservation are:
- Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation due to unplanned development of infrastructures such as roads.
- Increase in the trend of human-snow leopard conflicts.
- Increasing trend of poaching, retaliatory killing and illegal trade of snow leopard body parts.
- Poaching of the snow leopard’s large prey species.
- Over-exploitation of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and other forest products in the mountain ecosystems.
- Climate change and its impacts on the habitat alteration.

Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. He has been working in the conservation sector for 25 years, including six years in the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. He accomplished his PhD in Forest Economics and Ecology from the University of Tsukuba, Japan in 2009. On behalf of the Snow Leopard Magazine Anil Adhikari caught up with Dr. Dhakal to talk about DNPWC’s plans for snow leopard conservation and especially the new landscape level program initiatives. Excerpts from this interview follow:
Do you think, a landscape level program is significant to protect and increase the number of snow leopard in its range countries? What is Nepal doing to promote landscape level conservation?

Yea, of course, landscape level conservation is prominent for apex and flagship species like the snow leopard. This fact was also justified from the satellite transmitter collaring research, which has been carried out in the Kanchenjunga Conservation area since 2013. One collared snow leopard covered more than 1000 km² which justifies this landscape approach and same individual has travelled to both Nepal and India which justifies trans-boundary cooperation following the principle of biodiversity ‘beyond the boundary’. The government of Nepal has been implementing snow leopard conservation activities at various landscapes such as Sacred Himalayan Landscape and Chitwan to Annapurna Landscape initiatives.

Under the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), the snow leopard range countries and partners have agreed to work together with like-minded stakeholders to identify and secure at least 20 Snow leopard Landscapes across the species range by 2020 giving the slogan “Secure 20 by 2020”. What is Nepal’s situation now?

The government of Nepal has identified 3 landscapes under this slogan. We are focusing on the eastern landscape as a pilot landscape and the formulation of a management plan is undergoing. The monitoring of snow leopards using satellite transmitter collars has also been encouraging us to work together with local communities and in gaining a better knowledge of biodiversity in the mountainous region.

What are the major themes of this program? Has Nepal already developed activities and proceeded with implementation?

This program has several themes such as; managing habitats and prey species, engaging local communities in conservation via sustainable livelihoods and addressing human wildlife conflict, trans-boundary management, research and others. Incorporating snow leopard’s conservation related facts in the country Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan (2005-2015) has been developed.

In the coming years, we are planning to include some genetic works and climate change issues following the core value of Bishkek declaration on snow leopard conservation in particular and Global Snow leopard & Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) in general.

Every year, the snow leopard habitat range communities in Nepal face a great number of livestock losses due to snow leopards and other predators. Livestock herding is the major source of living for high mountain communities. Does GSLEP help develop measures such as compensation schemes to address local communities?

Yea, the Government of Nepal had already included snow leopard as one of the conflict prone species in the relief guideline in 2012 and 2015 as well. If snow leopard makes injury to the people, the victim family may get up to NRs. 100,000, in case of human casualties, 500,000, in case livestock damage to the limit of NRs. 30,000. The Government of Nepal is also positive to increase the relief amount, simplify the relief release process and working towards zero human causalities and conflicts in the following days.

In 2016, an injured snow leopard had been rescued in the Annapurna Conservation Area but died during the treatment. How do you evaluate that situation? What lesson was learned do you think, so that we should not take to repeat such incident in the future?

It is fact that we have very poor wildlife rescue and problematic wildlife management facilities. Almost there is no preparedness system in place. In my opinion, we cannot predict the wildlife’s conflict time and place along with wildlife crime and related problems. A linear planning system on annual basis cannot address this problem. So, we need an emergency fund that Protected area and District Forest Office authorities can use when needed and the problem exists. Some mobile and rapid response team based in the region or at the state government level can address this problem more appropriately.

In 2015, a snow leopard was captured in camera trap at Limi area in Humla. Is DNPWC going to carry out research or promote camera trap program out there?

Camera trapping is one of the methods for proper wildlife monitoring. The snow leopard habitat encompasses rugged and remote mountainous areas, where we cannot install cameras everywhere. We are planning to install cameras at specific sites and get the results over the following years. We encourage to all conservation partners and research institutions to work together with government agencies so that the research results can be a part of policy and planning formulation in the coming years.

When this interview was conducted, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal was serving as the Deputy Director General at Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).
भूपरिधिरस्तीय कार्यक्रम
हिउँचितुवा जस्ता अल्यन्ते दुर्लभ प्रजातिको संरक्षणका लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण छ

डा. निहेष्ठत्वकाल यह तथा भू-संरक्षण वन्यजन्तुका सह-सरिप हुन्छ। डा. काल कालुह प्राणिको वस्तुका र अन्य जन्तुहरूका लागि विश्व विविधता विभागको प्रार्थ गर्नुका छ । हिउँचितुवा पारिबाटको लागि अविष्कारको अविष्कारको गर्नु प्रारम्भिक प्रतिक्रिया संरक्षण र चार्जाको गर्नु भू-परिधिरस्तीय कार्यक्रम साकार्य गर्नु हुन्छ। राष्ट्रिय लिकुञ्जको वस्तुका र अन्य जन्तुहरूको लागि विश्व विविधता विभागको प्रार्थ गर्नुका छ।

नेपालको सरकारको सार चार: 

• सरकारी मोजना वन्यजन्तुको विवरण गर्ने पूर्णिमा विवरण उद्देश्यका लागि संरक्षण करिएको वास्तवतमा विवरण हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवा र नातिनीतिको ढुङ्गाला पुढील हुन्छ।
• बोरी शिकार, हिउँचितुवा लाभ गर्ने प्रतिक्रिया तथा हिउँचितुवाहरूको अर्थ व्यवस्थाको प्रविधिमा पुढील हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवाहरूले नेपाल सिद्धान्त प्रान्तका बोरी शिकार हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवा लाभ गर्ने प्रतिक्रिया र जीवनको विभेदन र हिउँचितुवाहरूले वन्यजन्तुलाई स्वाभाविक रूपमा अनुस्मरित र अनुवादको व्याख्या।
• केही पूर्णिमा परिवर्तन र हिउँचितुवाहरूले वन्यजन्तुलाई स्वाभाविक रूपमा अनुस्मरित र अनुवादको व्याख्या।

• हिउँचितुवा जस्ता अल्यन्ते दुर्लभ प्रजातिको संरक्षणका लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण छ

हामीलाई हिउँचितुवा संरक्षण सरकारको नेपालको गरिएका गर्नुहोस् दियो। राष्ट्रिय लिकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विवरणका लागि हरेकीले कसरी हरेकीले हुनु प्रामाण्य छ?

हिउँचितुवाहरूले वास्तवको समय हो। नेपालको सरकारले विदेशीको अनुमति र भेलमा वन्यजन्तुको र भाँखुम्मा वन्यजन्तुको रुपमा रख्ने जस्ता जस्ता नातिनीतिको लागि न वर्तमान परिस्थितिक प्राकृतिक प्रणालीले। यस वर्तमान वर्तमान वर्तमानको वास्तवतमा विवरण हुन्छ। हिउँचितुवाहरूले वास्तवतमा विवरणको व्यवस्थापन, नेपालको सरकारको अधिकारिको भारतीय प्राकृतिक प्रणालीले।

राष्ट्रिय लिकुञ्जको वस्तुका र वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विवरणका लागि हिउँचितुवा हिउँचितुवा संरक्षण सरकारको लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण हुने?

हिउँचितुवा संरक्षणका गर्नु चुनौतीहरू कस कारण छ?

• सरकारी मोजना वन्यजन्तुको विवरण गर्ने पूर्णिमा विवरण उद्देश्यका लागि संरक्षण करिएको वास्तवतमा विवरण हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवा र नातिनीतिको ढुङ्गाला पुढील हुन्छ।
• बोरी शिकार, हिउँचितुवा लाभ गर्ने प्रतिक्रिया तथा हिउँचितुवाहरूको अर्थ व्यवस्थाको प्रविधिमा पुढील हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवाहरूले नेपाल सिद्धान्त प्रान्तका बोरी शिकार हुन्छ।
• हिउँचितुवा लाभ गर्ने प्रतिक्रिया र जीवनको विभेदन र हिउँचितुवाहरूले वास्तवको स्वाभाविक रूपमा अनुस्मरित र अनुवादको व्याख्या।
• केही पूर्णिमा परिवर्तन र हिउँचितुवाहरूले वास्तवको स्वाभाविक रूपमा अनुस्मरित र अनुवादको व्याख्या।

को तपाईलाई लागि, इन्द्रा भू-परिधिरस्तीय कार्यक्रम हिउँचितुवाहरूले वन्यजन्तुको चुनौतीहरूको संरक्षणका लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण हुन्छ। नेपालको भू-परिधिरस्तीय कार्यक्रम प्रगतिको गर्नको लागि को गरिएको हुन्छ?

पहिलो प्रार्थना गरिएको कार्यक्रमको स्थान र समय २०७२ वर्षमा राष्ट्रिय कार्यक्रमको स्थान र समय को गरिएको हुन्छ।
The Snow Leopard | Page 36

I was 29 years old when I accompanied the expedition team to successfully collar Nepal’s second snow leopard with GPS technology in May 2015. One year later, I headed once again to Yangma in Kangchenjunga with the hope of collaring a third snow leopard, this time as a leader of the expedition team.

My expedition began on 14 April 2016, when I left Kathmandu with a bag full of supplies and a heart filled with hope. My team comprised of experienced wildlife technicians Purushotam Pandey from the Government of Nepal and Phiru Lal Tharu from National Trust for Nature Conservation further supported by a passionate field team from the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council and citizen scientists of Yangma village.

After 45 minutes of flight time, a four-hour drive to Taplejung and two days of rest, we set out for Yangma, which is a five-day trek from Taplejung. The trek took us through undulating hills, picturesque valleys and steep river gorges, and a landscape that changed from dense forests of alder, oak and juniper to rugged and barren alpine terrains.

After five days trekking, on 21 April, we finally reached the valley of Yangma, our base for the collaring mission. Yangma is one of the most remote villages in the alpine regions of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) at an altitude of 4,200m with as few as 11 households, the majority of whom relies on yak-herding as a means of livelihood. The previous collaring missions were based in Ghunsa and Yangma, both in KCA, where two adult male snow leopards were successfully collared. This time, we were hoping to collar a female.
After a good rest on our first night in Yangma, we met with the local citizen scientists the following day to reflect on our past experience and share ideas and suggestions for the new task at hand. Collectively we agreed to begin our mission on 24 April starting with a small religious ceremony as per the local belief to grant us luck and safety. Between 24 and 26 April, we set up a control station in an abandoned house rented for the mission and strategically laid out 20 traps (Aldrich’s foothold snare trap) along the main trails and primary activity sites of snow leopards. The trap is attached with a radio transmitter which signals our main communication tower if the trap has been triggered. Once the traps were laid out, all we could do was wait and watch—for how long, no one could tell.

After three tiring days of walking up and down on the mountain slopes to lay the traps, my team finally got the day to rest. It was the 27th day of April. As with other days, our wildlife veterinarian went about his regular business of checking whether any of the traps had been triggered. No sooner had he left camp, than he came rushing back with excitement. One of the traps had been triggered which meant that an animal had been caught. Could it be a snow leopard? Well, we would have to find out for ourselves.

It was about 3:30 Pm in the evening and two of the team members went to the trap site to check it. We were not really hopeful, to be honest, firstly there was no way we thought we would catch a snow leopard so quick and, secondly, we had been through numerous situations in earlier expeditions where domestic yaks, blue sheep and even Tibetan mastiffs had triggered the traps instead of snow leopards. However, we got our immobilizing and collaring tools ready just in case.

And then, just like that, my radio received a message. “We have caught a snow leopard!” a voice bursting with excitement came from the other end.

The moments that followed after that was nothing short of an adrenaline rush and like clockwork, everyone had their tasks in order and ready to leave in a jiffy. The capture site was just about two kilometers away from the village, but it took us half an hour to get there because of the alpine terrain.

Upon reaching the site, we were greeted by the majesty of the elusive cat nearly camouflaged in the surrounding rugged terrain except for the juniper bush that gave it away behind which it sat nervous and anxious. With no time to lose, the tranquilizer was prepared and loaded on to the dart. The dart found its target in a single shot and the snow leopard was immobilized at 6:15pm.

Minutes later, more good news followed. The snow leopard was a female!

While our happiness knew no bounds, we still had the bigger task at hand of collaring the snow leopard. She could not, however, be collared in the same site as her capture since it was on the edge of a steep cliff, so we carried her down on a stretcher to the safer base of the cliff.

It already got dark by the time we reached the base. It was also getting colder. Battling both the elements, we went about fixing the satellite-GPS collar on the snow leopard while also collecting vital DNA samples and taking her measurements. She weighed 30 kg and including tail she was 173 cm in length.

We were able to wrap up the whole operation in about 25 minutes after which we injected her with an antidote. With a movement here and there, she slowly shook off the sedative and then, slid into the darkness and the safety of the wild. It was 8:40pm when we saw her last. By a collective agreement with the local people, we named her Lapchhembha after a local deity whose pet is a snow leopard. Lapchhembha became Nepal’s first female snow leopard fitted with a GPS transmitter collar.

But our work was still far from over. We had to wait for the GPS signals to be received from Lapchhembha’s collar. A day passed and then another until it was four days of waiting without a signal. Each passing day made us more anxious trying to figure what could have possibly gone wrong. And then, on the fifth day since the collaring, we received the signal. Our mission had been accomplished.

Now back at my desk, my only connection with Lapchhembha is the GPS locations I receive from her collar. Every bit of information we receive from her will be something new for Nepal as we compare her movement patterns and behavior with that of her male counterpart. Her latest movements were tracked in China which reinforces our mission to build stronger transboundary linkages with our neighbors.

While I left Lapchhembha in the lap of Kangchenjunga, the mountains still beckon me. And I know I will be back, with a new mission and another snow leopard to collar. Until then, I will find quiet comfort in the memories of this expedition and a deeper connection with the god’s pet.
सन् २०१५ को मे जाहिरात लेखन देखेको पटक हिउडिवितुङालाई साफ़लतपूर्वक सिकियोर्स कलर लागाएको सिद्धिको अभियानहरू समेत ओएको गाँउको जीवन र जलन २५ वर्षो विर्यो। पक्ष बैराङ्गले, तेहो पटक हिउडिवितुङालाई कलर लगाएको आशा सहित लागेको फेरी कर्मचारीहरूको चाङ्ग जाडैलाई लागेको, जस पटक होली बेलाखो रुपमा।

तेहो अभियान सन् २०१६ को अप्रैल १५ मा शुरु हालको दिन, जब तेहो कोलामी आवश्यक जानाल र जलादाह आशा बोकेकौ जाडैलाई छोडेको दिन, तेहो होलीमा ले लागाएको सरकारको अनुमति दर्जोत्त प्राविधिक पुरुषीकरण पाएको, साहियों प्रकृति संरक्षण कोषका फिलारतले शाल तथा कर्मचारीहरूको संरक्षण क्षेत्र ल्याद्वारा परिषद र शासन बैठक विदेशी साधनहरूको उत्तरहरू दौटाइले नेपालीको सहयोग पाजिदिन।

वैलिङ्स ग्लोबल उद्योग र साउदी उद्योगको चार सदस्यको सवारी जागरुक संरक्षण दृष्टि देखेको बि.एल. गांगुली हिउडिवितुङालाई कर्मचारीहरूको सिरको जागरुक बनाउने गर्नुहोस्। विदेशी साधनहरूको सहयोगको लागि, तेहो होलीमा ले लागाएको संरक्षण क्षेत्रको भुमिसहायता दुर्गति र खाना पुरानहरूको साथमा कर्मचारीहरूको सहयोग पाजिदिन।

पहिलो वक्त वाचान रायोर्सको आरोग्य सहयोगको अधिको साउदी वैद्यकी दूर्गति र खाना पुरानहरूको सहयोग र जलाडाह आशा विदेशी साधनहरू, तथा राय सुधाकरको लागि, स्वास्थ्य विस्तार सत्रहोस्तर लागि तेहो होलीमा ले लागाएको सहयोग पाजिदिन।
Himalayan Vulture
The Natural Scavenger of the Himalaya

Himalayan vulture is the largest and heaviest bird found in the Himalaya. The species is indigenous to the uplands of central Asia, ranging from Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in the west to western China and Mongolia in the east. These birds generally migrate only altitudinally within their central Asian range. Breeding typically occurs at elevations between 600 and 4,500 m. Foraging has been observed to occur at elevations as high as 6,000 m in higher Himalayas and Tibetan plateau and low as 75 m in lowland plains of Nepal. Juveniles, the non-breeding migrants tend to spend the winter in the lowland plains near the southern edge of their range.

Unlike other lowland vultures that make their nests on trees, Himalayan Vultures make their nests on ledges or in small caves of the rocky cliffs.

They are able to spot a one-meter carcass from four miles away on the open plains through their keen eyesight. When an individual sees a carcass it begins to circle above it in the open sky. This draws the attention of other vultures to locate the site of meal and then join in for group foraging. This phenomenon is called ‘Allee Effect’. Unlike many raptors, vultures are relatively social and often feed, fly or roost in large flocks. A flock of 100 vultures can strip a 50 kilograms carcass in three to five minutes. Resembling other vulture species, Himalayan vultures do not kill their own meals...
and exclusively feed on carrion. Exceptionally, they may feed on animals feeble from injury, or defenseless youngsters. Their stomach contains strong acid to digest all type of rotting and possibly infected meat without getting sick.

In the higher Himalaya and on the Tibetan plateau, the majority of the Himalayan vulture’s diet is carrion of domestic yak (Bos grunniens). Approximately 64% of their diet is obtained from dead domestic yak due to its large biomass. Besides, they feed on carcasses of domestic livestock including cow, ox, sheep and goats in the lower Himalayan regions. They get their food from the left-over scraps of buffalo, sheep, goat etc. thrown aside into the rivers by butchers. The Tibetan ass, Tibetan antelope, blue sheep, goral and other wild ungulates which die due to falling down from a cliff or naturally also become food for the Himalayan vultures. Additionally, these birds also feed on left-over remains from other predators like snow leopard, Tibetan fox, Tibetan wolf etc.

Somewhere, the raptor picking up the living young Himali sheep can be seen or heard, which is not by the vulture but might be by the golden eagle. Most of the villagers are in misunderstanding that the vulture picked up their sheep and goats; therefore they use to hit these birds by bamboo sticks, throw stones at them or poison the carcasses. Huge numbers of Himalayan vultures, other predators die after feeding on the poisoned carcasses.

Himalayan vultures play an important role in maintaining and keeping alive the centuries old sky burial traditions of upper Mustang and the Tibetan plateau. Still in the upper Mustang and Tibetan plateau, dead human bodies are chopped into pieces and fed to the vultures as per the Tibetan sky burial ritual. Local Buddhist people believe that the vultures carry the soul of a dead person to heaven.

In the Himalaya, the natural scavenger- Himalayan vulture and the apex predator snow leopard both are the top carnivores. Snow leopard hunts upon the domestic and wild herbivores of the Himalaya, whereas, Himalayan vulture feeds on the dead and decayed carcasses of the animals making the Himalaya clean ill-smell-less and healthy. Sometime, the flock of Himalayan vultures makes circling in the open sky, above the hunting and feeding sites of snow leopard and feeds on the dead carcass that the Snow leopard has hunted and ate before; making the mutual habitat clean, hence, serves as local scavenger of the Himalaya. In this sense, Himalaya, Himalayan vulture and Snow leopard have a symbiotic relationship. Their symbiosis relation is the mutualism. Even though both are the top carnivores of the Himalaya, there is no conflict and competition between them for the food and the habitat. But the large numbers of Himalayan Vultures die after feeding on the carcasses poisoned to kill the snow leopard.

Intensive study concerning consequences of climate change on the habitat of Himalayan vulture is on the way. To adapt themselves to the changing climate, these vultures reside on the low land plains during extreme winter and on the higher Himalayas during extreme summer comparatively for the longer duration.

For the long-term conservation of the Himalayan vultures, rigorous research on their habitat preference, suitability and prediction modeling is vital. The modern technologies, satellite telemetry and use of conservation drones should be applied in the geographically remote regions for in depth study. Regular monitoring of the banned veterinary drug ‘diclofenac’ is essential, which has been identified as toxic to vultures and other raptors. Their entire home range should be made diclofenac free, vulture Safe Zones by the concern authorities. Community awareness along with an alternatively safe veterinary drug is essential. The extension of vulture restaurants and safe feeding sites are as crucial in the Himalaya as in Tarai region. Educational outreach highlighting the importance of vulture and potential conservation measures should be launched in each corner of the Himalaya. Local people should be encouraged to stop burying livestock carcasses and keep them on the open ground far from the human settlement to provide food for the vultures.

At last, the local people and students can support vulture conservation at least by providing the information on nesting sites of the vultures that they have seen around them, to the concern conservationists or the conservation organizations for the further study of that habitat.
हिमाली गिद्दा
हिमाली पर्यावरणको कूवीकार
- दिपालकृष्ण कान्त भार्मार

हिमाली गिद्दा हिमाली लोकालाई पार्क र तर्फ भई र तर्फ घर रहो ।

नगर-परिसरको उच्च आयर, परिवर्तन काजिन्स्क र अकालविशेष अर्थात् पार्कको स्वायत्त को लागू हुने गरेको बिालबि गिद्दाको विनाशक अवांकाको हुन । गिद्दा नामक नामक जीवाणुको उपायमा बसाइ सराइ गरेको गरिन्छ । अधिकांश ६००-८००० मिटर तहतको ऊँचाईमा प्रजाति राखेका पक्षीहरू स्थानको हिमालीलाई र तिमीप्रेत होको लोकालाई बेनको हिमाली तथा तिमीप्रेत होको लोकालाई ८००० मिटर-सहर र तल्लो तराइ तोमा गरिन्छ ।

हिमाली गिद्दा पक्षीहरूका रूपमा ज्युलिए र रस्ता गूङ गरी गरिन्छ।

हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले भूमि स्थलको एक जियर लाखो स्थिरोलाई पार नाइन भासको देखिए तथा लागू स्वाभाविक। पाइटबाट कूले प्रकाशील रूपमा दोस्तहरूले अनेक समयसमय गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी स्थललाई जम्बाल र भागण दिनका स्वायत्त शासन र भागण आपूर्तिका पोखरे क्षेत्रको माध्यममा र राष्ट्रीय जनजीवनको परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।

हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी स्थललाई पाइस्को स्थललाई पार र भागण आपूर्तिका परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।

उचित हिमाली लागि तथा हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको नृष्णु आराध्य कान्तको स्थिरोलाई हुन । काघि ६५ प्रतिशत आहार गरेको तर्कका गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी जम्बाल राखेको मृत्यु हुन । तल्लो हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको गुर्गुम्बको जम्बाल गाइरवर्तु, जैसू र भागण बाहरी स्थिरोलाई पार र भागण आपूर्तिका परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।

उत्पादनको हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको नृष्णु आराध्य कान्तको स्थिरोलाई हुन। काघि ६५ प्रतिशत आहार गरेको तर्कका गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी जम्बाल राखेको मृत्यु हुन। तल्लो हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको जम्बाल गाइरवर्तु, जैसू र भागण बाहरी स्थिरोलाई पार र भागण आपूर्तिका परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।

उत्पादनको हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको नृष्णु आराध्य कान्तको स्थिरोलाई हुन। काघि ६५ प्रतिशत आहार गरेको तर्कका गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी जम्बाल राखेको मृत्यु हुन। तल्लो हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको जम्बाल गाइरवर्तु, जैसू र भागण बाहरी स्थिरोलाई पार र भागण आपूर्तिका परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।

उत्पादनको हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको नृष्णु आराध्य कान्तको स्थिरोलाई हुन। काघि ६५ प्रतिशत आहार गरेको तर्कका गुर्गुम्बको बाहरी जम्बाल राखेको मृत्यु हुन। तल्लो हिमाली गिद्दाहरूले हिमाली पर्यटकीय हिमाली गिद्दाहरूको जम्बाल गाइरवर्तु, जैसू र भागण बाहरी स्थिरोलाई पार र भागण आपूर्तिका परिवर्तनका माध्यममा लागू गरिन्छ।
The Snow Leopard

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Himalayan snow leopard, Prasukritika Kupiikar - Himalaya Dindur and Himalayan snow leopard are threatened mainly by habitat loss and poaching for their pelt. They are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The snow leopard is an apex predator and plays an important role in maintaining the balance of its ecosystem. It is found in the rocky and snow-covered highlands of the Himalayas and the Pamir mountains. The snow leopard's endangered status has led to initiatives to protect its habitat and reduce poaching.

Photo: Tashi R. Ghale, GPN-Nepal/SLC
Snow Leopard’s Call

- Karan Bahadur Shah

Blue Sheep and Himalayan Tahr my delights, I am the mountain queen
Habits mine to vanish in the habitat like a ghost
Call me Sabu, call me Snow Leopard or call me Snow Tiger
I roam around close to healthy and beautiful nature
Sao and Shan, Pangche, Samchen and Sarken, my own names make me agog
Adore they me in a fashion Guru Rinpoche Padmasambhava’s own dog
Blame they me, however, for hunting sheep and yaks
Plots abound to wipe me out poisoning the carcass
Man makes richest trading my hide and my bone
Wonder I in times, where my natural rights gone
Your forefathers credit you a legacy and inheritance
Cherish me down to generations, why are you hesitant
O mankind! Save me please, slay not my body
Keep verdant the Mother Nature and your progeny
The Fifty rupees currency note with a picture of snow leopard has been for the first time in circulation in the market. The government of Nepal has issued several currency notes with the picture of other endangered wild animals and plants.

“Nepal Rastra Bank has issued 240 million pieces of currency notes with a picture of snow leopard and have been in circulation from October 27, 2016”, said Mr. Bhuvan Kandel, Member-Secretary of the Currency Note Design Committee of Nepal Rastra Bank. The decision to include the image of the snow leopard on the currency note was made in BS 2070.

Previously the 50 rupee currency note carried a picture of the Himalayan Tahr, that has been now replaced by the Snow leopard. Concurrently, the 100 rupee note has been replaced with the picture of a mother One Horned Rhinoceros and her baby instead of a single Rhino.

According to Mr. Chintamani Shiwakoti, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, the pictures on the currency notes of rupees 5, 20, 100, 500 and 1000 are being changed because authentication of the pictures of the animals on most of the currency notes in circulations cannot be verified. Although the snow leopard on the currency note belongs to one of the protected areas of Nepal, the name of the protected area is not mentioned. An official at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) said ‘The picture must have been taken by a camera trapping in one of the protected areas and made available to the Design Committee.’

The Design Committee comprises of 10 members: the Governor, two Deputy Governors of Nepal Rastra Bank, Currency Expert, Director General of Department of Archeology, Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Professor of History from Tribhuvan University, Linguistic from Nepal Academy, Designer (1) and the Member-Secretary. In order to change anything on currency note, the Design Committee of Nepal Rastra Bank send proposal to the Board of Nepal Rastra Bank, the Board sends it to the
Cabinet and the Cabinet shall take the final decision. ‘If the Design Committee deems necessary to change the design of currency note, it is changed, otherwise, the design of any currency note remains as it is’, said member-secretary Kandel, ‘the design of currency note may not be changed frequently, however, the security features could be changed.’

Now we are planning to replace the picture of two Tigers on 500-rupee note by a picture of single tiger, since the picture of Swamp Deer on 20-rupee note does not have antler with all 12 branches it will be replaced by a new picture of a Swamp Deer with visible 12 antler branches and the picture of two Yaks will be replaced by a picture of a Wild Yak which has been rediscovered sometime earlier (after five decades) on 5-Rupee note’, said Mr. Siwakoti.

Besides Nepal, using pictures of protected and endangered animals on the currency note is in practice in other countries also. For example, the 10-Rupee currency note of India bears a picture of endangered one-horned Rhino, Tiger and Elephant, similarly there is an eagle on the back of US dollar 1. Likewise, 000 denomination currency note of Kenya bears picture of Wild Elephant and 50, 200, 20 and 10 Rands of South Africa bear pictures of Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Two-Horned Rhino respectively.

The Nepal Rastra Bank announces tender notice internationally in order to print each currency notes of different denomination. Past record shows that Nepali currency notes have been printed in the Great Britain, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Germany, France, India, Indonesia and China. ‘It is very expensive to print the currency notes in Nepal from the point of view of capital investment’, says Mr. Kandel, ‘once we invest the amount to print the currency notes, we cannot recoup the investment by printing our currency notes only, if we have capacity to print currency notes of other countries, we can think about investing such a big amount.’ Our neighboring country India does print its own currency.

The endangered flora and fauna are the identities and glory of a country. In the context of challenges to protect these endangered animals and plants, the initiative of Nepal Rastra Bank and the Government of Nepal in creating awareness among the general public by means of these currency notes is deemed very significant. Since these currency notes reach every citizen, household, community, government office, business house, financial corporation of the country and are distributed, used and publicized from the local to the national level, these notes not only play crucial role in creating awareness among the general public but also contribute significantly in promotion and conservation of these important wildlife and plants.
नेपालको मुद्रा नोटमा हिउँचितुवा!

- अभिल अधिकारी

हिउँचितुवाको तस्विर अहिल ५० रुपैयाँको नोट पाइन्छो पटक बजारमा आएको छ। हुन जेपाल सरकारले बार भाव र पटक पटक संक्रमजन तथा परिवर्तनहरूको विच अहिल जो नोट प्रमाणमा ल्याइएको छ।

'हिउँचितुवाको तस्विर अहिल २५ करोड झाले जोडीले जेपाल राष्ट्र बङ्कले २००३ ताबिक नौ जोडेकोले व्यावसायिक ज्ञानको हो', जेपाल राष्ट्र बङ्कको नोट हिउँचितु नजीकता सदस्य-सचिव बुद्धि कृष्ण बलाउँछ। हिउँचितुवाको तस्विर साथै विषयमा २००० सालदेखि विचार गरिएको छो।

पानास रुपैयाँको नोटमा बार अधिकार (हिउँचितु झाँक) को विच अहिल दियो, जसमा सहित हिउँचितुवाको राशिको हो। यसले १०० रुपैयाँको नोटमा पाइन्छ अहिलका एक र सिस्टम जोडिएको प्रति नोटमा सहा नाम र कोटो (बलाँ) को विच राशिको छ।

हाल ज्ञाता रहेको सबैले नोटहरूले रहेका जनाकर्ता हक्को आधिकारिक पुस्तक झूल बसन्तको मार्गमा ५, ५०, १००, २०० र २००० रुपैयाँको नोटहरूलाई विभिन्न परिवर्तन नसलाई जनाले नेपाल राष्ट्र बङ्कको हेडनी जनाकर्ता विषयमा सिलायो जीवाच्छौ। हाल पारि दर्शन गरिएको हिउँचितुवाको नेपाल गरिएको हामीको साथै संघर्ष हक्क नसले उद्भवत हिउँचितुको हेडनी। 'सुविधा संस्थाको व्यवसाय इन्फुएन्स निर्माण निहित हिउँचितुवाको तस्विर दिउँचितु सिलायो वातावरण उपलब्ध गराइएको हुनैले', राणी सुकुमाजुन तथा वर्क्यातलू उपयोगिता विषयमा एक अधिकारीको बताउँछ।

नोट प्रकाशकले हिउँचितु सिलायो राष्ट्र बङ्कको जनाकर्ता, हेडनी जनाकर्ता (२), घुलाप्रतियोगी, पुनरुत्थान विषयमा स्थानीय भाषाधिकारको, शायल सिमित तथा धन्याज्ञात संस्थाका महानिदेशक, निउरो इन्फ़ा, दिउँचितु पृथ्वी, नेपाल प्रतियोगीको आँखतिरहित दिउँचितु र सदस्य-सचिव छल्लो जनाले १० जना रहेका नोटमा कुनै पायो प्रतिअध्याय रानी हिउँचितु सिलायो राष्ट्र बङ्कको बौद्धि पाउँछ। छनौट प्राप्तीका गरेका जनाकर्ता धन्याज्ञात खाना निर्माण उपलब्ध गराइएको हुनैले', राणी सुकुमाजुन तथा वर्क्यातलू उपयोगिता विषयमा एक अधिकारीको बताउँछ।

उदाहरणका लागि भारतमा ९० रुपैयाँको उदार नोटमा सम्तान्तरण सभ्यसार एकसार्थ जीवाच्छौ, बार र हामीको विचार अहिलका छ। त्यसै अभियानले ७ दिन नोटमा विदं, नेपालमा नौ १०० रुपैयाँको अवलोकन गरिएको झूल बाहिरिको जोडी ५ को नोटमा दुख्दाहरू निहित हिउँचितु नजीकता नेपालको केही सहस्र पाइले (अभियान प्राप्त दशक मध्ये) देशसँग झूल विनाशको कारण अहिल हिउँचितु प्राप्त गरिएको छौ।

प्रकाशकको नोट भान्त नोट बङ्कको अन्तर्दशा दर्शाएको समय झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा। नेपाल देशको सबै राष्ट्रबाट नेपाल नोट जापान, भारत, थाईल्याण्ड, बांग्लादेश, इण्डोनेशिया, र चीनलाई अभियान छ। 'नेपाल आफ्नो भान्त पुन्छ हल्ला नेपालको साथै अवसान झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा।' यस प्रकाशकका जनाकर्ता नेपालका लोकालाई आफ्नो आफ्नो तर्क फर्का लागाउने आफ्नो झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा। यस प्रकाशकका जनाकर्ता नेपालका आफ्नो आफ्नो झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा।

संस्थापन वर्जित धेरै दर्शकहरूका जौन छिड्छ र परिवर्तनहरू झुल्लाहुल। जिब्जातोंका संरचना छूटका पुन्निदिनको नोटको प्रमाणित नोटमा आफ्नो आफ्नो दर्शाआफ्नो आफ्नो तर्क फर्का आफ्नो आफ्नो झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा।

नेपाल नोटका संस्थानको वर्जित धेरै दर्शकहरू नेपाल नोटको चौपाट्नहरूको जौन छिड्छ र परिवर्तनहरू झुल्लाहुल। जिब्जातोंका संरचना छूटका पुन्निदिनको नोटको प्रमाणित नोटमा आफ्नो आफ्नो दर्शाआफ्नो आफ्नो तर्क फर्का आफ्नो आफ्नो झुल्लाहुल बोल्टा आएको दर्शा।
The PLANT Snow Leopard
Just Love to Chew on

- Dr. Rodney Jackson

In Ladakh, snow leopards are known to happily chew upon the twigs of tamarisk bushes (Myricaria spp.), especially its prostrate growth form. Researchers have recorded some scats being entirely comprised of plant material, though most also contain prey remains like the hair or bones of blue sheep, ibex, Himalayan tahr along with livestock. This plant was reported from 41% of 173 snow leopard scats collected in Ladakh (India), and from 2-11% of scats from Qinghai in China. Besides Tamarix, other plants consumed include Salsola arbuscula and Sibiraea angustata, but “German Tamarisk” is the most commonly eaten. Most appear in January through March, the cat’s mating season.

It is not clear why the snow leopard, a meat eater consumes vegetation and this plant in particular. One theory is that it acts a medicinal dewormer, or it may offer some dietary value. Perhaps it help cleanse the intestinal track of indigestible contents. But this does not explain why snow leopards most eat it in winter and during their short breeding season. Scientists need to examine the chemical content of Myricaria for an explanation as to why it is mostly consumed only in winter.

This plant usually grows in gravelly soils, especially along drainages and stream beds, but is also found in rocky places.
Kathmandu, Nepal, January 24, 2017

The Steering Committee of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), comprising of Forest and Environment Ministers (or their designates) of the 12 snow leopard range countries, met on the 20th of January 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. A two-day long stocktaking workshop on the status of management plans of the GSLEP landscapes, and overall progress of national snow leopard and ecosystem priorities preceded the meeting. These management plans are expected to be the blueprints of the ambitious goal of the program, secure 20 snow leopard landscapes with viable snow leopard populations by 2020. These landscapes cumulatively cover 500,000 sq km of the snow leopard habitat, and securing these will ensure protection to nearly 25% of the entire snow leopard distribution range.

All 12 snow leopard range countries were represented in the meeting, attended by respective ministers or their designates, that highlighted substantial progress in management planning of the GSLEP landscapes. Countries that have made particularly rapid progress towards achieving the GSLEP goals pointed out partnerships and decentralization of implementation mechanisms as the main drivers for success. The Snow Leopard Conservancy was presented by Dr. Rodney Jackson and three representatives from Kyrgyzstan and the Altai Mountains of Russia who work with the Land of the Snow Leopard (LOSL) network. Almagul Osmonova, Kuluipa Akmatova and Chagat Almasheev gave a well received presentation on the role that local communities, sacred site guardians, shamans and elders can play in helping secure snow leopard landscapes -- including monitoring snow leopards and their prey, as well as reporting poaching...
incidents to the concerned authorities so they can take appropriate action.

“Such multi-stakeholder engagement for snow leopard conservation is highly encouraging”, said Dr. Koustubh Sharma, International Coordinator of GSLEP Secretariat

During the meeting, from the countries’ reports, four issues were emerged that need immediate attention: resource mobilization, capacity building, illegal wildlife trade, and climate change adaptation.

The snow leopard is distributed across Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The workshop facilitated discussions among participating countries and partner organizations on various mechanisms for the implementation of management plans. Innovative models of co-management of large landscapes from Nepal and other parts of the world were discussed.

Mr. Michael Despines, Executive Director of Snow Leopard Trust says that the snow leopard needs both grassroots conservation efforts within local communities and top-level commitments from governments and international institutions. “The GSLEP process is unique because it brings both of these dimensions together”, Michael says.

Several innovative models of resource mobilization meeting national and global snow leopard and ecosystem priorities emerged and that are either being implemented already, or can be through concerted efforts. For instance, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is supporting GSLEP implementation in many countries as well as regionally with projects worth more than $40 million already approved or in the pipeline. Discussions also focused on existing and potential support from country governments, international financial institutions, and also business and industry. A plan to explore further funding using Green Climate Fund, bilateral treaties and greater engagement with business and industries noted.

Mr. Shankar Bhandari, the Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation of Government of Nepal, announced a plan to establish a Himalayan Research Centre in the country to encourage youth in snow leopard research and conservation. Nepal’s Prime Minister, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, pledged a contribution of US$500,000 from his government for snow leopard conservation. The Prime Minister also hailed the Kyrgyz President’s proposal of hosting the Summit in Bishkek in September 2017 and offered his full support to the endeavour.

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Almazbek Atambayev has proposed to host a Global Snow Leopard Summit in Bishkek on 7 and 8 September 2017. The purpose of the Summit is to energize the progress of the GSLEP Program at its mid-point (2013 – 2020), tackle the growing threats to snow leopards and their habitats, and raise financial resources for GSLEP implementation. The event is expected to help raise resources to not only support implementation of national and global priorities identified by the program, but also to foster integrated development of local economies and conservation of wildlife in Asia’s mountain areas.

Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Climate Change from Pakistan and Chair of the GSLEP Steering Committee, invited his counterparts to a ministerial pre-summit meeting in Islamabad to prepare the final Summit agenda and documentation in June or July 2017.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the leadership of the incumbent Chair, Minister of Climate Change from Pakistan, and co-Chair, Director of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and decided to extend their terms until the Snow Leopard Summit. There was also consensus on electing Nepal as the next Chair of the GSLEP Steering Committee, to take over the chairmanship after the Summit in September.

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation stated that protection of snow leopard and its habitat conservation is largely dependent on the involvement of local youth and local communities as they are the primary beneficiaries of mountain ecosystem and the environmental services produced by it.

To mark the end of the meeting, 12 school students, all members of Friends of Zoos, whose snow leopard paintings had been chosen by a jury organized by NTNC-Nepal, presented their paintings to the heads of delegations from each of the 12 snow leopard range countries. The winning students received cash prizes in addition to getting a certificate of appreciation by Mr. Shankar Bhandari. In his role as Steering Committee Chair, Mr. Hamid closed the meeting after acknowledging the role of the Government, the Prime Minister and the people of Nepal for hosting the Steering Committee Meeting on behalf of the snow leopard range countries.

The meeting and workshop were organized by the Government of Nepal and GSLEP Secretariat, with support from Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), USAID, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), GTI Council (GTIC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), National Trust for Nature Conservation-Nepal (NTNC), South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network Secretariat (SAWEN) and Zoological Society of London-Nepal (ZSL).
हिउँचितुवा संरक्षणका
लागि मन्त्रीहरूको प्रेक्षयवध्दा
जीएसएलईपी वैठक काठमाडौँमा सम्पन्न भए।

हिउँचितुवा पाइन्छ ५२ वटा मुलुकहरूमा वस्तुपारीय वैठकमा लेखिएको भएको र हिउँचितुवा पाइन्छ मुलुकहरूमा
सन २०२० सम्म २० वटा हिउँचितुवा खु-परिवित्तीय विसेस्थान स्थायी सुधीरित्त गर्न प्रशिक्षण दोहेराङका छन् ।

जीएसएलईपीको खु-परिवित्तीय विसेस्थान जोखामको कार्यविधि र सामाजिक हिउँचितुवा र प्राकृतिक
कार्यक्तिपूर्णको प्रगति साधनमा दुई दिने कार्यस्थलालाई गोपी निर्देशक सामाजिको वैठक आगामी सम्पन्न भएको थियो। सन २०२०
सम्म २० वटा हिउँचितुवा आवश्यक संस्था बढाउने र सो का लागि जीएसएलईपीको खु-परिवित्तीय विसेस्थान स्थायी सुधीरित्त गर्न नेपालको लागि उत्तरार्ध स्थायी स्थानस्थान जोखामोले प्रशिक्षण र प्रशिक्षण सम्म सामाजिक हिउँचितुवा वैठकमा अन्तर्गत नौ दिन वास्तवीकृत गरिएको हुनुहुन ।

हिउँचितुवा पाइन्छ भएको मुलुकहरूमा प्रतिविक्षित गर्न अन्तर्गत अन्तर्गत वैठक अन्तर्गत अन्तर्गत जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि
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जीएसएलईपीको खु-परिवित्तीय विसेस्थान जोखामको कार्यविधि र सामाजिक हिउँचितुवा वैठकमा अन्तर्गत नौ दिन वास्तवीकृत गरिएको हुनुहुन ।

हिउँचितुवा पाइन्छ ५२ वटा मुलुकहरूमा प्रतिविक्षित गर्न अन्तर्गत अन्तर्गत अन्तर्गत जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि जोखामको कार्यविधि
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The Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) was established by Dr. Rodney Jackson and Darla Hillard in 2000 with the Mission of ‘Ensuring snow leopard survival and conserving mountain landscapes by expanding environmental awareness and sharing innovative practices through community stewardship and partnerships.’

SLC relies on range-country nationals and affiliated NGOs and governmental organizations to carry out its programs. In Nepal, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Global Primate Network (GPN) and Mountain Spirit are SLS’s partner organizations.

SLC works closely with these organizations to implement community-based programs which are environmentally friendly and socially responsible, linked to specific stewardship and biodiversity conservation commitments, and incentivized to maximize community “ownership,” long-term self-reliance and ecosystem health.

In the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), GPN in tandem with NTNC, help mitigate human wildlife conflicts by: distributing Foxlights, which produce a flashing light at night that keeps snow leopards at bay, livestock and pasture management skills training workshops for the herders; testing FM Radios as a potential, non-lethal means for deterring predators from pasture camps (Goths); and constructing snow leopard-proof corrals in designated “depredation hotspots.”

In Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone, Mountain Spirit is implementing SLC’s Snow Leopard Savings & Credit Management programme, which was established in 2010.

GPN is implementing an education/outreach program including a snow leopard-themed radio program in western Nepal; development and distribution of educational posters; Preparation to mobilize Snow Leopard Scouts for young students to aware on monitoring snow leopard, habitat and prey in the field.
Red Panda Network

Red Panda Network (RPN) was founded in 2007 with the mission to conserve the wild red pandas and their habitats through the education and empowerment of local communities by adaptive community-based research, education, and sustainable development. RPN’s vision is to ensure the survival of wild red pandas and preserve their habitats for future generations to study, experience, and enjoy.

RPN started working in Nepal since 2007 with the Project PundeKundo, in eastern Nepal, i.e. Panchthar-Ilam-Tablejung (PIT) corridor which was the world’s first community-based monitoring program of red panda and their habitat.

Realizing the acute threats to the red panda such as habitat degradation and fragmentation caused by overdependence on forest resource for subsistence livelihoods, unplanned developmental activities and poaching, RPN has devised both long-term and short-term strategies to overcome these challenges. Beginning in 2011, RPN started executing another need-based integrated community-based conservation model which comprises research and monitoring, education and awareness, and sustainable livelihood. In this program, the local forest users were skilled and engaged as citizen scientists, called Forest Guardians (FGs) who monitor red panda population and habitat. Besides, the establishment of community based eco-tourism (focused on red panda) is another successful model RPN has developed in eastern Nepal. Likewise, RPN also encourages budding young scientist to conduct research on red panda by providing research grant along with technical support. RPN’s contribution in the development of Protocol on Red Panda Field Survey and Community Based Monitoring and national red panda survey are the other noticeable achievements made so far.

While the RPN has already had a success to some extent, it still have a great deal of work to do and face many challenges. RPN’s outreach has already been extended in Nepal and Bhutan, and will incrementally replicate the learning in other red panda range countries, which includes India, Myanmar and China.
CONSERVATION ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

• Report poaching to the concerned authorities.
• Protect Snow Leopard habitats and their prey species.
• Take measures to minimize loss of livestock to Snow Leopard: for example, guard livestock CAREFULLY (OR WILL), avoid leaving animals to graze near cliffs or in very broken terrain AND KEEP THEM IN THE PREDATOR-PROOF CORRALS.
• Spread wildlife conservation awareness among local people and tourists.

BECOME A STEWARD FOR NATURE BY ENCOURAGING YOUR COMMUNITY TO CO-EXIST WITH THE ENDANGERED SNOW LEOPARD BY TAKING THE ABOVE ACTIONS.

BY ENSURING SNOW LEOPARDS CAN FIND SUFFICIENT WILD PREY FOR FOOD, AND SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO RELY UPON DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK FOR THEIR SURVIVAL.

Snow Leopards and other wildlife are like a necklace of jewels around our mountains!

Do you know these facts?
• Snow Leopard is among the endangered species of Nepal and other 12 range countries in South & Central Asia.
• Snow Leopard serves as an indicator for environmental health of the high mountain ecosystem.
• Like humans and all animals, Snow Leopards require food, shelter and security from enemies.
• Snow leopard presence in Nepal and the Himalayas can be compared with the importance of lions to African countries or the White giant Panda to China.
• Snow leopard is part of natural heritage and is unique and valuable to the area.