



RED PANDA
NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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RPN thanks the following colleagues for their contribution in different roles.

Damber Bista, Program Manager (2011-2018)
Pema Sherpa, Conservation Coordinator (2016-
2018)
Aadarsha Jung Thapa & Kamana Poudel, Program
Associate (2017-2018)
Dawa Tenji Yolmo, Project Coordinator (2019)

A photograph of a red panda sitting on a mossy tree branch in a forest. The panda is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more tree branches and foliage.

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2019 IMPACTS NUMBERS



9

Hectares of land purchased for habitat restoration and reforestation.



10

Grassroots organizations partnering with RPN to implement community-based red panda conservation programs in Nepal.



97,000

Native plant saplings grown in six Forest Conservation Nurseries.



1st

Photographic record of the Marbled cat (on camera trap).



10

Red pandas equipped with GPS-Satellite collars for the first time in Nepal.



62

Community Forests were sites of ongoing red panda population and habitat monitoring.

12k

Kilometers of red panda habitat patrolled and monitored by Forest Guardians.

48

Forest Guardians received certified First-Aid Training.

133

Kilometers of core red panda habitat patrolled by Forest Guardians during anti-poaching monitoring.

13,240

Community people reached with red panda awareness initiatives.

4,341

Hectares of Community Forests integrated with red panda conservation measures.

163

Institutions from around the world celebrated International Red Panda Day.

73

Family livelihoods benefited by distribution of non-timber forest products and medicinal and aromatic plants.

659

Free-roaming dogs were vaccinated.

21

Yak and *Dzomu* herder sheds supported for improvements.

45

Improved Cookstoves distributed to the community.

94

Students received Red Panda Conservation Scholarships in local schools.

20+

Medium to large mammal species directly benefited from conservation activities.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well during this challenging and unprecedented time in our history. I know with the current coronavirus pandemic, you are likely confronted with alarming news on a daily basis. But I have some positive and encouraging updates to share with you today:

Thanks to you—our passionate, dedicated supporters and partners in conservation—2019 was another remarkable year for Red Panda conservation in Nepal.

All of our activities are guided by the Government of Nepal's Red Panda Conservation Action Plan, 2019-2023. We are excited to be able to reflect some of the plan's objectives in our 2019 achievements.

“With distinct honor and gratitude, I present you with our landmark accomplishments of 2019—a portfolio of another year in driving positive change that helps shape the future of red panda. 2019 was indubitably a momentous year for RPN where conservation programs reached new heights. Your incredible generosity, allowed us to collaborate and consolidate the efforts of local communities, government agencies, policymakers, practitioners, and scientists in sustainably protecting wild red pandas and their habitat.”

Thanks to our donors and partners, Red Panda Network (RPN) was able to expand community-based red panda conservation programs to four additional districts in

western Nepal: Rolpa, Dolpa, Rukum (West), and Rukum (East). This strategic extension helps to ensure the connectivity of three protected areas: Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Rara National Park.

RPN now has a national team of over 100 warriors on the frontlines of red panda conservation: Forest Guardians (FGs)! Members of our FG team have been trained and equipped with new technologies—more on that later!—which has accelerated RPN’s objectives in Nepal.

Another milestone for RPN is we began construction of the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Living (CCSL) in Taplejung, eastern Nepal. The CCSL is committed to alleviating poverty and ensuring a sustainable future for people and red pandas. We also successfully equipped ten red pandas with GPS-satellite collars in the PIT Corridor. This is Nepal’s first red panda GPS-Collaring project! We now receive near-real-time data on their movement and ecology.

In 2019, a record-high of ten red pandas—a total of nine cubs (from different litters) and one female red panda—were seen during an ecotrip in eastern Nepal! Increased sightings during ecotrips is an indicator of the positive impacts of our community-based conservation programs and that red panda numbers in eastern Nepal are on the rise. I am also proud to share that this

year, 163 institutions from around the world participated in the International Red Panda Day 2019, bringing conservation messages to more than 100,000 people.

Another invigorating moment for RPN in 2019 is the purchase of 9 hectares of private land that have been identified as core red panda habitat in Ilam district, eastern Nepal. This is an area that, once restored, will be a part of a critical forest corridor that connects protected areas in Nepal and India and includes 34 hectares of prime habitat that we already restored in 2018. We will continue to prioritize Plant A Red Panda Home—our program that restores and reforests core red panda habitat—and look forward to sending you more uplifting updates on our progress.

Speaking of updates: in 2019, RPN supported community nurseries in red panda range that were able to produce nearly 100,000 saplings of native species in eastern Nepal!

On behalf of RPN, I would like to thank our supporters, from all around the world, for joining us on this important mission to save wild red pandas and improve the lives of the people who live among them. We begin 2020 with hope for a future of endless possibilities and unlimited potential.

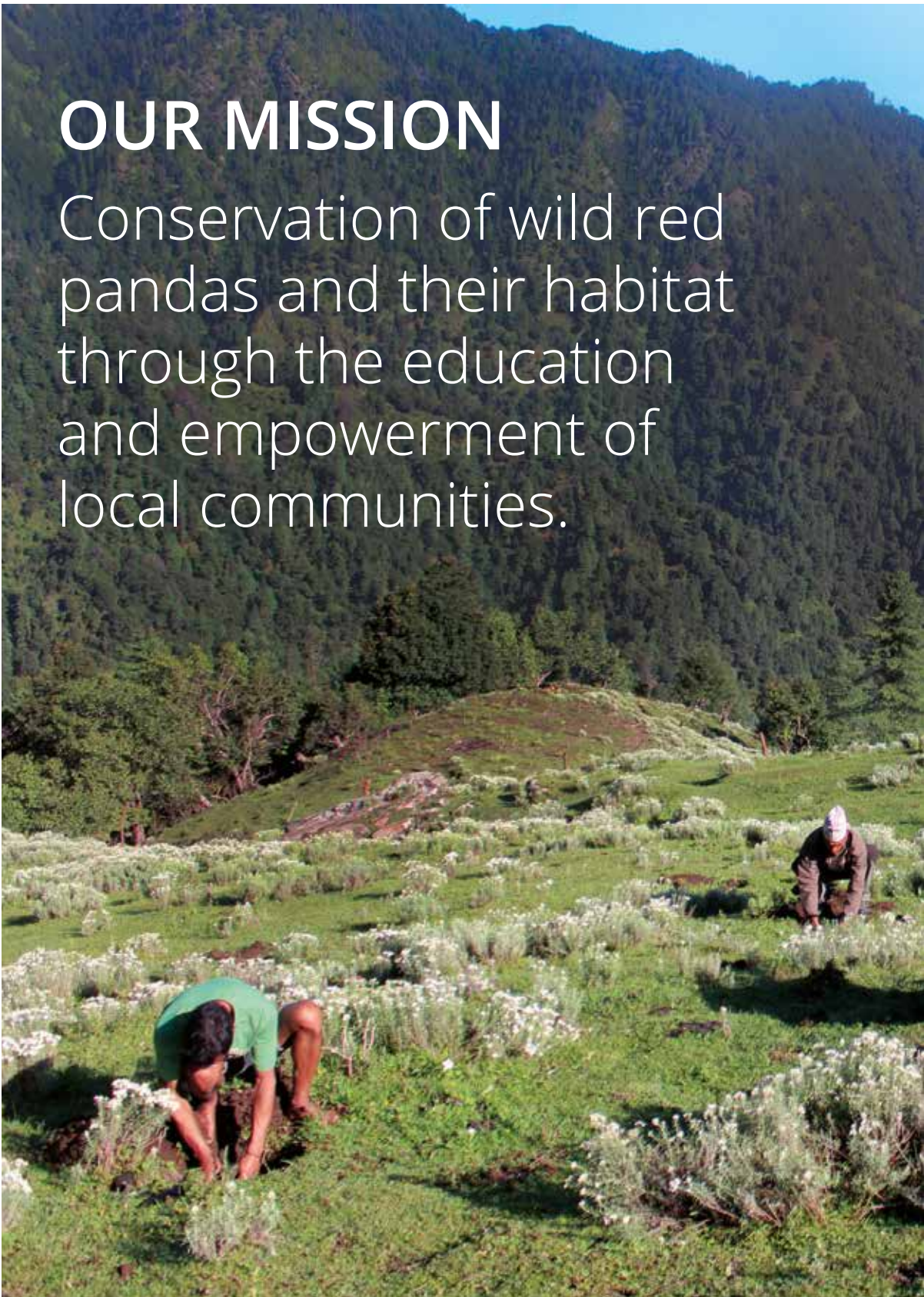


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ang Phuri Sherpa'.

Ang Phuri Sherpa
Country Director

OUR MISSION

Conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.



ABOUT RPN

RPN is committed to the conservation of red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of the local communities. RPN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the United States and working in Nepal since 2007. Our efforts started with “Project Punde Kundo”, a community-based red panda monitoring project that mobilized eleven FGs from four villages in the Ilam and Panchthar districts of eastern Nepal. FGs are RPN’s trained citizen scientists and forest stewards who patrol and monitor red panda habitat, record important population and habitat information, remove traps and snares, and educate their fellow community members on the importance of red panda conservation. RPN is currently implementing the project, “Community-based Red Panda Conservation in eastern Nepal” in the Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) corridor since 2011 which is extended to Jumla, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Rolpa, Rukum (West), Rukum (East), and Dolpa districts of western Nepal.

VISION

RPN’s vision is to ensure the survival of wild red pandas and preserve their habitat for future generations to study, experience, and enjoy. We are committed to protecting wild red pandas and preserving their habitat through the empowerment of local communities by adaptive community-based research, education, and sustainable development. Our intention is to create

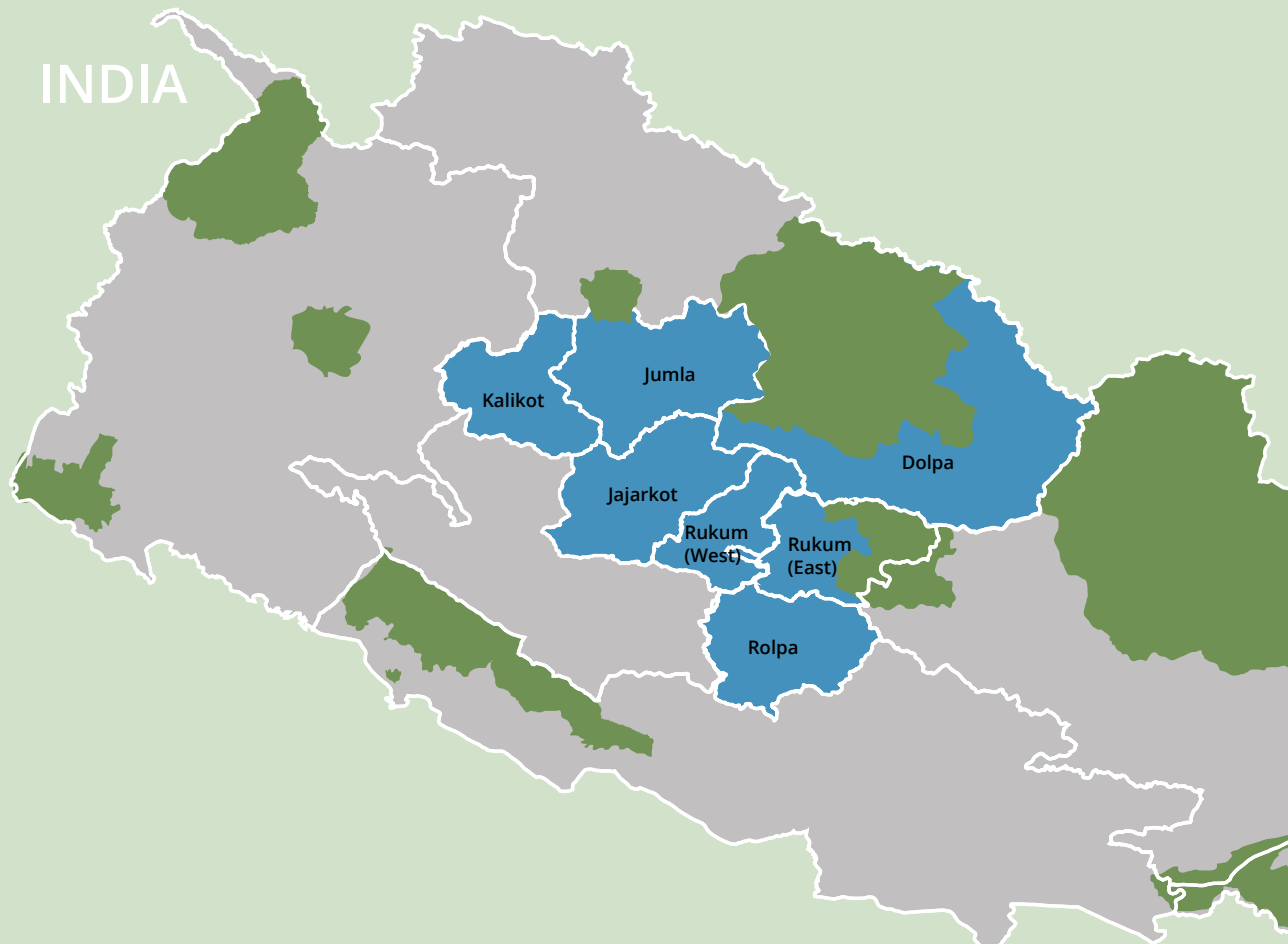
country-specific programs that will become locally managed and self-sustaining by five years after the operation has begun. We have initiated our programs in Nepal and will incrementally duplicate our efforts in Bhutan, China, India, and Myanmar.

OBJECTIVES

- Minimizing conversion of eastern Himalayan broadleaf and conifer forests to pasture and farmland;
- Identifying and preserving unprotected red panda “hotspots” (i.e., areas within red panda range countries having intact red panda habitat housing viable populations of 100 individuals or more);
- Continuing to build an anti-poaching network made up of local stakeholders, including Forest Guardians;
- Assisting communities in devising socially responsible alternatives that are culturally and environmentally sensitive (sustainable livestock management practices, alternative energy promotion, red panda-based eco-tourism, etc.);
- Increasing environmental awareness and appreciation of the fragile eastern Himalayan broadleaf and conifer eco-region and its wildlife among local villagers, decision-makers, and government officials.

WHERE WE WORK

RPN is working with more than sixty Community Forests and has active conservation programs in ten districts in Nepal.

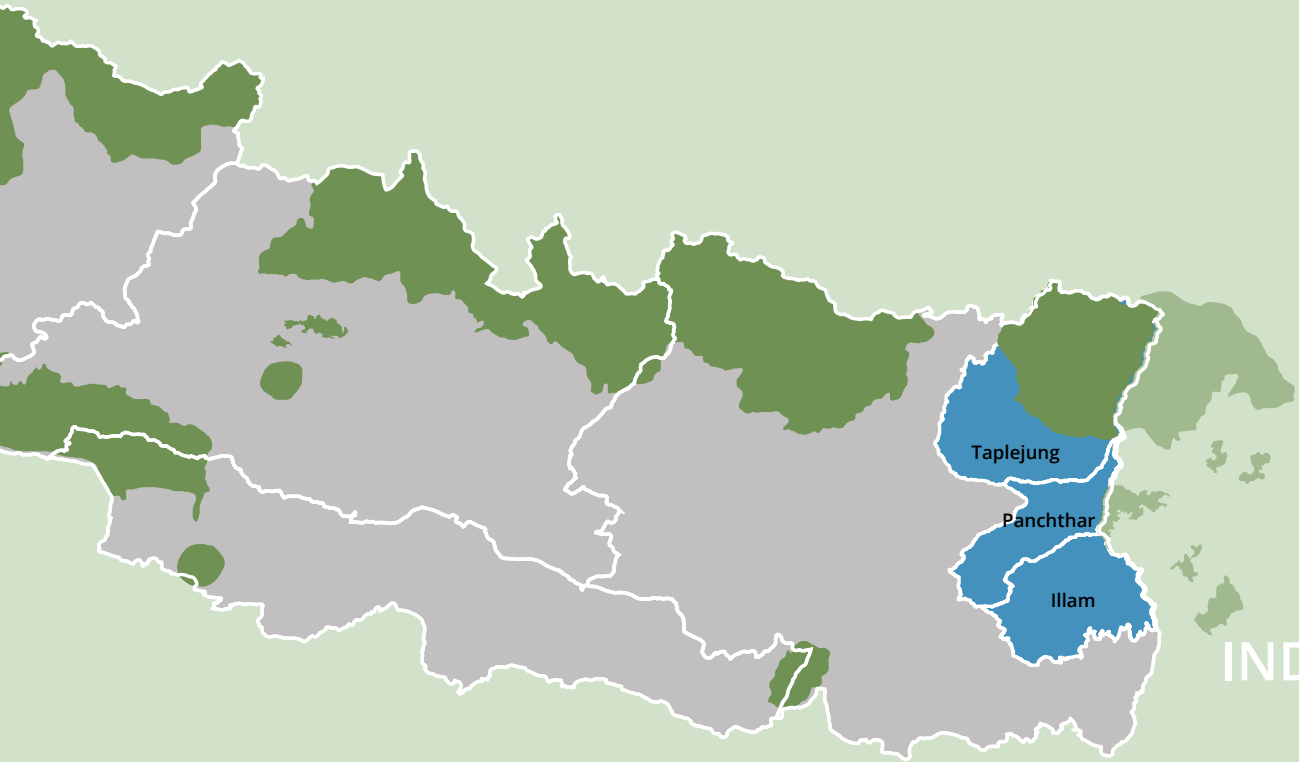


LEGEND

-  Project Area Districts
-  Protected Area - Nepal
-  Protected Area - India

INDIA

CHINA



INDIA

HIGHLIGHTS



THE FIRST GPS-SATELLITE COLLARING OF RED PANDAS IN NEPAL

RPN has successfully equipped ten wild red pandas with GPS-satellite collars in the PIT Corridor, a forest corridor between protected areas in Nepal and India. This is Nepal's first red panda GPS collaring project!

With global estimates at less than 10,000 individuals surviving in the wild, the red panda is categorized as an endangered mammal on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Red pandas serve as an indicator species, as

their occurrence is related to canopy cover and bamboo abundance of the forest. Red pandas are the only extant member of their taxonomic family, and if they were to become extinct that would be, at least taxonomically, "like losing the whole cat family, from lions to domestic cats."

The collaring project is an important component of our long-term monitoring initiatives. It will not only provide critical baseline data on red panda distribution and behavior in the wild but also appraises stakeholders with valuable insight into landscape-level conservation efforts required to manage biological corridors.



It took a team of enthusiastic wildlife conservationists and trained citizen scientists—comprised of officials and researchers from RPN, Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DOFSC), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Division Forest Office, Ilam; Rotterdam Zoo, the Netherlands; and the University of Queensland, Australia—over three months to track down ten red pandas in the PIT corridor. The GPS-Satellite collaring project was executed by RPN who received technical support from the Government of Nepal including DOFSC and DNPWC, with funding support from Rotterdam Zoo.

THE FIRST RECORD OF MARBLED CAT IN NEPAL

A team of wildlife conservationists and researchers from RPN, Lincoln University, Rotterdam Zoo, DOFSC and DNPWC in Nepal has photographed the rare and mysterious Marbled cat. The Marbled cat *Pardofelis marmorata*—a small arboreal felid, slightly larger than a domestic cat—was photographed by a camera trap set up in the forest of Panchthar district in eastern Nepal. This is the nation’s first photographic evidence of the Marbled cat! Previously, there was only an anecdotal report of this cat by pioneer naturalist Brian H. Hodgson.



PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



COMMUNITY-BASED RED PANDA CONSERVATION

Local communities in Nepal are on the frontlines of conservation and are our most important allies for saving the red panda. Our programs mobilize local people in environmental stewardship while improving their livelihoods through alternative income generation and resource preservation programs.

RPN is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to red panda conservation. 2019 marked a significant milestone for our mission when we expanded our community-based programs to four additional districts in western Nepal: Rolpa, Dolpa, Rukum (West), and Rukum (East). Western Nepal constitutes over 50% of the country's habitat available to red pandas, however, it is fragmented and unable to support a viable population. Our goal in this important region is to improve habitat connectivity of three protected areas: Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Rara National Park which lies in these critical regions.



MONITORING OF RED PANDA AND THEIR HABITAT

RPN monitors red pandas and their habitat four times in a year. This year, 84 FGs were deployed to monitor 75 monitoring blocks in 62 Community Forests (CFs)—totaling approximately 1,200 kms in transect length—in eastern and western Nepal.

In 2019, FGs reported two direct sightings of red panda in the PIT corridor and one sighting in the Kalikot district, western Nepal. Indirect signs like red panda pellets, footprints and foraging marks were also observed. Natural and anthropogenic threats such as landslide, mass flowering of bamboo, free grazing of livestock, logging, snares, were encountered during habitat monitoring.

Ongoing monitoring is beneficial in documenting the presence and establishing an index of red panda population in their habitat. The goal of this monitoring program is to gain insight into the status of red panda and how its population is changing over time under the pressure of anthropogenic activities. During monitoring activities, the FGs also remove snares targeted for red panda and other endangered wildlife, and in critical cases, they coordinate with representatives of the local CFs and Division Forest Office for effective law enforcement.



10/24

Red panda range districts in Nepal are locations of community-based conservation programs.



ANTI-POACHING TRAINING AND MONITORING

Data on illegal wildlife trade is showing that poaching incidents in Nepal are escalating and one of the major threats to red panda survival. In an effort to stop the illegal red panda trade, RPN formed six anti-poaching networks—made up of local stakeholders, including Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) and FGs—who patrol red panda habitat, remove traps and snares, educate locals on the importance of red panda conservation, and report poaching activity to enforcement agencies. Network members have been trained on red panda ecology, history of conservation, illegal wildlife trade in Nepal, relevant legal provisions and mitigation efforts. This year, 43 members of the anti-poaching network participated in the training.

Consequently, the network mobilized 115 additional local people and FGs for patrolling 46 CFs and one National Forest in the PIT corridor. The patrol units traversed 133 km in 254 hours and dismantled five traps set for wildlife in the area. Anti-poaching monitoring was also conducted in western Nepal's Kalikot district where anthropogenic threats such as collection of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and fodder, unsustainable grazing, forest fire, and deforestation were encountered during the monitoring period.

RED PANDA SURVEY IN WESTERN NEPAL

RPN worked with our local partner organizations on a comprehensive field survey of red panda population status and distribution, habitat utilization, and snaring and poaching incidents in western Nepal. During the assessment, the field team traversed a total of 35 km in 11 CFs, recorded the presence of red pandas in all project districts, and identified potential anthropogenic threats including habitat degradation, deforestation, and illegal poaching. The survey has increased the public's understanding of the plight of red pandas in western Nepal and the exigency for conservation actions in this range.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND REFRESHER TRAINING

Forest guardians are trained citizen scientists from local communities in red panda range. They are the pillars of red panda conservation who not only monitor red pandas and their habitat but also educate fellow community members and advocate for red panda conservation. In 2019, RPN conducted ten capacity-building/refresher training for FGs.

“The FG program is the centerpiece of RPN’s efforts. They are the wildlife warriors and conservation leaders from local communities who risk their lives to protect forests from illegal activities”

85 FGs from 64 CFs in eastern and western Nepal participated in the training which included theoretical and practical sessions on red panda population and habitat monitoring. The training events enhanced the knowledge and capacity of FGs for establishment of new monitoring blocks, onsite data collection, boundary surveys of CFs, and Nepal’s laws relevant to wildlife conservation. They were also instructed on proper use of field equipment (GPS, camera traps, Vernier Caliper, DBH Tape, etc.) and in collecting and preserving the red panda pellets for diet analysis and parasitic loads.

BASIC FIRST-AID TRAINING

RPN conducted a four-day first-aid training for the FGs of Panchthar and Taplejung districts. In total 48 FGs were trained with basic medical treatments such as Cardiopulmonary Resus Citation (CPR), fractures and sprains therapy. These life-saving skills are essential to save an ill or injured person during various medical emergencies. Each FG also received a first-aid kit. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Red Cross Society.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT





LAND PURCHASE FOR CONSERVATION

Red pandas are vulnerable to extinction due to a number of anthropogenic disturbances. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, along with poaching, are the most pressing anthropogenic threats to red panda conservation. Habitat conservation, including its proper management, the identification of the critical corridors and bottlenecks, and habitat restoration, is essential for the conservation of the species. Studies have shown that the red panda uses trees in most of their life and prefers less disturbed habitat with plenty of water sources. ~ The tree means the forest and without the forest, there are no red pandas.~ Hence, the protection of its habitat is basic which ultimately provides hundreds of other species a future, which is another focus of the RPN.

The Ilam district, in eastern Nepal, is a strategic geographic area for the conservation of red panda. Significant to the Kangchenjunga landscape it serves as a biological corridor between the two important red panda habitats in India and Nepal. However, existing habitat along the border of the two countries is fragmented due to human-induced factors. This is a major problem for the free and undisturbed movement of red panda and other endangered wildlife in the area. To address this issue, RPN has been pursuing the purchase of private land which is in need of restoration and converting it to a functional corridor for red pandas and other sympatric wildlife.

Recently, with support from our conservation partner, The Body Shop, RPN purchased a total of approximately 9 hectares of private land in the Sandakpur Rural Municipality of the Ilam district. The land was transferred to the Government of Nepal, Division Forest Office Ilam (DFO-Ilam). In 2020, RPN plans to carry out restoration projects in that area that includes this land being merged into an existing CF nearby to ensure its sustainability. After a few years, the area is expected to be a bio-bridge that can provide a pathway for the wildlife linking habitat between India and Nepal. Camera trapping surveys in an RPN restored habitat, adjacent to the recent land purchase site provided evidence of endangered wildlife including red panda *Ailurus fulgens*, leopard *Pantehra pardus*, Himalayan black bear *Ursus thibetanus*, Goral *Naemorhedus goral*, Himalayan serow *Capriornis thar*, Satyr tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, etc.



NATIVE NURSERIES

RPN has collaborated with the local CFs and the Sandakpur Rural Municipality in the Ilam district to establish and manage nurseries of native plants (including red panda palatable food species) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). This year, RPN supported six nurseries in the PIT region, with a total of 97,000 saplings of species like *Bhalu chinde/Putta Schefflera impressa*, Himalayan yew *Taxus walliachiana*, Love Apple *Paris polyphylla*, *Zigyphus mauritiana*, Bamboo *Yushania maling*, Himalayan Whitebeam *Sorbus cuspidata*, Oak *Quercus lamellosa*, Wild privet *Lindera pulcherrima*, Himalayan

pine *Pinus wallichiana*, Ring-cupped oak or Japanese blue oak *Quercus glauca*, Himalayan champaca *Michelia excelsa*, Himalayan hemlock *Tsuga dumosa*, etc. Among the six nurseries, the nursery managed by Sandakpur Rural Municipality only possesses the capacity to raise around 63,000 saplings each year. The saplings raised at this location, in 2019, will be planted in the restoration site of the newly purchased land in the Sandakpur Rural Municipality and the remaining will be distributed to the CFs of Ilam district free of cost in 2020.



PLANTATION OF NATIVE PLANTS

In 2019, RPN conducted a plantation of approximately 23,000 native saplings in the CFs of the PIT corridor. In addition, 800 red panda palatable tree species and 400 bamboo species were planted in Gairemela community forest of Kalikot District. RPN supported the saplings and the CF users contributed local labor for the plantation. Following the plantation, the management team of the CF restricted free grazing and alternatively encouraged the stall feeding of their livestock.



CREATION AND RESTORATION OF WATER HOLES FOR WILDLIFE

RPN, in collaboration with local organizations, created and restored seven water holes/small ponds in the PIT corridor of eastern Nepal. The ponds serve as a source of drinking water to the wildlife of the area. In 2020, it is planned to create and restore 15 water holes in Nepal.

ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION

Feral dogs are potential threats to red pandas. They can not only chase and kill red pandas causing direct predation but also encourage disease transmissions as rabies and canine distemper. Numerous free-roaming dogs within red panda habitat appear to be triggering high mortality rates. A total of 659 (community, feral, and abandoned) dogs from Taplejung and Jajarkot district were vaccinated with the anti-rabies vaccine this year.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH





CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

RPN continues to support the Deurali Bhitri CFUG with the construction of an integrative resource center in Deurali, Taplejung. The Center for Conservation and Sustainable Living (CCSL) is expected to be completed in 2021, and will be a hub for educational and skill-building workshops where local people can learn sustainable energy use and construction, organic farming, handicraft production, sustainable herding, bio-briquette production, nature guide and ecotrek leadership and homestay management. The CCSL will also be earthquake resistant and will feature rainwater harvesting, improved cookstoves, solar technologies, ecological-sanitation toilets, and cultivation of organic vegetables.

“The Center for Conservation and Sustainable Living will be committed to alleviating poverty and ensuring a sustainable future for people and red pandas.”

Construction of the CCSL foundation, woodwork and stonework is completed and we are making progress on the first floor. We are utilizing environmentally-friendly construction techniques and local labor—except when highly skilled workers are required—to bolster the CCSL’s sustainability and foster capacity building opportunities for the local people. Nordens Ark & Svenska Postcode Lottery has provided funding support for the CCSL project.

“The CCSL will be a conservation and education center. It will be integral to improving the living standards and increasing the annual income of at least 2,000 local families.”



RED PANDA BULLETIN

Developing and nurturing a child’s appreciation of nature is crucial for strengthening future conservation work. For the past several years, a major project for RPN has been developing opportunities that spark conservation awareness and education with young audiences. RPN’s efforts have been supportive of Red Panda Roots & Shoots Group and eco clubs. This year, 46 such groups participated in a red panda bulletin publication—produced by students—which included poems, short stories, essays, and art projects that conveyed a conservation message. RPN engaged more than 10,000 young minds about the necessity for conservation in 41 schools in eastern and western Nepal.



100k+

People participated in International Red Panda Day 2019.

INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY

This year was the 10-year anniversary of International Red Panda Day (IRPD). The event received a huge global response and a record number of individual and institution participants—147 institutions (zoos, schools, businesses, government offices), reaching more than 100,000 people. The funding raised during IRPD 2019 supported our “Plant A Red Panda Home” initiative which will restore and reforest critical red panda habitats in Nepal. Also, for the first time, IRPD educational and outreach materials were translated and made available in Japanese, Polish, and Czech.

In our project areas in Nepal, the local schools organized debate, essay, art, poem, quizzes, singing competitions, and field trips where students planted native trees in red panda habitat and learned about the importance of Himalayan biodiversity. IRPD 2019 helped us to reach more than 10,000 local students with outreach efforts.



RED PANDA CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Red Panda Conservation Scholarship program was started in 2019 to provide financial support to the children and siblings of FGs, as well as students from partner schools of Red Panda Roots & Shoots Groups. The scholarship was merit-based and made available to students in grades six and seven. In total, 45 students from the PIT region were provided with the Red Panda Conservation Scholarship and 49 students from marginalized communities of Kalikot, Jumla, and Jajarkot districts of western Nepal were provided with in-kind scholarship support (stationery materials, bags, and books).

The scholarship was merit-based and was available to students in grades six and seven.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION TEXTBOOKS

RPN developed conservation education textbooks for grades six and seven that were implemented in twenty schools throughout the PIT region (after getting approval from the local council). This year, 646 students received conservation education with the use of the textbook which included lessons on biodiversity of the eastern Himalayas, red panda and other wildlife conservation, climate change and sustainable livelihood alternatives. RPN also facilitated training by a teaching expert for twenty teachers on effective teaching methodology.





THE FORGOTTEN PANDA PSA & RED PANDA CHILDREN'S BOOK

The red panda PSA, *The Forgotten Panda*—produced by wildlife photographer, filmmaker, and RPN board member, Dr. Axel Gebauer—has been translated to Nepali and screened throughout the PIT region in fourteen community centers, reaching approximately 5,450 people. The film highlights the challenges faced by the species for its survival and the efforts of RPN and other institutions in Bhutan and India. One thousand flash drives containing the film were also distributed throughout RPN's project districts.

RPN published and distributed approximately 1,000 sets of red panda children's books to third and fifth graders. The books were a



series of ten different topics; three were based on stories about red pandas. The production and showcase of *The Forgotten Panda* and the publication of the children's book, were made possible through support from the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation.

MINI ECOTRIPS

In 2019, 800 students from 28 Red Panda Roots & Shoots Group schools participated in a day-long red panda mini ecotrips. The objective of the trip was to provide students with the opportunity to experience red panda habitat first-hand and prepare them for a future in conservation with true and inspiring stories in red panda range. The ecotrips also encourage students to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily life.



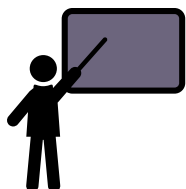
MEDIA WORKSHOPS

RPN organized “Role of Media in Combating Wildlife Crime” workshops for local journalists in the PIT districts of eastern Nepal and Kalikot, Jumla, Jajarkot, Rukum (West), and Rukum (East) districts in western Nepal. Altogether, 50 journalists from BBC Nepali Service, Nepal Television, Kantipur, and National News Agency Nepal, participated. The goal was to educate and empower local and national media to prioritize stories on illegal poaching and red panda conservation. Participants shared their experiences and challenges and discussed solutions for reporting wildlife crime. After the training, some of the journalists published articles on illegal wildlife trade and conservation successes in their media outlets.



WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL FOREST WATCH ALERT SYSTEM

The first-ever workshop on the forest monitoring and alert system was conducted for the Division Forest Officers (DFOs), Assistant Forest Officers (AFOs), field conservation officers, FGs, officials of the local councils, and members of four CFs from Kalikot district, western Nepal. The workshop was conducted to sensitize participants about the Global Forest Watch (GFW) and its mobile application. Our FGs have adopted GFW's forest watcher mobile application which has enhanced our forest monitoring strategy. This allows red panda habitat to be monitored efficaciously, and the information collected to be analyzed right away. The app also provides a wide array of features from surveilling deforestation to reporting forest fires with just a tap on the phone.



313

Local council members participated in red panda conservation workshops.

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. The foreground shows a steep hillside with terraced fields, some of which are green, suggesting crops. A small cluster of buildings, including a prominent one with a blue roof, is situated on the slope. A dirt road winds up the hill. The background consists of vast, rolling hills covered in dense green forest, with some terraced fields visible in the distance. The overall scene depicts a rural, agricultural landscape in a mountainous area.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD



IMPROVED METALLIC COOKSTOVE

RPN has expanded alternative income generation and sustainable livelihood promotion programs in communities to offset their high dependency on forest resources. Various income-generating interventions were implemented in 2019: distribution of saplings of high-value NTFPs and MAPs, establishing new nurseries, distributing poly-houses, distribution of improved cookstoves and handicraft knitting machines, and identifying and developing new sites for red panda-based ecotourism initiatives.

Improved metallic cookstoves (ICS) were distributed to 45 households of the FGs, herders, & local forest users in the PIT region. ICS is an effective alternative to reduce the amount of firewood by nearly 50%. In addition, it reduces smoke, soot and unburnt volatile organic matter, and keeps cooking utensils and houses clean. Reduced pollution of indoor air is another advantage which contributes to the improved health of local people. A single metallic ICS used by the herders can save 22.5 kg of firewood each day compared to the traditional open-hearth stove.

USING IMPROVED METALLIC COOKSTOVES LEADS TO HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER LIVING

Mrs. Nim Dolma Sherpa, age 28, is a resident of Dobato, Ilam. She is a homemaker whose daily earnings depend on vegetable farming and animal husbandry. In 2017, when RPN introduced red panda-based ecotourism in her village she displayed interest in running a homestay. Mrs. Sherpa knew about red pandas living in the nearby forest but was unaware of their importance and ecological role. After RPN implemented community-based red panda conservation programs in their community the residents, including Mrs. Sherpa, were encouraged towards red panda stewardship. This helped promote community development through the creation of alternative economic opportunities for villagers. As a part of homestay development and management, the adoption of ICS has been an achievement in fostering the local livelihoods in eastern Nepal.

Mrs. Sherpa, along with other local inhabitants of Dobato village, used to rely on traditional cookstoves/biomass cookstoves. These stoves consume large amounts of solid fuel, which contribute to the loss of the trees and degrade the local ecosystem. The combustion process releases unsightly black carbon which affects local air quality and emits carbon-based greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Inside the kitchen, inefficient cookstoves produce thick smoke, soot, and unburnt volatile organic matter that tarnishes equipment, stains walls, and affects a person's health. Nim Dolma has

experienced burning eyes, headaches, and even had difficulty breathing. She is glad to be using the new stoves, "Now, I'm so delighted to be using the better cookstoves. I hope these become common and replace the inefficient ones."

Mrs. Sherpa further revealed that using ICS has reduced firewood consumption by nearly half. Now, she is more engaged in other household responsibilities because the time taken for cooking has been reduced by one-third. For example, it used to take 17 minutes to boil 1.5 liters of water, but now it takes 12 minutes. Nim Dolma has noticed her health improving as indoor air pollution has decreased. Another major advantage of ICS is that the temperature inside the house is constant for longer periods and a person can be comfortable with wearing a light sweater. Additionally, the water boiling system is a unique feature of ICS that reduces the demand for extra firewood in boiling water. Mrs. Sherpa had never expected her life would make such a beautiful turn. "I might not be directly helping with red panda stewardship but by using the improved metallic cookstoves I am indirectly helping in their habitat protection." Presently Mrs. Sherpa has gained much knowledge about sustainable conservation measures through awareness-building workshops as well as getting benefited from different conservation programs. Like Nim Dolma, other women in the community share similar success stories.

So far, RPN has supported 135 cookstoves to the local forest users and the yak and *dzomu* (a cross-breed of yak and local cow) herders of the PIT region.



IMPROVEMENT OF TRADITIONAL SHEDS OF HERDERS

Twenty-one yak, *dzomu*, & cow herding sheds were improved using inner partition by mandro (woven bamboo sheets), installing rooftop planks, and installing improved cookstoves. These additions improved the livelihood of the local herders by providing separate space for kitchen, sleeping, and livestock, and reduced firewood consumption by more than 50% for heating and cooking purposes. An added benefit of the improved shed is that it reduces indoor smoke pollution helping the herders to stay healthy.

HANDICRAFT PRODUCTION TRAINING AND KNITTING MACHINE SUPPORT

Ten women of the Ilam district were provided training on producing woolen handicrafts. The participants were selected by two women groups from Mabu and Gorkhe to learn about opportunities in alternative livelihoods. The training focused on acquiring skills for producing woolen handicrafts like bags, caps, sweaters, mufflers, socks, etc. imprinted with a red panda image. The women groups were also provided with a knitting machine. The handicrafts will be kept at the local homestays and sold to visitors.

GOVERNANCE





RED PANDA PROTECTED FOREST IN THE PIT

RPN's long-term priority is establishing the world's first protected area in the PIT corridor dedicated to the red panda. The PIT corridor—one of the most biologically diverse places on earth—is an important part of the Kangchenjunga landscape with the densest population of red panda and home to hundreds of other wildlife species. The aim is to create a protected forest managed by a network of CFs.

“RPN is working hard to establish the world's first protected area dedicated to red panda; the Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) Red Panda Protected Forest as a high priority project.”

ALIGNING CONSERVATION AGENDAS

Since the entry of Nepal into the new federal system, the engagement of the local council members and the Provincial Assembly members has become an important strategy to introduce and sensitize them on red panda conservation issues. In 2019, RPN engaged 313 local council members from ten Rural Municipalities and four Urban Municipalities from the PIT corridor via red panda conservation workshops and training. RPN field achievements were shared, their feedback and commitments for potential collaborations were discussed. Many of the local municipalities allocated their funds to the red panda conservation and worked closely in collaboration with our local conservation partners in the districts.



ALIGNING RED PANDA CONSERVATION MEASURES

After launching “Project Punde Kundo” in eastern Nepal, RPN has been supporting the establishment of new CF and to renew operation plans of the existing CFs. It includes the incorporation of red panda conservation-friendly provisions in the revised OPs for implementation. Some of the common provisions are habitat zonation within the CFs (go and no go zones for use of the forest resources), the regulation to harvest forest resources like firewood, bamboo and its shoots, engaging CF users in regular meetings and workshops to review and monitor ongoing conservation measures of red panda and other sympatric wildlife. In 2019, RPN supported 4,341 hectares of CFs aligned with red panda conservation measures in project districts. RPN also organized regular consultation meetings between the local CFUGs and the respective DFOs to strengthen existing collaboration to reduce conservation threats like poaching and illegal use of forest resources.



ECO-TOURISM MANUAL

In 2007, RPN initiated a nine-day red panda focused eco-trip in eastern Nepal and three red pandas were spotted. In 2019, four community groups are managing this eco-trip itinerary in the Ilam and Taplejung districts. A 12-day trip in 2019, in Ilam, was able to spot a total of ten red pandas. This is a testimony of the thriving red panda in the area. The itinerary is based on red panda friendly guidelines for its sustainable operation with the technical and financial support from RPN. This year, RPN also consulted local herders (*dokpas*) to develop a manual on Gothstay tourism promotion. It is an attempt to replicate the eco trip formula in the pasturelands. The meaning of *Goth* in Nepali is the shelter of Yak/*Dzomu*/cow herders. The Gothstay is a form of homestay, where the visitors spend their time in a herder’s shelter to experience the life of a mountain nomad with yaks and *Dzomu*. Gothstay tourism enjoys the beauty of local forests, landscapes, wildlife, and birds and is targeted for nature lovers, researchers, social scientists, anthropologists, and those who want to experience the rural nomadic life. Twenty-one yak and *Dzomu* herders were

involved in preparing the Gothstay manual. The purpose is to provide an alternative method of income generation for herders and allow them to govern their own conservation agendas.

WORKSHOPS ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Growth of the illegal wildlife trade and an increase of poaching have been grave for red panda conservation. Enabling the

capacity of frontline law enforcement adds to combating internal and transnational wildlife crime. In total, 69 security officers from the Nepal Police including the staff of Division Forest Offices for the PIT region attended Illegal Wildlife Trade workshops in 2019. The workshop envisaged sensitizing security personnel (especially working in the border areas) about the wildlife crime vigilance through improved guard posts, forest patrols, and collaboration with the anti-poaching members of the local CFs.



रेड पाण्डा बाल क्लब प्रियोगविका

RPN PUBLICATIONS

Handwritten text in Hindi on a red background, likely a poem or story.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a red background, likely a poem or story.

If Men could fly
If men could fly, fly a man
might control small and big
world and climb to far
To know where happen,ing
To see how people say
And then can have his
own-1 see the biggest and call
see the all happen and show
I would say they'd wish I can
can make the good and soon
By Laxmipriya Jindani

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a butterfly.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a purple background, including a drawing of a tree and a house.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a flower.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a tiger in a forest.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a purple background, including a drawing of a landscape with trees and a river.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a red background, including a drawing of a landscape.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a landscape.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a landscape.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a purple background, including a drawing of a landscape.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a red background, including a drawing of a landscape.

Handwritten text in Hindi on a light blue background, including a drawing of a landscape.

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A dog is wearing a brown and white deer costume, standing in a forest. The dog's face is white with brown patches around its eyes and ears. The costume has a long brown neck and a white patch on the chest. The dog is looking directly at the camera. The background is a lush green forest with moss on the ground and trees.

**2019
SUPPORTERS**

2019 SUPPORTERS

We have made every effort to be as accurate as possible in this report to recognize our donors for their generous support. If an error comes to your attention, please let the Development Office know by emailing development@redpandanetwork.org.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS ORGANIZATION/GIVING LEVEL (IN USD)

\$50,001 +

- Anonymous donor
- Fondation Segre *as part of €250,000 multi-year support
- Nordens Ark & Svenska Postcode Lottery *as part of €400,000 multi-year support Nordens' Ark (Postkod Lottery)
- Rain Forest Trust *as part of \$222,500 multi-year support

\$40,001-\$50,000

- Rotterdam Zoo

\$30,001-\$40,000

- EAZA Red Panda EEP
- Global Forest Watch
- Griffith University
- Holtzman Wildlife Foundation
- Stichting Wildlife

\$20,001-\$30,000

- La Paserelle Conservation/ Parc Animaliere D'Auverge (Euro Nature)

\$10,001-\$20,000

- Detroit Zoological Society
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Greenville Zoo
- ICFC *as part of

- 91,970 multi-year support
- Maine Community Foundation
- Zoo Atlanta

\$5,001-\$10,000

- Akron Zoological Park
- Auckland Zoo Conservation Foundation
- CPPR
- John Ball Zoo
- Naturschutz-Tierpark Goerlitz
- Parco Zoo Punta Verde
- Sacramento Zoo & AAZK
- San Diego Zoo
- Vienna Zoo
- Virginia Zoo
- Wellington Zoo Trust

\$2,501-\$5,000

- ARCA Foundation
- Assiniboine Park
- Buttonwood Park Zoological Society
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- Columbus Zoological Park
- Dierenpark Amersfoort
- Helsinki Zoo (Korkeasaari)
- Longleat Safari & Adventure Park

- Medway Charitable Trust
- Nashville Zoo
- Paradise Park - Cornwall
- Parco Natura Viva
- Garda Zoological Park
- Perth Zoo
- Zoo Leipzig

\$1001-\$2500

- Association of German Zookeepers (Berufsverband der Zootierpfleger)
- Axel Gebauer
- Auckland Zoo
- Bioparc de Doué la Fontaine
- Brandywine Zoo
- Curragh's Wildlife Park
- Elmwood Park Zoo
- Espace Zoologique la Boissiere du Dore
- Folly Farm Adventure Park and Zoo
- Greater Good - Project Peril
- GreenBay AAZK
- Happy Hollow Zoo & Park
- ins-pi GmbH
- Kansas City Zoo & AAZK
- Kolmarden Wildlife Park
- Mesker Park Zoo & AAZK

- Mulhouse zoo
- Ouwehand Zoo
- Paradise Wildlife Park/The Zoological Society of Hertfordshire
- Parc Animalier D'auvergne & La Passerelle Conservation
- Parc Animalier de Sainte Croix
- Parc Zoologique de la Barben
- Potawatomi Zoo AAZK
- Pueblo Zoo
- Rosamond Gifford Zoo
- Sedgwick County Zoo
- Sequoia Park Zoo
- Shepreth Wildlife Park
- Welsh Mountain Zoo
- Zoo d'Amiens
- Zoo d'Asson
- Zoo des Sables
- Zoo of Antwerp

\$501-\$1000

- California Community Foundation
- Dudley Zoological Gardens
- Henry Vilas Zoo
- Memphis AAZK
- Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden
- Nihondaira Zoo

- Saitama Children's Zoo
 - Save the Animals Facing Extinction
 - Suncoast Nursery
 - Woodland Park Zoo
 - Zoo Arcachon Basin
- UP TO \$500**
- Cape May County Zoo
 - Decatur Park District
 - Fuutaas
 - Gideon Animal Foundation
 - Greater Vancouver Zoo
 - Maria Montessori School - Upper Elementary
 - Mount Desert Island High School
 - Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden
 - Omuta Zoo
 - Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG
 - Scovill Zoo
 - Societa Zoologica Di Pistoia S.R.L
 - Zoo de Granby
- THE RED PANDA EEP FOREST GUARDIAN PROGRAMME**
- Aachener Tierpark
 - Artis Zoo, Amsterdam
 - Cologne Zoo
 - Espace Zoologique la Boissiere du Dore
 - Faruk Yalcin Zoo
 - Fundacion Parques Reunidos
 - GaiaZOO, Kerkrade
 - Givskud Zoo
 - Helsinki Zoo
 - Mulhouse Zoo
 - Münchener Tierpark Hellabrunn
 - North of England Zoological Society
 - Odense Zoologiske Have
 - Opel-Zoo von Opel HessischeZoostiftung
 - Ouwehands Zoo
 - Parc animalie de Sainte Croix
 - Parc Zoologique de La Fleche
 - Parco Faunistico Le Cornelle
 - Parken Zoo Eskilstuna
 - Salzburg Zoo Hellbrunn
 - Sauvage Safari
 - Tiergarten der Stadt Nürnberg
 - Tiergarten Heidelberg
 - Vogelpark Avifauna
 - Zoo of Antwerp
 - Zoo Parc de Beauval
 - Zoological Society of Ireland-Dublin
 - Zoologischer Garten Leipzig

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RPN would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our individual supporters and monthly donors ("Panda Guardians") for your 2019 support and generosity.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Organizational financials (including RPN US and RPN Kathmandu Nepal operations) for 2019.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

As of 31 December 2019

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Grants and Donations | \$990,449 |
| Program Services Income | \$73,175 |
| Other Income | \$12,795 |
| Total Revenue and Support | \$1,076,419 |

EXPENSES

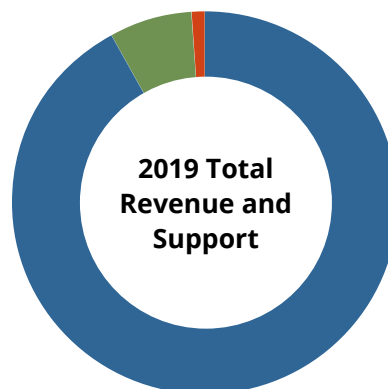
PROGRAM AREAS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Research and Monitoring | \$146,468 |
| Education and Outreach | \$120,768 |
| Habitat Management | \$69,996 |
| Policy and Advocacy | \$86,897 |
| Sustainable Livelihoods | \$61,990 |
| Total Program Services | \$486,120 |

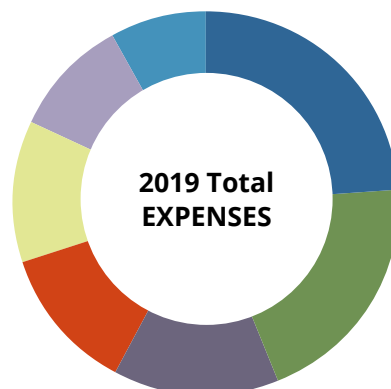
SUPPORT AREAS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Fundraising | \$47,711 |
| Management and General | \$70,048 |
| Total Support Services | \$117,759 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Total Expenses 2019 | \$603,879 |
|----------------------------|------------------|



- Grants and Donations (92%)
- Program Services Income (7%)
- Other Income (1%)



- Research and Monitoring (24%)
- Education and Outreach (20%)
- Policy and Advocacy (14%)
- Habitat Management (12%)
- Management and General (12%)
- Sustainable Livelihood (10%)
- Fund Raising (8%)



RPN achieved the Gold Seal at GuideStar. GuideStar is the world's largest and independent source of information on non-profit organizations and maintains profiles on 2.7 million nonprofits.



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