

2024 Snow Leopard Training Grant program

Final Report Outline

Please submit your final report as a **Word document** by December 15, 2024

1. **Title:** Integrating Citizen Science in Biomonitoring to Document Population Distribution, Assess Habitat Use and Provide Data for Patrol Surveillance of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*).
2. **Results** (What has been achieved so far? What were the challenges and opportunities encountered in the implementation of the project?)
 - **Achievements:** We successfully provided basic hands-on-skill training for the use of camera traps, GPS, Compass and cybertrackers to 03 inhabitants around Saylyugemsky. 02 were farmers who said they go for hunting time to time, while the other was a secondary school teacher who had passion in conservation after she grew up witnessing her brother's lifestyle as a poacher. The gender equality was interesting.
We engaged students in Environmental education activities in two schools in Seyakhinskaya Shkola-Internat. Most of them got their first introduction to 'biodiversity', and mentioned that before now, their understanding about ecology/environment was limited to geology, pollution waste, water resources with very little understanding of plants and animal inter-play.
 - **Challenges:** We had delay and challenge to identify and work with like-minded inhabitants around the Seyakhinskaya NP. Most complained about lack of a comprehensive pay (which was contrary to our effort in the context of being a "citizen scientist").
One of the local trainee disappeared from the project after the first phase. We tried to reach out but could not get to him.
 - **Opportunities:** I had the opportunity to work in a multi-disciplinary and multicultural team involving Russians and Africans. This enabled us to learn new skills from each other especially as are from different environmentally-related academic backgrounds.
3. **Discussion** (Please evaluate your own work. What did you learn that could help others wishing to do similar projects? How do you see the results being applied to conservation?)
 - This project is a citizen-science initiative, and in every effective and sustainable conservation outcome, the community must be empowered and be made part of such effort. This phase of our work has enabled us to activate this long-term conservation effort. The training provided to the guides and the new knowledge that the students have obtained on biodiversity is crucial for biodiversity to thrive.
 - We were not able to record our target specie (SL) as the park management authority said that our resources and plan could not support for us to go deep in the park. This was one of the reasons why we had to give much focus in providing the hands-on training and educational awareness to the people. However, most
 - Being my first time to conduct research in a polar region/ecosystem, I witnessed the difference in the vegetation species and forms. Also, the forest in this part of Russia have more of Carnivores.
 - It is quite difficult to detect animal signs after the winter period when the snow can clearly show prints. Litter and humus are also very rare to come across. Most areas were rocky, and easy to erode.
4. **Next steps** (What additional work is now needed? What happens next?)

This project has actually given our team the opportunity to understand not just the ecology of the SL, but also the mindset of the people, students and other collaborators like the Ranger. As such, the experience we have obtained and our current project outcome has laid the grounds for the scaling up of our subsequent efforts. This will be more of a broad wildlife inventory with special focus on the Snow Leopard.

5. **Expenditure Details** (Details on how the funds were utilized)

We made some adjustments on the budget to enable us meet with priority activities. During material and supply purchase/assembly, we realized that some items were less expensive while others were more expensive. The table below shows the details of the expenditure per line item. After all expenditure, ten dollars (\$10) was left over.

Snow Leopard Training Grant line items	Budget approved	Expenditure	Balance
1. 02-way rail transport from Tomsk to Altai @ 03 researchers @ 55 each	\$165	\$178	-\$13
2. Per diem @ 04 local field assistants @ \$10/day @ 16days cumulative.	\$640	\$620	+\$20
3. Accommodation for researchers @ \$24/day @ 10days	\$192	\$187	+\$5
4. Food for 03 researchers/trainees during 07days of training @ \$3/each	\$147	\$150	-\$2
5. Feeding for the field team @ 16 days cumulative @ \$14/day approx.	\$224	\$224	00
6. 18 packs of Energizer batteries AA for 14 cameras @ \$5/each	\$90	\$90	00
7. First Aid toolkit	\$40	\$40	-\$10
Total:	\$1,498	\$1,489	\$10

6. **Photographs:** If you have relevant and attractive photographic images of your project, please include them below. Please be sure to include a brief description of the photo and provide the credits for the photographer.



Picture 1: Dialogue on the project outcome, lessons learned and plans: By Esong Lionel E.



Picture 2: Primary investigator (Esong Lionel Ebong): Photo Credit by Esong Lionel Ebong