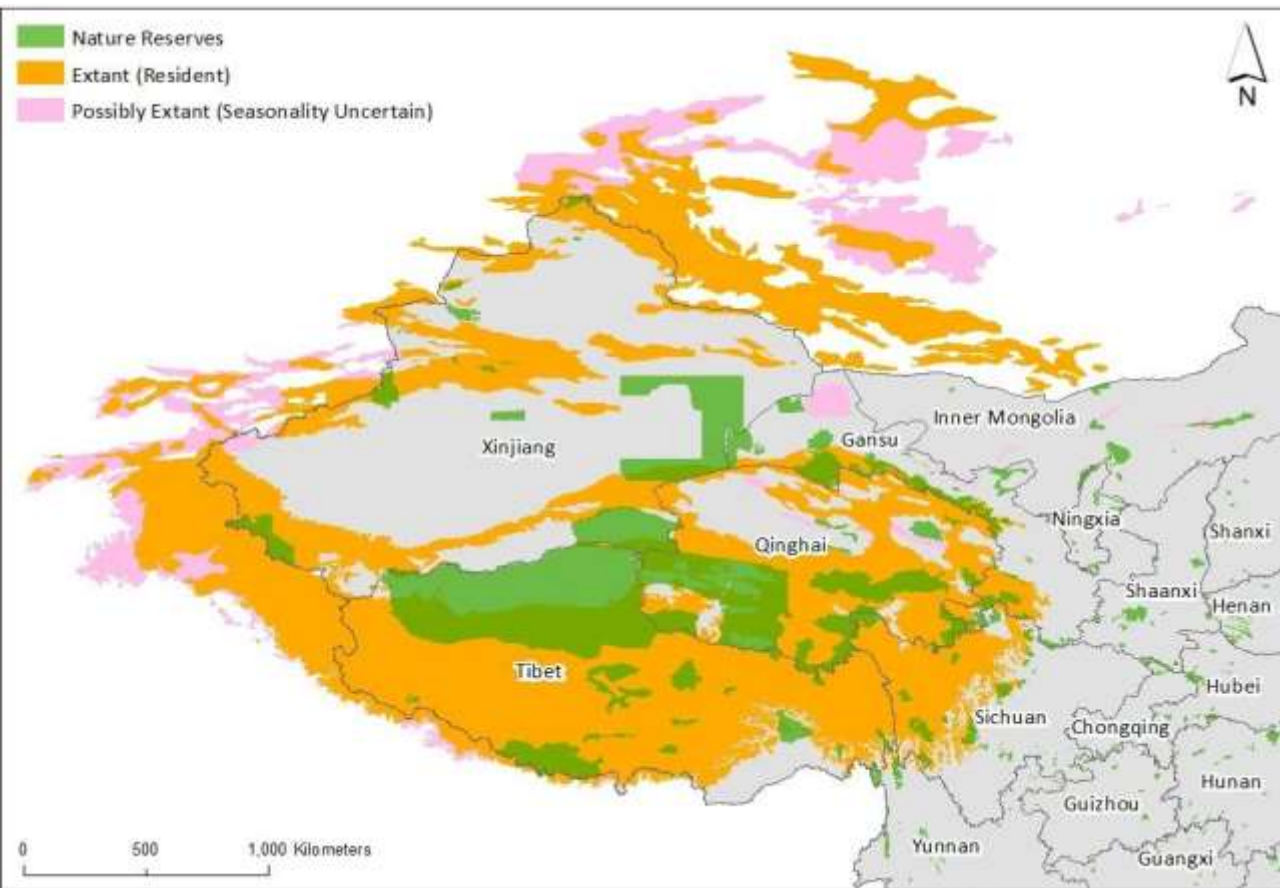


A snow leopard is walking across a rocky, sparsely vegetated slope. In the background, there are jagged, snow-dusted mountain peaks under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and high-contrast.

# **GSLEP program update China**

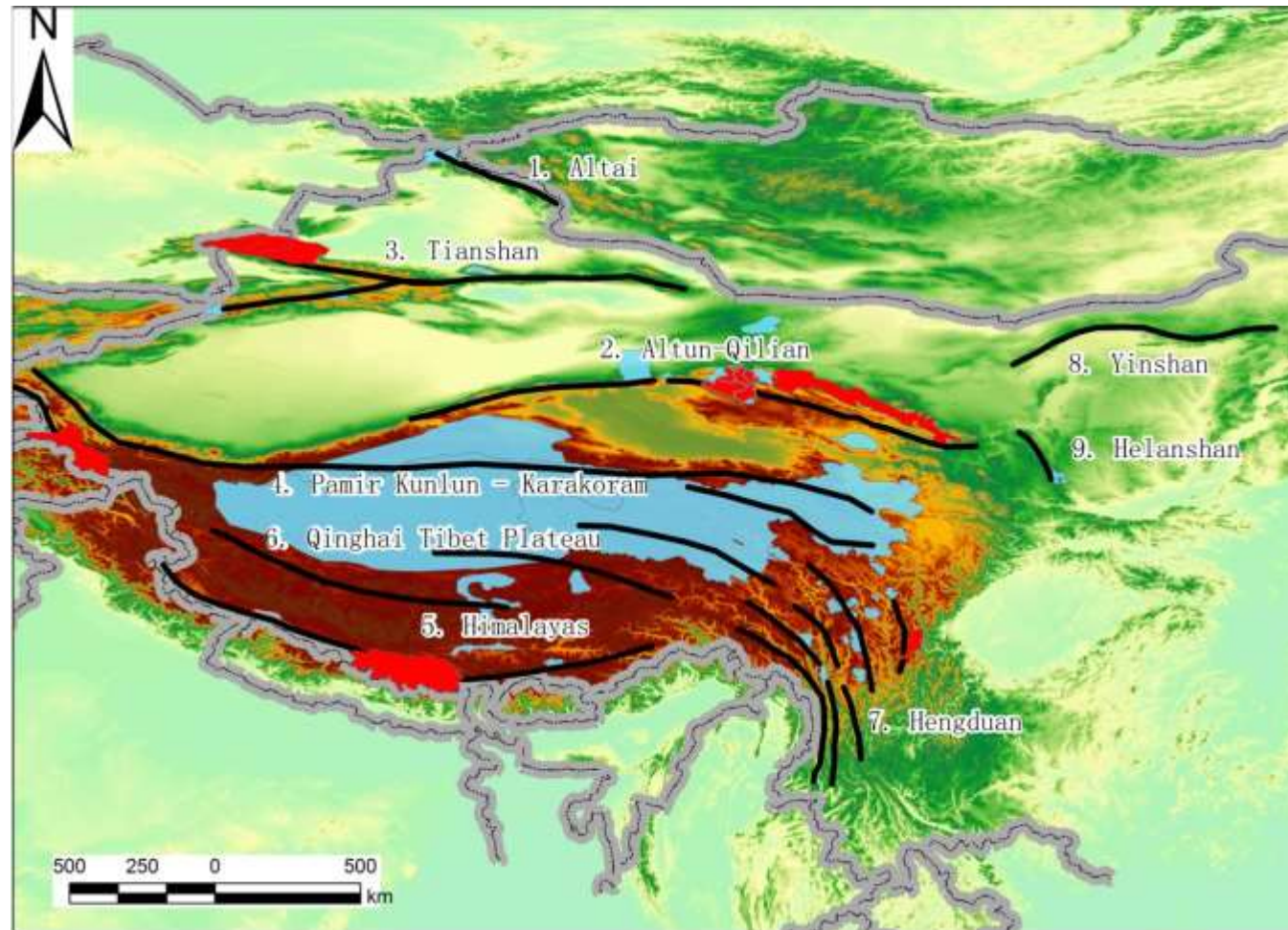
**Steering Committee Meeting, February 2024  
Samarkand**

# Overview on snow leopard status in China



- As the most important snow leopard range country, China contains as much as 60% of the potential habitat (McCarthy and Chapron, 2003), and approximately 60% of the global population of snow leopard (Riordan and Shi, 2016).
- An estimated 4500 individuals inhabit over 1.7million km<sup>2</sup> of suitable habitat, which includes numerous mountain ranges across 8 provinces in West and Central China. (Riordan and Shi, 2016; Shi *et al.* 2024).

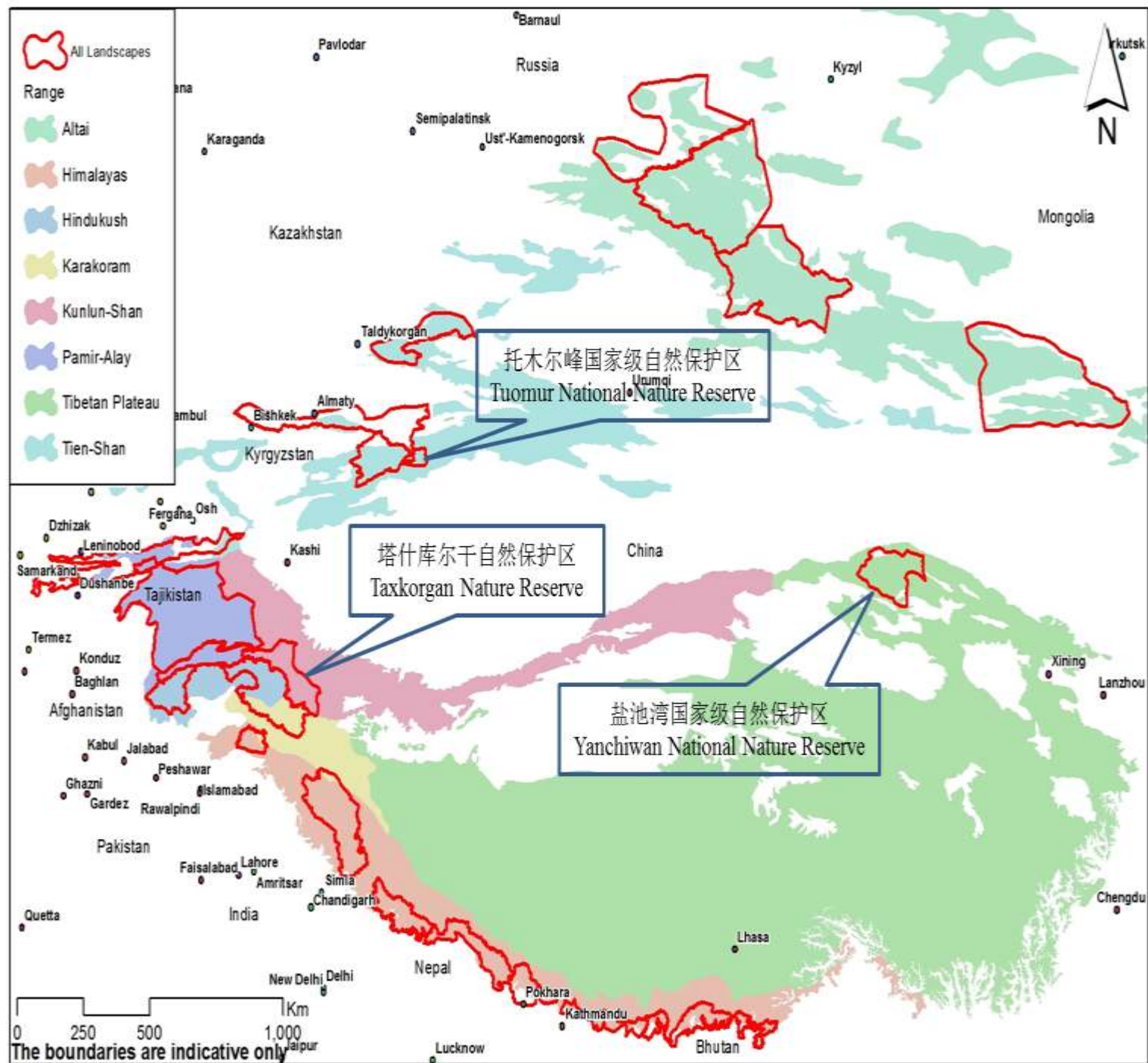




**Nine regions:**

- (1) Altai Mountain
- (2) Altun-Qilian
- (3) Tianshan
- (4) Pamir's Kunlun-Karakoram
- (5) Himalayas
- (6) Qinghai Tibet Plateau
- (7) Hengduan Mountain
- (8) Yinshan
- (9) Helanshan Mountain

Nine core distribution regions of snow leopard in China (CSLCAP, 2013)



# Implementation status of the NSLEP

- **#1 Goal** : Investigating and monitoring snow leopard populations and habitat dynamics, strengthening basic research and conservation planning

- *Progress & Status*

-- Snow leopard survey has covered areas in all 7 range-provinces , rapidly increasing “snow leopard population and habitat survey and assessment ” projects taking place in snow leopard habitat

--Government funded snow leopard satellite tracking projects : 10 collared snow leopards from 4 provinces, ongoing snow leopard rehabilitation and reintroduction programs in Helan Mountain and related ranges etc.

--Sub-regionally make scientific planning for snow leopard: increased snow leopard monitoring projects supported by provincial administrations in major mountains across all 7 range provinces since 2018, which 5 provinces yielded snow leopard density estimates as main results

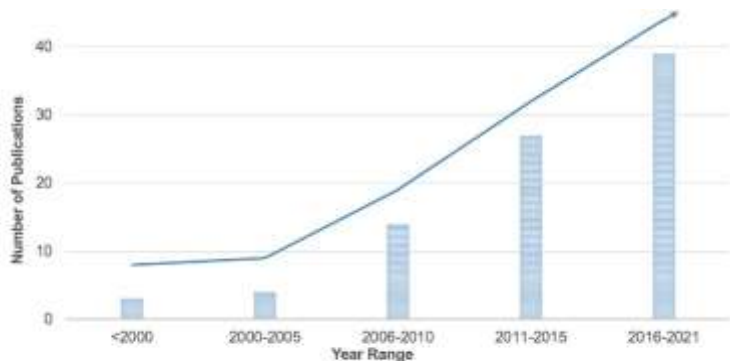
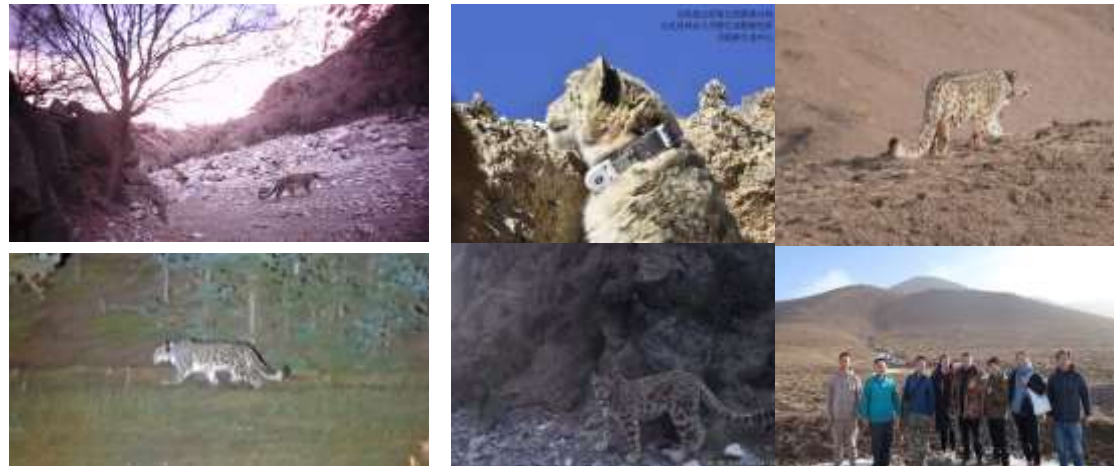


FIG. 46.3 The number of snow leopard-focused publications in China for all years prior to 2000 and by year of publication in 5-year intervals since 2000.

Increased publications on snow leopard-related topics in China





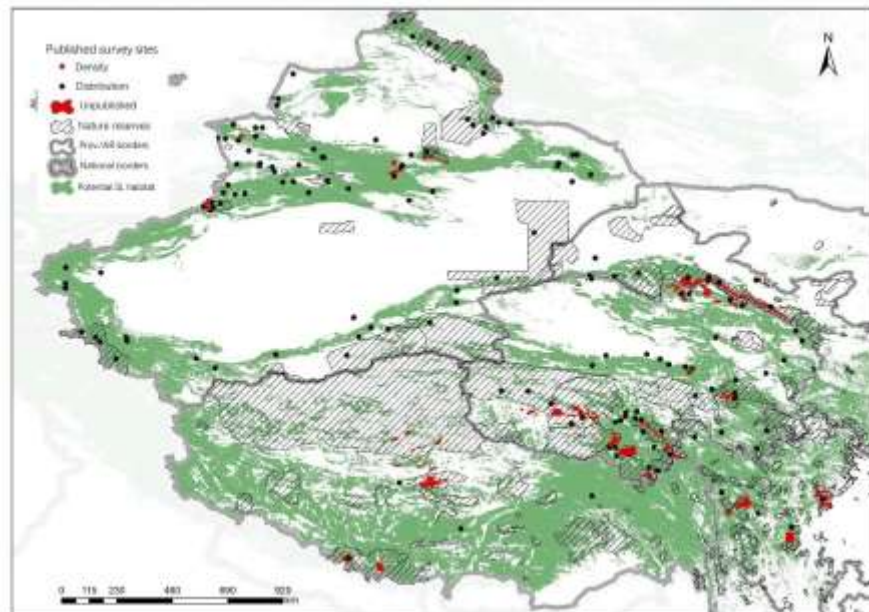
- **#2 Goal : Perfect the management system of protection, enhance the protection of habitats**

- *Progress & Status*

--Perfect the system of conservation management of snow leopard population and their habitats, which is with the nature reserves as mainstay: **3 Newly established National Parks, and 78 newly listed Important Wildlife Habitat** across **at least 831,700 km<sup>2</sup> of land.**

--Strengthening the capacity building of snow leopard conservation and management system: benefited by National Nature Reserve Construction Projects/**every survey is coupled with capacity training**

--Conserving, restoring and extending snow leopard habitat : **National Park policy, Highway Wildlife Pass construction, Important Habitats for Terrestrial Wildlife, etc.**



CHINA / SOCIETY

## China releases the first list of 789 important habitats for terrestrial wildlife animals to strengthen protection

By Global Times

Published: Dec 20, 2013 01:56 PM



Wild elk herds graze the Jiangxi Province Daling Mountains National Nature Reserve in Yancheng city, East China's Jiangsu Province.



- **#3 Goal: Coordination of snow leopard conservation and the local community's social and economic development**
- *Progress & Status*
  - Compensating damage or loss of snow leopard depredation & Preventing damage or loss caused by the snow leopard attacks on people and livestock: Sanjiangyuan NP funded the [first community co-managed HWC foundation](#) in Zaduo County/ GEF funded the “[Promoting community-based conservation for snow leopards in Yanchiwan reserve, Qilian Mountain National Park](#)” which promoted local livestock insurance coverage and supported 10 households for pilot electrical corral anti-depredation measure.
  - Pilot demonstration of eco-friendly mode of economic development : [The Nature Watch Project in National Parks](#)

- **#4 Goal: Strengthening law enforcement propaganda, cracking down on illegal activities**

- *Progress & Status*

Strengthened law enforcement capacity building of institutions, and more effectively carrying out the inspection of law enforcement and special combat operations: **up to 10 years imprisonment with serious charges of sl poaching and illegal trading.**

Develop extensive publicity and education on snow leopard conservation: **International sl day, mainstream social media promotion and awareness-raising, muti-level sl and sl habitat conferences**





- **#5 Goal: Expanding International Cooperation and Exchanges on Global Snow Leopard Conservation**
- *Progress & Status*

Improve international cooperation mechanisms on snow leopard conservation : [academic collaboration](#) , [UNDP funded community-based conservation projects](#), [collaborations with international Foundations and NGOs](#) [SLT/SLN](#), [IUCN CEC](#)

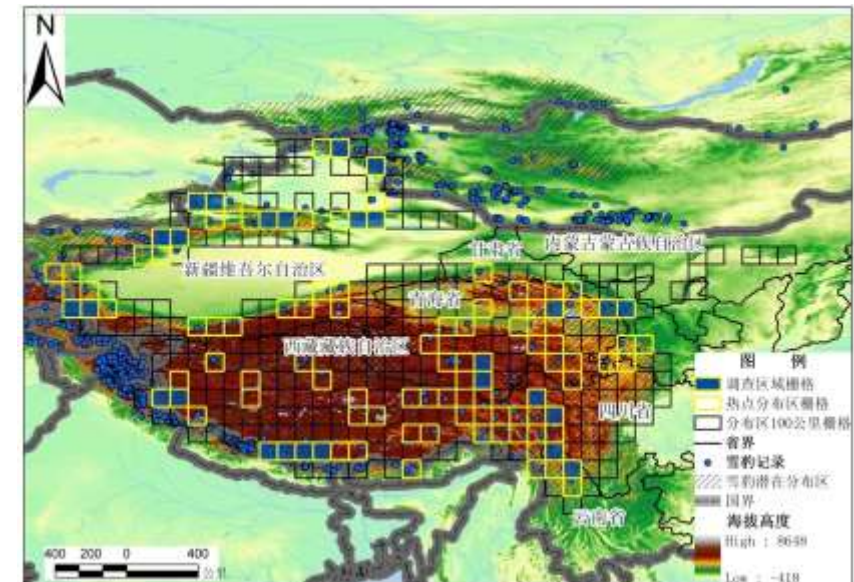


- #6 Goal : Improve policy for snow leopard conservation

- *Progress & Status*

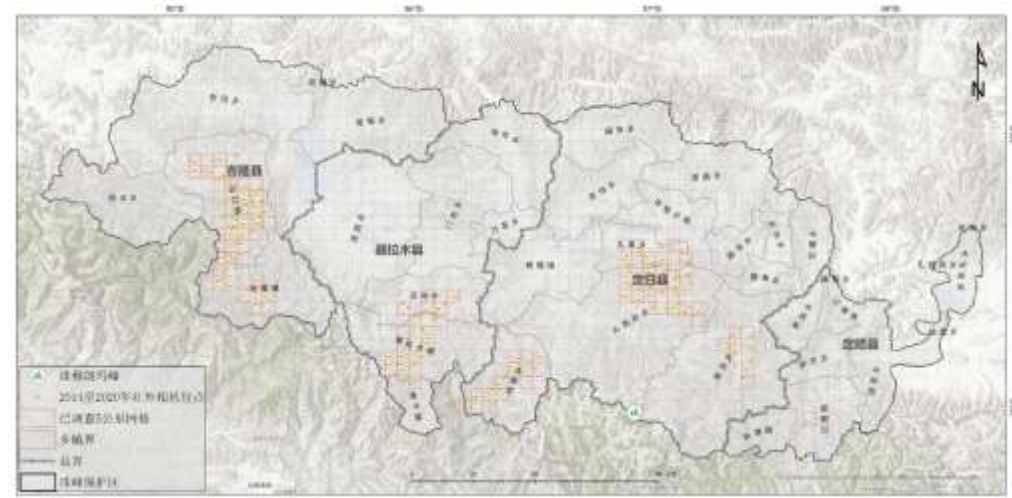
--China's "five-year planning" ecological construction, “Belt and Road: initiative, the project of returning grazing land to grassland, wildlife protection and nature reserve construction

--Chinese rare and endangered species rescue breeding, investigation and supervision and the 2nd national terrestrial wildlife resources survey projects, 2nd Scientific Survey on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau etc.



# Resource mobilization for NSLEP

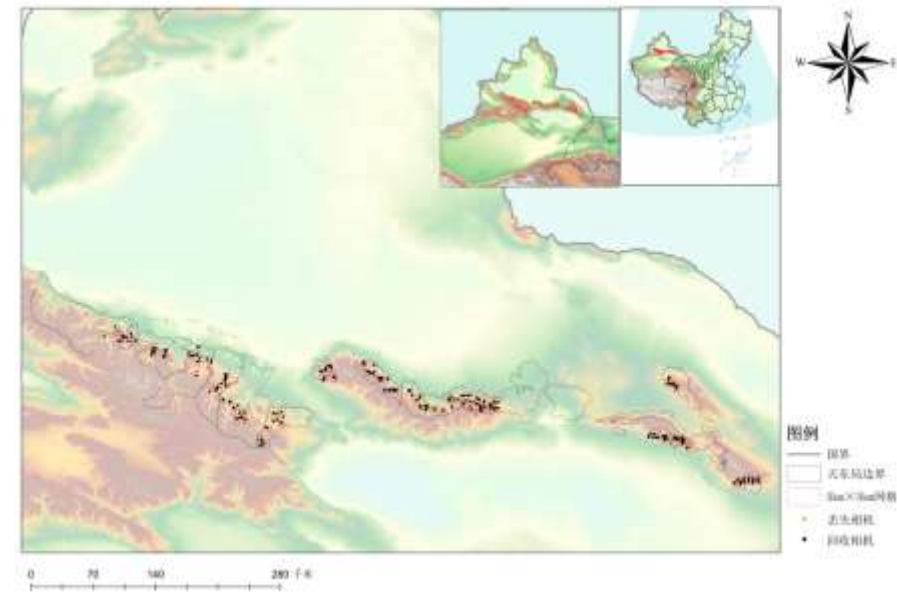
- Funds secured from
  - i) internal [government]
- Increased capital investment to the snow leopard conservation: i.e endangered species breeding projects/national surveys/species-focused regional or provincial surveys



Monitoring on snow leopards in Qomolangma NNR



Survey on snow leopards in the pilot area of Qilian Mountain National Park



Survey on snow leopards in Mid-Eastern Tianshan



# Resource mobilization for NSLEP



- ii) external [donors]
  - Civil body or other non-governmental organizations i.e Vanke, Tencent Funds, UNDP GEF
  - Internet-based crowdfunding programs (Tencent public welfare , Sina Weibo, titled #Safeguard Snow Leopard Habitat Action#, tencent “Snow Leopard Intelligent Identification and Monitoring Data Management Cloud Platform”, “Journey with Leopards - Snow Leopard Conservation Small Grant Program” )



# Resource mobilization for NSLEP

- Financial gaps and needs :

- Snow leopard conservation and monitoring in its entire range will require a significant investment of funds in next five years, necessary budget needs to be resourced

- Future plans :

- Gradually increase capital investment to the snow leopard conservation: [China fiscal decentralization](#), [increased capital funds for endangered species conservation](#) programs.
- Activate more private fundraising channels or foundations to provide necessary funding for snow leopard conservation projects; [Tencent foundation](#), [vanke foundation](#), [international foundations](#)
- Strive for International support for cross-border cooperation projects



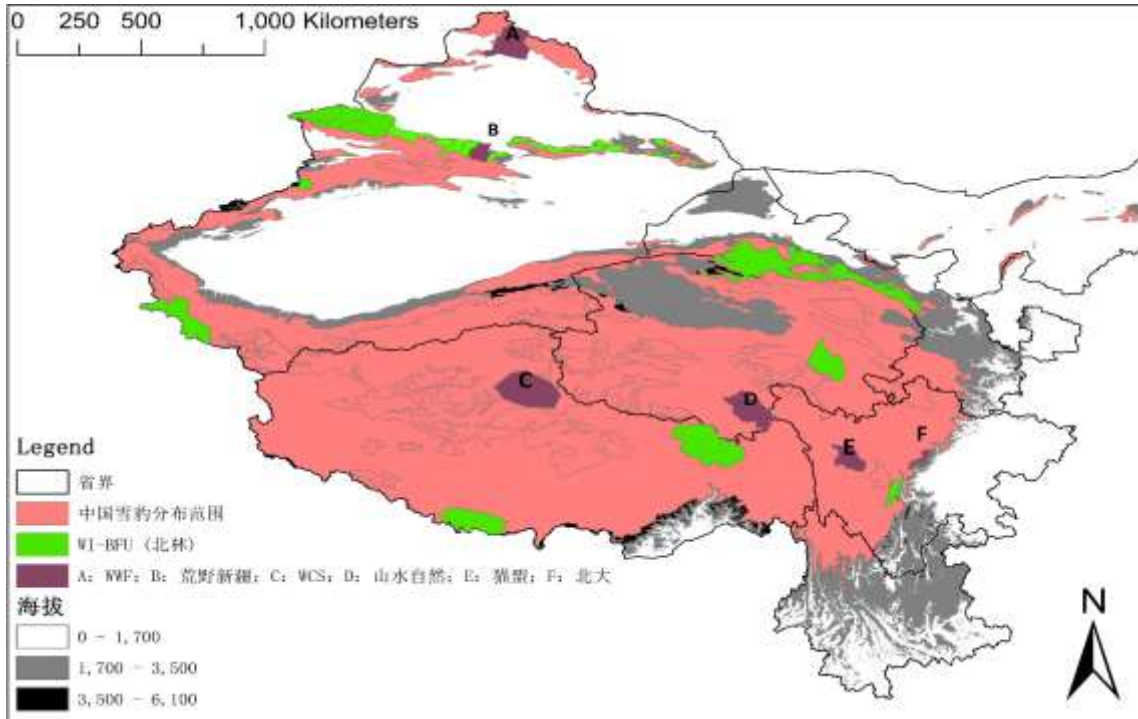
# Re-analysing Threats to Snow Leopards, their Ecosystems, and Local Livelihoods

- Referring to China's Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan (Internal Deliberation Draft) released in 2013 & 2018, Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, Snow Leopard Network 2013
- Overall Threat Assessment:
  - High ratings for “ [Perception-related Threats](#)” (low-awareness) and “[Habitat and Prey-related Threats](#).”
  - [Low rating](#) for "Killing and Capture of Snow Leopards," reflecting significant progress in habitat patrols, law enforcement, and public awareness in China.
- National Threat Ranking:
  - Top threats, based on weighted provincial scores:
    - [Insufficient capacity in conservation frontline.](#)
    - [Climate change.](#)
    - [Lack of community awareness.](#)
  - Concerns about potential impacts of [climate change, population growth, and large-scale development activities](#).
- Weakness in Snow Leopard Conservation:
  - “[Lack of scientific research and related awareness](#)” identified as a weak point in China's snow leopard conservation efforts.



# Drawing on PAWS protocols

- Surveys drawing on PAWS protocols



Assessment on SL population and habitat has been conducted by governments and NGOs over last 10 years. In 2023, National Forestry and Grassland Administration issued a technical guide for monitoring terrestrial wildlife, providing guidance on the basic principles, content, monitoring units, sampling, testing, and monitoring techniques for monitoring different groups of terrestrial wildlife such as mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects.

## Gaps and needs/next steps:

- (1) Summarize and integrate existing and planned survey efforts by region to achieve regional snow leopard population assessment drawing on PAWS analyzing method.
- (2) Enhance and promote data management system to improve data storage, coordinating and analysis.

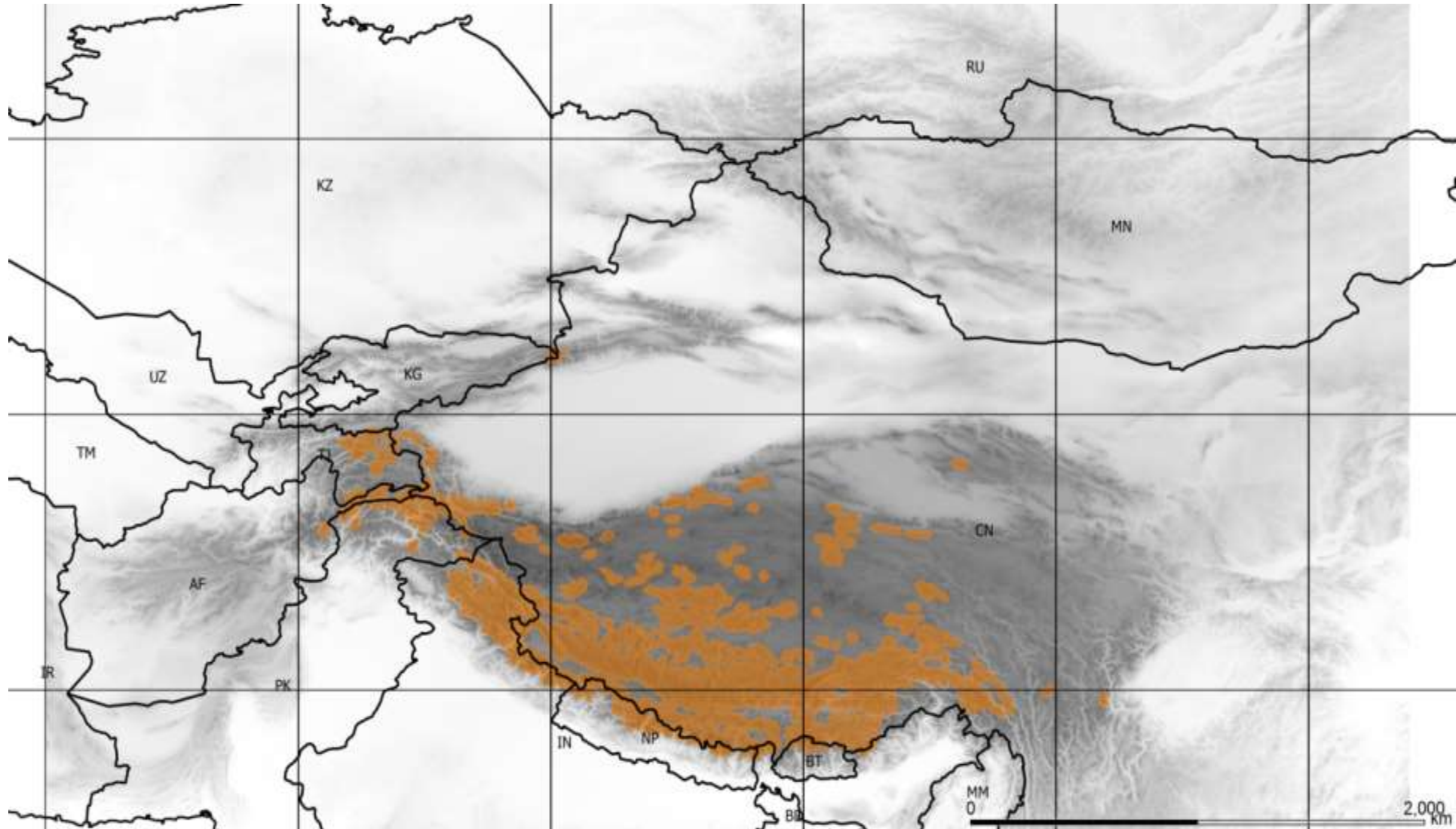
# Climate Adaptations/Nature-based Solutions

- A high- elevation resettlement project that has taken place to move some of the population to the southern cities and suburbs of Tibet, as showcased by Rongma Town of Nyima County, Nagqu , This measure has significantly relieved pressure on local ecology and the existing human-wildlife competition for natural resources.
- Mountain ranges have been identified snow leopard habitats, and further reserach will be conducted in next stage to provide scientific evidence supporting policy making for SL conservation in context with climate changes.
- Alipay, one of China's most popular online payment and lifestyle platforms in China, launched "The Alipay Ant Forest" project to promote climate-friendly actions among the public in August 2016.



# Snow Leopard Range Under Climate Change

Zero Adaptation



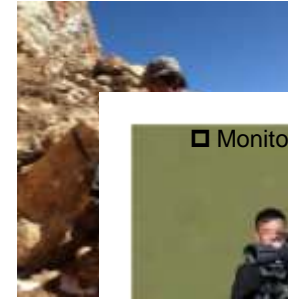


# Community-based conservation initiatives

- The Community-based Monitoring in Sanjiangyuan Region
- The Nature Watch Project in Sanjiangyuan National Park



□ Training and Field Work of Community Monitor



- GEF funded “Promoting community-based conservation for snow leopards in Yanchiwan reserve, Qilian Mountain National Park”
- Community-based snow leopard conservation projects in Mount. Bujia, Tibet



会议讨论



参会人员合照



△ Training of



安装通信线



粘贴项目 logo



讲解生物多样性保护知识

学生们认真听讲



介绍项目



开展互动交流



# Development and implementation of livestock insurance and compensation scheme

- The “*Wildlife Conservation Law*” clearly states that [the local government should compensate for any damages caused by protected wildlife species under this law.](#)
- In Qinghai, Gansu, Xizang, Sichuan, Inner Mongolia, and [Yunnan, where local governments work with insurance companies to verify reported snow leopard damages](#) and decide on the amount of compensation in a case-by-case manner
- Starting from 2016, the Zaduo county government, Qinghai, together with NGO and the local community in Sanjiangyuan National Park, [funded the first community co-managed HWC foundation.](#) The first phase of funding reached a total amount of USD 31,000 (Luo, 2016 )
- In 2021, the GEF small grants programme funded the “[Promoting community-based conservation for snow leopards in Yanchiwan reserve, Qilian Mountain National Park](#)” The activities include establishing conservation monitoring sites, conducting technical training sessions on snow leopard patrol and monitoring, collecting data on corral installation in target areas, compiling and analyzing corral improvement data, [developing corral improvement plans, establishing pilot corral improvement techniques, conducting livestock insurance seminars, promoting livestock insurance to local communities, and vaccinating sheepdogs](#)





# Community-based conservation initiatives

**Capacity Building:** Conducting snow leopard survey and conservation trainings for over 1600 front-line staffs in Qinghai, Xinjiang, Gansu, Sichuan, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia and Tibet, etc. during last five years. Institutional and local community based training, major focus by state administration





# Management & monitoring of disease systems



National Terrestrial Wildlife zoonotic disease monitoring and prevention system flowchart

- The routine monitoring of diseases [mainly 742 national level monitoring stations](#), with the National Forestry and Grassland Administration Monitoring Station located in Shenyang; The main disease monitoring countries arrange research topics and funds annually to collaborate with research institutes to carry out specialized research.
- During the 13th Five Year Plan period, six major national projects were implemented in the field of wild animal disease monitoring, with a cumulative investment of [nearly 100 million yuan](#). The [National Innovation Alliance for Wild Animal Disease Monitoring](#) under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration was established.

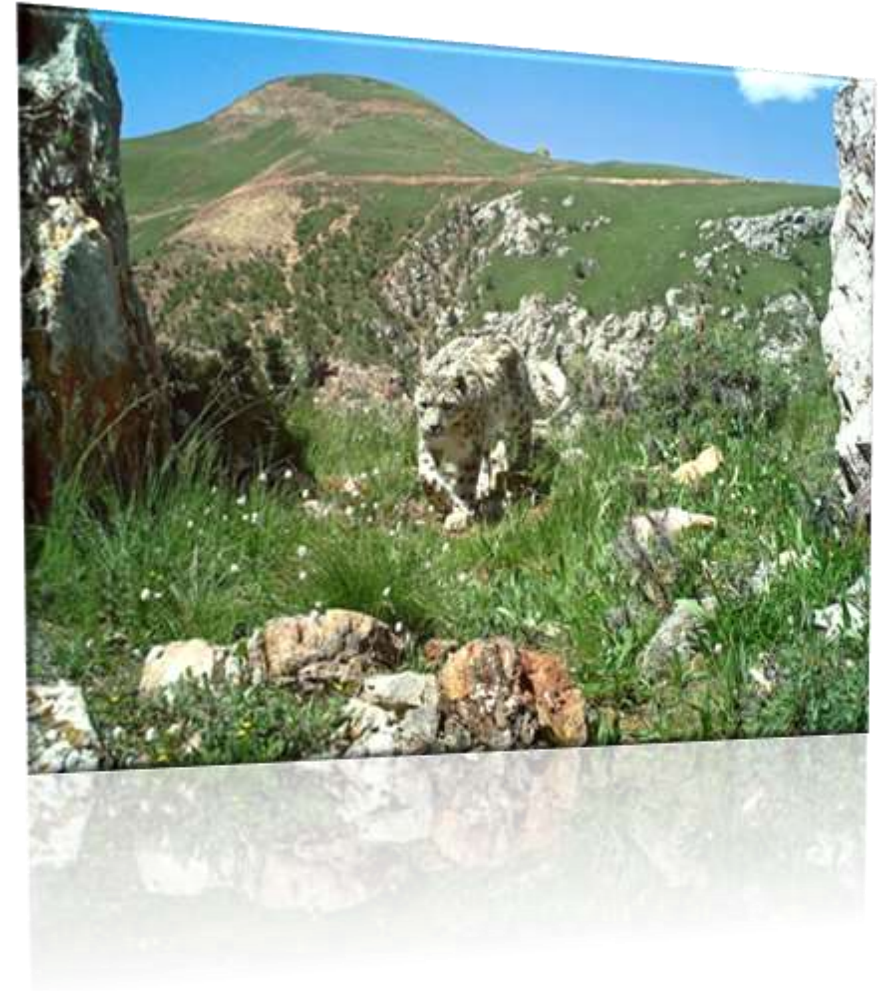
# Status of national wildlife laws and enforcement

- The [National Wildlife Protection Law](#) has been revised in 2016. The Law prohibits hunt, capture or kill wild animals under national major conservation, including snow leopard (**Class I**) and their preys such as blue sheep, siberian ibex (**Class II**) .
- According to existing laws and regulations, the behaviors of unauthorized hunting snow leopard and selling, purchasing, transporting, smuggling snow leopard product, etc. [are classified as serious criminal acts](#). Severe punishment including fines and imprisonment will be given; in serious cases will even resulted in [life imprisonment](#).
- China has established [the multi-leveled, multi-linked wild animal conservation law enforcement system](#) and mechanism of law enforcement coordination among departments of forestry, public security, industry and commerce, customs department.
- Due to the new law, [key habitats of endangered species need to be identified and protected](#) by state, provincial, regional and local authorities.
- [Continue enhancing market patrol system, responsibility system, the public report reward system](#)

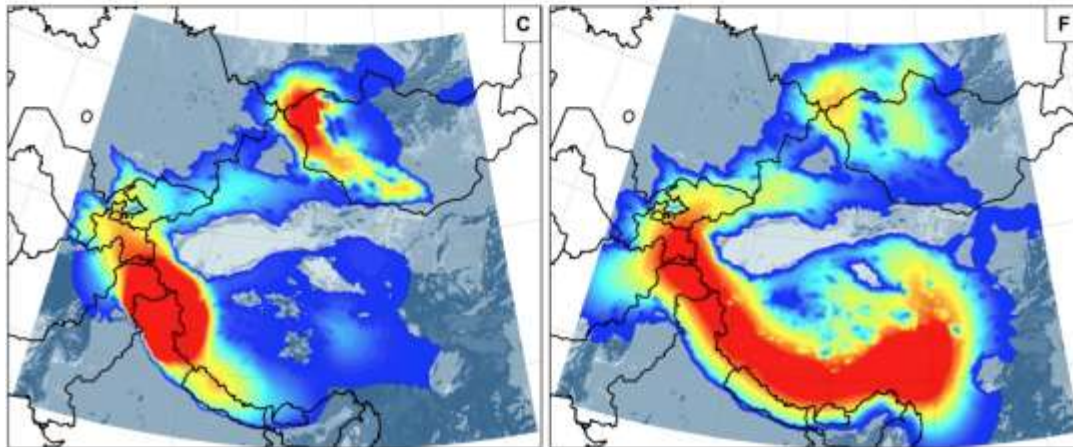
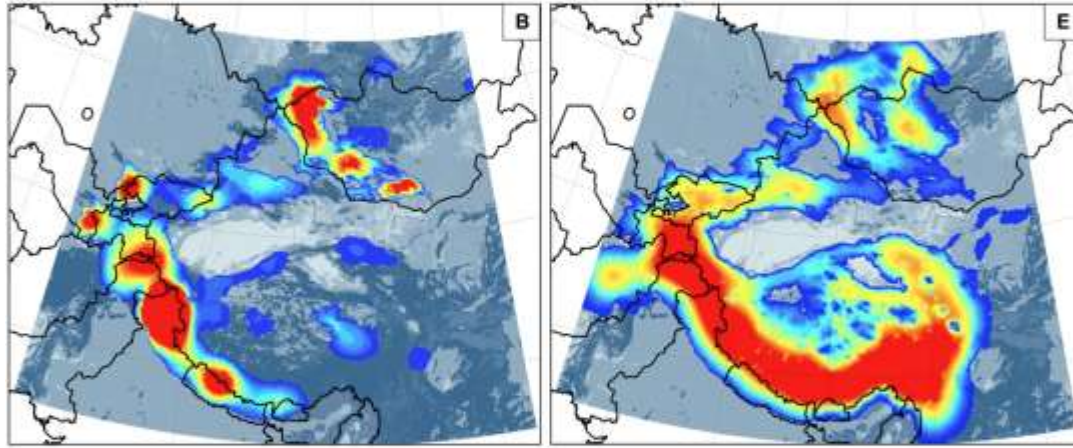
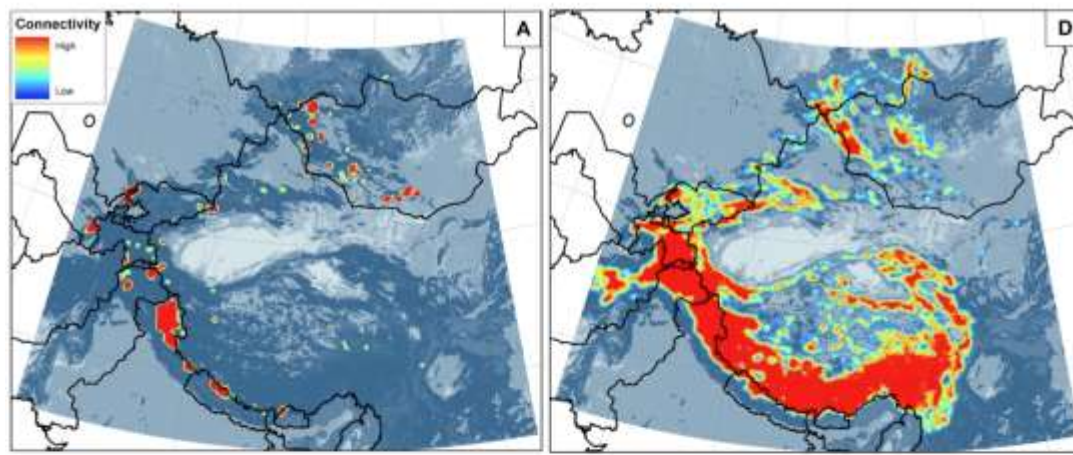


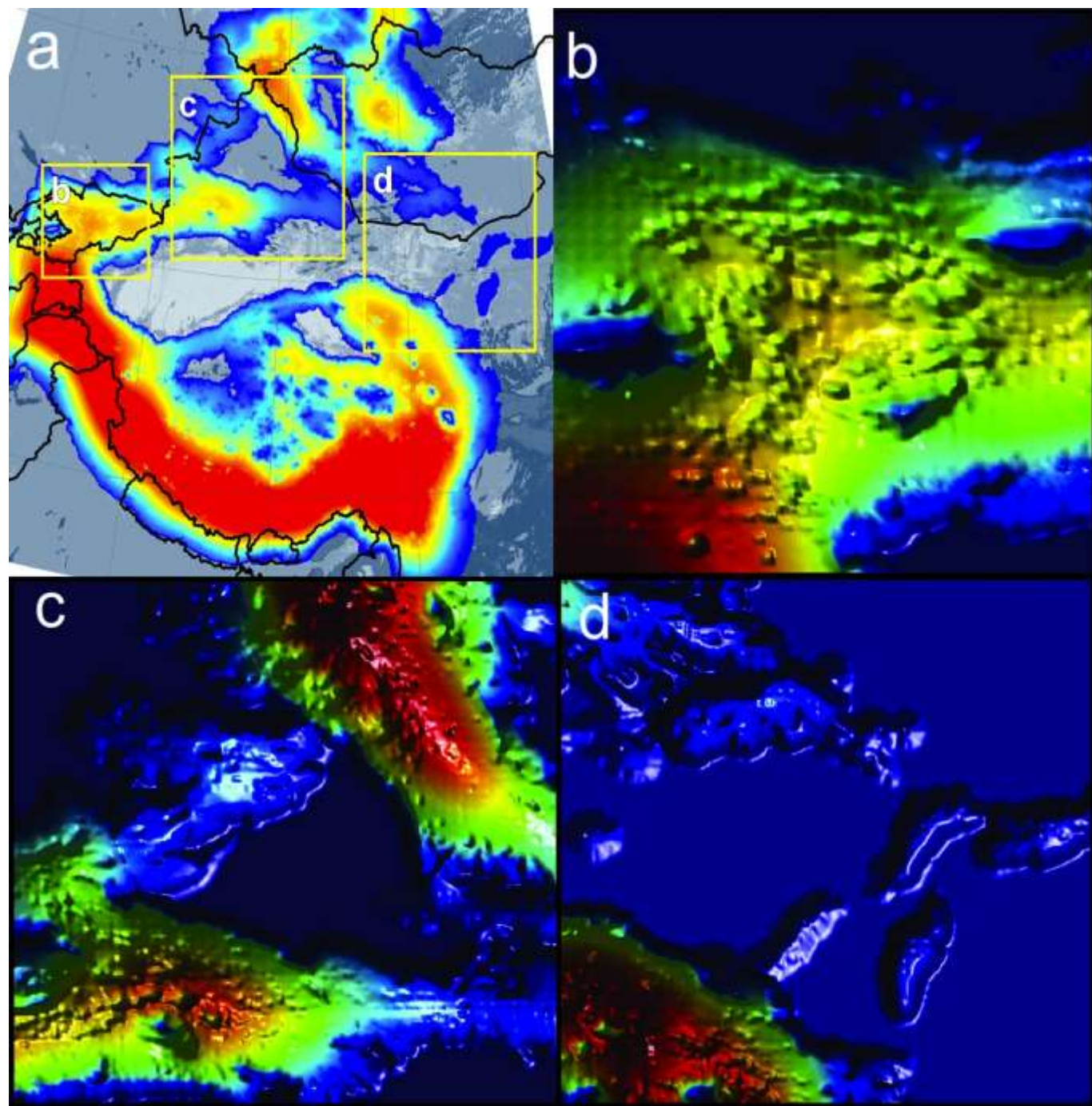
# Managing Linear Infrastructure in snow leopard landscape

- According to [China's Wildlife Conservation Law](#), linear infrastructure sites should eliminate or reduce adverse impacts on wildlife. Where the construction project may have an impact on snow leopards and other wildlife under key state protection, [the environmental impact assessment document](#) shall consult the competent authorities in charge of wildlife conservation under the State Council.
- According to the [Nature Reserve Regulations](#), no infrastructure for production shall be built in the core areas of nature reserves; No infrastructure for production that pollute the environment or destroy resources or landscapes shall be built in the experimental areas. Projects to be built in the peripheral protection zones of nature reserves shall not harm the environmental quality of the nature reserves.











# Trans-boundary initiatives

China also shares over 10,000km of national borders with 10 snow leopard range countries (Riordan and Shi, 2016)

Protected in China located on, or within approximately 10–30 km of, an international boundary

China      Yaluzangbudaxiagu Nature Reserve (8982km<sup>2</sup>); Qomolangma National Nature Reserve (34,000km<sup>2</sup>); Taxkorgan Nature Reserve (15,863km<sup>2</sup>), Tomur (Tuomeurfeng) Nature Reserve (2299km<sup>2</sup>); Kanas (Hamasi) Nature Reserve (2500km<sup>2</sup>); and Buersenheli Nature Reserve (88km<sup>2</sup>)

- To continuous expand international cooperation and optimize international cooperation mechanisms
- Discuss future cross-border cooperation actions in [the South Gobi of Mongolia and Inner Mongolia of China, Pamirs, Altai, Himalayas](#) and other border areas within SL range
- Promote exchange between states and [research/conservation institutions](#)
- Promote the exchange of information and the development of [law enforcement mechanisms in the border trade zones of the states concerned](#)
- Facilitate information flows between the customs of the states concerned
- Regularly assess [the effectiveness of cross-border conservation](#)







# Next-step to continue fulfilling NSLEP

- **National Snow Leopard Population Survey :**
  - Conduct a nationwide survey of snow leopard populations.
  - Complete surveys for 20% of suitable snow leopard habitats nationwide.
- **Enhancement of Protected Area Patrol and Monitoring Capabilities:**
  - Improve monitoring and management capabilities for patrols in protected areas.
  - Establish monitoring systems for patrols in seven key protected areas.
- **Community-based Comprehensive Protection Demonstration Sites:**
  - Establish comprehensive protection demonstration sites in five communities.
- **Development of Key Snow Leopard Landscape Conservation Plans:**
  - Formulate comprehensive conservation plans for snow leopard landscapes in five key provinces/regions.
- **Establishment of Snow Leopard China Network:**
  - Create the Snow Leopard China Network to support harmonious development between humans and nature in China's high-altitude ecosystems.

