

Project Update: December 2018

ACTIVITY 1 PREPARATION

In order to start the project activities, the permission letter from the Annapurna Conservation Area Project headquarters, Pokhara was taken after the series of process on 15 August 2018.

ACTIVITY 2 INTERNATIONAL SNOW LEOPARD DAY CELEBRATION

The programme was organised by Global Primate Network (GPN) Nepal with the support of local NGO Modification Jomsom (MJ) and technical help of Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), Unit Conservation Office Jomsom. It was celebrated on 23rd October 2018. The remaining activities of the programme were conducted on 29th and 30th October, 2018 due to the closing of schools in our great festival.



The programme was organised at Shree Janahit Secondary School which is situated at Garabzong rural municipality ward no. 4, Jomsom, Mustang. The core objective of the programme was to celebrate the International Snow Leopard Day and to motivate people for conservation and knowledge sharing with students about rare and endangered species the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). The programme was set up for 3 days. Firstly, we organised programme on International Snow Leopard Day (23rd October) and some efforts to organise the drawing competition about snow leopard. We succeed to manage nine students from three schools (Shree Janahit Secondary School, Shree Dhaulagiri Boarding School and Shree Jana Kalyan Basic School) for the drawing competition and the third day conservation rally with students

was organised and with some chief person, a formal programme at Shree Janahit Secondary School was conducted.



Objectives of the programme was to make local people, students and stakeholders known about the importance of snow leopard and their habitat and encourage them for snow leopard conservation

Duration / Date of the Program

1. 23rd October- International Snow Leopard Day.
2. 29th October - drawing competition.
3. 30th October - conservation rally and prize distribution.

The outreach materials caps, snow leopard printed t-shirts, warm jackets and snow leopard posters were prepared in mid-September 2018. A banner for International Snow Leopard Day was prepared. These materials were made with discussion and the after permission of ACAP Information Officer. Field assistant and Modification Jomsom staff Mr. Niraj Thakali was suggested to select the school for the rally programme on International Snow Leopard Day, some of the people of concerned authorities to participate in the Interaction programme on International Snow Leopard Day. I travelled from my hometown Bhaktapur to the remote mountain lower Mustang, Jomsom to meet the objectives of project and for conducting the awareness programme related with the snow leopard as set out in the Rufford application. All the concerned authorities, District officers, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, ACAP officers, Reporters/Journalists, DSP, Tourist police, ACAP, Herder community, schools, NGOs

were given invitations to participate in the Interaction program that will be held on 23rd October 2018 on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day.



On 23rd October 2018, International Snow Leopard Day was celebrated at Jilla Samanoya Samiti hall. All the participants were welcomed by Mr. Badal Thakali, local citizen from Thini village. The programme was facilitated by Modification Jomsom. The programme started on 10.30 am and an inauguration was done by the chief guest Mr. Ganga Bahadur Chhetri who is a Chief District Officer of Mustang district. He was the chief guest of the programme. The programme was further hosted by Mr. Badal Thakali. There were 41 participants including me.

The first speaker was myself, Jamuna Prajapati. I had a presentation on the distribution of snow leopard in the world, potential habitat in Nepal, development of ecotourism by conserving snow leopard and some activities conducted to educate people about the snow leopard. I also shared them about the importance, threats and the National Park and Wildlife Act 1973 of Nepal. Some of the activities like fox light distribution, radio programme, radio distribution, scouts programme that had been conducted last year was shown in presentation.

The second speaker was Mr. Man Prasad B.K., a student from Shree Janahit Secondary School. He talked about Jomsom and the importance of snow leopard in the village. He also added that in the future, there will be the increment in the population of snow leopard if such awareness programme is conducted on time.

The third speaker was Mr. Ramesh B.K., a citizen scientist from Thini village. He is also a camera trap expert and installed camera traps in the potential habitat (Namu) of snow leopard. He talked about some potential habitat of snow leopard and its advantages to Jomsom and Nepal. He added that creature must be saved as it is the part of our country that shows the civilization of humans living in that place as well as saving the creature makes our country unique than others.



The fourth speaker was Mrs. Sharmila Gurung, member of Shree Janhit Yuwa Club. She gave information about the awareness programmes that were held in the past in order to save snow leopard. She also added that insurance on livestock should be made compulsory so that people won't harm snow leopard. She also aware that the livestock may be killed by common leopard not by snow leopard due to the low altitude of the village. The fifth speaker was Mr. Aash Bahadur Thakali (high profile guest from Gharabdzong Village). He informed about the developmental sequence till now in the lower mustang and the role of snow leopard in development of village.

The last speaker was Mr. Ganga Bahadur Chhetri, Chief District Officer and Chief guest in the programme. He spoke about the economic development of the people due to ecotourism and snow leopard. He added that more awareness programme and research should be conducted in near potential habitat of snow leopard. And the research should be done in such a way that local people also learn and get benefited from it. After that our team showed some camera trap videos and other videos captured by Mr. Tashi Rapte Ghale, a citizen scientist from Manang. The videos include potential habitat, food of snow leopard (Himalayan thar, blue sheep), mating calls and cubs of snow leopard. The videos also include other sympatric animals like Pallas's cat, wolf, red fox, beech marten, pika, blue sheep, yak, and sheep. They found the programme was really helpful and informative.

The completion of the program was announced by Mr. Niraj Thakali. And at the end for the entertainment of the participant a short movie named "Badhyata" was shown which was produced and directed by Deu Bahadur. The participants were then served tea and lunch. The total number of nine students were actively participated in

drawing competition which was organized on 29th October. Three students from each school and 1 female students was compulsory for the participation. The Details of the participants are listed below:

S.N.	Name of the Participants	Name and address of the School	Gender	Grade	Address
1.	Kunsang gurung	Shree Janahit Secondary School	M	7	Jomsom
2.	Rajesh Gharti Magar	Shree Janahit Secondary School	M	6	Jomsom
3.	Tenima Sherpa	Shree Janahit Secondary School	F	6	Jomsom
4.	Sonam Khetuk Gurung	Shree Daulagiri S. Boarding School	M	8	Jomsom
5.	Chiring Gurung	Shree Daulagiri S. Boarding School	F	7	Jomsom
6.	Rohit Thakali	Shree Daulagiri S. Boarding School	M	6	Jomsom
7.	Aashika Thakali	Shree Jana Kalyan Basic School	F	7	Syang
8.	Anish Chaudhary	Shree Jana Kalyan Basic School	M	8	Syang
9.	Santosh Rai	Shree Jana Kalyan Basic School	M	6	Syang



Participants for the rally and the formal program include all students from grade 6, 7 and 8 from Shree Janahit secondary school and Shree Dhawalgiri Boarding School of Jomsom.

On 29th October we planned to organise the drawing competition about snow leopard at Shree Janahit Secondary School. The competition started at 2 pm. The time limit was 1.5 hours which was announced by the assistant head teacher of the Jahanit School. Before starting the competition some rules, objectives and information was delivered by Modification Jomsom member. The competition was in disciplined manner and completed within the time limit. After the drawings were submitted from the participants, tea and snacks was served.

On 30th October 2018, Chairperson of Gharabdzong Rural Municipality Mr. Aash Bahadur Thakali as a chief guest, ACAP Conservation Officer Mr. Tulasi Prasad Dahal as the respective guest, and Principal of Shree Janahit Secondary School, Mr. Ram Chandra Adhikari as a guest were invited in the programme. The programme started at 8:30 am with the conservation rally showing banner and play cards where written some slogans for conservation of snow leopard. The rally started from Jomsom airport and all over the Jomsom valley and ended the rally at Shree Janahit Secondary School. The total participants were more than 150 students. After we reached in the school, formal programme started. A short, sweet and knowledgeable programme was organised. So that without wasting time, the result of the drawing competition was announced and prizes were distributed to winners by the chief guest and respective guest of the programme.

The competition was tough. Nine of them were excellent. They summarised almost everything that the level of them could do. We arranged some cash and stationary as a prize for winners and we managed to give prizes to four of them to encourage towards conservation of snow leopard and inspired to do something better in their life. The evaluation or judgment of the drawing was done by ACAP Conservation Officer Mr. Tulasi Prasad Dahal. The details of result are given below:

Position	Name	Name and address of the School	Grade	Remarks
First	Sonam Khemtuk Gurung	Shree Dhaulagiri S. Boarding School.	8	2000
Second	Rohit Thakali	Shree Dhaulagiri S. Boarding School.	6	1500
Third	Tenima Sherpa	Shree Janahit Secondary School.	6	1000
Fourth	Santosh Rai	Shree Jana Kalyan Basic School.	6	500

The chief guest told that the snow leopard should be connected with the tourism programme so that the people of Mustang will be aware about importance of the snow leopard and their condition and distribution. Students got chance to know a lot of things that they haven't got from school's books and classes. The conservation banner and posters was also distributed through Modification Jomsom. After that the tea and snack were served to the participants. Program was ended by the permission of chairman and the organizer of the program.

ACTIVITY 3 SNOW LEOPARD SCOUTS PROGRAMME

12th November

Materials like magazines, copies, pen, colours, jackets, banner, t-shirts, spotting scope, binocular, GPS, banner were arranged and packed in a bag.

13th November

Travelled to Jomsom and at noon reached to Jomsom. A meeting was held with the teachers of the related schools and with Modification Jomsom.

14th November

Some of the schools like Janahit Secondary School and Dhawlagiri higher secondary school (Jomsom), Janakalyan basic Secondary school (Syang), Jana Shanti Secondary School (Kagbeni), Lupra basic school (Lupra) were visited for giving the official letter that include scouts programme for students. ACAP office and District Administration Office were also informed.

15th November

A gathering was done in the Janahit Secondary School. Five schools (a conservation teacher and two students from a school), ACAP representative, GPN/SLC staff Mr. Pema Tshering Lhowa, Chief of Modification Jomsom Mr. Niraj Thakali, and a local people from Lupra were invited. All the materials were checked and arranged. Materials like magazines, copies, pen, colours, jackets, t-shirts, posters were distributed.

The name of the participants are listed below:

SN.	Name of participants	Post	Name of the institution
1	Niraj Thakali	Chair person	Modification Jomsom
2	Pema Tshering Lhowa	Staff	Global Primate Network/Snow Leopard Conservancy
3	Ramesh B.k	Forest Observer, ACAP	ACAP
4	Ghirme Gurung	Previous staff	Snow Leopard Conservancy
5	Besh Raj Bastola	Conservation Education teacher	Janahit Secondary School, Jomsom
6	Aaeti Lal thakali	Conservation Education teacher	Janakalyan Basic School, Syang
7	Ram Prasad Pathak	Conservation Education teacher	Dhawlagiri Boarding Secondary School, Jomsom
8	Dipak Shrestha	Conservation Education teacher	Janashanti Secondary School, Kagbeni
9	Amar Nepali	Conservation Education teacher	Lupra Basic School, Lupra
10	Dilsara Nepali	Student	Janahit Secondary School, Jomsom
11	Biraj Rana Chhetri	Student	Janahit Secondary School, Jomsom
12	Anup B.k	Student	Janakalyan Basic School, Syang
13	Manmaya Ghale	Student	Janakalyan Basic School, Syang
14	Akash Baral	Student	Dhawlagiri Boarding Secondary School, Jomsom
15	Sonam Khetuk Gurung	Student	Dhawlagiri Boarding Secondary School, Jomsom
16	Bikal B.k	Student	Janashanti Secondary School, Kagbeni
17	Lhemjung Gurung	Student	Janashanti Secondary School, Kagbeni
18	Tashi Dhorje Gurung	Student	Lupra Basic School, Lupra

19	Rajina Magar	Student	Lupra Basic School, Lupra
20	Yurlung Tsewang	Tourism Assistant Officer	Jomsom checkpoint
21	Dhanu Gurung	Ranger	ACAP

All the participants including me, were visited to Lupra village. An introduction programme was conducted after lunch. Then at the noon, general information on the fox light was given to participants by Mr. Pema Tshering Lhowa near the safe coral. He told about the importance, installation process and where the fox light is made. Students were amazed by seeing the device. As it helps to mitigate the human wildlife conflict, students were curious to know much more things about it. We also told about the distribution of fox light in upper Mustang and Manang and how does it helped the herders. After few hours, we all returned back from the safe corral. Altogether four home stay were booked for the scouts programme because there were not enough rooms in single home stay. The name of the home stay are listed below:

1. Nhima Bhuti Gurung Homestay
2. Sonam Gurung Homestay
3. Dhakar Homestay
4. Musk Deer Homestay



16th November

In the early morning, introductory programme was conducted about the snow leopard, its habitat, distribution and about its importance. After the early breakfast, students were taken to the Lupche, Kalovhir. On the way to our destination, pug marks, scrapes, its scats, blood of predator, as well as blue sheep were also seen in the cliff of mountain. Students were allowed to take the GPS point themselves. After 4 hours we reached to our destination, Kalovhir which is at the elevation of 3510m.

There students were made to fit the spotting scope and mark the GPS point. Blue sheep were clearly seen through the spotting scope and binoculars. Students were given introduction about that area and told to be the suitable habitat of snow leopard. So in order to know the knowledge of students and to watch their creativity, students were allowed to do the stone painting. The topic was the habitat of snow leopard. There was an award for the best stone art. The face painting was also done in the habitat including myself. I made many face painting on the face of student.



They were very happy to draw snow leopard on their face. Then they were provided lunch at about 1 pm. After lunch, Mr. Pema Tshering Lhowa gave the introduction on the camera trap, its uses and its importance. Students also learn about the use of camera trap. They were shown how to fit the camera trap, its setting and how does it work at day time and night time. The camera trap was left over for 5 hours and students were made busy to observe the habitat and to find the marks of snow leopard. At the end of the day, Students were allowed to return back in the homestay. So, in order to make the students known about the process of using the camera trap images, they were taken to Lupra Basic School. The camera trap images were shown in the laptop in Lupra Basic School. They were returned to homestay for dinner. Then the students were allowed to set up the camera trap themselves with help of Mr. Ramesh Bk near to the Lupra Basic School.

17th November

In the early morning, after the breakfast the students were again taken to the place where camera trap was kept. They were made to revise on the previous activities done in the scouts programme. Each and every student were allowed to speak about snow leopard, its habitat, signs, camera trap, fox light and their uses and process of installation, and about the GPS. They were requested to write the poem on conservation of snow leopard in the field. They were very excited and they all wrote the poem very beautifully. They were allowed to deliver their poem. After a few hours, students with the good stone art and the best poem was awarded with a t-shirt, copy, pen and cash prize Rs. 500. The winner in the stone painting was Mr. Bikal B.K from Janshanti Secondary school, Kagbeni. The winners in the poem competition were Akash Baral from Dhawalagiri Boarding Secondary School, Jomsom and Lhemjung Gurung from Janashanti Secondary School, Kagbeni. Then a simple evaluation form was filled up by students. All returned back to homestay for lunch.

For the closing programme, we moved to Jomsom. The closing ceremony was organised in Janahit secondary School. The programme was hosted by Mr. Beshraj Bastola. Welcome speech was given by myself on behalf of the representative of Global Primate Network and also mentioned about the importance of scout's programmes and what students



learned in the field. "The field is the classroom" was proved by the scout programme. This programme was organised by Global Primate Network and Modification Jomsom (chief person Mr. Niraj Thakali) with financial help of Rufford Foundation and Snow Leopard Conservancy. In this programme, the chief guest was Kesh Bahadur Budhathoki (Chief of Education Development Coordination Unit), ACAP representative Ram Gurung and vice principals and principals of the schools, other students and all participants of the scout programme. Guests were made to speak about scouts programme. Some of the students were also interested to speak about what they learnt in these 3 days and they did it well. Their opinions were positive about this programme and shared their views that such programme should be conducted every year.



The Queen of the Mountain, the snow leopard is the nearest and dearest to the people of Mustang and they should be connected with it. The celebration of International Snow Leopard Day was successfully done. This kind of programme is very important for students and other local people in order to motivate, encourage, to give information to the local people. The involvement of the students is best because they are the future conservationists and researchers of the community and the country. They are fast learner and they can understand and can response immediately. It was a challenge to make success this program but finally succeed. The programme was fruitful. More than 300 people directly benefited from the programme. So, these kinds of programme should be done within local school kids, youth clubs, women groups and the local herders as well, for the better improvements of habitat for the snow leopards.

Thank you Rufford Foundation and the Snow Leopard Conservancy for the financial support for this project! And Global Primate Network Nepal and my supervisor Ganga Ram Regmi for all technical support, field equipment (camera traps, binoculars, GPS, compass, spotting scope) and mentorship for this project.