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## OBITUARY: Pralad YONZON

It was with shock and regret that I heard of the untimely death of Dr Pralad Yonzon who was killed in Kathmandu on Monday 31 October 2011 when a truck ran into his bicycle as he was making his way home from work.

Although I only met Dr Yonzon on three or four occasions, I was always impressed by his knowledge of wildlife, in particular the Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens*, and his dedication to conservation in his homeland. The first time I met Pralad, he was still a student, writing up his PhD thesis on the Red Pandas of Langtang National Park under the supervision of Dr Malcolm Hunter of the University of Maine. He was attending a Red Panda Conference in Rotterdam where he presented one of the first papers on his Red Panda work. This was one of the first of the modern studies of Red Panda ecology in general and the very first on the *fulgens* subspecies: as such it was ground-breaking work.

Dr Yonzon continued his work on Red Pandas, including

a preliminary study of Red Pandas in Bhutan. However, as time progressed, his interests expanded to encompass more general conservation. In 1986 he founded Resources Himalaya, a Nepalese knowledge-based organisation dedicated to conservation of natural resources, which gradually evolved into an NGO that also works towards promoting livelihoods of the mountain peoples.

In 2002, Dr Yonzon received the Order of the Golden Ark from Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for his services to conservation in Nepal, Bhutan and Vietnam.

Until his death, Dr Yonzon continued his work promoting conservation and inspiring and mentoring young people to follow in his footsteps, while never forgetting his love of the Red Panda. He will be sorely missed by conservationists and lovers of the Himalayas everywhere. Our thoughts go out to his family at this tragic time.

Angela GLATSTON