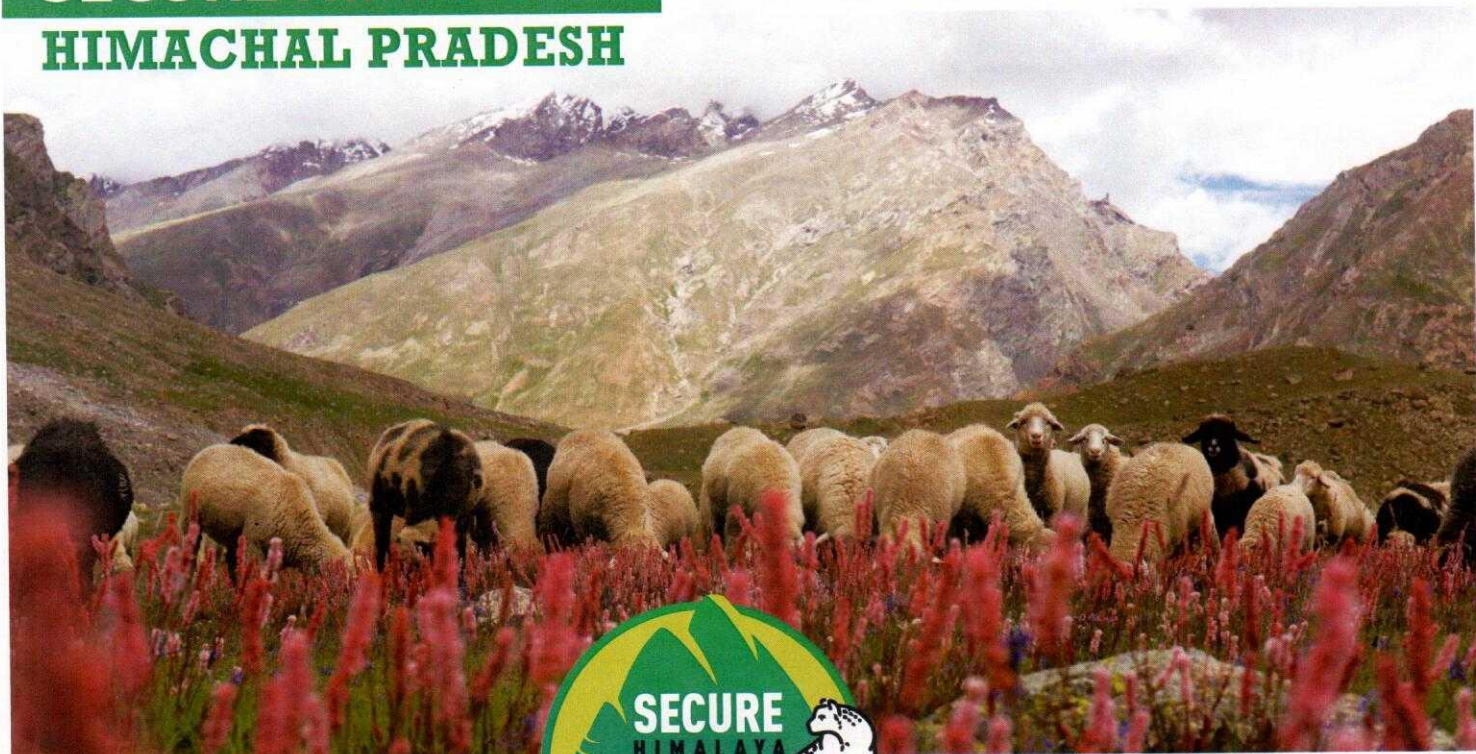


SECURE HIMALAYA HIMACHAL PRADESH

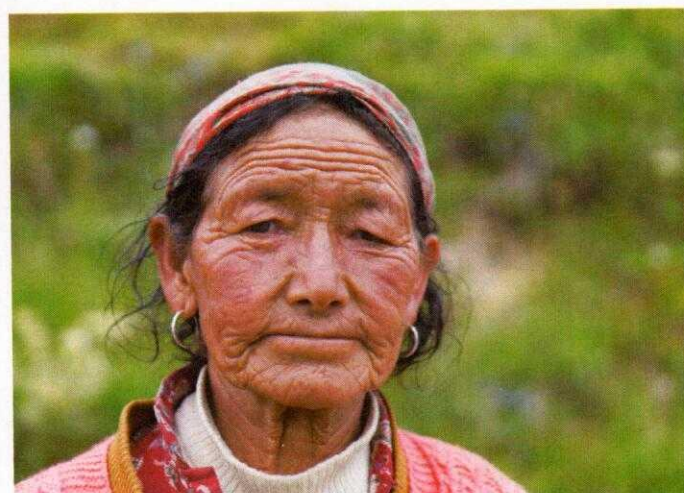


**Securing Livelihoods,
Conservation, Sustainable
Use and Restoration of High
Range Himalayan Ecosystems**

www.securehimlaya.in

SNOW LEOPARD HABITATS in the high-altitude Himalayan ranges are of critical importance for their rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems. Millions of people depend on these ecosystems for food, water, mineral resources, medicinal and aromatic plants, livestock, cultural traditions and spiritual values.

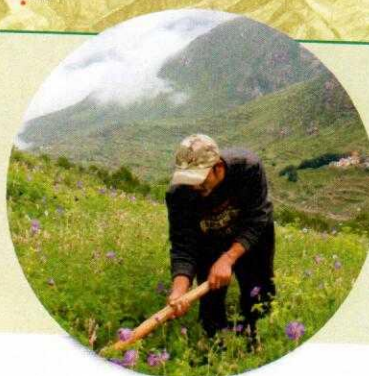
However, these ecosystems are threatened due to unplanned development and unsustainable land and forest use practices. To conserve the snow leopard and its habitat, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change is implementing the SECURE Himalaya project in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.





The project is implementing four inter-related components:

1. Conserving Biodiversity
2. Diversifying Livelihoods
3. Preventing Illegal Trade in Wildlife
4. Improved Knowledge and Communication



BUDGET: GEF contribution: US\$ 11.5 million

Co-financing: US\$ 60.8 million

Co-financing partners: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim

DURATION: 2017- 2024 **TOTAL VILLAGES COVERED:** 34

A landscape-based strategy, which goes beyond the current protected area centric approach.

Such a strategy recognizes that the major and emerging threats to biodiversity in the region stem from beyond protected areas. These threats include land use demand for infrastructure development, harmful practices by mass tourism and production sectors and an increasing livestock grazing pressure on alpine pastures.

Key stakeholders

The project is anchored in the Forest and Wildlife Division of the State Forest Department. Some of the key stakeholders in the project include government line departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Rural Development, Tourism, Education, Local Administration, Handloom and Handicraft department, State Medicinal Plant Board, Biodiversity Board, Ecotourism society, Defence/Paramilitary, Revenue and custom, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Research and academic institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Community institutions (Self Help Groups, Van Panchayats, Biodiversity Management Committees), Religious institutions (monasteries) Media, Civil Society Organizations and Cooperatives.

Land Use

Major land use practices in this landscape include seasonal grazing by migratory livestock, commercial extraction of high value medicinal plants, tourism and cultivation of crops like apple, hazelnut, walnut, apricots, cauliflower, cabbage, peas and tomato.

Developments so far

Draft enumeration protocol prepared after consultation with five range states including Himachal Pradesh. Final protocol planned to be launched in end 2019. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed with the State Biodiversity Board and work on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees has commenced.

A feasibility study has been carried out by the H.P Forest Department (Wildlife Wing) through Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun for the establishment of State Wildlife Forensic Laboratory and Research Centre at Shimla, HP. Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation. MoAs signed with line Departments and Institutions including Animal Husbandry, Special Area Development Authority (SADA), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Agriculture Department and HP ENVIS Hub for implementing project related activities including Vaccination of migratory flocks of livestock, Improved solid waste management system, Assessment of Feral Dog Population, Solar fencing for Human-wildlife conflict mitigation and training of Para-taxonomists (PBR focused).

SECURE Himalaya

1

Conserving Biodiversity

जैव विविधता का संरक्षण

2

Diversifying Livelihoods

आजीविका में विविधता लाना

3

Preventing Wildlife Crime

वन्यजीव अपराध को रोकना

4

Building Knowledge

ज्ञान का निर्माण



JOIN US TO HELP REDUCE THE MOST PRESSING THREATS TO THE
DIVERSITY OF LIFE IN HIGH RANGE HIMALAYAN ECOSYSTEMS OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH.

OUR MISSION

The Project aims to promote the sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems that secures conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats, ensures sustainable livelihoods and community socio-economic benefits

Ongoing consultancy assignments under SECURE Himalaya

- Assessment of Human Wildlife Conflicts and mitigation strategy
- State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Himachal Pradesh
- Capacity development and communication strategies
- Integrated landscape level management strategy
- Assessment of Medicinal plant value chains
- Strengthening wildlife enforcement mechanism
- Livelihood strategies for local communities
- Sustainable Ecotourism in landscape
- Habitat Degradation assessment and restoration planning
- Identification of High Conservation Value Areas

ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE

In Himachal Pradesh, the project is being implemented in the Lahaul-Pangi and Kinnaur landscape. Sites of high conservation value in the landscape include Upper Sural Valley, Hudan and Sansari Nallahs (important area between Pir Panjal and Zaskar Ranges and a place where Brown Bear is the apex predator), Left bank of Chenab River (rich habitat for medicinal plants and wildlife), Seichu Tuan Wildlife Sanctuary (rich forests and diverse habitats and only place in Himalaya where Himalayan tahr and Ibex are found) and Myar Nala (one of the largest glaciated valleys in Lahaul with extensive alpine pastures rich in floral and faunal diversity). Some of the key conservation issues pertaining to the landscape are, excessive livestock grazing by local pastoralists (Pangwals) and migratory pastoralists (Gaddi), collection of high value medicinal plants and human-wildlife conflicts especially crop raiding by Asiatic black bear.

OVERVIEW

BUDGET: GEF contribution: US\$ 11.5 million
Co-financing: US\$ 60.8 million

Co-financing partners: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim

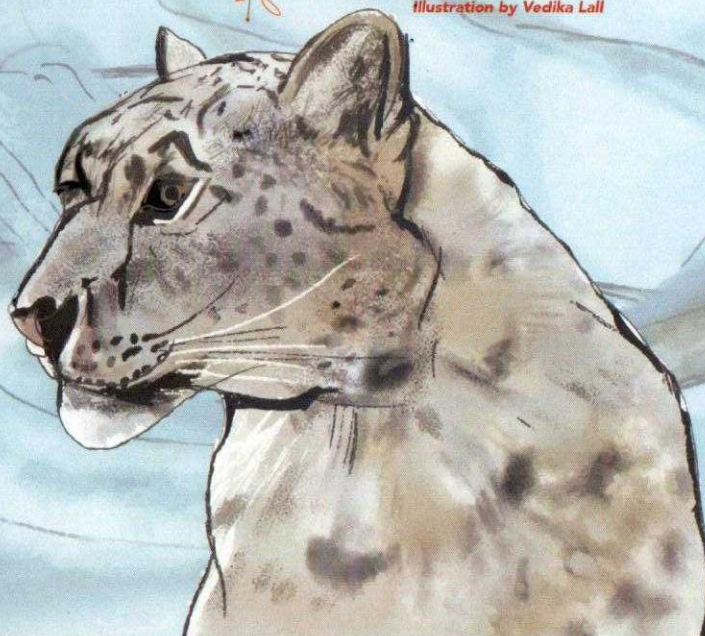
DURATION: 2017- 2024

TOTAL VILLAGES COVERED: 34

LANDSCAPE: Lahaul, Pangi, Kinnaur

One of the rarest members of the cat family and a top-predator of the Himalaya. About 500 snow leopards survive at very low densities in about 75,000 sq km of potential Indian habitat.

Snow Leopard | *Panthera Uncia*
Illustration by Vedika Lall



SECURE HIMALAYA. SECURE LIFE.

सुरक्षित हिमालय, सुरक्षित जीवन

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- 1 Improved management of high Himalayan landscapes for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats and sustaining ecosystem services
- 2 Improved and diversified sustainable livelihood for communities to reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems
- 3 Enhanced enforcement, monitoring and cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats
- 4 Improved knowledge and information systems for landscape conservation approaches.

“

A landscape-based strategy, which goes beyond the current protected area centric approach.

SECURE HIMALAYA

Snow leopard habitats in the High Himalayan ranges have global significance for their rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems. Millions of people depend on these ecosystems for food security, fresh water, mineral resources, medicinal and aromatic plants, livestock, cultural traditions and spiritual values. However, these ecosystems are threatened due to unplanned development and unsustainable land use practices. The SECURE Himalaya project aims to conserve the snow leopard and its habitat while ensure sustainable livelihoods for communities inhabiting these harsh geographies. The project is implemented by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFFCC) with the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP in select landscapes of the Union Territories of Ladakh and the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use
and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems

Forest Department
Himachal Pradesh
(Wildlife Wing)

www.securehimalaya.in

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Image courtesy: WWF

