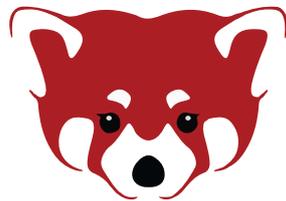


**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2018**



**RED PANDA  
NETWORK**



# RED PANDA NETWORK

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Thanks to you, 2018 was a remarkable year for Red Panda Network (RPN). We supported the Government of Nepal in launching the country's first Red Panda Conservation Action Plan which provides a blueprint for the preservation of red pandas. The plan clearly defines the roles of stakeholders and our conservation partners: the communities who live alongside red pandas.

In 2018, we continued to work closely with the people living in red panda habitat areas in sustainably managing forest resources and improving their quality of lives. Our livelihood improvement interventions included establishing forest conservation nurseries, distributing Improved Cooking Stoves, handicraft and nettle fiber extraction/weaving training, expansion of ecotourism programs and improving homestay services, and supporting livestock herders in adopting sustainable practices. We also successfully recruited and trained 30 more local people for our national Forest Guardian (FG) team, which is nearing 100 strong!



*Forest Guardians during training in Panchthar District. Photo: Pema Sherpa/RPN*

## Message from Country Director (cont.)

Five years ago it used to take up to 7 days to locate a single red panda in Ilam., Eastern Nepal. In the last week of November, participants of a 2018 Eco Zoo Trip were fortunate enough to experience a record of 8 red panda sightings in Ilam, Eastern Nepal. We believe this is an indicator of increased red panda numbers in the Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) Corridor, as well as the overall impact of our community-based programs.

The PIT Corridor in Eastern Nepal is where our work began and is where we are establishing the world's first protected forest dedicated to red pandas: The PIT Red Panda Protected Forest. Among our many conservation partners in this area are schools and in 2018, we helped integrate a red panda conservation lessons into class curriculums of 8 schools. Five thousand three hundred eighty-four students from 36 schools were involved in developing and publishing red panda bulletins to help raise awareness of the endangered species. In addition, nearly 5,500 students actively participated in celebrating International Red Panda Day (IRPD).



*Students celebrating IRPD day in Panchthar district. Photo: RPN-HCF*

Our momentum continues to build in Western Nepal: a region that harbors nearly 54 percent of the country's red panda habitat. In 2017 we extended our community conservation programs to Jumla, Jajarkot and Kalikot where we have successfully implemented research, outreach and education, advocacy, sustainable livelihood and anti-poaching initiatives. We are planning to continue to expand our efforts to four new districts in 2019.

On behalf of RPN, I would like to thank our supporters, from all around the world, for joining together in this critical mission to save the red pandas and improve the lives of thousands of people living within their habitat.

Most sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ang Phuri Sherpa.

Ang Phuri Sherpa  
Country Director - Nepal  
Red Panda Network

# Red Panda Network

RPN is committed to the conservation of red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities. RPN is currently implementing the Project entitled “Community based red panda conservation in Eastern Nepal” in PIT Corridor since 2011 with 3 different NGOs. Recently, we have extended our project “Community based red panda conservation in Western Nepal” in Jumla, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Rolpa, Rukum-West, Rukum-East and Dolpa districts. RPN is a non-profit organization registered in the United States (2007).

## Vision

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 the operation has begun. We have initiated our programs in Nepal and will incrementally duplicate our efforts in Bhutan, China, India, and Myanmar.

## Mission

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

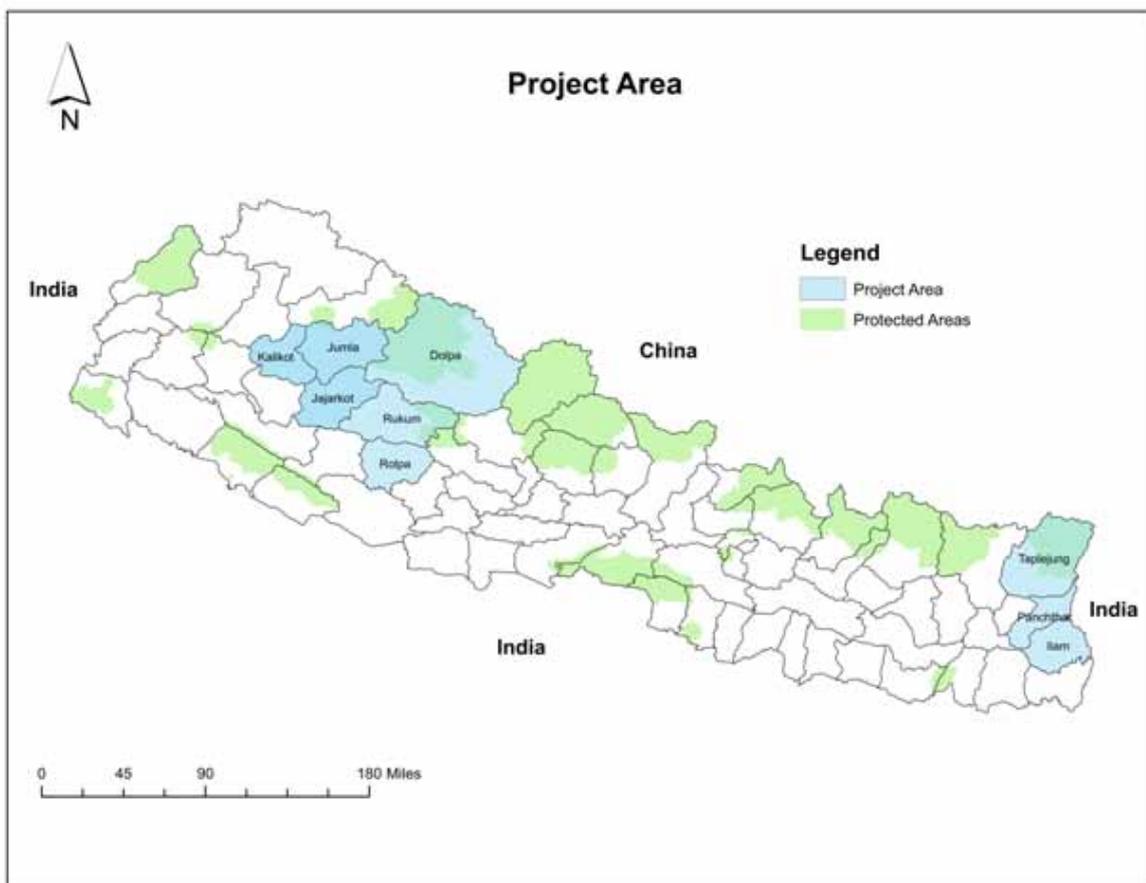
## Objectives

- 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;

## Objectives (cont.)

- Assisting communities in devising socially responsible alternatives that are culturally and environmentally sensitive (sustainable livestock management practices, organic farming, 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's conservation program will reach to 10 districts in 2019. The Rukum district has been divided into Rukum-east and Rukum-west.

# Highlights of the Year

## Launch of Nepal's first red panda conservation action plan

RPN played a key role in preparing a five-year action plan (2019-2023) to save red pandas and protect their habitats in Nepal. The Ministry of Forests and Environment of the Government of Nepal has launched the first 'Red Panda Conservation Action Plan for Nepal' to boost efforts to conserve red pandas in the wild. The document is considered a blueprint for red panda conservation in Nepal. It provides a thorough framework for engaging local communities and strengthening coordination among conservation actors at national and international levels.

Guided by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020, the action plan was prepared by a group of national and international experts including representatives from Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DFSC), National Trust for Nature Conservation, WWF Nepal, and Zoological Society of London.

Information for the plan came from a series of consultation meetings with members of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), Buffer Zone User Groups and committees, and representatives from protected areas and Division Forest Offices. Based on these meetings, a draft report was prepared and shared among working group members and experts for review. Feedback from experts were incorporated into the final plan, which was released on National Conservation Day on September 23, 2018.

The action plan outlines roles for each conservation partner and provides an effective monitoring and evaluation process. RPN will provide technical and financial support and DNPWC and DFSC will take an overall lead in implementing the action plan.

# Program Achievements

## Community-based red panda conservation

Red Panda Network is the world leader in red panda conservation. In 2018, RPN's community-based red panda conservation program covered six districts: Ilam, Panchthar and Taplejung in Eastern Nepal, and Jumla, Jajarkot and Kalikot in Western Nepal.

### A.) Red panda monitoring and anti-poaching

RPN has been expanding community-based red panda monitoring and anti-poaching activities in red panda habitat in Nepal.

#### *Detailed red panda survey conducted*

RPN has recognized the need for a detailed assessment of red panda status, habitat and distribution in Western Nepal to develop effective conservation initiatives. In 2018, in collaboration with partner organizations, RPN conducted a detailed field survey in Jumla, Jajarkot and Kalikot districts. During the survey, the team transversed a total of 160.54 km of forest and recorded the presence of red pandas, and identified anthropogenic threats like habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation and poaching.

#### *Camera trapping survey in PIT*

Thanks to the support of Rotterdam Zoo, RPN conducted a camera trapping mammal survey in non-protected forests of the PIT Corridor. Fifty seven FGs were involved in an effort to assess diversity, distribution, abundance and threats to terrestrial mammals present in the region.



*Forest Guardian Nima Sherpa installing a camera trap inside a community forest in Panchthar.  
Photo: Sonam Tashi Lama/Red Panda Network*

## ***Forest Guardian program approaching 100 members***

Recognizing the important role of the people living in close proximity to red pandas, RPN has been implementing the FG program in all its project sites.

FGs are on the front lines of red panda conservation and play a vital role in community mobilization and outreach, forest protection and restoration, red panda monitoring and the anti-poaching network. In 2018, 30 locals were selected as FGs, bringing the total number to nearly 100 strong!

## ***Anti-poaching training and monitoring***

In an effort to stop illegal red panda trade, RPN has organized an anti-poaching network, made up of local stakeholders—including FGs—who patrol red panda habitat, remove traps and report poaching activities to enforcement agencies. In 2018, the network patrolled 466.5 kilometers in 33 Community Forests.



*Red panda snare discovered and removed during anti-poaching patrol.*

## **B.) Education, outreach and capacity building**

RPN works closely with schools in red panda habitat to help young people strengthen their knowledge and awareness of conservation issues. We continue to engage students in red panda conservation through outreach activities and education programs. Over the years, RPN has built strong relationships with other key stakeholders, including local government bodies, community groups, livestock herders and CFUGs to implement community-based red panda conservation initiatives.

### ***Student network growing to protect red pandas***

In 2018, RPN formed Roots and Shoots eco-clubs, made up of 3,500 students, in 13 schools in Western Nepal. There are now 41 eco-clubs in schools in Nepal which engage students in conservation through various activities such as mini ecotrips and red panda wall bulletins. Additionally, nearly 10,000 students from 41 schools participated in celebrating International Red Panda Day and World Environment Day in 2018.



*International Red Panda Day celebration in Eastern Nepal. Photo: RPN/Sunil Rai*

### ***Red panda conservation education integrated into school textbooks***

In 2018, RPN supported the integration of red panda conservation education into the textbooks of grades six and seven in 8 schools in the PIT Corridor. The textbooks cover lessons on biodiversity of the Eastern Himalayas, wildlife conservation, climate change, and sustainable livelihood alternatives.



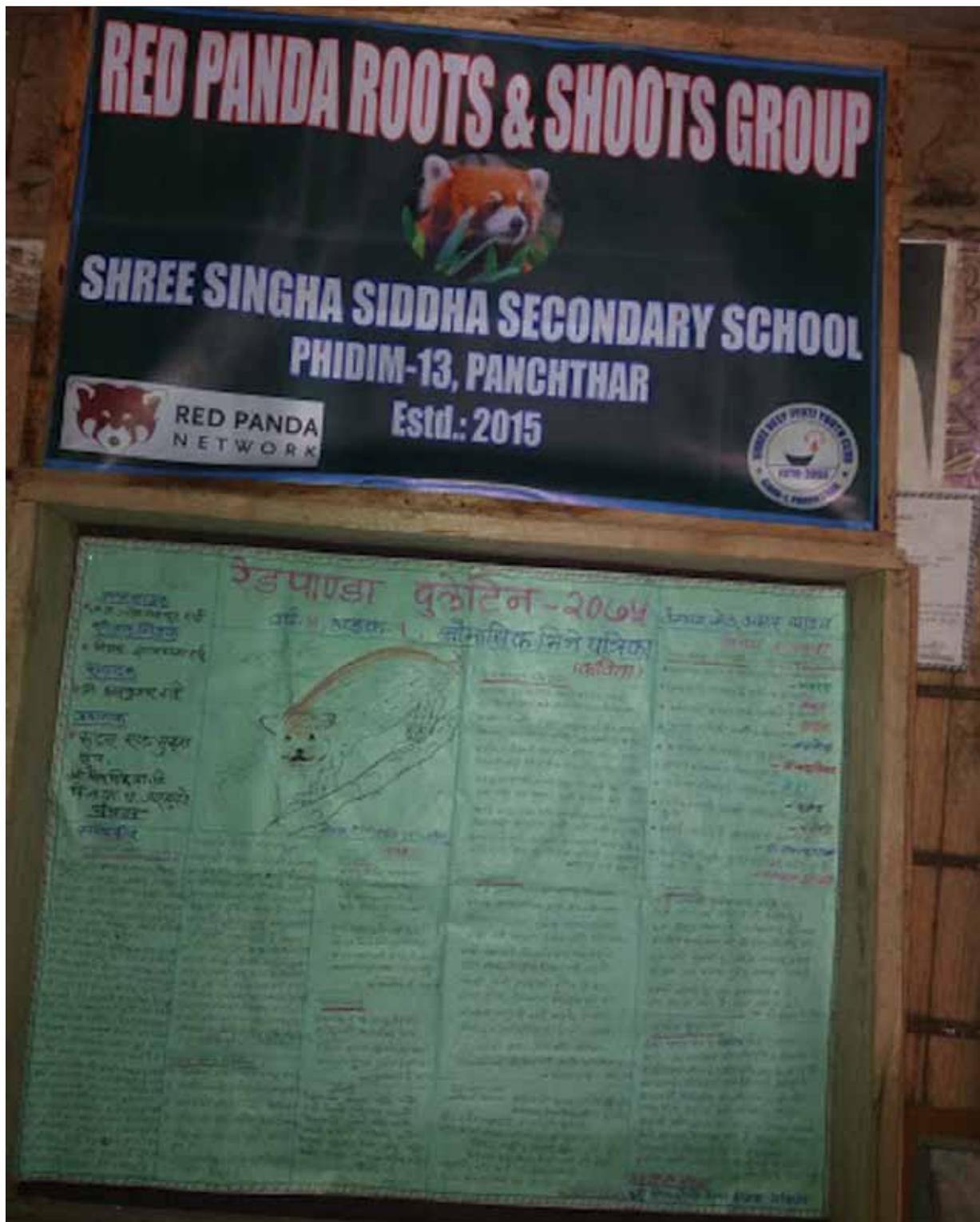
*School outreach in Western Nepal. Photo: RPN/Badri Baral*

### ***Teacher training on red panda conservation education***

To assist in the integration of the red panda conservation lessons into local classrooms, RPN has trained 8 teachers from eight schools within the PIT Corridor in how to teach red panda and wildlife conservation.

### ***Red panda bulletins***

The triannual bulletin featured artwork, essays, poems and short stories on biodiversity and red panda conservation. Nearly 300 copies of annual bulletins were published and distributed to various stakeholders including the District Education Offices, Rural Municipalities, Division Forest Offices and local schools.



*Red panda wall bulletin installed in a local school in Panchthar district. Photo: RPN/Sunil Rai*

### ***Participatory project planning and biodiversity trainings***

Two hundred seventy-nine newly elected local representatives attended RPN's conservation objective workshops to plan the for effective implementation of program activities. In addition, 38 participants, comprising of chairpersons and members of municipalities and rural municipalities, participated in biodiversity conservation workshops.

### ***Installation of information boards***

RPN supported the installation of 21 information boards that included a red panda and biodiversity conservation message. These were produced and installed in strategic locations to generate interest on red panda conservation as well as promote eco-tourism at the local level.

### ***Trans-boundary coordination meeting with India***

The PIT Corridor is part of the Kangchenjunga Shinghalila complex, one of the most biologically diverse places on earth. Maintaining connectivity within this trans-boundary area is vital to the viability of red panda populations.

RPN held a trans-boundary coordination meeting in Tumling, Ilam district, Nepal for government officials from Nepal and India. The result was the development of a roadmap for trans-boundary (Nepal-India) red panda conservation in Kangchenjunga Landscape.

### ***Awareness workshop on Illegal Wildlife Trade***

Reports from local media and law enforcement are showing increased poaching of red pandas. In an effort to stop this trend, RPN organized two trainings on wildlife crime control in Jumla and Kalikot districts, Western Nepal. Forty participants representing security forces, Division Forest Offices (DFOs), CFUGs, District Administration Office and FGs participated in the events. The training was facilitated by Sushma Rana of Nepal's wildlife crime control unit.



*Wildlife crime control training for security forces in Panchthar district. Photo: RPN/Sunil Rai*

## ***Publication in scientific journal***

An article titled 'Pervasive human disturbance on habitats of endangered red panda *Ailurus fulgens* in the Central Himalaya' was published in a peer-reviewed open access journal, *Global Ecology and Conservation*. The article was based on data gathered from a team of RPN researchers who conducted a study on the impact of human disturbances on red panda distribution in the entire red panda range of Nepal.

## **C.) Habitat management**

Forest degradation and fragmentation constitute a significant threat to red pandas. In collaboration with local partner organizations, government agencies and community people, RPN has restored and protected red panda habitat through the following activities:

### ***Revision of Community Forest operational plans***

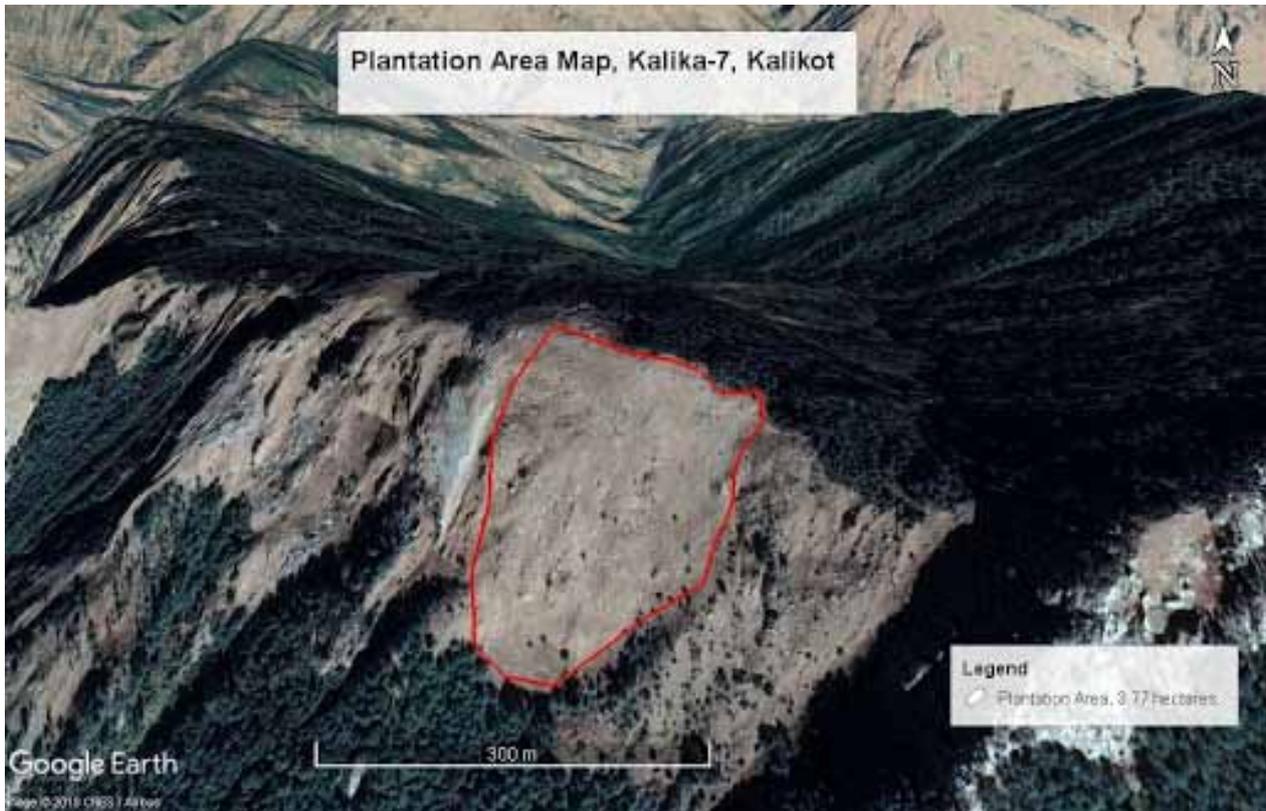
CFUGs are a key stakeholder in red panda conservation in Nepal. In 2018, RPN facilitated and provided financial support for the revision of operational plans of nine CFUGs and incorporation of red panda conservation measures into them.

### ***Restoration of degraded red panda habitat***

In 2018, RPN restored 25 hectares of degraded red panda habitat in the PIT Corridor. We supported three CFUGs in the distribution of 4,500 saplings for plantation. Six forest conservation nurseries were established that can produce 150,000 seedlings of red panda food and Non-timber Forest Product (NTFP) species. Additionally, four hectares of degraded forest in Western Nepal were identified and mapped for plantation.



*Reforestation site in Eastern Nepal. Photo: RPN/Phinju Sherpa*



*Degraded forest mapped for plantation in Kalikot district. Photo: Google Earth 2018*

### ***Restoration of degraded water sources***

Many families living in red panda habitat areas in Eastern Nepal are experiencing an acute shortage of drinking water due to the degradation of water sources from poor management and human activities. These locals often must travel long distances into red panda habitat to collect water which is difficult and may disturb forest wildlife. In order to mitigate risks, RPN has restored two degraded water sources for people and wildlife.



*Pond restoration site in Panchthar, Eastern Nepal. Photo: RPN/Deependra Sunar*



*Pond restoration site in Panchthar, Eastern Nepal. Photo: RPN/DJYC*

## ***Herding Shed Improvement Project***

Herders were provided with improved cooking stoves and financial support to improve their herding sheds. Six traditional herding sheds were upgraded to improved models and 21 tents were distributed to herders that helped save 5,400 trees a year.

## ***Strengthening CFUGs network to support red panda conservation***

CFUGs are critical for successful implementation of community based red panda conservation programs in Nepal. Since 2007, RPN has been working to educate and empower CFUGs to prioritize red panda conservation and improve the status of wildlife and forests in red panda range. In 2018, RPN worked with the CFUG network in organizing a meeting attended by 30 Community Forest leaders to discuss local environmental issues.

## ***D.) Sustainable livelihood promotion***

Red panda habitat covers Nepal's remote and rural areas where the majority of families are forest dependent. Poverty in these regions, combined with insufficient employment opportunities, often result in the exploitation of natural resources and wildlife by local people to meet their livelihood needs.

## ***Distribution of NTFPs and MAPs***

CFUGs were supported in establishing nurseries and producing saplings of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and red panda food species. A total of 2,916 saplings were distributed to 112 families to improve livelihoods.



*NTFPs/MAPs saplings being distributed to forest users in Jumla district. Photo: RPN/KDCSS*

## ***Alternative income source training***

RPN's projects emphasize providing alternative livelihood options to earn income while supporting red panda conservation. A ten-day handicraft training was provided to 15 women in the PIT Corridor. RPN also trained 20 local youth as nature guides.



*Handicraft training in Ilam. Photo: RPN-MOON Ilam*

## ***Improved homestay management training***

Ecotourism is a major part of RPN's sustainable livelihood efforts. The rural families earn income by running homestays for RPN ecotrippers and other ecotourists. In 2018, to improve the existing homestay services, 46 homestay operators from the PIT Corridor were trained in hospitality, lodging and cooking. Currently, there are 30 homestays in operation in PIT Corridor.

## ***Access to alternative energy technologies***

Most families living in red panda habitat areas are dependent on forest resources for cooking, housing and other daily chores. The rampant harvesting of fuelwood is causing forest degradation. To mitigate these threats, RPN has been providing targeted households and livestock herders with alternative and clean energy technologies such as Improved Cooking Stoves (ICSs). In 2018, RPN distributed ICSs to 63 families and livestock herders, saving 390,744 kgs of fuelwood.



*Use of firewood for cooking is common in red panda habitat. Photo: RPN*



*Local people in Panchthar from PIT corridor receive ICSSs. Photo: RPN/Sunil Rai*

## ***Dogs vaccinated for rabies***

Free-roaming dogs have emerged as a significant threat to red pandas. These dogs attack and injure—sometimes killing—red pandas and other wildlife, as well as transmit rabies and canine distemper. Working with local organizations, RPN neutered and vaccinated 104 free-ranging dogs for rabies in 2018.

# **Year Ahead 2019**

## **Landscape-scale habitat management**

The mountain forests located outside of protected areas in Western Nepal constitute more than half of the habitat available to red pandas in this country. RPN's community-based red panda conservation programs will be expanded to four additional districts in this region—Rolpa, Dolpa, Western Rukum and Eastern Rukum—in March 2019. This expansion will improve connectivity and habitat quality among the highly fragmented forests of Western Nepal.

## **Promote sustainable livelihoods**

RPN plans to expand alternative income and sustainable livelihood programs to additional beneficiaries. Various interventions like distribution of high value NTFPs and MAPs, establishing new nurseries, poly houses, artificial insemination of livestock, distribution of ICSs and handicraft machines and identifying new locations for ecotourism initiatives will be implemented in 2019.



*Distribution of ICSs to local herders in Panchthar. Photo: RPN/DJYC*



*Red pandas spotted during November 2018 ecotrip. Photo: RPN*

## **Baseline survey of pangolins**

RPN is planning to conduct a baseline survey of pangolins — the world’s most trafficked mammal. By assessing pangolin status, abundance, and threats in RPN project areas we can better understand how these factors impact red pandas and assess where immediate action is needed. Research areas will include Jajarkot, Western Rukum, Eastern Rukum, and Jumla districts, Western Nepal and in Ilam, Eastern Nepal.

## **Combating illegal wildlife trade**

In an effort to raise awareness and address the growing illegal red panda trade, RPN is planning to organize a series of interaction workshops for journalists and media personnel.

RPN’s anti-poaching network will continue to gather important poaching and trafficking data which will be used to develop strategies for combating illegal red panda trade.

## **Vaccination against rabies and dog neutering**

A census on free-roaming dogs will be conducted in Dolpa, Rolpa, Jajarkot and Jumla districts in Western Nepal in 2019. Based on the data, at least 500 dogs will be vaccinated for rabies and canine distemper and then will be neutered.

## Awards and recognition

RPN was honored to receive the prestigious Carl Zeiss Award for Wildlife Conservation. RPN's Country Director, Ang Phuri Sherpa and Conservation Manager, Damber Bista, attended the award ceremony held on March 23, 2018, in New Delhi, India.

On World Environment Day, RPN received honorable mentions for the ICIMOD Mountain Prize 2018 for our work on red panda conservation in the PIT Corridor in Eastern Nepal. RPN also received an Appreciation Letter from WWF in 2018.



*RPN Country Director, Ang Phuri Sherpa, receiving Zeiss award. Photo: Zeiss, India*

# 2018 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](mailto:development@redpandanetwork.org).

## Conservation Partners

### Organization/Giving Level

#### \$50,001 +

The Body Shop

Fondation Segré

*\*as part of €250,000 multi-year support*

#### \$40,001-\$50,000

Rotterdam Zoo

Nordens Ark & Svenska Postcode Lottery

*\*as part of €400,000 multi-year support*

#### \$30,001-\$40,000

Happy Hollow Zoo & Park

#### \$20,001-\$30,000

Rainforest Trust

*\*as part of \$222,500 multi-year support*

#### \$10,001-\$20,000

Detroit Zoological Society (AAZK Detroit Chapter)

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

ICFC

*\*as part of 91,970 multi-year support*

ICIMOD

Parco Zoo Punta Verde

Sacramento Zoo/Greater Sac AAZK

San Diego Zoo

#### \$5,001-\$10,000

Auckland Zoo

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

GCC Group

Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

Paradise Park - Cornwall

Reid Park Zoo

Zoo Atlanta

#### \$2,501-\$5,000

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Akron Zoological Park

Assiniboine Park

Drayton Manor Park

Naturschutz-Tierpark Gorlitz

Parco Natura Viva Garda Zoological Park

Perth Zoo

Utah's Hogle Zoo

#### \$1,001-\$2,500

Bioparc de Doué la Fontaine

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Cumbria Zoo Co. Ltd.

GaiaZoo, Kerkrade

John Ball Zoo

Kansas City Zoo

Kolmarden Wildlife Park

Milwaukee County Zoo

Paradise Wildlife Park/The Zoological Society of Hertfordshire

Sedgwick County Zoo

Shepreth Wildlife Park

Wellington Zoo

Zoo des Sables

Zoological Society of East Anglia

#### \$501 - \$1,000

Birmingham Zoo

Friends of Capron Park Zoo

Memphis Zoo (AAZK Memphis Chapter)

Pueblo Zoo

Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park

San Francisco Zoo

# Conservation Partners

## Organization/Giving Level (cont.)

Toronto Zoo/AAZK Southern Ontario Chapter	Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG
Trevor Teaching Zoo at Millbrook School	Scovill Zoo
Woodland Park Zoo	Zoo de Granby
Zoo Hannover	ZooMontana
Zoofreunde Hannover e.V.	

### Up to \$500

Bright's Zoo  
Cape May County Zoo  
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo  
Elmwood Park Zoo  
GreenBay AAZK  
Los Angeles AAZK  
National Zoo & Aquarium - Canberra  
Omuta City Zoo

## The Red Panda EEP Forest Guardian Programme

Parco Faunistico La Torbiera	Dublin Zoo	Paris Jardin Du Plantes
Aachener Tierpark	Faruk Yalcin Zoo	Parken Zoo I Eskilstuna
Ahtarin Elainpuisto	Fundacion Parques Reunidos	Park Zoo Reynou
Aktiengesellschaft Zoologisch-er Garten Koln	Gelsenkirchen	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Artis /Amsterdam	Givskud Zoo	St. Avifauna
Assoc. Beauval Nature Conservation	K.M.D.A. Antwerp	Stichting Ouwehand Zoo Foundation
Assoc. Parc Animalier De Ste Croix	Kittenberger Kalman	Tiergarten Heidelberg
Assoc. Boissière Du Doré.	Korkeasaaren Helsinki Zoo	Welsh Mountain Zoo
Boras Djurpark Boras Djurpark	Zoo de Lyon	Zoo De La Barben
Chester Zoo	Mulhouse Zoo	Zoo Dresden
Colchester Zoo	Munchener Tierpark Hellabrunn Munich	Zoo Leipzig
	Ogrod Zoologiczny - Zoo Opole - Poland	Zoo Salzburg
	Opel Zoo	
	Parco Faunistico Le Cornelle	

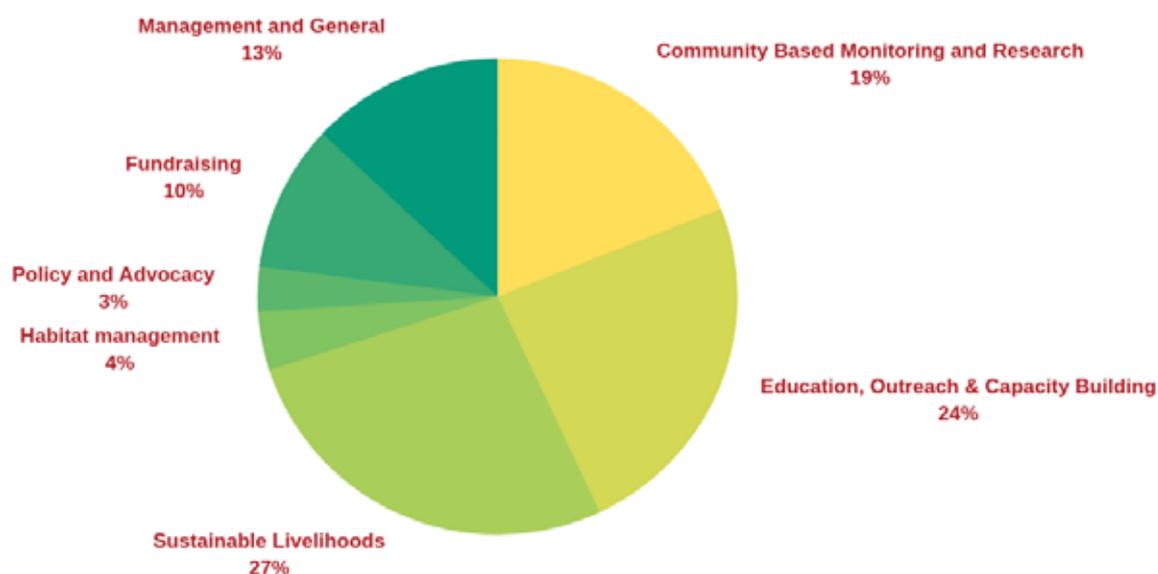
**RPN would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our individual supporters and monthly donors ("Panda Guardians") for your 2018 support and generosity.**

# Financial Summary

**Organizational financials (including RPN and RPN-Asia operations in the United States and Nepal) for 2018.**

EXPENSES		
Program Areas:	Amount	% Contribution
Community- Based Monitoring and Research	\$105,626	19%
Education, Outreach & Capacity Building	\$130,642	24%
Sustainable Livelihoods	\$150,100	27%
Habitat management	\$19,457	4%
Policy and Advocacy	\$16,678	3%
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>422,503</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Support Services:</b>		
Fundraising	\$55,593	10%
Management and General	\$77,830	13%
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$133,422</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Total Expenses to RPN 2018</b>	<b>\$555,925</b>	

REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Grants and donations	\$722,583	87%
Program Services income	\$49,022	6%
Other income	\$9,118	1.10%
<b>Total Revenue and Support RPN 2018</b>	<b>\$830,723</b>	





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