

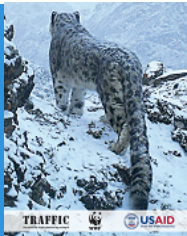
On Camera: a snow leopard with four cubs spotted in Mongolia.



The first snow leopard quadruplets spotted on camera indicate the success of conservation interventions in Mongolia.

2

Research: new report estimates more than 4 snow leopards poached every week.



A USAID funded TRAFFIC report highlights the need for urgent international action on snow leopard poaching and trade.

3

In the Press: global coverage of AHM activities.



Select highlights from media coverage of USAID/WWF activities across snow leopard range.

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Snow Leopard Landscapes: progress made in securing the snow leopard's home



Range countries make notable progress on snow leopard landscape management planning.

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Prime Minister of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal welcomes GSLEP delegates to Nepal, ©WWF

UPDATE FROM GSLEP

Snow leopard range countries gear up for climate-smart conservation

Delegates from the 12 snow leopard range countries met in Kathmandu in January 2017 to strengthen their commitment to snow leopard conservation and chart a way forward to secure a future for this elusive and endangered cat.

With climate change threatening all of the **Third Pole**—the high mountains in Asia that are home to the snow leopard—the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) steering committee meeting focused on climate-smart conservation, poaching and trade, as well as snow leopard and high mountain research.

At the event, Ari Nathan, regional environment officer for USAID, recalled his recent meeting with George Schaller, who went out on a quest for the elusive snow leopard in Nepal's mountains 40 years ago. Recently, as he retraced his steps in Nepal, he said he found the biggest difference in the mountains was the impact of climate change.

To combat this threat that is changing the face of mountains in the Third Pole, countries are working on climate-smart management plans for snow leopard landscapes, as part of the GSLEP goal of



Kate Newman, vice president of public sector initiatives at WWF addresses delegates at the second GSLEP steering committee meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal. ©WWF

First Snow Leopard Quadruplets Caught on Camera in Mongolia

Camera traps in Mongolia have recorded a set of four snow leopard cubs roaming with their mother. This is the first documented set of snow leopard quadruplets.

The cameras, set up as part of the Asia High Mountains project, had initially captured snow leopards that had lost their limbs to traps set up by herders. Those images led to a campaign to collect and disable these traps, which was subsequently scaled up to the national level.

The snow leopard quadruplets caught on camera are good news, indicating that interventions aimed at protecting the snow leopard in its home are working.

[Watch them here](#)

(Continued)

securing 23 such landscapes by 2020.

“Climate smart landscape management is a critical, and globally advanced methodology that is being rolled out in this important part of the world,” said Kate Newman, vice president for public sector initiatives at WWF. “It is encouraging that countries are on track to complete a number of plans ahead of schedule.”

Speaking at the opening of the GSLEP steering committee meeting, prime minister of the host country Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, emphasized that snow leopards are the guardians of the water towers and the indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem. Saving their habitat is not just the responsibility of a handful of snow leopard range nations, but of everyone who needs clean air and water.

He also reiterated Nepal’s commitment to snow leopard conservation, pledging almost half a million dollars for the effort, and launching a new National Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan for Nepal at the opening ceremony, which includes a budget of \$3.15 million for implementation. The plan was prepared with financial and technical support of WWF Nepal.

Underscoring the urgency of transboundary snow leopard anti-poaching work, James Compton, senior director at TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, emphasized how, like snow leopards, poachers and traffickers also respect no borders. He presented the [alarming findings of a recent TRAFFIC report that since 2008, a minimum of four snow leopards have been killed per week](#). But this number could be substantially higher since many killings in remote areas go undetected.

The report, *An Ounce of Prevention: Snow leopard crime revisited*, was produced with support from the USAID funded Conservation and Adaptation in Asia’s High Mountain Landscapes and Communities program. Through the program, WWF and USAID have also been supporting the GSLEP process.

The GSLEP steering committee meeting and landscape management planning workshops hosted by Nepal are both geared towards preparation for a Global Snow Leopard Summit of the twelve range nations, to be hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan on Sept. 7 and 8, 2017.



Hundreds of snow leopards poached yearly

With possibly as few as 4,000 snow leopards surviving in the wild, a new report from TRAFFIC has found that hundreds of the endangered big cats are being killed illegally each year across their range in Asia's high mountains.

The report "An Ounce of Prevention: Snow leopard crime revisited" estimates that 221-450 snow leopards have been poached annually since 2008 – a minimum of 4 per week. But this number could be substantially higher since many killings in remote areas go undetected.

Using a combination of methods, including seizure records, market surveys and expert interviews to provide the first quantitative estimates of the scale of snow leopard poaching and trafficking since 2003, the report found that the majority of snow leopards are killed in retaliation for attacks on livestock (55%) or by non-targeted methods, such as snares (18%).

The report calls on governments to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and recommends strengthening both national and transboundary law enforcement, especially as less than a quarter of known cases of snow leopard poaching were investigated and just 14 percent were prosecuted.

Financial support for the research and publication of the report was provided by the Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities Project, funded by USAID.

In the Press

Endangered Snow Leopard Quadruplets Caught On Camera

BuzzFeed News

By Jason Wells | Dec. 22, 2016

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/jasonwells/rare-snow-leopard-quadruplets-caught-on-camera>

Int'l conference on snow leopards kicks off in Kathmandu

Rastriya Samachar Samiti (Nepal wire service)

Jan. 17, 2017 | Printed in:

[The Kathmandu Post](#) | [The Himalayan Times](#) | [Annapurna Post](#)

More Snow Leopards Poached, Even as Bold Plan Fights Decline

National Geographic

By Alexandra E. Petri | Oct. 21, 2016

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/10/snow-leopards-kyrgyzstan-conservation-endangered/>

Snow leopards: Numbers decline due to 'retaliation'

BBC: By Matt McGrath | Oct. 21, 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37718226>

Snow Leopards And Humans Are Competing For Food, With Tragic Results

Huffington Post

By Hilary Hanson | Oct. 21, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/snow-leopard-poaching_us_57ffc0c1e4b0162c043a9bd7

Hundreds of snow leopards being killed every year, report warns

The Guardian

By Damian Carrington | Oct. 21, 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/21/hundreds-of-snow-leopards-being-killed-every-year-report-warns>



Delegates at the landscape management planning workshop held ahead of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program steering committee meeting.

Snow Leopard Landscapes Workshop highlights notable progress

Ahead of January's steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), practitioners from all 12 snow leopard range countries presented the status of their progress on preparing landscape management plans.

These landscape management plans will be the blueprint for the GSLEP's ambitious goal of securing 23 snow leopard landscapes by 2020 in order to secure a viable future for this beautiful cat.

Snow leopard landscapes cover vast swathes of the mountains in the 12 range countries, going beyond national parks and protected areas, and often encompassing human settlements.

The stocktaking workshop highlighted substantial progress in management planning of the GSLEP landscapes. These landscapes management plans will be climate-smart, thanks to experts, who, with AHM support, have integrated climate aspects into their landscape management planning process.

From the countries' reports, four issues have emerged that need immediate attention: resource mobilization, capacity building, illegal wildlife trade, and climate change adaptation.

The workshop facilitated discussions among participating countries and partner organizations on various mechanisms for the implementation of management plans. Innovative models of co-management of large landscapes from Nepal and other parts of the world were discussed.

Discussions focused on existing and potential support from country governments, international financial institutions, and also business and industry. A plan to explore further funding using Green Climate Fund, bilateral treaties and greater engagement with business and industries was also discussed.

The Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountains program has been supporting the GSLEP landscape management planning process, and also facilitating the development of two model landscapes for Nepal and Kyrgyzstan.



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