

Update from the Field

2014 Snow Leopard Conservation Highlights



Thank you for helping build a safer world for snow leopards. We are pleased to share with you this brief look back at some of the great advances you made possible this year:

Highlights

- 12 snow leopard range countries pledged to increase protection for snow leopards across 500,000 km² of habitat--25% of the world's snow leopard range.
- Our Snow Leopard Enterprises handicraft program reached a major milestone, raising \$1 million for snow leopard conservation over the past 10 years.
- 350 families took part in Snow Leopard Enterprises, 2,500 took part in our Livestock Vaccination Program, and over 260 families took part in Livestock Insurance.
- 1,100 children in India and Pakistan attended Nature Clubs and over 500 children went to summer eco-camps.
- 32 predator proof corrals were built for herder families in India and Mongolia to protect more than 5,000 sheep and goats from snow leopard/wolf predation.
- Trap camera surveys were completed in China, India, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia; in Mongolia alone we have collected more than 3,000 photographs of snow leopards over the past six years.



China

Between 2013 and 2014, 14 people from Yunta village (Qinghai Province) helped with trap camera surveys in Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, some of the most important snow leopard habitat in China. Information on the abundance and distribution of snow leopards will help us better protect this prime habitat. Yunta villagers checked cameras every two weeks to make sure they were working properly. The cameras collected 47 snow leopard photographs of 6-9 cats.



Working with villagers in China to set out trap cameras.

India

In the village of Tarchit in northern India, corrals often have low walls that can be easily accessed by predators. In 2012, 17 families lost 70 livestock to snow leopard and wolf predation. To increase goodwill towards snow leopards, we worked with villagers to reinforce corrals.

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Country Highlights



We provided predator proofing supplies and the villagers agreed to provide labor. Stronger covered corrals are now protecting all 500 of the village's livestock.

Kyrgyzstan

To combat illegal hunting in Kyrgyzstan, in June 2014 we initiated a new 'Citizen Ranger Wildlife Protection Program' that publicly recognizes and financially rewards combined ranger-community teams that work together to successfully apprehend poachers within protected areas.



Mother and two cubs photographed in Kyrgyzstan, May, 2014.

Mongolia

In June, rangers at Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park in Mongolia's South Gobi placed 39 camera traps over a 1,500 km² landscape. They were able to complete this survey on their own thanks to extensive classroom and field training provided by the Trust. We communicated with rangers via satellite phone as they set up the cameras. This helped our team save countless hours of travel time and expense, and we will continue to help rangers access vital equipment, such as GPS units and binoculars, to monitor wildlife and document illegal mining or poaching activity.

Thank you for all that you do! We look forward to working with you in 2015 to continue growing these programs .

Warmest Regards,

Marissa Niranjani

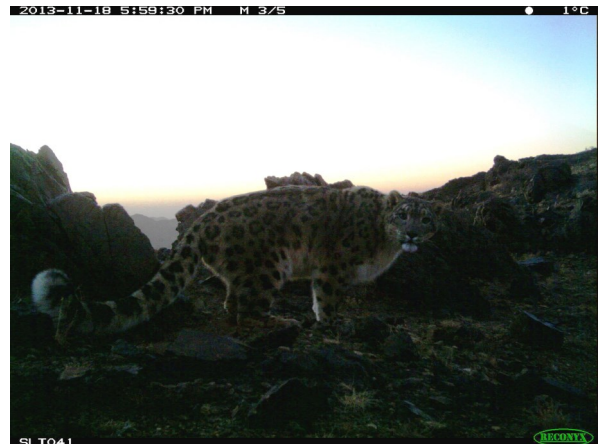
Zoo Programs Manager



Building predator-proof corrals in India

Pakistan

In late 2013, we helped 11 women to attend a three-week certificate course in animal husbandry and livestock vaccination at one of Pakistan's leading universities. Our Livestock Vaccination Program has been able to reduce livestock mortality by 50% in participating communities. Healthier livestock herds have created an economic buffer against snow leopard depredation. Now these women are working alongside men to vaccinate and care for their community's livestock.



Snow Leopard in Noyen—South Gobi, Mongolia

2014

Acknowledgments

Collaborators



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Mongolia & Long-Term Ecological Study

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China

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Kyrgyzstan

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