

IMPACT REPORT 2022


OUR MISSION


Ensuring snow leopard survival and conserving mountain landscapes by expanding environmental awareness and sharing innovative practices through community stewardship and partnerships.



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 [snowleopardconservancy](https://www.instagram.com/snowleopardconservancy)

SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

U.S. BASED STAFF & CONSULTANTS

Kathleen Ah San - *Accounts and Office Administrator*
Maria Azhunova - *Land of Snow Leopard Network Director*
Charleen Gavette - *Conservation & Education Program Manager*
Darla Hillard - *Land of Snow Leopard Network Facilitator*
Rodney Jackson, PhD - *Founder & President*
Shavaun Kidd - *Outreach Manager*
Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson - *Executive Director*
Brian Peniston - *Darwin Initiative Program Manager*
Joyce Robinson - *Office Assistant*

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Caroline Gabel - *Trustee*
Mary Herrmann - *Trustee*
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Carolyn MacKenzie - *Secretary*
Eric Newsom - *Trustee*
Tshewang Wangchuk - *Trustee*
Robert Wilson - *Chief Financial Officer*

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Margaret Gee - *Australia Ambassador for Snow Leopard Conservancy*
Charlotte Hacker, PhD - *Research Biologist, Department of the Interior U.S.*
Jonathan Hanson, PhD - *Social Science Associate*
Jan Janečka, PhD - *Director of SLC's Genetics Research Program, Duquesne University*

ADVISORS

Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten, PhD - *IUCN Cat Specialist Group*
Renee Bumpus - *Conservation Manager, Houston Zoo*
Don Hunter, PhD - *Founder, Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy*
Kristin Nowell - *Director, Cat Action Treasury*
Barb Palmer - *Husbandry Advisor*
Camille Richard - *Rangeland Ecologist*
George Schaller, PhD - *Wildlife Biologist & Conservationist*
Mike Weddle - *Former Science Instructor*

U.S. BASED PARTNERS

International Veterinary Outreach
OneNature Institute
RESOLVE
Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy
San Francisco Zoo and Gardens
Wildlife Conservation Network
Worldwide Indigenous Science Network

RANGE COUNTRY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

ALTAI & BURYAT REPUBLICS OF RUSSIA
Baikal Buryat Center for Indigenous Cultures
Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai
BHUTAN
Bhutan Foundation
INDIA
Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust
KYRGYZSTAN
Rural Development Fund
Taalim-Forum Public Foundation
MONGOLIA
Association for Protection of Altai Cultural Heritage
Irbis Mongolia
Mongolia Academy of Sciences
Nomadic Nature Conservation
Wildlife Initiative
World Wildlife Fund Mongolia
NEPAL
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
National Trust for Nature Conservation, Annapurna Conservation Area Project
Mountain Spirit
Project Ukali
Snow Leopard Journey
Teka Samuha Nepal
World Wildlife Fund Nepal
PAKISTAN
Baltistan Wildlife Conservation & Development Organization
Project Snow Leopard
RANGEWIDE
Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program Secretariat
International Snow Leopard Trust
Snow Leopard Network
TAJIKISTAN
Public Organization “Kuhhoi Pomir” (Pamir Mountains)

A Lasting Legacy for
Snow Leopards

GUARDIANS OF THE ASIAN HIGH MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to share the Conservancy’s 2022 highlights with you! We are truly thankful for your support toward growing a lasting impact for snow leopards and mountain communities.

2022 was a momentous year for SLC: Ashleigh became SLC’s Executive Director and Dr. Rodney Jackson assumed the presidency of the Board of Directors. Special thanks to Caroline Gabel, SLC’s Board Chair for the past 10 years! In December, SLC’s founders Dr. Rodney Jackson and Darla Hillard stepped into advisory roles supporting next-generation leaders after four decades of pioneering snow leopard research and conservation.

SLC’s community-based conservation strategy has long been cutting edge, and now after 20 years it’s a mainstay for global snow leopard conservation. Working with local communities is paramount to human-wildlife coexistence and long term survival of so many species.

The Land of Snow Leopard Network (LOSL) initiative, launched in 2013, facilitates efforts by Indigenous Cultural Practitioners, Spiritual Advisors, and conservation practitioners to restore traditional ecological knowledge and the interconnected web of life. This program has inspired thousands of people in five regions of Central Asia to become Guardians of this Sacred Species.

After two pandemic years, we traveled to work closely with our partners in Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia. Ashleigh participated in the 7th Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program meetings in Bishkek, expanding the framework for continued collaboration on important aspects of snow leopard conservation.

We hope you’ll enjoy these inspiring stories of how local leaders are creating lasting coexistence between snow leopards and mountain communities, catalyzed by SLC with your incredible support.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Rodney Jackson, PhD
Founder & President



Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson
Executive Director



We would like to acknowledge the extraordinary program support provided by:



DARWIN INITIATIVE



PAWANKA FUND



SHARED EARTH FOUNDATION



IUCN



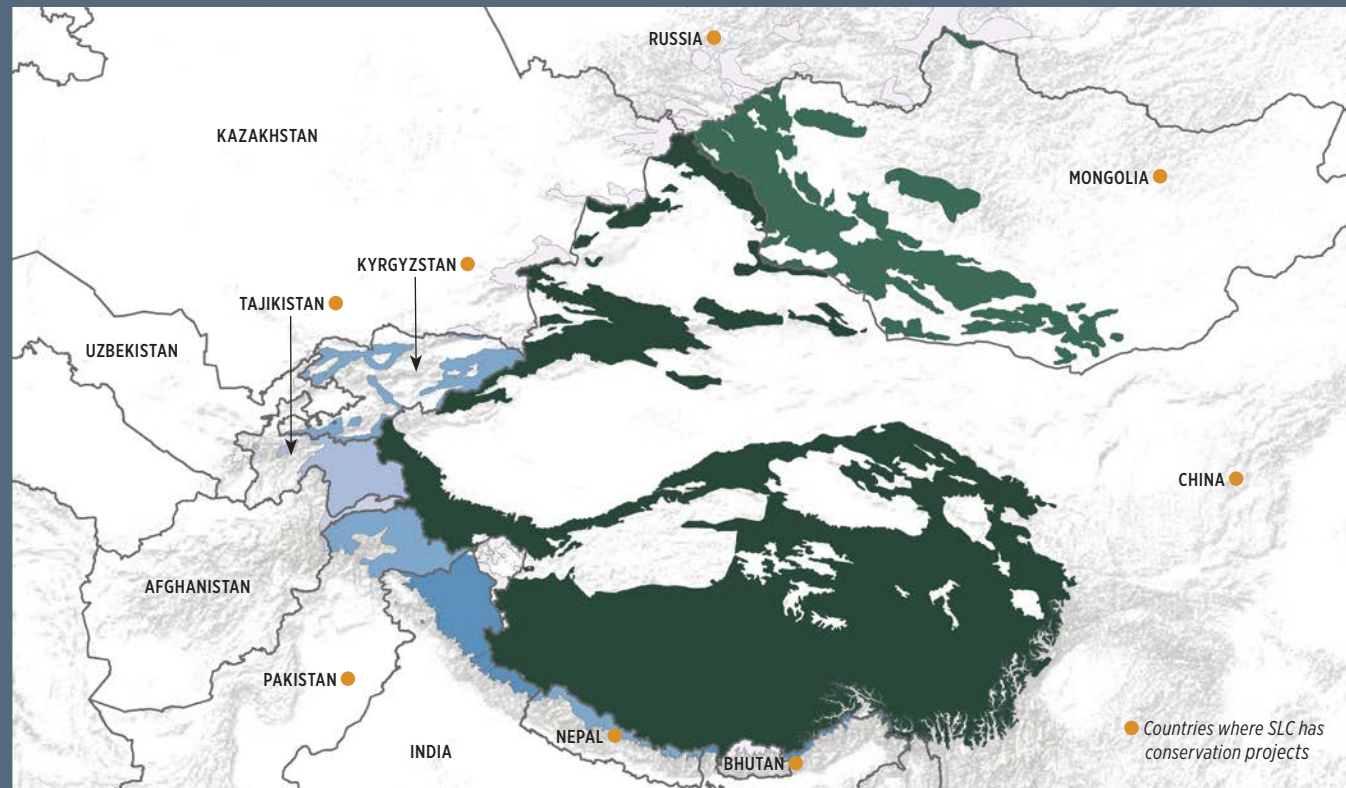
WCN
Wildlife Conservation Network

LANI ABBOTT

DR. FISK JOHNSON

2022 AT A GLANCE

SNOW LEOPARD RANGE



12

NUMBER OF RANGE COUNTRIES WHERE SNOW LEOPARDS ARE PRESENT

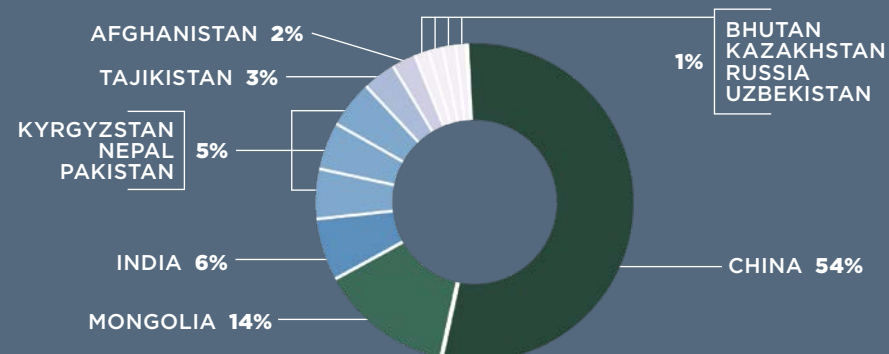
8

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE SLC HAS SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION PROJECTS

4,000-7,000

NUMBER OF SNOW LEOPARDS ALIVE TODAY (RED-LIST VULNERABLE)

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION BY COUNTRY



{ 2 }

TOP THREATS TO SNOW LEOPARDS



CLIMATE CHANGE



LACK OF AWARENESS



PREY DEPLETION



HABITAT DEGRADATION



RETRIBUTIVE KILLING FROM CONFLICT OVER LIVESTOCK



ZOONOTIC DISEASES

SLC CONSERVATION PROJECTS

5,000

HERDING COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LIVESTOCK AND SNOW LEOPARD PROTECTIVE MEASURES

25

MEN AND WOMEN WERE EMPLOYED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN 6 SNOW LEOPARD RANGE COUNTRIES

102

MORE FOXLIGHTS DISTRIBUTED

SLC EDUCATION PROJECTS

30 SCHOOLS ENGAGED WITH 4,000 STUDENTS AND 120 TEACHERS

3,400

SNOW LEOPARD DAY FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

16,000

ADDITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED WITH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

370

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED IN DIRECT TRAINING

SLC IS LED BY OUR 6 CORE VALUES

Passion
Creativity
Empowerment
Collaboration
Integrity
Reverence

We are driven by the urgency of protecting wildlife and wild places
Embracing innovation, imagination, and insightful observations
Empowering staff, partners, and communities to sustain effective conservation
Recognizing the importance of diverse, inclusive, and equal partnerships
Maintaining honesty, trust, and respect as the basis of our work
Recognizing snow leopards as ecological ambassadors and spiritual totems

{ 3 }



© Tashi R. Ghale

Living With Snow Leopards

PROVIDING COMMUNITIES TOOLS TO COEXIST WITH CARNIVORES

NEW LIVELIHOODS SAVE SNOW LEOPARDS

The Darwin Initiative Project (Sustaining Snow Leopard Conservation through Strengthened Local Institutions and Enterprises), led by SLC and Nepali partner organization Mountain Spirit, came to completion after four years. The program trained almost 250 governmental staff in conservation safeguarding, streamlined livestock depredation compensation programs, and established a unique “Snow Leopard Trail” ecotourism experience. Additionally, the project brought assistance to herders for livestock guarding and the novel cultivation of jimbu (Himalayan chives), while at the same time supporting local wildlife surveys and protective measures. Our work under the Darwin Initiative, a United Kingdom governmental grant, created a strong foundation which SLC will build upon in the future to forge resilient snow leopard-friendly communities.

IMPROVING HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

In the spring, SLC Executive Director Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson, SLC Darwin Initiative Program Manager Shailendra Thakali, PhD, and International Veterinary Outreach Founder & CEO Eric Eisenman, DVM, visited the Annapurna region of Nepal to launch the One Health Project. After three days of trekking to one of the most remote, roadless areas of Manang, two workshops with the herding communities were hosted: one in each of the Nar and Phu villages in collaboration with local para-veterinarians, rural municipality officials, and Annapurna Conservation Area Project wildlife officials. Eighty participants, both men and women, learned methods of improving livestock health and husbandry, protecting livestock and wildlife from conflict, and reducing the risk of disease transmission between people, domestic animals, and wildlife.

The overarching goals of the One Health Project are to improve human-animal health, strengthen local veterinary training and resources in the high mountains, and build lasting human-snow leopard coexistence in Nepal.

HERDERS AS FRONTLINE SNOW LEOPARD GUARDIANS

Our partners in Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan are engaging their local herding communities in the Lights for Life coexistence program. Through workshops, face-to-face visits, and community meetings, they are providing equipment such as Foxlights,[®] which help to deter night-time predator attacks on livestock, and solar lights to help the herders guard the animals. Valuing the input of those living with snow leopards, they are brainstorming with the communities to identify actions that may minimize depredation. Financial compensation through livestock insurance can ease the economic burden following depredation loss and dissuade the urge for retaliatory killing of snow leopards. However, the claims process can be challenging, so partners are working with agencies to simplify requests for compensation and educate the herders how best to complete the forms.

In the spring, Dr. Rodney Jackson met with partner Tshiring Lhamu Lama in Dolpo, returning to the location of his original snow leopard research. Tshiring and Rodney discussed wildlife-livestock conflict issues and explored processes and methods to minimize contact between predators and domestic animals.

With every herder interaction our partners stress the importance of the ecosystem, emphasizing that all elements are interconnected. Removing one element, especially an apex predator such as a snow leopard, has detrimental repercussions that will be felt down the web of life, even by herders. Knowledge of the snow leopard’s place in the ecosystem, and how its removal could negatively affect available pastureland for domestic livestock, aids the herder in making choices beneficial to both the community and to the environment.

With instrumental support from the Woodtiger Fund, the Lights for Life coexistence program has grown substantially over the last three years, reaching more herding communities and saving the lives of snow leopards. ●



Opposite page: A mother snow leopard and her two subadult cubs in the mountains of Nepal. Top: Dr. Rodney Jackson and mentee Tshiring Lhamu Lama, Dolpo, Nepal. Center: One Health workshops with Phu community, Nepal. Bottom: Snow leopard image from a remote sensing camera trap, Altai Mountains, Mongolia.

Land of Snow Leopard

EXTRAORDINARY SYNERGY IN SPIRITUAL, ECOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL CONSERVATION



Left to right: Schoolchildren in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia learn the importance of the web of life in the Nomadic Nature Trunk Program with Tungalagtuya Khuukhenduu. Zhaparkul Raimbekov, Founder of the Elders and Youth for Conservation of the Snow Leopard program in Kyrgyzstan. Nomad Kids' Ecocamp participants celebrate biocultural diversity and connecting with nature.

The Land of Snow Leopard (LOSL) Network is a groundbreaking collaboration between western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. LOSL's approach is uniquely rooted in the Indigenous understanding of the sacredness, cultural, and environmental significance of snow leopards across Central Asia. Indigenous Peoples in this region relate to the snow leopard as the protector of sacred mountains, a unifying force, and a source of spiritual power and wisdom.

ELDERS AND YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION OF THE SNOW LEOPARD

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Save Our Species grant supported the "Elders and Youth for Conservation of the Snow Leopard" program in Kyrgyzstan, conceived of and realized by Zhaparkul Raimbekov, a founding member of LOSL and a Giver of Blessings throughout his community. This project strengthened the mutual understanding of the local population to

spiritual practices for the conservation of sacred animals and sacred places with the involvement of youth. Zhaparkul traveled extensively to sow the seeds of traditional Kyrgyz wisdom of bringing "harmony and balance to the natural world" and "the deep connection people have had for centuries with the snow leopard." He imparted knowledge of the sacredness of animals like the snow leopard and the importance of preserving the "protector of the sacred mountains." He spoke of "the need for people to learn from the wisdom of the snow leopard," its vital role in nurturing and teaching humanity, and its significance in the current Earth-Mother ecosystem.

EXPANSION OF THE NOMADIC NATURE TRUNK PROGRAM

Over the past year, the Mongolian Nomadic Nature Trunks Program expanded its reach into the LOSL Network. Network members in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan began compiling the trunk materials and translating the lessons from Mongolian. Sessions of

"Training the Trainers" were held to introduce the concepts to teachers who will further train their colleagues. The program consists of both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge of high mountain ecosystems, including lessons on biodiversity, protection of the environment, and the peaceful coexistence of humans and nature.

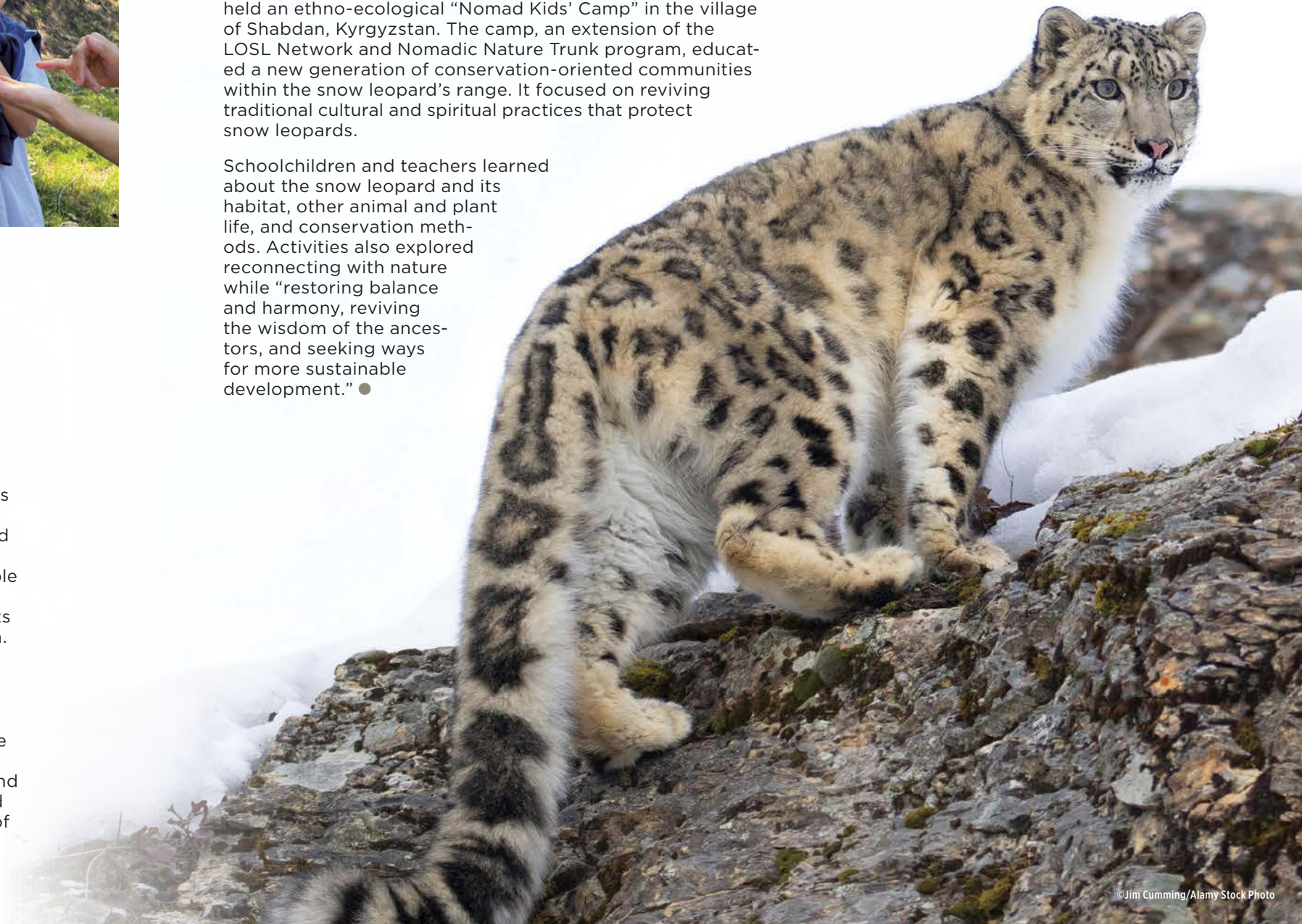
A history teacher in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan shares her thoughts: "Thank you Rural Development Fund, Taalim-Forum, and Snow Leopard Conservancy for this work. The youth are our future and love nature living by the lake. Through our work we try to bring lots of knowledge, and through this project we are able to provide traditional knowledge." All the school teachers and directors that participated in the training said they were so happy to meet and work with other teachers, as it was the first opportunity to do so.

NOMAD KIDS' CAMP

In August, Taalim-Forum and the Rural Development Fund held an ethno-ecological "Nomad Kids' Camp" in the village of Shabdan, Kyrgyzstan. The camp, an extension of the LOSL Network and Nomadic Nature Trunk program, educated a new generation of conservation-oriented communities within the snow leopard's range. It focused on reviving traditional cultural and spiritual practices that protect snow leopards.

Schoolchildren and teachers learned about the snow leopard and its habitat, other animal and plant life, and conservation methods. Activities also explored reconnecting with nature while "restoring balance and harmony, reviving the wisdom of the ancestors, and seeking ways for more sustainable development." ●

"I am asking you to accept these words from my elder. This is an appeal for harmonization, an appeal to harmonize our inner worlds. And with that to connect the outer world in oneness and universal harmony"
—Maria Azhunova,
LOSL Director



Inspiring the Next Generation

SNOW LEOPARDS BENEFIT FROM CONSERVATION EDUCATION



Nepali Snow Leopard Scout participants learn field biology techniques, such as using binoculars to search for signs of wildlife.

Researchers have found when children develop empathy for animals they will act on behalf of animals in the future. Brianna Voight, in “Making connections: empathy for animals and sustainable behavior,” writes that empathy is an emotional state where an individual “perceives, understands, and cares about the experiences or perspectives of another person or animal.” She found clear connections that empathy leads to behavior change for environmental stewardship and that the transition from having empathy to acting on that sensitivity is most effective when learned in childhood.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Keeping with this concept, Snow Leopard Conservancy is commit-

ted to providing environmental education to the children living in snow leopard habitat, and to those living in areas where conservation decisions are made. This year, SLC supported in-school programs in several locations, reaching over 4,000 students. In Mongolia, school children in the rural west and children in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, received the acclaimed 25-lesson Nomadic Nature Trunks training by Tungalagtuya Khuukhenduu of Nomadic Nature Conservation. Almost 1,000 Pakistani children from 12 schools received concentrated conservation instruction by Baltistan Wildlife Conservation and Development Organization (BWEDO). In eastern and central Nepal, Anil Adhikari and partners of Teku Samuha Nepal incorporated a conservation curriculum into

Grades 7 and 8 with the backing of government agencies.

Interestingly, following the coursework in Nepal, an overwhelming percentage of the students felt snow leopards should be conserved (92%), shouldn’t be killed (72%), and helped environmental balance (66%). Yet, only 49% answered that snow leopards were not the enemy of humans, showing more work needs to be done to fully address concerns of those living with snow leopards.

IN THE FIELD

Outside the classroom, the Snow Leopard Scouts program continued in Nepal with two field excursions that taught participants about the fragile high mountain ecosystem, the benefits of camera

traps, the importance of the web of life, and conservation expression through art. They also had discussions with former Scouts.

As in years past, festive celebrations were held to commemorate International Snow Leopard Day in Pakistan, Nepal, and Mongolia. The celebrations are an opportunity for the full cross section of a community to pay tribute to snow leopards and the environment, to provide and receive conservation information, and to perform and view skits, artwork, and essays. It truly is a time for acknowledging the natural world and recognizing the roles people play in it, allowing them to explore ways to lessen the strain on both humans and wildlife.

Snow Leopard Conservancy would like to note the General Manager of Pakistan’s BWEDO has moved on to leading a new organization. We thank Ghulam Mohammad for all his thoughtful and productive contributions to snow leopards and communities in Gilgit-Baltistan over the years. We give a sincere welcome to Dr. Muhammad Zaman as the new head of BWEDO. Dr. Zaman will carry on the important work in conservation education, herder engagement, and research. ●

*The 7th edition of **Snow Leopard Magazine**, the mainstay of snow leopard news within Nepal, was published by Anil Adhikari. This popular magazine spotlights range-wide research, interviews of noted individuals and government officials, news items, poetry and essays, and short conservation stories.*

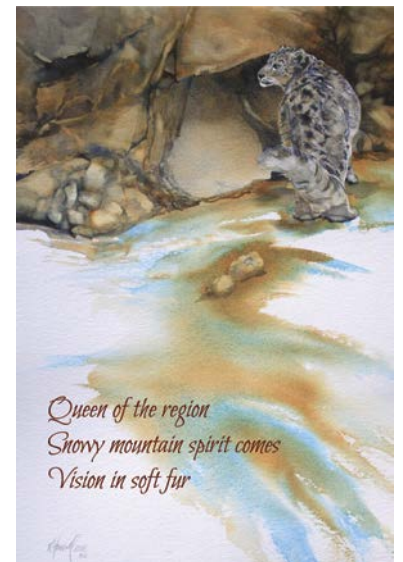
2022 ARTWORK & POETRY CONTEST WINNERS



Old Blue Eyes by Dave Hills



On the Watch by Pat Schwab



Journey of the Snow Leopard by Kitty Harvill

POETRY

ADULT

Kathi Lehman
Sandra McEwen
Sarah Mills
Terry Pfister
Grisselle Chock
Emma Lee

YOUTH

Kuhu Kacher

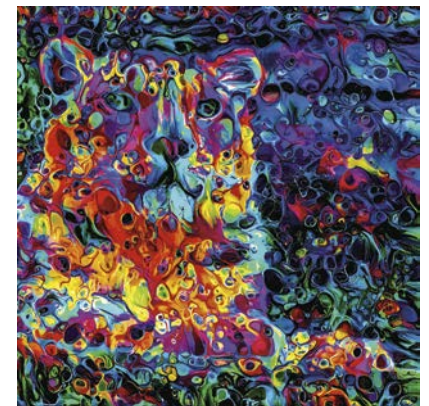
ARTWORK

ADULT

Pat Schwab
Dave Hills
Ekaterina Drozhkina
Karla Mann
Sarah Stribbling
Samantha Greenhill
Anju Panwar Rajesh
Debbie K. Morris
Susanne Fumelli
Kateryna Bielikova
Jody Call
Birgit Bühlrlé
Joan Barbosa
Debi Lockhurst
Kitty Harvill
Grisselle Chock

YOUTH

Zaina Alam Piya
Devlini Denethmie
Kudathanthirige
Susan
Kuhu Kacher
Margarita Khrustaleva

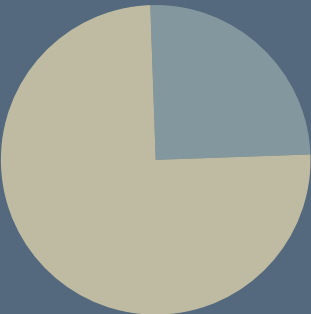


Ice King by Joan Barbosa



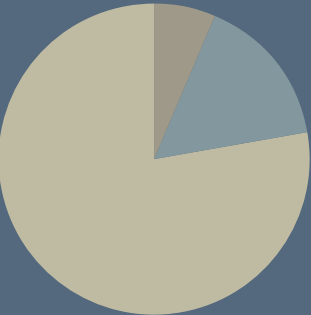
FINANCIAL REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2022



REVENUE

75.19%	Unrestricted donations	\$578,890.39
24.81%	Restricted donations	\$191,004.07
TOTAL REVENUE		\$769,894.46



EXPENSES

77.57%	Programs	\$510,040.59
15.89%	Management/General	\$104,463.62
6.54%	Fundraising	\$43,009.81
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$657,514.02



PROGRAMS EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

49.43%	Conservation	\$252,088.56
44.95%	Education Outreach	\$229,273.14
5.62%	Applied Research	\$28,678.89
TOTAL PROGRAMS EXPENSES		\$510,040.59

OUR APPROACH

Snow Leopard Conservancy partners with local leaders, range country organizations, and the mountain communities living with snow leopards. We invest in solutions that save the lives of snow leopards and other predators from the consequence of human-wildlife conflict, building a long-term foundation of coexistence and guardianship. Our community-based conservation initiatives are highly participatory, empowering Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and evidence-based science, and promote healthy mountain ecosystems across the snow leopards’ range.

Complete financial reports are available upon request. Snow Leopard Conservancy is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization #61-1614981

