

2023



The Snow Leopard Network

Annual Report

**Celebrating 20 years of the
Snow Leopard Network
(2002-2022)**

The Snow Leopard Network (SLN) is a global organization dedicated to facilitating the exchange of information and ideas between individuals around the world for the purpose of snow leopard conservation. Our membership includes international and national organizations working on snow leopard scientists, practitioners, and researchers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. www.snowleopardnetwork.org

KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2023

A SNOW LEOPARD JOURNAL

The launch of the snow leopard community's very own registered peer-reviewed journal, [Snow Leopard Reports](#), along with its first 3 scientific articles.

SUPPORT TO GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION

SLN's [Grants Program](#) - in partnership with the Pangje Foundation – supported two capacity-building projects funded in Bhutan and Kyrgyzstan (2023).

ICT WORKSHOP HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH IUCN ECARO

Exploring Information and Communications Technology and Collaboration for Conservation in Central Asia.

CONTINUED CAPACITY EXCHANGE

SLN hosted 7 webinars and 7 training sessions for members, which have engaged over 435 participants to stimulate the exchange of knowledge/skills and identify issues of shared concern.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SLN STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dear SLN members,

We are facing three more years of SLN activities directly or indirectly dedicated to the conservation of snow leopards and their habitat. The past three years have been particularly rich in seminars and modules. It is not so easy to do more - and better - in the coming triennium, but... one should meet the challenge!

Any suggestions on topics and speakers will be welcomed and talked out at the SC level. All of us know that the mighty book SNOW LEOPARDS (2nd edition) has just been published: it makes an amazing reference text crammed with important and up-to-date information on snow leopard conservation issues. From it, one could get a number of ideas for on-line talks, where topics are gone into more detail and discussed.

So much for the "cultural" side.

As to actions, including support for conservation-oriented research... simply we depend on outside funding (the more, the better!). Anyone who might have a suitable connection or knows of a potential source, please, provide details to [Rakhee](#).

SANDRO LOVARI

SLN STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR



1. SLN STEERING COMMITTEE

The SLN Steering Committee Elections for our new committee of 2024-2026 took place during November-December 2023. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the outgoing members of the SLN SC for their dedication and invaluable contributions during their tenure of 2021-2023. Thanks go to:

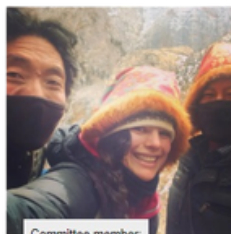
- Sandro Lovari (Italy) – Chairperson
- Belinda Wright (India) - Member
- Madhu Chetri (Nepal) - Member
- Orjan Johansson (Sweden) - Member
- Purevjav Lkhagvajav (Mongolia) – Member
- Wali Modaqiq (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) - Member
- Xiao Lingyun (China) – Member

We are happy to have Sandro Lovari return as our Chair, with the new committee and Orjan Johansson as a member of our new committee.

Wishing a warm welcome to our SLN Steering Committee members for 2024-2026, who are:



Committee Chair:
Sandro Lovari (Italy)



Committee member:
Justine Shanti
Alexander
(Mongolia)



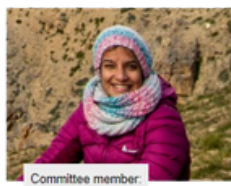
Committee member:
Shoalb Hameed
(Pakistan)



Committee
member: Yanlin
Liu (China)



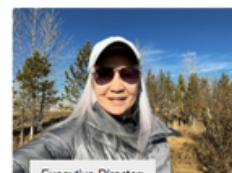
Committee member:
Dechen Lham
(Bhutan/Switzerland)



Committee member:
Ranjini Murali
(Germany)



Committee member:
Orjan Johansson
(Sweden)



Executive Director:
Bayarjargal
Agvaantseren
(Mongolia)

We entrust the newly elected members with the responsibility of guiding SLN's overarching strategy and ensuring accountability. We look forward to their guidance, interactions and support in steering SLN towards its goals.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Snow Leopard Network currently has a listed membership of **645 members** (514 individual members, 98 affiliate members, **33 organizational members and 9 Partners**). This is a 9% increase in individual members from 2022 (473 Individual members in 2022). A complete list of our 33 organizational members and 9 partner organizations is available on page 13.



Please do visit the [Membership page](#) on our website, which lists all our current individual and organizational members. Please do update your information on this page. If, as a member, you know of any Organizations which are not currently SLN organizational members, please do encourage them to [sign up here](#).

We thank the Membership Working Group (led by Dan Prain) for verifying all membership requests.



3. SNOW LEOPARD REPORTS

It is our pleasure to inform you that the first issue of Snow Leopard Network's scientific journal Snow Leopard Reports has been published. The issue features three articles, two news pieces and an introduction letter.

Here is a URL to the first issue: <https://publicera.kb.se/slr/issue/view/886/397>.

You can also find it at Snow Leopard Reports website: <https://publicera.kb.se/slr>.



We are happy to inform you that we already have submissions for Issue 2, which we anticipate to publish in February 2024. Please consider submitting your work to the journal. It is now indexed in several databases and will be included in all major search engines.

'Snow Leopard Reports' has an ISSN number (2004-5255) hosted by the Swedish National Library. Articles will receive DOIs, and be indexed in databases and appear in search engines. You can find out more here: <https://publicera.kb.se/slr>.

We thank the Journal Editors that are made up of SLN's Steering Committee. We also thank the Journal's Editorial Board, which is made up of a number of SLN members, and helpful Reviewers. Next year's Issue is already under consideration so please do submit your articles in a timely manner.



4. SLN'S GRANTS PROGRAM



“EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES - A SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAM”.

Led by Sonam Dorji and his team from Bhutan.

“TRAINING OF RANGERS ON MONITORING OF SNOW LEOPARDS AND PREY IN MICRO-RESERVES”.

Led by Kubanychbek Zhumabai uulu and team from Kyrgyzstan.

We continued with SLN's SLTG Program in 2023. SLN's Grants Program has supported **74 projects since 2003**. This year 13 proposals were received from 7 snow leopard range countries (Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and India), covering a range of training topics. Two projects in Bhutan and Kyrgyzstan were supported through the Pangje Foundation, an SLN Organizational member. These final reports will be available on our website after March 2024.

Thank you to the **Pangje Foundation** for this valuable support. We hope that the contribution will catalyze funding from other Organizational members in the future. Thank you also to a dedicated set of reviewers for their support in this process.



PANGJE
foundation

5. SLN TRAINING INITIATIVES FOCUSSED ON 'EXCHANGE'

This year's SLN Training Initiative continued with a Summer Exchange (June-July) program with the aim of promoting Capacity Exchange horizontally amongst members. This program in 2023 brought together 195 snow leopard practitioners across the globe in this unique online forum.

The topics covered in the Summer Program included: SMART tools with a focus on survey and threats monitoring, including how to engage communities; QGIS; Upgraded camera trap data management with AI; Introduction to occupancy and spatial capture-recapture methods; How to conduct training workshops for community members and/or youth based on experiences and PARTNERS; Data management; and Nature Education as a tool for conservation (See Appendix 1). All recordings are available [here](#).



2023 EXCHANGE PROGRAM STATISTICS:

- 7 snow leopard research and conservation modules
- 11 resource persons – (64% women resource persons)
- Approx. 16 hours of online discussions and learning
- 195 participants took part in the training events, with an average attendance of 28 participants per module.

*Award of a total of 8 certificates to participants (our criteria for issuance of certificates being attendance of all the live sessions of the exchange).

6. WEBINARS

Our [Webinar series](#) continues to be one of our SLN flagship activities. This year we focused on a variety of topics, including:

- Building and exchanging capacities in snow leopard research and conservation,
- Understanding geographies of threat,
- Understanding spatial patterns of poaching pressure using ranger logbook data to optimize future patrolling strategies,
- Ensuring a future for Kenya's lions and other large carnivores through community-led conservation,
- Cluster studies: what they are, and what we can learn from them,
- Snow leopards and Tibetan herders, coexistence from a cultural perspective,
- Climate change mitigation and snow Leopard conservation: community-led Initiatives in Kyrgyzstan (See Appendix 1).

We are thankful to our speakers for their wealth and depth of knowledge and experience. There is now [a collation of 36 past webinars available on our website](#).

2023 WEBINAR STATISTICS:

- 7 Webinars
- 16 guest speakers, facilitators, and discussants (44% women speakers)
- 210 participants across all 2023 webinars



7. SLN/GSLEP INTERACTION

GSLEP continued to play an integral part in supporting SLN with facilitators for our training modules and webinars. GSLEP also supported SLN with the Information and Communications Technology workshop, held in collaboration with IUCN ECARO on 10th August, 2023 (more information under Heading 8, below).

8. IUCN ECARO WORKSHOP

EXPLORING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

An online workshop was jointly conducted by **IUCN ECARO**, Snow Leopard Network, and the **Snow Leopard Trust** on August 10th, 2023. The workshop aimed to enhance collaboration among conservation stakeholders in Central Asia, specifically Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

Notably, the workshop attracted 30 participants from 23 organizations worldwide, with 16 representing Central Asian countries. Key themes centered around technology's role in conservation, including GPS/GIS applications, data management, camera traps, and ethical considerations.



Discussions highlighted collaboration, capacity building, government engagement, and ethical frameworks as pivotal for effective technology integration. The workshop was an interactive exchange of insights, setting the stage for continued collaboration in the conservation of the region. The report of this workshop is available by requesting a copy of the same from Rakhee – rakhee@snowleopardnetwork.org.

9. SLN COMMUNICATION

[Our website](#) continues to play an important role across all SLN activities. It continues to feature our webinars, training modules, blog, and hosting the Bibliography. Our continuing aim is to make this the “go-to” place for updates on snow leopard research and conservation.

A special thanks to Jeff Brown, Snow Leopard Trust’s Senior Technology Architect, for troubleshooting the website.

SLN continues to focus its communication on four platforms: [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and, more recently, [LinkedIn](#).

SLN currently has:

- 2,787 followers on [X](#) (formerly Twitter)
- 825 followers and 97 posts on [Instagram](#)
- 101 followers on [LinkedIn](#).

[SLN YouTube](#) page now has:

- **201** videos
- **544** subscribers
- **11.9K ‘views’** in 2023

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 32 women and men who make a difference for snow leopard conservation were featured for women's month on [X](#) and [Instagram](#).
- 15 Organizational Partners featured on X and Instagram this year.
- A special weekly thread featuring recent snow leopard research, with 35 papers on [X](#) this year.

*Please note that these numbers are reflective “as of now” and change almost daily.

We thank Flavia Franchini-Silveira for her creativity, timeliness, perseverance, and dedication in supporting SLN’s communication effort.

2023 FAVOURITE VIDEOS

[Module 6: Occupancy](#)

[Module 1: Introduction to SCR analysis in R](#)

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

1700 ARTICLES & REPORTS

The SLN Bibliography currently contains over 1700 articles or reports (27 peer-reviewed papers added in 2023). This continues to represent the largest freely accessible snow leopard literature repository in the world. Thank you to members for continuing to update and share their latest research.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

The network helped to publicize:

1. A **Survey** on snow leopard prey monitoring methods, which was being conducted by a group of researchers and practitioners in the snow leopard prey sub-group for the Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards (PAWS) project. It can be found at: <https://globalsnowleopard.org/gslp-projects/paws>.
2. The **Sabin Snow Leopard Grants** Program, which was promoted by Zoo New England.
3. **Strides for Snow Leopards** 2023 event, promoted by SLT.



The network also published:

1. An article submitted by SLN to **Oryx** about the Snow Leopard Network: 20 years of collaboration among practitioners. It is Open Access (OA) in Oryx, and the article may be viewed at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605323000881>. A related blog article was also featured on Oryx's **blog**.
2. A Position Statement from SLN, which was quoted in a **BBC article**: <https://www.bbc.com/kyrgyz/articles/cqv9e0xe31qo>.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SLN 33 ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS & 9 PARTNERS (2023)

Member Organizations



Partners



A special thanks to the 2023 Snow Leopard Network donors: Snow Leopard Trust, Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Program, Milkywire, and the Pangje Foundation.

Thanking all Individual and Organizational members, SLN Steering Committee, the SLN Chair, SLN Executive Director and the Program Coordinator for all your support in our efforts to contribute to snow leopard conservation.

Become a member [here](#).

CONTACT

snowleopardnetwork.org/contact-us

[@SnowleopardNet](https://twitter.com/SnowleopardNet)

APPENDIX 1: PARTNERS IN THE TRAINING INITIATIVE AND WEBINARS

We would especially like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support:

Table 1: 2023 SLN Module partners and resource persons' affiliations.

TRAINING MODULES	MODULE PARTNERS & RESOURCE PERSONS' AFFILIATIONS
SUMMER EXCHANGE 2023	JUNE/JULY
SESSION 1: SMART TOOLS WITH A FOCUS ON SURVEY AND THREAT MONITORING, INCLUDING HOW TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES	WCS, THE SMART PARTNERSHIP (SPATIAL MONITORING AND REPORTING TOOL).
SESSION 2: QGIS	SLN, SLT
SESSION 3: UPGRADED CAMERA TRAP DATA MANAGEMENT WITH AI	SHAN SHUI CONSERVATION CENTRE
SESSION 4: INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPANCY AND SPATIAL CAPTURE-RECAPTURE METHODS	CENTRE FOR RESEARCH INTO ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS, SLT, GSLEP
SESSION 5: HOW TO CONDUCT TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND/OR YOUTH BASED ON EXPERIENCES AND PARTNERS.	NATURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
SESSION 6: DATA MANAGEMENT	PANTHERA
SESSION 7: NATURE EDUCATION: AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT AND TOOL IN OUR CONSERVATION WORK	NATURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, NATURE CLASSROOMS

Table 2: 2023 SLN Webinar resource persons & facilitators' affiliations.

WEBINAR TITLES	RESOURCE PERSONS & FACILITATORS
BUILDING AND EXCHANGING CAPACITIES IN SNOW LEOPARD RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION (DISCUSSION WITH OUR 2022 GRANTEES)	DEEPSHIKHA SHARMA AND FATIMA MANNAPBEKOVA WITH LINGYUN XIAO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION • PANTHERA • XI'AN JIAOTONG-LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY
UNDERSTANDING GEOGRAPHIES OF THREAT	ALFREDO ROMERO-MUÑOZ AND RANJNI MURALI (DISCUSSANT). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY - BERLIN • SLT • GSLEP
UNDERSTANDING SPATIAL PATTERNS OF POACHING PRESSURE USING RANGER LOGBOOK DATA TO OPTIMIZE FUTURE PATROLLING STRATEGIES	ARASH GHODDOUSI AND MUNIB KHANYARI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY - BERLIN • NATURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
ENSURING A FUTURE FOR KENYA'S LIONS & OTHER LARGE CARNIVORES THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION	SHIVANI BHALLA AND TOBY OTIENO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWASO LIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DIRECTOR OF IMPACT AND OPERATIONS
CLUSTER STUDIES – WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THEM?	GUSTAF SAMELIUS, YANLIN LIU, KOUSTUBH SHARMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT • QINGHAI NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CHINA
SNOW LEOPARDS AND TIBETAN HERDERS, COEXISTENCE FROM A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE	YUFANG GAO, SALONI BHATIA, ARASH GHODDOUSI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHINA CONSERVATION SUPPORT • ATREE, INDIA • HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY - BERLIN
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION: COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES IN KYRGYZSTAN	KULUIPA AKMATOVA, MARLIS SARCHAEV, ALINA ZHENISHBEKOVA, BATMA KALDYBEK KYZY, ELVIRA MARATOVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDF, KYRGYZSTAN
SPECIAL: WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL ASIA – IUCN ECARO	TATIANA IVANOVA, JUSTINE SHANTI ALEXANDER, TANYA ROSEN, ZAIRBEK KUBANYCHBEKOV, ALEXEY GRACHEV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN • SLT/SLN • CONSERVATION X LABS • IIBIRS FOUNDATION • INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN