



In this issue of Red Panda Network eNews, update on our expansion to Western Nepal, preview for Sustainable Herding film, Stories from Red Panda Range: Dawa Sherpa, and new IRPD 2018 infographic.

Update from Western Nepal

Red Panda Network (RPN) is expanding community conservation programs to Western Nepal. The mountain forests located outside of protected areas in this region constitute more than half of the habitat available to red pandas in Nepal. The Jumla, Jajarkot and Kalikot districts, in particular, have red panda habitat fragmented into many small patches, which are unlikely to support a viable population if connectivity is not maintained. Therefore, protecting this region must be a priority to ensure the survival of red pandas in the long run.

Due to the importance of these districts, RPN has undertaken environmental awareness campaigns, outreach activities and workshops in each one to increase the public's understanding of the plight of red pandas and the need for conservation in the region. Red pandas not only indicate the ecological health of their geographic range but also serve as an umbrella species, meaning that efforts to protect them indirectly protect other animals, such as Himalayan black bears, clouded leopards and Asiatic wild dogs, that share their home.

Prior to RPN's arrival, the districts lacked any conservation programs, and the people didn't have much education about red pandas. This lack of awareness has had dire consequences. The situation is especially grim in the entire western region, where red panda poaching and trafficking have increased at an alarming rate. Between 2013 and 2016, authorities confiscated 70 red panda hides. In addition, according to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of Nepal Police, 90% of cases related to wildlife poaching and trafficking go unreported.



Forest Guardian climbing tree in search of red panda scat.

[Read full article](#)

Sustainable Herding in Eastern Nepal *Film Preview*

Check out the preview for a documentary on RPN's sustainable herding program in Eastern Nepal! Full film scheduled for release first week of September, 2018.



**Sustainable Herding in Eastern
Nepal - Film Preview**

Stories from Red Panda Range: Dawa Sherpa

Dawa Lakpa Sherpa is a 32-year-old resident of Dobato, Ilam of Eastern Nepal and homestay operator. Besides homestay hosting, his source of income includes vegetable farming and medicinal plant cultivation. Dawa is educated and is a natural leader-qualities that make him a prime candidate for civic duty. It is not surprising that local people elected him as the new chairperson of

the "Red Panda-based ecotourism and homestay management committee, Dobato."

Dawa has observed red pandas many times in the local forests, and he is very aware of how important it is to protect them.

Unfortunately, for a long time, Dawa was unable to be involved in local conservation efforts. This changed when he was able to join his fellow community members in the red panda awareness program.

Dawa suddenly found himself to be a part of the solution to deforestation and the decline of red panda numbers in Eastern Nepal. He already knew red pandas were vital to the Himalayan ecosystem but this experience also quickly revealed to him how the presence of this species can help improve the livelihoods of the people in his community.



Dawa Sherpa, chair of ecotourism and homestay management committee.



Red panda photographed during [RPN ecotrip](#). Photo by Kuniko Kai.

[Read full article](#)

New IRPD Infographic!

On Saturday, September 15th, 2018 we will be celebrating International Red Panda Day with the launch of our largest and most comprehensive effort to stop the illegal red panda trade.

Learn more from this IRPD infographic designed by Michael Sullivan. Please share with your friends!



POACHING and the ILLEGAL RED PANDA TRADE

is on the rise and harming already vulnerable populations.

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



In Eastern Nepal, we have established the PIT Red Panda Protected Forest; the world's first protected area dedicated to red pandas.

We are expanding this community conservation model to Western Nepal where red pandas are unprotected and face extinction.

INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY (IRPD)

On this day of global celebration and education we will be launching our largest and most comprehensive effort to stop the illegal red panda trade. Our mission is to reduce the supply and demand by:

1

Exposing the illegal red panda supply chain.

2

Educating the public on why wild red pandas must remain wild and reduce the illegal trade demand.

#NOPANDAPETS
**JOIN US ON IRPD
TO STOP THE TRADE**
#IRPD2018

SAVING RED PANDAS

...ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME!



Red Panda Ecotrips

Join us on an *adventure* to Nepal that helps to ensure a sustainable future for red pandas, Himalayan wildlife and the people who share their habitat. We have some exciting updates to share:

- There are still 4 spots remaining on the [December 3-11, 2018 ecotrip](#) to Ilam, Eastern Nepal!
- November 7-18, 2018 [Eco Zoo Trip](#) is now open to the public!

Be sure to check out our 2019 ecotrip dates including the new [Himalayan phototrips to Nepal!](#)

Sign Up
TODAY

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

See what's happening on our social sites

