

ANNUAL REPORT
2015



**RED PANDA
NETWORK**



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MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

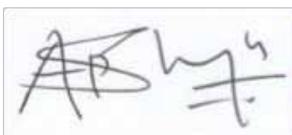
Thanks to you, our programs have extended to nearly half of the entire red panda range area in Nepal.

As you can see, 2015 has been a monumental year for Red Panda Network (RPN). One of our accomplishments, which we believe to be pivotal to our red panda conservation goals, has been the development and publication of a red panda field survey and community-based monitoring protocol.

Our next steps are to conduct a national study to document the population numbers, distribution, habitat quality and threats to red pandas in Nepal. We are continuing to work on expanding our programs to other red panda range countries such as India or China. We will also continue our efforts in the PIT corridor.

On behalf of RPN, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for supporting RPN's mission to conserve red pandas and their habitat.

Sincerely,



Ang Phuri Sherpa
Country Director



Photo courtesy of Axel Gebauer

Mission

Red Panda Network is committed to the conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.

Vision

The Red Panda Network'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 5 years after operation has begun. We have initiated our programs in Nepal and will incrementally duplicate our efforts in India, China, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

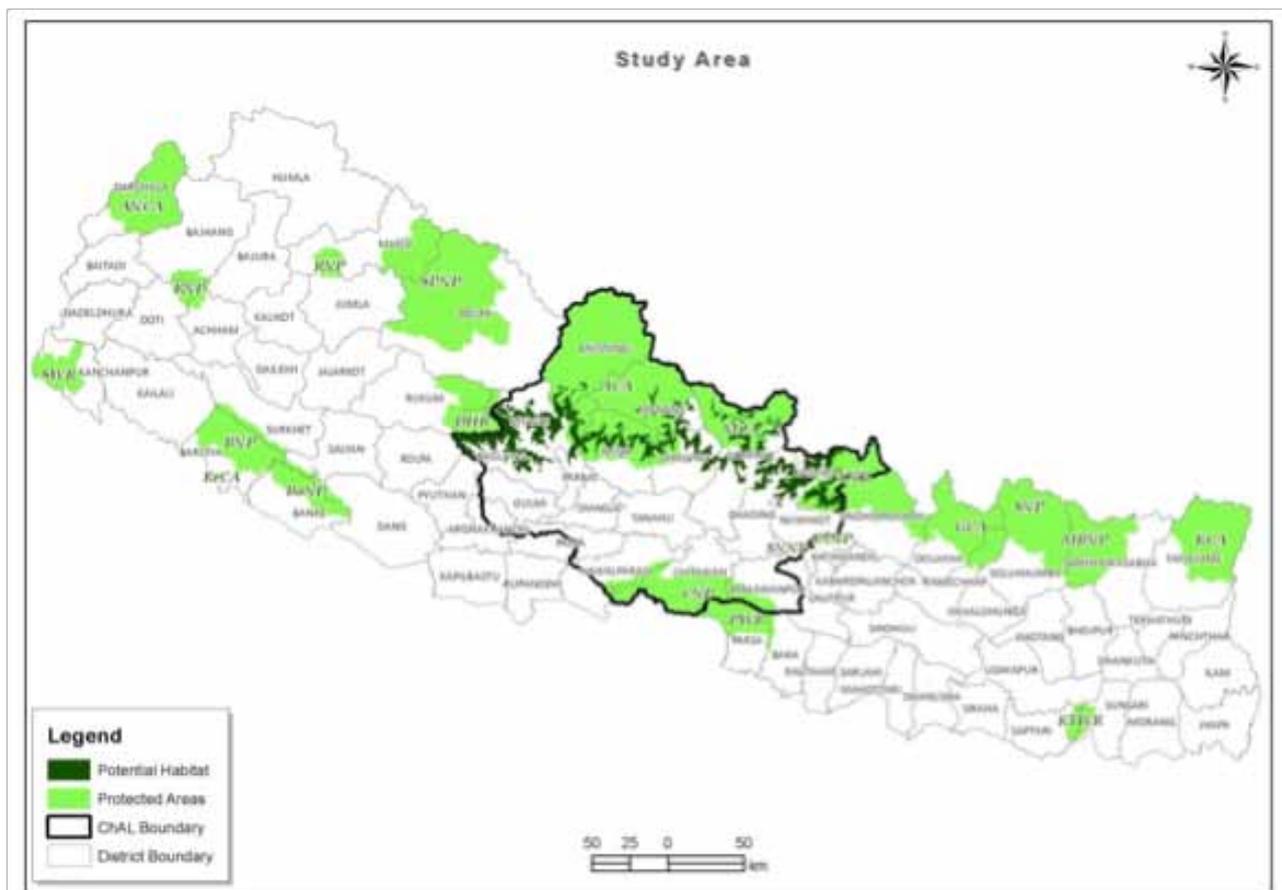
Objectives

- 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. Forest Guardians are RPN-trained workers who patrol red panda habitat, remove traps and snares, and report poaching activity to enforcement agencies.
- Assisting communities in devising socially responsible alternatives that are culturally and environmentally sensitive (sustainable livestock management practices, organic farming, etc.); and
- 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.

Achievements

Red Panda Survey in Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape

RPN conducted an occupancy and distribution assessment in Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) and confirmed the presence of red pandas in Rasuwa, Myagdi, Baglung, Nuwakot and Dhading districts. This is the first time red pandas have been documented in the Dhading district, but we were unable to record any signs in the previously confirmed Manang and Gorkha districts.



The Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape

Livestock Herding Practices in Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) Corridor

A questionnaire was prepared and all 54 FGs were involved in distributing them to their respective villages. An orientation workshop was organized to help FGs learn data collection techniques. The survey showed that the project area has 217 herding stations supporting 4,151 livestock. We have observed that about 90% of local herders have adopted an open-grazing practice, and only one-fourth of them are practicing rotational grazing.

The major source of energy in this region is firewood , which is used for cooking, heating and production of hardened cheese. An average rate of consumption of firewood was found to be nearly 1,015 kg every month.



Red Panda cub photographed in the PIT corridor

Community-based Red Panda Monitoring

Red Panda Field Survey and Monitoring Protocol Development

A red panda field survey and monitoring protocol has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for final approval. Local experts and stakeholders participated in a sharing and consultation workshop. Their major concerns and observations were incorporated into the protocol. This protocol will be an important resource for red panda research and conservation efforts. We are confident this protocol will also help institutionalize red panda conservation in the PIT corridor and help to build the capacity of local forest users.

Monitoring Block Establishment

RPN consulted with Marení and Jaljala Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) of Lulang Village Development Committees (VDC) in confirming red panda presence in community forests. We used this information to identify the best location for a monitoring block.



Local forest user marking transect

FG Selection, Training and Monitoring

Four people from Mareni and Jaljala CFUG of Lulang VDC, Myagdi were selected as FGs. They were nominated by the local CFUG based on their knowledge of local wildlife and topography and their work ethic. Each participant in the workshop learned monitoring techniques and was educated on threats to red pandas and the importance of red panda conservation.



Forest Guardians with Field Biologists during training in the field

Operation Plan Review

RPN worked with CFUGs and stakeholders to integrate red panda conservation measures into CFUG operation plans and submitted them to the District Forest Office (DFO) of Myagdi for final approval. The revised operation plans include regulating bamboo harvests and restricting people from visiting red panda habitat during red panda mating and breeding seasons. We are confident these amendments will help institutionalize red panda conservation initiatives at a local level.

Awareness and Outreach Activities

Six awareness-building workshops were organized at different locations within the PIT corridor to sensitize 287 local forest users on red pandas and their conservation. RPN also coordinated outreach programs in four schools, where 560 students participated in various education activities. One thousand posters displaying red panda conservation messages were produced and distributed in the project area.



School outreach campaign in a school in CHAL

Documentary Production

A documentary titled “*Conserving Red Panda (Habre) at the Local Community in Nepal*” was produced in Nepali and English. This 17-minute film describes the status of red pandas in the region as well as threats to their survival and RPN’s conservation strategies. This documentary was awarded the Best Foundation Category Award of 2015 at the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York.

Awareness-building of Local Forest Users

Two hundred and eighty seven local forest users, representing six Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), participated in awareness-building workshops in Lulang, Gurjakhani and Muna VDC of Myagdi district and Bongdovan VDC of Baglung VDC. Participants included members of community and youth groups, social and political activists, and local entrepreneurs.

The sixth International Red Panda Day (IRPD) was celebrated by local forest users, conservation organizations, and students.

Sustainable Livelihood Program

Feasibility Study for Identifying Livelihood Improvement Opportunities through Red Panda Conservation

In collaboration with RPN's field partner organizations, we organized 23 awareness-building workshops in the project area. A total of 456 local people (328 men and 128 women) participated in the workshops, where they learned about red panda status, threats, conservation importance and strategies.



Consultation meeting with the local people of Ghyangphedi VDC

Nature Guide Training

Fifteen local people participated in a five-day Nature Guide training, which was organized to help promote ecotourism in Multhala of Gyangphedi VDC in Nuwakot district. Participants, many of which were young and also involved in anti-poaching efforts in Langtang National Park, learned bird identification, wildlife tracking techniques, and red panda biology and ecology.



Participants and facilitators during nature guide training in the field

Ecotourism and Homestay Management Manual Development

Twelve local stakeholders participated in a consultation workshop to discuss ecotourism and the development of a homestay management manual. Workshop discussions covered roles and responsibilities of different groups, the homestay registration process, and ecotourism resources, all of which was included in the manual.

The manual guidelines ensure that local wildlife is respected and preserved and local livelihoods benefit from ecotourism programs.

Organic Farming Promotion

RPN organized an organic farming workshop for 155 farmers in Jogmai, Jamuna and Mabu VDCs. This program supported 310 families in organic farming and income generation opportunities by providing high quality seed of Labuk – गान्ढे मुला (50 grams/family) to 260 local families and चरिङ्गितो (Paris polyphylla) to 50 families (Table 8). These varieties of radish have a good demand with high value in the local markets.

Six polyhouses were constructed in six livestock herding stations. These will help the herders sustainably grow vegetables all year, which will reduce the consumption of bamboo (major food source for red pandas).



Participants of organic farming training in Ilam

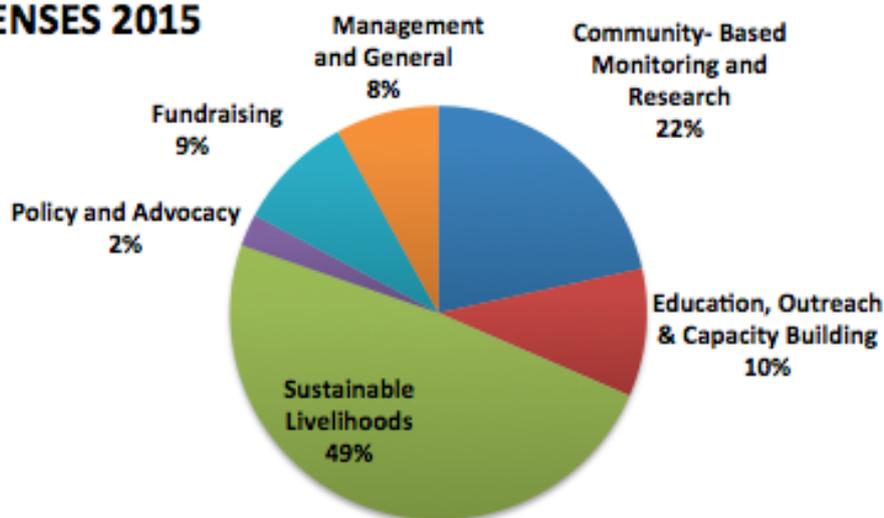
Nettle Fiber Extraction Training

The Himalayan Nettle (*Girardinia diversifolia*), is a high-value, non-timber forest product, that is used for making clothes, ropes, and domestic materials. Seventeen individuals participated in a seven-day nettle fiber extraction training session in Phurumbu VDC, Taplejung district. Sustainable cultivation of this plant will provide alternative income generation opportunities for the local people that also support red panda and forest conservation.

Financial Summary

Thanks to our growing group of supporters from around the world, RPN was able to increase funding and bolster the impact of our red panda conservation initiatives.

RPN EXPENSES 2015



EXPENSES

Program Areas:	Amount	%
Community- Based Monitoring and Research	\$52,652	22%
Education, Outreach & Capacity Building	\$24,388	10%
Sustainable Livelihoods	\$119,124	49%
Policy and Advocacy	\$6,087	2%
Total Program Services	202,251	83%
Support Services:		
Fundraising	\$22,404	9%
Management and General	\$19,570	8%
Total Support Services	\$41,974	17%
Total Expenses to RPN 2015	\$244,225	

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and donations	\$212,995	82%
Program Services income	\$46,751	18%
Other income	\$597	0.23%
Total Revenue and Support RPN 2015	\$260,343	

Conservation Partners

Akron Zoological Park
Animal Centre at Sparsholt College
Assiniboine Park
Auckland Zoo
Banham Zoo
Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park
Birmingham Zoo
Blue Heron Academy
Brandywine Zoo
Brookfield Zoo
Cape May County Zoo
Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Charles Paddock Zoo
Chattanooga Zoo
Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding
Chiba Municipal Zoo
Cincinnati Zoo
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Columbus Zoo
Colchester Zoo
Cornelle Animal Park
C.P.P.R
Discovery College
Disney Conservation Fund
Dudley Zoo
Duquesne University Office of Residence Life
East Tennessee State University Natural History Museum
Edmonton Valley Zoo
Elmwood Park Zoo
Erie Zoological Society
Flamingo Land
Fota Wildlife Park
Franklin Park Zoo
Friends of Zoo Boise
Fuutaas
Giardino Zoologico di Pistoia
Great Plains Zoo & Delbridge Museum of Natural History
Greensboro Science Center-
Greenville Zoo
Hamilton Zoo
Happy Hollow Zoo & Park
Helsinki Zoo (Korkeasaari)
Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium
Henry Vilas Zoo
Houston Zoo
Jackson Zoo
Jardin Zoologico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires
Juniata College
Kansas City Zoo
Knoxville Zoo
Kolmarden Wildlife Park
Lake District Wildlife Park
Lee Richardson Zoo
Longleat Safari Park

Conservation Partners (cont.)

Memphis Zoo
Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden
Miller Park Zoo
Milwaukee County Zoo
Minnesota Zoo
Miyazaki Municipal Zoo
Mesker Park
Nashville Zoo
Naturschutz-Tierpark Görlitz e.V.
NEW Zoo
Newquay Zoo
Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden
Paradise Park
Paradise Wildlife Park
Parco Natura Viva – Garda Zoological Park
Philadelphia Zoo
Pittsburgh Zoo
Port Lympne Reserve
Potawatomi Zoo
Potter Park Zoo
Prague Zoo
Pragya Jyoti Boarding School
Prospect Park Zoo
Pueblo Zoo
Queensland Zoo
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Rotterdam Zoo
Sacramento Zoo/ Greater Sac AAZK
Saitama, Japan
San Diego Zoo
San Francisco Zoo
Saskatoon Zoo Society
Scoville Zoo
Sequoia Park Zoo
Shepreth Wildlife Park
Taipei Zoo
Tiergarten Berlin
Taronga Zoo
Toronto Zoo?AAZK Southern Ontario Chapter
Trevor Zoo
Turtle Back Zoo
Woodland Park Zoo
Utica Zoo
Virginia Zoo
Welsh Mountain Zoo
Zagreb Zoo
Zoo Aquarium Madrid
Zoo Atlanta
Zoo Boise
Zoo de Granby
Zoo Dortmund
Zoo Hannover
ZOO Liberec
Zoo Miami
Zoo New England
ZOO Wrocław

Thank you to our individual supporters, or Red Panda Stewards and Guardians, for your ongoing support and commitment to preserving this beloved species.



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1859 Powell St, Suite 100

San Francisco, CA 94133

(541) 228-1902

info@redpandanetwork.org