

Snow Leopard Network Report of Activities 2012

The Snow Leopard Network (SLN) was founded in May 2002 by the participants in the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS) Summit Meeting in Seattle, USA, and has since grown to include 514 members from the public and private sectors. The Snow Leopard Trust hosts the secretariat of SLN. Since its' founding, SLN has achieved a number of targets. This annual report presents its achievements made during academic year of 2012.

2012 Details & Accomplishments

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. The Whitley Fund for Nature supported part of the time of Program Coordinator and the Coordinator for the updating process of the SLSS.

The SLN received contributions for the Snow Leopard Conservation Grants Program (2012) including US\$ 23,226 from the Whitley Fund for Nature, US \$ 11,000 from the Snow Leopard Trust, and \$ 5,000 from the Snow Leopard Conservancy.

Membership:

The SLN started in 2002 with approximately 65 members. The Bylaws identified 3 types of membership: Full (professional), Affiliate (non-professional) and Organizational. Currently, there are 514 members that include 395 Full, 71 Affiliate, and 48 Organizational members. In 2012, the SLN received 55 applications for membership, of which 47 were approved for membership while eight are still pending approval.

Last 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). Therefore, the total number of *current* memberships is approximately **507**: 390 Full, 69 Affiliate, and 48 Organizational memberships with eight memberships still pending renewal. These individuals who have not renewed have been switched to an inactive status.

Communications:

The SLN's primary purpose of fostering interchange between specialists in the field of snow leopard research, policy, and conservation, continued. Several avenues are available online for members to communicate, with more being developed. Sibylle Noras, a Steering Committee Member, is mandated to head SLN's Communication Strategy. . Membership communication channels include Annual Report, monthly news alert – mailed to list, Member organisation reports, member-to-member news and announcements, SLN Steering Committee communications and updates, and website alerts and posts. A regular SLN News Alert email has been initiated by Rakhee and Heather Hemmingmoore, who compile all the news updated to the Blog, from Google alerts, Altai newsletters etc. Once there are six to seven news stories, is posted to to the list serve. Sibylle has also encouraged regular updates from Chair and Exec Director, SC, sub committees, headlines and links to SLN news page, additions to SLN Bibliography and links etc. Apart from this emails are sent when there is any current news or issue going on. Discussions are currently ongoing about starting a social media private web page like Facebook.

Listserve

The listserve continued in 2012 to serve as a discussion forum for SLN members, as well as the most effective avenue to distribute information.

Website

Dedicated programming volunteer, Seamus Smith, has spent a lot of time working with Rana Bayrakkismith to rebuild our website and databases with ultimate re-design and updating of SLN website.

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.

During 2013 the Communication team will explore updates and changes to reflect communication needs of the Network and to improve the website as needed.

Bibliographic Database:

The Snow Leopard Bibliography has grown from 1100 entries in 2009 to 1368 in 2012.

Snow Leopard Conservation Grants:

In 2012, the Snow Leopard Conservation Grants (SLCG) Program supported 5 projects to people in India, Nepal, USA (2) and Pakistan with \$39,180.

Committee Status

Steering Committee:

In 2012, two meetings of SLN Steering Committee were held including the over Skype Steering Committee meeting in January 2012 and a personally attended meeting in December 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan . In the later meeting the following goals were set till end of 2014.

- Revised version of SLSS
- Updated website and moved to another platform;
- Revised committee and working groups based on arising needs from time to time
- Expanded the grants program;
- Developed new Communications Strategy;
- Regularly updated website and mail to list serve;
- Held four meetings each year;
- Developed Annual Reports for 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- More Policy statements – reviewed by entire membership;
- Statement for lobbying policies formalized;
- System of filtering membership and/or reviewing or disqualifying members by SC set up.

Committees:

To improve efficiency in function, the Steering Committee decided to suspend the existing committee structure pending a review of their ToRs and

function. The SC itself now serves as the main committee, and to address any needs or emerging conservation issues, together with an expert member, will constitute a temporary committee to address the task.

SLSS Update:

Rodney Jackson, Charudutt Mishra, David Mallon and member Rishi Sharma have been leading the updating/revision 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 resources in the range countries

Executive Director:

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

Program Coordinator:

Rakhee Karumbaya, Program Coordinator Executive Assistant SLT and Senior Consultant NCF.

Steering Committee Members

David Mallon – Chairperson, SLN SC
Charudutt Mishra - Executive Director, SLN
Jennifer Snell Rullman, Member SLN SC
Yash Veer Bhatnagar – Member, SLN SC
Ahmad Khan - Member, SLN SC
Sibylle Noras - Member, SLN SC
Rakhee Karumbaya – Program Coordinator, SLN
Mukesh Chalise, Member SLN SC
Dajun Wang, Member SLN SC