

THE SAMARKAND RESOLUTION



(2024)

We, the representatives of the governments of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Federal Republic of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, have gathered in the historic city of Samarkand for the eighth Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP). We have reviewed the work done on snow leopard conservation by our countries, the GSLEP Secretariat and our international partner organizations. We:

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bishkek Declaration (2013) and commend the conservation efforts of range country governments, the GSLEP Secretariat, and partner organizations.

Recognize the iconic snow leopard as an inspiring symbol of high mountain ecology and biodiversity.

Highlight the immense ecological, hydrological, socio-cultural and economic significance of the high mountains of Asia and their glaciers – which supply freshwater to a third of humanity and represent a globally critical ecosystem.

Express our concern about the snow leopard's vulnerability to climate change, habitat degradation and fragmentation leading to conservation conflicts.

Call for urgent conservation action for snow leopards by addressing the impacts of climate change on snow leopard habitats, with a focus on strengthening ecological resilience and adaptation among Indigenous people and local communities through ecosystem-based approaches.

Agree to explore synergies with conventions such as the Convention on Migratory Species Central Asian Mammal Initiative, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and with initiatives such as the Ethical Conservation Alliance, especially related to community-focused conservation approaches and fostering ecological connectivity.

Emphasize the importance of continued international cooperation to protect snow leopards and promote science-based decision-making.

Recognize the importance of strengthening measures to combat illegal wildlife trade through better enforcement and transboundary cooperation.

Agree to develop and adopt best practices and policies in linear and other infrastructure development for safeguarding the fragile snow leopard habitats and corridors.

Appeal to International financial institutions and multilateral agencies to urgently fill up the increasing resource gap adversely affecting the conservation of snow leopards in Asia's high mountains.

Request the Secretary General of the United Nations to adopt the snow leopard as the powerful international symbol of high mountain ecology and climate adaptation.

We appreciate the International Snow Leopard Trust, the United Nations Environment Program, the Global Environment Facility, and United Nations Development Program for their continued financial and technical support to the GSLEP Secretariat. We also thank the Convention for Migratory Species, World Wildlife Fund, United States Agency for International Development, Whitley Fund for Nature, Government of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the PeaceNexus Foundation for their support to this meeting.

We are thankful to the Kyrgyz Republic for their generous offer to host a Summit on snow leopards and high Mountains of Central and South Asia.

Finally, we express our deep gratitude to the Government of Uzbekistan for their warmth and gracious hospitality.

