



SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

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November 1, 2007

Our update this year is full of snow leopards in the wild. You'll see camera-trapped photographs of them in Nepal, Mongolia and India. There is promising news of advances and projects that are only possible because of your help and the dedication of our local partners.

Last March, the eight guests on our winter Snow Leopard Quest had the unforgettable experience of observing a snow leopard in Ladakh for an extended period of time. The sighting was unprecedented by its close proximity to the cat. This encounter is solid evidence that the Conservancy's engagement of local villagers in protecting the cats is working.

We are pleased to have been invited into a long term partnership with the Australian Himalayan Foundation. As their guests on a recent visit, and in substantial collaboration with the Taronga Zoo, we worked together to raise \$32,000 (Australian) for conservation of snow leopards in the Himalaya.

The Indianapolis Zoo has honored the Conservancy's work by nominating me for their field-based wildlife conservation prize. No matter who gets the prize, all wildlife will be the winners, as well as the unsung local heroes who protect them. I am so grateful to the Zoo for this extraordinary effort in bringing to the American public our story and our dream for a future that includes the snow leopard.

Your continued partnership with the Conservancy is much appreciated.

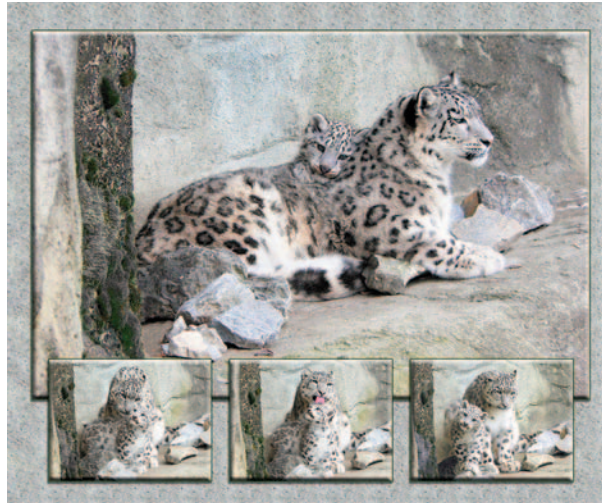
Happy Holidays, and best wishes for the New Year.

Rodney Jackson
Founder-Director, SLC-US

Remembering Helen Freeman

Founder, International Snow Leopard Trust
March 10, 1932 - September 20, 2007
Indelible mentor and friend

Your Support is Vital



Photos courtesy of Dr. Georges Barth and the Zurich Zoo

Know that donations of any amount are gratefully accepted. Your support of community-based conservation touches many lives.

\$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

Make your check payable to:
Snow Leopard Conservancy
18030 Comstock Avenue
Sonoma, California 95476
707-935-3851
www.SnowLeopardConservancy.org

Charge your contribution to:

Visa Mastercard

Name: _____

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Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

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All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Visit our website for holiday gift ideas

The image at the top is just one of many photos available through our website and Pictopia.

www.snowleopardconservancy.org

(Note: the address is .org, not .com)

Conservancy Trekkers Observe Snow Leopard

The cats' late winter/early spring mating season offers the best chance of seeing these elusive creatures in the wild. For the past several winters our teams have been privileged to see them for short periods of time. We had high hopes that our eight American and Canadian guests would be so lucky. The group snow camped for 10 days in March. The warmer-than-normal winter had Rodney worried because the cats and their prey were staying at the highest elevations. Apart



from an overnight visit to Rumbak Village to experience a homestay, the group spent most of each day hiking out from camp and sitting for hours with spotting scopes searching the mountainsides. On the afternoon of March 16th a shepherd

rushed into camp with the news that a leopard had made a kill half an hour up the trail. One of the eco-tourists, Brian Keating, Head of Conservation Outreach at the Calgary Zoo, described the event:

The magnificent snow leopard was lying quietly above his kill, draped like a fur carpet over the rock. He was so full of meat he could hardly move. As we watched, he dozed off, opening his eyes now and again to check us out. He eventually got up, moving half a meter and flopping down again like a sack of heavy potatoes. He blended in immediately — his camouflage was simply perfect.

The group observed the snow leopard for an hour until it became too dark to see. This was a unique and thrilling experience for the group and for Rodney, as well. This sighting exemplifies the Conservancy's goals in action: community-based snow leopard conservation aided by eco-tourism dollars.

Student site coming soon

We receive dozens of emails and letters each year from students working on endangered species reports. The Conservancy is nearing completion of a special interactive section of the website devoted entirely to children ages 7-12.

www.SnowLeopardConservancy.org

Mustang, Nepal

The Conservancy, working with our partners in the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, has succeeded in building new corrals and predator-proofing existing ones. More than seventy-five households have benefitted from the protection of over 10,000 head of livestock.



The first camera-trap image from Upper Mustang region of Nepal, near the Tibetan border. This photo was taken by Ram B Gurung of ACAP in partnership with Madhu Chettri, ACAP program officer, and Chhimi Gurung of the Conservancy.

China

Scientists estimate that China contains as much as 60% of all snow leopard habitat. This definitive handbook on camera-trapping of snow leopards has now been translated into Chinese.

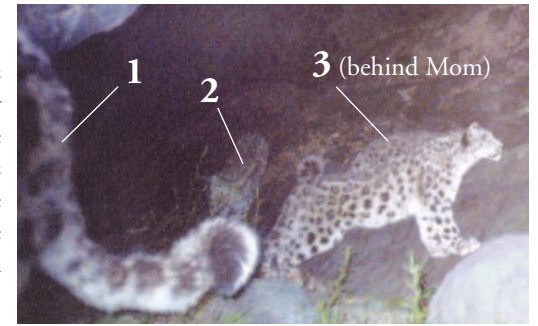


This translation brings an important non-invasive survey technique to researchers and protected area managers working in four provinces and two autonomous regions.

Translation of the handbook is a collaborative effort between the Conservancy and the Xinjiang Conservation Fund, Irbis Mongolia, Fauna and Flora International-China, and the Japanese Wildlife Research Center in Tokyo. Both English language and Chinese language versions are available in PDF format on our website.

Gobi Desert, Mongolia

The Snow Leopard Conservancy, Irbis Mongolia, and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences have launched a collaborative camera-trapping study of snow leopards in the South Gobi Desert. The Conservancy provided training, and three camera-trap surveys were conducted

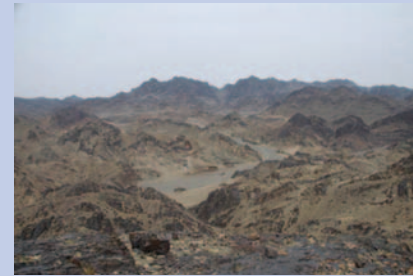


during the summer. The team was rewarded with over 100 images, including a female with 3 cubs. The next task will be to identify and count the individual leopards represented by these images.

The Future

Mongolia is one of the most important range countries with 800–1,000 snow leopards. Surveys this summer revealed the urgency of identifying and protecting critical corridor and habitat “hotspots.”

With our partners in the camera trapping study (see story, upper right), the Conservancy is proposing a long-term satellite telemetry project, to begin in April, 2008, to track snow leopards and examine their ecology in or near two of Mongolia's most important protected areas.



The first site is located in the Gobi Desert along the Chinese border. The second site is in Mongolia's Altai Mountains which extend into Russia and offer excellent opportunities for transboundary collaboration in this important research initiative. Building the capacity of Mongolian biologists will be a key project activity, with training in all aspects of snow leopard surveying, monitoring and habitat assessment.

The initial costs are high, but will decline in subsequent years, and we believe that the rewards will merit the expense. We estimate that the total cost over three years, including equipment, field support, and satellite servicing fees, will be around \$25,000 per snow leopard. Each cat will contribute significant information for the preservation of the species. Your support and partnership will be greatly appreciated in laying the foundation for the long-term protection and conservation of the snow leopard in Mongolia.

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SLC-US

Rodney Jackson nominated for the Indianapolis Prize



Rodney Jackson is one of 29 animal conservationists nominated to receive the Indianapolis Prize, one of the world's leading awards for animal conservation. Rod has been nominated “for his groundbreaking radio-tracking study of snow leopards in the 1980s and his subsequent dedication to building local communities' capacity as key players in conserving the species.” This biennial award brings the world's attention to the cause of animal conservation and the brave, talented and dedicated men and women who spend their lives saving the Earth's endangered animal species.