

## **WHV – Save Western Ghats**

Western Ghats, India Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2012)

PROJECT DATES

01 September -30 November 2023

**THE SITE** - Older than the Himalaya mountains, the mountain chain of the Western Ghats represents geomorphic features of immense importance with unique biophysical and ecological processes. The site's high montane forest ecosystems influence the Indian monsoon weather pattern. It also has an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism and is recognized as one of the world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity.

**OBJECTIVES** - Implemented for the second time, the project aims at raising awareness about the Western Ghats and at helping the younger generations understanding the importance of preserving this natural World Heritage Site while developing sustainable approaches towards their socio-economic interdependence with the mountains ecosystem.

**ACTIVITIES** - The volunteers will visit and make presentations about the Western Ghats at different farms, tribal associations, resorts and local community events, and they will photo- and video-document and report about the most fragile aspects of the mountains ecosystem. Under the guidance of local NGOs, they will also study, document and report about the impact of different activities on the extent of the original forest coverage of the site.

**PARTNERS** - Cochin Natural History Society, Periyar Tiger Reserve.

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