



Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India

**State of Conservation Report (SoC) of
Great Himalayan National Park Conservation
Area (GHNPCA), India**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE
COMMITTEE DECISION 40 COM 7B.88**

**Submitted by
State Party: India
to
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris**

November, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party	India
State, Province or Region	Himachal Pradesh
Name of Property	Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA)
Criteria under which property is nominated	Criterion x: <i>To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.</i>
Response to the Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.88	<p>Executive Summary on the State of Conservation of the GHNPCA property</p> <p>Nestled high in West Himalaya, GHNPCA is acclaimed for its high endemism of flora and fauna and natural beauty.</p> <p>All three units of GHNPCA i.e. Great Himalayan National Park, Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary are currently being managed, protected and monitored under a conservation-oriented management regime that fully meets World Heritage Operational guidelines.</p> <p>This GHNPCA is bordered by Khirganga National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Rupin Bhabha Wildlife sanctuary and Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary that provide a very strong protective envelope for managing the OUVs.</p> <p>Merging these bordering parks and wildlife sanctuaries will not only help in conserving this unique ecosystem but also will create the largest possible fully-representative and pre-eminent conservation area in the Western Himalaya.</p> <p>Discussions regarding this have taken place in the State Board of Wildlife Meetings during May 2015 and April 2017. The process for merging the Khirganga National Park with GHNPCA has already been initiated".</p> <p>This process would soon be done for the Protected Areas adjacent to GHNPCA, which demonstrates the commitment of the State Party for progressive expansion of the area of</p>

	GHNPCA
Name and contact information of official local institution/agency	<p>Organization: Himachal Pradesh Forest Department</p> <p>Address: Shri Ajit Thakur, IFS, Director, Great Himalayan National Park, Shamshi, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh – 175126 (INDIA)</p> <p>Tel: +91-1902-265320(O)</p> <p>Fax: +91-1902-265320</p> <p>Email: <u>dirghnp@gmail.com, ajit.hpfts@yahoo.co.in</u></p>

1. BACKGROUND

The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party India vide decision 40 COM 7B.88 (**Annexure-I**) to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1st December, 2018 *'a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, on the implementation of the above and updates of the financial situation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee.*

Accordingly, the response of the State Party to decision 40COM 7B.88 is given below.

Requests the state party to:

2. **Para- 3. Welcomes the further progress made by the State Party as regards the intended expansion of the property, in particular the decision to incorporate Khirganga National Park within the property in the future, and encourages the State Party to continue the plan for progressive expansion, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as required, and taking into account the findings of the regional comparative study; and to submit its proposals to the World Heritage Centre, in the format of a new Nomination for examination by the Committee;**

The State Party recognizes and acknowledges the crucial role that Protected Areas play in protection of forests and wildlife including globally threatened species as well as safeguarding the valuable ecosystem services that they provide, especially in the face of the looming threat of climate change.

Recognizing this fact, the State Party reaffirms its commitment to realizing the vision of a much-expanded GHNPCA including Pin Valley National Park ,Khirganga National Park, Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary and Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary. Noting the requirement of Decision 38COM 8B.7, State Party confirms that this integration shall be accomplished as we work towards increasing the World Heritage property area to the full complex, which would be roughly three times the size of the currently proposed area.

As regards the expansion of GHNP, the State Party is pleased to report that this issue was deliberated in the meetings of the State Board of Wildlife, Himachal Pradesh conducted during May 2005 and again in April 2017, where decision of merging Khirganga National Park with GHNP has already been taken (Annexure 2 & 3) The formal notification regarding this is underway. The expanded nomination would be submitted after completion of merger of all the above mentioned Protected Areas into the GHNP, the inscribed property.

Table 1. Summary of the relationship of the nominated property to its buffer zone and adjacent contiguous/close by protected areas in GHNP (Map 1).

Area	Size in sq km	Remarks
GHNP	905.4	This is the Inscribed Property
Ecozone of GHNP*	265.6	This is the buffer zone of GHNP *(not counted in total below)
Khirganga National Park	710	This National Park, contiguous with GHNP on its northern boundary, is in process of gaining full NP status
Pin Valley National Park	675	This National Park is contiguous with GHNP on its eastern boundary, also in process of gaining full NP status
RupiBhabha Wildlife Sanctuary	503	This sanctuary is contiguous with GHNP on its south-western boundary
Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary	61	This sanctuary is not contiguous with GHNP but lies close to its north-west boundary
Total contiguous/close by protected area	2,854.4	This is the extent of contiguous protected areas including GHNP but not including its buffer zone

3. **Para-4** Also welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in working with local communities and indigenous peoples, and also encourages further local consultation and involvement in decision-making to find mutually acceptable ways to resolve any ongoing resource use conflicts, while respecting any rights of use, and on the basis of an accurate assessment of impacts from resource use (in particular grazing and collection of medicinal plants) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

The State Party thanks the World Heritage Centre for appreciating the enormous strides that the Park administration has achieved in involving local communities in co-management. Park administration regularly interacts with the local community through Women Saving and Credit Groups (WSCGs), which are small production centers to enhance livelihood options of their members who belong to poor households, which were dependent on the Park's resources before 1999. The Park administration follows a very effective mechanism of communication through Group Organizers (a lady selected and trained for improving WSCG functioning; usually one Group Organiser works with six to eight WSCGs and each WSCG has eight to ten members). The WSCGs have been federated in their own NGO called Biodiversity Tourism and Community Advancement (BTCA), an umbrella organisation which facilitates income generation activities in WSCGs including vermi-composting, apricot oil sale, marketing of agricultural produce, and ecotourism-linked livelihood options for the male family members of women belonging to these groups. The Park administration has laid down rules that give priority to BTCA to earn incomes from ecotourism to benefit those who had a dependence on Park's resources before 1999.

The Park administration also interacts regularly with a crucial stakeholder, viz the local tour operators and gives them guidance regarding effective visitor management and responsible tourism strategies including ensuring that visitor numbers stay within carrying capacity and better waste management practices are adopted.

Periodic capacity building workshops are also being organized for staff and local stakeholders on biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization, involving reputed organisations such as UNESCO C2C, WII and Botanical Survey of India.

Recent Initiatives of the Park for the protection of OUVs through community involvement:-

- A. Management Council:** Consists of local community leaders (Pradhans of all 13 Gram Panchayats -local self government) that are involved in the management decision making processes. They are invited once in a year, by the park authorities for discussions on preparation of Annual Plan of Operations for the concerned financial year and for planning management strategies of the park. The Council also works out activities for enhancing livelihood of the park dependent communities and helps in conflict resolution.
- B. Mahila Mela:** (Women Folk Festival) This cultural festival largely involves female members (starting from school going children to elderly women) belonging to villages of Tirthan, Sainj and Jiwanala valleys. They gather at Sai Ropa on 2nd October of every year and showcase their folk dances, songs, skits, dramas, etc on the theme of wildlife conservation. Recognising the fact that women folk play a significant role in the economy of villages of the Eco-zone area, Park authorities promote this activity to ensure adequate participation of women in the conservation of biodiversity of the Park and to create awareness about the UNESCO WHS.
- C. Natural Heritage Fest with the theme of Celebrating Natural Heritage:** A first of its kind Festival to celebrate the Literature, Arts and Culture of the region was organized by UNESCO C2C, WII and the Park Management during the year 2017. The festival had an objective to reinforce the appreciation of environmental heritage and connection with nature through popular forms of visual and written media, and to bring together diverse group of conservationists that seldom interact with each other including nature writers, poets, journalists, photographers, filmmakers, travelers and academicians. This was the first attempt of its kind where a nature-culture linkage through creative writings, poetry and history of the place was explored. An additional focus was to encourage the indigenous people and promote their role in preservation of their traditional knowledge base and conservation of their priceless heritage.

D. Regular training to Community Based Organizations: A series of training programmes on themes such as identification of Flora & Fauna, Hospitality services, conducting safe trekking expeditions, photography, wood carving, bakery products making, pine needle utilization, etc have been taken up under the GIZ-assisted community development programme: This project, on the principles of Payment to Environmental Services (PES), has been formulated by GIZ with the help of GHNP authorities with the objective to educate, evolve and recognize the potential environmental services rendered by GHNP. The programme aims to assess the values of PES, particularly Eco-tourism potential, in the Sainj Valley and to promote entrepreneurship in this sector amongst the local people for the improvement of living standards.

4. Para- 5 Requests the State Party to re-consider the possibility of notification of Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary as a national park

The State Party took this matter to the Himachal Pradesh State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) in May 2015 and again in April 2017. As per provisions of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the SBWL, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh considered this matter and decided that the Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) will not be notified as National Parks so as to avoid relocation of three villages in the Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a legal requirement for a National Park. The Park administration is making comprehensive efforts to engage the villagers of these three villages in Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary in Park management activities and also convince local people to phase out grazing from the Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is reiterated that the combination of the Great Himalayan National Park, Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries plus a buffer zone to the west of the park since 1998 have been known as the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNP) in response to recommendations by the Wildlife Institute of India. GHNP was inscribed as a World Heritage Site at the Doha meeting of World Heritage Committee in June 2014, and the inscribed property consists of the 754.4 sq km GHNP, the 90 sq km Sainj WLS and the 61 sq km of Tirthan WLS that totals

905.4 sq km. The 265.6 sq km buffer zone (Ecozone) is not part of the nominated property but is directly associated with it in all management aspects.

The National Park category under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (WLPA) provides for strict conservation of GHNP without any biotic disturbances (akin to IUCN Category II). Similarly, both Sainj and Tirthan WLS under the WLPA are designated to protect, propagate, and develop wildlife or its environment in areas of ecological and zoological significance (akin to IUCN Category IV). Thus, together with its buffer zone, the GHNPCA reflects a management entity, which is fully consistent with IUCN protected area management categories. The entire GHNPCA including the GHNP, Ecozone and Tirthan and Sainj WLS are managed under a single Management Plan and administered by the same Park Director. Therefore, it is fully geared to preserve the OUVs of the property in its entirety and for foreseeable future.

Although a great deal of information on the condition and management of all three components of the redefined property and its buffer zone has already been provided, a few key points are given herein for ready reference:

- GHNP was constituted in 1984 and formally declared a National Park in 1999 after all legitimate rights of local residents were extinguished, with compensation following a due process of law.
- Sainj and Tirthan WLS were established in 1994 along with the Ecozone (buffer zone); Sainj WLS comprises of three villages whose 120 residents use local resources; Tirthan WLS has no human settlements but is subject to traditional seasonal grazing.
- The two sanctuaries were designated for inclusion in GHNP in 2010 and are currently undergoing the consultative process of resolving rights of any residents.
- The Ecozone's 160 villages/15,000 residents are dependent on natural resources; extensive programs to provide alternative livelihoods including participation in ecotourism are already in place; these communities are engaged in participatory conservation governance of the area.

- Each unit of the GHNPCA has distinct management objectives reflected in the GHNP Management Plan. For example GHNP, as an IUCN Category II area focuses on protection of resources while managing ecologically sustainable tourism; Sainj WLS's priority is management of three villages within its boundaries to minimize their impacts on biodiversity; Tirthan WLS regulates the non-resident shepherds to minimize impacts of grazing by sheep and other livestock.
5. **Para-6 Also requests the State Party to fully consider and address the management deficiencies identified in the recently published national level Management Effectiveness Assessment exercise, which took place from 2006 to 2014, in particular:**
- a. **Regulate the transit of livestock through the property,**
 - b. **Conclude the process to recognise the rights of local communities in Jiwanal Valley,**
 - c. **Consolidate the management of the Parwati Valley,**
 - d. **Address human-wildlife conflicts,**
 - e. **Ensure adequate levels of staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in high-altitude terrain;**

GHNP was constituted in 1984 and formally declared a National Park in 1999 after all legitimate rights of local residents were extinguished, with compensation following a due process of law. Since then there is a total ban on entry of livestock inside the protected area.

Settlement of rights of local community was done following a due process of law. (Annexure-4)

For incidents related with human-wildlife conflicts there is a compensation process which park authorities follow diligently and efforts are always made to settle compensation cases expeditiously (Annexure-5).

Patrolling of the field staff in high-altitude terrain is done on a regular basis (thrice a month). Field staff is always equipped with good quality equipments (like sleeping bags, portable tents, jackets, boots, solar portable lights, walkie-talkies etc). Recently field staff has been trained in doing high-altitude patrolling using sniffer dogs and very soon these sniffer dogs will be inducted in patrolling team to control poaching and other related illegal activities inside the park area. There is also provision of joint patrolling where beat guards off

adjacent beats do patrolling together which not only help in combating undesired activities inside the park but also help in exchanging the ideas among the beat guards related with controlling poaching and other illicit activities. Group patrolling with the involvement of local people not only ensures the protection of the property but also gives them employment.

6. **Para-7 Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to contribute to a regional comparative study to assess the scope of ecosystems within the Himalayas and adjacent mountain regions with a view to identifying potential World Heritage candidate areas and boundary configurations in this region, including potential serial nominations / extensions, as recommended by the Committee, and recommends that the State Party consult with other relevant States Parties from the region, as well as with IUCN and other partners as required;**

Among other protected areas, the Pin Valley NP in India, adjacent to GHNP on the other side of the Great Himalayan Range, is an example of interior, trans-Himalayan areas and consists of high altitude desert, with many species in common with Tibet and central Asia. The fauna and flora are very different from those of GHNPCA, although some species are shared with the high altitude parts of GHNP. The adjacent Khirganga NP, and Kanawar and Rupri Bhabha WLS exhibit similar ecology to GHNP and support a very similar fauna and flora. Ultimately all of these sanctuaries/NPs form a single unit, with the inscribed GHNPCA located at the centre, acting as source for these areas. In providing examples of intact or near-intact lower-altitude temperate forest, as well as extensive areas of alpine meadows, rich in medicinal plants, GHNPCA presents a unique example of a full altitude sequence for the Western Himalayas, possibly the only one available for several of the forest types represented.

The best protected populations of Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*), Vulnerable Species as per IUCN (Vulnerable C2a(i)), occurs in the Park, supporting 400 individuals (which is 10% of the global population) in less than 1% (120 km²) of global distribution area (which is 21,600 km²). Similarly, a recent study reveals that GHNP offers the best

protected habitat for Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*); IUCN Endangered (C1,ver 3.1) in the context of climate change and future vulnerability.

It is further supported by the lowest level of human footprint and this advantage is significant when compared with similar elevations and ecological zones elsewhere. The configuration of the area is such that the habitats are buffered by protected habitats offering contiguity and long-term viability of the species. Species such as Snow leopard, Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), IUCN Vulnerable, Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), (IUCN Near Threatened), Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) (IUCN Endangered), Blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*, Western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) and Cheer pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) (IUCN Vulnerable C2a(i)) have year-round habitat and a secure future in the inscribed GHNP. CA.

- Nature index: A pilot study was conducted in GHNP. CA by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India and Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) of Norway to assess the healthiness of ecosystem through selected indicators and to express in a scaled weighted index value, which ranges between 0 and 1. In this index, 0 represents very poor state of health and 1 represents very good state of health of the ecosystem. Briefly, data on population status of 14 indicators (5 Bird species and 9 Mammal species) were studied and index was calculated. The index value for overall GHNP. CA is 0.75, which indicates the health of the ecosystem is in a good state.

It is reiterated that the State Party is committed to contribute to regional comparative studies in partnership with the ICIMOD and IUCN etc. and would consider potential serial nomination/extension, based on a credible recommendation, as and when received.

Annexure 1

Decision : 40 COM 7B.88

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India) (N 1406rev)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions 37 COM 8B.11 and 38 COM 8B.7, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions, respectively,
3. Welcomes the further progress made by the State Party as regards the intended expansion of the property, in particular the decision to incorporate Khirganga National Park within the property in the future, and encourages the State Party to continue the plan for progressive expansion, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as required, and taking into account the findings of the regional comparative study; and to submit its proposals to the World Heritage Centre, in the format of a new Nomination for examination by the Committee;
4. Also welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in working with local communities and indigenous peoples, and also encourages further local consultation and involvement in decision-making to find mutually acceptable ways to resolve any ongoing resource use conflicts, while respecting any rights of use, and on the basis of an accurate assessment of impacts from resource use (in particular grazing and collection of medicinal plants) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to re-consider the possibility of notification of Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary as a national park;
6. Also requests the State Party to fully consider and address the management deficiencies identified in the recently published national level Management Effectiveness Assessment exercise, which took place from 2006 to 2014, in particular:
 1. Regulate the transit of livestock through the property,
 2. Conclude the process to recognise the rights of local communities in Jiwanal Valley,
 3. Consolidate the management of the Parwati Valley,
 4. Address human-wildlife conflicts,
 5. Ensure adequate levels of staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in high-altitude terrain;
7. Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to contribute to a regional comparative study to assess the scope of ecosystems within the Himalayas and adjacent mountain regions with a view to identifying potential World Heritage candidate areas and boundary configurations in this region, including potential serial nominations / extensions, as recommended by the Committee, and recommends that the State Party consult with other relevant States Parties from the region, as well as with IUCN and other partners as required;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Annexure 2

Fax No. 0135-2640117 -

Att. Mr. Ajay Srivastava, IFS

State Board for Wild Life (SBWL) Meeting Report 8th May 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board for Wild Life (SBWL), held in the Conference Room of the Armsdale Building, H.P. Secretariat, at 11 AM on 8th May 2015, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Virbhadra Singh and the presence of the Hon'ble Forest Minister H.P., Shri Thakur Singh Bharmaur

The list of the members of SBWL, special invitees that attended the SBWL meeting is as follows:-

1. Shri Chander Kumar, Hon'ble Ex-Minister & Ex-MP as Non-Official Member of the SBWL
2. Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, Former Special Secretary of MOEF & Member NBWL, New Delhi as Non-Official Member of SBWL
3. Shri Vijay Bhushan, Former Secretary, DOT, N. Delhi as Non-Official Member of SBWL
4. Shri Kewal Singh Pathania, Hon'ble Vice Chairman of the HPSFDC Ltd. as Special Invitee of SBWL
5. Shri Ajay Bahadur, Hon'ble Ex-MLA and Chairman HIMFED, Special Invitee, SBWL
6. Shri Ramesh Chauhan, Chairman of the Khadi Board as Non-Official Member of the SBWL
7. Shri Arun Sen, R/O VPO Kuthar, District Solan, Non-Official Member of the SBWL
8. Shri Dew Raj, Former Chairman, Bharmaur, District: Chamba, Non-Official Member of the SBWL
9. Shri Asbish Dasgupta, Parwahoo, District: Solan, Non-Official of the SBWL
10. Shri Rohit Thakur, Kasumpti, Shimla, Non-official Member of the SBWL
11. Shri Dushyant Singh, Dhani, Shimla, Non-Official Member of the SBWL
12. Shri Kamlesh, Bharmaur, District: Chamba, Non-Official Member of the SBWL
13. Shri V.C. Pharka IAS, ACS (Tourism) & ACS to Hon'ble CM HP, Member of the SBWL
14. Shri Sanjay Kumar IPS, DG (Police), Member of the SBWL
15. Prof. (Retd.) Gudhir Mahajan, Special Invitee of the SBWL
16. Col. G.S. Mann, Representative of ARTRAC, Shimla, Member of the SBWL
17. Shri Mohan Chauhan IAS, MD Tourism & Secretary GAD, Member of the SBWL
18. Mr. Shekhar Massey, Director of Animal Husbandry, Member of the SBWL
19. Mr. Harsh Mitter IFS, APCCF & Representative of Wild Life Preservation, GOI
20. Shri S.P. Mehta, Director of Fisheries, Member of the SBWL
21. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist, Representative of the Zoological Survey of India—Member of the SBWL
22. Dr. R. Suresh Kumar, Representative of the Wild Life Institute, Dehradun—Member of the SBWL
23. Shri Jasjit Singh Walla IFS, Pr.CCF & Chief Wild Life Warden—Member Secretary of the SBWL

The following did not attend:-

1. Shri Khub Ram, MLA Anni, Member SBWL
2. Shri Ajay Mahajan, MLA Nurpur, Member SBWL
3. Shri Mohan Lal Brakta, MLA Rohroo, Member SBWL
4. Shri Tarun Shridhar IAS, ACS (Forests), Member SBWL
5. Shri Sushil C. Srivastava IFS, Pr.CCF (HoFF), Member SBWL
6. Shri Amarjeet Singh, Himachal Birds, New Shimla, Non-Official Member
7. Shri Rattanjeet Singh, c/o Chapslee School, Shimla, Non-Official Member
8. Shri Kamal Dhaulta, Sanjauli, Shimla, Non-Official Member

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Pr. C.C.F. (WL) H.P. Shimla

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Shri S.D.Sharma, IFS, CCF(WL) North, Dharamshala welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh and the Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Thakur Singh Bharmauri and the other dignitaries. He highlighted the efforts made by the Wild Life Wing to conserve wildlife and encouraged the members to offer their valuable suggestions and advice to further strengthen wildlife conservation in the State.

Shri Jasjit Singh Walla IFS, Pr.CCF (WL) & CWLW (HP) as Member Secretary of the SBWL, then presented the review of the last meeting held on 5th December, 2013 and also presented the new agenda before the SBWL.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR): ATR of the previous meeting held on December 05, 2013—Review thereof:-

AGENDA I: *Regarding C/o Kashang HEP (243 MW) by HPPCL*: The case was put up to the National Board for Wild Life, New Delhi and stands approved under Item no. 8 on 12-13/08/2014. The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) imposed condition/stipulation that 2% of the project cost would need to be deposited by the project proponent for undertaking measures for Conservation and Management of Wild Life of the Protected Areas. Project proponent has already been informed to comply with required stipulation.

AGENDA II: *Expansion of Clinker Unit at Rauri and Kashag Limestone Mines of M/s Ambuja Cements*: The case was put up to the National Board for Wild Life, New Delhi and stands approved under Item no. 3 & 4 on 12-13/08/2014. Stipulation incorporated was— The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) imposes condition that 2% of the project cost would need to be deposited by the project proponent for undertaking measures for Conservation and Management of Wild Life of the Protected Areas. Project proponent has already been informed to comply with required stipulation.

AGENDA III: *Proposal of Jaypee Cements regarding augmentation of clinker capacity etc.*: The case was put up to the National Board for Wild Life, New Delhi and stands approved under Item no. 7 on 12-13/08/2014. Stipulation incorporated was— The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) imposes condition that 2% of the project cost would need to be deposited by the project proponent for undertaking measures for Conservation and Management of Wild Life of the Protected Areas. Project proponent has already been informed to comply with required stipulation.

AGENDA IV: *M/s Sangrah and Bhootmarhi Lime-stone mines of Mr. V.K. Walia*: The case was put up to the National Board for Wild Life, New Delhi and stands approved under Item no. 1 & 2 on 12-13/08/2014. Stipulation incorporated was— The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) imposes condition that 2% of the project cost would need to be deposited by the project proponent for undertaking measures for Conservation and Management of Wild Life of the Protected Areas. Project proponent has already been informed to comply with required stipulation.

AGENDA V (A): *18 Points/Issues raised by Mr Ashish Dasgupta, Member, State Board for Wild Life*: A meeting of Sub-Committee was held on 14/08/2014 and also on 31-03-2015. Suggestions to make good staff shortage, faster mobility, improved equipment, communication are being attended to. The proposals are under active consideration.

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Pr. C.C.F. (WL) H.P. Shimla

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AGENDA V (B): Agenda raised by the DGP Police, with regard to resolution of 114 cases registered, pertaining to Wildlife; out of which 45 continued remaining—Joint/collaborative action is planned between the Police and the Forest Department.

AGENDA VI: Achievement of the Wildlife Wing with respect to various Conservation Projects and Programs, placed before the Board:-

- a. **Breeding program of Western Tragopan at Sarahan Bushahr:** The Board Members lauded the efforts of the Wild Life Wing for the successful breeding of the Western Horned Tragopan at Sarahan Bushahr (the project was started during 2003-04 with Rs. 4.93 crores funds from CZA GOI, the first captive breeding came about in 2005); the current population of the pheasants stands at : Males 13; Females 14; Total: 27; Year 2014: 6 chicks have been hatched and 5 have survived; Year 2015: Normal egg laying has started; Construction of New Aviary in on with the design approved by CZA— Estimates approved and Tendering process has been initiated. Tender published in Newspapers already and scheduled date for opening: 16th May, 2015. It was also discussed that the project of assisted reproduction for the Western Horned Tragopan is not desirable at the present moment.
- b. **Breeding Program of Himalayan Monal at Manali:** The CZA recommended undertaking the breeding of the Himalayan Monal, in the new Pheasantry, in 2008-09 and funds were made available, through GOI, for Rs. 2.05 crores. The current population of the pheasants stands at—Males 12; Females 3; Total: 15. All the Individuals available were rescued from the Wild; all Individuals are being marked by leg rings for identification and paired for breeding; new aviary built at Manali is being prepared to house these captive individuals, which are currently kept in small, old enclosures not too suitable for breeding. Captive breeding with atleast two pairs is on. The Board Members appreciated the efforts of the Wild Life Wing with respect to the project.
- c. **Snow Leopard Project:** The total project was prepared for Rs. 5.15 Crores and is being implemented in the State for Snow Leopard Conservation, funded by the Government of India. Nature Conservation Foundation at Mysore and the Wild Life Institute, Dehradun are collaborating in the project. The project commenced during 2010-11 and is a 4 year project. Rs. 1.82 crores stand released by the GOI till 2014-15. Radio collaring of Snow Leopards is planned, during this year 2015. The Chairman and Members appreciated these efforts.
- d. **Cheer Pheasant Breeding at Chail (Khariun):** The program was started during 2007-08, with CZA GOI funding support for Rs. 3.26 crores. Successful captive breeding of this species is going on, with the current population: Males 29; Females 30; Total: 59; In the year 2014, 19 chicks were hatched and 10 chicks survived; Species Recovery and Conservation Breeding Program has been approved by CZA and Rs 15.40 Lakhs have been released. Release strategy has been developed and birds would first be radio-tagged for post-release monitoring, possibly during 2016. The Board Members noted the efforts of the Wild Life Wing with respect to the project. Shri Vijay Bhushan, Member SBWL, reiterated early release of Cheer Pheasant from captivity to wild and early working of the required protocol.
- e. **Great Himalayan National Park as World Heritage Site:** Great Himalayan National Park stands already included as World Heritage Site by UNESCO, during June 2014. This was appreciated and welcomed by the members.
- f. **Vulture Recovery Program:** Three main vultures on the threshold of extinction—White backed, Slender billed and Long billed—already declared critically endangered species, by

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IUCN, for whom the project is being addressed—identification of nesting sites, opening of feeding stations at Nagrota Surian and Guglada, near Jwall. In-situ conservation program for Vultures was started during 2003-04. Upto 2012-13, more than 800 vulture chicks having been fledged. Diclofenac medicine, in veterinary use was found to be badly affecting the vultures; it stands banned, since 2006. Undercover surveys are also done by the staff to ensure the ban. Prof. Chander Kumar, Ex. Minister and MP and Member SBWL mentioned that Diclofenac the medicine is still doing the rounds, Director (Animal Husbandry) said that the medicine stood banned and was not in use—the varying stances calls for a fresh survey by the Animal Husbandry Department. Dr. M. K. Ranjit-Sinh said that the Diclofenac in human use can also be put to veterinary use. There is a need to remain vigilant about this drug which is proven deadly for vultures.

- g. **Monkey Menace Issue:** Sterilization program is effectively on—around 96,126 monkeys (till 19/04/2015) stand sterilized in seven Monkeys Sterilization Centres across the State. The eighth monkey sterilization centre is to be inaugurated soon, for use in Ishpur/Una. The MOEF & CC stands requested to allow EXPORT of monkeys and to declare the monkeys as VERMIN. Forest Divisions stand identified where monkey menace is high to enable local specific vermin declaration by MOEF & CC rather than a generalized declaration, covering the State. Two Van Vatikas are proposed to come up at Chintpurni (through CF Hamirpur) and Paonta Sahib (through CF Nahan); additionally implementation of Habitat Enrichment plan is being started in four forest divisions timely—these are Shimla, Nahan, Bilaspur and Hapur where nurseries have already been set-up; the area identified would be suitably fenced and planted with herbs, shrubs and trees suitable for monkey rehabilitation. One monkey sterilization mobile unit and one ambulance are also on the anvil. Monkey Census is planned during June 2015, involving the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Wild Life Institute, Dehradun and other primate resource persons. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the sterilization program would show results soon in the near future and declaration of monkeys as vermin in infested local areas would help.
- h. **Capacity Build-up in Bird Ringing at Sairopa, GHNP:** The bird ringing activity (enables identification, study of movement, routes, habitats, growth, changes) was done for the first time, at Sai Ropa, associating experts, Dr Francis Buner and Mr Tim Walker—it was carried forward at Nagrota Surian, Pong Dam, during January 2015, followed by a workshop at Shimla. A permanent bird ringing station is envisaged at Pong Dam to study bird migration (1.36 lakhs migratory birds stand identified at Pong Dam).
- i. **Himalayan Brown Bear and Peafowl Ventures:** Feasibility of this project is being worked out for Upper Bharmour Area. A proposal in this regard was sent to CZA for endorsement, as also another program for Conservation Breeding of Peafowl at Indora; CZA informed that the State can go-ahead with the project for Conservation Breeding of Brown Bear with its own financial support and man power—the project is on and the site is being explored. A project for walk in Aviary at Nurpur was prepared for mixed exhibit of birds, including Peafowl on which CZA has remarked that this should be proposed at existing Dhauladhar Nature Park — Gopalpur and be made as part of the Master Plan.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA:

Additional Agenda 1: M/s Rupin Hydro Electric Project (45 MW) in Tehsil Dodra, District Shimla was put up to the NBWL and was approved on 21st Jan. 2015; stipulation incorporated was that the Wild

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Life Conservation Plan proposal was to be readied by Uttarakhand and H.P. to be overseen by Wild Life Institute and shall be funded by project proponent and that it be ensured that no contamination of water comes about.

Additional Agenda 2: Mining proposal of Sh. Mahinder Singh & Company at Paonta Sahib— was put up to the NBWL and was approved on 21st Jan. 2015 with stipulation that there must not be any contamination of water and subject to realization of 2% of project cost for wild life management and conservation.

Additional Agenda 3: Three proposals of Ambuja Cements were cleared on 12/08/2014, subject to realization of 2% of project cost for WL management and conservation works. These were:-

- i) Proposal for existing clinker plant at Rauri
- ii) Expansion of existing cement plant at Sull
- iii) Expansion of Kashlog Limesone Mining project

Project proponent has already been informed to comply with the required stipulation.

Additional Agenda: HON'BLE Chief Minister's Concerns:-

- a) A Butterfly park is now planned to come up at Simbalwara (area is rich in biodiversity) instead of at Summerhill, Shimla— This was endorsed by Hon'ble CM HP. Prof. Chander Kumar, Member SBWL, desired that another Butterfly Park be created near Nurpur.
- b) Accredited Hunter List: Names of Shri Kirnesh Jung, Hon'ble MLA Paonta Sahib and Shri Ajay Bahadur, Ex. MLA Nahan stand included as accredited hunters.
- c) Drastic fall of House sparrow population: A project has now been initiated by the Wildlife Wing, during February, 2015, in Shimla, to investigate the House Sparrow decline, in order to formulate conservation strategies for the long term survival of the species. Each sparrow in an identified colony is to be ringed with a metal ring and an additional color ring. The adult survival would be monitored by using mark-recapture data which shall help in understanding the population trends, hatching and fledging success.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS:-

AGENDA 1: Proposal to Construct Attargu-Sagnam-Mudh-Bhawa-Wangtoo Road to provide connectivity in border areas in Spiti and management of Rupl Bhawa WLS & Pin Valley National Park : Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, and Mr. Vijay Bhushan, SBWL members, wanted the proposal in much more details (impact assessment and debris removal and dumping), along with the map of road, with terrain it passes through. The road already stands approved by the State Government, during 2008, and only awaited go-ahead endorsement from the State Wild Life Board to be put up to the National Wild Life Board, New Delhi. The alignment of the road was decided after a detailed field survey and involves felling of least number of trees (381 of different classes) and would mean a saving of nearly 80 kms of distance, from origin (Attargu) to destination (Wangtoo). Now, the case is being put on hold, until the State Board for Wild Life members are satisfied with further details of the road case.

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AGENDA II: Proposal received from the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Shimla, regarding the Construction of Ambulance Road from Dhalli Chowk to Durga Colony (Ward no. 18-Shimla)—part of which falls within Shimla Water Catchment WLS: This road only involves constructing of 100 meters and widening of 400 meters road with no tree felling involved. It involves only 250 sq. meters of Shimla Water Catchment Wild Life Sanctuary. The proposal was approved by the SWLB to be put up to the NWLB for approval.

AGENDA III: proposal of M/S Lafarge India Private Limited to establish 3 MTPA Cement Plants and 2 MTPA Clinker production units in Village DPF Ghanger, Tehsil Karsog, District Mandi, based on Alsindi Limestone Deposits: The project area falls within 10 kms radius of the Majathal WLS with no diversion of the Sanctuary proposed. Forest Clearance process is on though the Environmental Clearance of July 2014 stands revalidated by MOEF & CC. The members voiced concern regarding study by IIRD Shimla (which is not on accredited panel to impart Impact assessment particularly from wild life point of view) got done by the Company itself; however they were assured that any such study has no bearing on the approval of the case which is studied by the Wild Life wing in its total entirety. Dr. M. K. Ranjit Singh, Member SBWL stressed the need to include hydrological and edaphic factors while conducting environmental impact assessment studies. He also raised concern about the adverse impact of cement plants on human health for study. The said proposal was put on hold to be endorsed by the SBWL for forwarding to NBWL for approval.

AGENDA IV: Proposal submitted by the Director General of Police, regarding setting up of a Wild Life Crime Control Unit in Himachal Pradesh: The proposal/case for setting up of the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau with headquarters at Shimla and sub-stations at Kinnaur, Kulu, Dharamshala and Chamba—the other sensitive zones, stands submitted to ACS(Forests) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for administrative approval and working out logistics(mobility, communication, infrastructure, staffing etc.) in tandem with Forest and Police authorities. Members of the State Board for Wild Life like Mr. Ashish Dasgupta, non-governmental members requested that they (atleast 2 members) must also be associated in the deliberations to firm up the proposal.

AGENDA V: Proposals put forth by Mr. Vijay Bhushan, Member of the SBWL:

- (a) With respect to GHNP, the member was informed that 45 trap cameras were set up in GHNP(sensitive, vulnerable locations in ranges JiwaNai, Sainj and Tirthan) and excellent shots of animals were caught and available for viewing, including that of a Western Horned Tragopan. Smart phones would be procured to improve communication. To check poaching and any other illegal activity raiding teams stand constituted in the GHNP. Rolla barrier was being strengthened through additional staff to check any nefarious activity in the Park.
- (b) With respect to Pong Dam, a Society was being registered to regulate activities and develop the said areas, opening avenues of employment for the locals. Tourism works are nearing completion funded by ADB and executed by the Tourism Department. Hon'ble Former Minister and MP, Mr. Chandra Kumar, Member SBWL drew the attention of the Board to a Governmental Committee, under Chairmanship of Forest Minister, constituted somewhere in the late 90s and requested that its meeting be immediately held. With the coming up of an Interpretation centre and the repair of damaged boats, tourism was on the up-swing for the discerning eco-tourists. A bird ringing activity at Nagrota Surlan and the census of

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migratory birds (1.35 lakhs at Pong) has brought Pong Dam Sanctuary, a Ramsar Site, into prominence.

- (c) With respect to Sarahan Pheasantry and breeding of the Western Horned Tragopan Pheasant the member was informed that the success story of breeding was being carried forward. No release plans for the pheasant is stipulated as of now, since the captive population size is small.
- (d) With respect to Cheer Pheasant breeding at Chail, the successful breeding was highlighted and it was informed that the protocol for release into the natural habitat was also being worked out and slated for 2016.

AGENDA VIA: *Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP): World Heritage Site: - Review of Intention Notification No. FFE-B-F(6) 11/2005, dated 28.07.2010, regarding merger of Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries in GHNP, in view of decision of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, 38th Session at Doha (Qatar) on 23.06.2014 and amalgamation of Khirganga National Park in GHNP:* The Board was informed/appraised that Sainj and Tirthan Sanctuaries would be retained as such and not be amalgamated with the Great Himalayan National Park—to allow local communities to continue sustainable activities in the area. SBWL members agreed and recommended the proposal to NBWL.

AGENDA VIB: *Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP): a World Heritage Site: - Review of Intention Notification No. FFE-B-F(6) 11/2005, dated 28.07.2010, regarding merger of Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries in GHNP, in view of decision of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, 38th Session at Doha (Qatar) on 23.06.2014, and amalgamation of Khirganga National Park in GHNP:* The Board was informed/appraised that Khir Ganga National Park was being amalgamated with the Great Himalayan National Park—an integrated single unit for effective management, administrative and executive control. SBWL members agreed and recommended the proposal to NBWL.

AGENDA VII: *Change of proposed Status of Inderkila from National Park to Wildlife Sanctuary:* The Board was apprised that Inder Kila was intended to be constituted as a National Park, during 2010, without appreciating the concern for the local communities and nomadic graziers—there is strong resistance and dissent to the idea, locally. Accordingly, it was proposed to review the intention notification for National Park and if found having substance, the case was to be initiated to make Inderkila a Sanctuary, instead. The Member of the State Wild Life Board member Dr. M. K. Ranjit Singh however voiced that the fauna found in the area was unique and the case to make Inderkila a National Park was strong. He was told that the review would establish the status of the tract—at present the case of it being a hot bio-diversity spot was in conflict with human issues voiced by the local populace. Dr. M. K. Ranjit Singh further said that a fresh exercise can be done by excluding some of the extended areas having rights and adding other areas without converting its status from National park to Wild Life Sanctuary. The SBWL suggested a relook at the proposal.

AGENDA VIII: *Sh Ashish Dasgupta, Member, State Board for Wildlife (HP), voiced concern regarding man-animal conflict issues of big cats (leopard & tigers) and blatant killing/poaching in Anni and Arki areas:* The Board expressed concern with cases of blatant killing/poaching of big cats/leopards and felt there was now a need to empanel Honorary Wild Life Wardens to check this menace. The exercise was on.

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ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Additional Agenda Item No. I: Issue raised by Shri Vijay Bhushan, Member State Wild Life Board, in respect of Simbalwara National Park regarding having a full time Director. The Board appreciated the proposal of Shri Vijay Bhushan, Member State Board for Wild Life for giving project status to Simbalwara National Park, under a Director/Deputy Conservator of Forests officer (located at Nahan or Paonta Sahib) to eradicate weeds, check poaching and systematic management and monitoring of the Park. Shri Ajay Bahadur, Special Invitee also said that this would also facilitate better management of Renuka Zoo and the proposed Butterfly Park at Simbalwara and the MSC at Paonta Sahib could also be supervised more effectively by this officer. The member Secretary Simbalwara NP, Kalesar NP in Haryana and Rajaji NP in Uttarakhand as Tiger Reserve is being prepared, which will address the issues raised by Shri Vijay Bhushan, Member SBWL.

Additional Agenda Item No. II: Proposal mooted by Mr. Ashish Dasgupta, Member State Board for Wild Life and endorsed by Prof. (Retd.) Sudhir Mahajan: Declaring eminent persons as permanent 'Special Invitees' and as Honorary Wild Life Wardens: The names of 5 persons namely Shri Kirnesh Jung (Hon'ble MLA Paonta Sahib), Shri Ajay Bahadur (Ex-MLA Nahan), Shri Ramesh Chauhan (Already Member SBWL), Retd. Prof. Sudhir Mahajan (Already Special Invitee) and Shri Ashish Dasgupta (Already Member State Wild Life Board) found favor with the Board to be declared Honorary Wild Life Wardens. Shri Kewal Singh Pathania, stands declared as Special Invitee. There are other names suggested to be appointed Honorary Wild Life Wardens which are under active consideration of the Government—Their case would move from the Administrative Department to the higher authority for clearance first.

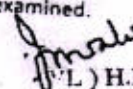
Additional Agenda Item No. III: Information sought by Prof. Chander Kumar, Ex-Minister, Ex-MP and Member State Board for Wild Life: (a) Funding issue by ADB for tourism activity in and around Pong was discussed in detail. No ADB funds came to the Wild Life Wing. The member was informed that a meeting is proposed involving ACS (Forests) & ACS (Tourism) to sort out infrastructural activity in and around Pong; NOC for land transfer was being pursued with BBMB authorities; Society is being registered to handle developmental works there at Pong and the need to have a Project Director, in the rank of Dy.CF to handle Pong works management; (b) Information regarding leopard man-eater cases and compensation was conveyed; (c) Suggestion regarding dwindling population of Saras cranes and need to institutionalize study for Swan area and its channelization was appreciated and study would be effected; (d) Information was conveyed regarding the re-organization of wildlife sanctuaries. Protected Area Network area has increased from 12.86% to 15.07%; 775 villages stand excluded.

Other Items:

- Case of reduction of Serow population near Khajjar and Kalatop was raised by Prof. (Retd.) by Shri Sudhir Mahajan in Chamba—this would be studied
- Alpine pastures—rehabilitation work desired by Mr. Ajay Bahadur—proposal would be mooted
- Mr. Chander Kumar, Member was severely critical of the log hut construction by the Tourism Department at Nagrota Surian and wanted the choice of site to be re-examined.

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- d. Mr. Vijay Bhushan, Member expressed concern regarding falling population of the Sarus Crane at Pong Dam and wanted this aspect studied. He was also critical of Nepali labor poaching activity in the GHNP. The CWLW promised to look into the aspects pointed out.
- e. The CWLW & Member Secretary of the SBWL informed that DNA profiling work is being taken up with the Wild Life Institute for leopards and brown bear.
- f. Felling of Rhododendrons for fuel-wood for road making in Chamba was raised by Mr. Ajay Bahadur, Special Invitee as also FRH repair and water shortage (need for a bore well) at Simbalwara National Park. Both these issues would be examined. Mr. Ajay Bahadur, further added that plantations of exotic species like Eucalyptus, which were raised in the past, outside Simbalwara National Park and in the Deer Park of Renuka Ji Zoo must be discouraged.
- g. The pair of Lions to be brought in from Gujarat would go to Gopalpur Zoo while the pair of tigers from Karnataka would be housed at Renuka Zoo (after the enclosure design for tigers is approved by CZA, constructed and becomes operative)—as declared by the Hon'ble Forest Minister.
- h. Dr. Suresh of the Wild Life Institute wanted HP Wild Life wing to work on artificial breeding of Western Horned Tragopan—this did not find favour with the Board, especially Dr. M. K. Ranjit Singh, Member SBWL who commended the work of natural breeding centre Sarahan and wanted the said work to be augmented.
- i. Shri M.K. Ranjit Singh, Member State Board for Wild Life urged the Wildlife Wing to carry out population estimation of the Snow Leopard, Ibex, Serow, Western Horned Tragopan and monkey to enable a fair idea of our resource base, carrying capacity and planning of management strategies accordingly. He emphasised that there should be more focus on in-situ conservation rather than on ex-situ conservation.
- j. There were many questions raised and information sought on wild life and programs, sought by Shri Kewal Singh Pathania, Vice Chairman HPSFDC Ltd. which stood answered, incorporating added annexure, in the Agenda of the Meeting circulated.
- k. The CWLW informed that landscaping work was planned at Manali for the Van Vihar and the matter stood taken up with Chief Architect of PWD for needful. Further landscaping would also be done in the Chail Pheasantry and the Renuka Zoo.
- l. The CWLW promised a Leopard Sensitization workshop at Shimla, being organized (10th June 2015 slated)—resource persons identified—Mr. Steve Winter of National Geographic fame is being invited.
- m. The CWLW also informed the Board that a Snake park is proposed at Gopalpur, Interpretation centres are to come up at Bharmaur, Sarahan and Nagrota Surian and Improved logistics are being made available for the discerning tourists—FRH repair of Catchment Area, Kufri and Chail; Modern equipment procurement is on—light weight cages, tranquilizer guns, wireless sets, ultra-sound machines. Matter to mobilize rescue teams to handle man-animal conflict exigency and regular training of staff to operate tranquilizer guns was also being worked in.
- n. The case of a Directorate of Wild Life found favour with the Board Members. Mr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, Member voiced support and stressed that only wild life trained personnel must be posted in Wild Life Wing. Mr. Vijay Bhushan, Member SBWL, said that the Wild Life Directorate could be clubbed with the Fisheries and the Environment. Mr. V. C. Pharka IAS

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said that the proposal should be seen with respect to cadre management rules of the Service. Hon'ble CM said the proposal would be examined.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks, delivered by Shri Sat Pal, DFO (Hqrs.) to the Chair, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Virbhadra Singh and the Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Thakur Singh Bharmauri and all the distinguished members, the special invitees and the supporting officers and staff.

[Signature]
P- C.C.F. (WL) H.P. Shri.

Annexure 3

FOREST DEPARTMENT HIMACHAL PRADESH
WILD LIFE WINGNo. WL/ State Board for Wildlife/WLM/ 971-80Dated, Shimla-1, the/ 26-5-2017

From: Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, HP. To: 1. All CCFs/CF (Wildlife)
2. All DFOs (Wildlife)
3. DFO Publicity.

Subject: Proceedings of meeting of State Board for Wildlife, HP held on 10th April, 2017.

Memo: Enclosed please find herewith a copy of proceedings of State Board for Wildlife, HP held on 10th April, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister for information and necessary action please.

Encl. As above.

W.L. Barmeh II
11/6/17
24/6/17
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Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and
Chief Wildlife Warden, HP Shimla-171001

Endst.No./ 949-50Dated Shamshi, the/ 7/6/2017

Copy along with its encl sures is forwarded to D.F.O. GHNP Shamshi & D.F.O. (Wildlife) Kullu for information and further necessary action.

Encl: - As above.

Conservator of Forests,
National Park, Shamshi.

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**Proceedings of Eighth Meeting of Himachal Pradesh State Board for
Wildlife, held on 10th April, 2017
under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal
Pradesh**

Eighth meeting of Himachal Pradesh State Board for Wildlife was held on 10/4/17 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh. The meeting was attended by 33 participants (Annexure 1).

ACS (Forests) welcomed all the participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. Later Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) presented all the agenda items sequentially.


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1. AGENDA ITEMS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
Agenda Item No. 1: Action Taken Report on the Agenda Items of 7 th Meeting held on 8 th May, 2015.	Action Taken Report on all the agenda items of Seventh Meeting of State Board for Wildlife were discussed one by one. Members expressed their satisfaction on all the Action Taken Report on previous meeting's agenda items and approved closure of the items.
2. NEW AGENDA ITEMS	
New Agenda Item No. 1: Mining proposal submitted by Ms. Anita Kumari D/o Shri Prakash Chand, (14.25 ha) at Village- Mauja Kotla, Mohal-Ranoh, Tehsil-Jaswan, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh for recommending the case to National Board for Wildlife.	After detailed deliberations the board decided to defer the agenda item
New Agenda Item No. 2: Proposal of H.P. Public Works Department for felling of trees, widening and metalling tarring of Bathri - Sundla-Langera-Jammu and Kashmir Boundary Road Km. 87/200 to 93/400 intermediate lane standard in Gamgul Siyabehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Distt. Chamba submitted by Executive Engineer, Salooni Division, Distt. Chamba.	The proposal stands sent to the National Board for Wildlife for approval after getting the same approved from the members of SBWL by circulation. The members of SBWL ratified the action.


 Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)
 and Chief Wildlife Warden HP, Shimla

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New Agenda Item No. 3: Agenda Items proposed by the Members of State Board for Wildlife	
<p>New Agenda Item No.3(a): Agenda proposed by Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, Member of State Board for Wildlife, Himachal Pradesh</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Snow Leopard Conservation 2. Management of Parks and Sanctuaries (PAs) 3. Training of Wildlife Officers in Wildlife Institute of India 4. Management of Parks and Sanctuaries (PAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members were apprised about the arrangement about the posting of staff in the Wildlife Wing and the budget allocation and drawal procedure in the Wildlife Wing. The members were satisfied with the arrangement. - The members were informed about the training arrangement for wildlife staff. It was also informed that field staff can also be trained in wildlife management issues, as and when required. - The board was informed that estimation of snow leopard population will be done during the current Financial Year. Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) which is already implementing the project on snow leopard in Spiti area has been approached in this regard.
<p>New Agenda Item No. 3(b): Agenda proposed by Prof. Chander Kumar, Ex-Member Lok Sabha & Member, State Board for Wildlife, Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>The member suggested that Core Zone of Pong Dam lake comprising of Ranser island may not be transferred to the Tourism Department as it is fragile eco-point of various rare migratory bird species.</p>	<p>After detailed discussion on the possible repercussions of opening the core area of Pong Lake Wildlife Sanctuary for tourism, it was decided that Ranser island will remain with the Wildlife wing as it is a breeding habitat for many rare migratory birds.</p>


Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)
and Chief Wildlife Warden HP, Shimla

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New Agenda Item No. 3(c):

Agenda proposed by Kanwar Ratanjit Singh and Dushyant Singh Members, State Board for Wildlife, Himachal Pradesh.

1. That sanction of projects by circulation from its members individually must not be encouraged/allowed. All proposals must come up in a regular meeting, supported by detailed power point presentations/films etc., to enable all members/participants to understand the necessity, implications, fallout etc. and to pass, or reject the said proposal, or ask for additional information.
2. At least, one meeting of the HP Wildlife Board must be held every six months, so that important projects do not remain pending for long periods of time.
3. Members of HP Wildlife Board be issued identity cards certifying that they are member of the said Board.

- After detailed deliberation the board decided that the meeting of the State Board for Wildlife should be held on a regular basis, at least once a year so that any proposal that is received is brought up for approval by the State Board for Wildlife. The board also agreed with the suggestion of Sh. Ashish Das Gupta that when the Chairman signs any proposal by circulation only then it should be circulated.

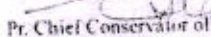
- It was decided that the members of the board will be given identity cards by the Chief Wildlife Warden when they submit their photographs.

New Agenda Item No. 3(d):

Agenda proposed by Dr. Lalit Mohan, Member, State Board for Wildlife, Himachal Pradesh.

1. Status of Cheer Pheasant recovery program as this program was approved by CZA during 2014
2. House sparrow population survey and measures to be adopted for its conservation
3. Action taken for development of GHNP after its inscription to WHS
4. Status of Sarahan Pheasantry and breeding programme of Western Tragopan
5. Highlights of works to be carried out with Rs. 226 crore released under Kol Dam project
6. Status of snow leopard project
7. Population estimation report of Snow Leopard by NCF
8. Work done on monkeys by University of California
9. Status of *in-situ* conservation of vultures
10. Extension and further improvement of Bird Aviary at Chaura Maidan
11. Further study of migratory pattern of birds in Pong Lake

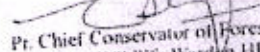
The member had asked for information with regard to the progress/ status of various projects and new projects formulated. The information stands provided to all the members, hence no further action is required.


Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)
and Chief Wildlife Warden HP, Shimla

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12. Status of final notification of Sanctuaries and National Parks in the State	
13. Achievements made by Wildlife wing in the last two years	
14. Any new project if formulated by the Department in the last two years	
New Agenda Item No 3(e): Proposal submitted by Shri Kamlesh, Member of State Board for Wildlife for providing facilities to trekkers/tourists in Kugti- Manimahesh-Keylong.	The Board decided that possibilities may be explored about developing eco-tourism activities in Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary, further action may be taken by CCF (WL) North after thorough study of the area towards developing the eco-tourism circuits in the area.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.


 Pt. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL.)
 and J. Chief Wildlife Warden HP, Shimla

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ANNEXURE-I

**MEETING OF STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE C.M.**

10.04.2017

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.N.	Name
1.	Sh. Chander Kumar, Ex-Forest Minister, Jawali Distt. Kangra, HP Non-Official-Member
2.	Shri Kewal Singh Pathania, Vice Chairman HPSFC, Special invitee
3.	Dr. M. K. Ranjit Singh, Former Special Secretary, MoEF, Krishan Sar-5, Tiger Lane, WC-6 Lane, Sainik Farms, New Delhi, Non-Official-Member
4.	Chief Secretary (Tribal Dev.) to the Govt. of HP, Non-Official-Member
5.	Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests) to the Govt. of HP, Non-Official-Member
6.	Sh. Dushyant Singh, VPO Dhami, Tehsil and Distt. Shimla, Non-Official-Member
7.	Sh. Ashish Dasgupta, MIG-42, Sector 1A, Parwanoo, Distt. Solan, Non-Official-Member.
8.	Sh. Kamlesh, R/o Vill. Sachuin, Bharmour, Distt. Chamba, Non-Official-Member.
9.	Sh. Ramesh Chauhan, Vice Chairman, Khadi Board, VPO Kumarhatti, Distt. Solan, HP, Non-Official-Member
10.	Dr. Lalit Mohan, IFS (Retd.) B-84, Sector-1, New Shimla, HP, Non-Official-Member
11.	Sh. Amarjeet Singh, Himachal Birds, B-23, Sector-1, New Shimla Non-Official-Member
12.	Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), HP, Non-Official-Member
13.	M.D. Tourism Development Corporation, HP, Non-Official-Member
14.	Nominee of DGP HP, Member
15.	Representative Wildlife Institute of India, Deharadun, Member
16.	Hony. Major (Prof.) Retd. Sudhir Mahajan, Special invitee
17.	Dr. Harish Kumar, Special invitee
18.	Sh. Ajay Bhadur , Ex- MLA & Chairman (HIMFED), Special Invitee
19.	DFO Publicity
20.	Sh. Sat Pal Dhiman, Joint Secretary (Fts)
21.	Sh. D.S. Pathania, EE HPPWD Division Salooni
22.	Dr. Sandeep Rattan (AD) (Wildlife) (Hqr.)
23.	CCF (Wildlife) (Hqr.)
24.	CCF (Wildlife) (South) Shimla
25.	CCF (Wildlife) (North) Dharamshala
26.	DFO (Wildlife) Chamba
27.	DFO (Wildlife) Kullu
28.	DFO (Wildlife) Sarahan
29.	DFO (Wildlife) Shimla
30.	Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh, Member Secretary

Annexure 4

M HFO WILDLIFE KULLU

FAK NO. 1222276

Jan. 28 2016 12:31PM FI

9-

CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
 Constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

236
 184
**MOST IMMEDIATE
 SUPREME COURT MATTER**

Dated: 2nd July, 2004

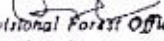
No. 1-28/CEC/2003

1. The Chief Secretaries
(all States/UTs)
2. The Principal Chief Conservators of Forests
(all States / UT's)
3. The Chief Wildlife Wardens
(all States / UT's)

Subject: Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 14.2.2003 in IA
 No. 645 in Civil Writ Petition No. 202/95 - strict
 compliance of

Sir, You are aware that the Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 14.2.2003 in IA No. 540 has prohibited removal of dead, dying, diseased trees, etc. from any National Park and Sanctuary (protected areas). Even the removal of grass etc. from National Parks and Sanctuaries has been prohibited. In view of the above order, any non-forestry activity, felling of trees/bamboos, removal of biomass miscellaneous construction activities, etc. in the protected area are not permissible without prior permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Attested


 Divisional Forest Officer
 Wildlife Division
 KULLU (H.P.)

Date Recd. 28, January 2016 at District Station, New Delhi. 110002 Ph. : 2311 3084/3084-8/2 Fax : 2311 2438

-10-

-2-

A number of instances have come to the notice of the Central Empowered Committee where felling of trees/bamboo, digging of canals, mining, underground mining, collection of sand/boulders, laying of transmission lines/optical fiber cable/pipelines, cutting of grass, collection of minor forest produce, grazing, construction/widening of roads etc. have been allowed to be undertaken in the protected areas without obtaining permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the plea that these activities are part of the management plan.

You are requested to ensure strict compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order so that none of the above prohibited activities are allowed to be undertaken in the protected areas. If, for better management of the protected area any of the above prohibited activities are required to be undertaken either by the project authorities or the Forest Department, prior permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court shall be obtained before undertaking them.

Yours faithfully

(M.K. Jivrajka)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi

Enclot.No.Ft.Nisr./WL/20/2245-47 Dated 26-7-2014
Copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

1. CE WL (S) Shimla.
2. ✓ CE (WL)(H) Dharamshala.
3. CE WL GRIMP Shimla.

They are requested to ensure strict compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order that none of the above prohibited activities are allowed in the protected areas.

Md. ER. OGP. MP.

Attested
Divisional Forest Officer
Wild Life Division
KULLU (H.P.)

Annexure 5

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Forest Department

No. FFE-B-A (10)-1/2009 18. Grant Sumis 2. the
Notification

As supersession of all previous Notification Nos. FFE-B-A (10)-1/2009 dated 09.04.1986, 27.08.2001, 7/82-11, FFE-B-A (10)-2003 and FFE-B-A (10)-1/2009 dated 09.04.1986, 27.08.2001, 10.07.2006 and 04.03.2014 regarding relief due to losses caused to human beings and domestic livestock by the Wild animals as defined in Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the following enhanced relief rates as under:-

S.No	Particulars	Enhanced Rates (in Rupees)
1.	In case of death of human being.	4,00,000/-
2.	In case of permanent disability to human being.	2,00,000/-
3.	In case of grievous injuries/partial disability to human being.	75,000/-
4.	In case of simple injury to human being as per actual cost of medical treatment subject to maximum.	15,000/-
5.	In case of loss of Horse, Mule, Buffalo, Ox, Yak and Camel	30,000/-
6.	In case of loss of Cow Jersey and cross breed.	15,000/-
7.	In case of loss of Cow (local breed), Donkey, Churu, Churi & Pashmina Goat.	6,000/-
8.	In case of loss of Sheep, Goat and Pig.	3,000/-
9.	In case of loss of young ones of Buffalo, Cow Jersey and all other breeds, Mule, Yak, Horse, Camel, Churu, Churi, Donkey, Pashmina Goat, Sheep and Goat.	15,00/-

The following guidelines will be followed for grant of relief:-

- Production of postmortem report in case of loss of human life, certificate in case of grievous injury, partial & permanent disability and prescription slip as well as verification of actual cost of Medical treatment in case of simple injury (including Monkey bites) from the Medical officer of a Government Institution/Govt. recognized Medical Institution, as the case may be.
- The verification of loss of cattle that was actually caused by wild animal can be done by the Pradhan/Up Pradhan of Panchayat/Patwari/President Notified Area Committee/ Chairman, Municipal Committee, Commissioner/ Mayor/Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation of the area/Elected Member of the Cantonment Board area/Councilor of the area, Range Officer/Deputy Ranger/Forest Guard or any other forest officer higher in rank than a Range Officer, Veterinary Officer or Veterinary Pharmacist or officer authorized by Veterinary officer of the area.
- All DFOs in HP shall be the final authority to sanction all cases of relief claims on account of losses caused by the wild animals to humans and domestic livestock. The DFOs shall release 25% of the amount of relief prescribed for human loss/permanent & partial disability/grievous injury on receipt of report as interim relief immediately to the family of the deceased/affected person after due

Annexure 6

Community Based Ecotourism

Like most mountain regions, the Great Himalayan National Park faces the problem of being situated relatively remote and afar from the main markets for tourism, which are situated in urban agglomeration regions. The major challenge thus lies in creating links between predominantly urban consumers and predominantly rural remote mountain regions, provided that a sustainable development of mountain environments and their population is considered to be a desirable goal.

The Ecozone is an area adjacent to the Park, which contains villages that have historically had some economic dependence on the resources of the land incorporated into the Park. The formal designation of the Park boundaries and the resulting loss of the resources have economically impacted these villages.

In recognition of this adverse economic impact, various programmes have, and are being, developed by the state government of Himachal Pradesh, NGOs (non-government organizations), and the villagers themselves to create alternative sources of economic well-being. Ecotourism, one such program, offers rewards to both the visitor and the villagers and helps protect GHNP.

Key Elements of Community Based Ecotourism

-
- reflects modern mindset of conservation
 - sensible tourism which could be one of the most effective conservation tools to help protect the wilderness of Himachal Pradesh
 - strictly controlled tourism in specially demarcated tourism zones of forests/Protected Areas
 - an educational tool for conservation
 - encourages caring our own heritage
 - need co-ordination in between the Forest Deptt. and Tourism Deptt. Of the state
 - differentiates a nature lover from pleasure seekers
 - sustainable tourism drive which can give a sense of achievement to the local communities, forest officials and ecotourist guides
 - depends upon proper training and orientation programme for its key personnel
 - emphasises that the Himalayan fauna and flora should not be subjected to stress and disturbances as this would seriously affect their behaviour and breeding ecology
 - demands support from the general public, particularly local residents
 - favours process-approach in place of blue-print approach: series of consultations and debates on ecotourism can be starting point; includes actual communities in whose midst such tourism will operate, wildlifers, and policy makers
 - helps the tourist to allow the city to seep out of his/her system, while the wilderness seeps in
 - abhors a situation where commerce replaces education and conservation
 - while areas with negative impacts of tourism don't offer much to a discerning tourist who stops frequenting ruined destinations long before they are ruined, ecotourism or 'green tourism' or 'nature tourism' is facilitated by mutual cooperation/persuasion and not by command.

'Community Based Eco-tourism' Development Programme

The 'community based eco-tourism' (CBET) development programme in the GHNP ecozone is proposed with a long-term goal of conserving the rich cultural and ecological heritage of the Park, so that various benefits from this conservation endeavour, including the benefits by way of tourism, could continue to accrue to generations to follow.

- Promotion of community based ecotourism involving various categories of ecotourists such as nature lovers, students, teachers, others in the buffer zone of the GHNP.
- Development of infrastructure for sustainable community based ecotourism with emphasis on socio-economic development of the most-weaker sections of the community.
- Women's empowerment through Women's Saving and Credit Groups (WSCGs), and ecotourism related income generation activities.
- Networking for federating the community based ecotourism for securing collective economic and social gains.

Target Group/Tourist Profile

Ecotourism or CBET is meant for ecotourist, who are increasing in numbers. The following tourist profile, both national and international will be addressed through ecotourism programme:

- Student Groups from Educational Institutions.
- Groups from various professional organisations/ business concerns.
- Responsible tourists in family groups.
- Keen individuals/groups looking for trekking, adventure and exploring something new.

They include the following:

- i. **Backpackers:** they rely mostly on local availability of food, shelter and other services, such as school children, NCC cadets, trekkers from Youth Hostel of India, some tight-budget foreigners
- ii. **Do-it-yourself Trekkers:** they come prepared with own food, tents, etc. A number of foreigners are in this category
- iii. **Pre-planned Trekkers:** their trip is pre-planned, organized and executed by a trekking agency.

Plate 1

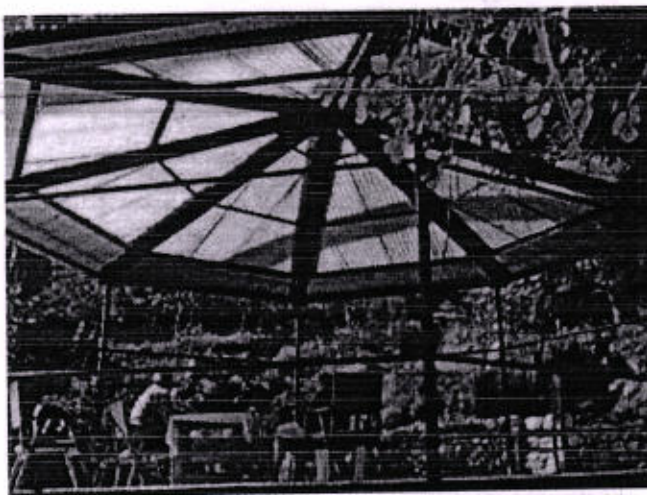
Community Based Ecotourism (CBET)\



Local people involved in trekking and in other income generating activities inside the park



Local People involved in camping activities.



Catering to the guests is an integral part of Community Based Ecotourism at GHNP.



The local cuisine served in traditional style is very popular part of CBET

Plate 2

A Women Saving and Credit Group (WSCG) provides an opportunity for members to engage with each other, provide mentorship, share opportunities and advice.



Members of a WSCG in a field meeting in a medicinal plants nursery in Sainj Valley of GHNP.



Briquettes & Basket Making Using Pine Needles



Vermicomposting is one alternative source of livelihood by the members of WSCGs in GHNP ecozone.



Members of WSCGs with their collection of medicinal plants from GHNP ecozone.



Cultivation of medicinal plant with WSCG in ecozone



Members of WSCGs help each other in organising events to celebrate their achievements which in turn result in the Park's biodiversity conservation.

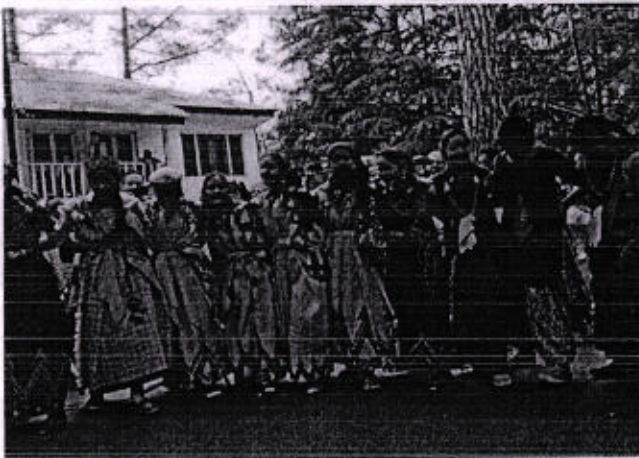
Interaction of park authorities with various stakeholders.



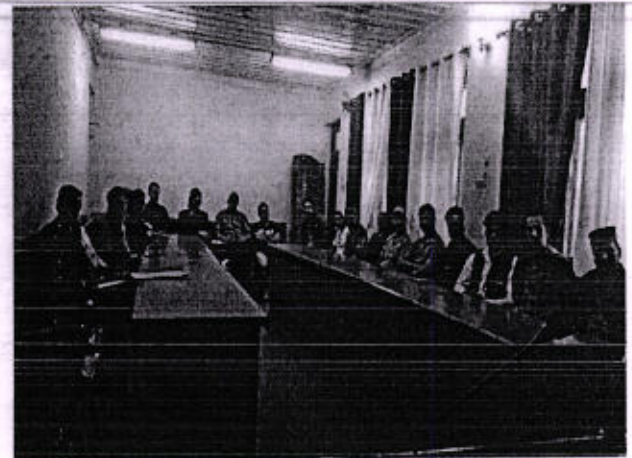
Workshop conducted by WII on "outstanding universal value" in Sai Ropa, GHNP.



Meeting of GHNP staff with Group Organisers in Sai Ropa, GHNP.



Members pf Mahila Mandals participating in nati organized by Forest Department for celebrating wild life week, 2018.



Meeting of GHNP staff with various tour operators at Sai Ropa, GHNP

Map 1&
Map 2



