



Snow Leopard

Director **Zhou Bing**

A documentary in co-production with **Beijing New Century Media**

52 min

The Snow Leopard is a shy animal - almost impossible to film. It lives in the mountains of the Tibetan Plateau. But the snow leopard is also an endangered species; its natural habitat is shrinking every day.

Bharal, the Himalaya blue sheep, are it's favourite food, but the snow leopard hardly finds the blue sheep in the wild anymore. Local shepherds have little sense for animal protection, if the snow leopard kills their sheep. The growing population in this region even more threatens the existence of the snow leopard. Two Buddhist monks made it their mission to help the endangered animal. They talk to local shepherds, help an NGO to equip the leopards with transmitters, to cover their routes and film them. A talented photographer is monk Zhu Jia. He succeeded several times on his rambles through the amazing landscape to capture the snow leopard on film. Together with his colleague, monk Tashi Sanger, he wants to remind people of the long suppressed Buddhist values: Humans only live in the awareness of the Buddhist teachings, if they respect nature and live in harmony with it.

The famous Chinese director Zhou Bing takes us on a journey to the Himalaya province Qinghai. Through the activities of the two very special monks the viewer learns to understand the shepherds and their culture as well as the difficulties that are met in the protection of the graceful and rare wildcat. But maybe the recollection of the old Buddhist values will be the solution – an entire new path towards sustainable animal protection, as it is not enforced from outside, but a consequence of tradition in the region. Breathtaking, unique pictures of the shy snow leopard will top off the documentary.