

An international collaborative program uses DNA based techniques for the first time to study snow leopard diet in Mongolia.

In India, 32 Himalayan nature clubs are established in rural schools of Spiti Valley and Ladakh. More than 1000 students, 60 teachers, and 150 youth from 30 villages get involved in snow leopard conservation awareness programs.

Involvement of monks in conservation efforts results in local communities giving up killing of snow leopards, wolves, and golden eagles in the north-east Kham area of China.

Predator proofing of livestock corrals helps marginalized communities of Pakistan's Baltistan region to secure their assets and enable their support for snow leopard conservation.

These are just some of the projects supported by Snow Leopard Conservation Grants Program that is administered by the Snow Leopard Network.



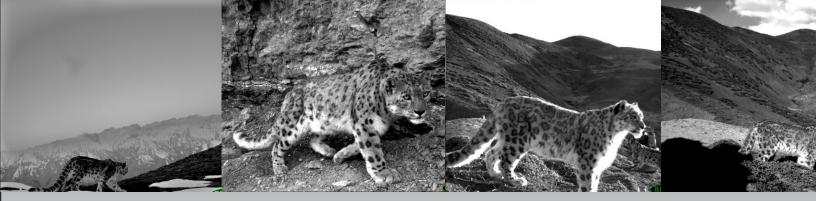
The Snow Leopard Conservation Grants Program supports conservation, education, and research on snow leopards. Grants fund efforts addressing the needs identified in the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy that was developed by the Snow Leopard Network. The Strategy identifies high priority conservation and research needs and guidelines for range-wide efforts to save endangered wild snow leopards. Forty four projects in eleven countries have been supported by Conservation Grants since 2003.

A nature camp funded by the grants program in progress.



Local kids involved in outdoor education funded by the grants program.





Applicants are researchers, educators, or conservationists from snow leopard range countries, international professionals working closely with range-country counterparts, and postgraduates of any nationality pursuing a higher degree whose proposals are compatible with needs identified in the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy.

The program is highly competitive and the projects are selected by a panel of leading world experts in snow leopard research and conservation. The selection process is multi-tiered, transparent and based purely on the merit of the applications.

The grants program is currently being funded by the Snow Leopard Network, The Whitley Fund for Nature, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, and the Snow Leopard Trust. The current grant cycle runs from 1 January - 31 December 2011, with initial applications due in August 2011.



Poster in a regional language created from a child's drawing during a nature camp.



Dr. George Schaller addressing local students at a nature camp.

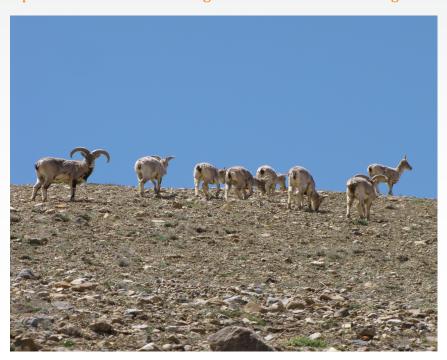


The Snow Leopard Network is a worldwide organization committed to snow leopard conservation through dialogue and co-operation between individuals, governments, and organizations from public, private, and non-profit sectors. With over 400 individual and institutional members, the Network strives to unite experts to address crucial issues affecting the snow leopard, its prey species, and the livelihood opportunities of local people.

The objectives of the Network are:

- Act as the lead coordinator for promoting snow leopard research and conservation worldwide
- Facilitate the implementation of the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, and relevant aspects of CMS, CITES, CBD and other international conventions
- Promote development and implementation of country action plans for snow leopard conservation
- Promote scientific management and conservation of snow leopards, their natural prey, and their habitat
- Strengthen capacity in range states for snow leopard conservation
- Formulate position statements on snow leopard related issues drawing on the combined knowledge and

expertise of the SLN members



Blue sheep, common prey of the snow leopard.

