



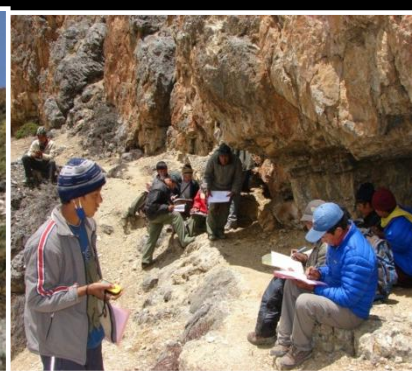
SAVING SNOW LEOPARD IN EASTERN HIMALAYAS

Regional Priorities and Actions

Ghana S Gurung

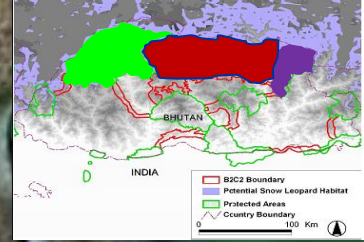
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National Actions WWF-Bhutan



One Year Plan

- Conduct conservation outreach program in JDNP, WCP
- Conduct camera trap survey in WCP and collect DNA for (future) genetic analyses
- Build capacity of frontline park staff (legal process, database mgmt, crime investigation etc.)
- Bhutan personnel to visit Nepal to learn about community snow leopard conservation initiatives

Three Year Plan

- Prey base survey and monitoring
- Develop Snow Leopard distribution & habitat map
- Study the severity of livestock depredation, and develop and implement a comprehensive snow leopard – human conflict mitigation program
- Undertake in-depth studies on snow leopard population and spatial ecology
- Prepare a climate-integrated Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan for Bhutan
- Assess the habitat and food overlap and potential competition between **tigers and snow leopards**



National Actions WWF China

One Year Plan

- Conduct a snow leopard conflict and sighting surveys
- Verify the presence of snow leopards in survey hotspot
- Developing a snow leopard conservation plan for selected hot spots at a landscape level

Three Year Plan

- Build capacity of the Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve staff to protect snow leopards and reduce poaching
- Communication and education to raise awareness of snow leopard issues amongst the general public with materials, articles, and education campaigns
- Promote trans-boundary cooperation on Snow Leopard protection in the vicinity of Qomolangma National Nature Reserve





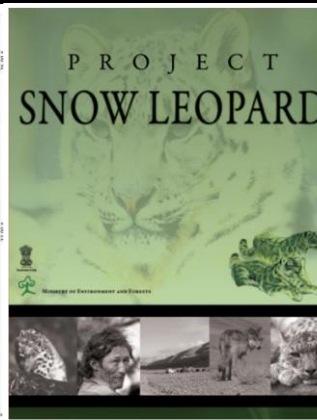
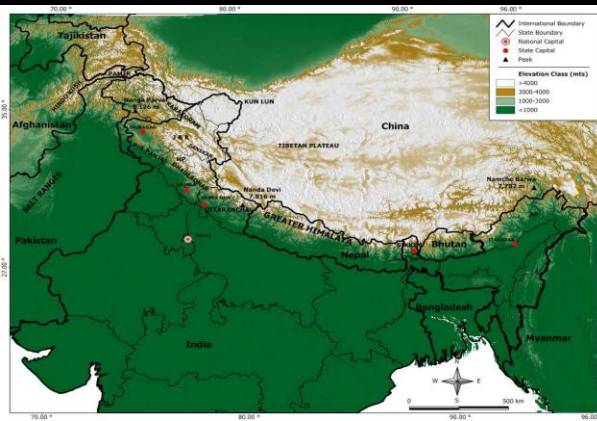
National Actions WWF India

One Year Plan

- Study the status and distribution of snow leopard and associated species in Western Arunachal Pradesh
- Study the relative abundance of snow leopard and associated species through camera trapping in Kargil and Western Arunachal Pradesh

Three Year Plan

- Mitigate snow leopard-human conflicts in collaboration with communities and Government in selected localities in Kargil (construction of predator proof corral pens, develop local awareness programme in Kargil)
- Determine home range, movement, dispersal and ranging patterns of snow leopard in Kargil (subject to availability of considerable funds and permission from Dept. of Wildlife Protection, J&K)





National Actions

WWF-Nepal

One Year Plan

- Revise the 2005 Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan
- Develop a comprehensive human – snow leopard conflict mitigation strategy and scale up across-mountains
- Map and document the rotational grazing system and pastures through a participatory approach
- Assess feasibility of blue sheep trophy hunting program in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area

Three Year Plan

- Assess population genetics and dynamics, and ecology of snow leopard and its prey base
- Develop and implement climate-change integrated management and monitoring programs for snow leopard habitat.
 - Assess the availability of preferred food species of both domestic and wild ungulates
 - Document traditional rotational grazing systems including key pastures and institute herders committees
 - Identify and map corridors and bottlenecks
 - Establish permanent monitoring plots to document tree line shift and land use change



National Actions

WWF-Nepal

One Year Plan

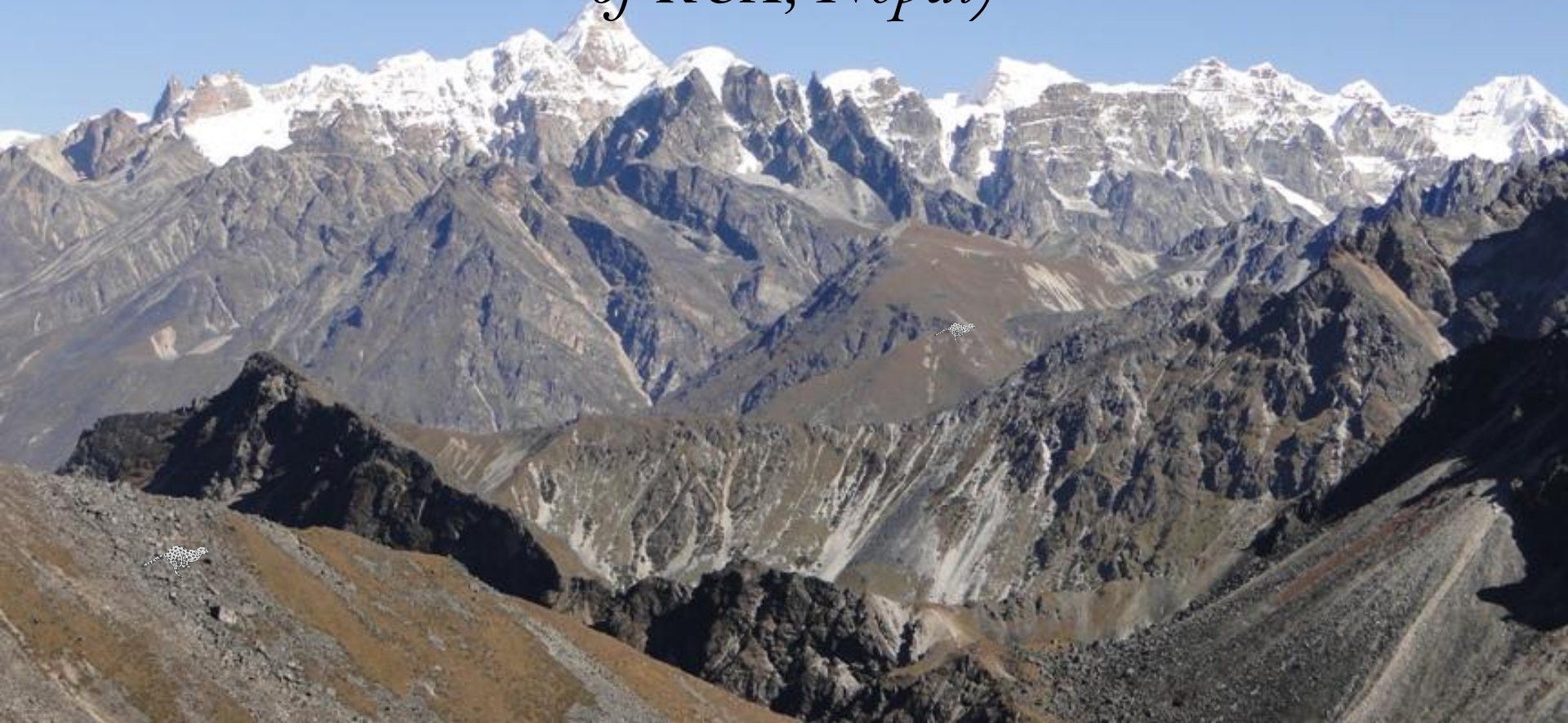
- Assess feasibility of blue sheep trophy hunting program in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
- Assess abundance of snow leopard in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area using fecal genetic analysis
- Conduct a campaign for conservation awareness, including for conflict mitigation and sustainable livestock grazing practices
- Initiate **'Adopt a snow leopard'** project around Kangchenjunga Himalaya

Three Year Plan

- Form and capacitate the local snow leopard conservation committee.
- Develop and implement human-snow leopard conflicts mitigation measures
 - Replicate a community-managed livestock insurance scheme at at-least one site
 - Orientation workshop on a community-managed livestock insurance scheme in Langtang National Park.

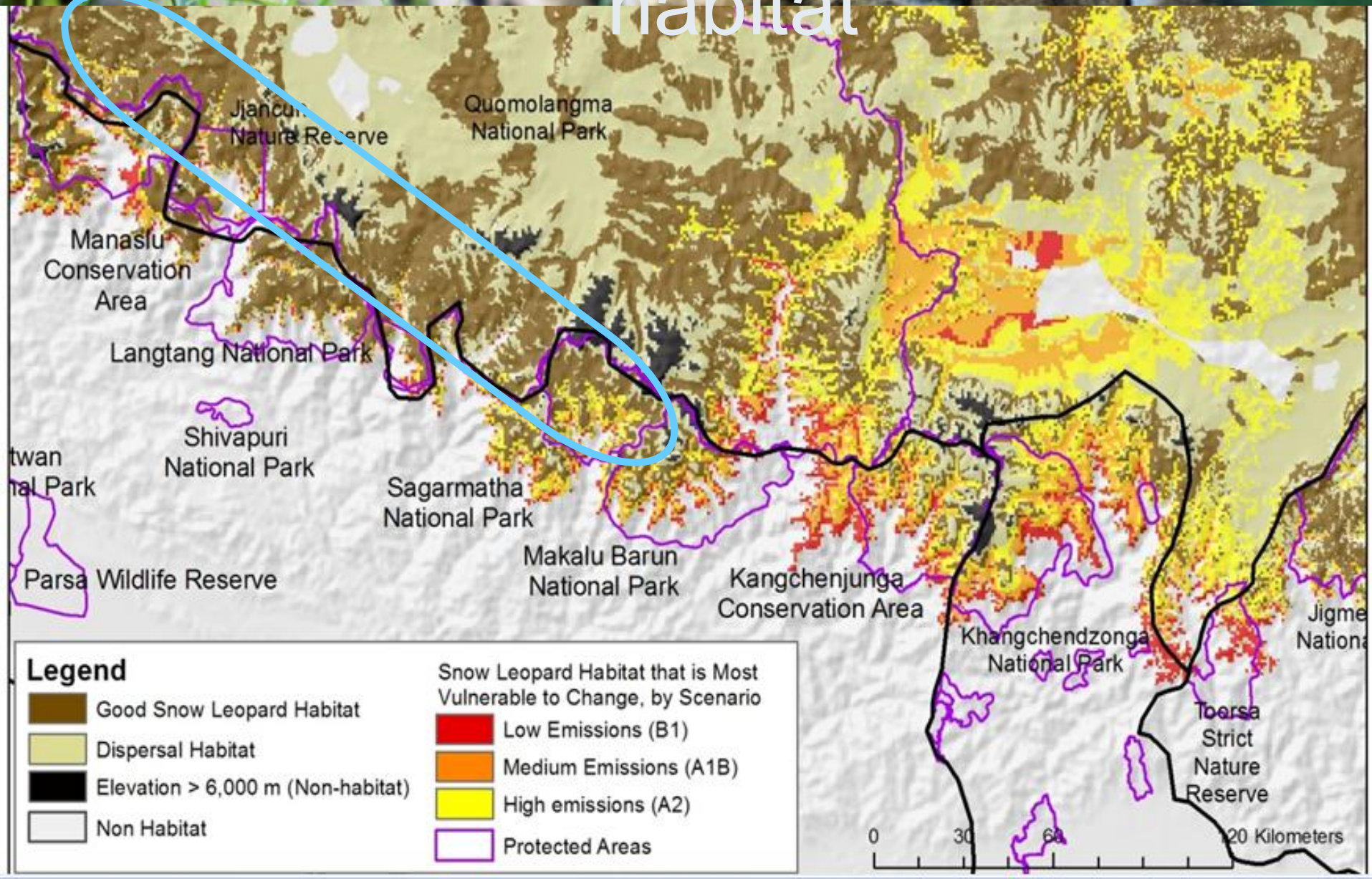
Community-based Snow Leopard Conservation

(Piloting livestock insurance scheme in Ghunsa of KCA, Nepal)





assessments of snow leopard habitat





Molecular genetics of snow leopard piloted in Nepal



Shey Phoksumdo National Park

6 snow leopards

8 snow leopards

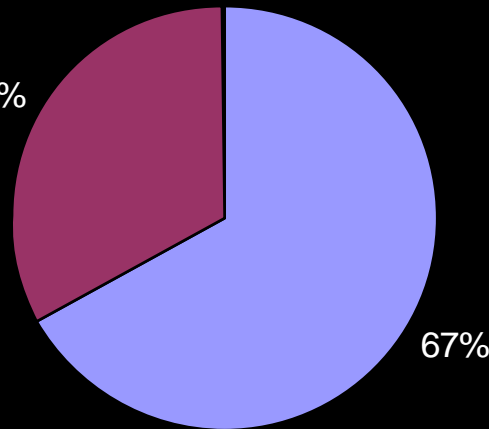
Kangchenjunga Conservation Area





Human-Snow Leopard Conflicts

Snow Leopard Diet Analysis



Retaliated Snow leopard

Mass Depredation by snow leopard



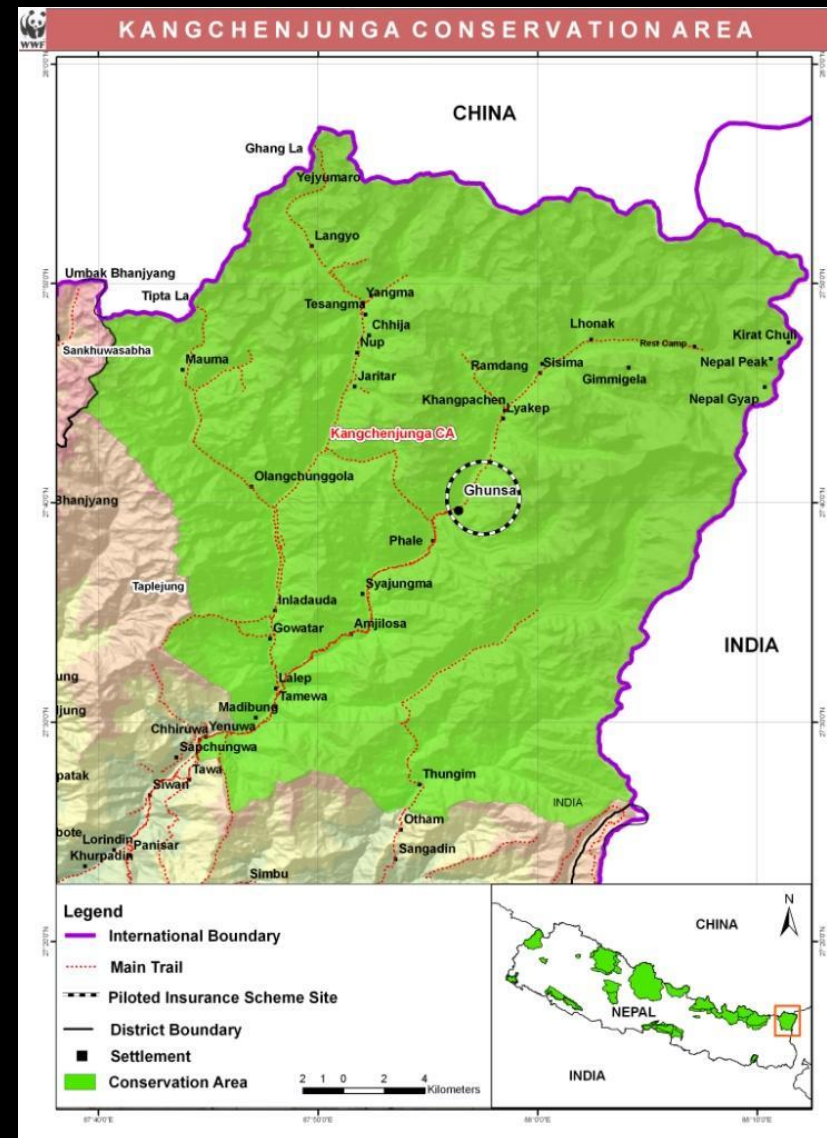
Note: Loss **US\$123/Hh/year** by snow leopard depredation



Piloted Insurance Scheme Site



Ghunsa village bird's eye view





Background Information

Ghunsa Valley

Before PA Declaration

- Trophy hunting (1982 to 1993)
- At least one Snow Leopard retaliatory killing /Per year
- Lack of awareness about wildlife

KCA

- Declared as Conservation area in 1997
- Area: 2035 km²
- Potential snow leopard habitat: 356 km²
- Estimated snow leopard density: 2.6/100 km² (2008)
- Occupation: Livestock and potato farming

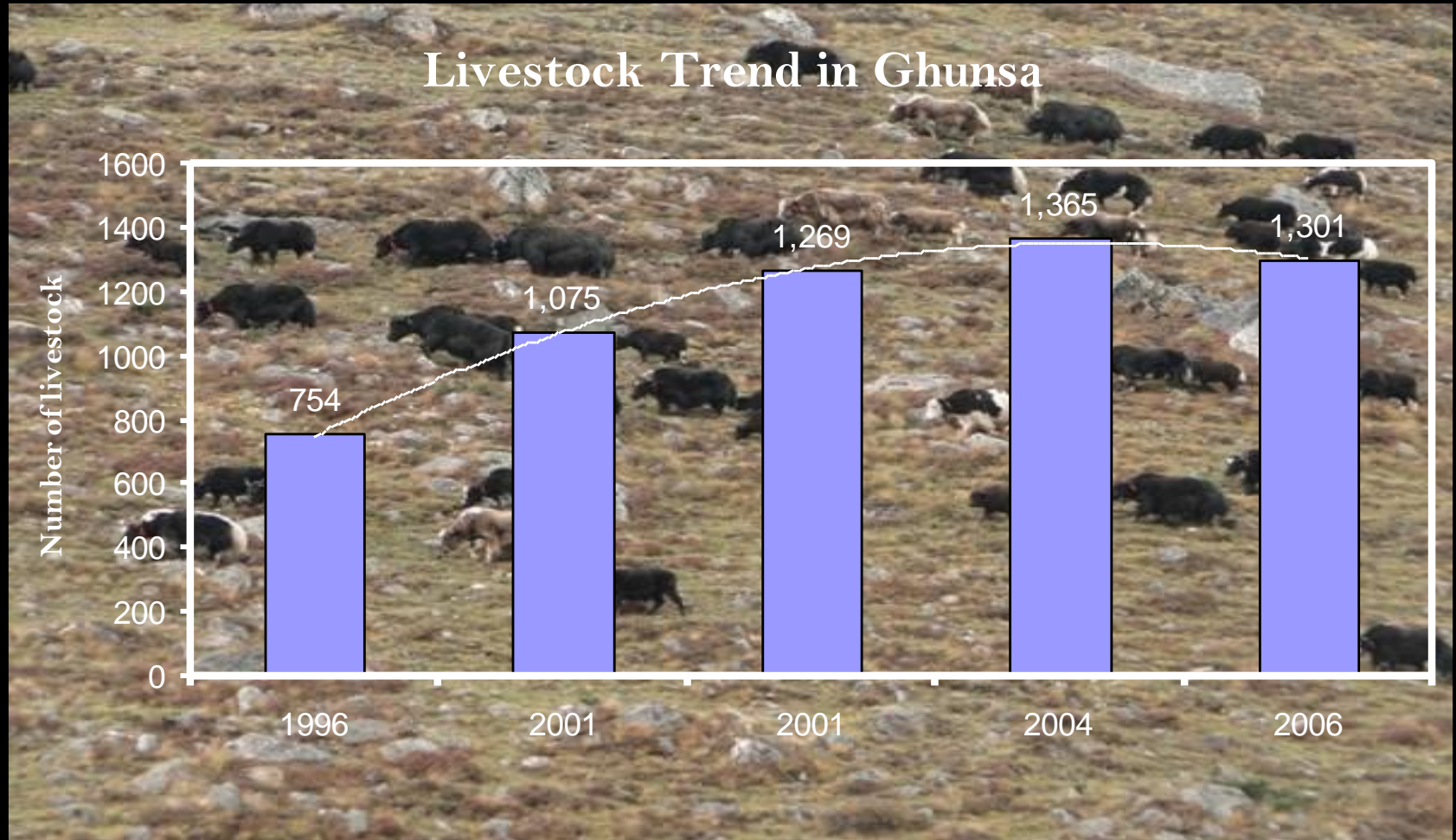
Ghunsa Valley

- 48 Hh (Sherpa) 33 yak/Hh
- Potential snow leopard habitat: ca. 63.6 km²
- 4 Individual snow leopard (2010, genetic result)
- Blue sheep density: 9.5/km² (2010)
- Biomass of yak: 3 times higher than blue sheep
- Livestock depredation rate: 4.2% out of 1152 stock





Livestock Trend in Ghunsa (1996-2006)





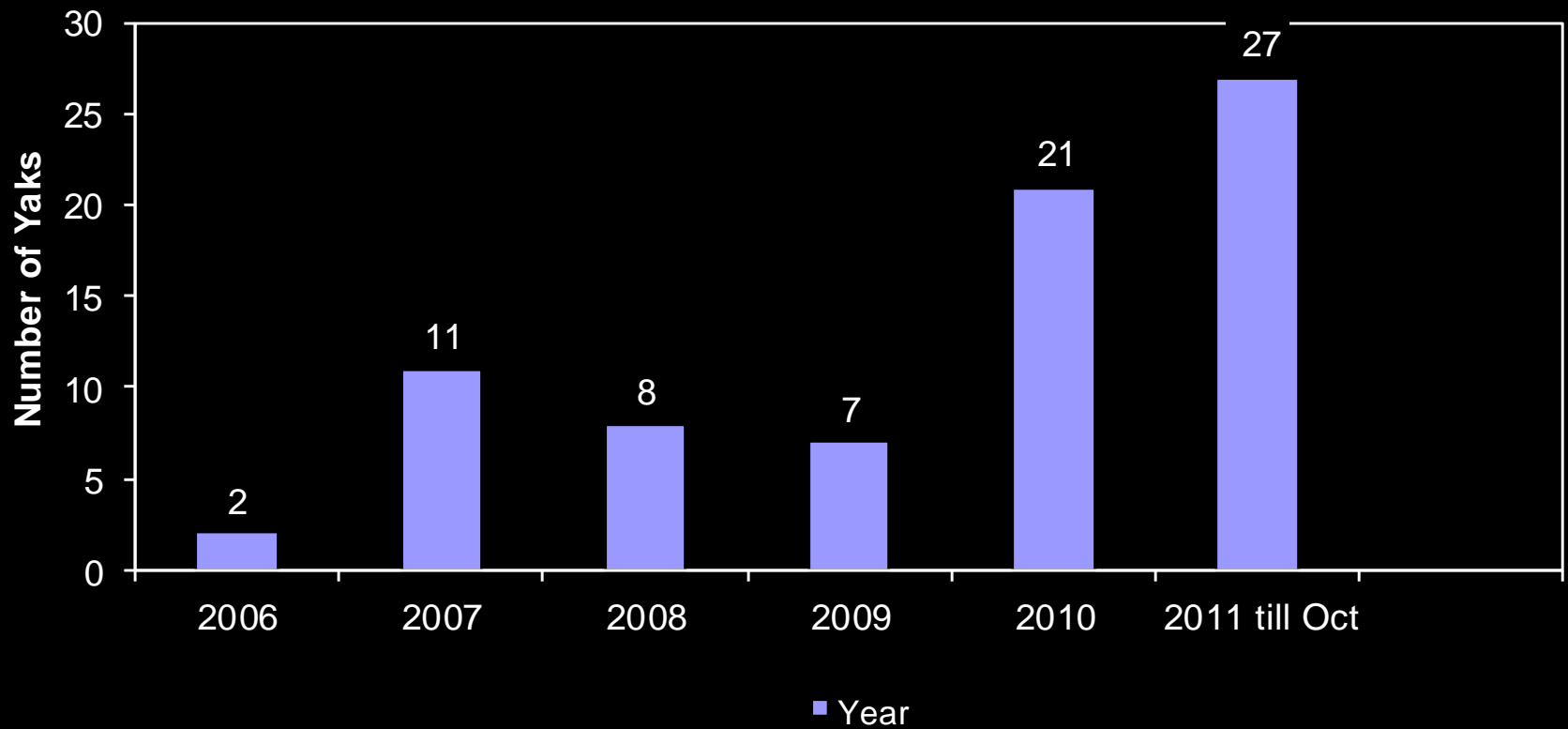
Formation of SLCC(2005)





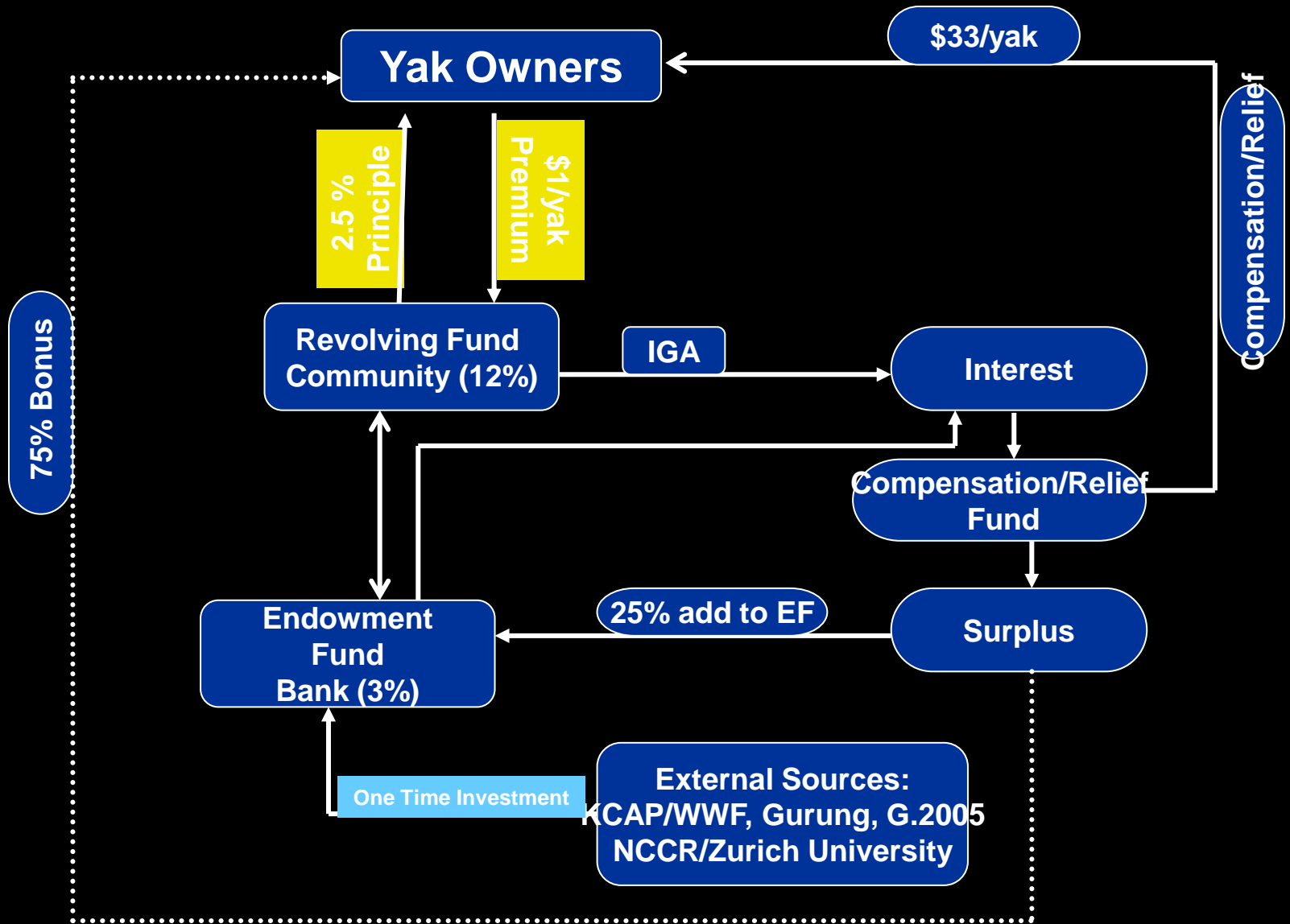
Actual Vs Projected Loss of Yaks by Snow Leopard

Actual Loss of Yaks by Snow Leopard in Ghunsa





Flow Chart of Insurance Scheme





Verification mechanism

Application to SLCC



Field verification by SLCC



Decision by SLCC meeting



Insurance payment

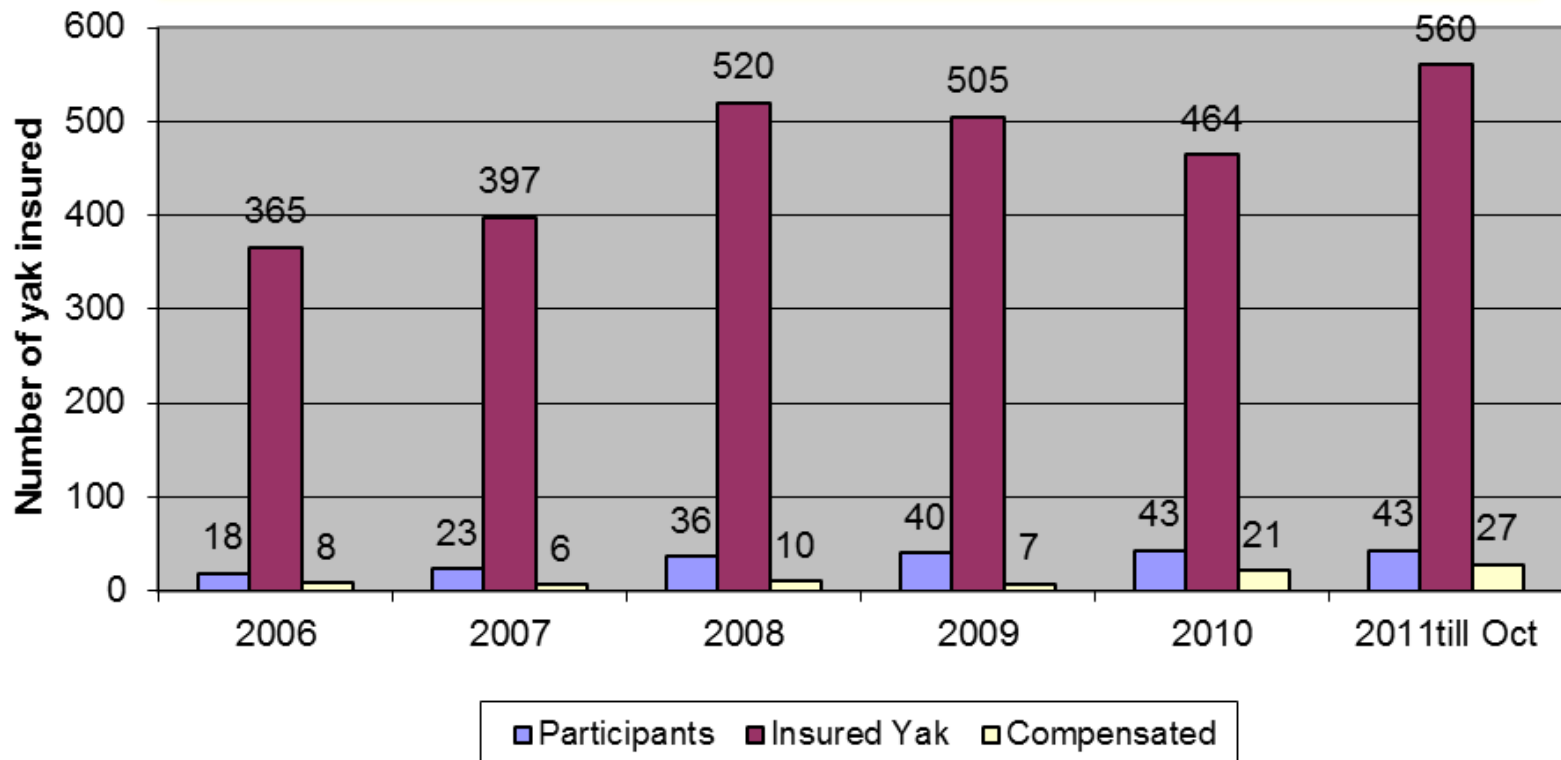


Field verification of carcass



Number of Insured Yaks Vs Compensated (2006-2011 till October)

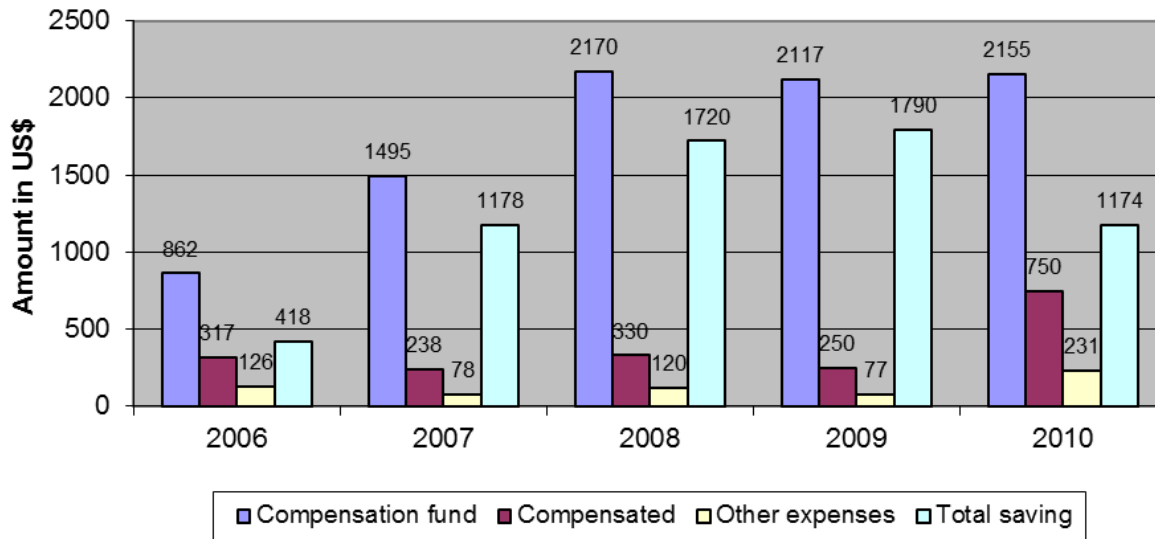
Participant households and insured Vs compensated Yaks



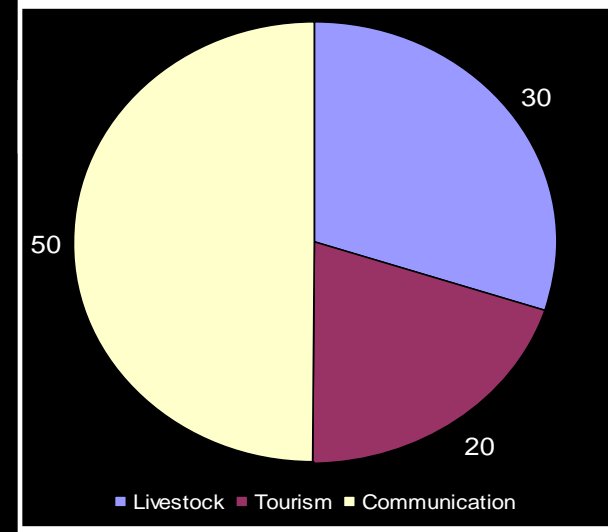


Status of fund availability, expenses and total saving

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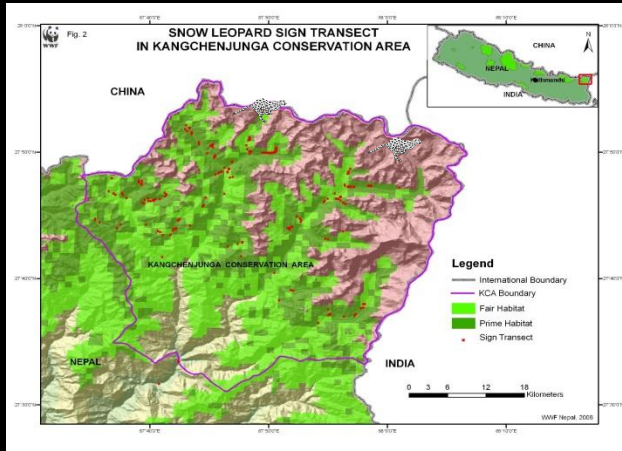


% of Revolving fund utilization

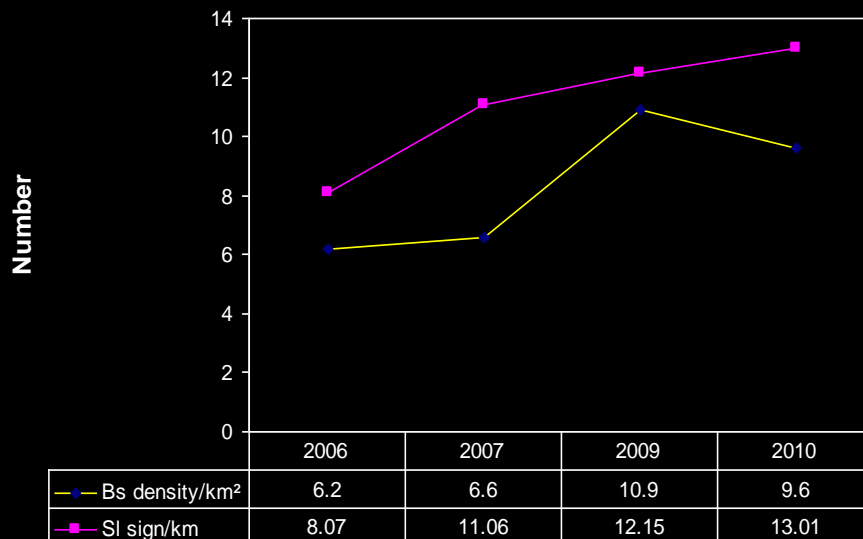




Community-based snow leopard and its prey base monitoring



Trends of Snow Leopard signs and Blue sheep density (2006-2010)





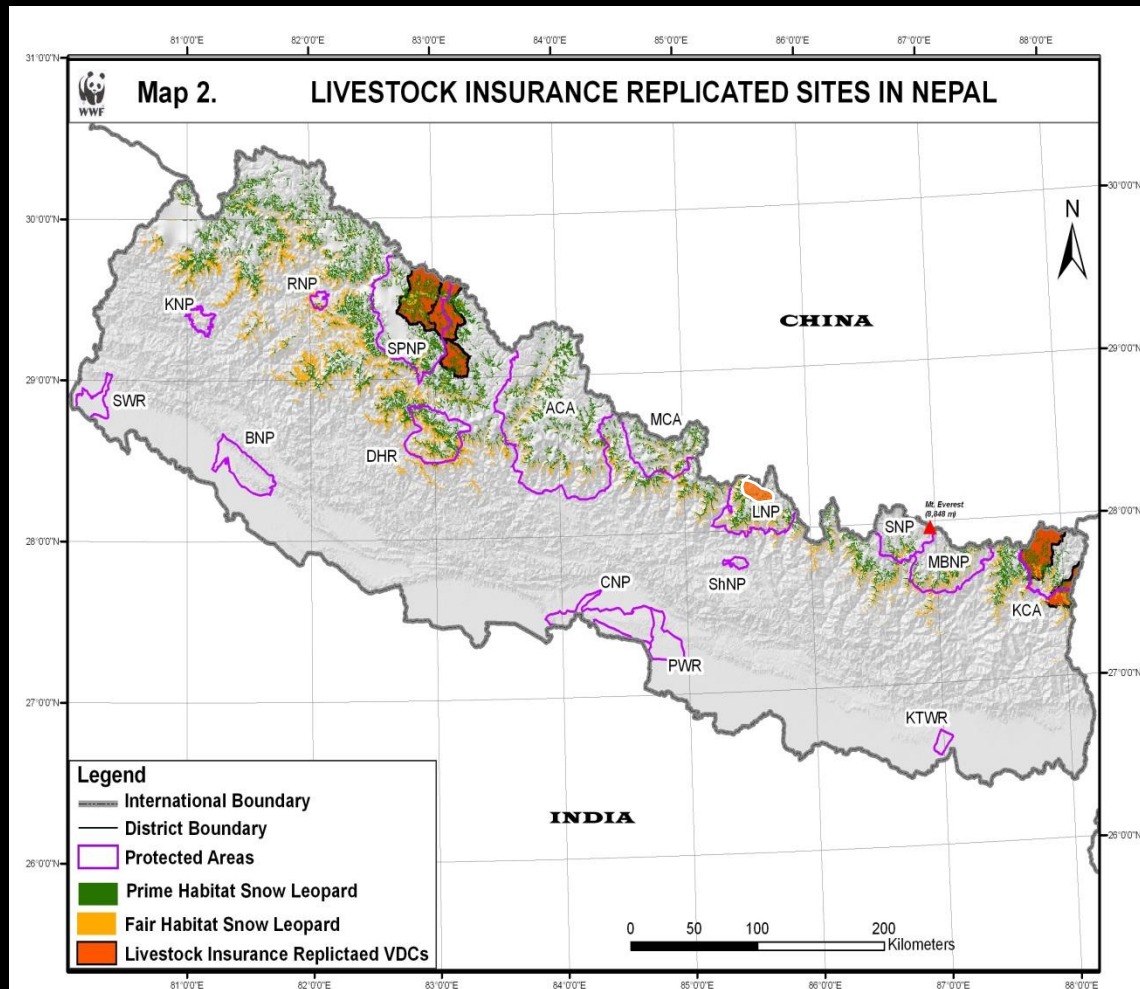
Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities

Strengths/Opportunities

- Locally managed and self sustain (feeling of ownership)
- Equitable benefit sharing mechanism
- Positive attitude towards snow leopard conservation of local people
- Develop snow leopard-based tourism

Challenges

- Needs large amount of seed money to expand the program
- Monitoring





Thank You for your attention

