

Final Report on “Community-based Snow Leopard Conservation through Improved Animal Husbandry in Chitral, Pakistan” Funded by Rufford Grant

1. Executive Summary

Snow Leopard project aims to conserve Snow Leopard in Pakistan through improving knowledge about Snow Leopards, minimize the poaching of Snow Leopards and their natural prey through community-based and sustainable conservation actions, and assisting in improving and enforcing relevant rules and laws. It also has a mandate to create awareness about conservation needs of Snow Leopard and its fragile ecosystem, and provide practical information on ways to contribute to their protection.

Community-based Snow Leopard Conservation through Improved Animal Husbandry program is one of the major components of the project aimed at:

- Reduction in predator/ herder conflict
- Elimination or significant reduction of poaching of Snow Leopards
- Improvement in herder’s incomes
- Stabilization of livestock herd sizes; leading to improved pasture management
- Increase in awareness and appreciation for the areas wildlife
- Self sufficiency after three years

During the project period initiatives were taken and were successfully implemented in the project area to achieve the aforesaid targets. In the initial phase, back to back meetings were held with the target groups to discuss the modalities of the program and get the agreement signed. After signing the agreement, potential trainees were identified for onward training in Animal Health and Husbandry Practices. A five days training was arranged for the sixteen community members of Parsan. During the training prevalent livestock diseases were highlighted, discussed and vaccination calendar was developed.

Once the diseases were identified, highlighted and discussed, vaccination calendar was developed, vaccination campaigns were launched as per vaccination calendar.

In the second phase a five days refresher course was arranged for the Community Livestock Extension Workers. Vaccination continued and the process was monitored.

Description of the Activities

1. Meeting with the Stake Holders

A series of meetings were held with the potential herders of Parsan to discuss the modalities of the program and get the stakeholders agreed for the successful implementation of the program. The community showed keen interest and ensured their participation.

2. Animal Husbandry Agreement

A very well focused and workable agreement was signed with the community. As per agreement the community was made responsible to ensure the proper implementation of the program by identifying potential candidates for the trainings, manage vaccination campaigns, provide records of animals vaccinated, keep an eye on the agreed herd size, and ensure the protection of Snow leopard and its natural prey-base in the project area.

It was also made clear that in case of violation the communities' vaccinations and animal husbandry trainings will be suspended for the next two vaccination cycles. If the original herd size is maintained, the community can submit a request to re-enter the program. If a second violation occurs, the participants will be expelled.

To monitor the impacts and proper implementation of the program the Government Livestock, and Wildlife departments were involved in the agreement. (See Annex I for Detail)

3. Identification of Trainees for Animal Health and Husbandry Trainings

Sixteen Trainees were identified in coordination with the community. Those people were selected who are pastoralists, regularly visit the pastures, are affected by depredation, and have the will to help other people in the village.

4. Training in Animal Health and Husbandry Practices

Once the trainees were identified, a five days training was arranged in Parsan. The main objectives of the trainings were:

- To train the target groups from the project sites as "Community Livestock Extension Workers"(CLEW)
- To lower the mortality rate of livestock due to various disease outbreaks in the project sites
- To uplift the socio-economic condition of the target communities and to offset the depredation of livestock due to the snow Leopard
- To inculcate sense of stewardship and love for snow leopard in the target communities

District livestock officer imparted the training. Vaccination calendar was developed and participants were trained in diagnosing the prevalent diseases, conduct vaccination as per vaccination calendar.

(Participants list, agenda of the training, and Vaccination Calendar are attached as annex II)

5. Vaccination

Vaccination against fatal livestock disease continued during the project period as per vaccination calendar. Vaccines were provided to the Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) and the CLEWs successfully completed each campaign. For the first two years Rufford Grant was used to purchase vaccines and deliver to the community and during the third year Snow Leopard Trust is continuing to support the event. Vaccination was done against the following disease.

- Hemorrhagic Septicemia
- Black Quarter
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Anthrax
- Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia
- Pox
- PPR
- Enterotoxaemia

6. Refresher Course in Animal Health and Husbandry Practices

As per project schedule a five days refresher course was organized for the trained CLEWs of the project site, held at WWF-Pakistan Office Chital. The main purpose of the course was to enhance the knowledge base of the trainees dealing with livestock diseases and vaccination procedures. A local Veterinarian from Government Livestock Department was hired to impart the training.

7. Program Monitoring

The project staff along with the partner organizations i.e. Livestock and Wildlife departments visited the project site from time to time to monitor the implementation and to ensure that the community is abiding the agreement. It was found that the community has ensured the proper implementation of the program by abiding by the agreement.

Impacts

- Livestock mortality due to diseases was reduced up to 70%
- Herder's income increased up to 30%

- No anti conservation activity was noticed

Constraints

Prolonged winter with excessive rain and heavy snow fall caused the blockade of roads, and damaged all communication means and making its hard to reach the community. The situation hampered some of the planned activities.

ANNEXES



Annex I:

***Snow Leopard Animal Husbandry Program Conservation Agreement
Between
International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT) / WWF-Pakistan Snow Leopard Project
And
Community of Parsan***

In view of the problems of livestock in the form of losses due to disease and predation, ISLT/WWF wish to initiate a program that will help to overcome the problems of diseases and enhance community income from livestock products. In return, the community will protect wildlife species in general and snow leopard in particular. Snow Leopard Project has started an animal husbandry program in Parsan village and its surrounding areas through village community organizations. The purpose of the program is to encourage protection of local wildlife including snow leopards, protect from diseases, and to increase people's income from livestock through increased productivity to compensate losses due to snow leopards.

Since Parsan locality is an important ecological zone, especially for wildlife including snow leopard, an improved livestock husbandry may help community to enhance their income and protect the natural characters of the area.

In order to do so, the community of Parsan and ISLT/WWF partnership agrees to be undertaking following responsibilities:

ISLT/WWF - Snow Leopard Project Responsibilities:

- The project will provide training and guidance to the pastoralists and livestock owners in better livestock husbandry and disease control. This will include pilot programs including improving fodder preservation and altering pasture use practices¹.
 - The trained animal health workers will do quarterly follow up to provide on the spot solutions to the herder's problems.
 - The community will ensure that there is no additional pressure on the pasture because of saving livestock from fatal diseases
 - The project will pay for vaccines for all the livestock in Parsan over a four-year program. In years one, two, and three ISLT will pay all vaccination costs. Year four, the livestock owners, SLCO's, or community will pay for the total cost of all vaccines and will in good faith continue to maintain herd sizes and protect the snow leopard from poaching. Conduct awareness raising activities for local communities about wildlife conservation.
 - Monitor the effects of Snow Leopard Animal Husbandry Program on the snow leopard conservation in the region through SLIMS, documentation of depredation cases, poaching and other related indicators. Monitor the herd sizes utilizing the local Livestock Department services and vaccination records.
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Responsibilities of the Parsan Conservation Organizations:

- The Parsan conservation organizations will select those people for the animal husbandry training:
 - who are pastoralists
 - who are regularly visiting the pastures
 - who are effected by depredation
 - who have the will to help other people in the village
- The Parsan conservation organization will do vaccinations through a community project partnership in the village so that the people own the program and will ensure vaccinations to all the animals of the village.
- The vaccination will be executed by the animal health worker. The Parsan Organization will ensure that the animal health worker follows their given work plan.
- The organization will protect snow leopard, its natural prey base, and mountain ecosystem. This includes the community ensuring that no poaching of snow leopard, markhor, and ibex occurs on the Parsan Pasture system.
- The organization will Document and Report snow leopard, markhor, and ibex sightings and depredation conflicts that occur in the region. Keep updates and records of the meetings conducted by the SLCOs. This recorded information will be frequently shared with the snow leopard field biologist.

Area Nazim Responsibilities:

- To facilitate the Animal Husbandry work between the Project and the Community.
- Facilitate the smooth operation of the enterprise and healthy relationships between partners.

Program Conditions

The vaccinations and animal husbandry trainings will be withheld from the community if:

- A Snow Leopard, ibex, markhor has been poached that year.
- Any traps or poisons capable of harming snow leopards are found on the territory of the Kuju pasture system.
- The size of the herd increases above 1500(to be agreed upon by the village and Snow Leopard Project and not to exceed the current herd size)

This contract will be for three years with the possibility of extension with mutual consensus. In case of violation the communities' vaccinations and animal husbandry trainings will be suspended for the next two vaccination cycles. If the original herd size is maintained, the community can submit a request to re-enter the program. If a second violation occurs, the participants will be expelled.

If a person from his/her household is a member of both the SLE and the animal husbandry program, any violation of the terms of either agreement will result in suspension of that household's participation in both programs. This suspension period will be one year. If no other violations occur, the household can re-enter the program at the end of the one year term. If a second violation occurs, the participants will be expelled.

Process of monitoring agreements:

- 1) We will involve the Livestock Department Chitral, briefing them on the program and seeking their support for acquiring and assisting in allocating vaccines and for monitoring herd sizes and snow leopard poaching for each community. We will subsidize the livestock department for these efforts per community.
- 2) We will involve the Divisional Forest Officer of NWFP Wildlife Department Chitral, briefing him on program and seeking his permission to access data from wildlife staff in the area where we are working. We will collect wildlife staff reports.
- 3) Interviews with SLCOs and producer group.
- 4) Formal and informal discussions with participating communities and surrounding community members.
- 5) Wildlife surveys in and around demonstration site.

If accusation occurs and agreement is not reached about violation, then discussion between signatories – Nazim, Livestock Department Representative, Dr. Javed, Community Representatives, and Jaffar ud Din will be held. If agreement cannot be reached between signatories, the Nazim will finalize decision.

Signatures

Dr. Javed Khan

Technical Coordinator

ISLT/WWF- Snow Leopard Project

Representative

SLCO Parsan

Area Nazim

Chitral, NWFP

Jaffar ud Din

Conservation Coordinator – Chitral

ISLT/WWF – Snow Leopard Project

Jennifer Snell Rullman

Conservation Program Coordinator

International Snow Leopard Trust



Annex II

List of Participants

- I. Mr. Rozi Khan
- II. Mr. Gul Nawaz
- III. Mr. Dowlat Bai
- IV. Mr. Mubarak Khan
- V. Mr. Shapeer Khan # 1
- VI. Mr. Shapeer Khan # 2
- VII. Mr. Sher wali
- VIII. Mr. Sher Azam
- IX. Mr. Islam Shah
- X. Mr. Musa
- XI. Mr. Sher Dula Khan
- XII. Mr. Sardar
- XIII. Mr. Muhammad Karim
- XIV. Mr. Sher Abdul
- XV. Mr. Noor Muhammad
- XVI. Mr. Noor Hayat

Resource Person

Dr. Shakir Ahmad Veterinary Officer NWFP Livestock Department Chitral

Facilitator:

Jaffar Ud Din SLFB, WWF-ISLT Snow Leopard Project WWF-P Chitral

Training in Animal Health and Husbandry Practices for Livestock Extension of Parsan

Day One		
Timing	Session/ Topic	Facilitator
800-805hrs	Sitting/ Registration	Jaffar
805-810hrs	Recitation	Pax
810-820hrs	Introduction	Jaffar
820-900hrs	Welcome address/Project overview	Jaffar
900-930hrs	Objectives of the training/ Code of Conduct	Dr. Shakir/ Jaffar
930-1000hrs	Assessment of previous knowledge of pax/ G. Work and presentation	Dr. Shakir/ Group Leaders
1000-1015hrs	Tea break	
1015-1230hrs	-Existing trends of animal management -Improvement of proper List management and its role in rural area.	Dr. Shakir
1230-1315hrs	Lunch Break	
1315-1500hrs	- Discussion on management ,Issues -castration in small and large Ruminants.	Dr. Shakir
Day 2		
800- 1500hrs	Field day	Dr. Shakir/ Ayub, Jaffar
Day 3		
800-915hrs	Basic principle of better animal management of cattle, Sheep and Goats.	Dr. Shakir
915-1000hrs	Importance of fodders in animal rearing.	Dr. Shakir
1000-1015hrs	Tea Break	
1015-1130hrs	Different disease of live stock and its symptoms In context to Chitral.	Dr. Shakir
1130-1230hrs	Important Breed of List in the area.	Dr. Shakir
1230-1315hrs	Lunch Break	
1315 1500hrs	Review of the previous session.	
Day 4		
800-1500hrs	Field day	Dr. Shakir/ Ayub/Jaffar
Day 5		
800- 915hrs	Different ration's preparation, Hay, Silage, and Urea straw treatment.	Dr. Shakir
915- 1000hrs	To developed calendar for Vaccination.	Dr. Shakir
1000-1015hrs	Tea Break	
1015-1100hrs	Livestock Marketing	Dr Shakir
1100-1230hrs	Prevention measures especially in pastures	Dr Shakir
1230-1315hrs	Lunch Break	
1315-1500hrs	Evaluation/ Closing	Jaffar

