



SHAN



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

Wishing Readers, Partners, and Friends of Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust a Very Happy New Year. We hope you have year filled with peace and happiness.



Jzunu Nature Club's first members at its first meet

The last quarter of 2010, saw the launch of SLC-IT's Jzunu Nature Club (JNC). JNC is aimed at giving a platform to youngsters and students to share and learn about nature by means of environmental 'edutainment'.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to thank the Department of Wildlife Protection (J&K), Animal Husbandry Department (J&K), Tourism Department (J&K) and Education Department (J&K). Our program partners Snow Leopard Conservancy (USA), Kalpavriksh, Rufford Small Grants, Panthera, Wildlife Conservation Network, WWF, Mountain Initiatives, Friends of Lingshed and Druk Padma Karpo.

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MISSION

Since its inception in 2000, the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT) has been dedicated to promoting community based stewardship of the endangered snow leopard, its prey and habitat to the benefit of local people and the environment in the trans-Himalayan regions of Ladakh and Zaskar.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY BASED LIVESTOCK INSURANCE PROGRAM (CLIP)

The first meeting for the Community Based Livestock Insurance Program (CLIP) was held on 12th October, 2010 in the village of Ulley by Radhika Kothari and Jigmet Dadul from SLC-IT. The objectives of the meeting were to familiarize the members with the concept and regulations for the Community based Livestock Insurance Program (CLIP). Also to consult the community on refining the schemes and formats of the program. The program will be funded by Snow Leopard Conservancy USA and implemented in 2011. The program will be extended to the villages of Hemis Shukpachen and Yanthang.



SLC-IT is presently working with different stakeholders in developing a comprehensive strategy for the development and continuation of CLIP. Starting March, 2011 SLC-IT undertakes the implementation of the program.

YEAR END HOMESTAY EVALUATION MEETING 2010



SLC-IT team of Tashi Tundup, Tsering Angmo and Rigzin Chorol conducted the year end homestay evaluation meeting in Sham Valley covering the villages of Tarutsey, Yangthang, Ulley, Hemishukpachen and Ang from 15th to 17th December.

The objective was to collect feedback forms from the home stay owners, and review the services and standards at all the homestays. The 2010 Homestay feedback report will be prepared and published on the SLC-IT website. The

conservation fund was also reviewed at all the villages, the community in the following would be deciding where the money would be used.

The following points were observed from Sham Area

- 1) Flash floods shorten their tourist season, this had impact on their earnings for the year
- 2) Signage is an important area SLC-IT will be looking at, since many tourists are misguided
- 3) Duplication is a cause of concern. SLC-IT homestays objective of conservation needs to be highlighted at the homestays
- 4) In villages of Ulley, Hemis Shukpachen and Yanthang the homestay program would complement the Community Livestock Insurance Program
- 5) SLC-IT will undertake registration of homestays to avoid duplication and all homestays developed by SLC-IT would fulfil conservation objectives



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

USING NATURAL DYES FOR HANDICRAFTS

A two day training on Development and Finishing for Local Handicrafts at Tangyar village was conducted on 13th and 14th of November 2010 under the Rufford Small Grant Project. The objective of this training program was to give the women's group practical knowledge on the different natural dye processes and using natural and local raw materials.

The program was attended by more than 30 women over 2 days. Jigmet Dadul, receiver of the Rufford Small Grants along with Rigzin Chorol from SLC-IT and Mrs. Phuntsok Angmo were the resource persons. Mrs. Angmo gave detailed insights to the participants on the importance of natural dyeing and its potential in the market and in tourism. She also gave them a check list of requirements for dyeing process which would eventually help during the making of the handicrafts. Local materials like, arnebia (Demok), Rubab's root (Lachu patak), walnut shell (stargay chanchil), Carax (Churtsa) pul, (local soda,) ash (Kokthal), Artemisia (Burnak) were used to bring out different colours of the woollen spools.



The group was extremely keen on learning the basic dyeing techniques and eagerly participated during the program. The training was designed around preserving the traditional skills and knowledge of making handicrafts and multiple colour designs on cloth.



RI GYANCHA & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CELEBRATING THE WILDLIFE WEEK WITH WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Snow Leopard Conservancy – India Trust (SLC-IT) joined hands to conduct an Environmental Education Awareness program at five schools in Changthang area from 12th to 19th October, 2010 as a part of WWF's Wildlife Week. The program was conducted at the High School Chumathang, Middle School Mudh, Residential School Nyuma, SOS TCV Hanly and Residential School Sathokargyam.



“what you bring today in our school is a wonderful workshop; this kind of program can help students to gain knowledge about Ladakh’s environment I am very thankful to you people.”

**Yanchen Dolma,
Satho Kargam**

Tsering Angmo, joined the WWF team Punchok Tashi, Nisa Kathun, and Dava Tsering. The main objective was to disseminate knowledge about wild animals of Ladakh. The program was designed around the local environmental and wildlife issues. Games and lesson plans from Ri-Gyancha (a local biodiversity resource kit, developed by SLC-IT and Kalpavriksh) were incorporated for the program. The response from the teachers and students alike was extremely optimistic.



DRUK PADMA KARPO ADDS RI-GYANCHA TO ITS CIRRICULUM

SLC-IT is collaborating with Druk Padma Karpo (Shey) to implement a comprehensive environmental education program based on Ri-Gyancha for the academic year of 2010-11. On 26th of November SLC-IT team conducted its first orientation program at the school to familiarize the teaching faculty and support staff who would be involved in implementing the program at the school level.



Later, on 3rd and 4th of December SLC-IT along with the school seven teaching faculty members conducted the first workshop commencing the program for students of classes 4th to 8th. The total strength of the participation from the school was 275, including 137 girls and 138 boys. The students were extremely receptive of the program and showed immense enthusiastic. The curious minds were engrossed during the lectures and actively participating in the game sessions.



SLC-IT wishes to thank the Principal, Mr. Prasad Eledath and the entire team at Druk Padma Karpo, Shey for their acknowledgment of the program. SLC-IT ensures support throughout the implementation of the program.



‘if you have not started this program than I could not understand how much important it is to save wildlife and to balance the environments and it is very for my whole life.’

**Disket Dolker,
Class 6**

ENGAGING YOUNG MINDS WITH JZUNU NATURE CLUB

Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT) launched its Jzunu Nature Club. (Jzunu meaning Youth in Ladakhi). Aimed at spreading awareness about local environmental and



wildlife issues among the people of tomorrow, this club would complement the EE program of SLC-IT. This club is designed to give opportunities to schools, teachers and students to continue interacting with nature. JNC will give a platform to youngsters and students to share and learn about nature by means of environmental edutainment.



The first activity conducted in club was 'Jzunu Explorations – Day Nature Field Trip' along with its every first activity on 21st November, 2010. The objective of this training program was to enable basic wildlife and bird watching techniques in the field to the participants and also to create awareness about the biodiversity and important environmental issues of Ladakh. The participants came from 8 different schools from Leh and Shey. Two participants from each school were chosen by the school authorities depending on their receptiveness and aptitude for environmental sciences as well as their interests.



Around 16 participants were nurtured and given basic training on identifying birds, plants and mammals of Ladakh. The students have seen these different species in their surroundings, but being able to identify them along with their names and important characteristics makes this Day Field Trip valuable. All in all, it was a successful day, where the young minds were engaged in interacting with nature and knowing the diversity of their backyard.

Jzunu Nature Club will be starting its activities with its young members at the start of the academic year in March 2011.



TESTING SOLAR FENCES



The Solar fences sponsored by Panthera were tested on 23rd October, 2010. The objective was to find its usability and durability in the field. The fence was tested in Leh. We aim to collaborate with the concerns governmental agencies for using them in the Hemis National Park.


Some of the observations are as follows:

1. The fence would be best used as enclosures
2. Particularly in fields where more crop damages by wild ungulates are reported.
3. The solar fences approx 100 meters. would be implemented in Rumbak in Hemis National Park.



SLC-IT UPDATES

1) Radhika Kothari, participated in the Conservation Biology and Wildlife Management Training Program held in Amravati from 1st December to 22nd December. The program was organised by Satpuda Foundation and Dr. Rudy Rudran. The program curriculum included use of different scientific techniques and tools for efficiency in conservation strategies.

Read experiences of SLC-IT's volunteers and interns of recent years. Their stories in their words. Visit us on - <http://snowleopardindia.blogspot.com/>  **Blogger**

Follow the 'Ghost of the Mountain,' SLC-IT's Facebook Page for regular updates on our work 

CONTACT

Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust

Shangara House Tukcha Main Road Leh 194 101, Ladakh Jammu & Kashmir, India.
Tele/fax: 0091 1982 257953; email: info@snowleopardhimalayas.org

www.snowleopardhimalayas.org; www.himalayan-homestays.com

For contributions to Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust efforts, contact Mr. David Sonam (Managing Trustee), snowviewleh@hotmail.com OR Ms. Radhika Kothari (Deputy Director), radhikarvk@gmail.com

