

Report by the Snow Leopard Foundation in Kyrgyzstan to the Snow Leopard Network on the grant for the “Training of rangers on monitoring of snow leopards and prey in micro-reserves”

A series of trainings conducted for the rangers of Kyrgyz Republic’s first micro reserve to improve their capacity and skills in monitoring biodiversity and human wildlife conflicts.

- First aid training. 3 community rangers of the Baibosun micro reserve visited Bishkek and participated in the training on First Aid by Red Cross experts on September 11th, 2023

This training increased the capacity of rangers on First Aid. Trained rangers will train other colleagues which will increase their confidence in providing first aid. Rangers will feel more confident in the field and they will be able to help colleagues if there is situation with any risk to the health of colleagues. (More photos of the training can be found in the folder)



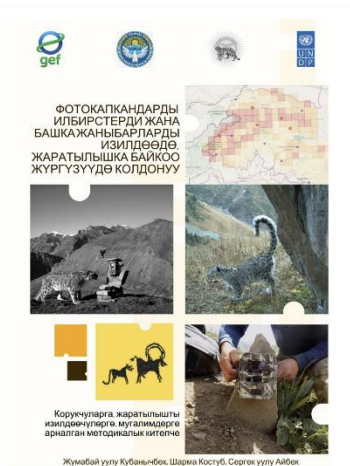
(Photo from the training on First Aid for the Baibosun staff)

- Training on mapping and setting camera traps conducted for the rangers on July 15th 2023

Rangers learned how to select places and set cameras. Instructions on how to set camera traps was designed and printed out with the help of UNDP project. Rangers of the Baibosun received hard copies of the instructions (photo and PDF of instructions)



(Training on mapping for the camera trapping)



(Instruction on use of camera traps for the monitoring of snow leopards)

- In October 2023, Government of Kyrgyzstan decided to increase the size of micro reserve from 140 sq km to 380 sq km. Our partner organization Ilbirs has set up 17 camera traps in the newly added territory. Baiboosun rangers were able to set up 8 cameras in the old part of the microreserve. But due deep snow and risks of avalanches they were not able to collect the cameras till the date.

We recently visited the area and road was still blocked by the snow (photos of Baiboosun with snow in the folder)



(Photo of the rangers of the Baiboosun setting camera traps on snow leopards)

- In January 2024, 12 herders around Baiboosun micro reserve were interviewed. It helped us to see the level of human wildlife conflict and herders' attitude to the snow leopards. All herders positively responded to the questions and there was no negative attitude to the presence of snow leopards. Baiboosun staff also received a special designed survey form, which will be used every year in the fall, right after herders return from remote pastures.

(Form of herder survey)

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 4) Жашаган жери _____

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(Survey of herders)

- We printed out a brochure (12 pages) on “what to do in unusual encounters with snow leopards” 200 brochures were given to the Baiboosun staff and distributed to herders during the survey. This material will help micro reserve staff and herders take right actions when meeting snow leopards around their homes, pastures, and corrals.

(PDF of brochure and pictures from survey are in the folder)

Since we haven't collected data from our camera traps yet, we will share data for the analysis with the GSLEP Secretariat and Government later in 2024.



Results

- Feeling a sense of responsibility and ownership was one of the most important outcomes that the training workshops gave to the rangers of the first Micro-Reserve of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Rangers learned basics of first aid. This built their confidence in dealing with health emergencies in the remote field conditions.
- Rangers of the micro-reserve learned how to set up camera traps in the field. This will strengthen their capacity as the cameras can be used for wide range of objectives, including monitoring wildlife, vegetation, and even human movement as long as these are appropriately disclosed to the community-members.
- They will start collecting good quality data and share it periodically with the government.
- Seeing effective management, good quality data generation, and scientifically replicable monitoring in the first official Micro Reserve of the country helped build the government's confidence and it helped to increase the size of reserve in 2023. The training content developed through this program will also lead to filling the gap in the country's current management of Protected Areas where the frontline staff barely get any institutionalized training and equipment. Rangers equipped to collect data on human-wildlife conflict can also play an important role in reducing poaching.
- This micro project helped us build good partnership with the staff of the micro reserve that represents a sparsely studied snow leopard habitat of the country.