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Headline: Norden's Ark supports Red Panda Network in constructing a center for conservation and sustainable living in Nepal.

Short headline: Norden's Ark Rescues Red Pandas In Nepal

Red Panda Network (RPN) continues to make progress on a center committed to alleviating poverty and ensuring a sustainable future for people and red pandas. The Center for Conservation and Sustainable Living (CCSL) will be a conservation and education center located in the Deurali Bhitri community forest of Fungling-9, Taplejung, Eastern Nepal. The project is being generously supported through a partnership with Nordens Ark, and funding from Svenska Postkodlotteriet.

Nordens Ark is a zoo and nonprofit located in Hunnebostrand, Sweden dedicated to the conservation of endangered species. Svenska Postkodlotteriet has provided annual support to Nordens Ark since 2010. In March of 2018, Nordens Ark also received 4.8 million SEK that is going for red panda conservation. Through our partnership with Nordens Ark, RPN will receive nearly \$377,000 over three years to construct the CCSL and prepare the facility for long term impact.

Since 2007, RPN has been working with the communities of Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) corridor in Eastern Nepal to conserve red pandas and their habitat. They have been able to identify unsustainable living practices by local people—due to poverty and limited livelihood opportunities—as the main driver of threats to the endangered red panda.

RPN's community-based programs are a response to this precarious situation in Eastern Nepal. The CCSL will be the centerpiece of these efforts.

The center will be a hub for educational and skill-building workshops where local people can learn sustainable energy use and construction technologies, organic farming, forest management practices, sustainable herding, nature guide and ecotrek leadership and homestay management.

The CCSL will be earthquake resistant and will feature rainwater harvesting, improved cooking stoves, solar technologies and ecological-sanitation toilets. It will be a dedicated training location for RPN Forest Guardians in wildlife survey and monitoring, and anti-poaching investigation as well as a central facility for Community Forest User Group members and Department of Forest officials to learn sustainable forest management techniques.

Its construction began this year and is expected to be completed by 2020. Site clearance and excavation, stone soling, pouring of the concrete foundation and vertical reinforcement of the interpretation center have all been completed. Stonemasonry is our current focus in the

construction process. As with all RPN initiatives, our goal is for the CCSL to eventually be self-sustaining and locally operated in the long run.

The center will be integral to improving living standards and increasing the annual income of at least 2,000 local families.

The mission of the CCSL is guided by the National Red Panda Conservation Action Plan for Nepal, 2028-2023, prepared by the Ministry of Forest and Environment.