



Greetings!

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well during this challenging and unprecedented time in our history.

As the world leader in red panda conservation, Red Panda Network is committed to pressing forward with our community-based conservation programs, as well as doing our part in resolving the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

As you may be aware, coronaviruses are "zoonotic," which means they are transmitted between animals and people. It is believed that COVID-19 is linked to illegal wildlife trade and in the New York Times article [To Prevent Next Coronavirus, Stop the Wildlife Trade, Conservationists Say](#) they say

"Pangolins may have been the intermediate source for transmitting the new coronavirus to humans in China, scientists have suggested."

As a response to these findings, we are augmenting our anti-poaching initiatives in Nepal, as well as our new "Pandas and Pangolins" project.

Red pandas and pangolins are endangered mammals found in Nepal who have different but connected — sometimes overlapping — habitats.

Pangolins are actually listed as 'Critically Endangered' and have been identified as the most trafficked mammal in the world.

As a result, we are now working to protect pangolins! We completed a red panda and pangolin field assessment in Jajarkot, Eastern and Western Rukum districts in Western Nepal. Results will be used to guide education and outreach initiatives among local communities and protect these species from anthropogenic threats. Stay tuned for more updates!

PANDAS AND PANGOLINS



In order to do our part in reducing the spread of COVID-19 — and to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, community partners and supporters — we have canceled all non-essential travel and are postponing all events including our Spring 2020 ecotrips.

You are not alone, and now more than ever, we need to come together in support of each other and our planet's incredible biodiversity. If you're not already a part of our online community, I hope you will join and interact with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) (and I hope [this video from Auckland Zoo](#) will help you smile during these difficult times).

If you have any questions about our efforts or would like to be involved, please feel free to email me at ang.sherpa@redpandanetwork.org

Despite the current circumstances, we remain steadfast in our commitment to red panda conservation. I am deeply grateful to have you on this journey with us to *save the last of the first panda*.

Be safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ang Phuri Sherpa".

Ang Phuri Sherpa
Country Director - Nepal
Red Panda Network



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

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