

# Snow Leopard Network



Photo: Kulbushansingh Suryawanshi

## Report of Activities 2011

## 2011 Details & Accomplishments

The Snow Leopard Network (SLN) was established in May 2002 by the participants in the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS) Summit Meeting in Seattle, USA, and has since grown to include 467 members from the public and private sectors. SLN is hosted at the office(s) of the Snow Leopard Trust.



### **Funding:**

As in previous years, the Snow Leopard Trust continued to support the administrative costs of SLN including the time of the Executive Director and Program Coordinator(s), website, online library, and office and communication costs. Part of the time of Program Coordinator and the Coordinator of the SLSS update process was supported by the Whitley Fund for Nature.

Additionally, at the end of the year, c. 40,000 US\$ was provided to successful applicants of the Snow Leopard Conservation Grants Program (2012), including \$ 11000 from the Snow Leopard Trust, \$ 5000 from the Snow Leopard Conservancy, and all the remaining from the Whitley Fund for Nature.

### **Executive Director:**

Dr. Charudutt Mishra of the Snow Leopard Trust and Nature Conservation Foundation, India (NCF).

### **Program Coordinator:**

Rakhee Karumbaya took over as Program Coordinator, while Rana Bayrakçı stepped down as Program Coordinator by the year end. In appreciation, we wish to thank Rana Bayrakci for her untiring efforts in keeping the Snow Leopard Network and grant program active. We wish her all the best in her new position with Panthera.

### **Membership:**

The SLN began in 2002 with approximately 65 members. The Bylaws identified 3 types of membership: Full (professional), Affiliate (non-professional) and Organizational. Currently, there are 467 members: 362 Full, 61 Affiliate, and 44 Organizational members. Since 2010, this is an increase of 78 members and there are currently 11 more membership applications pending. However, this year, a campaign was launched for members who joined the SLN before 2008 to renew their membership (as the membership is supposed to be renewed every five years). In 2007, our database had crashed, so we had updated membership information 2008 onwards. Over 200 members responded and renewed their memberships while we have either received no response or the emails were bad for 158 members over all categories (including 117 Full, 26 Affiliates, and 14 Organizations).

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Photo: NCF/SLT



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Therefore, the total number of current memberships is approximately 310: 245 Full, 35 Affiliate, and 30 Organizational memberships with 148 memberships still pending renewal. After 6 months, those who have not renewed will be switched to an inactive status. Additionally, there are 5 pending applicants (4 individual and 1 organizational).

The range country Membership Committee representatives have not been active this year. Recruitment efforts were undertaken by the Membership Committee Coordinator, Dan Prain, the Program Coordinator, Rana, and some new members were suggested by the Executive Director.

### **Communications:**

The SLN's primary purpose continues to be to foster interchange between specialists in the field of snow leopard research, policy, and conservation. Several avenues are available online for members to communicate, with more being developed.

#### *Listserve*

The listserve continues to serve as a discussion forum for SLN members, as well as the most effective avenue to distribute information. Although most members do not actively post as often as would be ideal, many announcements do incite interesting and insightful discussion.

#### *Website*

Dedicated programming volunteer, Seamus Smith, has spent ~800 hours working with Rana to rebuild our website and databases. He worked ~150 of these hours in 2011.

Chinese, French and Russian translations of the website are updated as we continue to upgrade the website. An Urdu translation was received and edited by SLN members, but we have not yet received the translation in Unicode format so it can be inserted into the web page coding. Translations into Nepalese, Hindi and Mongolian are in process but we are waiting for volunteers to finish the translations.

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Our website was hacked in June. In response, we upgraded the security of our passwords and simplified the website as much as possible.

An automated membership renewal system was launched partially in November and fully in December. Members may now renew or cancel their membership directly from their membership profile (which forces them to review their profile information and hopefully update it as well) and will receive automatic notices monthly starting 6 months before their renewal date. Once they have passed their renewal date, they will be shifted to inactive status and an email notification will be sent to the Program Coordinator. If a member cancels their membership, they are asked why and this information is also sent to the Program Coordinator.

### **Bibliographic Database:**

The Snow Leopard Bibliography has grown from 1100 entries in 2009 to 1350. In response to the hacking episode all articles were converted to a uniform pdf format.

### **Snow Leopard Conservation Grants:**

In 2011, the Snow Leopard Conservation Grants (SLCG) Program supported 5 projects in India, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Pakistan with \$23,850. The funding came from the Snow Leopard Trust (US\$ 10,000), Whitley Fund for Nature (US\$ 8850), and Snow Leopard Conservancy (US\$ 5000)

The 2012 grant program coordination was administered by Rakhee Karumbaya of the NCF.

Rana Bayrakçı wrote a draft article for Cat News about the history of the SLCG program. This required contacting all the previous grant recipients to determine grant outputs. Charu is working on editing this article.

An e-brochure detailing the grants program was developed with assistance from member Ranjini Murali. The brochure is meant for approaching potential institutional donors for the grants program.

# Committee Status

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## Steering Committee:

One Steering Committee meeting was held in January 2011 over Skype. We wish to thank our outgoing Steering Committee members for their active involvement and participation.

### Outgoing Steering Committee

Ashiq Ahmad Khan (Chair)	Pakistan
Bayarjargal Agvaantseren	Mongolia
Mukesh K. Chalise	Nepal
Badri Vinod Dahal	Nepal
Alexander Esipov	Uzbekistan
Joe Fox	USA
Thorsten Harder	Kyrgyzstan

Elections for the 6 Steering Committee members and the Chair position were held in December 2011. The 7 Steering Committee members will begin their two-year terms in January 2012; their terms will end on 31 December 2014. For the first time, we had 13 nominees for member positions and two nominees for the Chair position, about twice as many as in 2008. 33% of the membership participated in the voting process (90 people voted of the 276 eligible, renewed full & organizational members). This is a substantial increase over the 10% of members who voted in the 2008 election.

### New Steering Committee

David Mallon (Chair)	United Kingdom
Yash Veer Bhatnagar	India
Mukesh Chalise	Nepal
Ahmad Khan	Pakistan
Sibylle Noras	Australia
Navinder Singh	India (Norway)
Dajun Wang	China
Jennifer Snell Rullman	United States

# Committee Status

## Committee Chairs:

Overall, committees have not been particularly active this year. We have a number of members who have expressed interest in joining a committee. The committees may be reorganized by the new Steering Committee, to ensure greater activity. After those decisions, the interested members will be contacted.

As on date, the Committee Chairs include Rodney Jackson (Science), Dan Prain (Membership), Tom McCarthy (Policy and Position Statement Committee). Rodney Jackson and Dan Prain were the only active Committee Chairs in 2011. The Communications (earlier Chair Patricia Williams) and Action Planning Committees (earlier Chair David Mallon) have been inactive.

Former SLN Program Coordinator Heather Hemmingmoore has taken over posting news on the News Blog as of December 2011. She would like to join the Communications Committee.

## SLSS Update:

Rodney Jackson, Charu Mishra and member Rishi Sharma have been leading the updating process. The discussions have been divided into several broad themes and following is the current status of the update.

### Completed

- Snow leopard distribution and major threats to survival.
- Gaps in our understanding of prey species ecology and conservation.
- Potential impacts of climate change.
- A special discussion on 'estimating snow leopard populations and monitoring trends'.

### Ongoing

- Illegal trade in snow leopards
- Human snow leopard conflict
- Status of snow leopard research

### Pending

- Conservation action and policy
- Snow leopard expertise and resource in the range countries



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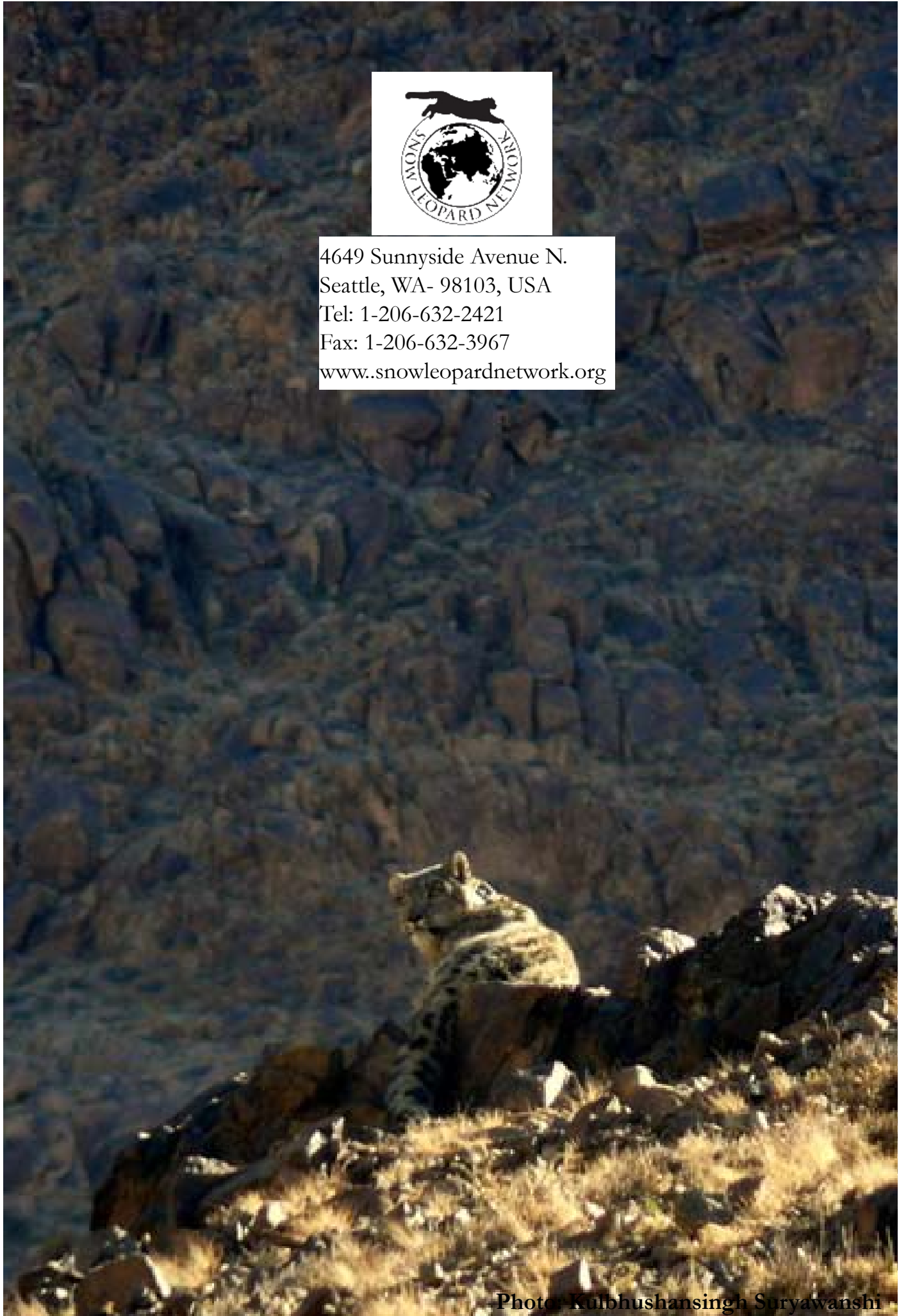


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