2025
Annual
Report

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

About the Snow Leopard Network (SLN)

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Founded following the 2002 Snow Leopard Survival Summit, SLN was created to sustain international cooperation beyond a single meeting. Today, it is a vibrant global community of individual members, partner organizations, and leading experts working together to secure a future for the snow leopard and the high-mountain landscapes it inhabits.

The Snow Leopard Network is a global alliance advancing scientifically grounded conservation of the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) and its mountain ecosystems. We facilitate the exchange of knowledge, tools, and field-based experience to strengthen professional collaboration and address the key challenges facing snow leopards, their prey, and the communities that share their landscapes.

Our Philosophy
Link Up to Scale Up

SLN is built on collaboration. By uniting experts across public, private, non-profit, and grassroots sectors, we connect diverse perspectives to amplify local action and achieve sustainable, landscape-level impact.

Our Core Pillars

Connect – Foster global exchange of expertise, best practices, and field knowledge.

Mobilize – Align partners and practitioners around shared conservation priorities across range countries.

Strengthen – Build research and conservation capacity through training, digital resources, and mentorship.

Incentivize – Support frontline action through targeted grants and practical assistance.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

SNOW LEOPARD REPORTS
OUR PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL
SL Reports continued to grow in 2025. Three issues have been published to date, featuring a growing body of high-quality research and conservation practice articles.

SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION
Through SLN's Training Grant Program, in partnership with the Pangje Foundation, capacity-building initiatives supported in recent years continued to demonstrate on-ground impact, strengthening conservation skills across snow leopard range countries.

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CONSERVATION
Building on past successes, SLN continued to highlight the work of women conservationists across snow leopard range countries, reinforcing its commitment to inclusivity and leadership equity.

DEVELOPING A FUNDRAISING STRATEGY
Based on direction and advice from Aperio Philanthropies.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY EXCHANGE
SLN MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME (2025)
The goal of this pilot program was to share knowledge and provide guidance and support to early-career individuals in our Network.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE THROUGH WEBINARS
SLN's flagship webinar series remained a core platform for global learning and dialogue, engaging over 300 participants over the 11 webinars that were hosted throughout the year and addressing interdisciplinary themes across conservation science & research, technology and community engagement.

Artistic Interpretation

A MESSAGE FROM THE SLN STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

.... *Dear members of the Snow Leopard Network,*
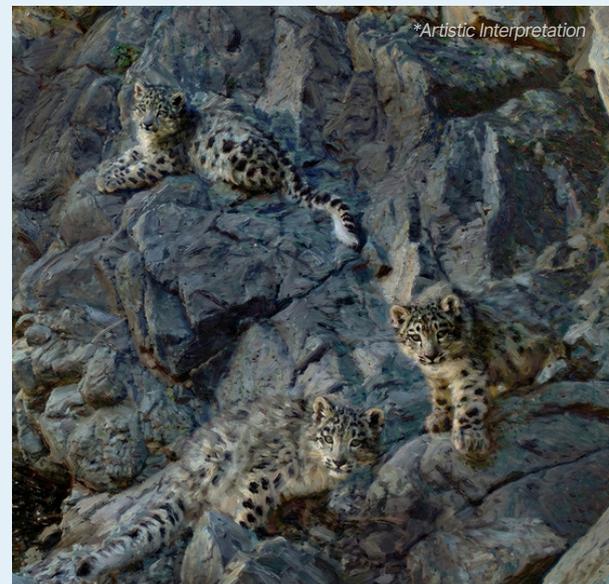
Last year, I was fortunate enough to spend the whole month of November 2025 trudging the small mountain trails of Sagarmatha National Park, in Nepal. These same trails I used monthly some 20 years ago to collect signs of presence of large carnivores, and to count their prey. Perhaps because I have now turned 80 years old, it seemed that the up-hill paths had become more up-hill than ever before! However, I really enjoyed searching each valley again for signs of presence of common and snow leopards, as well as counting Himalayan tahr, to examine the effects of predation on population structure of this main prey. Eventually, some preliminary conclusions could be drawn, which – to my satisfaction – have been fully confirmed later by lab analyses.

Why am I telling you about it?

The reason is that old-fashioned field work should not decline and be entirely replaced by electronics. Satellites, computers, camera-traps, drones and models are precious new tools for research and can improve our knowledge when properly used, but all of them have distinct limitations. Lack of direct information from the ground is their greatest flaw. Of course, data collection in the field has its major limitations also, but it does help develop a direct impression about the animals and the habitats you are concerned with - not a negligible benefit. That is to say, the era of field work should not be over, because we still lack a great deal of basic information on life histories and ecology of so many species - the snow leopard included - which can be collected only through intelligent field work. To push it even further, I would say that we need to spend some more time, sweat, fatigue and funding, collecting data in the field. New research tools will help us to collect more detailed, more accurate, also new information, but we should never forget that insights from field work are irreplaceable. After all, sound conservation requires reliable basic information and we should never trade novelty with reliability. One final benefit of field work, is of course, that researchers get to experience some of the world's most spectacular places while working!

SANDRO LOVARI
SLN Steering Committee Chair
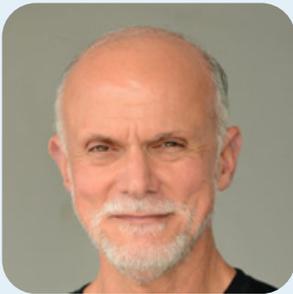

Artistic Interpretation

The Snow Leopard Network aims to bridge two worlds. By facilitating knowledge exchange, we ensure that the irreplaceable insights from field work effectively inform the use of precious new tools like satellites, computers, camera-traps, drones and models, combining reliable basic information with new, detailed data collection.

1. GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS

A) SLN Steering Committee - (2024-2026)

The SLN Steering Committee continued its tenure through 2025. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all members for their continued engagement, guidance, leadership, and support.

Dr (Mr) Sandro Lovari (Italy) – Chairperson

Dr (Ms) Justine Alexander (Mongolia) – Member

Dr (Mr) Shoaib Hameed (Pakistan) - Member

Dr (Mr) Yanlin Liu (China) - Member

Dr (Ms) Dechen Lham (Bhutan/Switzerland) Member

Dr (Ms) Ranjini Murali (Germany/India) Member

Dr (Mr) Orjan Johansson (Sweden/Mongolia) Member

Ms Bayarjargal Agvaantseren (Mongolia) Executive Director

B) SLN Executive Team:

Bayarjargal Agvaantseren
Executive Director

Rakhee Karumbaya
Programs Coordinator

Flavia Franchini Silveira
Communications & Digital Media Coordinator

Dan Prain
Membership Coordinator

23 YEARS

2. MEMBERSHIP

As of the most recent update, SLN's membership stands at **over 700 members**, including individual members, affiliate members, organizational members, and partners across the snow leopard range and non-range countries.

56 Countries	713 Individual Members	37 Organisational Members	11 Partners

Members are encouraged to:

- **Update** their profiles on the SLN **website**.
- **Contribute** to our Knowledge exchange platforms.
- **Encourage** eligible individuals and organizations to join SLN as Individual and/or Organizational Members **here**.

We thank the Membership Working Group (led by Dan Prain) for verifying and strengthening our membership base.

3. SNOW LEOPARD REPORTS

Snow Leopard Reports continues to consolidate its role as a leading Diamond Open Access journal dedicated to snow leopard research and conservation. For the Snow Leopard Network, the journal represents the best of our community: rigorous science, openness to diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to conserving mountain ecosystems and their wildlife. By eliminating financial barriers for both authors and readers, it directly advances SLN's mission to facilitate the equitable exchange of information among global researchers and grassroots practitioners.

In 2025, the journal kept growing. Three issues have been published to date, featuring a growing body of high-quality research and 'Notes from the Conservation Frontline,' a category dedicated to the insights of field practitioners. It is especially encouraging to see both long-term snow leopard research and growing attention to lesser-studied species reflected in its pages.

- **Diamond Open Access:** No fees for authors or readers, ensuring equitable access to science.
- **Hosted by:** The Swedish National Library (Publicera)
- **ISSN:** 2004-5255
- Articles receive DOIs and are indexed in multiple academic databases
- Read online: **https://publicera.kb.se/slr**
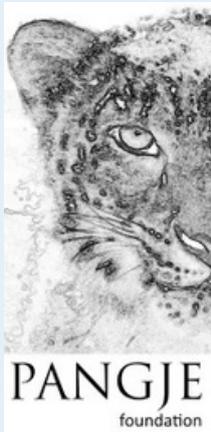
4. SLN'S GRANTS PROGRAM

SLN's **Small and Training Grant Programs** have now supported **80 projects** since 2003, strengthening capacity across snow leopard landscapes.

Projects supported in recent years—made possible through the partnership with the **Pangje Foundation**—continue to inform and inspire future funding and collaboration opportunities.

We gratefully acknowledge:
- The **Pangje Foundation** for its ongoing support.
- Our **dedicated reviewers** for their expertise and time.

In 2025, we received **22 proposals** from **9 snow leopard range countries** covering a range of training topics.

Two projects from Mongolia and Kazakhstan were supported in 2025:

- "Empowering Community-Based Organization for Snow Leopard Conservation."
  Led by Gandush Chantuu and team from Mongolia

- "Enhancing the conservation potential of a new protected area for snow leopard protection in Kazakhstan."
  Led by Bibigul Izbair Toilybayeva and his team from Kazakhstan

The SLN's Grants Program final reports are available on our <u>website</u>.

5. SLN'S COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

SLN continued to support and promote:

- Conservation surveys and research initiatives

- Funding opportunities

- Regional and international conservation observances

- Recognition of outstanding conservation achievements across snow leopard landscapes

SLN continued its collaboration, interaction and support with other initiatives such as the:
- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)
- Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Asia Region
- CAT News
- Persian Leopard Working Group (PeLeWG)
- Manul Working Group

In 2025, SLN developed new collaborations with the Manul Working Group, the Persian Leopard Working Group (PeLeWG), the SCB Asia Region, and CAT News to circulate and promote news, announcements, webinars, workshops and activities to reach a wider audience for the benefit of our Network, as well as within these groups.
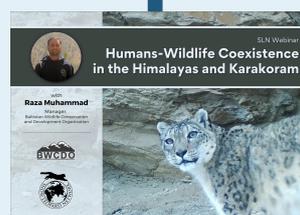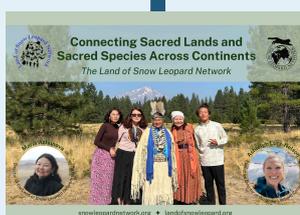
Building on this foundation, our next step is to co-develop joint webinars and training programs. These upcoming initiatives are designed to support and empower conservationists broadly, regardless of their geographic location or focal species.

6. WEBINARS

Our Webinar series remains one of our SLN's flagship activities. This year, we focused on a variety of topics (See **Appendix 1**), including:

- Historical perspectives and the evolution of snow leopard conservation over the past 48 years (special webinar presentation),
- Large-scale population assessments and community-based biodiversity monitoring,
- Locally-led conservation actions and strategies for human-wildlife coexistence,
- Genetic connectivity and population gene flow across snow leopard ranges,
- Utilizing modern conservation technology, such as EarthRanger, for habitat protection,
- Interspecies coexistence and the spatio-temporal behavior of predators and prey,
- Cultural connections, sacred lands, and the protection of sacred species,
- Methodologies and challenges of conducting long-term data research in remote field sites.

We are thankful to our speakers and facilitators for their wealth and depth of knowledge and experience. There is now a collection of over **50 past webinars** freely available on our **website** and **YouTube channel**.

2025 WEBINAR STATISTICS:

- 11 Webinars
- 24 guest speakers, facilitators, and discussants (54% women)
- 369 participants across all 2025 webinars

7. SNOW LEOPARD NETWORK MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

2025 Pilot Phase ....

In 2025, SLN launched its first Mentorship Programme, in a trial run, pairing early-career conservationists with experienced professionals from across the Network.

The key features of the programme were:
- One-year mentorship tenure
- Structured onboarding and milestone check-ins
- Flexible mentor-mentee engagement

The Mentorship Programme embodies SLN's commitment to empowering the next generation of conservation leaders. As a pilot phase, it provided a highly valuable learning experience for our team, mentors, and mentees, with essential insights into how we can best support early-career professionals. We are now using these learnings to build a more robust, structured foundation. By taking the time to develop this strategic plan, SLN will ensure future cohorts enjoy maximum benefits and optimal engagement.
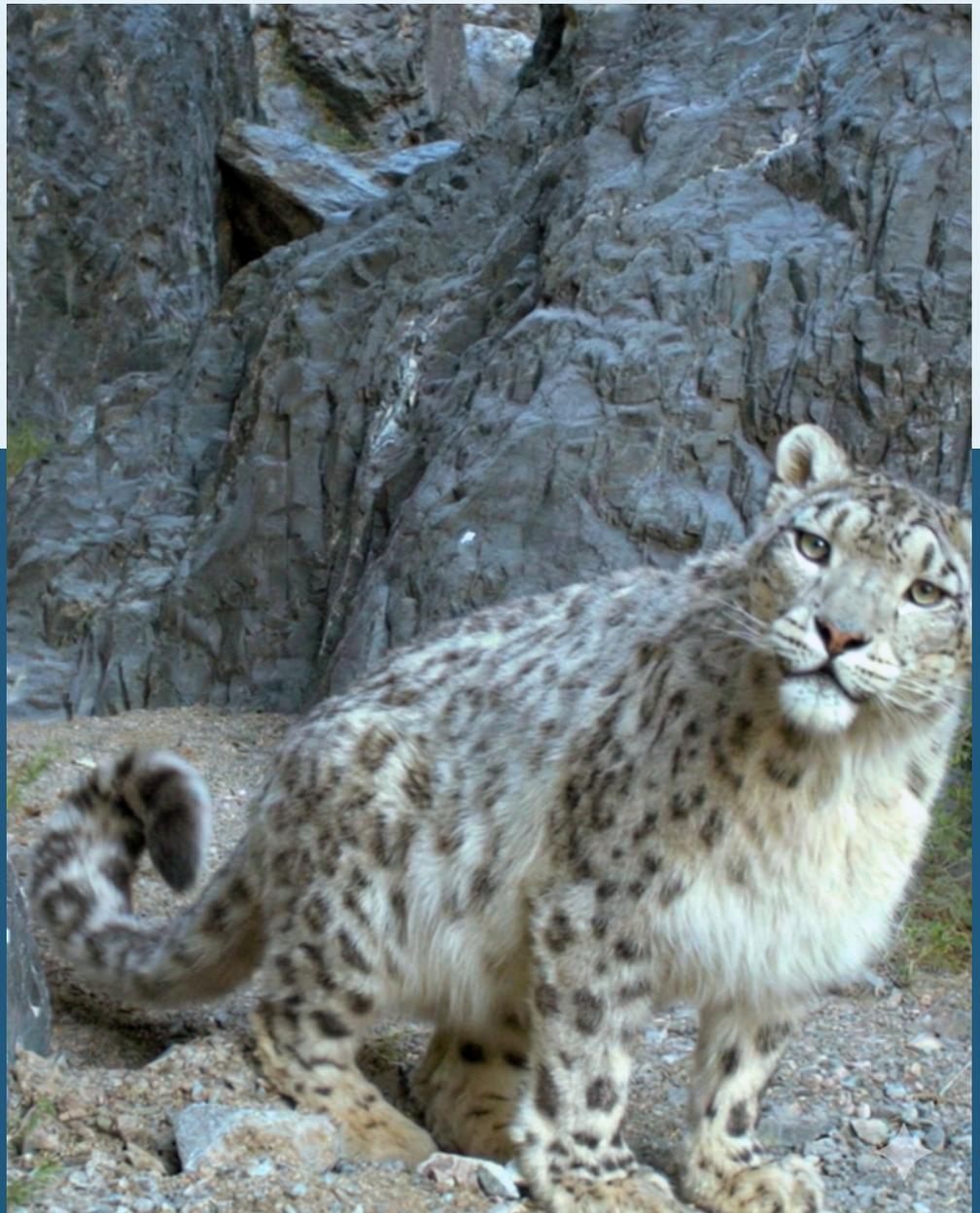
We would like to thank all our Mentors for their involvement, guidance and contributions to the programme.

8. SNOW LEOPARD NETWORK FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

In 2025, SLN undertook a strategic capacity-building initiative, receiving invaluable pro-bono advisory support from US-based **Aperio Philanthropies**. Over five dedicated sessions, our team focused on planning, designing, and implementing a comprehensive fundraising strategy. As a result of this collaboration, SLN has now developed a robust fundraising roadmap, including tailored donor engagement frameworks, optimized financial planning models, and compelling network pitches.

We are deeply grateful to **Aperio Philanthropies** for their time, resources, and expert guidance in strengthening SLN's long-term sustainability.

9. SNOW LEOPARD NETWORK COMMUNICATION

Our **website** remains central to all Snow Leopard Network (SLN) activities, serving as the primary hub for **webinars**, **training modules**, **blogs**, and the **SLN Bibliography**. We continue to strengthen its role as the leading platform for updates on snow leopard research and conservation. We extend our sincere thanks to *Jeff Brown*, Senior Technology Architect at the Snow Leopard Trust, for his continued technical support of the website platform.

In **2025**, SLN strategically expanded and consolidated its digital presence, maintaining strong engagement on established platforms while achieving notable growth across professional and emerging networks:

Artistic Interpretation

On **LinkedIn**, we reached 2,964 followers, nearly doubling last year's audience and significantly expanding our professional Conservation network. Our analytics show strong connections across key snow leopard landscapes, particularly in range-country hubs including Kathmandu, Delhi, Thimphu, and Ulaanbaatar. With over 8,300 impressions in a single 30-day period, LinkedIn has **become a core platform** for capacity building, professional exchange, and cross-border networking.

As digital dynamics evolved, we expanded to **Bluesky**, building a community of 445 followers (*@snowleopardnet.bsky.social*) currently, with active engagement across 153 posts, ensuring sustained engagement with conservationists transitioning to emerging platforms.

On **Instagram**, our visual storytelling continues to engage a growing public audience, reaching 1,907 followers (*@snowleopardnet*) across 242 posts and effectively showcasing conservation initiatives to diverse audiences across snow leopard landscapes.

Meanwhile, on **X** (formerly Twitter), we maintained our strong historical base of 2,830 followers (*@SnowLeopardNet*), sustaining consistent engagement and keeping our established community closely connected to key conservation and community developments.

*Numbers reflect metrics at the time of reporting and are subject to change.

SLN YOUTUBE CHANNEL HIGHLIGHTS

The Snow Leopard Network **YouTube Channel** has developed into a structured global knowledge platform, extending beyond a repository of recordings. By hosting advanced technical trainings (such as spatial capture–recapture and occupancy modeling) alongside practitioner-led webinars from range countries, the channel links methodological rigour with field-based experience. The platform preserves and extends the long-term value of SLN's collective expertise, contributing to capacity development, institutional continuity, and cross-border collaboration.

In **2025**, the channel grew to **810** subscribers and expanded to a library of **222 videos**. It generated over 7,500 views and 660 hours of watch time. Viewership data indicate strong engagement from snow leopard range states, particularly India and Nepal, demonstrating effective reach to conservation practitioners working in priority landscapes.

TOP VIDEOS IN 2025:

Audience engagement remained strong across both technical trainings and expert webinars. The sustained popularity of technical training modules confirms consistent demand for rigorous, solution-oriented content.

These insights reinforce the importance of continued investment in high-quality methodological resources to support members and strengthen global conservation practice.

2025 Favorite Videos:

- PAWS: Spatial Capture Recapture Data Analysis (Part 1)
- "How Snow Leopards Changed My Life and Why They Must Be Conserved" (SLN Webinar)
- Molecular Markers for Conservation Research (Module 5.1.2)
- Tech for Wildlife – The Role of AI and Technology in Nature Conservation (SLN Webinar)
- Introduction to Occupancy (Module 6.1.1)

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The **SLN Bibliography** currently contains **over 1600 articles and reports** (with 20 peer-reviewed articles added in 2025), maintaining its position as the largest freely accessible repository of snow leopard literature worldwide. Continued member contributions ensure the resource remains current, comprehensive, and valuable to the global conservation community.
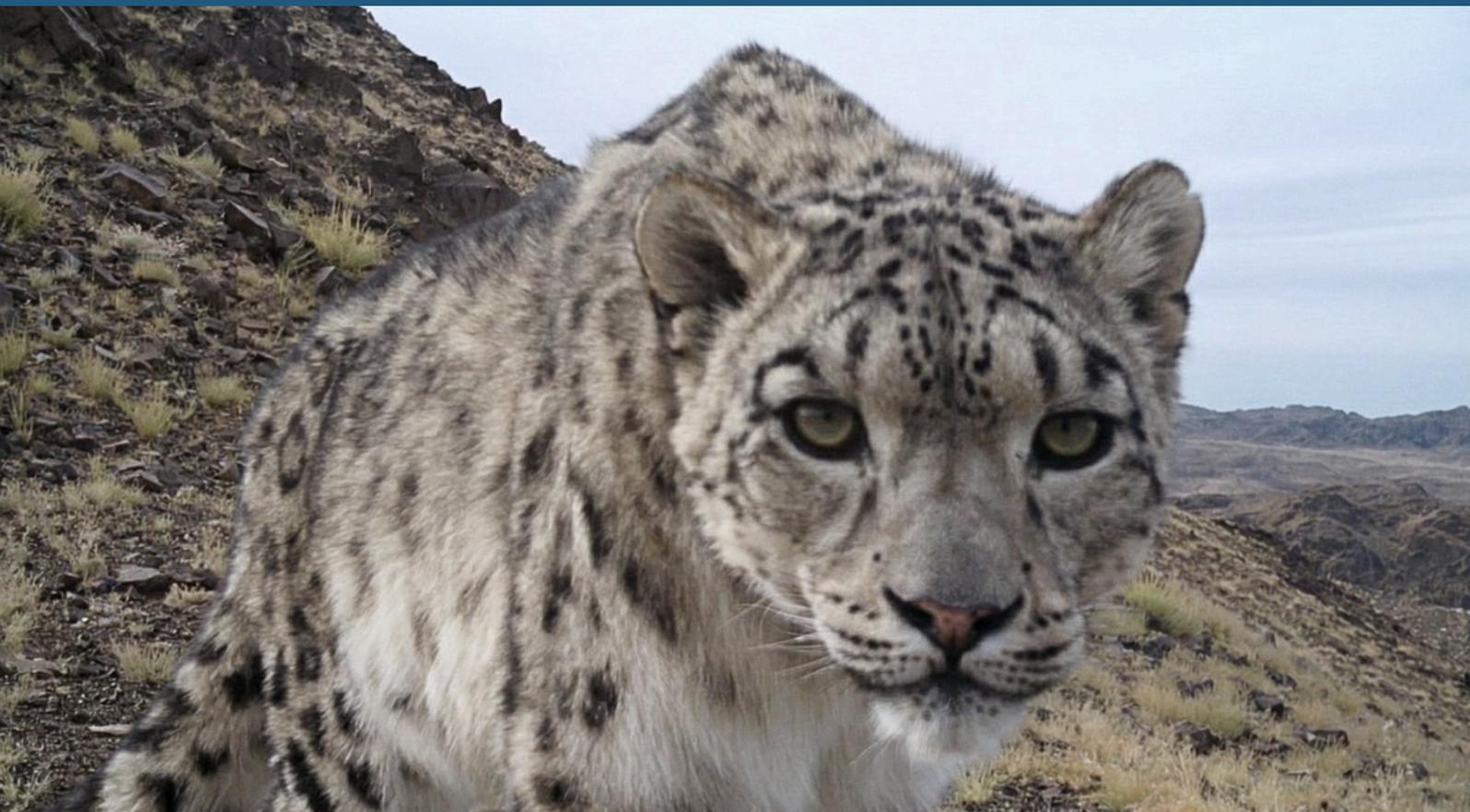
11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To our Individual and Organizational Members, Partners, Steering Committee and Chair, Executive Director, and Program Coordinator: THANK YOU. Your steadfast support is the foundation of our work. Beyond the milestones highlighted in this report, we are profoundly grateful for your year-round dedication. It is your constant positivity, active connectivity, and shared passion that remind us of what makes the Snow Leopard Network truly unique. Together, we are far more than a professional network:
We are a deeply connected global community.

Furthermore, we extend our sincere gratitude to the **Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (SLCF) Mongolia** and the **Snow Leopard Trust** for generously providing the camera trap photographs that powerfully and beautifully illustrate this report.

SLN 37 ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS & 11 PARTNERS (2025)

A **Special Thanks** to the 2025 Snow Leopard Network donors: Snow Leopard Trust and the Pangje Foundation.

CONTACT
snowleopardnetwork.org/contact-us
@SnowleopardNet

BECOME A MEMBER **HERE**.

This report was compiled by Rakhee Karumbaya, Program Coordinator and designed by Flavia Franchini Silveira, Communications Coordinator.

APPENDIX 1: WEBINAR PARTNERS

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

Table 1: 2025 Special Webinar Presentation

SPECIAL WEBINAR TITLE	PRESENTERS, FACILITATORS & AFFILIATIONS
10th July, 2025	
48 YEARS AMONG THE SNOW LEOPARDS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA: FROM THE FIRST TELEMETRY STUDY TO MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES AND FOSTERING MULTISECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS.	RODNEY JACKSON & RINZIN PHUNJOK LAMA • SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY • UKALI

Table 2: 2025 SLN Monthly Webinar Presentations

WEBINAR TITLE	PRESENTERS, FACILITATORS & AFFILIATIONS
SPATIO–TEMPORAL BEHAVIOR OF PREDATORS AND PREY IN AN ARID ENVIRONMENT OF CENTRAL ASIA	MARCELLO FRANCHINI AND CLAUDIO AUGUGLIARO • POST-DOC RESEARCHER - DEPARTMENT OF AGRIFOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF UDINE • UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE
CONNECTING SACRED LANDS AND SACRED SPECIES ACROSS CONTINENTS: THE LAND OF SNOW LEOPARD NETWORK'S UNIQUE WORK.	MARIA AZHUNOVA AND ASHLEIGH LUTZ-NELSON • LAND OF THE SNOW LEOPARD • SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY
EXPERIENCES WITH LONG-TERM DATA RESEARCH IN REMOTE FIELD SITES	MICHAELA FOLEY AND DR MILES ENGELL • DEPT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Table 2: *...Continuation.*

WEBINAR TITLE	PRESENTERS, FACILITATORS & AFFILIATIONS
HUMANS-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE IN THE HIMALAYAS AND KARAKORAM	RAZA MUHAMMAD AND KAYLEY BATEMAN • BALTISTAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION - BWDCO • SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY
FIRST LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENT OF SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION IN CHINA: CASE IN SANJIANGYUAN REGION	XUEYANG LI AND CHUNYUE WEI • PEKING UNIVERSITY • SHAN SHUI CONSERVATION CENTER
TWO LEOPARDS, ONE LANDSCAPE: PATTERNS OF COEXISTENCE IN THE TRANS-HIMALAYAN REGION, ANNAPURNA CONSERVATION AREA, NEPAL	PARAS BIKRAM SINGH AND PAWAN RAI • BIOCOS - NEPAL
LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION IN THE SOUTH GOBI: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR VULNERABLE REFUGE AREAS	BOLORTSETSEG SANJAA AND JUSTINE SHANTI ALEXANDER • WCS MONGOLIA
COMMUNITY-BASED BIODIVERSITY MONITORING SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT IN SANJIANGYUAN REGION	LIANG MIAOMIAO AND LI XIAOYU • SHAN SHUI CONSERVATION CENTER • PEKING UNIVERSITY
PROTECTING WILDLIFE, HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES WITH EARTHRANGER	TONY LYNAM WITH PUREVJAV LKHAGVAJAV AND CHOIDOGJAMTS BYAMBASUREN • EARTH RANGER • SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION - MONGOLIA • SNOW LEOPARD TRUST
EVALUATING SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION CONNECTIVITY: IS KAZAKHSTAN A BRIDGE FOR GENE FLOW BETWEEN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHWESTERN RANGE?	DR. MIROSLAV KORABLEV AND ALEXANDER KARNAUKHOV • SEVERTSOV INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES • INDEPENDENT CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST

Find SLN's Annual Reports Here:

snowleopardnetwork.org/annual-reports