



Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program

Resolution

October 23, 2020

On the occasion of the International Snow Leopard Day, 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 Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Federal Republic of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan gathered for the Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), conducted virtually for the first time.

We shared our experiences and updates about the in-country efforts for conserving snow leopards and their ecosystems. We are pleased with the collective efforts made by the range countries, partner organizations and the GSLEP Secretariat under this program so far.

As the representatives of Asia's high mountains, we:

Affirm that the health of humans around the world is closely linked to the health of wild and domestic animals and to the vitality of the planet's natural ecosystems including the high Asian mountains and that it is being exacerbated by loss of biodiversity and climate change.

Acknowledge that the world is currently facing an unprecedented situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which, among other serious impacts, has affected the funding of several on-going conservation programs across snow leopard range countries and is likely to impact resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation in the coming years.

Recognize the need for urgent provisioning of resources to support the National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Priorities and the Global Support Components of GSLEP.

Urge the heads of potential funding and financial institutions as well as other relevant donor partners to support the GSLEP Program.

Direct the GSLEP Secretariat to proactively and urgently engage with past and potential funding partners such as Global Environment Facility, United States Agency for International Development, Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Program, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, and others to assist in raising support for implementing GSLEP objectives.

Resolve to take significant and visible steps for coordinated green and inclusive economic development and conservation in our mountainous regions, including ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-smart wildlife conservation, and support efforts towards better animal health research and animal human healthcare and disease surveillance.

Support the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat in coordinating the initiative on Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards (PAWS); stronger information management on poaching and illegal wildlife trade; initiation of efforts to reduce consumption of illegally hunted wildlife; and the implementation of the newly developed guidelines for (i) conservation education, and (ii) managing snow leopards in unusual and conflict situations to effectively mitigate conflicts.

Welcome the offer of the governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and Mongolia to host the next GSLEP Steering Committee Meeting and other events in 2021, subject to favourable conditions for travel.

Commend the work of the GSLEP Secretariat in coordinating the program, developing need-based advisories through regional and international experts, and adopting technological innovations.

Appreciate the continued financial and technical support being provided to the GSLEP Secretariat by the International Snow Leopard Trust, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Program, GTI Council and United Nations Environment Program.

Lastly, we express our deep gratitude to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the Secretariat and to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal for co-chairing the Steering Committee.