

## Project Update: August 2011

Rare snow leopard images that one of our remote cameras recently took in a remote desolated Annapurna (elevation c. 4,000 m), an indication that wild population of snow leopards may be good out there. The place is called Mustang which, in the 1950s and 60s, served as the base for the fierce Tibetan freedom fighters (Khampa) who were trained and supported by the CIA to free Tibet. These desperate fighters, as locals say, also decimated blue sheep and juniper bush, actions that may have impacted snow leopard populations. But the eroded valleys of towering cliffs, which look like rib-like giant organ pipes and remind visitors of the Grand Canyon, surprisingly host a good snow leopard population.

If everything goes OK, this October we plan to place several cameras all over Mustang and Manang and initiate a community-based snow leopard research and monitoring.

