



# THE RED PANDA PROJECT

## PIS Red Panda Protected Forest

*The world's first red panda reserve*



*Imagine* a place with thick forests filled with creatures of unparalleled diversity and beauty. A place where rhododendron stands bloom in pink, red, and white, and with some of the world's most spectacular mountain vistas. A place where you can see 3 of the world's 7 tallest mountains with the turn of your head. A place where you can see such endangered animals as the elusive red panda.

This place does exist. It is at the eastern edge of Nepal, the place where you can stand with Nepal at your back and India and mysterious Bhutan and Sikkim to your front. This area, with the densest population of red panda in Nepal, is one of the world's 25 biodiversity "hotspots", and hosts one of the most diverse plant and animal communities found on earth -- and it is threatened by population growth and expanding development.

It is here that *The Red Panda Project* is advocating for the creation of the PIS Red Panda Protected Forest, the world's first Red Panda Reserve. And, where our mission, to ensure the survival of the red panda and its habitat for future generations to study, experience, and enjoy, is being put into action.

### *Why is this area so important?*

In 1999, a group of Himalayan conservation experts identified this area, called the Panchthar-Ilam-Singhalila corridor, or PIS corridor, as the highest conservation priority for the vanishing Eastern Himalayan Broadleaf Forest, the cloud forest of the Himalayas.

This area is comprised of one continuous ridgeline, where its eastern side is India and the western side is Nepal. On the Indian side of the ridge is Singhalila National Park, where the forest and its numerous endangered species, are protected. The Nepalese side of the ridge is a different story. Rampant, haphazard development has claimed large portions of prime red panda habitat, and red pandas travel from the eastern side to the western side of the ridge unawares of the political lines drawn by humans. They are caught and killed by local herding dogs and their habitat is cut down for grazing and agriculture.

It is here, where approximately 20% of Nepal's red panda population is found, that *The Red Panda Project* is committed to creating the world's first red panda reserve.

With your support, we can preserve this magnificent region for both humans and red pandas to thrive in and enjoy.

### THE RED PANDA PROJECT

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