



GSLEP

THE GLOBAL PROGRAM TO SAVE THE SNOW LEOPARD

The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship.

This iconic and culturally treasured great cat is a good indicator species as it quickly reacts to habitat disturbance and its successful conservation requires sustainable long-term systemic solutions to the threats impacting the quality of habitats.

The snow leopard occurs in the mountains of Asia, in twelve countries. They are the member states of GSLEP:

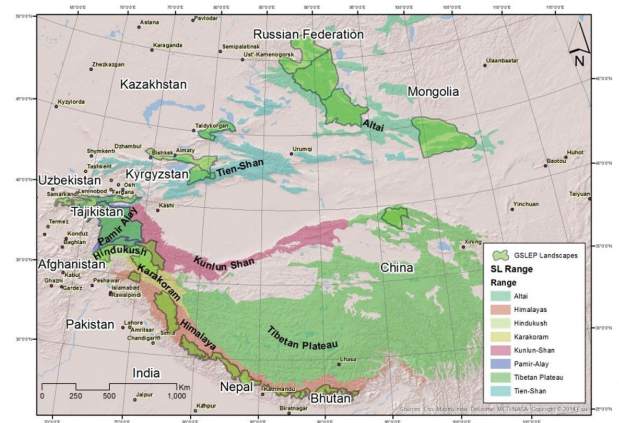
Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Our Mission: Secure 20 by 2020

In the 2013 Bishkek Declaration, the snow leopard range countries have unanimously agreed, with support from interested organizations, to work together to identify and secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across the cat's range by 2020 or, in shorthand – «Secure 20 by 2020.»

Secure snow leopard landscapes are defined as those that contain at least 100 breeding age snow leopards conserved with the involvement of local communities, support adequate and secure prey populations, and have functional connectivity to other snow leopard landscapes, some of which cross international boundaries.

Range countries have identified 23 such key landscapes to be secured. Together, they represent almost 500,000 sq km (25%) of the known snow leopard habitat. Multi-stakeholder Management plans for these landscapes are currently being developed..



«Secure 20 by 2020» will lay the foundation to reach the ultimate goal: ensuring that snow leopards remain the living icon of mountains of Asia for generations to come.

Timeline & Milestones

2013

At the initiative of President Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, snow leopard range countries meet in Bishkek in October 2013 and endorse the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard. The event marks the birth of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program.

2014

Following through on the promise to 'Secure 20 snow leopard landscapes by 2020', the 12 range countries identify a total of 23 landscapes to be safeguarded for this endangered cat.

2015

The steering committee of the GSLEP program constituted with Ministers or their nominees from snow leopard range countries as permanent members, and international organizations as observer members.

GSLEP secretariat and experts create and share guidelines for management planning process.

Central Asian countries develop a regional enforcement strategy to combat illegal wildlife trade in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2016

Country delegates and experts gather in Kathmandu, Nepal, for workshops on creating climate smart snow leopard landscape management plans.

Detailed advice documents on management planning process prepared.

2017

High-level delegations from all twelve snow leopard range countries meet in Kathmandu, Nepal, to discuss progress and address joint priorities.

International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation Forum in Bishkek: High-level delegations from range countries once again come together to take stock of progress made and challenges that lay ahead.

Program Structure & Partners

GSLEP is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems.

The program is overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of Honorable Ministers in charge of snow leopard conservation of range country governments, or their designates. Each range country has a vote on the **Steering Committee**. Senior representatives of major contributing funding partners are voted in by the steering committee every 2 years as observer members with a right of deliberative vote.

The Steering Committee guides GSLEP implementation, regularly reviews its progress, and maintains a strong political commitment to meet its objectives.

Implementation of the GSLEP program is coordinated by the GSLEP **Secretariat**, based in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Several **Strategic Partners** provide both financial and technical assistance to the GSLEP program. These include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

