



FACTSHEET

PAK

2014

Species

Community-based Monitoring of the Snow Leopard and Improved Watershed Management (Asia High Mountains Project)



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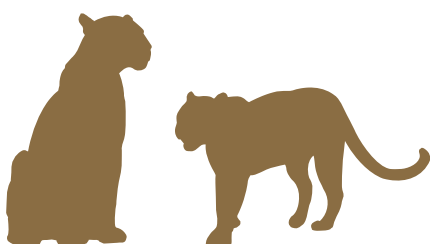
Donor: WWF-US through USAID

Duration: October 2012 - March 2016

The Asia High Mountains Project aims to galvanize greater understanding and action at the local, national and regional levels across the snow leopard range states to conserve this iconic and endangered species. It also aims to connect snow leopard conservation to a broader set of environmental, economic, and social issues with consequences for Asia's future sustainability, namely local livelihoods, water and food security, and climate change adaptation.

Brief Description

The project facilitates technical and policy dialogue on high mountain landscape management in the face of climate change. It helps prepare communities to address key vulnerabilities to climate change, conserve snow leopards as the flagship and indicator species of Asia's high mountain landscape health, and provide practical and measurable demonstrations that advance a vision for water security and sustainable mountain development across Asia. Project activities focus on six of the 12 known snow leopard range nations, i.e. Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan. The mountain forests in these Himalayan nations suffer from a variety of issues, including deforestation, unsustainable harvest of non-timber forest products and heightened forest fire dangers. However, all six nations suffer similarly from overgrazing in alpine meadows, poaching and retaliatory killing of wildlife, declining availability of water resources, climate change impacts, and poorly planned infrastructure as well as some other localized issues. In order to address these issues, the programme builds upon several key ongoing WWF initiatives in the region. Through the lens of snow leopard conservation, it addresses



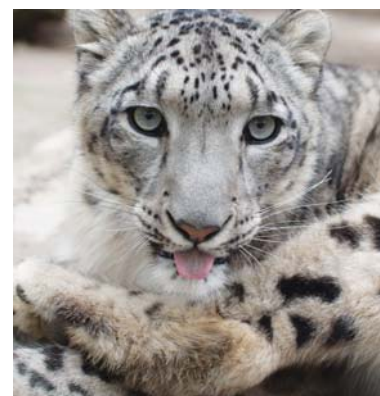
the issues and challenges linked with climate change adaptation and high mountain landscape management and lays a foundation to connect these issues to water security and headwaters management.

Specific Objectives

1. Test and implement site-based conservation and sustainable development activities.
2. Support the implementation of the regional framework of cooperation of the Climate Summit for the Living Himalayas.
3. Support the inter-governmental Sustainable Development Commission of Central Asia.
4. Enhance the existing snow leopard network.
5. Establish a range-wide inter-governmental alliance on Asia's high mountain landscapes.

Project Achievements

- Mobilized local communities and other stakeholders on conservation and sustainable management of nature and natural resources in the project sites.
- Carried out assessment of local traditional groups and institutions governing natural resource management. Groups formalized as village conservation committees with formal setups.
- Banned illegal hunting/poaching of snow leopard and its prey (Himalayan ibex/Kashmir markhor) through community managed effective watch and ward system.
- Initiated introduction of livestock insurance schemes, vaccination campaigns and provision of predator-proof pens to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- Initiated plantation and fodder cultivation to decrease pressure on forest patches and pastures.
- Conducted awareness programmes on the importance of the snow leopard and its prey for a healthy ecosystem and the importance of water resources like glaciers, rivers, streams and lakes.
- Conducted kitchen gardening and poultry rearing training and units distributed to increase livelihood options for women.
- Developed pasture management plan and carried out habitat assessments for better monitoring of snow leopard population.
- Organized training on snow leopard survey techniques to enhance the capacity of wildlife officials.
- Introduced and implemented improved grazing systems.
- Capacity building of local community in better livestock management, improved pasture management, improved watch and ward and improved natural resource management techniques.



WWF-Pakistan Species Goal

To conserve minimum viable populations of selected indigenous, endemic and/or keystone species.



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Beneficiaries

Communities of Hoper Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, Kalash and Laspur valleys in Chitral (KPK).