SNOW LEOPARD FOUNDATION

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1. PROGRESS TOWARDS PROGRAM GOALS

Goal 1. STRENGTHEN SLF AS A LEADING SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION IN PAKISTAN

The need for a dedicated organization to promote and takeover the snow leopard conservation agenda in the country was long felt and the launch of SLF in 2008 was a breakthrough in this regard. SLT partnered with SLF who developed a good rapport in the conservation arena and maintained relationships with existing and new partners to support the snow leopard program. Four office setups including three regional offices and head office coupled with challenging and remote areas of operation are imposing issues related to operation and management. Tackling the emergence of threats to snow leopards, their fragile ecosystems in the changing climate scenario, and communities require a focused approach, enabling environment, dedicated team and increased coordination with the stakeholders.

Objective 1.1. Develop policy and procedures for the management of staff provident fund (PF) and update other operational policies to make them compatible with national laws and procedures.

Activity 1.1.1: Develop policy, governance, and fund management system, and operationalize bank account for PF

Drafted the Provident Fund Rules and the Provident Fund Trust Deed, and is currently in the process of registering the Provident Fund Trust in compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Activity 1.1.2: Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) evaluation for obtaining the exemption u/s 2(36) of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001

The Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) evaluation process will be initiated after the completion of the financial year 2025 audit, as the audit report is an essential component of the evaluation.

The audit is expected to be completed before August 20, 2025, after which the PCP evaluation process will formally commence. Upon successful completion of the PCP evaluation and issuance of the PCP certification/report, we will proceed to apply for exemption under Section 2(36) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

It is important to note that these steps are interlinked and must follow the defined sequence to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory requirements.

Activity 1.1.3: Revise HR and financial manuals by incorporating additional and updated policies developed

The HR and Financial Manuals have not yet been revised to align with the newly developed and updated policies.

Activity 1.1.4: Develop sustainability plan for SLF.

To ensure sustainability of SLF, concept for the development of a Nature Interpretation Center in Islamabad was floated. Efforts will be made to generate resources to materialize this concept in 2025.

Objective 1.2. Ensure compliance with federal and provincial laws and policies, including those established by the SECP, EAD, FBR, PCP, principal Home Departments, and District Administrations, as applicable to NGOs in Pakistan.

Activity 1.2.1 Follow up with SECP, FBR, PCP, provincial and district governments for certification and NoCs

Submitted the documents for the approval of new directors at SECP.
Submitted the quarterly statement of collection and deduction u/s 165 of the income tax ordinance 2001 to FBR
Submitted the annual filing to FBR, including the Income Tax Return, Withholding Statement, and weekly tax payments.
Obtained exemption under Section 159 on profit on debt from FBR.

Activity 1.2.2 Ensure compliance with the SECP, PCP, EAD, and provincial NoCs requirements

Filled SECP Annual Returns within the due date, including Form A, Form 9, Annual Accounts 2024, and Form 19 (Declaration of Compliance with the Provisions of Section 123A of the Companies Act, 2017)

Activity 1.2.3 Pursue permissions required for the initiation of research studies with the concerned stakeholders at the provincial and district levels

Two permissions for research work sought
1) for collection of DNA samples at Yaseen Valley and Hunza-Nagar, GB
2) permission to conduct first ever eDNA samples collection at Khunjerab National Park, GB.

Objective 1.3. Strengthen coordination with partners and key stakeholders in Pakistan.

Activity 1.3.1 Review existing partnerships and collaborative agreements developed at national and regional levels to identify gaps and improve communication and coordination.

Collaboration with communities in the program area is a key component of the Gilgit-Baltistan office. During the reporting period, 32 meetings were held with communities in Qurumbar, Khuda Abad, Misgar, Haramosh, Phandar, Hanzal, Passu, Chipurson, Sikandar Abad, Khyber, Thoi, KVO, Rattu, Bagrote, Hopper, Hisper, Rakaposhi, and Ghulkin. The meetings covered program topics such as predator-proof corrals, livestock insurance, vaccination, and nature clubs.

Activity 1.3.2 Identify new partners and potential collaborators at national and regional levels and develop partnerships (MoUs).

Identified following new partners and potential collaborators in GB to develop new partnerships:

1. NEWTEC, a government entity that supports vocational training, was approached to seek support in establishing vocational training centers at program sites in GB.
2. Wander Adventures, a tourism company, approached SLF to request assistance in promoting eco-tourism in GB.
3. At the community level, the residents of Hussaini valley, GB approached SLF for support with program interventions such as vaccination and predator-proof corrals.



Figure 1.1 Meeting of Hussaini valley representatives with SRPM, GB-SLF

Objective 1.4. Identify and leverage resources to expand SLF's program portfolio in Pakistan

Activity 1.4.1 Explore new funding sources and develop and submit at least five funding proposals for international donors.

SABIN has approved a project of SLF for the construction of 3 predator-proof corrals in KP. Explored funding sources and developed following 3 funding proposals for following international donors:

1. “Community-based conservation of Kashmir musk deer in the Western Himalayan Region of Pakistan” for Foundation Segré Conservation Action Fund
2. "Nature Interpretation Centre Focusing on Snow Leopard Ecosystem in Pakistan" for SLT

3. “Adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change through nature-based solutions” for Milkywire

Activity 1.4.2 Collaborate with the federal and provincial governments to explore funding out of the Public Sector Development Programs (PSDPs) and bilateral/multilateral funding sources, develop PC-1s/concept notes for the collaborative projects.

Explored funding sources and developed following 2 funding proposals for KP Wildlife Department

1. “Expansion of Snow Leopard Conservation Program in Chitral”
2. “Integrated Carnivores Conservation Programme (ICCP), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa”

   NEWTEC, a government entity that supports vocational training, was approached to seek support in establishing vocational training centers at program sites in GB

GOAL 2: IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A LANDSCAPE-LEVEL APPROACH TO SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION IN PAKISTAN.

The SLF is supporting the GoP to achieve the national goals of the GSLEP and contribute to the targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. There is a need to work at a larger landscape level for snow leopard conservation as it required larger home ranges. Three out of the 20 model landscapes identified across the snow leopard range to secure the GSLEP goal of "securing 20 by 2023" fall in Pakistan that constitute about 75% of the snow leopard range in the country. The SLF through its various projects set aside resources to collect and collate information and data to draft the landscape management plans of the three landscapes and protected areas in these landscapes. Protected areas alone will not be able to conserve predators with large home ranges and conservationists and managers should not restrict their efforts to land sparing. Landscape management plans of Himalaya, and Karakoram-Pamir will be updated, Management Pan of Bashqar Gol Biosphere Reserve and Terich-Torkhow Conservancy in Chitral will be prepared and get endorsed from the provincial governments.

Obj. 2.1. Coordinate with the MOCC&EC and lead the revision of the Pakistan NSLEP

Activity 2.1.1 Collect and analyze data on the snow leopard research and conservation efforts, identify gaps, review and revise ranking of threats, set new priorities, and draft the revised NSELP.

Submit the updated version of the NSLEP to the MOCC&EC for inputs. Addressed the feedback received from the ministry, updated NSLEP.

Obj. 2.2. Review and Update the Landscape Management Plans for Karakoram-Pamir, and Hindu Kush to make them compatible with the revised NSLEP targets and support provincial governments' development of MPs for other PAs within the landscapes

Activity 2.2.1 Draft management plan for the Himalaya Landscape

Updated relevant sections of the KPL management plan by aligning with the revised NSLEP priorities and targets pertaining to the management of the landscapes

Activity 2.2.2 Update the Hindu Kush management plans by aligning with the revised NSLEP priorities and targets pertaining to the management of the landscapes.

Updated the draft Hindu kush landscape management plan.

Obj. 2.3. Develop the Management Pan of Bashqar GoI Biosphere Reserve, share with the provincial government for inputs and endorsement

Activity 2.3.1 Prepare socio-economic and ecological profiles of Bashqar GoI and Shandor plateau

Ungulate survey, Dec. 2024: A rut season survey of ibex was conducted in Dec. 2024 for BGBR in collaboration with KP Wildlife Department. 28 KP Wildlife Department staff and community watchers were trained in non-invasive wildlife monitoring techniques. A total of 273 individual H. ibex were recorded in 23 herds of uneven size. The estimated population was 330 ± 87.2 (95% CI).

Camera trapping study: The study was initiated in Dec. 2024 in BGBR in collaboration with KP Wildlife Department. A total of 36 trap stations were set up to monitor wildlife.

Vegetation assessment study: The study identified a floristic checklist representing ca. 226 species of vascular plants. Asteraceae family with 31 genera and 48 species was followed by Poaceae (9 Genera, 17 species), Brassicaceae (13 Gen., 16 sp.), and Fabaceae (8 Gen., 14 sp.). Other notable families included Caryophyllaceae, Polygonaceae, Amaranthaceae, Boraginaceae, Lamiaceae, Rosaceae and Salicaceae. About 7 very narrow (Upper Indus Basin / Karakoram) and >50 endemic plants to the west Himalaya were observed. An ecosystem monitoring and management framework, value addition of medicinal plants, training of the collectors and processors, and developing market linkages of the people were proposed to conserve these important ecological resources in BGBR. Small hydroelectricity projects can facilitate the locals to use this for heating and cooking and ultimately reduce fuelwood collection pressure. Training and promotion of cottage industry e.g., making baskets from willows, making value-added products (drinks and jams e.g.) and promotion of eco-tourism in the area through digital social or print media are among the proposed recommendations.

Review of baseline reports: The SLF team reviewed the socio-ecological baseline study reports and provided detailed feedback to the consultants on socioeconomic profile of the landscape; study on large mammals; small mammals; avifauna/ ornithology and aquatic fauna. In response, the consultants updated the reports by addressing the comments and incorporating the suggested changes. As a result, the socioeconomic and ecological profiles of the BGBR were finalized.

Activity 2.3.2 Assess carbon and its sequestration in the Bashqar GoI Biosphere Reserve

Assessment of carbon and its sequestration in BGBR determined that most of the carbon was stored as soil carbon estimated as 2,200,050 tonnes, aboveground biomass, amounting to 29,384.45 tonnes and belowground carbon storage contributes an additional 3,772.19 tonnes. The overall average carbon content across the reserve is 28.5 tonnes per hectare, reflecting a relatively low carbon sequestration potential.

Activity 2.3.2 Develop first draft of the plan and share with stakeholders for review and inputs

The first draft of the BGBR management plan was developed. The plan included description on following main components:

- Introduction:
- Socio-economic and ecological attributes of BGBR, carbon content of BGBR
- road coverage and communication, administrative setup:
- Stakeholders in BGBRs, stakeholder analysis, stakeholder influence and interest
- Threats to ecology and local livelihoods in the BGBR (BGBR), ecological threats, socioeconomic threats, threats ranking
- Vision, goals, objectives, and action plan of the BGBR management plan
- BGBR zonation
- Tourism development and management plan
- Community integration strategy
- Plan of action
- Financing the reserve
- Public sector allocations
- Legal context
- Reserve financing strategy
- Establishing a diverse funding portfolio
- Implementation plan for the diverse funding portfolio
- Summary of prescriptions and budget estimates

Obj. 2.4. Develop management plans for the Terich-Torkhow Conservancy

Activity 2.4.1 Draft the management plan for the Terich-Torkhow Conservancy (TTC) and share with the stakeholders for inputs

The management plan for the Terich-Torkhow Conservancy (TTC) was drafted, shared with the stakeholders and finalized after incorporating inputs from stakeholders with funding from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF).

GOAL 3: ENHANCE TOLERANCE & BUILD SUPPORT FOR SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION IN PAKISTAN

The existing conservation programs are now expanded to over 50 sites in GB, AJK and KP province and include the livestock vaccination program, the predator-proof corrals, and livestock insurance schemes. These major initiatives in some valleys are augmented with sustainable forest and land management activities and livelihood improvement measures such as social forestry, establishment of closures, plantation of indigenous fruit trees, rehabilitation of barren lands through solar pumps, bioengineering structures such as check-dams, integrated rangeland and pasture management, community-based conservation tourism, apiculture, off-season vegetable farming, improving wildlife surveillance and snow leopard enterprise development. These ongoing measures have proven to be effective tools in getting the communities onboard in snow leopard conservation, reducing human-snow leopard conflict, and improving local livelihoods. Adoption of a holistic conservation approach by introducing a conservation package is a prerequisite to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives and tackle emerging threats to snow leopards, their ecosystems, and local livelihoods. Initiatives targeting women empowerment and climate change resilient livelihoods are some of the innovative approaches to target in 2024.

Obj. 3.1. Reduce livestock mortality by strengthening the Ecosystem Health Program (EHP) at existing sites.

Activity 3.1.1 Strengthen ongoing conservation programs through regular community engagement and timely provision of essential resources for effective implementation.

Conducted a total of 166 meetings with community representatives at SLF program sites in the field or at SLF program offices in GB, Chitral, KP and AJK to strengthen the ongoing conservation programs.



Figure 1.2 CBOs meetings in AJK

Activity 3.1.2 Identify and procure vaccines/dewormers following the vaccination protocols for each vaccination round.

As per need collected from local communities in the program sites in GB, Chitral, KP and AJK in collaboration with provincial/territorial Livestock Department, SLF procured Sheep Pox, Goat Pox, Black Quarter (BQ), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Enterotoxaemia (ET), Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) vaccine and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) vaccines and Ivermectin dewormer for Autumn season of 2024.

Activity 3.1.3 Launch biannual vaccination campaign in the program sites in GB, KP, and AJK targeting 250,000 to 300,000 livestock

Biannual livestock vaccination/ deworming campaigns were launched during spring and autumn seasons in all the program sites in GB, Chitral, and Neelum to control disease-induced mortality of livestock and disease transmission from livestock to wildlife.
A total of 407,099 vaccinations for animals including 86,896 cattle/ buffalo, 166,444 goat, 142,110 sheep and 11,113 yak/dozoo belonging to 19,463 households were vaccinated by 83 Ecosystem Health Workers in Chitral, KP, and Neelum, AJK during the autumn 2024 and spring 2025 vaccination drives.

	Total	**Cattle**	**Goat**	**Sheep**	**Yak/Dozoo**	**HHs**	**Valleys**
KP	140,213	27,023	74,619	38,526	0	6,009	21
AJK	38,128	15,942	12,211	9,509	466	2,754	3
GB	228,758	43,931	79,614	94,075	10,647	10,700	25
G. Total	**407,099**	**86,896**	**166,444**	**142,110**	**11,113**	**19,463**	**49**

Activity 3.1.4 Monitor the vaccination drives, collect & compile data, and develop reports.

The Field staff SLF Chitral and the SLCO representatives of the respective valleys monitored the spring vaccination drive launched in September-December 2024 and April-June 2025 during field visits. Data on vaccination was recorded by communities' Ecosystem Health Workers (EHWs).
The data compilation is in progress and will be completed in the next quarter. Data was collected and compiled, followed by an evaluation process involving 35 randomly selected beneficiaries. All respondents confirmed the accuracy of the data. Minor discrepancies were observed in a few cases, likely due to memory lapses—particularly when the primary respondent was not present during the vaccination and had to rely on information from family members. However, these variations were negligible, and the overall data was found to be accurate and reliable.



Figure 1.3 Monitoring and evaluation visit of Livestock Vaccination Campaign in Neelum

Activity 3.1.5 Make payment to the Ecosystem Health Workers as per agreement.

38 EHWs from Chitral, KP and AJK were paid PKR.644,435 for vaccinating and deworming the animals during the vaccination campaigns. Payment to EHWs from GB will be processed during the April-June 2025.

Activity 3.1.6 Evaluate the performance of the EHWs in the three regions to identify capacity-building needs and arrange a training program.

The needs of the training of EHWs were assessed in January 2025 based on community feedback. Seven vaccinators from the CBOs of Astore, Chipurson, Rech (Torkhow Valley) and Raman (Laspur Valley), Shaunter and Gurez completed a 15-day training in Artificial Insemination (AI) from 6 May 2025 to 20 May 2025 under the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC). This capacity-building initiative enhanced local livestock breeding services and improve productivity in the respective valleys

Obj. 3.2. Strengthen and expand livestock depredation mitigation and compensation measures.

Activity 3.2.1 Construct 6 new corrals in Chitral (SABIN=3, WLT=2, SLT=1) and develop 1 new corral (SLT) and complete construction of 8 corrals in GB (DIM)

Predator-proof corrals play a vital role in protecting livestock from carnivore attacks, significantly reducing human-wildlife conflict. They help improve community tolerance towards predators like snow leopards by safeguarding livelihoods. This approach supports both biodiversity conservation and the economic well-being of local communities.
Eleven corrals were completed in Chitral, KP and GB. Three corrals were constructed in Chitral, KP. Under the WLT initiative Chitral, two corrals

were constructed at sites finalized in consultation with the communities in Balim, Laspur valley, Chitral.

Sites were finalized in consultation with CBOs and community resolutions for construction of two additional predator-proof corrals have been submitted. Additionally, consultation meetings have been held with the Brep, Chapali, and Khurz-Marting communities, the beneficiaries of Groh Gol and Chumarkhan Gol for the construction of three more corrals.

The eight predator-proof corrals in DIM have been completed. These include one each at Thoi, Naz Bar, Chipurson, Gulkin, KVO, and Hanzal Valley, and two at Sikanderabad. With each corral having a holding capacity of 900 livestock, a total of 7,200 more animals have been protected from mass killings in the pastures this term.

Activity 3.2.2 Interact with the communities to monitor the livestock insurance schemes and enhance memberships and collection of premiums from the communities

LISs were monitored through regularly interacting with communities. LIS membership campaign is currently in progress across Chitral all Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) holder communities, with a special focus on Balim, Sorlaspur, Parsan, and Koghuzi. Community interactions are being carried out to monitor the implementation of the scheme, strengthen awareness, and ensure timely collection of premiums while encouraging new memberships. PKR.141,450 were contributed by the Snow Leopard Conservation Organizations (SLCOs) of Chitral in their respective accounts against the registration and premium of livestock registered by SLCO Koghuzi, SLCO Balim, SLCO Sorlaspur, and SLCO Parsan for LISs.

From the month of January 2025 – June 2025 a total of 40 households from GB have been registered for LISs at different program sites in GB. Forty-four claims from 39 farmers for livestock depredation by predators were reimbursed with compensation of PKR 568,000 through Livestock Insurance Schemes (LIS) in Qurumbar, Khyber, and Chipurson valleys, GB. Deputy Commissioner Hunza, GB was invited to the ceremony to distribute cheques to the beneficiaries.

Activity 3.2.3 Establish one new LISs in Chitral

The consultation process for establishing the Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) in Chitral was successfully completed. Upon securing sufficient members' registration and opening a LIS bank account, one LIS was formally established in Sorlaspur under the WLT project by giving SLF share of one million rupees as a seed grant. The contribution from the CBO was PKR 400,000 to protect local communities from losses caused by predator attacks. The scheme provides financial support to herders whose livestock are killed by predators such as snow leopards or wolves, helping to ease the financial burden and promote peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Activity 3.2.4 Assess the predation-induced livestock losses in the existing communities, calculate the profit on the livestock insurance fund, develop a compensation plan, and compensate the affected households.

The livestock losses in 2024 were compiled for four communities in GB where depredation was reported:

1) Qurumbar Valley: 18 households lost 37 livestock. They will be compensated with 10% of the local livestock value, totaling PKR 124,100.
2) Khyber Valley: 27 households lost 63 livestock. They were compensated with 17% of the local livestock value, amounting to PKR 203,150.
3) Misgar Valley: 11 households lost 11 livestock. A 10% compensation of the local value was provided, totaling PKR 124,600.
4) Chipurson Valley: 27 farmers lost 33 livestock. They were compensated with 10% of the local livestock value, totaling 27,300PKR.

Obj. 3.3. Promote nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and livelihood improvement

Activity 3.3.1 Promote off-season vegetable farming by constructing 5 tunnels (greenhouses) in Bagrote valley, GB



Figure 1.4 Tunnel constructed by CBO in collaboration with SLF in Bagrote, GB

Activity 3.3.2 Promote off-season vegetable farming by constructing 1 tunnel (greenhouses) in Chitral

To promote off-season vegetable farming in Chitral, consultation with the communities has been completed and the site for constructing one greenhouse (tunnel) has been finalized. The community of Raman is currently in the process of selecting a suitable individual for its

implementation. The final selection and construction are planned for the next quarter.

Activity 3.3.3 Pilot climate resilient fodder production to reduce dependency on rangelands in Chitral

As a pilot initiative to promote climate-resilient fodder production and reduce dependency on rangelands in Chitral, 80 kg of high-quality, climate-adapted fodder seed has been distributed among the communities of Brok, Raman, Balim, and Sorlaspur. This intervention aims to improve livestock nutrition, enhance fodder availability, and support sustainable rangeland management practices.

Obj. 3.4. Engage women folk in conservation-linked livelihood initiatives.

Activity 3.4.1 Coordinate with SLT to place orders for the existing products, procure raw material, start production, monitor, collect finished products, pack, and ship to SLT.

The order for napkins, cushions, and doormats has been received from SLT. Procurement of raw materials has been completed, and production is currently underway. The EDO-SLF and the center supervisor of the production group are regularly monitoring the process to ensure quality and timely completion.

Activity 3.4.2 Identify artisans, establish and equip a skill center, procure material, arrange training, and start production in Chitral

Artisans have been identified, materials procured, and production has been initiated in Chitral. However, due to lack of secured funds, the training sessions and equipping of the skill center are currently pending. These components will be implemented once the necessary financial resources are available.
Identified and conducted 15 days of training of 22 women in handicraft development focusing on doormat/ Rug making from yak fibre from 25 Sept. 2024 to 9 Oct. 2024 and linked them to the SLE initiative of SLF. To assist the trained women in marketing their products, a WhatsApp group has been created where they can discuss challenges related to production and sales. The newly recruited Enterprise Development Officer at SLF Chitral conducts market surveys and distributes doormat samples to potential handicraft dealers in Chitral and Booni Cities. Samples are also displayed at tourist facilitation centres in both locations. Additionally, these samples have been shared with online handicraft platforms and traditional marketing agents. The doormat samples were also sent to Islamabad and shared with SLT in the United States. Various merchants have placed orders, and artisans are engaged in production.

Activity 3.4.3 Identify artisans, establish and equip a skill center, procure material, arrange training, and start production in 8 sites in GB

The fourth training session was conducted in Qurumbar Valley from 3 to 17 November 2024 for 31 women artisans from the valley. The training sessions were led by SLE consultant Mrs. Bibi Nahida. During the sessions, she trained the artisans in preparing cushions, carpet shoes and gent wallets.



Figure 1.5 Prototypes of cushions



Figure 1.6 Prototypes of carpet shoes



Figure 1.7 Prototypes of Gent's wallets



Figure 1.8 Group photo of trainees of SLE Training with guests

REFRESHER SESSION, QURUMBAR VALLEY

For the artisans of Qurumbar Valley, cushions and carpet shoes were newly introduced skills. Additionally, the Qurumbar Wildlife Conservation and Development Organization (QWCDO) expressed interest in having the 31 trained women further train more artisans in the area. Since Qurumbar Valley is a vast region, SLF agreed to conduct a five-day refresher training session for the same 31 women who had participated in the previous 15-day training. The refresher training was held from 10 to 15 March 2025 and was facilitated by Mrs. Bibi Nahida.

Three training sessions were conducted for women. Thirty-two women in GB were trained in 15 days SLE training. SLE products are being produced in 8 sites in GB. Thirty-three women from Qurumbar Valley were engaged to refresh their training from last year. In Bagrot, 30 women completed a six-month training program. Material for SLE production including 30 sewing machines were purchased and handed over to Bagrote Valley, A new skill center was established in Bagrote, GB.



Figure 1.9 Group photo of trainees of refresher in Qurumbar with chief guest

Activity 3.4.4 Follow up with the artisans in GB to monitor product development and marketing, identify support required, and document economic benefits

The artisans from Qurumbar Valley have made 43 gent wallets, 53 carpet shoes, cushions and 92 cushions. The economic benefit earned by 106 trained artisans over one year was approximately PKR 2 million.



Figure 1.10 SLE products in GB

Activity 3.4.5 Enhance marketing of SLE products by strengthening the SLE outlet established in Gilgit city

Funds were arranged for a six-month extension of the outlet sales lady's position. Meanwhile, the outlet was registered with the Gilgit Development Authority (GDA) for participation in exhibitions across various cities in Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan.

Activity 3.4.6 Make payment to the artisans in GB.

A payment of 24,000 PKRs was provided to women artisans from Khyber Valley for their products sold at SLE outlet which includes 11 gents wallet, 4 ladies purses and 2 pairs of carpet shoes.

Activity 3.4.7 Enhance coordination with the artisans in AJK to monitor progress, replication of skills gained, and monetary benefits secured.

Female Vocational Tailoring Training – Certificate Distribution
Closing and certificate distribution ceremonies were held at the Female Training Centers (FTCs) in Danna (Gurez Valley) and Samgam (Ghamot Surgan Valley).

- At FTC Danna: 30 female beneficiaries and 2 female trainers received certificates.

- At FTC Samgam: 15 female beneficiaries and 1 female trainer were awarded certificates.



Figure 1.11 SLE Training AJK

Additionally, an impact survey was conducted on previous training sessions held at FTC Bala Seri (Gurez Valley) and FTC Bagnuwan (Ghamot Surgan Valley).

- A combined total of PKR 1,247,050 earned or saved post-training.
- In Phullawai, Gurez, women demonstrated a higher level of engagement in applying their training. A total of 22 respondents reported earning or saving PKR 956,350 within one year, averaging approximately PKR 43,470 per woman per year, which is quite impressive. Extrapolating this figure to all 30 women who received training suggests an estimated income increase of around PKR 1.3 million for the past year.
- In Bagnuwan, Surgan-Ghamot, the performance was slightly lower compared to Gurez, yet still commendable. A total of 10 respondents reported earnings/savings of PKR 290,700 over one-year, averaging PKR 29,070 per woman per year. When projected across all 15 trainees, the estimated increase in income for the previous year is approximately PKR 0.5 million.



Figure 1.12 SLE output survey in AJK

Relocation of Female Training Centers
Identification and Selection of New Training Site
A new village and venue for the upcoming training session have been finalized in Thanda Pani (Gurez Valley). This process included choosing a suitable training hall and appointing a female trainer/spokesperson.

Center Inauguration & Training Launch
The new center has been inaugurated, and 15 women have started their training there.

Upcoming Community Consultation
A meeting is planned with the Surgan–Ghamot community to discuss the site for the next training session.



Figure 1.13 SLE Training in AJK

Activity 3.4.8 Monitor the usage of off-season vegetable farming using high tunnel/greenhouse technology developed in GB and the economic returns of the initiative on participating households.

During the year 2024, farmers saved a total of PKR 64,000 from the five constructed green tunnels, after covering all expenses related to cropping and marketing.

Activity 3.4.9 Coordinate with the communities to monitor the efficiency of the apiculture projects implemented in AJK and document economic returns.

Unfortunately, the first year of the beekeeping initiative in AJK was not very successful. Bees from all the hives either flew away or died due to unknown reasons. Efforts will be made this year to investigate the cause of the losses and implement corrective measures to improve outcomes.

Obj. 3.5. Reduce IWT in the snow leopard landscapes through capacity building, rewarding and improving wildlife surveillance.

Activity 3.5.1 Identify and train 7 staff members of GB, KP and AJK Wildlife Departments as Master trainers to improve wildlife surveillance and control illegal wildlife trade.

Conducted an online refresher on 24 October 2024 for the 10 professionals including 5 staff members of GB, KP and AJK Wildlife Departments, one staff members of WWF-Pakistan and Islamabad Wildlife Management Board and three staff members of SLF trained in two days training on "Disruption of poaching, Crime Scene Investigation and First aid" on April 17-18, 2024 as Master trainers to improve wildlife surveillance and control illegal wildlife trade with funding from IWTCF project. Mr. Brian Petrar, a Wildlife Law Enforcement Professional from Canada was the resource person of the training and refresher.

Activity 3.5.2 Identify and train 50 Wildlife Guards/ Watchers from GB, KP and AJK in improving wildlife surveillance and controlling illegal wildlife trade/ Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation

To reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in snow leopard landscapes, efforts are underway to strengthen capacity, introduce incentive-based approaches, and enhance wildlife surveillance. As part of this initiative, three-day training on disrupting poaching and wildlife crime scene investigation were held separately in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), training a total of 52 rangers. Master trainers facilitated these sessions.
In AJK, 12 rangers from the Neelum district were trained by local master trainers, Ms. Shaista Ali and Ms. Jazba Shafi, with assistance from Dr. Shoaib Hameed, Senior Program Manager, SLF during December 17-19, 2024. In GB, 28 rangers from various districts received training in Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation during December 28-30, 2024 from Muhammad Isa and Muhammad Jaffer, Divisional Forest Officers, and Dr. Hussain Ali, Senior Regional Program Manager, SLF. In KP, 12 officers and field staff were trained by Mr. Farhan Tariq and Dr. Shoaib Hameed Senior Program Manager, SLF during February 18-20, 2025.

Activity 3.5.3 Provide field gear and Crime Scene Investigation Kits to the trained Wildlife Guards in GB and Chitral

The field gears for rangers included trousers, jacket, backpack, shoes, GPS and binoculars were provided to 43 rangers of provincial Wildlife Departments. Additionally, six CSI kits, equipped with tools for crime scene analysis and Wildlife surveillance including crime scene tape, flags on metal posts to locate evidence, signs to identify items, measuring, evidence and scotch tapes, Flashlight, Scissors, Elastic bands and ties, Scalpel, Plastic or glass containers, Tweezer, gloves, Binder Clips and other stationery items etc. were provided to the Wildlife Department to empower the rangers to apply their newly acquired skills in the field.





Figure 1.14 Crime Scene Investigation training, Chitral

Activity 3.5.4 Engage and monitor progress of 12 Community Wildlife Guards in Chitral

Under the WLT project, 12 Community Wildlife Guards have been deployed and actively engaged in controlling illegal poaching, hunting, and habitat degradation in the Bashqar Gol–Shandur landscape. Their efforts are being closely monitored on a monthly basis by the SLF Chitral team in collaboration with the Chitral Gol National Park field officer. This initiative aims to strengthen community-based conservation and ensure the protection of key wildlife habitats.

Activity 3.5.5 Arrange Rangers' Reward ceremony at national level

Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards (PWPA) ceremony was held on the eve of World Ranger Day, July 31, 2024, at Islamabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), SLT, and UK government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWCTF) attended by about 300 participants. Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination was the chief guest, while the Resilience and Climate Change Advisor at the British High Commission in Pakistan and the Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan were among the guests of honor. Six outstanding wildlife rangers/ watchers accomplishing significant contributions to wildlife conservation received the Snow Leopard, Wolf, Markhor, Blue Sheep, Musk Deer, and Ibex awards. Each of the awardees received a commemorative souvenir, appreciation certificate, field kit, and cash prize of PKR 100,000 to 150,000. Other activities associated with the ceremony included an exhibition of wildlife photography by the Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari, Pakistan's Wildlife Ambassador, and GSLEP Emissary, the launch of a book by the late Zahid Baig Mirza, and the screening of the documentary "The Silent King," highlighting the plight of the snow leopard.

GOAL 4: FILL INFORMATION GAPS ESSENTIAL FOR SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION BY ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE ON SNOW LEOPARD POPULATIONS, PREY SPECIES, AND HABITATS.

Obj. 4.1. Develop and implement a participatory monitoring system for key biodiversity features in selected landscapes to inform effective management responses.

Activity 4.1.1 Occupancy and abundance estimation of the target species (snow leopard, brown bear, wolf, ungulates) in the Hindu Kush Landscape through camera trapping and eDNA

As part of the occupancy and abundance estimation of target species, including snow leopard, brown bear, wolf, and ungulates in the Hindu Kush Landscape, a total of 65 camera traps were installed across key habitats. These cameras were strategically placed across the core and buffer zones of BGBR and surrounding areas to maximize the chances of detecting the target species. As of 30 June 2025, 40 cameras were retrieved, and the collected data is currently being analyzed. The remaining cameras are scheduled to be taken down during the next quarter.

Additionally, field teams in Chitral were trained in environmental DNA (eDNA) collection techniques. Data collection is currently underway, involving air, water, and soil sampling, along with scat collection, to support comprehensive species monitoring and habitat assessment. 15 samples of each air, water, and soil have been collected by the team.

Occupancy surveys for snow leopards and other carnivores were conducted in Yaseen Valley, District Ghizer and Sikandarabad Valley, District Nagar, GB. In Yaseen Valley, 32 scats were collected, while in Sikandarabad Valley, 27 scats were collected.

Activity 4.1.2 Conduct collaborative surveys of wild ungulates in selected valleys of the three landscapes

As part of the initiative to conduct collaborative surveys of wild ungulates in selected valleys of the three landscapes, a joint double observer survey was carried out in Bashqar Gol, Chitral, KP in collaboration with Chitral Gol National Park (CGNP) staff. During the survey, a total of 273 individual Himalayan ibex were recorded in 23 herds of varying compositions across the biosphere reserve, within the species' home range. The ibex population was categorized into four male age classes (Class I–IV) based on horn size and physical characteristics, with adult females and young ones recorded separately. Using the Capture-Mark-Recapture (CMR) method, the estimated population size was calculated at 330 ± 87.20 with a 95% confidence interval.

Ungulate surveys were conducted in GB in collaboration with the Parks and Wildlife Department and the final survey report is currently being

developed. During the surveys 1,693 Astor markhor, 229 Ladakh urial, 7,294 Himalayan ibex and 1,785 blue sheep were counted in the 63 community-controlled hunting areas of Gilgit-Baltsitan.

Obj. 4.2. Document and disseminate findings of the ecological research

Activity 4.2.1 Publish 4 scientific papers

Published the following 5 papers.

1. Hameed, S., Ahmad, S., Din, J.U., Ali, H., Younas, M., Kabir, M., Lorestani, N., Jahan, S. and Nawaz, M.A., 2025. Mapping habitat suitability and connectivity for Himalayan brown bears in Pakistan: Implications for conservation management. Global Ecology and Conservation, 59, p.e03570.
2. Karimi, S., Nawaz, M.A., Naseem, S. and Ali, Z., 2025. Influence of open-top chambers induced climate warming on secondary metabolic profile of culturally and medicinally important plants of Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindukush. PLoS One, 20(5), p.e0322480.
3. Solari, K.A., Ahmad, S., Armstrong, E.E., Campana, M.G., Ali, H., Hameed, S., Ullah, J., Khan, B.U., Nawaz, M.A. and Petrov, D.A., 2025. Next-Generation Snow Leopard Population Assessment Tool: Multiplex-PCR SNP Panel for Individual Identification From Faeces. Molecular Ecology Resources, 25(4), p.e14074.
4. Nawaz, M.A., Hameed, S., Din, J.U., Ali, H., Ahmad, S., Durbatch, I., Ghaznavi, M., Farooque, M., Iftikhar, N. and Hussain Khan, M.S., 2025. From Shadows to Data: A Robust Population Assessment of Snow Leopards in the Highland Crossroads. bioRxiv, pp.2025-03.
5. Fida, T., Mohammadi, A., Almasieh, K., Bosso, L., Ud Din, S., Shamas, U., Nawaz, M.A. and Kabir, M., 2025. Species distribution modelling and landscape connectivity as tools to inform management and conservation for the critically endangered Himalayan brown bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus) in the Deosai National Park, Pakistan. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, 12, p.1477480.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOP CAPACITY AND FACILITATE SNOW LEOPARD RESEARCH, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

Obj. 5.1. Develop human resources in wildlife research by engaging and training postgraduate students on snow leopards, their wild prey, and habitats.

Activity 5.1.1 Provide technical support/supervision and logistics to at least 4 postgraduate students interested in conducting management-oriented research on snow leopard and its prey

Technical support was provided to postgraduate students at Karakoram International University, namely:

1. Mr. Mubbasir Ali — Thesis title: Conservation and Livelihood Implications of Livestock Depredation by Large Carnivores at Selected Sites in District Nagar.
2. Mr. Noor Ul Haq — Thesis title: Human– Wolf (Canis lupus) Conflict in District Astore.
3. Mr. Muhamamd Azhar - Thesis title: Co-existence and conflict dynamics of sympatric apex predators in Kaghan valley

Obj. 5.2. Build the capacity of the field personnel of the provincial wildlife departments in combating IWT and wildlife monitoring.

Activity 5.2.1 Engage 10 staff members of KP and GB Wildlife Departments in the ongoing ecological studies

Ten staff members from the Parks and Wildlife Department Gilgit-Baltistan were engaged in DNA sampling.

Obj. 5.3. Strengthen community-based organizations through organizational management training of Community Champions

Activity 5.3.1 Arrange training for the selected CBO Champions in GB and Chitral in operations management

Two-day capacity Building training/workshop of CBOs of Laspur Valley in Office Management and Financial Management was held on December 8-9, 2024. A total of 23 office bearers, including both male and female members, participated in the training. The training equipped the participants with essential knowledge and practical skills, enabling them to enhance the sustainability, capacity enhancement, and accountability of their respective CBOs.

GOAL 6: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SNOW LEOPARD ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION NEEDS IN PAKISTAN.

Obj. 6.1. Enhance understanding of snow leopard ecology and conservation needs at grassroots level

Activity 6.1.2 Celebrate international environmental days/SL Day/ Wildlife Day at the valley, provincial, and national levels

As part of the initiative to celebrate international days at valley, provincial, and national levels, Snow Leopard Day 2024 was celebrated in Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, and AJK thereby involving different stakeholders, academia, and local communities.

1. International Snow Leopard Day was celebrated in FAST University in collaboration with GenerationFAST – Snow Leopard to raise awareness about the importance of the snow leopard and its ecosystem by showcasing the efforts of the Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) in conservation and engaging students, faculty, and the broader community in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. Avazbek Atakhanov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan was the Chief guest. Representative of Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Rector of FAST University and other esteemed speakers highlighted the significance of wildlife conservation and the power of collaboration between SLF and academic institutions. The representatives of student body “GenerationFAST - Snow Leopards” presented a skit during the event. Other highlights of the event were the screening of a science-based documentary showcasing the conservation work led by the SLF, stalls of SLF and Fast University and Awareness walk.
2. "International Snow Leopard Day was celebrated in Forest Complex, Gilgit-Baltistan in collaboration with GB Forests, Parks and Wildlife Department and Aga Khan Education Service Pakistan. Conservator Wildlife emphasized the significance of snow leopards in maintaining mountain ecosystems and the ongoing threats they face, including poaching and habitat loss. SLF’s Senior Regional Program Manager spoke about the sustainable conservation efforts SLF is championing, such as Predator Proof Corrals and Snow Leopard Enterprises, to ensure the survival of this magnificent species. An awareness walk to spread the message of protection far and wide was also held.
3. Six schools across Gilgit Baltistan joined in the celebration, with each school’s Snow Leopard Club members and coordinators organizing activities designed to educate and inspire students about the importance of wildlife conservation. The enthusiastic participation of students highlighted the commitment of future generations to protecting the snow leopard and its habitat."
4. "SLF-Chitral office held a vibrant celebration of International Snow Leopard Day in the culturally rich and ecologically significant Kalash Valley, particularly at the Community-Based School (CBS) in Birir. Speakers highlighted the threats snow leopards face and the essential role of community-led conservation. The students participated in an art

and craft competition, expressing their understanding of the snow leopard's life and its ecological role through creative works."

Brief reports of celebration of other international Environmental days are as follows:

5. World Wetlands Day was observed on 2 February 2025 with the Toshi-Shasha communities in Chitral, KP. A total of 22 male representatives of VCCs attended the event.
6. World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June 2025 across various locations in Upper and Lower Chitral, including Al-Khidmat School and College (Lower Chitral), Press Club Booni (Upper Chitral), Government Primary School Sorlaspur, Government Girls Primary School Raman, and Center Jamat Khana Balim (Upper Chitral). 270 participants including 220 mail and 50 female took part in these events, gaining valuable awareness about the significance of these global environmental observances and the need for conservation action.
7. World Wildlife Day was celebrated in nature clubs at 11 program sites across GB.
8. World Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 2025, in collaboration with nature clubs at four partner schools located in Gulkin, Nazbar, Reshit, and Sost in the Hunza and Ghizer districts of Gilgit-Baltistan. A total of 133 students (65 girls and 68 boys) participated in various engaging activities, including scriptwriting, storytelling, and interactive group exercises focused on the themes of tree planting and energy conservation. The event also featured presentations on environmental stewardship and a captivating wildlife photography exhibition showcasing the region's remarkable fauna—especially the iconic snow leopard—emphasizing the vital connection between species protection and the health of our planet.
9. The International Day for Biological Diversity was also observed through SLF-supported nature clubs at two schools in Reshit and Gulkin valleys, Upper Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan. More than 100 students (39 girls and 61 boys) took part in awareness sessions led by Snow Leopard Club Coordinators, featuring student-led chart presentations and discussions on the importance of biodiversity.
10. World Migratory Bird Day 2025 was celebrated on 10 May at nature clubs in three schools located in Immit, Ghulkin, and Astak valleys, GB. A total of 120 students (56 girls and 64 boys) participated in interactive sessions, group presentations, and poster-making activities that emphasized the significance of migratory birds and how small actions can support global bird conservation. Snow Leopard Club Coordinators facilitated the events.
11. World Bee Day 2025, was observed on 20 May, engaged 13 students (6 girls and 7 boys) from Diamond Jubilee High School, Reshit, GB. Through interactive sessions, students explored the importance of bees beyond honey production, shared drawings, and discussed ways to protect bee habitats.
12. The Second International Day of the Markhor was celebrated at two schools, engaging 78 students (27 girls and 51 boys). Students created informative posters and shared facts about this iconic species. Snow Leopard Club Coordinators led discussions on Markhor conservation and its role in supporting healthy ecosystems.



Figure 1.15 Celebration of World Wildlife Day in Diamond Jublee Middle school, Nazbar

Activity 6.1.3 Participate in two local cultural event celebrations to bring SL conservation issues into discussion

As part of efforts to integrate snow leopard conservation into local cultural platforms, participation was ensured in one cultural event. Notably, during the Shandur Festival, an important cultural event of Upper Chitral, a targeted awareness campaign on cleanliness was conducted, along with an awareness walk. Conservation issues related to the snow leopard and its habitat were actively discussed with local administration, community members, and visiting tourists to promote responsible tourism and environmental stewardship. In this campaign SLF team met 60 shop Keepers, 14 hotel owners, and reached 450 tourist camps and sensitized about more than 3500 tourists camping in general public camping sites and district administration camping sites.

Activity 6.1.6 Conduct nature study camps in GB

Conduct two nature study camps, one each in Neelum and Chitral.

Obj. 6.2. Develop and disseminate thematic resource material as part of mass awareness program

Activity 6.2.1 Update and maintain SLF website with periodical uploading of material

The SLF website have been upgraded with a new and refined look which was launched on 25 Oct. 2024.

Activity 6.2.2 Develop and install sign boards in 10 valleys in GB, 6 in Chitral and 3 in AJK

Signage plays a vital role in raising awareness, guiding communities, and reinforcing conservation messages at the grassroots level. It serves as a constant visual reminder of the importance of protecting wildlife and natural resources, while also enhancing the visibility of community-based organizations (CBOs) and their role in local conservation efforts. Recognizing this, the Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) Chitral has successfully installed six informative and branded signboards at various CBO offices across Laspur and Laspur Valley. These signboards help strengthen community identity, improve outreach, and promote sustainable environmental practices. Furthermore, valley-level signage for Torkhow, Terich, and Lotkoh has been designed and prepared, and is scheduled for installation in the upcoming quarter, continuing SLF's commitment to community engagement and conservation visibility in the region.

Signboards for 11 community program sites have been developed and are currently in the process of being installed at various locations across Gilgit-Baltistan.



Activity 6.2.3 Maintain monthly newsletter of SLF

Monthly newsletters of SLF "PEAKS' WHISPER" was developed and shared on monthly basis to stakeholders via online circulation. It has now more than 500 subscribers.

Obj. 6.3. Promote awareness on snow leopard conservation issues at national level

Activity 6.3.1 Maintain social media accounts of SLF

Maintained regular social media posts on facebook, twitter, linkedin and instagram. The videos and documentaries were uploaded on SLF official YouTube channel.

Activity 6.3.2 Develop short documentaries to highlight conservation activities in all the three landscapes

A new documentary on snow leopard, "the Silent King" was developed and launched in the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Award Ceremony held on 31 July 2024. It was also uploaded on YouTube channel.

GOAL 7: QUANTIFY PROGRAM IMPACTS THROUGH MONITORING

Obj. 7.1. Data available to quantify socio-economic and environmental impacts of the conservation programs in the program sites

Activity 7.1.1 Improve and update the program impact sheet by feeding data annually

The impact sheet is being regularly updated

Obj. 7.2. Document the impacts of the conservation efforts on the communities and ecosystems in the program sites

Activity 7.2.1 Document SLE as a successful conservation initiative in GB, focusing on the women trained and feasibility for extension

A specific study was conducted to assess the efficacy of SLE in Gilgit-Baltistan. The findings of the study are currently under analysis.

Activity 7.2.2 Document the efficacy of predator-proof corrals in reducing livestock mortality due to predators.

A detailed study on the efficacy of predator-proof corrals was conducted, and the results are currently under analysis.