



GLOBAL SNOW LEOPARD AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM (GSLEP)

Third STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (SCM)

**Kapriz Resort, Issyk-Kul
region, Kyrgyz Republic
June 14-15, 2018**

MEETING REPORT



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Program (GSLEP)

Representatives of the 12 snow leopard range countries gathered on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul in June 2019 for the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Program (GSLEP) to review their work towards implementing the Bishkek Declaration 2017. They came together to share their experiences and intensify their collaborative efforts towards conserving the snow leopard and its ecosystem across all range countries. Given the opportunity and representation from ministers or their nominees from Central Asia and all other snow leopard range countries, the technical segments of the meeting following range country updates aligned themselves with the goals of the GEF funded project, trans-boundary cooperation in snow leopard conservation. The delegations from snow leopard range countries and observer NGO members of the Steering Committee were co-represented as the project board members and their comment upon key deliverables and goals identified in the project were taken into consideration to review the work done and plan the GSLEP activities in the year to come.

Primarily, other than updates about the GSLEP program's work so far, three issues were discussed that comprised of sustainable resource mobilization, snow leopard monitoring framework and combatting illegal wildlife trade.

At the meeting, representatives discussed the idea of a multi-country Global Environment Facility (GEF) regional project to help close funding gaps and implement national and cross-boundary big cat conservation priorities in Asia.

The proposed project, entitled **Asia Big Cats Program**, was proposed to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility under the GEF-7 funding cycle as a regional project. Range countries will come together and apportion part of their national GEF allocations towards national projects on snow leopard and landscape conservation, creating a regional project. This regional project will allow for the grouping of individual national projects under GEF's "programmatic approach" modality, which would then set aside additional funds for any necessary cross-boundary coordination and technical support.

Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, chair of the GSLEP Steering Committee and Minister for Forest and Environment Conservation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nepal, eloquently summarized that "snow leopards and tigers are facing several similar threats such habitat degradation, fragmentation, poorly planned ecologically unsustainable infrastructural development, human wildlife conflict, climate change, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade. A regional GEF program would provide an unique opportunity for range countries of the two species to share common yet differentiated approaches to address these threats at the local, national, and international level."

The meeting garnered consensus on developing in-country frameworks for the **Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards (PAWS)**, an initiative launched at the 2017 Global Snow Leopard Forum. The steering committee also offered its full support to collation and

sharing of information on poaching and illegal wildlife trade, while building strong partnerships with international wildlife enforcement networks.

GLOBAL SNOW LEOPARD
AND ECOSYSTEM
PROTECTION PROGRAM
(GSLEP):

DAY 1

June 14th, 2018

Introductory Statements



Chair – Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forest and Environment Conservation, Government of the Federal Republic of Nepal

Co-chair – Mr. Abdykalyk Rustamov, Director of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic

Afghanistan



The environment agency of Afghanistan has continued to protect the national park ecosystem, which comprises more than 70% of the country's confirmed snow leopard landscape.

Conducting a range of research activities is necessary, including research on snow leopard habitat preference, research on population estimations of its key prey species (the Asiatic ibex), and research on the pastures and rangelands which support the entire ecosystem.

To improve enforcement of wildlife laws, we have delivered training to border police and custom officials in an effort to reduce human wildlife conflict.

Russian Federation



We pay particular attention to preserving the environment. In particular, we are involved in transboundary cooperation in regards to preservation of the snow leopard. It is important for us to understand that the snow leopard is a species that acts as an indicator of the state of health of the entire environmental systems. It has already been granted special protection in all 12 range countries, and is classified as a Red Species in the Russian Federation. However, it lives in very remote areas that are difficult to study, and is therefore not very well researched. The Russian Federation has, however, started a multi-dimensional approach to studying the snow leopard in the past few years.

Republic of Tatarstan

We have joint activities planned that will focus on protecting the population of snow leopards. Specifically, we want to establish nurseries for snow leopard cubs that will later be released back into the wild.

Uzbekistan



We are happy to announce that in Uzbekistan, the recession has stabilized and we are seeing growth in terms of GDP. While we do not have the same ratios of environmental funding as some of the other range countries do, we see this as an opportunity for all of us to make sure we are strategic and smart in our planning.

We are seeing notable achievements in Uzbekistan. Our program is maturing and moving forward in an incremental manner, and our efforts are having an impact. However, we are just doing business as usual. What we now need is a transformation – we need to make our conservation efforts more robust, and stronger. Good economic growth is an opportunity to make this happen. We want a Regional Project with national components. There should be two pillars: one for snow leopards, and one for tigers. Further, there should be a global layer which should aim to support all of the national programs and bring everything together. We were able to raise \$4.1 million dollars, and can put \$200 thousand dollars towards the project. We have a rich agenda, and if the countries come together we will empower each other. We need to make a timeline of what needs to be done. The GSLEP secretariat can also expand, but will not have to put too much resources into this project itself. Finally, we must also focus on communication to the public at large.

Big Cats Concept Note

Developing a resource mobilization strategy is a priority for the GSLEP program (and the Global Environment Facility funded regional project supporting its operations). So far between the range countries \$51 million have been raised, and we will raise more. GEF7 is the immediate next window which is opening for making that possible. Some countries may still be having GEF6 programs going on. The major issue is that our needs are much bigger than what can be covered by our current funds. If we monetize those gaps we come up with a gap of \$150 million dollars at least. For tigers, that gap is \$500 million. This is the most important issue as it is a transnational issue. We have not been able to do much on the financial front. However, Bhutan has taken the lead with \$26 million in funding from GEF. UNDP local offices also have thousands of dollars which can be used for the project implementation plan.

Therefore we need a programmatic regional approach and to share knowledge and experiences to come to a solution. We need to develop a project that has 2 pillars. The current priorities seem to be community support for sustainability, and reduction of the degradation of habitat. Both tigers and snow leopards are facing wildlife and human conflict. For example, tigers are killed when they enter villages in India. The Global Tiger Initiative Council and the GSLEP Secretariat are working towards informal framing of some of these problems. They seek country cooperation in this approach.

GSLEP/GTRP Process

Further inter-range country collaboration can accelerate country implementation.

Merits of Programmatic Approach

- Common threats – common yet differentiated approach to address them
- Better alignment of national projects with global goals/targets
- Transboundary coalition of partners
- Greater impact/cost effectiveness

ABC: possible scope and themes

- Landscape planning and management (spatial land use planning, PA management, LD, cross-sectional approaches)
- Green infrastructure (integration into infrastructure plans; regulatory frameworks; safe guard systems; private sector engagement; smart cities)
- Sustainable finance (NCAA/GNP; sustainable finance plans; trust funds; impact investing)
- Capacity building (tailored training; support for local agencies and communities; policy, legislation, mandates clarification; role for different actors)
- Research and monitoring

Global Wildlife Program

The Global Wildlife Program is a \$131 million program with 19 Africa and Asia countries. There are 21 projects, including BD/LD/SFM/CCM. 21 countries came together to discuss the issues of illegal wildlife trade, with the objectives of promoting wildlife conservation and preventing wildlife crime.

How can we make this happen here? The time is now. National Projects have STAR allocation, and a Regional Project could have Set Aside and possibly STAR allocation. There would be a modest allocation from STAR and larger allocation from Set Aside. To do so, we need to have at least 15-16 of the 20 countries to sign up. We also need significant co-financing. There is no guarantee for a Set Aside, since political work and technical support are required.

In India, the Big Cats Initiative had the GEB BD objective 1 – to mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes. It also had the GEF LD objective 1 – to support on-ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN. Relevant LPs were food, landscape, restoration impact program, sustainable cities IP, and SFM impact program. Spatial and land use planning is needed to secure habitats and adjacent landscapes and to create corridors.

Next Steps

- Finalize the concept with annexes
- Country mapping: opportunities, ministries and departments, identify OFP relationships
- Range Country Consultation: ascertain their interests
- Non-GEF co-financing mobilization – GCF? IKI?
- Continuous consultations with GEF, GWP etc
- Program Framework Document Drafting with child project and regional project concept notes
- Use of GSLEP and GTF/GTIC for consultations and vetting
- Draft concept based on today's discussion
- Consultation with relevant States, Departments, etc. to validate concept and initiate PIF preparation – September 2018
- Finalize PIF, obtain ministry clearance, secure OFP endorsement – Oct 2018
- Align with Global Program (PFD) – Oct – Nov 2018
- Submit to GEF – November – December 2018

Discussion

- Have they considered including the Lion and Cheetah as a strategy consideration?
 - No, now just focusing on snow leopards and tigers
- Most countries have different problems, but everyone is equally interested in saving the species from human conflict
- Countries need to collaborate (information sharing)
- Concerns – none of the countries will reject this idea; it is a little late (5 years have passed), it will be difficult to gain support financially; the country priority is not the snow leopard, there are other animals, why are we pushing countries to allocate from the STAR allocation? If GEF is asking these countries to show something in reality, it is

another concern for this project. While we are focusing on this project, what will be happening with our ongoing projects? It is better to include those ongoing projects than to ask GEF to allocate funds to this third project.

- Several other cats require protection – The focus on any of these species does not exclude any other species

STAR set aside – the national projects will be funded by STAR. We are negotiating with GEF secretary ... at least 92% of the resources will be STAR focusing on country action. You can have subgroupings.

On approaching the GEF CEO – even if the GEF CEO supported this and wanted to give us a regional program, she couldn't because the GEF has been designed in a certain way – for the GEF7 to even allocate resources from the trust fund, it has to be matched by allocations from the countries

Russia – we will support this project. If we succeed from Russian Federation we will have co-funding, our contribution was up to 200 thousand euros, the project is implemented from Russian money. If we can receive something from GEF. If there is a need for local financing, there is 8 million left which is frozen now. We will co-finance.

- We need to talk to countries like Iran if we want to incorporate cheetahs (incorporate all countries that have cheetahs). If this concept is accepted by GEF, we support that. But, we have to understand what other countries we should include or what countries we shouldn't include. Expand to 3 or 4 species. Iran has some successful experience in preserving leopards, but they were never involved in our tiger initiative, even though there are some tigers there.
- If we keep adding species, it will dilute the focus. So far, we have an excellent project, we don't want to lose focus.
- **Pakistan** – Implementation of GEF6 will start in July. One hurdle that we see is that one of these 2 species is not in Pakistan. This could be tricky. But, if it is possible to include

other species that may make this project more appealing to Pakistan.



- **Uzbekistan** – We recently launched similar project within GEF7.
- **Mongolia** – We support the concept. The issue is, where should we find funding. The ministry is unwilling to share that funding. We have 3 million dollars left.
- **Tajikistan** – We need to mention that GEF mention about changing the approaches along with STAR, there are a number of mechanisms which we can also use. We are ready to enter into this agreement. But the concern is, there are not a large number of big cats in Tajikistan. We have very unique ecosystem. We need to organize target consultations. If we can rapidly develop the framework of such initiatives and rapidly start the consultations, we believe it will be very useful.
- **Kazakhstan** – Yes, good idea. Unfortunately we are lacking government officials. We will launch the project soon.
- **India** – There is complementarity between the two species. What about other cats such as the common and clouded leopards? Why should we miss out on these cats?
- **China** – We think that there are so many countries in the region that are involved in snow leopard conservation. If every country draws a program, that will take a very long time. We support the program, but we think only some of the countries should be

involved, if all the countries are involved we believe time will be lost.



- **Bhutan** – We support the program. We support the program focusing on just the tiger and snow leopard. Co-financing can be achieved. In regards to capacity building, 500 people will be trained. We do not have any mapping of institutions that provide capacity building. What is happening in each country? Who is being trained? Is it specialized training or not? We don't have clarity of the approach. We request that we are proactive about it and move forward on this. UNDP is one of the main implementing agencies of GEF. I want to confirm that the process to get money from GEF will not take a day, even if countries agree. It will require time for drafting and finalizing the proposal. We need to have an agreement with countries before finalizing. Everyone must identify their national priorities. We will engage a team of local and international experts because the project proposal is a difficult process. Should be based on priorities and needs of countries. Along with formal consent, we need a strong recognition of priorities and it should be national. National governments should be represented, not only in the early stages. Otherwise, GEF will reject the proposal. I confirm we have funds from UNDP to draft this project. Then we can acquire a team to draft all of the final documents. UNDP will continue its support but there is a need to identify real co-funding. We need joint efforts and to be realistic.

DAY 2

June 15th, 2018



Mr. Keshav Varma – We need to support the Asia Big Cat Program and start work immediately. On the 24th of June, a team will present a revised concept note that reflects the various ideas that were given by different countries. This will give confidence to influence the GEF funding. We want the GSLEP secretariat to grow into an international and global secretariat, which will help with capacity building, knowledge exchange, etc. One issue of the secretariat, is that we don't want the secretariat to become resource heavy. The idea was to have a virtual expansion of the secretariat and to request the countries to send one person from each of the countries who can represent them within the secretariat and provide the connectivity between the secretariat and each individual country. The Big Cat Regional Project will have two pillars – one will be the snow leopard, one will be the tiger. This project will largely be funded through the Set Aside from the GEF. We do need a regional platform of clear liberty, innovation, and partnership. I believe the regional project will provide the structure to complete that. We want to be the first in the race for GEF7 funds.

Supporting comments:

- If 12 countries agree to delegate one person to the secretariat, what will these 12 people do? When will this happen?
- We don't need 12 people representing, we can look at regions and language. We can have 4 or 5 in the beginning, representing each language. These people will be funded by the countries. We need to really work on it because we are not getting anywhere on the awareness aspect. It is important that each country knows what the secretariat is doing. It will elevate the performance of the secretariat.
- If we have 5 or 6 people, that will be a competition. Everyone wants to be represented by their country.
- Mr. Charu Mishra – It might not work at the regional level, but it may have to work at the country level. We can start with a few countries as an experiment, and if it works it can be expanded.
- **Pakistan:** I would suggest that we go for a title that is really accepted. We should add more pillars. Some countries have to take it to the government for approval. I believe experimenting with 5 or 6 people is a good idea.



- We will get some ideas and see if we can come up with a better title.
- The idea is not to put any countries that do not have tigers into a corner.

- We will also discuss possibility of bringing in one more big cat
- On the secretariat side, we will experiment with 4 or 5 first
- The programmatic resources are also to be directed to the countries. Those resources will be dedicated to capacity building in that country. The resources will all be dedicated to enhancing the global support programs for making the national programs more efficient.

SGP will be announcing a big cats conservation program. Countries will have the opportunity to apply to it. It is called the Big Cats Conservation Strategic program. Countries can get \$250,000 US dollars for strategic community level innovative approaches.

- Before the global tiger recovery program, (2008), there was a lot of scattering in different directions. Everyone was trying to do their own thing. GSLEP has provided a very clear road forward for all of the countries. It is important to stay very focused on the GSLEP objectives and continue to achieve them.
- **Mongolia** – Within this regional project it is beneficial to identify the snow leopard as an umbrella species. By conserving snow leopard we can also maintain ecosystems and maintaining diversity. We are lacking time.



- Director of the snow leopard conservation fund in Mongolia – there are very few people responsible for biodiversity. We discussed yesterday the possibility that maybe we need

to appoint a person to assist us and will keep a close communication with the secretariat. We also need to approve and agree with the ministry in Mongolia about the regional program. Do you have approximate cost of the program? What will be the amount of country contribution?

- 4 or 5 people is not suitable to represent each government. Ideally there would be 12 people.
- We do not have a cap on the cost of the program. If we have 20 countries contributing, there will be more contribution.
- Mr. Keshav Varma – We have a business model sitting right in front of us in Bhutan. It will be the job of the GSLEP secretariat. It should also be a rule for Bhutan to move this idea forward (Bhutan for Life).

Bhutan for Life – Trust Fund Model

Bhutan's environmental conservation philosophy stems from its age old tradition of living in harmony with nature in Asia. It has a history of visionary leaders that have supported conservation. The National Happiness Philosophy, or the GNH Philosophy, was established in the 1970s. This philosophy considers the happiness of the people more important than the country's GDP. This philosophy became a constitutional mandate, and thus a mandate and a political will for all of us in Bhutan to conserve nature. With the coming of democracy in 2008 came the coming of a government which wants to conserve nature.

Discussion

- We should have some countries which are willing to move forward on this BFL program. This program is helping to fill the gaps. If there are countries that are interested, we can help them to work on it. We can bring the World Bank, international finance corporations, and others into a discussion on this. We also have bank of Russia here. We can create this program and provide equity. This is a doable project. Very soon a secretariat will be created for this program in Bhutan. The secretariat has planned to invest further. There are chances of increasing through investments.
- We need to create mechanisms to access this money from CAMPA.
- **Kyrgyzstan** – The question is how to establish and create this fund. There should be a political will of each state, such as the Environment Conservation Fund in Kyrgyzstan. There is a need to get additional materials and information to further discuss these options. We need to analyze these mechanisms, and then we can make conclusions if there is room or a chance to implement this in Kyrgyzstan.
- **Russia** – We discussed different models. Each country has its own specifics, suitable or not. The Russian Federation is a huge country. We have tested different models. We succeeded in establishing two commercial organizations. One is preserving tigers. For us in the national protection agency, having funds only from national budget would hardly cover the environmental budget. If we talk about tigers, it took several years to establish the national park and it was nearly impossible to establish. Political will is not

enough. Technical equipment to support tigers for example, is necessary. Political leaders from one of the countries will have a political will and will include another species besides the snow leopard. We can try to cooperate with colleagues and WWF. For Russia it could be not the trust fund but the model to cover the lacking funds from the ministry and governmental agencies. We are ready to strengthen the secretariat. A lot of scientists and experts can be engaged into the process. Of course 2 or 3 people will be actively engaged in this and will participate in the secretariat.

- **Pakistan** – Last year the government allocated \$2 million for a project called Green Pakistan Program. We have resources. In our case, we are collecting funding for protected areas. Our mountain conservation is managed by the government. The problem with us is that we have to find a mechanism to aid the funding.
- **Afghanistan** – We have to keep in mind each country has their own issues. In our case, we are having a lot of problems combating poverty, security issues, etc. These are the priorities for the government, rather than nature conservation. The national environmental protection agency tried 5 years ago to establish such a trust fund (Afghanistan Green Fund). We will ask to put those funds towards this. We are pleased to try to implement this and gather more information on it.
- **Uzbekistan** – We suggest that a regional landscape be denoted that is used by Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The landscape demonstrates the vulnerability of the snow leopard. The population total in this landscape is about 30 species, such as the siberian goat, siberian fox, mountain sheep, snow leopard, and other animals. The main threats are poaching, but for the last 15 years there have been no cases in regards to snow leopards. On the territory of the landscape there is the ongoing joint project with GEF and Uzbekistan to maintain the key mountain areas. If neighboring countries support it, we can suggest that landscape?

PAWS: Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards

Population estimates for snow leopards, which are currently biased towards only the best habitats, are only available for a mere 2% of their global distribution range, and even less so for the Kyrgyz Republic. This lack of representative information makes it impossible to create a reliable estimation of snow leopard population not only regionally, but also nationally and across the range.

Governments from all twelve snow leopard range countries thus identified the need for more robust and expansive monitoring of snow leopard populations. These sentiments were reflected in the Bishkek Declaration 2017, the Kathmandu Resolution 2017, the Issykkul Statement (2017), and the Shenzhen Consensus (2018). The International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation Forum (2017), held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, brought together high-level government officials NGOs, conservation scientists, and politicians, and business leaders. All range countries came to the unanimous agreement that creating a robust estimate of the world's snow leopard population was to be given high priority by the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program,

and was also identified as an expected deliverable in the regional project funded by GEF. This effort was aptly named PAWS, or Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards. Recognizing the scope of such a multidisciplinary and transboundary project, scientists, statisticians, conservationists and politicians from over 20 organizations from all range countries have come together to conceptualize a unified PAWS guidelines that maintains scientific and statistical rigor while taking into account the different contexts of each range country.

An introductory presentation was made by Dr. Koustubh Sharma, International Coordinator-GSLEP about the process. It was followed by comments, advice and suggestions from the meeting participants that were duly acknowledged and included in the follow up progress.

Dr. Koustubh Sharma

- How many snow leopards are there?
 - Unfortunately all we have are rough guesstimates, which range from 3,000-8,000 individual snow leopards globally
- Why do we need to know how many there are?
 - To be able to prioritize populations and habitats for effective protection
 - To evaluate effects of conservation efforts on snow leopard populations
 - To discover unknown populations or gaps in population
 - To assess the true status of the snow leopard
- What are the benefits of PAWS? More than just numbers!
 - Redefining distribution maps
 - Mapping threats across the snow leopard range
 - Developing capacity building for young conservationists
 - Identifying climate change refugia
- What are some bottlenecks of efforts?
 - Only a few sites have been sampled systematically
 - Most sampling is biased towards the best habitats
 - Many existing studies struggle with statistical pitfalls
 - The snow leopard is no longer classified as “endangered”
- Timeline of Events
 - The Kathmandu Resolution of the 2nd GSLEP Steering Committee Meeting, the High Level Senior Official Meeting, and the Bishkek Declaration all call for the necessity of a worldwide, scientifically sound population assessment of the snow leopard
 - PAWS technical workshop was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
 - Discussed approach, concerns, budget, participation of PAWS
 - Developed PAWS Action Plan
 - Created PAWS Technical Oversight and Support Panel – PAWS, by nature, requires a huge amount of coordination, delivery, and partnership
 - Set up a PAWS sign-up page on the GSLEP website for organizations to join and become partners in a way of their choosing

- PAWS Process
 - Stage 1: Distribution Modelling – where are the snow leopards?
 - Local ecological knowledge and field surveys
 - Stage 2: Intensive Sampling: how many snow leopards are there?
 - Camera trapping, prospects of AI automated analysis
 - Genetic sampling
 - Stage 3: Analysis and Reporting: trends, patterns, distributions, etc.
- Next Steps
 - Methodological guidelines
 - Capacity building manuals
 - Quality control guidelines
 - Planning workshops
 - Sampling workshops
 - Field data collection workshops
 - Data analysis workshops

Discussion

- **China** – Very important but difficult task. We need new technical equipment. Each country should share their methods/techniques for population assessment
- **Afghanistan** – Our initial assumptions about populations/distributions are constantly changing with new information – there is so much we do not know
- Mr. Charu Mishra – Needs to be implemented in and by each country with support of governments. Methods need to be uniform. Draft methodological guidelines will be completed by August 2018. All countries must work together. It will be a huge amount of resources, technological support, and data management/analysis. Regional projects should include a significant dedication towards PAWS
- **Pakistan** – how much time will it take and how much will it cost?
- Mr. Keshav Varma – currently only 2% of range has been surveyed – how much time will it take to move from 2% to 25%?
- Mr. Charu Mishra: If countries are supportive and finances are raised, by 2022 we will have the first scientifically robust population assessment. We will try to sample at least 20% of total habitat. This is an evolving target that depends on the ability to sample habitat in a randomized manner. Depends on the variation that the data/estimates might show
- **Afghanistan** – estimate: ~\$7 million USD in total
- **India** – field data collection takes 8-9 months in relatively small area, then even more for data analysis – this is a HUGE project to scale up! (in manpower, time, etc). We therefore need to bring in governments to boost support/resources
- Mr. Keshav Varma – Without strong government support, in order to reach 20% coverage, it will take MUCH more than \$7 million USD. We must really think about how the money is to be raised

- **Nepal** – camera trapping for snow leopards is extremely difficult (much more difficult than for tigers), and is only possible in certain areas. Ownership is a very important issue. We need 3 levels: 1) joint scientific monitoring group, 2) central technical group in each country, 3) subsequent technical groups for each method. This project needs to be part of capacity building – this should NOT just be a one-time population estimation!
- **Pakistan** – need lots of training, which needs lots of money
- Mr. Charu Mishra – this process will be driven by GSLEP Secretariat and all participating countries
- Mr. Keshav Varma – Suppose methodology guidelines are given by August 1, 2018. What is the level of funding that is required to start this process in countries in a uniform, organized manner? What is the incremental funding required as the project progresses? Need to formulate action plans for each country if we wish to complete by 2022
- **Russia** – It is physically impossible to cover the entire range area. Just one workshop, training, seminar will NOT be sufficient! We need to start training NOW! In Russia, preparatory work took 5 years. So prep years for a global estimation will take much longer. Need to develop methodology in close collaboration with all countries – each have its own specific needs!
- **Uzbekistan** – We need to train people who will be protecting the snow leopard, and attract young generations into environmental protection
- **Kyrgyzstan** – The numbers should not be the priority. We need to also analyze our gaps. Principle objective should be preserving the snow leopard, not just counting them. Methodology for performing the census needs to be uniform but also flexible, taking into consideration individual country experiences – must take inventory!
- Mrs. Belinda Wright – very important to know population numbers so that you can do better conservation planning, not the other way around! We need to know how many snow leopards there are and where they are if we want to properly protect them in the future.
- **Mongolia** – we have created a working group tasked with performing a snow leopard population census. Even within Mongolia, we need to adapt methodology depending on location. The preparation period for our nationwide census was quite extensive. 1 or 2 field specialists from each country need to get together and talk about methodology – during the technical training workshop, there were not many field specialists present. Need greater involvement of those that will actually be carrying out the work in the field. IUCN: confirm that IUCN is creating a grant support program. IUCN welcomes and supports the information that will come of this project
- Mr. Charu Mishra – We need draft guidelines as well as a draft action plan. Each country should create implementation mechanisms. We have appreciation for the GEF/UNDP funding that is already secured

Illegal Wildlife Trade

Poaching for their exquisite fur and highly valued bones has been a major and intensifying threat to snow leopards across their range. The demand for rugs, luxury décor, and taxidermy, is reported to be on the increase. Snow leopard bones have allegedly been used as substitute for tiger bones in traditional medicine. Some investigations have established the presence of snow leopard DNA in traditional medicine products. A recent report estimates that between 4 to 7 snow leopards are killed every week. But the real extent of the problem is unknown. The cases that do come to light may only be the tip of the iceberg, as wildlife crime typically has very low rates of detection. Moreover, an increase in number of reports of wildlife crime do not always mean an actual increase in crime – they could even indicate better vigilance. In line with the Bishkek Declaration 2017, a collaborative initiative has been launched by the GSLEP Program to maintain and periodically analyse data on illegal wildlife trade and poaching of snow leopards in order to generate better actionable information. The purpose of this database is to help better understand hotspots of poaching and trafficking, and monitor status of occurrence and detectability of poaching and illegal trade across the snow leopard's range. Sophisticated algorithms and on-ground reports and news articles are being used to detect information about snow leopard poaching or trafficking across the world in multiple languages. Developing tools and mechanisms to monitor and curb illegal wildlife trade are also a priority for the GEF funded regional project.

A detailed update of the compiled database and its patterns were presented to the steering committee for their feedback and comments.

GSLEP Secretariat

- Snow leopard seizures over the years: over 800 in the past decade
- Are crime rates higher or is reporting/enforcement stronger in certain places?
- Temporal Trends exist
- Associated species in seizures
 - Snow leopard and common leopard transported together
- Changing demands: detection of certain animal parts easier, or is demand higher?
 - Skin and bone transported together
 - Identify demand, trafficking routes
- Need to improve: data quality, data transparency, data dissemination, and ground truthing and verification

Police Officer from India Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

- WCCB: collates data, analyzes data, engages in operations with the states
- Knowledge in snow leopard field is very minimal
- SL Seizures are very minimal – only 7 skin seizures 2010-2016

- Doesn't say crime is not happening – might be because of remoteness of crime, inaccessibility of reaching poachers, harshness of environment
- Thus: the snow leopard needs to be approached from very different angles than other species
 - Must share information across 12 borders
 - Coordination, collaboration, shared database
 - Protocols must be set in place
 - Where is the SL demand coming from? How do we reach out to those countries? Start awareness campaigns in destination countries
 - Wildlife forensics? May need special kits, mobile forensics
 - The more accessible range areas become (new roads, etc), the more pervasive poaching becomes? changing landscapes need to be kept in mind
 - Creation of new software/technology to make tracking easier. Needs funding

Discussion

- **Mr. Keshav Varma** – Countries are unwilling to share information in the name of confidentiality. Shared information must be conveyed to partnering countries frequently in order to track trends. Collaboration with SAWEN and GSLEP is important
- **Nepal** – scientists, local communities, and wildlife crime enforcement must collaborate. We must coordinate a CITES Secretariat. Regional, national, and global levels should all be mainstreamed
- **India** – we are focusing on stopping the supply, but really we should focus on stopping demand! Target the markets, which are the root of the problem. Until something substantial is done to shut down markets, no amount of database or enforcement work will decrease wildlife crime
- Mr. Keshav Varma – everything can now be bought online. Markets exist in open environments – very major issue! We must close down the markets that are so blatant
- **China** – as long as markets exist, there will be illegal wildlife trade, poaching, smuggling, etc. Cases and reporting will go up when laws get stricter and enforcement gets stronger. Legislation must be harmonized
- **Russia** – illegal wildlife trade has now gone into the internet. How can we conserve the wild, live animals? How can we prevent poachers, rather than catch them after the animal is already dead? In Russia there is no demand not because there is no interest, but because there is a huge liability. Need harmonization of laws. We must correct figures and information in the report
- **Kyrgyzstan** – Illegal trade is now equivalent to drug trafficking. Photo and video material can now be used as evidence. Criminals are smart – they capitalize on gaps in trans-border legislation to slip through the law. Thus it is very important to harmonize laws

Country Updates

Representatives from all snow leopard range countries at the meeting shared information about the status and future plans of snow leopard conservation activities in their respective states. The detailed presentations were used to reorganize priorities for the GSLEP program and align the regional project's goals to meet the range countries' expectations.

Afghanistan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development			
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -predator proof livestock corrals built and enhanced -uncultivated land afforested -community rangers' patrols supported -tourism center constructed, tourist trails and campsites renovated -local community-based NRM institution established and supported 	Gaps and needs: -Community institutions still not able to operate independently and require continued support and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -predator proof corrals and afforestation programs continue -epidemiology and prevalence of disease monitored and mitigated
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-legislative body is reviewing: Wildlife Management & Hunting Law; Protected Areas Regulation	Gaps and needs: -lack of clarity in government agency mandates is delaying finalization of draft laws -CITES regulation required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -continue to facilitate enactment of legislation -update Afghanistan NBSAP and BPASP & include GSLEP
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -WNP management plan drafted -relevant government agencies have approved technical aspects 	Gaps and needs: -clarification of PA management mandate between government authority -finalization of benefit sharing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sent for final review to stakeholders -endorsement and enactment of plan
5.	Capacity Building programs	-47 rangers trained to monitor	Gaps and needs: -capacity building tends to be ad-hoc	-facilitate a third Afghan student to

		wildlife and illegal activities -3 field ecologists trained in SMART -supporting 2 Afghan PhD - students -trained team of rangers and vets on how to collar SL -trained 550 law enforcement officers	and implemented on a project by project basis: not sustainable	undertake PhD in illegal SL trade -provide SMART training to 41 community rangers -increase awareness of local communities on climate impact of SL conservation
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			-focus on resource mobilization for the conservation of SL
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-SL and prey species population trend surveys conducted -capture and radio-telemetry of SL -disease risks to SL and prey monitored -livestock predation survey conducted	Gaps and needs: -expand SL monitoring work beyond Wakhan SL Landscape (depending on resources and security)	-robust baseline for SP population in Wakhan SL Landscape -capture and radio-telemetry of SLF continued to refine habitat preference model -camera traps deployed to expand knowledge of presence/absence -continue livestock predation surveys
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	See 7. above		
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10	Wildlife Crime Databases	-biodiversity web-portal to record trade, illegal hunting, and enforcement actions established in NEPA	Gaps and needs: -build capacity of law enforcement officers to seize IWT products, apprehend and prosecute perpetrators	-expand data and populate database
11	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-EIMPA (GEF5/UNDP); supporting management of SL Landscape -TCMMAP (Segre Foundation); conservation of SL large prey species	Gaps and needs: -dependence on external donors for funding to support biodiversity conservation	-CSLTCEA; monitoring, combating wildlife trade and land-use planning in SL landscape -ACCAEM; climate change monitoring and adaptation in SL landscapes

Discussion:

- All countries, including Afghanistan, must cooperate to build capacity

Bhutan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-guideline for development of infrastructure in the protected areas and SRF Land	Gaps and needs: -lack of capacity among planners and engineers -parks as an engine for sustainable development	-mainstreaming of this guideline -National Concessionaire Framework
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-community-based SL conservation committee (2 National Parks) -crop and livestock compensation program		(RGoB 12FYP 2018-2023) -Highland development -Eco-tourism development -Watershed management
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-FNCRR2017 -Amendment of Section 490 of PCB: crime done to SL is a 4 th degree felony, leads to imprisonment -Waste Management Act	Gaps and needs: -harmonization of Acts and Regulations	-Revision of Forest and Nature conservation Act 1995
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-completed drafting of "Climate-integrated landscape conservation plan for SL 2018-2030" -drafting of SL Conservation Action Plan (5yrs)	Gaps and needs: -need for capacity building and implementation fund	-conduct revalidation SL survey 2016 (2019-2023) -intensify telemetry study of SL
5.	Capacity Building programs	-training on survey methodology	Gaps and needs: -lack of funding	-Global Tiger and Cat Research Center in Bhutan: snow leopard expert, development of genetic lab, wildlife disease diagnostics lab
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			

7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-Roll-out of SMART patrolling	Gaps and needs: -strengthening capacity on SMART -funds for purchase of more SMART units	-intensification of SMART patrolling -realignment of JDNP-JKSNR corridor to include SL habitat
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	-national level population assessment 2016	Gaps and needs: -technical capacity -funding	-revalidation survey 2019 -more focus on potential habitats: possible isolated population from JSWNP -up-scale citizen scientists on SL monitoring -prey abundance assessment
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services	-pilot total economic valuation of forest ecosystem services -The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) pilot study	Gaps and needs: -no baseline data -capacity needs	-economic valuation of protected areas -forest conservation value to hydropower industry
10	Wildlife Crime Databases	-BhuFWED -IWT-moderate concern	Gaps and needs: -information gap on transboundary wildlife crime -strengthening of existing institutions (eg. SAWEN)	-potential collaboration with WEMS -collaboration with national agencies through zero-poaching task force
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-Bhutan for Life Initiative -Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation -Funding through GEF5 (HANAS project)	Gaps and needs: -resources are never enough	-explore GEF7 funding -implement BFL Initiative: ecotourism focusing on SL conservation, community engagement, public awareness on importance of SL, climate change impacts on SL conservation

Discussion:

- **Tajikistan** – How long ago did you introduce SMART patrolling? What are advantages and disadvantages thereof?

- First introduced in 2014, 2015 presented in national conference, 2016 nationally rolled out
- SMART: Special Monitoring And Reporting Tools:
 - digital data collection – entered into smartphone, rather than on a notebook
 - Downloaded straight to a computer – easy to analyze and plan subsequent patrolling and threats/opportunities, management
 - No disadvantages of SMART to date – except if you lose your phone before data download, the data is gone
- Belinda Wright: why is the central SL population so isolated?
 - Central habitat is very disconnected from the other high mountains due to urban infrastructure – national highways, etc
 - Still being discussed if it is an isolated population or a migrated individual – however, migration is near impossible

China

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-Organizations give local support in green developments to benefit people and ecosystems		
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat			
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-improved laws in 2016, reissued in 2017		
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans			
5.	Capacity Building programs	-2007 and 2008: conducted many trainings and capacity building activities: train trainers, opportunities to practice in the field what is learned in the classroom, collaborative research and monitoring with nature reserve staff -most SL range covered	Gaps and needs: -lack of staff to cover such large SL area	
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-many surveys conducted in many		

		habitats: camera trapping, population density, habitat suitability, scatological training, preparation for field work -some surveys covering over 15,000sqkm of SL range -pilot program for new NP establishment -socioeconomic surveys: 169 settlements surveyed, 68 herders interviewed		
8.	Snow leopard population assessment			
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases			
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-Central government (SFGA, MOF...) -Industrial foundations -NGOs: NABU, Panthera, WWF, etc doing local-level conservation -public donations		

India

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-guidelines for green growth in relation to linear infrastructure finalized by Wildlife Institute of India -comprehensive EIA regulations		-more guidelines for green growth in infrastructure sector
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-various schemes like Biosphere reserve (NDBR), DPAP, IDWH involve people		-integration of various schemes involving community based institutions

		-securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems: SECURE project		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -constantly evolving compensation rules and statutes in various states of SL range -Sikkim has come up with many specific legislations -new wildlife division in Himachal -many Pas in SL range finally notified (Uttarakhand 2013) -National Wildlife Legislation under revision to make enforcement easier and punishment stronger 		-need for specialized rules wherever required
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -management plans for Pas and working plans for intervening areas being revised as and when required -landscape level integration done in Spiti Landscape 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -being tried in other landscapes as well through landscape chapters in management plan -expert/NGO help being sought for integration into landscape plans
5.	Capacity Building programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -eco-development committees/JFM committees set up in Pas and other forest areas; micro-planning based activities -livelihood components in most conservation projects (IDWH, JICA, WB, CAMPA...): handicrafts, ecotourism, offseason vegetables, solar power, market linkages, etc 		-large scale capacity building program envisaged through skill development ministry and SECURE
6.	Strengthening of secretariat	-supports GSLEP		

7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -large number of ecological studies by WII, NCF -intensive camera trapping in most SL habitat for last decade -wildlife estimation in trans-Himalayan landscapes in all states with the help of WII and other experts: decadal multi-institutional ecological monitoring of Nandadevi NP in 1992, 2002, 2015 		-development of more refined uniform protocols for the entire range at the national level (like AITE)
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -first ever wildlife estimation exercise conducted by Sikkim State Forest Department -state-wide surveys in 2015 in Uttarakhand 		
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services	-carried out by NTCA, GTF, etc		
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -national web-based centralized wildlife crime database launched in 2015, covering all species -populating database 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -need to speedily populate database -capacity building of field personnel -use of the database for policy and field implementation: crime trends, vulnerable times, criminals involved, illegal trade routes, etc -forensic capabilities for professional and scientific investigation required
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2013-17 GoI raised 6m USD -2018-19 USD 15m USD being raised through many GoI schemes -securing livelihoods, conservation, 		-fund transfer to be made more efficient: SPV

		sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems: SECURE project initiated in SL landscape, 11.5m USD in 6 years		
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Kazakhstan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development			
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	- ecological education of people: eg movie on how to appreciate nature		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	- minimization of ecological risk associated with the loss of habitat due to mountain development - assessment of permissible level of recreational load on ecosystem - transboundary conservation		
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	- establishment of ecological corridors and further developing PA network		
5.	Capacity Building programs			
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	- restoration and support of low-numbered populations through breeding and reintroduction - genetics research and monitoring		

		- development of monitoring programs for PAs		
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	-Around 110-130 SL individuals in Kazakhstan		
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases			
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs			

Kyrgyzstan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-promote green growth and cooperation		
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	- local communities are included in this work throughout the entire country		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-2017 harsher monetary penalties -reduced duration of hunting seasons, reduced number of hunting licenses for wild ungulates -updated law on PAs, corridors -provisions that allow for expansion of core areas by 70%		
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-pasture management, tourism department, and academia -study diseases of wildlife -memorandum with law		

		enforcement agency		
5.	Capacity Building programs			
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-23 protected areas, with 3 additional PAs in the past few years: total area 350,000 hectares -plans for new PAs in Batken region and Osh region -electronic database of wildlife		-wildlife crime database rollout
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	- many surveys have been completed in the 2 SL Landscapes (out of 23 total) that exist in Kyrgyzstan. Almost 13,000sqkm of area		
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services	-ongoing work		-pass statute on monitoring and increase cost of natural resource use licenses
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases	-decrease in poaching cases		-wildlife crime database rollout -improve/expedite conviction of detained criminals – work closely with judiciary colleagues, with customs force, law enforcement, border patrol
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	- funding from UNDP/GEF: almost 4 million USD, additional 0.5 million USD from Germany - updating documents in June 2018, get formal approval of new conservation		

		activities in Central Tien Shan		
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Mongolia

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-government announced green development policy -several national and international workshops and forums conducted -strategic documents adopted		
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-Nature Conservancy has been implementing Community based conservation projects for last 1.5 years -SLCF has established 6 local conservation communities, adding to SL enterprises		-WWF Mongolia to train and support local communities at 6 target sites in western Mongolia
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-national program for endangered species		-hopes to make additions to laws in the next years
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-SSL landscape management plan drafted by SLCF and IM -WWF Mongolian Program Office secured funding for development of Altai range management plan	Gaps and needs: -lack of training, lack of inter-organization coordination/harmonization	-stakeholders' meeting planned for October 2018 -update each other, develop future objectives and plans

5.	Capacity Building programs	-projects include government, NGOs, ministry, etc	Gaps and needs: -no nationwide programs	-governmental ministry should have nationwide capacity building
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts			
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	-developing survey methodology -training of field teams -SL camera trapping in 3 key areas		-announcement of nationwide population next year
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			-need to create activities
10	Wildlife Crime Databases			-need to create
11	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-Nature Conservancy has been implementing Community-based conservation for last 2 years, with plans for expansion -WWF in western Mongolia for next 5 years -Joint funding between Mongolian and German government -Government and Ministry supports projects with full capacity	Gaps and needs: -capacity building, especially academic organizations -linking conservation activities of local administrations, conservation communities and private sector	-apply and implement new projects with GEF7 -WWF promised full support of new projects and NSLEPs for next 5 years

Nepal

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
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1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-government of Nepal proposing Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepal concepts for sustainable development		-strong implementation of EIA recommendations promote green smart infrastructure
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-projects underway		-increase support of local livelihoods -need to increase disaster relief funding to aid local communities (eg from 2015 earthquake)
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-many different implementation authorities and offices -Eastern Conservation Landscape Management Plan		-this year we will revise laws
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-3 landscapes in Nepal		-need to incorporate disaster relief plans
5.	Capacity Building programs	-capacity building at various levels: NP, conservation areas: for frontline staff and for local communities		
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			-support
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-support young scientists in SL conservation, encourage them to conduct good research -satellite radio collaring in 2014, 15, 16		-support citizen scientists to collect the data on the ground -need to incorporate climate change at a local level
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	-camera trapping, paw mark counting, other assessments	Gaps and needs -single method is not enough -very challenging, no good baseline information	-increase camera trapping
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			-initiate economic valuation
10	Wildlife Crime Databases	-Nepal hosts 4 big cat species	Gaps and needs:	-educate local communities about

		-wildlife stockpile management in 2017 – make transparent	-very hard to manage and control	differences between the 4 big cat species
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-various organizations providing support for particular projects -Nepal Government main supporter		

Pakistan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development			
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-80% of trophy hunting license revenue goes to local communities -conservation programs initiated to reduce retaliatory killing -20 predator-proof corrals constructed by SLF, WWF, BWCD, and provincial wildlife departments -100,000 livestock vaccinated in 2 campaigns -25 communities engaged in livestock insurance program -5,000 handicrafts produced in 2017 with Snow Leopard Enterprises		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws			
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-3 SL model landscapes -management plan developed and shared with GSLEP secretariat		

5.	Capacity Building programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -over 50 postgraduate students completed theses in SL and its habitats -300 wildlife department staff trained to conduct wildlife surveys and data analysis -training of 200 ecosystem health workers -activity-based conservation learning for O and A level students -awareness and outreach: Snow Leopard Day 2017 celebrated on a national level, World Wildlife Day 2018 		
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts			
8.	Snow leopard population assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -200 SL individuals in Pakistan over 80,000sqkm -1347 carnivore scats collected, 111 SL identified, 23 unique SL individuals -36% of total area surveyed -camera trapping over 30% of total area -846 cameras deployed, 60 animals captured -PAWS workshop at PMNH in April 2018 		
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -101 poaching cases recorded from 2005-16: 8.4 incidents per year 		
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to			

	implement management plans and NSLEPs			
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Russia

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-sustainable development plans approved		
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat			
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-2013 amendments to illegal hunting law -2014: law on the bases of public control		
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-establishing new PAs -habitat and game management		
5.	Capacity Building programs			
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-new PAs established -3 rd large-scale SL census -2018: 61 SL individuals registered -assessment of threats and HWC level -support of inter-agency anti-poaching brigade -supporting public environmental inspection		-need to analyze data and make better assessments

8.	Snow leopard population assessment	-2017: snow leopard monitoring program drafted -2018: snow leopard monitoring program finalized		-2018-19: joint monitoring of Russia and Mongolia transboundary SL populations
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10.	Wildlife Crime Databases			
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-VTB Bank:250k euros -regional corporate donors: 100k euros -Federal PA budget: 4m USD -Regional Pa budget: total 250k euros		

Tajikistan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development			
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-National Wildlife Day film to educate the public -sensitize and promote conservation through legends -reduce human-wildlife conflict -freelance artists creating an epos of the SL -involving women, especially in outdoor tourism		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws			
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-effective projects with UNDP/GEF in active phase of implementation -landscape mapping united practitioners and scientists -patrolling of rangers	Gaps and needs: -lack of experience among local experts, specialists -need better equipment to maintain forest services	-renewal of management plan with amendments -creation of a new PA
5.	Capacity Building programs	-youth engagement		

		-training of rangers		
6.	Strengthening of secretariat		Gaps and needs: -need resources: computers, horses, whatever is needed in each specific PA -assistance with mobilizing fundraising -promote exchange of knowledge using various online platforms (eg KLINK with GIZ in pasture management)	-welcome sharing of technical and intellectual resources among range countries -should make all documents and principles available to all countries -need technical support for uniform system of monitoring – camera trapping, methodology of surveys, common requirements regarding vehicles, common signage for PAs -want to expand because the time is right
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-SMART patrolling -SLIM management -PR campaigns -monitoring system database implementation -monitoring in several pilot locations	Gaps and needs: -lack of coordination	-hire international consultant to bring in outside experience -start nationwide monitoring efforts, create effective design for this monitoring database
8.	Snow leopard population assessment			
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10	Wildlife Crime Databases			
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-GEF project in Pamir and Alay -individual initiatives by individual donors, covering small areas -Panthera initiatives -Aga Khan foundation initiatives		-collaboration with all partners to launch next project

		-collaboration between all partners		
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Uzbekistan

S.No	Point	Action Item	Status	Future plans
1.	Green Growth, Smart Green Infrastructure & Sustainable Development	-sustainable resource management projects		-promote sustainable green growth
2.	Securing involvement, livelihoods and balanced development of human communities that share habitat	-engage local communities		
3.	Modernization of national wildlife laws	-updated flora and fauna laws -updated forestry laws -legislative amendments to bring more accountability to this field		-legislative work will continue
4.	Support completion of landscape management plans	-plans exist for various landscapes		-create transboundary landscape management plans
5.	Capacity Building programs	-nationwide program	Gaps and needs: -insufficient domestic capacity	-invite international capacity
6.	Strengthening of secretariat			-developing contacts -welcome expansion of this cooperation -hold seminar on trans-border cooperation of environmental protection
7.	Intensify conservation & monitoring efforts	-national SL preservation action plan drafted -drafting new monitoring program		-finalize and approve the plan at the level of the cabinet
8.	Snow leopard population assessment			-plan activities to increase knowledge about population

				-plan to use photo traps to monitor populations and gather data
9.	Economic valuation of ecosystem services			
10	Wildlife Crime Databases			
11.	Regional Funds, projects and national trust funds to implement management plans and NSLEPs	-participation of national and international donors		-would like to see SLT and Panthera as donors/colleagues

Issykkul Statement

The discussions of the meeting were summarized succinctly in the joint Issykkul Statement 2018 with approval from all representatives of the snow leopard range countries.