

# Snow Leopard Conservation Grants Program

## **Final Report on Project Snow Leopard in Baltistan Region of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Pakistan**

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Snow Leopard Network (SLN)**

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## List of Acronyms

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<b>BWCDO:</b>	<b>Baltistan Wildlife Conservation Development Organization</b>
<b>FMT</b>	<b>Foot and mouth treatment</b>
<b>IUCN:</b>	<b>International Union for Conservation Network</b>
<b>CITES</b>	<b>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</b>
<b>LDDDS</b>	<b>Livestock and Dairy Development Department Skardu</b>
<b>PPR</b>	<b>Pet des Pets Ruminant</b>
<b>PSL:</b>	<b>Project Snow Leopard</b>
<b>SLN:</b>	<b>Slow Leopard Network</b>

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## 1. Background

The Baltistan Wildlife Conservation & Development Organization (BWCDO), formerly recognized as Project Snow Leopard (PSL), is a non-profit organization registered under the 1984 Companies Ordinance, working in Baltistan since 1999<sup>1</sup>. Its objective is to find ways and means to conserve and protect Baltistan's wildlife, the snow leopard in particular, with the active support of the local communities, the regional forest department, and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.

The snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), is classified as Endangered in the 2008 IUCN Red List (IUCN 2008), "Critically Endangered" in the Red List of Pakistan Mammals of Sheikh and Moullar (2005) and listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Snow Leopards kill domestic livestock, a source of livelihoods for the local farmers, who retaliate by poisoning, shooting or trapping snow leopards. BWCDO-PSL provides community-based livestock insurance scheme and anti-predator material and management infrastructure to local communities in Baltistan to reduce the incidences of retaliatory killings and help protect snow leopard population.

The mission of BWCDO is to conserve wildlife through long lasting and sustainable institutional action. In addition to this, BWCDO-PSL relies on scientific research in management and implementation of wildlife conservation activities. It has produced scientific papers on the importance of wildlife and the ecology of snow leopards and existing and impending threats to its population in Pakistan. Its main strategic objectives are to:

- provide economic incentives to local farmers through insurance schemes and financial compensation against livestock losses by snow leopard attack.
- offer solutions to predation of livestock by improving existing animal pens, training to improve herding techniques and preparation of predator-proof corrals for small ruminants.
- conduct and publish research on snow leopard ecology, behavior, conservation and management practices.

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<sup>1</sup> PSL was officially incorporated in 2007 and has eight BOD members who all serve on the Board of Directors. five of them are based in Baltistan. Two are conservationists, three work in development including one female, one educationist at Karakorum International University, one Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research one serve in public office in Baltistan and one is a journalist



## **2. Summary:**

In Gilgit-Baltistan, high pasture are an indispensable source of livelihood for the local people and have been extensively utilized by agro-pastoral communities. Some argue that this can have a long term negative effect on pasture productivity and may lead to loss of important wildlife biodiversity. Furthermore livestock presence in the pasture can result in disease outbreak and transmission of disease from wildlife to domestic livestock or from domestic livestock to wildlife. Seasonal diseases outbreaks in livestock bring about sudden deaths ultimately causing heavy financial loss on the livelihood of local communities

To sustain ecosystem based livelihood services and pasture management in Baltistan; BWEDO initiated livestock vaccination in three valleys of project site with the financial assistance of snow leopard Network (SLN) for the snow leopard conservation program in Baltistan region. The prime goal of this initiative is to contribute to sustainable pasture management and improve local livelihood of marginalized communities to reduce mortalities and introduce healthy and productive livestock through vaccination and medication.

The vaccination campaign against the most fatal disease i.e. Mange (skin disease), foot & mouth, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Anthrax and Brucellosis , at Khumara, Thalay Hushay and Basha valleys was carried out jointly with the collaboration of Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Skardu, Baltistan Region. The campaign ran for almost three weeks, starting from 13 March and concluding on 6 April, 2015 During this campaign a total of 1117 households were covered in Basha, Hushay, Thalay and Khumra. The total number of vaccinated animals were 10030 sheep and 5553 goats. Beside the vaccination for Mange (skin disease), foot & mouth, Anthrax and Brucellosis IVOTEC 10 ml 740 vials and FMT 10 ml 780 vials were given to local community to treat animals.

Second round of livestock medication campaign was carried out in all targeted sites from August 1,2015 to November 30, 2015. During 2<sup>nd</sup> round medicine IVOTEC 10 ml 1500 vials, FMT 10 ml 800 vials, sulpha 100ml 500 vials and oxy tetracycline 50ml 500 vials were given for Mange (skin disease), foot & mouth, Anthrax and Brucellosis disease

## **3. Objectives:**

- Assist local community in livestock disease control
- Avoid disease transmission between snow leopard prey species and domestic livestock
- To protect snow leopards , their natural habitat and natural resources
- Assist the public sector for pasture and natural resource management by engaging local communities.

#### **4. Methods:**

Prior to launch vaccination campaign a memorandum of understanding doc have been developed signed with Gilgit-Baltistan Livestock and Dairy Development Department to carry out this activity jointly in Khumra, Thalay, Hushay and Basha. After that Gilgit-Baltistan Livestock and Dairy Development Department were requested for conducting detailed survey of livestock in the valleys, mentioning total numbers of livestock (goats, sheep, cows, yak, zo/zomo, and bull, in the valley, number of livestock death over the last two years, name of major diseases, vaccination required their name and quantity. On the basis of report and LDDDS recommendation BWCDO and Department agreed to vaccinate Small ruminants against PPR disease and proposed medicine and their quantity for goat, sheep and cattle.

Based on pre-vaccination livestock survey and reports by livestock department from all targeted sites. In the wake of confirmation disease, Mange (skin disease), foot & mouth, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Anthrax and Brucellosis; the livestock in all targeted sites were vaccinated and treated with the technical assistance of field staff from LDDDs. They developed village profiles of each village in the project sites and implemented the vaccination campaigns through their field extension staff.

#### **5. Outcomes:**

- A Total of 10030 sheep and 5553 goats vaccinated against Pet des Pets Ruminant in all targeted sites.
- Animals treated for disease Mange (skin disease), foot & mouth, Anthrax and Brucellosis in all project sites

#### **6. Discussion:**

Considering the food and nutritional needs of the project communities, we conclude that livestock rearing is vital for the remote mountain communities. Therefore it is necessary to manage grazing practices in pasture to sustain pasture resources for long term use. Furthermore, periodic vaccination against fatal livestock diseases results in healthy livestock that would improve economic condition of marginalized communities. But more importantly through vaccination in domestic livestock will also ultimately reduce loss of wildlife population through communicable disease.

## 7. Glimpse of vaccination activity









