

CLOUDED LEOPARD WORKING GROUP 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS





Book: **CLOUDED LEOPARD WORKING GROUP 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS**

Prepared by: Ganga Ram Regmi and Mitra Pandey

Contribution: ClouDED Leopard Working Group partners

Photos: Cover Photo by Raju Shil; All other photos by CLWG members

Book design: Calligrafic Studio

Contact details:

ClouDED Leopard Working Group

www.clouDEDleopardpartners.org

info@clouDEDleopardpartners.org

WhatsApp: +977 9860082263

FOREWORD



Follow the pages in this book where you will explore the remarkable achievements of the Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG). This effort serves as a symbol of hope, showcasing the transformation of conflict into coexistence between clouded leopard, other small wild cats and farmers. Through innovative methods like predator-proof corrals and chicken coops, this project has established a conservation model that balances the needs of wildlife and communities.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this initiative is its dedication to turning poachers into clouded leopard conservationists, offering alternative livelihood options that safeguard these magnificent creatures and empower local people. The involvement of school children and the wider community illustrates the inclusive nature of this conservation effort, introducing a sense of stewardship that will resonate for generations. The celebration of International Clouded Leopard Day in Sikles village of Nepal was a significant event that united hearts and minds in a shared commitment to protect these elusive wild cats. Furthermore, the expansion of the CLWG into Europe and Australia underscores the global importance of this work, emphasizing the interconnectedness of conservation efforts worldwide.

As we look toward the future, the urgent need for rescue, rehabilitation and release centers for small wild cats becomes increasingly evident. The five years strategic plan developed by CLWG lays a strong foundation for the ongoing success of this project. Additionally, the initiation of a community-based Marbled cat conservation project in Arunachal state of India and the crucial efforts to remove snares and traps in the Asiatic golden cat habitat indicate the extensive scope and impact of this work.

Providing forest fire control training and tools to communities, further, showcases a holistic approach to conservation, recognizing that the well-being of both wildlife and people are interconnected. May all these achievements inspire future generations to continue this essential work, ensuring a brighter future for both clouded leopards and the communities that share their habitat!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ganga R. Regmi".

GANGA RAM REGMI

Coordinator

Clouded Leopard Working Group

Contents

Establishing co-existence: a conservation model to protect clouded leopard.....	1
Saving clouded leopard habitats from the flames.....	3
Discovering habitats of clouded leopard.....	4
Balancing conservation and livelihood: a holistic approach to clouded leopard conservation.....	5
A heartbreaking visit at clouded leopard rescue center.....	7
Empowering tomorrow's conservationists: wildlife training for college students.....	8
Marked International Clouded Leopard Day 2023: a grand celebration of conservation.....	9
Expanding the global network for clouded leopard conservation.....	11
Raising awareness across clouded leopard habitats: a comprehensive approach.....	12
A visit to small wild cats' habitats in India.....	14
Developing local conservation leadership.....	15
Clouded leopard working group: Five years strategic plan developed.....	16
Connecting conservation hearts through clouded leopard information boards.....	17
Conservation bond with outreach materials.....	19
CLWG in global stage.....	21
'Camera and Bike' supported to CLWG.....	22
Empowering conservation in Arunachal State, India through marbled cat emblem.....	23
Snare collection: creating safe habitat for the Asiatic golden cat.....	24
Clouded Leopard Working Group: Geographic Coverage.....	25



Establishing co-existence: a conservation model to protect clouded leopard

The Clouded Leopard Working Group, a team of energetic members, with its own effort worked optimistically to ensure that the clouded leopard could survive alongside the human communities living in the same locality. Our strategy was not just about protecting these beautiful cats; it was about developing a harmonious relationship between farmers and the small wild cats that live in the forests.

**Fifty-five
strong goat
corrals and 40
chicken coops were
supported to the
farmers.**



A significant aspect of our job involved addressing a local issue: the predation of livestock by clouded leopards. For many farmers, their goats and chickens were not just a source of income; they were part of their families. The fear of losing these animals to the hungry jaws of the clouded leopard and other small wild cats cast a shadow over their lives. It was making their proximity to the forested areas a cause of anxiety.

The Clouded Leopard Working Group came to the rescue with a solution. We not only protected the clouded leopard but also

Farmers, once feared by the threat of losing their livestock, now found themselves sleeping soundly at night.

gave farmers a feeling of being safe. They were supported to construct 55 strong goat corrals and precisely maintained them, ensuring that the goats were protected from the nocturnal attack of

the clouded leopard. Additionally, they were supported to build 40 chicken coops to safeguard chickens from the graceful as well as troubling marbled cat.

Farmers, once feared by the threat of losing their livestock, now found themselves sleeping soundly at night. They reported that

the corrals and coops had proven to be solid structure against the wild cats. Not a single incident of predation had occurred since these protective structures were put in place. The farmers' fear had been replaced by a sense of security.



Rajkumar Rai: *"Before CLWG built the predator-proof goat corral, my goats faced injuries and went missing, and the nights were filled with fear. Now, thanks to their efforts, my goats are safe, and we haven't seen wild cats near our home anymore."*



Saving clouded leopard habitats from the flames

Terai belt of lowland Nepal is a biodiversity rich place. Several wildlife species, including the small wild cats are found amidst the greenery and dense forests in this region. However, every year, a worrying threat appears over this region – the risk of forest fires happening accidentally or intentionally. The small wild cats, alongside other precious flora and fauna, found themselves in a constant threat for survival. But there is always a dedicated team – the Clouded Leopard Working Group. With the invaluable support of the government office, we joined on a task to protect this natural place.

Seventy-five enthusiastic people from five community forest user groups participated and were trained to control forest fire.

A conservation journey took us to the forests of Kapilvastu where five community forest user groups resided in the fire-prone zone. Here, we didn't just provide a solution; we empowered the local communities with the knowledge and tools

to become guardians of their own land. These communities received forest fire-fighting tools and on-site fire control

training. Over 75 enthusiastic participants, determined to save their forests, actively engaged in the training sessions. Five sets of forest fire control tools were provided to the local community forest user groups to protect the land they live. They learned the details of using spray pumps, fire rakes, fire swatters and wildfire-fighting personal protective equipment. The skills they achieved helped them to be the defender against the wildfires that threatened their forests and wildlife inhabiting in it. This effort was not only about preventing damage; it was about preserving the ecosystem in the forest. Over 1000 hectares of valuable forest land were now safe place for wildlife.

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The 'Division Forest Office, Kapilvastu,' conducted a follow-up study using camera traps, figuring a positive change. The previously recognized fire-prone forests had now become safe habitats for many wild species. Tigers, four-horned antelopes, wild boars, hispid hares, hyenas, northern red muntjacs, rhesus monkeys, fishing cats and many more were captured by the lens of camera traps. Their presence was evidence to the safety and success of the forest protection activity in Kapilvastu.



Discovering habitats of clouded leopard

The Clouded Leopard team made a journey that took us deep into the forested area of Gulmi and Parbat districts in Nepal. This journey was organized to explore the potential habitats of the elusive clouded leopard.

Gulmi district has a vast forested area in the north known as Madane. Spanning in an area of 13,761 hectares and lying within the altitudinal ranges of 975 meters to 2657 meters above sea level, it holds the status of a protection forest, declared so by the Nepal government in 2067 B.S. As we travelled further into this amazing landscape, the vegetation transformed before our eyes, shifting from broad-leaved forests to the coniferous that represented higher elevations. The landscape and floral composition suggest that it is a home to diverse wildlife species. There is a record of more than 29 mammal species and 264 bird species. Similarly, in Parbat

district, 'Khadiko Lek' is another forested area that reveals its own resources. Covering over 1300 hectares, this forested vastness consists of

broad-leaved forests that has undiscovered secrets. Our visit to these forests showed that holds the potential of sheltering clouded leopards and other remarkable wildlife.

The local communities residing in the vicinity of these potential habitats have been facing threats from the wild cats. These threats spread to both the human inhabitants and their cattle, creating a risky coexistence. It is clear that immediate action is needed to protect these communities and their property from the potential dangers posed by the wild cats. This is just a first step and a detailed study is needed to verify the presence and status of clouded leopards and other wild cat species in these regions. It is a call to action and a reminder that our exploration is not only a scientific effort but a commitment to the protection of those who coexist.

Madane forest area of Gulmi and Khadikolek forest area of Parbat were explored as the additional potential habitat of clouded leopard.



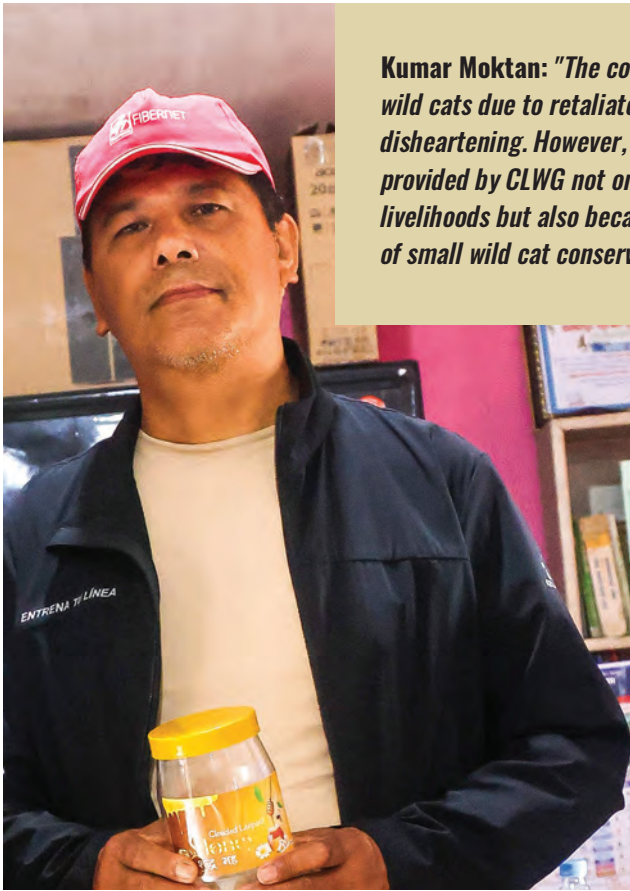
Balancing conservation and livelihood: a holistic approach to clouded leopard conservation

An unspoken truth in the conservation world – 'empty stomachs can't work towards the protection of our planet's resources'. To truly protect the natural world, we must recognize the connection of both wildlife and the communities that share their habitat. The Clouded Leopard Working Group understood that for conservation efforts to grow, local farmers needed not only motivation but also tangible support to enhance their livelihoods. It was a call to action that would support not only the wildlife, forests and landscapes but the very essence of these communities.

To improve livelihood of local people living nearby clouded leopard habitat, greenhouses support was done to 120 farmers and Bee-keeping support was done to 300 households.

About 2000 meters above sea level farmers faced the harsh reality of food scarcity during the cold seasons. Growing crops and vegetables year-round was a challenge that threatened their sustenance. Recognizing this difficulty, the Clouded Leopard Working Group stepped in, offering greenhouse support to 120 farmers. These structures became the places where vegetables could grow even when the weather outside was hard.





Kumar Moktan: *"The constant threat to small wild cats due to retaliatory killings by locals was disheartening. However, the bee-keeping support provided by CLWG not only offered a lifeline for our livelihoods but also became a vital link in the chain of small wild cat conservation."*

had traditional bee-hives, producing inadequate honey, while others could not afford even that. The Clouded Leopard Working Group stepped in once again, this time providing modern bee-hives and honey bottles bearing the proud label of 'Clouded Leopard

Conservation Honey.' It was more than a gift; it was an opportunity for 300 households to join in the sweet success of bee-keeping.

This approach was not just about providing tools and training; it was about motivation and awareness. Alongside livelihood improvement activities, there was a purpose to develop community people as guardians of the clouded leopard and its habitat. Balancing conservation and livelihood are a model of hope, transformation, and resilience. It is a reminder that, together, we can build a future where both clouded leopards, human and their livestock live in harmony, sharing the planet for generations to come.

One such farmer, 'Kamal Rai' from Panchthar district, speaks with full of happiness, "I now grow vegetables and medicinal plants in my farmland, an effort that has not only improved my livelihood but helped to run my family smoothly by selling surplus vegetables and medicinal plants."

In the lower regions of Nepal, bee-farming is one of the important livelihood improvement activities. Some farmers

Our dedicated partner, Dr. Camille Coudrat shared an update of the conservation journey from Lao PDR. Through the integration of livelihood activities, progress has not only been made but also done support within the community and among local stakeholders. A village-level handicraft production groups have been set up, providing training and developing a spirit of knowledge exchange through study tours. This initiative has not only enriched their lives but also the precious gift of shared natural heritage.



A heartbreaking visit at clouded leopard rescue center

'Jamunkhadi is a place located in the Jhapa district, approximately 430 kilometers away from Kathmandu. Within its confines lies a wildlife rescue center located at the edge of a dense forest, offering space to injured and infant wildlife. It was a destination that invited the members of the Clouded Leopard Working Group when we received information that an injured clouded leopard had been brought there.

Upon our arrival, our eyes witnessed that would forever be imprinted into our memories - a clouded leopard confined to a narrow and small enclosure. One of its eyes has the scars of a painful encounter with humans and the condition was deeply painful. We turned to the caretaker, hoping to gain insight into the clouded leopard's journey to this place. The story we heard was a tragic and even more heartbreaking one.

The incident that brought this leopard at Jamunkhadi rescue center was not an isolated one; it was revealing a broader disconnect between human communities and the remarkable wildlife that shares their world.

This clouded leopard had intruded too close to a nearby village, driven by hunger and looking for food to survive. Unfortunately, villagers wanted to revenge for perceived threats to their livestock. The leopard had to suffer a brutal beating, nearly to the point of death. Fortunately, the compassion of a few kind souls interfered, saving its life. They transported the gravely injured leopard to this rescue center, where it received the care and treatment it so urgently needed.

Today, as we stood before the clouded leopard, we witnessed signs of physical recovery. Yet, the clear reality still exists – this beautiful creature still lacked the space and freedom it deserved. An urgent need is a more spacious and suitable rescue center. It was also evident that clouded leopard conservation awareness remained scarce in many parts of our country. The incident that brought this leopard here was not an isolated one; it was revealing a broader disconnect between human communities and the remarkable wildlife that shares their world.

As we journeyed back, we carried with us a renewed determination to ensure that the clouded leopard could one day roam freely. We also recognized the importance of growing harmonious coexistence between these magnificent creatures and our local citizens.



Empowering tomorrow's conservationists: wildlife training for college students

The future of our natural world rests in the hands of our youth. They are the guardians and caretaker of the ecosystems that sustain us all. With this belief in mind, the Clouded Leopard Working Group in collaboration with Bhaktapur Multiple College and Third Pole Conservancy launched a training class to empower the conservationists of tomorrow.

The training was about 'Wildlife research techniques and report preparation' participated by 52 students.

about 'Wildlife research techniques and report preparation.' This was different from their regular classes as it was an exploration of the natural world that surround us. The training

On the 2nd of June 2023, one-day training class was organized within Bhaktapur Multiple College's premises for fifty-two students all from science background. The focus of this training was

course was effectively designed to include the key aspects of wildlife research and conservation in Nepal. It explained about the status of wildlife in our country, shedding light on the present scenario and the urgent need for their protection. Students were also introduced about the survey techniques to understand and monitor the wildlife species. It raised conservation ideas in them, helping to grow these young minds with the possibilities for positive change.

The training was not simply a lecture, it was a package of knowledge, conducted by different experts who were experienced on their fields. These experts guided the students about wildlife research techniques and report preparation. At the end of the day, the students were given a task that would set them on a path of real-world impact. They were asked to choose a wildlife species and apply the survey techniques they had learned and prepare a comprehensive report. It was an opportunity for them to not only absorb the knowledge but to put it into practice to become the change they wished to see in the world.



Marked International Clouded Leopard Day 2023: a grand celebration of conservation

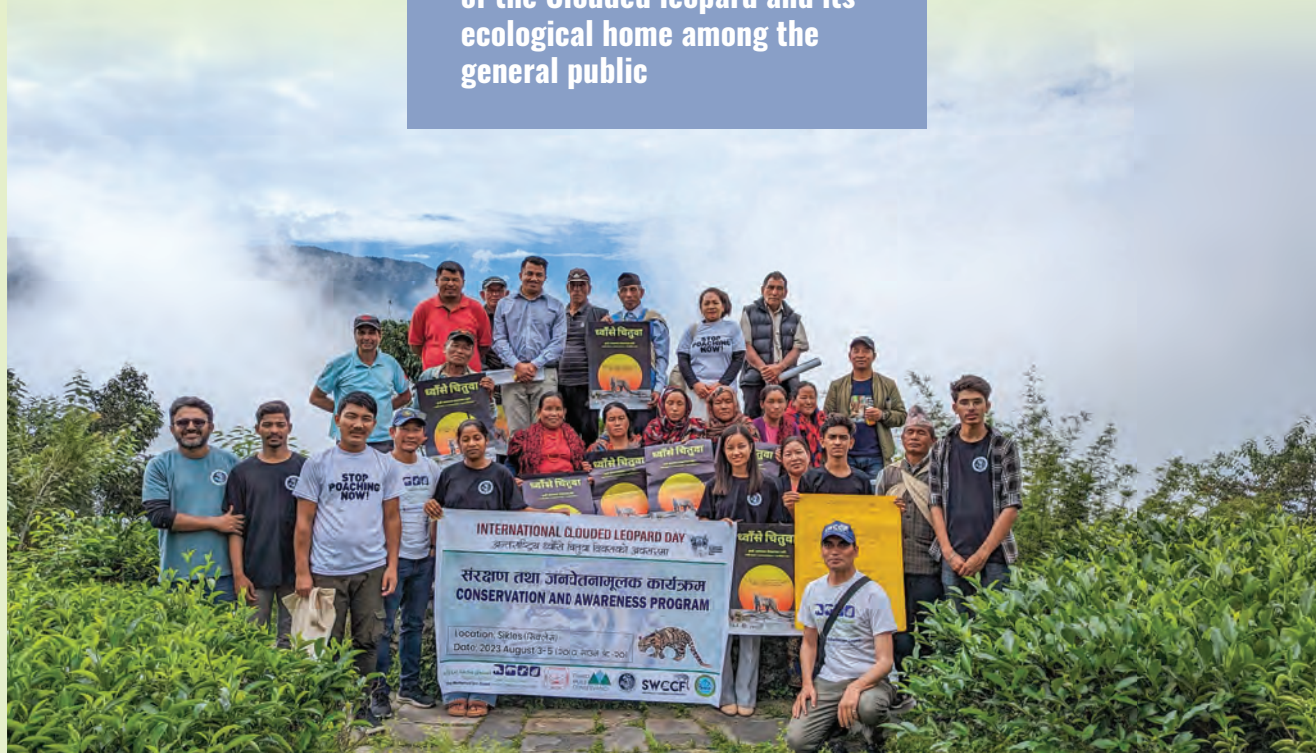
For the first time in Nepal, we organized a grand celebration of International Clouded Leopard Day 2023 3-5 August in Sikles village of Kaski district, a place connecting with the Clouded leopard's natural habitat. During the three-day event we heightened awareness and highlighted the significance of the Clouded leopard and its ecological home among the general public.

Opening day was a carefully coordinated gathering involving local stakeholders. The objective was to enlighten everyone with the Clouded leopard, its conservation challenges, and potential local solutions. This extensive meeting

generated remarkably productive discussions among the participants from local women's groups, government officials, educators, college scholars, cultural leaders, and conservation authorities. Their active engagement adopted an environment of collaboration, sharing views and ideas crucial to Clouded leopard conservation. The second day continued with captivating events that further engaged people for the conservation of this magnificent wild cat.

A fascinating art competition about the Clouded leopard captivated school students. Accompanying this, a conservation-oriented street rally and effective street drama

We heightened awareness and highlighted the significance of the Clouded leopard and its ecological home among the general public





were organized with the keen engagement of the students. The artistic expressions showcased deep appreciation and support for Clouded leopard conservation, demonstrating the young participants' belief in their capacity to safeguard the species for generations to come. During the final day we went door-to-door reaching more than 400 households within the village. The objective was to inform and inspire active participation in upcoming Clouded leopard conservation initiatives.

Four hundred households of Sikles village were well informed about the clouded leopard in the event.

For individuals unable to attend the event organized at Sikles village, our activities were disseminated across diverse social media platforms. Additionally, international conservation

organizations extended their support to our initiative, subsequently promoting our events through their own social media channels. Our campaign likely reached people worldwide.



Despite facing challenges such as rain, landslides, and dangerous off-road journeys, sometimes even navigating through deep muddy roads, the untiring dedication of our team remained steadfast. This remarkable effort stands as evidence to the strong commitment of our team. Their determination, despite the challenges, exemplifies a hopeful future for the Clouded leopard and our shared ecosystem. This celebration represents our committed dedication to the Clouded leopard, our nature, and our future.



Expanding the global network for clouded leopard conservation

Every connection is an encouragement and every cooperation is a guiding light of hope. For the Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG), the expansion of our global network marked a significant milestone in our objective of clouded leopard conservation.

The story began when we had the privilege of connecting with Lauren, the co-founder of International Clouded Leopard Day (ICLD) and a dedicated Carnivore Keeper at Howlett's Wild Animal Park in the UK. Lauren was not just impressed; she was inspired by our dedication to the cause of clouded leopard conservation. The grand celebration of International Clouded Leopard Day served as evidence to our commitment. Despite our limited resources, we had conducted clouded leopard conservation and awareness activities in various corners of Nepal. Lauren's support added an extra brick to our foundation. But Lauren was not alone in her dedication. Alice Vassallo, working at Shepreth Wildlife Park in Cambridge, UK, also joined us. Her involvement helped to deliver clouded leopard conservation equipment to our field teams in Nepal. It was a lifeline for our work on the ground.

The conversations with Alice and Lauren were not just about collaboration; they were about a shared vision. Together, we explored the possibilities of further collaboration and support for CLWG activities. The horizon expanded and our dreams soared higher.

Our network expansion didn't end there. We established a connection with the Wild cat Conservation Center in Australia. They were inspired by our work and expressed a keen interest in supporting our clouded leopard project. This opens up the possibility of receiving future support from this organization.

**CLWG's network
added 'Howletts Wild
Animal Park' and
'Shepreth Wildlife
Park, UK'**



Raising awareness across clouded leopard habitats: a comprehensive approach



The Clouded Leopard Working Group incorporated a general approach to raise awareness on a broader scale. Our efforts were characterized by the active engagement of local communities and school students who share the same landscapes as the clouded leopard and other small wild cats.

This year, our initiatives took various forms to spread awareness among the people residing in proximity to clouded leopard habitats. Street rallies, drawing competitions, and presentation of clouded leopard including other small wild cats were conducted across four distinct locations: Kaski, Dolakha, Ilam and Sankhuwasabha. During the lively street rallies, we were joined by an amazing five hundred individuals. Their



More than 500 individuals participated in street rallies, 150 students participated in drawing competition and 100 people were attentive listeners.

presence served as a proof of collective action and a shared commitment to advocate for clouded leopard conservation. To raise the young minds of our future, we organized drawing competitions with the participation of one hundred and fifty students. They channeled their creativity to translate fresh knowledge into artwork that conveyed the essence of conservation. In the halls of clouded leopard presentations, one hundred attentive listeners were present absorbing every word spoken. Upon evaluating their knowledge after these awareness initiatives, we observed a remarkable transformation in their understanding and attitude toward the clouded leopard.

School student of Ilam: *"I was completely unaware of the existence of the Clouded leopard. All I heard from my parents were stories of our livestock being eaten by Leopards. Today, thanks to this book, I've gained a deep understanding of the Clouded leopard, importance of improving our goat corral to save our goats from Leopards, and have learned the importance of coexisting with these magnificent creatures."*



A visit to small wild cats' habitats in India

In northern West Bengal, there lies a protected area – the Buxa Tiger Reserve. Spanning over 760 square kilometers, this wilderness is a haven for many wildlife from the majestic Asian elephant to the elusive Asian golden cat including Clouded leopard and Marbled cat. This year the members of clouded leopard working group from Nepal visited Buxa. Our interest was to explore deep into their habitat, to gather idea about relationship between humans and small wild cats. Buxa is a protected area and here, conservation is not just a word but a way of life.

The conflict between humans and wild cats has been a longstanding issue in these parts. The families living around the reserve, who depend on their livestock and poultry, often find themselves at balance with the small wild cats. These cats sometimes enter into the village's poultry as an easy meal, creating fear to the locals.

Lekhu Mahato is a guardian of both the wild cats and the communities that call these lands home. Lekhu took it upon himself to bridge the gap between human survival and wildlife protection. He understood that harmony was the key to coexistence. In a true act of compassion, he supported for the construction of predator-proof chicken houses, ensuring the safety of both wild cats and poultry. But Lekhu's contributions to conservation did not stop there. His keen eye and intimate

knowledge of the terrain led to an additional achievement – the manual capture of a Marbled cat on film, a rare gem of the region. This photographic evidence not only highlighted the existence of these elusive cats but also emphasized the importance of protecting their habitat.

Lekhu Mahato is a guardian of both the wild cats and the communities that call these lands home.



Developing local conservation leadership

Clouded Leopard Working Group is not only the champion of the conservation of clouded leopards, marbled cats, and Asiatic golden cats but also develop the emerging future conservationists as local conservation leaders.

Our journey took us to the pristine landscapes of eastern Nepal, where small wild cats have long been inhabiting. Among the residents of this wonderful region, we found Kumar Moktan, a man who was living in harmony with nature. Kumar, a humble bee-keeping expert, was deeply motivated by the tireless efforts of the Clouded Leopard Working Group in the field of small wild cat conservation. After meeting with us, he was determined to protect these elusive creatures and raise awareness about these species at the grassroots level. He understood that the conservation

of these small wild cats was not just a responsibility but a commitment to the balance of nature. Thus, Kumar moved ahead on a task to transform his community, one step at a time.

Kumar Moktan not only dedicated himself to safeguarding the small wild cats but also leveraged his expertise in bee-keeping to uplift the lives of the villagers. Through innovative bee-

Kumar Moktan not only dedicated himself to safeguarding the small wild cats but also leveraged his expertise in bee-keeping to uplift the lives of the villagers.

keeping practices, he not only ensured the protection of vital pollinators but also empowered local people to improve their livelihoods sustainably. The symbiotic relationship between the conservation of small wild cats and the enhancement of local livelihoods became a shining example of what can be achieved when conservation efforts align with the needs of communities.

Kumar's amazing journey did not go overlooked. The Clouded Leopard Working Group recognized his commitment and passion for both wildlife and people. By recognizing Kumar Moktan's dedication, he was selected as the local conservation leader in eastern Nepal.



Clouded leopard

working group:

Five years strategic plan developed

The Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG) proudly presents its comprehensive strategic plan that presents our commitment to the conservation of clouded leopards, marbled cats, and Asiatic golden cats across the vast landscapes of Asia. It is a five years' strategic plan spanning from 2024 to 2028.

CLWG's five years strategic plan developed that carries a total commitment of USD 1,108,000.

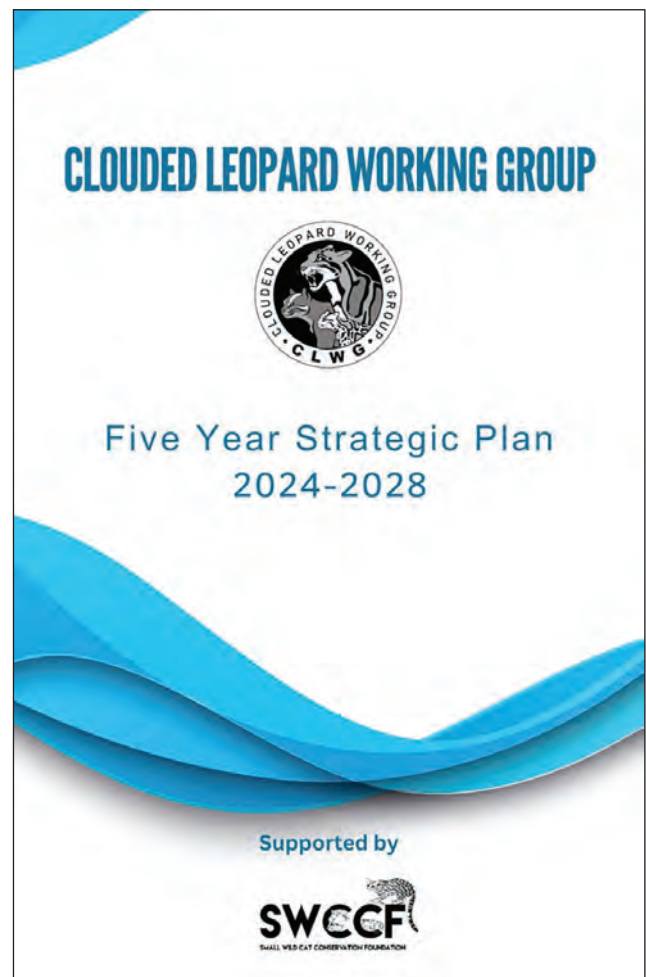
Our objective is to increase and sustain their populations, to safeguard their precious habitats and to combat against the serious threats such as poaching and habitat loss. We have

local team for habitat protection, guardians to act against the threat of poaching, researchers for scientific truths and leaders for community engagement. Through these diverse strategies, we form a conservation model, ensuring that no thread is left unattended.

The Clouded Leopard Working Group stands as an example of collaboration, bringing together smart individuals across the vast stretch of Asia. In partnership with the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation (SWCCF) and the Third Pole Conservancy (TPC) we have created a network united by a shared purpose – to protect these small wild cat species and the ecosystems they call home.

Distribution maps of these species have been presented in the strategic plan. It shows the ranges these creatures navigate connecting us to the landscapes they inhabit and the ecosystems they sustain.

Five years journey to protect these small wild cats is not just a roadmap, it is the compass that guides us towards a brighter future for these species. It reminds us that conservation is a marathon and the path to success is marked by vision. Our strategic plan carries a total commitment of USD 1,108,000, a sum that signifies our determination to leave no stone unturned in the mission to protect these iconic cats.



Connecting conservation hearts through clouded leopard information boards

In 15 different locations across the country, information boards were placed that has the power of connecting the hearts of passionate conservationists and curious passersby. These boards were strategically placed to greet all who pass by. They have served more than just markers on a trail. As people stroll through Nepal's breathtaking

The message on these boards is clear: highlighting the immediate conservation needs of three elusive and enchanting small wild cats – the clouded leopard, the marbled cat, and the Asiatic golden cat.



landscapes, these boards draw their attention – compel them to pause and to gaze and to become part of it.

The message on these boards is clear: highlighting the immediate conservation needs of three elusive and enchanting small wild cats – the clouded leopard, the marbled cat, and the Asiatic golden cat. The information boards also include the warning bell "If found guilty of killing a clouded leopard, one may face up to 15 years of imprisonment and/or a fine of 1 million Nepalese rupees." They serve as a reminder that the lives of these cats are invaluable, and their protection is non-negotiable. These boards don't just impart knowledge; they make emotions. They create a passion for conservation, making us realize that the fate of these small wild cat rests not solely in the hands of scientists and policymakers but in our own hearts and hands. They compel us to be the stewards of these creatures, the guardians of their homes. Through these information boards, we have found a way to connect conservation hearts across its landscape.



Conservation bond with outreach materials

Conservation is not just a task for scientists and environmentalists. It is a cause that must be adopted by every individual. It is a movement that requires the involvement of people from all field to come together. This is where the power of outreach materials becomes not just evident but truly change-maker. The tools contributing to change are not high-tech gadgets or complex things, they are simple yet meaningful: tote bags, T-shirts, caps, conservation posters, and the pages of a clouded leopard conservation book. These items hold within them the potential to make a revolution in our clouded leopard conservation field.

Clouded leopard working group developed 125 tote bags, 150 T-shirts, 50 caps, 2000 conservation posters and 1000 clouded leopard conservation books carrying the stories of small wild cats.



Clouded leopard working group developed 125 tote bags, 150 T-shirts, 50 caps, 200 conservation posters and 1000 clouded leopard conservation books carrying the stories of small wild cats. They were not hidden away in the storeroom but they were distributed, shared and proudly displayed for all to see. The beauty of these outreach materials lies not just in their numbers but in their longevity. They have the images of small wild cats and the logos of conservation organizations. They serve as a constant reminder that the conservation of these cats is not an option; it is a duty we must carry always with us.

As we walk down the street with a tote bag that proudly displays the image of a clouded leopard, we become a walking ambassador for conservation. When we wear a T-shirt bearing the symbol of the marbled cat, we send a message to the world that we stand with these creatures. And when we glance in the mirror and see a cap with the sign of the Asiatic golden cat, we are reminded of our role in their survival. These outreach materials do more than just raise awareness; they motivate and connect. They inspire individuals to take action, to become part of a global community dedicated to protecting our natural world.



CLWG in global stage

This year, CLWG has an opportunity to take its mission to a global stage. Mr. Ganga Ram Regmi, the coordinator of CLWG, made a journey to USA to attend a global conference. It was the International Wildlife Coexistence Conference, hosted by the International Wildlife Coexistence Network, that served a space to share the story of conservations from the 17th to the 20th of October, at the Chico Hot Springs in Pray, Montana, USA.

Mr. Ganga Ram Regmi also received an invitation for a wildlife coexistence talk at the Student Conference on Conservation Science, scheduled to take place at the prestigious University of Cambridge from the 26th to the 28th of March in 2024. We see it as a recognition of CLWG's remarkable achievements.



'Camera and Bike' supported to CLWG

Honda XR 190, a reliable companion designed for the roads and trails of the off-road in hills and mountain landscape, valued at \$5,700, arrived in the hands of CLWG this year. It was not just a motorcycle; it was a vehicle that would enable the team to travel the challenging terrain with greater ease and efficiency. Similarly, a Canon R5 camera, paired with an RF 100-500mm Lens worth \$10,000 was also given to CLWG. This camera is a tool that would capture the beauty of the natural world, the stories of its inhabitants and the dedication of those working tirelessly to protect it. We offer our deepest gratitude to our donor Rare Species Fund who understood that the struggle to safeguard endangered species and their habitats required not just passion but the right tools and resources.



Empowering conservation in Arunachal State, India through marbled cat emblem

In the West Siang district in India, there is a story of a community that has come together, united by a shared commitment to protect the marbled cats that call their region home. They have established an emblem of marbled cat in their locality. The locally crafted marbled cat statue has become a symbol of hope and unity. It stands proudly, reminding conservation importance to all who see it. The photos of the unveiling ceremony capture not just a particular moment but a milestone in the journey of conservation. This stunning piece of art symbolizes not only beauty of the marbled cat but also the unity and determination of the community to protect it.

Giridhar Malla is the one dedicatedly involved in this initiative. Giridhar's passion and commitment have been the path of hope

for more sustainable future for these remarkable wild cats. The village head encouraged each member of the community to take a sincere promise to safeguard the marbled cats. It reflects a deep understanding that conservation is not an isolated effort but a collective responsibility.

This stunning piece of art symbolizes not only beauty of the marbled cat but also the unity and determination of the community to protect it.



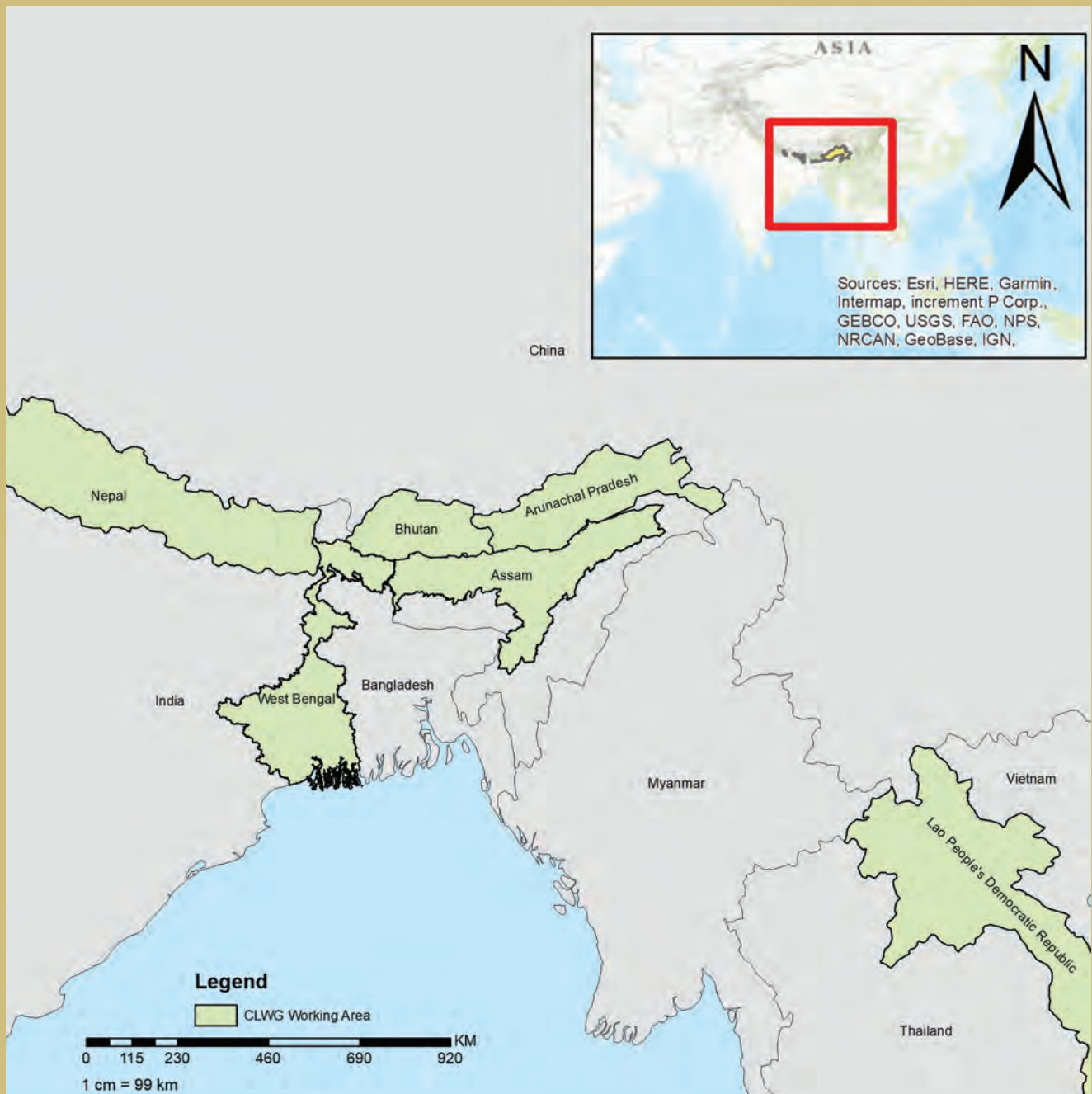
Snare collection: creating safe habitat for the Asiatic golden cat



Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale area situated in the eastern Nepal is renowned for the best habitat for the Asiatic golden cat and other small wild cats. In the year 2023, Clouded Leopard Working Group, in coordination with local community forest user groups, implemented conservation activities to protect the Asiatic golden cat. The prime objective was to collect and dismantle traps and snares. More than 20 snares and traps found during forest exploration were a great threat for the wildlife in this region. The removal of these snares was not just a physical act, it was for the Asiatic golden cat to create a safe and more secure place for them. It was a message of co-existence, a message that declared that these forests were not just for humans, but for all who called them home.



Clouded Leopard Working Group: Geographic Coverage



Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

1. The identification of small wild cat hotspots (especially clouded leopard, marbled cat and Asiatic golden cat) across the region presents an opportunity for CLWG to concentrate its conservation efforts in areas of critical need.
2. Rising everyone's interest in small wild cats.
3. Exploring ecotourism opportunities in small wild cat habitats can generate revenue while simultaneously promoting conservation and providing economic benefits to local communities.
4. CLWG can broaden its impact across various conservation sectors, developing a more holistic approach.

Challenges

1. Intense competition for financial resources.
2. The sector focused on small wild cat conservation may come across reduced funding as donor priorities shift towards larger cat species.
3. Small wild cat conservation may receive lower priority both within society and in policy decisions possibly hindering support and resources allocation.
4. The impacts of climate change, including altered habitats and shifting prey availability, pose additional challenges to the survival of small wild cat populations, necessitating adaptive conservation strategies.



Donors



Local Partners





CLOUDED LEOPARD WORKING GROUP (CLWG)

Clouded Leopard Working Group is the organized network of conservation partners who work with the local communities to mitigate the threats of clouded leopard, Asiatic golden cat, Marbled cat and their habitats from Nepal to Vietnam in the mainland Asia. CLWG has been supported and promoted by Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation (SWCCF). The mission of the Clouded Leopard Working Group is to ensure the continued existed of clouded leopards, Asiatic golden cats, Marbled cats and their habitats in mainland Asia. The mission is achieved by working with and supporting local partners and rural communities to mitigate threats to clouded leopards and their habitats. With all projects we begin by asking two questions: What are the threats to clouded leopards, other wild cats & wildlife, and their habitats? What are we doing to reduce those threats? CLWG works with adults to change the present and with children to change the future.