

FINAL REPORT

Snow Leopard Training Grant Program Agreement Form - 2023

Activity I- High Mountain Awareness and visit to Snow Leopard Habitat area-

A team from Haa Forest Range Office moved to the snow leopard habitat area and met with the yak herders and also made awareness on the importance of conservation of snow leopard in their habitat. The team proceeded to the high mountain where we have habitants residing there with their domestic animals. The case of human wildlife conflict particularly the retaliatory killing risk is so high. Therefore, the frequent meeting the domestic animal herders and educating them is very necessary.

The team met all the herders and awareness on the importance of conservation of snow leopard and other wildlife has been explained.



Figure 1. The team on the way to high mountains



The areas visited by the team are as follows:

1. Khadipang: The area where herders reside during winter.
2. Chushola: Winter grazing area
3. Gumana: Summer grazing area
4. Sertshotenn: Summer grazing area
5. Ingtsho, Suzukha, Jasodhen, Chumsa, Gyebla, Gyeb: These are the areas that the herders reside more during summer and it is the prime habitat of snow leopard.

The team made and awareness/ advocacy on the importance of

- Snow Leopard in the role of maintain the Ecosystem.
- The hunting habits of snow leopard and reasons why they hunt for food
- The reasons why retaliatory killing take place
- The primary prey, blue sheep
- The importance of its existence
- The relationship on grazing by the wild animals to the domestic animals.

The team has visited all the homes of herders residing at snow leopard habitat areas and encouraged them to take extra effort to conserve snow leopard. The herders are also advised to report any illegal poaching taking place at their place of residence to the nearest forest office. The herders residing at high mountain plays a vital role in conservation of wildlife as well as to improve their livelihood. Therefore, close relationship with them by the conservators is very important.

Activity II: **REPORT ON TRAINING WILDLIFE DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMNT PROGRAM**
29th September 2023

Subject: Training Field Staff on Wildlife Data Management Software, SMART, CTFM and ReNamer

The proposal was to train staff with basic on CTFM and ReNamer software. However, upon application of SMART during the field works, SMART training was found to be essential. Therefore, the training focused on SMART and also basics on CTFM and ReNamer software.

As part of our ongoing efforts to effectively manage wildlife data, especially concerning snow leopard surveys, we have conducted training sessions for field staff on utilizing software for efficient data management. The software was focused on is the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting

Tool (SMART), known for its effectiveness in monitoring wildlife populations, patrolling efforts, poaching pressures, and other threats. With it, CTFM and ReNamer software basics were also introduced and made aware on its advantage and usage.

Introduction to Software:

- Understand the significance of SMART in wildlife conservation and specifically for snow leopard management. Thus use of CTFM and Re-Namer software to assist its data analysis.

Basic on Software:

- Practical sessions on using SMART for data entry, visualization, and analysis related to snow leopard surveys, CTFM and Re-Namer software for data management of raw data.

Data Management Practices

- Guidelines on organizing and managing data effectively within the software to ensure accuracy and easy retrieval.

Practical Exercise:

- Simulation exercises to replicate field scenarios and practice using SMART and CTFM and ReNamer software for real-time data collection during wildlife surveys and analysis.

Continued Support:

- Addressed common issues and provided resources for ongoing support after the training sessions and point of contact for improvement of its use.

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All field staff directly involved in wildlife surveys, some local people, particularly those engaged during awareness campaign in snow leopard conservation attended the session.

It's crucial to ensure maximum participation to enhance our data management capabilities effectively in upcoming programs so that, the conservation can be enhanced.



Engagement of local communities as part of awareness is important. This is the basics to make the local people understand how it is implemented by the conservators and therefore, they we can encourage them to make change the mind of a person towards conservation.



The participants were served with refreshments and working lunch
Report edited by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sonam Dorji'.

Sonam Dorji
Sr. FR III