

**First Steering Committee Meeting
of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
"Steering Committee"**

Taking into account the “Bishkek Declaration” on the Conservation of Snow Leopards and the comprehensive, long-term Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program ("GSLEP"), adopted by representatives of 12 Range States on the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in October 23, 2013 at Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Acknowledges the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic President H.E. Almazbek Atambayev, the support of the Kyrgyz Government for hosting the First High level Steering Committee meeting from March 19-20, 2015 in Bishkek, and the leaders 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, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal , the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Is **grateful** for the crucial and timely support by international partners such as Global Environment Facility, Global Tiger Initiative, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Snow Leopard Trust, United Nations Development Program, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Panthera, Snow Leopard Conservancy and other organizations for their assistance in the implementation of the GSLEP.

Appreciates impressive progress that has been made since the adoption of the Bishkek Declaration.

Acting under the Bishkek Declaration, the Steering Committee:

1. Directs and commits to an accelerated implementation of the GSLEP for building up the momentum, especially in terms of resource mobilization and awareness building;
2. High appreciates the coordination function and role undertaken by the Secretariat and supports its efforts in enhancing its capacity into a global Secretariat which could effectively service the requirements of the Range States and to help regular evaluation of the GSLEP;
3. In particular emphasizes the urgency for raising financial resources to support implementation of the GSLEP implementation over the next few years;
4. Understands and emphasizes the need to build special capacities among frontline staff;
5. Calls all Range States to declare 2015 as the Year of the snow leopard in the Range States, and October 23 as an annually celebrated Snow Leopard Day;
6. Greets the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Almazbek Atambayev for organizing an international expedition connecting 23 snow leopard landscapes among Range States "Reinventing the Silk Route, the Snow Leopard way" to raise awareness about the GSLEP program and the 23 identified snow leopard landscapes;
7. Agrees to an official launch of the Secretariat to coordinate GSLEP implementation with its headquarters in Bishkek, for which the Range States and Partners will explore ways to support the Secretariat on an urgent basis.

8. Requests the Secretariat to:

- strengthen and improve cooperation efforts with Range States and other partners to improve collaboration in the implementation of the GSLEP;
- regularly update the website (www.globalsnowleopard.org) in order to provide opportunities for dynamic exchange of information;
- maintain a coordinating role in assisting with the planning and implementation of priority actions at the national and international levels, including facilitation and implementation of relevant memorandums, and action plans in certain areas.

By the adoption of this resolution in Bishkek for the implementation of the GSLEP the Range States undertakes to provide support and express their determination in collective action to achieve the goal of "Secure 20 by 2020".