



# IMPACT REPORT

SUBMITTED TO:  
NATURE PLANET

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## SUMMARY

The Red Panda, an indicator species for Eastern Himalayan ecoregions, is facing decline due to rapid human population growth and unsustainable living practices. To combat this crisis, RPN has adopted a comprehensive strategy called "**Plant A Red Panda Home**," which aims to maintain habitat contiguity in the fragmented and historic red panda habitat through restoration activities involving local communities and providing them with green jobs. The initiative has successfully planted 74.85 hectares of degraded land employing 327 locals in Ilam, Jajarkot, Jumla and Kalikot districts, and has also constructed three nursery sheds in eastern Nepal. The nurseries have the capacity to nurture approximately 22,680 seedlings ready for planting in the next planting season of 2024. A 2023 camera trap survey showed red pandas returning to Jaubari, indicating the success of the reforestation program. The RPN plans to build five more nursery sheds in eastern Nepal to supply seedlings next year, and is negotiating to purchase a forest area connecting red panda habitats with India.



## INTRODUCTION

The Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), an indicator species for Eastern Himalayan ecoregions, is facing decline due to anthropogenic pressures from rapid human population growth and unsustainable living practices causing the degradation and fragmentation of Red Panda habitat. As a tree-dwelling species, Red Pandas struggle to survive when forests are fragmented and populations become susceptible to genetic bottleneck.

To combat this crisis, RPN has adopted a comprehensive strategy to re-establish and link vital habitats of Red Panda—“**Plant a Red Panda Home**”. This initiative seeks to maintain habitat contiguity in the fragmented and historic Red Panda habitat through restoration activities involving local communities and providing them with green jobs.

Thanks to your support, we successfully carried out restoration activities in **74.85 hectares** of degraded land in Jaubari area of Ilam district from eastern Nepal and in western Nepal, the plantation was done in the community forest of Jajarkot district (Dotachaur CF, Phulbari Khali CF, and Lata CF), Kalikot district (Gairemela CF and Mahadev CF) and Jumla district (Siddhibinayak CF and Nadi CF). Three nursery sheds were also constructed in Jaubari and Tumling of eastern Nepal.

**41 ha planted in  
Ilam**

**19.3 ha planted in  
Jajarkot**

**7.85 ha planted in  
Jumla**

**6.7 ha planted  
in Kalikot**





## RESTORING HABITAT

Through your generous support, we successfully planted **73,747 seedlings** in 2023 within the degraded Red Panda habitat.

*Of the total seedlings planted, **20,000 seedlings** were made possible by the fund support provided by Nature Planet.*

Before the plantation starts, we install fences around the restoration site to protect the young seedlings from livestock. In the **Eastern region**, we conducted the planting from **June to July**, while in the Western region, it took place from **July to August**. This scheduling was influenced by the geographical difference in monsoon arrival times, with eastern Nepal being closer to the Bay of Bengal, where the monsoon arrives earlier than in the western region.

The plantation program is strategically conducted during the monsoon season because at this time the soil retains moisture, creating optimal conditions for plantation.

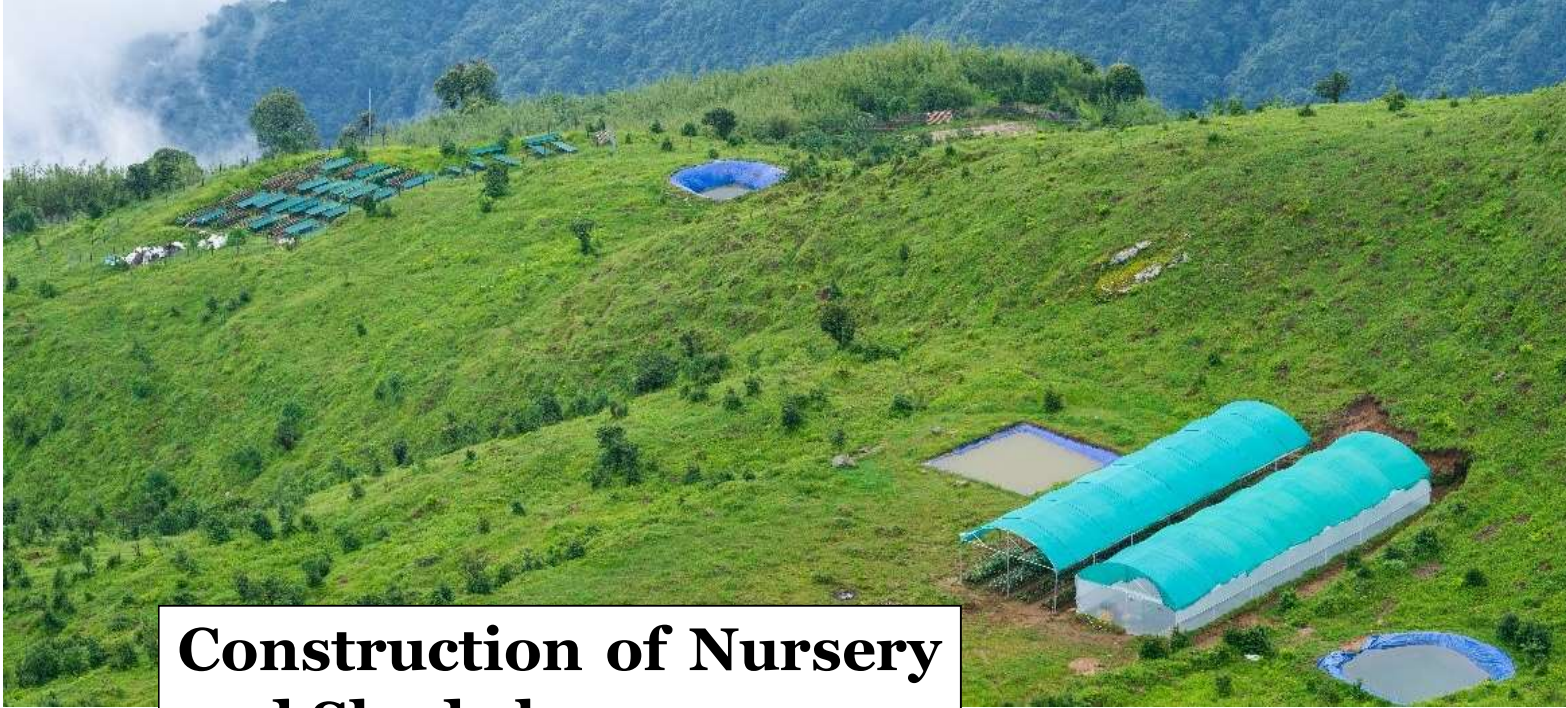


Photo 1: Locals installing fence in West Nepal.



Photo 2: Local women planting seedlings in Ilam.





## Construction of Nursery and Shade house

We also constructed 3 nursery sheds in Jaubari and Tumling located in eastern Nepal.

The main aim behind the construction of nurseries and shade house was to produce seedlings of high quality and transfer them to the shade house for hardening-off process.

A nursery has a 126 m<sup>2</sup> of bed area and the beds are designed and made using locally available bamboos (*Drepanostachyum* species). A total of 55 beds are present in the nursery and shade house of Jaubari and Tumling.

These nurseries has the capacity to nurture approximately 22,680 seedlings that will be ready for planting in the next planting season of 2024.



Photo 3: Bamboo seed beds in the nursery in Jaubari.



Photo 4: Seedlings transferred to shade house from old Jaubari nursery for hardening-off.





## EMPOWERING LOCALS

Your support helped to generate local green jobs to the families living near the restoration area as well. A total of 32 (Female: 14, Male: 18) and 295 (Female: 70, Male: 225) locals from eastern Nepal and western Nepal were employed where they contributed 691 and 1,429 man-day worth of work respectively.



***327 locals employed  
(243 male; 84 female)***

In addition to this, the local people were also employed for pit digging, transporting of seedlings to the planting sites, collection of forest manure, and construction and repairing of fences.



***2,120 man-days worth  
of work***

Also, the construction of nursery and shade house in Jaubari and Tumling took 27 days to complete with 3 people involved full time for the work.



***3 people employed to  
construct nurseries for  
27 days***

The established nurseries will be run completely by local people, creating temporary green jobs of seed collectors, nursery helpers, foreman, caretaker, and daily wagers. A permanent job of the nursery caretaker has been given to a female who has some previous experience with seedling production and nursery maintenance.



***1 permanent job of  
nursery caretaker***



## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

### A journey of Plantation and Empowerment

Sanjita Thami, a mother of three daughters and one son, is among the restoration guardian of this year's plantation program in Jaubari Ilam. Sanjita initially came there in search of employment but later, when she knew the real purpose of the campaign, she realized that it wasn't only about making a living anymore but also about preserving the environment. Eventually her daughters and son also joined her, actively participating in plantation and fencing work.

They walk for around 3 hours from their home in Thamkharka, Jogmai, Maijogmai, Ilam to reach the plantation site. Their daily routine began at 5 am, leaving home at 6 am to reach the plantation site by 9 am. Through this, the Thami family also got the chance to develop their skills in the field of gardening, plantation and nursery management.

Thami family stands as an inspiration to us all, reminding us that with determination and a sense of purpose, we can create a brighter tomorrow. Your support is making a difference in the lives of many families like them, and helping ensure the protection of endangered ecosystems.



Photo 5: Sanjita Thami working with her



Photo 6: Sanjita's son preparing beds for seedlings.





## RECOVERY OF NATURE

There are more reasons to feel hopeful: a camera trap survey of 2023 showed Red Panda (and other wildlife) are returning to Jaubari of Ilam district, proving that wild nature is recovering.

The return of the Red Panda is a sign of the success of the reforestation program. It is very exciting to see the progress of the reforestation program and the impact RPN and its donors have made to revive Eastern Himalayan forest and conserve vital wildlife.



Photo 7: Red Panda captured in camera trap in Jaubari, Ilam.





The forest area to be purchased via  
Nature Planet fund support in 2023

As exciting as our recent accomplishments are, they also underscore our urgent race against time. Researchers believe that habitat loss and degradation could drive these charismatic species to extinction within the next fifty years, which is heartbreaking to contemplate.

Fortunately, your support gives us the hope to save the last of the first pandas. With committed supporters like you, using a combination of the innovative techniques, we will continue to do what we are best at: **conserve wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.**

**Though we have made significant progress, there is still some work left to be done:**

- Building 5 more nurseries in eastern Nepal to supply seedlings for plantation in next planting season.
- We are under negotiation to purchase a forest area which is an important connectivity between red panda habitats of Nepal and India.
- The post-planting care of planted seedlings in the restoration site will be continued.

**If you want to know more about our work, you can find us in [explorer.land](https://explorer.land) and [RESTOR](https://restor.org).**



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR KIND  
SUPPORT!**

