



Issykkul Statement

June 15, 2018

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, Federal Republic of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan have gathered in Lake Issykkul for the Third Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) on 14-15 June 2018.

We have gathered to review our work towards implementation of the Bishkek Declaration 2017, share our experiences and, intensify our collaborative efforts towards conserving snow leopards and its ecosystem. We are pleased with the collective efforts made by the range countries and partner organizations under this program so far.

In this joint statement, we:

Resolve to further accelerate the implementation of Bishkek Declaration 2017;

Unanimously support the idea of a collaborative, multi-country GEF regional project (Big Cats) addressing national snow leopard ecosystem priorities and a regional programmatic layer focused on global support themes;

Agree to develop in-country framework for implementation of Population Assessment of the World's Snow leopards (PAWS) and to include PAWS in the Big Cats regional project;

Resolve to work collaboratively to make relevant sections of national laws dealing with poaching and illegal wildlife trade across range countries consistent and address the issue of illegal demand and markets for wildlife parts and derivatives;

Support the efforts of the Secretariat in collation and sharing of information on poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and encourage the Secretariat to build strong partnerships with international wildlife enforcement networks such as SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network) and SLAWEN (Snow Leopard and Wildlife Enforcement Network);

Appreciate the work being conducted by the GSLEP Secretariat in order to implement the Bishkek Declaration 2017, and agree to address the need for strengthening the Secretariat by seconding an official within our respective countries to support the National Focal Points and reinforce outreach and coordination with the Secretariat.



We acknowledge the continued support to the GSLEP program being provided by the Global Environment Facility, Snow Leopard Trust and United Nations Development Program and welcome support from other International Financial Institutions and partners.

Finally, we appreciate and thank the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the third steering committee meeting and for their gracious hospitality and continuing support.

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