

# RED PANDA NETWORK

## Forest Guardian Sponsorship Scheme

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

After a decade of developing a community-based Red Panda conservation approach in three districts in eastern Nepal and 7 districts in western Nepal, the Red Panda Network expanded to three new districts in eastern Nepal in 2022. The project works in 75 community forests (CFs) of these 13 Red Panda range districts (out of 25) in Nepal.

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**Action for the Wild teams up annually with other European Zoos to support the Forest Guardianship Scheme and donated £214.06 in 2022. A forest guardian monitors and protects Red Panda habitats, as well as educates communities on the importance of the species.**

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The forest guardian team has grown to over 100 members and will continue to increase with recruitments in the 3 new districts of eastern Nepal. Since 2014, Action for the Wild has worked with other European zoos to sponsor up to 15 forest guardians.

The funds are used for capacity and skill-building training, supporting children and siblings with education scholarships, distributing improved cooking stoves, and providing guardians with field gear and monitoring equipment. All forest guardians receive training on community-based red panda monitoring and anti-poaching patrolling which includes training on camera trap handling, installation, and data management to enable them to monitor their Red Panda monitoring blocks on a quarterly basis, conduct bi-annual anti-poaching patrolling, install camera traps and establish new monitoring blocks.

This support benefits not only the Red Pandas, but provides employment and development within the local community, giving them a sense of pride in protecting this endangered species, with income generated from sustainable means.



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