

WHV – Khangchendzonga National Park: the Way Forward (I)

Khangchendzonga National Park, India

Mixed property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2016)

PROJECT DATES

17 April - 26 April 2023

THE SITE - Located at the heart of the Himalayan range in northern India (State of Sikkim), the Khangchendzonga National Park includes a unique diversity of plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and spectacular, snow-capped mountains covered with ancient forests, including the world's third highest peak, Mount Khangchendzonga. Mythological stories are associated with this mountain and with a great number of natural elements (caves, rivers, lakes, etc.) that are the object of worship by the indigenous people of Sikkim. The sacred meanings of these stories and practices have been integrated with Buddhist beliefs and constitute the basis for Sikkimese identity.

OBJECTIVES - The site management authority will directly implement two projects sessions aiming at promoting the sustainable use of bio resources and biodiversity, targeting the involvement of a large group of stakeholders, from school and college students to local communities, pack animal keepers, porters and guides who are involved in earning their livelihood directly from Park, as well as local entrepreneurs like home stay owners, travel agents, taxi owners and drivers, small business owners, local artisan and craftsmen.

ACTIVITIES - After introductory lectures and presentations about the site's outstanding universal value, participants will engage in short and long trekking activities to learn hands-on basic conservation and preservation technique of the park landscape, while contributing and sensitising visitors to the cleaning efforts.

PARTNERS - Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Local schools and colleges, artisans and craftsmen associations, Nom Amu Saksum SHG

Khangchendzonga National Park Management Authority

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