

Snow Leopard Trust

2005 Report



Snow
Leopard
Trust

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A Look Back at 2005

It is that time of year for the Snow Leopard Trust to reflect back and evaluate last year's work. 2005 was a very busy year, and we are pleased to report that conservation efforts were expanded further in China, Kyrgyzstan, India, Mongolia, and Pakistan.

One of the year's major highlights came from a mechanism measuring less than 1'x 1'—proving that big things do come in small packages! These high-tech instruments are remote-sensor cameras that are triggered when a warm body moves past their internal infra-red detectors. Trust scientists deployed these cameras in the mountains of both Kyrgyzstan and China and have collectively received some amazing snow leopard photos. In fact, over 40 snow leopard photographs were developed and are now being analyzed.

In Pakistan, the Trust was able to provide 1,231 livestock vaccinations to protect local families' livelihood. In just one year, this pilot program has reduced the loss of livestock to disease, increased the yearly income of herders, capped herd sizes, and reduced conflicts with snow leopards and other predators. The program is set to be self-funded by the community by the end of 2009.

I hope you'll read more about our work in the following pages. We are grateful to our many supporters, whose partnership and long-term commitment to snow leopard conservation make this work possible. We're confident that our combined efforts will continue to produce positive results in 2006, as we strive for a more sustainable future for snow leopards and those who share its mountain ecosystem.



Snow Leopards



Photo courtesy of John Gomes

Majestic and elusive, the snow leopard makes its home in one of the harshest, most remote environments of the world. Uniquely adapted to the Himalayas, and the soaring mountain ranges of Central Asia, their thick, spotted fur makes them virtually invisible to the naked eye while keeping them warm in sub-zero temperatures. They can leap spectacular distances to catch prey on rocky cliffs and are adapted to extreme altitudes—some have been spotted at elevations of over 17,000 feet.

Snow leopards are also characterized by their muscular build, large paws, and long tails. Their magnificent tails help them balance while hunting on steep slopes and can be wrapped around their faces for extra warmth. Unlike other big cats, snow leopards cannot roar or purr, but this doesn't mean they are silent! During mating season the cats' melancholy yowling can be heard echoing throughout the mountains.

Despite these adaptations, these beautiful cats have been steadily disappearing from the mountains for many decades. Experts estimate that as few as 3,500 snow leopards remain in the wild today.

The three biggest threats facing snow leopards today:

- Retaliatory killing by herders for attacks on domestic livestock
- Loss of natural prey to increasing domestic animals (which take over grazing land)
- Black market trade in pelts for the fur trade and bones for the Traditional Chinese Medicine market

The good news is that these threats are not insurmountable. With your help, we are ensuring that the snow leopard remains the spirit of the mountains for many generations to come.



Photo courtesy of Cyril Grundmann





The Snow Leopard Trust

The Snow Leopard Trust has been working to prevent the loss of this remarkable cat for 25 years by helping communities become good stewards of their environment. To provide a safe and healthy future for the snow leopard, we

- *Foster tolerance among local people to share the mountains with snow leopards*
- *Lead in research, to understand the cats and define threats to their survival*
- *Build awareness and capacity of local governments to save this natural treasure*
- *Help educate the next generation about the beauty, potential, and complexity of the mountain environment they will inherit*



Community-based Conservation

By working closely with communities throughout snow leopard habitat, the Trust has helped create sustainable, local conservation programs that meet both the needs of communities and effectively protect snow leopards, their key prey species, and their habitat.

Families living in snow leopard range are often dependent on small herds of livestock for food, clothing, fuel, and income. These domestic animals can drive wild goats and sheep off of grazing land. As wild prey species decline, hungry snow leopards increasingly prey on domestic herds. Because the loss of even a single animal can be devastating to a family, livestock are protected by any means possible—which sometimes includes hunting snow leopards.

The Snow Leopard Trust alleviates conflicts between snow leopards and herders by supporting community-initiated development efforts. Projects generate income to cushion against livestock losses, provide a better quality of life for participants' families, and increase tolerance towards snow leopards. Herders sign contracts agreeing to abstain from hunting snow leopards and their prey, to stop other poaching within the region and support conservation activities in their region



(top) a toddler in Mongolia gets a helping hand with breakfast

(above) a brother and sister help herd their family's livestock



(above) Two researchers measuring snow leopard footprints

(right) A wild snow leopard photographed checking for sign of other cats



Science & Research

Helping to increase scientific knowledge of the elusive snow leopard and its remote environment is an important part of what we do--and the foundation of our conservation work. In addition to scores of snow leopard sign and snow leopard prey surveys our researchers conduct every year throughout Asia, the Trust is also pioneering methods for unlocking the snow leopards' secrets.

All of the data and findings are made freely available to researchers around the world via the Snow Leopard Network (www.snowleopardnetwork.org).

Education & Outreach

The third pillar of the Trust's work is education, both in the classroom and in the field. We work with village elders, shepherds, mothers, teachers, government agencies and students. Our goal is to reach everyone who does or will affect the survival of snow leopards. Snow Leopard Trust staff write and translate textbooks, publish newsletters, train park rangers, lobby local governments, and give workshops on topics ranging from animal husbandry to small business marketing.



Students in the Kyrgyz Republic learning about snow leopards

2005 Conservation Highlights

- ***Project Snow Leopard in India***

Trust staff are working with government wildlife officials, as well as village councils, to create a unified, participatory wildlife management policy with a comprehensive strategy for high-altitude conservation in India with the snow leopard as the flagship species.



Kazakh women sewing rugs for Snow Leopard Enterprises

- ***Remote-camera population survey***

For the first time photo trap cameras were placed in Kyrgyzstan and China to test if the technology can be used to estimate snow leopard populations in selected sites. Forty-five snow leopard photos were captured and the results are now being analyzed to see if the study can generate reliable population estimates.

- ***Genetics work***

In collaboration with the University of Idaho and the National Institute of Health the Snow Leopard Trust finally cracked the genetic code for snow leopards. Ten sections have been found on snow leopard DNA that make the identification of individual cats and their gender possible. This major breakthrough has been a hard won victory and will allow for much better monitoring of snow leopard conservation efforts.

- ***Increased US educational outreach through new traveling zoo exhibit***

Since its launch in the summer of 2005 the traveling zoo exhibit has been seen by thousands of visitors in five zoos across the country. The exhibit has generated thousands of dollars in sales and contributions, as well as increased the number of zoos participating in the Trust's Natural Partnership Program to an all-time high.



Photo courtesy of Charles Dye

Nomadic herder in western Mongolia ready for the hunt.

- ***New education program for Snow Leopard Enterprise communities***

Special year-end ceremonies held to celebrate communities' conservation accomplishments in 2004-05. The celebrations were timed to coincide with New Year festivities and gave participants the opportunity to report on their activities to the entire community.

On-Going Projects



Science & Research

China – snow leopard & prey baseline surveys, remote camera study, genetics sample collection

India – snow leopard & prey monitoring, Tibetan antelope population monitoring

Kyrgyz Republic – snow leopard & prey monitoring and baseline surveys, remote camera study, genetics sample collection

Mongolia – snow leopard & prey monitoring, genetics sample collection

Nepal – snow leopard & prey baseline surveys

Pakistan – snow leopard & prey monitoring and baseline surveys

United States – genetic analysis

Community-based Conservation Projects

China – Community surveys to determine appropriate project

India – Livestock Insurance, Livestock-free Wildlife Reserves

Kyrgyz Republic – Snow Leopard Enterprises

Mongolia – Snow Leopard Enterprises

Pakistan – Livestock Vaccinations, Snow Leopard Enterprises

Education Programs

India – wildlife clubs, high-altitude education strategy for '06

Kyrgyz Republic – grade-school textbook, student eco-camp, teacher workshops

Mongolia – newsletter, year-end reporting, grade-school textbook

Pakistan – workshops for rangers, small-business training

Policy & Legislation

Mongolia – National Snow Leopard Conservation Policy; Snow Leopard Country Action Plan

India - Project Snow Leopard

Pakistan - Snow Leopard Country Action Plan

Snow Leopards on Camera: *Science & Research*



(above) Professor Ma Ming sets up a heat-triggered camera in the Tomur Nature Reserve.

(below) Wild snow leopards photographed by remote camera last fall

The rugged mountain terrain of Kyrgyzstan is prime snow leopard habitat, but what's good for snow leopards is tough for people! Last summer, US graduate student Kyle McCarthy, working with Snow Leopard trust staff completed the first large-scale camera trap study in the eastern part of the country to measure the snow leopard population along the border with China.

The team had their work cut out for them trying to place the 44 cameras at altitudes averaging 11,000 feet! His project was duplicated on the Chinese side of the border later in the year by an international team from China, India, Kyrgyzstan and the USA. The entire study yielded an amazing 45 pictures of snow leopards, which are now being assessed to determine a population estimate for the area.

The results from the photo analysis, along with genetic testing on scat samples from the area, will be compared with current, more simplistic sign survey results. We believe this will provide snow leopard conservationists a much needed set of tools for monitoring snow leopard numbers and population trends.





Arunachal Pradesh



Snow leopards and the newly-discovered Arunachal macaques will be protected in the new sanctuary

High-Altitude Reserve *Protecting Habitat*

The discovery of a new macaque in India made headlines around the world in November 2004. As part of that research study, more than 150 species of birds and 34 species of mammals—including the snow leopard—were discovered by Snow Leopard Trust staff and other scientists in the remote, North-east region of Arunachal Pradesh. As a result, the state government approved the area's first high altitude biosphere reserve in 2005, protecting these rare plants and animals from the intense logging, slash and burn agriculture, grazing of domestic animals, and hunting that was recorded to be occurring in the region.

In efforts to assist the state to create this high altitude wildlife reserve, detailed assessments of human-wildlife conflicts in the Arunachal Pradesh region have been completed. As part of the initial perception surveys, more than 50 villages were surveyed in the high altitude parts of the state. Based on the intensity of conflicts and their conservation value, the Trust chose 10 villages were chosen for detailed evaluation surveys, which have been completed.

The findings will be used to implement conservation programs in the region surrounding the new reserve.



Proud graduates of the 2005 Eco-Camp in the Kyrgyz Republic. The camp brings together children from different mountain villages to learn about snow leopards and the special mountain environment they share with them.



Teaching for the Future *Conservation Education*

The second annual eco-camp took place on Lake Issy-kul. Twenty-three students from mountain villages participated, and for many of these students it was the first time they have been to camp or met students from other villages. Lessons provided them opportunities to share similarities and differences about their mountain habitats, learn about the flora and fauna of the region, and discuss what it is like to live with snow leopards and other predators. They learned about sustainable use of local natural resources, and practical conservation practices that can help them avoid wildlife-human conflicts. These lessons are well received in the communities and we hope to continue with the Eco-camp program in the years to come.

Young students attending the camp each had their own textbook last summer, in their native language, to learn about their country's unique environment. *I Want to Learn about Snow Leopards* was penned by Trust Kyrgyz staff and translated into English, Russian, and Kyrgyz. In addition to Eco-Camp, the book was distributed to all of the children in Ak-Shyirak and Inilchek as well as to teachers throughout the region.

Two "Protection of Snow Leopards" workshops were organized for school teachers and children in the villages of Ak-Shyirak and Inilchek. At the teacher's request, training was provided about the flora and fauna of the region and about conservation practices that focus on the snow leopard.



Sheep & Snow Leopards

Community-Based Conservation

For the first time in many years the villages of Kuju Bala and Kuju Payeen in Pakistan have stopped battling with local snow leopards, thanks to a livestock vaccination program initiated there last year.

This program is designed to effectively increase the survival and productivity of livestock while generating revenue for families and reducing conflicts between herders and snow leopards. The first component of the program is vaccinations for domestic livestock. This reduces the loss of sheep and goats to preventable diseases. The second part is pasture management improvement. Participating villagers signed an agreement to help stop the illegal killing of snow leopards and certain prey species, and to place a cap on herd sizes at no more than 1,400 animals. The program has increased the yearly income of the herders, kept herd sizes under control, and reduced conflicts with snow leopards.



In 2005, pilot fodder conservation training program started in these same two villages. Several herders agreed to delay moving their livestock up to the higher alpine meadows by two weeks this spring, giving more time for grasses to take root and become established. The delay results in an extended grazing season for the wild sheep and goats during this critical calving season. This provides the snow leopard with wild prey, reducing the chances of livestock depredation and human/predator conflict. To support the delayed move to pastures, the Trust trained herders proper fodder preservation. Participating herders are now training other villagers. The pilot has been so successful that the program has already expanded to the nearby community of Parsan.



(top) Girls in Kuju showing off their prize lambs

(middle) Dr. Javed Khan vaccinating livestock

(bottom) Children of Kuju

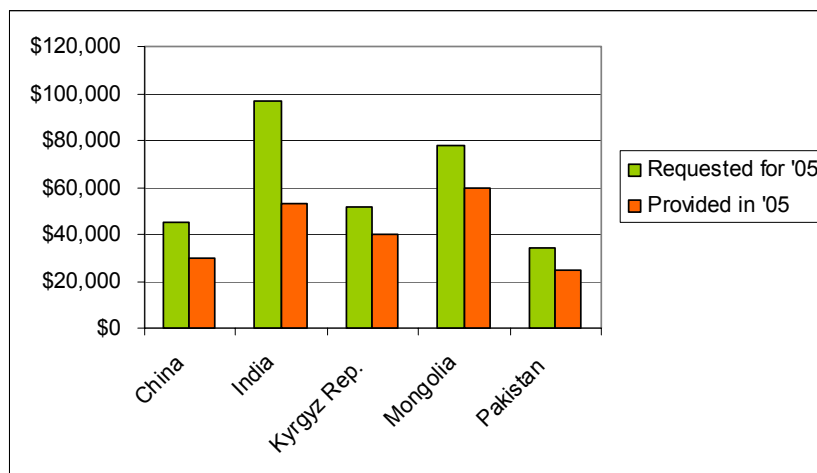
Financial Resources

The Snow Leopard Trust strives to stretch every donation dollar we receive to do the maximum amount of good. Last year, on a budget of \$624,000 the Trust employed 20 field staff in Asia, conducted research and supported conservation programs in five countries, and maintained a US staff of five. We are pleased to report that 84% of donations went to direct conservation work.

2005 Income Source	\$	%
Individual Donations	280,800	45%
Grants	205,607	33%
Zoos	81,433	13%
Product Sales	56,160	9%
Total	624,000	



While we are accomplishing a lot with our resources, we still cannot protect enough cats at risk. Every year our ambitious field staff make a budget request necessary to expand successful programs and take on new projects. In 2005 alone there was nearly a \$100,000 gap between what was requested and what we were able to provide. With your help, we hope to come much closer to fully funding each field program this year.





2005 Gifts

In Memory of

Bill Hogue, Sr.

\$50,000+

Felburn Foundation
Leona M. Geyer Charitable Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

CGMK Foundation
Carol and Bruce Hosford

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Disney Wildlife Conservation
Steve and Norma Kearsley
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Woodland Park Zoo

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Nancy Abraham
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Potawatomi Zoo
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Kaysea and Gordon Ray
Columbus Zoo
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Zoo New England

\$500 - \$999

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Jean Mary Macfie
Neil Mahoney
Xavier Manteca
Jamie Elise Marsden
Emily E. Matthews and Robert
Socolow
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Pamela Mazzoline
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School
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Lori and Tom Milligan
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Flora Yee and Phil Derkum
Theresa F. Yerkes
Craig and Amanda Zehnder
John Ziskowski
Denise Rollin
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rooks
Kierra Rooks
Mrs. Ceri Rose
Mrs. Alessandra Rossi
Juan Carlos Rubin de Celis
Joseph Rush
Rochelle Samberg
Astrid Sanai
Jim Schneider
Joanne Scott
Earnest Lee Shipman Jr



Photo courtesy of Charles Dye

Mongolian woman milking one of her yaks

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David R. Patterson
Lakshmipathi Peram
Ann Perez
Philip Perry
Mark and Cheri Peters
Judy Phillips
Colin Michael Pither
Miriam Polcino
Mr. & Mrs. R. Alex Polson
Peggy A. Powers
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George and Mary Rabb
Noel Rettig
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Isobel Sobol
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil Somalwar
Ruth E. Soulier
Marian Spath
Bud, Kathy, Cheryl and Susan
Spezza
Joy Spurr
Joe and Fran Steinberger
Brianne Steinhauser



Snow Leopard School Treks
 Henry Spall
 Art for the Animals
 Warren Hammond Stoker
 Tomi Strugar
 Helene Stuhlberg
 Christine Susskind
 Lilli Sutton
 Frank and Nina Thorp
 Jesper Bang-Pedersen Thortzen
 Jacqueline Troiano
 Antoinette Troy
 Siah Trudell-Mills
 Tara Trudell-Mills
 Sauwah Tsang
 Julia Violich
 Simon Walmsley
 Susan Verena Ward
 Jeffrey Charles Warshaw
 Hiroko Washizu
 Julie Watts
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 Janis L. Weltzin
 Viola White
 Wide World Books and Maps
 Joseph Zohn and Carole Legowik-Zohn

In Honor of...

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 Sam Allen
 Dayna Anderson
 Gail Bergstrom
 David Berkin
 Haley and Kesley Bilicki and Savana Pavlak
 Barbara Boucke
 Valda Bourne

Christian Bradley
 Chris Cable
 Patricia Carravetta
 Jackie Chapman
 Barbara Clearman
 Catherine Clearman
 Norma Cole & Tom McCarthy
 Joseph and Bonnie Cox
 Mercy Crisostano
 Phyllis and John Crough
 Michael and Diane Dallin
 Shelby Diener
 Cyrus Matthew Duque
 Carol Engstrom and Dylan Adlerley
 The Bolin Family
 Mary Jane Finke
 Mitchell William Alistair Forrest
 Jessie Franz
 Alexander and Genevieve Frounfelker
 Carrie Gawlitta
 Peggy Gibson
 Chris Gretchko
 Jodi Grzeczka
 Felipe Hernandez
 Andy Herzog
 Nancy and Don Isberner
 Brenda Jaeger
 Hana Kadoyama
 Ethan Kizzia
 Cindy Kocb
 Christina Lafond
 Natalee Lauro
 Mark Lindelsee
 Rebecca Makowski
 Nicholas Marchewka
 Morgan McCauley
 Bill McCauley and Cheryl Sallee
 Dakota McCoy
 Joey Merchan
 Gabrielle Star Mills
 Edward Murphy
 Terry O'Connor and David Selk
 Michael Poole
 Hollande Powell
 Patricia Reese
 Isobel Robb

Fern Rollin
 Ross Schlaikjer
 Ellen J. Schlette
 Nick Schmidt
 Cristina Selaya
 Sally, Gunnar, and Gus Springer
 Russell Stiers
 Cinde Taverna
 Tara Tetzlaff
 Toteco/Pickle Point
 Kay Trevenar
 Nicholas Troiano
 Kyle Wagner
 Barbara Walsh
 Steve Watts
 Inja Yang
 Eileen Zore

Matching Gifts

AMD Matching Gift Program
 Bank of America Matching Gifts
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