



Snow Leopard Conservation Grants,
Snow Leopard Network



Saving Snow Leopards in East Kazakhstan

Project Report of the Snow Leopard Fund

Content:

1. Executive Summary:	2
2. Objectives:	4
3. Methods:	4
4. Results:	8
5. Discussion:	11



1. Executive Summary:

Within 2013 Snow Leopard Fund has spent the big work under project Saving Snow Leopards in East Kazakhstan. We are very grateful the Snow Leopard Network SLSGP for support. Our work was spent in East Kazakhstan and Almaty area. Also we work with the basic official state organisations on wildlife management of Kazakhstan, scientific institutions and NGOs.

Through the ecological education at schools, other educational institutions and mass-media we restore the snow leopard as a symbol of Kazakhstan. Every year we expand more our work with rural communities, installing training programs at 6 schools in Katon-Karagay, Tekeli, Ust Kamenogorsk and Ridder.

We are published about 50 articles in mass-media, including WEB sites. “7 Days», the weekly newspaper on which pages 2-3 of time in a quarter we published materials on snow leopard protection became our basic partner. «Club IRBIS News» on A2 newspaper page and also notes of smaller format regularly were issued.



We have adjusted cooperation with Office of Public Prosecutor of the East Kazakhstan area (**see photo above where Oleg Loginov has reported about a situation with snow leopard protection in Eastern Kazakhstan**). We had been initiated concern in rates of decrease in number of many animals, especially on which legal hunting is spent. The number of hunters annually grows. In 2013 inspection of all Protected Ar-

eas and Hunting Economies has been spent. By results of public prosecutor's check conclusions have been drawn on overestimate of the registration data by many species in the hunting areas in Eastern Kazakhstan. The Office of Public Prosecutor, together with regional television has created a documentary film about this problem. In November the expanded board of Office of Public Prosecutor where Oleg Loginov has acted with the report on a situation with protection of a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan has taken place. Also on board Sergey Starikov - Ust-Kamenogorsk Museum of history and Nature and he is a member of SLF too has acted. Such checks of Office of Public Prosecutor will be annually spent now, and private hunting areas where norms of hunting are not observed and where species number decreases, will be liquidated and carry over by the government.

Since autumn of 2011 we have established 7 trail cameras on the Sarymsakty mountain ridge in territory of Katon-Karagajsky national park at height about 3000 m. This ridge is closer than others is to habitats of snow leopards from the largest settlement as Katon-Karagaj village. Photo-traps (6 - Bushnell Trophy Cam HD) have been given by Rodney Jackson, the Snow Leopard Conservancy director and Toyota Centre at Ust-Kamenogorsk (1 Reconyx). Cameras have shown the big number of mountain goats - not less than 50 individuals who are in this place annually, and also such animals as: lynxes, wolves, foxes, sables, gluttons, roe deers, bears, Altay ulars, white partridges, a raven and some small birds. On April, 12th, 2013 from distance of 11-12 metres from the trail camera the night picture of the typical cat similar under the form of body on a snow leopard is received (**see photo below**). Some known zoologists consider that it all the same the snow leopard, but is other opinion that is the Pallas cat or Manul. While we have not received better pictures of this animal, but in the next part of Russia at similar height pictures of Manul for the first time have been received. Pallas cat never met in territory of Katon-Karagajsky national park, therefore, if it proves to be



true, it will be the big achievement. Unfortunately the additional facts of snow leopards presence on Sarymsakty ridge, such as traces on snow, etc. in 2013 it is not revealed.

In October 2013 we have received the grant from GEF/SGP under the project - "Increase of Protected Areas potential and participations of local communities in process of a snow leopard and its habitats conservation in the East Kazakhstan". In the end of 2013 on means of this grant 30 photo-traps Bushnell of different models have been bought. We establish cameras in Katon-Karagajsky national park around a joint of two ridges - Tarbagatay and Southern Altai



now. A part of trail cameras are established on the Sarymsakty. Also we plan to establish still additional cameras around border between Markakolsky state reserve and Katon-Karagajsky national park. More than 20 photo-traps are already established.

Very much preparation and participation in work of the World Forum on the snow leopard which has taken place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on October, 22-24

and became a prominent aspect of Snow Leopard Fund work in preservation of this species in Kazakhstan. Oleg Loginov became the author of the report - "Snow Leopard Ecosystem Conservation Priority in Kazakhstan". It is very important that at this forum there was Nurlan Kapparov - a minister of the Ministry of the Environment Protection of Kazakhstan and Bagdat Azbaev - the chairman of Committee of the Forestry and Hunting Economy. These are the main figures in system of a biodiversity protection in Kazakhstan. Nurlan Kapparov has given the report on a condition of wildlife management and particularly snow leopard in Kazakhstan and has confirmed political will in the decision of these problems. Also N. Kapparov has informed on the decision of the beginning of financing of projects on the snow leopard since 2014.



Oleg Loginov reads the report on Snow Leopard Forum, 22th October 2013, Bishkek. Photo: SLF



President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev and Oleg Loginov, Global Snow Leopard Forum, 23th October 2013, Bishkek. Photo: SLF

2. Objectives and Methods:

Our main objectives of this project were:

1 - To Change the public relation to snow leopards through interactive formation of preservation and proceeding campaign of mass-media:

We have continued to conduct national development of information campaign for the project "Will keep the Snow Leopard in Kazakhstan" by means of interview in mass media, articles, stories, and a lack of books till now in Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan mass media play large role in public opinion formation. Along with articles and interview, we published in the press on the "7 Days" newspaper pages and on our web site quarterly magazine, "Irbis", with stories and news to motivate action of preservation among the public using the Internet.

We have published a photo-album «Irbis - the Snow Leopard» - A4, 1000 copies, 154 pages and about 260 illustrations. We have extended this book in 50 organisations, including in schools, universities, OOIIT and more than to 200 people, including such known as: the president of Kirghizia Almazbek Atambaev, the minister of MOOS Nurlan Kapparov and many other things. At us is about half of circulation and we continue to extend this book among the population.



Irbis - the snow leopard book in the school libraries in Cheremshanka, Ust kamenogorsk, Katon Karagay, Ridder and Tekeli. Photo: Irina Loginova

We are helped actively by many employees of the West Altay reserve and Katon-Karagajsky national park with carrying out of the program of education and formation of ecological consciousness among local population and first of all schoolboys, youth and cattlemen.



We have organised and we hold competition of children drawings of snow leopards. Already about 30 drawings of children from Ust Kamenogorsk and Cheremshanka have drawn. Also we wait for activity from schools of Katon-Karagajsky area where lives the Kazakh population basically. See some drawings below please:

2 - To Involve local residents in monitoring of the wild nature (ecosystems of a snow leopard):

This moment is very important in our work and we try to involve as much as possible people in monitoring.

The big work is spent by Renat Minibaev (see on a photo on the right), our member from Tekeli (Almaty area) near to Zhongar-Alatau National park which is on border with China.



Renat has again met traces of a snow leopard in gorge the Bark in Dzungarian Ala Tau In 2013. Renat also constantly holds meetings and conversations with local residents - shepherds, hunters, and also it develops ecological tourism and rest for children in mountains, for example the mountain skiing and mountaineering.

Also we have involved for work of several young researchers for work with photo-traps and data gathering on a snow leopard and its extraction in Katon-Karagaisky and Zhongar-Alatausky National parks, and also in the West Altay reserve:

- Andrey Chelyshev - research assistant of Katon-Karagaisky national park (borders on Russia and China). In September 2013 Andrey has made a week trip to Gorno-Altaysk (Russia) for consultations of our Russian colleagues - Michael Paltsynym (expert WWF) and Sergey Spitsyn (the research assistant of the Altay reserve). Andrey has received from them many materials and knowledge of methods of studying of snow leopards how to distinguish its traces from other predators, and also methods of application of phototraps.



Andrey Chelyshev, research assistant of the Katon Karagay National Park.

Photo: SLF



Erlan Mustafin, Oleg Loginov, Tripp Burwell and others on the seminar in Katon Karagay National Park, 12th December, 2013.

Photo: SLF

- Anatoly Taran - the research assistant of the West Altay reserve (borders on Russia).
- Dmitry Grigoriev - employee of “Eko-Altai” NGO in Ust Kamenogorsk, East Kazakhstan.
- Vladimir Vorobjev - the employee of snowfall avalanche service, the Katon-Karagay region.

Snow Leopard Fund has signed the triple agreement on cooperation with Katon-Karagajsky national park and “Eko-Altai” NGO on studying of a snow leopard and improvement of its conservation in the Kazakhstan’s Southern Altai. In monitoring of ecosystems of a snow leopard are actively involved the huntsman of the West Altay reserve and Katon-Karagajsky national park.

3 - Better understanding the status of snow leopards:

In the course of performance of the project and work on preparation for the World Forum on a snow leopard in Bishkek in October, 2013 we have better understood the status of this animal, a current condition of its protection in Kazakhstan. We promoted more active participation in preparation for a forum of the basic state nature protection organisations, such as: the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources and the Committee of Forestry and Hunting Areas of Kazakhstan, Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Science and education, and NGOs also.

On January, 16th, 2013 the president of Kazakhstan Noursultan Nazarbayev has signed the decree about transfer of Committee of the Forestry and Hunting Economy from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources (EPNR). This absolutely correct decision has given a new format and has united these main nature protection departments. As a result Nurlan Kapparov, the minister of EPNR became personally more interested in participation in the Forum in Bishkek and has disposed to begin financing of researches on a snow leopard and strengthening of measures of its protection. For 2014 under the program -«Studying of a condition of populations of a snow leopard in Kazakhstan, for the purpose of working out of measures on its preservation» the Committee of Forestry and Hunting Economy of (EPNR) in the republican budget is planned 5,400000 tenges (about \$30,000). During realisation of this budgetary program it is provided:

- 1) inspection of potential habitats of a snow leopard on territories of Almaty, East Kazakhstan, Zhambylsky and South Kazakhstan areas within an area of this species distribution for the purpose of finding-out of the important biological data of an animal - number, sex and age structure, migrations, habitat sites;
- 2) finding-out of limiting factors for population in modern conditions: poaching level, a condition of prey reserve of s.l., frequency of conflicts to interests of cattle breeding, destruction of habitats, enemies and competitors and other factors influencing their number;
- 3) the analysis of current protected areas network, an estimation of its efficiency in respect of preservation of populations of a snow leopard, the offer and the recommendation about creation of a uniform network of especially protected natural territories within the Kazakhstan part of an area of a leopard;
- 4) the offer and recommendations about development of transboundary cooperation on leopard protection;
- 5) preparation of offers and recommendations about the monitoring providing of a leopard with use of modern measures such as photo-video-traps of registration;
- 6) working out of the Plan of measures on preservation of a snow leopard for 2015-2020 with instructions of volume of financing and a financing source on years.



*Sergey Starikov in a trip in Katon Karagay national park.
Photo: Oleg Loginov*

In the near future the Ministry will declare competition on the best project on realization of this program.

Our preliminary researches in East Kazakhstan for 2012-2013 have shown that number of snow leopards apparently does not correspond specified in official reports of annual accounts of number - 10 individuals. This figure annually appears in reports of Katon-Karagajsky national park without changes about 15 years. But at least for the last one and a half-two year of the reliable certificates confirming presence of such quantity of individuals by us it is not revealed. Apparently there is carefully hidden poaching as



periodically there are hearings about snow leopard skins, sold on the “black market”.

In November, 2013 to Ust Kamenogorsk there has arrived Tripp Burvell (**see photo on the right**), grant-aided student Fullbright Institute of International Education, Fullbright U.S. Student Program which has got the grant for work in Snow Leopard Fund on a theme - “Snow Leopard Mapping and GIS Capacity Building in Eastern Kazakhstan”. We hope that it very much will help us with our work in this direction. On December, 11-13th we participated in work of session of Scientific and technical council of Katon-Karagajsky national park on which have discussed questions of the further cooperation on studying of a snow leopard and perfection of measures of its protection.

4. Results:

January: - 10 - on January, 13th. A trip to Katon-Karagay national park for negotiations on cooperation in carrying out of researches on a snow leopard in park territory. On January, 11th director SLF Oleg Loginov and the Katon-Karagajsky national park director Erlan Mustafin have signed the Contract on cooperation for the annual period. From employees of park some materials about meetings of snow leopards in its territory are received.

- On January, 12th. A lesson at village Katon-Karagaj secondary school. The additional education program «the Snow Leopard - a live symbol of Kazakhstan» (authors of working out - Irina and Oleg Loginov) is transferred teachers.

- On January, 11th. In St.-Petersburg (Russia) has taken place song record «Snow Leopard» in professional sound studio «The Radio House». Verses - Irina Loginov. In Russian the song was sung by Yury Parfyonov (the author of music), and Simon Patterson from New Zealand in English (the author of translation). **(Photo on the right)**

- On January, 20-26th. A series from 3 thematic lectures «Spirits of Sacred Mountain» - in the Museum of Arts, in the Nature - Historical Museum (Ust Kamenogorsk) and at school №25 which has specialisation in biology and mathematics. Lectures are spent by employees of a museum of Arts, Sergey Starikov (the manager of scientifically-educational department) and Oleg Loginov, SLF director.

February: - On February, 14th. The lesson at school № 25 in Ust Kamenogorsk with the fairy tale demonstration «Spirits of Sacred Mountain» (the author - Irina Loginov) has taken place.

- The committee of Forestry and Hunting Economy of Kazakhstan has confirmed Oleg Loginov as the of-



Erlan Mustafin - director of the Katon Karagay National Park and Oleg Loginov. Photo: Sergey Starikov



Yury Parfyonov (the author of music) - from left, and Simon Patterson from New Zealand. Photo: SLF

ficial representative (National Focal Point) by preparation of documents and the working report «National priorities of the snow leopard conservation in Kazakhstan» on the international conference to Bangkok, Thailand and to the world forum on a snow leopard to Bishkek in Kirghizia. The big work on preparation for the world forum in Bishkek is spent.

March: - 8-13th. Oleg Loginov's participation as the official delegate at the conference devoted to 40 anniversary CITES in Bangkok (Thailand). On March, 9th Oleg Loginov has given the preliminary report - «National priorities of snow leopard and its ecosystem conservation in Kazakhstan». This report became a basis by preparation of the basic document from Kazakhstan for the world forum on a snow leopard in Bishkek in October, 2013

- On March, 25th. Carrying out of a series of lessons at school № 54 with children of 6-7 years where children's ecological club "Barsik" has been organised.

April: - Preparation of a breadboard model of the book «Irbis - the Snow Leopard» (authors Irina and Oleg Loginov). The File transfer of imposition of the book in printing house "Intell Service", Almaty.

- Reception of a mysterious night picture (presumably it there was a snow leopard) by means of a photo-trap on a ridge of Sarymsakty around peak of Tautekeli at height of 3000 m. In this place is observed the raised concentration of mountain goats (nearby 50) and other animals. Also here repeatedly there were meetings of snow leopards or their traces. Poll of experts has confirmed further opinion that is a cat. But recheck of distance from a photo-trap to object - 12 metres, have allowed to assume that it most likely was Manul. If it proves to be true, it will be the big achievement as it is a new species for Katon-Karagay national park as anybody never met this cat in these ecosystems.

May. - release in the book press «Irbis - the Snow Leopard» (authors Irina and Oleg Loginov) circu-



Lesson in a school №25 in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Photo: SLF



Lesson in a school №52 with children from the "Barsik" Club in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Photo: SLF



Sharbat Tobulova, Director of the Katon Karagay secondary school. Photo: Oleg Loginov

lation about 1000 copies the Book already widespread among educational and nature protection establishments of Kazakhstan, Russia, Kirghizia, etc.

June-September. - preparation of the total document for the International forum on preservation of a snow leopard in Bishkek. Snow Leopard Fund was in continuous contacts to Committee of the Wood and Hunting economy of the Ministry of Preservation of the environment of Kazakhstan and organizers of a forum - the World Bank, NABU, ISLT, Snow Leopard Conservancy and the Kyrgyz Nature Conservation Agencies.

October. - SLF received a grant from the UNDP/GEF-Small Grant Program on the project «Strengthening of protected areas role in conservation of ecosystems of a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan».



- On October, 20-21th, Bishkek. Participation in Conference on Transboundary Conservation of the Biodiversity in Northern Tjan-Shang between Kazakhstan and Kirghizia. Oleg Loginov the report «Strategy of preservation of a snow leopard in Kazakhstan» has given.

Berdibek Saparbaev - a head to the regional East Kazakhstan administration looks the "Irbis - the Snow Leopard" photo album in Cheremshanka. Photo: Irina Loginov

- On October, 22-24nd, Bishkek. Participation in the World Forum on Snow Leopard Conservation. On October, 22nd Oleg Loginov has given the report «National priorities of a snow leopard ecosystem conservation in Kazakhstan». On October, 23rd in a forum participated Nurlan Kapparov, minister of the Ministry of Environment Protection and the chairman of Committee, the main officials who are carrying out wildlife management in Kazakhstan. The minister Kapparov in the presence of the president of Kirghizia has confirmed about support of projects of preservation of a snow leopard by a management of Kazakhstan at the highest level.

November. - The expanded session of board of he Public Prosecutor of East Kazakhstan area on a question: «About legislation application of protection, reproduction and fauna use» on November, 22nd, 2013 has taken place. To this action have been invited, journalists and public experts on fauna protection the known scientist and writer Boris Shcherbakov, the chief of scientific department of museum of local lore Sergey Starikov and the director of Fund of a snow leopard Oleg Loginov. Oleg Loginov has given the report on a situation with protection of a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan. The analysis of the accounting given hunting users, and also the infringements revealed during carrying out of check in activity of the East Kazakhstan public regional association of hunters and fishers testifies to weak state control from Inspection. Session



results were brought by the public prosecutor of the East Kazakhstan area. Have decided that the instruction that in a current of winter all hunting areas was corrected by lacks of work will be prepared. The inefficient hunting areas will be liquidated also their territories will be confiscated by the government.

December. - 11-13th. A trip to Katon-Karagay on the Scientific and technical council of national park. Negotiations with a park management are carried on, the contract on cooperation in studying of a snow leopard in park territory as well with third party participation of "Eko-Altai" NGO by Evgeni Jurchenkov, their director is concluded. On December, 12th Oleg Loginov has made the report on a condition of researches on a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan. The seminar and discussion of the program of researches have been held on a snow leopard in park territory.

In December SLF has carried out a trip to Almaty. Trail cameras, tablets, chargers and other necessary equipment for carrying out of researches on a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan in territories of Katon-Karagay national park, Markakolsky and West Altay reserves under project GEF/Small Grant Program - «Strengthening of role OOIIT in preservation of ecosystems of a snow leopard in East Kazakhstan» are got. The equipment is transferred by aforesaid protected areas.

5. Discussion:

The last 2013 became very important not only for Snow Leopard Fund, but also for the world strategy of the snow leopard protection. Our achievements and participation in preparation and work of the World Forum on snow leopard ecosystem conservation in the world have been above described, but pertinently to repeat the main achievement - SLF became officially recognised in the world and the Ministry of Preservation of the environment and Natural resources as leader organization in Kazakhstan which activity is devoted to the snow leopard who is the most rare animal of the country protection. To our opinion listen also our activity stimulates activity as the



Boris Shcherbakov, Oleg Loginov and Sergey Starikov after a session of board of the Public Prosecutor



Seminar on study and monitoring the snow leopard in the West Altay reserve office in Ridder. Photo: Oleg Loginov



Andrey Chelyshev, the science researcher in Katon Karagay national park testing a Bushnell trail camera. Photo: Oleg Loginov

Ministries of the Environment Protection, and scientific institutions and NGOs in Kazakhstan. For example, in 2013 the activity of Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan which has received financing from the Committee on Science was considerably stirred up. The “Eko-Altai” NGO activity in East Kazakhstan has revived, NABU, and also Association of the Biodiversity Protection of Kazakhstan (ACBK) was stirred up activity. It will allow joint efforts to achieve the big successes in studying of a snow leopard and to improvement of measures of its protection at the state level.

Our activity supports Berdibek Saparbaev a head of the East Kazakhstan administration, which has high valued our work and assisted for published by us photo-album “Irbis- the Snow leopard”.

In 2013 Irina and Oleg Loginov have published the photo album “Irbis-The Snow Leopard” on Russian, as the corrected further reprinting, the book published in 2011 with the same name, in English. The photo album “Irbis-The Snow Leopard” has received fine responses practically from all who had control over this edition. In the book the big educational, aesthetic and emotional potential is put. Materials are picked up so that the book is interesting to almost all age and all estates of people.



Children will love the nature of Kazakhstan and a snow leopard. Photo: Oleg Loginov

We extend this book which changes consciousness of people, before, frequently nothing knowing about this animal literally. For example, after our previous edition in English has been got by employees of regional Office of Public Prosecutor in 2012, this establishment has become interested in a problem of preservation of the snow leopard ecosystem. As a result in 2013 the Office of Public Prosecutor has carried out check of activity of the hunting economy and nature protected areas the East Kazakhstan, and in November the expanded session of board with the invitation of the press, various experts in wildlife management and representatives of power departments has taken place. On board the documentary film about a situation with reduction of number of animals in East Kazakhstan, created by TV channel EKTU and Office of Public Prosecutor has been shown, and SLF advised in it. Such public prosecutor's checks will be annually spent now and should promote improvement of measures of protection of ecosystems of a snow leopard.

We are convinced that activization of the basic nature protection structures and control services will play a key role in improvement of measures of protection of a snow leopard and mountain ecosystems.

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