WHO AM I?
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Phurpa Dorji
Bhutan’s identity, beauty, and wealth are the predators, wild beasts, birds, and other living beings thriving in its great hills and mountains. Added to these are the abundant plants and minerals. Their existence upholds one of the four pillars of Gross National Happiness (GNH): environmental conservation.

To further uphold the conservation pillar of GNH and to conserve the snow leopard, the Bhutan Foundation and Royal Education Council have jointly brought together a group of experienced teachers who wrote three books on the endangered big cat. The books are *Who Am I?*, *Ap Nado’s Calf*, and *Snow Leopard and Norbu the Cat*.

The three books will not only greatly help the conservation of snow leopards but also improve the general perception of the big cat.

The Bhutan Foundation will print the books and distribute them for free to the schools in the highlands. The Royal Education Council would like to put on record our appreciation and acknowledgement in the hope that the books will be of great interest and benefit to our students.

Kinga Dakpa
Director General
Royal Education Council
Preface

The Kingdom of Bhutan is not only a blissful abode for humans but also a peaceful haven for wild animals.

Studies have established that while the population of the snow leopard is declining the world over, it is thriving in the highlands of Bhutan.

The snow leopard is endemic to highlands and not well known to most people. I hope that the profile of the snow leopard presented in this school book will help our young students learn about the big cat.

I would like to thank the Royal Education Council and the Bhutan Foundation for the wonderful opportunity given to me to write this book.

Phurpa Dorji
Author
Do you know me?

I am a rare cat.
Where I live

I live high in the mountains between 3,500 and 5,500 meters above sea level.
I usually catch wild animals for food. But I often have to eat domestic animals.
My fame

I am considered a jewel of the mountains and people are trying hard to protect me.
These are my limbs

My hands and feet have sharp claws. They are useful for hunting for food.
This is my mouth

My mouth has long, sharp, fangs. Chomp! Chomp! Chomp!
My eyes are round, yellow, and bright. They can see things far away in the snow.

This is my nose

The tip of my nose is soft and reddish in color. My nose can smell humans and animals from far away.

This is my eye
The colour of my body is white or grey filled with many black spots.

My tail is longer than my body. It gives me balance, keeps me warm, and helps me focus while hunting.
Can you guess who I am?
I am a Snow Leopard! I am an important cat in the world. Without me, animals like mountain sheep would eat all the grass and shrubs.
Phurpa Dorji studied in the College of Language and Culture Studies in Semtokha, Thimphu till class XII and underwent Bachelor of Dzongkha Education training at the Paro College of Education. Between 2014 and 2016, Phurpa was awarded scholarship from the Royal Civil Service Commission to pursue a Master’s Degree at Acharya Nagarjuna University in India.

During the 12 years of his teaching career, Phurpa took part in many research and training programmes related to curricula. This has given him wide experience in writing many essays and stories for children. Among his writings, *Who Am I?*, written with support and advice from the Bhutan Foundation and the Royal Education Council, is one of his favourites.

It is his hope that children will pick up this book with interest and learn about the snow leopard.