



# Snow Leopard NEWS

Snow Leopard NEWS is the Snow Leopard Network's (SLN) annual open-access newsletter. This initiative is one of the 2021-2023 Steering Committee's priorities as a means to encourage exchange amongst snow leopard practitioners and researchers. The newsletter aims to collate and make available the latest information on snow leopard biology and conservation through a series of short notes and research contributions that capture the evolving status of the species and its wider habitat. Short notes, research contributions and notes from the conservation frontline are welcome. The editorial team will finalise each issue drawing on a peer review process.

## Mission

To share the latest information on snow leopard ecology and conservation. This includes the snow leopard, its prey, and carnivores which co-exist in these landscapes. We also seek to feature innovations in conservation practice and policies which address threats that impact snow leopard habitats. A supplementary focus is on showcasing the work of snow leopard range country scientists and conservationists and supporting them in the process of sharing their research findings and work.

## Guidelines to Contributors

Snow Leopard NEWS publishes original contributions, observations and news related to the conservation of snow leopards and co-occurring species across the snow leopard range (see mission above). The editorial team will consider submissions and make a decision with regard to acceptance and any peer review process as necessary. Snow Leopard NEWS is published once a year, but early view of articles will be published online at an earlier date. We will specify as part of the Newsletter the notes or articles that are peer reviewed. Kindly note that Snow Leopard News is currently applying for a ISSN registration.

# Submission Categories

Articles published in Snow Leopard NEWS fall into the following categories:

## **Field Notes (500- 1,000 words main text)**

This category features novel natural history or field observations within snow leopard landscapes. Submissions must tell a compelling story that can help generate a novel hypothesis or that can be placed in a larger context of snow leopard and co-occurring species' ecology, biology and evolution. These are typically expected (although not required) to be accompanied by photos that help to document the observations.

## **Short Notes (500- 1,500 words main text)**

Short articles present new findings, approaches, or concepts relevant to snow leopard and co-occurring species' conservation. This is the most data-oriented section of Snow Leopard NEWS, typically outlining an introduction, methods, results and their concise discussion. Short review papers on a specific topic are welcome as well. Any references should be embedded in the text, and we encourage the inclusion of photos, diagrams and maps. In general Short Notes will be subject to peer review.

## **Notes from the Conservation Frontline (500- 1,000 words main text):**

The contributions in this section should highlight issues practitioners face at the frontline of conservation across snow leopard landscapes. The Notes should be concise and capture its relevance within the wider conservation literature. The structure is open to allow practitioners' perspectives to be shared in a conducive form (includes introduction, main observations and discussion). Any references should be embedded in the text, and figures, plates or tables should be included only if essential for understanding the material.

**Word Counts excludes the abstract (up to 150 words), table content, and references and tables and figure captions for each category.**

# Submission Formatting

Submissions must be in a Word Document format. The submissions should include the following sections (submission category, title, author list, author contact information, abstract, main text, acknowledgements and bibliography). Text should be in size 12, double spaced with page and line numbered. Kindly indicate if you agree to your submission being peer reviewed if recommended by the editorial team.

Please include the name and email address of three suggested reviewers (or any name where a reviewer conflict of interest may be of concern).

## Abstract

Up to 150 words which includes rationale, method, results, and main findings.

## Figures and photos

Pictures of species, habitat, landscape or other graphic material may illustrate articles. Diagrams, drawings and captions should be legible after reduction. Maps should always indicate the scale in metric unit and the North.

## References

- References to publications in the text should be made by name of author and year of publication.
- The list of references, alphabetically ordered should appear at the end of the text as a Bibliography: Name(s) of author(s) should be followed by the year of publication, the complete title of the work, the name of the journal (in italics), volume and page numbers. For example: Johansson Ö., McCarthy T., Samelius G., Andrén H., Tumursukh L., Mishra C., 2015. Snow leopard predation on a livestock dominated landscape in Mongolia. *Biological Conservation* 184: 251–258.
- If, in the references, there are two or more books or papers with the same author and the same year of publication, a lower-case a, b, etc., should be added to the year of publication both in the reference list and in the text.

## Submission Process

- The call for Snow Leopard NEWS first issue submissions is open from **June 1st to December 1st 2021**.
- Kindly submit your Notes to the following email address [news@snowleopardnetwork.org](mailto:news@snowleopardnetwork.org) following the above Submission formatting guideline.
- The Associate Editors will conduct an initial review and communicate any decision including whether the piece will be peer reviewed. Some Notes however may be considered suitable for publication without peer review. If not suitable for the journal the author will be advised accordingly. In general an initial response will be provided within 2-3 weeks of submission receipt.
- If accepted for review the submission will be sent to independent reviewers. The editors will decide whether the Note is accepted or rejected with or without revision taking into account the evaluation of the reviewers.
- All newsletter issues will be open access and available to the public for consultation.
- Snow Leopard NEWS is published online annually; the first issue is expected in the first half of 2022.