



# Kathmandu Resolution

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January 20, 2017

We, the representatives of the governments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, are the architects of the [Bishkek Declaration on Conservation of Snow Leopards](#) and the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP).

As the guardians of Asia's snow leopard landscapes, and having successfully met in Kathmandu on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017, **we hereby:**

**Reiterate** that Asia's high mountains, inhabited by the endangered snow leopard, represent humanity's invaluable cultural, biological, geophysical and economic heritage, and their ecosystem services such as clean water and pasturage support a significant proportion of the world's human population;

**Voice our strong concern** about the degradation of our mountain ecosystems and decline of snow leopards and associated biodiversity;

**Reconfirm** our joint commitment to saving snow leopards and Asia's mountain ecosystems by cooperatively addressing challenges posed by habitat degradation, climate change, retaliatory killing, lack of capacity and poaching and illegal wildlife trade;

**Recognize** the need for better and more expansive scientific monitoring of snow leopard populations, recognizing that less than 2% of the global snow leopard habitat has so far been sampled using best available science;

**Raise** the profile of snow leopard conservation and climate resilient sustainable development of mountain communities through high-level dialogue and policy interventions, capacity building programs and initiate a campaign to publicize the importance of snow leopards and economic and cultural value of the services provided by the mountain ecosystems;

**Agree** to incorporate the economic value of ecosystem services in public policy;

**Call upon** all concerned multi-lateral agencies conservation and development agencies, financial institutions and civil society organizations to support the successful implementation of the GSLEP program and create special funding mechanisms for this purpose;

**Encourage** partnership with business and industry leaders to take an active role in protecting the snow leopard landscapes and partake in an environmentally and socially sustainable development in the 12 snow leopard range countries;



**Direct** the GSLEP Secretariat to work with the UN agencies to explore further funding from Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and others for implementation of GSLEP;

**Welcome** Nepal's initiative to set up a Himalayan Research Centre and encourage young scientists and others in research and conservation of snow leopards;

**Propose** greater engagement of the youth of range countries in the conservation and management of snow leopard landscapes and associated biodiversity;

**Deeply appreciate** and thank the Government, the Prime Minister and the people of Nepal for hosting the steering committee meeting;

And,

**Welcome** the initiative of the Kyrgyz President Mr. Atambayev to host the next Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek on August 24-25, 2017 that aims to develop mechanisms for achieving the urgent needs of economic development of our nations and mountain communities and the preservation of snow leopards and their mountain ecosystems in a balanced and sustainable manner.

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