

Preparation of Master Plan for Ecotourism Activities in Himachal Pradesh

Final Master Plan Report

September 2024

Contents

List of Exhibits	4
List of Abbreviations	6
Executive summary	9
1 Introduction	14
1.1 Project Background	14
1.2 Project Objective	15
1.3 Approach and methodology	15
1.4 Nature of the Report.....	17
2 Introduction to Ecotourism.....	19
2.1 Ecotourism: Concept, principles, and characteristics	19
2.1.1 Concept	19
2.1.2 Principles and Characteristics.....	19
2.2 Legal and Policy Framework.....	20
2.2.1 National level legal framework	21
2.2.2 National level policy framework.....	21
2.2.3 State level policy framework	22
2.3 Ecotourism best practices	25
2.3.1 Best Ecotourism Practice 1: Green Supply Chains, Ljubljana, Slovenia	25
2.3.2 Best Ecotourism Practice 2: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, Mali.....	28
2.3.3 Best Ecotourism Practice 3: Eco-Village, Las Terrazas Complex, Cuba.....	29
2.3.4 Best Ecotourism Practice 4: Crosswaters Ecolodge, Guangzhou, China.....	31
2.3.5 Best Ecotourism Practice 5: Maati: A Women Collective Case Study	33
2.3.6 Best Ecotourism Practice 6: Global Himalayan Expedition.....	35
2.3.7 Best Ecotourism Practice 7: Ecosphere, Spiti.....	36
2.3.8 Best Ecotourism Practice 8: Pangi Hill (CEVA)	37
2.3.9 Best Ecotourism Practice 9: Biodiversity Community and Tourism Advancement (BTCA)	38
2.3.10 Best Ecotourism Practice 10: SRISHTI Cooperative Limited (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative)	41
2.3.11 Best Ecotourism Practice 11: SHE-HAAT.....	43
2.3.12 Best Ecotourism Practice 12: Heritage Village – Har Gaon ki Kahani.....	45
2.4 Existing Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh	47
2.4.1 Institutional Mechanism.....	47
2.4.2 Ecotourism initiatives and infrastructure	49
2.4.3 Existing mechanism on benefit-sharing mechanism.....	59
2.4.4 Existing eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis.....	60
2.5 Existing Tourist Infrastructure	63
2.6 Trends in Tourist Footfall and Economy	63

2.7	Key challenges - Based on the existing scenario of the eco-tourism development in the State, the current policy framework, various stakeholder consultations and site visits	66
2.8	Ecotourism Development Strategy	67
2.8.1	Mainstreaming Ecotourism through Institutional Mechanism	68
2.8.2	Destination Management Approach.....	70
2.8.3	Community involvement and Benefit Sharing Mechanism.....	77
2.8.4	Capacity Building and Training	81
2.8.5	Branding and Promotion	83
2.8.6	Technological strategies	85
3	Eco-Tourism in Himachal Pradesh	88
3.1	Existing Scenario of Tourism in the State	88
3.1.1	Introduction.....	88
3.1.2	Major Tourist Destinations	89
3.1.3	Tourism Schemes in Himachal Pradesh	91
3.2	Potential Ecotourism Destinations and Sites	92
3.2.1	Methodology for identification and finalisation of ecotourism sites	92
3.2.2	Methodology followed for visits at potential ecotourism destinations	93
3.2.3	Representative Ecotourism Destinations	95
3.2.4	Potential Ecotourism Sites	112
3.2.5	Stakeholder Consultations	328
3.2.6	Existing Eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis	329
4	Potential Ecotourism circuits	331
4.1	Potential themes and ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh	331
4.2	SWOT Analysis of Ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh	336
4.3	Identified broad strategies for developing and promoting Ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh	337
4.4	Analysis of current Eco-tourism Products and value-chain	337
4.5	Strategies for branding and promotion.....	337
5	Accessibility, Accommodation, and other Amenities for various Eco-circuits	339
5.1	Air connectivity	339
5.2	Railway Connectivity	340
5.3	Roadway connectivity	341
5.4	Porter facilities.....	341
5.5	Accommodation	342
6	Peripheral Infrastructure for various Eco-circuits	350
7	Master Plan Strategy	354
7.1	Broad details of Destination Management Approach	354
7.2	Benefit-sharing mechanism.....	354
7.3	Broad details of identified Ecotourism best practices	355
7.4	Broad details - Ecotourism Development Strategy	356
7.4.1	Broad details of mainstreaming Ecotourism through Institutional Mechanism	356

7.4.2	Broad details of Destination Management Approach.....	357
7.4.3	Broad details of Community involvement and Benefit Sharing Mechanism	357
7.4.4	Broad details of Capacity Building and Training	357
7.4.5	Broad details of Branding and Promotion	358
7.5	Representative Ecotourism Destinations	358
8	Stakeholder Consultations	361
9	Business model and Ecotourism Development Strategy.....	375
9.1	Business model	375
9.2	Broad details of Ecotourism Development Strategy	378
9.3	Broad details of technology-based strategies	379
9.4	Identified Ecotourism best practices	379
10	Annexure	382

List of Exhibits

Exhibit 1.1: Project Approach and Methodology	16
Exhibit 2.1: Stages of Ecotourism Development.....	19
Exhibit 2.2: Characteristics of Ecotour and Eco-destination	20
Exhibit 2.3: Components and Objectives of Ecotourism	20
Exhibit 2.4 Comparison of State Ecotourism Policies	24
Exhibit 2.5: List of Best Practice with their focus areas	25
Exhibit 2.6: Strelec restaurant in Ljubljana castle serving locally produced goods (L)	26
Exhibit 2.7: Women selling their produce at a local market in Mopti, Mali.....	29
Exhibit 2.8: View of the Eco-village at Las Terrazas Complex (L). External view of the Rusitc Cabins (R)	30
Exhibit 2.9: Overview Map of Crosswaters ecolodge (L) and a Panoramic view of the facility (R)	32
Exhibit 2.10 Women working in Maati (L) and their products (R)	33
Exhibit 2.11 GHE team at work (L) Village children using computers setup by GHE (R)	35
Exhibit 2.12: Women working in BTCA (L) and their products (R).....	38
Exhibit 2.13: SHE-HAAT initiatives	44
Exhibit 2.14: Key institutions involved in eco-tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh.....	47
Exhibit 2.15: Proposed eco-circuits as part of the CBET Project.....	49
Exhibit 2.16: Potter's hills camps and approach road	50
Exhibit 2.17: List of Ecotourism Sites leased on PPP mode by HPECOSOC	50
Exhibit 2.18: Photographs of Aamod at Shogi	52
Exhibit 2.19: Photographs of Chewa near Barog.....	53
Exhibit 2.20: HPSFDC Ecotourism Campsite at Jalori Pass, Kullu (L) and Narkanda, Shimla (R)	54
Exhibit 2.21: Location of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts	55
Exhibit 2.22: Details of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts	55
Exhibit 2.23: Details of Nature/ Eco parks	58
Exhibit 2.24: Chail Wildlife Sanctuary	61
Exhibit 2.25: Types of adventure activities in Himachal Pradesh (Terrain, water-based, aerial)	61
Exhibit 2.26: current ecotourism/ community-based products in the State.....	62
Exhibit 2.27: Accommodation facilities for the tourists in the State	63
Exhibit 2.28: Tourist Footfall trend in the last decade (2009-2019) – Domestic and Foreign share.....	64
Exhibit 2.29: District wise Tourist footfall share in 2009 and 2019 (in lakhs and percentage share) ...	65
Exhibit 2.30: Average District wise monthly distribution of footfall (2009- 2019)	66
Exhibit 2.31: Proposed institutional structure for HPECOSOC	69
Exhibit 2.32: Destination Approach to Ecotourism.....	71
Exhibit 2.33: Attributes of destination development framework	72
Exhibit 2.34: A proposed Framework to carry out Tourism Carrying Capacity study at a Tourism Destination/ Area.....	74
Exhibit 2.35: Existing revenue sharing mechanism as per re-revised ecotourism policy, 2017 of HP .	77
Exhibit 2.36: Revenue/ benefit sharing mechanism across different States.....	78
Exhibit 2.37: Advantages and disadvantages of ecotourism project development modes.....	78
Exhibit 3.1 : Physiographical division in Himachal Pradesh	88
Exhibit 3.2: Major Tourist Destinations of Himachal Pradesh.....	89
Exhibit 3.3: Famous Tourist Destinations, Themes and Tourist Attractions (Himachal Pradesh)	89
Exhibit 3.4: Table of Shortlisted Ecotourism destinations for visits.....	93
Exhibit 3.5: Location Map of Shortlisted Ecotourism Destinations for visits	94
Exhibit 3.6: Map showcasing location of potential ecotourism sites	112
Exhibit 3.7: List of location of potential ecotourism sites (total)	112
Exhibit 3.8: List of location of potential ecotourism sites with potential business model (visited by the team)	114
Exhibit 3.9: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites - Camping and Tenting	321
Exhibit 3.10: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Trekking/ Rock climbing/ Hiking.....	322
Exhibit 3.11: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Nature trail or park	323
Exhibit 3.12: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Bird watching, Fishing, View points	324

Exhibit 3.13: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Bungee jumping, Mountain biking, Rappelling	325
Exhibit 3.14: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Paragliding, Rafting, River crossing, Skiing.....	326
Exhibit 3.15: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Interpretation Centres, Tree climbing, Light and Sound show, Zipline	327
Exhibit 4.1: Themes for eco-circuits in Himachal Pradesh	331
Exhibit 4.2: Representative potential Eco-circuits.....	333
Exhibit 4.3: Rating of hilly States across experiential attributes	336
Exhibit 5.1: Details on Air connectivity	339
Exhibit 5.2: Details on Railway connectivity.....	340
Exhibit 5.3: Key details of State road transport buses	341
Exhibit 5.4: Details on availability of hotels/ lodges and rooms for accommodation	342
Exhibit 5.5: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kullu	342
Exhibit 5.6: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Manali.....	343
Exhibit 5.7: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Shimla	343
Exhibit 5.8: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kangra.....	343
Exhibit 5.9: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Spiti	344
Exhibit 5.10: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kinnaur	344
Exhibit 5.11: Details of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts	344
Exhibit 5.12: Details of Government Guest houses	347
Exhibit 6.1: Details of medical facilities in the State.....	351
Exhibit 7.1: List of Best Practice with their focus areas	355
Exhibit 9.1: Framework for identifying potential business model	377
Exhibit 9.2: List of location of potential ecotourism sites with potential business model (visited by the team)	377
Exhibit 9.3: List of Best Practice with their focus areas	379

List of Abbreviations

ASLA	American Society of Landscape Architects
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
CEVA	Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action
CBET	Community Based Ecotourism
CBT	Community Based Tourism
CFR	Community Forest Reserve
CHC	Community Health Centre
CPPP	Community-Public-Private-Partnership
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
DPF	Demarcated Protected Forest
DP	Department Mode
EC	Eco-circuit
ESZ	Eco-sensitive Zone
HPECOSOC	Ecotourism Society of Himachal Pradesh
EBA	Endemic Bird Area
EDSA	Epifanio de los Santos Avenue
EY	Ernst and Young LLP
FAC	Forest Advisory Committee
FCA	Forest Conservation Action
FRH	Forest Rest House
FRA	Forest Rights Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
GHE	Global Himalayan Expedition
GHNP	Great Himalayan National Park
HoFF	Head of Forest Force
HP	Himachal Pradesh
HPFD	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
HPSFDC	Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation
HPTDC	Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation
HRTC	Himachal Road Transport Corporation
IBA	Important Bird Area
IELD	Inclusive and Equitable Local Development
IDIPT	Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism
ISBT	Inter State Bus Terminal
ITTA	International Travel and Tourism Award
IPH	Irrigation and Public Health
JATA	Janjehli Adventure Tourism Association
MDR	Major District Road
MMT	Make My Trip
MICE	Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
NBWL	National Board for Wildlife
NGT	National Green Tribunal
NP	National Park
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PA	Protected Area
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RF	Reserved Forest
RTSOI	Responsible Tourism Society of India

SHG	Self Help groups
SRUTI	Society for Rural Urban & Tribal Initiative
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ST-EP	Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty Initiative
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
USP	Unique Selling Proposition
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation
WLS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WEF	World Economic Forum
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council
WTTCII	World Travel and Tourism Council – India Initiative
WTM	World Travel Mart

Introduction



Executive summary

Himachal Pradesh has always been a foremost tourism State that has been favoured by travellers. Blessed with natural beauty of high Himalayan mountains and dense forests, the State is popular around the year. Lately, the major tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed a tremendous tourist footfall, thus affecting the qualitative experience of visiting Himachal Pradesh. Also, tourists miss out on experiencing the rich and diverse bio-cultural tapestry of the State in and around its protected areas like National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries because of the unplanned mass tourism.

The State has extensive forest coverage and mostly tourism happens in natural areas. Realising these factors, the Forest department, Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) has decided to focus on developing planned Ecotourism in the State that shall lead to spreading the tourists over a wider area and benefitting more local people.

Project Objective - To prepare a holistic ecotourism master plan in consistency with the 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021', the following objectives are sought to be achieved.

- Objective 1: Identify new potential ecotourism destinations and prepare site-specific ecotourism plans
- Objective 2: Map of existing inventory of selected destinations, ascertain key drivers of ecotourism activity, and prepare tourist carrying capacity framework
- Objective 3: Analyse gaps related to Infrastructure and skills and formulation of strategies to promote sustainable ecotourism development in the State
- Objective 4: Incentivize preservation of traditional cultural and conservation practices related to natural offerings of the State.
- Objective 5: Identify appropriate business opportunities which shall improvise the livelihood conditions of the local community and therefore, promote social equity.

The Project Methodology - For a study limited by time, these objectives could only be realised by studying some representative destinations and creating frameworks that are applicable over multiple similar destinations. To carry out the entire study, consultant's team first carried out desk research on ecotourism concepts, characteristics, across the globe; and National and State level policy and legal frameworks with respect to ecotourism. This was followed by multiple stakeholder discussions, both offline and online, analysis of best practices in the ecotourism space across the globe, at national level and within Himachal Pradesh and highlighted learnings for the State. Then an as-is-assessment was carried out that ascertained current key offerings, identified key challenges, and identified key potential ecotourism activities.

Appreciating the varied landscapes and corresponding different bio-geographies in the State, a landscape approach was followed and ten destinations across five landscapes were chosen to be visited and studied, to create a representative framework for ecotourism activities in the State. Based on the complete assessment and potential, the consultant's team has recommended and provided solutions for the sites and circuits. Further, a framework for destination development prioritization and site selection criteria have also been developed and suggested.

Policy and Legal Framework

Himachal Pradesh revised its Ecotourism Policy in 2017 that identified low-impact facilities, positive host and visitor experiences, environmental and cultural awareness, conservation and local community benefits as its core principles. In order to promulgate ecotourism development in the state, the state's forest department has established 'Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Society (HPECOSOC) at the state, division and circle levels. The policy has an emphasis on community-based ecotourism with a well detailed institutional setup.

There has been a progressive shift in legal and policy framework governing tourism that has led to inclusion of 'sustainability' as a core element of tourism development thus with higher emphasis on ecotourism and that is evident with the launch of MoEFCC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021. In the report, a few international, national and local (Himachal

Pradesh) including examples of similar bio-geographical level ecotourism best practices have been captured to understand their key elements, challenges faced if any and the resolution to those challenges, key outcomes and the learnings for ecotourism development.

The best practices presented capturing different and similar bio-geographies have highlighted various aspects across CBET, private sector involvement, different offerings including rural tourism, arts and crafts, culture, and cuisine etc. that can be enhanced and integrated into eco-tourism development. These learnings may be adapted by the State across various existing and potential ecotourism sites for attracting large number of tourists.

Methodology followed for visits at potential ecotourism destinations

It is to be noted that, in order to capture varied USP (natural offerings) of Himachal Pradesh, the destinations and sites to be visited were categorised into five landscapes based on the biogeography of the State. These five landscapes are as presented below:

- **High-Altitude:** includes the ecotourism destinations situated at an elevation higher than 3500 m. This shall cover both, high-altitude dry regions such as Lahaul-Spiti and high-altitude wet regions such as Kullu.
- **Mountains:** shall include ecotourism destinations ranging between 1500-3500 m altitude.
- **Wetlands:** includes ecotourism destinations considered as per Ramsar Convention
- **Forests:** Ecotourism Destinations which are proximal or cover a protected area within its limits.
- **Foothills:** Ecotourism destinations ranging between 350-1500 m altitude. Under this category special focus has been given to pilgrimage areas falling under forest jurisdiction to recommend suitable interventions for responsible tourism into the forest areas.

Based on this framework, 10 ecotourism destinations were selected for the visits, that served as the representative framework for understanding the local conditions, community's perspective, other stakeholders' viewpoints, infrastructure availability around the potential sites, connectivity etc.

Potential Ecotourism Destinations and sites

Based on the above defined methodology, while ten destinations were visited and studied in detail, a list of potential ecotourism sites was also created based on the inputs from the tourism industry, and the forest department and local stakeholders. A total of ~400 sites across the State was identified. The detailed list was shared with all the respective local level forest officials for ratification and multiple consultations (in-person and telephonic) were carried out to verify and finalise the potential sites. Based on continuous dialogue with these stakeholders, site-specific plans were prepared for 93 potential sites. For future development, State may identify more sites to be developed as an ecotourism site from the indicative list or any additional site that it seems appropriate for the development.

Destination's prioritization - Each Ecotourism destination was analysed on these parameters;

- **The USP of the Destination was derived from the primary and secondary analysis of the special features and attractiveness of the Destination.** Parameters such as Natural attractiveness, Cultural attractiveness and the Tourism Infrastructure Quality were taken as the 'USP of a Tourist Destination'.
- Similarly, a broad overview of **Environmental Carrying Capacity (as visible), already existing infrastructure (tourism and non-tourism)** and the **Green Cover Parameter** were taken to indicate the Sustainability of the place.
- **Accessibility** included the ease of accessing the destination that also referred to the multiple ways, modes of transportation, and routes to reach the destination
- **Visibility** of the destination included all information in the public sphere that communicated the destination to the final customer inclusive of media presence, the available literature, news items and the general image of the destination in the minds of the prospective customer.
- The **Tourism Infrastructure quality** included total tourism infrastructure that a tourist encountered in experiencing the destination inclusive of the soft-skills, hospitality skills, the tourism infrastructure for experiencing the destination, presence, quality, absence of trained guides, interpretation etc.

- Additionally, a **comprehensive 'experience quality'** has been added that summed up the 'total experience' a tourist derived out of the visit to the Ecotourism destination, that may also contribute to the future decision of visiting again and recommending the destination to others.

This methodology is similar to the methodology adopted internationally by organisations such as World Economic Forum (WEF), especially to create their widely accepted annual Travel & Tourism (T&T) Competitiveness Report that is considered a flagship and authoritative strategic benchmarking tool for policymakers, companies and complementary sectors to advance the future development of the T&T sector. All the ten destinations were analysed on the above parameters, and the following scores were obtained.

Ecosystems	Ecotourism Destinations/Sites	USP	Sustainable	Access	Visibility	Tourism	Experience	Priority of Development
High Altitude Ranges (Above 3000m)	Sissu Lake	5	4	4	3	2	4	High priority
	Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	7	5	2	2	2	3	Medium priority
	Chitkul	7	3	4	3	3	3	Medium priority
Wetlands	Parashar Lake	6	5	4	3	3	5	High priority
	Pong Dam Wetland	5	3	5	2	1	3	Low priority
Mountains (1000-3000m)	Chanshal Pass, Kharsali	6	3	3	2	2	4	Medium priority
	Kheerganga NP	5	3	5	5	2	5	High priority
	Shikari Devi WLS	5	3	2	2	2	3	Medium priority
Forests	Shoja, Banjar Valley	5	4	4	3	3	5	High priority
Foothills	Baba Balak Nath (Deotsidh)	5	3	5	2	1	3	Low priority

Potential business model for the ecotourism sites visited by the team

Multiple aspects and reasons (e.g. (i) involvement of community and existing community led groups in exiting activities, (ii) willingness by the community groups, (iii) environmentally sensitive area to flora and fauna, (iv) requires interventions and control by the forest department, (v) private entities are willing to involve in Eco-tourism activities, etc.) has been considered to identify the potential business model. In similar lines, the potential business model can be identified for other sites by the site-specific forest officials. Indicative list of location of potential ecotourism sites visited by the team with potential business model

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name	Potential business model
1	Kullu	Parvati	Chalal, Khatagra, Kasol	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
2	Kullu	Parvati	Somaropa	PPP Mode
3	Kullu	Parvati	Bindravan, Khirganga	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
4	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu	PPP Mode
5	Kullu	Banjar	Shoja	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
5	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple	Department Mode

Analysis of current Eco-tourism Products and value-chain

Ecotourism is a niche emerging sector going hand in hand as experiential tourism. Ecotourism focuses on nature based eco-sensitive solutions that provides good and new experience for tourists and provide benefit to local communities particularly the rural community. Eco-Tourism Product is "a combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific centre of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience including emotional aspects for the potential customers.

Hence, the ecotourism products include cultural, natural and attraction attributes. Based on the primary and secondary research, it has been found that there are multiple offerings that Himachal Pradesh provide for the tourists and also it was found that that various local communities participate in the

ecotourism activities that revolve around their primary livelihood or the current product available in that area such as, agro-product, horticulture, cultural based – crafts, cuisine, songs/ dance etc. or potential for natural attraction such as sightseeing, birdwatching, adventure activities etc. This instinctive business models needs to be curated better, recognising the above potential.

Key challenges - Based on the existing scenario of the eco-tourism development in the State, the current policy framework, various stakeholder consultations and site visits

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh has existed essentially for more than five decades. In the course of these years, the State has witnessed phenomenal developmental change to support the population demand. Despite having an array of unique natural and cultural offerings and being one of the first State's in India to turn to ecotourism, the tourist footfall focusing on ecotourism has been low. The key challenge for the Himachal Pradesh with respect to ecotourism are multiple folds which have been identified based on various aspects.

- While ecotourism has been recognised as a forestry activity, there are still some policy alignments that are required. Further, the long process of FCA approvals are constraints for eco-tourism site development through private participation that needs to be facilitated by State for better development.
- Significant challenge for the State of Himachal Pradesh is incongruent infrastructural development. Being a fragile ecosystem, certain parts of the State boast seamless road infrastructure whereas areas concerning ecotourism destination, accessibility needs to be adequately developed. Further, limited air connectivity, poor road conditions and unavailability of adequate public transport also adds to the overall developmental concerns.
- Lack of adequate tourism infrastructure at and around the sites to be developed for ecotourism is also concerning. Infrastructure such as signages, rain-shelters, toilets, drinking water, parking, safety kits, helplines etc. need to be adequately provided to improve tourist's experience.
- There are limited safety protocols defined for such areas.
- There is lack of adequate waste management infrastructure and services from collection, segregation, disposal, and processing at the sites. This makes such serene areas look visually unappealing especially due to plastic waste dumping by tourists.
- There are limited skilled people to support the new ecotourism activities and make them sustainable, hence there is need to for skill training and capacity building exercises to empower the local communities.
- There is absence of tourist carrying capacity and impact studies, which is essential for sustainable development.
- There is inadequate ecotourism branding and promotional activities in the State.
- There is limited inclusion of the cultural activities into tourism currently.
- State suffers severe natural disasters affecting tourism and recent pandemic has also impacted the tourism development and economy.
- Climate change, soil erosion and deforestation remain major areas of concern to retain the natural offering of the State. While, climate change is an unavoidable global phenomenon, deforestation needs to be resolved with State level afforestation and related policies.
- The local communities' limited understanding of ecotourism and community-based tourism also limits the implementation and management of new and innovative activities in the remote areas.

Ecotourism Development Strategy

The vision of the 'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy – 2017' is to, 'Preserve and protect the natural (both flora and fauna) and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh, provide opportunities to enhance livelihood of local people, generate resources for sustainable development and promote greater understanding and appreciation for this heritage through authentic eco-tourism initiatives.

Over the decades there has been a considerable increase in visitations to forests/ natural area in the State. To align with the vision under the State policy, it is essential to follow the principles of Sustainable and responsible tourism with 'economic', 'social' and 'environmental' strategies for the State.

The Master Plan looks at Ecotourism in the state in a holistic manner, with a broad objective undertaking Sustainable Ecotourism. The strategic approach for achieving this incorporates working on the following

multi-pronged approach in a long-term manner - with equally important pillars, existing and functioning simultaneously.

Strategy for institutional mechanisms is as follows:

- Strengthening of HPECOSOC
- Formation of Destination Management Units
- Grassroot level Eco-committees to take ground level decisions

Strategy for destination management approach is as follows:

- Wide-angle view of the overall destination
- Destination Management Plan
- Enhancing investments into tourism and ancillary sectors
- New Destinations
- Infrastructural requirements for servicing tourists

Strategy for community involvement and benefit sharing is as follows:

- Community involvement
- Benefit sharing mechanism

Strategy for capacity building is as follows:

- Capacity Building of Government officials
- Capacity Building of community

Strategy for Branding and Promotion is as follows:

- Determination of USP and selection of appropriate tourist segment
- Productization
- Marketing

Strategy for technology-based development is as follows:

- Technology for marketing
- Technology for better service delivery
- Technology for monitoring

The recommendations have been explained in detail in the report under each strategy with short, mid, and long-term strategies.

1 Introduction

This chapter presents project background and proposed approach and methodology for the entire study.

1.1 Project Background

The State of Himachal Pradesh is situated in the heartland of the Indian Himalaya and is among one of the top tourist destinations in the country. The State attracts both domestic and foreign tourists. Recent estimate suggests that the annual tourist footfall in Himachal Pradesh at 160 lakhs is more than twice of the State's population. However, majority of the tourist footfalls are concentrated in and around four major cities, viz. Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala, and Dalhousie. As a result of this, tourists often miss out on experiencing the rich and diverse bio-cultural tapestry of the State in and around its protected areas like National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, and the local inhabitants living in these regions thereby reap limited benefit from the tourism activity in the State.

On the other hand, conventional tourism often degrades the environmental quality, natural and cultural resources. The fragile environment of the Himalayas has seen developmental interventions, which are replication of the development patterns of the plains. Himachal Pradesh itself has undergone transformation from subsistence centred agriculture to commercial horticulture-based development. The developmental path adopted in the last thirty years has been a mixed success. While the State has developed a reasonably good road network, educational and health institutions, one cannot overlook increasing pressure on common property resources such as water, pastures etc., deterioration in water and air quality are a matter of concern.¹ The sensitivity of the State's geographical, geological, and cultural resource base cannot be overemphasized today.

Taking cognizance of this, the Forest Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh had released Ecotourism Policy 2005 to create an enabling ecosystem for tourists to experience the scenic beauty of its natural locations and the immense cultural value associated with it. The policy underwent revisions to take into consideration the procedural requirements for obtaining clearance of ecotourism sites under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as per guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India and also to accommodate the evolving understanding of ecotourism concepts and principles. The revised 'Ecotourism Policy, 2017' of the State aims to decongest and disperse over-flowing city tourist destinations and bring tourists closer to nature and ensure adequate economic return to the State and livelihood opportunities to the local communities.

In this context, to develop Ecotourism activities in the State, Forest Department constituted HPECOSOC (Ecotourism Society of Himachal Pradesh) which is an autonomous and independent body. It works with the Tourism and Forest Departments with an aim to "preserve and protect the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh" so that it acts as a preferred destination for visitors and provides opportunities to promote Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) in the State.

As a part of these activities, HPECOSOC, with the aforesaid aim and objectives, intends to develop ecotourism activities in the State of Himachal Pradesh. With the above backdrop, the HPECOSOC has appointed M/s Ernst & Young LLP in consortium with Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) to prepare a Master plan for the development of Ecotourism Sites in Himachal Pradesh. The purpose of this assignment is to prepare a Master plan for Ecotourism which lays out the vision of the State Government and the development of tourism models that would enhance the livelihood of local communities, promote social equity, ensure environmental and cultural sensitivity.

This initiative of Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) is aligned to the recent launch of the MoEFCC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021', that aims to promote better understanding of nature and wildlife conservations while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner.

¹ <http://dest.hp.gov.in/?q=environment-policy-guidelines>

BOX 1: Snapshot of 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021'

The Guidelines recognises the importance and potential of eco-tourism and aims to promote it sustainably. The guideline seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote low impact nature tourism which ensures ecological integrity of the eco-tourism sites and its environment.
- Promote biodiversity, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness;
- Promote engagement of local communities in nature tourism in a manner that enriches local economy and encourages sustainable use of indigenous materials through financially viable value chains thereby helping such local communities become "AtmaNirbhar"
- Promote partnerships amongst stakeholders for mobilising resources and developing and promoting nature tourism, as well equitable sharing of benefits.
- Enhancing potential of India as a global eco-tourism destination.

It focuses on guiding principles across eco-tourism planning, zonation, resource mobilization and community participation, eco-tourism site development, entrepreneurship. It puts emphasis on broad framework for implementation that looks into identification of potential sites, funding support, usage of IT, capacity building and benefit sharing initiatives, education and outreach potential, and monitoring of the development to meet the objectives.

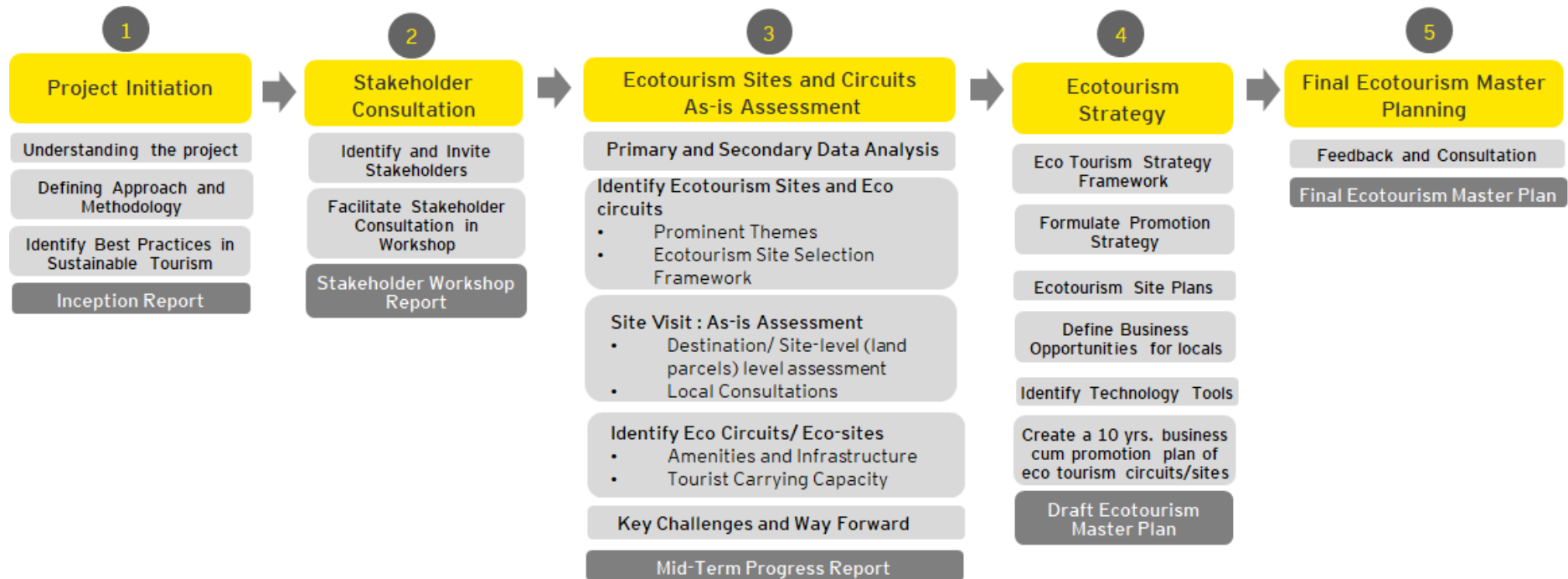
1.2 Project Objective

To prepare a holistic ecotourism master plan in consistency with the 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021', the following objectives are sought to be achieved.

- **Objective 1:** Identify new potential ecotourism destinations and prepare site-specific ecotourism plans
- **Objective 2:** Map of existing inventory of selected destinations, ascertain key drivers of ecotourism activity, and prepare tourist carrying capacity framework
- **Objective 3:** Analyse gaps related to Infrastructure and skills and formulation of strategies to promote sustainable ecotourism development in the State
- **Objective 4:** Incentivize preservation of traditional cultural and conservation practices related to natural offerings of the State.
- **Objective 5:** Identify appropriate business opportunities which shall improve the livelihood conditions of the local community and therefore, promote social equity.

1.3 Approach and methodology

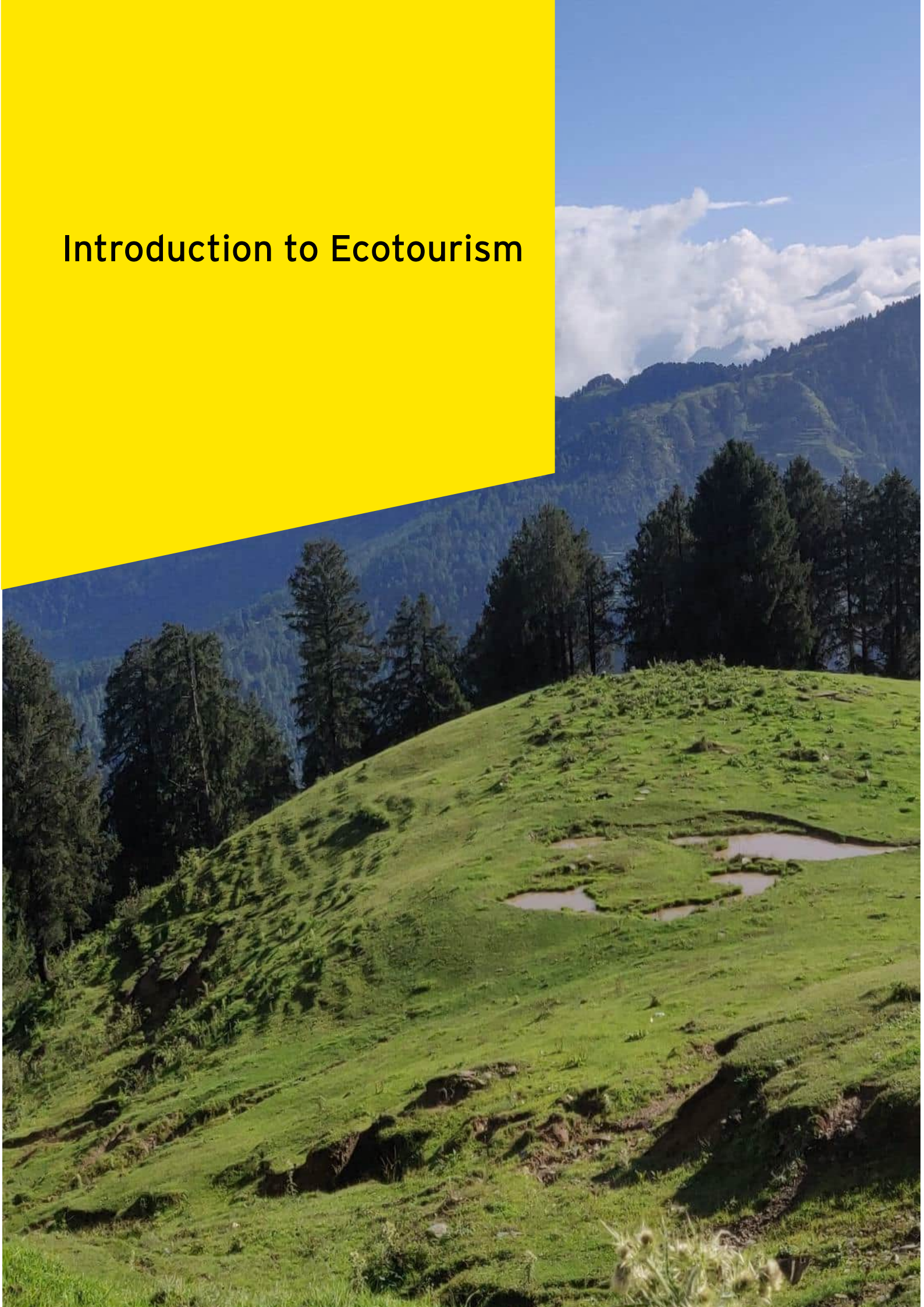
To carry out the entire study, consultant team carried out multiple stakeholder discussions, studied best practices across in ecotourism space across the globe, at national level and within Himachal Pradesh and highlighted learnings for the State. Consultant team carried out the as-is-assessment, ascertained current key offerings, identified key challenges and identified key potential ecotourism activities. Based on the complete assessment and potential, the consultant team has recommended and provided solutions, defined quality and standards for offerings on the sites and circuits, defined SOPs, templates and framework for destination development prioritization and carrying capacity framework etc. The approach and methodology followed for the entire study is presented in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 1.1: Project Approach and Methodology

1.4 Nature of the Report

Further to the submission of the **Draft Master Plan Report** (Project Deliverable 4), this **Final Master Plan Report** (Project Deliverable 5) captures the entire study. It captures the Final Master Plan covering introduction to the exercises, brief of the policy and regulatory framework, best practices, current scenario of the ecotourism activities in the State, potential eco-sites and circuits and recommendations for ecotourism development in the State. Further, it captures the Annexures detailing out the policy and regulatory framework, detailed as-is assessment of the various destinations visited by the consultant team and the details of the stakeholder consultations carried out.

Introduction to Ecotourism



2 Introduction to Ecotourism

The current chapter briefly explains the essential principles of Ecotourism, review of policies at the National and state level and summary of the ecotourism practices at Global, National, and state level.

2.1 Ecotourism: Concept, principles, and characteristics

2.1.1 Concept

Ecotourism is presently identified as a set of low impact tourism activities which are primarily nature-based activities providing direct benefits to the local community. Through the research it has been understood that the prevailing concept of ecotourism development has evolved through various stages as illustrated below in the following Exhibit.

Exhibit 2.1: Stages of Ecotourism Development



2.1.2 Principles and Characteristics

This section presents the perspectives of two global authorities on Ecotourism namely, The International Ecotourism Society and the United Nations Environment Programme. Understanding basic principles of ecotourism are very important for businesses and governments to develop and promote it effectively. Based on the understanding drawn from the aforementioned sources, various components and objectives of ecotourism are represented in the Exhibit.

I. The International Ecotourism Society (TIES)

TIES has defined the essential principles of ecotourism on the basic inputs from various stakeholders. These principles can further help to define the guidelines and certification procedures.

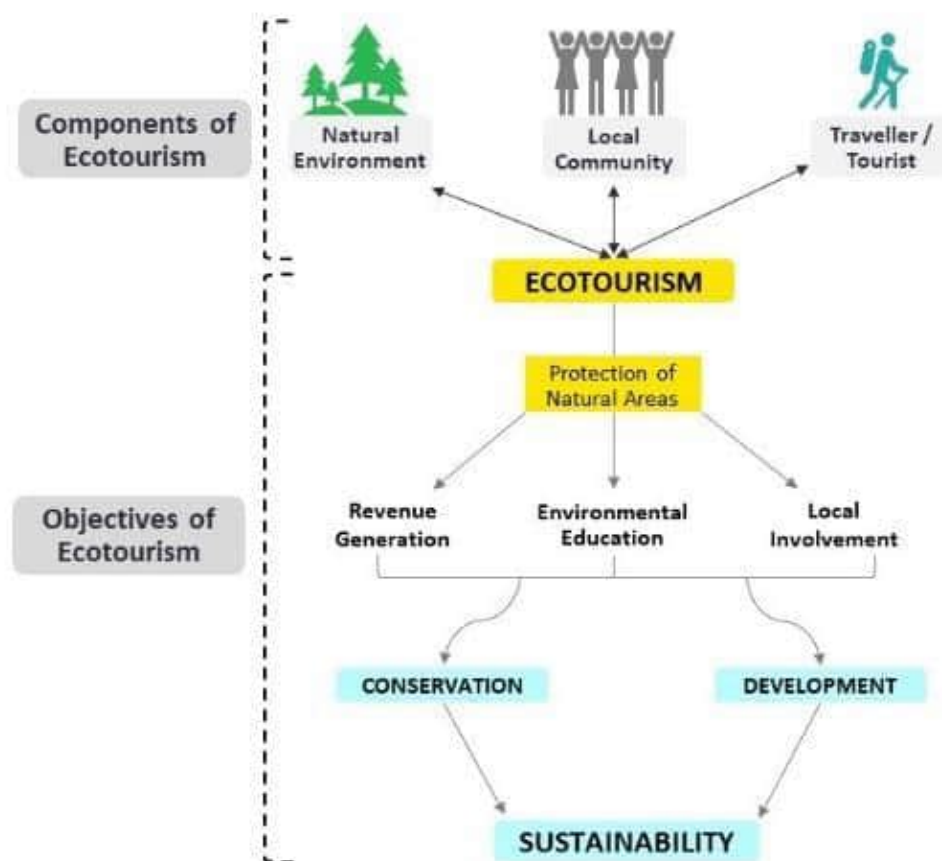
- **MINIMISE** Visitor Impact on the Environment
- **BUILD** Environmental and Cultural Awareness and Impact
- **PROVIDE** Positive Experiences for both the Visitor and the Host
- **GENERATE** Financial Benefits for both the local people and conservation
- **DELIVER** Memorable Interpretative Experiences to Visitors to raise Political Sensitivity and Global Awareness
- **DESIGN** Construct and Operate Low-Impact Facilities and Infrastructure

II. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP has defined essential characteristics of an ecotour and eco-destination to support governments and organizations in streamlining their ecotourism planning and development. These characteristics have been listed in the following Exhibit.

Exhibit 2.2: Characteristics of Ecotour and Eco-destination

Category	Characteristics
Eco-Tour	• Offers guidelines on code of conduct, destination characteristics • In-depth guiding throughout the trip • Opportunity to meet and interact with local communities • Develops an understanding of local traditions and livelihood • Maintenance of protected areas and support local NGOs • Offers site-sensitive accommodations
Eco-destination	• Conservation of Natural features • Low-density development, abundant natural areas • Evidence and Audit that tourism is not harming natural systems • Designated outdoor recreation zones to protect fragile resources • Thriving, locally owned genuine hospitality outlets • Variety of local festivals and events • Clean and basic public facilities • Friendly interaction between local people and visitors

Exhibit 2.3: Components and Objectives of Ecotourism

The Eco-tourism principles and concepts explained above are very relevant for Himachal Pradesh State and shall be adapted and applied in the State for sustainable eco-tourism development

2.2 Legal and Policy Framework

Development of tourism in the country is the mandate of the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India and corresponding State institutions. However, because the lands on which ecotourism primarily happens are governed by the laws implemented by MoEF&CC and are in the custody of State forest

departments, ecotourism in the country cannot progress unless these institutions embrace ecotourism as a part of their mandate. Fortunately, all of the recent policy instruments of the MoEF&CC strongly support ecotourism as a tool for conservation of forests and wildlife. The legal framework related to ecotourism is governed by different laws and certain court orders and decisions pulling the sector in different directions. However, with the launch of MoEF&CC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021', country's focused approach towards ecotourism is evident. The following sections highlight the key features of the various laws and policies that are important for the ecotourism development.

2.2.1 National level legal framework

The conduct of ecotourism in Indian forests is subject to several laws, namely,

- Indian Forest Act, 1927;
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;
- Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- Forest Rights Act, 2006; and
- the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

A detailed note on the legal framework applicable to ecotourism is attached as **Annexure 10.1**.

In short, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Wild-Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empower the forest department to enter the forests for various purposes, including ecotourism. As far as Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 is concerned, the Government of India has declared ecotourism a non-forest activity, requiring prior approval of the Central Government. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides that the "rights to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource" (CFR) lies with the Gram Sabha of the villages. Thus, if an area has been allotted to a village as its CFR, the consent of the Gram Sabha will be mandatory. Every PA is required to have an Eco sensitive zone (ESZ) around it as per the orders of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 25.11.2005, and an ESZ is required to have a tourism plan. Hence, all ecotourism in and around a PA has to be in accordance with the /tourism plan of the ESZ. Lastly, the Supreme Court has also ordered that any construction of any structures in a PA, other than those exempted by it in its order dated 25.11.2005, need the prior permission of the Supreme Court.

2.2.2 National level policy framework

Ecotourism has been recommended as a legitimate forestry activity in several policy documents of the MoEF&CC. These policy documents include the National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031), National Working Plan Code 2015. National Ecotourism Policy 2018 provides the framework for ecotourism to be adopted and promoted in the country. Ecotourism also finds support in upcoming National Forest Policy 2018 (draft). The National Tourism Policy 2002 and the Ecotourism Policy and Guidelines 1998, both issued by the Ministry of Tourism, also strongly support the adoption of ecotourism in the country.

Recent launch of the 'Guidelines on Sustainable Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021' lays the framework for practicing and promoting sustainable ecotourism by maximising outputs that support nature and natural resources in their original forms while minimising any negative externalities arising out of interactions between people and nature.²

These guidelines shall also be applicable to potential ecotourism sites located in public, community and private forests outside the Protected Area irrespective of the ownership of the land. The Standing Committee in March 2021 suggested that guidelines should address the operation of existing infrastructure for ecotourism in the eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) in a sustainable manner.

These guidelines are aimed at promoting better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner. These guidelines emphasize the promotion of low impact nature-based tourism, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness, engagement of local communities in nature tourism, partnerships amongst various stakeholders and finally enhancing India's potential as a "global ecotourism destination".

² http://forestsclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Order_and_Release/Agenda/711212412161FinalAgenda.pdf

The MOEFCC's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) recently also eased norms for ecotourism projects by allowing them to build 'non-permanent' structures in protected areas without permission from the central government. This was also to facilitate Ecotourism opportunities in notified forest and wildlife reserves. The FAC had decided that only construction of permanent structures will be considered to be "non-forestry" activity and require prior approval of the central government, but no central government approval is required for other ecotourism activities involving non-permanent constructions. With this move, the Ministry anticipates accrual of benefits with the local communities while envisioning some provision of benefit sharing with forest management committees.

A detailed note on the national level policy framework applicable to ecotourism is attached as **Annexure 10.2**.

2.2.3 State level policy framework

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh revised Ecotourism Policy, 2017

Himachal Pradesh revised its Ecotourism Policy in 2017 that identified low-impact facilities, positive host and visitor experiences, environmental and cultural awareness, conservation and local community benefits as its core principles. In order to promulgate ecotourism development in the state, the state's forest department has established 'Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Society (HPECOSOC) at the state, division and circle levels. The policy has an emphasis on community-based ecotourism with a well detailed institutional setup.³

The mandate of the HPECOSOC is to encourage ecologically sustainable and financially viable ecotourism that is beneficial to the local community in terms of livelihood and income generating opportunities. It is also designed to put in place a mechanism for partnerships in ecotourism by making efficient use of camping sites, forest trails, and a large number of rest houses and inspection huts under the forest department. Following the setting up of the HPECOSOC, forest land was leased out for developing and running five eco sites under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode on a contract basis with provision for annual rentals. These became operational in 2009 with the mandate to strictly adhere to the ecotourism norms and guidelines. An additional two sites are managed by the HP Forest Development Corporation Ltd⁴.

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2019

Himachal Pradesh has come a long way from imperialistically being a 'Summer Capital' to 'destination for all seasons and all reasons. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Policy 2019 has laid emphasis on the development of activity-based tourism in the country-side and unexplored areas. The policy has identified ecotourism, Agro organic tourism, snow tourism, lake tourism, adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, health and wellness tourism, film tourism and MICE tourism as special areas for the holistic development of tourism in the state⁵. Some of the ecotourism products that the policy underlines are bird watching, trekking, eco-trails, nature parks, eco-huts, and camping. It is significant to note that the policy clearly mentions having forest clearance as part of facilitating ropeway projects to provide last-mile connectivity in tough/remote terrains⁶.

The main objective of this policy is to promote tourism diversification through theme-based development, to safeguard State's tourism destinations through sustainable interventions, to ensure benefits to host communities, to build capacity and develop quality human resource for the tourism industry. It also envisages safe and secure tourism and create enabling environment for investments.

In an effort to invigorate physical tourism infrastructure, the state cabinet has approved 'Capital Investment Subsidy' for tourism projects in remote areas and grant for access of roads and water supply to tourism units. Consent to include 428-gram panchayats of 10 districts under the integrated development projects for source sustainability and climate resilient rain-fed agriculture have been

³ HP Ecotourism Policy 2017, available at www.hpforest.nic.in

⁴ https://terragreen.teriin.org/terragreen/TGMay17/TG_CoverStory/files/downloads/TG_May_2017_Cover_Story.pdf

⁵ <http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=14491>

⁶ Page 19, The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2019

approved as a step to make tourism environmentally sensitive in the state. Further to this aspect, the cabinet also approved the draft policy for buying back non-recyclable plastic waste and various kinds of single-use plastics including bags and proposed a minimum support price of INR.75 per kg to be paid to ragpickers and individuals from households for collecting and depositing the plastic waste to urban local bodies to ensure cleanliness. In addition, HP Homestay Scheme, 2008 enables local communities to reap direct benefits from the tourism.

Himachal Pradesh Environmental Policy, 2019

The environmental policy of Himachal Pradesh recognises need for the development of approaches compatible with the mountain eco-systems and its unique aspects such as fragility, inaccessibility, marginality, diversity, climatic peculiarities, etc. The policy guidelines cover important areas such as land, water, air, mineral resources, health, biodiversity, agriculture, horticulture, energy and tourism etc.

The purpose of Environment Policy Guidelines for Himachal Pradesh is twofold:

- Taking stock as it were of the development process pursued - its gains and its pitfalls.
- Identification of remedies and interventions as may be required at Institutional, Regulatory, and ultimately policy and implementation levels.

The Policy Guidelines comprise parts covering subjects of land use, Geology, Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Water Resources, Industries, Energy, Tourism, Health, Biodiversity and Pollution in relation to the environment and action required in each area.

The policy realises the state's developmental need to be in sync with the state's ecology, humane and sustainable. As a result, the policy tries to safeguard ecological issues in the overall development process by different state departments can plug-in respective lacunae existing in their policies.

The implementation of policy guidelines is anticipated to strengthen the existing departmental policies so that the developmental activities become comprehensive and sustainable. The policy discourages exploitation of natural resources; and encourages the process of conservation and preservation. It also lays emphasis on stakeholder participation imperative to ensure the successful implementation of these guidelines.

Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policy

Himachal Pradesh selected an approach to encourage industrial development in the state so as to generate employment opportunities for local people. The state government had announced its strategy for industrial development in the form of its Industrial Policy 2004 which is currently in force, and amended in 2009 to include Biotechnology, process based industrial non-industrial products, processing laboratories and R&D facilities as thrust industries.

Sports goods and articles and equipment for general physical exercise, equipment for adventure sports/ activities, tourism and Ecotourism - Hotels, resorts in locations other than those located in the Municipal limits/ NAC /Nagar Panchayats/ Special Area Development Authority limits, as the case may be of Shimla, Dalhousie, Mcleodganj and Manali have been identified as some of the thrust/priority sectors of the State. The complete list of thrust sectors as part of the policy is mentioned in **Annexure 10.2 (II)**.

The Department of Environment, Science and Technology of the State is the nodal department for receiving, processing and recommending the applications of Thrust Enterprise(s) to concerned Departments/ Boards/ Corporations of the State and Central Government, as the case may be, wherever required. The policy categorizes State in three categories 'A', 'B' & 'C'⁷ depending upon the location, distance from the border of the State, extent of industrial development, extent of overall backwardness, resource availability & potential for employment generation for local people.

Ecotourism Policies of other States

Almost every state swears by ecotourism now, but most States still do not have comprehensive ecotourism policies. They continue to deal with ecotourism as a subset of general tourism through their State tourism policies. As per available information, the States which have come out with detailed ecotourism policies of the forest departments include Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, Karnataka,

⁷ <https://msmedihimachal.nic.in/pages/view/146/211-annexure-iii-industrial-policy-highlights-of-the-state-of-h.p>.

Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu only. Karnataka calls its ecotourism policy as 'Wilderness Tourism Policy'. As most of ecotourism takes place in PAs, the States use the rules made under WLPA to regulate ecotourism. As ecotourism must spread beyond PAs which cover only about 25-30% of our forests, in order to contribute significantly to the conservation of our ecology and economy, a comprehensive ecotourism policy can help in this endeavour. Even if a State tourism policy provides the broad mandate to the forest department to identify and exploit the ecotourism potential of its forests, most foresters continue to be ambivalent about the need to promote ecotourism in their areas. This is perhaps because ecotourism as a concept useful for conservation of nature is of recent origin and has not been fully internalized by the community of foresters. This is also because there is a feeling that ecotourism is not supported by all the forest laws. An ecotourism policy, issued by the state forest department itself, can go a long way to dispel the notion that ecotourism is an encumbrance and not a core conservation concern. This will also guide the foresters in charge of forests outside PAs in how to go about developing ecotourism programmes in their areas.

Thus, the main role of ecotourism policies is to help in establishing ecotourism as a mainstream forestry activity. This they eminently do by declaring that ecotourism helps in conservation of forests and wildlife and also give a list of activities (e.g., trekking, bird watching, camping, game drives etc.) that need to be promoted in the name of ecotourism. Most of the State policies are of very general nature listing virtually similar goals, objectives, activities, and strategies. Nearly all policies aim to strengthen conservation and community well-being through ecotourism. They all propose to promote community-based or community-managed ecotourism. Most talk of multi stakeholder participation but actually promote only the government and communities as the principal stakeholders when it comes to the specifics. Most, except perhaps the Himachal Pradesh policy, do not provide any framework for meaningful participation of the private sector in ecotourism development or operations. Nearly all policies propose eco-friendly and low impact infrastructure, community involvement, awareness building, capacity building, marketing etc. as strategies for the development of ecotourism. Perhaps no policy talks of incentives, subsidies, or tax-concessions to operators, although the provisions existing in the states' general tourism policies should be applicable to ecotourism projects also. Some of the distinctive features occurring in the State ecotourism policies are underlined below.

Exhibit 2.4 Comparison of State Ecotourism Policies

	India	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh	Sikkim
Ecotourism Policy	Policy for Ecotourism in Forest & Wildlife Areas: 2018	Wilderness Tourism Policy	Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Policy	Sikkim Ecotourism Policy, 2011
Objectives	Low Impact Tourism; Promote cultural diversity, Collaborate with local communities	Opening forest areas for ecotourism	Opening up forest areas for eco/adventure; Buffer main safar	Biodiversity conservation; Low Impact High Value tourism
Strengths	Proposed tourist carrying capacity led ecotourism; Benefit sharing	A beginning	A beginning	Efficient Waste Management
Weakness	Applicable for only PAs	Public Sector gets priority/monopolized access to forest areas	Lack of community involvement	Confines to trekking

Source: IJES, Vol. 2017

The legal framework and policies of India and other States provide guidance to Himachal Pradesh for adapting to new concepts. The new "Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas, 2021", recognises the importance and potential of eco-tourism and aims to promote it sustainably'. There has been disconnect between National laws and policies on the question of legality of ecotourism as a mainstream activity. The State Government may like to take up the matter with GoI for more clarity on the issue.

Himachal Pradesh has been one of the pioneer State to formulate ecotourism policy and further implement it. While it captures many key areas, it is important to further revise and

update it to further enhance community participation for community-based ecotourism development, delve into efficient waste management and provision of infrastructure, strong relationships between Forest officials, industry and local community, and high focus on biodiversity conservation, ecotourism education and sustainability.

2.3 Ecotourism best practices

As discussed in the previous section, there has been a progressive shift in legal and policy framework governing tourism that has led to inclusion of 'sustainability' as a core element of tourism development thus with higher emphasis on ecotourism and that is evident with the launch of MoEFCC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021'.

In this section, a few international, national and local (Himachal Pradesh) including examples of similar bio-geographical level ecotourism best practices have been captured to understand their key elements, challenges faced if any and the resolution to those challenges, key outcomes and the learnings for ecotourism development.

The best practices presented over here address different aspects such as community-based ecotourism, community participation, eco-development, use of organic and local material, building upon local crafts, culture and arts etc. that can be important learnings for the State.

These best practices are:

Exhibit 2.5: List of Best Practice with their focus areas

SN	Best Practice
1	Green Supply Chains, Ljubljana, Slovenia
2	Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, Mali
3	Eco-Village, Las Terrazas Complex, Cuba
4	Crosswaters Ecolodge, Guangzhou, China
5	Maati: A Women Collective Case Study
6	Global Himalayan Expedition
7	Ecosphere, Spiti
8	Pangi Hills (CEVA)
9	Biodiversity Community & Tourism Advancement (BTCA) – Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP)
10	SRISHTI Cooperative Limited (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative)
11	She HAAT Concept
12	Heritage village – Har Gaon ki Kahani

The details of the best practices with their brief, challenges and its redressal, outcomes achieved, and key learnings and takeaways are presented as follows:

2.3.1 Best Ecotourism Practice 1: Green Supply Chains, Ljubljana, Slovenia

A. Project brief:

Through its Green Supply Chains project, Slovenia's capital Ljubljana has successfully linked the tourism sector with local agriculture, in order to bolster sustainable economic growth and create new opportunities for local farmers. A Locally Grown Food Exchange is held twice a year as part of this project.

B. Challenges and Redressal

As Slovenia's capital city, Ljubljana, prepared to assume the title of European Green Capital 2016, a study among local hoteliers and restaurants revealed that two main obstacles prevented them from purchasing locally produced goods – price and complexity.

- In order to resolve these issues, the Green Supply Chains project was launched in 2015. It aimed to increase the percentage of locally produced food and drinks available in hotels and restaurants in and around Ljubljana by offering these stakeholders the possibility of

purchasing 100% locally produced foods and drinks via a uniquely managed, centralized and easy-to-use online system. The effect has been to connect the city's green hinterland, in which more than 800 farms supply the capital with their produce, with tourism providers in the city itself.

- The Green Supply Chains project was initiated by Ljubljana Tourism, in collaboration with the Institute Factory of Sustainable Tourism, the NGO GoodPlace, Rural Development Municipal Department and the Jarina Rural Development Cooperative.

Exhibit 2.6: Strelec restaurant in Ljubljana castle serving locally produced goods (L)



Locally Grown Food Exchange market (R) Photo credit: Nea Cupla, Ljubljana Tourism Photo Library

- The main challenges encountered during the development of the project were addressed through innovative solutions. These include the following:
 - Developing a simple, yet effective, solution which both hotels/ restaurants and farmers would be interested in participating was achieved by engaging a local cooperative. The entity served as a link between the tourism sector and farmers throughout the process of creating an easy-to-use online platform that follows a 'one-stop shop' principle.
 - Establishing a system of prices acceptable to both parties relied on a process of negotiation. Since prices are negotiated on behalf of several clients, and thus larger quantities are purchased, both parties get a better deal than when acting alone;
 - Ensuring sufficient quality and quantity of locally produced goods required the cooperative to act as an intermediary which is in charge of quality control;
 - In order to include as many local farmers as possible, workshops were organized to attract farmers to the project. A 'zero km' philosophy was championed by positioning local farmers higher up on the platform than farmers who reside further away; and
- Initial analysis of the tourism sector's need for locally produced food revealed that price was a concern. Although many stakeholders wished to increase the percentage of local produce they purchased, they believed this would be too expensive and too complicated in terms of negotiating prices and quantities with individual farmers. The project successfully developed a system that addressed this issue by simplifying this procedure. As such, it has benefitted local farmers – who are now able to sell their produce locally to clients who were difficult to access earlier – as well as hotels and restaurants alongside visitors to Ljubljana. The former has improved the quality of their tourism offer while enabling visitors to enjoy healthier, fresher food and drinks that are responsibly sourced.

C. Outcome achieved:

- When the project began, there was limited spread of the initiative. Subsequently, by 2017, the initiative had spread to the entire region of central Slovenia, linking Ljubljana and 25 other municipalities. The project enabled tourism sector stakeholders – specifically hotels and restaurants – to easily access local farmers, and vice versa, via a Rural Development Cooperative which acts as a linkage between suppliers and buyers. Seasonal offers are available online (see: <http://www.jarina.si/>) at prices negotiated by the Cooperative on behalf of its members. This site enables members to submit their daily/weekly orders. Goods are then delivered to their doorsteps.
- The Green Supply Chains project raised awareness among Slovenia's tourism industry of the importance of serving local food and drinks in urban destinations, such as Ljubljana. The

project is used by the Consortium Slovenia Green as a good practice example to follow in other destinations that aim to increase the percentage of locally produced goods on offer for visitors.

- Since 2018, as part of this project, the Ljubljana Tourism has been organising the Locally Grown Food Exchange, which brings together local food producers with restaurateurs and hoteliers, representatives of primary schools and nurseries, and representatives of other public institutions in the Ljubljana Urban Region.
- **Awards:** The project has received several major awards, to name a few: the Premik Naprej 2018 award for biggest improvement in the public sector, and an international award for best sustainable practice in the cities category from Green Destinations, awarded at ITB Berlin. At the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, it received the International Travel and Tourism Award (ITTA) in the category Best Food Destination. In 2018, Ljubljana Tourism won the Moving Forward award for the Locally Grown Food Exchange.

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:

1. Sustainable economic growth

Agriculture is an important economic sector in the tourism value chain. While local food is perceived as healthier, fresher and with a higher nutritional value, price often remains a deciding factor for the tourism industry when purchasing food and drinks. This project diverted cash flow from multi-national companies – which had been selling imported food to hotels and restaurants – towards local farmers. This move has brought economic benefits to local communities while improving the quality of Ljubljana's tourism offer.

2. Social inclusiveness, employment, and poverty reduction

Tourists increasingly seek authentic experiences in which they can immerse themselves. Visiting farmers who participate in the project can be one such experience. Once farms become part of the organized tourism offer, they will invite tourists to visit their farms, as well as to participate in local daily routines. Payments for such unique experiences will bring additional income to local communities, while bolstering employment opportunities.

3. Resource efficiency, environmental protection, and climate change

By shortening the transport route from producers to consumers, while supporting the 'zero km' philosophy, the project has reduced tourism's impact on the environment. Daily deliveries enable goods to be purchased in line with current needs, thereby reducing wastage.

4. Key Takeaway for Himachal Pradesh

The Green Supply Chain can serve as a success story for local communities and businesses in Himachal Pradesh to adopt the 'zero km' philosophy in a proactive manner.

Source: Ljubljana Tourism Website; Tourism for Development, Volume II: Good Practices (UNWTO)

2.3.2 Best Ecotourism Practice 2: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, Mali

A. Project brief:

- Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, demonstrates how rural women can benefit by becoming integrated into the tourism value chain as entrepreneurs in handicrafts, farming and the supply of produce.
- The region of Mopti in Mali boasts two prominent tourism destinations – Djenné, a flooding area, and Sangha, a non-flooding area. Women in Mali were highly engaged in the production of handicrafts, hotel services, restaurants, the supply of produce and product processing. In Mopti, many small camps, restaurants and eateries are run by women.
- Women also dominated several branches of handicrafts – including jewellery making, pottery and the dyeing of traditional fabrics – as well as agricultural and processing activities like vegetable growing and the production of natural jams and fruit juices from local produce.

B. Challenges and Redressal:

- The project encountered challenges in terms of delayed implementation, largely linked to a lack of security in the Sahelo-Saharan band as well as the effects of Mali's institutional crisis of 2012. Nonetheless, the proactive involvement of all stakeholders enabled the project's activities to be fully implemented. All major activities outlined in the project's master plan and mid-term action plan were carried out. Thus, despite delays in its implementation caused by external factors, the project proved a complete success in terms of its achievement. Stakeholders and beneficiaries also expressed the desire to extend the project to other tourism sites in Mali.
- The project by UNWTO's Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty Initiative (ST-EP) worked to support women entrepreneurs in the Mopti region, enabling them to become integrated into the tourism value chain and related local supply chains. Targeting community groups and vulnerable women in region's leading tourism destinations, the project structured, organized and reinforced several women's associations and cooperatives.

C. Outcome achieved:

- The project enabled rural women – among the poorest segments of Mali's population – to increase their incomes. The cross-cutting nature of tourism also made it possible to develop and promote the sector, while enabling other related sectors to also benefit from the economic and financial spill-over effects of tourism. Further, results achieved include the fact that several women entrepreneurs were trained, including over 1,000 Sangha women produce suppliers, 80 women in the processing industry and 64 women artisans in Djenné.
- Significantly, professional relations were also forged among actors in the tourism value chain. Communes in Mopti, Sangha and Djenné benefitted from the overall positive effects – economic, social and cultural – of the ST-EP project. Community members specifically benefitted from capacity building efforts and support for investments for local women.
- In December 2020, under a separate program signed between UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), more than 5000 members of the local community benefited from the Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) Mali program. Around 700 women benefited from trainings in the administrative and financial management of projects and companies, in production techniques, in the conservation and drying of market garden and sea products, in gender pleading to better approach local authorities and financial institutions, in inventory management, in digital tools, in banking.

Exhibit 2.7: Women selling their produce at a local market in Mopti, Mali

Photo credit: Malian Office of Tourism and Hospitality (OMATHO-Mopti) (L).
Landscape of Mali and location on the Map of Africa (R)

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:**1. Sustainable economic growth**

The project has promoted the economic growth of groups of women producers in Mali's Mopti region by integrating them into tourism supply chains and thereby increasing their incomes.

2. Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction

The initiative promoted the inclusion of a large number of women, both in the economic process and in the development of tourism value chains related to handicrafts, Agro-food and product supply.

3. Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change

In the municipalities of Mopti and Sangha, beneficiary economic operators were trained in techniques for the protection of environmental resources. Key techniques included composting and soil regeneration.

4. Cultural values, diversity, and heritage

The ST-EP project targeted women in order to build their capacity through awareness raising and advocacy. It has enabled efforts to popularize cultural values, to develop the diversity of production and to safeguard Mopti's rich local cultural heritage.

5. Key Takeaway for Himachal Pradesh

Supporting women entrepreneurs in Himachal Pradesh through collaboration between the government authorities, NGOs, international organizations, local communities and tourism stakeholders can serve as the basis of successful poverty reduction initiatives grounded in sustainable tourism.

Source: *Tourism for Development, Volume II: Good Practices (UNWTO)*

2.3.3 Best Ecotourism Practice 3: Eco-Village, Las Terrazas Complex, Cuba**A. Project brief:**

- The pioneering eco-village of Las Terrazas in the UNESCO biosphere reserve of the Sierra del Rosario – the first tourism-based sustainable development project in Cuba – demonstrated how an independent community, with the government's support, could maintain its economy in the long-term through sustainable tourism.
- Cuba's Las Terrazas Complex spans 5,000 ha in the eastern reaches of the Sierra del Rosario UNESCO biosphere reserve, in the Candelaria municipality of the province of Artemisa. The area is traversed by several rivers, including the San Juan and Bayate rivers, and boasts natural pools of fresh, crystalline water. The Complex consists of the colonial-style Hotel Moka, the Casa del Lago, located on the shore of Lake San Juan and the Ecological Research Centre, responsible for overseeing the well-being of forest ecosystems. The local community's rich cultural life is showcased to visitors through workshops that specialize in painting, serigraphy (screen printing), ceramics, woodwork and plant fibres.

- The Las Terrazas Complex was created in 1994 as a first tourism-based sustainable rural development project, giving continuity to the country's Integral Development Plan, initiated in 1968. The Complex aimed to rehabilitate and preserve the area's environmental integrity through the reforestation of terraces, while achieving a balance between the local population and the environment.
- Since the founding of the Las Terrazas community, tourism has been their main source of livelihood through the Las Terrazas Complex. It is considered Cuba's first eco-museum, serving as a national and international reference point. It strives not only to incorporate tourism as an economic facilitator, but also to ensure social and environmental sustainability through responsible tourism.

B. Challenges and Redressal:

- Despite challenges – such as an initial lack of qualified staff, Las Terrazas Complex is an example of successful sustainable development and territorial planning of the rural environment, which contributes to environmental sustainability in Cuba. Its experience demonstrates that projects require the democratic approval of the community. Social work is essential in this regard, enabling initiatives to evaluate the community's needs and aspirations, to respect local traditions and to promote these assets with the advice of specialists. It is essential that community members see the benefits and results of tourism management. Therefore, the Complex holds public hearings with villagers and undertakes activities for children and youth, such as circles of interest and educational talks that offer advice on different topics.
- The project has emphasized a sense of collective belonging by incorporating residents' participation in all major decisions. Locals are represented through a group of neighbours and a Community Development Directorate, in order to reconcile tourism interests with those of the community. Sustaining such a sense of belonging and collectivism remains a difficult task – as local income increases, individualism tends to take hold. Economic improvement means a labour shortage in terms of lower-paid jobs. Thus, labour must be imported to maintain a balance.

C. Outcome achieved:

- The Las Terrazas Complex created over 250 new jobs and managed to consolidate the surrounding area as a tourism destination. By achieving sustained income growth, it has raised the local community's standard of living and purchasing power. The number of visitors has risen to 132,000 (largely from Germany, the United Kingdom and France).
- The initiative demonstrated that the sustainable management of a rural community's local resources can prosper as an indigenous tourism product, benefiting the local area while providing quality services which are in high demand by the tourism sector. Moreover, the Complex is the first sustainable rural development experience in Cuba, showcasing how an independent community, with the political support of government institutions, can maintain its economy, benefit its inhabitants and contribute to society at large through local development.

Exhibit 2.8: View of the Eco-village at Las Terrazas Complex (L). External view of the Rusitc Cabins (R)



Photo: Tourism for Development, Volume II: Good Practices (UNWTO)

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:**1. Sustainable economic growth**

The income of Las Terrazas Complex steadily increased over the years. In 1994, revenues totalled approximately USD 38,000, rising to USD 1 million the following year. After 10 years, revenues reached USD 4 million and after 20 years, USD 6 million. In 2016, the Complex generated USD 13 million in tourism income, retaining 16% in the form of profits.

2. Social inclusiveness, employment, and poverty reduction

61% of the Complex's employees are members of the local community. The community also benefited both directly and indirectly from tourism activity through services, education and culture.

3. Resource efficiency, environmental protection, and climate change

16% of the revenues generated were reinvested, with a significant portion earmarked for the maintenance of infrastructure and environmental conservation including reforestation, landscaping, biodiversity management, investments in the use of renewable energy, organic agriculture and other initiatives.

4. Cultural values, diversity, and heritage

The Complex includes diverse cultural heritage assets. These include historical sites – for instance, the ruins of French coffee plantation, Cimarron settlements. and sites from the War of Independence. It also encompasses socio-cultural heritage assets like traditional music, art, local crafts, traditional cuisine and oral tradition; natural assets spanning a plethora of flora, fauna, bodies of water, natural pools and landscapes; and the first eco-museum dedicated to preserving ecosystems and community values.

5. Mutual understanding, peace, and security

Collaboration between all actors and managers involved in the project was vital. Mutual understanding between people, institutions and the government was essential for the development and success of the project.

6. Key Takeaway for Himachal Pradesh

Ecotourism development in alignment with the above principles can be applied in context to Himachal Pradesh to promote community-based tourism.

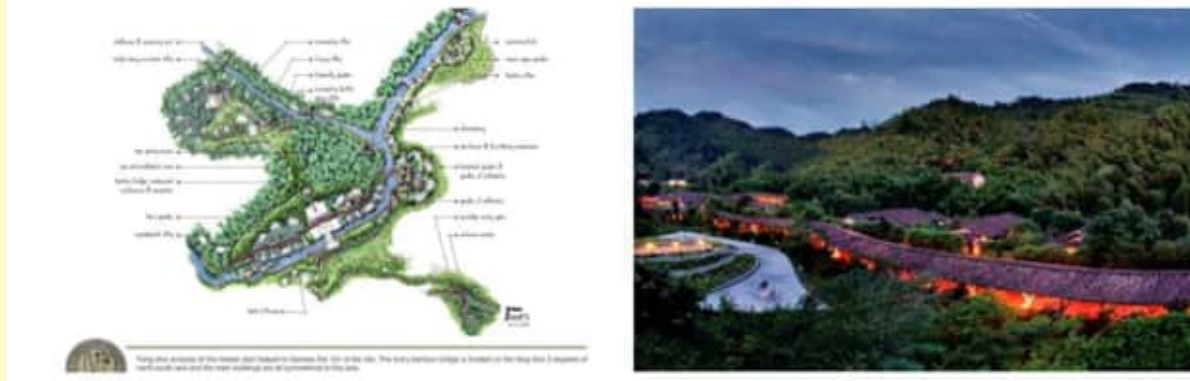
Source: *Tourism for Development, Volume II: Good Practices (UNWTO)*

2.3.4 Best Ecotourism Practice 4: Crosswaters Ecolodge, Guangzhou, China**A. Project brief:**

The aim for Crosswaters Ecolodge, located 80 miles away from the bustling international city of Guangzhou, was to become the first ecolodge in China. The ecolodge is located in a forest reserve covering 260 km² and is the home to more than 5,000 Keija population (ethnic group of China), 30 km² of bamboo, and 1,300 plant species. This ecolodge is the first project in a 10-year ecotourism development plan in Nankun Mountain reserve.

B. Challenges and Redressal:

During the planning stage, the design team of the lodge conducted extensive observations and research to ensure the buildings had minimal negative impact on the environment and surrounding communities. The project featured extensive use of bamboo, a sustainable building material that grows rapidly, and is the main native plant in the region.

Exhibit 2.9: Overview Map of Crosswaters ecolodge (L) and a Panoramic view of the facility (R)**C. Outcome achieved:**

The Crosswaters Ecolodge has provided an excellent example of sustainable buildings/gardens and ecotourism. At the time of construction, it was the largest bamboo built commercial project. In 2010, the planner of Crosswaters Ecolodge, EDSA Inc., received the honour Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) for its sustainable design and thorough consideration of all natural and social environments of the surroundings in building the ecolodge. The multi-award Crosswaters Ecolodge was the result of an international collaboration between consultants from 5 continents with Hitesh Mehta being the Team Planning and Design leader.

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:**1. Conservation:** Planning the lodge with harmony to surrounding in mind

- Conducted three different types of research: social, environmental, and metaphysical analysis in the spring, summer, and winter to observe changes in temperature and natural environment.
- Combined input from an international team of bamboo experts, horticulturists, and ecologists from industry and academia.
- Analysed the relationships between drainage, current agriculture activities, waters levels, and surrounding industries to ensure natural elements are undisturbed.
- Surveyed site with GIS and 3D analysis to find optimum construction location in relation to natural landscape.
- Consulted with local “Feng Shui” master for metaphysical analysis of the project site and the “Chi” of the area.
- Constructing lodge with sustainable and green building materials.
- Constructed extensively with local bamboo and other building materials from area such as clay tiles, marbles, and river rocks to minimize carbon emission.
- Used recycled materials (tiles, railway ties) in construction process for sustainability.
- Built the lodge with earth-rammed walls made locally by Keija people for authenticity to area and environmental purposes.
- Furnished rooms with local bamboo products (sheets, towels, furniture, etc.).
- Introduced zero exotic plant species in the construction of the seven gardens at the lodge to protect integrity of local plants.
- Harvested bamboo used in construction at a sustainable rate to ensure balance between growth and usage.

2. Community: Consulting and working with local Keija community

- Held community meetings prior to start of the project to assess project impact and seek opinion from villages.
- Worked with village leaders and council members in a democratic process for design approvals.
- Applied input from locals and traditional design elements in the landscape architectural design.
- Used traditional construction methods taught by local Keija minority group.

- Hired local artists to sketch designs and create scaled models with materials on-site.

3. Commerce

- Providing local commercial opportunities at all stages of development
- Hired locals to help plan and design the project.
- Recruited Keija workers in construction of the ecolodge using traditional building methods.
- Sourced furniture, linen, etc. from local industries made with local materials.
- Drew investments for other developments in the surrounding areas leading to more commercial opportunities.
- Maximized purchase of locally produced foods to supply the ecolodge.

4. For Himachal Pradesh

Essential principles implemented in the planning and design of the ecolodge can be replicated in context to Himachal Pradesh with focus on conservation, community participation and commerce.

Source: HM Design

2.3.5 Best Ecotourism Practice 5: Maati: A Women Collective Case Study

A. Project brief:

Located in a region called Munsiri (2200m) in Gori valley of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, across from the west face of the Panchachuli mountain range in the Greater Himalaya, is a women's collective called Maati Sangathan. Maati (a Hindi term for 'earth') is an autonomous women's collective of mountain farmers, weavers, milk producers, vegetable vendors and self-employed entrepreneurs. Maati as a name is a symbol for what is one of their primary areas of concern – the soil itself, which conserves their water and from which they grow their food.

Maati as a Sangathan (collective) goes much beyond meeting the basic needs of survival or management of commons. Its origins and evolution owe much to the patriarchal society and limiting participative options for women in key societal issues. Maati began with just two women – Malika Viridi of Sarmoli village and Basanti Rawat of Shankhadhura; after an especially vexing incident of violence against a woman in a nearby village.

Exhibit 2.10 Women working in Maati (L) and their products (R)



B. Key Initiatives

Ecological Security

The collective started with key interventions in ecological security promoting plantation of 'Rhododendron' & 'Oaks' for good grade leaf litter. Also, these litters when mixed with cow dung and urine forms excellent organic fertiliser. In addition, there is a body of literature⁸, both oral and scientific, that suggests that an oak ecosystem is generally favourable for stopping water runoff, keeping moisture within the system and supporting a larger diversity of floral and faunal species.

The collective empowered women for being an equal holder of 'common' forest and natural resource rights. Women of the collective were made guards of the local forest for ensuring direct participation

⁸ Thadani, R. & Singh, S.P. (2006). The Impact of Indigenous People on the Oak-Pine Forests of the Central Himalaya, In Vogt, K.A. (Ed.), Forests and Society: Sustainability and Life Cycles of Forests in Human Landscapes (pp. 48). CABI.

of women in 'common collective' issues. Beyond their own forest commons, Maati has also been active in the Munsiri Van Panchayat Sangathan and has been part of groups that have effectively questioned state led models of development like the planned 8 large, 10 medium and 10 smaller hydropower projects that were/are being proposed for the 100 km stretch of the Gori River.

Food Security

Maati created women self-help group (SHG) for collecting, procuring and sharing of seeds is done within these groups and that helps with revitalizing traditional agricultural knowledge systems of maintaining productivity and controlling pests. After self-consumption, the surplus of food is marketed in local markets and to the local tourism industry. For this, Maati also holds an event called a 'haat' twice a month where members can sell their produce locally or to tourists. Maati's haat sells solar-baked cakes and biscuits.

Those with marginal land holdings are encouraged experimenting with floriculture as the altitude is favourable to growing beautiful flowering plants - both local and exotic varieties.

Maati has experimented with the concept of slow food – a concept intrinsic to many traditional lifestyles, and now growing popular in the west – that attempts to replace pre-packaged industrial foods with local and fresh traditional food. It is yet to gain the traction as anticipated; however, it provides immense opportunity for the women to provide 'unique experience' for the tourism visiting the area.

Livelihood Diversification

Maati organizes women in their capacity as primary producers and provides marketing to obtain better and more consistent prices for their produce. Their produce ranges from wool products (obtained from local sheep) such as sweaters, caps, scarves and blankets, tailoring services such as school uniforms, spices, herbs and other agricultural produce. Raw material is sourced locally from 50 women in about 12 villages.

For all other purposes the groups are informal, but they have been given SHG status to avail various subsidies available from the government. So, the wool-work unit is called **Oonchan**, tailoring services is **Maati ke Rang**, spices and herbs become **Maati ki Mehak** and agriculture produce **Maati ka Gunn**. Products related to food are sold mostly in local markets (though available to visitors), whereas wool-work is mostly marketed to visiting tourists.

Maati's Homestay Program

The homestay program has become a considerable source of earning for the participating villagers since the village is located on a scenic visitation route. It is a free-standing enterprise of the collective completely managed by the women of the community.

Tariffs amount to INR. 800/- to 1000/- per person per night which is comparable or cheaper than what is charged by hotels in the Munsiri town area. Of the amount charged, 1% goes toward a conservation fund administered by Maati, 4% goes as savings for future home improvements and 20% toward managing the entire operation.

Within Maati, the arrangement for homestays is informal; in that the members don't get guests in a regular periodic cycle. Instead, depending on how well one is doing at a certain point of the year in terms of finances, one may give one's chance away to another who might be in need for money more than the other.

Financial Model

Maati relies on donations from a body of supporters who contribute in small cash donations. Each member of the collective has an equal responsibility for obtaining donations. As yet, they receive donations from about 150 people – ranging from community members, kin and friends – and that amounts to 80-85000 rupees per year. In addition to the donation, a nominal fellowship from SRUTI (Society for Rural Urban & Tribal Initiative) (approximately 17000) is split as honoraria among core members of the group.

C. Outcomes:

An evolution of women collective, owned, operated and maintained by women. Maati portrays success story of women from Munsiri being able to command socio-economic equitable access to

finance and livelihood. Ecotourism, especially the 'Homestay' has been key component in escalation of alternate means of livelihood.

D. Key Learnings:

Maati's case study is exemplary for the state like Himachal Pradesh which is similar biogeographically. The evolution of women collective to a registered community-based organisation diversifying its interventions through 'Homestay' is significant. It illustrates a way, women can be involved, empowered and made co-owner of ecotourism development of a destination.

2.3.6 Best Ecotourism Practice 6: Global Himalayan Expedition

A. Project brief:

Global Himalayan Expedition, now a community-based organisation, started its journey as an organisation with an intent to provide clean energy access, digital education and livelihood access through solar power for the remote off-grid regions such as Ladakh. The Ladakh region lies in the midst of the KuenLun mountain range of the great Himalayas and is part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir where, temperatures can plummet as low as -30 degrees Celsius and snow engulfed highways hinder access to the region for more than half of the calendar year, resulting in villages lack of basic infrastructure, namely transportation, education, communication pathways, and medical facilities.

Exhibit 2.11 GHE team at work (L) Village children using computers setup by GHE (R)



B. Interventions

GHE addressed this problem by introducing an innovative concept of merging tourism, technology and impact called 'Impact Tourism'. GHE conducts impact expeditions to remote corners of the Himalayas, where along with the adventure, the participants get to work on local issues while connecting with the indigenous population. Energy access intervention acted as a tool for further development and growth in these remote areas and has led to an increase in income and livelihood creation.

Once these Himalayan villages were electrified, GHE created village homestays in these solar electrified villages to promote impact and cultural tourism. These electrified villages offer unique off beat destinations for trekkers and tourists. Past seven years, GHE has electrified 85 villages in Himalayas, impacted 35,000 lives of the indigenous communities and mitigated over 900 tons of CO₂ from the environment. GHE also been able to provide income generation worth \$44,000 across 30 villages through homestays they have setup.

C. Key Takeaway

The case study of GHE offers an innovative solution to address energy and equity access by clubbing tourism. The impact that follows is two folds; primarily indigenous community gets access to resources and alternate means of livelihood; it also leaves tourists with unique experience.

The case is uniquely pertinent for the region of Lahaul-Spiti, which is part of Greater Ladakh region, an initiative like this will preserve socio-cultural and environmental offerings of the destination.

Source: <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/2020/04/24/solution11336/>

2.3.7 Best Ecotourism Practice 7: Ecosphere, Spiti

A. Project Brief:

Ecosphere began its projects when the concept of homestays, and the revenue potential it had to generate, was alien to most. Founded by Ishita Khanna, the growth of Ecosphere is therefore a unique reflection of the past. Today, Ecosphere has evolved as an organisation pioneering initiatives in Spiti Valley that promotes responsible and sustainable ecotourism with an approach that simultaneously tackles economic empowerment, conservation and sustainable development.

B. Challenges and Redressal

It was in 2004 that Ecosphere began its tourism initiatives. At that time, Himalayan Homestays in Ladakh was working on this concept in Sikkim, Spiti and Ladakh. Ishita then made the logical move of a joint programme. Until then, travellers visited through package tours organized by private organisations. Local communities, therefore, were neither participants nor beneficiaries. Popularising the idea was a challenge as local operators such as travel agents and hotels seemed not too keen. For them it meant, cut in their revenue. However, through word-of-mouth and media attention, Ecosphere's services reached more people.

C. Key Elements:

Community-centric interventions by Ecosphere

Ishita's initiatives (through her former NGO, Muse) began by introducing 'Sea buckthorn', a shrub that grows widely in the semi-arid climate of the valley in the five villages as a pilot. While the government of Himachal Pradesh had already begun assessing its commercial value, piloting and marketing of this idea soon caught the State government's attention. The processing plants have now been handed over to the locals who run all operations. What was considered a weed, and almost eradicated for it, now generates revenue under the brand 'Tsering'.

Ecosphere introduced artificial glaciers and check-dams in the region for maintaining the water table and facilitation irrigation. In order to adapt the climate vulnerability of the valley and make communities climate resilient, Ecosphere with the help of its trained volunteers mapped hydrology of the region and built 10 check-dams with the help of volunteers and villagers. These check-dams slows the water just enough to freeze which then melts on the onset of spring.

Ecosphere has also introduced greenhouses in some villages where different types of crops can be grown throughout the year, which would otherwise be impossible in Spiti's climate.

Another source of revenue for the local community which had remained untapped was traditional crafts, most of which were dying. Yak wool spinning and pottery were among them. Ecosphere worked with families that had retained traditional knowledge and trained them by strengthening traditional practices and introducing modern techniques.

Interestingly, it is significant to note that in various interventions of Ecosphere lies its 'self-sustaining financial' model. They started with crafting and pricing specific travel programmes, each of which could provide a unique experience of Spiti; and the revenue generated was poured back into their projects. Today, about 75 percent of the revenue is reaped by the local communities and the rest is directed towards their conservation initiatives and newer projects and experiments.

D. Outcomes:

Out of the 66 villages in Spiti, Ecosphere has covered 80 percent and has been able to introduce, some if not all its projects in all the villages.

E. Key Learnings:

The case study of Ecosphere remains a reckoner for remote and indigenous areas of the Himachal Pradesh such as Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba and Kinnaur. Local communities residing in these areas, with the help of training and capacity building, can be integrated in the broader livelihood benefit areas of ecotourism value chain.

Source: <https://yourstory.com/2018/01/ecosphere-spiti-ishita-khanna/amp>

2.3.8 Best Ecotourism Practice 8: Pangti Hill (CEVA)

A. Project Brief:

CEVA (Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action)⁹ is NGO working for the indigenous communities of Western Himalayas at grass root level with mission to provide a life of dignity and equality to the people living in one of the remote and toughest terrain and support them in food security, women empowerment, and livelihood generation through sustainable use of natural resources. Communities inhabiting the region were engaged in subsistence agriculture and pastoralism¹⁰.

B. Challenges and Redressal

Pangti hills, located in district Chamba, has a rugged topography and remains inaccessible for around 6 months from rest of the world during the winter. The region has inadequate access to basic amenities, economic hardships, and illiteracy, restrictive traditional practices, lack of livelihood, increased pressure on natural resources are some of the challenges which communities are facing. As a result of these development inequalities, local people were involved in ruthless felling of trees. This resulted in losing many plants and herbs carrying ethno-medicinal value.

Before the CEVA's intervention in the region, women were totally depended upon forest-based products for their needs. There were no livelihood opportunities and increasing pressure on forests for food, fodder and fuel wood. CEVA has encouraged organic farming and promoted horticulture practices such as cultivation of organic cash crops which helped creation of livelihood options and reduced pressure on depleting forest cover. CEVA's strategic intervention involved by empowering indigenous community especially women in income generating activities like traditional handloom weaving, handicrafts, packaging, grading, sorting of local forest based or organic produce. The collective formulated women SHGs which now independently sell these products. With the support from CEVA in branding and marketing, the community also sells some of its product online under the brand name 'Pangti Hills'. CEVA also promotes 'Tribal tourism' in the Pangti Valley to generate livelihoods within the region.

C. Key Interventions

- Established 'Pangti Hills' Tribal mart , a platform for around 15,000 tribal farmer, women, artisans, weavers which is transforming community people in to successful entrepreneurs especially tribal women.
- Promotes around 75 indigenous products viz. herbs, hazelnut, walnut, morels, black cumin, etc., their sustainable use and value addition.
- Facilitates grading, sorting, packaging of ethically sourced forest based and organic produce to generate income.
- Builds capacity, imparts training to the farmers for market linkage without the involvement of middlemen are provided.
- Facilitates participation of indigenous women by making them participate in fairs and exhibitions.
- Encourages organic farming in maintaining ecological balance and restoration of depleting natural resources.
- Promotes 'Tribal tourism' in the Pangti Valley to generate livelihoods within the region.
- Imparts training and awareness for 'financial inclusion' through Nukkad nataks, dramas and skits in local dialect, flipcharts and colourful and pictorial financial diaries.

D. Key Learnings

The case study of CEVA at Pangti, Himachal Pradesh is one of success stories from the state having a potential to become a replicable model at other regions of Himachal Pradesh where communities have been not involved in ecotourism planning and development. It will be important for the HPECOSOC and the forest department to delve deeper into some of these case studies in order to successfully establish community-led ecotourism model at other potential ecotourism sites.

Source: <https://cevahimalayan.org/>

⁹ <https://cevahimalayan.org/>

¹⁰ <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/2020/04/24/solution11061/>

2.3.9 Best Ecotourism Practice 9: Biodiversity Community and Tourism Advancement (BTCA)

A. Project Brief:

Biodiversity Tourism Community Advancement (BTCA) registered as a non-profit, was set up in 2000 by the Park Administration of Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) to address the economic needs of 2,400 poor households living in the Park's Buffer Zone. GHNP supports a unique biota of many distinct altitude-sensitive ecosystems and is home to a number of IUCN listed species. BTCA works with 70 Women's Saving and Credit Groups (WSCG) to generate alternate livelihoods - such as vermicomposting, apricot oil production, ecotourism, handicraft skills and organic farming - to reduce pressure on the alpine meadows and other ecosystems in the park.

B. Challenges and Redressal:

Bans on livestock grazing and NTFP (Non timber forest product) collection had increased density of rare herbs and herbivores such as ghoral, Himalayan tahr, musk deer and blue sheep along with pheasants. However this had put additional pressure on the population surrounding the park as their traditional source of revenue was banned. BTCA organized the population particularly women for alternative income generation activities. Through these activities, the WSCGs earn more than fifteen lakh rupees annually, which to some extent compensates for the loss to the villagers due to the creation of the Park. BTCA is now working on second generation issues of linking local produce to external markets and establishing sustainable eco-tourism in the area. The joint effort has empowered the community socially, economically and intellectually.

Exhibit 2.12: Women working in BTCA (L) and their products (R)



The main challenges encountered during the development of the project were addressed through innovative solutions. These include the following:

Women's Saving and Credit Groups

Women's Saving and Credit Groups (WSCGs) are institutions that strive to promote equitable access to natural resources within the ecozone, as well as social and environmental justice, and gender sensitivity. They provide both poor women and men with the opportunity to make their own choices about income generation activity, and to raise their voices regarding GHNP planning.

GHNP's management has assisted local WSCGs in forming Biodiversity and Tourism Community Advancement (BTCA), an NGO that facilitates asset building, rationalises the use of natural resources, helps with socio-economic development and fundraising, and provides market support – all with the aim of reducing dependency on the park's resources.

Pickle, Jam and Juice Making

Each group has been given training on jam & juice production. Women use Rhododendron flowers for juice making and use fruits jam making.

Saving and Lending in Groups for Production Purposes

WSCG started with savings of one rupee each per day or (Rs. 30/ month into joint account. Woman gives inter loaning for the income generation, they give loan for other purpose like as medical purpose, domestic use, especially loan for income generation activities etc

Organic Farming

Farming with vermicompost eliminates the need for artificial fertilisers and pesticides. Surplus vermicompost is used in fields by WSCGs, and long-term use is expected to produce top-quality cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Conservation and Propagation of Medicinal Herbs

The recent growth in demand for medicinal herbs has resulted in over-exploitation of many high-value Himalayan species. The aim of this scheme is to:

- Regulate and monitor herb collection.
- Register authorised herb collectors within the ecozone.
- Support collective marketing of herbs and other income-generating activities.
- Provide training on sustainable harvest regimes.
- Link the cultivation of medicinal plants with vermicompost production.

Community-Based Ecotourism

Some of the WSCGs male members now belong to an ecotourism group, which provides wage labour to porters, cooks and guides.

Apricot Seed Oil Extraction

Traditionally, seed fruits such as hill apricots have been grown on private land in the ecozone, and local traders have bought the seeds for oil production at very low prices. The WSCGs have now set up their own oil extraction enterprises, thus producing a saleable commodity.

Craftwork and Souvenirs

Hemp fibre has traditionally been used by villagers for local requirements. WSCGs now also make crafts and souvenirs from the material, which are sold in shops and at local fairs and exhibitions. 15 selected groups were given training for handloom, like shawl & pattu making. Also, women of the group knit socks, globes etc for winter sales.

Wage Employment

GHNP works with the ecozone's WSGCs to provide employment in medicinal plant nurseries, and construction and repair work within the park.

C. Outcome achieved:

By Involving the local community in a sustainable manner, the Park Authorities were able to bring about a change in the relationship between the natural resource base including the Park and the immediate and long-term livelihood needs of the local communities from the present open access arrangement to an increasingly participatory mode of joint management involving all stakeholders. That is when conservation through sustainable use rather than exploitation will begin to "pay".

Training Inputs on all the above aspects of working with WSCGs suggest that funds are needed for very specific activities. Most of such activities are related to developing skills among the local people, such as how to relate to the local communities, how to organize people in small, homogenous user groups (such as WSCGs, herb collectors, ecotourism activities, etc.), how to communicate within the groups and between groups, how to make sustainable use of locally available natural resources (very low cost income generation activities), how to monitor a Group activities over time, how to take advantage of microcredit for biodiversity conservation, how to do record keeping for savings, and credit amounts, how to do marketing, and ultimately, how to become a good Group Organizer, etc. Various training programmes have been arranged for the Group Organisers to build their capacity to work among the poor women. All the Group Organizers of BTCA meet on 7th and 22nd of each month and undergo a short training programme as per needs. These trainings include subjects such as accounts, communication skills and allied subjects. Each WSCG has one animator who needs to

keep record and accounts of a WSCG. For this purpose, two trainings were organized. The Park staff, in association with BTCA, and a resource person conducted two training for selected animators.

Awards: BTCA received the runners up award in the UNDP – Govt. of India Biodiversity Awards and have been in the forefront working with many groups.

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:

The interventions were expected to contribute significantly through WSCGs to the livelihoods of the rural poor in a participatory mode. Such an approach would necessitate that the WSCGs are strengthened, professional capacity of GHNP staff is built up, and institutional structures, procedures are established. At GHNP, the concept of WSCGs was new both to the field staff and the neighbouring communities. It is interesting to observe the influence of the interventions on the local communities, Park administration, and the donor agency.

- **Community Assumption:** It is an assumption that the dependencies of the local communities for their livelihoods on the biodiversity of the National Park (in form of herb collection, sheep grazing, etc.) will get reduced if they are provided with the alternative source of income. In Practice: Merely offering alternate income generation packages in form of medicinal plant propagation and other activities cannot reduce pressures on the Park.
- The economic development of the poor WSCGs need to be succeeded by such programmes which will improve their living conditions. To empower the poor women, it is important that they become socially strong and participate in the decision-making process at village level. Learning: i. It is important to organize the local poor people in small identifiable groups (about 20 individuals or so) that are of homogenous nature (such as Women's group, herb collectors' group, basket-makers group, and like). Later on the small groups can become part of a larger federation or a Community Based Organisation (CBO). ii. Past experience has shown that the size of the group/organization is linked directly to its performance and its efficacy. This facilitates holding of meetings with adequate quorum. The poor, the illiterate, possible to listen to their voice and concerns and include in action plans.
- Smaller groups tend to be more homogenous and therefore more cohesive. Well attended and more frequent meetings are easier to hold when the group is small and members (esp. women) do not have to cover long distances in difficult terrain to attend meetings. Thus, a smaller group is more sustainable.
- The WSCG have been constituted ward-wise. The microplanning done in a WSCG can be integrated at Panchayat level.
- Poor villagers participate in income generation programmes, which have very little investment, very low level of technological inputs and ready markets for the sale of produce, such as production of vermicompost in WSCGs which was readily bought by the park management. The WSCGs show a preference for such medicinal plants which fetch more incomes and easy to grow.
- The members of WSCGs see better in a diverse income generation activity. This provides them with more security.
- A WSCG through a microcredit scheme and income generation sources provides an opportunity for the poor women to participate in the natural resource management.
- Because it is their own savings that the women are loaning for 'production activities', the recovery of such small loans is almost 100%. At the same time, these women are getting away from the 'subsidy culture'.
- In long run, such WSCGs will be self-sustained and will contribute to the conservation of the biodiversity of the park. The economic upliftment through alternative income generation activities, social improvement through literacy, health care and other programmes, and sharing of political power at Panchayat level are indicators of the empowerment of the poor women at village level. women and SCs are the categories of the stakeholders who have the maximum stake in natural resource management and decisions connected with it.

2.3.10 Best Ecotourism Practice 10: SRISHTI Cooperative Limited (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative)

A. Project brief:

The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (A UNESCO World Heritage Site) is one of the most pristine mountain landscapes in the Western Himalayas. It is one of India's newest national parks, situated in a remote corner of the Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh. Amongst many valleys that Kullu has, the GHNP consists of the pristine parts of the Tirthan, Sainj, Jiwanal and Parvati valleys named after the four rivers that originate in the park. Spread in an area of over 754 square kilometres, the GHNP sits beside the Pin Valley National Park, Ruppi-Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary and the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, making it one of the biggest areas for wildlife conservation in the whole Himalayan range. This jewel in the crown of the Himalayas consists of luxuriant oak forests, flaming rhododendron trees, crystal clear sparkling rivers, jagged virgin peaks and some of the rarest of animals, birds & medicinal herbs found nowhere else in the whole world.

The GHNP is home to about 215 species of birds with pheasants like the Western Tragopan, Cheer, Monal, Koklash and Kaleej along with other birds like the white throated tit & the Lammergeyer. GHNP is home to the elusive snow leopard along with other mammals like the Himalayan brown & black bears, Common Leopard, blue sheep, musk and barking deer, ghoral, serrow & the omnipresent red fox. It's also a repository of rare medicinal herb like Jatamasi, Kadoo, Patish and the recently found Nag Chatri along with hundreds more which continue to be the main source of income for local population.

The pressures of ever-growing human population have left the landscape – even so-called 'national parks' – overgrazed, denuded of timber, devoid of wildlife. Ironically, in India, home to over a billion people, it is still possible to find vast virgin forests and endless fields of wildflowers and ranges of unnamed, unclimbed summits.

However conscious efforts are being made by park authorities to minimize human impact and provide alternative income generation methods to locals, such as ecotourism. The ecotourism programme continues developing a paradigm wherein local villagers actually benefit from having their ancestral lands turned into a wilderness preserve. Part of the plan is to train local youth in eco-tourism and trekking so that more resources become available to the locals than ever in the past while wild nature is preserved for posterity.

The youths belonging to the buffer zone of the national park have organized themselves in a form of a Cooperative Society called SRISHTI (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative). This society was formed in 2020 with the members belonging to 35 households of the Buffer Zone to dedicate to:

- Authentic Community Based Ecotourism Initiatives in and around the Great Himalayan National Park Area
- To develop tourism free from all monopolies and equity in tourism business
- To give preference to unemployed youths and poor households living in the buffer zone of the national park
- While developing appropriate institutions for the management of community-based conservation and eco-tourism in Great Himalayan National Park we will ensure that tourism will have no negative impact on the bio diversity and culture of our region, and that any anti-social or anti national activities will have no scope to operate in our region
- To regulate and ensure quality services and safety for tourists and by developing our own marketing network will eliminate the middlemen and endeavour to reduce the travel costs of the tourist

The Cooperative markets itself with an association of Sunshine Himalayan Adventures which is the oldest responsible tour operation business in the Great Himalayan National Park. Though with covid-19 there have been a lot of teething problems the cooperative is now planning to overcome the covid-19 backlog through organized marketing and reaching out to the past clientele of Sunshine Himalayan Adventures. Amongst the many specialized tours organized by SRISHTI there is:

- Wildlife Tours: Especially Snow Leopard Tours in the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary and the Great Himalayan national Park
- Birding Tours across Himachal and North India particularly for the Western Tragopan
- Mountaineering Tours in Himachal
- Treks in and around the Great Himalayan National Park

B. Challenges and Redressal:

SRISHTI is having tough competition from the already existing tourism cooperatives who have green washed themselves and have stronger marketing especially on the internet. However, since their business is planned to perform and sustain actions for the conservation of the surrounding ecosystems and welfare of the local community, it has made a federation of likeminded organizations. The biggest challenge faced in the region is the profits are mostly taken by outsiders and foreigners operating groups. In this regard, SRISHTI provides the following solutions:

- The locals are the primary beneficiaries of the generated revenues of this tourism-based business.
- The local stakeholders involved in the business must be organized in such a way that collaboration between the locals is encouraged and competition is avoided.
- A substantial part of the revenue generated by the tourism-based business must be reserved for implementing the social and environmental projects of the federation. These funds are ideally, but not imperatively, managed collectively with the local stakeholders.
- The organization must take care that the local stakeholders not only get economically empowered but also that their personal development is ensured: enhancement of their professional and soft skills, raising of their awareness, exposure to global affairs, ecology & political issues, and ability to implement local projects for sustainable development in their area.
- All operated tours and activities must minimize the ecological footprint and the adverse impacts on the local ecosystems and culture.

Further, the time which was available during covid-19, it was used for training in first aid and various other skill building trainings for the trekking industry.

C. Outcome achieved:

- All the cooperative members are shareholders in their society and have equal democratic rights. And most importantly, only people born and raised in the ecozone of the GHNP can become members. The members of the cooperative are organised in groups of about ten people, each led by a group leader, recognised by the group and the cooperative, who oversees trekking operations and the team.
- Business is distributed to each group in rotation, although the model retains a degree of competition by rewarding groups with positive reviews. As per the cooperative, "From each client, we receive written feedback after the trek. The groups that perform the best will have a business advantage (more clients will be given to the group) compared to the groups that perform averagely. The cooperative system avoids the classic and destructive competition between locals, but we keep the right level of competition between the groups to ensure the best quality of services."
- Many members have been part of the cooperative for the last two years and now work is more streamlined. Cooperative members are also actively involved in two conservation projects around preventing forest fires and reforestation.

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:

Nobody in the cooperative can compete with the cooperative. This means that if a member finds a customer for trekking, they must inform the cooperative, and the cooperative will take care of the enquiry/customer. If a member keeps a customer for themselves without informing the cooperative, they are ejected from the cooperative and free to compete with it.

The members feel proud that they are able to work together to ensure the local community has a source of income while working on conservation efforts. The money that is earned is ploughed back into the local community, so everyone thrives. Also, the cooperative has fostered a lot of team spirit within the community.

The price of any trek is fixed and calculated based on an agreed pricing sheet. Before the trek starts, the clients and the trekking staff receive the pricing of their trek to ensure complete transparency. The staff knows how much the clients have paid, and the clients know how their money is used and distributed. Any person from the cooperative or the firm can call for a meeting to discuss any issue at any time.

In short, the business model ensures that everyone can democratically participate in the decision making, raise any points for discussion, freely access all the data and information related to finances and business and own a stake of the society as a shareholder. Prices and business conditions are the same for everyone.

The structure of the company is such that there is no hierarchy. Everyone is working at the same level, which creates a sense of freedom in the members' minds to voice opinions and observations in a non-partial way. The sense of camaraderie amongst the members has grown; it is like a big family with everyone taking care of the family members and trusting each other.

A cooperative member is also a daily wage earner. Cooperative members determine their own wages. Though they must remain competitive, their daily wage is higher than other operators. For each trek, some extra money is paid to staff to compensate for personal trekking expenses like gear and transportation. While someone working outside the cooperative will earn enough for subsistence, members of the cooperative can economically grow. This economic growth is visible with many of the members having established their own homestays, for instance.

As a result, SRISHTI charges between Rs. 2500 and 4000 per person per day for treks. But many operators charge as little as Rs. 1000 per person per day given lower wages, lower-quality equipment and less attention to hygiene and safety. SRISHTI is advocating for regulation around minimum wages and pricing to ensure quality and maintain worker wellbeing, but for now the lack of government regulation makes it difficult to compete as a social enterprise with higher operational costs.

For now, the cooperative is showing how organisations fostering local connection and community can make a difference to the environment.

2.3.11 Best Ecotourism Practice 11: SHE-HAAT

A. Project brief:

SHE-HAAT Concept is an innovative scheme envisioned by Himachal Pradesh' Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Jai Ram Thakur for ensuring the empowerment of women & other weaker sections of the society. India's first SHE-HAAT was opened in December 2020 at Bag Pashog, Tehsil Pachhad (District Sirmaur). It is located on roadside on Nahan – Shimla National Highway. It is being managed by 25 rural women belonging to 05 SHGs of Bag Pashog Panchayat.

B. Challenges and Redressal

One of the key challenges has been the poverty and limited livelihood opportunities for the women of the villages. Due to these challenges women in these rural areas are largely dependent on forest-based products or some local works.

With the SHE-HAAT initiative the biggest challenge of eradicating rural poverty and empowering rural women was addressed. To achieve this, the first SHE-HAAT developed at Sirmaur has been provided with the following facilities:

- **Way Side Amenities**
 - Ethnic Food Restaurant
 - Pure Natural Spring Water
 - Clean & Hygiene Washrooms
 - Sanitary Napkin Dispenser
 - Parking
- **Traditional Chulha & Modular Kitchen**
 - The Kitchen has been designed with all modern facilities, along with a traditional chulha.
 - Cleaning of utensils with natural cleaners like ash, reetha & lemon

- **Traditionally made Local Delicacies**
- **Rural Haat/ Him Ira shop**
 - A platform where rural women can display & sell their products
 - A marketing avenue for Self Help Group products from all over the district
- **She Haat Cart**
 - An Outlet for facilitating SHGs to sell naturally produced Vegetables & Fruits
- **Guest House**
- **Kaushal Vikas Kendra**
 - Making, Display & Sale of
 - a. Dunna Pattal
 - b. Atta from local grains
 - c. Woolen products
 - d. Local Edible products
 - e. Local Handicraft products
 - f. Masks
- **Pattal making machine**

Further, these 25 rural women belonging to 05 SHGs of Bag Pashog Panchayat have been specially trained with skills to become Self Reliant/Entrepreneurs by District Administration of Sirmaur.

Exhibit 2.13: SHE-HAAT initiatives



C. Outcome achieved:

- Local women have been trained across various aspects to run this facilities and utilise the resources efficiently. They have been trained across accounting, Aata chakki, Bamboo products, basket and bag making, cooking, composting, driving, fruit cultivation, management and marketing skills, local food preparation, store keeping, zero waste, organic products etc.
- The design of the SHE-HAAT is derived on the green and sustainable principles; and the following aspects were captured under this initiative:
 - Solar Grid Connectivity - 3Kw
 - Roof Top Water harvesting structure (25000 liters)]
 - e -Vehicle to carry Natural Spring Water
 - Provision for the management of both dry waste (by making of poly bricks etc) and wet waste (composting and biogas)
 - Provision of incinerator to manage sanitary waste
 - Acupressure track
 - Organic Natural Farm Products
 - Indoor Air Purifier Plants
- This initiative has empowered women of different ages and having different qualification by providing them the opportunity to work at a platform that brings them closer to the better livelihood opportunities. There are many women who reside very far from the site, but they travel to this place as this provides them dignity and extra money to run their households.

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:

The case study of SHE-HAAT is an important idea for promoting rural tourism and empowering women through tourism. Local women residing in these rural communities with the help of training and capacity building, can be integrated in the broader livelihood areas of the ecotourism value chain.

Source:

News "India first She HAAT Restaurant open in Himachal Pradesh Sirmour" published in News 18; url - <https://hindi.news18.com/photogallery/himachal-pradesh/nahan-india-first-she-haat-restaurant-open-in-himachal-sirmour-hpvk-3371250-page-2.html>

News "Country's first She HAAT will be built in Sirmaur " published in Amar Ujala; url - <https://www.amarujala.com/shimla/country-s-first-she-haat-will-be-built-in-sirmaur-himachal-read-the-whole-matter>

She HAAT presentation; url - <https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s37f100b7b36092fb9b06dfb4fac360931/uploads/2020/12/2020122235.pdf>

2.3.12 Best Ecotourism Practice 12: Heritage Village – Har Gaon ki Kahani

A. Project brief:

'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' scheme was launched in May 2010 by Himachal Pradesh former Chief Minister Mr. Prem Kumar Dhumal in order to promote the rural tourism in the State. Under this Scheme/ Initiative, a booklet was launched having the collection of the lesser-known stories about the 12 villages, selected from each District of the State. Apart from the publication of Booklet, various display boards were also installed at the districts with stories written on them.

B. Challenges and Redressal

Majority of the tourist footfalls are concentrated in and around major cities of the State. As a result of this, tourists often miss out on experiencing the rich and diverse bio-cultural tapestry of the State and also local and people residing in rural areas and remote areas remain deprived of these tourism benefits.

In this context, the scheme was launched with an objective to:

- Attract tourists to lesser-known places. To explore the unexplored. To go from mass to alternate.
- To develop the rural sites into tourist destinations.
- Infrastructure development in rural areas as villages lack in physical infrastructure, superstructure, and amenities but by opening tourism the residents could really enjoy the tourism oriented or residents-oriented infrastructure.
- Provide employment to local people through tourism and infrastructure development for example people could indulge in MGNREGA projects. To promote home stay scheme: Home stay scheme was launched in 2008, through which local people could register their homes as commercial accommodation for tourists and earn without paying any tax. By promoting 'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' and bringing tourists to rural sites the idea is to promote home stay business also.

C. Key Interventions:

The stories from twelve villages includes:

1. Rukmani Kund from District Bilaspur- a story associated with Salasi village narrating how a daughter in law of royal family sacrificed her life for people. Story highlights how a son is more loved by people than daughters/ daughter in law. It is based on beliefs and the place the small water body (kund) where that woman sacrificed her life is believed to be holy and sacred by people even now.
2. Saho village from District Chamba- is identified for the ancient Shiva temple and mysteries that it unfolds. The stone idol which gives metallic sound and stories associated with temple god creates interest in people to visit this place.
3. Nerti from District Kangra- is a beautiful village that is believed to be the historic site where the son of King Raj Singh built temple at the site of historic war between his father and King Sansar Chand. It is believed by the locals that King Raj Singh continued fighting for 48 minutes even after his head was cut thrown. There at Nerti you can find an open theater a stage for rural artists to promote and safeguard rural cultural heritage. Also, there is a Folklore Research Center established at Nerti.
4. Hayun Village in District Shimla- The site of Chadwik Fall, it is believed by locals that a demon lived near fall (the fall also looks like water coming out from a demon face) but the local deities Gan Devta and Nag Devta protects them from the Demon. There is also an art gallery established here by a family and much more.

5. Bagi Village from District Mandi- where local people don't have much faith in nation's law and order system. They worship the local deity Dev Kotlui who solves their problems. People complaint in front of deity's court and so the deity punishes the accused by damaging his crops / property so that he/she realizes his karma.

6. In the remote District Lahol and Spiti- Udaipur is included in the scheme which is famous for wooden temple of Goddess Mrikula for Hindus and Goddess Dorje Famo for Buddhists. Place has its history belonging to Mahabharata period

D. Key Learning and Takeaways:

The case study of 'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' can be replicated across more villages across the State to attract more tourists which will provide them different kind of experiences, and local people residing in these rural communities with the help of training and capacity building, can be integrated in the broader livelihood areas of the ecotourism value chain.

Source:

Rural Har Gaon Ki Kahani Tales and Himachal Tourism Promotion – HeritageForAll, url - <https://heritageforall.org/2021/03/16/rural-har-gaon-ki-kahani-theses-and-himachal-tourism-promotion/>
Article 'Himachal Pradesh, India Launches 'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' Scheme on bharatonline.com; url - <http://www.bharatonline.com/news/details/himachal-pradesh-india-launches-har-gaon-ki-451.php>
Article ' Chief minister launches 'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' published on The News Himachal; url - <https://thenewshimachal.com/2011/08/chief-minister-launches-har-gaon-ki-kahani/>

The best practices presented above capturing different and similar bio-geographies have highlighted various aspects across CBET, private sector involvement, different offerings including rural tourism, arts and crafts, culture, and cuisine etc. that can be enhanced and integrated into eco-tourism development. These learnings may be adapted by the State across various existing and potential ecotourism sites for attracting large number of tourists.

2.4 Existing Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh

As mentioned earlier, tourism is the key economic sector for Himachal Pradesh and provides livelihood to a large section of the society. Himachal Pradesh is one of the earliest States to work on Community based Tourism and Eco-tourism. Aided by successful success stories of Ecosphere (Spiti Valley), Sunshine Himalayan Adventures (Tirthan Valley, Great Himalayan National Park Distt Kullu) etc, the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department came up with Ecotourism Policy of 2005. It was one of the first initiatives by the government to involve communities particularly around National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries to realize benefits of nature-based tourism thus aiding to the preservation of the key resource PA (Protected Area). Community-based ecotourism (CBET) is a form of tourism that links local enterprise development with environmental conservation. Ecotourism, often misconstrued a simply taking a holiday in a nature, watching wildlife, or engaging in an outdoor or adventure sport, is distinguished from conventional tourism in that it employs measures to assure that the negative impacts on the natural and cultural environment are minimized and mitigated. "Community based" ecotourism takes the definition one step further. It ensures that the benefits, both social and economic, are realized by local communities. In this way, CBET is simultaneously a mechanism for rural development and for conservation. Thus, the Forest department of Himachal Pradesh actively started promoting CBET through its special purpose vehicle of Ecotourism Society of Himachal Pradesh (ECOSOC HP). And this evolved the sector in the State.

This section highlights the existing institutional mechanism for ecotourism development, past ecotourism initiatives undertaken by the State including capacity building initiatives, and current ecotourism products and value-chain analysis.

2.4.1 Institutional Mechanism

There are several entities that serve as key stakeholders in the development and management of ecotourism industry. At Himachal Pradesh State level there are various institutions which contribute towards development of ecotourism activities. These institutions vary from State level forest department, tourism department as well as local government societies. Some of the key institutions that have been promoting and developing ecotourism infrastructure and activities are:

Exhibit 2.14: Key institutions involved in eco-tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh

Organisation/ Department	Role/ Responsibility (Ecotourism/ Tourism)
State Level Institutions	
Himachal Pradesh Forest Department	• Custodian of forests of Himachal Pradesh. Responsible for State's forests, preservation, conservation and management.
HPECOSOC	• The key institutions for the development and promotion of tourism sector in the State. It has developed various ecotourism activities to have sustainable tourism development.
HP Forest State Development Corporation	• Constituted in 1974, it is primarily engaged in resin extraction and processing, timber harvesting and sale from Government forests in the State besides extraction of fuel-wood, pulpwood, khair and bamboo • It has developed two eco-tourism sites at Jalori pass and Narkanda pass
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation	• The key institutions for the development and promotion of tourism sector in the State. It has developed various ecotourism activities to have sustainable tourism development.
HP Tourism Development Board	
HP Tourism Development Corporation	• Constituted in 1972, it is primarily responsible to develop key tourism infrastructure such as hotels, resorts, tourism sites, theme parks, eco-parks etc.
Regional/ local societies focusing on tourism/ ecotourism	
Bio-diversity conservation society (BiodCS) for Great Himalayan National Park	• Overall responsibility for the management of the Great Himalayan National Park. provides fund advances, empowerment, flexible administrative procedures, and governing board structure

Organisation/ Department	Role/ Responsibility (Ecotourism/ Tourism)
Himachal Pradesh Eco-Development Society, Palampur Holta	Under the aegis of HPFD, implemented Changar project Palampur with GTZ
Forest Divisional level societies	In certain divisions such societies have been created which are being headed by local forest officers (CF/ DF) to support HPECOSOC for local level initiatives.

Sources: <https://hpforest.nic.in/>; <https://www.hpforestco.in/>; <https://himachaltourism.gov.in/>; <http://hptdc.in/>

Various other local level eco-societies have been formed to develop, manage and maintain the ecotourism activities such as Potter Hill Eco Development Society (PHEDS).

Constitution of HPECOSOC

The H.P. Ecotourism Society (HP ECOSOC) has been conceived as a Special Purpose Vehicle to promote ecotourism in the State of Himachal Pradesh as per the Revised Ecotourism Policy, 2005, originally prepared in 2001 by the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department. The H.P. Ecotourism Society was instituted with its Headquarters at Aranya Bhawan Talland Shimla (H.P.). It is a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act.

Main objectives of the Revised Ecotourism Policy, 2005 were to boost collaboration between government and the private sector for ecotourism development, support local communities and create livelihood opportunities. The main purpose of the society is to promote “community-based ecotourism” (CBET) which proposed for ecologically sustainable, financially viable, culturally acceptable, and beneficial to the village communities. Further, HPECOSOC is also accountable to develop strategies for the development and the efficient use of the forest rest houses, forest inspection huts and other relevant infrastructure (camping sites, film shooting grounds, etc.) which could help in promoting CBET in localities.

The Society’s apex decision making body is the Governing body headed by Hon’ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh and Principal Secretary (Forests) as its Member Secretary. The affairs of the Society are administered by an Executive Committee headed by Principal Secretary (Forests) and CCF Ecotourism as its member Secretary.

HPECOSOC works in collaboration with the civil society (local communities, NGOs, academic institutions and private enterprises/businesses) and the state (HPFD, the Tourism Department and other related departments). The intent is that the involvement of local communities in the ecotourism will support livelihood needs and consequently create their direct stake in conservation of local culture, ecology and environment.

Objectives of HPECOSOC

- Develop appreciation, education, and awareness of historical and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh. The Society would endeavour to make the State a resource centre and a learning destination with reference to ecotourism.
- Help enunciate mechanisms for partnerships in ecotourism and would identify and promote activities, which are in tandem with the principles of ecotourism.
- To promote community-based ecotourism (CBET) which is ecologically sustainable, financially viable, culturally acceptable, and beneficial to the village communities and encourages nature conservation education in the relevant places in Himachal Pradesh.
- To project the pristine beauty and natural environment of Himachal Pradesh to the world, while not minimizing the resource base.
- To evolve strategies for the development and the efficient use of the Forest Rest Houses, Inspection huts and other relevant infrastructure (Camping sites, forest trails, film shooting grounds, etc.) which help in promoting CBET.
- To organize activities particularly with educational institutions/School children irrespective of disseminating information through workshops, presentations, paper-reading and essay-writing competition etc. in respect of CBET and its allied fields.

2.4.2 Ecotourism initiatives and infrastructure

Various initiatives have been undertaken by the State to develop different ecotourism infrastructure and facilities. Some of the key initiatives are:

A. Ecotourism Circuits

As part of the Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) in Himachal Pradesh, HPECOSOC prepared a project report with a focus on developing eco-circuits tabulated in the Exhibit 2.15 below across the State to cater to various segments: Water Conservation (6), Biodiversity Conservation (5), Nature trails (19).

Exhibit 2.15: Proposed eco-circuits as part of the CBET Project

Moisture and water conservation eco-circuits: 1. Choordhaar (Distt. Sirmaur and Shimla) 2. Lootroo Mahadev Sakni (Distt. Solan) 3. Chaka Kanda Sakni (Distt. Kinnaur) 4. Purvani (Distt. Kinnaur) 5. Karol Basal Kandaghat (Distt. Solan) 6. Fozel Nala (Distt. Kullu)	Nature Trails eco-circuits: 1. Churdhar eco-Circuit 2. Craignano-Rupinpass circuit 3. Bhimakali –Sarahan eco-Circuit 4. Khirganga eco-Circuit 5. Renuka eco-Circuit 6. Lootru Mahadev–Chail eco-Circuit 7. Holi Eco Circuit 8. Indrahaar eco Circuit 9. Bharmour eco-Circuit. 10. Pangi eco-Circuit. 11. Diana Park –eco Circuit. 12. Rewalsar eco–circuit. 13. Neelkanth eco- circuit. 14. Nainadevi-eco-circuit. 15. Taunidevi eco-circuit. 16. Chintpurni eco-circuit 17. Manali eco-circuit 18. Mandi (Prashwar) eco-circuit 19. Mandi (Janjehli) eco-circuit.
Biodiversity conservation eco-circuits: 1. Thanaal Tharoch Talra Chhajpur Panju (Distt. Shimla) 2. Rivalsar (Distt. Mandi) 3. Qwarsi LamuHoli (Distt. Chamba) 4. Sahu (Distt. Chamba) 5. Chandarghani (Distt. Kullu)	

Source: Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) Plan, 2017

Besides, several adventure activities – terrain-based, water-based and aerial were identified for development. Furthermore, the below projects were proposed as part of the CBET Project.

- Four Multimedia Laser Shows in Shimla, Manali, Mandi & Dharamshala
- Skiing Eco Village in Manali
- Establishment of Institute for Tourism and Hotel Management in Manali

B. Ecotourism Sites on Lease/ PPP Mode

Himachal Pradesh has been an early entrant in ecotourism space. In 2003, forest department leased out 2 hectares of land on rent to a private party near Summer Hill in Shimla for ecotourism (famously known as Potters Hill Nature park).¹¹

Potter's hill was once used by the Potters of Shimla to obtain clay which then was developed into a Potters hill natural park about 5 kms west of Shimla. Camp is surrounded with beautiful flora and fauna to carry multiple adventure activities, relax and rejuvenate. It provides variety of packages and rooms for tourists.

¹¹ TERI, May 2017, 'Facilitating Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh', Terra Green, Volume 10, Issue 2

Exhibit 2.16: Potter's hills camps and approach road

Source: The Ok travel - <https://theoktravel.com/potters-hill-eco-friendly-camping-in-pure-wilderness/>

Further to this, in 2009, forest land was leased out for developing and running five eco sites under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode on contract basis with provision of annual rentals. The contracts mandated strict adherence to the ecotourism norms and guidelines. Additionally, HP State Forest Development Corporation Limited is also managing two ecosites.

Ecotourism sites on PPP mode by HPECOSOC

HPECOSOC had leased out five ecosites on contractual basis to private operators for an initial period of five years in year 2009 with provision for lease renewal in accordance with framework outlined in the HP Ecotourism policy. These sites were extension of another 5 years from 2014 to 2019. However, post that in 2019, it was declared that extension of another 3 years shall be provided up to the year 2022 subject to FCA clearance, and hence since then the site are not functional. The five PPP sites are as follows:

Exhibit 2.17: List of Ecotourism Sites leased on PPP mode by HPECOSOC

Sr. No.	Name of site	Date of Initial Allotment & Rent (INR) Per annum	Date of allotment for next 5 years	Rent Per annum (INR) (in 2016)	Key features
1	Motikuna Hill, Sanawar	27-01-2009 [80,000]	27-01-2014	3,75,000	- Developed as a nature camp 90% employees were locals. - had positive impact on the community
2	Chewa, Near Barog (Solan)	10-02-2009 [85,000]	10-02-2014	3,75,000	- Soft adventure eco campsite 15 local staff were employed - Designed with eco-friendly products
3	Barog Camping Site, Barog, Solan, HP.	27-01-2009 [1,85,100]	27-1-2014	4,25,000	- Eco camp site with option of having temporary/ swiss cabins - To have at least 70% of Himachali staff
4	Shoghi, Camping Site, Shimla, HP	27-01-2009 [1,22,000]	27-1-2014	4,25,000	- Developed as an 'ecotourism resort' - High Dependency on external sources of water
5	Ala Forest Rest House, Dalhousie Chamba, HP.	27-01-2009 [82,000]	27-1-2014	4,25,000	Proposed as camp site for promotion of ecotourism

Source: Gazette on Ecotourism Development in Himachal Pradesh, High Court Himachal Pradesh (19th May 2016)

It is ascertained based on the discussions with different stakeholders that initially all these eco sites worked very well, especially as they were near large towns witnessing large number of tourists. However, over the time due to higher dependency on water from external sources and low skilled manpower, the services provided by these camps was not meeting the higher standards. Further, based on the MoEFCC's guidelines regarding FCA clearance for Eco-tourism projects, during the revision of the contracts in 2019, it became imperative to take FCA clearance for leasing out these five sites. As, the FCA clearance has not been received for these sites, the sites are non-functional.

One of the inspection reports of 6th May 2020 of the Chewa site near Barog was graded as poor, as most of the activities at that time (after almost 1 year of the allotment) the activities were yet to be started which included signages, personnel appointment for nature guides, garbage disposal, local employment, stay facilities etc. However, it was noticed while visiting the site in the year 2020-21, the condition had improved. The brief description of the two eco-sites visited are:

Aamod at Shoghi

a) Introduction:

Aamod at Shoghi promotes itself as an ecotourism resort on a land provided by HPFD. Set in pristine forest of pine and oak trees, it is situated 17 kms from Shimla, the capital hill-town, right on the NH-05 Kalka-Shimla Highway. The resort parking is 100 meters from the main highway and a 500 meters muddy trail leads to the main premises, accessible by a 5-minute walk or a shuttle service provided by the resort. With 20 cottages made of prefabricated wood, the resort offers comfort in harmony with nature.

b) Site details and access

The resort property is spread over a large hillock and the residential area is largely fenced with wire with an area of approximately 1 hectare. There is a security guard on the premises who mans the entry gate. Pathways are illuminated with over-head lamps and posts installed at regular intervals, overall moderate amount of lighting is present for sunset and night hours. There are suitable signages at regular intervals which offer direction and information about various facilities and cottage names. The eco-friendly signages are made of tree trunk shavings.

c) Infrastructure and maintenance

- The site undergoes periodic maintenance, however due to COVID-19 and subsequent restraining order by the HPFD, the site is currently not operational.
- The available source of water supply is a vehicular tanker (6000-8000 Litres capacity) sourced from a private vendor in the nearby city.
- The available sewerage system is functional and man-made
- Source of Electric power supply is the electric sub-station Shoghi (33/11 kV), there is a gen-set for short term power-backup
- While there is mechanism for compost and landfill utilised for organic waste, the in-organic waste is collected and transferred to nearby garbage site
- 20 Cottages made as prefabricated structures with attached bathrooms and well-furnished interiors (cottage inclusions below) and are approximately 280-350 sq ft each.

d) Facilities

- Accommodation: 20 cottages – King-size bed with Spring mattress, cotton bed sheets, duvets and pillows, LCD TV with D2H Service, DVD player (on request), Electronic Safe, Tea Coffee maker, Private sit-out with forest views, Sofa bed (either single or double; except in Family cottage), Washroom with shower cubicle, Bathroom amenities and hairdryer (on request), Thick Bath towels & Hand Towels, Room Heater, Intercom Facility, Fridge and mini bar, Hot and Cold water
- Dining: double height restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating (up to 80 participants)
- Activities: Team-building games, hikes and trails, wellness spa
- Other facilities: Wellness spa, conference room with seating capacity up to 80 participants

e) Architecture and Design

- Nature friendly design: The landscape design is planned in a way that man-made structures blend with the natural environment.
- The cottages are all prefabricated structures, walls are made of pine wood to blend with the surrounding environment.
- The walkways are layered with traditional stones typical to vernacular architecture of Himachal Pradesh.
- Signages are made of tree trunk shavings

Exhibit 2.18: Photographs of Aamod at Shogi



Cottage view



Road trail from parking to the property



Signages around the property



Restaurant view

Source: Site visits and respective websites

Chewa, Near Barog

a) Introduction:

HPFD leased about 1 hectare (12.5 biggas) of forest land to the private operator - Veterans Services Pvt. Ltd c/o Major General Harwant Krishan (Retd). It is 1 km drive from Barog towards Solan to arrive at a 1.2 km motorable off-road track which reached the Chewa High School. A 300m slope walk under the pine trees ends at the Pine hills eco camp.

b) Site details and access

The camp property is spread across 1 hectare / 12.5 Biggas of land under the canopy of pine trees with wire fencing. Pathways inside the camp are illuminated with over-head lamps posts installed at regular intervals, since the camp is preferred for school and educational groups, careful attention and measures are taken for safety and security. A 1.2 km off-road track from the main Barog-Solan road arrives at the Chewa High school. From the school, a 300m slope walk under the pine trees cover arrives at the campsite. No over-head lights were observed during the 300m walk, hence stepping out post sunset should be accompanied with a torch light with a local escort only. However, inside the campsite there are suitable signages at regular intervals which offer direction and information about various facilities.

c) Infrastructure and maintenance

- The site undergoes periodic maintenance, however due to COVID-19 and subsequent restraining order by the HPFD, the site is currently not operational.

- The site undergoes periodic maintenance, however due to COVID-19 the site is currently not operational.
- The available source of water supply is a vehicular tanker (3000 Litres capacity) which is filled up at Naggali natural water source (4Km).
- The available sewerage system is functional and man-made
- Source of Electric power supply is the electric sub-station Solan (33/11 kV), there is a gen-set for short term power-backup
- Garbage is collected and taken to the large dustbin at Barog, whereas the food waste is fed to the village livestock.
- 15 tented units, made as prefabricated structures with attached bathrooms and basically-furnished interiors (bed, chair, etc.).
- There is a medical room at the campsite which serves for annual village medical camp as well.

d) Architecture and design

- Essentialist design: The material used to construct camp structures are essentialist in nature (such as wood, bamboo, pine needles etc.). Although majority of the material can be recycled, except for the rain protection cover (tarpaulin) and thick plastic sheets used in certain places.
- The tented units are all prefabricated structures, with tarpaulin covering to protect from rain and harsh-weather conditions. The flooring is made of some sort of fibre sheet blocks.

Exhibit 2.19: Photographs of Chewa near Barog



Camp garden view



Tent – Interior view



Adventure activity area



Medical room at campsite

Source: Site visits and respective websites

Ecotourism sites by HP Forest Development Corporation

The Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation limited developed two ecotourism sites at Jalori Pass, Kullu and Narkanda, Shimla. Both the sites comprised of eco-huts and offered various outdoor activities as a regular adventure camp. However, due to pending FCA clearance and on account of COVID pandemic, the sites are currently shut.

Exhibit 2.20: HPSFDC Ecotourism Campsite at Jalori Pass, Kullu (L) and Narkanda, Shimla (R)



Source: HPSFDC website

C. Trekking and trails

HPECOSOC conducts nature trails and treks on various routes across the territory under the jurisdiction of HPFD. HPECOSOC coordinates with HPFD to conduct the trekking tours.

There are various nature parks, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries that offer variety of biodiversity for trekkers and hikers. There are many treks and trails across the State which are frequently visited by the visitors. Some of the key treks and trails across known national parks/ wildlife sanctuaries are:

Great Himalayan National park, Kullu: It is one of the most scenic destination with high ridges, valleys, deep gorges, green meadows etc. Its landscape has many treks and trails as follows:

Eco zone trails

- Neuli-Shangarh loop
- Neuli, Manu temple
- Gushaini, Tinder village
- Gushaini- Kharmocha

Treks into the park

- Tirthan valley: Morahani trek; Tirath trek, Gushaini to Rakhundi trek
- Shreekhand Mahadev trek
- Sainj valley: Raktisar trek, Neuli to Homkhani trek
- Sainj to Tirthan valley trek
- Gushaini to Shilt
- Jiwa Nala to Parvati River valley
- Crossing the Pin Parvati Pass

Pin Valley National Park: It has multiple trekking and camping sites with scope for setting up camps, taking shelter at local villages or at the monasteries.

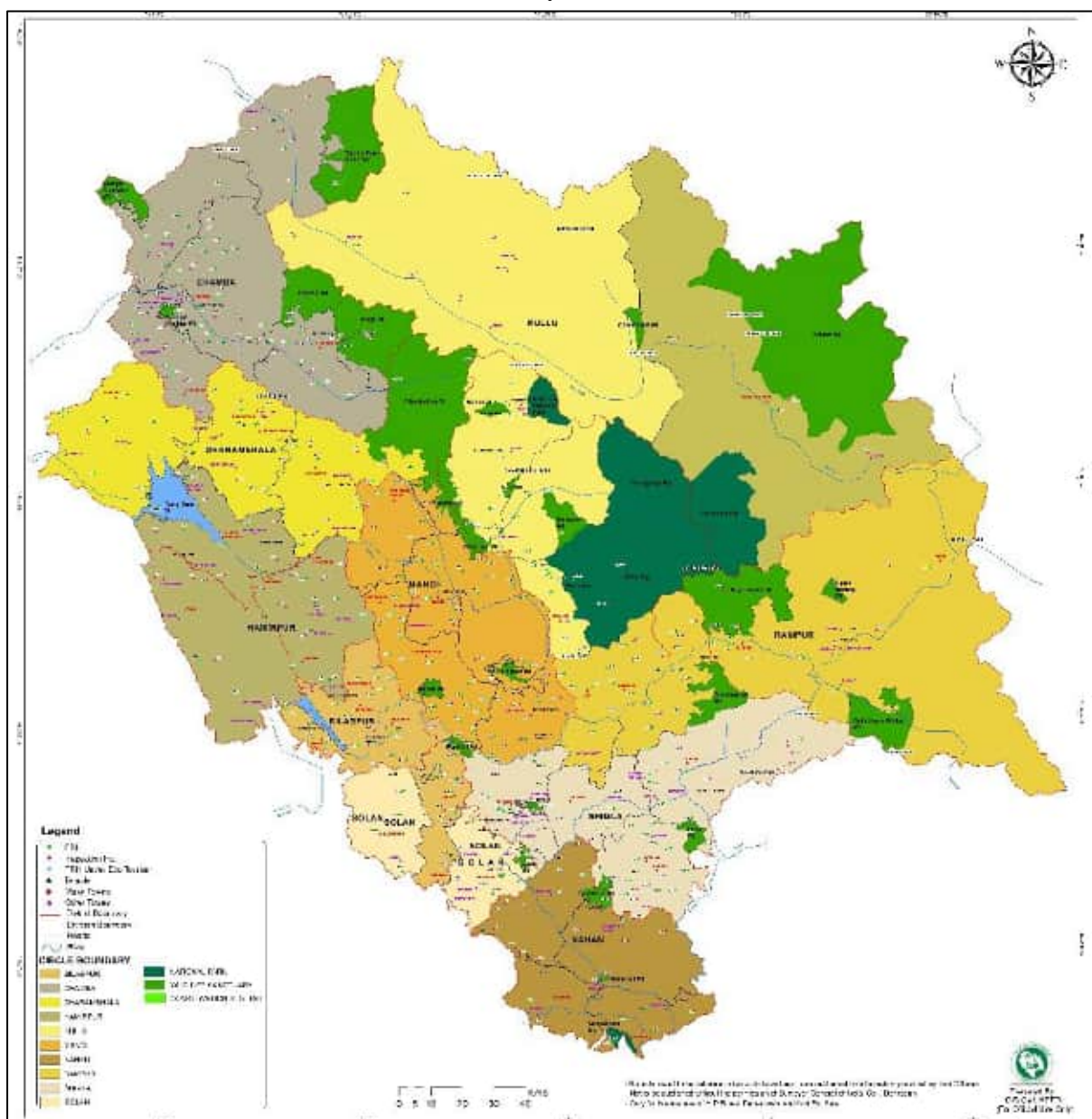
Treks and trails

- Pin-Bhawa trek
- Pin-Parvati Pass
- Mud-park area
- Mikim – park area, Kungri monastery

Source: Himachal tourism website

D. Forest Rest Houses

HPFD has also set-up various forest rest houses and inspection huts across the State. There are 296 Forest rest houses (FRH) and 184 inspection huts spread across the State. The location of the same has been presented in the following figure and the details are presented in the following table.

Exhibit 2.21: Location of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts

Source: HP Forest website

Exhibit 2.22: Details of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
1	Kullu	Kullu	Naggar	2	Rs 750 each
2			Manali	3	Rs 750 each
3			Kothi	2	Rs 375 each
4			Kais hut Kullu	2	Rs 550 each
5			Kaisdhar	2	Rs 320 each
6		Banjar	Jibhi	2	Rs 1120 each
7			Sojha	3	Rs 1120 each
8		Parvati	Pulga	2	Rs 320 each
9			Kasol (New)	2	Rs 1680 each
10			Kasol (Old)	2	Rs 500 each
11			Kasol Camping site	5	Tent – I to III Rs 2240 each Tent – IV & V Rs 1120 each

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
12	Solan	Solan	Garkhal	4	VIP Set No 1 = Rs 1344/- Set No II = Rs 700/- Set No III = Rs 500/- Set No IV = Rs 500/-
13			Kumarhatti	5	VIP Set No 1 = Rs 1344/- VIP Set No 2 = Rs 1344/- Set No I = Rs 1120/- Set No II = Rs 500/- Set No III = Rs 500/-
14			Subathu	2	Set No I = Rs 700/- Set No II = Rs 500/-
15			SeriGhat	2	Rs 320 each
16	Nahan	Nahan	Banethi	2	Rs 400 each
17			Suketi	2	Rs 480 each
18			Trilokpur	2	Rs 480 each
19		Rajgarh	Habban	5	Rs 1344 each
20			Naina Tikker	4	Rs 1344 each
21			Narag	3	Rs 1344 each
22			Camping Site at Habban, Rajgarh	3	Rs 800 each
23			Camping Site at Bathau Dhar, Rajgarh	3	Rs 800 each
24		Renuka ji	Boghdhar	3	VIP Set No I = Rs 480/- Set No II, III = Rs 320/-
25		Paonta	Majra	2	Rs 480 each
26			Khara	2	Rs 480 each
27			Mantaruwala	2	Rs 480 each
28	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Triund	4	Rs 1120 each
29			Kareri	3	Rs 500 each
30			Ridkmaar	3	Rs 500 each
31			Mallan	3	Rs 500 each
32			Stobari	4	Rs 1680 each
33		Palampur	Bir	3	Rs 480 each
34			Multhan	3	Rs 480 each
35			Chobin	2	Rs 480 each
36	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Sawarghat	8	VIP Set – 104 & 204 = Rs 1120

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
					Set 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203 = Rs 400
37			Bandla	2	
38			Bhahadurpur	3	Set - I = Rs.1120 Set II & III = Rs. 401
39		Kunihar	Jagjit Nagar	2	Rs 480 each
40			Kuthar	2	Rs 320 each
41		Chamba	Saho	5	Set No 1, 2, 3 = Rs. 700 Set No.4, 5 = Rs. 500
42			Darkund	2	Rs 320 each
43		Dalhousie	Surkhigala	3	Rs 1120 each
44			Holi	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600
45	Chamba	Bharmour	Garola	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600
46			Gharadu	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600
47		Pangi	Purthi	2	Rs 480 each
48			Ecohut Killar	4	Rs 480 each
49			Parashar	Trekker hut = 2	Rs 1120 each
50				FRH = 3	Rs 1120 each
51		Mandi	Camping site at Sukasar Mandi	10	Rs 1120 each
52			Dhuandevi	3	Rs 500 each
53			Riwalsar	2	Rs 750 each
54		Joginder Nagar	Barot	4	Rs 500 each
55		Suket	Muraridevi	2	Rs 320 each
56			Jhungi	3	Rs 500 each
57		Karsog	Mahunaag	5	Vip Set 1 = Rs. 500 Set 2,3 4, 5 = Rs. 500 each
58			Bijahi	2	Rs 1232 each
59			Camping Site at Shatadhar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
60			Camping Site at Devidhar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
61			Camping Site at Dugathar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
62			Camping Site at Bijahi, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
63	Shimla	Shimla	Sunni	3	Rs 480 each
64			Koti	2	Rs 320 each
65		Chopal	Peontra (Kedi)	3	Rs 480 each
66			Sarain	2	Rs 480 each
67	Rampur	Rampur	Gahan	2	Set I = Rs. 500 Set II = Rs. 700
68			Taklech	5	Set II to Set V = 500 Set I = 701
69			Phancha	2	Set – I = Rs. 700 Set – II = Rs. 500
70			Camping Site at Teklech, Rampur	3	Rs. 500 each
71		Kinnaur	Sholtu	2	Set – II = Rs.750 Set I = Rs. 1120
72			Purbani	2	Set – I = Rs.500 Set II = Rs. 700
73			Nichar	2	Set - II = Rs.750 Set I = Rs. 1120
74			Sangla	2	Set – II = Rs.1120 Set I = Rs. 1680
75			Kalpa	2	Rs. 1120 each
76		Ani	Nither	2	Set – I = Rs.500 Set II = Rs. 750
77			Paneo	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set - II = Rs. 500
78			Takrasi	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set – II = Rs. 500
79			Tarala	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set - II = Rs. 500
80	Hamirpur	Hamripur	Chakmoh	2	Rs. 380 each
81		Dehra	Dehra	2	Rs. 360 each
81		Una	Nagal	3	Rs.360 each

Source: Data received from HPECOSOC on 18th May 2022

E. Nature parks

HPFD has also developed various nature/ eco parks across the State. The details of the same have been presented in the following Exhibit.

Exhibit 2.23: Details of Nature/ Eco parks

SN.	Name of Circle	Name of Division	Nature of Park	Source of Funding
1	Mandi	Mandi	Nature Park, Jhiri	HPFD
2	Kullu	Parvati	Nature Park, Mohal	HPFD/CAMPA
3	D/shala	D/Shala	Eco Park Kalapul, Orchadium	CAMPA
4		Nurpur	Bio-diversity Conservation Park, Nurpur	CAMPA
5		Palampur	Van Vihar, Neogal	CAMPA
6	Chamba	Bharmour	Nature Park, Holi	CAMPA
7		Bharmour	Eco Park, Runukothi	CAMPA
8		Bharmour	Eco Park, Schuin	CAMPA
9	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Nature Park, Bali, Ghumarwin	CAMPA

SN.	Name of Circle	Name of Division	Nature of Park	Source of Funding
10	Kullu	Parvati	Eco Park, Kasol	CAMPA
11	Mandi	Mandi	Nature Park, Mandi	CAMPA
12	Shimla	Shimla	Eco Park, Craignano	CAMPA
13	Kullu	Kullu	Nature Park, Babeli	CAMPA
14	Hamirpur	Una	Eco Park, Bangana	CAMPA
15	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Nature Park (Rampurbelli)	CAMPA

Source: Data received from HPECOSOC on 18th May 2022 (details of the park developed up to 31.03.2021)

F. Other initiatives

ADB Funded Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism (IDIPT)

Government of HP sought assistance of the ADB for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the State. Program's main components included; urban infrastructure and service improvement, quality enhancement of natural and cultural attractions, connectivity improvement and community-based activities.

Through this initiative Tourism department started its community-based ecotourism operations in 2012. It defined CBT (Community Based Tourism) as the tourism which aims to include and provide benefit to the local communities, particularly rural. Local communities are involved in planning, implementation, and management of tourism activities. Fair share of profits goes back to the locals. Till now community-based tourism has established more than 14 rural destinations for the niche responsible traveller who wants to enjoy the unique flora and fauna, culture and the social fabric of rural Himachal. With over 15 Panchayat Tourism Societies have been formed and 100 Self Help groups have been identified and formed. The project did awareness drives through brochures and site-specific training manuals. Over 500 unemployed youth was trained through Government Institutions in tourism skills like homestay, cooking, soft adventure, water sports, bird watching, angling, cultural interpretation, souvenir and handicraft development entrepreneurship skills etc

GIZ Funded – Forest Ecosystem Services - Ecotourism Project

GIZ, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department (HPFD), is implementing the Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project on behalf of BMZ (GIZ's commissioning party). The HP-FES project aims at integrating the Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) approach into the state's forest management.

Under this program, two sites were identified with eco-sensitive tourism potential. These are Hamta and Shangarh. Hamta is located at 4 m from Manali in district Kullu. The eco-sensitive tourism products identified included; nature based soft adventure tourism products, mountaineering, camping, rappelling, heli-skiing, camping, yoga and meditation at thatches. Shangarh is located in Sainj valley of Kullu district. The eco-sensitive tourism products identified included; Birdwatching, nature based adventure tourism products, homestays, camping, single day treks, yoga and meditation thatches.

2.4.3 Existing mechanism on benefit-sharing mechanism

'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy, 2017' provides the strategy towards distribution of revenues generated through eco-tourism. As per the policy, HP ECOSOC and Division/ Circle level Eco-tourism societies shall generate revenues through levy of user charges/ concession fee on ecotourism sites on PPP/ lease mode, fees from van vihar, camps, treks, trails, film shooting, rest houses etc. The distribution of revenue generated should be as follows:

- State Government share: 20% of the total revenue realized shall be deposited in the Government treasury
- HP ECOSOC share: 20% of the total revenue realized shall go to the HP ECOSOC
- Division/ Circle Level Eco-Tourism Society share: Remaining 60% revenue shall remain with the Division/ circle level Eco-tourism society to implement the action plans and also for further sharing with the local Gram Panchayats/ communities.

While State has taken initiatives and is generating some revenue through these activities, it was highlighted by some of the local stakeholders that its visible impacts in terms of revenue share with local community on the ground is limited. However, it has been noted that various capacity building initiatives were provided in the past to the local communities to involve them in ecotourism activities. During visits it was found that many people were aware of the ecotourism concept, were part of trainings and have become eco-entrepreneurs such as homestay owners, local product making etc.

In addition to this, there have been some notable examples which showcase the actual benefits generated from the tourists to the local communities.

Examples of benefits generated to the local communities from the tourism sector

SHE-HAAT

The first 'She Haat' of Himachal is located at Pachhad in Sirmour, whose operations are entirely in the hands of women. The women working here are strengthening their economy, as well as the tourists coming to 'She Haat' are also appreciating this work of the district administration.

The 'She Haat' was started in December 2020 during the corona period. Despite this, the women did not give up and **in the financial year from March 1, 2021 to March 2022, the business of 'She Haat' has reached to Rs 25 lakh & out of this, the share of the women working here has been from 13 to 14 lakh rupees.**

Many women working here had never stepped out of their homes, but today this move of the government is not only strengthening the economic status of women, but also the confidence of women has increased. Many products have been prepared by **the women here from the pine leaves and in a year, a revenue of Rs 3 lakh** has been made from pine products alone.

Home-stays and camping activities

With Himachal Pradesh's progressive policies towards homestays and other tourism activities, various local people have been able to become entrepreneurs and generate revenues for themselves. While in many places the home-stay entrepreneurs charge INR 1500 to 2000 per room per night, in premium locations charges are as much as star category hotels ranging from INR 8000 to 10,000, giving locals a good source of income after all the expenses.

Source: Article "She Haat in Summer" in etvbharat; url - <https://www.etvbharat.com/hindi/himachal-pradesh/city/nahan/himachal-first-she-haat-turnover-of-25-lakhs-in-a-year-women-took-full-responsibility/hp20220524214711051051302>

2.4.4 Existing eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis

Ecotourism is a niche sector is emerging as an experiential tourism. Ecotourism focuses on nature based eco-sensitive solutions that provides good and new experience for tourists and provide benefit to local communities particularly rural. Eco-Tourism Product is "a combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific center of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience including emotional aspects for the potential customers.

Hence, the ecotourism products include cultural, natural and attraction attributes. Based on the primary and secondary research, it has been found that there are multiple offerings that Himachal Pradesh provide for the tourists and also it was found that that various local communities participate in the ecotourism activities that revolve around their primary livelihood or the current product available in that area such as, agro-product, horticulture, cultural based – crafts, cuisine, songs/ dance etc. or potential for natural attraction such as sightseeing, birdwatching, adventure activities etc.

Some key offerings of the State leading to tourism products in the State are:

1. **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** There are approximately 26 Wildlife sanctuaries spread over an area of approximately 6000 sq. km. in the State. Some of the prominent ones are Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary, Nargu Wildlife Sanctuary, Renuka Wildlife Sanctuary, The Churdhar Sanctuary, Kalatop- Khajjar Sanctuary, Daranghati Sanctuary, Kanwar Sanctuary, Rupri Bhawa Sanctuary, Rakchham Chitkul Sanctuary, Majathal Sanctuary, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary, Manali Wildlife Sanctuary, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, etc.

Exhibit 2.24: Chail Wildlife Sanctuary

2. **National Parks:** There are five National Parks in the state. All these parks have distinct flora and fauna, treks, and trails to explore, namely, Pin Valley National Park, Great Himalayan National Park and Simbalbara National Park.
3. **Rivers and Lakes:** Three prominent rivers of the country namely, Chenab, Beas and Ravi originate from the glaciers in the State. Further, some tributaries of River Indus also originate from the state. Other rivers flowing from the state are Chandra Bhagya and Sutlej. The prominent lakes are Chandratul lake, Gobind Sagar lake, Nako lake, Renuka lake, Suraj Tal, Maharana Pratap Sagar lake etc.
4. **Adventure activities:** Mountaineering and rock climbing, camping, trekking, hiking, safaris, Heli-Skiing, Paragliding, Water sports, Angling, etc. are some of the key adventure activities that attract many tourists to the State.

Exhibit 2.25: Types of adventure activities in Himachal Pradesh (Terrain, water-based, aerial)

5. **Pilgrimage:** Based on the diverse history and demography of the state, there are several Hindu temples, Buddhist Monasteries, Churches and Gurudwaras in the State. The temples are spread across the State. The Churches are majorly located in Shimla and Dalhousie, habitations where the British enjoyed their summers during the British Raj in India. The monasteries are located in the Buddhist centres, like McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala which is considered the most revered destination after Tibet. Other important Buddhist centres are located in Lahaul Spiti valley with the many more monasteries spread across the State.
6. **Cuisine:** The specialty of Himachal Pradesh is its Pahari food and the blend of the Punjabi and Tibetan flavours. High altitude areas such as Kinnaur and Spiti valley are known for their Tibetan influence making use of barley, buckwheat and millet. Popular street food such as Momo and Siddu (stuffed and steamed burger) are more commonly found in equally popular tourist destinations such as Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala and Dalhousie among others.
7. **Art and Craft:** The State is known for its colourful art and local craftsmanship which makes use of exquisite materials sourced around the region. Fine woven products such as woollens and the typical Himachali caps are available across the region. Crafts such as weaving, woodcarving, metalcraft, and painting are considered to hold significant importance in the life of the local inhabitants.
8. **Places of historical significance:** Himachal Pradesh is also home to several forts spread across the region. Popular examples include the Kangra Fort (also known as the Nagarkot Fort) which is

one of the oldest forts dating back to the Trigarta Kingdom and Nurpur Fort (late 16th century). There are various other forts open to tourists situated in high altitude locations such as Nahan, Lahaul, Chamba and Kinnaur.

9. **Dance and Music:** The cultural identity of the State is reflected through its distinctive music and dance forms such as Nati. Dance forms across locations also vary widely and constitute a key part of local tribes.

Some of the products identified in the State based on the visits to the destinations are as follows:

Exhibit 2.26: current ecotourism/ community-based products in the State

Destination	Eco-tourism/ community-based products
Pong Dame Wildlife Sanctuary	Adventure based - Birding, boating, angling, half-day trekking/ hiking trips Agro-based - Mushroom farming; Bee keeping; SHGs involved in wadiyan, pickles, amla candy, giloy powder, almla powder etc. Craft-based - Bamboo/ cane handicrafts products; Masks, handkerchief, women wear; Guler miniature painting
Baba Balak Nath, Deostidh	Agro-based - Local delicacies like Sep wadiyan and pickles Craft-based - Basket from pine needles, mats etc.
Parashar Lake	Adventure based - Trekking, paragliding activity Craft-based - Pine needle artifacts; Cloth bags, cloth stitching, toys making
Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary	Adventure based – Trekking, Attraction - cultural centre, bio-diversity park, tree house, temporary shops Agro-based – Apple farming, herbal teas, lingad ka achar, brass flower juice, floriculture – carnis flowers
Shoja, Banjar Valley	Adventure based – Nature walks Attraction – Temples Cultural – Cuisine
Khirganga	Adventure-based – Trekking, camping Agro-based – Broccoli and medicinal plants, apple jam, apricot jam Craft-based – Woollen knitting and weaving
Sissu Lake	Adventure based – High altitude trekking, camping, ATV rides, zip lining Agro-based – sea buckthorn juice, jam, pulp, herbal teas Craft-based – wool and weaving
Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	Adventure-based – Trails, trekking Agro-based – Medicinal plants, herbs, sea buckthorn Craft-based – Woollen material, carpet weaving
Chanshal Pass	Adventure based – Nature trails, Hiking, camping, trekking Agro-based – Bee keeping, floriculture, mushroom cultivation, oil generation, apple orchards
Chitkul	Adventure-based – Trekking, hiking, trails, Angling, Rock climbing Agro-based: apple products; medicinal fruits and herbal products Craft-based – traditional woollen and weaving products

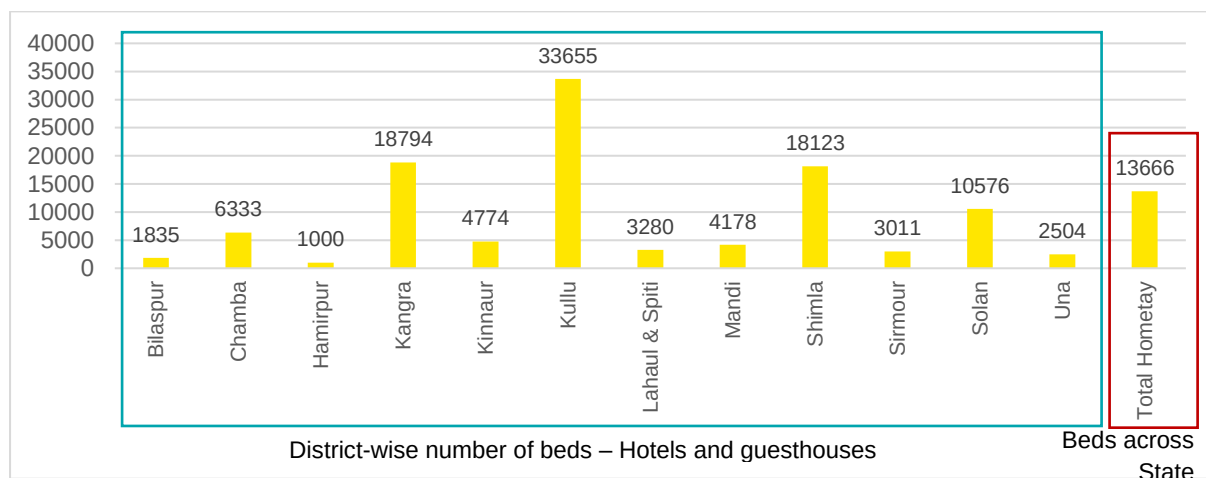
Source: Destination visits by the Project team

The details of the products and their value chain is presented in Annexure 10.3 under the ecotourism destinations. These products need to be further channelled and supplemented to enhance the tourist's experiences. Nowadays, tourists like to participate in such agro-based and craft-based activities along with adventure. This existing market needs to be strengthened for better tourist's experience.

2.5 Existing Tourist Infrastructure

Infrastructure development is the key for the tourism development. While State is continuously focusing on the development of transport (road, rail and airport) infrastructure, it is also increasingly taking initiatives in tourism space. Accommodation for the tourists is one of the key tourist infrastructures. The following table presents the current status of the accommodation infrastructure. As on February, 2021; there were 1.21 lakh beds for tourists under hotels, guest houses and homestays. Homestays showcase a good contribution of approximately 11% of the total beds under accommodation facilities in the State, with large number registered in Shimla, Kullu, Kangra and Lahaul and Spiti.

Exhibit 2.27: Accommodation facilities for the tourists in the State



Source: Department of Tourism, HP; February 2021

There are various other tourist services that includes around 4119 travel agencies and 1275 tourist guides (Department of Tourism, HP; February 2021).

Department of Tourism, HP is responsible for development and promotion of tourism sector in the Himachal Pradesh. It has been carrying out various projects in the past and has also come up with a new initiative named, 'Nai Raahein Nai Manzilein'. Under this scheme, development of 9 tourism circuits have been proposed. Around funds of Rs. 138.8 Cr. have been earmarked under the schemes for various initiatives financing tourism development such as, cultural centres, water sports activities, bio-toilets, wayside amenities, etc.

2.6 Trends in Tourist Footfall and Economy

I. Tourist Footfalls and Growth rate

Total **tourist footfall ranged between 110 lakhs to 200 lakhs** with a CAGR of approximately 4 percent in the last decade (2009-2019). ¹²It accounted for ~160 lakhs in the year 2019. The share of **foreign tourist** arrivals has been low ranging between **2 percent- 4 percent** of the total footfall. The **annual growth rate** at the beginning of the decade, i.e., in 2009 and 2010 was more than **10 percent** however in the last eight years such an annual growth rate has barely touched 8 percent.

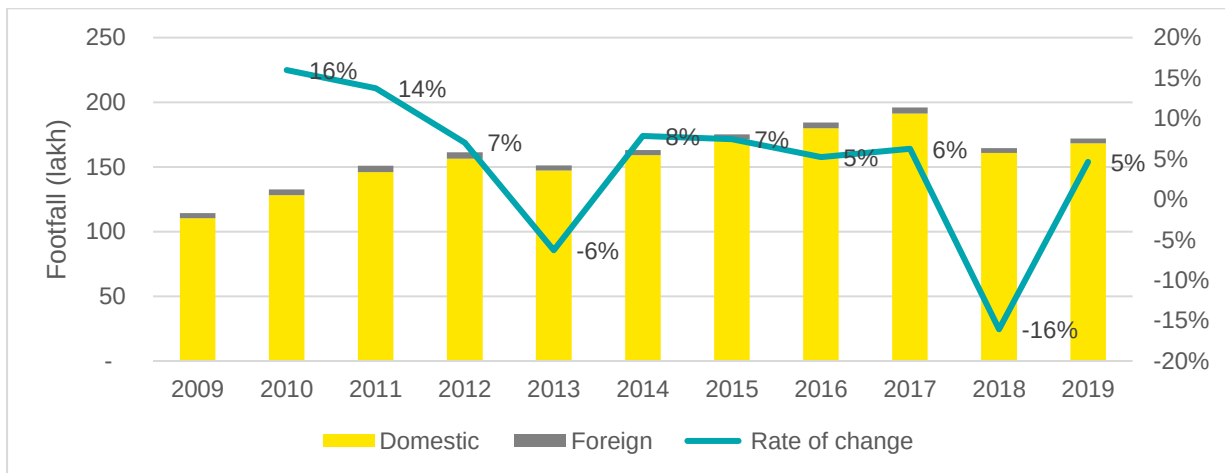
It is observed that there are two instances where the **annual growth rate has been negative, i.e., 2013 and 2018**. A presumption for the drop in 2018 can be attributed to reports indicating a severe water crisis in Shimla and other hill stations, therefore discouraging the tourists presuming a similar issue state-wide¹³. The drop observed in 2013 can be attributed to the severe floods in Uttarakhand,

¹² Due to Covid-19 outbreak, year 2020 is not considered as the numbers were very low during this period.

¹³ Source : <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/08/01/shimla-water-security#:~:text=Last%20summer%2C%20in%202018%2C%20the,water%20tankers%20to%20deliver%20relief.>

which could have shaped the popular opinion to completely avoid travel to the hills. A significant rise was noticed in the domestic as well as foreign tourist inflow during last few years but due to COVID19 there is sharp decrease of 81 per cent in tourist arrival up to December 2020.¹⁴

Exhibit 2.28: Tourist Footfall trend in the last decade (2009-2019) – Domestic and Foreign share



Source: Himachal Pradesh Tourism Department Website data

II. District-wise tourist footfall

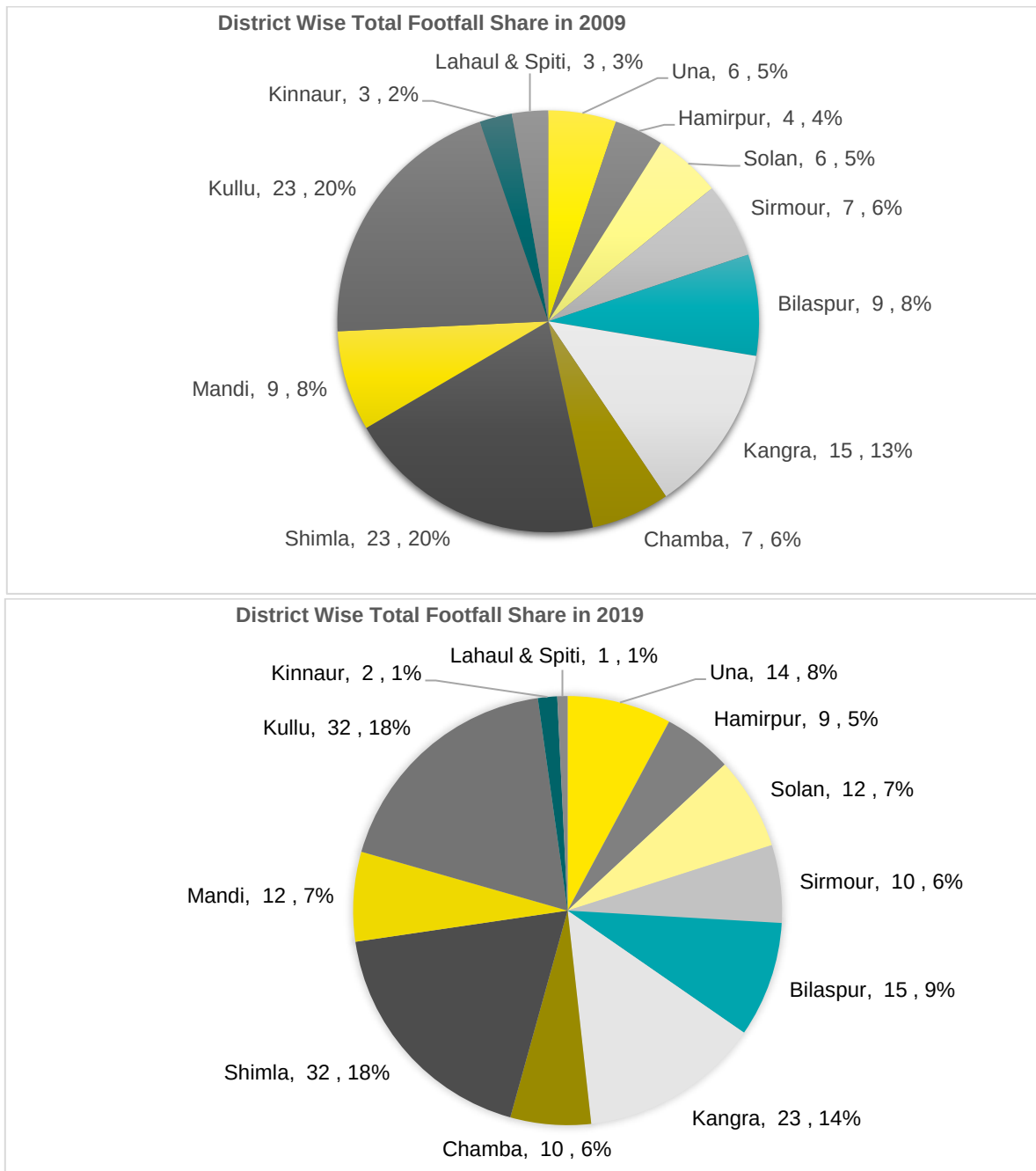
It can be observed that **Shimla and Kullu have the highest footfall share followed by Kangra** in the last decade and the **lowest footfall share is contributed by Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti**. It may be understood that since both the districts have very difficult terrain, hence are not very popular amongst all the segments of tourists.

Further, it can be observed that the **share of the respective footfalls of the districts has been largely consistent** throughout the decade **except for Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur**. The reason for the same may be attributed to the restriction on the number of vehicles entering the region by the National Green Tribunal (NGT)¹⁵.

A comparative analysis of the district-wise share in the total tourist footfall is presented in the following Exhibit.

¹⁴ Economic Survey of Himachal Pradesh, 2020-21

¹⁵ Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/himachal/lahaul-spiti-kinnaur-see-50-dip-in-tourist-arrival-817128>

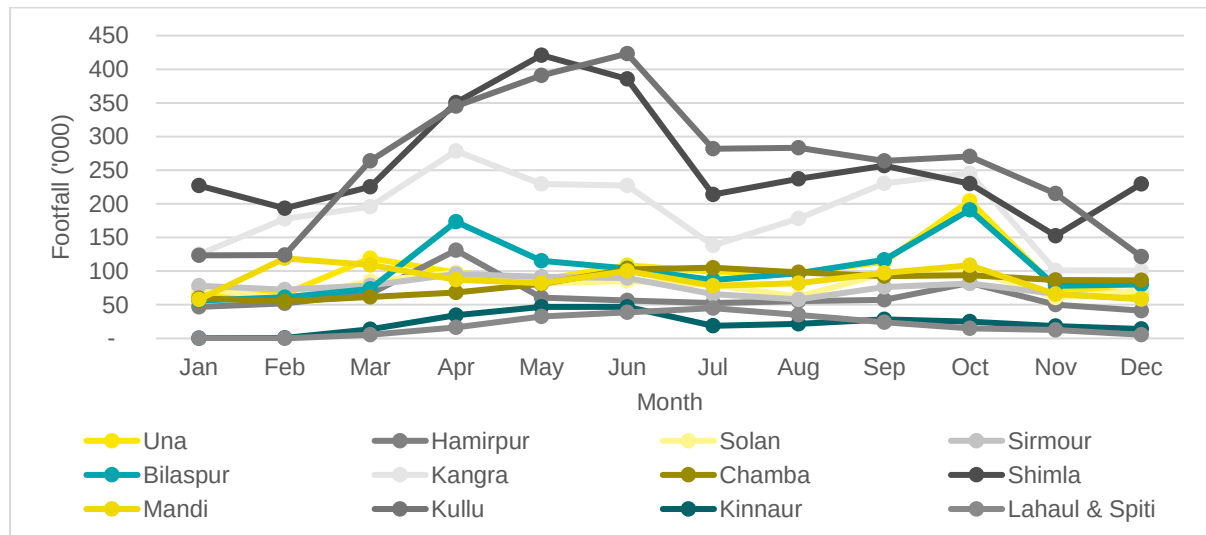
Exhibit 2.29: District wise Tourist footfall share in 2009 and 2019 (in lakhs and percentage share)

Source: Himachal Pradesh Tourism Department Website data

III. Seasonality

Each year the tourist footfall spikes between March to July. The Seasonality in Tourist footfall can be attributed to the fact that Himachal Pradesh is considered a summer holiday destination due to its comparatively pleasant weather conditions. Also, majority of the Indian schools are shut for summer vacations between April to June, thus enabling families and groups to travel at discretion. The second spike is observed in October, primarily owing to Autumn break which corresponds with Navratri festival.

A dip in footfall is observed in July with the onset of Monsoon Season accompanied by unfavourable travel conditions due to incidents of landslides, cloudbursts etc. **Lower footfalls** are observed throughout the State from **October to March** due to peak winters. However, Shimla shows a different trend with higher footfall in comparison to other destinations. It is interesting to note that lately due to yearend holidays/ breaks in corporate organizations, school holidays, and greater accessibility of the hill stations, **December and January are becoming a preferable season for tourists.**

Exhibit 2.30: Average District wise monthly distribution of footfall (2009- 2019)

Source: Himachal Pradesh Tourism Department Website data

IV. Economic Contribution of Tourism

Tourism is one of the most important sectors for the State economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings and creation of employment opportunities. At current prices, Himachal Pradesh's gross state domestic product (GSDP) is estimated at Rs. 1,72,174 crore in FY22, an increase of 3% YoY. The tourism sector of Himachal Pradesh contributes 7% to the State GDP (FY 21), which has improved over the years.¹⁶ State's one of the SDG goal is to increase the tourism share to the state GSDP to 8.5%, which would require higher investments and infrastructure development in future. Tourism sector did well in 2019 and witnessed a 4.63 per cent growth in both foreign and domestic tourist arrivals as compared to 2018 where negative growth of 16.08 per cent had been witnessed. One of the hardest hit sectors by the Covid-19 pandemic was tourism; it saw a contraction of 81.33 per cent in foreign and domestic tourist arrivals in 2020.¹⁷ This has resulted in reducing the economic growth, however it is believed that with increasing normalcy, the sector will bounce back at a higher rate. In Himachal Pradesh, tourism's direct share in employment, in terms of number of jobs, is also higher than the all-India share. It is estimated at 10.23 percent for the state, compared with 5.40 percent for the country. And in case of total share (both direct and indirect jobs) the share in case of Himachal Pradesh stands at 20.23% compared to 12.38% at India level. ¹⁸This highlights the high contribution of this sector on the State's economy and need to further enhance this sector.

2.7 Key challenges - Based on the existing scenario of the eco-tourism development in the State, the current policy framework, various stakeholder consultations and site visits

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh has existed essentially for more than five decades. In the course of these years, the State has witnessed phenomenal developmental change to support the population demand. Despite having an array of unique natural and cultural offerings and being one of the first State's in India to turn to ecotourism, the tourist footfall focusing on ecotourism has been low. The key challenge for the Himachal Pradesh with respect to ecotourism are multiple folds which have been identified based on various aspects.

- While ecotourism has been recognised as a forestry activity, there are still some policy alignments that are required. Further, the long process of FCA approvals are constraints for eco-tourism site development through private participation that needs to be facilitated by State for better development.

¹⁶ India brand equity foundation, September 2021

¹⁷ Economic Survey of Himachal Pradesh, 2020-21

¹⁸ India: Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts, 2015-16, Himachal Pradesh; national Council of Applied Economic Research; December 2019

- Significant challenge for the State of Himachal Pradesh is incongruent infrastructural development. Being a fragile ecosystem, certain parts of the State boast seamless road infrastructure whereas areas concerning ecotourism destination, accessibility needs to be adequately developed. Further, limited air connectivity, poor road conditions and unavailability of adequate public transport also adds to the overall developmental concerns.
- Lack of adequate tourism infrastructure at and around the sites to be developed for ecotourism is also concerning. Infrastructure such as signages, rain-shelters, toilets, drinking water, parking, safety kits, helplines etc. need to be adequately provided to improve tourist's experience.
- There are limited safety protocols defined for such areas.
- There is lack of adequate waste management infrastructure and services from collection, segregation, disposal, and processing at the sites. This makes such serene areas look visually unappealing especially due to plastic waste dumping by tourists.
- There are limited skilled people to support the new ecotourism activities and make them sustainable, hence there is need to for skill training and capacity building exercises to empower the local communities.
- There is absence of tourist carrying capacity and impact studies, which is essential for sustainable development.
- There is inadequate ecotourism branding and promotional activities in the State.
- There is limited inclusion of the cultural activities into tourism currently.
- State suffers severe natural disasters affecting tourism and recent pandemic has also impacted the tourism development and economy.
- Climate change, soil erosion and deforestation remain major areas of concern to retain the natural offering of the State. While, climate change is an unavoidable global phenomenon, deforestation needs to be resolved with State level afforestation and related policies.
- The local communities' limited understanding of ecotourism and community-based tourism also limits the implementation and management of new and innovative activities in the remote areas.

2.8 Ecotourism Development Strategy

The vision of the 'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy – 2017' is to, *'Preserve and protect the natural (both flora and fauna) and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh, provide opportunities to enhance livelihood of local people, generate resources for sustainable development and promote greater understanding and appreciation for this heritage through authentic eco-tourism initiatives.'*

Over the decades there has been a considerable increase in visitations to forests/ natural area in the State. To align with the vision under the State policy, it is essential to follow the principles of Sustainable and responsible tourism with 'economic', 'social' and 'environmental' strategies for the State.

The Master Plan looks at Ecotourism in the State in a holistic manner, with a broad objective undertaking Sustainable Ecotourism. The strategy for achieving this, incorporates working on the following multi-pronged approach in a long-term manner.

Strategic approach

The Master Plan envisages a well-planned, long-term approach. This approach is visualized to be multi-pronged - with equally important pillars, existing and functioning simultaneously.

1. Mainstreaming Ecotourism through institutional mechanism
2. Destination management approach
3. Community benefit at the heart of the strategy
4. Capacity Building and Training
5. Branding, Marketing and Certification
6. Technology interventions

The recommendations have been explained under each strategy with short, mid, and long-term strategies.

2.8.1 Mainstreaming Ecotourism through Institutional Mechanism

Existing institutional framework

The Forest Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh has created a Special Purpose Vehicle in form of 'Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Society' (HPECOSOC), registered vide No.422 dated 30-06-2006 under the Registration rules of Societies Act, 1860, to assist in delivering the mission and objective of the Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Policy.

According to the Revised Ecotourism Policy, 2017, the Division/ Circle level societies shall be chaired by concerned Conservator of Forests/ Chief Conservator of Forests of the Forest Circles concerned. The Local Divisional Forest Officer (T)/DFO (Hqtr.) will be the Member Secretary of the Division/Circle Level Society and a member of the Governing Body. The District Tourism Development Officer and representative of Deputy Commissioner as well as representatives from the Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Nagar and Gram Panchayats will be members of the Governing Body. New Circle Level Societies shall be constituted where these do not exist already, and existing division Level Societies shall be merged into respective circle level societies in due course of time. The Division/Circle level Societies can meet on quarterly basis to review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of various activities of all ecotourism projects in a circle. The constitution of the Board as laid by the policy suggest following composition:

- I. Chairman- CCF- (ex Officio) of the circle Level society
- II. Member Secretary (DFO- ex officio) of the Ecotourism Governing Body
 - a. Representative of Deputy Commissioner
 - b. Representative of Zilla-Parishad
 - c. Representative of Gram Panchayat
 - d. Representative of BDC
 - e. Representatives of Tourism Dept
- III. Division level society (headed by DFO)
- IV. DM Forest Corporation
- V. NGO/CBO working in the field within the Circle Member (one person)

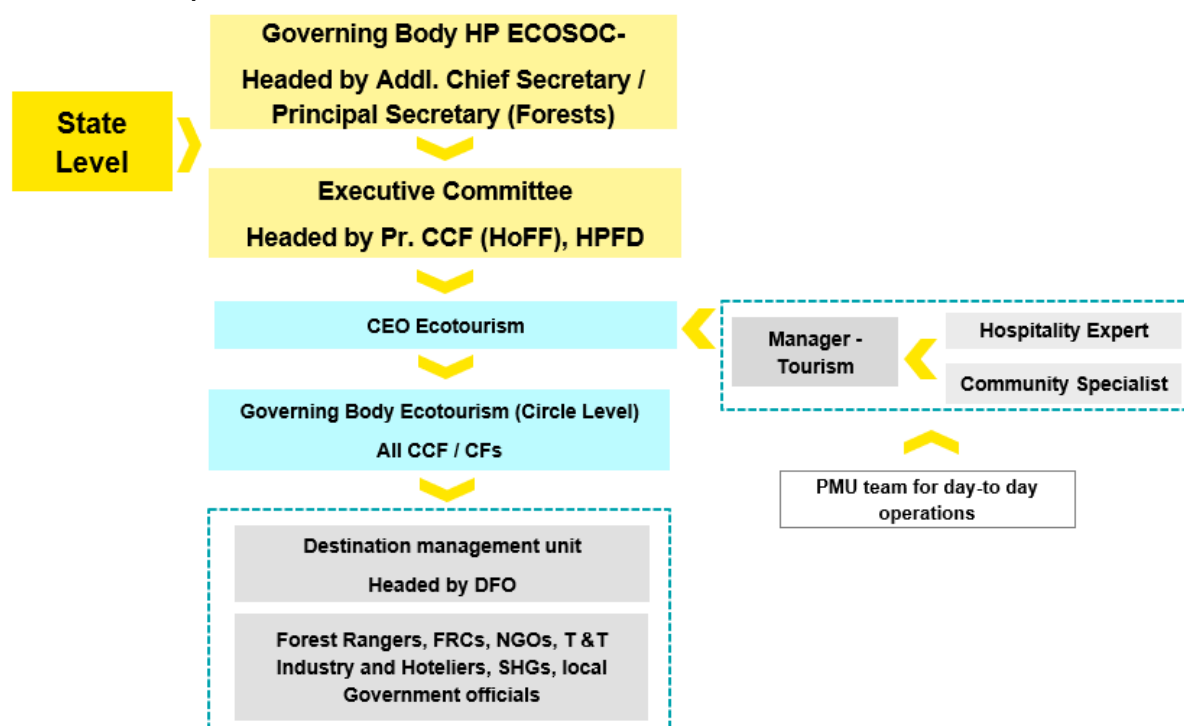
Recommendations for Institutional mechanism for Ecotourism

Aligning with the existing policy, the HP ECOSOC shall be the top body on Ecotourism in the State with a decision-making role.

At State level, Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary (Forests) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh shall be Head of Governing body of HP ECOSOC. The Executive Committee of HP ECOSOC headed by Pr. CCF (HoFF), HPFD will take major decisions of HP ECOSOC. The Head of Executive Committee (Pr. CCF (HoFF)) shall continue to be counselled by CEO (Ecotourism), who shall be the nodal official for all Ecotourism activity in the State.

The CEO Ecotourism is to be assisted by a Tourism Manager, who has a team of a Hospitality expert and a community specialist. These three are newly created positions and shall be professionals especially hired for these activities. The tourism manager in a forest area should ideally be someone who has a good understanding of both conservation and tourism: like naturalists. Similarly, tourism managers in a cultural area can be someone who has worked with interpretation of culture. Further, CEO Ecotourism would be assisted by a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for day-to-day functioning and creating SOPs.

It is suggested to create 'Destination Management Units' in line with local eco-societies as already suggested in the policy. CEO (Ecotourism) shall also mentor the 'Destination Management Unit' (DMU) headed by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Apart from the forest officials, the DMU will comprise of Forest Right Committee (FRC) representatives, travel & tourism professionals, representatives of the hospitality industry and conservation and rural development NGOs apart from forest officials and other Government officials. As the name suggests, the primary role of the DMU will be to hone the destination for ecotourism; and would receive all the revenue streams from the destination including ticket sales for visit to natural / cultural sites etc. in line with the policy. Further, HPECOSOC may appoint range officer as ecotourism facilitator who may act as strong linking point between DMU and communities.

Exhibit 2.31: Proposed institutional structure for HPECOSOC

HPECOSOC with the help of PMU shall lay operational guidelines, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms for these DMUs as well as the Tourism Manager.

The Division/Circle level DMUs/ societies will send their proposals for fresh ecotourism sites to HPECOSOC for securing Government approval and further action for getting project proposals prepared, securing partners for their operation through DMUs, by following the procedure laid in the policy.

10-year strategy for institutional mechanisms is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Strengthening of HPECOSOC	- HPECOSOC to continue to remain as the top entity for ecotourism development and promotion in the State - All CCFs to constitute the Governing body at circle level. - Inclusion of Hospitality and tourism team to support HPECOSOC	- Continued focus on strengthening of HPECOSOC – (improving manpower strength, delivering functions etc.) - Hospitality and tourism services for ecotourism to be upgraded and standardised (by creating SOPs and periodic evaluation)	HPECOSOC to be seen as a successful Ecotourism development and management Authority in the country
2	Formation of Destination Management Units	Formation of multi-stakeholder DMUs at grass-root levels under the leadership of DFO (as highlighted in the	Expansion of DMU to include more stakeholders like the local organizations, communities, etc.	Empowered DMU to take independent decisions for the respective destinations

		earlier section – page no. 68)	with expanding scope of activities	
3	Grassroot level Eco-committees to take ground level decisions	- Eco-committees to be formed and connected as part of DMUs. This can be aligned with existing SHGs as well. Further, local villagers can be brought together to form these committees for bottom to top approach for eco-tourism development. - Hand-holding support to Eco-committees for ecotourism development - Range officer to be appointed as ecotourism facilitator to co-ordinate and communicate between DMU and committee	Continued strengthening of Eco-committees	Strengthened Eco-committees that are fully empowered to take village-level decisions

2.8.2 Destination Management Approach

Tourism creates an impact on the environment as well communities. Managing tourism destinations involves looking at a destination holistically not only from the viewpoint of economic stimulation and traveller experience, but also tourism's impact on the environment, its resources as well multi-fold impact on the communities. 'Destination' refers to an area with its own attraction that inspires visitors to visit and spend time.

Destination management is a complex activity due to many stakeholders being a part of a single destination, often holding contradictory perspectives. Stakeholders in a destination include the local government authorities, local NGOs, community and indigenous communities, academia, local businesses (hotels, tour operators, transportation services, guides, restaurants, etc) and local chambers of commerce; all of them can collectively be called "Destination Management Stake-holders" (DMSHs). Often DMSHs come together in the form of local tourism boards, councils, or development organizations; but may not have a balanced representation of all the DMSHs and thus may not lead to a proper destination management approach.

A well-thought-out **Destination Management Approach** includes the process of taking a wide-angle view of the overall destination in which a balanced vision is developed to ensure promotion of Sustainable tourism along with local stewardship of the environment and culture. This shall lead to development of a conducive and supporting ecosystem for tourism with the Department managing the whole destination to its full potential. The main benefits of this approach are;

Opportunity to *identify and develop a strong USP* of the Destination which is inter-woven within the perspectives of all stakeholders thereby stimulating sustainable and responsible practices from all.

A chance to plan the destination and the tourist activity in such a manner that it minimizes the *total tourism impact on the eco-sensitive destination*, with a view to avoid over-tourism.

- Baseline destination assessment
- Undertaking Carrying capacity studies / limits of acceptable change study
- Fixing of destination standards based on sustainability parameters
- Creation of tourism development plan for each site (target customer segment mix, zoning, developmental work for access infrastructure, hospitality infrastructure and experience infrastructure, and sustainability goals)

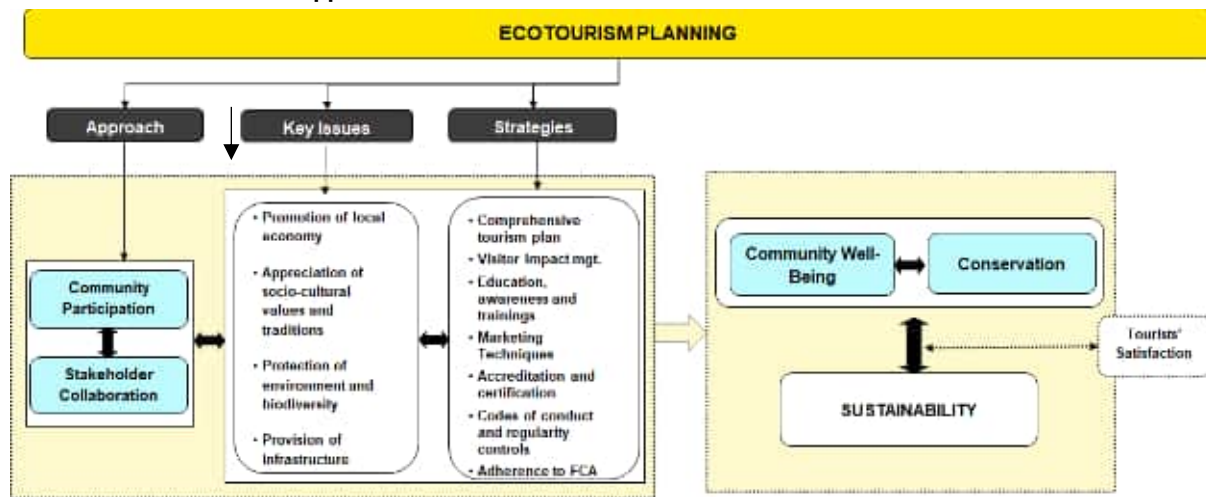
For each destination, create an auditing process for-

- Destination service standards
- Continuous monitoring mechanisms driven by local ecosystem player
- Sustainability standards and certifications

For each destination, provide expertise for capacity building through its centre of excellence

In nutshell, as a Destination manager, the Forest Department shall need to consider the overall area and its socio-cultural and economic wellbeing through all the stakeholders. Detailing it in the figure below:

Exhibit 2.32: Destination Approach to Ecotourism



Further, while planning for ecotourism sites, measures shall be undertaken to comply with FCA provisions.

FCA Compliance Measures

1. The Eco-tourism sites shall be developed in ecotourism zones, in eco-friendly manner ensuring minimal damage to biodiversity and natural profile of the region.
2. An Eco-tourism Plan (also called Working Plan/Management Plan/Working Scheme) needs to be prepared for every eco-tourism site, that should be approved before its implementation.
3. Any and all ecotourism facilities/structure on forest land are subject to the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. Hence, no permanent structures are advised or planned to be constructed in such areas. However, in popular trekking and camping sites, it is also advisable that the Destination owner/ Manager undertake steps to install permanent/ long term solid waste management measures, especially in areas falling in eco-sensitive zones.
4. Most accommodation facilities suggested are temporary structures, such as tents, or facilities made predominantly of natural material of local origin. Such ecotourism facilities are also to be part of the approved Working Plan/Management Plan/Working Scheme.
5. Home stay/ Community stays managed by local communities on non-forest land shall be encouraged and promoted. It is strongly advised that benchmarks and standardized criteria based on international best practices and sustainable tourism practice may be devised and implemented.

Destination Development Framework

A tourism destination development framework obviously needs to focus on facilities and services designed to meet the needs of the tourists. In case of an ecologically sensitive destination, the products and services should showcase its unique attractions while curating experiences with minimal footprint. A sustainable destination is however one that prioritizes Planet, People and Profit in the correct order and optimizes all three.

To reach this balance, destination's different attributes need to be assessed while creating a development plan. These attributes are summed up in the acronym: "ASA VIE".

- (1) Attractions:** USP or the desirable features that attract the tourists to the specific destination.
- (2) Sustainability:** carrying capacity, limits of acceptable change for ecology, as well as communities
- (3) Accessibility:** Ease of travelling to the destination
- (4) Visibility:** Degree to which a destination is visible to its potential visitors
- (5) Infrastructure for tourism:** Accommodation and various other general facilities/ amenities that are expected in a tourism destination including the ones for health and safety.
- (6) Experience:** Recreational and experiential activities available.

Exhibit 2.33: Attributes of destination development framework



The first three of this frameworks, viz. Attraction, Sustainability and Accessibility are attributes that take a long time to influence and therefore come across as intrinsic qualities of the destination. The last three however: Visibility, Infrastructure and Experience are tourism layers added onto the destination; they can be changed in a shorter period of time and thus are the focus of many tourism plans. The latter three feed-back into the first three and a neglect of this relationship often leads to over-tourism and demise of a destination.

Tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh are geographically and culturally diverse in nature and are at different stages of tourism area life cycle. Therefore, there is a need to develop destination and activity specific management plan based on these factors as well as on the basis of the development priorities.

A participatory management approach, where all the stakeholders are given priority in management decisions is appropriate for the State. Representation of all stakeholders at different levels (e.g., destination/site level, panchayat level, block level, district level and state level), are essential to be established for ecotourism development. Forest Department will be having the lead role in formulating such committees/ societies/ units. These committees/ societies/ units, then will prepare the Destination Management Plan for their respective areas. The DMP will have the following stages:

- Defining carrying capacity
- Sustainability, certification, destination service standards and monitoring

Carrying Capacity

Concept of Carrying Capacity

Tourism offers ample opportunities for the diversification of livelihood activities and enables the locals to earn an additional source of income. However, as witnessed in most destinations across the globe, tourism can cause enormous damage if developed without taking into consideration an area-specific and activity-specific development plan. Further, without the involvement of all stakeholders especially local communities in the tourism planning process, sustainable development, better operation and effective monitoring of tourism projects may not be ensured. For this very reason, it is essential to undertake a carrying capacity impact assessment exercise to determine the ecological as well as socio-economic impacts of the tourism activities in the region. The concept of carrying capacity focuses on the need to identify and maintain a level of development and activities that would promote environmental and social sustainability. The development and activities beyond this level degrade the environment and weaken the social edifice.

Carrying Capacity guides the planners and policy makers to reap out the optimum economic benefits and meet the conservation goals for socio-cultural and ecological assets through regulated tourism development at a destination, but this concept is not universally applicable to all destinations as each destination is unique in its own. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) defines Tourism Carrying Capacity as *“the maximum number of people that may visit a tourist destination at the same time without causing destruction of the physical, economic and socio-cultural environment and unacceptable decrease in the quality of visitor’s satisfaction”*.

This definition emphasises upon three major aspects. These are-

- identification of appropriate number of tourists a site/destination at a given time;
- optimum level of health of the physical, economic and socio-cultural environment; and
- quality of visitor experience/satisfaction.

However, O'Reilly (1986), attempted to define the carrying capacity through the perspective of tourism supply and demand. According to him, from the supply perspective carrying capacity is “the capacity of the destination area to absorb tourism before the negative impacts of tourism are felt” and from the demand side, carrying capacity is “the levels beyond which flows will decline because tourists believe there are too many tourists”. O'Reilly's definition suggest that the resource base quality is important in determining the demand (number of tourist) for the tourism hence the assessment of carrying capacity should be focused around the quality of destination resources and attitude of stakeholders about the level of tourism development in the area.

Suggested Process & Framework for Carrying Capacity Assessment

In order to perform a carrying capacity assessment for ecotourism development in a state like Himachal Pradesh, only quantitative mechanism is not sufficient owing to differences in destination characteristics and scale and stage of tourism development at individual location.

For this purpose, a mixed approach for assessing and operationalising the carrying capacity is more feasible and practical. The mixed approach will incorporate a numerical approach for the assessment of physical carrying capacity in order to maintain acceptable volume of tourist flow and situational analysis of individual destination as a managerial tool. The exercise will ensure the sustainable development of ecotourism at all destinations through periodic monitoring.

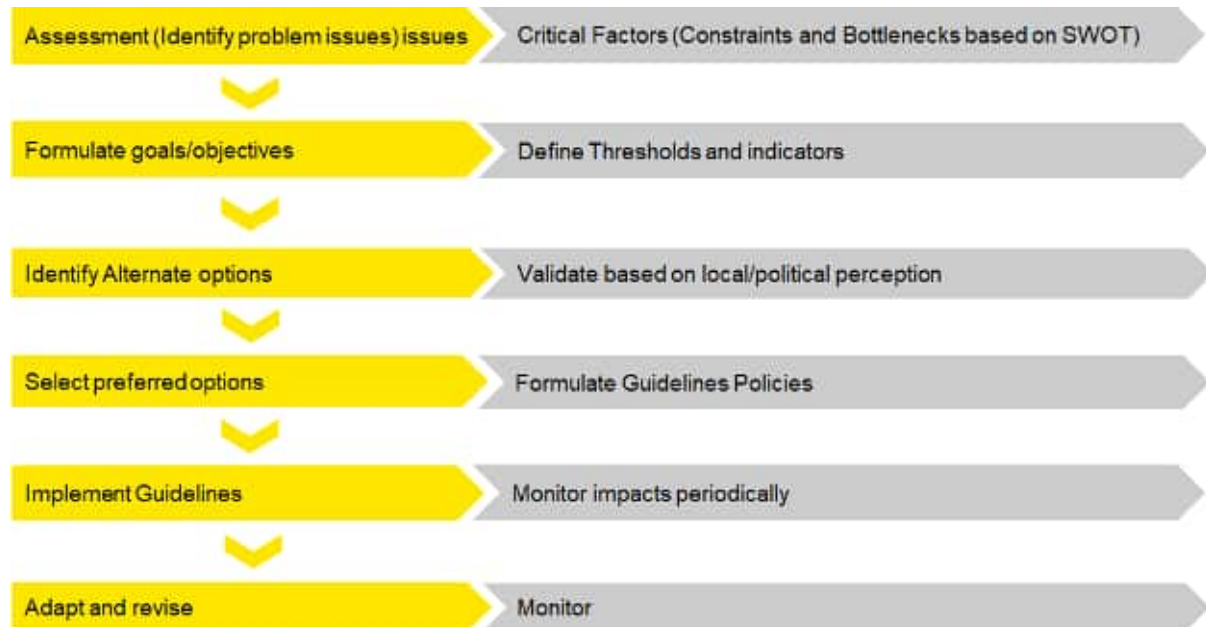
Methodology

For the assessment of the carrying capacity of a destination or tourist attraction, the following are the steps that are needed to be undertaken:

1. Situational analysis-
 - a. inventory of tourism resources
 - b. analysis of physical-ecological, socio-demographic and political-economic
 - c. Analysis of constraints, bottlenecks & impact
2. SWOT Analysis
3. Information / Data collection for

- a. Physical carrying capacity
- b. Ecological carrying capacity
- c. Social carrying capacity
- d. Economic carrying capacity
- e. Employment opportunities
4. Application of the formula
5. Report

Exhibit 2.34: A proposed Framework to carry out Tourism Carrying Capacity study at a Tourism Destination/ Area



The average individual standard (often measured in square meters per person) is the space a tourist requires for an acceptable experience in an area, which will vary depending on the area, activity, and management.

$$\text{Carrying Capacity} = \frac{\text{Area used by Tourist}}{\text{Average individual Standard}}$$

The total number allowed daily visits is then obtained. Total daily visits is equal to carrying capacity * Rotation coefficient

$$\text{Where, Rotation Coefficient} = \frac{\text{No of Daily hours area is open for tourists}}{\text{Average time of visit}}$$

Another way of setting carrying capacity limits is by examining in hindsight the impact of visitors on the area in question. In other words, when managers observe a level of use above which degradation ensued, that level becomes the carrying capacity.

Sustainability, Certification, Destination Service Standards and Monitoring

Sustainable Destination Program and Sustainability Standards & Certifications

Tourism operations may direct pressure on fragile ecosystems causing degradation of the physical environment and disruption to wildlife. It can also exert considerable pressure on host communities and lead to dislocation of traditional societies and competition for the use of scarce resources, notably land and water. It can be a significant contributor to local and global pollution.

Sustainability in tourism refers to design and implementation of tourism plan such that the ecological and cultural processes continue to operate at a regenerative pace without major disruption from tourism or tourism related impacts.

Sustainable destination program is designed to empower local communities to take ownership of sustainability goals and build on local initiatives. It recognizes the benefits of a Destination working together to achieve sustainable outcomes and should be used to underpin a clear vision for a

Destination, as well as focusing on sound policy and action plans to help achieve the vision. The program addresses key global concerns, including the SDGs, and deals with environmental regeneration and environmental improvement as well as the conservation of existing natural heritage assets. It includes two key steps:

- Benchmarking: Indicated quantitative evaluation of the destinations environmental and social performance against sector and region baseline and best practice levels. Effective benchmarking delivers clarity and injects confidence. It puts rigor and transparency into processes and strengthens reporting to government, visitors and residents.
- Certification: Qualitative verification of the destinations environmental and social performance against the Sustainable Destination Standard by an approved independent third-party auditor.
- Existing and relevant Certification schemes for the selected Ecotourism Destinations in India
- STCI – Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India for Sustainability based certification framework for tourism service providers, accommodation (hotels, home stays)
- NCCF – Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests- Ecotourism Destination Certification
- RTSOI Self Certification Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Destinations, Sustainable Accommodations, Sustainable Tourism Services Providers
- Himachal Pradesh Homestay Scheme – Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh
- System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for Hospitality Industry (SAATHI – MoT)
- *Destination Experience Service Standards:*

In spite of growing interest in experiential tourism, ecotourism destinations across the world continue to find 'service quality', a challenge. Nevertheless, this is a singular factor that differentiates a successful destination from a struggling one. Standardization of the offerings is an important tool that offers confidence to the tourist of getting value for his money. Standards are not only used for standardization of the product, but also as guidelines for further development and for capacity building.

Largely, destination service quality standards are devised through intensive rounds of stakeholder consultations. Actual performance against those standards needs to be measured in two ways:

- through customer feedbacks as well as
- regular audits by independent experts

As discussed above, every destination can choose to focus on one or more of the following customer segments:

- High Nature Sensitive customer
- High Culture Sensitive customer
- High Comfort Sensitive customer
- High Price Sensitive customer

Each set of customer segment has a need and expectation of a certain service standard. Under-delivery of the same leads to customer dissonance that may lead to customer dissatisfaction giving a bad reputation to the destination as well as making it less sustainable. The services can be standardised across the state for maximising the benefit to the destination and the communities involved.

Monitoring

A robust monitoring process is required that keeps track of the progress made on all the above parameters, including a stress on destination, number of tourists increase, satisfaction level of both the hosts and the guests, scope for improvement in planning etc. The monitoring committee shall comprise of representatives of relevant stakeholder departments, the local communities, civil societies, and the corporate organisations and shall report to the Chairman HPECOSOC.

10-year strategy for destination management approach is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Wide-angle view of the overall destination	- Focusing on Sustainable eco-tourism with local stewardship of the environment and culture. - To carry out baseline destination assessment, based on the destination development framework defined on page no 71.	Fixing of destination tourism offerings, capacity and facilities based on sustainability parameters	Implementation of destination service standards by DMUs (defining clear SOPs for development, operations and management).
2	Destination Management Plan	Preparation of Eco-tourism development plan for each site (target customer segment mix, zoning, developmental work for access infrastructure, hospitality infrastructure and experience infrastructure, and sustainability goals)	Implementation of the Eco-tourism development plan to develop the destination in a sustainable manner	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
3	Enhancing investments into tourism and ancillary sectors	Coordination with other State departments to plan for better connectivity, waste management and other development	Continued coordination with other State departments for better access and experience	Regular benchmarking with the other State Government's initiatives
4	New Destinations	Identification of priority destinations and newer ancillary destinations to develop them into suitable ecotourism zones.¹⁹	Carrying capacity and zonation for ecotourism activities to be carried out as explained in page 74.	Impact assessment studies to be carried out of the developed ecotourism activities on wildlife, environment and forest communities around the ecotourism destinations
5	Infrastructural requirements for servicing tourists	Developing SOPs for the use of clean energy, improved energy efficiency,	Development of Smart communication modes/ channels	Monitoring and evaluation of services standards

¹⁹ Based on this framework and local weather scenario, 10 ecotourism destinations were selected for the visits, that served as the representative framework for understanding the local conditions, community's perspective, other stakeholders' viewpoints, infrastructure availability around the potential sites, connectivity etc.

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
		banning use of single-use plastics; food-waste management and recycling programmes; solid waste management, water harvesting etc.	(social media – ecotourism/ HPECOSOC page on twitter, Group on facebook, updates on whatsapp etc.) to create awareness amongst tourists with respect to ecotourism necessities and responsible behaviour. • Implementation of SOPs and planned measures at all destinations and sites	• Impact assessment studies of the developed ecotourism activities based on the targets defined under SOPs

2.8.3 Community involvement and Benefit Sharing Mechanism

Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Policy 2017 (revised) has a provision for distributing the revenue generated from ecotourism development in the state. The policy states that HP ECOSOC and divisional level ecotourism societies will work as the repositories for all the funding received from different funding agencies including the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.

The policy further envisaged that the total revenue generated from ecotourism operations may distributed as per the following table:

Exhibit 2.35: Existing revenue sharing mechanism as per re-revised ecotourism policy, 2017 of HP

Partners	Share
HP State Government	20%
HP ECOSOC	20%
Divisional/Circle level ecotourism society share	60%

It is important to further revise and update the policy to enhance community participation for community-based ecotourism development, in such a manner that the maximum benefit is accrued to the community

Although there is an existing revenue sharing mechanism for government bodies, however, the government should identify opportunities to further invest the revenue generated for the benefit and upliftment of the communities.

Models for spreading community benefit in tourism projects across the States

Various State governments have coined different types of tourism models suitable to their requirements and community's perception.

Exhibit 2.36: Revenue/ benefit sharing mechanism across different States

	Ownership	Investment	Operations	Working Model
1	Govt. owned	Govt. Invest	Govt. run	Ecotour, Madhya Pradesh Park Gates
2	Govt. owned	Govt. invest	Community run	Tadoba Gate, Maharashtra
3	Govt. owned	Govt Corporation	Govt corp run	Jungle lodges, Karnataka
4	Community Owned	Govt. Invest	Community run	Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh
5	Private owned	Private Investment	Private run	Desia, Koraput Singinawa Jungle Lodge, MP
6	Community owned	CSR / NGO invest	Community Run	Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust, Odisha
7	Community Owned	Private Invested	Private Run	Bamboo Forest Safari Lodge, Maharashtra
8	Community Owned	CSR / NGO Invest	Private + Community	GHE (Global Himalayan Expedition)

Based on the experience and learnings from various past projects across the States, a comparative critique of various ecotourism project development mode is summarised below:

Exhibit 2.37: Advantages and disadvantages of ecotourism project development modes

	Ownership	Investment	Operations	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Govt.	Govt.	Govt.	Easiest to kick-off; Suitable when no private player is interested, or community institutions are not present	Limited by Govt funding; No community ownership Operations quality questionable Shuts out other stakeholders
2	Govt.	Govt.	Community	Creates ownership within community; maybe suitable when no private player is interested in investments	Difficult to drive quality in operations; very difficult to market it; sustainability may be a big challenge
3	Govt.	Govt Corp	Govt corp	Very easy to kick-off; an easier way of bringing professionalism in absence of private players	Not conducive to attract private investment; creates state-led-monopolistic behaviour
4	Community	Govt.	Community	May succeed if the community organisations are mature and they have a sense of ownership and entrepreneurship	Difficult to drive quality in operations; very difficult to market it; sustainability may be a big challenge
5	Private	Private	Private	If the private player is evolved enough, it can use community involvement as a business differentiator. Africa has done this successfully.	Private player may inflate their community contribution and may not make a meaningful difference. There is no support from government

	Ownership	Investment	Operations	Advantages	Disadvantages
6	Community	CSR/ NGO	Community	When incubated by a good NGO; creates capability and ownership within the community. Creates and enabling eco-system through CSR partners	Operations quality and marketing will be a challenge if the NGO does not have tourism expertise. Government machinery may not be engaged making it tougher for everyone
7	Community	Private	Private	Built around the concept of private conservancies where Govt creates incentives model	In case of a dispute between Private player and community, Govt may not be able to play the role of a credible intermediary
8	Community	CSR/NGO	Private + Community	Driven by Social businesses, it brings the best of corporate and philanthropic worlds together and aims at creating a scalable, profitable and sustainable model	Initial projects may take longer to take off and would require financial staying power on part of the private player

Challenges with current level of community involvement in Ecotourism initiative

There are multiple factors that affect the community's readiness for any new activity. As per the learnings from the development sector, community readiness has multiple stages in behaviour change for adopting a new livelihood model.

Currently, the HPECOSOC uses Eco-societies and FRCs as a vehicle for involvement of communities in the tourism enterprise. There are three issues related to the current status:

- In absence of a destination level approach, the engagement of FRCs with tourism tends to be project based. The whole perspective gets limited to management of a facility rather than a larger perspective of ecosystem development.
- There is no clear pathway of capacitating an FRC unlike how NRLM developed its SHGs. In absence of such a path, FRC tend to lack agency and self-reliance.
- Post Passing of Forest Rights Act, a lot of communities will get their CFR recognized sooner or later. The current experience of Ecotour has not prepared the forest department or the communities adequately for managing that transition.

For a true conservation-oriented community-based tourism model, the community would need to typically transition from low engagement with conservation and tourism to a very high level of ownership of conservation and tourism issues. This transition may typical involve following 10 stages and each of the stage requires specific response from the forest department.

Stage 1: Absence of awareness – In this stage, the community does not fully understand their role in ecotourism and is indifferent to it. It is therefore, advisable not to headlong plunge into a tourism initiative. An activity that builds confidence with the community is often an important first step. A good example of such an approach is 'The Snow Leopard Conservancy's' (SLC's) initial activities around the issue of livestock predation by snow leopard. Once the communities were confident that in the eyes of SLC, their interests were as important as that of snow leopard's or the tourists, their involvement was much deeper.

Stage 2: Denial or resistance – In this stage, there is little recognition or concern among community members about their current practices that put pressure on bio-diversity. They are also cynical about ability of tourism to create significant livelihood. Building engagement with the community so that they see themselves as custodians of the forests is extremely important. WWF's work with ITBP to convert them from occasional hunters to protectors is a case in point.

Stage 3: Claiming the heritage – The community is becoming aware of the issues, but the motivation to address it is low. There is low confidence in their ability to be seen, heard and acknowledged by

various stakeholders. They are also often not very expressive with reference to their own socio-ecological-cultural heritage. It is very important that the community works on these aspects with the help of an enabling eco-system much before they get exposed to tourists. In absence of this preparation, there is a strong danger of the indigenous culture being paraded in front of tourists as a commodity. NGOs and experts should ideally be roped in for this stage to adequately document the intangible culture of an area so that a tourist is truly able to appreciate the linkage between ecological knowledge, ancient wisdom, biodiversity as well as local culture. The focus of such work is not only aimed at tourists but is also equally geared towards creating dialogue within the communities themselves. A very good example is 'Cafe Ethnic' that grew out of Deccan Development Society's work on millets with indigenous communities.

Stage 4: Emergence of representative Community Institutional structure – the community adopts a community institution that be their vehicle for driving conservation and tourism within the overall developmental context. Sometimes it can be a ground-up activity of some SHGs (Self-help groups) coming together in form of a Federation, or it can be a FPC (Farmer Producing Company) kind of structure with a few proposers initially. The Destination Management Unit proposed earlier is expected to be the umbrella organization under which an appropriate institution can emerge. Currently, there is no platform for communities from various villages to collaborate on tourism projects that may span across villages. Forest department needs to be cognizant of such possible exclusions and needs to take steps to rectify them. Periyar National Park is a good example where specially created SHG of ex-poachers was used successfully to engage them meaningfully and powerfully within the tourism value chain.

Stage 5: Laying the foundation and creating strong bonds – For a lasting community endeavour that weathers many storms, it is important that the community structure is bound by common goals. While it is true that the potential benefits from tourism are a strong motivation, but tourism receipts can be unpredictable and sometimes a source of discord within the community; therefore, it is important to anchor these institutions in something far bigger. In Pithoragarh for example, the members of the Maati organization first came together as members of Van Panchayat and this primary relationship helps them tremendously in navigating issues around tourism. Members not contributing enough to the Van Panchayat start getting excluded from tourism benefits.

Stage 6: Initiation of community tourism enterprise – In this stage, the community begins activities to establish a conservation-led ecotourism model with the help of experts, developmental organizations and is supported by the government through schemes and incentives. Only if the five stages mentioned above have been addressed adequately, can the tourism initiative be a holistic activity. 'Shaam-e-Sarhad' at Hodka Kutch Gujarat grew out of such enabling foundation and was able to become the only self-sustainable project.

Stage 7: Gaining of expertise – Guided by the enabling ecosystem, various community members become proficient in many aspects of ecotourism as well as conservation. The community organization also starts becoming mature; and working relationships between various members evolve. This marks the phase wherein the community is able to take over some of the activities traditionally handled by experts. Local youth taking over marketing initiatives can be one such milestone.

Stage 8: Navigating rough patches – Once initial forays become successful, the community can now face-up the contradictions between its various behaviours. For example, it may start seeing how short-term gains can cause long-term damage or it may recognize that some of the old practices / rituals have impacts that are not sustainable. Helped by the enabling ecosystem, the community can choose new behaviours and trade-offs. Sometimes these trade-offs may include balancing between conservation and tourism needs. 'Tadoba' is a good example wherein the community has chosen to give up many extractive practices because they have grown to recognize the long-term benefits of conservation in form of higher tourism receipts.

Stage 9: Understanding business models – The community organization and its leaders start learning to understand the nuances of the business models, the risk profiles, the entrepreneurial spirit required as well as a fair system of benefit and opportunity sharing. They are mature enough to enter into MoUs with private and public bodies outside of forest department.

Stage 10: High level of community stewardship – This is the most mature stage of the community organization. Here, the community truly starts seeing the full picture at the destination level and is able to balance the needs of various communities or projects. The community also learns how to create incentives to enlarge the benefit pie by creating incentives that are driven by performance (hence unequal), but at the same time, attempt to share it fairly.

The forest department is encouraged to do a self-assessment to assess the maturity of the community on the above continuum as well as their response to the process of evolution.

10-year strategy for community involvement and benefit sharing is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Community involvement	• Include community in preparation of destination management plan for the development of ecotourist destination • Community participation in providing tourism services as an independent entrepreneur (by promoting, giving them handhold support) • Provide hand-hold support to create ancillary eco-entrepreneurs involving traditional skill-sets • Promotion of rural tourism and homestays	• Forming a community group for procurement of local goods (this may include local villagers, small traders, SHGs depending upon the good and location). • Forming service provider community groups • Creating strong linkages between tourism industry and ancillary eco-enterprises (by holding quarterly meet-ups/ workshops etc. to bring everyone on the same platform)	• Evaluation of implemented activities and plans
2	Benefit sharing mechanism	• Direct revenue sharing (for commercially driven projects) as per the norms already defined under the Re-revised Ecotourism Policy of HP	• Distribution of direct benefits (including employment, procurement of local goods and services, and infrastructure construction) across the tourism value chain	• Development and implementation of specific community investment programs

2.8.4 Capacity Building and Training

Tourism is a specialised business with very specialised requirements. Lack of entry barriers and training has led to declining service standards leading to fall in the destination value. It is of extreme importance that the destination owners/ managers (Forest department) undertake detailed and aggressive capacity building of the various stakeholders. There are several training institutes and initiatives in past that have tried to undertake this activity with little on ground effect in terms of its sustainability. The solution may lie in creating and curating a *Centre of Excellence* having overall responsibility of Ecotourism standardization and training and capacity building and be tasked with the following activities:

1. **Forest & Government Officials:** There is a requirement of training of government officials across all departments to the concepts of ecotourism, sustainable tourism and responsibility of

all the stakeholders in making the business of tourism sustainable. This includes capacity building towards tourism mind-set in forest department officials where it is important that they treat ecotourism as an activity ancillary to and supportive of conservation. These can be carried out through workshops, industry exchange programmes etc.

2. **Destination Management Unit:** The cadre managing these DMUs needs to be honed specifically. The community benefit paradigm is intricately linked to the professionalization of the DMU in a destination. The management of this unit needs to be professional. Forest department has to play a greater role of enabler and regulator rather than having the management control.
3. **Communities:** Community based tourism is an ideal solution for the problem of livelihood generation for the community and tourism has a potential to resolve the problem of unemployment in the rural and forested areas of HP. Capacity building is required at continuous level for making the community 'tourism' ready. The focus can be on imparting hospitality, story-telling, improving language and communication skills, guiding and tourism services etc. through workshops from industry experts. Also, creating 'training to trainers' programme can give fillip to the entire process by strengthening the skills of the large part of the communities in a shorter time.
4. **Hospitality & Tourism Training:** HPECOSOC needs to engage a competent organisation that impart hospitality training to the local communities. This initiative will help to reinforce local youth to get mainstreamed in ecotourism and ancillary activities. Similar initiative have been undertaken in other Indian states with very good results.
Tourism Training could also emulate from Tadoba initiatives on tourism training. The Maharashtra Forest Department (MFD) had supported the formation of Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) & Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Tadoba and the neighbouring forest villages to benefit local communities from tourism. The Forest department facilitated training for youth, boys and girls, in imparting training for becoming naturalists and adventure experts.
5. **Knowledge management unit around intangible Arts & Craft:** Art, crafts and architecture form are an important part in making destinations 'unique'. It has been reported that adapting indigenous techniques of art, crafts and architecture results in improved climate resiliency. On similar lines of 'Hunnarshala Foundation' in Kutch, Gujarat is one such in situation that facilitates adaptation of indigenous architecture by working with a group of engineers, architects, and local master artisans from the region and building sustainable habitats using traditional knowledge in contemporary architecture. The foundation helps incubate artisan enterprises by forming artisan collectives making artisans equal partners in the design and research phases of building proof-of-concept and encouraging the collective to be able to execute them and market on their own. Hunnarshala helps these companies at the stages from providing formal training to providing design support for projects, to financial, accounting and administrative as well as legal support.
6. **Enterprise development:** Responsible Tourism involves making the destination a good place to stay for both the tourists as well as the host community. Waste management and cleanliness is an important area that has a far-reaching effect on the destination. It provides a sound ethical basis for developing ecologically sensitive strategic management systems which allow organizations to satisfy the demands of the various stakeholders that represent the destination in the immediate business arena. A case of Waste Warrior, Corbett solicits this fact. Despite being an indirect ecotourism entity the organisation because of its intervention in making the Jim-Corbett National Park solid-waste free, now commands a special place in the panchayat in matters concerning village governance. The case study of Waste Warrior, Corbett highlights importance of the development of an activity which is ancillary to the sustenance of ecotourism destination to snowballing effect which encourages local communities to form organisation in the collection, segregation, recycling/reuse or disposal of the solid waste brought by the tourists in the park. HP needs to facilitate such enterprises by identifying a right player who can train the local communities on the aspects of solid-waste management.

10-year strategy for capacity building is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Capacity Building of Government officials	- Capacity building and sensitization of Government officials including Forest officials to enhance their understanding in ecotourism from different perspectives - Hospitality training through industry experts. - Industry exchange programmes and training of trainers - Recruitment of tourism and hospitality professionals	Continued capacity building through specialised and advanced trainings focusing on Monitoring, Sustainability reporting, hospitality standards	Continued capacity building exercises across new functions, activities and new manpower
2	Capacity Building of community	- Training of the community into finer nuances of tourism experience like guiding, storytelling, soft-skills, safety measures etc. - Provide handhold support to local community for their improved participation into ecotourism as partners and independent entrepreneurs	Continued capacity building of the communities through measures like training programs, incentives etc.	Continued capacity building of the communities on the new identified activities and potential experiences

2.8.5 Branding and Promotion

Branding and Promotion: 'HPECOSOC' needs to differentiate its work as custodian of conservation and tourism related initiatives in the region as well its role as a Quality tourism service provider in ecotourism. It therefore needs to float a new brand that represents its broader role encapsulated by DMUs.

HPECOSOC shall be a common, strong and unique brand that will represent sustainable, experiential and diversified ecotourism of the State - be it incubated by forest department, any other govt department, any NGO or a private entity – as long as they adhere to the principles defined by it. Supported by the beautiful imagery that HP Tourism is known for, the brand needs to have an easy recall and should be able to have its own standalone image in the mind of the prospective tourist.

The brand would be focusing on:

- Responsible tourists who would be educated on how HP ECOSOC products and services are responsible and sustainable besides being high-quality, ethical, and beautiful
- Volunteers who want to be part of the change
- Businesses that want to create sustainable and ethical businesses
- Communities that balance conservation and development
- Entrepreneurs that incubate social enterprises
- Developmental organizations who steer this change

Emotive and inspiring messaging built around the brand shall be delivered through traditional media such as advertising on a massive scale as well as the new media such as Digital media and social media and will need to focus on bringing the brand on a top of mind recall status. This shall be supported by PR and influencer programmes as they engage consumers further up the conversion funnel. Influencer and event/film activations will deliver engaging messages through credible third parties to drive greater preference for visiting ecotourism destinations in Himachal Pradesh. A useful new age marketing tool is also the tool to create and promote 'Tourist Community building' through dedicated community platform for future travellers, current travellers, and former travellers.

This community ensures that there are always repeat visits to the State, enhancing the tourist flow into the State. It is also of extreme importance to manage the customer expectations and set behaviour guidelines on Responsible behaviour while visiting 'Eco sensitive destinations' through stringent social media promotion. The State may consider tying up with specialised third-party on the same. This may also engage highly price sensitive tourists who flock the State from the neighbouring States, making them participate in conversations around sustainable and responsible travel, futuristically altering the irresponsible behaviours associated with this tourist segment.

Strengthening the Sales network: A very strong Sales network is needed to promote nature-based tourism that shall include partnering with other public and private sector organisations. A sales channel could be booking of all nature-based properties through a different, exclusive website and an independent booking engine. It is also important to move hand in hand with the industry and collaborate with them (instead of competing), engaging with them and utilising their strength in offering a 360-degree service to all customers. Engaging with online travel aggregators like make my trip, clear trip etc. is another important step in promoting Ecotourism actively and in a more planned and long-term manner to create a more stringent promotion and Sales network.

10-year strategy for Branding and Promotion is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Determination of USP and selection of appropriate tourist segment	- Identify and prioritize 'USP' of priority sites and long gestation sites on the basis of natural and cultural assets - Define site specific products as per USP and target segment	- Create partnership for widespread recognition – WWF, UNESCO, Un World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) etc. - Creation and implementation of destination service standards	- Regular benchmarking with other State Governments' initiatives - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of destination service standards
2	Productization	- Creation and implementation of action plans/ DPR for all the sites - Creation of distinct unique 'ecotourism' brand.	Identification of new experiences and products	Monitoring and evaluation of all the sites
3	Marketing	- Formulate marketing and advertisement plan with strong logo and brand (to tie up with known celebrity, eg. Gujarat tourism) - Aggressive promotion of the	- Create unique content for the tourists through e-books, articles, videos, newsletters etc. - Tie-up with large tourist operators	Continued promotion of the brand through various modes

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
		brand in all media viz. print (brochures, newspapers) electronic and digital (Billboards at key locations, TV ads, websites, social media etc.) for priority sites.	like makemytrip, cleartrip etc. to promote Himachal Pradesh ecotourism.	

2.8.6 Technological strategies

To improve tourists experiences globally and nationally, tourism sector is witnessing interventions in technology space. State shall focus on following technology interventions to implement these eco-tourism activities, improve the experiences and promote eco-tourism for attracting tourists.

- Creating attractive social media handles, websites wherein there is continuous promotional activities to attract tourists and providing full information.
- Centralised portal for registering various providers of different eco-tourism activities such as accommodation/ camping agencies and guides/ trekking/ adventure agencies. This will help in standardised and revenue generation and having all the details at the State headquarter.
- Creating centralised portal for booking of tents/ camps and trekking/ hiking trips and other eco-tourism activities by tourist. This will provide a safe environment to the tourist without any miscommunication.
- To create Management information system (MIS) at the State headquarter for monitoring the implementation and the standards of the services. A team shall keep the monthly record of the progress and keep updating the MIS to see the near to real-time status of the various activities across the State.

10-year strategy for technology-based development is as follows:

SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
1	Technology for marketing	• Creating attractive social media handles, websites for promotional interventions and communication	• Continued focus on enhancing such promotional channels	• Continued focus on enhancing such promotional channels
2	Technology for better service delivery	• Creation of centralised portal for registry of different service providers for different eco-tourism activities • Creation of website for booking of different activities for tourists	• Enhancing and managing the portals as per the changing requirements	• Enhancing and managing the portals as per the changing requirements
3	Technology for monitoring	• Creation of Management Information System	• Monitoring the implementation by generating reports	• Monitoring the implementation by generating reports

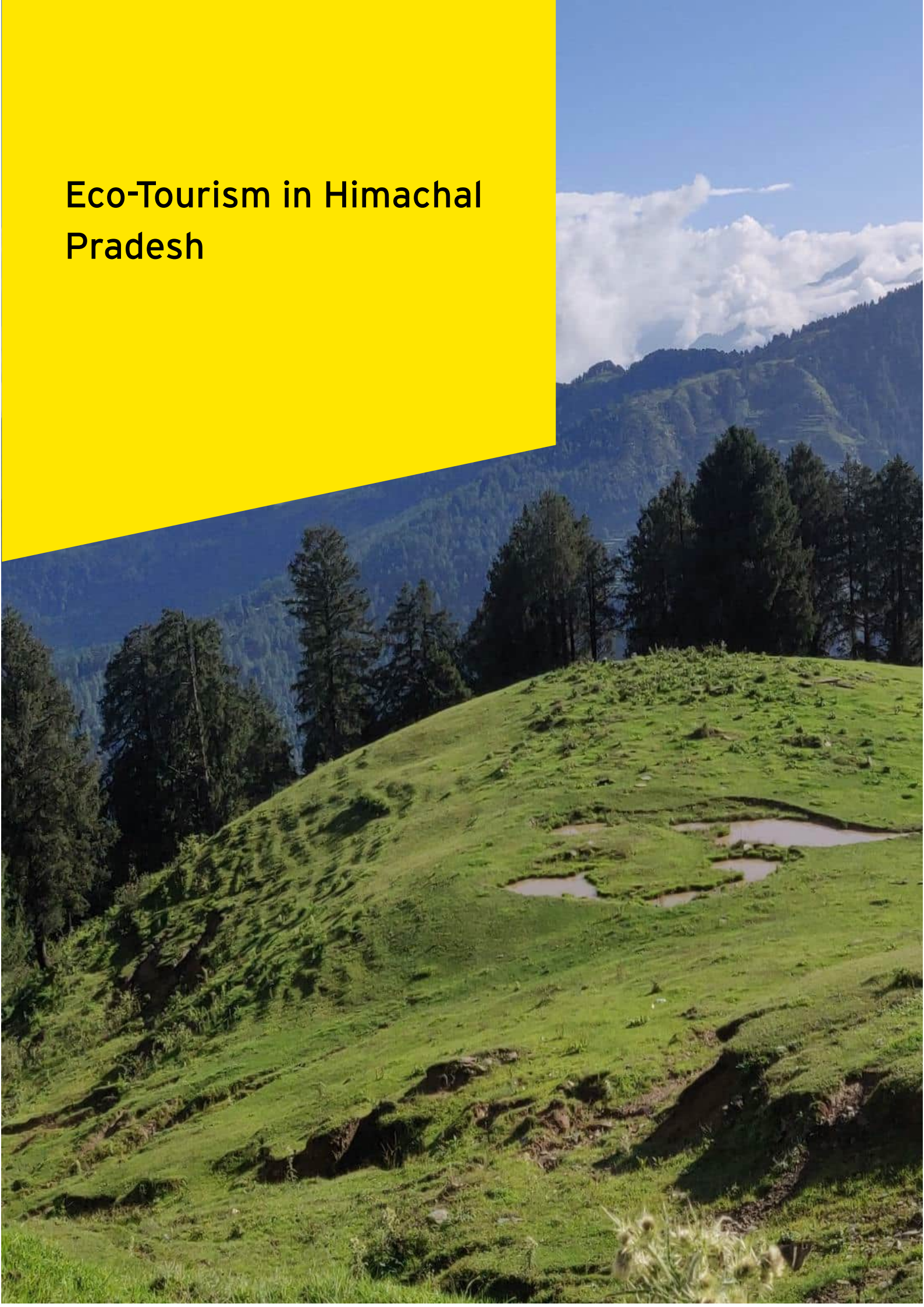
SN	Key Areas	Short-term (0-2 years)	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Long-term (6-10 years)
		(MIS) for monitoring the implementation	and dashboards based on MIS	and dashboards based on MIS

In addition, it is suggested that there should be a mechanism for reviewing and monitoring the development in ecotourism space and Ecotourism master plan.

It is suggested to form a 'Monitoring Committee', which shall be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the progress of the Master Plan implementation. The 'Monitoring Committee' shall have representatives from HPFD including HPECOSOC and other Forest circle level institutions.

It is noted that eco-tourism space is evolving very fast. Hence, it is suggested to review the Master Plan in every three years to incorporate new eco-sites and innovative concepts in future.

Eco-Tourism in Himachal Pradesh



3 Eco-Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

This Chapter covers the details on tourism scenario in the State including tourist footfall and broad economic contribution of the sector to the State. It also captures the initiatives undertaken by the HPECOSOC in the State of Himachal Pradesh along with the details of the existing ecotourism sites, eco-circuits, infrastructure, activities, existing revenue sharing mechanisms, and current eco-tourism products across different destinations of the State.

3.1 Existing Scenario of Tourism in the State

3.1.1 Introduction

Himachal Pradesh is located in the northern part of India constituted as a State in 1971. It shares its borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the south, Uttarakhand in the south-east, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in the north and Punjab in the west. It shares an international border with Tibet Autonomous Region in China in the west. Shimla is the capital of the State located in the southern region of the State. Himachal Pradesh has 12 districts namely, Sirmaur, Solan, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Mandi, Shimla, Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Kangra, Chamba, Una, Bilaspur, Mandi, Hamirpur and Kullu. Almost 90% of the state's population lives in rural areas. Agriculture, horticulture, hydropower and tourism are important constituents of the State's economy.

Geography and Climate

Himachal Pradesh lies in the Western Himalayas with prominent peaks characterised by a landscape of mountains with river systems and diverse flora and fauna. The state is almost wholly mountainous with altitudes ranging from 350 meters to 6,975 meters above the mean sea level. Physio-graphically, the State can be divided into five zones as listed in the following table.

Exhibit 3.1 : Physiographical division in Himachal Pradesh

S.No.	Zone	Zone area
1	Wet Sub-temperate zone	Palampur and Dharamshala of Kangra District, Joginder nagar area of Mandi district and Dalhousie area of Chamba district
2	Humid Sub-temperate zone	Districts of Kullu, Shimla, parts of Mandi, Solan, Chamba, Kangra and Sirmaur
3	Dry temperate-alpine High lands	Major parts of Lahaul-Spiti, Pangi and Kinnaur
4	Humid Sub-tropical zone	district Sirmaur, Bhattiyat valley of district Chamba, Nalagarh area of district Solan, Dehragopipur and Nurpur areas of district Kangra
5	Sub-Humid Sub-tropical zone	Sirmaur and Indora area of district Kangra

Source: Himachal Pradesh Information and Public Relations website

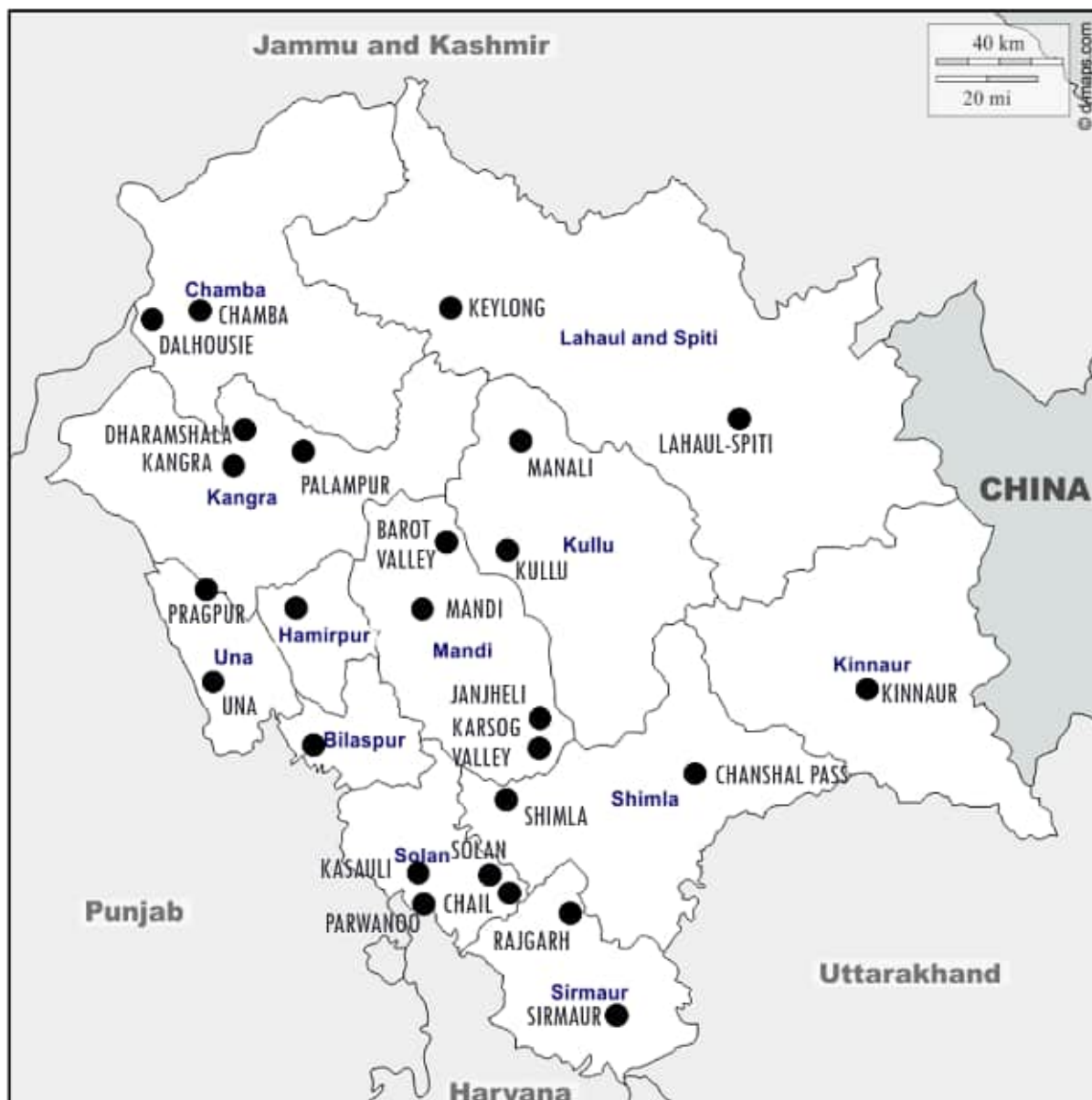
Demographics

As per Census of India, 2011, Himachal Pradesh has a total population of 68.6 lakhs accounting for 0.57 % of India's total population with a decadal growth rate of 12.9%. It is one of the least populous States in the country. The population density of the state is 123 people per sq. km. Kangra district (15.1 lakhs) is the most populated district followed by Mandi (9.9 lakhs) and then Shimla district (8.1 lakhs). On the other hand, Lahaul Spiti is the least populated district (0.3 lakh) due to its extreme physiography.

3.1.2 Major Tourist Destinations

Based on secondary research²⁰, popular destinations in the State have been identified and mapped in Exhibit.

Exhibit 3.2: Major Tourist Destinations of Himachal Pradesh



Source: Project team based on secondary research

Exhibit 3.3: Famous Tourist Destinations, Themes and Tourist Attractions (Himachal Pradesh)

SN	Destination	Themes	Famous Tourist Attractions
1	Kullu	Great Himalayan Ranges, Nature, Hill station, Temples	Parvati Valley, GHNP, Kasol, Bijli Mahadev, Manikaran, Bhrgu Lake
2	Manali	Great Himalayan Ranges, Nature, Hill station, Adventure sports	Rohtang Pass, Solang Valley, Hadimba Temple, Vashisht Hot Springs, Beas River Rafting, Gulaba, Kothi, Manu Temple
3	Shimla	Hill station, Viewpoints, British colonial architecture	The Ridge, Jakhoo Hill, Mall Road, Kalka–Shimla Railway, Christ Church, Indian Institute Of Advanced Study,

²⁰ Websites such as Tourism dept. websites, Holidify, Thomas Cook, TripAdvisor, Thrillophillia, Travel Angle etc., travel magazines such as Lonely Planet

SN	Destination	Themes	Famous Tourist Attractions
			Summer Hill, Kufri, Annandale, The Shimla State Museum, Chail, Solan, Daranghati Sanctuary, Naldehra And Shaily Peak, Arki Fort
4	Chamba	Art, Temples, Nature	Akhand Chandi Palace, Champavati Temple, Lakshmi Narayan Temples, Chamunda Devi Temple, Bhuri Singh Museum
5	Dharamshala	Tibetan culture, Monasteries, Nature	Tsuglagkhang Complex, Namgyal Monastery, Masrur, Kareri Lake, Gyuto Monastery, Kangra Museum, Kangra Fort, Dal Lake in Dharamshala, Naddi Village
6	Dalhousie	Hill station, Meadows, Valleys	Khajjiar, Kalatop Wildlife Reserve, Dainkund Peak, Ganji Pahari, St. Francis Church, Panchpula, Chamera Lake, Garam Sadak, Subhash Baoli, Sach Pass
7	Kangra	History, Temples, Fort ruins	Kangra Fort, Maharana Pratap Sagar Lake, Taragarh Palace, Gopalpur Nature Park, Nurpur, Nadaun, Indrhar Pass, Tatwani Hot Spring, Kareri Lake
8	Kasauli	Hill Station, Viewpoints, British colonial period	Kasauli Brewery, Christ Church, Sunset Point, The Mall, Manki Point, Krishna Bhavan Mandir, Gilbert Nature Trail, Shri Baba Balak Nath Temple, Barog, Gurkha Fort
9	Hamirpur	Trekking, Unexplored, Baba Balak Nath	Deotsidh Temple, Sujanpur Tihra, Awah Devi Temple, Bilkeshwar Temple
10	Parwanoo	Ropeway, Orchards, Viewpoints	Kalka, Pinjore, Mughal Gardens, Fruit Orchards, Gurudwara Nada Sahib, Cactus Garden, Timber Trail
11	Solan	Culture, Cuisine, Heritage	Mohan Shakti National Park, Karol Tibba, The Mall Road, Shoolini Mata Temple, Motilal Nehru Central State Library
12	Pragpur	Temples, Shopping, Heritage	Chamba Pattan, The Taal, The Judge's Court, Jwalamukhi Temple
13	Sirmaur	Temples, Shopping, Heritage	Shivalik Fossil Park, Churdhar Peak, Renukaji, Haripur, Habban Valley
14	Chail	Hill station, Cricket, Viewpoints.	Cricket Ground, Maa Kali Temple, Chail Palace Hotel, Sidh Baba Ka Mandir, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary
15	Una	Lakes, Temples	Pong Dam, Chintpurni Temple, Thaneek Pura, Kaleshwar, Kila Baba Bedi Ji

Source: Websites such as HP Tourism dept. websites such as Holidify, Thomas Cook, TripAdvisor, Thrillophillia etc.

3.1.3 Tourism Schemes in Himachal Pradesh

1. Tourism Training Schemes for locals

Himachal Pradesh University has started a Tourism Administration Program in 1992 under the Institute of Vocational Studies. The programme was initiated keeping in view the growing importance of Tourism Industry to the country along with the growing demand of Tourism Professionals to serve in the Industry. The programme included papers on Tourism & Management along with Foreign language instructions, field trip to some known tourist destinations within India & hand on work experience in Tourism field. The various courses being offered under this programme are:

- Bachelor of Hotel Management
- Five Year Integrated Course in Tourism & Travel Management
- Masters of Tourism & Travel Management
- Ph.D in Tourism

Trainings in the following Hospitality Courses under “Hunar Se Rozgar Tak” Scheme include:

- Multi Cuisine Cook
- Food & Beverage Services Steward
- Room Attendant
- Front Office Associate

2. Homestay schemes/ policy

State Government launched **HP Home Stay Scheme in 2008**, that includes:

In order to provide a comfortable Home stay facility to the tourists and to supplement the availability of accommodations in rural areas, State Government has introduced the Home stay facilities on the basis of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India “Incredible Bed & Breakfast Scheme”.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- Broaden the stakeholder’s base for tourism in the State;
- Take tourism to the rural and interior areas of the State;
- Decongest the Urban areas, which cannot support any further tourism load;
- Provide employment and economic values in the interior areas;
- The activity shall be ecologically sustainable

Incentives/ Exemptions:

- The relaxation of taxes/fees (as detailed below) for Home Stay Tourism Units in the rural areas has been provided
- Town & Country Planning Department will charge no change of land use fees from the registered Home Stay units;
- Home Stay units would be exempted (up to three rooms) from Luxury and Sales tax/Vat.
- Domestic rates for electricity would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units and
- Domestic rates of water would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units

3. Handicraft training and scheme of HP

Handloom Cluster Development Scheme in Kullu:

Under Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, the Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation Limited launched The Handloom Cluster Development Scheme in Kullu. The highlights of this scheme are as follows:

- 24 awareness camps organized for 771 stakeholders.
- 150 SGH's formed covering 3072 weavers with credit facilities of Rs. 14.00 lacs.
- Trained 10 designers for the use of vegetable dyes and some of the weaver started using it.
- One export procedure trainer was organized with participation of 25 weavers with the facility from I.I.T.F Delhi

- Exposure visits to Palampur, Dharamshala, Chandigarh Hyderabad and Varanasi, 47 weavers participated
- Product catalogue with live samples and one brochure of the cluster has been prepared.
- Direct marketing facility provided to over 350 weavers and indirect marketing facility to new 3000 weavers.
- Total sale INR 2.00 crore realized (1.00 crore realized through exhibitions and BSM while INR 30.00 lakhs realized from CCIC activities of 3650 weavers.
- 152 new designs developed so far no sales realized by the designer.
- Nearly INR 14.00 lakh worth of yarn sold to the local weavers wherein 300 weavers benefited.
- Old CFC building has been upgraded and 16 Handlooms installed in the work shed with new technology for enhanced products. Work shed is having meeting room, information centre, sales counter, storeroom/yarn bank, warping machine and finishing/packaging room.
- Two sales outlets opened at Kullu and Mandi.

3.2 Potential Ecotourism Destinations and Sites

The current chapter firstly highlights the methodology that has been followed to identify and finalise the potential eco sites, provides summary of the findings from the visits and stakeholders at the local level and then presents the eco sites with its existing details and potential activities that can be carried in ecotourism space. Further, for the purpose of the project study, a clear distinction is drawn between an eco-circuit, ecotourism destination, and ecotourism site as defined by the project team below:

- **Eco-Circuit:** defined as a route with two or more ecotourism destinations with well-defined entry and exit points.
- **Ecotourism Destination:** An Ecotourism Destination essentially includes the destination where ecotourism shall take place. A destination is a larger area, usually well-known and covers multiple ecotourism sites, local community villages, supporting amenities and peripheral infrastructure. It usually is known by the nearest town.
- **Ecotourism Site:** An Ecotourism site is a well-defined land parcel identified for ecotourism activities.

3.2.1 Methodology for identification and finalisation of ecotourism sites

To identify potential ecotourism sites and also understand the perspective of various stakeholders, following methodology was followed:

1) Identification of Sites

Visits to multiple destinations in the State

Discussions with local level forest officials

Consultations with industry players across the State

- Project team visits to various locations in the State
- Virtual/ telephonic interaction with local forest officials to identify the potential sites (all forest circles and divisions)
- Identification of potential sites through consultations with industry players across the State

2) Ratification, assessment, and potential of Sites

- Based on these, a large list of potential sites is formulated which has been further ratified by the local forest officials leading to final potential sites for ecotourism activities.
- Further, each site has been assessed based on current area, altitude, existing situation of the site and its current use, current status of infrastructure and based on the same potential activities have been suggested for each site.

3.2.2 Methodology followed for visits at potential ecotourism destinations

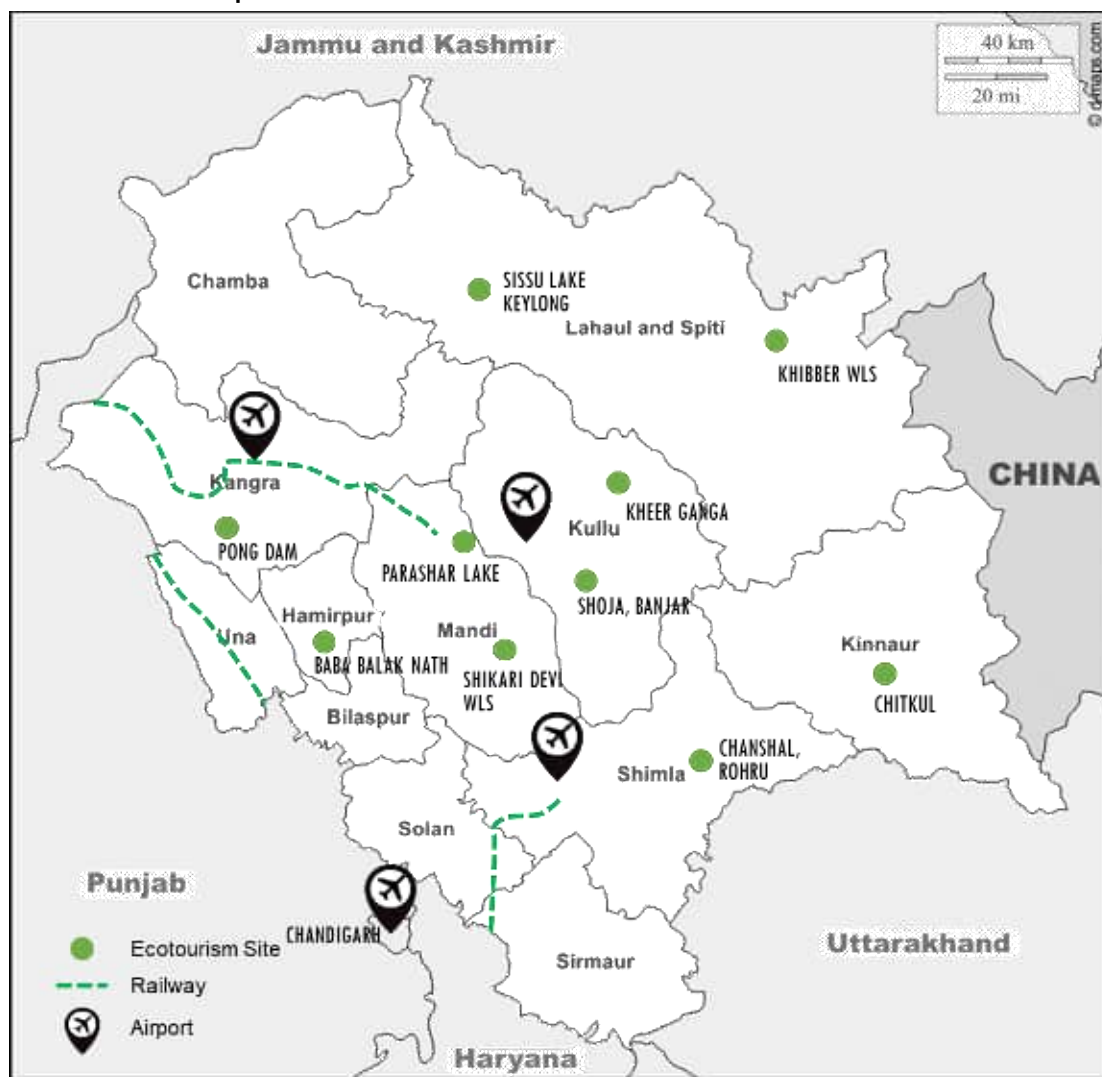
It is to be noted that, in order to capture varied USP (natural offerings) of Himachal Pradesh, the destinations and sites to be visited were categorised into five landscapes based on the biogeography of the State. These five landscapes are as presented below:

- **High-Altitude:** includes the ecotourism destinations situated at an elevation higher than 3500 m. This shall cover both, high-altitude dry regions such as Lahaul-Spiti and high-altitude wet regions such as Kullu.
- **Mountains:** shall include ecotourism destinations ranging between 1500-3500 m altitude.
- **Wetlands:** includes ecotourism destinations considered as per Ramsar Convention
- **Forests:** Ecotourism Destinations which are proximal or cover a protected area within its limits.
- **Foothills:** Ecotourism destinations ranging between 350-1500 m altitude. Under this category special focus has been given to pilgrimage areas falling under forest jurisdiction to recommend suitable interventions for responsible tourism into the forest areas.

Based on this framework and local weather scenario, 10 ecotourism destinations were selected for the visits, that served as the representative framework for understanding the local conditions, community's perspective, other stakeholders' viewpoints, infrastructure availability around the potential sites, connectivity etc. The project team visited the following ecotourism destinations:

Exhibit 3.4: Table of Shortlisted Ecotourism destinations for visits

Ecosystems	S.No.	Ecotourism Destinations/Sites	Forest Div.	Forest Circle
High Altitude Ranges (Above 3000m)	1	Sissu Lake	Lahaul	Kullu
	2	Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	Spiti WL	WL South Shimla
	3	Chitkul	Kinnaur	Rampur
Wetlands	4	Parashar Lake	Mandi	Mandi
	5	Pong Dam Wetland (Dehra Gopipur)	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur
Mountains (1000-3000m)	6	Chanshal Pass, Kharsali	Rohru	Shimla
	7	Kheerganga NP	Parvati	Kullu
Forests	8	Shikari Devi WLS	Mandi	Mandi
	9	Shoja, Banjar Valley	Seraj	Kullu
Foothills	10	Baba Balak Nath (Deotsidh)	Hamirpur	Hamirpur

Exhibit 3.5: Location Map of Shortlisted Ecotourism Destinations for visits

Ten destinations were visited by the project team to identify the potential sites, understand the local scenario, stakeholders' opinion, community's perception and willingness towards ecotourism and various local aspects for the comprehensive development. As-is assessment of the visited destinations captures the details related to following aspects namely:

- Brief introduction to the destination and the tourism interest
- Sites identified near the visited destinations details with respect to ownership,
- Connectivity to the site through different modes
- Destination surroundings and the nearby communities
- Destination's access to physical and social Infrastructure
- Assessment of existing tourist infrastructure gaps
- Assessment of existing standards of hospitality sector
- Assessment of existing Community based products
- Assessment of existing ecotourism activities and facilities
- Market analysis
- Community perception through stakeholder consultations
- Key challenges at the destination
- Destination strengths and potentials and its USP
- Destination benchmarking and rating

The **detailed assessment of these destinations capturing various aspects** has been presented in the **Annexure 10.3**.

The brief of these ten destinations is presented in the following section followed by site-specific plans for ecotourism.

3.2.3 Representative Ecotourism Destinations

Pong dam Wildlife Sanctuary

Destination strengths and potential

- It is a **Birder's paradise** with native and migratory birds
- It witnesses **high tourism / religious activity during local fairs** in the month of April – June, when the water of the lake recedes, the locals and visitors from Punjab drive in large numbers to Bathu kiladi (which is normally submerged in water). During the weekends (Precovid 19) the number go up to 500 cars in a day.
- The lake has **high variety of fish** being one of the highest fish producing reservoir in HP

The site holds strong potential to be developed and further incorporate ecotourism activities such as:

- Potential for water-based activities
 - Introduction of activities such as 'A day with fishermen', regular boat-rides, water-sports activities (packages)
- Potential to convert day-tourist to long-stay tourist:
 - village visit, nature walks, star-gazing, Do-It-Yourself souvenir for tourists
 - Bamboo handicrafts, revive Guler painting
 - Explore areas like Bathu-ki-Ladi & Masroor (Temple packages)
- Capacity building of community in tourism activities to generate livelihoods
 - There is requirement of sensitization of locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco-tourism activities, Identification & regularization of treks, hikes and trails keeping in mind the experience and inclusion of safety measures with focus on Regularized trekking, trails, quality camps.

Destination benchmarking and rating

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Birders' Paradise, Angling, Fishing, still water sports
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Exploratory

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - To be positioned and developed as an exclusive destination for water sports and angling destination for special interest and serious birding tourists.

Babal Balak Nath, Deostidh**Destination strengths and potential**

- **High numbers of Pilgrims and good pilgrimage site.** The approximate number of devotees those who visit the Baba Balak nath Temple is more than 50 Lakh every year (Covid 19 period is not taken into consideration).
- Existence of **Beautiful Pine trees and basic infrastructure** in place.

The site holds strong potential to be developed and further incorporate ecotourism activities such as:

- **Potential to covert pilgrims to nature tourist** - trekking / hiking trails across Deostidh forest, Camping, nature walks, star-gazing etc.
 - If, even a small share of the total numbers of devotees visiting, can be convinced to spend 1 or 2 nights extra at the place, engaged in some ecotourism activity like camping, hiking/ trekking trails, learning some craft like pottery or making basket from pine needles or anything else involving the local people, that would be a big support to the local community.
- Opportunity for developing tourism infrastructure to ensure better experience for the visitors - Interpretation centres, watch towers, way-side amenities
- **Beautiful Pine forest: Forest based activities.** The lush pine trees of Deostidh forest are beautiful. Nature walk in forest can be promoted as the people from cities don't get to see these kinds of forest. These can be clubbed with birding or wildlife viewing (if any).
- **Involve community by providing trainings** and sensitizing locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco- tourism activities, identification & regularization of treks, hikes and trails keeping in mind the experience and inclusion of safety measures. Locals can be trained for home stays, camping, as trekking guides and other activities etc.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Baba Balaknath Cave Temple, Lush Pine Forest
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Exploratory for Ecotourism

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

■ Current Situation ■ Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Need to additionally position it as a destination for trekking trails / nature walks to convert certain share of pilgrim tourists as nature tourists

Parashar Lake**Destination strengths and potential**

This destination is naturally positioned for ecotourism activities and the community is also tourism friendly, open to training exercises to enhance their livelihood opportunity. Baseline soft and physical infrastructure already exists and has potential to elevate the experience for tourists. The strengths of the site include:

- Existing tourist base due to temple and adventure activities (trekking and camping)
 - Quality camps available, trekking trails with trained guides and certified persons, safety measures, community participation.
 - Proposed Commercial Paragliding site
- Capacity building programs conducted by government in past
- Community involvement in providing culture-based services (folk song & dance “Naati”)

Following are the site potentials based on the existing situation and analysis:

- Quality camping and camps:** Authorized and registered safe camping sites along with exhibition and performances of local cultural aspects such as folk song and dance performances “Naati”.
- Trekking trails –** Regularized trekking trails supported with signages, trained guides and certified persons, safety measures through community participation.
- Paragliding activity –** Parashar lake is already proposed as a paragliding site. Operation of registered paragliding activities from Lambadhar to Gadaunidhar.
- Tourist facilities –** potential for development of tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, rain shelters, designated parking areas, food / eateries / restaurants, toilet facilities, drinking water facility, and helplines, etc.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Religious aspect and fairs. Famous for trekking, camping. Paragliding has started as well
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development phase

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential for regularized ecotourism and adventure activities involving communities considering carrying capacity limitations

Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary**Destination strengths and potential**

Wildlife sanctuary viewing experience: Shikari Devi Wildlife area has the potential to be developed as wildlife viewing and related activities. Various species of birds have been observed in Shikari Devi wildlife area.

Agro-tourism: Agro-tourism is the crossroad of tourism and agriculture where the public visit working farms, ranches, or wineries to buy products, enjoy entertainment, participate in activities, shop at a country store or stand, eat locally grown or locally prepared food and perhaps make overnight stays for an authentic experience relating to Agro-technologies being followed by rural farmers. This type of tourism has been emerging in many rural areas. Not only that it provides economic diversification, but it also helps the farmers to increase their export opportunities without leaving their home.

In tune with this, there is ample potential of developing Agro-tourism in the surrounding villages of Shikari Devi, Janjehli and Gara Gusaini areas of Seraj block, and Devi Dhar in Gohar block. Similarly, the Agro-tourism can also be developed at places of interest like temples, sanctuaries, hill tops.

Regularized trekking, trails, quality camping and camps: There is requirement of sensitization of locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco-tourism activities, regularization of the treks, trails and inclusion of safety measures for tourism activities in this area.

Medicinal Plant garden: Approximately, 28 varieties of medicinal plants are found and produced in this area, which require prior permission to transport and sell from the forest divisional office. These plants may be explored for exhibition and medicinal plant garden purpose.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	IBA* Site, Wildlife sanctuary, religious center, Community involvement, Products (Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture)
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential to be developed as a birding and wildlife exploration area. Community involved in offering Agro-tourism along with ecotourism experiential services.

Shoja**Destination strengths and potential**

The key strengths include:

- Proactive community participation particularly in tourism activities
- Empowered women keen on engaging in ecotourism activities
- Pristine environment with high altitude flora fauna and bird species
- Falls in Old British route with heritage rest houses

The potential is as follows:

- Growth of offbeat ecotourism destinations in post covid era
- Proximity to World Heritage Site of GHNP & Jibhi and Jalori Pass
- Local Population has already seen tourism & its benefits
- Huge Potential of winter sports particularly cross country & alpine skiing

Destination benchmarking and rating

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	In Tourism Circuit of Banjar Valley Pristine Nature with possibilities of Winter Sports Considerable tourism footfall
2	Maturity of Tourism Lifecycle	Development stage

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential to be developed as responsible tourism destination with the involvement of local community especially women. Good potential to be developed as high value winter tourism destination.

Khirganga**Destination strengths and potential**

Khirganga has become a major tourist destination now and every year tourists from all over the country and abroad visit for the exciting views and enthralling trek. Although the landscape if properly planned and curated, can attract much more footfall as it has a lot to offer.

The key strengths include:

- It's a high tourists destination in the months of March, April, May and September, October and November although the trek is open for people all round the year.
- Kasol is easily accessible from Shimla, Kullu and Chandigarh which makes it a less time-consuming destination hence much liked by weekend travellers.

The site holds potential for **adventure activities like rock climbing, zip line, water crossing**, etc. for the tourists which would not only enrich the tourism quality but also will promote employment for the locals.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Trekking routes and Camping activities
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development stage

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - To be positioned and developed as an exclusive destination with ecotourism activities such as trekking, camping short stays, walking trails and local cultural experience.

Sissu Lake**Destination strengths and potential**

Quality camps – As flourishing business of Camping at Sissu and presence of various campsites varying from luxury camps to basic one, giving the impression like promising venture for this village of serene natural treasure to boost economic benefits of tourism in the area.

Para gliding & Other Adventure activities - The site with its exquisite characteristics can be develop as spot paragliding and other adventure activities like skiing, zip lining, river crossing, etc.

Contract Farming – With interventions from Private sector, the major cash crops of the area viz potatoes, peas, cauliflower and millets may get more reach to market with better and higher price range and with increased exposure to latest techniques, methods and inputs. Some players from brewery industry are keen to set up their distilleries at this site as the weather and crops of the region adeptly matches with the origin land of these wines and brews of abroad locations.

Lake tourism – There is presence of some beautiful lakes around Sissu in Lahaul valley like Sissu Lake, Deepak Tal, Ghepan Lake and Suraj Tal. All of these lakes are high altitude lake but very different from each other as Ghepan lake and Suraj Tal are glacial lakes, which origins from glacier activity.

High Altitude Trekking - Altitude above 3000 m above sea level is addressed as high altitude and travel to these areas need human body to acclimatized, that time to get used to high pressure and lack of oxygen. Some of the prevailing high-altitude treks of this area can be enlisted as; Ghepan glacial lake trek, Suraj Tal lake, Rohtang Pass trek etc.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Nearest point in Lahaul via Atal tunnel, Beautiful landscape with a lake & waterfall
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as a transit point exclusive destination for winter sports.

Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary**Destination strengths and potential**

Snow leopard: Kibber WLS is perfect place to spot a snow leopard, because of the conservation programs by NCF the numbers of the Snow leopards in the sanctuary have increased and the visibility in the region has improved. The community at Kibber and surrounding villages supports the conservation program as they make a living from the tourists, as trekking guides, naturalist and homestays, who come to get a glimpse of this amazing predator who is surviving in toughest of the terrains and this can further be promoted.

Camping and Home stays: Camping and homestays are already prevalent in Spiti Valley is certainly possible and thousands of people camp every year in Spiti. This can further be streamlined and promoted.

Trails and high-altitude treks: Spiti offer ample opportunity for a traveler to go on small trails which takes from 2-3 hours to high altitude treks which can stretch to 5-7 days.

Challenging Road trips: Spiti Valley Road trip can be really challenging and memorable. It's arguably one of the India's most dangerous roads. The road includes gravel and asphalt sections. It's terrible narrow, pretty steep and very dangerous, and probably more challenging than the famous Leh-Manali Highway. However, many adventure loving tourists are attracted to such terrains and intend to experience this.

Winter sports in Spiti valley: The Spiti Valley has some of the best and untouched snow in the world during the winter months from November – March. This provides a wonderful opportunity for back-country skiing, snowboarding and other snow-based activities.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Snow leopard, Remote exclusive moon landscapes
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as an exclusive destination for winter sports

Chanshal Pass, Kharshali, Rohru**Destination strengths and potential**

Ancillary horticultural products – Rich diversity of agro-climatic conditions, topographical variations and altitudinal differences coupled with fertile, deep and well drained soils favour the cultivation of temperate to sub-tropical fruits in H.P. The site is suitable for cultivation of ancillary horticultural produce, like flowers, mushroom, honey and hops which provides an opportunity for this region.

Medicinal herbs –This destination is heavily comprised of significant potential market for medicinal herbs. Local people understand that medicinal herbs are of fundamental importance both as herbs and for income generation and based on this it is important to develop this area. Provision of information on the identification and scope for using a broader range of herbs would encourage potential income generation, but at the risk of depleting resources if not complemented by an in-situ conservation strategy.

Apple orchards and 'Farm tourism' –Proximity to various needed channel present in capital district of Shimla, this site can be developed as 'Farm tourism' in respect of visit to Apple orchards and may able to allure urban tourists to these rural sites for in-hand experiences of pastoral lifestyle of these Pahari villages.

Adventure sports – The entire stretch of Chanshal peak is very appropriate for mountain adventure sports like skiing and skating. It has strong potential as to be developed by way of prominent destination for winter or snow sports.

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Connects remotely located Dodra- Kwar & Rohru. Beautiful undulating landscape good for snow sports in winters
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as a Community Managed Tourism area

Chitkul**Destination strengths and potential**

This dry region of state of Himachal Pradesh, a part of tourism activities, this site has huge potentials in terms of:

- Apple farming
- Processed food made of Apples
- Kinnauri Jewellery
- Kinnauri shawls and Doharus
- Adventure based tourism activities
- Community based tourism

Destination benchmarking and rating

SN	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point (USP)	Very High-Altitude landscape, Apple & woollen Crafts
2	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development stage

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as an exclusive destination for Mountain Adventure, winter sports and Horticulture

Priority Matrix for Destinations

Priority matrix is dependent on multiple factors that have an interplay with each other. For the purpose of this study, the consultant team believed it prudent to collate and combine the parameters more appropriate as per the limited scope of our study, and perception-based information. period and availability of data

Each Ecotourism destination was analysed on these Parameters;

- **The USP of the Destination was derived from the primary and secondary analysis of the special features and attractiveness of the Destination.** Parameters such as Natural Attractiveness, Cultural Attractiveness and the Tourism Infrastructure Quality (from WEF) were taken as the 'USP of a Tourist Destination'.
- Similarly, a broad overview of **Environmental Carrying Capacity (as visible), already existing infrastructure (tourism and non-tourism)** and the **Green Cover Parameter** were taken to indicate the Sustainability of the place.
- **Accessibility** included the ease of accessing the destination that also referred to the multiple ways, modes of transportation, and routes to reach the destination
- **Visibility** of the destination included all information in the public sphere that communicated the destination to the final customer inclusive of media presence, the available literature, news items and the general image of the destination in the minds of the prospective customer.
- The **Tourism Infrastructure quality included total tourism infrastructure that a tourist encountered in experiencing the destination inclusive of the soft-skills, hospitality skills, the tourism infrastructure for experiencing the destination, presence, quality, absence of trained guides, interpretation** etc.
- Additionally, a **comprehensive 'experience quality'** has been added that summed up the 'total experience 'a tourist derived out of the visit to the Ecotourism destination, that may also contribute to the future decision of visiting again and recommending the destination to others.

This methodology is similar to the methodology adopted internationally by organisations such as World Economic Forum, especially to create their widely accepted annual Travel & Tourism (T&T) Competitiveness Report that is considered a flagship and authoritative strategic benchmarking tool for policymakers, companies and complementary sectors to advance the future development of the T&T sector.

All the ten destinations were analysed on the above parameters, and the following scores were obtained.

Ecosystems	Ecotourism Destinations/Sites	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Tourism Infra	Experience Quality	Priority of Development
High Altitude Ranges (Above 3000m)	Sissu Lake	5	4	4	3	2	4	High priority
	Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	7	5	2	2	2	3	Medium priority
	Chitkul	7	3	4	3	3	3	Medium priority
Wetlands	Parashar Lake	6	5	4	3	3	5	High priority
	Pong Dam Wetland	5	3	5	2	1	3	Low priority
	Chanshal Pass, Kharsali	6	3	3	2	2	4	Medium priority

Ecosystems	Ecotourism Destinations/Sites	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Tourism Infra	Experience Quality	Priority of Development
Mountains (1000-3000m)	Kheerganga NP	5	3	5	5	2	5	High priority
	Shikari Devi WLS	5	3	2	2	2	3	Medium priority
Forests	Shoja, Banjar Valley	5	4	4	3	3	5	High priority
Foothills	Baba Balak Nath (Deotsidh)	5	3	5	2	1	3	Low priority

Key takeaways based on the priority matrix and scoring:

- It is to be noted that the ten destinations selected for the study are the ones that already are comparatively well-known destinations in their respective landscape categories. The analysis also shows this with all destinations scoring high on the USP category.
- It is seen that out of the six factors that we have analysed the destinations on.
 - USP and the Tourism experience quality are intangible in nature and are subjective, which may need appropriate intervention to enhance it.
 - Accessibility of a destination is a larger and more expensive proposition and requires State govt intervention and involvement of multiple agencies and departments
 - Sustainability of a destination is an outcome of the various interventions / activities already taking place; all tourism interventions necessarily have to lead to sustainability of the destination
 - It is only the Visibility and the tourism infrastructure at a destination that is really the area that we have in our control and the interventions that shall have the fastest and most visible results.

In view of the above understanding, it has been found that the tourism development can be divided into three phases depending on the need for immediacy of actions.

Phase 1, High Priority: Need immediate intervention on 1–2-year basis to enable sustainability of the destination as well as cater to the increasing tourism load and hence enhancing the overall tourism experience of the visitors. These destinations also have a high priority because of sustainability issues. Tourism is already happening here. The interventions are necessary to negate the negative effects of tourism. The High Priority destinations are;

- Sissu Lake
- Parashar lake
- Shoja
- Kheerganga

Phase 2, Medium Priority: These are destinations that can be developed on 3-5 years time frame and will additionally help HP get more Ecotourists and more products on offer catering to a wider tourist segment. These destinations are also the ones that may require interventions on a long-term basis, involving further study on feasibility (Chanshal pass) as well as interventions that may require more interdepartmental coordination such as Kibber WLS (accessibility). The Medium Priority destinations are;

- Kibber WLS
- Shikari Devi
- Chanshal pass
- Chitkul Kinnaur

Phase 3, Low Priority: These are destinations that can be developed on 6-10 years' time frame and will additionally help HP get more Ecotourists and more products on offer catering to a wider tourist segment. These are also the destinations where because of lower foothills like landscape, there is a potential to absorb more tourists, leading to better earning on minimal interventions. The low Priority Destinations are;

- Pong dam
- Baba Balak Nath

Table - Priority Matrix Framework for Potentials Eco-Sites

S.N.	Site	Proximity to Natural attraction (River side/ lake side etc.)	Existing tourism infrastructure (Accommodation, other amenities)	Physical Infrastructure (water, SWM etc.)	Trained Human Resources	Accessibility (Roads)	Tourism friendliness/ Proactive Environment for tourism	Proximity to existing tourism circuit	Potential for tourism activities	Total Score (3 – 1: Good, Average, poor in each category)
1	Site 1									
2	Site 2									
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

This framework to be applied by DMU heads for each site based on macro and micro environmental/ business factors to prioritize the sites for development.

Other Ecotourism destinations from the State, can also be analysed using a similar priority matrix used for these representative destinations.

Site Prioritisation

As already mentioned previously, Himachal is blessed with varied landscapes. Our study of the ten sample destinations from all the landscapes threw some interesting observations, some of which have been already shared above and conducted a detailed study in which It was found that;

Himachal is known for its high Altitude and mountainous areas. Tourists visit these destinations in summer and winters. But even with in these destinations, some are more popular and have higher visitation historically for multitudes of reasons. The popular destinations are Kullu, Manali, Shimla, & Dharamshala. There are newer destinations too that are emerging fast and are in a race to catch up with these places, but as of now, not only are these places the end destinations in themselves, they are also the centre point in a *hub and spoke model*, with tourists using these as the entry and exit points.

So, by this logic, all the new sites that are identified around these very popular existing destinations should fall in our priority of development.

Interestingly, it is also seen that extremely high-altitude sites are not very high priority because the mass domestic traveller is more comfort and soft adventure loving person as against the pure adventure fans, which is another category of customer segment that is constantly and consistently growing.

It is also seen that mountainous towns are more popular than the foothills and water bodies.

Extrapolating all the above understanding to the identified sites under Forest dept that are available for ecotourism, short, medium and high priority for their development is suggested, with red highlights representing the least priority or sites that can be developed over next 5-10 years and green colour represents sites that need immediate attention in next 2 years or so.

Indicative Priority coding:

Low priority
Medium priority
High priority

This exercise now needs a further application of the site selection criteria to sites within the same forest division /geographical region to micro-prioritise development. Sites with connectivity & waste-water-electricity solutions in place need to be taken up in priority as compared to other criteria.

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
1	Kullu	Parvati	Chalal, Khatagra, Kasol
2	Kullu	Parvati	Somaropa
3	Kullu	Parvati	Bindravan, Khirganga
4	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu
5	Kullu	Banjar	Shoja
6	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple
7	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Vacant land of FRH Chamokh
8	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Fire station viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath temple
9	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Nav Grah vatika near Baba Balak Nath Temple
10	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Scenic viewpoint
11	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Bamboo plantation near Pong Dam
12	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Rancer island
13	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Trekker hut Fulladhar
14	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Katyandhar
15	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Panjod
16	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Silhbudhani Rest House
17	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Hurang
18	Mandi	Karsog	Sainj to Dhamoon Tibba
19	Mandi	Karsog	Chamanpur - Churag
20	Mandi	Karsog	Karsog-Raigarh-Shikari Devi

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
21	Rampur	Kinnaur	Roghi, kalpa
22	Rampur	Kinnaur	Akpa, Moorang
23	Rampur	Kinnaur	Kashmir, Sangla
24	Rampur	Kinnaur	Nako Interpretation Centre
25	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Bridge Chitkul
26	Shimla WL South	Sarahan WL	Near Post Chitkul
27	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Nichar, Sungra Village
28	Rampur	Kinnaur	Pooh
29	Rampur	Kinnaur	Yula village
30	Shimla	Rohru	Dungri Thatch camping site
31	Shimla	Rohru	Dwach camping site
32	Shimla	Rohru	Eco cultural site, Kharshali
33	Shimla	Rohru	Giri Ganga 1
34	Shimla	Rohru	Larot camping site 1
35	Solan	Nalagarh	Near village Bhiunkhary
36	Shimla	Theog	Banga Pani Cheog
37	Shimla	Theog	Mahasu peak
38	Shimla	Theog	Mashada
39	Nahan	Nahan	Banethi
40	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Glean, near Annadale
41	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Gol Pahari, Near Old Chungi Khana
42	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Upper Gawahi, beyond Annadale
43	Rampur	Ani	Baga Sarahan
44	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori pass 1
45	Rampur	Ani	Near Sareul sour lake
46	Rampur	Ani	Near Sareul sour lake 2
47	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori pass 2
48	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori Pass 4
49	Rampur	Ani	Paneo
50	Rampur	Kotgarh	Dalogh Ghat DFO Kotgarh
51	Rampur	Kotgarh	Jamunda DFO Kotgarh
52	Rampur	Kotgarh	Tanu Jubber Kotgarh
53	Rampur	Kotgarh	Narkanda Nature Camps
54	Rampur	Kotgarh	Nihari DFO Kotgarh
55	Kibber	Kibber WLS	Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2
56	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near mountain lodge, Triund
57	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Kareri lake
58	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Tota Rani
59	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Thehr
60	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near McLeod Ganj
61	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Heli pad
62	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Indrunag (Chohla, Tahu)
63	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Rakkar road
64	Mandi	Suket	Site at PaluhanKufar to Jabrash
65	Mandi	Suket	Site at Murari Devi
66	Dharamshala	Palampur	Andretta
67	Dharamshala	Kangra	Billing
68	Dharamshala	Palampur	Bindyabasini / Vindhyavasini / Bundla Mata Temple
69	Dharamshala	Palampur	Gunehar
70	Dharamshala	Palampur	Multhan
71	Dharamshala	Palampur	Neugal park
72	Dharamshala	Palampur	Rajgundha

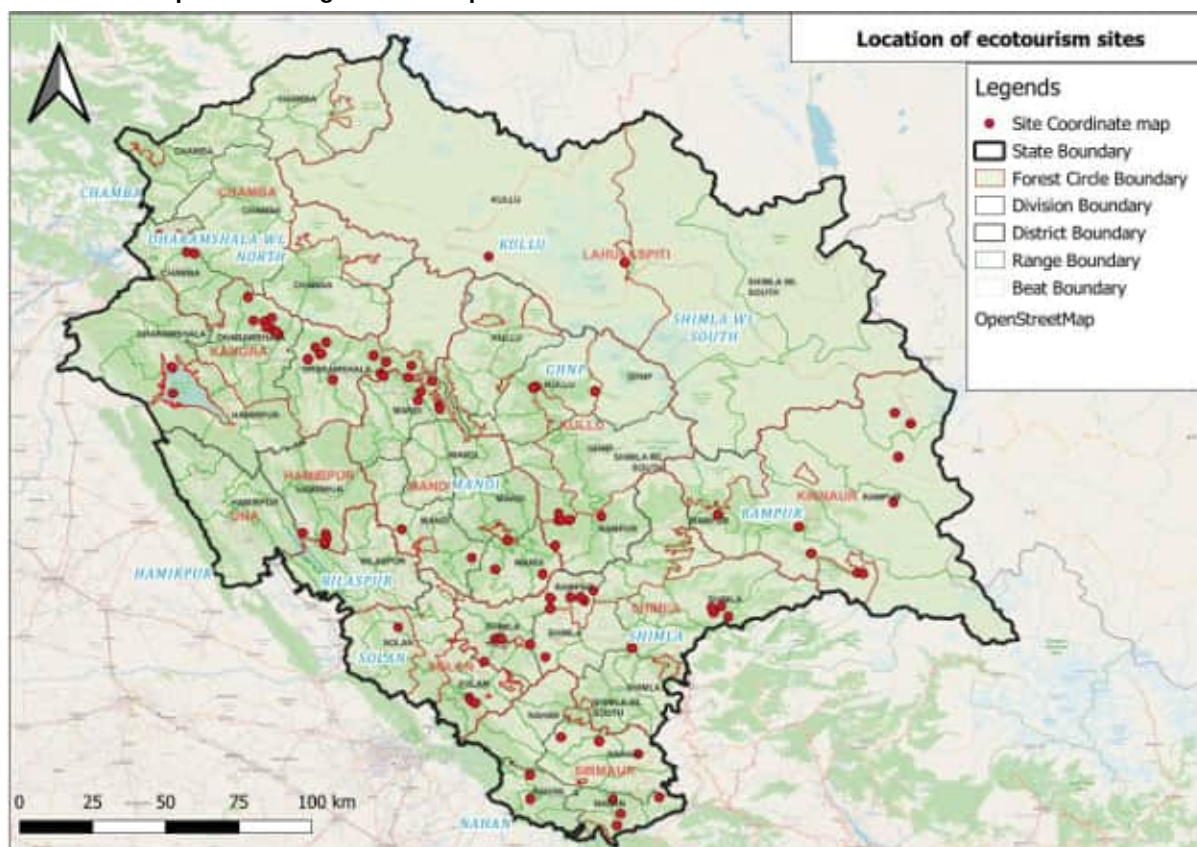
SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
73	Dharamshala	Palampur	Swar
74	Dharamshala	Palampur	Samlat Manja
75	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sukedi
76	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sorav Van Vihar
77	Dharamshala	Palampur	Tatwani
78	Chamba	Chamba	Jot
79	Chamba	Dalhousie	Kainthly
80	Nahan	Nahan	Nature Park (RF Kangniwala C-1)
81	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Bata bridge
82	Nahan	Renuka ji	Bog dhar
83	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Shirgul Temple of vill Bhaila to Badhana
84	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Dhoulidhang Temple
85	Nahan	Renuka ji	Chandpur
86	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Gatu to kando via Kumbhigahr Shirgul temple
87	Nahan	Renuka ji	Haripur dhar
88	Solan	Solan	Motikuna Hill, Sanawar
89	Solan	Solan	Chewa, Near Barog (Solan)
90	Solan	Solan	Barog Camping Site, Barog, Solan
91	Shimla	Shimla	Shoghi, Camping Site, Shimla
92	Chamba	Chamba	Ala Forest Rest House, Dalhousie Chamba
93	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Potters hill

3.2.4 Potential Ecotourism Sites

Based on this methodology the following potential ecotourism sites have been identified for the State.

As per the methodology mentioned earlier, **the consultant team identified more than 250 sites across the State (the list is attached in the Annexure 10.4), based on the details received from HPFD, industry players and stakeholder consultations across the State.** The detailed list was shared with all the respective local level forest officials and multiple consultations (in-person and telephonic) were carried out to verify and finalise the potential sites. Based on continuous dialogue with these stakeholders, detailed site-specific plans were prepared for 93 potential sites. The following map and list present the verified list of potential ecosites. **For future development, State may identify more sites to be developed as ecotourism site from the indicative list as presented in annexure 10.4 or any additional site that it seems appropriate for the development.**

Exhibit 3.6: Map showcasing location of potential ecotourism sites



Source: GIS map prepared by consultant's team

Exhibit 3.7: List of location of potential ecotourism sites (total)

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
1	Kullu	Parvati	Chalal, Khatagra, Kasol
2	Kullu	Parvati	Somaropa
3	Kullu	Parvati	Bindravan, Khirganga
4	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu
5	Kullu	Banjar	Shoja
6	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple
7	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Vacant land of FRH Chamokh
8	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Fire station viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath temple
9	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Nav Grah vatika near Baba Balak Nath Temple
10	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Scenic viewpoint
11	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Bamboo plantation near Pong Dam
12	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Rancer island
13	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Trekker hut Fulladhar

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
14	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Katyandhar
15	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Panjod
16	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Silhbudhani Rest House
17	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Hurang
18	Mandi	Karsog	Sainj to Dhamoon Tibba
19	Mandi	Karsog	Chamanpur - Churag
20	Mandi	Karsog	Karsog-Raigarh-Shikari Devi
21	Rampur	Kinnaur	Roghi, kalpa
22	Rampur	Kinnaur	Akpa, Moorang
23	Rampur	Kinnaur	Kashmir, Sangla
24	Rampur	Kinnaur	Nako Interpretation Centre
25	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Bridge Chitkul
26	Shimla WL South	Sarahan WL	Near Post Chitkul
27	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Nichar, Sungra Village
28	Rampur	Kinnaur	Pooh
29	Rampur	Kinnaur	Yula village
30	Shimla	Rohru	Dungri Thatch camping site
31	Shimla	Rohru	Dwach camping site
32	Shimla	Rohru	Eco cultural site, Kharshali
33	Shimla	Rohru	Giri Ganga 1
34	Shimla	Rohru	Larot camping site 1
35	Solan	Nalagarh	Near village Bhiunkhary
36	Shimla	Theog	Banga Pani Cheog
37	Shimla	Theog	Mahasu peak
38	Shimla	Theog	Mashada
39	Nahan	Nahan	Banethi
40	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Glean, near Annadale
41	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Gol Pahari, Near Old Chungi Khana
42	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Upper Gawahi, beyond Annadale
43	Rampur	Ani	Baga Sarahan
44	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori pass 1
45	Rampur	Ani	Near Sareul sour lake
46	Rampur	Ani	Near Sareul sour lake 2
47	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori pass 2
48	Rampur	Ani	Near Jalori Pass 4
49	Rampur	Ani	Paneo
50	Rampur	Kotgarh	Dalagh Ghat DFO Kotgarh
51	Rampur	Kotgarh	Jamunda DFO Kotgarh
52	Rampur	Kotgarh	Tanu Jubber Kotgarh
53	Rampur	Kotgarh	Narkanda Nature Camps
54	Rampur	Kotgarh	Nihari DFO Kotgarh
55	Kibber	Kibber WLS	Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2
56	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near mountain lodge, Triund
57	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Kareri lake
58	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Tota Rani
59	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Thehr
60	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near McLeod Ganj
61	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site Near Heli pad
62	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Indrunag (Chohla, Tahu)
63	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Site at Rakkar road
64	Mandi	Suket	Site at PaluhanKufar to Jabrash
65	Mandi	Suket	Site at Murari Devi

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name
66	Dharamshala	Palampur	Andretta
67	Dharamshala	Kangra	Billing
68	Dharamshala	Palampur	Bindyabasini / Vindhyavasini / Bundla Mata Temple
69	Dharamshala	Palampur	Gunehar
70	Dharamshala	Palampur	Multhan
71	Dharamshala	Palampur	Neugal park
72	Dharamshala	Palampur	Rajgundha
73	Dharamshala	Palampur	Swar
74	Dharamshala	Palampur	Samlat Manja
75	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sukedi
76	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sorav Van Vihar
77	Dharamshala	Palampur	Tatwani
78	Chamba	Chamba	Jot
79	Chamba	Dalhousie	Kainthly
80	Nahan	Nahan	Nature Park (RF Kangniwala C-1)
81	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Bata bridge
82	Nahan	Renuka ji	Bog dhar
83	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Shirgul Temple of vill Bhaila to Badhana
84	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Dhoulidhang Temple
85	Nahan	Renuka ji	Chandpur
86	Nahan	Paonta Sahib	Gatu to kando via Kumbhigahr Shirgul temple
87	Nahan	Renuka ji	Haripur dhar
88	Solan	Solan	Motikuna Hill, Sanawar
89	Solan	Solan	Chewa, Near Barog (Solan)
90	Solan	Solan	Barog Camping Site, Barog, Solan
91	Shimla	Shimla	Shoghi, Camping Site, Shimla
92	Chamba	Chamba	Ala Forest Rest House, Dalhousie Chamba
93	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Potters hill

Potential business model for the ecotourism sites visited by the team

Multiple aspects and reasons (e.g. (i) involvement of community and existing community led groups in exiting activities, (ii) willingness by the community groups, (iii) environmentally sensitive area to flora and fauna, (iv) requires interventions and control by the forest department, (v) private entities are willing to involve in Eco-tourism activities, etc.) has been considered to identify the potential business model. In similar lines, the potential business model can be identified for other sites by the site specific forest officials.

Exhibit 3.8: List of location of potential ecotourism sites with potential business model (visited by the team)

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name	Potential business model
1	Kullu	Parvati	Chalal, Khatagra, Kasol	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
2	Kullu	Parvati	Somaropa	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
3	Kullu	Parvati	Bindravan, Khirganga	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
4	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu	PPP Mode
5	Kullu	Banjar	Shoja	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
5	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple	Department Mode
6	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Vacant land of FRH Chamokh	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
7	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Fire station viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath temple	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
8	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Nav Grah vatika near Baba Balak Nath Temple	Department Mode
9	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Scenic viewpoint	Department Mode
10	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Bamboo plantation near Pong Dam	Department Mode

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name	Potential business model
11	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Rancer island	Department Mode
12	Rampur	Kinnaur	Roghi, kalpa	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
13	Rampur	Kinnaur	Akpa, Moorang	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
14	Rampur	Kinnaur	Kashmir, Sangla	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
15	Rampur	Kinnaur	Nako Interpretation Centre	Department Mode
16	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Bridge Chitkul	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
17	Shimla WL South	Sarahan WL	Near Post Chitkul	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
18	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Nichar, Sungra Village	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
19	Rampur	Kinnaur	Pooh	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
20	Rampur	Kinnaur	Yula village	Department Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
21	Shimla	Rohru	Dungri Thatch camping site	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
22	Shimla	Rohru	Dwach camping site	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
23	Shimla	Rohru	Eco cultural site, Kharshali	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
24	Shimla	Rohru	Giri Ganga 1	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
25	Shimla	Rohru	Larot camping site 1	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
26	Kibber	Kibber WLS	Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2	PPP Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

The following section of this chapter presents the site-specific plan of the potential ecotourism sites. Other sites can be identified in similar way by HPECOSOC in future and can be developed as ecotourism sites.

The site-specific plans of the verified sites present the following details:

- **Administrative details** – Name of the Site, co-ordinates, Forest circle, division, range beat, district, ownership authority, land parcel google map
- **Site details** – Total area, usable area, existing use of the site, any litigation, any site limitation, access to the site, existing ecotourism activity at the site, existing infrastructure availability, if any management/ maintenance being done for the site
- **Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure for the site** including tentative camping capacity that can be developed on the site in terms number of camps.

To further plan for each site, the capacity of each site in terms of people who can be accommodated at each ecotourism site may be calculated based on the occupancy levels. For example, if in any potential eco-tourism site, there is potential of developing 15-20 camps, then considering 2 people per camp/ tent, approximately 30 to 40 people can be accommodated and hence, it becomes the carrying capacity for the site based on the existing accommodation facility. However, the other infrastructure i.e. water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, man power to operate the facility etc. shall be provided in line with the accommodation facility proposed to make the site sustainable.

As mentioned earlier, various potential ecotourism activities have been proposed across the sites based on preliminary understanding and consultations with local forest officials, other stakeholders and community. It is anticipated that these activities generate revenues for all the key stakeholders including the local people. These sites can be developed by on departmental mode, PPP mode or by community. The various different of possible models have been detailed out. Further, after the details of site specific-plans, certain cases on potential business models and revenue projections for the different kind of activities/ sites have been described.

Circle: Kullu**Site 1: Chalal, Katagra, Kasol**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Chalal, Katagra, Kasol
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32.010152 Longitude : 77.295052 Entry/Exit from Kullu Kasol NH 30 Elevation : 1507 m
3.	Forest division	Parvati
4.	Forest Circle	Kullu
5.	Forest Range	Jari
6.	Forest Beat	Chhakna (Block – Kasol)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	  Google earth site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.5 Ha Approx
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage for nearby villages Sand gets accumulated on the riverbank which is then used by villagers for sand mining  Walk trails in the site

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Sand accumulated at the riverbank
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Access to site is difficult as it requires downhill trek. Motorable kaccha road and parking is available about 1 km from site and then trek to be done till site.
14.	Access to site	Road – Two entries for the site. - From Kasol Kullu State Highway (trek for 1 km downhill) - From Kasol town (Comparatively easier trek for 2 kms) Rail – Nearest railway station - Joginder Nagar Railway Station – 140 kms Airport – Nearest Airport - Bhuntar Airport, Kullu Manali – 30 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Surface water taken from river Parvati (Site situated on the bank of river) Sewerage – Not Available (Adjoining private lands have soak pits) Electricity – Available Stay facility – Camps and homestays available on private land adjoining forest land There are approx 40 beds capacity available in the vicinity with per night per head rental range of Rs. 400-1000. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Private Camps/Stay Facilities adjoining site Solid waste management – Not Available at site but nearby areas are managing it individually
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Tourists do unorganised nature walk in the land as situated next to private homestays  Walking trail developed by villagers
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	• Forest department has installed fencing around the site to demarcate the area and restrict people to enter river water, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) • Kaccha road was developed by the villagers on gram panchayat level in April 2020

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Fencing done across the riverbank for restricting people to go to river
18.	Remarks	No remarks
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Nature park (Nature trails) – Improve the trail, add signages, information boards • Tent / camp sites with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 8 to 10 camps) • Adventure Activity – Zipline and River crossing across the River  Picture showing land/plot available within trees for erection of camps Proposal for Community involvement • Training to local people – guides for trails, instructors for adventure activity
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Proper sewage collection and disposal arrangements needed – septic tanks • Streetlights for trails needed • Signages for users to be installed • Entry and exit gates for safety
21.	Potential business model	• Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 2: Somaropa, Kullu

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Somaropa, Kasol, Kullu
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 32.007683, Long: 77.283805, Elevation: 1484.29 m
3.	Forest division	Parvati
4.	Forest Circle	Kullu
5.	Forest Range	Jari
6.	Forest Beat	Chhakna, (Block – Kasol)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Google earth site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	5.26 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	- Forest department has initiated afforestation on the available land at the site - Villagers use the accumulated sand on the riverbank for their livelihood  Site Pictures  Site Pictures

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Site Pictures  Trees planted by Forest Department
12.	Litigation (if any)	No
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Site is approx. 300 m from road. The river is proposed to be diverted with a Concrete Gravity Dam at Village Pulga in Parbati valley due to which the water flow will be substantially reduced. This might hamper the tourist attraction (USP).
14.	Access to site	Road – 300 m from Kullu Manikaran road. Site is 4 kms from Kasol Rail – Nearest railway station - Joginder Nagar Railway Station – 140 kms Airport – Nearest Airport - Bhuntar Airport, Kullu Manali – 30 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Surface water taken from river Parvati (Site situated on the bank of river). Drinking water can be procured from Kasol Sewerage – Not Available (Adjoining private lands have septic tanks/soak pits) Electricity – Available Stay facility – The area has private camps and camping available with per night rate range of Rs. 400 to 1200 (4 camping sites) Solid waste management – Not available

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	No
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No
18.	Remarks	The site will become less attractive if river water gets reduced substantially
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Nature park (Nature trails) – Improve the trail, add signages, information boards • Tree house/ Tent / camp sites with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 18 to 20 camps) • Adventure Activity – Zipline and River crossing across the river Proposal for community development • Training to local people – Guides for trails, instructors for adventure activity • Training to local people – services at camping sites/ tree houses
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Proper sewage collection and disposal arrangements needed – septic tanks
21.	Potential business model	• PPP Mode

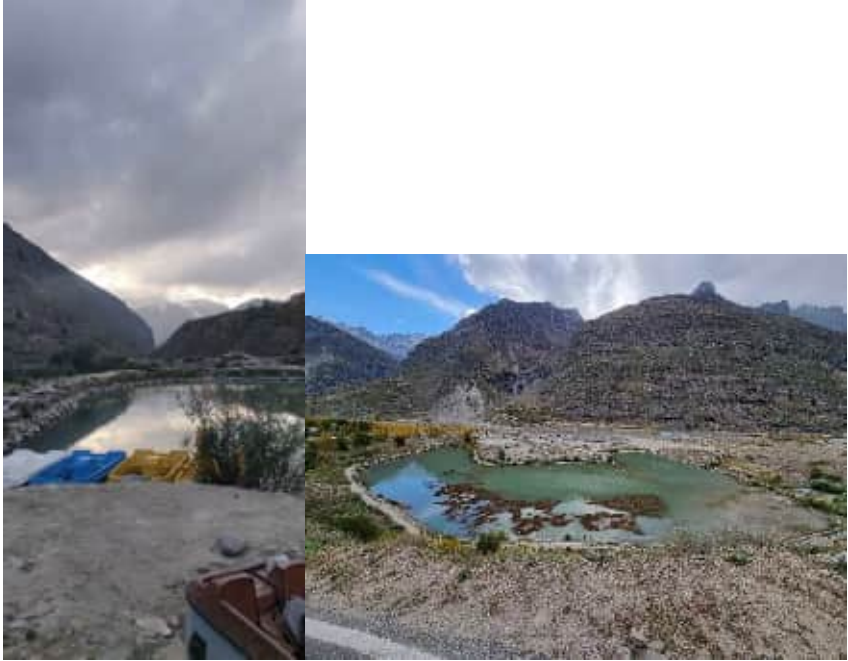
Site 3: Bindravan, Khirganga

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Bindravan, Khirganga
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.994322, Long: 77.505652, Elevation: 2956 m
3.	Forest division	Parvati
4.	Forest Circle	Kullu
5.	Forest Range	Kasol
6.	Forest Beat	Tulga Tosh (Block – Tosh)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Google earth site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	12 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	The site is an open land parcel having grass cover. No trees or considerable vegetation. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		Site Pictures
12.	Litigation (if any)	No
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Accessibility to site is very difficult as it requires to be approached through Kherganga trek with a total walking distance of 12 km and altitudinal height difference of 1800 m
14.	Access to site	Road – Motorable road available till Barsaini village, then trek Kheerganga trek of 12 km Rail – Nearest railway station - Joginder Nagar Railway Station – 150 kms Airport – Nearest Airport - Bhuntar Airport, Kullu Manali – 50 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Surface water taken from nala available on the hill. Sewerage – Not Available (Adjoining camp areas have soakpits) Electricity – Not Available Stay facility – The area has private camps and camping available with range of Rs. 800-1200 per head per night Solid waste management – Not available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Private camping is done on the site with Forest Department's permission. Rs. 250 per tent is charged for 15 days as rent with a total capacity of 80-100 camps
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No
18.	Remarks	No
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development - Camping extension of existing Kheerganga trek camps in a more streamlined manner followed by fee revision to generate revenues - Adventure activities - Paragliding, Mountain Climbing and Hiking, Bungee Jumping Proposal for Community Involvement - Training to local people – Guides for trails and trek, instructors for adventure activities and training for installing and functioning camping and tenting site
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Electricity through renewable resources – solar lighting/ solar heating - Sewage disposal through septic tanks - Zip lines for goods movement
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 4: Sissu

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Sissu
2.	Site coordinates	Lat: 32.474067, Long: 77.127007, Elevation: 3040 m
3.	Forest division	Parvati
4.	Forest Circle	Kullu
5.	Forest Range	Keylong
6.	Forest Beat	Sissu (Block – Chandra)
7.	District	Lahol
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Google earth site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.3 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	- HPTDC has developed a café cum Restaurant in the site area. - The remaining open plot is used by the local adventure groups for ATV rides.

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Site Pictures
12.	Litigation (if any)	HPTDC has applied for the land ownership from Forest Department and visions to develop a Hotel cum Resort on the site.
13.	Site limitation (if any)	No
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is connected with a Kaccha motorable road with Leh-Manali Highway NH-3. The site is situated 4kms from the Atal Tunnel Rail – Nearest railway station - Joginder Nagar Railway Station – 185 kms Airport – Nearest Airport - Bhuntar Airport, Kullu Manali – 90 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Surface water from Deepaktal nala Sewerage – Not available. The HPTDC restaurant has septic tank. Electricity – Available Stay facility – Not Available at the site. Homestays and Hotels available at Sissu Village with range of Rs. 500-3000 per night Solid waste management – Not Available. Gram Panchayat Sissu have put portable bio toilets and dustbins
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Locals Adventure Groups have established ATV rides in the vicinity and Boating in the lake
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Not Available
18.	Remarks	The locals burn all the garbage collected
Proposals		

SN	Attributes	Details
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Adventure Activities – Hiking and trekking, Zip line • Stay Facility – Camps, Resort, Hotel (approximately 18 to 20 camps) Proposal for Community involvement • Training to local people – Guides/ instructors for adventure activities and training for running and managing camping and tenting sites.
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Garbage and Sewage collection and disposal related infrastructure – septic tanks
21.	Potential business model	• PPP Mode

Site 5: Shoja, Division - Banjar

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Shoja
2.	Site CO-ordinates	N 31°33'37" E 77°22'33" Elevation – 2734.40 M
3.	Forest division	Banjar
4.	Forest Circle	Kullu
5.	Forest Range	Banjar
6.	Forest Beat	Sojha (Block – Jibhi)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	Tentative earmarked area 
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	 The area is proposed to be developed as ECO Green Himalayan Village as Revised per ECO- Tourism policy. which will act as base camp for different ecotourism activities in the peripheral vicinity. The objective of this project is to enhance the livelihood activities, capacity building, awareness of local community to conserve & protect nature or Forest / Environment and improve the Socio-economic Status of local Communities by way of promoting the various tourism activities in in the peripheral vicinity.

SN	Attributes	Details															
		The site is situated 1 km from FRB Sojha on Banjar-Jalori-Anni NH 305. Famous Jalori Pass is 4 km, Serolsal lake is approximately 9 km, Raglwpur Fort is approximate 7 km away from this site. This site is also well connected with famous treks like jalori-Lambhri – sakirn - Kharagad, Jibhi – Sojha - Jalori – Raghupur – Lagishar – Gadagushani, etc.															
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil															
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil															
14.	Access to site	Shoja is accessible through NH 305 and is consisting of many guest houses, homestays mostly located in and around the NH. 															
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Electricity – Electricity is provided through the HP government electricity department, Banjar Sub divisional area. Water supply – Water is supplied through the IPH department of HP Government. There are village sources near the waterfall and private pipelines have been put to bring water to the guest houses. Solid waste management – There are no dustbins in the area and dry waste is dumped at one spot and is usually burnt by guest house owners Drainage and sewerage – The wastewater from houses, camps and commercials units are discharged into individual septic tanks. Medical facilities – There is a Sub Health Center at Jibhi along with a Mission Hospital and Civil hospital at Banjar which has got Xray and other machines in case of emergency.															
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	There are number of guest houses and home stays run by local people and other firms.															
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	-															
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting areas: <table><thead><tr><th>Places</th><th>Description</th><th>Catego ry</th><th>Sub-Catego ry</th><th>Distanc e (Kms)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Waterf all Point</td><td>Waterfall Point is nature at a distance of approximately one kilometre walk from Shoja</td><td>Natura l Wond ers</td><td>Waterf all</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Serols ar Lake</td><td>Serolsar Lake is a beautiful lake, situated at a distance of around</td><td>Activit y</td><td>Walkin g</td><td>6</td></tr></tbody></table>	Places	Description	Catego ry	Sub-Catego ry	Distanc e (Kms)	Waterf all Point	Waterfall Point is nature at a distance of approximately one kilometre walk from Shoja	Natura l Wond ers	Waterf all	1	Serols ar Lake	Serolsar Lake is a beautiful lake, situated at a distance of around	Activit y	Walkin g	6
Places	Description	Catego ry	Sub-Catego ry	Distanc e (Kms)													
Waterf all Point	Waterfall Point is nature at a distance of approximately one kilometre walk from Shoja	Natura l Wond ers	Waterf all	1													
Serols ar Lake	Serolsar Lake is a beautiful lake, situated at a distance of around	Activit y	Walkin g	6													

SN	Attributes	Details				
			5 km from the Jalori pass in Shoja. This lake is approachable via a walk from Shoja.			
		Raghu pur Fort	Raghupur Fort was built at 11000 ft asl and has a small pond within its premises. Raghupur Fort is approached via a trek from Shoja.	Herita ge Site, Adven ture	Trekki ng, Fort	6
Proposals						
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development - Potential to be developed as high value winter tourism destination. A few identifiable activities – Rappelling, waterfall rappelling, jumaring, rock climbing, ski point at Shaili, paragliding, sunrise and sunset points Proposal for community involvement - Potential to be developed as responsible tourism destination with the involvement of local community especially women for providing services/ selling local products etc.				
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Solid waste disposal facility and additional infrastructure for ecotourism activities				
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model				

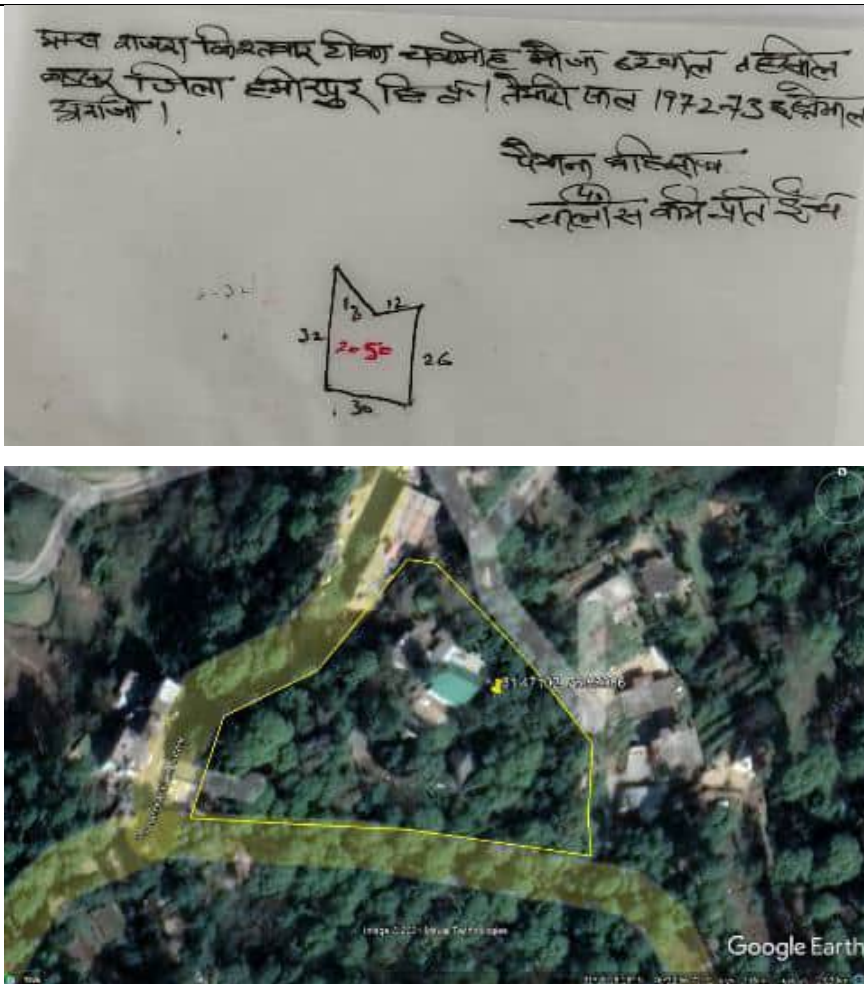
Circle: Hamirpur**Site 6: Site at Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude - 31.48636, Longitude - 76.54713 Elevation – 782 Mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur
5.	Forest Range	Bijhari
6.	Forest Beat	Bihroo (Block – Chakmoh)
7.	District	Hamirpur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest government
9.	Land parcel map	 Location of the Site and site area
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 1.5 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This area has an overhead water tank for water supply in nearby areas. This area has full-grown trees and flower and medicinal plants. In celebration of Golden Jubilee (50 th year) of Himachal Pradesh Statehood, ornamental plants were planted at this site. As per discussion with local officials, the forest department wants to develop a trail as part of recreational development, wants to install garden benches, provide facility for drinking water, install solar lights etc. to further enhance the experience for the visitor.

SN	Attributes	Details
		
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Road - This place is very well connected by road from all the major cities of Himachal Pradesh and other neighbouring states. Regular bus service is available to this place. Taxis are also easily available. By Air - The nearest airport is at Gaggal (Kangra) near Dharamshala. Gaggal airport is about 128 kms far from Baba Balak Nath Temple. By Train - There is no direct Train service to this place. The nearest railway station is Una (Broad Gauge Railway line). Una railway station is about 55 KMs far.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available at the site and nearby areas through piped water supply Sewerage – Not available. Adjoining private land have septic tanks. Electricity – The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State Electricity Board, Hamirpur division Stay facility – Not available at the site but available near Temple area (4.8 km away) Solid waste management - Not available at the site (adjoining areas collect and manage the waste individually)
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	This area has full-grown trees, flower, and medicinal plants. 

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Maintenance of the plantation by forest department.
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure Development - Nature park/ Medicinal plant garden – add information signages/ boards, benches for tourists/ devotees, walking trail - Can be used for tent/ camp sites for devotees/ tourists with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 5 to 8 camps) Proposal for community Involvement - Involvement in maintenance of nature park and medicinal plants, other infrastructure created within the park - Training for managing camps
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights, Rain shelters, waiting areas for devotees going to Baba Balak Nath Temple - Entry and exit gates, boundary wall for safety - Sewage collection and disposal arrangement through septic tanks
21.	Potential business model	Department Mode

Site 7: Vacant land of FRH Chamokh on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Vacant land of FRH Chakmoh on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple
2.	Site CO-ordinates	Latitude - 31.47102, Longitude - 76.55086, Elevation – 771 mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur
5.	Forest Range	Bijhari
6.	Forest Beat	Dharsidh (Block – Chakmoh)
7.	District	Hamirpur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest government
9.	Land parcel map	 The image shows a handwritten land parcel map with dimensions (12, 12, 26, 32, 30, 20, 50) and a Google Earth satellite image showing the tentative boundary of the site. The handwritten text in Hindi mentions 'ग्राम राजवाड़ा किशतार डीका चकमोह मौजा हरवाला 1 हिसाब' and 'वस्ती जिला हमीरपुर हि.क्र. 1972-73 इ.स. 1972-73'. Tentative boundary
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.21 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This site comprises of built-up area (Old FRH building) and unutilised land. This area has dense vegetation as well as a few vacant portions which can be utilised for various purposes.

SN	Attributes	Details
		
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Road - This place is very well connected by road from all the major cities of Himachal Pradesh and other neighbouring states. Regular bus service is available to this place. Taxis are also easily available. By Air - The nearest airport is at Gaggal (Kangra) near Dharamshala. Gaggal airport is about 128 kms far from Baba Balak Nath Temple. By Train - There is no direct Train service to this place. The nearest railway station is Una (Broad Gauge Railway line). Una railway station is about 55 KMs far.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State electricity Board, Hamirpur division Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No other activity currently other than presence of only 3 old FRH buildings. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Maintenance by forest government.
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Camp/ tent for the tourists/ devotees coming to the Baba Balak Nath temple (4 to 5 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights, for devotees going to Baba Balak Nath Temple
21.	Potential business model	• Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 8: Fire viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath Temple

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Fire Station viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath Temple
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude - 31.4525, Longitude - 76.54511, Elevation – 924 Mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur
5.	Forest Range	Bijhari
6.	Forest Beat	Dharsidh (Block – Chakmoh)
7.	District	Hamirpur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Google earth site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 0.2 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	This site is situated at the highest peak in the area near Baba Balak Nath Temple (200 mt. away). This site is approachable through a kaccha trail of 200 mt. from the Sarai 9 of the temple complex. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Access to the fire viewpoint is kaccha and not demarcated properly.
14.	Access to site	Access to the fire viewpoint is kaccha and not demarcated properly.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Existing infrastructure - Forest fire viewpoint building structure, water facility, toilet. Water supply – Available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State electricity Board, Hamirpur division Stay facility – Available 200 mt away from the site i.e. te Sarai of the temple trust. Solid waste management – Not available.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Not applicable
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development - This site has scenic view of the Deotsidh area and the valley and hence it can be further developed as viewpoint, selfie point, etc. - Trail to the area, pathway, barricading, sitting spaces and safety measures at the viewpoint peak area.

SN	Attributes	Details
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights etc.
21.	Potential business model	• Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

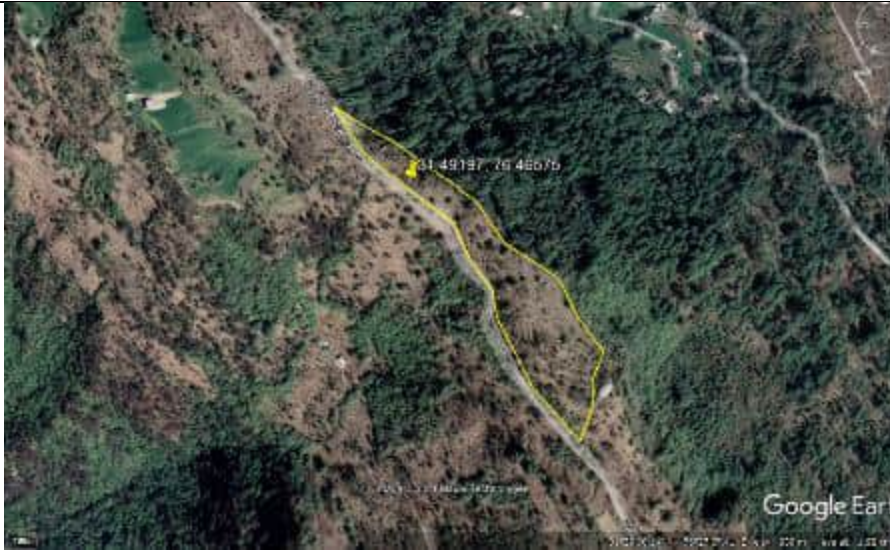
Site 9: Nav Graha vatika near Baba Balak Nath Temple

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Nav Graha Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude - 31.45614, Longitude - 76.54322, Elevation – 904 mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur
5.	Forest Range	Bijhari
6.	Forest Beat	Dharsidh (Block – Chakmoh)
7.	District	Hamirpur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Site description
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximate area of this garden is 0.36 Hectares.
11.	Existing use of the site	Nav Graha Vatika is a themed garden on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple (0.5 km away from the temple). This is developed with a theme of nine Graha i.e., Planets, wherein plantation has been done according to the nine planets with religious aspects attached to it. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Pictures of the site
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Accessible by road. 0.5 km away from the Baba Balak Nath Temple
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State electricity Board, Hamirpur division Stay facility – Available 0.5 km away from the site i.e. the Sarai of the temple trust. Solid waste management – Not available.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	This is a garden, developed with a theme of nine Grah i.e., Planets, wherein plantation has been done according to the nine planets with religious aspects attached to it.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	The garden is maintained by Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development and community involvement - The concept of both the Van Vihar and Nav Grah Vatika is quite interesting provided the Vatika is manned and maintained. As the forest department is short of manpower, the current maintenance is not up to the standard. - Forest department can explore developing a souvenir shop that can be rented to community / individual to display local handicraft etc. The Vatika can collect rent and can use it for the maintenance of Vatika. - For maintenance, Forest department may train local people who can maintain the different species of plants resulting in better footfall

SN	Attributes	Details
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Maintenance of the existing facility. • Provision of rain shelter, sitting spaces/ benches, drinking water facility, toilets etc.
21.	Potential business model	• Department Mode

Site 10: Scenic Viewpoint, Deostidh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Natural viewpoints in Satrukha and Thethu Beats
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude - 31.49197, Longitude - 76.46575, Elevation – 926 Mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur
5.	Forest Range	Barsar
6.	Forest Beat	Satrukha and Thethu Beats (Block – Barsar)
7.	District	Hamirpur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 2.68 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	There are few locations in Satrukha and Thethu forest beats which provide scenic view of the Govind Sagar and Baba Balak Nath Temple Peak. These natural viewpoints are situated on MDR (Major District Road) connecting Barsar to Deotsidh through Shahtalai. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 View from the site
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	These natural viewpoints are situated on MDR (Major District Road) connecting Barsar to Deotsidh through Shahtalai.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State electricity Board, Hamirpur division Stay facility – Available near the Baba Balak Nath Temple Solid waste management – Not available.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Not applicable
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	To be developed as nature park/ view-point
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights, Rain shelters, waiting areas, etc.
21.	Potential business model	Department Mode

Circle: Hamirpur Wildlife**Site 11: Bamboo Plantation near Pong Dam**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Bamboo Plantation at Jagnoli, close to Bathu-ki-ladi, beyond Pandav-ki-Tohal
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude - 32° 4'48.55"N, Longitude - 76° 0'0.82"E, Elevation – 428 Mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur WL
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur WL
5.	Forest Range	Jawali
6.	Forest Beat	Jawali, (Block – Jawali)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 15 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	The forest department has developed a bamboo plantation in an area of 15 hectares of land in order to stop encroachment & illegal cultivation in buffer area of the Sanctuary.

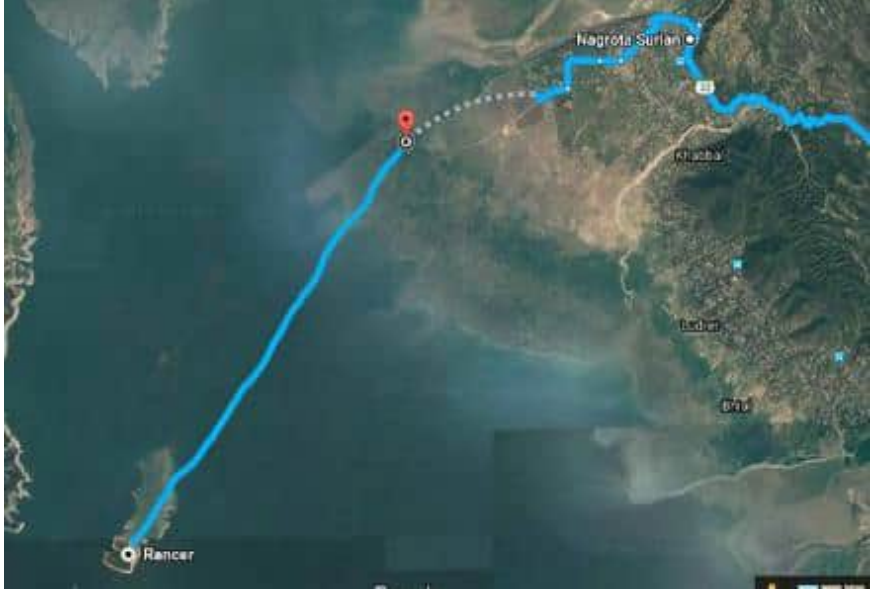
SN	Attributes	Details
		 Pictures of the plantation and trail on the site
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is accessible through road and narrow-gauge train from Kangra which connects all main places/ villages to the neighbouring state. By Air - Gaggal airport at Dharamshala is the nearest airport from Pong-Dam, located at around 80 kms. By Train - The nearest broad-gauge railway station is at Pathankot Cantt (Chakki) at 70km from Pong dam and nearest narrow-gauge railway station is Nagrota-Surian & Nandpur Bhatauli railway Station, Baryal Himachal Railway Station. By Road - The Pong dam is 466 around kms from New Delhi, 170 kms from Chandigarh, 110 kilometres from Amritsar, 55 kms from Dharamshala. One can take HPSRTC Volvo buses from Delhi ISBT-Kangra. From Kangra, local buses (both Government and private) to Pong dam are available. Private taxis are also available from taxi stand Kangra.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Electricity - The electricity lines are available across the entire area of the Maharana Pratap Sagar Lake. The electricity is supplied by Himachal State Electricity Board, Jawali Division, Kangra. Water: Piped water supply / hand pumps are available in the surrounding villages. Source of piped water around Nagrota-Surian block is for temple area is Jal Shakti Vibhag, Kangra. Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – There is no piped sewerage and solid waste management system is limited in an around the site. Most of the places have underground septic tanks. The solid & liquid waste from toilets, kitchen is collected in individual septic tanks, the solid

SN	Attributes	Details
		waste in Wildlife Sanctuary area is collected by the forest department through community efforts (cleanliness drives) and SHGs / Yuvak Mandal etc.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	The plantation is maintained by Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Pre-fabricated cottages/ camps (approximately 15-20) with septic tanks • Walking trails with signages and solar lighting
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Drinking water facility, toilets, benches etc.
21.	Potential business model	• Department Mode

Site 12: Rancer island near Pong Dam

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Rancer Island
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude – 31°59'13.91"N, Longitude – 76° 0'15.37"E, Elevation – 402 mt.
3.	Forest division	Hamirpur WL
4.	Forest Circle	Hamirpur WL
5.	Forest Range	Pong Dam
6.	Forest Beat	Pong Dam, (Block – Pong Dam)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 12 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	The island is situated in the South West corner of the Pong reservoir. It has a cluster of forest area which also houses the Forest Rest House. This island has a dense forest area of approximately 12 hectares. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		    Pictures of the site
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Varying water level throughout the year
14.	Access to site	Rancer island is accessible through boat, which can be availed from Pong Dam WLS. Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is accessible through road and narrow-gauge train from Kangra which connects all main places/ villages to the neighbouring state. By Air - Gaggal airport at Dharamshala is the nearest airport from Pong-Dam, located at around 80 kms. By Train - The nearest broad-gauge railway station is at Pathankot Cantt (Chakki) at 70km from Pong dam and nearest narrow-gauge railway station is Nagrota-Surian & Nandpur Bhatauli railway Station, Baryal Himachal Railway Station. By Road - The Pong dam is 466 around kms from New Delhi, 170 kms from Chandigarh, 110 kilometres from Amritsar, 55 kms from Dharamshala. One can take HPSRTC Volvo buses from Delhi ISBT-Kangra. From Kangra, local buses (both Government and private) to Pong dam are available. Private taxis are also available from taxi stand Kangra.

SN	Attributes	Details
		
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Electricity - The electricity lines are available across the entire area of the Maharana Pratap Sagar Lake. The electricity is supplied by Himachal State Electricity Board, Jawali Division, Kangra. Water: Piped water supply / hand pumps are available in the surrounding villages. Source of piped water around Nagrota-Surian block is for temple area is Jal Shakti Vibhag, Kangra. Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – There is no piped sewerage and solid waste management system is limited in an around the site. Most of the places have underground septic tanks. The solid & liquid waste from toilets, kitchen is collected in individual septic tanks in the surrounding areas. the solid waste in Wildlife Sanctuary area is collected by the forest department through community efforts (cleanliness drives) and SHGs / Yuvak Mandal etc.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	At present only a Forest Rest house is there on this island along with a trail, sitting spaces, boating stop developed by forest department. This rest house is accessible to tourist only during daytime.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	The above-mentioned property is maintained by forest department.
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development • Bird watch towers for Bird-watching • Spots for Angling/ shops providing basic infrastructure for Angling • Nature trails during daytime – signages, information boards • Interpretation centre – highlighting the importance of the entire Wildlife sanctuary
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Toilets with septic tanks • Boat rides and infrastructure • Solid waste management with proper bins

SN	Attributes	Details
21.	Potential business model	• Department Mode

Circle: Mandi**Site 13: Trekker hut Fulladhar**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Trekker hut Fulladhar
2.	Site co-ordinates	N31.961251 E76.875349 Elevation - 2277 m
3.	Forest division	Joginder Nagar
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Urla
6.	Forest Beat	Silhaswar, (Block – Urla)
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 20 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Source – Google map
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	• Accessible through “Sari Road” which connects to Ghatsani Area (1 km Away). Ghatsani is connected to Joginder Nagar through NH-154 and the total distance is 14 km.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	NA
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places – Jhatingri - 3KMs away, Devidarh - 15KMs away
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Trekking/ trails • Camping activities – can be given to multiple players for managing small pockets (approximately 30-35 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Drinking water facility • Toilets with septic tanks • Solar lights • Dustbins

Site 14: Katyandhar

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Katyandhar
2.	Site co-ordinates	N 31 59 36 E076 53.15 Elevation – 2400 m
3.	Forest division	Joginder Nagar
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Not available
6.	Forest Beat	Not available
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Tentative area
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	This Dhar is the highest point of the Tikkan beat of Tikkan Range at about 2200 mtr. It gives 360-degree view of surrounding ridges. It is at 1.5 KM distance from the Bhumchyan Village.
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	• Accessible through Dhamchyan village road and trekking to the hill. • Accessible to Dhamchyan via NH154 and Barot Valley Road/ Ghatasani-Barot Road
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - 1. Cheling Dhar 2. Marh Water Stream for Trout angling
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development • This place has potential of paragliding take off site. It also can be a good spot for camping and sightseeing as it is about 1.5 KM distance from motorable road. Tourists can come here spent quality time with nature. • Camps (approximately 10-12 camps) Community involvement and upliftment • Development of this place for eco-tourism purpose can benefit the people of village lachkandi, Bhumchayan, Bajot, Singdhar, Gahang as they have private land there.
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Drinking water facility • Toilets with septic tanks • Eating kiosk, solar lights etc.

Site 15: Panjod

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Panjod
2.	Site co-ordinates	N32 01 55 E076 55 29 Elevation - 2560
3.	Forest division	Joginder Nagar
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Not available
6.	Forest Beat	Not available
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 0.5 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This place is situated beside Panjod Nala surrounded with dense forest of abies pindrow. It is the base of many trekking routes such as trek to Fungan Pass, Nargu top, Sari pass and Dainasar Pass. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		Source – Google map
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	• Accessible through trekking and village roads.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Base for Trekking/ Hiking
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - 1. Nargu Top at about 4021 mtr. 2. Sari Sar High altitudinal lake fungan passs the abode of Mata Fungani. Sacred Sar (Lake) of Mata Fungani Temple of Mata Fungani at Panjound Richhu Nal can be an ultimate camping site
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Infrastructure development for good base point to trekking/ hiking routes.
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Drinking water facility, toilets with septic tanks, solar lights etc.

Site 16: Silhbudhani Rest House

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Silhbudhani Rest House
2.	Site co-ordinates	N 31 56 38 E076 57 00 Elevation – 2100
3.	Forest division	Joginder Nagar
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Not available
6.	Forest Beat	Not available
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 0.5 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This place is about 27 KM from Ghatasani road. It is well connected from road and surrounded with dense Deodar forest. It is also a base point for historic summer route from Silh Budhani to Lag Valley which was mainly used during the time of princely States.
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Accessible through Fuinu Galu Sudhar Road.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Yes but no Solid Waste management
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, Camping, Night Stay

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - 1. Bralang Dhar (Offers good Scenic view) 2.Tir-Thana (Historic old thana in devastated form) 3.Bhubhu Pass 4. Hurang Dev Temple
Proposals		
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Additional cottages beside rest house spaces to accommodate more tourists
21.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Drinking water, toilets, solar lights etc.

Site 17: Hurang

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Hurang
2.	Site coordinates	N 31 55 54 E076 57 10
3.	Forest division	Joginder Nagar
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Not available
6.	Forest Beat	Not available
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 20 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This place is situated in the lap of Bhu-Bhu Pass. It has Cultural Heritage importance. This place is well known in history of Chuhar Valley. Numerous records of village Hurang can be found in historical scriptures. This is due to the theocratic ruler of Chuhar Valley devta Hurang Narayan and the Historic summer route to Kullu via Bhu-Bhu pass.

SN	Attributes	Details
		  Dev Hurang Narayan Temple  Source – Google Map
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Connected through a motorable road “Fuilu Galu Sudhar Marg” which connects the nearby areas such as Sil Budhani.

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	There is a Trekker hut but in very ruined state. It requires major maintenance and other supporting facilities.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - 1. Hurang Temple (which offer rich cultural value) 2. Chandrabagi (good Trekking state which give mesmerising view of Ghoghar Dhar) 3. Bhu-Bhu Pass 4. Kathog Log Hut near about 3 KM
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Trekking, Rest areas, Public utilities, Rain shelters, • Camping/ tent (approximately 50-60 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights etc.

Site 18: Sainj to Dhamoon Tibba

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Sainj to Dhamoon Tibba
2.	Site co-ordinates	31.330855 77.28727 Elevation - 2500
3.	Forest division	Karsog
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Seri
6.	Forest Beat	Lanj, (Block – Seri)
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 1.5 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This place has dense deodar & Kail Forests. This site is good for trekking and camping. 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Views of the surroundings
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Accessible through Kaccha Village road and trekking.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - Nag Dhamooni Temple
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Trekking base • Camping/ tenting (approximately 20-30 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Tourist infrastructure such as drinking water facility, toilets with septic tanks, solar lights etc.

Site 19: Chamanpur – Churag

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Chamanpur - Churag
2.	Site co-ordinates	31.361775, 77.150772 Elevation - 1920
3.	Forest division	Karsog
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Pangna
6.	Forest Beat	Karadal, (Block – Chindhi)
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 0.5 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	Used as Picnic Spot
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Accessible through Village road from Churag to Chil Sarahie
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil

SN	Attributes	Details
18.	Remarks	Nearby interesting places - Shikari Devi Temple - 27 kms away , Mahunnag Temple - 17 kms away
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Picnic spot for tourists with benches, entry gates, lighting
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Drinking water facility - Toilets

Site 20: Karsog – Raigarh-Shikari Devi

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Karsog -Raigarh-Shikari Devi
2.	Site coordinates	31.27'52" 77.11'42" Elevation - 2700
3.	Forest division	Karsog
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Not available
6.	Forest Beat	Not available
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	Approximately 0.8 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	This place has dense deodar & Kail Forests. This site is good for trekking and camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	Nil
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Nil
14.	Access to site	Accessible through Shikari Devi Temple Road. Shikari Devi Temple is 6 Km away from this location.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Hut Raigarh under construction

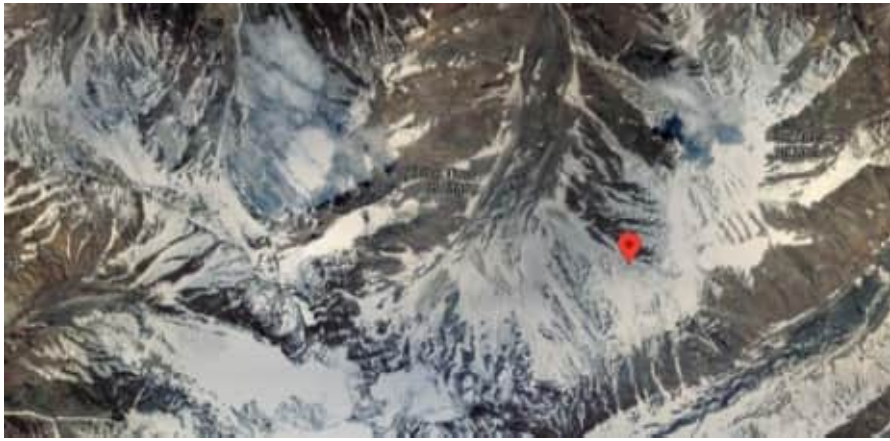
SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Trekking and Camping activities (approximately 20-30 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Tourist infrastructures such as drinking water facility, toilets, solar lights etc.

Circle: Rampur**Site 21: Roghi, Kalpa**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Roghi, Kalpa
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.51306 , Long : 78.22998 & Elevation: 2750 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kalpa
6.	Forest Beat	Roghi, (Block – Kalpa)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.2 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Rail – Railway station Shimla 237 Kms Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport Shimla 257 Kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Nearby areas have Homestays

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	Nearby laces to visit: 1.Kinner Kailash 2.Visit to Kalpa villages. 3.Reckong bazaar 4.Visit to ancient temples and monasteries
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Adventure Site/Camps/Cottage (approximately – 8 to 10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Fair weather approach road to the site, Signage
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 22: Akpa, Moorang

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Akpa, Moorang
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.60030, Long: 78.56678 & Elevation: 4800 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kalpa
6.	Forest Beat	Moorang, (Block – Ribba)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – 3 Kms from National Highway Rail – The site is 226 Kms from Shimla Railway station Airport - The site is 250 Kms from Jubbarhatti Airport at Shimla
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Pre-fabricated cottages / camps along with adventure activities (approximately 8 to 10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Drinking water, toilets, dustbins
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 23: Kashmir, Sangla

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Kashmir, Sangla
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.418820, Long: 78.274254, & Elevation: 2600 M
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kilba
6.	Forest Beat	Sangla, (Block – Sangla)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Rail – Shimla railway station is closest station - 225 kms from the Site Airport – Jubbarhatii Airport is closest airport -245 kms from the Site
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, Nature trails Nearby area has Home stays.

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	The Site is closer to Baspa River
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Log Huts, Rock Climbing, Rafting, Biking Trails, Nature Walks, Vehicle Safari, Fishing (approx. 4-5 camps/ log huts)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Fair weather approach road to the site
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 24: Nako Interpretation Centre

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Nako interpretation centre by Forest dept.
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.87970 , Long: 78.62790 & Elevation: 3650 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Malling
6.	Forest Beat	Malling, (Block – Malling)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.5 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is connected by Kuchha road to Nako Tabo road Rail – Shimla Railway station is 315 Kms from the site at Nako Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport in Shimla is 335 Kms from the site at Nako
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	-
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	Nako lake, Ancient monasteries
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Camping, Cultural Activities, Fishing, Trekking, Mountain Biking, Adventure Trails, Skiing (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Fencing , Signages
21.	Potential business model	Department Mode

Site 25: Near Bridge Chitkul

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Bridge Chitkul
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.349249, Long: 78.437971 & Elevation: 3400 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kilba
6.	Forest Beat	Raksham, (Block – Sangla)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	Images of the Site 

SN	Attributes	Details
		
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is around 100 – 150 metre from the Bridge Chitkul Rail – The site is around 250 Kms from Shimla Railway station Airport - The site is around 275 Kms from Jubbarhatti Airport Shimla
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, Nature trails Nearby area has Home stays
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	- The site is situated near Chitkul Bridge on Baspa River - Distance from Chitkul village is 2 Kms
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Prefabricated cottages /camps Trekking, Rafting, Fishing, Log huts, Zip Lining, Soft Adventure Activities (approximately 8 to 10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Fencing of the site, signage, Fair weather approach road
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 26: Near Post Chitkul

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Post Chitkul
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.346564, Long: 78.458851 & Elevation: 3500 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Sangla
6.	Forest Beat	Chhitkul, (Block – Sangla)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is around 100 – 150 metre from the Bridge Chitkul Rail – The site is around 250 Kms from Shimla Railway station Airport - The site is around 275 Kms from Jubbarhatti Airport Shimla
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, Nature trails. Nearby area has Home stays.

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	The site is overlooking River Baspa
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Luxury Camping, Rafting, Trekking (approximately 8 to 10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Signage, Fencing of the site,
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 27: Near Nichar, Sungra Village

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	2 km from Nichar ,Sungra village road
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.556752, Long: 77.942213, & Elevation: 2050 M
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Nichar
6.	Forest Beat	Sungra, (Block – Sungra)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is near Sungra village road which connect to the Nichar Road and the highway Rail – Shimla Railway station is 185 Kms from the site Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport at Shimla is 210 Kms from the site
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, Nature trails Nearby area has Home stays

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Pre-fabricated cottages /camps, Trekking, Paragliding, Mountain Biking, Mountaineering (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Fair weather approach road to the site • Fencing of the site, Signage leading to site
21.	Potential business model	• Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 28: Pooh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Pooh
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.76159 , Long: 78.58393, & Elevation : 2750 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Pooh
6.	Forest Beat	Pooh, (Block – Pooh)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.2 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is close to the link road which connects to the highway Rail – Shimla Railway station is 275 Kms Airport - Shimla Railway station is 2965 Kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Tented camps along with adventure activities, Trekking, Rock Climbing, Rappelling, (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Signage at the site
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 29: Yula village

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Yula village
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.91849 , Long: 78.57136 & Elevation: 3895 m
3.	Forest division	Kinnaur
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kalpa
6.	Forest Beat	Chango, (Block – Malling)
7.	District	Kinnaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	Fallow land 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road - Motorable kaccha road is there till Yulla Village, after which there is a trek to Yula Kanda, bhaba Nagar is 33 kms Rail – Shimla Railway station is 210 Kms from the site Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport in Shimla is 230 Kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Currently no ecotourism activity is happening
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, GoHP
18.	Remarks	- Distance from Bhaba Nagar: 33 kms, - Yulla Kanda Trek (12 kms) starts from Yulla Village located in Rora valley, Kinnaur 12 km trek from Yulla village to Yulla Kanda Krishna temple made by Pandavas in the centre of the Lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/	Prefabricated cottages /camps along with adventure activities, Fishing, Trekking (approximately 8-10 camps)

SN	Attributes	Details
	Infrastructure development	
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Fair weather approach road to the site, Signages
21.	Potential business model	Department Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Circle: Shimla**Site 30: Dungri Thatch camping site**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Dungri Thatch camping site
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.19289444 Lon: 77.97828333, Elevation : 3500 m
3.	Forest division	Rohru
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Khashdhar
6.	Forest Beat	Kharshali, (Block – Larot)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Not in use currently, Proposed camping site
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Linked by 200 m wide footpath to Chanshal Rail – Shimla Railway station is 160 Kms from the site Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport Shimla is 185 kms from the site
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Solar Lights Installed Stay facility – one 2 room stone/ wood hut, toilet facility Solid waste management – No

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	- Fenced Area - one 2 room stone/ wood hut, toilet facility - Additional camps procured by Forest department
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	None
18.	Remarks	Identified camping site on Kharshali – Chanshal trek route with no activity/ operation till date
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Camping, Prefabricated cottages & Hiking / trekking point (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Signages - Solid Waste Management – dustbins and collected waste to be dumped at the designated place of the nearest Gram Panchayat - Electricity connection to the site - Optimum Sewage plan – septic tanks
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 31: Dwach camping site

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Dwach Camping site
2.	Site co-ordinates	La : 31.20780833 Lon: 77.92708889, Elevation: 2750 m
3.	Forest division	Rohru
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Khashdhar
6.	Forest Beat	Kharshali, (Block – Larot)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Proposed and identified camping site on Kharshali – Chanshal road
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Accessible
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – No; Solar light - yes Stay facility – Camping Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None

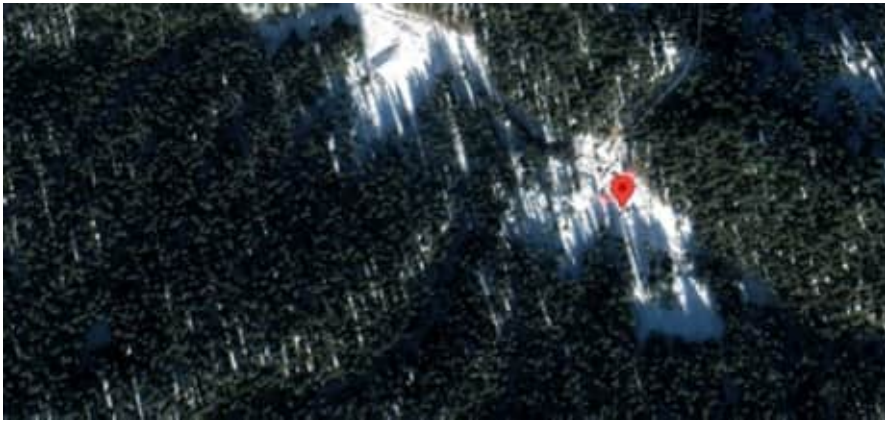
SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	None
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Hiking, Camping / prefabricated cottages (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Electricity connection - Signage - Sewage plan – soak pits / Septic tanks - Solid waste management
21.	Potential business model	PPP Mode

Site 32: Eco cultural site, Kharshali

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Eco Cultural Site Kharshali
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat : 31.22631667 , Long: 77.91938333 , Elevation: 2400 m
3.	Forest division	Rohru
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Kharshali
6.	Forest Beat	Khashdhar, (Block – Larot)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	.5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None 
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Larot – Dodra Kwar road is 3 Kms from the site Rail – Shimla (around 140 kms) Airport – Shimla (around 140 kms)

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Pilgrimage tourism as the site has temple site, Sightseeing
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Kharshali Panchayat maintains the temple & the small lake in cooperation with the forest department
18.	Remarks	- The site has an ancient temple and small lake. It's the birth place of Hateshwari mata , based at Hatkodi temple - It lies on Kharshali – Chanshal trek route River Pabbar is 5 Kms from the site
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Sightseeing, Trekking and Camping (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat - Toilets and septic tanks - Fencing of site
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 33: Giri Ganga 1

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Giri Ganga 1
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat : 31.08274444, Long: 77.63618333 ,Elevation: 2850 m
3.	Forest division	Rohru
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Jubbal
6.	Forest Beat	Snaba, (Block – Jubbal)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Ancient temple Complex - Pilgrimage tourism, Sightseeing 

SN	Attributes	Details
		
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Shimla – Rohru road: 6 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management - No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No facility to stay near the temple at present, Ancient temple complex, Pilgrimage tourism
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Local Shilli Panchayat take care of the temple and its management & cleanliness etc. in coordination with Forest department
18.	Remarks	The temple is visited by thousands of people from nearby villages – far and close. The temple is in deep forest and popular place of sightseeing.
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Sightseeing & Camping (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat - Toilets and septic tanks - Fencing of site
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Site 34: Larot camping site 1

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Larot Camping site 1
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.23057222 , Long : 77.95382222, Elevation: 2850 m
3.	Forest division	Rohru
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Khashdhar
6.	Forest Beat	Larot, (Block – Larot)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Identified Camping site, Not operational completely 
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	High tension wire overhead
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is next to a narrow road which connect to Larot - Dodra Kwar road enroute Chanshal pass Rail – Shimla railway station is the closest , 150 kms from the site Airport – Jubbarhatti airport at Shimla is closest , 180 kms from the site

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes , camps Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	The site is newly identified under “Nai Rahen Nai Manzil” Government scheme of the Govt of H.P, Local community youth are given the chance to organise camp for Eco-tourists at the site on trial basis.
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Camping (8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat
21.	Potential business model	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

Circle: Solan**Site 35: Near village Bhiunkhary**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Village Bhiunkhary
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.15651, Long: 76.80545 , & Elevation: 730 m
3.	Forest division	Nalagarh
4.	Forest Circle	Solan
5.	Forest Range	Kohu
6.	Forest Beat	Bhiokhari, (Block – Kohu)
7.	District	Solan
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	2 Bighas
11.	Existing use of the site	none
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is close to narrow road which connects it to the State highway 205 from Swarghat to Kothipura Rail – Kiratpur sahib railway station 45 Kms from the site Airport - Chandigarh International Airport 98 Kms from the site
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes, Septic tank Electricity – yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management –No

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	01 kilometre from Primary health centre, Gram Panchayat Bhiunkhary, next to Inspection hut, Forest department.
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Soft trekking and Camping activities/ Log huts/ /tenting facilities, rural experiential tourism (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Signages - Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat

Circle: Shimla**Site 36: Banga Pani Cheog**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Banga Pani Cheog
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude:31.050442 Longitude: 77.328421 Entry/Exit from Fagu Elevation : 2338 m
3.	Forest division	Theog Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Theog
6.	Forest Beat	Ratesh, (Cheog)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villagers 
12.	Litigation (if any)	No Litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel to be developed for additional livelihood opportunities
13.	Site limitation (if any)	- Access to site is difficult as it requires trekking downhill. - Motorable kaccha road and parking available at a distance of about 100 mts
14.	Access to site	By Train – Airport to Jubbarhatti -60 kms By Air –Shimla Railway station -35 kms

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply –Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity –Not available Stay facility –Not available Solid waste management – Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No use currently
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	NA
18.	Remarks	The site is 8 KM from Fagu toward Dharech Road
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Trekking and Camping/ Prefabricated cottages or Tented camps can be set up (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal arrangement needed – septic tanks - Streetlights for trails needed - Signages for users to be installed

Site 37: Mahasu peak

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Mahasu Peak
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude: 31.09492430 Longitude: 77.27454960 Elevation : 2732 m
3.	Forest division	Theog Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Theog
6.	Forest Beat	Kufri, (Block – Cheog)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	2 hectare approx
11.	Existing use of the site	Temporary dhabas of tea and coffee
12.	Litigation (if any)	No Litigation
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Access to site is difficult as it requires uphill climb Motorable kaccha road and parking available at about 100 Mts
14.	Access to site	Road – one entry for the site By Air – Airport to Jubbar hatti -60kms By Train – Shimla Railway station -35kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Nil

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	not available
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	not available
18.	Remarks	Adjoining Apple point road
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Camping, trekking, rock climbing, soft adventure activity (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal arrangement needed – septic tanks - Streetlights for trails needed - Signages for users to be installed

Site 38: Mashada

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Mashada
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude: 31.11675556 Longitude: 77.38358278 Entry/Exit from Devimod Elevation : 2326 m,
3.	Forest division	Theog Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Theog
6.	Forest Beat	Kaleri, (Block – Theog)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.75 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No Litigation
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Access to site is difficult as it requires uphill climb Motorable kaccha road and parking available about 100Mts
14.	Access to site	Road – 5 km from NH 5 By Air – Airport to Jubbarhatti -60 kms By Train – Shimla Railway station -35kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	not available

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	not available
18.	Remarks	No remarks
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Nature watch, trekking, trailing, mountain biking
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal arrangement needed – septic tanks - Streetlights for trails needed - Signages for users to be installed

Circle: Nahan**Site 39: Banethi**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Banethi
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 30.631773, Long: 77.273317, & Elevation: 1323 m
3.	Forest division	Nahan
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan
5.	Forest Range	Jamta
6.	Forest Beat	Banethi, (Block – Banethi)
7.	District	Sirmaur
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Kumurhatti- Sarahan-Nahan Road on NH 907A Rail – Chandigarh railway station 50 Kms from the site Airport - Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Airport Mohall at Chandigarh is 50 Kms from the site

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking /Hiking, Cycling and camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	17 Kms from Nahan, 58 Kms from Kumarhatti , adjoining Banethi Forest rest house
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	- Trekking /Hiking, Cycling - Prefabricated cottages / Tented Camp can be set up / Nature & Birdwatching (approximately 30-50 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat

Circle: Shimla**Site 40: Glean, near Annadale**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Glean, Near Annadale
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.11378100, Long: 77.15107600 , Elevation: 1900 m
3.	Forest division	Shimla Urban
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Chaura Maidan
6.	Forest Beat	Glean / Glen, (Block - Chaura Maidan)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.15 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None  Image of the Site
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site near Annadale road

SN	Attributes	Details
		Rail – Shimla railway station is 30ks from the site Airport – Around 21 kms from Jubbarhatti Airport, Shimla
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management – no
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Hiking, Nature trails and camping (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- platforms for camping site, machaan houses/tree houses, - fencing of area - Signages - Toilets with septic tanks - Solid Waste Management – dustbins and proper disposal at the designated site of the nearest Gram panchayat

Site 41: Gol Pahari, Near old Chungi Khana

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Gol Pahari, Near Old Chungi Khana
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.119356, Long: 77.161027 , Elevation: 1800 m
3.	Forest division	Shimla Urban
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Chaura Maidan
6.	Forest Beat	Kaithu, (Block – Bharari)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.15 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Rail – Shimla Railway station Airport – 20 kms from Jubbarhatti Airport, Shimla
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himanchal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Camping & hiking (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- platforms for camping site, machaan houses/tree houses - fencing of area - Signages

Site 42: Upper Gawahi, beyond Annadale

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Upper Gawahi, Beyond Annadale
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.114381 , Long: 77.174508 , Elevation: 2000 m
3.	Forest division	Shimla Urban
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Chaura Maidan
6.	Forest Beat	Bharari, (Block – Bharari)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.15 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None  Picture of the site
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Lakkar Bazaar Badash Rail – Shimla Airport – Shimla

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – Yes Stay facility – No Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	- Gentle slope, grassland and one portion is open with chir forest and upper portion of broad leave forest - Near the Ridge, very less vehicular disturbance with nearby forest for walks
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Hiking and Camping (approximately 8-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Needs development of parking, - platforms for camping site, machaan houses/tree houses, - fencing of area

Circle: Rampur**Site 43: Baga Sarahan**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Baga Sarahan
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.550192, Long: 77.527426, & Elevation: 2450 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Arsu Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Sarahan, (Block – Sarahan)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 A satellite image from Google Earth showing a forested area with a clearing in the center. The clearing is surrounded by dense green forest. The Google Earth logo is visible in the bottom right corner.
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	10 ha. (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	Water fall & grassland and Bashleu Pass  A photograph of a lush green grassland area with a small stream flowing through it. In the background, there are steep, forested mountains under a cloudy sky.
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Local people are willing to get the land parcel to be developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – Rampur-Nirmand-Bagipul- Sarahan Rail – Nearest Railway Station

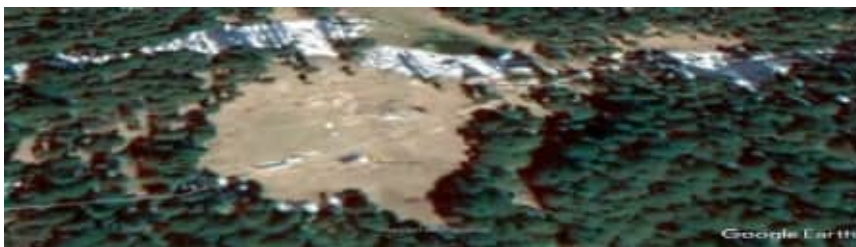
SN	Attributes	Details
		Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110 Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes (HPPWD Rest house & local guest Houses) Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	- Trekking to Bashleu Pass - Visit to Water-fall - Nature watch, Birdwatching
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	No Remarks
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	- Camping with septic tanks (approximately 40-50 camps) - Nature park / Nature trails
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Toilets with septic tanks - Dustbins

Site 44: Near Jalori pass 1

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Jalori Pass 1
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.535219, Long: 77.380384 & Elevation: 3160 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Lohal, (Block – Takrasi)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	No current use. Near the passage to Sareulsar lake  Picture showcasing nearby areas
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Local people are willing to get the land parcel to be developed to increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – From NH-305 Rail – Nearest Railway Station

SN	Attributes	Details
		Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – Not available Electricity – No Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No current use.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest department has installed fencing around sareulsar lake and restrict people to enter into lake, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) Kaccha path was developed by Forest Department to Sareulsar lake.
18.	Remarks	Nearby places: • Raghupur Fort visit • 360 degrees Point • Sareulsar lake visit • Temple of Kali Mata at Jalori Pass • Temple of Budi Nagin at Sareulsar lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Nature park (Nature trails) • Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 15-20 camps) • Trekking, camping, Hiking. Mountain Biking
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Electricity facility • Water facility

Site 45: Near Sareul sour lake

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Sareul sour lake, Jalori pass to Sareulsour lake path
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.537222, Long: 77.413333 & Elevation: 3200 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Kot, (Block – Khanag)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.5 hac. (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	Passage to Sareulsar lake
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Locals people are willing to get the land parcel developed in increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – From NH-305 Rail – Nearest Railway Station Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – Not available Electricity – No Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No current use

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	- Forest department has installed fencing around sareulsar lake and restrict people to enter into lake, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) - Kaccha path was developed by Forest Department to Sareulsar lake.
18.	Remarks	Near by places: - Raghupur Fort 360 Point - Sareulsar lake - Temple of Kali Mata at Jalori Pass - Temple of Budi Nagin at Sareulsar lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	- Nature park (Nature trails) - Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 5-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal arrangements needed - Streetlights for trails needed - Signages for users to be installed - Electricity facility - Water facility

Site 46: Near Sareul sour lake 2

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Sareul sour lake 2, Jalori pass to Sareulsour lake path
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.539052, Long: 77.4150080 & Elevation: 3250 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Kot (Block – Khanag)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.5 ha. (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	On the Passage to Sareulsar lake. No current use. 
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Local people are willing to get the land parcel developed in increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – From NH-305 Rail – Nearest Railway Station Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – Not available Electricity – No Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No current use
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	• Forest department has installed fencing around sareulsar lake and restrict people to enter into lake, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) • Kaccha path was developed by Forest Department to Sareulsar lake.
18.	Remarks	Nearby places: • Raghupur Fort • 360 Point • Sareulsar lake • Temple of Kali Mata at Jalori Pass • Temple of Budi Nagin at Sareulsar lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Nature park (Nature trails) • Trekking, Mountain Biking, Camping, Nature watching, Soft Adventure activities • Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 5 to 10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Electricity facility • Water facility

Site 47: Near Jalori pass 2

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Jalori Pass 2
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.535661, Long: 77.375055 & Elevation: 3180 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Lohal, (Block – Takrasi)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	No current use
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Local people are willing to get the land parcel developed in increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – From NH-305 Rail – Nearest Railway Station Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – Not available Electricity – No Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No use

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	- Forest department has installed fencing around sareulsar lake and restrict people to enter into lake, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) - Kaccha path was developed by Forest Department to Sareulsar lake.
18.	Remarks	Nearby places: - Raghupur Fort 360 Point - Sareulsar lake - Temple of Kali Mata at Jalori Pass - Temple of Budi Nagin at Sareulsar lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	- Nature park (Nature trails) - Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 15-20 camps) - Adventure activities
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Electricity facility - Water facility

Site 48: Near Jalori Pass 4

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near Jalori Pass 4
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.534968, Long: 77.386312 & Elevation: 3180 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Lohal, (Block – Takrasi)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare (Approx.)
11.	Existing use of the site	NH 305 & Passage to Sareulsar lake
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Locals people are willing to get the land parcel developed in increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road – From NH-305 Rail – Nearest Railway Station Shimla (135KM) Airport – Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – Not available Electricity – No Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not Available

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No current use
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	• Forest department has installed fencing around Sareulsar lake and restrict people to enter into lake, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) • Kaccha path was developed by Forest Department to Sareulsar lake.
18.	Remarks	Nearby places: • Raghupur Fort • 360 Point • Sareulsar lake • Temple of Kali Mata at Jalori Pass • Temple of Budi Nagin at Sareulsar lake
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Nature park (Nature trails) • Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 15-20 camps) • trekking, Mountain Biking
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Electricity facility • Water facility

Site 49: Paneo

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Paneo
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.44616111, Long: 77.363875 & Elevation: 1800 m
3.	Forest division	Ani Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Chowai Forest Range
6.	Forest Beat	Peog, (Block – Paneo)
7.	District	Kullu
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Forest Rest House, Passage for nearby village and the site is important from religious point view
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation, Locals people are willing to get the land parcel developed in increase tourism and employment for the local
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Motorable kaccha road and parking available.
14.	Access to site	Road –From NH-305 Nigan to Shawad Kungash Paneo & Khanag-shush-Paneo Rail –Nearest Railway Station - Shimla (135KM) Airport –Bhuntar Distt. Kullu (110Km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes (Forest Rest House and camps) Solid waste management –Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Very near to the site. Temple of Panue nag

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Forest Rest House established since 1920.  Forest Path from Paneo to Shush about 100 KM
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	• Forest department has installed fencing around the site to demarcate the area, however people are allowed to visit and walk in the land parcel (trail) • Kaccha road was developed by HPPWD from Kungash to Paneo and as well as Forest Department
18.	Remarks	No Remarks
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Nature park (Nature trails) • Tent / camp sites with septic tanks (approximately 15-20 camps) • Trekking, Mountain biking
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Sewage collection and Disposal arrangements needed • Streetlights and signages needed

Site 50: Dalogh Ghat DFO Kotgarh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Dalogh Ghat DFO Kotgarh
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat : 31.221608, Long: 77.346383 & Elevation: 2560 m
3.	Forest division	Kotgarh
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	KUMARSAIN
6.	Forest Beat	KHUDLO, (Block – KANGAL)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road –The site is located on Khatnol Link road no 14 which connects it to Kotgarh Rail – Shimla Railway station is 55 Kms from the site Airport – Jubbarhatti airport Shimla is closest airport and is 75 Kms from the site
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management - Yes

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	-
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	9 Km from Matyana
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Trekking and hiking
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid waste management - Dustbins and proper disposal - Toilets with septic tanks - Fencing around the site

Site 51: Jamunda DFO Kotgarh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Jamunda DFO Kotgarh
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.250692, Long: 77.491196 & Elevation: 2880 m
3.	Forest division	Kotgarh
4.	Forest Circle	Ramgarh
5.	Forest Range	Kotgarh
6.	Forest Beat	HATTU, (Block – NARKANDA)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himanchal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	250 Square meters
11.	Existing use of the site	None 
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is next to Hatu road connecting it to Kotgarh Rail – Shimla railway station is 250 Kms from the site. Airport – Jubbarhatti Airport is nearest airport and 275 Kms from the site

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – NA Electricity – Yes Stay facility – NA Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	No use
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	-
18.	Remarks	The site is 2.5 Kms from Hatu peak and the Hatu temple
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Viewpoint, eating kiosks
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Dustbins for solid waste, public convenience

Site 52: Tanu Jubber Kotgarh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Tanu Jubber Kotgarh
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.286288 , Long: 77.498943 & Elevation: 1900 m
3.	Forest division	Kotgarh
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kotgarh
6.	Forest Beat	Narkanda, (Block – Narkanda)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himanchal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	30 Square meter
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – on Tanjubbar lake road
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management – Yes

SN	Attributes	Details
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	Tani Jubbar Lake is situated at a distance of 70 KMs from Shimla towards Thanedhar, Kotgarh. The place is 12 kms from Narkanda. It is a small artificially water fed oval-shaped, shallow mass of water that is more of a pond than a lake. It is encircled by a paved pathway, beyond which are gentle slopes covered with Blue Pine and Spruce trees. It is located in a fascinating place where one can spend some picnic time. The entire area around the lake is enclosed by a thick forest of cedar trees.
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	• Shops
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Dustbins

Site 53: Narkanda Nature Camps

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Narkanda Nature Camps
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.25750000, Long: 77.46166667 & Elevation : 2670 m
3.	Forest division	Kotgarh
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	KUMARSAIN
6.	Forest Beat	ODDI, (Block – KUMARSAIN)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.50 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – The site is close to Dertu Mata temple road , the kachha road from the forest connect to the road. Rail – Shimla Railway station is the 170 Kms from the site. Airport – Jubbarhatti airport at Shimla is 200 Kms from the site.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – No Electricity – No Electricity , Solar Lamps used at the site Stay facility – Yes, Near by area has camps Solid waste management – No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	-

SN	Attributes	Details
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	on NH-5 Narakanda
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Adventure activities like hiking, suitable plot for tented Camps / Cottage (approximately 5-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid waste management - Dustbins and proper disposal - Toilets with septic tanks - Fencing around the site

Site 54: Nihari DFO Kotgarh

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Nihari DFO Kotgarh
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 31.250534, Long: 77.468513 & Elevation: 2700 m
3.	Forest division	Kotgarh
4.	Forest Circle	Rampur
5.	Forest Range	Kotgarh
6.	Forest Beat	NARKANDA, (Block – NARKANDA)
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	100 Square metres
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – on Sai Narkanda Road
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage – Yes Electricity – no, High tension wire 150 m from the site Stay facility – Yes Solid waste management – Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	-
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
18.	Remarks	4 Kms from Narkanda

SN	Attributes	Details
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Eco shops, eating joints
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Signage on the site - Fencing around the site

Circle: Khibber Wildlife Sanctuary**Site 55: Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2**

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2
2.	Site co-ordinates	Lat: 32.451045, Long: 77.611389, Elevation: 4120 m
3.	Forest division	Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary
4.	Forest Circle	Kibber
5.	Forest Range	Kaza
6.	Forest Beat	Losar, (Block – Hansa)
7.	District	Lahual-Spiti
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 Overall site Google Earth view  Site 1

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Site 2
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	5 Ha for site 1 3.5 Ha for site 2
11.	Existing use of the site	Used for camping (4 months) through Forest Permission 

SN	Attributes	Details
		 Site Pictures
12.	Litigation (if any)	No
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Poor condition Kaccha motorable road for access
14.	Access to site	Road – Kaccha Motorable road available for access Rail – Nearest railway station - Joginder Nagar Railway Station – 250 kms Airport – Nearest Airport - Bhuntar Airport, Kullu Manali – 165 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Surface water from nearby Nala Sewerage – Not Available Electricity – Not Available Stay facility – Private camp associations are available at the site after forest department's permission to put up camps Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Camp and tent sites available at sites operational for 4 months (summer)
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No
18.	Remarks	No
Proposals		
11.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Camping sites can be streamlined. Multiple users can be appointed for the same. (Approximately 150 camps)

SN	Attributes	Details
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks • System for garbage collection and to be disposed off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system
21.	Potential business model	• Department Mode

Circle: Dharamshala**Site 56 - Site Near mountain lodge, Triund**

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near mountain lodge, Triund
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.255373,76.355163
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Tahua, (Block – Khaniara)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.0 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Trekking, tenting, Hiking, Bird watching.
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Not connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Availability of Rooms in FRH Triund Water supply - No Sewerage - No Electricity – No Solid waste management - Approx. 5 Kgs per month collected by waste warriors
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination - Triund
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development • Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Water supply from the nearest source • Electricity for the activities • Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks • System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 57 - Site Near Kareri lake

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Kareri
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.329763,76.271777
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Salli, (Block – Kareri)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.0 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Trekking
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Not connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Availability of Rooms in FRH Kareri Water supply - Yes Sewerage - No Electricity – Yes Solid waste management - Approx. 3 Kgs per month collected by waste warriors
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination - Kareri
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 58 - Site Near Tota Rani

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Satobari, Near Tota Rani
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.246074,76.291117
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Satobari, (Block – Maclord gang)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Eco-camp , Walkiong Trail.
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Not connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Availability of Rooms in FRH Satobri Water supply - Yes Sewerage - No Electricity – Yes Solid waste management - Approx. 3 Kgs per month collected by waste warriors
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination -Satobri/ Meclodganj
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks • System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 59 - Site at Thehr

S.N	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	"Khniyara /Ghanyara Khas", Thehr
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.215556, 76.356667
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Manjhi, (Block – Khaniara)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Hiking
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage - No Electricity – Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination -Dharamshala
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks • System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 60 - Site Near McLeod Ganj

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Near McLeod Ganj
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.242062,76.329620
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Dharamkot, (Block – Maclord Gang)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping, Hiking, Tenting
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage - No Electricity - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination -McLeod Ganj
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 61 - Site Near Helipad

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Rakkar(Theru), Near Heli pad
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.197665, 76.381011
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Yol, (Block – Khaniara)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.0 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Tenting site.
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Connected with road
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage - No

		Electricity - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination -Dharamshala
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks • System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 62 - Site at Indrunag (Chohla, Tahu)

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	"Indrunag (Chohla, Tahu)"
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.221592, 76.337111
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Tahua
7.	District	Kangra, (Block – Khaniara)
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Hiking
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage - No Electricity - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination - Dharamshala
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 63 - Site at Rakkar road

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Sokani da kotRakkar road
2.	Site co-ordinates	32.207906,76.371717
3.	Forest division	Dharamshala
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Dharamshala
6.	Forest Beat	Manooni, (Block – Khaniara)
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.0 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping, Hiking, Trekking.
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Connected with road

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Yes Sewerage - No Electricity - Yes
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination -Dharamshala
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 64 - Site at PaluhanKufar to Jabrash

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Nihri, PaluhanKufar to Jabrash
2.	Site co-ordinates	31.403369, 77.066576
3.	Forest division	Suket
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Jhungi
6.	Forest Beat	Galukhar, (Block – Pandar)
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.50 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Trekking
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	-
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Yes, all facilities are available at FRH Nihri
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	Only trekking path is there which requires maintenance 1. Trekking path Nihri to Mundli dhar 2. PaluhanKufar to Jabrash
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Not maintained
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination – 1. Nihri – 1.5 km from the site

		2. Mundli – 3 Km
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping (approximately 5-10 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 65 - Site at Murari Devi

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Murari Devi
2.	Site co-ordinates	31.504855, 76.817857
3.	Forest division	Suket
4.	Forest Circle	Mandi
5.	Forest Range	Baldwara
6.	Forest Beat	Triphagaht, (Block – Baldwara)
7.	District	Mandi
8.	Ownership authority	-
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	Trekking
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	-
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Yes, all facilities are available at FRH Murari Devi
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	FRH Murari Devi Trekking path Murari Devi to Old Fort
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Not maintained
18.	Remarks	Nearby Top Destination - Murari Devi Temple and Old Fort
Proposals		

19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism infrastructure development Trekking, tenting, day hiking & camping (approximately 15-20 camps)
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Sewage collection and disposal – septic tanks - System for garbage collection and to be disposed-off at the nearest Panchayat's garbage disposal system

Site 66 – Andretta

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Andretta
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude: 32° 02'11"N, Longitude: 76°34'22"E Elevation: 1007 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bajjnath
6.	Forest Beat	Andretta
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	5 Ha. Approx.
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	No.
14.	Access to site	Road – Two entries for the site. · From Palampur to Chadiyar Road near Panchrukhi distance Via road 15 k.m · From Bajjnath to Andretta via Majhrna road distance 10 km Rail – Nearest railway station · Panchrukhi Railway Station – 2 kms Airport – Nearest Airport, Kangra Airport – 45 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply - Available Sewerage – not available Electricity – Available Stay facility –FRH Andretta and Camps and homestays available on private land adjoining forest land. There are approx 4 home stays available in the vicinity with per night per head rental range of Rs. 400-1000.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Old Bridal path

17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	-
18.	Remarks	Nearby tourism site- Shobha Singh Art gallery
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Repair of existing Bridal path and Bird Watching Trail O/D 2 k.m • Van Sarovar • Watch Tower • Ornamental plants plantation along with bridal path • Forest Rest House Andretta under Construction\ • Student nature learning facilities like tree climbing, burma bridge, tree huts/machans Proposal for Community involvement • Repairing of traditional irrigation structures like kuhal
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Solar Streetlights for trails needed • Ancillary infrastructure - Signage for users to be installed, Gazebos, Toilets, Benches, Rain shelter.

Site 67 – Billing

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Billing
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 3'26.97"N, Longitude : 76°44'38.11"E Elevation : 2411 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bir
6.	Forest Beat	Bir
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	• Road –Nearest- Pathankot-Mandi National Highway Via road (22 km) • Rail – Nearest railway station-Paprola Railway Station (32 km) • Airport – Nearest Airport -Kangra Airport (85 km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Stay facility – Nearest FRH is at Bir with 3 huts and 3 rooms (16km).
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Paragliding
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Tourism Department
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Camping site (approximately 15-20 camps), bird watching trail, Nursery for Tulip garden, Sunset viewpoint, Landscaping.

SN	Attributes	Details
	Infrastructure development	- Adventure sports- Ice skiing. Proposal for Community involvement - Training and employment of local youths as bird-watching guides and in ice skiing, paragliding etc.
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid waste management facilities - Ancillary infrastructure- Entry and exit gates for safety, Signage for users, waste bins, ticket counter, toilets, benches.

Site 68 – Bindyabasini

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Bindyabasini / Vindhyavasini / Bundla Mata Temple
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 10'08.42"N, Longitude : 76°32'58.11"E Elevation : 1678 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshalla
5.	Forest Range	Palampur
6.	Forest Beat	Bundla
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Bindyabasini Temple based tourism
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – One entry Palampur to bindyabasini 15 km Rail – Nearest railway station Maranda (Palampur) 22 km Airport – Nearest Airport Gaggal Kangra 40 km
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Bindyabasini Temple
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Local community manages and maintains the temple

SN	Attributes	Details
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development - Nature trail around Temple site, Native shrubs and herbs plantation along the trail, - Eco-retreat-based camping (approximately 15-20 camps) in nature overlooking Dhauladhar Range, Lights and sound show along the stream at the edge of the temple - Interpretation centre-cum-Souvenir shop for awareness generation about environment Proposal for Community involvement - Tea cafe – Showcasing local culture, Kangra tea-tasting, Tour of tea estates around the temple by involving local people
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Signage for users around nature trail and Tea cafe - Ticket counters/windows - Waste bins, benches, Water Fountain

Site 69 – Gunehar

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Gunehar
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude: 32° 02'54.02" N, Longitude: 76° 45'17.19" E Elevation: 1747 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bir
6.	Forest Beat	Bir
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Tourist and local villagers come here for picnic
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Steep site
14.	Access to site	● Road – One entry for the site from Baijnath-Kangra State Highway (10 km) ● Rail – Nearest railway station Paprola Railway Station (20 km) ● Airport – Nearest Airport Kangra Airport (85 km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	None
16.	Existing Ecotourism	Tenting and camping, Pool bathing etc.

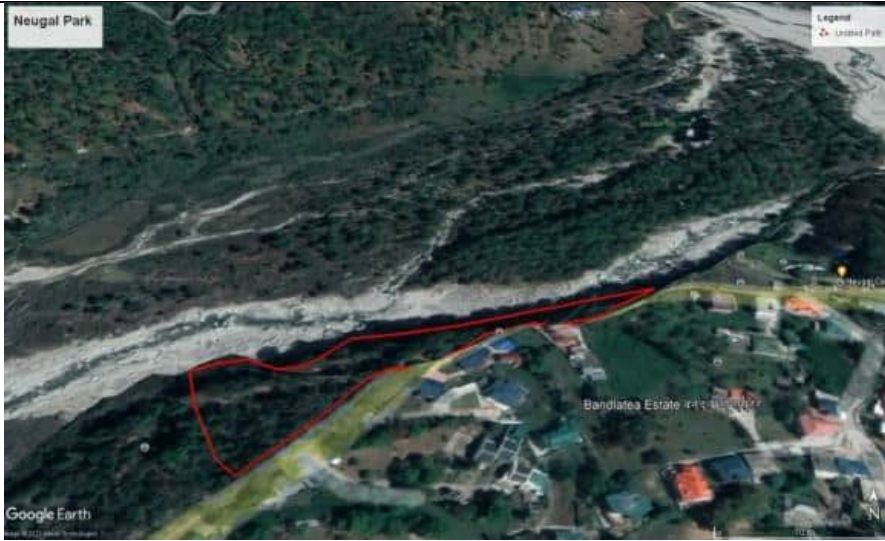
SN	Attributes	Details
	facility / activity (if any)	
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development - Trekking trail up to Gunehar waterfall, Selfie point, Landscaping, Railing Proposal for Community involvement - Snacks shops run by locals along the trek route, training of local youths as nature/ trekking guides
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Proper sewage collection and disposal arrangements needed – septic tanks - Solar/Streetlights for trails needed - Trekking trail development - Ancillary infrastructure- Signage for users to be installed, Entry and exit gates for safety, toilet, gazebo, drinking water supply, installation of benches

Site 70 – Multhan

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Multhan
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 2'38.65"N, Longitude : 76°50'25.98"E Elevation : 1853 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshalla
5.	Forest Range	Bir
6.	Forest Beat	Deot
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha. Approx.
11.	Existing use of the site	-
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	• Road – One entry for the site. Pathankot-Mandi National Highway (30 km) • Rail – Nearest railway station Paprola Railway Station (65 km) • Airport – Nearest Airport is Kangra Airport (114 km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Stay facility – FRH Multhan
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		

SN	Attributes	Details
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	- Riverside Camping (15-20 camps approximately), Adventure activities'- River-crossing by Burma bridge and wall climbing, Bird watching trail, trekking trail. Proposal for Community involvement - Training of locals in adventure sports, local cuisine huts near FRH.
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solid waste management centre - Burma bridge, walls, winch posts - Ancillary infrastructure- Entry and exit gates for safety, Signage for users, waste bins, ticket counter, Toilets.

Site 71 – Neugal Park

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Neugal park
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 07'31.16"N, Longitude : 76°47.42"E Elevation : 1265 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Palampur
6.	Forest Beat	Bundla
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.50 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Nature Park
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation.
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – One way entry Palampur to Neugal Park. Rail – Nearest railway station Maranda (Palampur) Airport – Nearest Airport Gaggal Kangra
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Benches, Entry gate, gazebo, walking trail
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Nature park facilities like walking trails, swings for children etc.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest department
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		

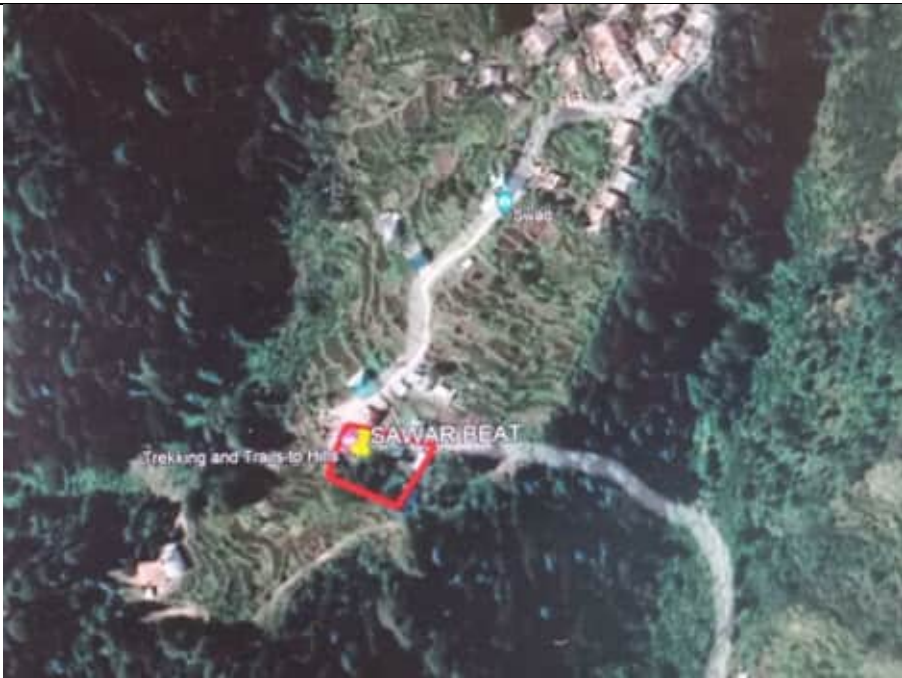
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Interpretation centre-cum-Souvenir shop, Bird watching trail, Ornamental Plantation along the trail, Student park activities like tree climbing, wall climbing etc. Proposal for Community involvement • Souvenir shop to promote locally made products
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Repair of walking trail, toilets. • Ancillary infrastructure- Sign boards, Ticket counter, drinking water supply, benches, Solar Streetlights, waste bins.

Site 72 – Rajgundha

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Rajgundha
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 5'57.54"N, Longitude : 76°45'44.11"E Elevation : 2532 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bir
6.	Forest Beat	Rajgundha
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha. Approx.
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	• Road – One entry for the site from Pathankot-Mandi National Highway (32 km) • Rail – Nearest railway station -Paprola Railway Station (52 km) • Airport – Nearest Airport Kangra Airport (134 km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Stay facility – FRH Rajgundha
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping enclosure
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	None
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Trekking route till Palachak and further up to Bara Bhangal • Bird watching trail • Herbal garden/ Nursery for medicinal herbs

SN	Attributes	Details
		- Camping (approximately 15-20 camps) Proposal for Community involvement - Training of local youths as nature guides, Local's employment in herbal garden
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Ancillary infrastructure- Sign boards, waste bins, Entry and exit gates for safety, Toilets

Site 73 – Swar

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Swar
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude: 32° 5'7.54"N, Longitude: 76°51'10.14"E Elevation: 2250 MTRS
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bir
6.	Forest Beat	Sawar
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha
11.	Existing use of the site	-
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	● Road – One entry to the site from Pathankot-Mandi National Highway (35 km) ● Rail – Nearest railway station- Paprola Railway Station (80 km) ● Airport – Nearest Airport- Kangra Airport (124 km)

SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Stay facility – Forest Rest House
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Camping inside FRH enclosure (15-20 camps approximately) • Birdwatching trail around FRH Bir • Sunset viewpoint • Temporary building for shop, security guard etc. Proposal for Community involvement • Local MFP-based products exhibition shop, Agricultural field tours
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Solid waste management facilities • Ancillary infrastructure- Entry and exit gates for safety, Signage for users, waste bins, ticket counter

Site 74 – Samlat Manja

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Samlat Manja
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 06'29.11"N, Longitude : 76°29'05.46"E Elevation : 1078 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Palampur
6.	Forest Beat	Khalet
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10	Total Area (in Ha)	2.00 Ha.
11	Existing use of the site	Used for yoga, exercise, morning & evening walking by local people and resting site for tourist
12	Litigation (if any)	No litigation
13	Site limitation (if any)	None
14	Access to site	Road – One entry Palampur Rail – Nearest railway station Maranda Airport – Nearest Airport Gaggal Kangra
15	Existing infrastructure at the site	None
16	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	None
17	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	-

18	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Camping (20-25 camps approximately) • Yoga and Meditation centre, Open gym
20	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Selfie points • Ancillary infrastructure- Solar/Streetlights, Sign boards about Yoga and Meditation, toilets, waste bins.

Site 75 – Sukedi

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Sukedi
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 09' 07.32 " N, Longitude: 76°30' 41.26" E Elevation : 1700 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Palampur
6.	Forest Beat	Kandi
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	• Road – Two-way entry- Gopalpur to Sukaidi (9 km), Palampur to Sukaidi (7 km) • Rail – Nearest railway station Maranda Railway Station (16 km) • Airport – Nearest Airport Kangra Airport (40 km)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	FRH Sukaidi
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest Department
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		

SN	Attributes	Details
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Trekking trail, Bird watching trail, • Camping (approximately 15 to 20 camps) Proposal for Community involvement • Snacks shops run by locals along the trek route
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Boundary wall/ fencing • Ancillary infrastructure - Signage for users to be installed, Solar/Streetlights along trails, Entry and exit gates for safety, toilets, gazebo, drinking water supply, benches.

Site 76 – Sourav Van Vihar

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Sourav Van Vihar
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 07'43.01"N, Longitude : 76°31'55.16"E Elevation : 1348 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Palampur
6.	Forest Beat	Bundla
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	13.00 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	-
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation
13.	Site limitation (if any)	No Limitation
14.	Access to site	Road – One entry from Palampur to site Rail – Nearest railway station Maranda (Palampur) Airport – Nearest Airport Gaggal Kangra
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water Pond, student park, yoga site, Native fish collection, birding trail, rock garden, cafeteria, store, four shops, parking, toilets, statue of Kargil war martyr Captain Sourav Kalia, gazebo, reception. Amphitheatre, shed near pond
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Van Vihar facilities –Boating, Student learning facilities like Burma bridge, Meditation centre
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Forest department /Sourav Van Vihar Management society
18.	Remarks	-

SN	Attributes	Details
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development - Walking trails, Bird watching trails, installation of Bird nest, Ornamental Plantation along with trail, Bambu setum botanical garden, flower garden, Water fountain, light show Proposal for Community involvement - Vantage shops, Eco guides, Birding Guides
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	- Solar/Streetlights for trails needed - Water fountain light show - Selfie points - Interpretation centre - Ancillary Infrastructure: Ticket counter, sign board

Site 77 – Tatwani

SN	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of Site	Tatwani
2.	Site co-ordinates	Latitude : 32° 7'18.87"N, Longitude : 76°43'5.15"E Elevation : 2076 Mtrs
3.	Forest division	Palampur
4.	Forest Circle	Dharamshala
5.	Forest Range	Bajjnath
6.	Forest Beat	Dharer
7.	District	Kangra
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	 
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1.00 Ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Plot used for passage by nearby villages
12.	Litigation (if any)	No litigation. Locals are willing to get the land parcel developed to increase tourism and employment for the locals
13.	Site limitation (if any)	Access to site is difficult as it requires uphill trek. Motorable kaccha road and parking is available about 1.5 .km away from the site.
14.	Access to site	• Road – One entry for the site from Pathankot-Mandi National Highway (30 km) • Rail – Nearest railway station Paprola Railway Station (32 km) • Airport – Nearest Airport Kangra Airport (60 km)

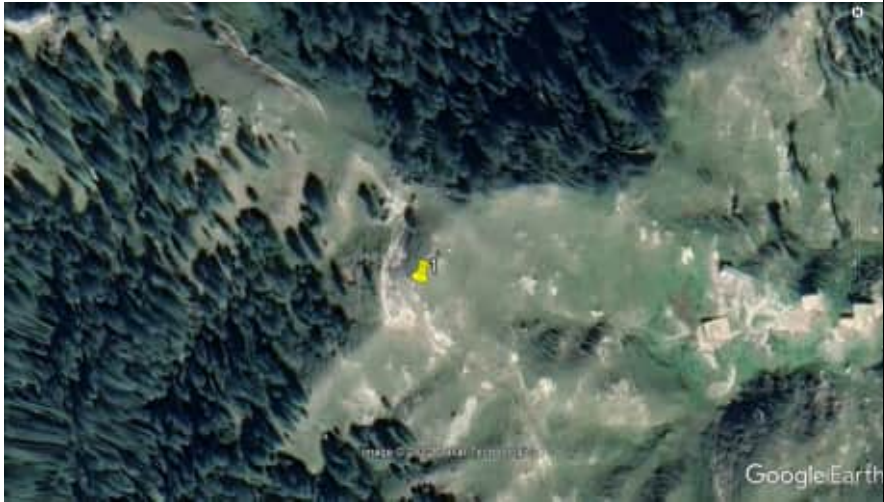
SN	Attributes	Details
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Sarai rooms (1), Rain shelter, Hot water bathing pool, Toilets, Resting place (2), 3 km trail.
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Tenting and camping, Pool bathing etc.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	-
18.	Remarks	-
Potential Ecotourism Activities and other infrastructure		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity/ Infrastructure development	Ecotourism Infrastructure development • Temporary camping site (15-20 camps approximately) • lights and sound show at hot water spring, • Trekking trail from Tatwani Valley viewpoint to Tatwani hot spring, • Birdwatching trail Proposal for Community involvement • Local product shops
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Boundary/ fencing • Solar lights • Ancillary infrastructure- Signage for users, Entry and exit gates for safety, waste bins, toilets, drinking water supply, installation of benches and gazebos.

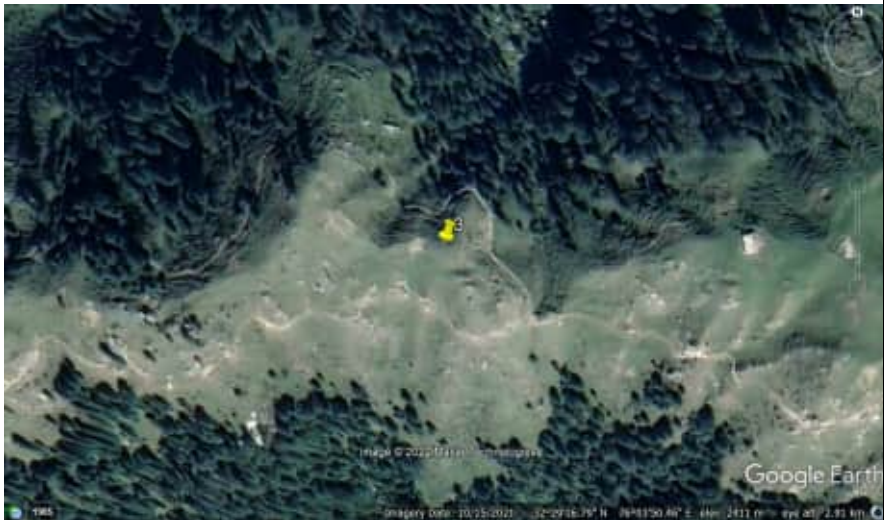
Site 78 – Jot

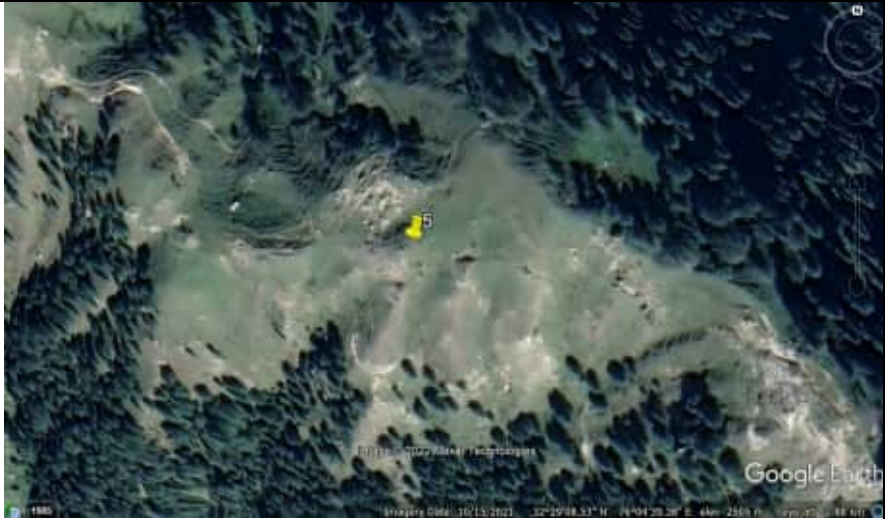
S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Jot
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 32°29'20.4"N Long: 76°03'10.8"E& Elevation: 2500 m
3.	Forest division	Chamba
4.	Forest Circle	Chamba
5.	Forest Range	Lower Chamba
6.	Forest Beat	Talai
7.	District	Chamba
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	 
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	2 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	Jot Nature Park
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Road –Yes Rail –Nearest is Pathankot Railway station Airport – Nearest Gaggal International airport.

15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply –Yes Sewerage – No. Electricity – Yes Stay facility –NiL Solid waste management -NiL
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Nature park with interpretation centre, log hut, PlayStation etc.
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Through circle level ECOSOC
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Potential Ecotourism activity	• Approximately 10 Tenting places, 5 nos. log huts • nature trail/ trekking routes • interlink chain fencing
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Boundary/ fencing • Solar lights • Ancillary infrastructure- Signage for users, Entry and exit gates for safety, waste bins, toilets

Site 79 – Kainthly

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Kainthly
2.	Site lat long	Multiple locations points: 1. Lat: N 32°29'01.14", Long: E 76°04'55.63" 2. Lat: N 32°29'07.39", Long: E 76°04'14.43" 3. Lat: N 32°29'12.99", Long: E 76°04'00.28" 4. Lat: N 32°29'06.51", Long: E 76°03'44.27" 5. Lat: N 32°29'08.75", Long: E 76°04'38.69" 6. Lat: N 32°28'54.42", Long: E 76°05'08.92" 7. Lat: N 32°28'47.74", Long: E 76°03'46.50"
3.	Forest division	Dalhousie Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Chamba
5.	Forest Range	Chowari
6.	Forest Beat	Kainthly
7.	District	Chamba
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department Himachal Pradesh
9.	Land parcel map	 

		 Google Earth Imagery Date: 10/15/2021 32°29'32.23"N 76°04'03.87"E elev: 2454 m eye alt: 2.55 km
		 Google Earth Imagery Date: 10/25/2021 32°29'06.70"N 76°03'50.40"E elev: 2411 m eye alt: 2.93 km
		 Google Earth Imagery Date: 10/25/2021 32°29'10.44"N 76°02'41.07"E elev: 2471 m eye alt: 3.14 km

		  
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	28.75 ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	-
12.	Litigation (if any)	-
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Road – Pathankot – Jassur – Chowari – Jot – Chamba

		Rail – Pathankot (85 kms / 2 hrs 45 min) Airport –Gaggal (Kanga in HP) and Pathankot (in Punjab)
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Nil Sewerage – Nil Electricity – Nil Stay facility –Nil Solid waste management – Nil
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Nil
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Nil
18.	Remarks	Nil
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Basic infrastructure to support the ecotourism activities
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	1. Construction of Pargola 2. Trail from Jot to Sat Kulera Dhar 3. Verma Bridge ropeway 4. Camping /tenting site 5. Para Gliding activity 6. Rappelling activity

Site 80 – Nature Park (RF Kangniwala C-1)

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Nature Park (RF Kangniwala C-1)
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30°32'45.0"N Long: 77°16'28.4"E & Elevation: 643 m
3.	Forest division	Nahan
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan
5.	Forest Range	Nahan
6.	Forest Beat	Kangniwala
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	09 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	For camping, cycling & bird watching
12.	Litigation (if any)	NA
13.	Site limitation (if any)	-
14.	Access to site	Road – NH 07 Nahan to Kala Amb Rail – NA Airport –NA
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply –Yes Sewerage – NA Electricity – Yes Stay facility –NA Solid waste management (Bamboo Dustbin)
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Trekking
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Management / maintenance by Forest Department
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		

19.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Camping (approximately 30-50 camps), cycling & bird watching
20.	Required Physical Infrastructure	• Boundary/ fencing • Solar lights • Ancillary infrastructure- Signage for users, Entry and exit gates for safety, toilets with septic tanks

Site 81 – Bata Bridge

S.N	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Bata bridge (Near Mankind Pharma) to Kundion village along Bata River catchment.
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30° 27'09.88"N, Long: 77° 35'00.18"E Elevation: 400 M
3.	Forest division	Paonta Sahib Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan forest
5.	Forest Range	Paonta Sahib
6.	Forest Beat	Rampur Beli
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.50 ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Waste land (Bata River)
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – Motorable road Rail – 50 kms. Airport – 50 kms.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management - Not available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	No
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No.
18.	Remarks	-

Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Sign boards & toilet All other basic infrastructure
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Bird watching (trail)

Site 82 – Bog dhar

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Bog dhar
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.7658 , Long: 77.3847 & Elevation: 1760 m
3.	Forest division	Renuka ji Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Nohra
6.	Forest Beat	Bog dhar
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	10 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – Long trek
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not Available Sewerage – Not Available Electricity – Not Available Stay facility – Not Available Solid waste management – Not Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity	None
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	--
18.	Remarks	--
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Supporting physical infrastructure

20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Trekking, camping (approximately 30-50 camps)

Site 83 – Badhana

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Shirgul Temple of vill Bhaila to Badhana
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30°29'37.04"N, Long: 77°35'46.10"E Elevation: 400 M
3.	Forest division	Paonta Sahib Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Bhagani
6.	Forest Beat	Gojjar
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department.
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.010 ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Reserve Forest
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – 15 metres Rail – 65 Kms Airport – 65 Kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management - Not available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	No

17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Sign boards & Toilet etc.
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Walking/Trekking trail Shirgul Temple of vill Bhaila to Badhana. Walking trail Gorkhpur to FRH Khara

Site 84 – Dhoulidhang Temple

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Dhoulidhang Temple
2.	Site lat long/ altitude	Lat: 30° 33'06.74"N, Long: 77° 44'00.57"E Elevation: 1350 M
3.	Forest division	Paonta Sahib Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Bhagani
7.	Forest Beat	Rajpur
8.	District	Sirmour
9.	Ownership authority	Forest Department.
11.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
12.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.020 ha.
14.	Existing use of the site	Reserve Forest.
15.	Litigation (if any)	--
16.	Site limitation (if any)	--
17.	Access to site	Road – 5 kms Rail – 50 Kms (UK) Airport – 50 Kms (UK)
18.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management - Not available
19.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	No

20.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	NA
21.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
22.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Sign board & Toilet etc.
23.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Camping site with interlink fencing, tent Walking/trekking trail Rajpur to Dhoulidhang Temple.

Site 85 – Chandpur

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Chandpur
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.7063 Long: 77.6585 & Elevation: 2532 m
3.	Forest division	Renuka ji Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Shillai
6.	Forest Beat	Milla
7.	District	Sirmaur
8.	Ownership authority	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	10 Hectares
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – near Sundari village
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Yes Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management – Not available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	-
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		

19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Basic infrastructure such as water supply, toilets with septic tanks, dustbins etc.
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Trekking, Camping (30-50 camps approximately)

Site 86 - Gatu to kando via Kumbhigahr Shirgul temple

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Gatu to kando via Kumbhigahr Shirgul temple - Walking/Trekking trail
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30°32'41.20"N, Long: 77°34'10.02"E Elevation: 1320 M
3.	Forest division	Paonta Sahib Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Paonta Sahib
6.	Forest Beat	Gatu
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department.
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	0.50 ha.
11.	Existing use of the site	Katcha path
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – 10 metres Rail – 75 Kms Airport – 75 Kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – No Sewerage – No Electricity – No Stay facility – No Solid waste management No
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	No
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	No

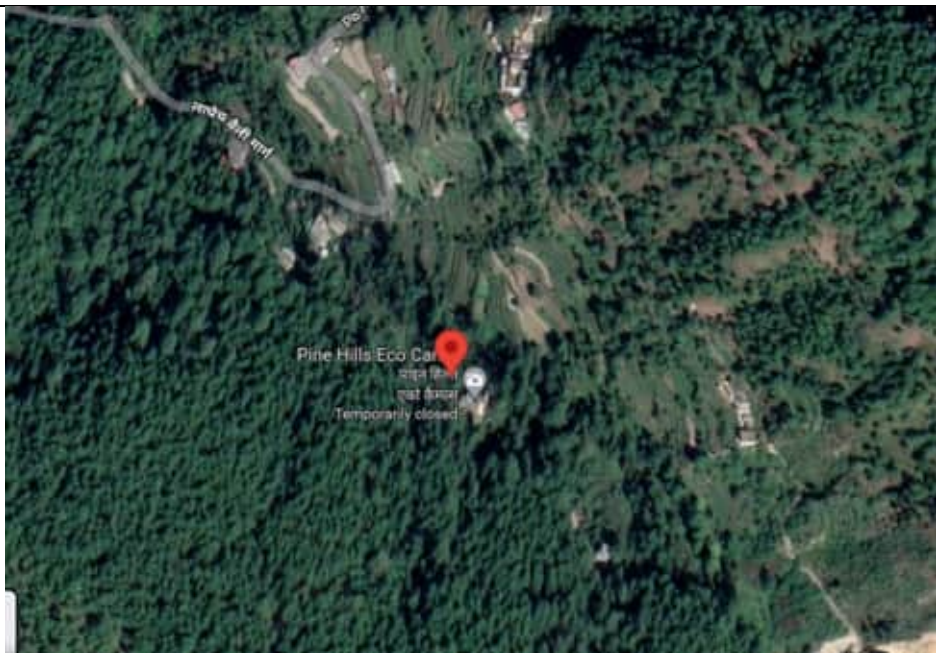
18.	Remarks	
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Sign board, Toilet etc.
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Trekking/ walking trail. Camping site at Kumbhigarh Shirgul temple (10 – 15 camps approximately)

Site 87 – Haripurdhar

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Haripurdhar
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.752, Long: 77.520 & Elevation: 2275 m
3.	Forest division	Renuka ji Forest Division
4.	Forest Circle	Nahan Forest Circle
5.	Forest Range	Sangrah
6.	Forest Beat	Haripurdhar
7.	District	Sirmour
8.	Ownership authority	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	5 Hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	None
12.	Litigation (if any)	None
13.	Site limitation (if any)	None
14.	Access to site	Road – on Solan - Nahan road , Rail – Nearest major station is Kalka 138 kms Airport –Chandigarh 170 kms , Jubbarhatti Shimla airport – 150 kms, Jolly Grant Dehradun Airport – 170 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Not available Sewerage – Not available Electricity – Not available Stay facility – Not available Solid waste management - Not available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	-
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Himachal Pradesh Forest division

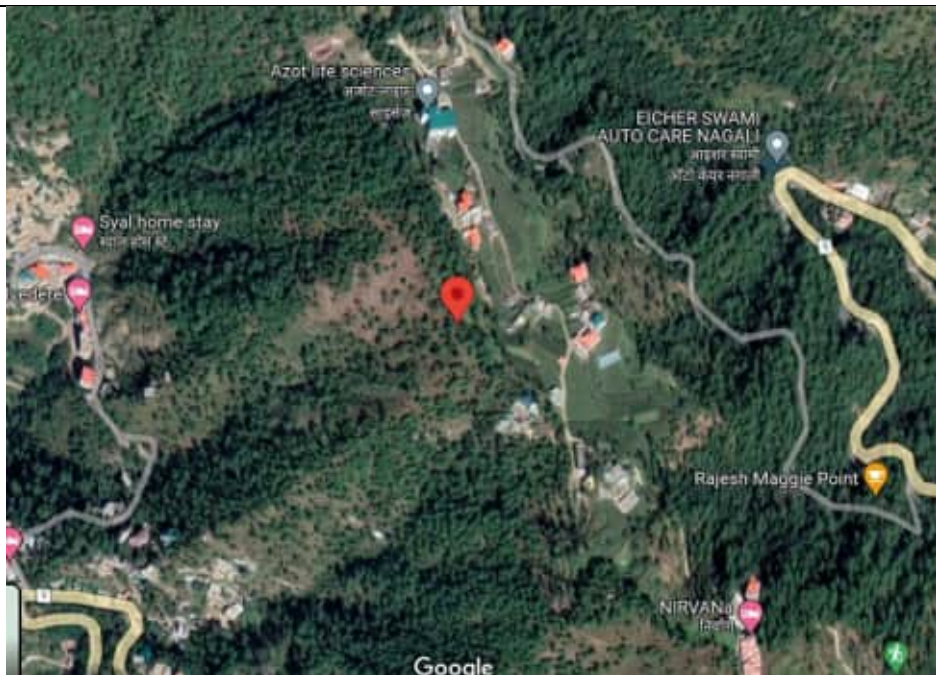
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Sign boards and toilets
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	Trekking, Camping (Approximately 30-40 camps)

Site 88 – Motikuna Hill, Sanawar

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Motikuna Hill, Sanawar
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.9058, Long: 77.0580 Elevation: 1713 M
3.	Forest division	Solan
4.	Forest Circle	Solan
5.	Forest Range	Solan
6.	Forest Beat	Solan
7.	District	Solan
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – 0.18 km away Rail – 17 kms. Airport – 55 kms
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping, resorts with supporting infrastructure

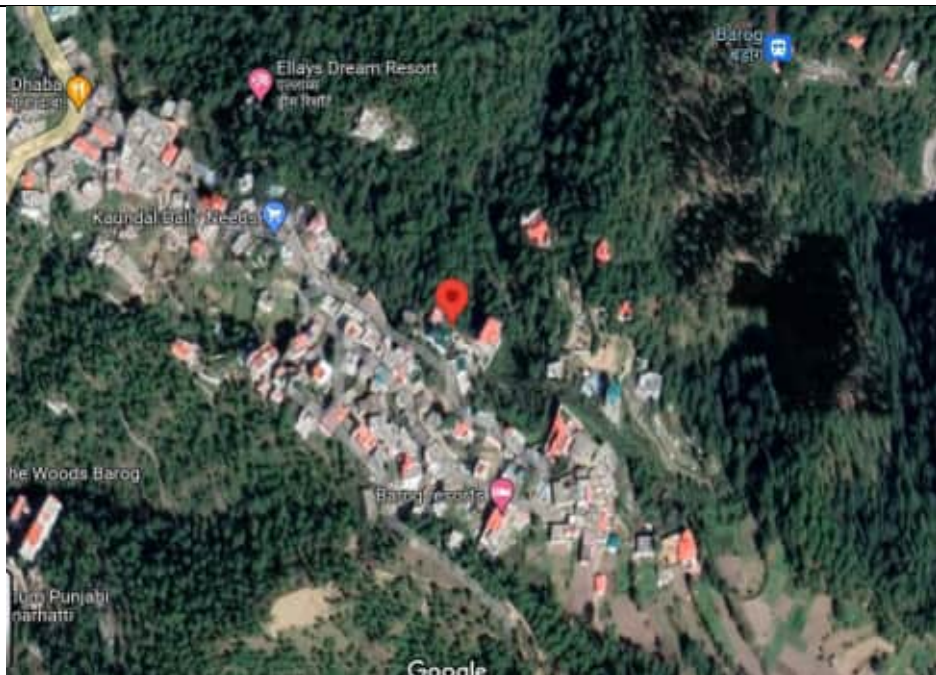
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	Site was running on PPP mode, but as FCA clearance was not there, the operations have been stopped.
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure was already developed by the private player
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To be revived as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Site 89 – Chewa, Near Barog (Solan)

S.N	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Chewa, Near Barog (Solan)
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.8972, Long: 77.0634 Elevation: 1851 M
3.	Forest division	Solan
4.	Forest Circle	Solan
5.	Forest Range	Solan
6.	Forest Beat	Solan
7.	District	Solan
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – accessible through road Rail – 11 kms. Airport – 55 kms.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping resorts with supporting infrastructure

17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	Site was running on PPP mode, but as FCA clearance was not there, the operations have been stopped.
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure was already developed by the private player
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To be revived as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Site 90 – Barog Camping Site, Solan

S.N	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Barog Camping Site, Barog, Solan
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 30.8877, Long: 77.0787 Elevation: 1786 M
3.	Forest division	Solan
4.	Forest Circle	Solan
5.	Forest Range	Solan
6.	Forest Beat	Solan
7.	District	Solan
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – accessible through road Rail – 11 kms. Airport – 55 kms.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping resorts with supporting infrastructure

17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	Site was running on PPP mode, but as FCA clearance was not there, the operations have been stopped.
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure was already developed by the private player
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To be revived as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Site 91 – Shoghi Camping Site, Shimla

S.N	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Shoghi, Camping Site, Shimla
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 31.0341, Long: 77.1111 Elevation: 1759 M
3.	Forest division	Shimla
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	Shimla
6.	Forest Beat	Shimla
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – accessible through road Rail – 3 kms. Airport – 25 kms.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping, resorts with supporting infrastructure

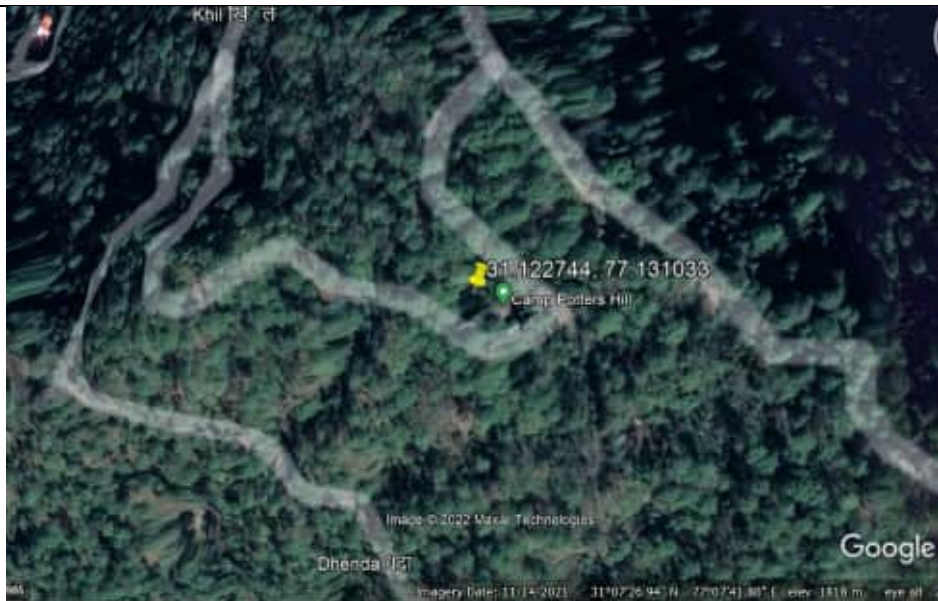
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	Site was running on PPP mode, but as FCA clearance was not there, the operations have been stopped.
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure was already developed by the private player
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To be revived as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Site 92 – Ala Forest Rest House, Dalhousie Chamba

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Ala Forest Rest House, Dalhousie Chamba
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 32.5500, Long: 75.9569 Elevation: 1531 M
3.	Forest division	Chamba
4.	Forest Circle	Chamba
5.	Forest Range	Chamba
6.	Forest Beat	Chamba
7.	District	Chamba
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	1 hectare
11.	Existing use of the site	Camping
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Road – accessible through road Rail – 65 kms. Airport – 80 kms.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	Camping resorts with supporting infrastructure

17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	Site was running on PPP mode, but as FCA clearance was not there, the operations have been stopped.
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure was already developed by the private player
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To be revived as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Site 93 – Potters Hill, Shimla

S.N.	Attributes	Details
Administrative details		
1.	Name of site	Potters hill
2.	Site lat long	Lat: 31.122744, Long: 77.131033 Elevation: 1980 mt.
3.	Forest division	Shimla Urban
4.	Forest Circle	Shimla
5.	Forest Range	-
6.	Forest Beat	-
7.	District	Shimla
8.	Ownership authority	Forest Department
9.	Land parcel map	
Site details		
10.	Total Area (in Ha)	-
11.	Existing use of the site	There are 11 basic cottages and 8 deluxe camps that are maintained with kitchen service, which offer multi-cuisine buffet meals. A bouquet of activities are organised that range from day and night trekking expeditions to village darshan, and rock climbing. Adventurers can also be a part of the rafting trips to Tattapani that are organized on special request. Nearby attractions include Annandale Ground (1.7 km), Tara Devi Temple (4.2 km), and Mohan Shakti Heritage Park (6.2 km). Many travellers enjoy visiting Kotkhai Palace (3.1 km), Manorville Mansion Shimla (0.5 km), and Gurkha Gate (2.0 km).
12.	Litigation (if any)	--
13.	Site limitation (if any)	--
14.	Access to site	Approximately 8 kms. from Shimla Bus Stand. Nearest Railway station Summerhill, Shimla.
15.	Existing infrastructure at the site	Water supply – Available Sewerage – Available Electricity – Available Stay facility – Available

		Solid waste management - Available
16.	Existing Ecotourism facility / activity (if any)	• 11 basic cottages • Camping (8 deluxe camps) • day and night trekking expeditions to village darshan, • rafting trips to Tattapani (which is 50 kms from the camp) • Rock Climbing & Rappelling • Burma Bridge, Commando Rope Walk & Valley Crossing. • Games and activities: ○ Air Gun Shooting ○ Indoor games like Carrom, Chess, Scrabble & many more ○ Outdoor games like Cricket, Basketball, Throwball, Volleyball & Badminton ○ Picnic lunches in the forest, meadows & apple orchards ○ Treasure Hunt & Village “Darshan”
17.	Management / maintenance of the area / activity	Yes
18.	Remarks	-
Proposals		
19.	Required Physical Infrastructure	Infrastructure is already developed.
20.	Potential Ecotourism activity	To run as camping site/ resort with the same capacity as planned earlier on PPP mode.

Additional lists have been sent to the local level forest officials and its verification is awaited. Once, verified details are received by HPECOSOC, the same can be added to the overall potential ecotourism sites in the future by the organisation to expand the ecotourism sites across the State.

Based on the consultations and visits various potential activities were identified across all the potential ecotourism sites. The following maps highlight the spread of these activities across different sites in the State. These activities range from camping and tenting sites, trekking, nature trails or parks, and other adventure activities like bird watching, angling/ fishing, paragliding etc.

Exhibit 3.9: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites - Camping and Tenting

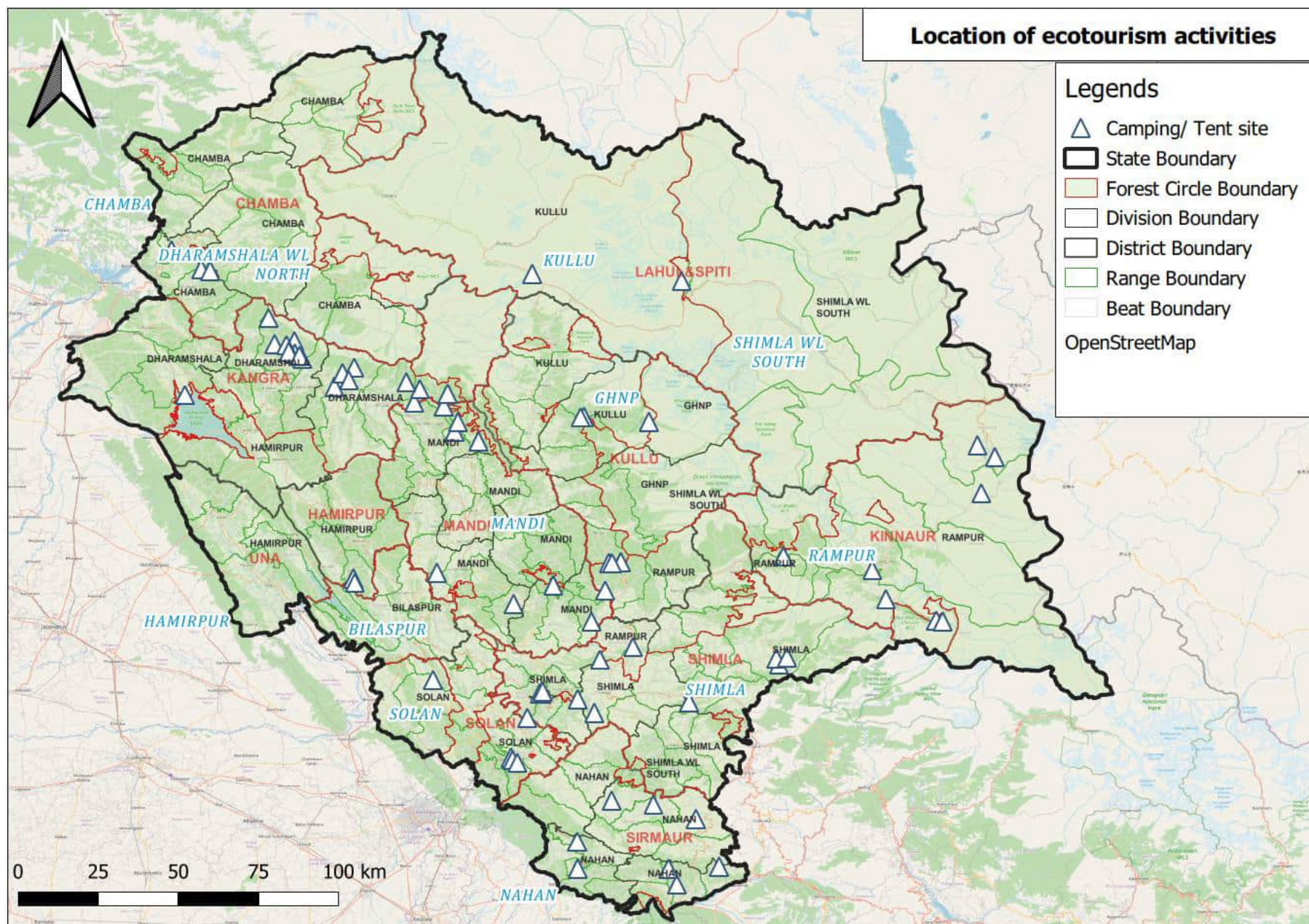


Exhibit 3.10: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Trekking/ Rock climbing/ Hiking

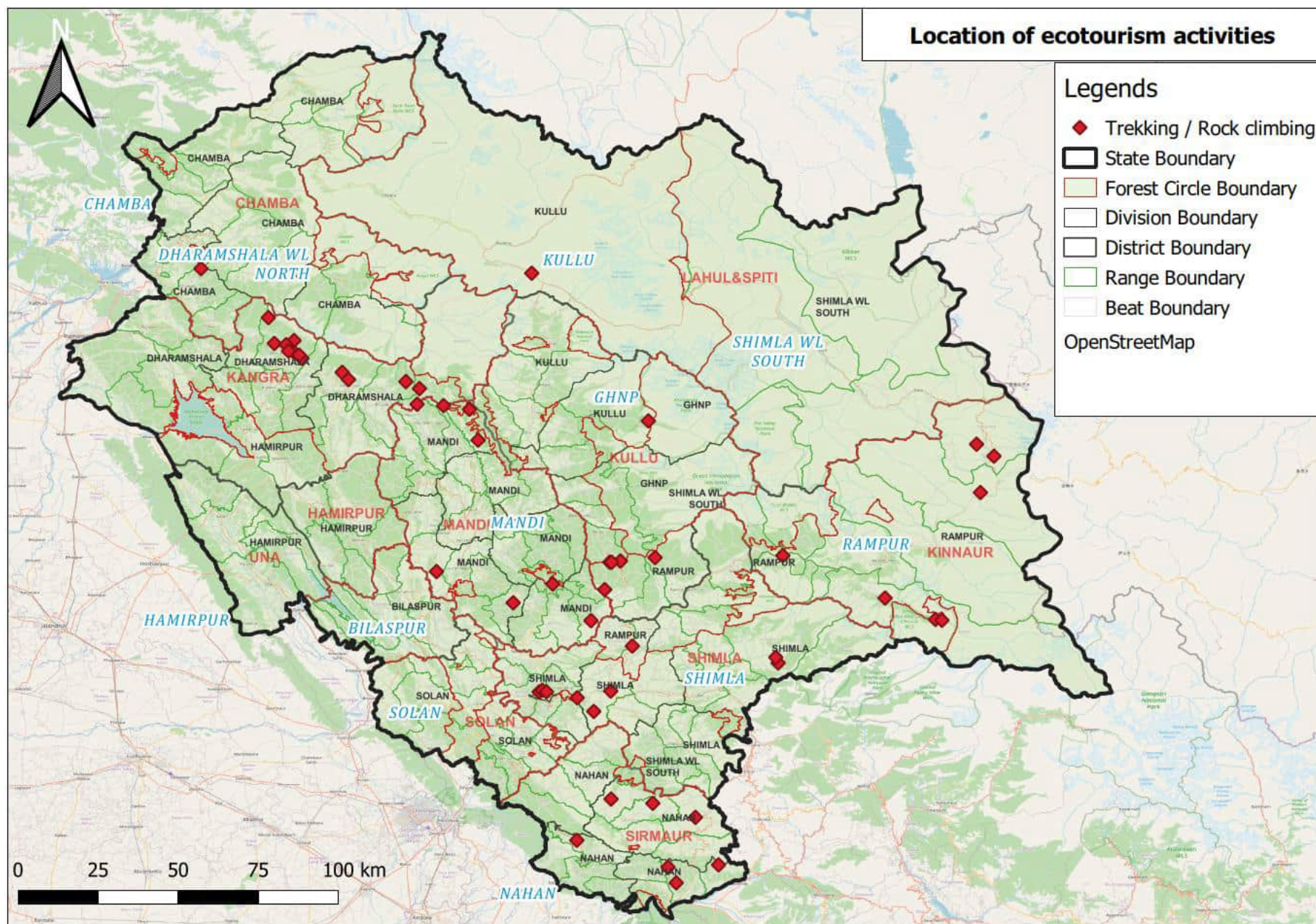


Exhibit 3.11: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Nature trail or park

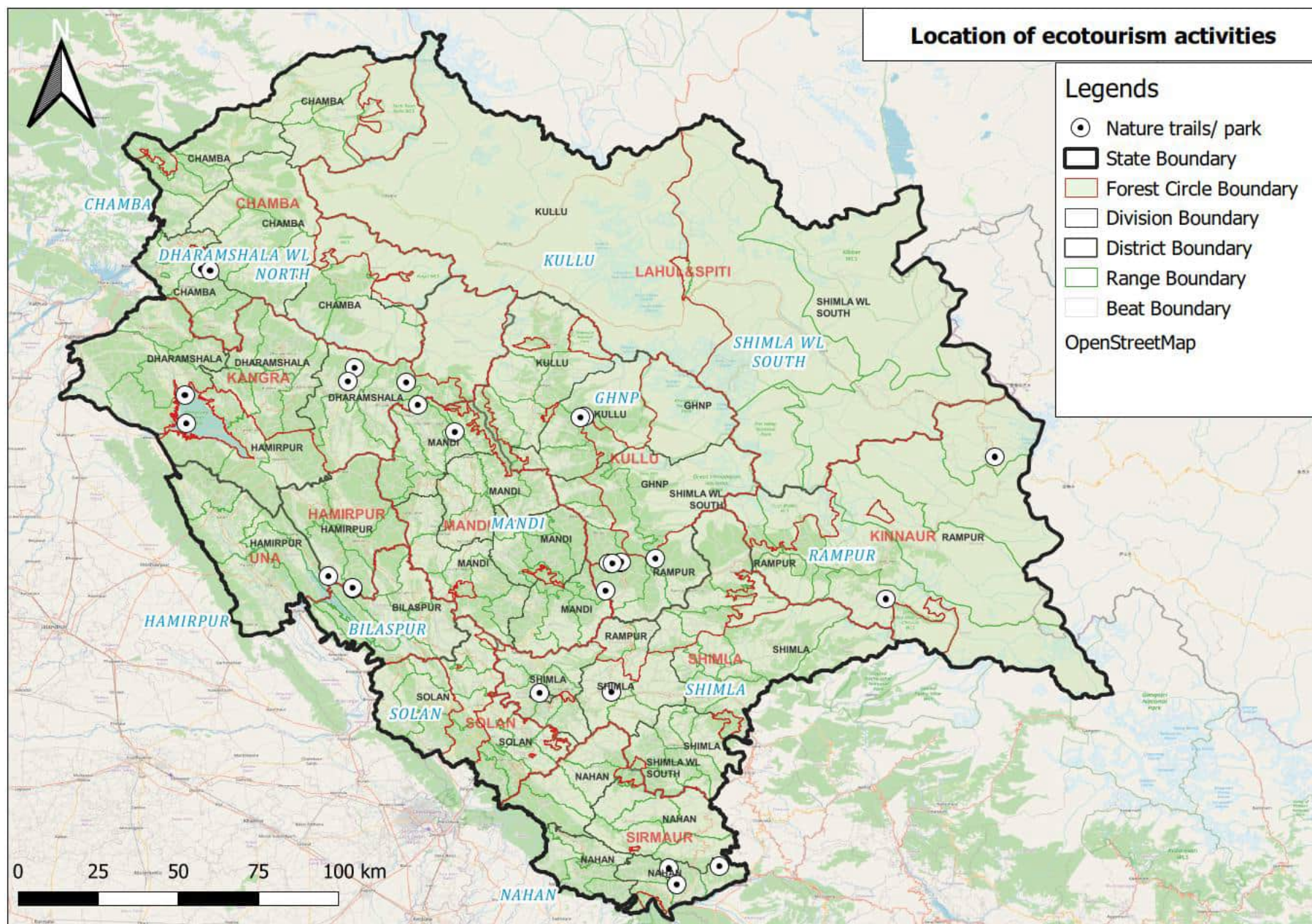


Exhibit 3.12: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Bird watching, Fishing, View points

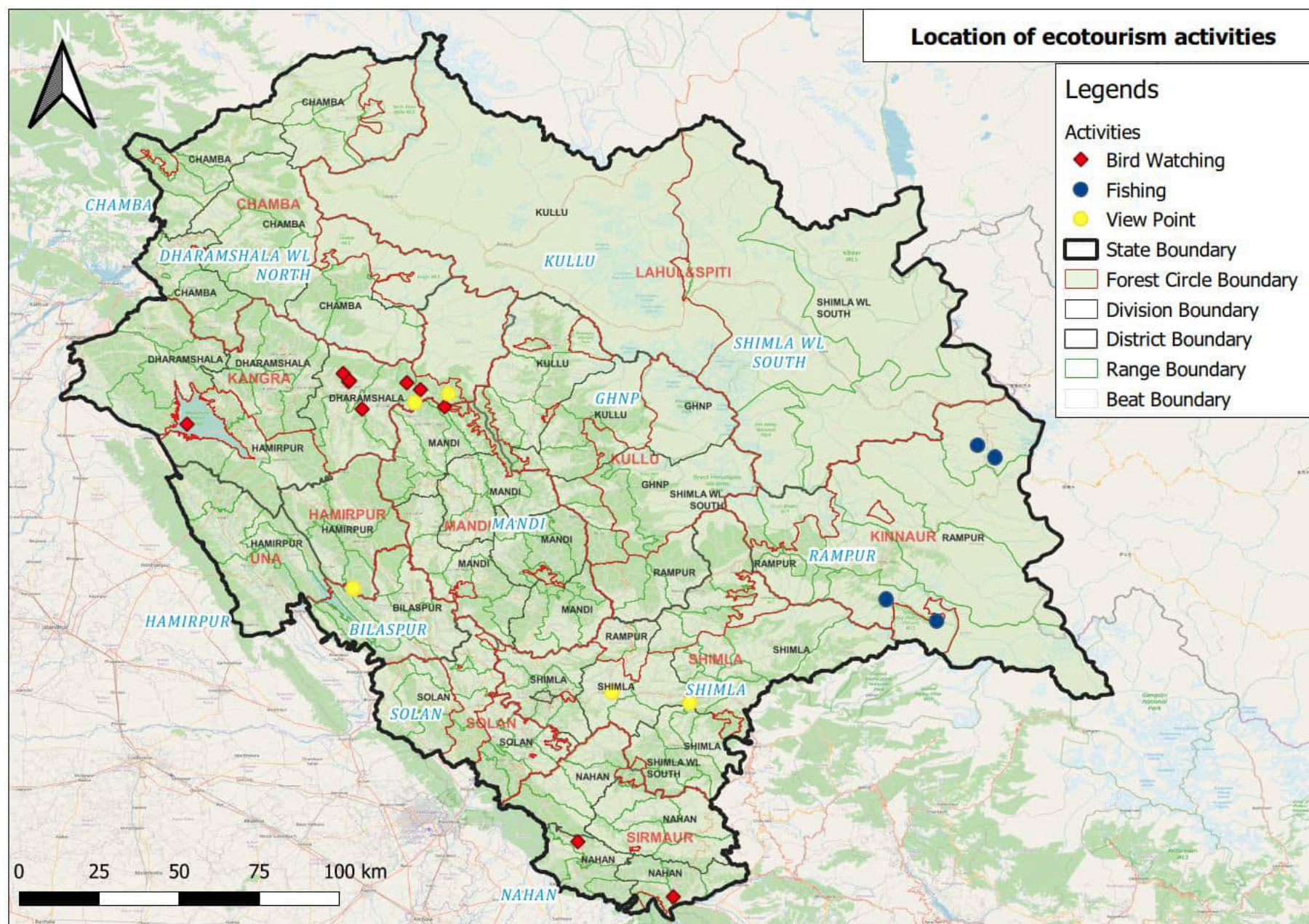


Exhibit 3.13: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Bungee jumping, Mountain biking, Rappelling

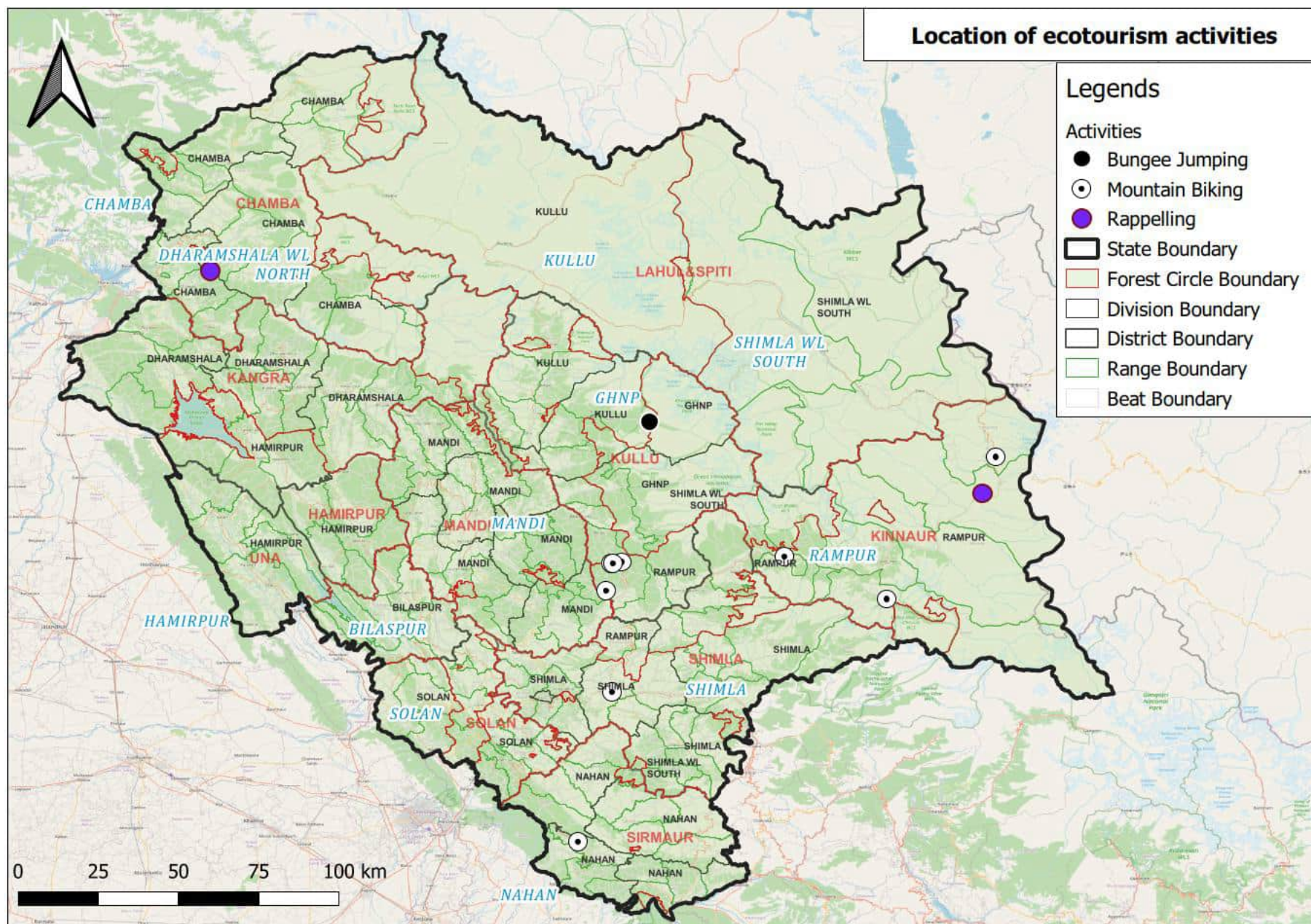


Exhibit 3.14: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Paragliding, Rafting, River crossing, Skiing

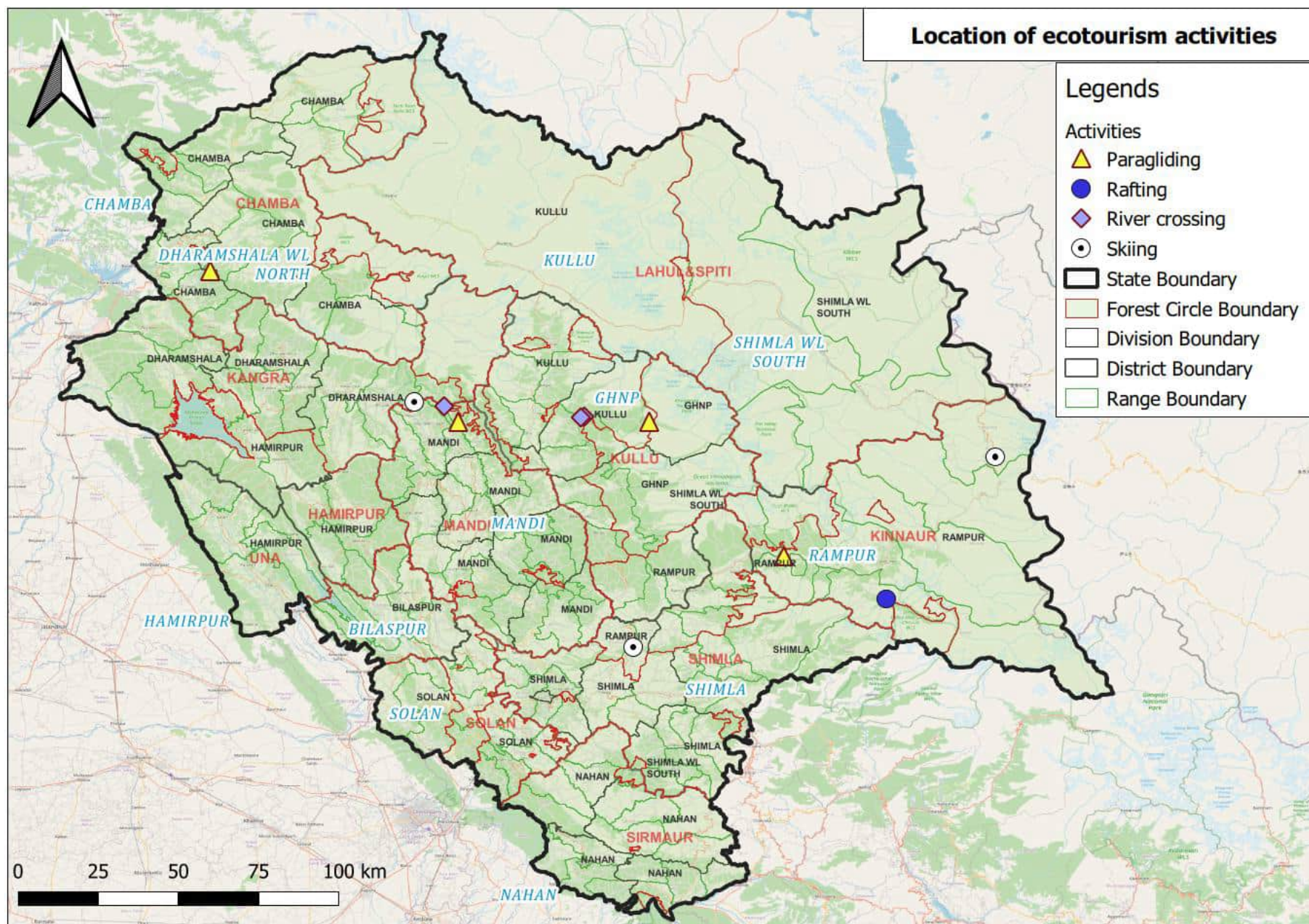
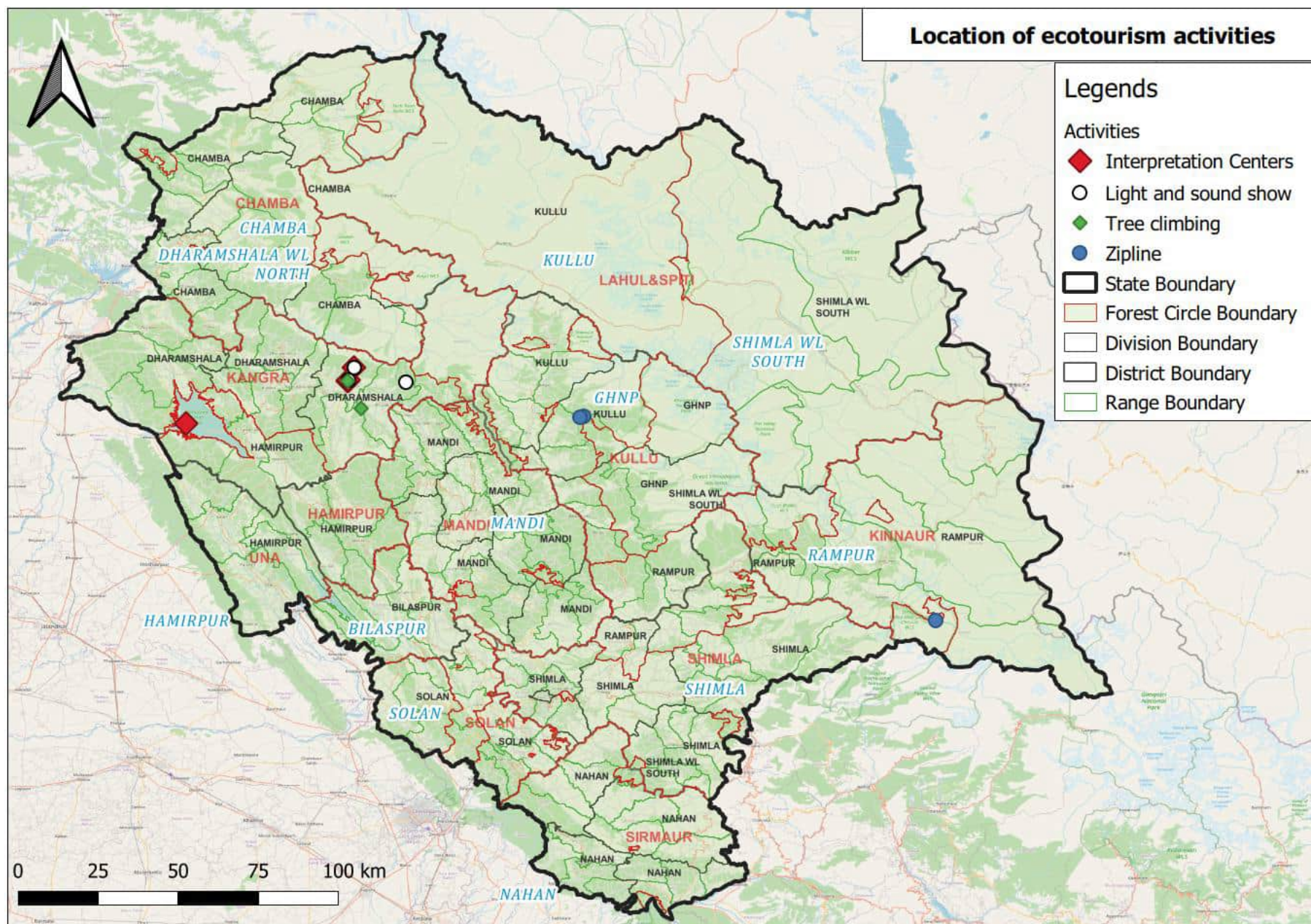


Exhibit 3.15: Proposed activities at potential ecotourism sites – Interpretation Centres, Tree climbing, Light and Sound show, Zipline



Various type of potential activities has been identified and proposed at different locations based on the existing land availability, context area, community perception, local officials' perspective etc.

Various type of potential activities has been identified and proposed at different locations based on the existing land availability, context area, community perception, local officials' perspective etc. Based on the existing situation and proposed activities, the sites can be developed through different business models depending upon the ecotourism activities/ products/ offerings proposed. The possible models and potential revenue generation for one of the cases is as follows:

Site 1: Chalal, Katagra, Kasol

Proposed activities/ products include:

- Nature park (Nature trails) – Improve the trail, add signages, information boards
- Tree house/ Tent / camp sites with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 18 to 20 camps)
- Adventure Activity – Zipline and River crossing across the river

Business Model – The context area of the site already has many homestays and hence tourist footfall has been witnessed in the past. Based on this context, this site can be developed on PPP/ developmental mode with the involvement of local community for various services provision.

Revenue Projection – Considering the context and proposed activities, approximately total of INR 1.57 cr. revenue per year will be generated. However, it is to be noticed that a lot of amount will be gone by the department or private player in capital investment as well day to day operations like operation of basic services, manpower, food and beverages etc.

Assumptions –

Camping – 20 camps; Rent/ night = INR 4,000 (considering nearby homestays charge very low, and this includes three meals), Occupancy – 50% across the year

Adventure activity (Zipline and River crossing) – INR 300 charges per person, assuming 40 people per day with 50% occupancy over the year, and assuming only 50% of the people coming to camp will actually do these adventure activities.

3.2.5 Stakeholder Consultations

This section highlights the various consultations that have been carried out with different stakeholders encompassing Government officials, industry players and local communities. The consultations have been carried out at different stages of the study.

Although stakeholder consultation has been an on-going process throughout the progress of this project, however, a formal stakeholder consultation workshop was organized at the initial stage. The objective of the workshop was to interact with the industry and government stakeholders to identify key challenges and solutions for ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides this workshop, multiple individual meetings and focussed group discussions were carried out with different stakeholders during the project progress. The detailed list of the stakeholders who have been consulted is present in **Annexure 10.4**.

Stakeholder consultation Workshop

The stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 18th February 2021, with an agenda to identify key challenges and solutions for Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh and to understand the stakeholders' perspective on the way forward for the preparation of Master Plan for Ecotourism Activities in Himachal Pradesh. After showcasing the ecotourism scenario across the globe, at national level, and State level; the policy and legal framework and discussed on other key areas. This was followed by a detailed inputs and suggestions from various participants to define the overall strategy for the way forward. The detailed stakeholder consultation is covered in **section 8**.

3.2.6 Existing Eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis

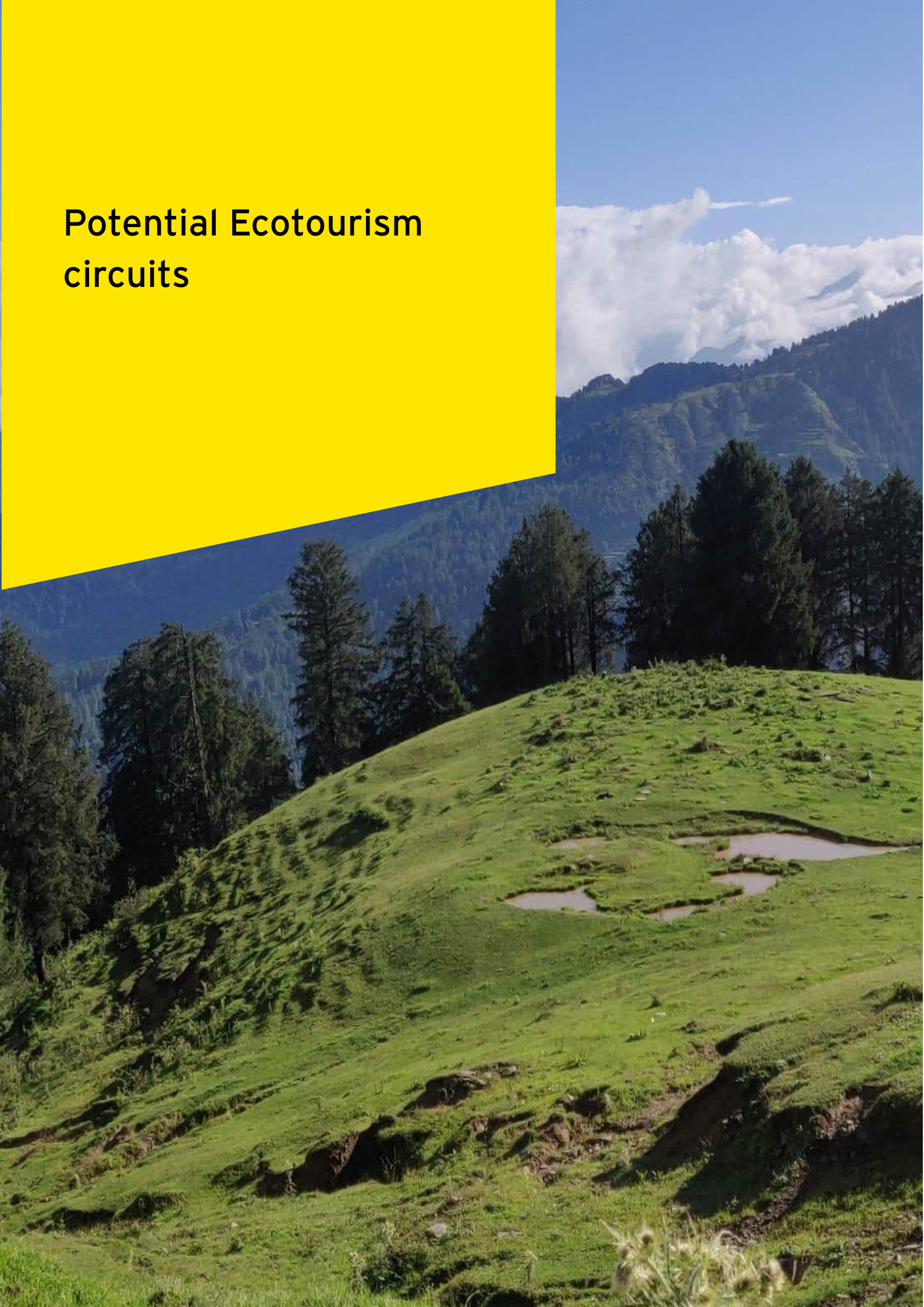
Ecotourism is a niche sector is emerging as an experiential tourism. Ecotourism focuses on nature based eco-sensitive solutions that provides good and new experience for tourists and provide benefit to local communities particularly rural. Eco-Tourism Product is "a combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific center of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience including emotional aspects for the potential customers.

Hence, the ecotourism products include cultural, natural and attraction attributes. Based on the primary and secondary research, it has been found that there are multiple offerings that Himachal Pradesh provide for the tourists and also it was found that that various local communities participate in the ecotourism activities that revolve around their primary livelihood or the current product available in that area such as, agro-product, horticulture, cultural based – crafts, cuisine, songs/ dance etc. or potential for natural attraction such as sightseeing, birdwatching, adventure activities etc.

Existing Eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis is detailed out in section 2.4.4.

The details of the products and their value chain is presented in Annexure10.3 under the ecotourism destinations. These products need to be further channelled and supplemented to enhance the tourist's experiences. Nowadays, tourists like to participate in such agro-based and craft-based activities along with adventure. This existing market needs to be strengthened for better tourist's experience.

Potential Ecotourism circuits



4 Potential Ecotourism circuits

The State of Himachal Pradesh is situated in the lap of the Indian Himalaya and is among one of the top tourist destinations in the country. The State attracts both domestic and foreign tourists. Though the state gets more than double the number of residents in the state as visitors, most of the tourists are concentrated in some very well-known areas that have now become the top hill stations of the country.

As a result of this not only tourists often miss out on experiencing the rich and diverse bio-cultural tapestry of the State in and around its protected areas like National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, but also the local inhabitants living in these regions reap only limited benefit from the tourism activity in the State. Hence, it is essential to develop and promote eco-circuits for attracting more tourists across the different areas of the State.

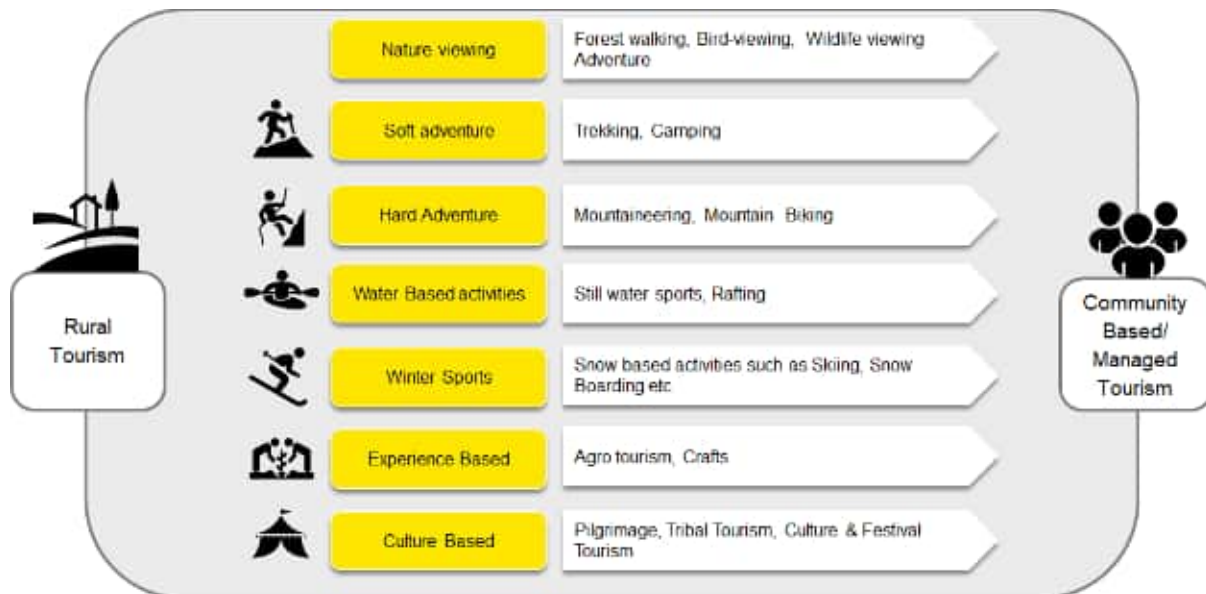
This section highlights the Ecotourism themes for Himachal Pradesh, potential eco-circuits, present standing of HP, SWOT analysis and broad strategies for developing and promoting eco-circuits in HP.

This section also delves into accessibility, accommodation and other amenities for various eco-circuits and presence of peripheral infrastructure.

4.1 Potential themes and ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh

Due to inherent nature of the tourism in the State, the predominant themes that emerge are as given in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 4.1: Themes for eco-circuits in Himachal Pradesh



Since the HP Economy is mostly a rural Economy, **Rural tourism** is more inclusive and accommodative and easy to achieve and implement. Similarly, with already the number of tourists increasing to more than twice the resident population of the state, it is imperative that more residents get involved in tourism. Yet looking at the Carrying capacity parameters, it is equally important that Tourism becomes, more real, natural and **Community based and managed**.

The most important theme that all tourism must adhere to is practicing Responsible Tourism, where it is the responsibility of every single stakeholder/ participant (in the tourism activity) to make the business of Tourism sustainable.

Circuits are clubbing of certain destinations which may be of similar or different themes, so that a traveller visits more than just one or two destination which makes it a circuit. Some representative circuits are as shown in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 4.2: Representative potential Eco-circuits

SN	Name of Circuit	Duration	Distance	Route	Potential destinations	Entry /Exit	Potential	Primary theme	Secondary theme
01	Apple Valley Circuit 1	4 – 5 days	378 Kms	Shimla – Kharapathar – Sarahan (via Rohru, Rampur) – Narkanda – Shimla.	• Shimla • Kharapathar • Sarahan • Narkanda	Shimla/Shimla	New experiential circuit. Has potential to be popular with younger tourists.	• Experiential (Agro-tourism)	• Nature viewing • Soft adventure
02	Temple Circuit	7 – 8 days	557 Kms	Chandigarh - Naina Devi – Chintpurni - Baglamukhi Devi – Jwalaji - Brijeshwari - Chamunda – Dharamshala	• Chandigarh • Naina Devi • Chintpurni • Baglamukhi Devi • Jwalaji • Brijeshwari • Chamunda • Dharamshala	Chandigarh/Dharmashala	Existing, very popular circuit. Has potential to give more returns for better infrastructure & overflow into ecotourism	• Cultural (Pilgrimage, culture & festival tourism)	• Experiential (religious and pilgrimage activities)
03	Tribal Circuit	7 – 8 days	557 Kms	Shimla –Sarahan – Chitkul – Kalpa – Nako – Tabo – Dhankar - Kaza – Kibber – Key – Kunzum Pass – Kullu	• Shimla • Sarahan • Chitkul • Kalpa • Nako • Tabo • Dhankar • Kaza • Kibber • Key • Kunzum Pass • Kullu	Shimla/Kullu	New circuit. Has potential to become more popular with existing and new customers by better curating of the product	• Cultural (tribal tourism, culture tourism)	• Experiential (Tribal artforms and crafts)
04	Sutlej River Circuit	7 – 8 days	720 Kms	Shimla – Chail – naldhera – Parwanoo – Swarghat – Bilaspur – Barog – Kasauli – Paonta Sahib – Renukaji - Chandigarh	• Shimla • Chail • Naldhera • Parwanoo • Swarghat • Bilaspur • Barog • Kasauli • Paonta Sahib • Renukaji • Chandigarh	Shimla/ Chandigarh	Existing circuit, popular with nature lovers and weekly holiday makers. Potential for soft adventure activities with better sporting and safety infrastructure	• Water based activities	• Nature viewing • Soft adventure
05	Buddhist Monastery Circuit	7 – 8 days	850 Kms	Dharamshala – Mcleodganj – Bir Billing – Rewalsar – Mandi –	• Dharamshala • Mcleodganj	Dharamshala /Kullu	Existing circuit. Has potential to become more	• Cultural (Pilgrimage,	• Experiential (local

SN	Name of Circuit	Duration	Distance	Route	Potential destinations	Entry /Exit	Potential	Primary theme	Secondary theme
				Manali – Keylong – Kaza –Key - Kullu	• Bir Billing • Rewalsar • Mandi • Manali • Keylong • Kaza • Key • Kullu		popular with better infrastructure and more publicity	Culture & festival tourism)	artforms and crafts) • Soft adventure • Winter sports
06	Dhauladhar Circuit	7 – 8 days	725 Kms	Chandigarh - Chintpurni – Jwalamukhi – Kangra – Dalhousie – Khajjiar – Chamba– Chamunda – Palampur – Dharamshala	• Chandigarh • Chintpurni • Jwalamukhi • Kangra • Dalhousie • Khajjiar • Chamba • Chamunda • Palampur • Dharamshala	Chandigarh/Dharamshala	Existing very popular circuit. Potential to promote it as Ecocircuit with newer activities, eco-accommodation options and safety standards and infrastructure	• Cultural (Pilgrimage, culture & festival tourism)	• Nature viewing • Soft adventure • Winter sports
07	Beas River Circuit	5 – 6 days	534 Kms	Chandigarh - Swarghat – Bilaspur – Mandi – Rewalsar – Manali – Rohtang – Naggar – Manikaran –Kullu	• Chandigarh • Swarghat • Bilaspur • Mandi • Rewalsar • Manali • Rohtang • Naggar • Manikaran • Kullu	Chandigarh /Kullu	Combination of new and an existing circuit. Has potential to become more popular with better sporting and safety infrastructure	• Water based activities	• Nature viewing • Soft adventure
08	Trekking & Paragliding Circuit	8-9 days	584 Kms	Dharamshala – Dalhousie – Khajjiar - Triund - Kareri – Palampur - Bir Billing – Barot – Manali – Kasol - Solang valley - Kullu	• Dharamshala • Dalhousie • Khajjiar • Triund • Kareri • Palampur • Bir Billing • Barot • Manali • Kasol • Solang valley • Kullu	Dharamshala /Kullu	Existing very popular circuit. Needs better and more sustainable, safety standards and infrastructure	• Soft adventure	• Hard adventure • Winter sports
09	Birding Circuit	9 – 10 days	625 Kms	Chandigarh – Paragpur – Pong dam –	• Chandigarh • Paragpur	Chandigarh /Kullu	Existing circuit. Needs more	• Nature viewing	• Experiential (crafts and

SN	Name of Circuit	Duration	Distance	Route	Potential destinations	Entry /Exit	Potential	Primary theme	Secondary theme
				Dharamshala – Mcleodganj – Galu - Great Himalayan National Park – Goshaini – Tirthan - Kullu	• Pong dam • Dharamshala • Mcleodganj • Galu • Great Himalayan National Park • Goshaini • Tirthan • Kullu		promotion & better curation.		artforms such as painting form) • Soft adventure
10	Apple Valley Circuit 2	7 –8 days	750 Kms	Shimla – Narkanda – Rohru – Chanshal pass – Rampur bushahr – Chitkul – Kalpa – Sarahan – Shimla.	• Shimla • Narkanda • Rohru • Chanshal pass • Rampur bushahr • Chitkul • Kalpa • Sarahan	Shimla/Shimla	New circuit, has potential to cater to Apple –experiential customers .	• Experiential (Agro-tourism)	• Nature viewing
11	Tikkar-Shali Eco-Tourism Circuit	4-5 days	110 kms	Shimla – Tikkar – Narkanda – Shali Tibba - Shimla	• Shimla • Tikkar • Gadda Kuffar • Riyundri • Tharot • Gagan Ghatti • Matrol • Chowri Ther • Shiv Gufa • Nagin Tibba • Shalli Teer • Himri	Shimla/ Shimla	New Circuit, has potential to cater for multiple experiences	• Nature viewing, Adventure	• Experiential (Agro-horticulture, local food) • Winter sports

4.2 SWOT Analysis of Ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh holds multiple strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that need to be looked into to further improve the experience for the tourists arriving in the State. SWOT analysis is as follows:

Strength	• Strong unique selling points for various destinations such as wildlife, adventure etc. • High Tourist footfalls • Supporting policies by Govt
Weakness	• Limited marketing of Ecotourism Destinations • Small Land parcels for Eco Development • Limited capacity and skills at the local level • Lack of standards in tourism offerings
Opportunities	• Increasing interest of Tourists to travel to nature hotspots and move towards experiential tourism • Strong opportunity to develop adventure as a core selling point • Strong opportunity to develop hospitality as a natural way for community • Reduced marketing cost due to emergence of digital marketing
Threats	• Increasing competition • Opportunity cost of capturing new age experiential customer • Environmental destruction due to developmental pressures • Deforestation & Unscrupulous commercialisation • lack of waste-management/ plastic waste leading to depletion of the quality of tourist spots

Circuits depend on the experience that the tourists have on travelling to the destinations and the total experience that they derive out of the complete visit. Upscaling of the Ecotourism circuits shall require upscaling of all the macro and micro environmental factors associated with tourist satisfaction

As per a study, by Pizam et al, tourist satisfaction is dependent on interplay of various factors such as; experiential opportunities, cost of the tour, hospitality, accommodation facilities, environment and extent of commercialization.

Based on these factors a quick survey with 48 tourists was carried out in November 2021. The scoring was given out of 10 for the attributes mentioned in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 4.3: Rating of hilly States across experiential attributes

SN	Parameter	Uttarakhand	J & K	HP
1	Experiential opportunity	8	5	6
2	Cost of tour	5	6	6
3	Hospitality	6	8	5
4	Accommodation	7	6	6
5	Environment	7	8	6
6	Commercialization	5	4	5
7	Safety	8	2	6
		46	39	40

Source: Primary Survey carried out by consultant team during 2021

The key aspect observed from this exhibit is that Himachal Pradesh holds an important position but needs to position itself further on experiential tourism, hospitality and accommodation front to maximise its benefit from tourism. These findings are also aligned with the findings under the 'The India State Ranking Survey' by Hotelivate in association with the World Travel and Tourism Council – India

Initiative (WTTC – II). It puts HP as standing at 15th position, whereas Uttarakhand stands at 10th position and Jammu & Kashmir is at 18th position in a study that looks at tourism competitiveness of all India states.

4.3 Identified broad strategies for developing and promoting Ecotourism circuits in Himachal Pradesh

- Identification of the priority destinations that need to be promoted
- Identification of customer segments for Ecotourism circuits
- Productization- Creating management plans, after carrying capacity studies & tourism zones for protected areas
- Marketing strategy- Creation of Marketing channels (Digital and Offline) and creation of sales networks with T & T industry
- Capacity Building - Finalisation of guidelines, service standards, guidelines for activities, hospitality, hygiene, safety and training for the same
- Development of Environment sensitive infrastructure
- Stringent community involvement and handholding
- National & International Standards and Certifications
- Monitoring and incorporating corrective measures
- Institutionalising Responsible Tourism

4.4 Analysis of current Eco-tourism Products and value-chain

Ecotourism is a niche sector is emerging as an experiential tourism. Ecotourism focuses on nature based eco-sensitive solutions that provides good and new experience for tourists and provide benefit to local communities particularly rural. Eco-Tourism Product is "a combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific center of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience including emotional aspects for the potential customers.

Hence, the ecotourism products include cultural, natural and attraction attributes. Based on the primary and secondary research, it has been found that there are multiple offerings that Himachal Pradesh provide for the tourists and also it was found that that various local communities participate in the ecotourism activities that revolve around their primary livelihood or the current product available in that area such as, agro-product, horticulture, cultural based – crafts, cuisine, songs/ dance etc. or potential for natural attraction such as sightseeing, birdwatching, adventure activities etc.

Current Eco-tourism Products and value-chain analysis is detailed out in section 2.4.4.

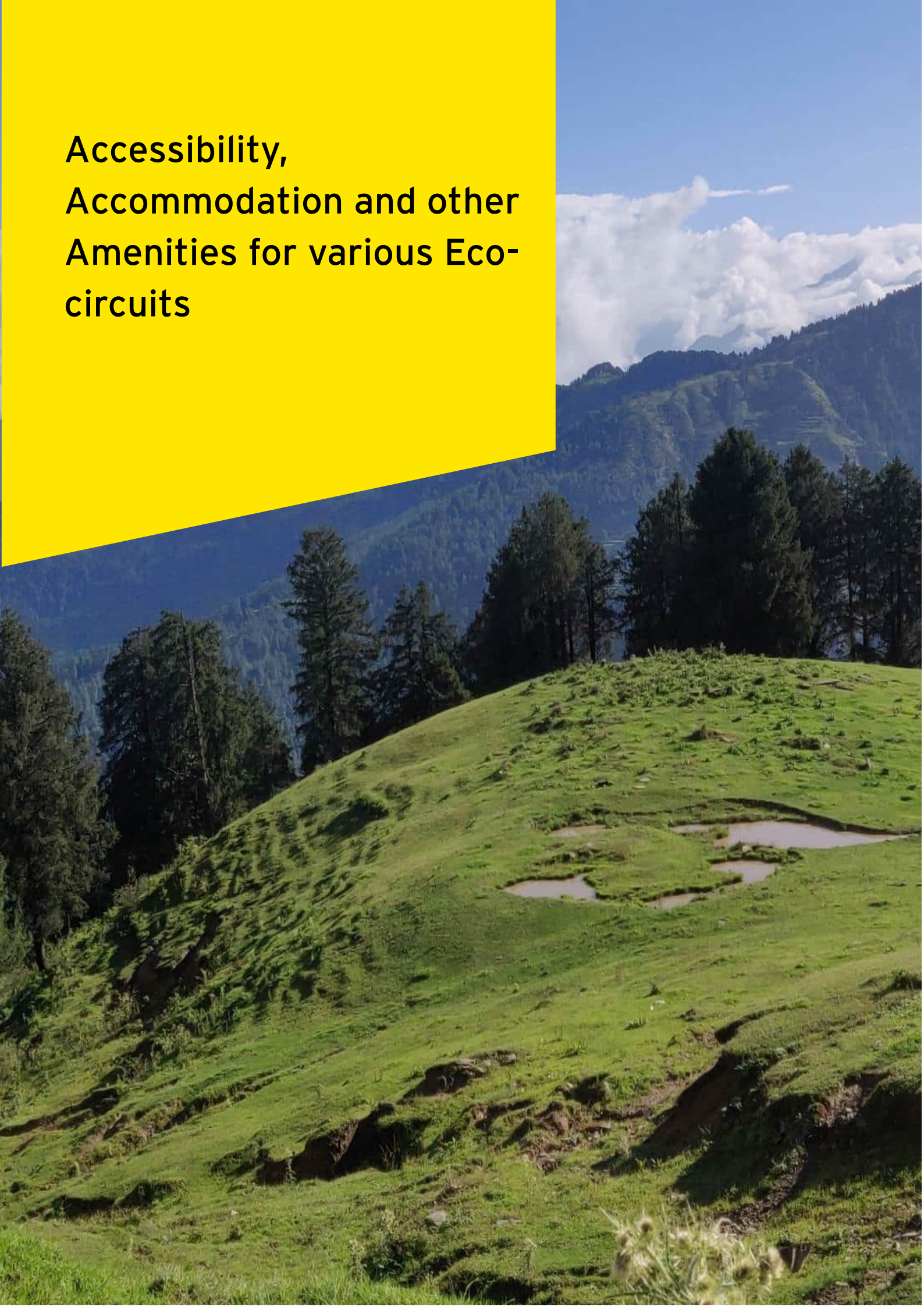
The details of the products and their value chain is presented in **Annexure10.3** under the ecotourism destinations. These products need to be further channelled and supplemented to enhance the tourist's experiences. Nowadays, tourists like to participate in such agro-based and craft-based activities along with adventure. This existing market needs to be strengthened for better tourist's experience.

4.5 Strategies for branding and promotion

HPECOSOC shall be a common, strong, and unique brand that will represent sustainable, experiential and diversified ecotourism of the State - be it incubated by forest department, any other govt department, any NGO or a private entity – as long as they adhere to the principles defined by it. Supported by the beautiful imagery that HP Tourism is known for, the brand needs to have an easy recall and should be able to have its own standalone image in the mind of the prospective tourist.

Branding and Promotion aspects are detailed out in **section 2.8.5.**

**Accessibility,
Accommodation and other
Amenities for various Eco-
circuits**



5 Accessibility, Accommodation, and other Amenities for various Eco-circuits

Himachal Pradesh is a beautiful State with every area and region with a potential to be developed into an ecotourism spot. In this context, largely all the major destinations become part of the different circuits across the State. Hence, this section discusses following aspects broadly for the major tourism destinations of the State. The aspects covered are as following:

- **Air connectivity** - Name of nearest airfield/helipad and distance in kms with flight information
- **Railway connectivity** - Name of nearest railway station and distance in kms
- **Roadways connectivity** - Availability of Private Taxis, Charter Buses, State road transport buses and private buses
- **Porter facilities** - Availability of Mule Operators / Porters etc.
- **Accommodation facilities** - Availability of Private hotels or lodges/ FRH/ Govt guesthouses, and number of tourists who can be accommodated, Hospitality standards and availability of essential services like heater, electricity supply etc. in key areas.

For the purpose of the assessment, the study is conducted for the major destination of Himachal Pradesh, covering Kullu, Manali, Shimla, Chamba, Dharamshala, Dalhousie, Kangra, Kasauli, Hamirpur, Parwanoo, Solan, Pragpur, Sirmaur, Spiti, Una and Kinnaur, from where the circuits start or pass through.

5.1 Air connectivity

This section highlights the name of the nearest airport, its distance from the destination and the flight information.

Exhibit 5.1: Details on Air connectivity

Prominent places	Name of nearest airfield / helipad	Distance in kms	flight information • Number of flights • capacity
Kullu	Bhuntar Airport	11 km	Number of flights: 01 airlines & 01 Helicopter Service Capacity: Approx. 50 passengers
Manali	Bhuntar Airport	52 km	Number of flights: 01 airlines & 01 Helicopter Service Capacity: Approx. 50 passengers
Shimla	Shimla Airport	22 km	Number of flights: 01 airline Capacity: Approx. 45 passengers
Chamba	Pathankot Airport	108 km	Number of flights: 01 airlines Capacity: Approx. 300 passengers
Dharamshala	Kangra Airport	12 km	Number of flights: 03 airlines & 01 Helicopter Services Capacity: Approx. 100 passengers
Dalhousie	Kangra Airport	108 km	Number of flights: 03 airlines & 01 Helicopter Operators Capacity: Approx. 100 passengers
Kangra	Kangra Airport	8 km	Number of flights: 03 airlines & 01 Helicopter Operators Capacity: Approx. 100 passengers
Kasauli	Chandigarh Airport	68.3 km	Number of flights: 06 airlines Capacity: 1600 passengers
Hamirpur	Kanpur Airport	68 km	Number of flights: 02 airlines Capacity: Approx. 300 passengers
Parwanoo	Chandigarh Airport	40 km	Number of flights: 06 airlines

			Capacity: 1600 passengers
Solan	Chandigarh Airport	66 km	Number of flights: 06 airlines Capacity: 1600 passengers
Pragpur	Kangra Airport	53.5 km	Number of flights: 03 airlines & 01 Helicopter Operators Capacity: Approx. 100 passengers
Sirmaur	Chandigarh Airport	42 km	Number of flights: 06 airlines Capacity: 1600 passengers
	Shimla Airport	22 km	Number of flights: 01 airline Capacity: Approx. 45 passengers
	Dehradun Airport	50 km	Number of flights: 06 Airlines Capacity: 122,000 passengers
Spiti	Bhuntar Airport	93 km	Number of flights: 01 airlines & 01 Helicopter Service Capacity: Approx. 50 passengers
Una	Chandigarh Airport	125 km	Number of flights: 06 airlines Capacity: 1600 passengers
Kinnaur	Shimla Airport	23 km	Number of flights: 01 airline Capacity: Approx. 45 passengers

Source: Multiple sources – Goibibo, Makemytrip, Indiainternationalflights, tribuneindia, times of India

5.2 Railway Connectivity

This section highlights the name of the nearest railway station and its distance from the major destination.

Exhibit 5.2: Details on Railway connectivity

Prominent places	Name of nearest railway station	Distance in kms
Kullu	Joginder nagar Railway Station	125 km
Manali	Joginder nagar Railway Station	144 km
Shimla	Kalka Railway Station	37.9 km
Chamba	Pathankot Railway Station	120 km
Dharamshala	Pathankot Railway Station	85 km
Dalhousie	Pathankot Railway Station	80 km
Kangra	Kangra Railway Station	23 km
Kasauli	Kalka Railway Station	40 km
Hamirpur	Una Railway Station	80 km
Parwanoo	Kalka Railway Station	5 km
Solan	Solan Railway Station	0.18 km
Pragpur	Una Railway Station	67 km
Sirmaur	Barog Railway Station	33 km
Spiti	Joginder Railway Station	360 km
Una	Una Railway Station	1.4 km
Kinnaur	Shimla Railway Station	257 km

Source: Goibibo

5.3 Roadway connectivity

This section highlights the availability of different modes of roadway connectivity including, private taxis, State road transport buses, private buses and charter buses. The information is gathered through multiple secondary sources.

Private Taxis - There are approx. 45,000 taxi operators present in Himachal Pradesh serving tourists for local and intra-state visits.

State road transport buses - Himachal Pradesh Transport Development Corporation (HPTDC) is the nodal agency for State bus services. There are more than 3000 buses available with the State for the inter and intra-state movement of the people. The key details are as follows:

Exhibit 5.3: Key details of State road transport buses

Depots	27
Vehicles	3105
Coverage per day (kms)	6.05 lakhs
Routes	2573
Average traffic revenue per day	INR 180.82 lakhs
Staff	8813

A few major Government bus route routes and schedules as per HPTDC are as follows:

- Shimla – Delhi - Boarding Place: Victory Tunnel, Shimla, Approx. Journey Time: 9.00 Hours
- Delhi – Shimla - Boarding Place: Himachal Bhawan, Mandi House, New Delhi, Approx. Journey Time: 9.00 Hours
- Delhi – Manali - Boarding Place: Himachal Bhawan, Mandi House, New Delhi, Approx. Journey Time: 14.00 Hours
- Manali – Delhi - Boarding Place: HRTC Bus Stand, Manali, Approx. Journey Time: 14.00 Hours
- Shimla – Manali - Boarding Place: Victory Tunnel, Shimla, Approx. Journey Time: 9.00 Hours
- Manali – Shimla - Boarding Place: HRTC Bus Stand, Manali, Approx. Journey Time: 9.00 Hours
- Manali – Leh - Boarding Place: HRTC Bus Stand, Manali, Approx. Journey Time: 2 Days, (Halt at Keylong)
- Leh – Manali - Boarding Place: 2 Days (Halt at Keylong)
- Shimla Local Sightseeing Tour - Boarding Place: Rivoli Bus Stand, Lakkar Bazaar, Shimla, Places to be visited: Shimla-Kufri-Fagu-Naldehra-Shimla, Approx. Journey Time: 6.30 Hours
- Manali Local Sightseeing Tour - Boarding Place: HRTC Bus Stand, Manali, Places to be visited: Manali-Solang-Jagatsukh-Naggur-Manali, Approx. Journey Time: 7.00 Hours

There are different types of buses which are plying on the defined routes, such as; Electric buses, Volvo buses, ISUZU buses, Deluxe buses, normal buses etc.

Private and Charter buses - There are approx. 3500 private buses being operated in Himachal Pradesh. There are approx. 05 Charter Bus operators being present in Himachal Pradesh.

Source: Multiple sources: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/>; www.hptdc.in; <https://www.hrtchp.com/>; <https://www.hindustantimes.com/>

5.4 Porter facilities

In Himachal Pradesh, as per 'The Himachal Pradesh Climbing/ Trekking Porters Act', the Porters are being grouped into three classes as:

- Class 'A' – to assist parties climbing/ trekking any height
- Class 'B' - to assist parties climbing/ trekking heights not exceeding 19,000 feet
- Class 'C' - to assist parties climbing/ trekking heights not exceeding 13,500 feet

The rates of the Porters usually vary from INR 800 to 1200 per day but it may reach up to INR 1200 to 1500 per day depending on the trek. Other factors which contribute to the rates of the porters are season & duration of trekking.

Source: Report “The Himachal Pradesh Climbing Trekking Porters (Regulation Of Employment) Act, 1977” published by Himachal Pradesh Government; url - <https://himachal.nic.in/.pdf> and TrekMunk

5.5 Accommodation

This section highlights the availability of private hotels and lodges and the number of rooms that are available across these destinations to accommodate tourists. Also, the hospitality standards and availability of essential services like basic facilities, heater, air-condition, etc. have been mentioned for some of the destinations for different category of hotels. This is followed by the details of the FRH and Government guesthouses availability in the State.

Availability of hotels/ lodges

The availability of private hotels/ lodges and approximate number of rooms across the destinations are as follows:

Exhibit 5.4: Details on availability of hotels/ lodges and rooms for accommodation

Prominent places	Availability of Private hotels or lodges	Number of rooms (Approx.)
Kullu	1087	33655
Manali	150	302+
Shimla	525	18123
Chamba	251	6333
Dharamshala	303	191+
Dalhousie	197	2745+
Kangra	763	18794
Kasauli	182	361+
Hamirpur	68	1000
Parwanoo	13	20+
Solan	354	10576
Pragpur	02	39
Sirmaur	123	3011
Spiti	120	3280
Una	112	2504
Kinnaur	150	4774

Sources: Multiple sources – 1. Agoda Official Site, 2. Tripadvisor, 3. MakeMyTrip 4 Easemytrip

Hospitality Standards and availability of essentials at hotels/ lodges

The following Exhibits presents the hospitality standards and availability of essential services across different category of hotels across key destinations as part of various circuits.

Exhibit 5.5: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kullu

Category	Availability of facilities
Lodge / budget hotel	Swimming Pool, Fan, Locker, Clothes rack

3 star	Air – Conditioning, Heater, Slippers, Clothes rack, Ironing Facilities, TV, Hair dryer, Coffee/ tea maker, Refrigerator, Toiletries, Newspaper, shoeshine kit, Microwave, Refrigerator, Bathrobes, Fan, Shoeshine kit, Umbrella.
4 star	No 4-star hotels
5 star	No 5-star hotels
Resort	Hair dryer, Toiletries, Free Wi – Fi, Air conditioning, Newspaper, Fan, Umbrella, Slippers, Coffee/ tea maker, Shoeshine kit, Gym, Swimming Pool
Camp	Wi – Fi, TV, Electrical Sockets

Exhibit 5.6: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Manali

Category	Availability of facilities
Lodge / budget hotel	Toiletries, Board games/ puzzles, Free Wi-Fi, Electric Blanket, Heater, Slippers, Mosquito net, Coffee/ tea maker, Ironing Facilities, Clothes rack, Locker, Bar, Shared lounge/ TV area, Air purifier.
3 star	Toiletries, Free Wi-Fi, Telephone, Wake-up service, Ironing facilities, Bathrobes, Cleaning products, Adapter, Daily newspaper, Fan, Coffee/ tea maker, Highchair, Laptop workspace, Trousers press, Air conditioning, Slippers, Air purifier, Shoeshine kit, Hair dryer, Locker, Umbrella, Heater, Refrigerator
4 star	Cleaning products, Toiletries, Free wi-Fi, Telephone, Heater, Table Fan, Slippers, Wake-up service, Umbrella, Daily newspaper, Coffee/ tea maker, Ironing Facilities, Shoeshine kit, Locker, In-room safe box, Gym.
5 star	Cleaning Products, hair dryer, Toiletries, Board games/ puzzles, Free Wi-Fi, heaters, Slippers, Wake-up service, Coffee/ tea maker, Refrigerator, mini bar, Desk, sofa, Ironing facilities, Clothes rack, Clothes dryer, Locker, In-room safe box.
Resort	Free Wi-Fi, Air conditioning, Bathrobes, Hair dryers, Toiletries, iPod docking station, Adapter, Heater, Slippers, Coffee/ Tea maker, Refrigerator, Fruits/ Snacks, Fireplace, Clothes rack, Ironing facilities, Trousers press, Individual air conditioning, Laptop safe box, Wake-up services. Fitness Centre, Kid's club, Recreational facilities

Exhibit 5.7: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Shimla

Category	Availability of facilities
Lodge / budget hotel	Toiletries, Free Wi-Fi, Slippers, Heater, Newspaper
3 star	Kitchenette, Air conditioning, Wi-Fi, Intercom, Refrigerator, Newspaper, Umbrellas, Ironing Services, Microwave, Bathrobes, Toiletries.
4 star	AC, TV, WiFi, Safe, Intercom, Newspaper, Bar, Restaurant, Coffee shop, Recreation facilities, Umbrellas, Refrigerator, Hair dryer, Heater, Slippers, Coffee/ tea maker, Shoeshine kit.
5 star	AC, Wi Fi, Intercom, Newspaper, Washing Machine, Restaurant, Bar, Coffee shop, Recreation Facilities, Umbrellas, refrigerator, Electrical Keycard, Swimming Pool, Concierge Service. Trouser press.
Resort	Desk, fan, TV, shower, Ironing Service, Coffee/ tea maker, Hair dryer, Books/ DVDs/ music for children, AC, Heater, Slippers, Refrigerator.

Exhibit 5.8: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kangra

Category	Availability of facilities

Lodge / budget hotel	Toiletries, Free Wi-Fi
3 star	TV, Toiletries, Ironing Facilities, Coffee/ Tea maker, Iron, Fan, Alarm Clock, Electric Kettle, Clothes rack, Pool with a view, Slippers
4 star	Hair dryer, Toiletries, TV, AC, Slippers, Fan, Coffee/ tea maker, Desk, Clothes dryer, Ironing Facilities, In-room safe box
5 star	Wi-Fi, Restaurant, Bar, Concierge, Wake up calls, Turndown Service, Fitness centre, Sauna, Spa, AC, Coffee maker, mini bar, Outdoor pool, Bicycle hire.
Resort	Hair dryer, Bathrobes, Toiletries, Free Wi-Fi, AC, Air Purifier, Slippers, Coffee/ tea maker, Fruits/ Snacks, Ironing Facilities, In-room safe box, Locker

Exhibit 5.9: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Spiti

Category	Availability of facilities
3 star	Wi-Fi, Public Internet workstation, Kitchen, Restaurant, Toiletries, Slippers, Refrigerator, Dish washer

Exhibit 5.10: Hospitality standards of hotels/ lodges at Kinnaur

Category	Availability of facilities
Lodge / budget hotel	Restaurant, Room Service, Coffee maker, Wi-Fi
3 star	Restaurant, Room Service, Kitchen, Wi-Fi, Wake up calls, Toiletries, Electric blankets, Pants press, TV, Slippers, Clothes rack.
4 star	Alarm Clock, Toiletries, Kitchen

Sources: Multiple sources – 1. Agoda Official Site, 2. Tripadvisor, 3. MakeMyTrip 4. Easemyrip

Forest Rest Houses

HPFD has also set-up various forest rest houses and inspection huts across the State. The details of the Forest rest houses is presented in the following Exhibit.

Exhibit 5.11: Details of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection huts

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
1	Kullu	Kullu	Naggar	2	Rs 750 each
2			Manali	3	Rs 750 each
3			Kothi	2	Rs 375 each
4			Kais hut Kullu	2	Rs 550 each
5			Kaisdhar	2	Rs 320 each
6		Banjar	Jibhi	2	Rs 1120 each
7			Sojha	3	Rs 1120 each
8		Parvati	Pulga	2	Rs 320 each
9			Kasol (New)	2	Rs 1680 each
10			Kasol (Old)	2	Rs 500 each
11			Kasol Camping site	5	Tent – I to III Rs 2240 each Tent – IV & V Rs 1120 each
12	Solan	Solan	Garkhal	4	VIP Set No 1 = Rs 1344/- Set No II = Rs 700/- Set No III = Rs 500/- Set No IV = Rs 500/-
13			Kumarhatti	5	VIP Set No 1 = Rs 1344/-

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
					VIP Set No 2 = Rs 1344/- Set No I = Rs 1120/- Set No II = Rs 500/- Set No III = Rs 500/-
14			Subathu	2	Set No I = Rs 700/- Set No II = Rs 500/-
15			SeriGhat	2	Rs 320 each
16		Nahan	Banethi	2	Rs 400 each
17		Nahan	Suketi	2	Rs 480 each
18		Nahan	Trilokpur	2	Rs 480 each
19		Rajgarh	Habban	5	Rs 1344 each
20		Rajgarh	Naina Tikker	4	Rs 1344 each
21		Rajgarh	Narag	3	Rs 1344 each
22		Rajgarh	Camping Site at Habban, Rajgarh	3	Rs 800 each
23		Rajgarh	Camping Site at Bathau Dhar, Rajgarh	3	Rs 800 each
24		Renuka ji	Boghdhar	3	VIP Set No I = Rs 480/- Set No II, III = Rs 320/-
25		Paonta	Majra	2	Rs 480 each
26		Paonta	Khara	2	Rs 480 each
27		Paonta	Mantaruwala	2	Rs 480 each
28		Dharamshala	Triund	4	Rs 1120 each
29		Dharamshala	Kareri	3	Rs 500 each
30		Dharamshala	Ridkmaar	3	Rs 500 each
31		Dharamshala	Mallan	3	Rs 500 each
32		Dharamshala	Stobari	4	Rs 1680 each
33		Palampur	Bir	3	Rs 480 each
34		Palampur	Multhan	3	Rs 480 each
35		Palampur	Chobin	2	Rs 480 each
36		Bilaspur	Sawarghat	8	VIP Set – 104 & 204 = Rs 1120 Set 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203 = Rs 400
37		Bilaspur	Bandla	2	
38		Bilaspur	Bhahadurpur	3	Set - I = Rs.1120 Set II & III = Rs. 401
39		Kunihar	Jagjit Nagar	2	Rs 480 each
40		Kunihar	Kuthar	2	Rs 320 each
41		Chamba	Saho	5	Set No 1, 2, 3 = Rs. 700 Set No.4, 5 = Rs. 500
42		Chamba	Darkund	2	Rs 320 each
43		Dalhousie	Surkhigala	3	Rs 1120 each
44		Bharmour	Holi	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600
45		Bharmour	Garola	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600
46		Bharmour	Gharadu	2	Set No. 1 = Rs. 800 Set No. 2 = Rs. 600

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
47		Pangi	Purthi	2	Rs 480 each
48			Ecohut Killar	4	Rs 480 each
49	Mandi	Mandi	Parashar	Trekker hut = 2	Rs 1120 each
50				FRH = 3	Rs 1120 each
51			Camping site at Sukasar Mandi	10	Rs 1120 each
52			Dhuandevi	3	Rs 500 each
53			Riwalsar	2	Rs 750 each
54		Joginder Nagar	Barot	4	Rs 500 each
55		Suket	Muraridevi	2	Rs 320 each
56			Jhungi	3	Rs 500 each
57		Karsog	Mahunaag	5	Vip Set 1 = Rs. 500 Set 2,3 4, 5 = Rs. 500 each
58		Nachan	Bijahi	2	Rs 1232 each
59			Camping Site at Shatadhar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
60			Camping Site at Devidhar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
61			Camping Site at Dugathar, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
62			Camping Site at Bijahi, Nachan	5	Rs 1120 each
63	Shimla	Shimla	Sunni	3	Rs 480 each
64			Koti	2	Rs 320 each
65		Chopal	Peontra (Kedi)	3	Rs 480 each
66			Sarain	2	Rs 480 each
67	Rampur	Rampur	Gahan	2	Set I = Rs. 500 Set II = Rs. 700
68			Taklech	5	Set II to Set V = 500 Set I = 701
69			Phancha	2	Set – I = Rs. 700 Set – II = Rs. 500
70			Camping Site at Teklech, Rampur	3	Rs. 500 each
71		Kinnaur	Sholtu	2	Set – II = Rs.750 Set I = Rs. 1120
72			Purbani	2	Set – I = Rs.500 Set II = Rs. 700
73			Nichar	2	Set - II = Rs.750 Set I = Rs. 1120
74			Sangla	2	Set – II = Rs.1120 Set I = Rs. 1680
75			Kalpa	2	Rs. 1120 each
76		Ani	Nither	2	Set – I = Rs.500 Set II = Rs. 750

SN	Circle	Forest Division	FRH/ IH	No. of Rooms	Rates/ Night
77			Paneo	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set - II = Rs. 500
78			Takrasi	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set - II = Rs. 500
79			Tarala	2	Set - I = Rs. 700 Set - II = Rs. 500
80	Hamirpur	Hamripur	Chakmoh	2	Rs. 380 each
81		Dehra	Dehra	2	Rs. 360 each
81		Una	Nagal	3	Rs.360 each

Source: Data received from HPECOSOC on 18th May 2022

Government Guest houses

State Government has also set-up various guest houses across the State. The details of these facilities are presented in the following Exhibit.

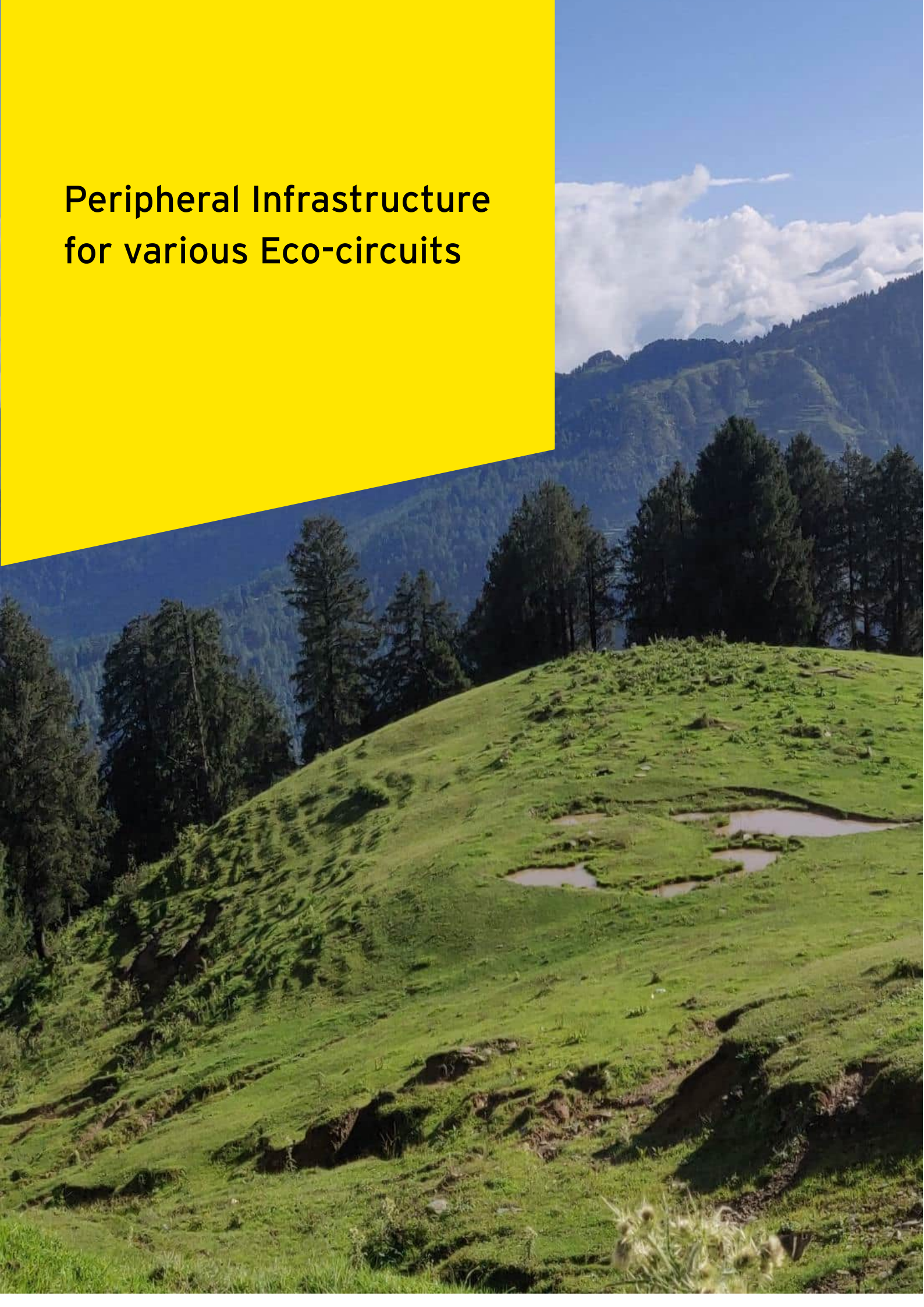
Exhibit 5.12: Details of Government Guest houses

SN	Name of Guesthouse	Location of Guesthouse	Rates
1	The New Raos Common	Kasauli	Rs 7400/- to Rs 8500/-
2	The Palace	Chail	Rs 5200/- to Rs 25300/-
3	The Peterhof	Shimla	Rs 3100/- to Rs 7200/-
4	Hotel Golf Glade	Naldehra	Rs 2900/- to Rs 3500/-
5	The Srikhand	Sarahan	Rs 1800/- to Rs 3700/-
6	The Mamleshwar,	Chindi	Rs 1600/- to Rs 2900/-
7	The Shiwalik	Parwanoo	Rs 1400/- to Rs 2900/-
8	The Lakeview	Bilaspur	Rs 1400/- to Rs 4300/-
9	The Hill top	Swargate	Rs 1400/- to Rs 3100/-
10	The Chanshal	Rohru	Rs 1500/- to Rs 2100/-
11	The Hatu	Narkanda	Rs 3500/- to Rs 4600/-
12	The Busher Regency	Rampur	Rs 1600/- to Rs 3100/-
13	Srikhand Cottages	Sarahan	Rs 3800/-
14	The Baghal	Darlaghat	Rs 1600/- to Rs 2600/-
15	The renuka	Renukaji	Rs 2200/- to Rs 3200/-
16	The Giriganga Resort	Kharapathar	Rs 1700 to Rs 2900/-
17	The Apple Blossom	Fagu	Rs 2500/- to Rs 4400/-
18	The Yamuna	Paonta Sahib	Rs 990/- to Rs 2490/-
19	The Ros Common	Kasauli	Rs 3500/- to Rs 4800/-
20	The Pinewood	Barog	Rs 4200/- to Rs 5800/-
21	The Holiday Home	Shimla	Rs 3900/- to Rs 8100/-
22	The Rohtang Manalsu	Manali	Rs 2200/- to Rs 4100/-
23	The Castle	Naggur	Rs 1400/- to Rs 4300/-
24	The Trekkers Bungalow	Janjehli	-
25	The Sarvari	Kullu	Rs 1600/- to Rs 2800/-
26	The Silvermoon	Kullu	Rs 1500/- to Rs 1800/-
27	The Hamta Huts	Manali	Rs 2900/-
28	The Kunzam	Manali	Rs 3800/- to Rs 9500/-
29	The Tourist Inn	Rewalsar	Rs 800/- to Rs 2400/-
30	The Club House	McLeodganj	Rs 2300/- to Rs 4300/-
31	The Bhagsu	McLeodganj	Rs 2300/- to Rs 4300/-
32	The Kunal	Dharamshala	Rs 1800/- to Rs 2500/-
33	The Kashmir House	Dharamshala	Rs 2000/- to Rs 3100/-
34	The Devdar	Khajiar	Rs 2800/- to Rs 4600/-

SN	Name of Guesthouse	Location of Guesthouse	Rates
35	The Tea Bud	Palampur	Rs 2500/- to Rs 4000/-
36	The Yatri Niwas	Chamundaji	Rs 1600/- to Rs 2900/-
37	The Uhl	Joginder Nagar	Rs 1400/- to Rs 1800/-
38	The Neugal	Palampur	RS 2300/- to Rs 2800/-
39	The Manimahesh	Dalhousie	Rs 2200/- to Rs 4500/-
40	The Khajji Cottage	Khajjiar	-
41	The Jawalaji	Jawalamukhi	Rs 1700/- to Rs 4000/-
42	The Iravati	Chamba	Rs 2400/- to Rs 3300/-
43	The Hamir	Hamirpur	Rs 2300/- to Rs 2900/-
44	The Geetanjali	Dalhousie	Rs 1700/- to Rs 4000/-
45	The Gaurikund	Bharmour	Rs 2000/- to Rs 2500/-
46	The Chintpurni Heights	Bharwain	Rs 1300/- to Rs 4000/-
47	The Champak	Chamba	Rs 1700/- to Rs 2300/-
49	The Nupur	Nurpur	Rs 1400/- to Rs 2300/-
50	The Chanderabhaga	Keylong	Rs 3100/-
51	The Spiti	Kaza	Rs 2600/- to Rs 4100/-
52	The Kinner Kailash	Kalpa	Rs 3400/- to Rs 6900/-

Source: Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development corporation (www.hptdc.in)

Peripheral Infrastructure for various Eco-circuits



6 Peripheral Infrastructure for various Eco-circuits

In continuation to the earlier section, largely all the major destinations become part of the different circuits across the State. Hence, this section discusses following aspects broadly for the major tourism destinations of the State. The aspects covered are as following:

1. Source of power and electric supply situation ²¹

Major sources of electricity in Himachal Pradesh are hydro power plants followed by renewable sources (RES) under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) which is being supplied from Power Houses through a network of Transmission, Sub-Transmission & Distribution lines laid in the State. The main power houses across the State are; Giri Powerhouse (60 MW), Giri Nagar; Killar Powerhouse (30 kW), Chamba; Rongtong Powerhouse, Spiti Valley; Bhaba Powerhouse (120 MW), Kinnaur.

In addition to the above sources, Government has also launched a comprehensive plan to solve the power problem in far flung areas under which solar plants are being set up in these areas. The State government had set up two solar power stations, one in Kinnaur district having capacity of 1 kWatt and another at Pangi sub-district of Chamba district having capacity of 250 watt. Apart from this, grid connected projects of 23.25 MW have been set up on the ground at Shimla generating the employment opportunities for the unemployed locals.

2. Presence of water sources and distance and availability of formal water supply system ²²

The major sources of water supply for the rural and remote areas where largely ecotourism activities can be explored, the water supply is through lifts, tube wells and water supply through gravity fed drinking system. At present, there are 1820 lifts, 285 tube wells and 7288 gravity fed system of water supply being present in the state.

Hand pumps has been installed by the State Irrigation and public Health department in drought prone areas along with in areas of acute water scarcity and other problematic areas for the proper supply of water in these areas. At present, there are approx. 33471 hand pumps has been installed in the above-mentioned areas.

There is an ADB funded project “Himachal Pradesh Rural drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project” for the State which was proposed on 31st May 2021. Description of this project is given below.

The project will provide safe, sustainable, gender-responsive, and inclusive rural water supply and rural sanitation services to about 620,000 people in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh. The project districts are Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, and Una. Using the sector loan modality, it will upgrade rural water schemes and introduce smart water management practices to ensure the effective management of new and rehabilitated water supply assets. Further, the project will pilot an inclusive sanitation program in Sirmaur District to ensure that faecal sludge is safely managed and treated before disposal. The project will also strengthen institutional capacity in the executing and implementing agency, the Jal Shakti Vibhag (JSV), and in gram panchayats (local administration) to deliver efficient and sustainable services. Women's self-help groups in rural communities will be economically empowered through livelihood skills training, in particular training applicable to drinking water supply augmentation and the operation and maintenance (O&M) of village rural water supply schemes that provide opportunities to support rural livelihoods. The project will raise public awareness of the health benefits of improved water supply, sanitation, and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of disease, not least the coronavirus disease.

The upgradation in these rural water supply will definitely be beneficial to various eco-tourism sites and destinations which will be developed in future.

²¹ - <https://www.hpseb.in/>

- Article “Hydro Power Scenario in Himachal Pradesh” published in Electric India; url - <https://www.electricalindia.in/>

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

- Article “Solar plants a boon for people in remote HP belts” published in The Statesman; url - <https://www.thestatesman.com/cities/shimla/solar-plants-a-boon-for-people-in-remote-hp-belts-1502952195.html>

²² - Irrigation and Public Health Department site; url - <http://iph.hp.gov.in/>

3. Availability of Health care facilities

Health facilities in the State are unevenly dispersed. The health facilities are classified into various categories such as Community Health Centres, primary health centres, primary health sub centres, etc. As per data available in Report “Statistical Abstract on Himachal Pradesh 2019 - 2020” published by Department of Economic and Statistics, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, below is the list indicating the number of various categories of Health Facilities being present in districts of Himachal Pradesh. For availability of Health facilities in the State, the Health & family Welfare Department is responsible and the responsibility of safety of Tourists visiting the state lies with The Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Exhibit 6.1: Details of medical facilities in the State

District	Hospitals	Dispensaries	CHC/RH	PHCs	Total	Beds available
1. Bilaspur	5	1	6	38	50	655
2. Chamba	8	0	4	45	57	1190
3. Hamirpur	6	0	2	32	40	720
4. Kangra	20	1	19	87	127	3093
5. Kinnaur	2	0	4	24	30	271
6. Kullu	6	0	4	27	37	820
7. Lahaul-Spiti	1	0	3	17	21	204
8. Mandi	16	0	12	87	115	2268
9. Shimla	15	2	17	122	156	2969
10. Sirmaur	6	3		44	59	836
11. Solan	7	7	6	41	61	907
12. Una	6	2	9	24	41	594

Sources: Statistical Abstract of Himachal Pradesh 2019 - 2020; url – StatisticalAbstract_2019_20.pdf (himachalservices.nic.in)

4. Sewerage and Solid Waste Management System²³

The Sewerage & Solid Waste Management system of the state is being looked by the Irrigation & Public Health Department. This department also overlooks the overall water supply system of the State. Currently, the sewerage system is present in approx. 13 towns including Shimla, Palampur, Mandi, Jawalamukhi, Shri Naina Devi Ji, Chamba, Bilaspur, Rohroo, Ghumarwin, Manali, Joginder Nagar, Arki, Rampur, Reckong – po and Sarahan.

Additionally, the State Government is working on providing sewerage system in another 24 towns which includes Una, Solan, Sundernagar, Paonta, Sarkaghat, Kullu, Mehatpur, Santokhgarh, Dalhousie, Chowari, Bhuntar, Dharamsala, Hamirpur, Kangra, Nagrota, Jubbal, Sujanpur, Nadaun, Kotkhai, Narkanda, Theog, Nurpur, Suni and Dehra.

Further, Solid waste management is the responsibility of the local body. In case of urban areas, it is the responsibility of the respective municipalities and in case of the rural areas, it is the responsibility of the respective gram panchayats. Many local NGOs are working on solid waste management in rural areas as well as tourist spots across the State to keep the State clean and also to raise awareness amongst locals and tourists.

²³ Source:

1. Irrigation and Public Health Department; url - <http://iph.hp.gov.in/>
2. Article “Necessary steps taken to ensure quality potable water during COVID – 19” on Himachal Pradesh Government site; url - Himachal Pradesh Government

5. Communication facilities

State has multiple telecommunication facilities including both Government and private operators, which helps in keeping strong communication. While in extreme hilly terrain the tele-networks at time are weak, the State Government is working to make it stronger.

State also has many post offices for communication of documents and other details. As per Himachal Circle statistics, at present the State has a network of 2824 Post Offices, Franchise Outlet and PSSK out of which 119 post offices are in urban area, 2517 post offices in rural areas and the remaining 159 post offices are located in Tribal areas of the State.

Master Plan Strategy



7 Master Plan Strategy

This chapter highlights the key challenges captured from the consultation with various stakeholders, field observations, and secondary analysis and provides the recommendations and the 10-year strategy plan that shall be implemented for the ecotourism development in the State.

7.1 Broad details of Destination Management Approach

A well-thought-out **Destination Management Approach** includes the process of taking a wide-angle view of the overall destination in which a balanced vision is developed to ensure promotion of Sustainable tourism along with local stewardship of the environment and culture. This shall lead to development of a conducive and supporting ecosystem for tourism with the Department managing the whole destination to its full potential.

Destination Management Approach is detailed out in **Section 2.8.2**

7.2 Benefit-sharing mechanism

'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy, 2017' provides the strategy towards distribution of revenues generated through eco-tourism. As per the policy, HP ECOSOC and Division/ Circle level Eco-tourism societies shall generate revenues through levy of user charges/ concession fee on ecotourism sites on PPP/ lease mode, fees from van vihars, camps, treks, trails, film shooting, rest houses etc. The distribution of revenue generated should be as follows:

- State Government share: 20% of the total revenue realized shall be deposited in the Government treasury
- HP ECOSOC share: 20% of the total revenue realized shall go to the HP ECOSOC
- Division/ Circle Level Eco-Tourism Society share: Remaining 60% revenue shall remain with the Division/ circle level Eco-tourism society to implement the action plans and also for further sharing with the local Gram Panchayats/ communities.

While State has taken initiatives and is generating some revenue through these activities, it was highlighted by some of the local stakeholders that its visible impacts in terms of revenue share with local community on the ground is limited. However, it has been noted that various capacity building initiatives were provided in the past to the local communities to involve them in ecotourism activities. During visits it was found that many people were aware of the ecotourism concept, were part of trainings and have become eco-entrepreneurs such as homestay owners, local product making etc.

In addition to this, there have been some notable examples which showcase the actual benefits generated from the tourists to the local communities.

Examples of benefits generated to the local communities from the tourism sector

SHE-HAAT

The first 'She Haat' of Himachal is located at Pachhad in Sirmour, whose operations are entirely in the hands of women. The women working here are strengthening their economy, as well as the tourists coming to 'She Haat' are also appreciating this work of the district administration.

The 'She Haat' was started in December 2020 during the corona period. Despite this, the women did not give up and **in the financial year from March 1, 2021 to March 2022, the business of 'She Haat' has reached to Rs 25 lakh & out of this, the share of the women working here has been from 13 to 14 lakh rupees.**

Many women working here had never stepped out of their homes, but today this move of the government is not only strengthening the economic status of women, but also the confidence of women has increased. Many products have been prepared by **the women here from the pine leaves and in a year, a revenue of Rs 3 lakh** has been made from pine products alone.

Home-stays and camping activities

With Himachal Pradesh's progressive policies towards homestays and other tourism activities, various local people have been able to become entrepreneurs and generate revenues for themselves. While in many places the home-stay entrepreneurs charge INR 1500 to 2000 per room per night, in premium locations charges are as much as star category hotels ranging from INR 8000 to 10,000, giving locals a good source of income after all the expenses.

Source: Article "She Haat in Summer" in etvbharat; url - <https://www.etvbharat.com/hindi/himachal-pradesh/city/nahan/himachal-first-she-haat-turnover-of-25-lakhs-in-a-year-women-took-full-responsibility/hp20220524214711051051302>

7.3 Broad details of identified Ecotourism best practices

As discussed in the previously, there has been a progressive shift in legal and policy framework governing tourism that has led to inclusion of 'sustainability' as a core element of tourism development thus with higher emphasis on ecotourism and that is evident with the launch of MoEFCC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021'.

In this section, a few international, national and local (Himachal Pradesh) including examples of similar bio-geographical level ecotourism best practices have been captured to understand their key elements, challenges faced if any and the resolution to those challenges, key outcomes and the learnings for ecotourism development.

The best practices presented over here address different aspects such as community-based ecotourism, community participation, eco-development, use of organic and local material, building upon local crafts, culture and arts etc. that can be important learnings for the State.

These best practices are:

Exhibit 7.1: List of Best Practice with their focus areas

SN	Best Practice
1	Green Supply Chains, Ljubljana, Slovenia
2	Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, Mali
3	Eco-Village, Las Terrazas Complex, Cuba
4	Crosswaters Ecolodge, Guangzhou, China
5	Maati: A Women Collective Case Study
6	Global Himalayan Expedition
7	Ecosphere, Spiti
8	Pangi Hills (CEVA)
9	Biodiversity Community & Tourism Advancement (BTCA) – Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP)
10	SRISHTI Cooperative Limited (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative)
11	She HAAT Concept
12	Heritage village – Har Gaon ki Kahani

The details of the best practices with their brief, challenges and its redressal, outcomes achieved, and key learnings and takeaways are presented in **section 2.3 (chapter 2)**.

7.4 Broad details - Ecotourism Development Strategy

The vision of the 'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy – 2017' is to, *'Preserve and protect the natural (both flora and fauna) and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh, provide opportunities to enhance livelihood of local people, generate resources for sustainable development and promote greater understanding and appreciation for this heritage through authentic eco-tourism initiatives.*

Over the decades there has been a considerable increase in visitations to forests/ natural area in the State. To align with the vision under the State policy, it is essential to follow the principles of Sustainable and responsible tourism with 'economic', 'social' and 'environmental' strategies for the State.

The Master Plan looks at Ecotourism in the state in a holistic manner, with a broad objective undertaking Sustainable Ecotourism. The strategic approach to achieving this incorporates working on the following multi-pronged approach in a long-term manner.

Strategic approach

The Master Plan envisages a well-planned, long-term approach. This approach is visualized to be multi-pronged - with equally important pillars, existing and functioning simultaneously.

1. Mainstreaming Ecotourism through institutional mechanism
2. Destination management approach
3. Community benefit at the heart of the strategy
4. Capacity Building and Training
5. Branding, Marketing and Certification
6. Technology interventions

The recommendations have been explained under each strategy with short, mid, and long-term strategies.

7.4.1 Broad details of mainstreaming Ecotourism through Institutional Mechanism

Aligning with the existing policy, the HP ECOSOC shall be the top body on Ecotourism in the State with a decision-making role.

At State level, Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary (Forests) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh shall be Head of Governing body of HP ECOSOC. The Executive Committee of HP ECOSOC headed by Pr. CCF (HoFF), HPFD will take major decisions of HP ECOSOC. The Head of Executive Committee (Pr. CCF (HoFF)) shall continue to be counselled by CEO (Ecotourism), who shall be the nodal official for all Ecotourism activity in the State.

All CCFs shall constitute the Governing body Ecotourism at circle level that shall meet every six months to take stock of the overall ecotourism development in the State.

The CEO Ecotourism is to be assisted by a Tourism Manager, who has a team of a Hospitality expert and a community specialist. These three are newly created positions and shall be professionals especially hired for these activities. The tourism manager in a forest area should ideally be someone who has a good understanding of both conservation and tourism: like naturalists. Similarly, tourism managers in a cultural area can be someone who has worked with interpretation of culture. Further, CEO Ecotourism would be assisted by a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for day-to-day functioning and creating SOPs.

It is suggested to create 'Destination Management Units' in line with local eco-societies as already suggested in the policy. CEO (Ecotourism) shall also mentor the 'Destination Management Unit' (DMU) headed by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Apart from the forest officials, the DMU will comprise of Forest Right Committee (FRC) representatives, travel & tourism professionals, representatives of the

hospitality industry and conservation and rural development NGOs apart from forest officials and other Government officials. As the name suggests, the primary role of the DMU will be to hone the destination for ecotourism; and would receive all the revenue streams from the destination including ticket sales for visit to natural / cultural sites etc. in line with the policy. Further, HPECOSOC may appoint range officer as ecotourism facilitator who may act as strong linking point between DMU and communities.

HPECOSOC with the help of PMU shall lay operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for these DMUs as well as the Tourism Manager.

The Division/Circle level DMUs/ societies will send their proposals for fresh ecotourism sites to HPECOSOC for securing Government approval and further action for getting project proposals prepared, securing partners for their operation through DMUs, by following the procedure laid in the policy.

Existing institutional framework and Recommendations for Institutional mechanism for Ecotourism is detailed out in **section 2.8.1**.

7.4.2 Broad details of Destination Management Approach

A well-thought-out **Destination Management Approach** includes the process of taking a wide-angle view of the overall destination in which a balanced vision is developed to ensure promotion of Sustainable tourism along with local stewardship of the environment and culture. This shall lead to development of a conducive and supporting ecosystem for tourism with the Department managing the whole destination to its full potential.

Destination Management Approach is detailed out in **Section 2.8.2**

7.4.3 Broad details of Community involvement and Benefit Sharing Mechanism

For a true conservation-oriented community-based tourism model, the community would need to typically transition from low engagement with conservation and tourism to a very high level of ownership of conservation and tourism issues. This transition may typical involve following 10 stages and each of the stage requires specific response from the forest department.

- Stage 1: Absence of awareness
- Stage 2: Denial or resistance
- Stage 3: Claiming the heritage
- Stage 4: Emergence of representative Community Institutional structure
- Stage 5: Laying the foundation and creating strong bonds
- Stage 6: Initiation of community tourism enterprise
- Stage 7: Gaining of expertise
- Stage 8: Navigating rough patches
- Stage 9: Understanding business models
- Stage 10: High level of community stewardship

Community involvement and Benefit Sharing Mechanism is detailed out in **section 2.8.3**.

7.4.4 Broad details of Capacity Building and Training

Tourism is a specialised business with very specialised requirements. Lack of entry barriers and training has led to declining service standards leading to fall in the destination value. It is of extreme importance that the destination owners/ managers (Forest department) undertake detailed and aggressive capacity building of the various stakeholders. There are several training institutes and initiatives in past that have tried to undertake this activity with little on ground effect in terms of its sustainability. The solution may lie in creating and curating a *Centre of Excellence* having overall responsibility of Ecotourism standardization and training and capacity building and be tasked with the following activities:

1. Forest & Government Officials
2. Destination Management Unit
3. Communities

4. Hospitality & Tourism Training
5. Knowledge management unit around intangible Arts & Craft
6. Enterprise development

Capacity Building and Training aspects are detailed out in **section 2.8.4.**

7.4.5 Broad details of Branding and Promotion

HPECOSOC shall be a common, strong and unique brand that will represent sustainable, experiential and diversified ecotourism of the State - be it incubated by forest department, any other govt department, any NGO or a private entity – as long as they adhere to the principles defined by it. Supported by the beautiful imagery that HP Tourism is known for, the brand needs to have an easy recall and should be able to have its own standalone image in the mind of the prospective tourist.

The brand would be focusing on:

- Responsible tourists who would be educated on how HP ECOSOC products and services are responsible and sustainable besides being high-quality, ethical and beautiful
- Volunteers who want to be part of the change
- Businesses that want to create sustainable and ethical businesses
- Communities that balance conservation and development
- Entrepreneurs that incubate social enterprises
- Developmental organizations who steer this change

Emotive and inspiring messaging built around the brand shall be delivered through traditional media such as advertising on a massive scale as well as the new media such as Digital media and social media and will need to focus on bringing the brand on a top of mind recall status. This shall be supported by PR and influencer programmes as they engage consumers further up the conversion funnel. Influencer and event/film activations will deliver engaging messages through credible third parties to drive greater preference for visiting ecotourism destinations in Himachal Pradesh. A useful new age marketing tool is also the tool to create and promote 'Tourist Community building' through dedicated community platform for future travellers, current travellers, and former travellers.

This community ensures that there are always repeat visits to the State, enhancing the tourist flow into the State. It is also of extreme importance to manage the customer expectations and set behaviour guidelines on Responsible behaviour while visiting 'Eco sensitive destinations' through stringent social media promotion. The State may consider tying up with specialised third-party on the same. This may also engage highly price sensitive tourists who flock the State from the neighbouring States, making them participate in conversations around sustainable and responsible travel, futuristically altering the irresponsible behaviours associated with this tourist segment.

Strengthening the Sales network: A very strong Sales network is needed to promote nature-based tourism that shall include partnering with other public and private sector organisations. A sales channel could be booking of all nature-based properties through a different, exclusive website and an independent booking engine. It is also important to move hand in hand with the industry and collaborate with them (instead of competing), engaging with them and utilising their strength in offering a 360-degree service to all customers. Engaging with online travel aggregators like make my trip, clear trip etc. is another important step in promoting Ecotourism actively and in a more planned and long-term manner to create a more stringent promotion and Sales network.

Branding and Promotion aspects are detailed out in **section 2.8.5.**

7.5 Representative Ecotourism Destinations

Ten Representative Ecotourism Destinations are detailed out in **section 3.2.3. along with Priority Matrix for Destinations.** The Priority matrix is dependent on multiple factors that have an interplay with each other. For the purpose of this study, the consultant team believed it prudent to collate and combine

the parameters more appropriate as per the limited scope of our study, and perception-based information. period and availability of data.

Stakeholder Consultations



8 Stakeholder Consultations

This section highlights the various consultations that have been carried out with different stakeholders encompassing Government officials, industry players and local communities. The consultations have been carried out at different stages of the study.

Although stakeholder consultation has been an on-going process throughout the progress of this project, however, a formal stakeholder consultation workshop was organized at the initial stage. The objective of the workshop was to interact with the industry and government stakeholders to identify key challenges and solutions for ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides this workshop, multiple individual meetings and focussed group discussions were carried out with different stakeholders during the project progress. The detailed list of the stakeholders who have been consulted is present in **Annexure 10.4**.

Stakeholder consultation Workshop

The stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 18th February 2021, with an agenda to identify key challenges and solutions for Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh and to understand the stakeholders' perspective on the way forward for the preparation of Master Plan for Ecotourism Activities in Himachal Pradesh. After showcasing the ecotourism scenario across the globe, at national level, and State level; the policy and legal framework and discussed on other key areas. This was followed by a detailed inputs and suggestions from various participants to define the overall strategy for the way forward.

SN	Name and Designation	Suggestions
1.	Sh. Anil Joshi CCF, Hamirpur	• Mentioned the need for detailed and continuous interaction with private players. He also expressed a need for creating an enabling infrastructure to attract foreign tourist arrivals at the destination such as Great Himalayan National Park
2.	Sh. Jitender Verma Centre for Sustainable Development, Sundernagar, Mandi	• He works on an Ecotourism Project funded by NMHL and have set-up homestays and trained people for the past three years. • He has advocated community-based ecotourism model for better benefit-sharing mechanism. • Major Challenges identified for redressal included Training & capacity building of the local communities, enhance the existing infrastructure and the available capital to up-scale the homestays. • Recommended that the forest areas need up-gradation of trek-trails. • Formation of Paryavaran Vikas Samiti (PVS) to keep local communities abreast with their natural surroundings and its conservation as part of their 'Homestay' experience. • Recommended working with the Tourism department to provide subsidy for up-gradation of home-stays. • Suggested to identify ecotourism areas around lakes to plan adventure activities such as stargazing etc.
3.	Sh. Sarang Shah Consultant, AirBnB	• Vouched homestays as a model for promoting 'Ecotourism', livelihood generation, and equitable benefit sharing mechanism • Homestays are an integral part of ecotourism and align with multiple pillars of your vision They are, as everyone here knows, a sustainable accommodation option. • As part of the Himachal Ecotourism policy, he expressed his belief that the homestays need to be given enough recognition and resolve roadblocks such as extensions on the registration of properties and easier registration processes, to allow people in remote places to register and avail benefits due to the homestays.

SN	Name and Designation	Suggestions
4.	Sh. Anil Sharma CCF, Kullu	- Expressed the challenges that Manali has exceeded the carrying capacity due to unsustainable footfall of tourists. - Recommended for policy regulation on adventure-based tourism in the forest areas, with particular reference to river rafting, paragliding, zip line, etc. He highlighted that the forest department doesn't play a role in the certification of these activities, however, the activities inevitably are carried out on the forest land. As a result, the forest department becomes liable for any lapses and mismanagement of forest premises. - He suggested incorporating regulatory mechanisms for various activities in the Ecotourism Master Plan to enable the forest department to map and optimally allocate area basis the carrying capacity. - Also, certification for activities should be made more specific basis stringent norms to protect the forest while charging an entry fee to generate revenue for the forest department. - Sensitize tourists to discourage widespread littering in and around the forest areas. - He suggested for the development of a Specific Policy framework for the regulation of adventure activities. - He strongly condemned the irresponsible tourists who ill-treat the destination infrastructure and create a nuisance and negative publicity for the destination - He raised his concern for responsible quality tourists who have the spending ability.
5.	Sh. Nishant Mandotra DCF-DFO Chamba	- Proposed for the inclusion of 'religious ecotourism' as part of the Master Plan for Ecotourism under the cultural offering. For instance, Mani Mahesh Shrine, and others. - Determine practically implementable ways to regulate carrying capacity in Chamba with a focus on appropriate water supply, Solid-Waste management, and sewage treatment.
6.	Sh. Swapnil Chaudhari Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action (CEVA)	- Estimate risk in the infrastructure about first-aid, health and hygiene, rescue operation, safety, and security to garner more foreign tourist footfalls. - Ascertain appropriate benefit-sharing mechanism be it PPP, community-driven, or government-driven in a way that part of the revenue is reinvested for biodiversity conservation and sustenance of the local community. - Check intent behind land acquisition for ecotourism/adventure-based tourism infrastructure. - Develop an appropriate solid-waste handling/ management plan. The reduction of solid waste could be the first step in the hilly/mountainous terrains. - Enhance water purification infrastructure - Promotion of local cuisine to give up fillip to the agrobiodiversity and value delivered locally. - Check the provision of the soft loans through NABARD or Tourist Development Schemes. - He highlighted that the desperate need to deal with noise-pollution caused due to mass-tourism, DJs, etc. - He agreed to the inclusion of strategy in the Ecotourism Master Plan for water management, sewage disposal, emergency evacuation especially in light of the current situation to align our policies and infrastructure as per the post-COVID scenario.
7.	Sh. Rajesh Sharma CEO cum CCF Ecotourism	Highlighted the necessity to incorporate cultural tourism as part of Cultural offerings in Ecotourism (For instance, Kullu Dussehra).

SN	Name and Designation	Suggestions
		- Also, consider 'Pilgrimage tourism' as pilgrimages form a major section for the movement of tourists in and around protected areas. - Proposed entry fees mechanism to regulate footfall into the protected areas and channel funds for preservation and development of eco-trails and essential infrastructure.
8.	Sh. Krishan Kumar, DCF WL-Shimla	- Recommended to define the role of the community in detail and layout code of ethics in forest areas - Suggested to conduct periodic safety audits and evaluate the economic viability of the sites - Highlighted the requirement to elaborate PPP mode of engagement for the ecotourism sites and elaborate the eco-circuits for all the sites
9.	Sh. Kanchan Bedi District Deputy, Tourism Director	- Expressed need to define 'Carrying Capacity' for each destination - Acknowledged the fact that the tourism department has been unable to ascertain 'carrying capacity'.
10.	Sh. Rakesh Mathur Founding Member & Honorary President, Responsible Tourism Society of India	- Tourism is a generator of high revenues and a creator of both direct and indirect employment opportunities for the local community. But Tourism is also a high consumption of resources and can negatively impact the Environment if not conducted Responsibly. - We are very happy to partner with the Himachal Pradesh government in developing sustainable, nature-based tourism which shall address carrying capacities, and evenly spread the benefits to local communities across the state, while maintaining its pristine environment
11.	Sh. Jose Dominic CEO, CGH Earth group of Hotels	- He stated that the fact remains that the future of tourism lies in putting Nature first, including and benefiting the local community next, and lastly the tourist. - As per him, the destination that has its priorities in such order will remain always ageless and future-ready. Its prospects will soar as it heads into the future in the new normal that the world will encounter post the Covid.

Individual meetings and focussed group discussions during Visits to the destinations

Ten destinations were visited by the project team to identify the potential sites, understand the local scenario, stakeholders' opinion, community's perception and willingness towards ecotourism and various local aspects for the comprehensive development. The snapshot of the stakeholder discussions is presented below. The detailed destination assessment is presented in the **Annexure 10.3**.

1. Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

- Forest Officials** - CCF Hamirpur, divisional forest officer wildlife, forest guards, maintenance person for forest rest house and forest camp site, Boat operator
- Other government bodies** - Fisheries department, Block development officer, Regional water sports centre at Pong Dam
- Community representatives** - Representatives from Sukhnara and Khatoli village
- Private operators** - Restaurant's owners, promoter of Guler painting, hotel owners, homestay owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Representatives From Nagrota and Homestay owners



Forest Guards Pong Dam and Rencer Island



Private accommodation operators



Pong Dam Boating operator

Pradhan – Khatoli Village & Sukhnara Village, Nagrota Suriann block,

During the stakeholder consultation held on 17th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.

Women led Self-help Groups from Nadhan Village, are working to make various local delicacies like sepun wadiyan, pickles, Amla candy, Giloy powder etc.

Kali das SHG after the 15 days of training at Nagrota Suriann, is working successfully in making bamboo handicrafts which are sold in local markets and also purchased by handicraft stores from Dharamshala.

The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly involved in cultural activities and sometimes cleaning of wildlife sanctuary area. The men from the community are mainly part of various fishing societies. After agriculture, the main source of income is from fishing in Lake of the community in general. They are not part of any ecotourism activity conducted by the wildlife department currently. A few persons from villages have got training as birding guides and for developing and operating homestay. As per the consultation, there is requirement for capacity building through training of the local people for income generation through active participation in eco-tourism activities.



2. Baba Balak Nath, Deostidh

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

Forest officials - CCF Hamirpur, Divisional forest officer, range officer, FG, beat officers

Community Representatives - Baba Balak Nath Temple Trust, Representatives from Chakmoh village, Sarai operator

Private operators - Hotel operators, hohops, and restaurants owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Site visits with Range Officer



Shop owners near Baba Balak Nath



Site visit with forest guards



Visit to way side amenity sites

Pradhan – Chakmoh Village, Barsar block , Bijahi Range

During the stakeholder consultation held on 19th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco- tourism were discussed. It was observed that currently the community is not involved in any kind of ecotourism activity.

Existing SHGs as mentioned earlier are also creating certain products that can be further explored for tourism related activities.

Home stay training: In the month of March – April there has been a 3-day workshop/Training on Home stay at Panchayat Chakmoh organised & financed by HPTDC and conducted by JITCO. It was attended by 21 people. Copy of the certificate is as follows:



The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly involved in cultural activities and sometimes cleaning around Baba Balaknath Cave temple. Agriculture is the main source of income for people from Chakmoh Village. They are not part of any tourism / ecotourism activity conducted either by the tourism department or by the wildlife department. as per the consultation, there is requirement of capacity building.

3. Parashar lake

The meetings were conducted with various stakeholders to understand the local community's perception. These include:

- **Forest Officials** - Divisional forest officer, range officer, FG Kataula,
- **Private Operators** - Sukasar Govt. camp site operator, private camping and trekking service providers, restaurant's owners
- **Community representatives** - Parashar Lake Temple Committee, representatives from Bandi and Sigli Panchayat, Gujjar and Gaddi community

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Tour operators and representative of Panchayat



Tourists and Temple committee members



Gujjar and Gaddi community



Local camping and trekking service providers



Certified Paragliding Experts

Representatives from Bandi Panchayat, Local tour operator, camp site & trekking operators

This discussion was held on 24th August 2021 with the people from the communities, Panchayat Members, people involved in tourism activities near Parashar Lake.

At present the community people are working towards the cleanliness of this temple complex area as well as the trekking trail which receives the majority of the solid waste and littering due to tourism activities. It is collected by temple committee and Yuvak Mandal Community Group from the nearby villages and is burnt. These communities are aware about the ill effect of the tourism on the nature, and it was highlighted by them to not affect the nature of this area for creating livelihood. Need of sustainable tourism was discussed during the consultation.

In discussion with the local operators, it was additionally highlighted by the locals that there is a need of awareness programmes, guide training, homestay training, cooking training for the encouraging local community to participate and earn livelihood through it.



The Sukasar camp site of forest government is being operated by a group of people from nearby community, which is given the responsibility to operate this site for an agreement of 12 years. The operator, which is from a nearby village named Tattha has initiated a few activities by involving the artists from his community to perform folk song and dance on demand of the tourist. This enhances the experience of the tourist by engaging them in cultural aspects.

Discussion with Gujjars and Gaddi: Nomadic

The pressure and impacts of grazing by stay animals were discussed with these communities. They are aware that, this area is under tremendous pressure from grazing by stray animals. The discussion highlighted that, approximately 40% of the grazing and littering is caused by the stray animals, which are left in these areas due to their inability to sustain or to feed these animals in forest areas in season when they are not utilized in agricultural activities.

The impacts were discussed such as animal waste, littering, non-cleanliness due to presence of waste from these stray animals throughout the area. Measures were suggested by the community such as - Regular tagging of the owned animals by Gujjars, monitoring for stray animals, etc.



4. Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary

Various meetings were conducted with different stakeholders to ascertain their perception. These stakeholders are:

- **Forest Officials** - Shikari Devi Deputy Range Officer, Nachan Forest Range Officer, Forest guards
- **Community Representatives** - Janjehli Adventure Tourist Association (JATA), Gujjar and Gaddi community, Representatives from Pakhrair, Bhimkataru and Sukhwara Panchayat, Locals from Janjehli Village, Aprajita SHG, Dr. Sadhna Thakur
- **Government departments** - Agriculture Department, Horticulture department, Block Development Office
- **Private operators** - Private camping and trekking operators, Apple orchid and flower Poly Greenhouse owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Dr. Sadhana Thakur



Representatives from Pakhrair, Bhimkataru Panchayat



Private hotel & homestay operators



Apple grading and packaging unit



Carnis Flower Polyhouse owners

Dr. Sadhana Thakur

The site visit team got the opportunity to briefly meet Dr. Sadhana Thakur (active social worker with focus on women empowerment etc.), on 28th August 2021 at PWD guest house, Thunag. The team discussed about (i) the project and the work being done for Shikari Devi and (ii) her viewpoints on further development of this area for Eco tourism activities.

As per her opinion, the tourism should not hamper the ecology and existing environment. Rather, activities should be planned and proposed in Shikari Devi and vicinity area based on the best practices of eco-tourism case studies from across the world.

Dr. Sadhana, emphasised on inclusion of communities and specially women in the eco-tourism activities and associated aspects. As females in these areas are actively participating in primary and secondary economic sectors. It also came out that there is a need of Agro-processing units in the area, as whole Mandi district is leading in production of vegetables, fruits, pulses, etc.

She discussed the need to promote local culture, cuisine, folklore, Nati (dance form) to the tourist by inclusion of community. For example, local products which may be promoted such as “Lingad Pickle”, “Burash Flower Juice”. The need to connect Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary Area with surrounding touristic areas, villages in vicinity was also discussed.



Panchayat Samiti –Pkhrair, Dhim Kataru,

As per the stakeholder consultation held on 26th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.

Women led Self-help Groups from Pakhrai Panchayat are training and working toward establishment of wellness centre in the village for the tourist.

The local men are forming groups and association for society welfare and tourism activities. They are aware about the environmental pollution due to tourism and other aspects of it. They are working towards cleanliness drive of these tourist areas collectively. A few persons from the village have acquired certificate training in trekking, homestay, and cooking. As per the consultation, their requirement is capacity building through training of the local people for utilization of the knowledge and training in income generation through active participation in eco-tourism activities.

**5. Shojha, Banjar Valley**

Meetings with different stakeholders are:

- **Forest officials** - Shojha Range Officer and Beat Guards, DFO Seraj Division
- **SHGs** - Mahila Mandal, Women Self Help Groups
- **Communities** - Youth Groups of Shojha
- **Private operators** - Guest House Operators, Owner of Banjara Camp Shojha, Travel Agent of Shojha, Homestay Owners,
- **Others** - Himachal Scape – Documenting FRH of Himachal

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation

6. Khirganga

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

- **Forest Officials** – RFO Kasol, Beat Officer, forest guards, maintenance person for forest rest house and forest camp site
- **Community representatives** - Representatives from Barshaini, Tosh, Kalpa village
- **Private operators** - Homestay owners and Self-help group representatives, Taxi operators union

Stakeholder meeting with the locals



- During the stakeholder consultation held on 09th October 2021 at Barshaini village, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.
- The stakeholders seemed very interested in the discussions for their area and were keen on implementing proper sewage collection and disposal process as of now only garbage is collected from Kasol town and is sent to nearby sewage treatment plant or burnt.
- It was a common vote that police check posts must be established at the entrance for Khirganga trek so that tourists can get proper guidance as well as their would-be a counting of the number of people entering the hills to understand the increase in footfall and implement measures to cater the needs.
- Also, it was advised to erect signboards for people to get directions and information about the same. It was a strong opinion that treks should not be allowed after 2 pm as it gets dark by the time trekkers reach the hilltop.
- Taxi operators have formed a union in Kasol for better operations for the tourists although there are no such more groups in the area.

7. Sissu Lake

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit.

Ex Pradhan – Sissu Gram Panchayat, Adventure tour operator, home stay owner



During the stakeholder consultation, community and travel trade held on 12th October' 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism was discussed.

Most of the adventure tour operators mainly deal with high altitude trekking and camping and few of them are involved in arranging activities like ATV rides and Zip lining and boat ride at Sissu Lake.

The women led Self-help groups from Sissu gram Panchayat are working in farming of

Potato, Peas and Cauliflower. Other than that, they spent time in make Pulle (shoe made out of Jute), knitting woollens, Juice and Jams from Sea buck thorn.

Under NRLM scheme young men are trained in the art of traditional Thangka Paintings at Lahaul, which is an effort made by the administration for its revival.

The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly involved in Agriculture – Potato and Pea and sometimes cleaning of village and lake area. The second major occupation of men from the community is tourism (which varies from homestays to adventure activities like zip lining, ATV rides to trekking & camping) and they participate in most of the activities at King Ghepan Temple.

8. Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit.

Local women and men engaged in manual processing of Sea buckthorn



Pradhan, Up Pradhan of the Kaza Panchayat, Local tour operator, camp site & trekking operators and people from Sea buckthorn Society of Kaza



With collective participation of local residents along with support from government and NGOs, people of Spiti valley are now finding more place in planning procedure of schemes of local benefit and becoming more financially empowered. These efforts are also yielding positive gains in promotion of local handicrafts and horticulture products.

The sea buckthorn society of Kaza is doing well, in all efforts of manual processing of these berries and making them ready for further processing in factory plants.

9. Chanshal Pass, Kharshali, Rohru

Discussions with various local stakeholders were carried out.

Site visit DFO, BFO and other forest officials



Source: Site visit

Stake holder consultation community at Larot village with Pradhan and SHG members



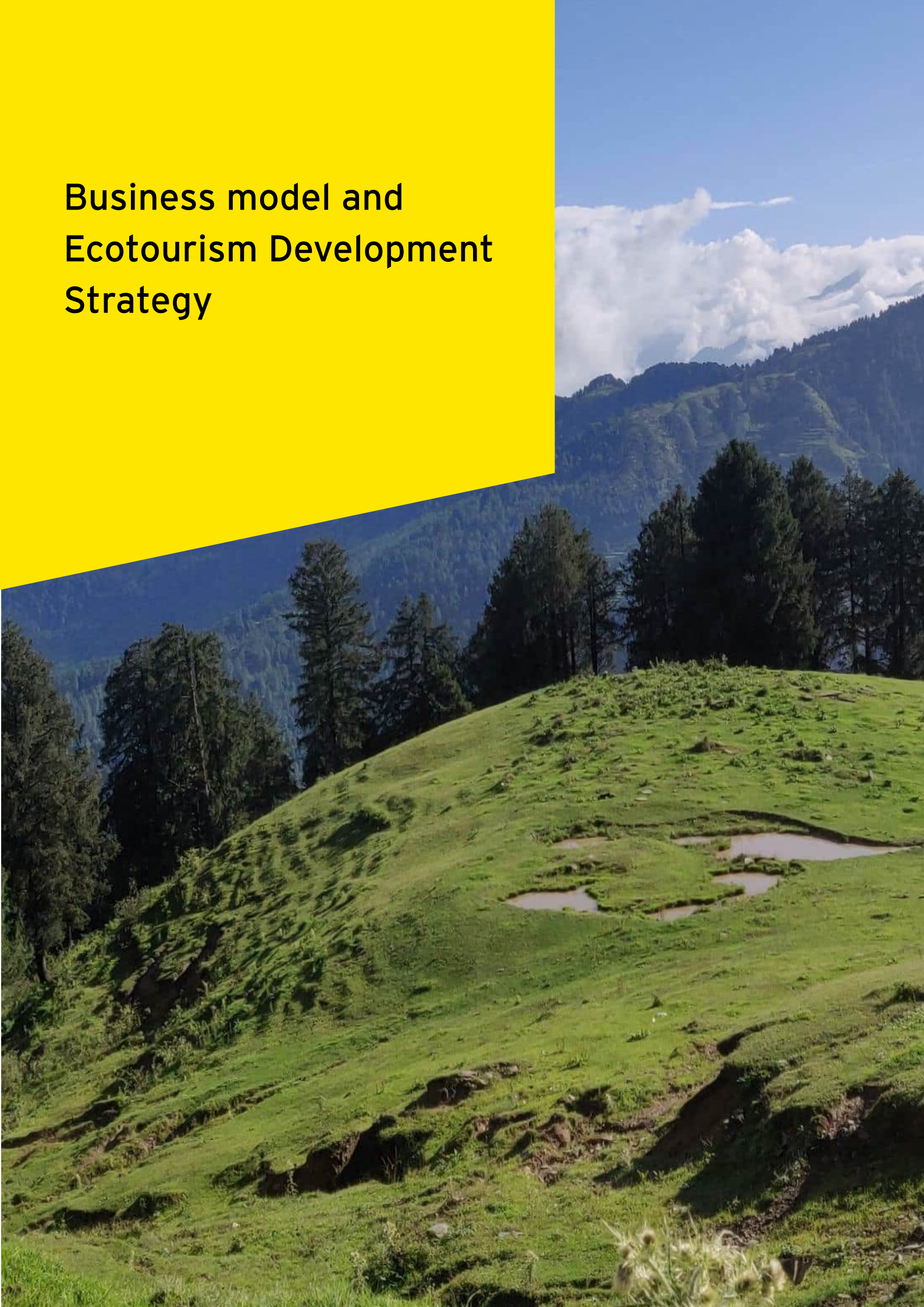
Source: Site visit

10. Chitkul

The main occupation of the people living in Kinnaur region is Agriculture and Horticulture. People are focusing on apple and other cash crops than regular cereals. After agriculture the second most popular occupation in the region is ecotourism. The activities people are generally engaged in ecotourism are Homestays, trekking & Camping. The youth certainly is very keen to be part of the ecotourism but needs training. Capacity building exercise needs to be followed seriously as the quality and the standard of the service are not very high.

In addition to these local level meetings with communities, Forest officials and various State level institutions, meetings were also conducted with various State Departments' officials at their headquarter and at destinations.

Business model and Ecotourism Development Strategy



9 Business model and Ecotourism Development Strategy

9.1 Business model

Various type of potential activities has been identified and proposed at different locations based on the existing land availability, context area, community perception, local officials perspective etc. Based on the existing situation and proposed activities, the sites can be developed through different business models depending upon the ecotourism activities/ products/ offerings proposed. The possible models and high-level potential revenue generation for few of the case has been estimated. It may be noted that all such activities would require, both capital and operational expenditure, which will be borne by the respective stakeholder. Some of the cases for assessing the potential revenue and possible model is given as under:

Site 1: Chahal, Katagra, Kasol

Proposed activities/ products include:

- Nature park (Nature trails) – Improve the trail, add signages, information boards
- Tree house/ Tent / camp sites with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 18 to 20 camps)
- Adventure Activity – Zipline and River crossing across the river

Business Model – The context area of the site already has many homestays and hence tourist footfall has been witnessed in the past. Based on this context, this site can be developed on PPP/ developmental mode with the involvement of local community for various services provision.

Revenue Projection – Considering the context and proposed activities, approximately total of INR 2.2 cr. revenue per year will be generated. However, it is to be noticed that a lot of investment will be borne by the department or private player in capital investment as well day to day operations like operation of basic services, manpower, food and beverages etc.

Assumptions –

Camping – 20 camps; Rent/ night = INR 4,000 (inclusive of three meals), Occupancy – 70% across the year.

Considering the terrain, climate and other constraints, we are assuming that the facilities will be operational for 70% of the days in a year.

Adventure activity (Zipline and River crossing) – INR 300 charges per person, assuming 40 people per day with 50% occupancy over the year, and assuming only 50% of the people coming to camp will actually do these adventure activities.

Site 2: Rancer island near Pong Dam

Proposed activities/ products include:

- Bird watch towers for Birdwatching
- Spots for Angling/ shops providing basic infrastructure for Angling
- Nature trails during daytime – signages, information boards
- Interpretation centre – highlighting the importance of the entire Wildlife sanctuary

Business Model –

The context area of the site already has witnessed tourist footfall in the past due to the dam, bird watching activities, boating etc. But being a highly sensitive area to the flora and fauna, and the safety measures, this site can be developed in department mode with the support and involvement of local community for various services provision based on approval with the department.

Revenue Projection – Considering the context and proposed activities, approximately total of INR 44 Lakhs revenue per year will be generated.

Assumptions – INR 500 per person, assuming 70 people per day over the year (with 70% occupancy throughout the year), and assuming only 50% of the people coming to pong dam will actually do these activities such as bird watching, boating, nature trail. Considering the terrain, climate and other constraints, we are assuming that the facilities will be operational for 70% of the days in a year.

Site 3: Bindravan, Khirganga

Proposed activities/ products include:

- Camping extension of existing Kheerganga trek camps in a more streamlined manner followed by fee revision to generate revenues
- Adventure activities - Paragliding, Mountain Climbing and Hiking, Bungee Jumping

Business Model – The context area of the site already has many camps and small eateries and hence tourist footfall has been witnessed in the past. Based on this context, this site can be developed on Community Based Eco-Tourism Model with the involvement of local community for various services provision.

Revenue Projection – Considering the context and proposed activities, approximately total of INR 2.30 cr. revenue per year will be generated. However, it is to be noticed that a lot of amount will be borne by the department or private player in capital investment as well day to day operations like operation of basic services, manpower, food and beverages etc.

Assumptions –

- Camping – 20 camps; Rent/ night = INR 4,000 (inclusive of three meals), Occupancy – 70% across the year. Considering the terrain, climate and other constraints, we are assuming tht the facilities will be operational for 70% of the days in a year.
- Adventure activity (Paragliding, Mountain Climbing and Hiking, Bungee Jumping) – INR 300 - 500 charges per person, assuming 40 people per day with 70% occupancy over the year, and assuming only 50% of the people coming to camp will actually do these adventure activities.

Site 4: Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple

Ecotourism Infrastructure Development

- Nature park/ Medicinal plant garden – add information signages/ boards, benches for tourists/ devotees, walking trail
- Can be used for tent/ camp sites for devotees/ tourists with septic tanks – across different small pockets (approximately 5 to 8 camps)

Proposal for community Involvement

- Involvement in maintenance of nature park and medicinal plants, other infrastructure created within the park
- Training for managing camps

Business Model – This area has full-grown trees and flower and medicinal plants. In celebration of Golden Jubilee (50th year) of Himachal Pradesh Statehood, ornamental plants were planted at this site. As per discussion with local officials, the forest department wants to develop a trail as part of recreational development, wants to install garden benches, provide facility for drinking water, install solar lights etc. to further enhance the experience for the visitor.

Based on this context, this site can be developed on Department Mode with the involvement of local community for various services provision based on approval from the department.

Revenue Projection – Considering the context and proposed activities, approximately total of INR Approximately 21 Lakh revenue per year will be generated. However, it is to be noticed that some amount will be gone by the department in capital investment as well.

Assumptions –

- Camping – 8 camps; Rent/ night = INR 1000 (inclusive of three meals), Occupancy – 70% across the year. Considering the terrain, climate and other constraints, we are assuming tht the facilities will be operational for 70% of the days in a year.
- Nature Park/ Medicinal plant garden fee – INR 15 charges per person, assuming 15 people per day with 50% occupancy over the year.

Potential business model for the ecotourism sites visited by the team

Multiple aspects and reasons (e.g. (i) involvement of community and existing community led groups in exiting activities, (ii) willingness by the community groups, (iii) environmentally sensitive area to flora and fauna, (iv) requires interventions and control by the forest department, (v) private entities are willing to involve in Eco-tourism activities, etc.) has been considered to identify the potential business model. In similar lines, the potential business model can be identified for other sites by the site-specific forest officials.

The following exhibit presents the matrix highlighting the framework for identifying the potential business model for ecotourism sites.

If, i and/ or ii are prevailing then the potential business model for the site can be considered as 'Community based eco-tourism model';

If, iii and/ or iv are prevailing then the potential business model for the site can be considered as 'Department mode'

If, v is prevailing then the potential business model for the site can be considered as 'PPP mode'

Exhibit 9.1: Framework for identifying potential business model

	Involvement of community and existing community led groups in existing activities	Willingness by the community groups	Environmentally sensitive area to flora and fauna	Requires interventions and control by the forest department	Private entities are willing to involve in Eco-tourism activities	Potential model
	i	ii	iii	iv	v	
Site 1						
Site 2						

Exhibit 9.2: List of location of potential ecotourism sites with potential business model (visited by the team)

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name	Potential business model
1	Kullu	Parvati	Chalal, Khatagra, Kasol	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
2	Kullu	Parvati	Somaropa	PPP Mode
3	Kullu	Parvati	Bindravan, Khirganga	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
4	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu	PPP Mode
5	Kullu	Banjar	Shoja	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
5	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple	Department Mode

SN	Circle	Division	Site Name	Potential business model
6	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Vacant land of FRH Chamokh	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
7	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Fire station viewpoint near Baba Balak Nath temple	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
8	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Nav Grah vatika near Baba Balak Nath Temple	Department Mode
9	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Scenic viewpoint	Department Mode
10	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Bamboo plantation near Pong Dam	Department Mode
11	Hamirpur Wildlife	Hamirpur Wildlife	Rancer island	Department Mode
12	Rampur	Kinnaur	Roghi, kalpa	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
13	Rampur	Kinnaur	Akpa, Moorang	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
14	Rampur	Kinnaur	Kashmir, Sangla	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
15	Rampur	Kinnaur	Nako Interpretation Centre	Department Mode
16	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Bridge Chitkul	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
17	Shimla WL South	Sarahan WL	Near Post Chitkul	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
18	Rampur	Kinnaur	Near Nichar, Sungra Village	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
19	Rampur	Kinnaur	Pooh	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
20	Rampur	Kinnaur	Yula village	Department Mode / Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
21	Shimla	Rohru	Dungri Thatch camping site	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
22	Shimla	Rohru	Dwach camping site	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
23	Shimla	Rohru	Eco cultural site, Kharshali	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
24	Shimla	Rohru	Giri Ganga 1	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
25	Shimla	Rohru	Larot camping site 1	Community Based Eco-Tourism Model
26	Kibber	Kibber WLS	Chandratal Lake Site 1 and Site 2	PPP Mode/ Community Based Eco-Tourism Model

9.2 Broad details of Ecotourism Development Strategy

The vision of the 'Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy – 2017' is to, *'Preserve and protect the natural (both flora and fauna) and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh, provide opportunities to enhance livelihood of local people, generate resources for sustainable development and promote greater understanding and appreciation for this heritage through authentic eco-tourism initiatives.'*

Over the decades there has been a considerable increase in visitations to forests/ natural area in the State. To align with the vision under the State policy, it is essential to follow the principles of Sustainable and responsible tourism with 'economic', 'social' and 'environmental' strategies for the State.

The Master Plan looks at Ecotourism in the state in a holistic manner, with a broad objective undertaking Sustainable Ecotourism. The strategic approach to achieving this incorporates working on the following multi-pronged approach in a long-term manner.

Strategic approach

The Master Plan envisages a well-planned, long-term approach. This approach is visualized to be multi-pronged - with equally important pillars, existing and functioning simultaneously.

1. Mainstreaming Ecotourism through institutional mechanism
2. Destination management approach

3. Community benefit at the heart of the strategy
4. Capacity Building and Training
5. Branding, Marketing and Certification
6. Technology interventions

The recommendations have been explained under each strategy in **Section 7.4** with short, mid, and long-term strategies.

9.3 Broad details of technology-based strategies

To improve tourists experiences globally and nationally, tourism sector is witnessing interventions in technology space. State shall focus on following technology interventions to implement these eco-tourism activities, improve the experiences and promote eco-tourism for attracting tourists.

- Creating attractive social media handles, websites wherein there is continuous promotional activities to attract tourists and providing full information.
- Centralised portal for registering various providers of different eco-tourism activities such as accommodation/ camping agencies and guides/ trekking/ adventure agencies. This will help in standardised and revenue generation and having all the details at the State headquarter.
- Creating centralised portal for booking of camps and trekking/ hiking trips and other eco-tourism activities by tourist. This will provide a safe environment to the tourist without any miscommunication.
- To create Management information system (MIS) at the State headquarter for monitoring the implementation and the standards of the services. A team shall keep the monthly record of the progress and keep updating the MIS to see the near to real-time status of the various activities across the State.

10-year strategy for technology-based development is detailed out in **section 2.9.6**.

9.4 Identified Ecotourism best practices

As discussed in the previous section, there has been a progressive shift in legal and policy framework governing tourism that has led to inclusion of 'sustainability' as a core element of tourism development thus with higher emphasis on ecotourism and that is evident with the launch of MoEFCC's 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021'.

In this section, a few international, national and local (Himachal Pradesh) including examples of similar bio-geographical level ecotourism best practices have been captured to understand their key elements, challenges faced if any and the resolution to those challenges, key outcomes and the learnings for ecotourism development.

The best practices presented over here address different aspects such as community-based ecotourism, community participation, eco-development, use of organic and local material, building upon local crafts, culture and arts etc. that can be important learnings for the State.

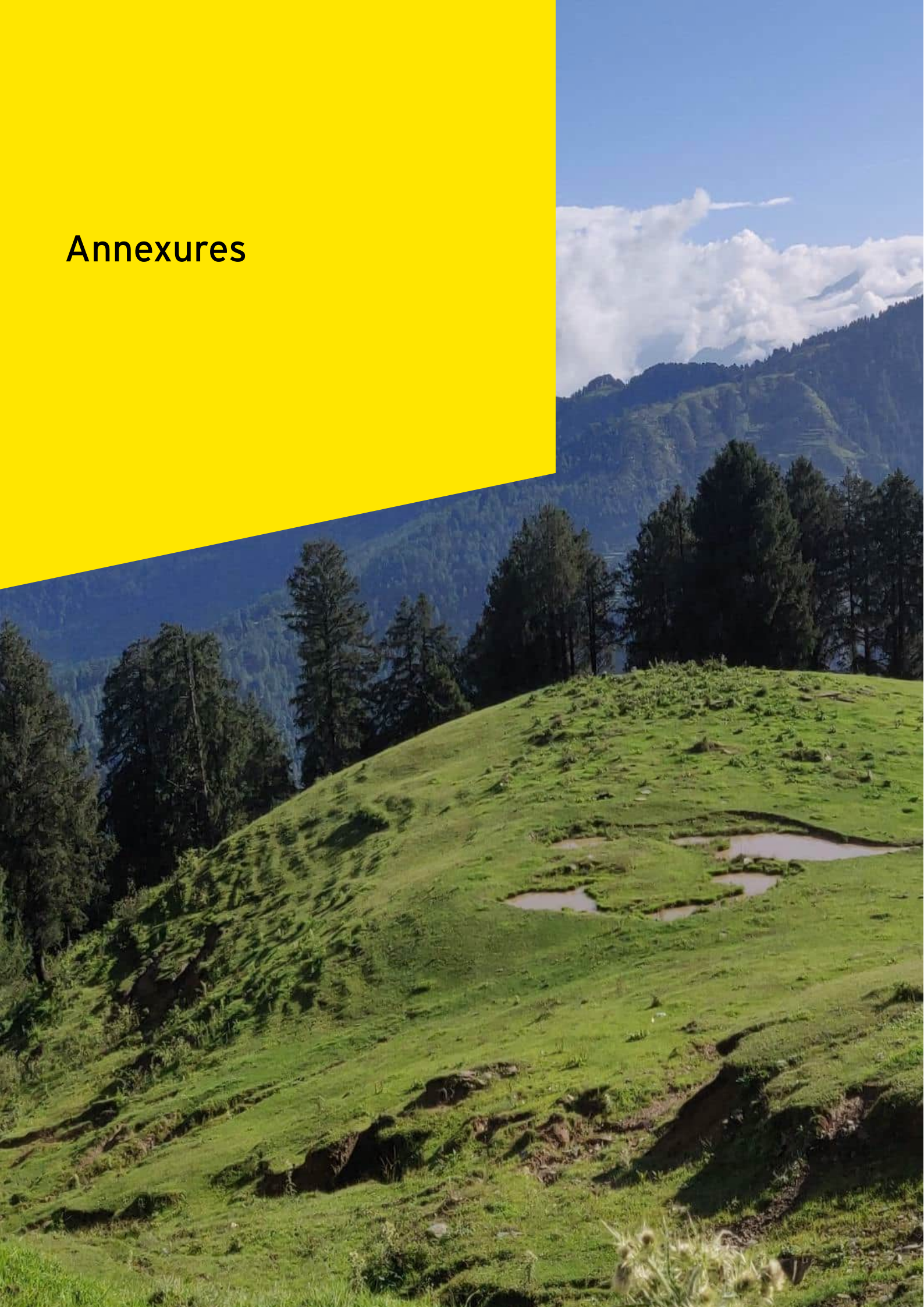
These best practices are:

Exhibit 9.3: List of Best Practice with their focus areas

SN	Best Practice
1	Green Supply Chains, Ljubljana, Slovenia
2	Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Mopti, Mali
3	Eco-Village, Las Terrazas Complex, Cuba
4	Crosswaters Ecolodge, Guangzhou, China
5	Maati: A Women Collective Case Study
6	Global Himalayan Expedition
7	Ecosphere, Spiti

8	Pangi Hills (CEVA)
9	Biodiversity Community & Tourism Advancement (BTCA) – Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP)
10	SRISHTI Cooperative Limited (Surya-Abha Regional Interdependence and Sustainable Himalayan Tourism Initiative)
11	She HAAT Concept
12	Heritage village – Har Gaon ki Kahani

Annexures



10 Annexure

10 Annexure	384
10.1 Annexure: National level legal framework	384
10.2 Annexure: National level policy framework.....	388
10.3 Annexure: As-is assessment of shortlisted Destinations for Visits and stakeholder consultations	393
10.3.1 Pong dam Wildlife Sanctuary	394
10.3.2 Baba Balak Nath, Deotsidh	416
10.3.3 Parashar lake demarcated Protected Forest.....	429
10.3.4 Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary	448
10.3.5 Shoja, Banjar Valley.....	472
10.3.6 Khirganga	481
10.3.7 Sissu lake, Sissu.....	503
10.3.8 Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	524
10.3.9 Chanshal Pass, Kharshali, Rohru	553
10.3.10 Chitkul	574
10.4 Annexure: List of overall potential ecotourism sites.....	592
10.5 Annexure: Stakeholder meetings	597

10 Annexure

10.1 Annexure: National level legal framework

The practice of ecotourism is governed by the forest, wildlife and environmental laws of the country and any local laws/rules that may be relevant. Important features of these laws relevant to ecotourism are underlined below:

Indian Forest Act, 1927

As per section 26 of this Act, entry into a reserve forest without the permission of a forest officer is considered trespass. Therefore, the state has to frame rules to issue permits to the visitors to an ecotourism area.

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

As most of ecotourism generally happens in protected areas (PAs) notified under this Act, the day to day conduct of operations is generally done as per the rules made under this Act. Section 28 of this Act empowers the Chief Wild Life Warden of the state to permit people to enter or reside in a PA for the purpose of tourism and photography, among other things. However, the law does not allow the “construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks” inside PAs, including tiger reserves, “except with the prior approval of the National Board” (section 33). Therefore, any development that fits the definition of these items needs the prior permission of the National Board. Construction work within PAs is also restricted by the orders of the Supreme Court in IA 548 (WP 202/1995, TN Godavarman Vs UoI & Ors.) dated 25.11.2005 provides that the prior approval of the Supreme Court is required for all operations except out “*conservation and protection related activities for the better management of the protected areas*” such as ‘*removal of weeds, clearing and burning of vegetation for fire lines, maintenance of fair weather roads, habitat improvement, digging temporary water holes, construction of antipoaching camps, chowkies, check posts, entry barriers, water towers, small civic works, research and monitoring activities etc.*”

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA)

FCA provides, along with other ancillary matters, that no state government or authority can order the dereservation of a reserve forest, or the use of a forest land for non-forest purpose or assigning of a forest land, by way of lease or otherwise, to a non-government entity without the prior approval of the Government of India (Government of India) (section 2). Government of India has determined that “Ecotourism is a non-forest activity requiring prior approval under the FC Act”¹ with respect to this law. This means prior Government of India approval is required before allowing people to visit a forest land for the purpose of recreation (ecotourism). This stance of Government of India does not seem to be in conformity with the definition of “non-forest” purpose given in the Act. As per the Act, “non-forest purpose” means the “breaking up or clearing of any forest land” for any purpose other than reforestation, but does not include “any work relating or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife” (section 2, Explanation). Therefore, if no new infrastructure is created on the forest land for the purpose of ecotourism and only existing roads, trails and buildings are used, ecotourism would not qualify to be a non-forest activity. The state government may request Government of India to re-examine the issue and issue more detailed guidelines on the subject in view of the universal acceptance of ecotourism as a conservation tool. As Government of India has never objected to wildlife tourism in PAs across the country, it indicates that it would not be difficult for them to reconsider its position on the issue.

The law also provides, as mentioned above, that if an activity is ancillary to the conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife, it can be permitted without the prior approval of

¹ MoEF&CC 2019. Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, Guidelines and Clarifications. Part B, Chapter I, para 1.18 (iv), page 41.

Government of India, even if it involves breaking up or clearing of a forest land. An ancillary activity means something supportive of the principal activity or function of an organisation. In this case that activity is conservation of forests and wildlife. Ecotourism in its pure form certainly deserves to be classified as ancillary to conservation as it makes conservation easier and financially productive. As Government of India does not object to traditional ecotourism operations, it clearly indicates that it subscribes to this view. But its formal stance does not reflect this reality. Therefore, it is important for the Centre and the states to work together to develop a clear stance on ecotourism *vis a vis* FCA. In fact, this position is already under review as the ministry itself has issued a draft ecotourism policy for the country. It is just a matter of expediting the matter. As for now, ecotourism in any form is a non-forest activity and cannot be allowed in forest lands without the prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Even if Government of India changes its position on ecotourism being a non-forest activity, FCA will affect ecotourism in another way. It forbids the assigning of forest lands to any private entity. An ecotourism operation would typically consist of two components, namely, residential accommodation and activity area (e.g., trekking trail, skiing area etc.). The entity running the accommodation unit generally has the right to send its clients into the activity area. This means the state government has to assign forest lands to these entities (communities or private operators) for running their operations, although a formal lease deed may not be signed. Technically speaking, this requires Government of India approval.

However, no state seeks Government of India approval for ecotourism, especially for community-based operations, unless it plans serious construction activity on forest lands. Thus, the states are not only allowing a non-forest activity in the forests, they also assign forest lands to entities “not owned, managed or controlled by Government” without Government of India approval. Even if ecotourism operations are run by joint forest management committees or ecodevelopment committees constituted under state programmes, they are in no way “owned, managed or controlled by Government”. Tolerance of this situation indicates a clear dichotomy in the declared and real position of Government of India on the issue. Therefore, it is critically important for Government of India and the States to work together to ensure that the ecotourism operations are on firm legal footing *vis a vis* FCA. In short, Government of India needs to pronounce a more nuanced approach to ecotourism, clearly stating what kind of ecotourism requires prior approval. And how forest lands can be assigned to communities or ecotourism businesses. Otherwise, all ecotourism may come to a sudden halt if someone takes the governments to court for not complying with FCA.

Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)

FRA has vested all conceivable rights for the sustainable use of forest lands in local communities. It includes the right to claim “community forest resource” (CFR) which means “customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village or seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoral communities, including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as Sanctuaries and National Parks to which the community had traditional access” {section 2 (a)}. Section 3 (1) (i) provides that the communities have the “rights to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use”. The guidelines² issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India, state that “The State Government should ensure that the forest rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the Act relating to protection, regeneration or conservation or management of any community forest resource, --- are recognized in all villages---”. Thus, vast areas of forest land are ultimately likely to come under community management. Potentially 35% of state forests qualify to become CFR³ in the long run. As only communities have the sole right to manage these forests, ecotourism operations can also be run only by them. In fact, promotion of ecotourism is perhaps the most important management

² MoTA 2014. Forest Rights Act 2006, Rules and Guidelines. Guidelines on the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

³ Pabla H.S. 2020. Laws At War (Wildlife Conservation in India). Book (POD).

strategy for CFRs as this can ensure that the communities do not devastate these forests in pursuit of quick gains. If ecotourism provides sustainable, perhaps growing, incomes to the community members, they would be hesitant to overexploit biological resources to sustain themselves.

As the existing PAs, where ecotourism is already in vogue, can also become CFR, it will be necessary for the authorities to demonstrate the value of ecotourism to the well-being of the communities in order to continue it. If ecotourism does not look lucrative enough, there is the danger of the communities looking for alternative management approaches that promise higher returns. This may have disastrous ecological consequences as the communities are not bound to keep PAs as wildlife reserves.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA)

This is an overarching law to control environmental pollution and empowers the authorities to impose restrictions to safeguard the environment. Section 3 (v) of the Act provides that the Central Government may designate “areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards”. Rule 5 (viii) of the Environmental (Protection) Rules, 1986 provides that one consideration for notifying such restricted areas can be their proximity to PAs notified under WLPA.

The Supreme Court has ordered that a 10 km wide belt around all PAs shall be the default eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) unless the government notifies a site-specific ESZ. As per information provided to the Parliament in 2019, ESZs around 319 PAs have been notified across the country while the process is on for the rest. The notification of ESZ around a PA obliges the state government to prepare a zonal master plan (ZMP) for the ESA specifying the activities which shall be prohibited or regulated in the ESZ. The ZMP also includes an Ecotourism Master Plan for the area to regulate ecotourism infrastructure and activities. For example, the draft ESZ notification dated 25 January 2016 for Great Himalayan National Park⁴ proposes to regulate ecotourism in the ESZ as follows:

*“(3) **Tourism.** - (a) The activity relating to tourism within the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be as per Tourism Master Plan, which shall form part of the Zonal Master Plan;*

(b) The Tourism Master Plan shall be prepared by the Department of Tourism, in consultation with the Department of Forests and Environment of the State Government;

(c) The activity of tourism shall be regulated as under, namely: -

(i) all new tourism activities or expansion of existing tourism activities within the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change with emphasis on Ecotourism, eco-education and eco-development and based on carrying capacity study of the Eco-sensitive Zone;

(ii) new construction of hotels and resorts shall not be permitted within one kilometre from the boundary of the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area which covers Great Himalayan National Park, Khirganga National Park, Sainj Sanctuary and Tirthan Sanctuary except for accommodation for temporary occupation of tourists related to Eco-friendly tourism activities: Provided that beyond the distance of one kilometre from the boundary of the protected area till the extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone, the establishment of new hotels and resorts shall be permitted only in pre-defined and designated areas for Ecotourism facilities as per Tourism Master Plan.

(iii) till the Zonal Master Plan is approved, development for tourism and expansion of existing tourism activities shall be permitted by the concerned regulatory authorities based on the actual site-specific scrutiny and recommendation of the Monitoring Committee.”

⁴ MoEF&CC Notification dated the 25 July 2016, S.O. 2628 (E). THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 3 (ii)]

Similar provisions are likely to be made in the ESZ notifications of other PAs. Although these provisions may be modified to some extent in the final notification, on the basis of public feedback, the broad picture is likely to remain almost the same.

It can be seen that the notification primarily intends to restrict the location of new hotels and resorts about a kilometre away from the boundary of the PA, (apart from whatever additional regulations may be provided in the Tourism Master Plan). This may create problems for communities situated closer to or within PAs if their accommodation also qualifies to be called a “hotel or resort”. This can especially be a problem for commercial ecotourism companies who would have to locate their lodges within the areas of the communities (even village boundaries) on whose forest land (CFR or otherwise) they will operate. In fact, the best ecotourism models across the world are where operations, including lodges, are run by professionals on behalf of the communities who own the lands. As ecotourism is the future of conservation, the state must ensure that the ESZ notification does not come in the way of its sustainable growth. This can perhaps be achieved by specifying what kind of lodges are welcome closer to the boundaries of the PAs (or on non-forest lands within PAs) and how they will have to run their operations in relation to environmental pollution, garbage disposal, use of water, firewood renewable energy etc. The state government may consider acting accordingly while preparing the final notification and preparing the tourist master plan.

10.2 Annexure: National level policy framework

Annexure-I

Ecotourism Policy and Guidelines 1998

Although this document, issued by the MoT, perhaps never went beyond the draft stage, it was perhaps for the first time that the word “ecotourism” was used in an official policy document of the country. “The policy defines and hence approaches ET (ecotourism) with a clear conservation bias. It lays out cardinal principles suggesting the importance of involvement of local communities, minimizing the conflicts between livelihoods and tourism, environmental and socio-cultural carrying capacities. It also perceives that ET should be part of integrated development of the area. It emphasizes the role of careful planning in infrastructure development and a detailed benefit cost analysis prior to implementation. It talks about standards, continuous monitoring and codes of conduct for visitors.”⁵ Although almost forgotten, this document seems to be an ideal foundation to build a modern policy framework on ecotourism by incorporating later learnings and experiences.

National Ecotourism Policy 2018

The National Ecotourism Policy 2018 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) seems an indication that the government is ready to embrace ecotourism as a conservation tool. The goal of the policy is stated as “Promoting better understanding’ of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities.” The policy intends to support the adoption of “low impact nature tourism”, “enriching local economy” and the establishment of “partnerships with all stakeholders”. It proposes to make ecotourism plans and ecotourism zones a part of the forest working/management plans. It stresses on community participation and low-profile, eco-friendly infrastructure. The strategies proposed to achieve the goal of the policy include the imposition of carrying capacity limits, capacity building, a revenue sharing mechanism, monitoring mechanisms, education and interpretation, and, interface with district administration in the form of local level committees. The policy also suggests the constitution of state level ecotourism boards to spearhead the implementation of the policy. The policy is directed to the Chief Wildlife Warden to ensure its implementation in the wildlife and protected areas.

On the other hand, the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) deferred its decision to implement guidelines on ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas and to rationalize boundaries of protected areas at its meeting held in March 2021 after its members raised concerns about them suggesting implementation of policy after in-depth field studies, according to minutes of the meet published in May 2021.

The policy has also provided an example of how the tourism carrying capacity of a site is to be calculated. The model calculations given in the policy are based on the adaptation of Ceballos-Lascurain (1992)⁶ methodology developed for regulating traffic density on nature trails in Mexico. Although the example demonstrates the calculation of the carrying capacity of safari vehicles in a tiger reserve, the method is more suited for managing nature trails with free-flowing traffic and can be adopted by Indian states.

Interestingly, the policy document has not been formally adopted by the government. It simply says that the policy has been prepared by the ministry and the states/UTs “may take further necessary action” in this regard putting onus on the state government to promulgate the policy without coherent framework.

The ecotourism operational guidelines also suffer from several drawbacks. Notable among them are:

⁵ Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). Center for Conservation Governance and Policy. White Paper on Ecotourism Policy (Draft)

⁶ Ceballos-Lascurain Hector 1992-Tourism, ecotourism, and protected areas. the state of nature-based tourism around the world and guidelines for its development. IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

- The most important cross sectoral impacts of ecotourism and their inseparable linkages to local ecological/environmental, economic cultural and institutional dimensions are nowhere recognized and described.
- There is a dilution of the regulations by allowing the conventional cost-benefit analysis that often ignores intangible costs/benefits of degradation/conservation, and the corrupt bureaucracy use it as a ploy to promote mass tourism under the guise of ecotourism in ecologically sensitive areas.
- The national ecotourism policy has not suggested any quantifiable indicators to monitor activities. The guidelines for monitoring the environmental impacts are woefully inadequate. Socio-cultural impacts so far remain largely neglected. The obvious links between monitoring and regulations or incentives/disincentives are not recognized.
- Ecotourism is supposed to promote non-motorized transportation (battery operated or solar PV vehicles, cycle, horse/elephant/camel/mule riding to reduce air/noise pollution) must be encouraged in wildlife rich areas.

The above review shows that the country has begun to realize the value of ecotourism in the conservation of natural resources but is hesitant to embrace it wholeheartedly. National Tourism Policy naturally emphasizes the need to deploy our natural heritage for the promotion of tourism in the country. National Wildlife Action Plan and National Working Plan Code also recognize the value of ecotourism to conservation and community well-being. This is also reflected in the upcoming policy documents of MoEF&CC on forest management, namely, the National Forest Policy and National Ecotourism Policy. However, our imagination on the subject seems to be constrained by catch phrases and clichés such as ecotourism zones, community participation, carrying capacity, rather than being supported by the global conviction that embracing ecotourism can transform conservation of forests and wildlife, and also the economy.

While we have almost negligible visitation levels even in our best visited parks, compared to global levels, most of the reigning and upcoming policy documents focus more on curbing and controlling ecotourism rather than realizing its full potential sustainably. Even the upcoming policy documents do not follow the global template of thinly spread, diversified, low impact tourism managed by professionals in partnerships with local communities. Our focus is merely on community management of operations rather than on community benefits. We are unable to shed the feeling that ecotourism is an encumbrance and a necessary evil rather than being a conservation tool. Even those policy documents which eulogise the virtues of ecotourism, such as the NTCA guidelines, only end up putting shackles on it. Perhaps we need more time to catch up with the rest of the world.

National Tourism Policy 2002

This is the instrument that rules the development of ecotourism in the country today. Ecotourism or the theme of ecotourism finds significant mention in this policy. For instance:

In the basic principles of the policy, principle VI states as follows:

“Greater emphasis should be laid on Ecotourism whose parameters should be broader than those of nature tourism alone. It must help in eliminating poverty, in ending unemployment, in creating new skills, in enhancing the status of woman, in preserving cultural heritage, in encouraging tribal and local crafts and in improving overall environment and facilitating growth of a more just and fair social order.”

In the list of Key Objectives of the policy, objective 3.4 (Improving and Expanding Product Development), deals with wildlife tourism, ecotourism and other related themes. Apart from emphasizing the need to develop “beach and coastal tourism”, “village tourism” “traditional cuisines” and “adventure tourism” etc. in specific locations and states, the policy describes its emphasis on ecotourism related themes as follows:

“India has some of the greatest variety of fauna in the world that has perhaps not been exploited to its full potential for tourism. In this context, the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks need to be integrated as an integral part of the India tourism product, and priority needs to be given to the preparation of site and visitor management plans for key parks, after a prioritization of parks. ----- The quality of tourist

facilities available at the parks should be enhanced, in particular, improve visitor information/interpretation centres, and the tiger and the elephant should be the 'brands' in Indian wildlife tourism;"

"India is a region of the world's greatest bio-diversity, with a variety of unique natural locales, and is therefore, a perfect candidate for Ecotourism. In this context, Ecotourism should be made a priority tourism product for India ----- . Tour operators need to be encouraged to promote Ecotourism, which should also be made grassroots, community-based movement, through awareness, education and training of the local community as guides and interpreters;"

Thus, it is clear from the above extracts from the tourism policy of the country that development of ecotourism is an important part of India's growth ambition in the sector. Perhaps the reason why India does not find itself where this policy intended to take the country, despite nearly two decades of hard work, is the disconnect between the ministries of tourism and forests. Shortly after MoT brought out this policy to encourage visitation to natural areas, the MoEF&CC, through NTCA, since 2006, started sending out directions to the states to "phase out" tourism from the few well-visited forests i.e., tiger reserves. The same situation prevails even today as the draft National Ecotourism Policy (2018), under discussion in the MoEF&CC till today, is more about curbing ecotourism and less about promoting visitation.

Guidelines on Ecotourism in Forest & Wildlife Areas

The Guidelines on Sustainable Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021 lays the framework for practicing and promoting sustainable ecotourism by maximising outputs that support nature and natural resources in their original forms while minimising any negative externalities arising out of interactions between people and nature.⁷

The guidelines recognise that besides the popular sites located in Protected Areas, which presently number over 900 across the country, many potential ecotourism sites are located in public, community and private forests outside the Protected Areas as well. These guidelines shall be applicable to ecotourism sites falling in all forest and wildlife areas irrespective of the ownership of the land.

These guidelines are aimed at promoting better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner. The objectives of these guidelines include promotion of low impact nature-based tourism, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness, engagement of local communities in nature tourism partnerships amongst various stakeholders and finally enhancing India is potential as a global ecotourism destination.

National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)

Chapter 10 of this important policy document is entitled as "Management of Tourism in Wildlife Areas". After giving a brief "Overview and Objectives", it lists the required actions and goes down to describing the "Priority Projects" related to tourism management that shall be undertaken during the plan period. The reigning theme of the action plan is expressed in its opening paragraph where it says that, *"Eco-friendly and regulated wildlife-based tourism (also referred to as Ecotourism) has the potential to be a vital conservation tool ----- . However, in recent years mushrooming of tourism facilities has led to overuse, disturbance and serious management problems in a number of PAs."* Then the document goes on to underline the need for regulation, impact monitoring, dispersal of tourism to newer areas, community involvement etc. and lists all the actions required to achieve these objectives. It reflects a balanced approach to ecotourism as a part of wildlife management and should go a long way in promoting ecotourism in the country. However, it stops short of saying that tourism should be one of the outcomes of wildlife management and efforts should be made to optimize the gains in the forms of jobs and incomes generated by sustainable tourism. If the document had also recommended the

⁷ http://forestsclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Order_and_Release/Agenda/711212412161FinalAgenda.pdf

decongestion of important PAs by enlarging the tourism zones, along with dispersal to virgin forests (tourism wise), it would have been a perfect recipe for growth.

National Working Plan Code 2014

The National Forest Policy 1988 provides that no forest shall be managed (worked) without a working plan. As per the orders of the Supreme Court of India in the famous Godavarman case, all forest working plans are approved by the Government of India. Working plans are prepared by experienced forest officers in accordance with a national framework and process prescribed in the National Working Plan Code which was last updated in 2014. The working plan code provides for making provision for ecotourism in forest lands through the working plans, removing all confusion about its legitimacy as a forestry activity. The process of making working plans refers to ecotourism at all stages as illustrated below:

- The Objectives of forest management planning include “enhancement of ecosystem services including ecotourism” (para 6).
- “Forest data to be collected as per the forest resource assessment methodology --- for the preparation of working plan shall cover ---- ecotourism areas and activities” (para 68).
- Part I (Summary of facts on which proposals are made) of the working plan includes a section to be drafted on the following lines:

Areas inside and adjoining designated forests, which have ecotourism potential are being visited by tourists, will be identified and systematically documented. The natural attributes viz. landscape, waterscape and wildlife and also the demographics will be enlisted and explained for effective ecotourism management.” (para 84, section 8.6).

- The code prescribes a full-fledged ecotourism working circle under Part II (Future Management) of the working plan (para 89. viii).
- Annexure I (Spatial Database in GIS) prescribes a layer on ecotourism in the forest maps.
- Annexure II (Forest Resource Assessment Methodology) provides for the assessment of “ecotourism potential areas” among other things.

Thus, it is obvious that planning for ecotourism is an integral part of the process of forest management planning. Perhaps one needs no more proof of legitimacy of ecotourism as a forestry activity. If any other instrument creates a contrarian impression, it ought to be brought in line with the working plan code at the earliest.

National Forest Policy 2018 (Draft)

National Forest Policy 1988, which governs forest management in India at present, makes no mention of tourism or ecotourism. However, a new policy draft issued by MoEF&CC in 2018 provides for ecotourism under section 4.3 (Strengthen Wildlife Management) as follows:

“(g) Ecotourism models would be developed with a focus on conservation of the sites and nature education of the visitors while supplementing the livelihood needs of the local communities and without compromising the profile of habitats and behaviour of wildlife”.

It seems that MoEF&CC intends to allow/encourage ecotourism only in PAs but not in other forests. This is in clear contradiction with the National Working Plan Code, discussed above, which prescribes a chapter on ecotourism in every forest working plan. The National Ecotourism Policy which is under discussion at the moment also welcomes ecotourism in all forests (see below).

Annexure-II: Priority Sectors as per Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policy

The following categories of industrial units have been kept in the priority sector as per Himachal Pradesh's Industrial Policy: -

- i) *Units based directly on horticulture produce including hops and tea*
- ii) *Mineral water bottling*
- iii) *Automobile manufacturing units including assembly units which have a minimum of 5 ancillary units substantially dependant on it.*
- iv) *Fruit/vegetable/herbs/ honey/spices-based wineries*
- v) *Production of Ciders/ale/ liqueurs.*
- vi) *Sericulture /Handlooms/Khadi industry related manufacturing industrial activities*
- vii) *Electronic units including computer software and information technology except assembling units where value addition is less than 15%.*
- viii) *Floriculture*
- ix) *Medicinal herbs and aromatic herbs etc. processing*
- x) *Horticulture, Maize based industries, herbal based industries and Agro Based Industries excluding those included in the negative list*
- xi) *Food Processing Industry excluding those included in the negative list.*
- xii) *Sugar and its by-products.*
- xiii) *Silk and silk products*
- xiv) *Wool and wool products*
- xv) *Woven fabrics (Excisable garments)*
- xvi) *Sports goods and articles and equipment for general physical exercise and equipment for adventure sports/activities, tourism*
- xvii) *Paper & paper products excluding those in negative list (as per excise classification)*
- xviii) *Pharma products*
- xix) *Information & Communication Technology Industry, Computer hardware, Call Centres, I.T. Software and services.*
- xx) *Eco-tourism- Hotels, resorts in locations other than those located in the Municipal limits/NAC /Nagar Panchayats/Special Area Development Authority limits, as the case may be of Shimla, Dalhousie, McLeod Ganj and Manali.*
- xxi) *Industrial Gases (based on atmospheric fraction).*
- xxii) *Spa, Entertainment/amusement park, ropeways etc.*
- xxiii) *Handicrafts.*
- xxiv) *Non-timber forest product-based industries.*
- xxv) *Precision Industries.*

Enterprises to manufacture industrial products by any biotechnology process and Processing Laboratories or Research & Development activity related to processing, scale-up, other innovations and products in the field of Biotechnology, as approved by State Level Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority on the recommendation of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology of the State Government.

10.3 Annexure: As-is assessment of shortlisted Destinations for Visits and stakeholder consultations

Ten destinations were visited by the project team to identify the potential sites, understand the local scenario, stakeholders' opinion, community's perception and willingness towards ecotourism and various local aspects for the comprehensive development. As-is assessment of the visited destinations captures the details related to following aspects namely:

- Brief introduction to the destination and the tourism interest
- Sites identified near the visited destinations details with respect to ownership,
- Connectivity to the site through different modes
- Destination surroundings and the nearby communities
- Destination's access to physical and social Infrastructure
- Assessment of existing tourist infrastructure gaps
- Assessment of existing standards of hospitality sector
- Assessment of existing Community based products
- Assessment of existing ecotourism activities and facilities
- Market analysis
- Community perception through stakeholder consultations
- Key challenges at the destination
- Destination strengths and potentials
- Destination benchmarking and rating

The following sub-sections showcase the details of the destinations visited for preparing the Eco-tourism Master Plan.

10.3.1 Pong dam Wildlife Sanctuary

A. Brief introduction

Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh at altitude of 335 to 436 metres at Lat: 32.00 degrees North & Long: 76.05 East in northern India. The sanctuary is a triangular shaped region. The lake or the reservoir is spread across 240 square kilometres. The villages surrounding the lake namely Sugnara, Jarot, Bajera, Katnor, Khabal, Ludret, and Bhia are located amongst four blocks namely Nagrota-Suriann, Fatehpur, Pragpur and Dehra.

The Pong Dam is around 90 kms away from Dharamshala and almost the same from Hamirpur. The main gate at Nagrota-Surian is around 48 kms from Dharamshala and around 87 Kms from Hamirpur.

The Pong reservoir, also called the Maharana Pratap Sagar, was created in 1976 by the constructing the dam on the River Beas in the foothills of the Himalayas on the northern edge of the Indo-Gangetic plain. The northern edge is very flat, with mudflats and wet grasslands and attracts major concentrations of birds. Pong Dam started as an irrigation reservoir and now is demarcated as bird sanctuary.

In 1994, the Government of India declared it a "Wetland of National Importance". Pong Dam Lake was declared as Ramsar Site in November 2002. The lake is fed by Beas River and its numerous perennial tributaries such as Gaj, Neogal, Binwa, Uhl, Bangana, and Baner. The lake harbours around 22 species of fish, including rare fish like sal and gad.

Key biodiversity:

Avifauna: The lake is an important wintering ground for waterfowls. About 10,000 ducks have been recorded historically, with Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* predominant, and smaller numbers of Northern Pintail *A. acuta*, Common Teal *A. crecca* and Common Pochard *Ethaverine*

(Gaston 1985; Gaston and Pandey 1987) faring a good chunk, followed by. Red-necked Grebes, *Podicepsgriseigena*, and several Great Black-headed Gulls, *Larusichthyaetus*, a species that is uncommon away from the coast in India, time and again have also been observed.

The most found species are Northern Pintail [25,000], Bar-headed Goose, *Anser indicus* [10,000], Common Teal [>6000], Eurasian Wigeon [>6000], Common Pochard [>5000] and Great Cormorant

Exhibit 10.1: Picture of Cormorants



Exhibit 10.2: Map of Pong dam reservoir

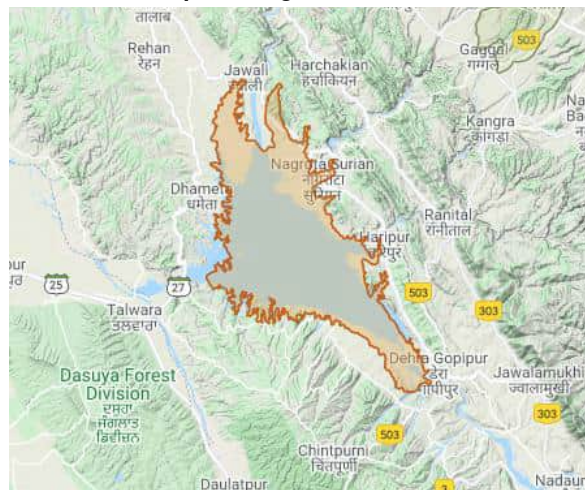


Exhibit 10.3: Pictures of the birds in Pong Dam reservoir



[>4500] (J. W. den Besten pers. comm.2003). Organisation such as Wetlands International estimate the Bar-headed Goose population to be between 52,000 and 60,000 according to research in 2018.

The lake sustains some breedings of Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Little Tern *Sterna Albi frons*, Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus* and large numbers of River Tern *Sterna aurantia*, and Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*.

Other key fauna: In recent years, Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*, Himalayan Yellow throated Marten *Martes flavigula*, Small Indian Civet, *Viverricula indica*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* and Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* have also been reported. Reptiles include the Common Cobra (*Nagaraja*), Python (*Python molurus*) and Common Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*⁸.

⁸ Source: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/pong-dam-lake-wildlife-sanctuary-iba-india/text>

Thousands of migratory birds died at the lake due to an outbreak of bird flu in late December, but the disease was contained.

The bird census⁹ found 1,08,578 birds of 96 species at the wetland, including 1,01,431 migratory water birds of 51 species and 6,433 resident water birds of 29 species. A total of 716 birds of 16 other species were also recorded. The total population of the flagship species, Bar Headed Geese, was 40,570 this year as compared to 49,496 last year.

Following sites for ecotourism potential were shown during the field visits:

Site 1 - Rancer Island: The island is situated in the South West corner of the Pong reservoir. It has a cluster of forest area which also houses the Forest Rest House. Approximate perimeter of this island is 8 kms and the area is 150 Hectares. This island has a dense forest area of approximately 12 hectares.

Exhibit 10.5: Route Map from Nagrota Surian to Rancer Island

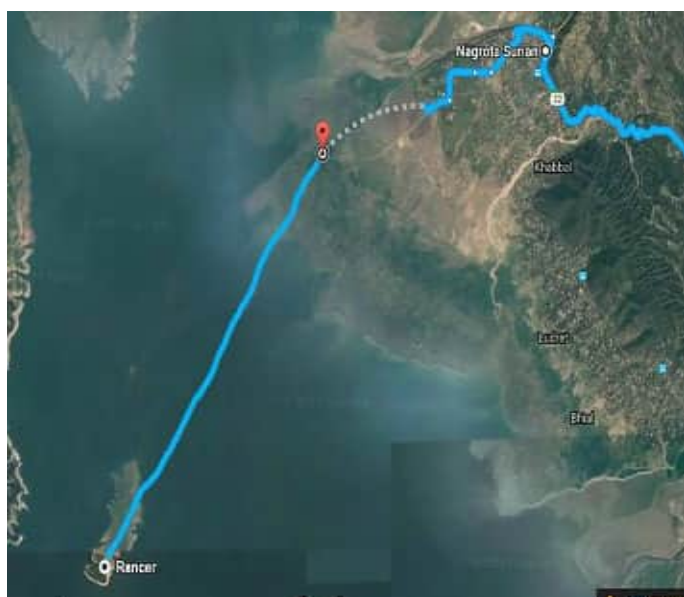


Exhibit 10.6: Map of the Rancer Island

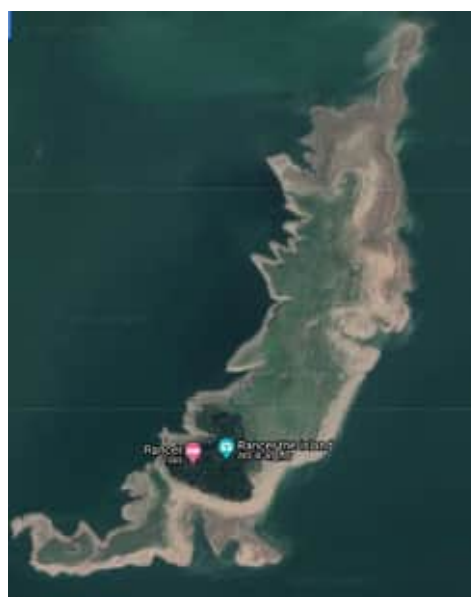


Exhibit 10.7: Pictures of the Rancer Island



The board near the forest rest house at Rancer Island.



Forest Rest House, Rancer Island

⁹ Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/over-1-lakh-migratory-water-birds-visited-himachal-pradeshs-pong-dam-lake-sanctuary-this-winter-7180140>



Resting place at the entry gate to the Rancer Island.



Walking trail around the Rancer Island



View of the Raja Ka Mahal from Rancer Island



Sitting area around the Pond Reservoir

Site 2 - Bamboo Plantation: At Jagnoli, close to Bathu-ki-ladi, beyond Pandav-ki-Tohal, the forest department has developed a bamboo plantation in an area of 15 hectares of land in order to stop encroachment & illegal cultivation in buffer area of the Sanctuary. As per the DFO the department is planning to develop a walking trail in the entire park for the tourists and are expected to put-up a prefabricated cottage.

Exhibit 10.8: Equidistant bamboo plantation



Site 3 – Near Sukhnara Gate at Pong Dam Wildlife sanctuary: The main gate to the Pong Dam Wildlife sanctuary is at village Sukhnara in the block of Nagrota-Surian. There is an entry ticket which for certain activities which includes cycling, souvenir shop, boat ride, watch towers & birding guides. A vehicle parking is also being planned to enable safe tourist parking.

Exhibit 10.9: Sukhnara gate for Pong Dam WLS

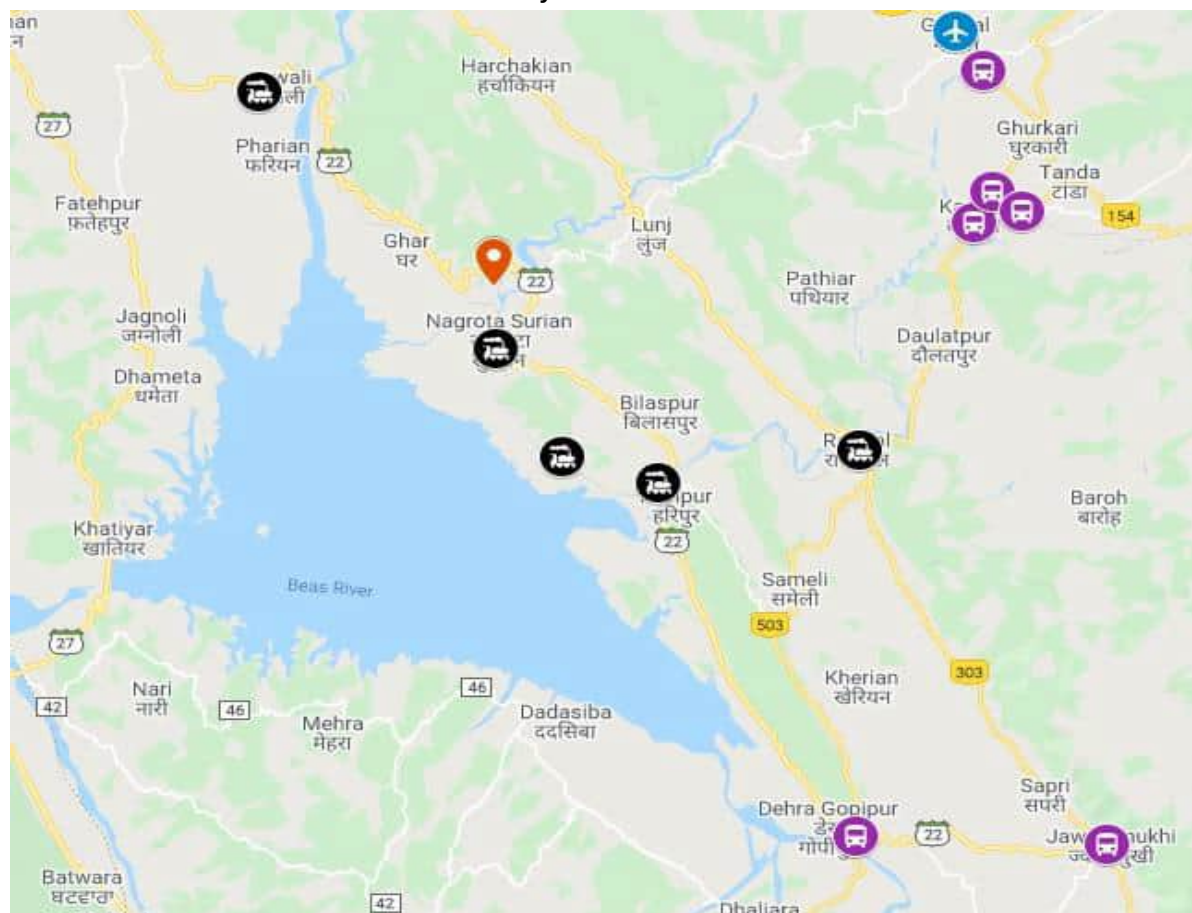


Boating point from Dhameta: Apart from Sukhnara, the forest authorities have recently started speed boat from Dhameta village, Fatehpur Block. The tourist can cycle first 4-5 kms from the entry gate to the jetty and from the jetty they may take a boat ride to either Rancer island, Bathu-ki-ladi temples or Sukhnara Jetty.

C. Connectivity

Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is accessible through road and narrow-gauge train from Kangra which connects all main places/ villages to the neighbouring state. Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

Exhibit 10.10 Location of modes of connectivity from Pond Dam WLS



By Air - Gaggal airport at Dharamshala is the nearest airport from Pong-Dam, located at around 80 kms. The airport connects the place with Delhi and some of major cities like Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore etc through frequent flights.

By Train - The nearest broad-gauge railway station is at Pathankot Cantt (Chakki) at 70km from Pong dam and nearest narrow-gauge railway station is Nagrota-Surian & Nandpur Bhatauli railway Station, Baryal Himachal Railway Station.

By Road - The Pong dam is 466 around kms from New Delhi, 170 kms from Chandigarh, 110 kilometres from Amritsar, 55 kms from Dharamshala. One can take HPSRTC Volvo buses from Delhi ISBT-Kangra. From Kangra, local buses (both Government and private) to Pong dam are available. Private taxis are also available from taxi stand Kangra.

D. Destination surroundings

Exhibit 10.11: Cycling, public amenities at Pong Dam WLS Sukhnara gate



Exhibit 10.12: Boating point at Rancer island



Exhibit 10.13: Walking trails and FRH at Rancer island



Source: Field visit

Khatiyar: The Pong dam is located at Khatiyar on Beas River. Apart from Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Dept. of Fisheries, Fisheries Cooperative Society Khatiyar, Regional water sports centre and HPTDC Maharana Pratap Sagar Camping are key stakeholders and the ecotourism players in the region. In Khatiyar, there are roadside eateries where visitors from neighboring states relish on fresh fish catch.

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Access to the site – The important area around which most of the ecotourism related activities are based are Sukhnara, Dhameta, and Khatiyar. The roads to these three points are narrow. The width of roads is around 4.5 -5 feet with pits due to low maintainance. There were few instances of soil erosion close to the road from Dehra to Nagrota-Surian.

Electricity: The electricity lines are available across the entire area of the Maharana Pratap Sagar Lake. The electricity is supplied by Himachal State Electricity Board, Jawali Division, Kangra. As the site is at Pong Dam WLS, electricity is produced locally at the hydro-power plant located at Pong dam, which was initially planned for an installed capacity of 360 megawatts (480,000 hp), which was later upgraded to a capacity of 396 megawatts (531,000 hp) in 2012.

Water: Piped water supply / hand pumps are available in the surrounding villages. Source of piped water around Nagrota-Surian block is for temple area is Jal Shakti Vibhag, Kangra. Springs are the major water sources in this area. It is utilized for both domestic and irrigation purposes.

Exhibit 10.14: Location electricity substations near Pong Dam WLS

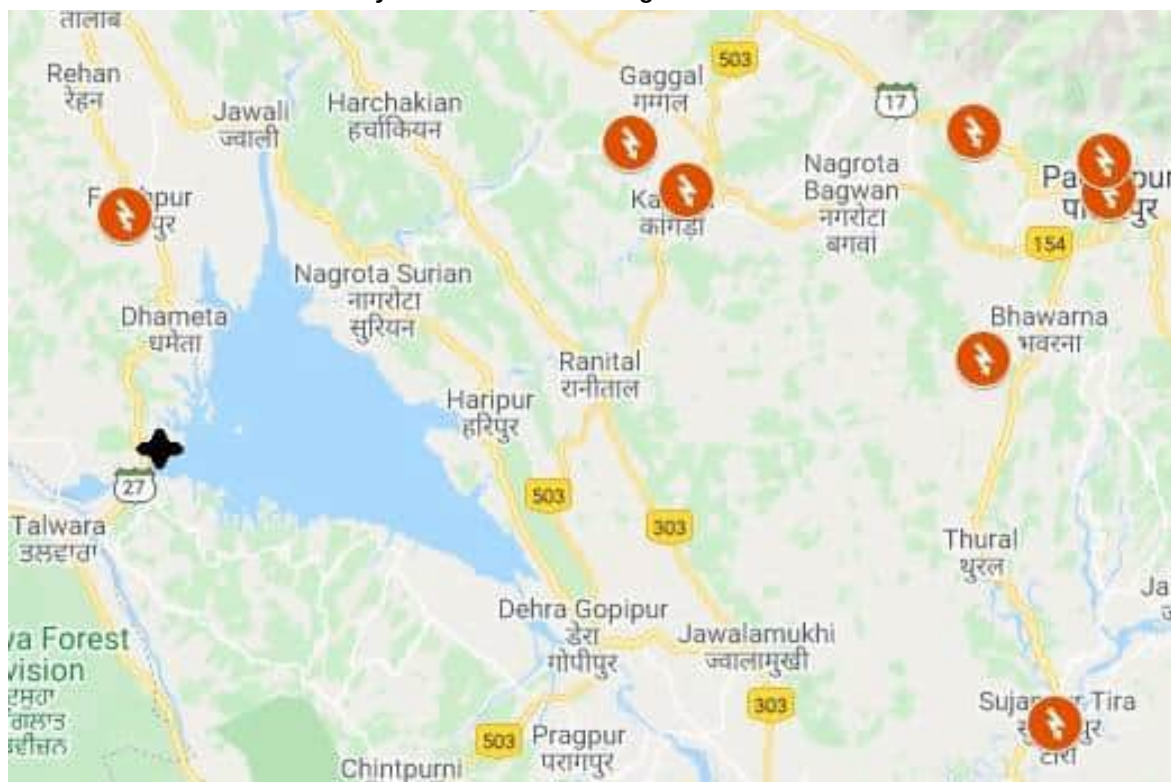
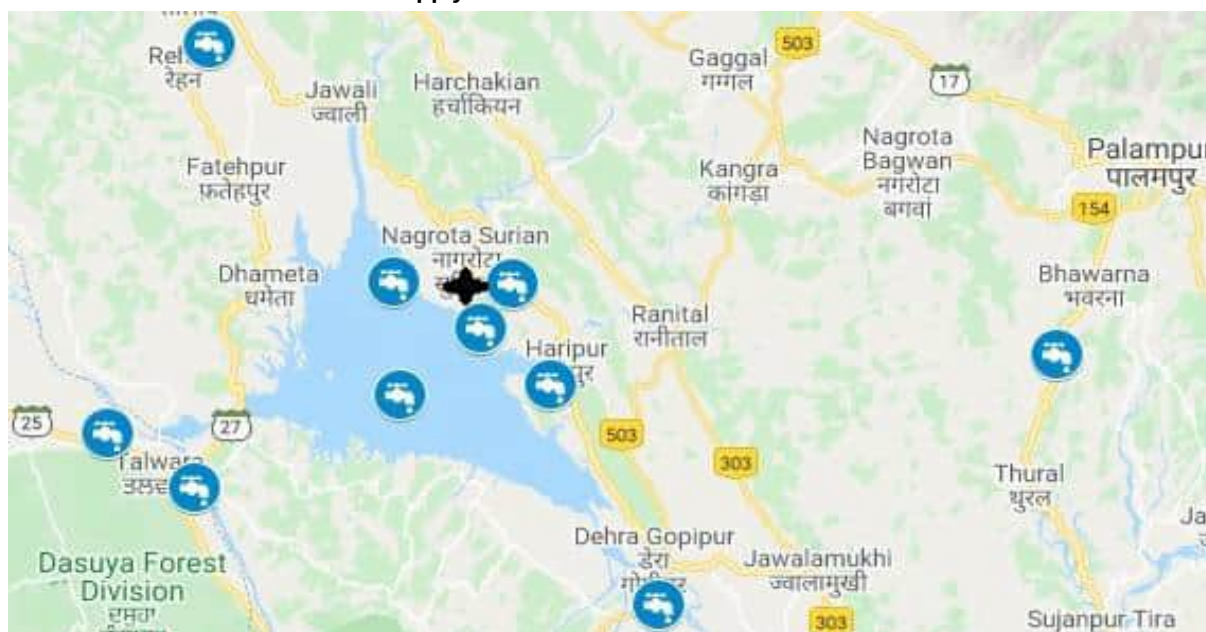


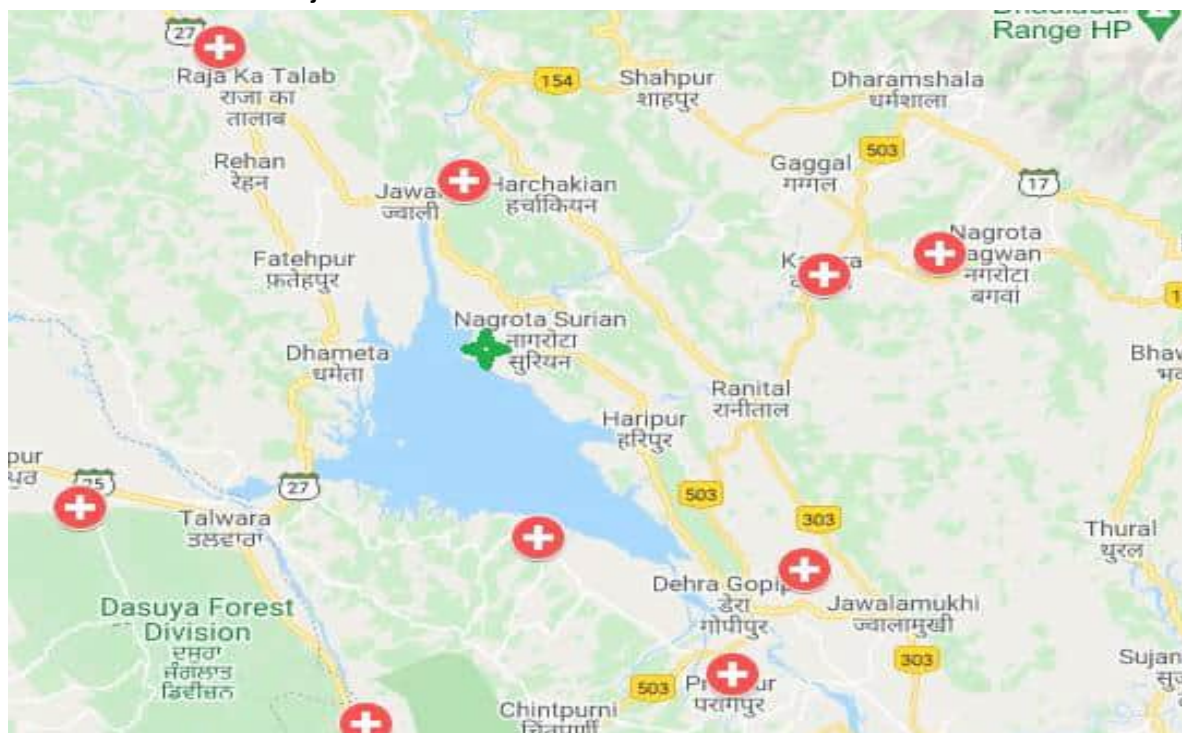
Exhibit 10.15: Locations of water supply facilities



Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – There is no piped sewerage and limited solid waste management system is limited in an around the site. Most of the places have underground septic tanks. The solid & liquid waste from toilets, kitchen is collected in individual septic tanks, the solid waste in Wildlife Sanctuary area is collected by the forest department through community efforts (cleanliness drives) and SHGs / Yuvak Mandal etc.

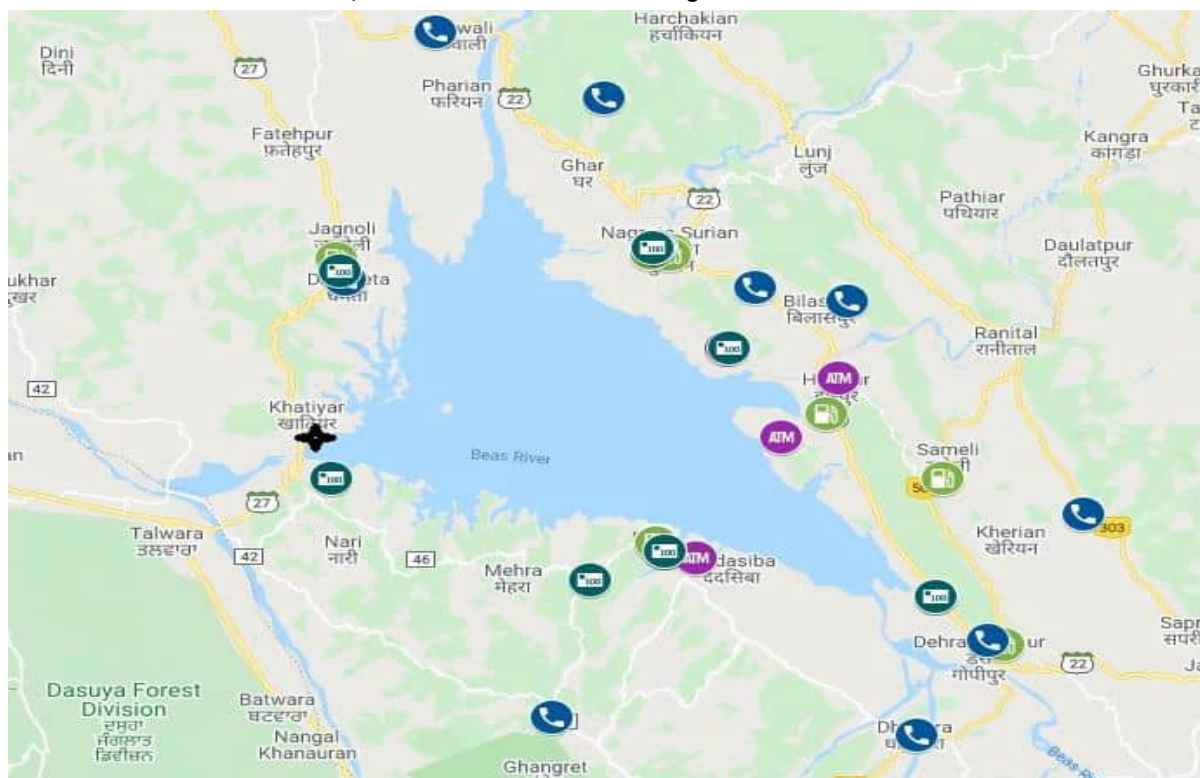
Availability of Health Care Facilities – Health care facilities such as hospitals, primary health centres (PHCs) are available in all blocks around Pong Dam Wildlife sanctuary – Nagrota Suriann, Fatehpur, Dehra and Pragpur.

Exhibit 10.16: Location major healthcare facilities near Pond Dam WLS



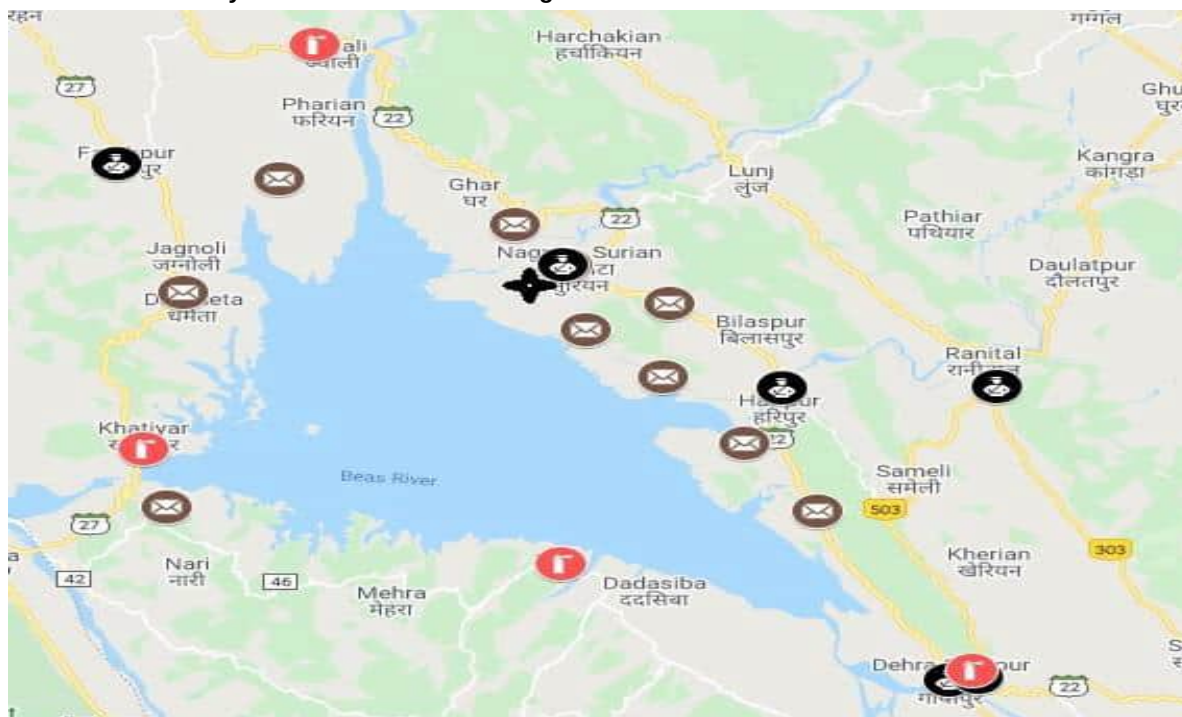
Telecommunication facilities – The Pong Dam Wildlife sanctuary has functional telephone and internet network. Though at Rancer island, the connectivity and internet are limited. The area outside the wildlife sanctuary like villages of Dhameta, Jawali, Dehra, Sukhnara etc. have appreciable telephone and internet connectivity.

Exhibit 10.17: Communication, and other facilities near Pong Dam WLS



Police stations, police chowki and fire stations are present in surrounding villages community's and tourist's safety concerns.

Exhibit 10.18: Safety related facilities near Pong Dam WLS



F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

There are a few local transporters cum tour operators who provide tourist vehicles for sightseeing tours to nearby sites like Pong dam WLS, Masroor temples etc.

In the month of June-July 2021, the forest department (Wildlife) trained 30 youths from Khatiyar village, Fatehpur block with basic level training as birding guides. There have been few trainings for home stay, and identification of birdlife & general awareness about the Wildlife life sanctuary at Nagrota Suriann, Dhameta and Khatiyar locations.

Community Involvement in ecotourism activity is currently quite low and is limited to home stays and birding / trail guides. Pong dam is perfect place for angling, but currently no initiative is being taken either by Forest department (Wildlife division) or Fisheries department. It has few hotels / homestay owners who are providing equipment to their guests on rent, arranging day licence from fisheries department and arranging boats from forest department (Wildlife division).

The ecotourism activities arranged by forest department are Boating, Birding, Cycling, Visit to Rancer island on boat, walking trails at Rancer Island, Visit to Bathu-ki-ladi temples (if not submerged in water). The department can also arrange for nature walks & ATV rides.

Majority of the local tour operator/hotels received high tourist footfalls from nearby cities of Dharamshala, Ludhiana; Talwara etc. post Covid 19. Before the pandemic, in March 2020, visitors from cities like Chandigarh, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc. also used to come in decent number and these visitors were more focussed on birding or angling. Lot of visitors from foreign countries also used to visit for birding, fisheries etc. either as part of group-tour or solo-backpacking trips.

Exhibit 10.19: Total Number of tourists visited Pong Dam WLS

Year / Months	Number of visitors
2018 – 2019 (July 2018 to March 2019)	5451
2019 – 2020(April 2018 to March 2020)	8243
2020 - 20219 (April 2020 to March 2021)	2167

Source: based on the record from ticket counter during field visit

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

Angler's lodge - Established in 2005, Angler's lodge is located at Khatiyar village, Fatehpur block adjacent to office Department of Fisheries, around half a kilometre from the Pong Dam. It's a basic accommodation with 5 rooms, parking etc.

- General Fishing Close season: Every year from 1st June to 31st July
- Rent: INR 300 per night (Visitor with fishing licence and equipment)
- INR 500 per night
- *For AC Rooms 10% shall be charged extra
- Booking office: Assistant Director Fisheries, Pong Reservoir

Maharana Pratap Sagar Camping by HPTDC - The camping site is located at Khatiyar village, Fatehpur block close to office Department of Fisheries, around half a kilometre from the Pong Dam. This place has few cottage / camps and a cafe. It's a basic accommodation with 5 rooms, parking, and a cafe.

- Double room:
 - Rent: INR 1400 per night + taxes (on room only basis)
 - Facilities: Double Bedded, Attached toilet bath with Fan, Cafeteria
- Family Suite (4 beds):
 - Rent: INR 2400 per night + taxes (on room only basis)
 - Facilities: 02 Double Bedded room, Attached toilet bath with Fan, Cafeteria, Dining
 - Table, LED TV with Cable connection

Tourist Huts - Tourist huts are located at village Khabbal in Nagrota-Surian. block, around 3-4 Kms from Sukhnara entry gate, 3 kms from forest rest house at village Khaoli. These huts were made by the tourism department under the project of ADB and later the building was handed over to Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) for running it commercially. The HPTDC has not taken over the property, terming it unviable. The property has now been handed over to the Forest Department.

Exhibit 10.20: HPTDC Tourist Huts



Exhibit 10.21: Forest Huts



The tourist huts¹⁰ are next to the rivulet, Meenu Khad. There are about 4 tourist huts and 6 camping tents (with concrete toilet) with basic facilities. The food is cooked by the care-taker, under the payroll of the Forest Dept.

Private Accommodation (home stays / hotels / Retreats)

- **Home stays: Raadbali spa Retreat**

A home stay with 3 rooms is located at village Tikka Bhakler, Nagrota-Surian, one of the buildings is made from mud and bricks. The property has rural & local touch to it, the ceiling is made using bamboo

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/huts-built-using-adb-funds-remain-unused-199868>

and wood with thatched roof. The furniture at the home stay is made from cane and bamboo. The homestay is spread in 2 acres of land with huge garden and a fish-pond.

Most of the booking received are online through Airbnb, trip advisor, and Google, etc. The bookings are from all over Delhi, Chandigarh, Dharamshala etc.



Facilities & Activities provided for the guests:

Spa & herbal oil treatment (is planned from next season), Angling (Equipment available) , arrangements of day license from fisheries department for guests, arrange hiking trails – from 1 km to 5 -6 kms for the guests like from Raadballi to Kapadi village, Kapadia to Masroor is Jungle trail, Birding tours to Pong dam, Tours to Bathoo ki ladi and Masroor temple, Airgun shooting (fun activity) , Fish pond (under repair as of now), Power back (Solar), Escorts the guests on birding / other tours,

- Rent: INR 2500 – 3500 per room per night on bed and breakfast basis
- Package: 8000 -9000 per night for 02-night accommodation with meals & activities like trails and visit to Bathoo ki Ladi and Masroor temples

• **Private Home stays: Sai Dham Palace**

A small hotel with 5 rooms is located at village Balore, Nagrota Suriann. The hotel is spread in an acre with a small lawn in front and a huge garden behind the building. The hotel has 2 huge halls which caters to weddings, birthday parties of the locals. Most of the room booking are received through online channels like Airbnb, trip advisor, Google or personal references. The bookings are mainly from Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Pathankot etc.

Exhibit 10.22: Private Home stay - Sai Dham Palace



Facilities & Activities provided to guests:

All rooms are modern with attached washrooms, air-conditioner, geyser, In-house dinning. They also make arrangement for tours to Pong dam, Bathoo ki Ladi & Masroor temple if required by guests.

Rent: INR 1400 per room per night

• **Tour connection Jungle retreat**

A small retreat located at Masroor village is built on hilly terrain which is a part of Mauja reserve forest. It is beautiful retreat with unique concept. It is 7 kms away from Masroor temples. The entire property is made from bamboo including the reception, rooms, and most of the furniture. There are 10 rooms at the retreat and all of them are named after birds.

Facilities & Activities provided to guests

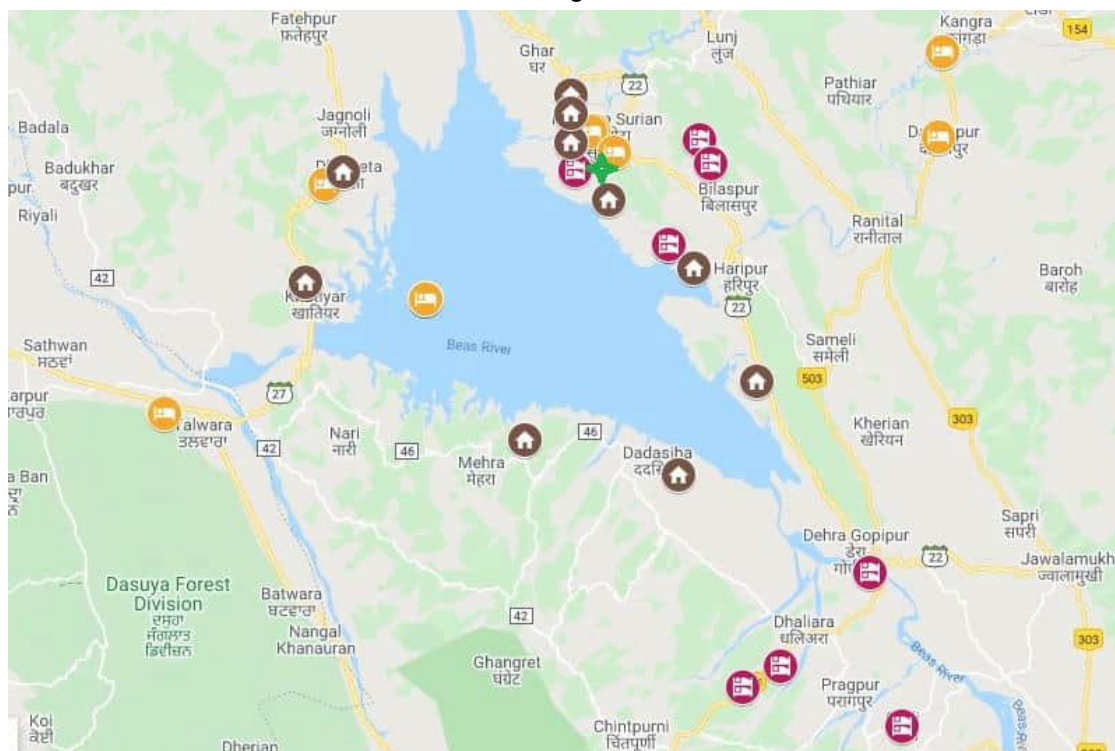
It provides for all modern amenities like rooms with attached toilets, 24-hour front desk, flat TV with satellite connection, Air conditioner, restaurant, parking, common seating area, and pets are also allowed. They arrange for tour, transport services, if required by its guests. The retreat is listed on all online portals like booking.com, trip advisor etc. Source of booking is online websites and social media platforms.

Package: INR 4999 – 6999 for 02 night / 3days inclusive of stay, all meals, transfers, sight seeing, secret island tour, heritage walk, bonfire, light music. The rates vary across the seasons.

Exhibit 10.23: Bamboo Huts - Tour connection Jungle retreat



Exhibit 10.24: Accommodation facilities near Pong Dam WLS



H. Existing Community based products

(i) Products produced by individual entrepreneurs – Mushroom farming and Bee keeping

Mushroom Farming – There are very few Mushroom farmers in blocks around Pong dam reservoir. Despite government support, the number of Mushroom farmers has gone down. The reason for the same is small shelf life of the produce, high investment, lack of marketing and no local consumption at village level.

Training/ benefits from Government on block level: 10-day practical training in mushroom cultivation was undertaken. The fee for the same was Rs. 50 per day per farmer. Registration of trained farmers as mushroom growers is free of cost. Support of pasteurized mushroom compost from departmental units are (i) 25% to small/marginal farmers, Unemployed Graduates, and (ii) 50% to S/C, S/T and IRDP farmers. 100% subsidy is provided on the transportation of mushroom compost up to road head near mushroom farm.

Bee Keeping - There are few Bee farmers in Nagrota Suriann & Dehra block around Pong dam reservoir. In the hilly areas of districts, there is good vegetation of Khair (Acacia- flower) which blooms in summer month. Khair (Acacia) flower-based honey has antioxidant and antibacterial properties; it helps speedy wound healing and prevent bacterial contamination and infection. Additionally, this honey helps maintain a moist environment while providing a protective barrier, both of which can aid wound healing. This honey is bought by food product manufacturing companies from the beekeepers and a small portion is consumed at village/ local level.

Exhibit 10.25: Bee keeping practice in the nearby community to Pond Dam WLS



Training/ benefits from Government on block level: Supply of improved strains of bee colonies with hives, Supply of bee colonies for pollination on rental basis, day practical Training in beekeeping is Rs. 50 per day per farmer.

(ii) Self Help Groups (SHG) based products - There are more than 50 SHGs in the nearby communities on block level, which are working mainly with local women on various aspects. Currently no SHGs or any community groups are directly working on the promotion of ecotourism activities. However, there are few SHGs which are associated with activities which are related to tourism.

- SHG 1 - 4 members from a family are involved in making of Bamboo /cane handicrafts products which they currently sell it to buyers from Dharamshala and Punjab. They have received 15-day training from the block development office.
- SHG 2 (Parvati SHG) – It has 10 women members from village Nadhan who are involved in making of sepu wadiyan, pickles and papad, amla candy, amla powder, giloy powder, triphala powder etc.
- SHG 3 (Ludret gram Panchayat HG) – It is from Khaoli village and is involved in making of mask, handkerchief, and women wear etc. All the products are sold at village level itself. Under Mukhyamantri Gram Kaushal Yojna, trainings have been reported to impart to the local communities, panchayat, and block level.

Exhibit 10.26: SHG based products from communities nearby Pong Dam



Source: All Information and images as shared by the Block development officer and Gram Sevak at Nagrota Surian block

Exhibit 10.27: List of SHGs in the Nagrota Surian Block

Sno	Gram Pranchayat	Name of Organisation	Contact person / Pradhan	Area of work
1	Ludret	Jai Ma SHG	Sushma Devi	Handmade Sweater, tailoring
2	Ludret	Dhanvarsha	Sunita Devi	Tailoring, Cutting & Stitching
3	Rajol	Ketki SHG	Asha Devi	Khaddi /weaver + Diary 2-3 // Gaddi
4	Bassa	Guari SHG	Sapna	Sepu Bariyan, Savian, Aachar
5	Guler	Deep SHG	Rajesh Kumari	Horticulture – Gobi, Tomata etc,
6	Bethar	Radha Swami SHG	Asha Devi	Palm leaf broom, Chatai (local Mat)
7	Bilaspur	Kaali das SHG	Kaali das	Bamboo handicrafts
8	Gera, Katora	Durga SHG	Durga Devi	Tailoring, handmade sweaters

(iii) Revival of art at block level– Guler miniature paintings

It is a style of miniature painting inspired by Kangra miniature painting.

Under the guidance of Mr. Raghav Guleria, who is part of royal family of Guler, at Village Nandpur, Gram Panchayat Nandpur Bhatauli, under Block Nagrota Suriann, 5 people are trained in Guler painting. It was a 6-month training. The training was conducted at the fort of the royal family under government scheme of Mukhyamantri Gram Kaushal Yojna.

A workshop on Guler miniature paintings was started recently at Nandpur Guler, a historic monument located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, where the last ruler — Raja Baldeo Singh, once lived.

Exhibit 10.28: Picture of the Guler Paining



Source: Image provided by Mr. Raghav Guleria

Guler was a small pre-colonial Indian hill state in the Lower Himalayas. Its capital was the town of Haripur Guler. The kingdom was founded in the year 1415 by Raja Hari Chand, a scion of the ancient royal family of Kangra.

Guler State is famous as the birthplace of Kangra painting in the first half of the 18th century when a family of Kashmiri painters trained in Mughal painting sought shelter at the court of Raja Dalip Singh (r. 1695–1741) of Guler. The rise of Guler Paintings or Guler style started in what is known as the early phase of Kangra art.

Guler style painting constitutes the early phase of Kangra Kalam. Around the middle of the eighteenth century, some Hindu artists trained in Mughal style sought the patronage of the Rajas of Guler in the Kangra Valley. Of the hill states, Guler has the longest tradition in the art of painting. The drawing is delicate and precise. Subject matter of these miniature paintings is Bhagavata, the Gita Govinda, the Bihari Satasai, the Baramasa and the Ragamala. The style of these paintings is naturalistic, delicate and lyrical.

Nainsukh. (1710 – 1778) was an Indian painter. He was the younger son of the painter Pandit Seu and, like his older brother Manaku of Guler, was an important practitioner of Pahari painting, and has been called "one of the most original and brilliant of Indian painters".

Around the year 1740 he left the family workshop in Guler and moved to Jasrota, where he painted most of his works for the local Rajput ruler Mian Zorowar Singh and his son Balwant Singh until the latter's death in the year 1763. This is the best known and documented phase of his career. Through his adaptation of elements of Mughal painting, he was a central force in the development of Pahari painting in the middle of the eighteenth century, bringing Mughal elements into what had been a school mainly concerned with Hindu religious subjects. In his final phase at Basholi, from about the year 1765 until his death in the year 1778, Nainsukh returned to religious subject matter, but retaining his stylistic innovations. By the end of his career, with an active family workshop continuing his style, he was probably not executing the works himself anymore, but leaving them to his children and nephew as his artistic heirs. Such works are often ascribed to the Family of Nainsukh.

Exhibit 10.29: Images of the Guler Paintings



Source: The information & images as shared by Mr. Raghav Guleria from Guler and BDO Nagrota Surian

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Following are the list of ecotourism activities and facilities in the area:

- **Birding** – As per the census by Pong dam Wildlife sanctuary the department found 1,08,578 birds of 96 species at the wetland, including 1,01,431 migratory water birds of 51 species and 6,433 resident water birds of 29 species. A total of 716 birds of 16 other species were also recorded. The total population of the flagship species; Bar Headed Geese was 40,570 this year as compared to 49,496 last year. All the activities and projects revolve around birds, ensuring that they are not disturbed, and keen birders get to see them in natural environment.
 - Cycling (activity)
 - Walking trails are made in Rancer Island and on Sukhnara side of WLS (activity)
 - Watch towers in the sanctuary area (activity)
 - Shallow ponds (project)
 - Vulture restaurant (project)
- **Boating** – 4 to 5 speed boats are available with the wildlife department which can be hired by the visitors to visit Rancer island, Bathu-ki-ladi and the lake area. These boats are available as Sukhnara and Dhameta.
- **Angling / Fishing** – Local fisherman are allowed to fish as per their licence in the lake area during 7 to 8 months in a year. The produce is then sold to the contractors at pre agreed rate, who further sell it to their suppliers all over North India.
Under PMMSY, Department of fisheries has initiated a number of welfare schemes for the upliftment of fishermen of the reservoir which are as under: -
 1. **Fishermen Accidental Insurance Scheme:** - Under this scheme the fishermen are insured for Rs. 500000/-.

2. Risk Fund Scheme: -Under this scheme, the fishermen are granted assistance up to 50% in lieu of the damage caused to their fishing equipment due to storms etc. All fishermen pay Rs. 20/- per annum towards this fund. Total unit cost of this scheme is Rs.20000/- for Boat Rs. 5000/- for Tent Rs. 2000/- for Nets and Rs. 2000/- for Tarpal.

3. Close Season Relief fund Scheme: - This is a contributory scheme. All the fishermen must pay Rs. 1500/-for 10 months and State. contributes Rs. 600/- whereas the Central Govt. contributes Rs. 2400/-, thereby providing Rs. 4500/- in total, for two months during close season.

Exhibit 10.30: Assistance provided to fishermen under this scheme in last five years:-

Sr. No.	Year	Close season assistance Scheme	
		Physical	Financial
1.	2016-17	280	840000.0
2.	2017-18	222	
3.	2018-19	178	
4.	2019-20	188	
5.	2020-21	209	

Exhibit 10.31: Angling Licenses Issued

Sr. No.	Year	Angling Licenses (No)	Revenue
1.	2016-17	315	12600.0
2.	2017-18	297	11880.0
3.	2018-19	467	18680.0
4.	2019-20	393	15720.0
5.	2020-21	155	14660.0

Source: Khatiar fishermen co-operative Society

- **Forest rest house –** There are 03 forest rest houses around the Pong Dam Lake.

- **Forest Rest House 1–** At Katholi village, Nagrota-Surian block is established near Sukhnara entry Gate (around 4 Kms). It has 3 rooms and all amenities like attached washroom, air-conditioner, geyser, generator for power backup etc. The food is cooked by the caretaker.

Rent per night: INR 750 per night (only for room)

- **Forest Rest House 2 –** At Dhameta village, Fatehpur Block has 4 rooms and 02 camps. It has all the basic amenities attached - washroom, air-conditioner, geyser, big rooms, etc. The food is cooked by the caretaker.

Rent per night: INR 750 per night (only for room)

- **Forest Rest House 3 –** At Rancer Island, Fatehpur Block is established. The visitors are not allowed to stay overnight at the island. There are 2 trails inside the boundary of the rest house. It is a beautiful place to see the birds in their natural habitat and is perfect breeding place for birds.

Exhibit 10.32: Forest Rest House at Nagrota near Pong Dam WLS



- **Trekking / hiking** – Trekking is organised by few private hotels / home stays / tour operators for their nature loving guests, which stretches from 5 to 10 Kms one way. These are all mainly day treks. Starting in the morning and returning by evening. The routes are identified by locals.

J. Market analysis

The products that are the unique selling points of the Pong dam WLS and the adjoining areas and can be part of following value chain analysis:

- **Birders Paradise:** In all of North the Pong Dam reservoir is one of wildlife sanctuaries which has a good variety of migratory birds, who spend 7 to 8 months in the areas around reservoir, along with the resident birds.
- **Abundance of Fishes:** Fishing in Maharana Pratap Sagar was started during the year 1976. With a view to enforce effective management and formulate a concerted approach of fisheries development in reservoirs, a state level Reservoir Development Committee was set up during 1976. As a first step it was decided to bring all fishermen under a cooperative fold and only a member of the cooperative societies be permitted to operate nets in the water body. In the year 1983 fishermen cooperative society Khatiar came into existence.

Process followed:

- For sale of fish, the practice of appointing contractor by open auctioning at the beginning of each year was started.
- Fish caught by the fishermen are required to be brought to the fixed landing centre.
- The representative of contractor receives the fish at the fixed centre from the fish cooperative society while departmental staff charges the 15% royalty and record the quantity of the catch species wise.
- The contractor makes the weekly payments to the society and the society makes the payment to the fishermen.
- To avoid conflict between societies regarding the area of operation the reservoir is divided into 8 beats and Khatiar society operates in beat number 1.
- **Revival of Guler miniature paintings:** Its style of miniature painting inspired by Kangra miniature painting which shall be revived and promoted further.
- **Still water sport activity centre:** At Village Khatiyar close the pong dam is the still sports centre where Basic, intermediate, and advanced courses are conducted in Swimming, Kayaking, Canoeing, Rowing, Sailing and Water Skiing. They also conduct trainings in water safety and rescue operations. For the experienced campaigners, rowing and kayaking regattas are organized at Pong Dam. All modern infrastructure facilities have been created with a 75-bed hostel and a 10-suite rest house for water sport training enthusiasts. The details of the activities are as follows:

Exhibit 10.33: Facilities at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountainerring and Allied Sports at Khatiar

• Basic, intermediate, and advanced courses are conducted • Swimming, Kayaking, Canoeing, Rowing, Sailing and Water Skiing. • Also conducts trainings in water safety and rescue operations • For the experienced campaigners, rowing and kayaking regattas are organized at Pong Dam • Modern infrastructure facilities have been created with a 75-bed hostel and a 10-suite rest house.	
Details of Courses Basic Water Sports Course (14 days) Every month 1 to 14 and 17 to 30 Fee (In Rupees) :10500/- Age Limit :12 Years Capacity (Seats) :75 Seats	Special Water Sports Course (Swimming, search and rescue, Kayaking, Motor Boat driving, Water skiing ,wind surfing) Duration :7 Days Fee (In Rupees) :1500/- Age Limit :16 Years Capacity (Seats) :30 Seats

Advance water sports (sailing) course (21 DAYS) July Aug and Sep Fee (In Rupees) :15750/- Age Limit :14 Years Capacity (Seats) :30 Seats	Expedition Kayaking and Rafting Duration :3 to 15 days. Fee (In Rupees) :2000/-per head /day Age Limit :12 Years Capacity (Seats) :30 Seats
Preliminary water sports Course – 2 to 10 days for School students Fee (In Rupees) :750/- per head /day Age Limit :16 Years Capacity (Seats) :75 Seats	Coaching camp Duration: No limit Fee (In Rupees) :550/- Age Limit: No age bar Capacity (Seats) :100 Seats
Mountain Biking (as per group requirement) Duration :2 to 7 days Fee (In Rupees) :2000/-per head /day- Age Limit :12 years Capacity (Seats) :30 Seats	Adventure camp Duration :2 to 7 days Fee (In Rupees) :1000/- Age Limit :12 years Capacity (Seats) :75 Seats

Source: Consultation with Still Water Sports at Regional water sports centre Pong dam

K. Community perception

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

- **Forest Officials** - CCF Hamirpur, divisional forest officer wildlife, forest guards, maintenance person for forest rest house and forest camp site, Boat operator
- **Other government bodies** - Fisheries department, Block development officer, Regional water sports centre at Pong Dam
- **Community representatives** - Representatives from Sukhnara and Khatoli village
- **Private operators** - Restaurant's owners, promoter of Guler painting, hotel owners, homestay owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Representatives From Nagrotia and Homestay owners



Forest Guards Pong Dam and Rencer Island



Private accommodation operators



Pong Dam Boating operator

Pradhan – Khatoli Village & Sukhnara Village, Nagrota Suriann block,

During the stakeholder consultation held on 17th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.

Women led Self-help Groups from Nadhan Village, are working to make various local delicacies like sepua wadiyan, pickles, Amla candy, Giloy powder etc.

Kali das SHG after the 15 days of training at Nagrota Suriann, is working successfully in making bamboo handicrafts which are sold in local markets and also purchased by handicraft stores from Dharamshala.

The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly



involved in cultural activities and sometimes cleaning of wildlife sanctuary area. The men from the community are mainly part of various fishing societies. After agriculture, the main source of income is from fishing in Lake of the community in general. They are not part of any ecotourism activity conducted by the wildlife department currently. A few persons from villages have got training as birding guides and for developing and operating homestay. As per the consultation, there is requirement for capacity building through training of the local people for income generation through active participation in eco-tourism activities.

L. Key challenges of the site

The Pong Dam WLS is seen as picnic spot only by a tourist rather than a long-stay destination.

Lack of adequate of tourist facilities - The site lacks with respect to tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, designated parking areas, quality camps, food / restaurants, help lines, first aid facility and training, treks, and activities. It also lacks seamless boat ride experience as a single package for the entire area.

Water pollution – The buffer area of the wildlife sanctuary is cultivated illegally by locals when the water level recedes. And because of usage of pesticides and weedicides the water of the lake (once the water level rises) is poisoned / polluted which is harmful for the birds.

Limited solid waste management - No waste management plan is followed locally. The solid waste is largely burnt by the villagers.

Unregulated fishing by local fishermen – The fishermen are issued licence by fishing societies and as per which the fishermen cannot go in the lake for fishing during the restricted period which includes the breeding period of birds. Also, the fishermen for certain restricted time period in a day, but it is not followed everywhere.

M. Destination Strengths and potential

The key strengths include:

- It is a **Birder's paradise** with native and migratory birds
- It witnesses **high tourism / religious activity during local fairs** in the month of April – June, when the water of the lake recedes, the locals and visitors from Punjab drive in huge numbers to Bathu kiladi (which is normally submerged in water). During the weekends (Precovid 19) the number go up to 500 cars in a day.
- The lake has **high variety of fish** being one of the highest fish producing reservoir in HP

The site holds strong potential to be developed and further incorporate ecotourism activities such as:

- Potential for water-based activities
 - Introduction of activities such as 'A day with fishermen', regular boat-rides, water-sports activities (packages)

- Potential to convert day-tourist to long-stay tourist:
 - village visit, nature walks, star-gazing, Do-It-Yourself souvenir for tourists
 - Bamboo handicrafts, revive guler painting
 - Explore areas like Bathu-ki-Ladi & Masroor (Temple packages)
- Capacity building of community in tourism activities to generate livelihoods
 - There is requirement of sensitization of locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco-tourism activities, Identification & regularization of treks, hikes and trails keeping in mind the experience and inclusion of safety measures with focus on Regularized trekking, trails, quality camping and tents.

N. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for the Pong Dam are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Birders' Paradise, Angling, Fishing, still water sports
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by roads (55 km from Dharamshala), boat rides for trips in the lake
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Exploratory

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - To be positioned and developed as an exclusive destination for water sports and angling destination for special interest and serious birding tourists.

10.3.2 Baba Balak Nath, Deotsidh

A. Brief introduction

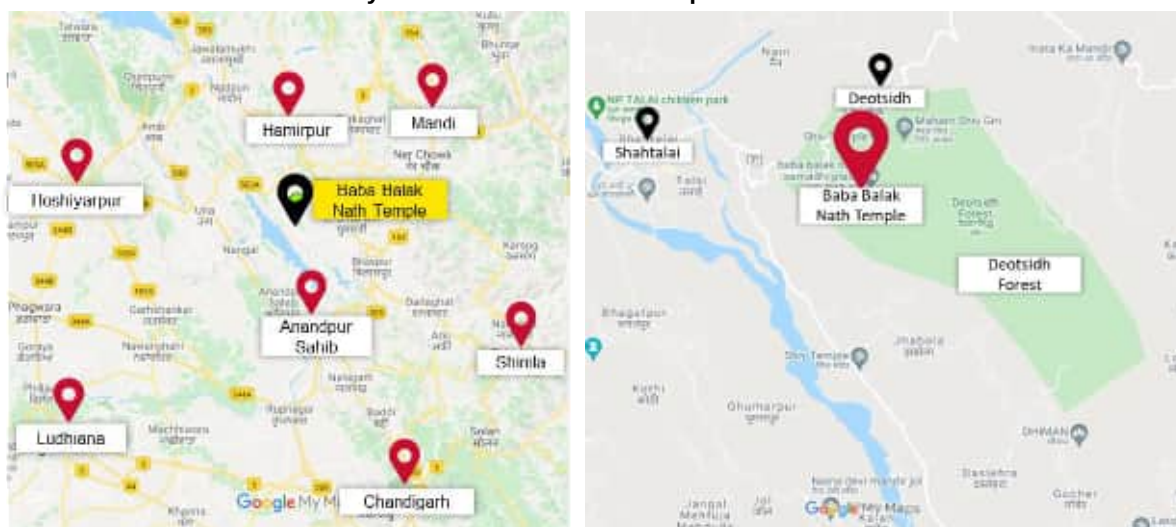
Baba Balak Nath Cave Temple is an ancient cave temple and famous pilgrimage destination located in Himachal Pradesh at a hilltop in Deotsidh at Chakmoh village, Barsar block, Bijahi Range in Hamirpur District. The distance of Baba Balak Nath temple from Hamirpur is around 40 Kms, Dharamshala is around 80 Kms, Jwalaji temple is around 45 Kms, Chandigarh is around 250 Kms and New Delhi is around 480 Kms. Millions of devotees from across the country and world seek blessings of Baba.

Exhibit 10.34: Baba Balak Nath Cave Temple area



Source: Field-visit and <http://www.bababalaknathdeotsidh.com/>

Exhibit 10.35: Settlements nearby Baba Balak Nath Cave temple area



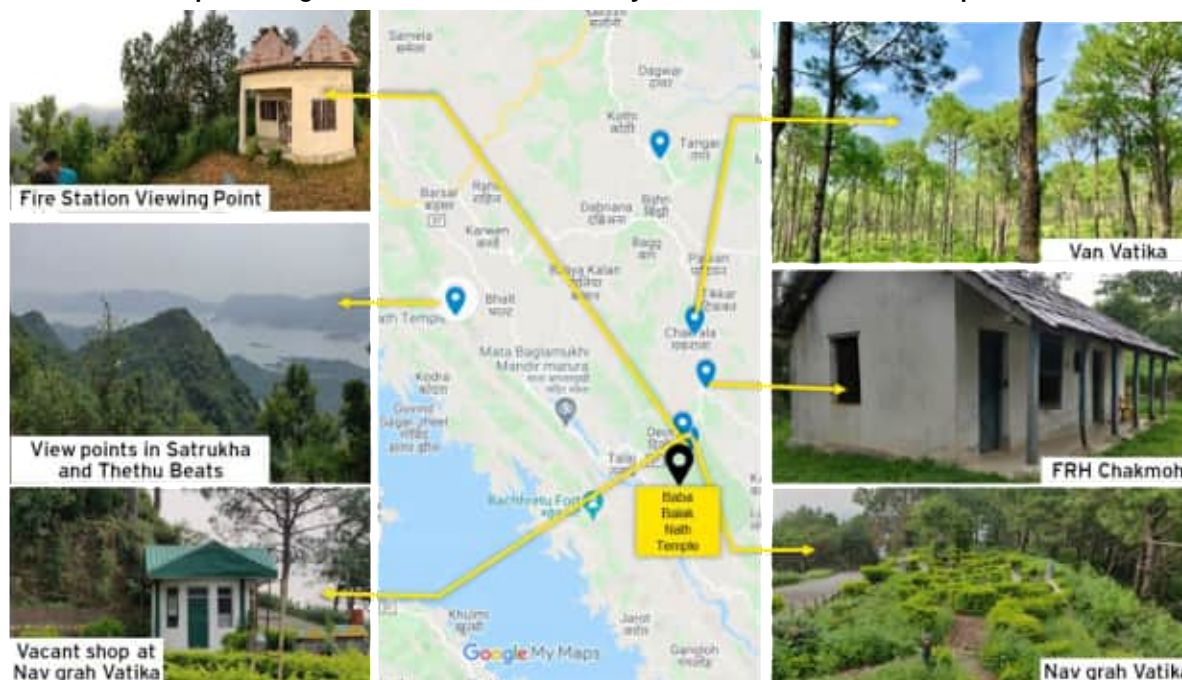
B. Site details

Deotsidh Forest is situated at an average elevation of around 1110 mt. above sea level in the Mid Shivalik ranges of the outer Himalayas and experience varying climates throughout the year ranging from cool winters (Mid October to Mid-April) with maximum day temperature going as high as 20°C with record low of - 3°C. Summers (Mid-April to Mid- July) are often moderate with hotter days and pleasant nights at 37°C to 17°C, monsoons lasts from Mid-July to early September with fair amount of rainfall. Due to its geographical location, pine forests are spread in large numbers in Deotsidh forest.

Deotsidh offers a complete 360° panoramic view of far south Naina Devi and Bhakra Dam, lowlands of Western Una And Hamirpur district. The far northern views of the Dhauladhar Himalayan ranges, the Hills of Mandi district and some of the regions of Jalori Pass, the lower Hills of Solan and the Hill of

Bahadurpur and Swarghat of Bilaspur district. Following seven sites were shortlisted and shown by the forest officials during field visits:

Exhibit 10.36: Map showing locations of the sites nearby Baba Balak Nath Cave Temple



Site1 – Van Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple

Van Vatika Forest Department's land parcel with an approximate area of 1.5 Hectares. This area has an Overhead water tank for water supply in nearby areas.



This area has full-grown trees and flower and medicinal plants. In celebration of Golden Jubilee (50th year) of Himachal Pradesh Statehood, ornamental plants were planted at this site. As per discussion with local officials, the forest department wants to develop a trail as part of recreational development, wants to install garden benches, provide facility for drinking water, install of solar lights etc. to further enhance the experience for the visitor.

Site 2 – Nav Graha Vatika on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple

Nav Graha Vatika is a themed garden on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple (0.5 km away from the temple). Approximate area of this garden is 0.36 Hectares. This is developed with a theme of nine Graha i.e., Planets, wherein plantation has been done according to the nine planets with religious aspects attached to it.

The concept of both the Van Vihar and Nav Graha Vatika is quite interesting provided the Vatika is manned and maintained. As the forest department is short of manpower, the current maintenance is

not up to the standard. Forest department can explore developing a souvenir shop that can be rented to community / individual to display local handicraft etc. The Vatika collect rent and can use it for the maintenance of Vatika.

Site 3 – Fire Station Viewing Point near Baba Balak Nath Temple

This site is situated at the highest peak in the area near Baba Balak Nath Temple (200 mt. away). This site is approachable through a kaccha trail of 200 mt. from the Sarai 9 of the temple complex. This site has scenic view of the Deotsidh area and the valley which can be further developed.

Site 4 – Unused land in Forest Rest House, Chakmoh

The total area of this land parcel is approximately 0.21 Hectares which consists of built-up area (FRH) and unutilised land. This area has dense vegetation as well as a few vacant portions which can be utilised for various purposes.

Site 5 - Locations for way side amenities on way to Baba Balak Nath Temple

There are a few locations across the forest road which reaches the Baba Balak Nath Temple, which were shown from the perspective to develop way side amenities for the devotees and potential tourists. These locations may be developed for amenities such as – rain shelters, parking, toilets, drinking water facility, resting area, etc.

Site 6 – Natural viewpoints in Satrukha and Thethu Beats

There are few locations in Satrukha and Thethu forest beats which provide scenic view of the Govind Sagar and Baba Balak Nath Temple Peak. These natural viewpoints are situated on MDR (Major District Road) connecting Barsar to Deotsidh through Shahtalai.

Exhibit 10.37: Natural viewpoints in Satrukha and Thethu forest beats



Interesting places worth visiting around Baba Balak Nath Cave Temple

Shah Talai - 6 kms from Baba Balaknath Cave Temple. There are three temples dedicated to Baba Balak Nath. It has four schools, three hospitals, a police station, four banks and two ATM. The town has a dozen small hotels and restaurants along with more than 100 Shops.

Shri Kellu Kutal ji Temple - 9 kms from Baba Balaknath Cave Temple. A local diety temple located in near Village called Ghangot Khurd.

Gobind Sagar Lake - 20 Kms from Baba Balaknath Cave Temple. The lake formed after constructing dam (Bhakra Dam) on River Satluj.

Bhakra Dam - 20 Kms from Baba Balaknath Cave Temple. The Dam built on River Satluj, which is also the highest dam of India.

Naina Devi - 130 kms from Baba Balaknath Cave Temple. The Temple of Shri Naina Devi Ji is situated on a hilltop, in the Bilaspur District. The temple at the top of the hill can be reached via road (that curves round the hill up to a certain point) and then by concrete steps (that is finally to reach the top). There is also a cable car facility that moves pilgrims from the base of the hill all the way to the top.

C. Connectivity

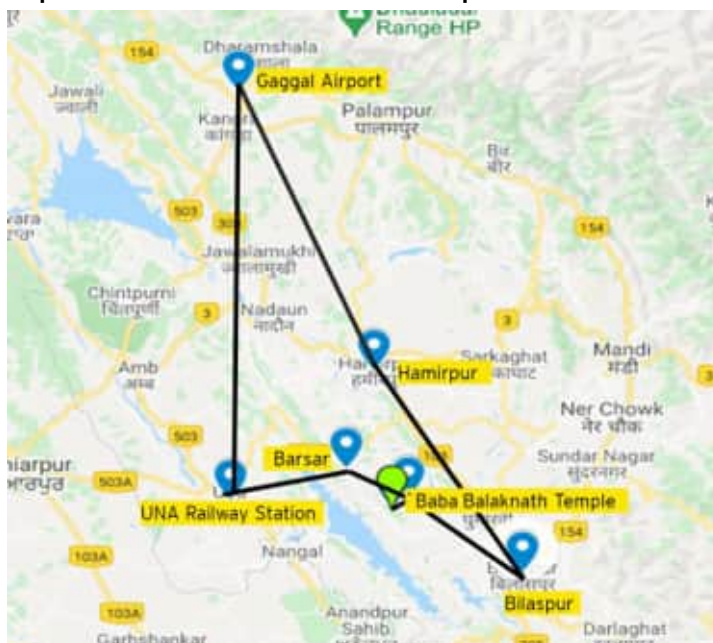
Baba Balak Nath Cave Temple is accessible through road. Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - There is no airport in district Hamirpur. The nearest airport is at Gaggal (Kangra) near Dharamshala. Gaggal airport is about 128 kms far from Baba Balak Nath Temple.

By Train - There is no direct Train service to this place. The nearest railway station is Una (Broad Gauge Railway line). Una railway station is about 55 KMs far.

By Road - This place is very well connected by road from all the major cities of Himachal Pradesh and other neighboring states. Regular bus service is available to this place. Taxis are also easily available.

Exhibit 10.38: Transport – Airports, Train stations & Major Bus stops around Baba Balaknath Cave Temple Deotsidh



D. Site surroundings

Exhibit 10.39: Pictures of the surroundings of the Baba Balak Nath Temple Deotsidh



Inside the temple



Langar Bhawan



PWD guest house



Ludhiana Dharamshala



Mahant Niwas



Sidhanchal Serai



Canteen – Temple trust

Source – site visit



Gate no 5 of temple

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

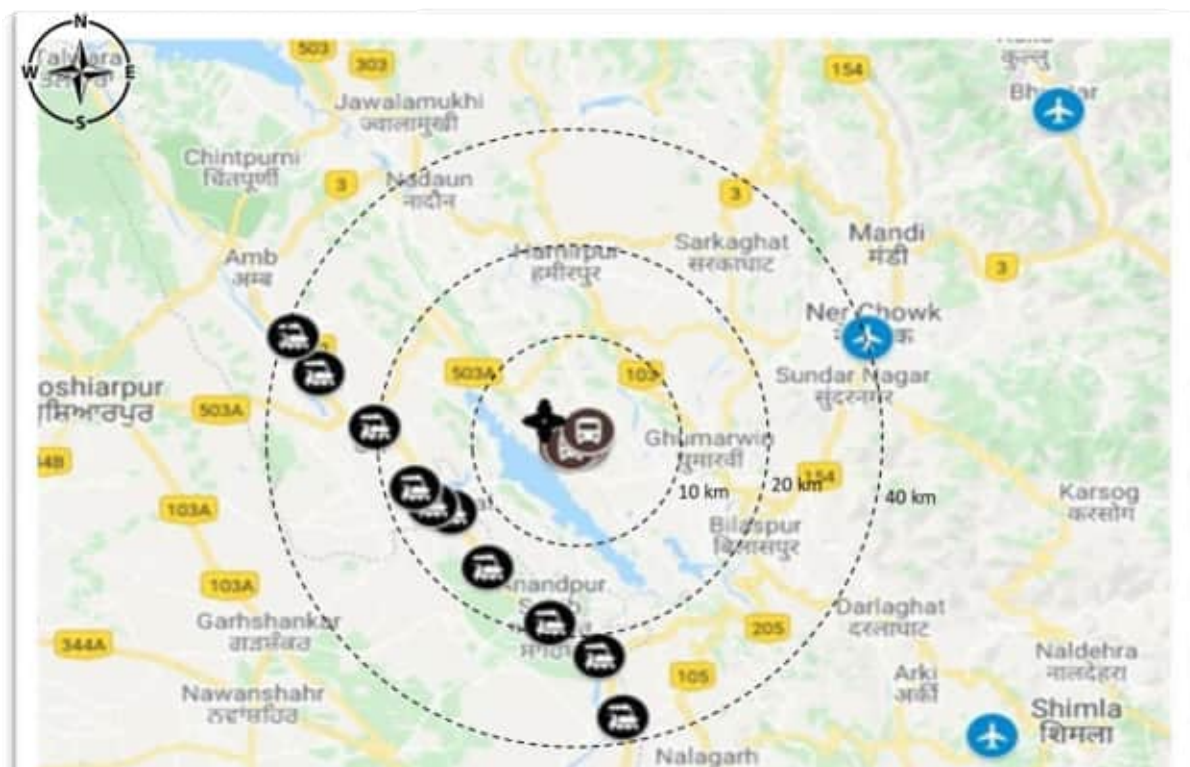
Access to the site – Baba Balaknath Cave temple is very old pilgrimage of Hindus. Baba Balaknath is considered the incarnation of lord Kartikeya (Son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati). The temple is located at the top of hill which is at Deotsidh Forest, close to village Chakmoh, Block Barsar, Range Bijahi, District Hamirpur. The distance of Baba Balaknath temple from Hamirpur is around 40 Kms, Dharamshala is around 80 Kms, Jwalaji temple is around 45 Kms, New Delhi is around 480 Kms, and Chandigarh is around 250 Kms.

Electricity: The electricity lines are available in all of Deotsidh. The electricity is supplied from Himachal State electricity Board, Hamirpur division which comes under Hamirpur Circle, which plays a crucial role in transmission of electricity.

Water: Piped water supply / hand pumps are present in the surrounding villages of the site. Source of piped water around Chakmoh and Deotsidh Forest Jal Shakti Barsar, Hamirpur. Major potential areas for the ground water development are the valley fill deposits, occurring along Beas River between Sachuhi and Nadaun, lower reaches of Man khad and Sir khad and central part of Kunah khad.

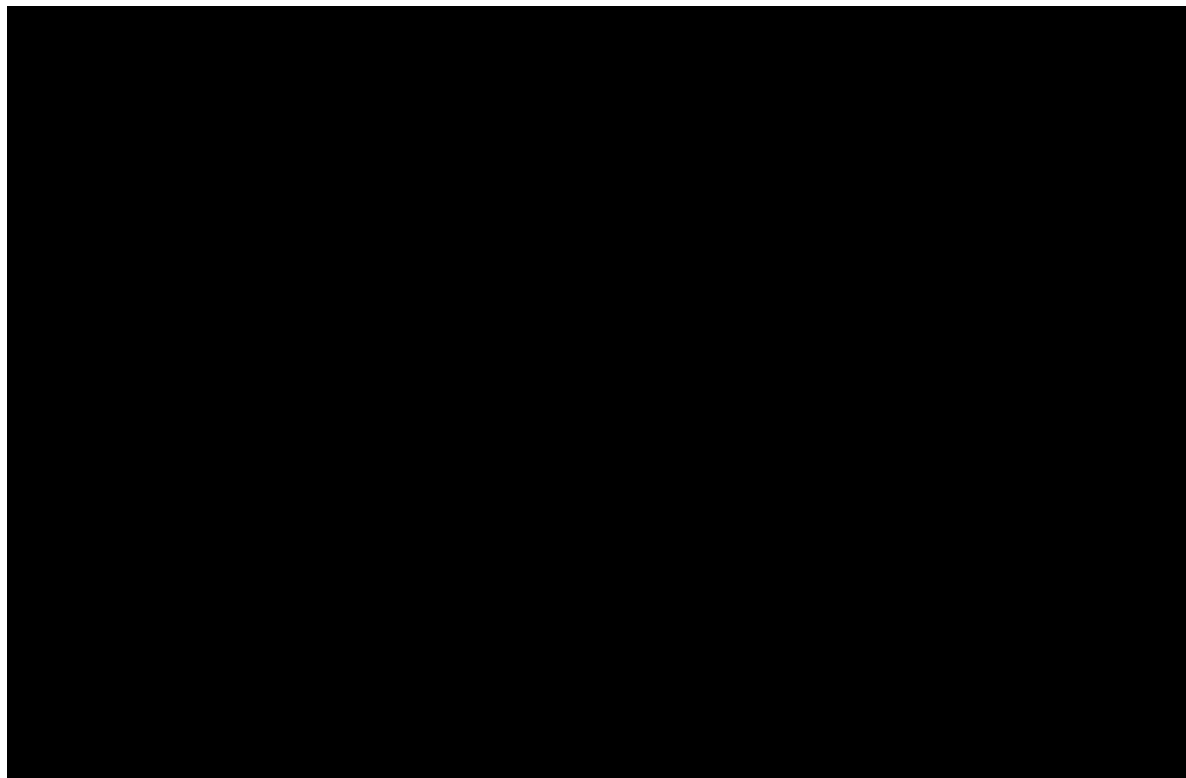
Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – Piped sewerage is very limited in and around the site. There are no sewage lines at most of the places and alternatively locals have made underground septic tanks. The solid & liquid waste from toilets, kitchens are collected in individual septic tanks. The solid waste at Deotsidh is normally collected by the temple trust entrusted employees in tractors. Various cleanliness drives are also organised by the trust, religious bodies and local Self-Help groups / Yuvak Mandal etc.

Exhibit 10.40: Major transport connectivity from Deotsidh



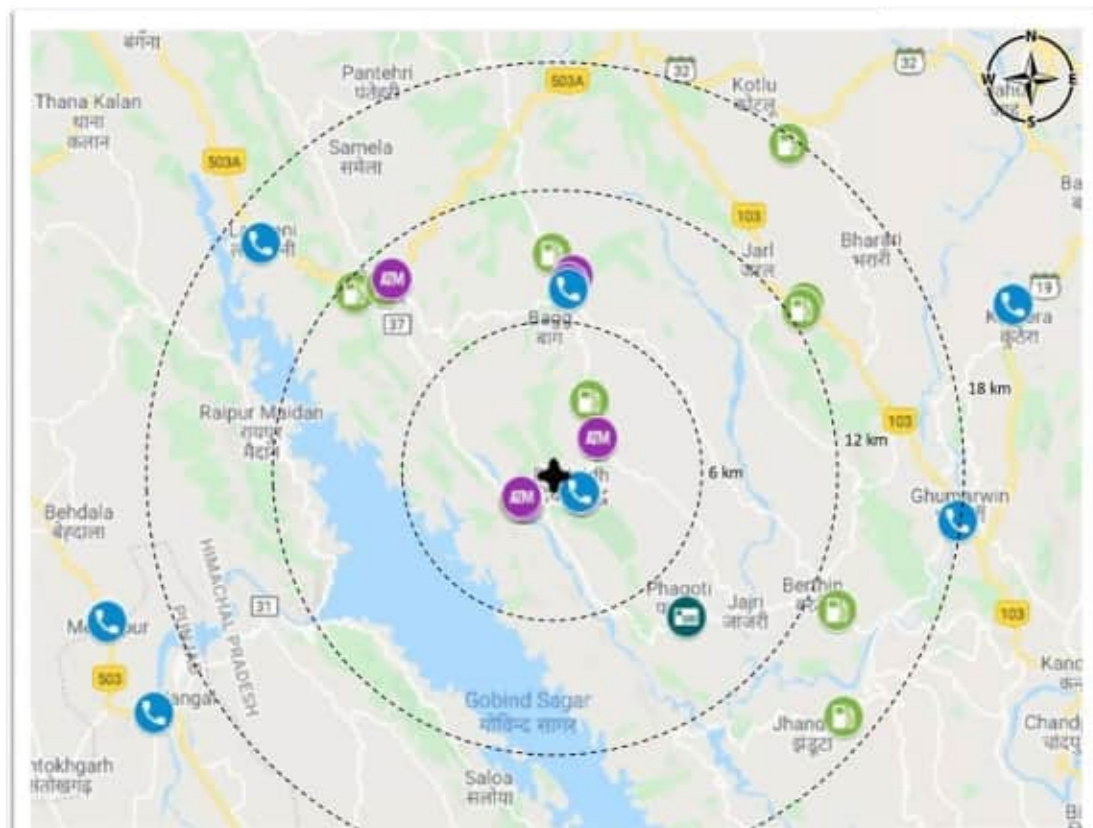
Availability of Health Care Facilities– Free Basic Ayurvedic treatment is offered to all devotees by Temple trust Chikatsalya. For more serious illness ambulances are available at Deotsidh. The Civil hospital at Barsar is around 20 kms from Deotsidh. The facilities such as hospitals, PHCs are available at Chakmoh and Shah Talai.

Exhibit 10.41: Health care facilities around Baba Balaknath cave temple Deotsidh



Telecommunication facilities – Deotsidh has decent connectivity to telephone network and internet. It has various other facilities in the surrounding area.

Exhibit 10.42: ATM, petrol stations and telecommunication around Baba Balaknath cave temple, Deotsidh



Police stations, police chowki and fire stations are present in surrounding villages for community's and tourist's safety.

Exhibit 10.43: Police stations, Fire station and Post offices around Baba Balaknath cave temple, Deotsidh

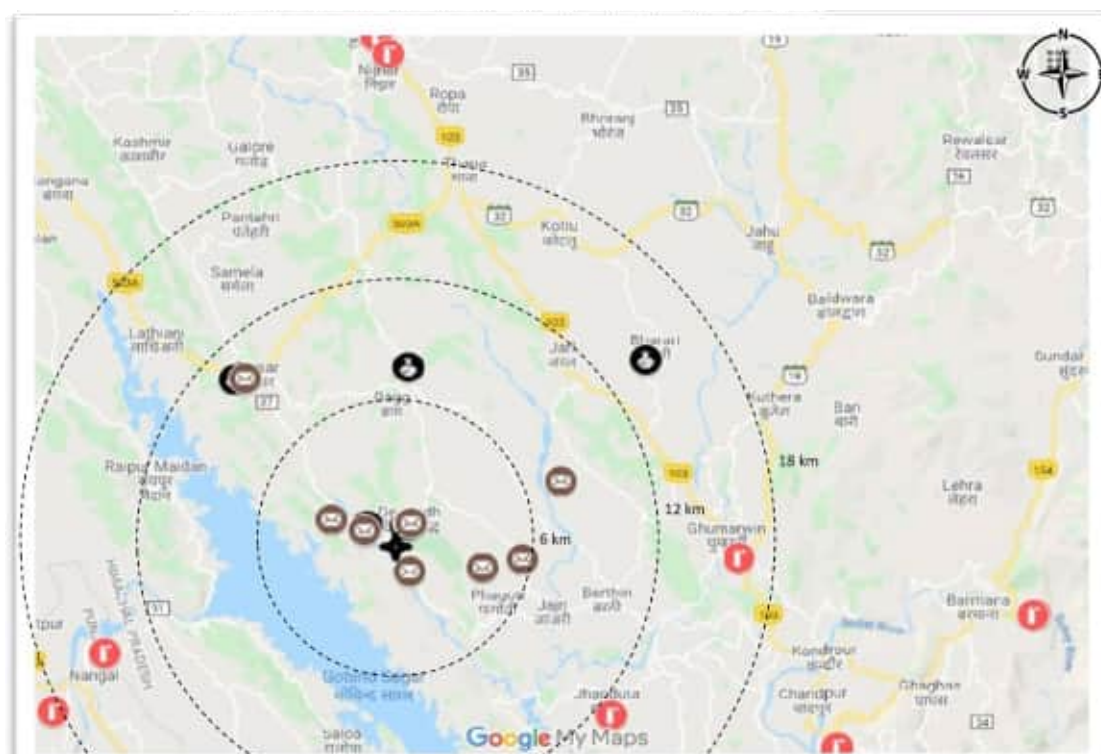


Exhibit 10.44: Pictures of the facilities/ amenities available near Baba Balak Nath Temple Deotsidh



Ayurvedic hospital



Ambulance



Water tank & mobile tower



Visitor's Utilities



Garbage collection



Rain shelter

F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

There are a few local transporters cum tour operators who provide tourist vehicles for pick up or drop, sightseeing tours to nearby sites like Gobind Sagar lake, Naina Devi temple (shakti peeth) and Bhakra Dam. During the months of March/ April 2021, a home stay training was conducted which was financed by HPTDC and technical input was shared by Jammu and Kashmir Industrial and technical training consultancy organisation. Community involvement is limited to home stays and that is also in very miniscule numbers.

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

Serai and Dharamshala: The Baba Balaknath temple trust manages 4 Serai with the total capacity of around 50 rooms and few halls for bhajan and kirtans etc. These Serai are located very strategically close to the cave temple. Except for one, all Serai are non-air-conditioned but has all other amenities like attached toilet, geysers in washrooms etc. The Serai can be booked online on the website of the trust. (Rent: 600 per night for room).

PWD Guest house: The PWD guest house is located just before the Van Vihar Vatika at Deotsidh. It has got 3 double suites. The guest house has all modern amenities like attached toilet, geysers in washrooms etc. The PWD circuit house or Rest houses can be booked through the Area manager Barsar, which is around 18 kms from Deotsidh. No online booking / payment facility is available.

Rent : (i) Non Himachali (Private) : 600 per night per room, (ii) Himachali (Private) : 1000 per night per room , Central and state employees pay lesser.

Private home stays / hotels / Retreats

- **Dream Valley hotel :**

A private budget hotel with 12 rooms is located at Deotsidh Forest. It is one of the closest hotels to Deotsidh (2 kms). Bookings are received and accepted through both online and offline channel. Online partner are trip advisor, MMT and Google. The bookings are received throughout the year. Between the period of March to June, the hotel is generally fully occupied. Bookings are mainly received from Pathankot, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Chandigarh, and Delhi etc.

Facilities & Activities provided to guests are; attached washrooms, running hot and cold water in washroom, Restaurant, Terrace with view etc. Rent is Rs. 1500 per room per night on bed and breakfast basis.

- **Green Valley hotel**

A private budget hotel with 15 rooms is located at Deotsidh village (5 kms). It's a modern, multi-storied hotel. Bookings are received and accepted through both online and offline mode.

Facilities & Activities provided to guests are; attached washrooms, running hot and cold water in washroom, Restaurant, room service. The rent is Rs. 1200 per room per night on bed and breakfast basis.

Exhibit 10.45: Pictures of the accommodation facilities available near Baba Balak Nath Temple Deotsidh



Hotel Green Valley



Hotel dream valley



PWD Guest house



Ludhiana Dharam shala



Serai No 9



Siddhanchal Serai

H. Existing Community based products

Self Help Groups based products - There are more than 30 SHGs in the nearby communities on block level, but only few are active and working towards uplifting of community with mainly local women.

Currently no SHGs or any community groups are directly working on the promotion of tourism / ecotourism activities. However, there are few SHGs which are associated with activities which can be connected with tourism in near future.

- Women led Self-help Group called Prerna SHG is involved in Making basket from pine needles, mats, etc.
- Bharti SHG of 9 women from Chakmoh Village Panchayat is involved in making of local delicacies like sepu wadiyan & pickles etc.

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Following are the list of ecotourism activities and facilities in the area:

The Forest rest house is located at Chakmoh Village, Barsar block, around 17 kms from Deotsidh Temple. It is a huge piece of land on the main road with lot of pine trees and other trees. It has 02 buildings- New & Old construction.

The new structure (with green metal roof) has 2 rooms out of which one is fully functional (room no 01) and other one needs repair as the false ceiling of room no 02 has come down. It's a decent place with all modern

Exhibit 10.46: Pictures of the FRH Chakmoh



amenities like attached washroom, geyser for hot water, air-conditioner etc. There is no power back. The food is cooked by the caretaker.

Rent per night: INR 500- 750 per night (only for room)

The old structure, which is the old Forest rest house with black stone slated roof, is in poor condition. As per beat officer the authorities are planning to use huge gardens of the Forest rest house for camping and other ecotourism activities.

J. Market analysis

The products that are the Unique selling points of the Baba Balaknath Cave temple and the adjoining areas is (i) Existence of Baba Balak nath Cave Temple, and (ii) Lush Pine Forest.

K. Community perception

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

Forest officials - CCF Hamirpur, Divisional forest officer, range officer, FG, beat officers

Community Representatives - Baba Balak Nath Temple Trust, Representatives from Chakmoh village, Sarai operator

Private operators - Hotel operators, hshops, and restaurants owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Site visits with Range Officer



Shop owners near Baba Balak Nath



Site visit with forest guards



Visit to way side amenity sites

Pradhan – Chakmoh Village, Barsar block , Bijahi Range

During the stakeholder consultation held on 19th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco- tourism were discussed. It was observed that currently the community is not involved in any kind of ecotourism activity.

Existing SHGs as mentioned earlier are also creating certain products that can be further explored for tourism related activities.

Home stay training: In the month of March – April there has been a 3-day workshop/Training on Home stay at Panchayat Chakmoh organised & financed by HPTDC and conducted by JITCO. It was attended by 21 people. Copy of the certificate is as follows:



The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly involved in cultural activities and sometimes cleaning around Baba Balaknath Cave temple. Agriculture is the main source of income for people from Chakmoh Village. They are not part of any tourism / ecotourism activity conducted either by the tourism department or by the wildlife department. as per the consultation, there is requirement of capacity building.

L. Challenges

- **Only religious/ pilgrim activity during fairs** – During the Chaitra mela – March till May, around 15 lakh devotees pay visit to the Baba Babalak nath temple, Deotsidh. Only pilgrims are visiting this area.
- **Absence of eco-tourist facilities** - The site has immense pressure of pilgrims. As more of the devotees are day visitors and doesn't spend more than 8 to 10 hours (during the rush period) there is demand for limited services only. The facilities at Deotsidh lack tourism facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, designated parking areas, quality camps, food / restaurants, help lines, First aid facility and training, treks and activities.
- **Limited trained manpower** to maintain Van Vatikas / Park and Way side amenities
- **Lack of sufficient way-side amenities**

M. Destination strengths and potentials

The key strengths include:

- **High numbers of Pilgrims and good pilgrimage site.** The approximate number of devotees those who visit the Baba Balak nath Temple is more than 50 Lakh every year (Covid 19 period is not taken into consideration).
- Existence of **Beautiful Pine trees and basic infrastructure** in place.

The site holds strong potential to be developed and further incorporate ecotourism activities such as:

- **Potential to covert pilgrims to nature tourist** - trekking / hiking trails across Deotsidh forest, Camping, nature walks, star-gazing etc.
 - If, even a small share of the total numbers of devotees visiting, can be convinced to spend 1 or 2 nights extra at the place, engaged in some ecotourism activity like camping, hiking/ trekking trails, learning some craft like pottery or making basket from pine needles or anything else involving the local people, that would be a big support to the local community.

- Opportunity for developing tourism infrastructure to ensure better experience for the visitors - Interpretation centres, watch towers, way-side amenities
- **Beautiful Pine forest: Forest based activities.** The lush pine trees of Deotsidh forest are beautiful. Nature walk in forest can be promoted as the people from cities don't get to see these kinds of forest. These can be clubbed with birding or wildlife viewing (if any).
- **Involve community by providing trainings** and sensitizing locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco- tourism activities, identification & regularization of treks, hikes and trails keeping in mind the experience and inclusion of safety measures. Locals can be trained for home stays, camping, as trekking guides and other activities etc.

N. Site benchmarking and rating

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Baba Balaknath Cave Temple, Lush Pine Forest
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by roads (40 Kms from Hamirpur) on Highway 503 A, Una – 55 Kms (train station)
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Exploratory for Ecotourism

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that, if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Need to additionally position it as a destination for trekking trails / nature walks to convert certain share of pilgrim tourists as nature tourists

10.3.3 Parashar lake demarcated Protected Forest

A. Brief introduction

Located at an altitude of 2730 mt. Parashar is known for Parashar lake, meadows, dense forest, and the panoramic view of snow-clad ranges of Dhauladhars. The “Parashar Lake” which has perimeter of about 300 mt. is decorated by a floating island in it. Its crystal-clear water adds to the charm of this scenic spot. Traditionally, it is believed that the lake was formed as result of striking of rod (Gurj) by Rishi Parashar and water came out and took shape of the lake.

An ancient Pagoda style temple dedicated to the Rishi Parashar, the patron God of Mandi region, stands beside the lake. The temple was constructed by the King Ban Sen in 13th -14th century with the Rishi being present in the form of a Pindi (stone). It is also said that the whole temple was built by using single deodar tree and it took 12 years to complete the temple construction.

Exhibit 10.47: Parashar Lake area during summer and winter season

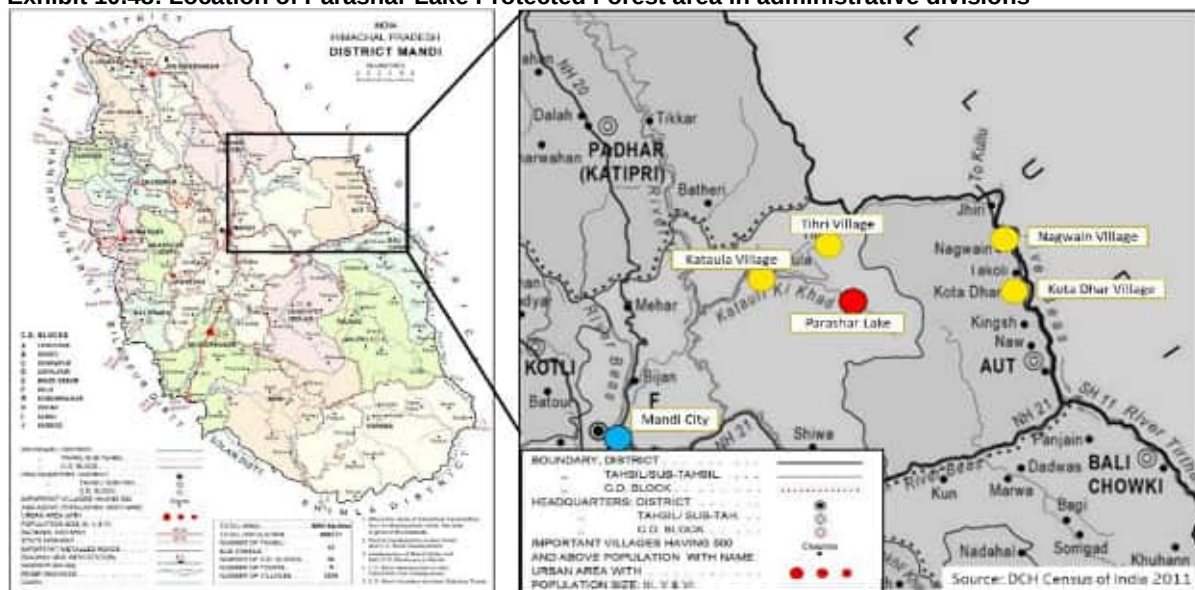


Source: site visit and tarveltriangle.com

B. Site details

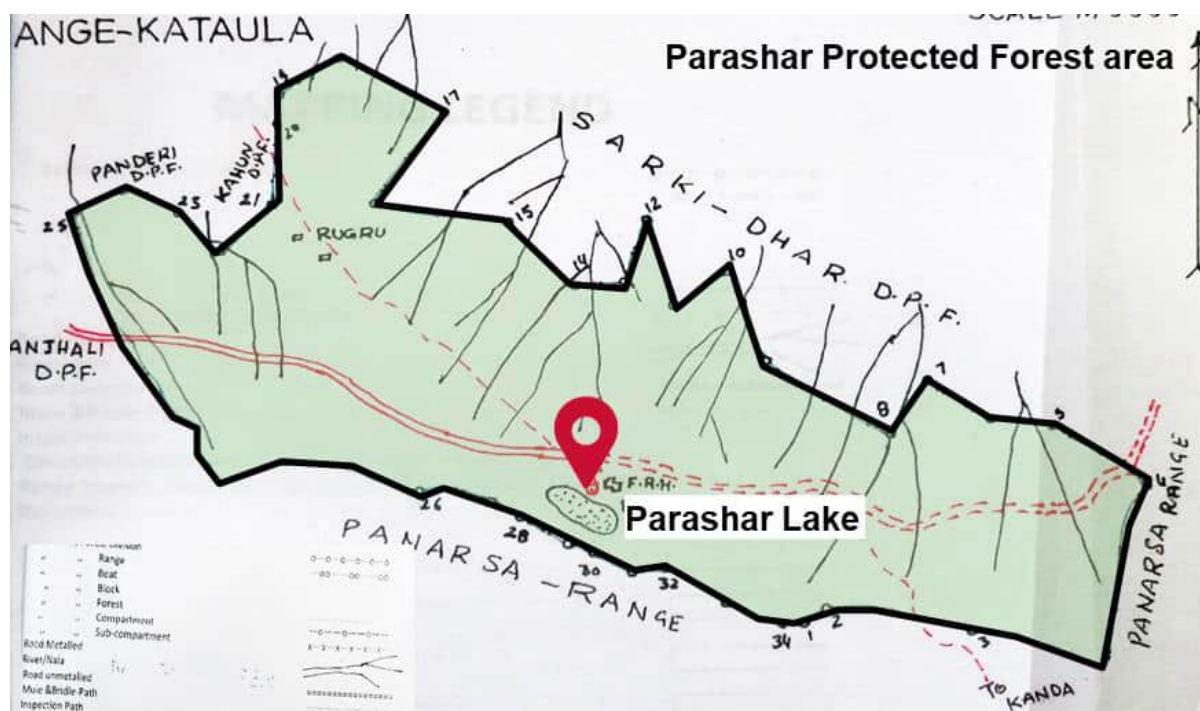
The Demarcated Protected Forest (D.P.F.) Parashar Dhar with an approximate area of 254 Hectares is in Katoula Tahsil of Mandi District. It comes under Mandi Sadar Community Development Block. The nearest town is Mandi, which is about 50 kilometres away. The nearby communities are from villages namely, Kataula and Tihri.

Exhibit 10.48: Location of Parashar Lake Protected Forest area in administrative divisions



Source: Administrative atlas map from District Census Handbook 2011

Exhibit 10.49: Map of Parashar DPF Area

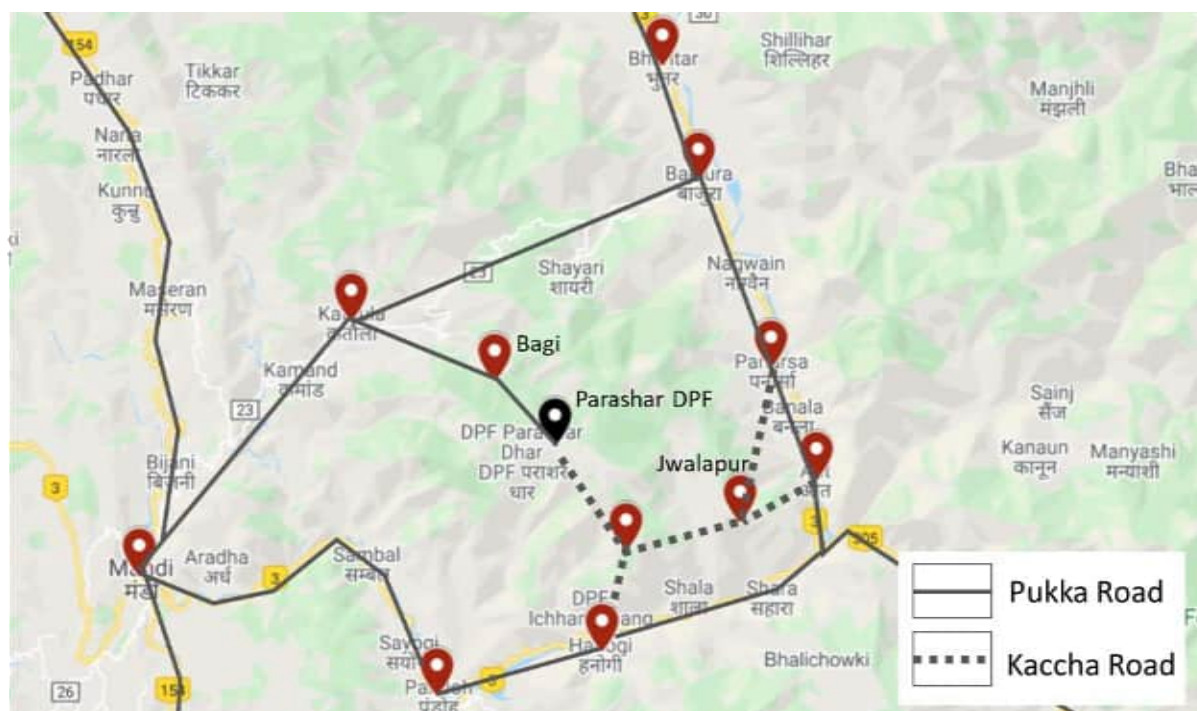


Source: Kataula Forest Range Office

C. Connectivity

Parashar DPF area is accessible through:

- Pukka road from Kataula village which connects Mandi,
- Kaccha road which connects Panarsa through Jwalapur
- Kaccha road which connects Hanogi through Bahandi

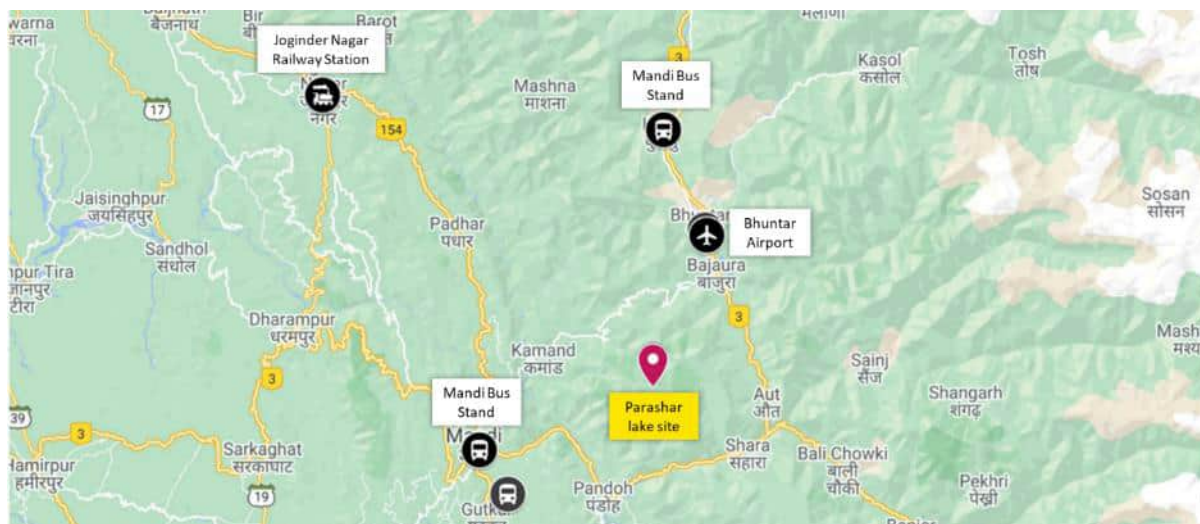


The area is well connected to cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, etc. through bus. Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - The nearest Airport is at a distance of about 65 Kilometres situated at Bhuntar in District Kullu.

By Train - The nearest rail link is narrow gauge line at Joginder Nagar situated at a distance of about 88 Kilometres.

By Road - The Parashar Lake is accessible by road from district headquarter Mandi situated about 50 Kilometres away.



D. Destination surroundings

The temple and the precinct area are operated and maintained by the Parashar Rishi Temple Committee which works for the cleanliness, fencing, upkeeping of the temple precinct area.

Exhibit 10.50: Rishi Parashar temple precinct



Exhibit 10.51: Pictures of the area nearby Rishi Parashar temple



Exhibit 10.52: Signages nearby Parashar Lake area



Exhibit 10.53: shops inside the temple complex



Exhibit 10.54: Sarai building near the temple



E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access – site is accessible through a motorable road which is 4.5 mt. wide. This road connects Mandi to Parashar via Katauli Village. This access road is damaged in a few sections and needs improvement. There are two buses (one private and one HP government) scheduled in morning which connects Mandi to Parashar Lake via Kantidhi, IIT Kamand, Kataula, Bagi and Suhara.

Exhibit 10.55: Government bus stop 0.4 km away from the temple area



Electricity – Electricity is provided through the HP government electricity department, Kataula Sub divisional area.

Water supply – Water is supplied through the IPH department of HP Government. The IPH department water collection pond is present near the Sukasar camp site, approximately 2 km away from Parashar lake. Source of water supply is natural surface water.

Exhibit 10.56: Drinking water, toilet facility and solar water heaters in the temple area



Solid waste management – There are dustbins for collection of liquid and dry waste within the temple precinct. The openly dumped waste by locals and tourists is collected by temple committee and Yuvak Mandal Community Group from the nearby villages and is burnt.

Drainage and sewerage – the wastewater from houses, camps and commercial units are discharged into individual septic tanks.

Medical facilities – The temple complex has a Primary Health Centre. Hospitals are available in nearby villages such as Kataula and urban area Mandi

Exhibit 10.57: Medical facility in the Rishi Parashar temple and PHC in Kataula



Exhibit 10.58: Medical facilities around Parashar DPF



April, May and June month in summer is the peak season in terms of tourist footfall, and the temple receives approximately 500-1000 persons per day. This number reduces in winters and rainy season to hundreds.

At present there are a few local tour operators with 15-20 persons with certificate training in trekking, guiding cooking and first-aid. At present only trekking and camping is being practiced. Majority of the local tour operator receives tourists from operator from States such as Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

During the discussion with the local operators, it was additionally highlighted that there is need for awareness programmes, guide training, homestay training, cooking training for the encouraging local community to participate and earn livelihood through it.

The wildlife area lacks in term of signages, street rest points, shelters, toilets, food/eateries options, etc. However, signages were spotted regarding emergency helpline toll free number, bus stop, and location of temple area.

Exhibit 10.61: Signage with emergency telephone helpline



G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

There is a variety of accommodation available near Parashar lake and the nearby villages. Available accommodation includes a Forest Rest House, HPPWD Rest House and Sarain of temple committee.

Sarai – These Sarain can be utilized for the tourists and people who visit here for religious purpose and during the “Saranauhali” fair, it is used by the people who bring local deity i.e., “Devta”. Tourists can stay at the temple premises, these contain dormitory-type-rooms with very basic facilities.

Exhibit 10.62: Sarai halls inside the temple complex for devotees



Guest houses – There are two forest rest houses (with three room units in each building) and a PWD guest house, 750 mt. away from the Parashar Lake. As per the discussion, these rest houses receive approximately 13-15 bookings/month (46-50 person) in the summer season. Both guest houses have caretakers to provide basic facilities along with cooking but during winters these guesthouses are not functional as there is no water supply, so travellers cannot book rooms in these guesthouses during winters. Booking is generally done from Mandi Forest office. FRH booking rate ranges from Rs. 150 to Rs. 100 for different kind of users.

Exhibit 10.65: Hotels in route to Parashar Lake area

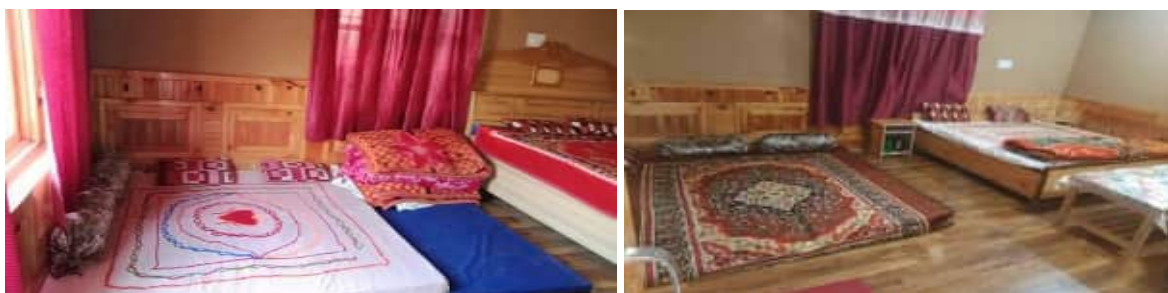


Exhibit 10.66: Heavenly Forest Resort - Mud houses with apple orchids (under construction)



Homestays – There are 7 to 8 homestays being operated in the communities near Parashar Lake (3 units in Tirhi, 2 units in Bagi and 2-3 units in Kataula). Five days trainings for homestay were carried out by the tourism department under IDIPT (Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism) project in Baggi Village for capacity building of the locals in tourism sector. The homestays follow the IEC manual distributed under this training program and arrange the amenities. These homestays are equipped with beddings, geyser, heater, food options, etc.

Exhibit 10.67: Homestay in Tattha Village



Under” Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008¹¹”, Stay Units in rural areas will be registered by the Department of Tourism and will be provided the following incentives/ exemptions:

- i. Town & Country Planning Department will charge no change of land use fees from the registered Home Stay units.
- ii. Home Stay units would be exempted (up to 3 rooms) from Luxury and Sales tax/Vat.
- iii. Domestic rates for electricity would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units and
- iv. Domestic rates of water would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units.

Government camps and tents – Forest government has a camp site with a total of 10 tents, 1.8 km away at Sukasar location near Parashar Lake, which was started in the year 2018. This camping site has variety of camps and tents with different capacities for accommodating persons.



This camping site provides food, and a few additional activities for leisure purpose to the tourist. These activities are:

- Camping / tent (INR 1000 / person, can be booked online and offline under ECOSOC)
- Trekking from Sukasar to Manjhari Top, Parashar Lake (INR 600 / person),
- Breakfast, dinner, and bon-fire (INR 800 / person)
- Horse riding (INR 1000 / person),
- Local folk song, dance and performance on social causes and awareness (INR 900 / person),
- Local folk song and group dance “Naati” performance in ethnic dresses, instruments etc. (INR 20,000)

¹¹ Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008 by Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh (URL - <https://himachaltourism.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Himachal-Pradesh-Home-Stay-Scheme-2008.pdf>)

Exhibit 10.68: Sukasar Forest Government Camping Site



Sukasara eco-camping site is operated by a group of people from nearby community, who are given the responsibility to operate this site for an agreement of 12 years. As per the discussion held with the operator from a nearby village named Tattha; months of April-June receive the maximum number of bookings from tourists of nearby states such as Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

Commercial Camps & tents – Various camping sites and tents are available around 2.5 km from the Parashar lake area. Camping tents are also available along the routes from Mandi and Kullu with a view of Parashar Valley.

Exhibit 10.69: Private camping - Kishna Camping, Fogg Hill



The camping tents are available at the rate of INR 1500-2500 per person. These camp sites provide boarding and lodging. Hot water facility is not available in most of the camps due to absence of electricity in the remote locations. As per the discussion held, these camps are operated by local people from nearby villages on private land (on lease for 3-5 years) with temporary structures. These units have certified trekkers and guides as well, but the need of various other tourism related trainings was highlighted by the locals.

Eateries / Restaurants / Dhaba – Approximately 5 to 6 small eateries, restaurants, cafe and roadside Dhabas are available along the road stretch from IIT Mandi to Parashar Lake. These provide packaged food, snacks, and basic meals. A few restaurants have accommodation and toilets for passengers as well.

Exhibit 10.70: Cafe and Dhaba in road stretch from IIT Mandi to Parashar Lake



H. Existing Community based products

At present this area lacks in terms of any specific local community-based products. The products which are available here, can be found in most of the locations of Himachal Pradesh State. These are mostly local cuisine such as “Shiphu Badi”, Pine needle artifacts, etc. This segment may be explored further to identify the products at community level.

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Existing treks - The best time to visit is any time throughout the year except the winter months, which are from December to March. The trek to Parashar Lake starts from Baggi village, which is 26 km from Mandi. Mandi is 230 km from Delhi and 180 km from Chandigarh. Tourists usually take the bus from these cities. It takes 4 to 5 hours to reach Parashar Lake from Baggi village, and the distance is about 7.5 km. The rate for these identified treks varies from INR 1500-2500 per person. Following are the prevailing trek routes:

Exhibit 10.71: Prevailing trek routes around Parashar Lake

SN	Route	Halt	Distance (one side)
1.	Bagi Village - Parashar Lake	Parashar lake	4 km
2.	Jwalapur village – Parashar Lake	Parashar lake	6 km
3.	Panarsa - Jwalapur Village – Parashar Lake	Jwalapur Parashar lake	9 km
4.	Hanogi – Baggi – Parashar Lake	Baggi Parashar lake	12 km
5.	Parashar Lake - Tungamata	Tungamat	10 km
6.	Parashar Lake - Majholi	-	3 km
7.	Kantlu - Parashar Lake	Baggi	7 Km

SN	Route	Halt	Distance (one side)
8.	Mandi – Bijani – Kamand – Baggi – Parashar Lake	Baggi	~50 km
9.	Kullu – Bhuntar – Bajaura – Shayari – Baggi – Parashar Lake	Baggi / Parashar Lake	~65 km

Source: Consultation with private tour operators

Exhibit 10.72: Consultation with the commercial trekkers and camp providers



Paragliding activity – The State Tourism Department, i.e. tourism and civil aviation department, Mandi has given nod for starting commercial paragliding activities at two famous tourist destinations of Parashar and Sapanidhar in 2018. At present the paragliding is not being practiced, however, the local trained and certified paragliding experts practice it at 4 to 5 km distance from the Parashar Lake. A 15 days paragliding training was conducted by the tourism department under IDIPT project for capacity building of the locals in paragliding.

Exhibit 10.73 practice sessions of paragliding at Kishna Camps



J. Market analysis

At present this area lacks in terms of any specific local community-based products. This segment may be explored further to identify the products at community level. There are a few Self-Help Groups (SHGs) such as:

- Mahila Mandal – engaged in activities such as making of cloth bags, cloth stitching, toys making
- Yuvak Mandal – cleanliness drives,
- Mahalakshmi SHG from Bharwad village - making of cloth bags.

These self-help groups are mostly registered at administrative block level and working on non-tourism sectors for livelihood opportunities.

K. Community perception

The meetings were conducted with various stakeholders to understand the local community's perception. These include:

- **Forest Officials** - Divisional forest officer, range officer, FG Kataula,
- **Private Operators** - Sukasar Govt. camp site operator, private camping and trekking service providers, restaurant's owners
- **Community representatives** - Parashar Lake Temple Committee, representatives from Bandi and Sigli Panchayat, Gujjar and Gaddi community

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Tour operators and representative of Panchayat



Tourists and Temple committee members



Gujjar and Gaddi community



Local camping and trekking service providers



Certified Paragliding Experts

Representatives from Bandi Panchayat, Local tour operator, camp site & trekking operators

This discussion was held on 24th August 2021 with the people from the communities, Panchayat Members, people involved in tourism activities near Parashar Lake.

At present the community people are working towards the cleanliness of this temple complex area as well as the trekking trail which receives the majority of the solid waste and littering due to tourism activities. It is collected by temple committee and Yuvak



Mandal Community Group from the nearby villages and is burnt. These communities are aware about

the ill effect of the tourism on the nature, and it was highlighted by them to not affect the nature of this area for creating livelihood. Need of sustainable tourism was discussed during the consultation.

In discussion with the local operators, it was additionally highlighted by the locals that there is a need of awareness programmes, guide training, homestay training, cooking training for the encouraging local community to participate and earn livelihood through it.

The Sukasar camp site of forest government is being operated by a group of people from nearby community, which is given the responsibility to operate this site for an agreement of 12 years. The operator, which is from a nearby village named Tattha has initiated a few activities by involving the artists from his community to perform folk song and dance on demand of the tourist. This enhances the experience of the tourist by engaging them in cultural aspects.

Discussion with Gujjars and Gaddi: Nomadic

The pressure and impacts of grazing by stay animals were discussed with these communities. They are aware that, this area is under tremendous pressure from grazing by stray animals. The discussion highlighted that, approximately 40% of the grazing and littering is caused by the stray animals, which are left in these areas due to their inability to sustain or to feed these animals in forest areas in season when they are not utilized in agricultural activities.

The impacts were discussed such as animal waste, littering, non-cleanliness due to presence of waste from these stray animals throughout the area. Measures were suggested by the community such as - Regular tagging of the owned animals by Gujjars, monitoring for stray animals, etc.



L. Key challenges of the site

- **Carrying capacity for highly eco-sensitive zone is not known** and not many studies have been conducted on the same
- **Community involvement post COVID 19** has affected the existing tour operators and the nearby communities involved in tourism sector in the area. Homestays, camps and tents are presently not operating sufficiently as well as not preferred by the tourists due to COVID 19 threats. Activities such as paragliding and trekking were also on hold due to the medical concerns and government guidelines.
- **Access to Parashar Lake** – Access to Parashar lake is under construction from Panarasa and Hanogi. Therefore, mostly the road from Kataula is preferred by the tourists to reach the temple area.

Grazing by stray animals - The area is under tremendous human pressure from grazing by stray animals. Excessive grazing in these areas is leading to soil erosion. The discussion highlighted that, approximately 40% of the grazing and littering is caused by the stray animals, which are left purposefully in these areas due to their inability to sustain or to feed these animals in forest areas in season when they are not utilized in agricultural activities.

The grassland is affected through animal waste, littering, non-cleanliness due to presence of waste from these stray animals throughout the area. This phenomenon of littering can be seen in most of the locations under Parashar DPF.

- **Lack of adequate tourist facilities** – The area lacks with respect to tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, rain shelters, designated parking areas, quality camps, food / eateries / restaurants, toilet facilities, drinking water facility, helplines, communication network signals, formalized trail, treks and activities, and safety measures at the tourist spots.
- **Lack of awareness towards ecotourism amongst the communities.**

M. Destination Strengths and potentials

This destination is naturally positioned for ecotourism activities and the community is also tourism friendly, open to training exercises to enhance their livelihood opportunity. Baseline soft and physical infrastructure already exists and has potential to elevate the experience for tourists. The strengths of the site include:

- Existing tourist base due to temple and adventure activities (trekking and camping)
 - Quality camping and tents available, trekking trails with trained guides and certified persons, safety measures, community participation.
 - Proposed Commercial Paragliding site
- Capacity building programs conducted by government in past
- Community involvement in providing culture-based services (folk song & dance “Naati”)

Following are the site potentials based on the existing situation and analysis:

- **Quality camping and tents:** Authorized and registered safe camping sites along with exhibition and performances of local cultural aspects such as folk song and dance performances “Naati”.
- **Trekking trails** – Regularized trekking trails supported with signages, trained guides and certified persons, safety measures through community participation.
- **Paragliding activity** – Parashar lake is already proposed as a paragliding site. Operation of registered paragliding activities from Lambadhar to Gadaunidhar.
- **Tourist facilities** – potential for development of tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, rain shelters, designated parking areas, food / eateries / restaurants, toilet facilities, drinking water facility, and helplines, etc.

O. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for the Parashar Lake is as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Religious aspect and fairs. Famous for trekking, camping. Paragliding has started as well
2	Accessibility/ Connectivity	Accessible through road (under construction in 5-6 km stretch). Public Transport is available 0.4 km from the temple area.
3	Infrastructure/ Facilities	Not satisfactory at the site. Available in the surrounding villages. Camp & Tents by the Forest Dpt.
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development phase

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/

facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

Current Situation Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential for regularized ecotourism and adventure activities involving communities considering carrying capacity limitations

10.3.4 Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary

A. Brief introduction

Shikari Devi temple is about 18 Kms from Janjehli village, situated at an altitude of 3359 Mtr. Being the highest peak of Mandi District, it is also called Crown of Mandi. Vast green pastures, captivating sunrise and sunset, panoramic view of snow ranges make this place favourite to nature lovers. The place receives a lot of snow during winters. The place can be approached from Karsog block which is just 21 Kms from Shikari Devi.

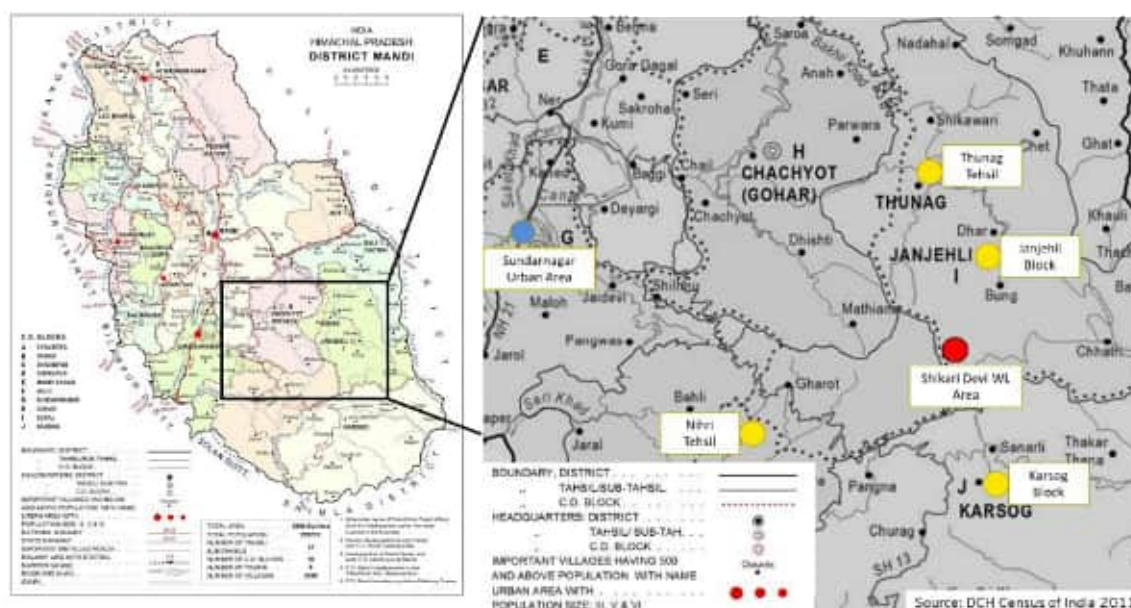
On the Shikari peak, there is a roofless temple of Shikari Devi, the Goddess of hunters and this temple is said to be established (Sathapit) by Pandavas.

It is said that sage Markanday also meditated at this place for number of years. It has been observed that despite the fact that temple has no roof, no snow is spotted in temple premises during winters when the entire region around this temple is covered up to several feet by snow.

Exhibit 10.74: Shikari Mata Temple at 3359 mt MSL



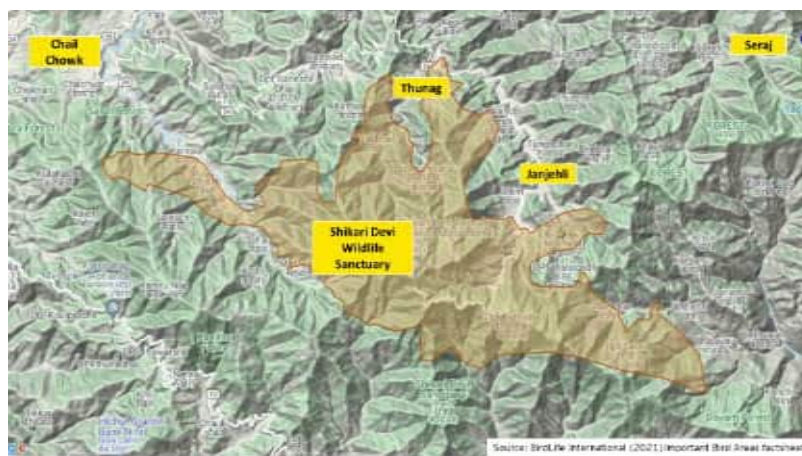
Exhibit 10.75: Location of Shikari Devi temple in administrative divisions



Source: Administrative atlas map from District Census Handbook 2011

This site is under the jurisdiction of Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary¹². This high-altitude Sanctuary is named after the goddess Shikari Devi, to whom a temple is dedicated, and the place is considered sacred by Hindus. An area of 7,200 hectares surrounding the temple was declared a sanctuary in 1962. Nearly 40 villages are present inside the Sanctuary, and many more in the surrounding areas.

Exhibit 10.76: Shikari Devi Wildlife sanctuary Area map



Owing to great variation in altitude, Shikari Devi Sanctuary has seven forest types, according to the classification by Champion and Seth (1968): Alpine Pasture, Sub-alpine Forest, Moist Temperate Deciduous Forest, West Himalayan Upper Oak/Fir forest, Kharsu Oak Forest, Western Mixed Coniferous Forest, and Ban Oak Forest (Singh et al. 1990)¹³.

This Sanctuary covers the middle altitudinal range from 1,800 to 3,400 mt. of the Himalayas, showing transition from pine through oak to alpine meadow.

Key biodiversity¹⁴:

Avifauna: The globally threatened Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* is found, probably in good numbers. Himalayan or Impeyan Monal Lophophorus *impejanus*, Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*, Kaleej Lophura *leucomelana* and Western Tragopan *melanocephalus* are also found. The last species needs confirmation from this site. This IBA lies in the Western Himalayas Endemic Bird Area (EBA). It also has biome-restricted species of Eurasian High Montane (Biome-5) and Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest (Biome-7). Bird Life International (undated) has listed 48 species in Biome-5.

Other key fauna: Shikari Devi WLS has several high-altitude mammals such as Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* and Goral *Nemorhaedus goral*. There are unconfirmed reports of Snow Leopard. At temperate forest level, Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjac*, Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* and Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* are reported. The Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista albiventer*, Kashmir Flying Squirrel *Hylopetes fimbriatus*, Stone Marten *Martes foina*, and Himalayan Weasel *Mustela sibirica* are also found here.

B. Site details

Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary area falls under the jurisdiction of Wildlife range Karsog (Sanrali Village), Wildlife division Kullu. The nearest village is Janjehli at a distance of 18 km, and the nearest urban area is Sundarnagar which is 94 Km.

¹² BirdLife International (2021) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 31/08/2021

¹³ BirdLife International (2021) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 31/08/2021

¹⁴ BirdLife International (2021) Important Bird Areas factsheet

C. Connectivity

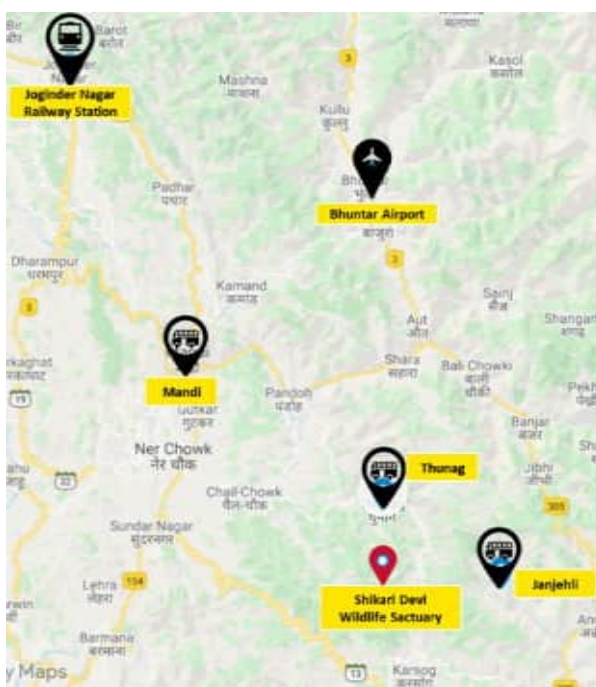
Shikari Devi Temple and Wildlife area is accessible only through roads which connect Janjehli and Karsog to Shikari Devi Temple. Till Janjehli and Karsog there are availability of Buses from Thunag, Sundarnagar, Mandi and other nearby villages. following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - The nearest Airport is at a distance of about 118 kilometres situated at Bhuntar in District Kullu.

By Train - The nearest Rail Link is Narrow Gauge line at Joginder Nagar situated at a distance of about 152 kilometres.

By Road - The Janjehli is accessible by road from Nerchowk on Chandigarh-Manali National Highway.

Exhibit 10.77: Connectivity map of Shikari Devi area



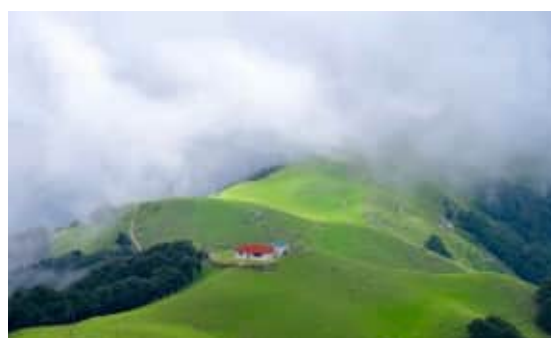
D. Site surroundings

Exhibit 10.78: Shikari Devi site surroundings





Forest Rest House Shikari Devi, Wildlife range Karsog
(Sanarali), Division Kullu



View of Forest Rest House

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Access to the site – The temple is accessible through a road of width 4.5 mt. which is currently under construction and is in poor condition due to minor landslides. This road is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Division. There are two locations Karsog and Janjehli from which the road reaches Shikari Devi Temple area.

Electricity: The electricity lines are available till the highest peak of the Shikari Devi Temple area. The electricity is supplied from Gohar Electric Division. Solar powered lights are also installed in the temple area.

Water: Piped water supply is present in the temple area and surrounding villages. Source of water for temple area is Kangri nala (surface water). Source of water for Janjehli village is budha kedar khadd, bhulah khadd (surface water). Water supply remains unavailable during winters due to low temperature.

Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – Piped sewerage system and solid waste management system is limited in and around the site. The solid & liquid waste from toilets, kitchens, houses are collected in individual septic tanks. The solid waste in temple area and wildlife area is collected through community efforts and Self-Help Groups such as “Yuvak Mandal” and is burnt at distant areas.

Availability of Health Care Facilities – Health care facilities such as hospitals, primary Health Centres (PHCs) are available in the surrounding villages like Janjehli, Karsog, Thunag, and Dhim Kataru, which are located at a distance of 15-18 km. At present the temple area is not having access to any health care facility.

Exhibit 10.79: Location of physical infrastructure - water supply IPH office, OHTs, and electric substations

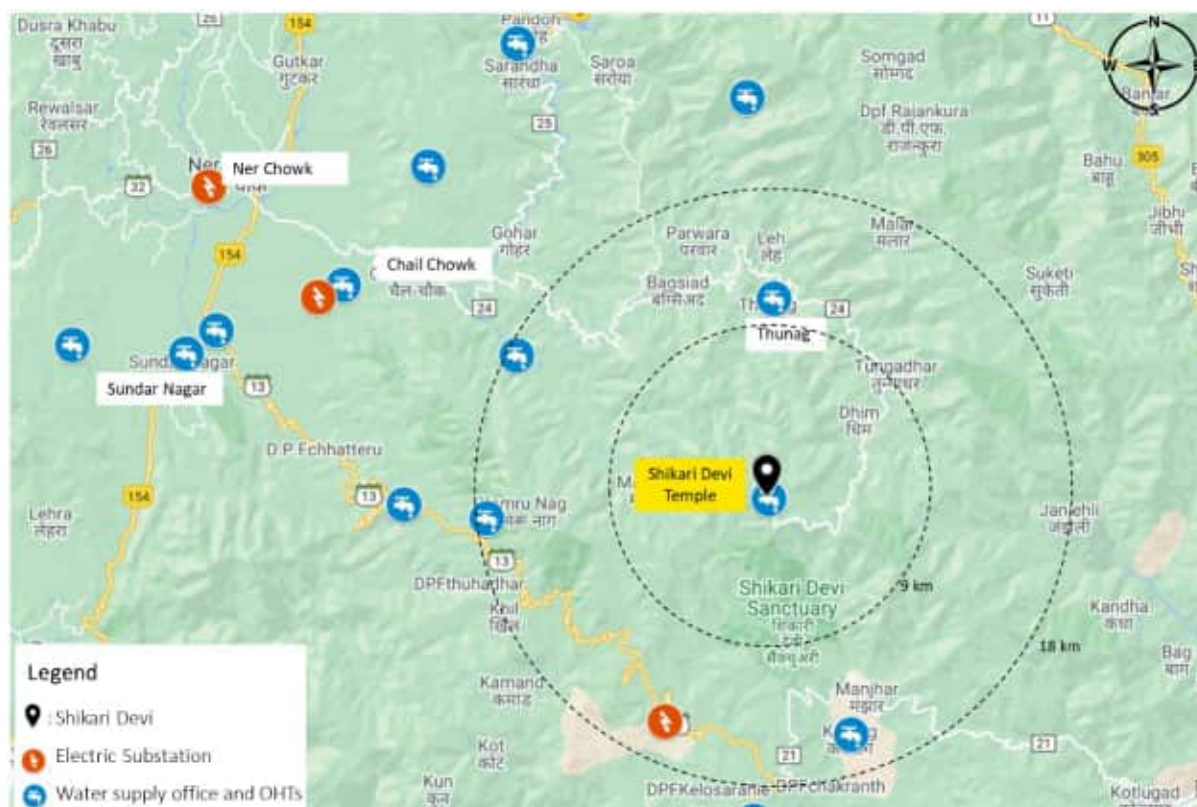
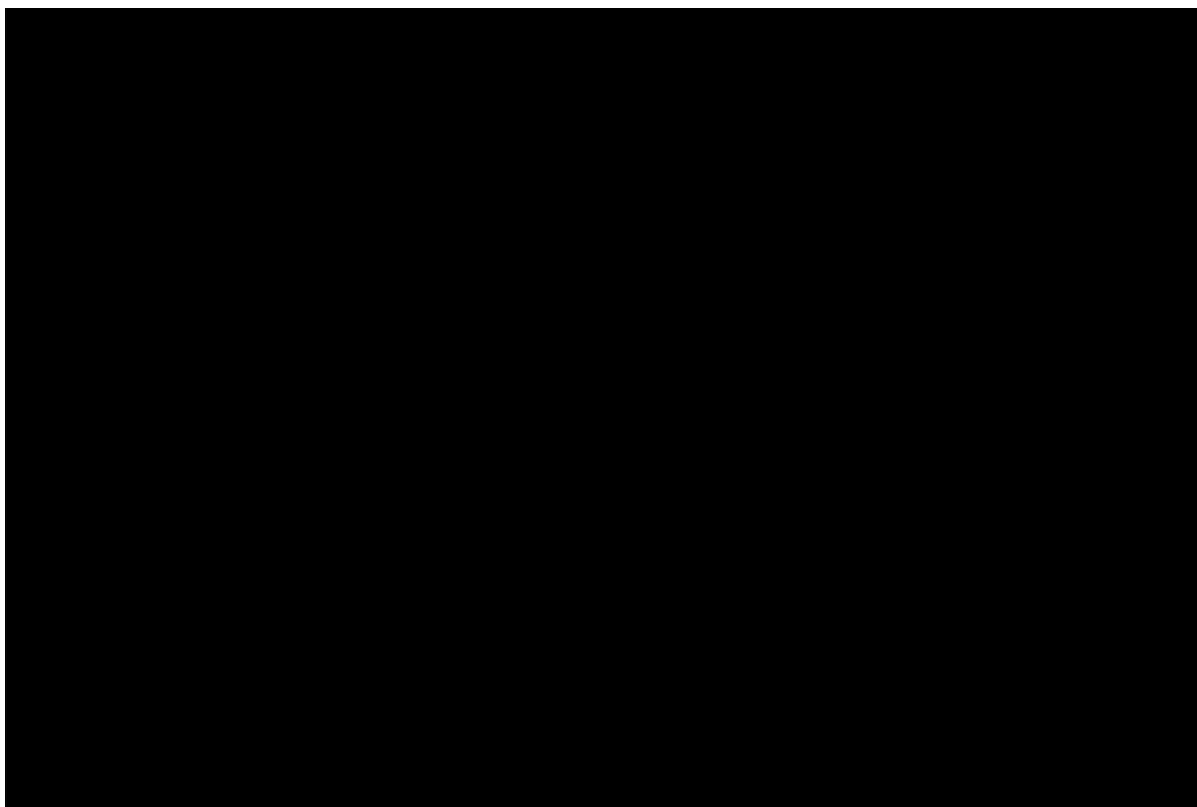


Exhibit 10.80: location of health facilities



Telecommunication and security facilities – The temple area has limited connectivity to telephone network and internet. However, the network is good in the surrounding villages such as Janjehli,

Thunag, Karsog, etc. Police stations, police chowki and fire stations are present in surrounding villages such as Janjehli, Karsog and Thunag for community's and tourist's safety concerns.

Exhibit 10.81: Location of nodes and office for communication and safety concerns

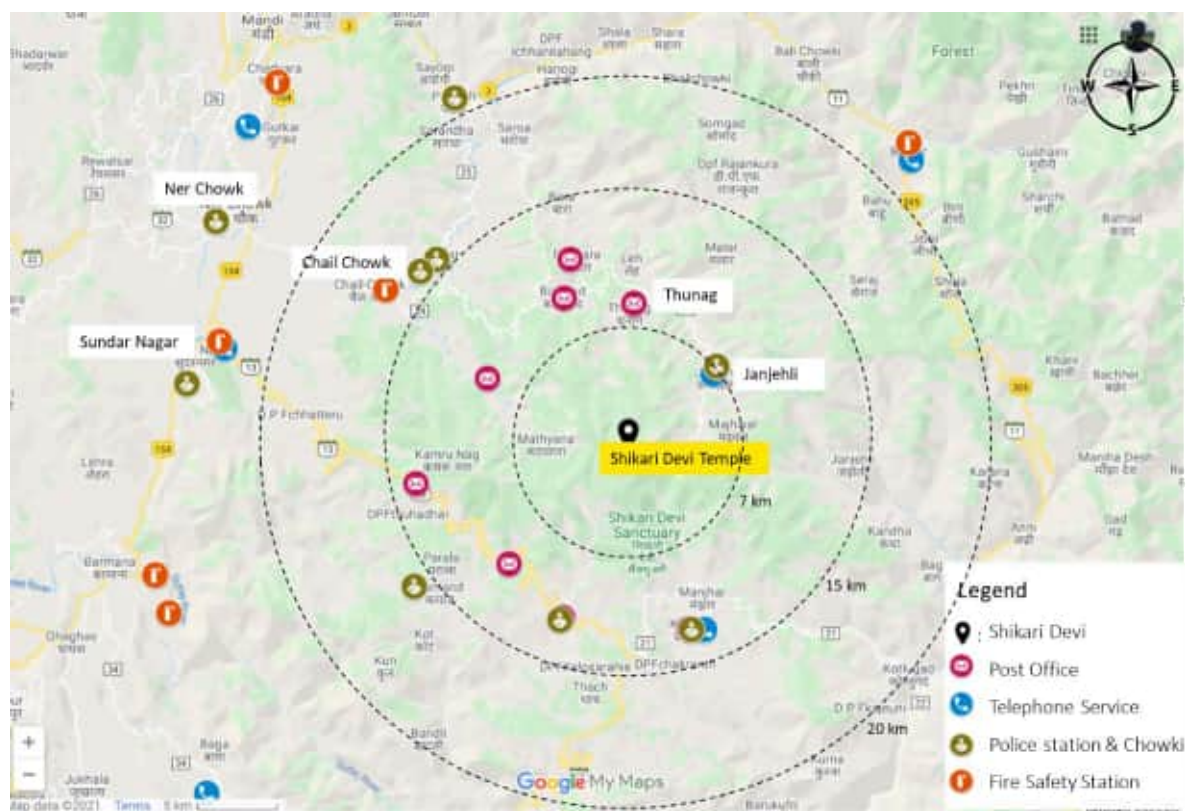


Exhibit 10.82: Location of other amenities such as banks, ATMs, Fuel stations



F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

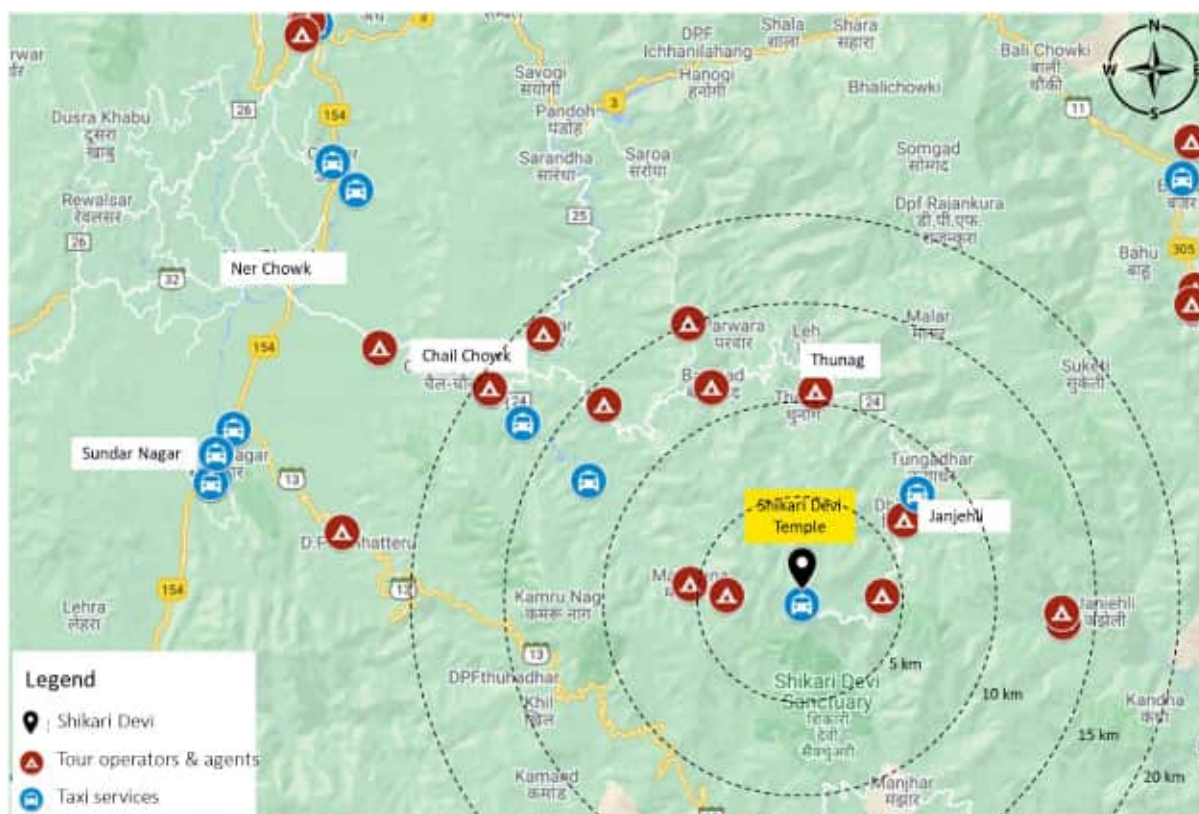
At present there are 10 to 12 local tour operators who are certified to conduct trekking activities. There is a sub divisional level association in Janjehli for tourism related activities known as Janjehli Adventure Tourism Association (JATA). At present only trekking, camping is being practiced. Based on interaction with JATA, it was observed that a proposal was shared with the government for inception of tourism activities in the area, such as rock climbing, rappelling, etc.

Majority of the local tour operator receives tourists from States such as Delhi, Punjab, etc. The association also highlighted the need for awareness programmes, guide training, homestay training, skiing training (basic level training was held in 2019 for 10-12 persons), cooking training, etc. The wildlife area lacks in term of signages, street rest points, shelters, toilets, food/eateries options, etc.

Exhibit 10.83: Public toilet at the entry point to Shikari Devi Temple area



Exhibit 10.84: Location of tour operators and taxi service providers



G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

(i) Accommodation nearby Shikari Devi Temple:

- Sarai – There is a Sarai for VIPs which costs INR 500 per bedding, and there are 3 other Sarai which costs INR 250-500. In total there are 25 shared rooms within these Sarai. These Sarai provide amenities like blanket, pillow and bedding for stay purpose. These can be availed with due permission from Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Janjehli Block and Thunag Tehsil.
- Forest Rest House – Forest Rest House is established at approximately 800 mt. distance from Shikari Devi Temple, under Wildlife range Karsog (Sanarali), Division Kullu.
- Camps – There are a total of 18 camps in this area and these camps provide amenities like food, bedding, essentials for worship. The cost of the camp varies in the range of INR 100-200/ per person. These camps are operated by local villagers upon permission provided by the Deputy Range Forest Officer. They operate the camps during March to June and October to November while they remain shut during winter due to heavy snowfall. Temple remains closed post October till March month. April – May - June months are the peak season for temple visitors.

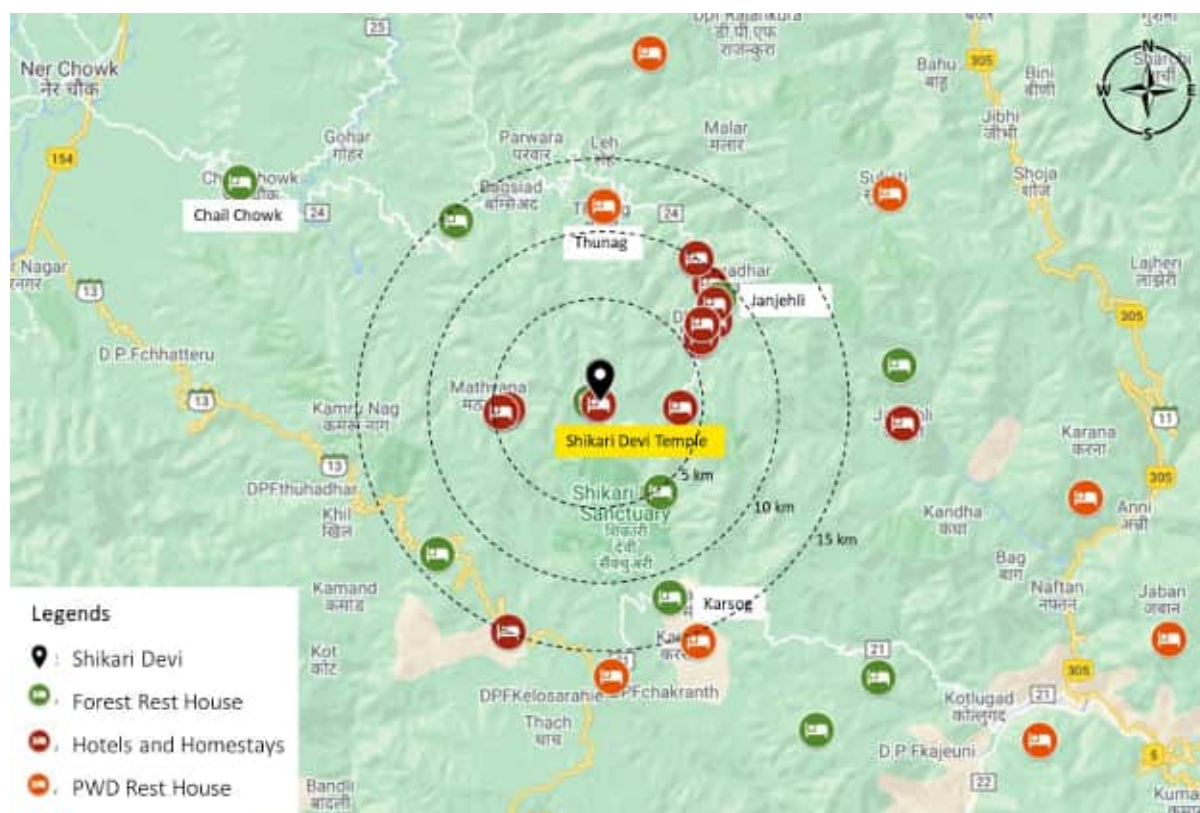
Exhibit 10.85: Surrounding of Shikari Devi Temple area



(ii) Accommodation in the nearest village

Nearest villages to Shikari Devi Temple are at Janjehli, Thunag and Karsog. These locations have presence of budget homestays and hotels. The price range varies from INR 1000 to 2500 and they provide amenities like room heater, geyser, food, etc. These homestays and hotels arrange services like taxi, camps, and treks. Most of the amenities located in these areas include ATMs, banks, public toilets, police station, petrol pumps, etc.

Exhibit 10.86: Location of accommodation facilities



Observation: Based on the site visit, it was observed that, many hotels are registered as “Homestays”. The reason behind this was expressed by locals as the “subsidy and tax resumptions by the government to Homestays”. The details under Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008, has been mentioned in the earlier sub-section.

Exhibit 10.87: Photographs of the commercial accommodation facilities



Paradise Home stay in Janjehli



Green Meadows Home stay in Janjehli

Exhibit 10.88: Photographs of the accommodation facilities by the government



Accommodation facility by tourism dept.

Trekkers Hostel in Janjehli

H. Existing Community based products

(i) Products at individual level - Apple Farming

In Mandi, the Karsog region is the biggest producer of apple, followed by Janjehli, Gohar and Sundernagar. According to the data of the Horticulture Department in the year 2018, 18,000 metric tonne of apple produce were from Karsog, while 14,500 metric ton from Janjehli, 600 metric tonnes from Gohar and 827 metric tonnes from Sundernagar.

As per stakeholder consultation, the need to set up a compressed atmospheric (CA) store and a fruit processing unit at Karsog and Janjehli was highlighted by the communities.

Exhibit 10.89: Apple farming and grading units at Janjehli



Grading and packaging unit at Janjehli



Fruit and vegetable commission agents



Apples produced during July-August



Mixed cropping – Apple and Cauli flower

During the peak apple season, the price of the produce goes down sharply and farmers sell the crop at a low price as there is no facility of a *compressed atmospheric (CA) store* in the region, where they could store their produce for some period until the market price gets stabilised.

(ii) Self Help Groups based products

There are more than 80 SHGs in the nearby communities which are working on various aspects. Presently, they are not inclined to tourism sector. However, “Aparajita” SHG from Pakhrair village is working and training on tourist wellness centre with a group strength of 6 women from the village itself. This group is working under the guidance of a lady named “Shoma Devi” from Pakhrair Village. As per the consultation with her it was detailed out that she has received the training of oil therapy and herbal tea making from Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. Presently she is training 15 ladies from the communities in the oil therapy. The Herbal Tea is under laboratory testing. This Herbal Tea is prepared using the local

Herbs such as Brahmi leaves. This group is working towards promoting local medicinal plants and flower for medicinal benefit in the form of “Lingad ka Achar” and “Brass Flower Juice”.

Exhibit 10.90: Illustrative photographs of the products prepared locally



Lingad Pickle (Lingad ka Achar)



Burash Flower Juice

Source - <https://hillyatri.in/> and <https://www.himalayandiary.com/>

This group has additionally worked on preparation of an Audio-Visual Compact Disk project concept, which could showcase the natural landscape, spiritual areas, local culture, cuisine, and craft. There are various other SHGs nearby Shikari Devi wildlife sanctuary area, list of the same is as follows:

Exhibit 10.91: List of active and registered Self-Help Groups (SHGs) nearby Shikari Devi wildlife sanctuary area

Grampanchayat Name	Village Name	SHG Name	Member Count
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	AAJIVIKA SANGLWARA	5
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	AAJIVIKA SHRI GANESH	5
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	BALA TIKA JAWAAL	5
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	DURGA MATA	7
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	MATA GUSSAIN SHG DHEEM	10
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	NARI SHAKTI	9
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	SAKHINYAA SHG DHEEM	6
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	SHG MAHAMAYA KATAROO	6
DHEEM KATARU	DHIM	SHIKARI MATA SHG DHIM	10
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	DEV KAMARU NAG SHG DHAWARA	7
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	JAGRATI	6
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	LEENA SHG	7
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	NAV JAYOTI SHG	6
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	PARGATI	7
DHEEM KATARU	DPFDHAWARA	SOUBHAGYA	7
DHEEM KATARU	RUHADA	JAYOTI	7
DHEEM KATARU	RUHADA	MAHAMAYA	5
DHEEM KATARU	RUHADA	MATA GUSAIN SNAUT	10
DHEEM KATARU	RUHADA	SAMRITI	6
JANJEHALI	BAYALA	AAJIVIKA BAYALA	6
JANJEHALI	BAYALA	KHUSHISHG BAYALA	7
JANJEHALI	BAYALA	SHG JAI MAA GADA GUSAIN BAYALA	7

Grampanchayat Name	Village Name	SHG Name	Member Count
JANJEHALI	BHAKHLI	BHRAM DEV TUNGASI BHEKHALI	7
JANJEHALI	BHAKHLI	JALPA MATA	9
JANJEHALI	DUSADI	JAI MA DURGA SHG DUSADHI	5
JANJEHALI	DUSADI	LAKSHYA SHG DUSADHI	5
JANJEHALI	DUSADI	MAA JALPA SHG	5
JANJEHALI	DUSADI	MATA HADIMBA SHG DUSADI	6
JANJEHALI	DUSADI	NIKKI SHG DUSADHI	5
JANJEHALI	GARATAN	DEVI GUSAIN GURATAN	10
JANJEHALI	GARATAN	SHG MATA SHIKARI JANJEHALI	5
JANJEHALI	JANJEHLI	CHAMUNDA	5
JANJEHALI	JANJEHLI	SAMRIDHI SHG	6
PUKHRER	BHARAD	SHIKARI MATA SHG BHARAR	5
PUKHRER	BHIYAND	SHG JAI DEVI MAHAMAYA	5
PUKHRER	BHIYAND	SHG JAI MAA BHIMA KALI	5
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	AAJIVIKA UPARJAN	5
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	APARAJITA SHG PAKHRAIR	6
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	JAI DEV CHARU SHG KARSOLI	5
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	NARI SHAKTI SHG LAMBSAFAR	5
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	NAVJYOTI SHG PAKHRAIR	6
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	SAMRIDHI PAKHRAIR	5
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	SHG JAYOTI PAKHRAIR	6
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	SHG JHANSI RAKCHUI	7
PUKHRER	PAKHRAIR	SHG PAKHRAIR	7
SANGALBADA	DHALYAR	JAHAL SHG NAUR	6
SANGALBADA	RIARA	UMANG SHG TEER	6
SANGALBADA	SAGALWARA	AADARSH SHG NAUR	7
SANGALBADA	SAGALWARA	AAJIVIKA SNAUAT	6
SANGALBADA	SAGALWARA	NERAJ SHG SHEEL	7
SANGALBADA	SAGALWARA	WSHG DEV CHAPLANDU NAG	6
THUNAG	BAKHALWAR	SHG SARASWATI	11
THUNAG	DPFKHAMRAR	MANNAT SHG KHAMRAR	6
THUNAG	DPFKHAMRAR	SARSWATI SHG	7
THUNAG	DPFKHAMRAR	SHG DEV JAHAL KHAMRAR	5
THUNAG	DPFKHAMRAR	SHG DEV VISHANU THUNAG	6
THUNAG	THUNAG	AAJIVIKA MUDHAN	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	DEEP JYOTI	6
THUNAG	THUNAG	HADIMBA SHG THUNAG	9
THUNAG	THUNAG	HADIMBA SRAUGI	5
THUNAG	THUNAG	JAI SANTOSHI MATA MUGHWAN	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	MAA DURGA SHG KEOLI	5
THUNAG	THUNAG	MAHAMAYA SHG BAKHALWAR	6
THUNAG	THUNAG	MATA SHIKARI THUNAG	9
THUNAG	THUNAG	NAINA MATA SHG ODIDHAR	8
THUNAG	THUNAG	PRERNA MSJVS SHG THUNAG	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	RITIK	5

Grampanchayat Name	Village Name	SHG Name	Member Count
THUNAG	THUNAG	RTDC AAJIVIKA THUNAG	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	SARSWATI 2 ODIDHAR	6
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG DEV KALAKAMESHWAR	5
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG DEV SHAKTI BHAKLWAR	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG LAKSHAMI MAYADHAR	10
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG MAA DURGA	9
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG MATA JOGANI THUNAG	5
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG MATA SHIKARI	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG NAMAN KHAMRAR	7
THUNAG	THUNAG	SHG TARUN ODIDHAR	0
THUNAG	THUNAG	THE LAKSHAMI SHG SHILIWUNALA	6
THUNAG	THUNAG	THE SITARA SHG MUGHAN	11
THUNAG	THUNAG	UDAN	5
THUNAG	THUNAG	UMANG SHG ROPA	7

Source – Block Development Office, Seraj Block

(iii) Floriculture – The Exhibit 10.92: Carnis flower farm in Pakhrair Village

communities are involved in floriculture with the help of government by establishing polyhouses on their private land. These communities are involved in production of various varieties of Carnis flower. These are exported to the Flower Mandi of Delhi through roadways. The size of these polyhouses varies from 450 - 900 sq. mt. These are packed in bunches with 20 pieces in a bunch and the rates of these bunches varies from INR 250-350 at community level.



Government provides subsidy in installation and maintenance of these polyhouses for encouragement within the floriculture sector in the state. e.g. – Mukhya Mantri Green House Navikaran Yojna - 70% assistance for maintenance of poly-sheet.

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Most of the areas near temple is inaccessible in winter due to snowfall and remains close. Temple remains closed post October till March month. April – May - June months are the peak season for temple. As per the consultation with Temple committee and the camps present nearby, it can be estimated that approximately 2000 persons visit this temple on weekends and 950 on weekdays during the peak season. Approximately 25% of the visitors come through walk and trek.

Following are the list of ecotourism activities and facilities in the area:

(i) Existing treks

At present, in Shikari Devi Wild-Life Sanctuary Area, regularized trekking is not being organized and monitored by forest department. However, it is being carried out personally and professionally by the local people (certified and non-certified). As per the consultation with Janjehli Adventure Tourism Association (JATA), following prominent treks routes were identified:

Exhibit 10.93: Prominent treks being followed in the Shikari Devi Area

S.N.	Route	Halt	Distance	Duration
1	Janjehli – Shikari Devi Temple – Kamru Nag	- Shikari Devi Temple area - Kathbaidhar	16 Km (one side)	3 Days
2	Janjehli – Budha Kedar - Shikari Devi Temple	Budha Kedar	8 Km (one side)	2 Days 1 Night
3	Janjehli - Tungasigarh	Tungasigarh	8 km (one side)	2 Days 1 Night
4	Janjehli – Tungasigarh – Raghupurgarh – Saryolsour Lake	Tungasigarh	17 Km (one side)	2 Days 1 Night
5	Janjehli – Rundhidhar (Meadows)	Rundhidhar	4-5 Km	1 Day
6	Thunag - Janjehli	Janjehli	13 km (one side)	2 Days 1 Night

Source: Stakeholder consultation with local tour operators and secondary data

Visitors can trek to Chindi, Karsog, Janjehli through different trek routes from Shikari.

Exhibit 10.94: Mountain huts & camping – Green Valley Bhulah



(ii) Trekkers Hostel and cultural centre Janjehli

Himachal Tourism operates a trekkers hostel at Janjehli which can be booked online as well on HPTDC portal. The department has also constructed a cultural centre near the hostel.

Exhibit 10.95: Trekker's hostel and cultural centre at Janjehli



Trekker's hostel Janjehli



Barrier free Cultural centre at Janjehli

(iii) Bio-diversity park, Tree House by Territorial forest department, Nachan Forest Range

Walking trails, Gazebo, tree house with hanging bridges, amphitheatre, 2 set of log hut with 4 rooms (proposed), souvenir shop and Interpretation centre are present within the park.

Exhibit 10.96: Bio-diversity park, Tree House by Territorial forest department, Nachan Forest Range



Walking trails



Gazebo



Tree house



Hanging bridge



Amphitheatre (in construction stage)



Interpretation centre (in construction stage)

(iv) Temporary shops and shelters

From entry point of the temple till the peak of the hill, there are nearly 18 temporary camps/ shelters which are working as shops, eateries, shelters for pilgrimage, Pooja Samagri, toys, etc. These temporary shops are given non-transferable permits by Wildlife Shikari Devi Office (minimum period of 1 month) and at a rate of INR 3000 / month for carrying out these activities in the vicinity.

Exhibit 10.97: Photographs of the camps running near Shikari Devi Temple area

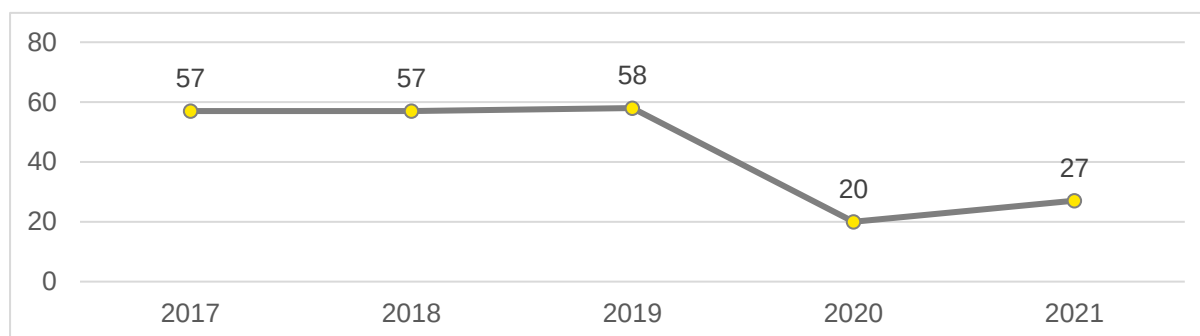


The activities as mentioned in the permit are:

- Investigation or study of Wildlife and purpose ancillary or incidental there to
- Photography
- Scientific research
- Tourism
- Transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the sanctuary

(v) Forest rest House - It is established at an approximate distance of 800 mt. from Shikari Devi Temple, under Wildlife range Karsog (Sanarali), Division Kullu. FRH facility can only be availed by the employees of forest department. following graph presents the trend in booking of this FRH.

Exhibit 10.98: Trend in bookings of FRH Shikari Devi



Source: FRH booking register at FRH Shikari Devi

FRH was inaugurated in year 1997, and presently require upliftment in terms of services, maintenance. The rates vary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 100 per night for different kind of users.

Exhibit 10.99: Photographs of the Forest Rest House at Shikari Devi



J. Market analysis

There are various schemes and support from agriculture department, horticulture department, Block level development schemes, which are related to fruits, vegetables, pulses and flowers products in this area.

Following are the supply chain system¹⁵ for vegetables, pulses, apples, and flower:

Supply chain for vegetable, pulses - At present on an approximate area of 220 Hectare, 210 MT Pulses (Rajma) is being produced. On an approximate area of 680 Hectares, 14,280 MT vegetables are produced in this block. Majority of the vegetable crops includes – Peas, cabbage, cauliflower. Peas are grown off-season in this area, which results in profitable business for the locals.

Supply chain for apples - At present the apple produced are sold out to individual buyers and businessmen, who further sell this produce to three mandis mainly –Azadpur in Delhi, Panchkula in Haryana and Parmanu in Solan. In Mandi, the Karsog region is the biggest producer of apple, followed by Janjehli, Gohar and Sundernagar. Average 14,500 metric ton of apple produce were from Janjehli in 2018.

Supply chain for flowers - The communities are involved in floriculture with the help of government by establishing polyhouses on their private land. These communities are involved in production of various varieties of Canris flower. These are exported to the Flower Mandi of Delhi through roadways.

K. Community perception

Various meetings were conducted with different stakeholders to ascertain their percentption. These stakeholders are:

- **Forest Officials** - Shikari Devi Deputy Range Officer, Nachan Forest Range Officer, Forest guards
- **Community Representatives** - Janjehli Adventure Tourist Association (JATA), Gujar and Gaddi community, Representatives from Pakhrair, Bhimkataru and Sukhwara Panchayat, Locals from Janjehli Village, Aprajita SHG, Dr. Sadhna Thakur

¹⁵ Source: Stakeholder consultation with local farmers, Horticulture Dpt., Agriculture Dpt. and secondary data

- **Government departments** - Agriculture Department, Horticulture department, Block Development Office
- **Private operators** - Private camping and trekking operators, Apple orchid and flower Poly Greenhouse owners

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Dr. Sadhana Thakur



Representatives from Pakhrair, Bhimkataru Panchayat



Private hotel & homestay operators



Apple grading and packaging unit



Carnis Flower Polyhouse owners

Dr. Sadhana Thakur

The site visit team got the opportunity to briefly meet Dr. Sadhana Thakur, wife of Honourable Chief Minister on 28th August 2021 at PWD guest house, Thunag. The team discussed about (i) the project and the work being done for Shikari Devi and (ii) her viewpoints on further development of this area for Eco tourism activities.

As per her opinion, the tourism should not hamper the ecology and existing environment. Rather, activities should be planned and proposed in Shikari Devi and vicinity area based on the best practices of eco-tourism case studies from across the world.

Dr. Sadhana, emphasised on inclusion of communities and specially women in the eco-tourism activities and associated aspects. As females in these areas are actively participating in primary and secondary economic sectors. It also came out that there is a need of Agro-processing units in the area, as whole Mandi district is leading in production of vegetables, fruits, pulses, etc.

She discussed the need to promote local culture, cuisine, folklore, Nati (dance form) to the tourist by inclusion of community. For example, local products which may be promoted such as "Lingad Pickle", "Burash Flower Juice". The need to connect Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary Area with surrounding touristic areas, villages in vicinity was also discussed.



Panchayat Samiti –Pkhrair, Dhim Kataru,

As per the stakeholder consultation held on 26th August 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.

Women led Self-help Groups from Pakhrai Panchayat are training and working toward establishment of wellness centre in the village for the tourist.

The local men are forming groups and association for society welfare and tourism activities. They are



aware about the environmental pollution due to tourism and other aspects of it. They are working towards cleanliness drive of these tourist areas collectively. A few persons from the village have acquired certificate training in trekking, homestay, and cooking. As per the consultation, their requirement is capacity building through training of the local people for utilization of the knowledge and training in income generation through active participation in eco-tourism activities.

L. Key challenges of the site

Access to the Shikari Devi Temple - Shikari Devi temple is about 18 Kms from Janjehli and connected by a 4.5 mt. road. width of this road varies at various sections. About 5 to 6 Km road section from the temple is in poor condition, and deposits / debris of the land parcels eroded are present at various locations. At present this road is in construction stage including formation of retaining walls, passages, etc.

Exhibit 10.100: photograph of the access road to Shikari Devi area



Absence of adequate tourist facilities – The site lacks with respect to tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, signages, rain shelters, designated parking areas, quality camps, food, helplines, communication network signals, formalized trail, treks and activities.

Exhibit 10.101: Photographs showing the status of tourist infrastructure at the Shikari Devi area



Other challenges

- Waste disposal and management, Soil erosion due to excessive grazing
- Lack of adequate ecotourism infrastructure and activities and tourist engaging activities - unable to convert day tourist to stay tourist, absence of safety measures at tourism spots
- Lack of awareness towards Eco-tourism

M. Site strengths and potential

Following are the site potentials based on the existing situation and analysis:

(i) Wildlife sanctuary viewing experience

Shikari Devi Wildlife area has the potential to be developed as wildlife viewing and related activities. Various species of birds have been observed in Shikari Devi wildlife area.

Exhibit 10.102: Illustrative picture of birds observed in the area



Source: <https://ebird.org/>

(ii) Agro-tourism: Agro-tourism is the crossroad of tourism and agriculture where the public visit working farms, ranches, or wineries to buy products, enjoy entertainment, participate in activities, shop at a country store or stand, eat locally grown or locally prepared food and perhaps make overnight stays for an authentic experience relating to Agro-technologies being followed by rural farmers. This type of tourism has been emerging in many rural areas. Not only that it provides economic diversification, but it also helps the farmers to increase their export opportunities without leaving their home.

In tune with this, Janjehli and surrounding areas in Mandi district has ample potential of developing Agro-tourism in the surrounding villages of Shikari Devi, Janjehli and Gara Gusaini areas of Seraj block, and Devi Dhar in Gohar block. Similarly, the Agro-tourism can also be developed at places of interest like temples, sanctuaries, hill tops. There are ample opportunities for the farmers of surrounding villages to enhance their income through enticing the tourists to their farms and developing Agro-tourism spots well equipped with reasonable amenities like shelter, food, quality water, etc.

(iii) Regularized trekking, trails, quality camping and tents:

There is requirement of sensitization of locals towards eco-tourism, capacity building of the locals for eco-tourism activities, regularization of the treks, trails and inclusion of safety measures for tourism activities in this area.

(iv) Medicinal Plant garden:

Approximately, 28 varieties of medicinal plants are found and produced in this area, which require prior permission to transport and sell from the forest divisional office. These plants may be explored for exhibition and medicinal plant garden purpose.

N. Site benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Shikari Devi are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	IBA* Site, Wildlife sanctuary, religious center, Community involvement, Products (Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture)
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible through 4.5 mt. wide pukka road from Janjehli (18 km away) and road under construction from Karsog (22 km away)

Exhibit 10.103: Illustrative Agro-tourism activities



Source: <http://www.anantagroup.com/>

Exhibit 10.104: Illustrative camping sites



Exhibit 10.105: Illustrative medicinal plant garden



3	Infrastructure/ Facilities	Available in the surrounding villages
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential to be developed as a birding and wildlife exploration area. Community involved in offering Agro-tourism along with ecotourism experiential services.

10.3.5 Shoja, Banjar Valley

A. Brief introduction

Located at an altitude of 2700 meters the picturesque village of Shoja is well known amongst offbeat travellers and is a base to visit various famous sites like Jalori Pass, Seolsar Lake, Ragahavpur Fort etc. At a mere distance of 5 Kms from Jalori pass, Shoja has pleasant weather throughout the year. With verdant deodar forest covering the area with snow peaked Himalayas hovering on one side, this village is packed with tourist attractions like fort, lake and waterfall.

The place is an idyllic retreat and is best to sit down and relax and watch the lush green forests. It's very green and the plus is that it is away from all the traffic that lines up the popular hill stations. Added attraction is that you can cover the places like Gushaini & Bathad on the Tirthan river in the same trip which are not very far but are very beautiful.

Exhibit 10.106: Shoja Village during summer season



Source - Banjara Camps

B. Site details

The details of the potential site for ecotourism activities is as follows:

The area is proposed to be developed as ECO Green Himalayan Village as Revised per ECO- Tourism policy. which will act as base camp for different ecotourism activities in the peripheral vicinity. The objective of this project is to enhance the livelihood activities, capacity building, awareness of local community to conserve & protect nature or Forest / Environment and improve the Socio-economic Status of local Communities by way of promoting the various tourism activities in in the peripheral vicinity. The site is situated 1 km from FRB Sojha on Banjar-Jalori-Anni NH 305. Famous Jalori Pass is 4 km, Serolsal lake is approximately 9 km, Raglwpur Fort is approximate 7 km away from this site. This site is also well connected with famous treks like jalori-Lambhri – sakirn - Kharagad, Jibhi – Sojha - Jalori – Raghupur – Lagishar – Gadagushani, etc. The current site is having high potential for various ecotourism activities and will generate revenue to the state Govt. and it will also generate the scope of employment for the local youth/people.

Possible activities around: Trekking/ hiking/ mountaineering, camping, Bird watching, Mountain biking/ cycling, Botanization/ NTFP or medicinal plant, yoga/ meditation, skiing/ snowboarding during winters, religious tourism, angling, zip lining etc.

Exhibit 10.107: Proposed site for development of ecotourism facilities



C. Connectivity

Shoja is accessible through:

- Pukka road from Banjar passing through Jibhi and onwards to Jalori Pass from Kullu
- Pukka Road from Outer Seraj- Ani – Jalori Pass on NH 305

The area is well connected to cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, etc. through bus.

Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - Nearest Airport -Kullu (75 kms), Shimla (150 kms), Dharamsala (215 kms)

By Train - Nearest Railway Station - Shimla (150 kms), Shoghi (157 kms), Kandaghat (185 kms)

By Road - Private and state-run buses have regular services from Delhi and other neighbouring states. Tourists can take a bus from Delhi to Manali or Mandi. From there onwards, taxis and buses are easily available to Shoja within the price range of INR 1000 to 2000.

D. Destination surroundings

Exhibit 10.108: Seolsar Lake and Campsite at Jalori Pass



Exhibit 10.109: Places to visit nearby Shoja



Waterfall Point



Jalori Pass



Serolsar Lake



Tirthan Valley, Shojha



Raghpur Fort

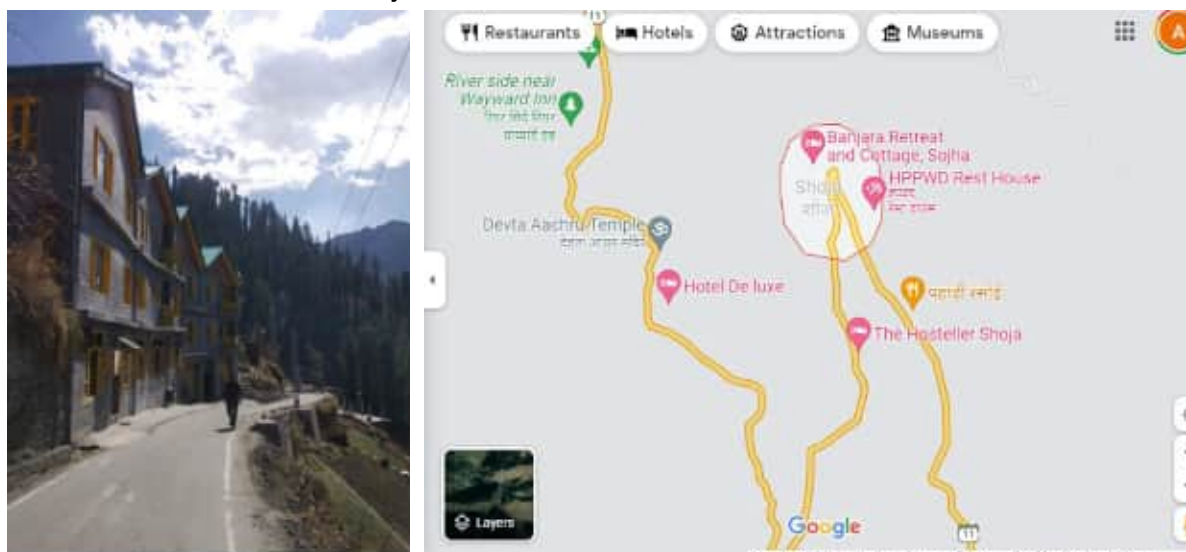
Source – www.holidify.com

Places	Description	Category	Sub-Category	Distance (Kms)
Waterfall Point	Waterfall Point is nature at a distance of approximately one kilometre walk from Shoja	Natural Wonders	Waterfall	1
Serolsar Lake	Serolsar Lake is a beautiful lake, situated at a distance of around 5 km from the Jalori pass in Shoja. This lake is approachable via a walk from Shoja.	Activity	Walking	6
Raghpur Fort	Raghpur Fort was built at 11000 ft asl and has a small pond within its premises. Raghpur Fort is approached via a trek from Shoja.	Heritage Site, Adventure	Trekking, Fort	6

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access – Shoja is accessible through NH 305 and is consisting of many guest houses, homestays mostly located in and around the NH.

Exhibit 10.110: Access road to Shoja



Electricity – Electricity is provided through the HP government electricity department, Banjar Sub divisional area.

Water supply – Water is supplied through the IPH department of HP Government. There are village sources near the waterfall and private pipelines have been put to bring water to the guest houses.

Solid waste management – There are no dustbins in the area and dry waste is dumped at one spot and is usually burnt by guest house owners

Drainage and sewerage – The wastewater from houses, camps and commercials units are discharged into individual septic tanks.

Medical facilities – There is a Sub Health Center at Jibhi along with a Mission Hospital and Civil hospital at Banjar which has got Xray and other machines in case of emergency.

F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

There are number of guest houses and home stays run by local people and other firms.

Exhibit 10.111: capacity of Guest houses and homestays

	Name of Guest House	Person Capacity
1	Sojha Holiday	22
2	Pine Valley	18
3	Mount View	12
4	Banjar Retreat	25
5	Deluxe Inn	16
	Total	93

There are a few homestays as well:

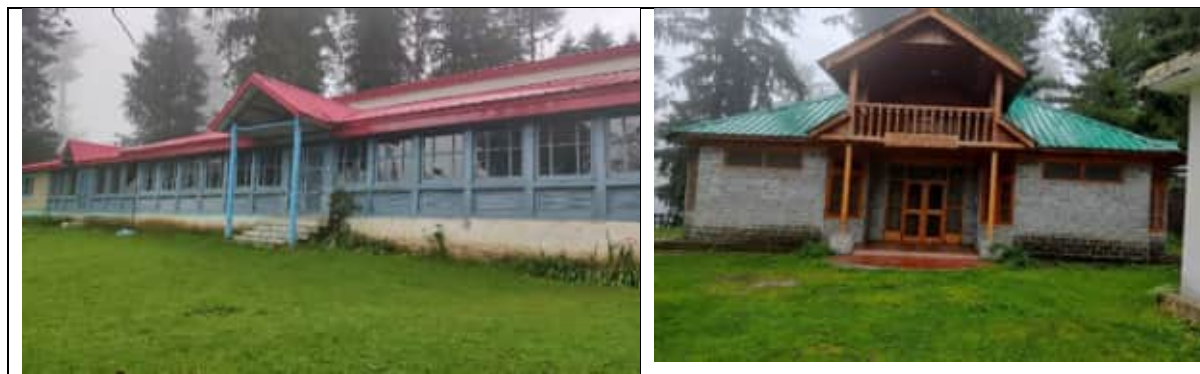
	Name of the home stay	Capacity
1	Kiran Home stay	6
2	Fort view Home stay	8
3	Styam Home Stay	9
4	J.S. Home Stay	8
5	Green View Home Stay	6
6	Achhru Home Stay	8

	Name of the home stay	Capacity
7	Way Siraj Home Stay	8
8	Shanti Home Stay	7
9	Total	59

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

The standards are from the upmarket Banjara Camp to Guest houses to hostels to homestays. There are also two rest houses belonging to the Forest Department and the PWD department.

Exhibit 10.112: Forest & PWD Rest Houses in Shojha



H. Existing Community based products involving local people in Ecotourism

Natural Products

- **Waterfall:** 1) Dulah Nala
- Shojha Village (Sunset & Sunrise Point)
- **Nature Walks**
 - a) Shojha Gharsali Shojha (8 KM)
 - b) Shojha – Kutla to Bara Nala (6 KM)
 - c) Bhungi to Twatch (Birding Trek) 6 Km
 - d) Shojha to Jalora to Jalora Gad (4 Km)
 - e) Shojha to 360 Degree Viewpoint Via Takruni Jaan (6km)
 - f) Shojha to Bali to Ghyagi (British Route) 7 Km
 - g) Shojha to Seolasar Lake (12 Km)
 - h) Shojha To Sajuad (12 Km)
 - i) Shojha to Raghavpur Fort Via Badhar (15 Km)
 - j) Shojha to Bungi to Hirrub (10 Km)
 - k) Shojha to Sadhogli to Dugli Waterfall (50 feet waterfall) – 10 Km
- **Trees:** (Devta Ka Ped) Number of Trees in the area dedicated to Local Gods and Goddesses along with Dev Van or Protected forests belonging to local deities.
- **Temple:** Badambap Rishi Temple, Devta Sahori Naag, Shringa Rishi Temple, Jamdagini Rishi Temple, BUdhi Nagin Temple, Chaini Kothi.

Cultural

- **Cuisine:** 1) Sidu 2) Kullu Dhaam 3) Bichubuli Chatni 4) Aktrot Ki Kachori 5) Khurmani ki Patti 6) Makki ki Roti 7) Chilra 8) Jau ke Sattu 9) Khanor ke Seekh 10) Badi (Atta with Ghee), 11) Patrora, 12) Lingdi 13) Kathu 14) Pudina 15) Harasaaj 16) Sahyasa (Bashir Side) 17) Kodra 18) Jhol 19) Bhatura 20) Bichbuti ki Sabji 21) Lola Phagu ki Sabji 22) Apple, Kaddu (Sweet) 23) Ghasi Swash 24) Fruits (Apple, Plum, Khusmassi, Mausami, Japanijal, Narangi, Shegal, Angoor, Rimbal, Aroo, Amrood, Akrot, Badam, Khusmani, Cherry, Strawberry)
- **Dress:** Pattu (Jacket), Chola (Bakri Ki Seli), Kalgi, Jusab, Sweater, Polla from Dasher

Miscellaneous

- **Local Products:** 1) Ghee 2) Local Honey 3) Beas Juice 4) Gutti Tel 5) Sarson ka Tel
- Homestays, Guesthouses, Camping Sites

Activity Potential: Rappelling 2) Waterfall Rappelling c) Jumaring d) Rock Climbing e) Ski Point at Shaili f) Birdwatching f) Day Drives to Shatadhar , Bahu, Gada Goshaini , Jalori , Pinjain Thachi, Shikari Devi g) Paragliding Potential h) Ziplining I) Sunrise and Sunset Points j) Photography h) Agritourism

A PRA exercise was conducted to understand community perception and understand their requirements for the area and ecotourism development for the entire year covering all the seasons. All participants were distributed in 10 to 15 members. The group comprised of mix group giving male members and female members. The group was headed by a facilitator from the project team. The group was given chart papers and sketch pens to depict the findings of PRA exercise on charts. Timing for each activity was 1.30 hours. On Chart, 12 months were put and a series of question was asked by the facilitator. The Group members were asked to put their answers on the chart sheet through simple symbols which they can later share with other members.

The key findings of the seasonal calendar and potential activities are as follows: -

Title	Results and Key Findings
Season	In the month of January and February snow falls on hills, with winters on peak in the month of December. Some time it rains in March otherwise the monsoon season normally starts from Mid-June to mid-September. Winters start from mid-September till December.
Agriculture (Men & Women)	Men and women in the panchayat are equally involved in the agricultural work. Almost 99% family is involved in agriculture. Mostly they grow 02 crops mainly corn and wheat. Each farmer has trees of plum and apple. Mostly men are involved in pruning of apple in the month of December and January. Key Findings: Men and Women mostly get free time from February to mid march from farming. Women especially gets free time in December and January when most of the men are involved in pruning. Women don't have much pressure of work, but they are involved in collecting wood from Jungle. Thus, this time is best suitable to keep 5 to 07 days training with women and Men.
Income Pattern	Income majorly comes from agriculture work. Residents have income from selling fruits like apple, apricot and other seasonal fruits and vegetables. Major income comes in the month of July and in April from selling fruits and crops. Months like April, May, June, August and September, the income is very low. The remaining months they have no source of income. Key Findings: January, February, September, October November and December are the conducive months for promoting residents to Tourism activities and handicraft production. This will help in enhancing the other source of income.
Expenditure Pattern	As the income comes from agriculture, but the expenditure is spread uniformly across the year. The most expensive months of the year is October as it has many festivals and main marriage season. May is somehow less expansive month as compared to October mainly because of purchasing seeds and pesticides and other equipment's for agriculture. The other months which are more expensive are January and December.

	Key Findings: Tourism activities can help in generating extra source of income for men and women in the panchayat.
Nonagricultural work	Residents have Home stays, work in hotels, Taxi operators and involved in adventure tourism. Kandidhar is well established in Tourism circuit especially due to Great Himalayan National Park.
Tourist in Panchayat	Except July all months have tourist. Most tourist come in the month of April, May and June followed by August, September and October.
Major Melas	Banjar and Kullumela are the most prominent mela been celebrated by locals for 04 to 05 days. Banjar mela usually falls in the month of May and KulluMela is been organized during Dusherra.

I. Community perception

Meetings with different stakeholders are:

- **Forest officials** - Shojha Range Officer and Beat Guards, DFO Seraj Division
- **SHGs** - Mahila Mandal, Women Self Help Groups
- **Communities** - Youth Groups of Shojha
- **Private operators** - Guest House Operators, Owner of Banjara Camp Shojha, Travel Agent of Shojha, Homestay Owners,
- **Others** - Himachal Scape – Documenting FRH of Himachal

Glimpse of Stakeholder consultation



Challenges

- Deforestation due to increased growth of tourism accommodation
- Limited amount of Water Supply as very few water sources exist
- No mechanism for Solid Waste Management and sewerage
- Small Size of land parcel as flat area s is very limited
- Heavy Snow during winters which hampers movement of vehicles

Strengths:

- Proactive community participation particularly in tourism activities
- Empowered women keen on engaging in ecotourism activities
- Pristine environment with high altitude flora fauna and bird species
- Falls in Old British route with heritage rest houses

Opportunities

- Growth of offbeat ecotourism destinations in post covid era
- Proximity to World Heritage Site of GHNP & Jibhi and Jalori Pass
- Local Population has already seen tourism & its benefits
- Huge Potential of winter sports particularly cross country & alpine skiing

J. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for the Shoja are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	In Tourism Circuit of Banjar Valley Pristine Nature with possibilities of Winter Sports Considerable tourism footfall
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible through road national highway Well-connected from both Kullu and Rampur side
3	Infrastructure/ Facilities	Having over 9 homestays, guest houses, camping site, PWD rest house and forest rest house
4	Maturity of Tourism Lifecycle	Development stage

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Potential to be developed as responsible tourism destination with the involvement of local community especially women. Good potential to be developed as high value winter tourism destination.

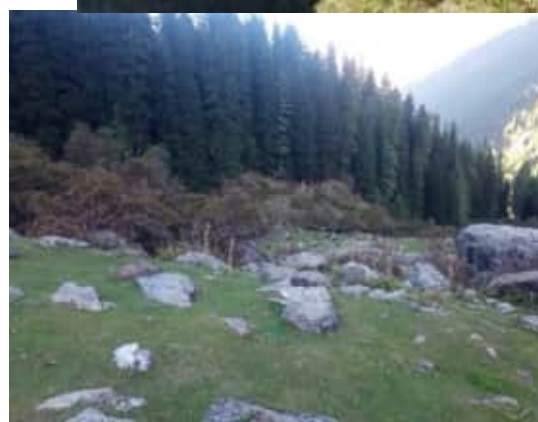
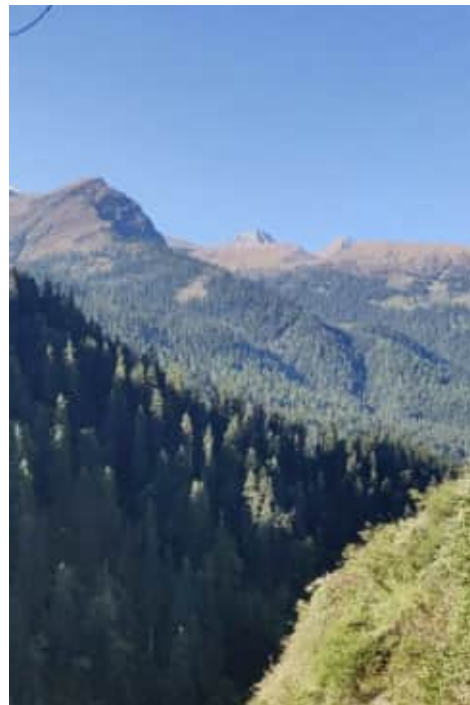
10.3.6 Khirganga

A. Brief introduction

Khirganga, profoundly called as Khirganga trek where it is believed that Lord Shiva did meditation for several decades has become a famous tourist adventure destination which offers enchanting Himalayan ranges views with a moderate trek with an approximate climb of 700 m from Tosh, a village at the foothills of the mountain.

Khirganga is situated in Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh, at an altitude of 2956 metres with Lat 31.994322 and Long 77.505652 located approximately 60 kms east of Kullu. The top of the mountain consists of dense trees and plain land with no or very less vegetation giving a clear open site or land parcel of nearly 14 hectares wholly owned by the forest department guarded by Tosh beat and administered by Kasol Range Forest office. The trekkers on the trek are accompanied with dismaying sounds of river Parbati flowing beside the mountain obtaining its strength through fresh melted snow from the glaciers above. Not only with the amazing views, but the trek also rewards the trekkers with a natural hot spring bath which is an amusement for most of the people.

Exhibit 10.113: Khirganga trek views



Source: Site visit

B. Site details

The overall location can cater the interests of diverse nature seekers by providing high Snowy mountains in winters with comfortable weather in summers temperature ranging from sub-zero temperatures in winters to a maximum of 30 degrees in Summers.

At certain locations on the banks of river Parbati, one can also explore the fishing techniques used by locals for Trout fish available in the river with cool breeze flowing by.

Following sites for ecotourism potential were visited during the field visits:

Site 1 – Bindravan, Khirganga: The site is located on the Khirganga Mountain which is only available after the trek offering natural hot water spring at the top with a view full of lush green mountain. The site has open land with less vegetation of approximately 11 hectares usable area.

Site 2 – Chahal: Close to Katagraha Village, 2 kms from Kasol the land is a long trail on the land with total area of approximately 1.5 Hectares with open land patches available for various activities.

Site 3 - Somaropa: Situated at 4 kms from Kasol town and 300 meters off the road, the site provides an open landscape on the riverbank with high opportunities of Ecotourism development spread over 5.26 Ha of land parcel

Site 4 – Dhara Parvati

Exhibit 10.114: Location of sites identified around Khirganga



C. Connectivity

Khirganga is only accessible on foot by taking a 12 km long trek offering two routes, one starting from Barshaini Village and another starting from Tosh village.

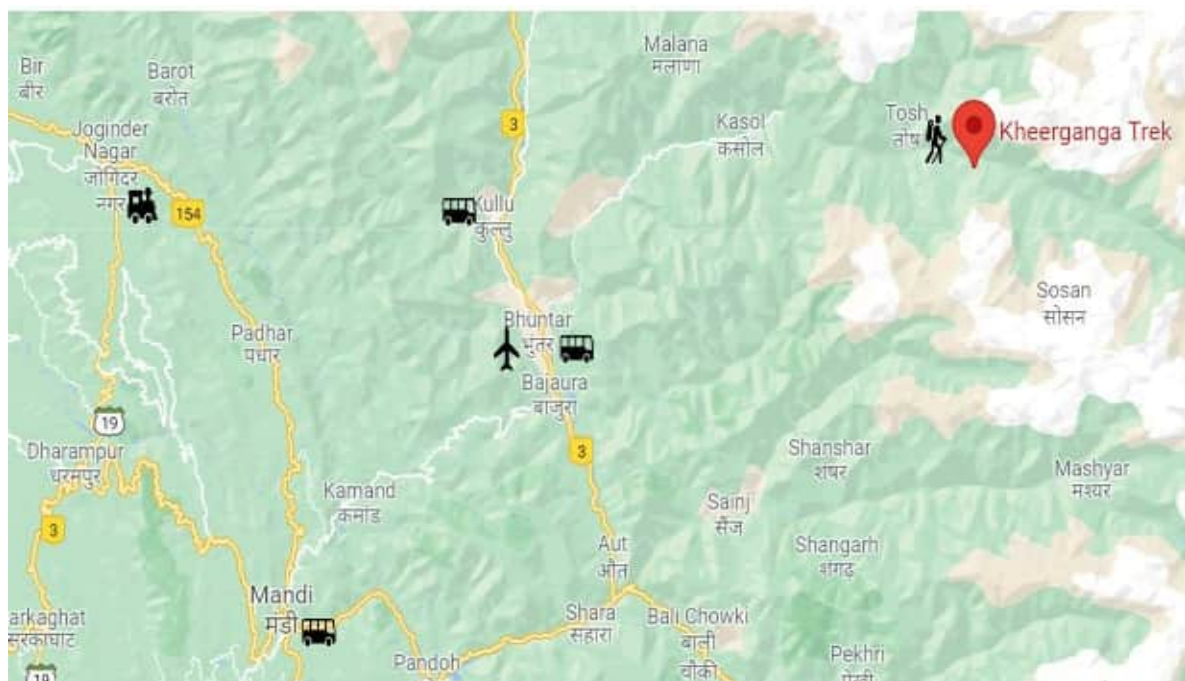
Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - Bhuntar Airport located at Bhuntar near Kullu, is the nearest airport from Khirganga, located at approximately 60 kms from the place. The airport has direct flight from Delhi and connects with major cities of India as it is an airport used by the travellers destined for Kullu Manali

By Train - The nearest railway station for Khirganga is Joginder Nagar Railway station, Himachal Pradesh located at 150 kms from the site serving as a major railway station for the area.

By Road - Khirganga is accessible by doing a trek from Tosh and Barshaini village which are motorable. The mentioned villages are connected with the Kasol Manikaran Sahib road and Kasol is the nearest well-known town. One can take State Bus, Volvo Bus, taxi or Private cars or bikes to reach Kasol. It lies on a distance of 40 kms from Kullu, 90 kms from Mandi, 230 kms from Shimla, 270 kms from Chandigarh.

Exhibit 10.115: Location of modes of connectivity from Khirganga



D. Destination surroundings

There are various places around Khirganga. Some of the places are:

Exhibit 10.116: Important tourist places around Khirganga



Exhibit 10.117: Brindavan Khirganga



Exhibit 10.118: River Parbati



Exhibit 10.119: Rudranag Mandir



Exhibit 10.120: Nature Park, Kasol @ distance of 22 km from Khirganga



Exhibit 10.121: Manikaran Sahib Gurudwara @ distance of 18 km from Khirganga



Exhibit 10.122: Hot Spring Manikaran Sahib Gurudwara @ distance of 18 km from Khirganga



Exhibit 10.123: Naina Devi Mandir Manikaran @18 kms from Khirganga



Exhibit 10.124: Exhibit 1 14 NHPCL Parbati Hydrel Electric Project @ 13 kms from Khirganga



NHPCL Parbati Hydrel Electric Project also known as Parbati – III, is (4 X 130 MW) 520 MW power capacity project commissioned in March 2014. States beneficiary of this project are Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: Field visit and NHPC Limited [NHPC Limited: Projects: Power Stations : Parbati - III \(nhpcindia.com\)](http://nhpcindia.com)

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Access to the site – The trekking and walking trail to Khirganga is a moderate climbing altitude with climbing altitude difference of 700 m. The width of trail ranges from 4-6 feet. There are two trails which trekkers can follow which are from Barshaini and Tosh with similar difficulty. On the hills approximately

in the mid of the trek, Nagthan and Kalpa villages are situated in which the villagers provide facilities such as rest rooms, refreshments and accommodation if required at affordable rates. One might sight the horses and donkeys used by villagers to bring the heavy materials up and down from the foothills which are also responsible for wear and tear of the walking trail. As there are no streetlights available on the trail, hence it is not advisable to trek after sunset to reduce any chances of mishaps.

Electricity – Electricity lines and units are not present at Khirganga and the camps use generators and solar power for electricity. The nearest substation is at Kasol town @ 23 km providing electricity to the vicinity. Barshaini and Tosh villages are the nearest electrified villages.

Water – Surface water is available for the villagers to use which is collected through natural springs and nals present at various locations on the hills. Handpumps are also present in the villages mentioned above. The locals use the same water for drinking purposes and drinking packed mineral water bottles are available at the refreshments and the camps present on the hill and during the trek.

Sewerage and Solid Waste Management system – There is no piped sewerage and limited solid waste management system is limited in an around the site. In all the camp sites, tents and villages present, sewage is collected into the soak pits. Yearly NGOs and SHGs initiate drives to clean the place and there is no government or forests intervention into cleaning and sewage disposal activities.

Availability of Health Care Facilities –There is no as such first aid or health care centre available at Khirganga or the villages nearby. Nearest Primary Health Care centre is available at Manikaran at 18 km and Kasol at 22 km from Khirganga respectively. Major large-scale hospitals are available only at Kullu Manali and Shimla.

Exhibit 10.125: Location healthcare facilities near Khirganga



Telecommunication facilities – Telecommunication facilities or mobile network is not available at Khirganga and the connectivity is very limited. Police stations, police chowki and fire stations are present in Kasol town.

F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

A tourist taxi association was also captured at Kasol in which one can hire a local taxi for sight-seeing and dropping at the location from where the trek from Khirganga starts. The taxi also provides to and fro services from Kullu and Chandigarh on fixed rates. Overall tourism in the area gets affected due to the snowfall in winters and rainy season hence majority tourists' footfall is seen in months from March, April, May and September, October, and November although the trek is open for people all round the year.

Local community involvement in ecotourism activity is only limited to provision of homestays, camps and tents at Kasol and camping site at Khirganga hilltop ranging from 500-1500₹ per head per day. There are three hotels present in Kasol with bed capacity of 40-50 beds with sufficient parking and

locally grown medicinal plants are also a prime tourist's attraction. The hotel and homestay owners provide guides for walking trails and fishing equipment for a holistic experience.

Forest department has developed a 1.5 Ha Nature park which was opened for public in 2019 at a nominal charge of 20₹ per head for adults and 10₹ per head for children, although few parts of the park are still under development like zipline, rock garden and refreshment centre. There is no data of actual footfall measurement as the entry and exit at the Khirganga trek are not supervised or checked but as per the forest officials' records, approximately 70 to 75 thousand visitors are assumed to be visiting the place every year.

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

As the place has become a major tourist destination of domestic as well as foreign in bound tourists, Kasol caters the maximum tourists' accommodation with one night stay camps available at Khirganga.

Camps – Camping facilities are available at the Khirganga hill and also at Kasol town to interest the youth visiting the place. At Khirganga, approximately 100 camps are erected per year at a price range of 600 to 1300₹ per head with food included. The camps or tents are generally hosted by locals of the nearby villages of which they need to take permission from the Kasol Range Forest Office at a fixed charge of 125 ₹ per tent per 15 days.

Several private camps are also established in the Kasol town area by taking the land on lease or developing such facilities on private owned land. No other activity of ecotourism is offered in the camp. For sewage disposal, a common tractor has been placed at Kasol which collects all the garbage from the town and soak pits are used for sewage disposal at the site. The rent for the stay ranges from 600 to 1300₹ per tent depending on the availability. The main source of water for such facilities are surface water.

Exhibit 10.126: Parvati woods camp



Forest Rest House – Approximately 22 kms from Khirganga Range forest office is located in the midst of Kasol town Forest department has developed a large plot with Range office, Beat Office, Quarters for forest employees, forest rest house, camps tents, nursery and manmade hot water bath. The forest rest house is only available for the Government employees and as per the latest Supreme court decision, Forest Rest Houses can no longer be given for the purposes of tourism.

Exhibit 10.127: Rest house



Exhibit 10.128: Hot water Spring bathing place inauguration stone



Exhibit 10.129: Forest Department Eco Tourism Site



Exhibit 10.130: Forest Department Nursery



Exhibit 10.131: Forest Rest House



Hotels – Nearest hotels available from Khirganga are at Kasol. Kasol has few hotels towards Manikaran road with a room capacity of capacity of 20-25 rooms. One resort is also available made up of old traditional mud house giving enriched experience of tradition and daily activities to the tourists.

The hotels are at a range of 1200-4000₹ per room whereas for resort it is around 6000₹ per room with double occupancy. These facilities also do provide services like trekking, fishing, cultural food and experience and guides for nearby places visit and bus services to and from Kasol.

Exhibit 10.132: Hotel HHH



Exhibit 10.133: Sanjha Chulha



Exhibit 10.134: Paid Bus Parking at Kasol



Exhibit 10.135: Hotel Malana and travels



Exhibit 10.136: The Himalayan Village Resort



Homestay – There are no homestays available at Khirganga and the nearest homestay available is at Nagthan and Kalpa villages enroute during the trek. Other homestays are available at Barshaini and Tosh village but the major chunk of approximately 40-50 homestays is available at Kasol with varying capacity and ranges. Homestays only provide the accommodation and food for their guests and no other ecotourism activities are being organised or taken care of by them.

Exhibit 10.137: Homestay registration certificate



Exhibit 10.138: Homestay



Exhibit 10.139: Homestay at Nakthan Village



Exhibit 10.140: Kasol Cottage Homestay



Cafes and Restaurant – As Khirganga and the nearby places are more visited by youth, trend of small cafes and fancy restaurants is also popular in the vicinity of Kasol. These provide all types of Indian food with more demand for Tibetan food and continental food.

Exhibit 10.141: Local cafe



H. Existing Community based products

Agriculture - Local communities are involved in agricultural practices to grow Broccoli and Potato farming along with medicinal plants. As understood by the discussions with the locals, the locals used to grow and maintain Apple orchards in the area although they have discontinued the practice after 2018 floods.

Self Help Groups (SHG) based products – Women led Self-help Groups from Kalpa Village named as Suraj Pal Mahila Mandal, are working to make various local delicacies like Apple Jam, Apricot Jam and are engaged in and locally made woollen knitting and weaving, although there is not much market for their products and hence the products are used and consumed by locals and the guests arriving for stay at homestays.

NGO - An NGO named Cleaning Himalaya is engaged in cleaning the walking trekking trail and Khirganga area with the help of locals are also active in the area. They carry out their cleaning programs once or twice a year in summers and also spread awareness of cleanliness among the villagers.

Exhibit 10.142: SHG based products from communities



I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Following are the list of ecotourism activities and facilities in the area:

- Trekking / hiking – Trekking is mostly done by the tourists on relying themselves as there are no trained guides available
- Trekking and fishing is organised by very limited hotels for their guests on special demands although there is no validity of the experience they provide.

Exhibit 10.143: During trek views





J. Community perception

Meetings with various stakeholders were carried out during field visit. These include:

- **Forest Officials** – RFO Kasol, Beat Officer, forest guards, maintenance person for forest rest house and forest camp site
- **Community representatives** - Representatives from Barshaini, Tosh, Kalpa village
- **Private operators** - Homestay owners and Self-help group representatives, Taxi operators union

Exhibit 10.144: Stakeholder meeting with the locals



Exhibit 10.145: Taxi operators union's office



- During the stakeholder consultation held on 09th October 2021 at Barshaini village, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism were discussed.
- The stakeholders seemed very interested in the discussions for their area and were keen on implementing proper sewage collection and disposal process as of now only garbage is collected from Kasol town and is sent to nearby sewage treatment plant or burnt.
- It was a common vote that police check posts must be established at the entrance for Khirganga trek so that tourists can get proper guidance as well as their would-be a counting of the number of people entering the hills to understand the increase in footfall and implement measures to cater the needs.
- Also, it was advised to erect signboards for people to get directions and information about the same. It was a strong opinion that treks should not be allowed after 2 pm as it gets dark by the time trekkers reach the hilltop.
- Taxi operators have formed a union in Kasol for better operations for the tourists although there are no such more groups in the area.

K. Key challenges

Lack of adequate of tourist facilities – Khirganga trek lacks enough amenities required for tourist facilities such as first-aid kits and immediate response health care units, signages, streetlights, designated parking areas, quality camps, food / restaurants at the trek, help lines, tourist guides and mobile network. Although Kasol is well developed in these aspects and consists of all required basic facilities.

Lack of trainings – As per discussion with the local stakeholders it was understood that there were no initiatives taken for providing proper training to the locals to become efficient tourist guides and no proper trainings have been provided for the homestay owners due to which the possibility that the services provided at the homestay might be below par.

Water Pollution – Camps at Khirganga hill have created soak pits and their total sewage is collected in such soak pits only which would eventually pollute the ground water. This will later be harmful for the overall natural ecosystem of the place.

Limited solid waste management - No waste management plan is followed locally. The solid waste is largely burnt by the villagers.

L. Destination Strengths and potential

Khirganga has become a major tourist destination now and every year tourists from all over the country and abroad visit for the exciting views and enthralling trek. Although the landscape if properly planned and curated, can attract much more footfall as it has a lot to offer.

The key strengths include:

- It's a high tourists destination in the months of March, April, May and September, October and November although the trek is open for people all round the year.
- Kasol is easily accessible from Shimla, Kullu and Chandigarh which makes it a less time-consuming destination hence much liked by weekend travellers.
- A total of 4 sites/land parcels have been identified within 30 kms distance from Khirganga which can be developed in order to attract tourism and enrich the experience of the tourists.
- The site holds potential for adventure activities like rock climbing, zip line, water crossing, etc for the tourists which would not only enrich the tourism quality but also will promote employment for the locals.

M. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Khirganga are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Trekking routes and Camping activities
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by roads 60 kms from Kullu And 23 kms from Kasol
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development stage

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - To be positioned and developed as an exclusive destination with ecotourism activities such as trekking, camping short stays, walking trails and local cultural experience.

10.3.7 Sissu lake, Sissu

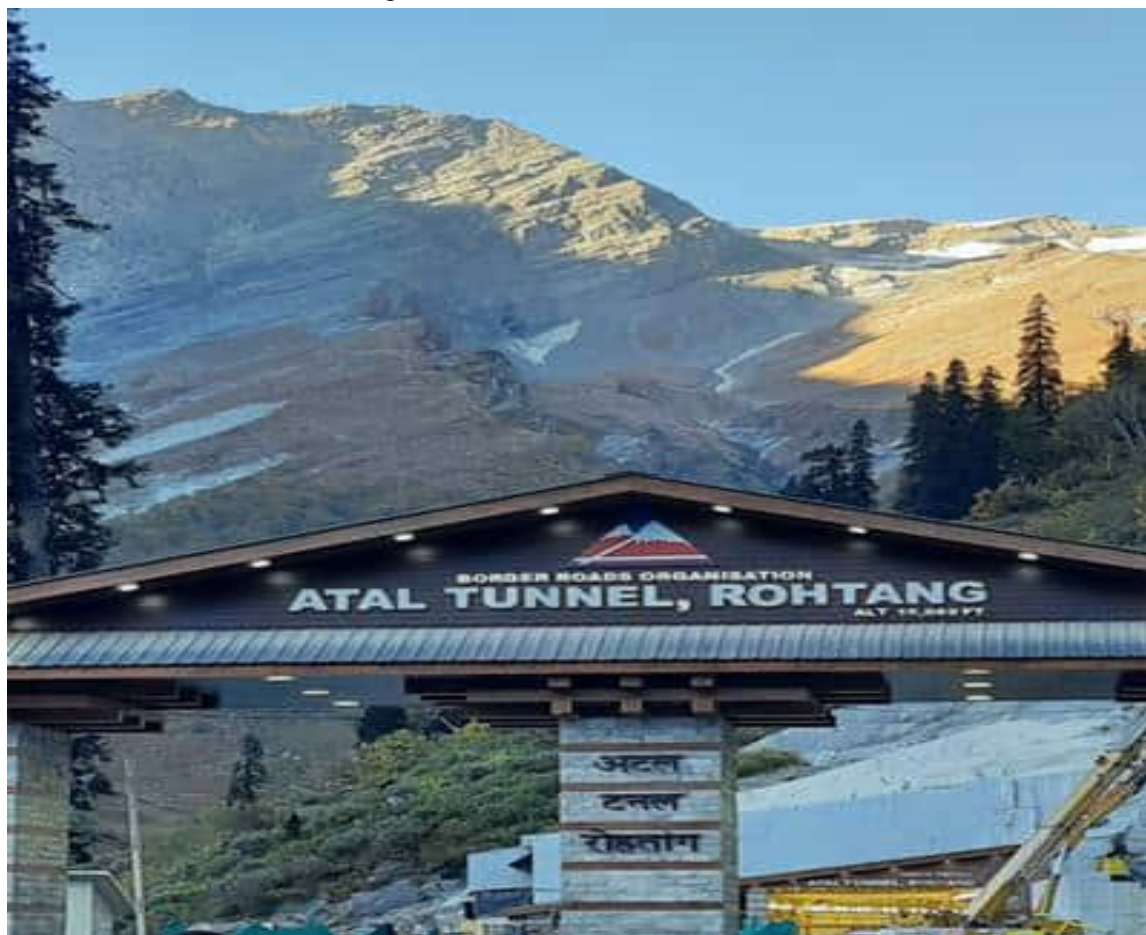
A. Brief introduction

Sissu (also known as Khwaling in the local dialect) is a small town in the Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh in India. It is around 40 km from Manali and located on the right bank of Chandra River. It is located at 32°29'0"N 77°7'0"E. It is 3,120 m (10,235 ft) above sea level. It is 14 km from Koksar to the south-east and 11 km. west to Gondhla and around 30 Kms from Keylong, the head quarter of administration. Sissu is the main town centre for the nearby villages of Ropsang-Khangser-Gyungling, Gomathang, Yangling, Jagdang, Sarkhang, Shurthang and Labrang. Labrang village also has a Buddhist Gumpa called Labrang Gumpa dedicated to Palden Lhamo.

As Sissu is located a few kilometers from the north portal of the Rohtang Tunnel now named as Atal tunnel, this area will stay connected for the whole year. Hence, it will become a popular tourist destination in upcoming years. The view of the waterfall across the Chandra River and opposite the town, locally known as 'Palden Lhamodhar', is particularly spectacular. The adjacent village of Shashin is home of the famous deity of Lahaul known as Ghepan/Ghepang or Lord Gyepphang. The mountain, Gyepphang Goh, altitude 5,870 m. (19,258 ft.), to the east of the town is named after him. Sissu also has a Helipad and an adjacent Lake, which is a major tourist attraction.

One of the world's longest highway tunnels, 'Atal Tunnel', is 9 km long connecting Manali to Lahaul Spiti valley throughout the year. In the past the area remained inaccessible from the outside world during winters, except through helicopter service. The Atal tunnel cuts through the mountain below west of the Rohtang pass.

Exhibit 10.146: Atal Tunnel, Rohtang



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.147: Atal Tunnel, Rohtang in night view



Source: Site visit

B. Destination details

Sissu falls: This waterfall known as the Sissu Waterfall is on the other side of the river Chandra. It is a famous tourist attraction in the area and one can reach there trekking on foot. From a distance, one can see the waterfall cascading from the high cliffs in a spectacular fashion. A suspension bridge over the river provides easy access to this picturesque fall. Very good photograph of the fall can be had from the road just short of the P.W.D. rest house. As one reaches the waterfall, will come across greenery all around which makes the location is mesmerizing. One feel refreshed and at peace with the beauty of nature. Two fountain slabs dating back to 11th or 12th C. AD can also be seen in this village.

Exhibit 10.148: Sissu falls



Source: Site visit

Sissu lake: Situated on the right bank of the river Chandra at an altitude of 3130`mt. This lake is a prime attraction of the small village of 'Sissu' with some other appealing attractions comprising of waterfall, Gyephant peak, temple of Lord Ghepan - the presiding deity of Lahaul regarded as the protector of people, and a long stretch of panoramic view of river, mountains, slopes, alpine trees terrace farms and fishable water on swamp holding snow trout, Siberian wild duck and geese halting on their way back from the Indian plains in summers. Along with the lake, this name 'Sissu' is also shared by the village, valley, waterfall and glacier of this place which comes under Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh.

Exhibit 10.149: Sissu Lake



Source: Site visit

Sissu village: This village is situated on the right bank of the river Chandra at an altitude of 3130m. The village is located on a broad flat ground above the Chandra River. Good plantations of willows and poplars on both sides of the road are so dense during summers that at places even the sun rays fail to penetrate. The terraces are green with potato, peas, barley and buck wheat. Wild roses of white, yellow and red hues with expanses of alpine flowers deck the slopes in an unforgettable feast of colors.

Exhibit 10.150: View of Sissu and neighboring village from Labrang Gompa



Source: Site visit

There is a swampy patch on the river side where the Siberian wild duck and geese halt when on their way back from the Indian plains. Snow trout is also available in the village near the river side.

Behind the ridge on which the village is situated is the famous and most propitiated Gyeaphang peak. Lord Gyeaphang or Ghepan is the presiding deity of Lahaul—the protector of people. In olden days people of Lahaul fought, their wars under the banner of Lord Gyeaphang. The temple of Lord Ghepan is in this village. The temple is not open to outsiders. Once in two/three years the deity is taken out of the temple in a procession. A little short of the village is the Sissu nallah which flows down a narrow gorge from the Gyeaphang peak glaciers.

Exhibit 10.151: Temple of Lord Ghepan



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.152: Location of Sissu in Lahaul

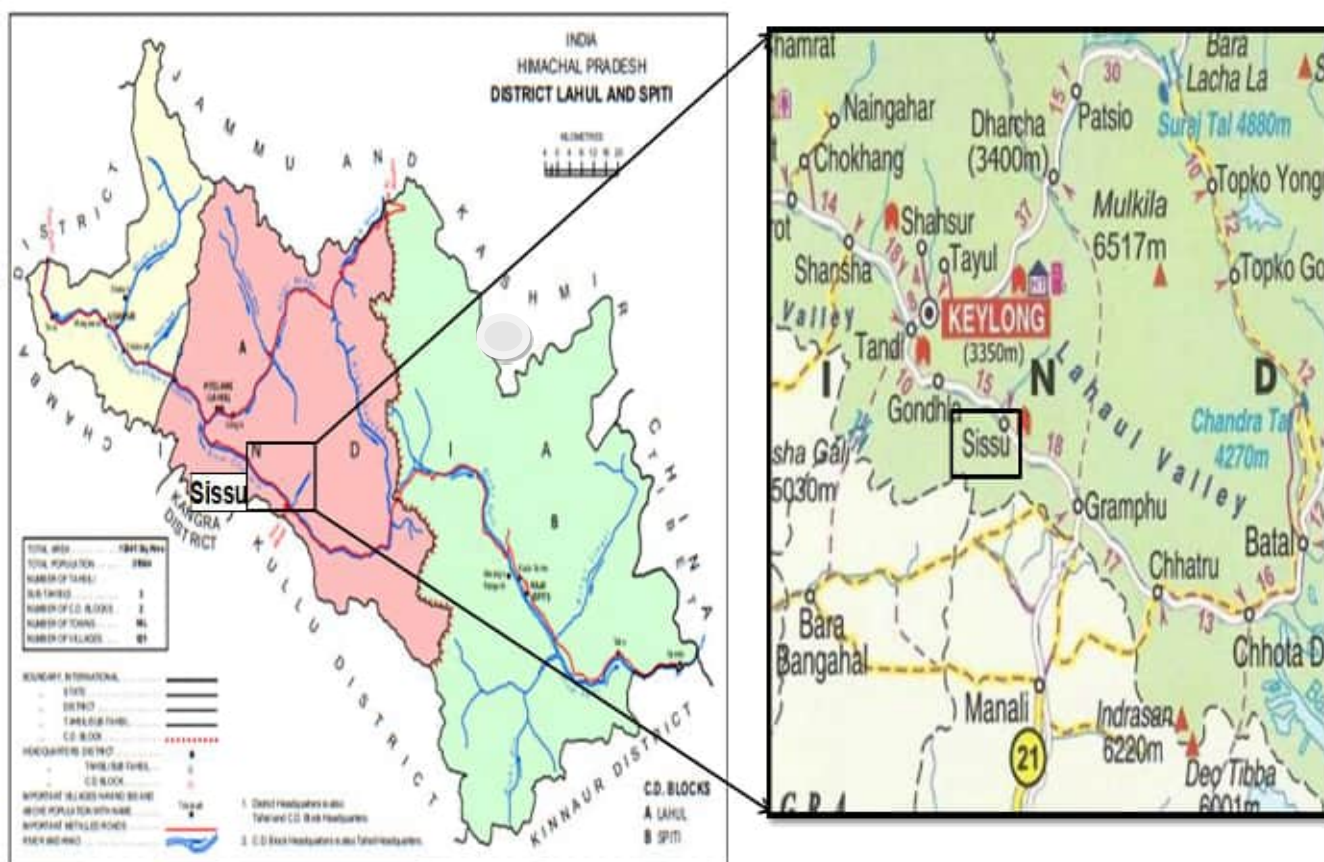
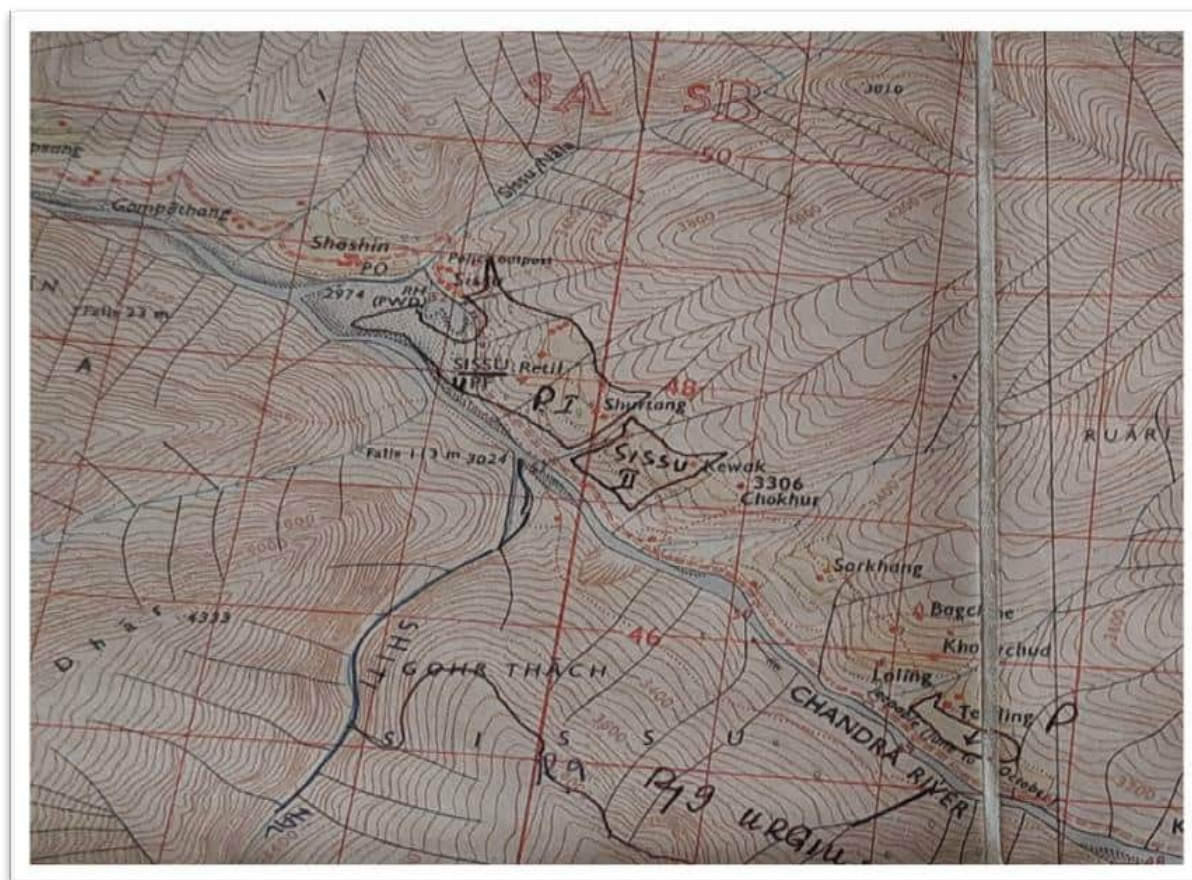


Exhibit 10.153: Location of Sissu in map designed by forest department



Source: site visit

C. Connectivity

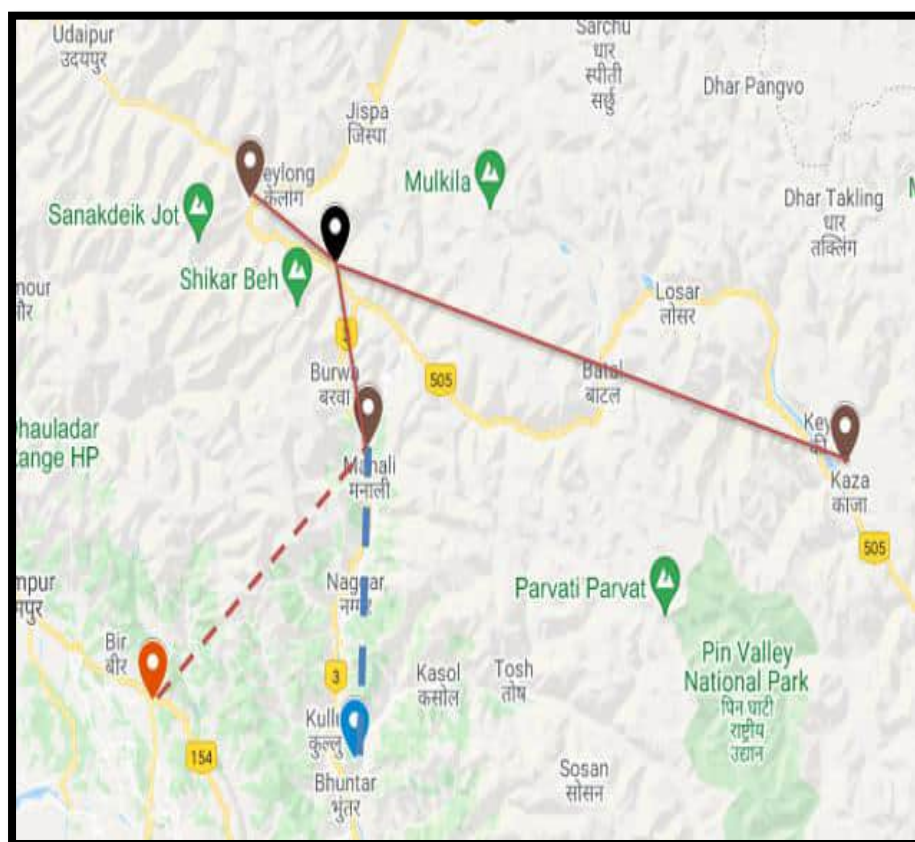
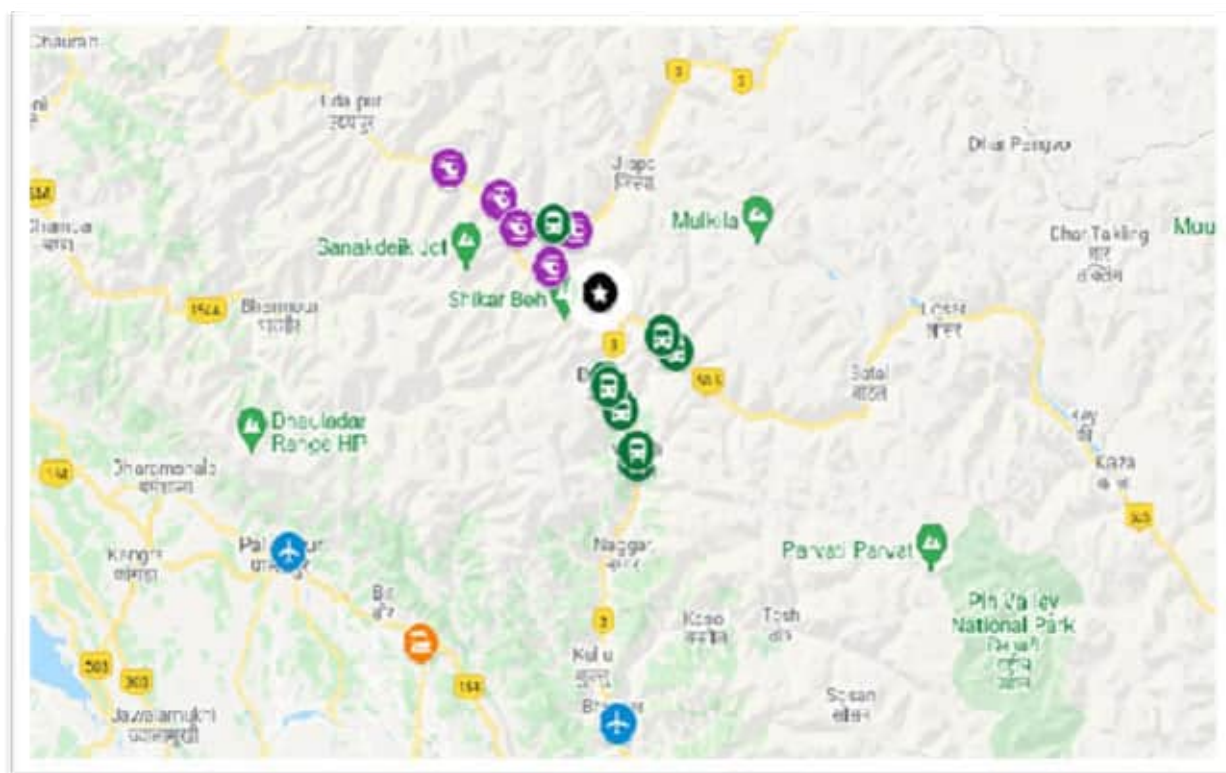
The Sissu Lake is accessible through road via Manali through Atal tunnel, from Kaza (Spiti) and Ladakh. Narrow gauge train from Kangra which connect all main places / villages to the neighboring state. Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - Bhuntar Airport at Kullu is the nearest Airport to Sissu. The distance from Bhuntar to Sissu is 90 Kms. The airport is connected to Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh airports with direct flights and with Mumbai and other major cities via Delhi.

By Train - The nearest broad gauge railway station is at Joginder Nagar which is around 190 Kms from Sissu.

By Road - Sissu is 600 Kms from New Delhi, 350 Kms from Chandigarh, 40 kms from Manali, 90 Kms from Bhuntar airport, 390 Kms from Ladakh, 32 Kms from Keylong, 160 Kms from Kaza and 295 Kms from Shimla. One can take HRTC buses from Delhi ISBT or Manali to Sissu (Both Government and private).

Exhibit 10.154: Location of nearest train station, Airport, Helipad, local bus stands in & around Sissu



D. Destination surroundings

The lake side of Sissu is covered with dense ridge of trees and shrubs. Home stay is available there with picturesque view of this serene beauty.

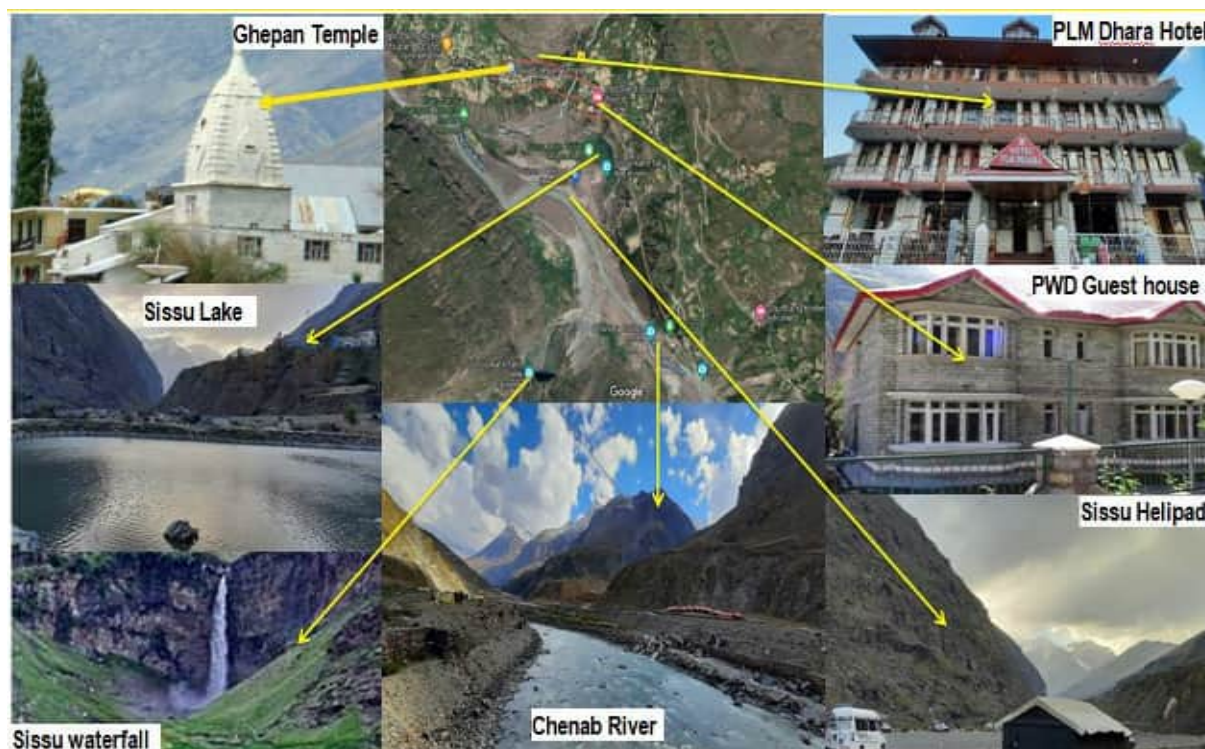


Exhibit 10.155: Home stay in Sissu village



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.156: Atal Café by HPTDC adjacent Sissu lake



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.157: Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Sissu Village



Source: Site visit

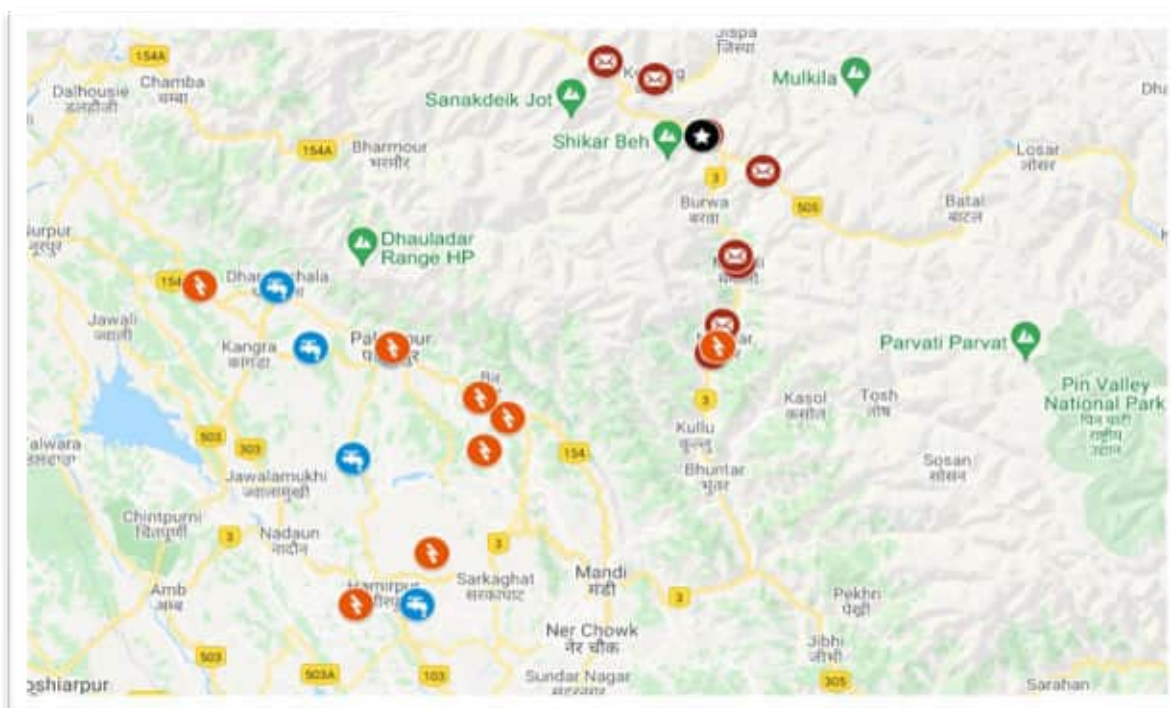
E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access – It takes about one hour to reach Sissu lake from Manali-Leh bus ride taken from Manali Bus Stand.

Electricity –Electricity supply of this region is provided by Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board Limited through a 33-kV transmission line, which originated from a substation at Palchan (Kullu district), passed through the Rohtang Pass and had an endpoint at Sissu. The 4.5-MW Thiro power station in Lahaul used to illuminate the tribal valley whenever there was a snag at Rohtang. From now onwards Residents of Lahaul in Himachal Pradesh can expect uninterrupted power even during the winter months as the cable supplying electricity to the tribal valley is routed through the Atal tunnel.

But because of its limited production, a large part of the tribal belt went without electricity for weeks or months,” he said. Kaushal said that work on the project has been completed by routing XLPE (Cross Linked Polyethylene) cable through the tunnel to provide alternative and reliable 33kV grid connectivity to Lahaul. “A joint team of HPSEB and BRO engineers was testing the power line for the past fortnight. The installation has been completed a week before the November 15 deadline. The supply load in Lahaul Valley has been shifted to the new transmission link,” he said. The new line is expected to benefit about 8,000 consumers of Keylong Electricity Division. The residents of Lahaul lauded the government and HPSEB for meeting the long-pending demand, saying it would prove to be a boon for the valley, which had emerged as a tourist hub after the opening of the Atal Tunnel

Exhibit 10.158: Facility of Postal, Electricity, Water supply at Sissu and surrounding areas



Water supply –The water supply is available from Jal Shakti department with head office in Keylong for Lahaul division. The main source of water is small water channel and Kuhls, which are the traditional systems of community managed, interconnected gravity flow irrigation systems.

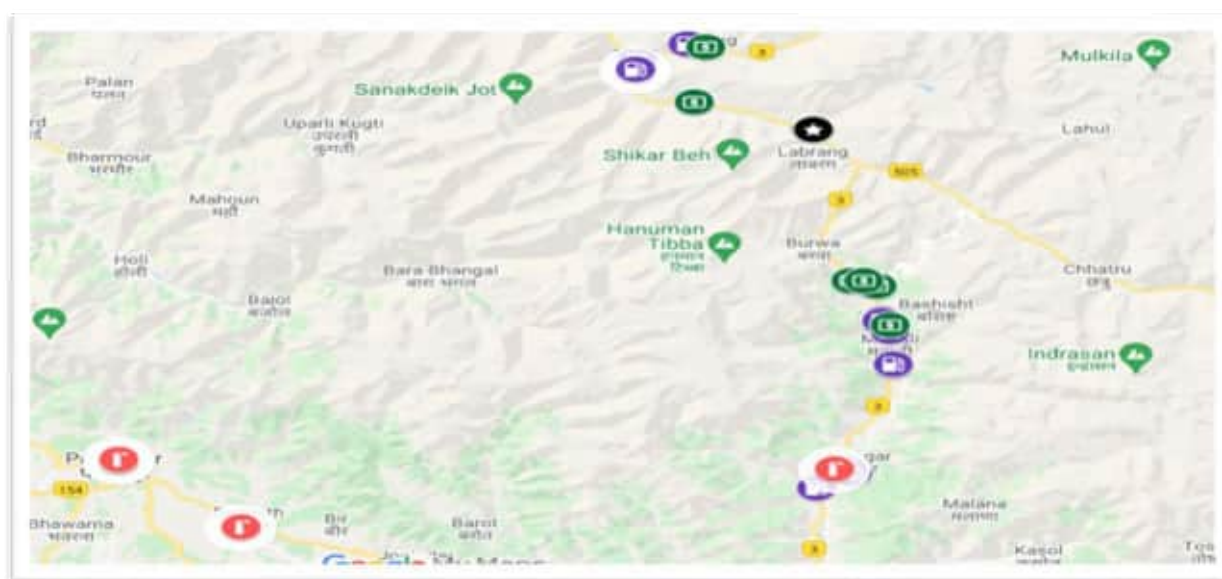
Solid waste management –A comprehensive draft containing seven thematic areas for district environmental plan, Lahaul was incorporated in year 2018. Those seven themes are:

- Waste management plan for solid waste –Solid wastes from urban area, solid wastes from rural area, plastic waste, C & D waste, biomedical waste, hazardous waste, E- waste.
- Water quality management
- Domestic sewage management
- Industrial wastewater management – Currently there is no such industry in the region.
- Air quality management
- Mining activities management

- Noise pollution management

Recently in month of April, 2021, IIT Delhi has signed an MoU with the Lahaul-Spiti administration to segregate, collect, manage and ensure safe disposal of solid waste generated in the district. The idea behind this initiative was conceptualized by Deputy commissioner Pankaj Rai, he has further plan to extend this drive to be incorporated as part of the school curriculum. The concern was emerged on a high note by district administration due to recent accumulation of garbage in the environmentally fragile district after the opening of the Atal Rohtang Tunnel. The tourist influx immediately after the opening of the tunnel had created havoc leaving plastic bottles, chips packets, wrappers and also liquor bottles dumped along the mountains and even in the Chandra-Bhaga – twin glacier-fed rivers – which is the Chenab while entering Jammu & Kashmir. The local community was prompt to respond to this kind of irresponsible tourist activity and asked for immediate curbs on open dumping of waste.

Exhibit 10.159: Facility of Postal, Electricity, Water supply at Sissu and surrounding areas



Drainage and Sewerage – In the absence of Sewage treatment plants in smaller villages around Sissu, septic tanks are used for drainage and sewage which allows safe disposal of wastewater and hence is widely popular in areas that have a poor drainage system or are off the mains sewerage network. The irrigation and public health department, Keylong has proposal to have sewage treatment plants in Keylong and Udaipur district of Lahaul in near future. There is proposal to have 2 STPs of 0.51 MLD and 0.22 MLD for Keylong and 0.47 MLD for Udaipur.

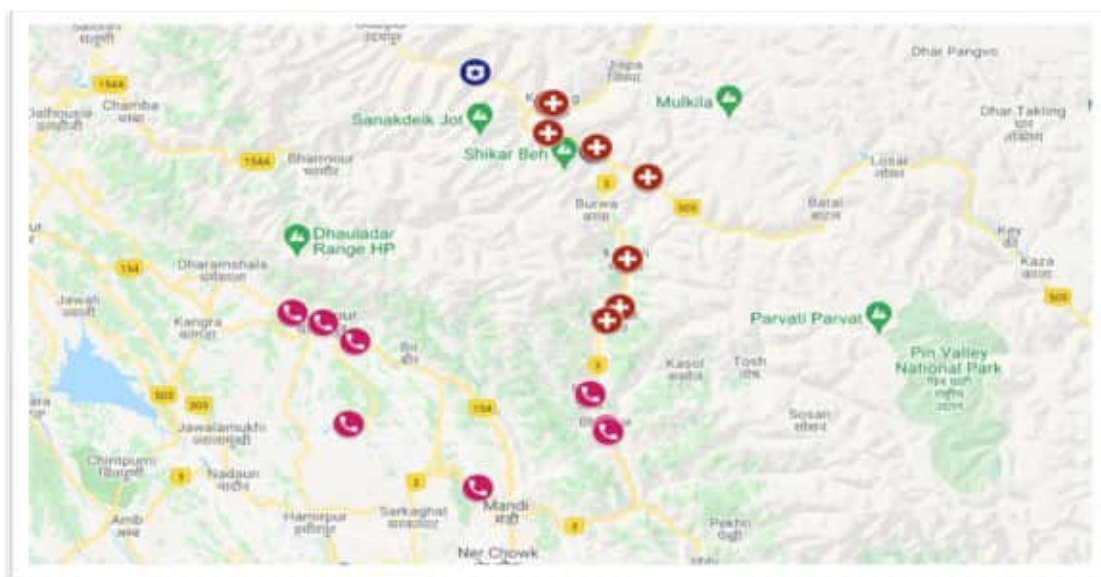
Medical facilities – The area is fairly consisted with medical facilities for a basic and emergency need base.

Exhibit 10.160: Details of medical facilities available as listed on govt. website of district administration

Details	
Information:	District Hospitals
Details:	1
Information:	Community Health Centers
Details:	3 (Udaipur, Shansha, Kaza)
Information:	Primary Health Centers
Details:	15 (Sissu, Gondhla, Gemur, Tholang, Jhalma, Thiro, Tingre, Tabo, Sagnam, Darcha, Phura, Tindi, Lossar, Hansa, Kibber)
Information:	Civil Dispensaries
Details:	5 (Darcha, Phura, Kibber, Lossar, Hansa)
Information:	Sub Centers
Details:	36 (26 in Lahaul, 10 in Spiti)
Information:	TBA
Details:	36
Information:	Ayurvedic Hospitals
Details:	1
Information:	Ayurvedic Dispensaries
Details:	21

Tele-communication facilities – Services from major telecommunication companies are available here. Ranging from BSNL, Reliance JIO and Airtel with 4G network. In the district BSNL P&T and Mobile facility are available. All these three provide services at Sissu too. Codes for Keylong is 01900, Udaipur it is 01909 and for Kaza it is 01906. The basic P&T lines are up to Darcha only on Manali-Leh highway. Besides this WLL service of BSNL is also available.

Exhibit 10.161: Facility of medical services and telecommunication in Sissu and surrounding areas



F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

The destination site of Sissu lake and nearby is has much of potential to become a promising halt and enroute visit among tourist. After opening of the Atal tunnel at Rohtang, this area is now welcoming visitors all year round, earlier these footfalls were limited to only to half of the year. For tapping this

potential in to financial gain and promoting community-oriented development, there is a crucial need to develop needed infrastructure along with proper guidelines and follow-ups as to attain it in most sustainable way.

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

There are different variety of accommodations are available near Sissu lake and the nearby villages. HPPWD Rest House in Sissu, A Forest Rest House in Keylong and various stretch of camping sites are available for night stay.

Exhibit 10.162: Camping near Sissu lake across the river Chenab



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.163: Hotel PLM Dhara in Sissu



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.164: Hotel Triveni in Sissu



Source: Site visit

Under "Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008¹⁶", Stay Units in rural areas will be registered by the Department of Tourism and will be provided following incentives/exemptions:

- v. Town & Country Planning Department will charge no change of land use fees from the registered Home Stay units.
- vi. Home Stay units would be exempted (up to 3 rooms) from Luxury and Sales tax/Vat.
- vii. Domestic rates for electricity would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units and
- viii. Domestic rates of water would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units.

Exhibit 10.165: Forest Rest House, Keylong



¹⁶Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008 by Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh (URL - <https://himachaltourism.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Himachal-Pradesh-Home-Stay-Scheme-2008.pdf>)

Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.166: PWD Guest house, Sissu



Source: Site visit

Government camps and tents –Beautiful scenery around and pristine natural beauty this place has potential to become first thought in choice making for camping activities. The Leh Manali route has HPTDC Camping site.

Commercial Camps & tents –There are various camping sites and tents are available from private organisers of various size, amenities and comforts in the area.

Eateries / Restaurants / Dhaba–The peoples of Lahaul & Spiti have three meals a day-Ken or tshema in the morning, Shod or chicken in the noon and yangskin or Gongal at night. In cereals, they majorly consume buckwheat locally known as Kathu, barley, wheat and rice is also consumed. Besides they consume a lot of lugriortsagti, chhang (beer) and salted tea mixed with butter. Arak (Local distilled liquor) is also taken occasionally. Smoking of Tobacco is very common among the aged people but is forbidden for the ladies.

Exhibit 10.167: Hotels, restaurants, home stays in Sissu and surrounding areas



H. Existing Community based products

Through government's interventions along with some non-governmental organisation few co-operative groups have created in area as to make them more financially stabilized and promotion of locally available resources, creating market and fair promotion, demand and supply channels etc. items which are taken in this concept are,

Wool and Weaving—With distinct touch and choices of colours and patterns, intercalated in their tradition. Woollen items are in now demand from many visitors coming from capital and metro cities. NGO named Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), with prime motto of conservation and reducing mal practices like hunting and bringing awareness in locals for a healthy harmonious living with these wild creatures of the area like snow leopard and other regional distinct animal is also doing so well in this field with the label 'SHEN'.

Exhibit 10.168: Lahauli Pulla weavers community group of women



Source: Site visit

Sea buckthorn juice and other processed products—This special berry and shrub has a lot of driving sparks as to improve socio economic status of the local people.

Exhibit 10.169: Sea buckthorn and production of its juice by local self-help groups



Source: Site visit

The wide ranges of its medicinal properties can be targeted to big market with proper marketing and distribution channel. Products which can be made from this berry are listed as,

Jam

Fresh fruits are collected in a pan, washed with fresh water and crushed. Juice is extracted with the help of sieve. On an average 1.5 litre juice is obtained from 2.5 kg of fresh fruits. The residue (seeds and pulp) is sun dried and used for making tea. 0.5 kg of sugar is added to the juice and boiled till the formation of jam. The jam is kept in a cool place. After cooling, KMS (Potassium meta-Sulphate) or Sodium Benzoate powder is added as preservative to preserve the jam up to 2 years. The jam is stored in the sterilized bottles.

Sea buckthorn Pulp

Fresh fruits gathered in a pan are thoroughly washed with running water. After that the fruits are crushed in a jar and sieved with the help of a sieve. The seeds and pulps are separated. The extract is dried and used for making tea. As per the quantity of juice, sugar is added and mixed with the juice. KMS power (0.25–0.30 g/litre) is added in juice to preserve the juice for at least two years. The juice is stored in sterilized bottles.

Wine preparation

10 kg of fresh fruits gathered in a pan are washed. After washing, the fruits are crushed. 200–400 g of fermenting agent (enzyme of yeast readily available in the market), locally known as 'Fab', is added in the juice mixture. The mixture is kept for fermentation for 4–6 months. The pot is covered with warm clothes during fermentation period. The fermented juice is distilled with the help of locally made distillation unit. Sweet wine is obtained which is locally known as 'Chang/lugri'. The distilled liquor, locally known as 'Sara' is stored in the sterilized bottles.

Tea from fruits

The residue separated from pulp is sun dried for a week. After complete drying, it is packed in boxes. The dried residue is locally known as '**Bangma**'. The dried residue is packed in paper bags for sale as 'Sea buckthorn tea'. For preparing 2 cups of tea, 2 cup water, 1 tea spoon of dried residue, a pinch of ordinary tea leaves, ginger and cardamom and 2 teaspoons of sugar/honey/jaggery are boiled in a pan, filtered with a sieve and consumed. Similarly, 2 cup of water and 2 tea spoons of sugar are boiled for 5–10 min. After boiling, 2 tea spoon of juice is added and sipped/taken.

Tea from leaves

For making tea from the male leaves, the disease-free male leaves are collected and washed in running water. Female leaves are also being used for the purpose, but the biochemical constituents are comparatively lesser than male leaves. The leaves are dried under shade for a week. After complete drying, 3–4 dried leaves are added in one cup of water and boiled for 3–4 min. This is locally known as 'Kaarū'. One tea spoon of sugar is added and drunk.

Traditional Thangka Painting training

A thangka, variously spelt as thangka, tangka, thanka is a Tibetan Buddhist painting on cotton, silk appliqué, usually depicting a Buddhist deity, scene, or mandala. Thangkas are traditionally kept unframed and rolled up when not on display, mounted on a textile backing somewhat in the style of Chinese scroll paintings, with a further silk cover on the front. So treated, thangkas can last a long time, but because of their delicate nature, they have to be kept in dry places where moisture will not affect the quality of the silk. Most thangkas are relatively small, comparable in size to a Western half-length portrait, but some are extremely large, several metres in each dimension; these were designed to be displayed, typically for very brief periods on a monastery wall, as part of religious festivals. Most thangkas were intended for personal meditation or instruction of monastic students. They often have

elaborate compositions including many very small figures. A central deity is often surrounded by other identified figures in a symmetrical composition. Narrative scenes are less common, but do appear.

Exhibit 10.170: Training Workshop on Thangka painting organised by block development office



Source: Site visit

Hand knitted Woolens

Some women based SHGs are also involved in knitting sock; gloves etc. from pure wool and sell them in local market. Recently these hill state's famous Lahauli hand-knitted woolen socks and gloves have also got the GI tag.

The development is noteworthy for Himachal Pradesh, a state known for its traditional hand-woven and handicraft products that showcase the state's rich heritage of craftsmanship, artistic detailing and creativity.

After a continuous attempt of three years led by The Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre of the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE) this registration under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999 was attained recently in November 2021.

Exhibit 10.171: Weaving products



I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

High Altitude Trekking– The altitudes which are above 1,500 m (4,900 ft) affects the human body and its survival performance. As the altitude increases, the surrounding atmospheric pressure decreases, which hugely affects humans by reducing the partial pressure of oxygen and results in breathing issues. As one ascends through the atmosphere, the barometric pressure decreases (though the air contains 21% oxygen) and hence every breath contains fewer and fewer molecules of oxygen. The lack of oxygen above 3,000 m (10,000 ft) causes serious illnesses such as high-altitude sickness which include acute mountain sickness, high altitude pulmonary edema, and high altitude cerebral edema. The human

body tries to adapt to high altitude by breathing faster and having a higher heart rate. It can take days or weeks to adapt to the high altitude. This adjustment of the human body to the changes in environment is called as **Acclimatisation**. By this process the body maintains its performance against these environmental changes. With due span of time, the changes in body due to process of Acclimatisation, can be abridged as below;

Few hours to few days - Increase in rate and depth of respiration and increase in rate and force of heart contraction causes increase in oxygen uptake by lungs into blood.

Few weeks to few months - Increase in red blood cells and haemoglobin and increase in bicarbonate excretion by kidney causes increase in transport of oxygen from blood to tissues.

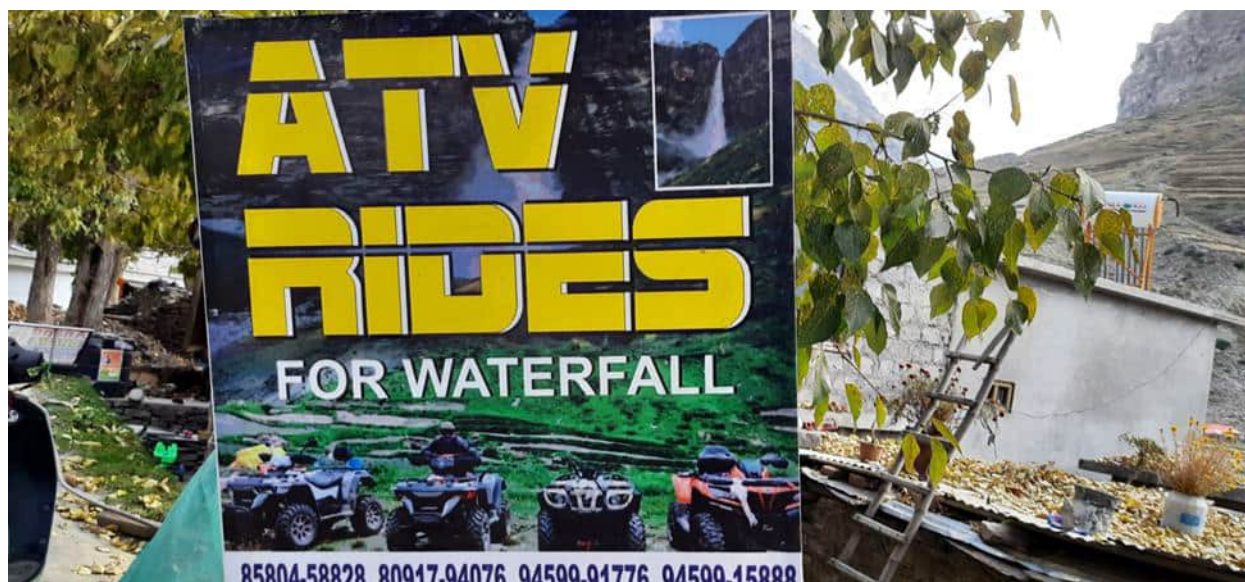
Permanent Acclimatization or Adaptation - Due to genetic changes at cellular level like increased capillary network in tissues and more mitochondria in cells. Some of the prevailing high-altitude treks of this area can be enlisted as below:

- Ghepan glacial lake trek
- Chandra Tal Lake trek
- Pin Parvati Trek
- Kanamo Peak trek
- Parang La trek
- Neelkanth trek
- Hampta pass trek
- Saptadhara trek

Camping: Camping of different standards are available at Sissu lake, across the river Chenab, in Sissu village, and surrounding area by private entrepreneurs.

ATV rides –A highly admired and demanded adventure activity, ATV or All-Terrain Vehicle rides are introduced in Sissu lake area through some private operators.

Exhibit 10.172: ATV rides available at Sissu lake



Source: Site visit

Zip lining– Zip lining was recently introduced by a private operator near Sissu lake across the river Chenab but stopped after a month or so, in absence of valid license with the operator.

J. Market analysis

The Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh is known for the production of disease-free quality **Seed Potatoes** in the country and receive a very high demand for it. **Lahaul Potato Society (LPS)** is now focusing to encourage farmers to grow potatoes instead of other vegetables and simultaneously planning to get various proposals from various high end FMCGs for contract farming. The aim of these efforts is to strengthen local farmers in more profitable state and elevation of socio-economic strata. They have set up three distribution centres for insecticide and manure at Udaipur, Lugarbhati and Kargain Lahaul-Spiti. Renowned as second largest society in whole Asia, the Lahaul Potato Society is now under a large mass of debts and moving judiciously to combat this situation. With innovative and visionary approach from newly constituted managing committee, the society has managed to receive a good price range for various potatoes varieties like Kufri Chandramukhi, Kufri Jyoti and Kufri Himani as Rs.4000/ per quintal, Santhana variety as Rs.2800/ per quintal and regular Pahari Laal Aloo as Rs.2400/ per quintal.

K. Community perception

Ex Pradhan – Sissu Gram Panchayat, Adventure tour operator, home stay owner



During the stakeholder consultation, community and travel trade held on 12th October' 2021, various aspects about involvement of communities in eco-tourism was discussed.

Most of the adventure tour operators mainly deal with high altitude trekking and camping and few of them are involved in arranging activities like ATV rides and Zip lining and boat ride at Sissu Lake.

The women led Self-help groups from Sissu gram Panchayat are working in farming of

Potato, Peas and Cauliflower. Other than that, they spent time in make Pulle (shoe made out of Jute), knitting woollens, Juice and Jams from Sea buck thorn.

Under NRLM scheme young men are trained in the art of traditional Thangka Paintings at Lahaul, which is an effort made by the administration for its revival.

The local men based Yuvak Mandal are mainly involved in Agriculture – Potato and Pea and sometimes cleaning of village and lake area. The second major occupation of men from the community is tourism (which varies from homestays to adventure activities like zip lining, ATV rides to trekking & camping) and they participate in most of the activities at King Ghepan Temple.

L. Key challenges of the site

Absence of tourist facilities - The site lacks with respect to tourist facilities such as interpretation centre, designated parking areas, help lines, first aid facility, way side amenities and training of youth in trekking and other adventure activities.

Lack of manpower – After opening of Atal tunnel tourists can visit Sissu and other places in Lahaul valley throughout the year. With the high number of tourists visiting, the business need manpower (both skilled and unskilled) which is not available in the valley as the population of Lahaul as per census 2011 was **10,199**. Hence the local businesses have to depend on the manpower from Kullu and other districts.

Absence of solid waste management - No waste management plan is followed locally. The solid waste is burnt or dumped in the designated areas. After opening of Atal tunnel, the tourist inflow has suddenly gone up manifolds. With tourists comes wrappers, plastic bottles and other waste. The local

administration has to come fast with the waste management plan for both biodegradable and non-bio degradable waste.

Natural Calamities: Due to weather change, the Lahaul valley is experiencing what it has never heard or seen. The valley which used to be completely dry is getting heavy rains and cloud burst which resulted in flash floods, landslides etc. This year in the month of July few people lost their lives in various incidents. .

Limited public utilities: The public utilities like banks, petro station, hospitals, etc are very limited. There is only 1 Petrol station in whole of Lahaul valley and only 01 district hospital in Keylong for the population of 31, 528 as per Census report of 2011 in Lahaul and Spiti district. .

M. Destination potentials

Quality camping and tents – As flourishing business of Camping at Sissu and presence of various campsites varying from luxury camps to basic one, giving the impression like promising venture for this village of serene natural treasure to boost economic benefits of tourism in the area.

Para gliding & Other Adventure activities - The site with its exquisite characteristics can be develop as spot paragliding and other adventure activities like skiing, zip lining, river crossing, etc.

Tourist facilities – A good infrastructure is the basic element for improving tourism activities at any site, and similar is the case with Sissu area too. Right from the roads, toilet facilities, waste bins with segregation base, practice and awareness for responsible tourism and improved edifices for eateries and accommodation, would make this place as receiver of more footfalls from tourists and more financial benefits and its multiplier effect in the area.

Contract Farming – With interventions from Private sector, the major cash crops of the area viz potatoes, peas, cauliflower and millets may get more reach to market with better and higher price range and with increased exposure to latest techniques, methods and inputs. Some players from brewery industry are keen to set up their distilleries at this site as the weather and crops of the region adeptly matches with the origin land of these wines and brews of abroad locations.

Lake tourism – There is presence of some beautiful lakes around Sissu in Lahaul valley like Sissu Lake, Deepak Tal, Ghepan Lake and Suraj Tal. Sissu lake is at an altitude of 3120m Deepak Tal is at 3750 m, Ghepan lake is at 4140 m whereas Suraj Tal is at 4883 m. All of these lakes are high altitude lake but very different from each other as Ghepan lake and Suraj Tal are glacial lakes, which origins from glacier activity.

High Altitude Trekking:

Altitude above 3000 m above sea level is addressed as high altitude and travel to these areas need human body to acclimatized, that time to get used to high pressure and lack of oxygen. Which if not done can result in acute mountain sickness, high altitude pulmonary edema, and high-altitude cerebral edema. The human body tries to adapt to high altitude by breathing faster and having a higher heart rate. It can take days or weeks to adapt to the high altitude. Trek route to destination above 3000 m are referred as high-altitude treks like trekking route in Lahaul valley. Some of the prevailing high-altitude treks of this area can be enlisted as; Ghepan glacial lake trek, Suraj Tal lake, Rohtang Pass trek etc.

N. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Sissu are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Nearest point in Lahaul via Atal tunnel, Beautiful landscape with a lake & waterfall

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by road; 6 kms from Atal tunnel, very easy to reach, both summers & winters
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not Satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as a transit point and exclusive destination for winter sports.

10.3.8 Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary

A. Brief introduction

The Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the cold desert area of Himalayas in the Trans-Himalayan district of Lahaul and Spiti. The Sanctuary is named after Kibber village, on its northern boundary.



The site falls in the rain-shadow area of the Himalayas, so the rainfall is very low. Most of the moisture is provided by snow. Summer is extremely dry, while winter is extremely cold, with the mercury dropping to -32 °C. Kaza is the headquarters of Spiti subdivision, and of the Pin Valley NP (an IBA) and Kibber WLS. Kibber is also administered by the Director of Pin Valley NP. Comprising of various unique flora and fauna.

Exhibit 10.173: Gate to Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary



Source: Site visit

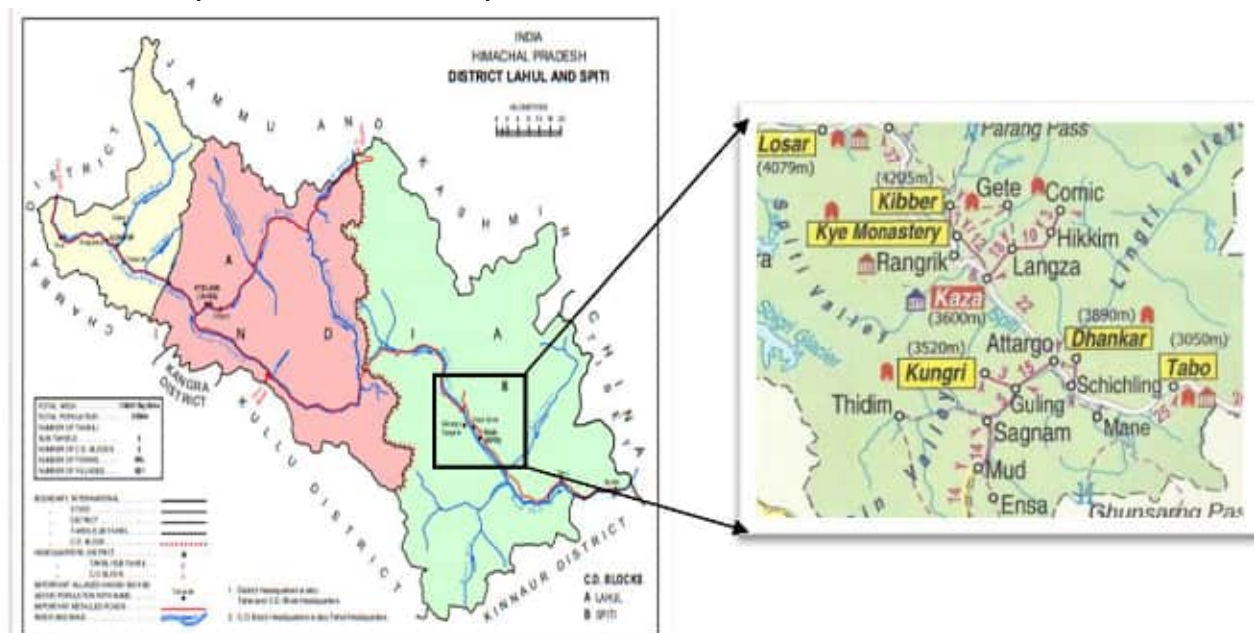
The sanctuary offers a sight of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Himalayan ibex (*Capra ibex*), blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), red fox (*Vulpus vulpus*), Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus*), long tailed marmot (*Marmota caudata*), woolly hare (*Lepus oiostolus*), Royal's pika (*Ochotona roylei*), snow cock, chukar partridge, Himalayan griffon, lammergeyer, golden eagle, kestrel, finches, chough, larks, house sparrow, red starts, pigeons, etc. Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary has important corridor with Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh.

B. Destination details

Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) is situated in Spiti division of district Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. It lies between 32° 8' 49.082" to 32° 45' 39.903" N latitudes and 77° 47' 59.726" to 78° 31' 29.452" E longitudes. The wildlife sanctuary is spread over 2220.12 km² which is bordered in the northern catchment of the Spiti river and is enclosed by Ladakh in the north and Tibet in the east (Kala, 2005). The sanctuary has three beats i.e., Kibber, Langza and Lalung.

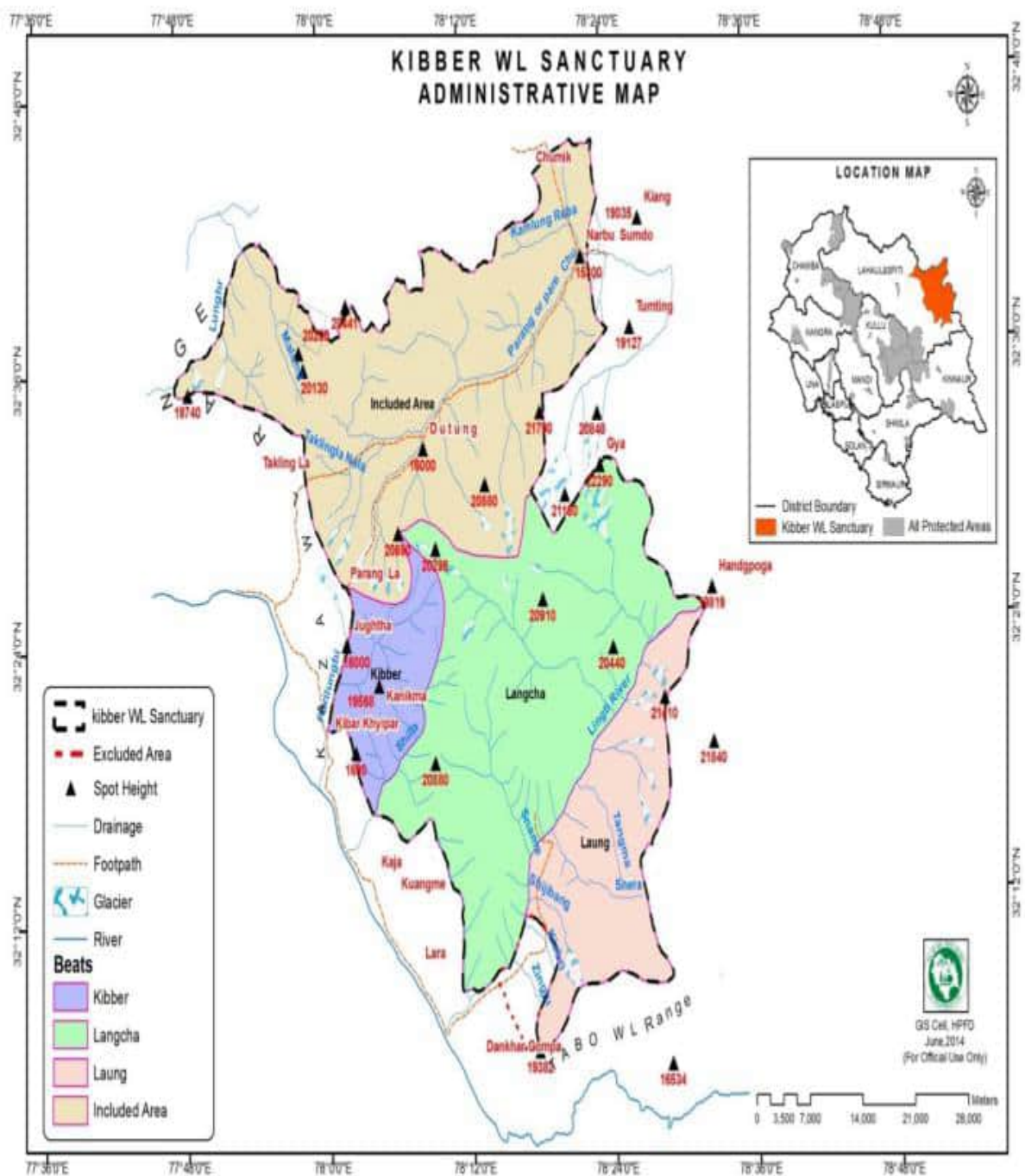
During winters, the temperature drops up to -35°C. Summer has mean maximum temperatures around 25°C. Precipitation is mainly in form of winter snow (Mishra, 2001). In winter months (October to April), the region remains cut-off from adjoining area due to very heavy snowfall.

Exhibit 10.174: Map of District Lahaul and Spiti,



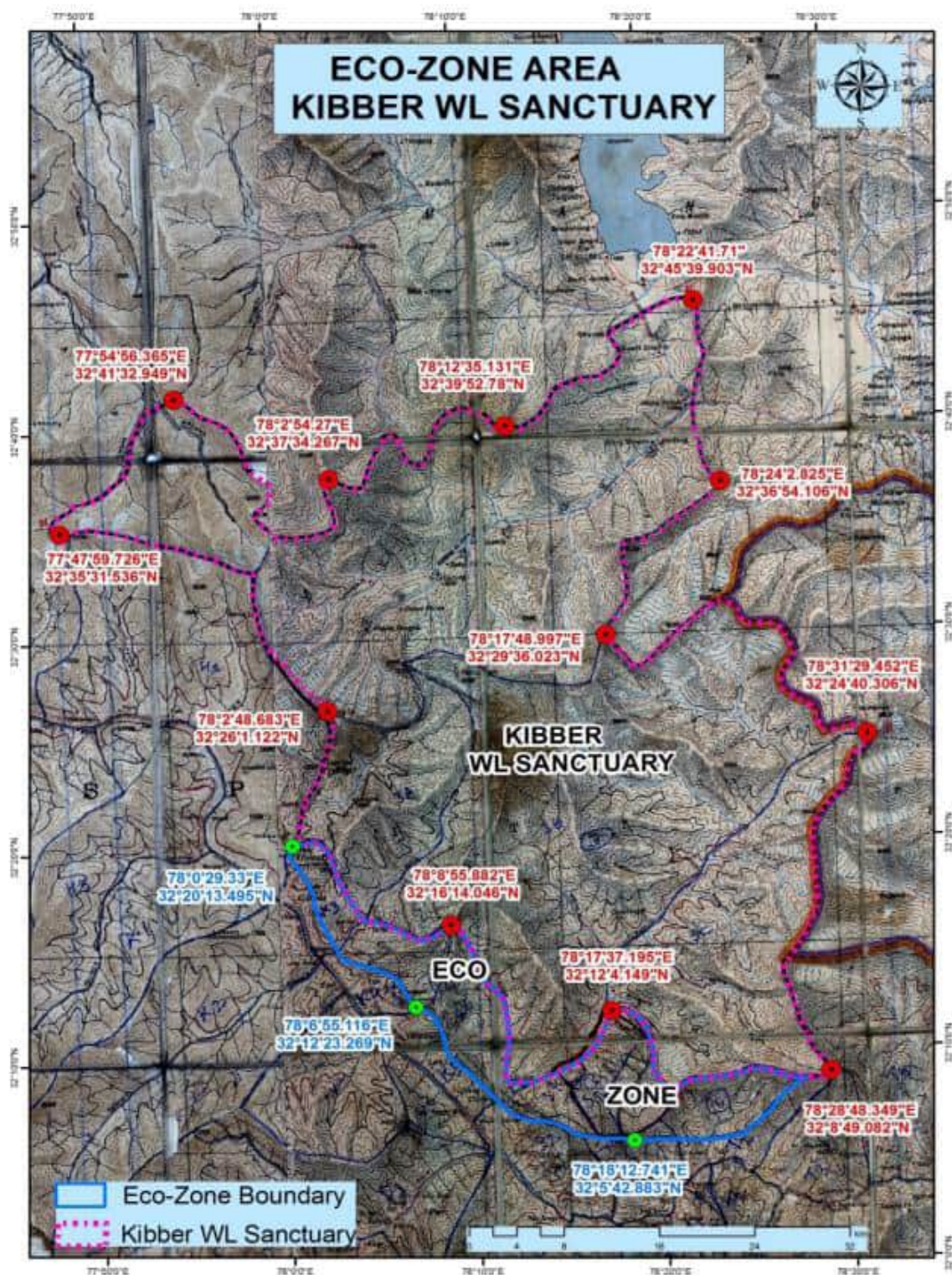
Source: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011census&https://hplahaulspiti.nic.in/map-of-district/>

Exhibit 10.175: Location Map of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary along with location of longitude and latitude of prominent locations



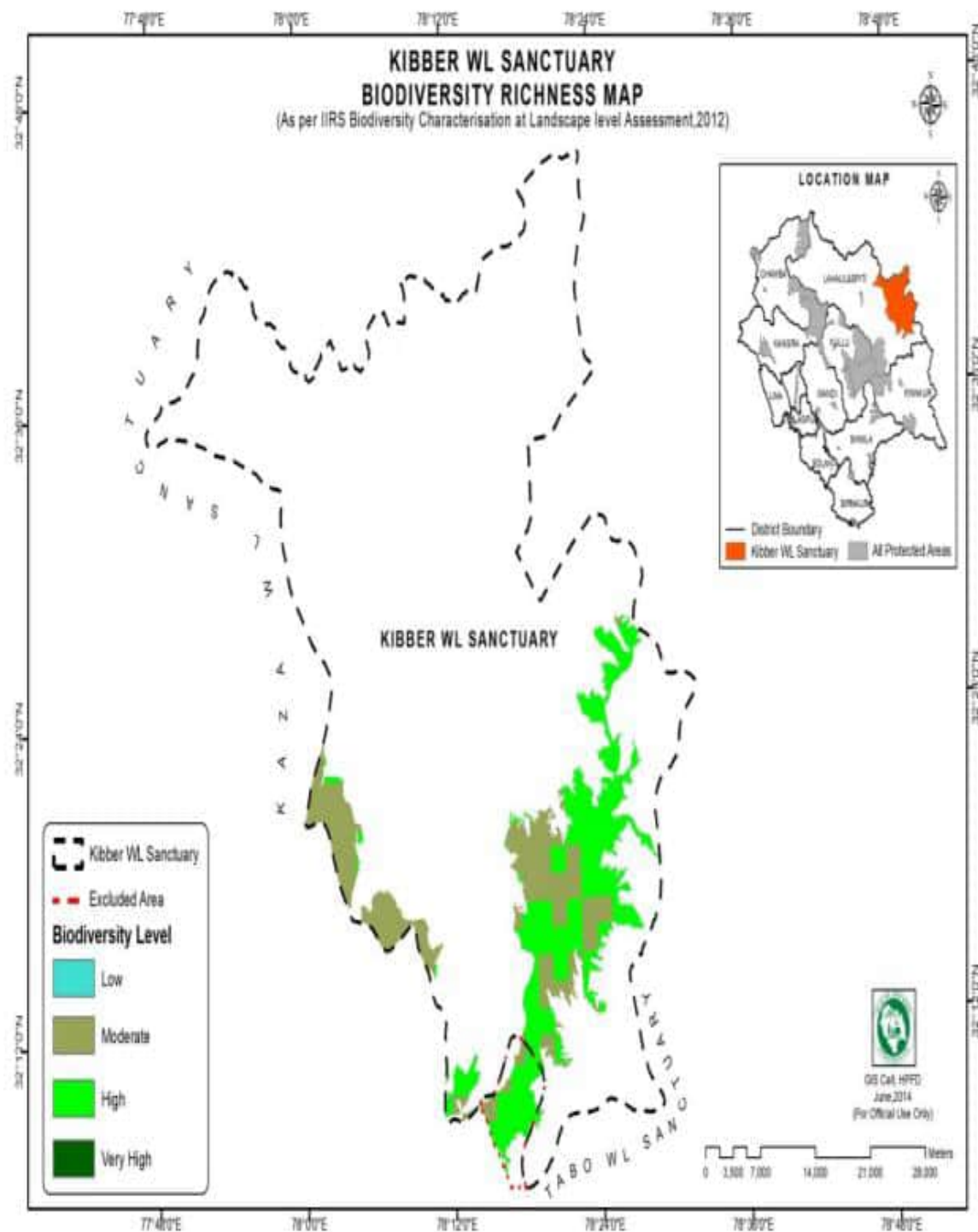
Source: <https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/kibber.pdf>

Exhibit 10.176: Toposheet map of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary



Source: <https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/kibber.pdf>

Exhibit 10.177: Biodiversity map of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary indicating levels of biodiversity richness



Source: <https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/kibber.pdf>

Flowering initiates in April to July months, when snow starts melting. The vegetation is dry alpine steppe type and shrubs seldom exceed a height of 1m. The vegetation is mainly dominated by shrubs like Caragana, Lonicera, Artemisia and Ephedra and herbaceous plants like Allium, Aquilegia, Arnebia, Primula and Thymus. There are about 13 villages situated nearby the periphery of the sanctuary except one village (Kibber) which has only two households which exists inside the sanctuary area.

C. Connectivity

Kibber can be reached by road from Kaza. Kaza is located high up in the mountains of the Lahaul and Spiti valley in the north Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. It does not have an airport but is connected by road to major cities of Himachal Pradesh.

By Air - Kaza can be reached either from Manali or via Shimla. Indian Airlines and some private airlines operate regular flights to Bhuntar Airport, the nearest airport to Manali. Pre-paid taxis are available from Bhuntar airport. Buses and taxis can be hired from Manali to Kaza. Flights from New Delhi and Chandigarh operate on a daily basis to Shimla airport.

By Train –Joginder Nagar is the nearest railway station. The rail route from Joginder Nagar to Chandigarh is a narrow gauge one. Shimla and Chandigarh are the nearest broad gauge railway stations. Buses and taxis are available from Shimla and Chandigarh to reach Kaza.

By Road - It is a 115 km journey from Manali which takes six hours. Another option is to take bus from Shimla via Kinnaur to Kaza. The route from Shimla to Kaza remains open from May to October and is about 412 km long.

Exhibit 10.178: Map of accessibility available in the area

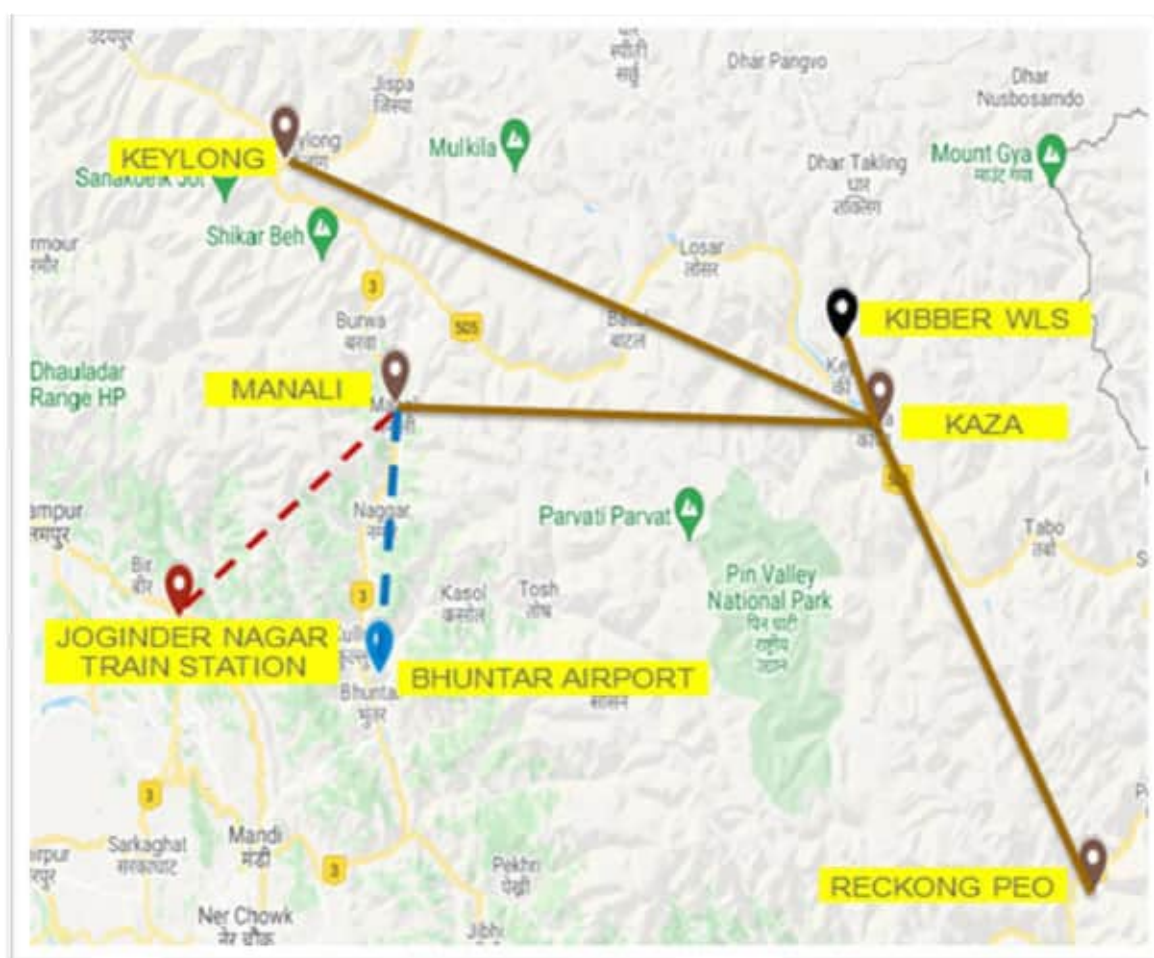
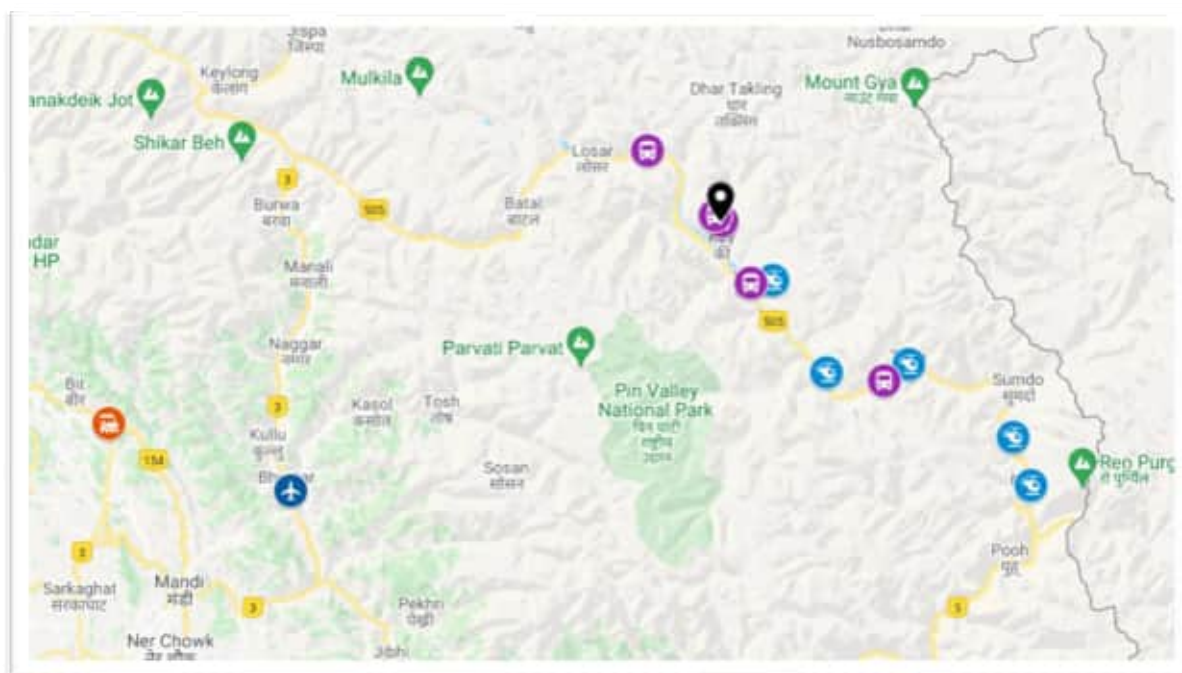


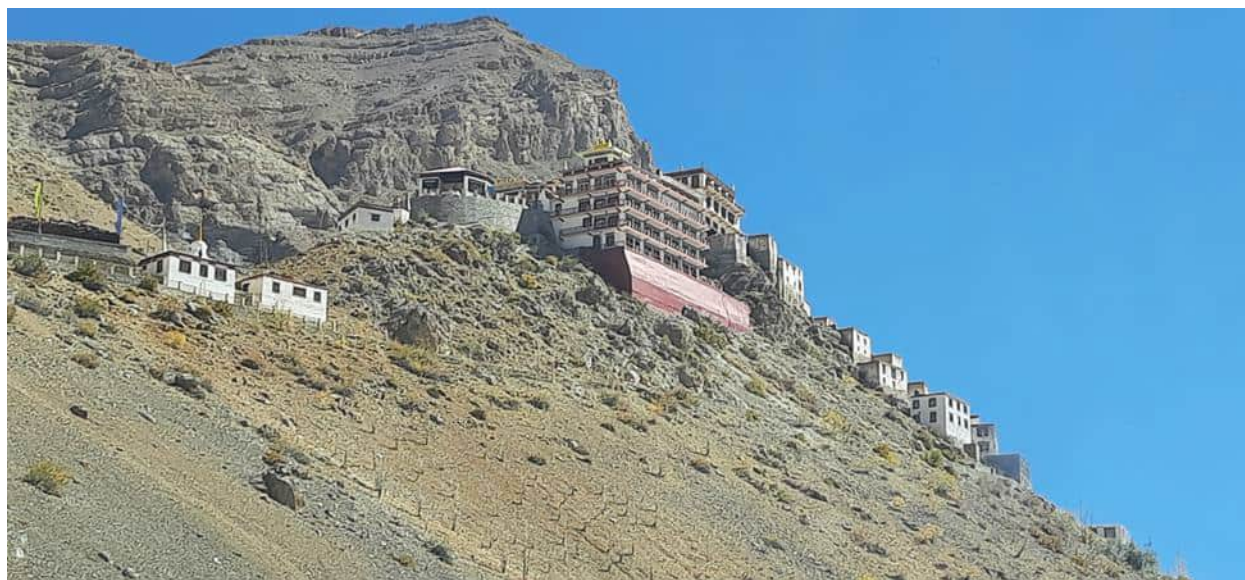
Exhibit 10.179: Airport, Railway station, Helipad and Bus station around Kibber/Kaza



D. Site surroundings

Key Monastery – An architectural splendour, this monastery is famous for its murals, thangkas (paintings on cotton or silk), rare manuscripts, and wind instruments.

Exhibit 10.180: Key Gompa, Key village



Source: Site visit

Chicham bridge – Completed in 2017, the Chicham Bridge is India's highest road span crossing approximately 150 meters above a tributary of the River Spiti in the Himachal Pradesh region. Chicham Bridge is also touted as the "world's highest bridge" which is a partial truth as the deck is in fact located 13,596 feet / 4,145 meters above sea level even if the deck height is not the highest.

Exhibit 10.181: Chicham Bridge on Samba Lamba Nallah, Cheecham village, Cheecham Kibber road



Source: Site visit

Dandmachan Peak - The Dandmachan Peak here is popular with trekking enthusiasts and mountaineers. The barren landscape, swift rivers and lofty mountains and peaceful gompas make all surrounding of Kibber a photographer's heaven. The village is home to a large number of fossils and thus, Spiti is also nicknamed with the title of 'Fossils Park'.

Kibber Monastery – A monastery in seclusion with panoramic view of serene beauty of mountainous ranges, made this place eccentric place for meditation. Locally it's called Gompa

Exhibit 10.182: Gates of Key Gompa



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.183: Kibber Gompa



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.184: Kusum Mata Temple at Kunzum Pass



Source: Site visit

Sites of once in a lifetime experience – The whole region of Spatially offers varied reason and places to come and return back with splendid memories. These are,

- **Komic** –Known to be the **highest village in the world**, Komic is located in the beautiful Spiti Valley at an altitude of 15500 ft. Komic has one of the highest motorable roads, at an altitude of 14400 ft.
- **Kaza** – World's Highest Petrol Pump and Retail Outlet of The Indian Oil Corporation Limited run petrol pump is situated at Kaza at an altitude of 3,740 meters. This Kaza petrol pump is the only pumping station in the valley.
- **Tashi Gang** –Tucked away deep in trans-Himalayan valley of Spiti, Tashigang is a small village at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is now the highest polling station in the world. Earlier it was Hikkim, a nearby village.
- **Hikkim** –This beautiful village called Hikkim in the Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh; it is set at an elevation of 4440 m (14,567 ft above sea level). The location is credited for being the World's Highest Post Office with the pin code 172114.
- **Chicham Bridge** – Chicham Bridge is a suspension bridge that is now built over the gorge that separates Kibber and Chicham Villages. It is one of the most spectacular bridges in India and that is why it is so well known as well. It remained under construction for a total of about 14 years and was finally inaugurated on 15th Aug 2017. The bridge is 114 meters long and was built with an estimated cost of Rs. 485.5 Lacs. It is often credited as Asia's Highest Bridge which is actually **incorrect**. What it certainly is, however, is a marvelous sight and definitely worth a trip while you were in Spiti Valley.

Exhibit 10.185: Kaza Petrol pump



Surroundings on map



E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access –There is a local bus from Kaza to Kibber that starts at 5 pm every day and reaches Kibber in an hour. After an overnight halt, the same bus returns to Kaza in the morning. During peak tourist season, they may run a second bus service in the morning, depending on demand. One can also hire a cab or take a shared taxi to Kibber, this is an additional source of income for the villagers

Exhibit 10.186: Local Bus stand at Kaza



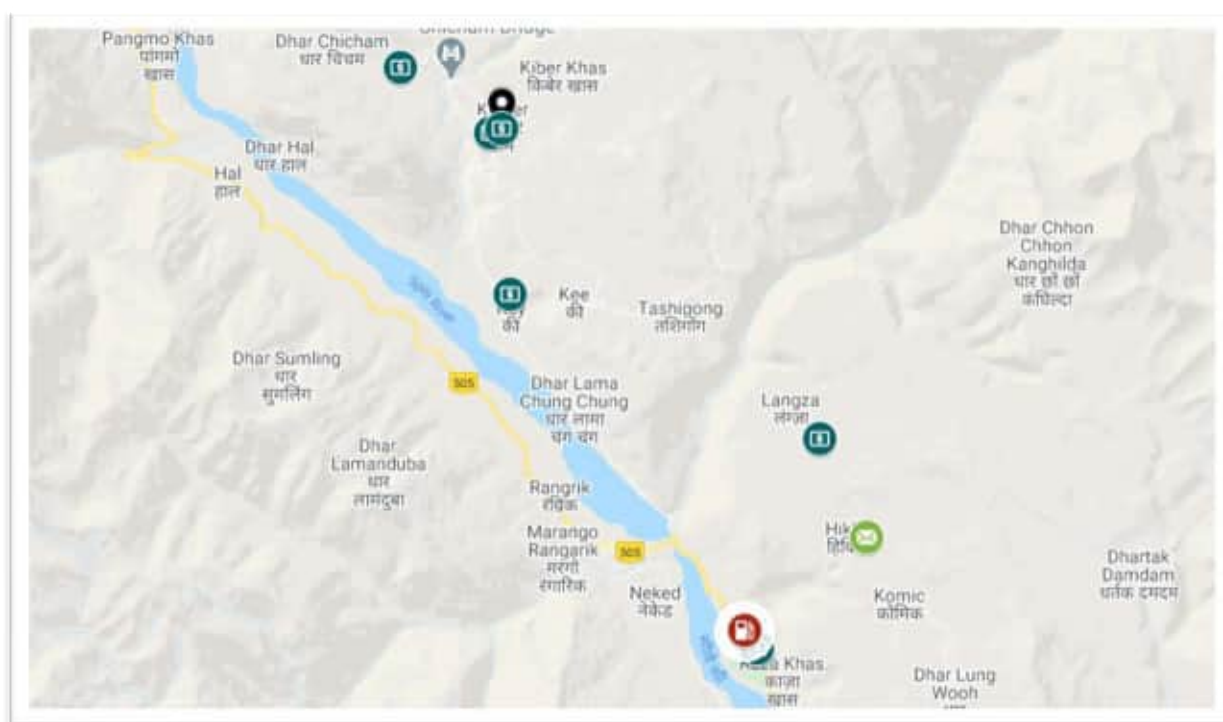
Exhibit 10.187: Paid Parking Area at Kaza



Exhibit 10.188: Taxi union in Kaza



Exhibit 10.189: Petrol pump, Post office and ATMs around Kibber / Kaza



Electricity – Electricity is provided through Kaza Electrical Sub Station is located in Demul, Lahul & Spiti. This substation serves the area of Demul, Hansa, Hikkam, Hull, Kaza, Kee Gompa, Kibber, Lara, Losser, Rangrik. 10 Kw Power Plant for Kibber, is sanctioned by Himachal Pradesh state government. In a recent effort to promote a sustainable environment, the world's highest electric vehicle charging station was established in Kaza of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh in last month September 21st. 2021 by a Pune base start-up named 'the goEgo'. It was inaugurated by Shri Mahendra Pratap Singh, Kaza Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM). A successful response for it will result in installation of more of such charging station.

Exhibit 10.190: Water and electricity distributions around Kibber / Kaza



Water supply – Spiti's unique contribution to farming is *kul* irrigation, which utilises *kuls* (diversion channels) to carry water from glacier to village. The *kuls* often span long distances, running down precipitous mountain slopes and across cliffs and clefts. Some *kuls* are 10 km long and have existed for centuries.

This snow melt is the main source of irrigation water coming from *Kanamo*, a revered peak in Spiti region, which is brought to the fields using water channels named as *kul*, that are repaired before the start of irrigation each year and are maintained through the growing period. The agricultural season is from March to September, determined by seasonality. All households have use rights, but land owners have the right to irrigate their fields first.

The crucial portion of a *kul* is its head at the glacier, which is to be tapped. The head must be kept free of debris, and so the *kul* is lined with stones to prevent clogging and seepage. In the village, the *kul* leads to a circular tank from which the flow of water can be regulated. For example, when there is need to irrigate, water is let out of the tank in a trickle. Water from the *kul* is collected through the night and released into the exit channel in the morning. By evening, the tank is practically empty, and the exit is closed. This cycle is repeated daily. The *kul* system succeeds because Spiti residents mutually cooperate and share. The culture also is instrumental in maintaining the carrying capacity of the surrounding cultivable land.

But Government's intervention in this field has laid down many impacts on this century old irrigation system. Some are on positive notes viz. fast and durable repair of old *kuls* and construction of new *kuls* with use of cement and rubber pipe; along with some negative notes like interference in hierarchy and social order of communities of the area which is primarily decided by the ownership and utilization of these *kuls*.

Solid waste management

Exhibit 10.191: Waste collection in Kaza



Source: Site visit

Health facilities: To provide the medical facilities in the district, Civil Hospital is located at district headquarter Keylong, Lahaul. The contact number of OPD is 01900-202255 and of emergency is 01900-202211. The hospital provides all types of medicines to the patients. The Community Health Centers are located at Udaipur, Shansha, Kaza and Primary Health Centers are located at Sissu, Gondhla, Gemur, Tholang, Jhalma, Thiroth, Tingret, Tabo, Sagnam and Civil Dispensaries are located at Darcha, Phura, Kibber, Lossar, Hansa.

Besides these, Ayurvedic Hospital, Tibetan Dispensary & Veterinary Hospital are available at Keylong.

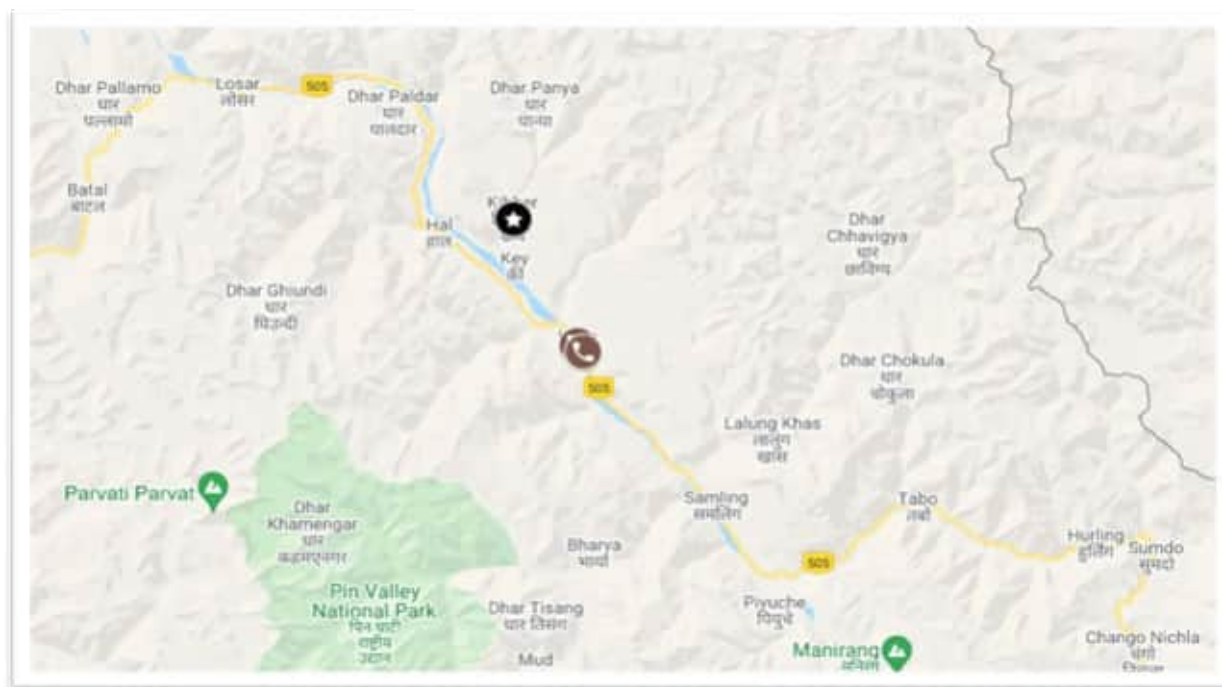
Exhibit 10.192: Primary health center Kibber Village



Source: Site visit

Tele-communication facilities – Services from major telecommunication companies are available here. Ranging from BSNL, Reliance JIO and Airtel with 4G network.

Exhibit 10.193: Telecommunication around Kibber / Kaza



F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

Buddhism is the dominant religion of Spiti Valley. Festivals like Fagli and Gochi are celebrated in Spiti. Hindus also celebrate their festivals like harvest festival, festival of light. Ladarcha fair, used to be celebrated in Kibber maidan in Spiti in the month of July where traders from Ladakh, Rampur Buser and Spiti meet in this fair to barter their produce. Due to closure of Tibetan traders, this fair is now being celebrated at Kaza, the headquarters of Spiti Sub Division in the 3rd week of August. A large number of visitors and traders from Kullu/ Lahaul/ Kinnaur meet there. It has now become a conference of cultures of Spiti, Ladakh & Kinnaur as also of the Indian plains. After the move, what was once an occasion for people to exchange goods of daily use has now turned into a colourful celebration and ambulation amalgamation of different cultures. Thousands of people from not only Lahaul Spiti but also Ladakh and other parts of the country gather here to celebrate Ladarcha.

Another retreat, Spiti Festival is held each year in the month of September in Kaza. It is a well-organized and grand event. Spiti has a rich tradition of orally transmitted songs, music, and dance which become the highlight of this festival. The festival lasts for 3-4 days during which, innumerable sets of cultural dances and cultural programs are performed by local Spiti people. It is one festival that every tourist should attend.

Organised in month of January, the Snow Festival is being celebrated in different places of Lahaul-Spiti district without a break. The festival is showcasing winter and traditions sports, folk dances, folk music, local cuisines, artefacts, local dresses, snow sculptures and many more. This festival has lots of potential to receive footfalls and introducing on eco based adventure sports.

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

Accommodation in Kibber village is limited with 2-3 guest houses and some homestays. Homestays are also available there which offers the cheaper prices and provide an opportunity to stay with a local

family on that breath-taking height. Foods are very simple and mainly contains dal and rice and other Tibetan delicacies.

Exhibit 10.194: Hotel & home stays around Kibber / Kaza



Guest houses – Tashi Zom guest house at the entry of the village is a good place to start exploring the food of Kibber. A decent small guest house has 4 independent rooms which are quite simple and basic but clean, which is what a traveller looks for. The place also has a restaurant which is more popular than the guest house, which serves basic lunch and dinner menu.

Exhibit 10.195: PWD Guest house Batal, on the Sissu – Kaza highway



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.196: Spiti village resort



Source: Site visit

Hotels & Resorts – Spiti has more guest houses and homestays than hotels. The general standards of homestays are quite basic. Only few homestays serve food, but all the hotels do have restaurant / cafes etc and certainly better amenities and services. Few hotels have tied up and offer with travel and sightseeing related services. They offer services like car hire, private local sightseeing tours and even treks, in and around Spiti.

Some popular hotels in Spiti are Spiti Serai, Sakya Abode, and Taste of Spiti etc. The hotels charge anything between Rs. 2000 to 7000 per night inclusive of breakfast and taxes

Exhibit 10.197: Hotel Sakya Abode, Kaza



Source: Site visit

Homestays – Norling Home-Stay has 12 rooms with attached bathrooms, with 24 hrs hot water and basic amenities, no TV. Meals are Spitian (Tibetan, Indian and Himalayan cuisine), made from locally procured and organically produced ingredients. A night's stay here costs between 1200-1500 INR along with meals. The hosts are warm and welcoming,

Under” Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008¹⁷”, Stay Units in rural areas will be registered by the Department of Tourism and will be provided following incentives/exemptions:

- ix. Town & Country Planning Department will charge no change of land use fees from the registered Home Stay units.
- x. Home Stay units would be exempted (up to 3 rooms) from Luxury and Sales tax/Vat.
- xi. Domestic rates for electricity would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units and
- xii. Domestic rates of water would be charged from the registered Home Stay Units.

Exhibit 10.198: Shambala Home stay, Kaza



Deshek Home-Stay– Located right opposite the Kibber school, this is a small and comfortable place where you would experience good hospitality, basic amenities, and delicious home-cooked food prepared by the local host family. Spread on three floors; the hotel has a terrace on each one with beautiful views.

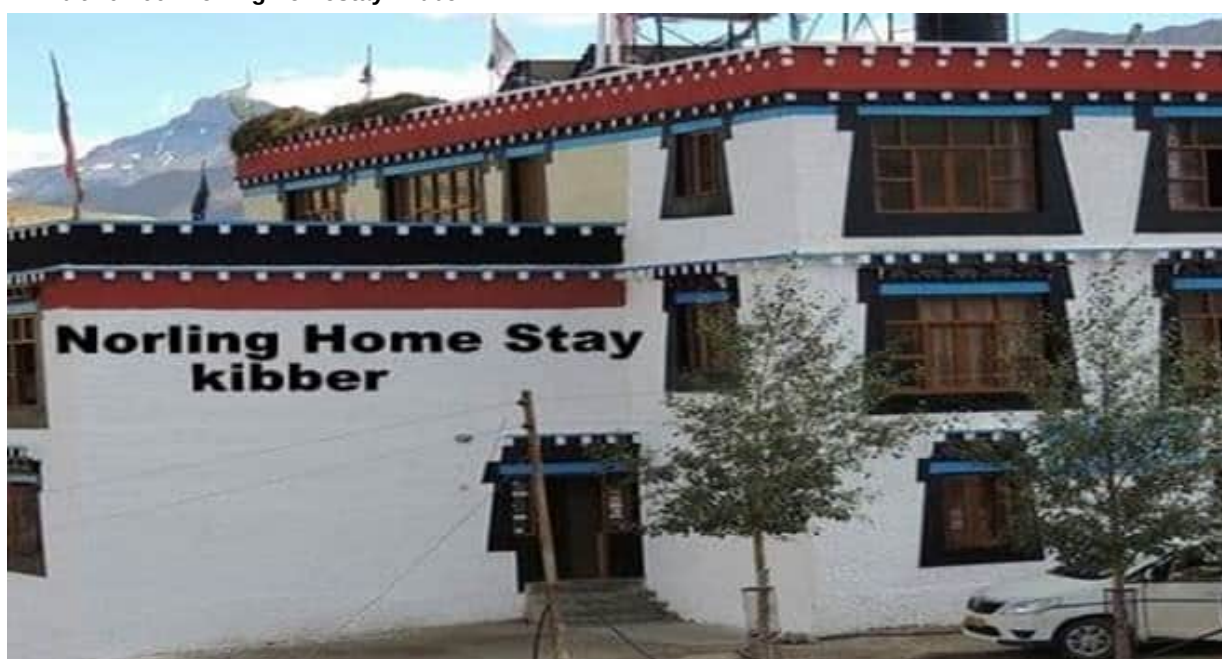
¹⁷Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme 2008 by Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh (URL - <https://himachaltourism.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Himachal-Pradesh-Home-Stay-Scheme-2008.pdf>)

Exhibit 10.199: Deshek Home stay in Kibber Village



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.200: Norling homestay Kibber



Source: Site visit

Eateries / Restaurants / Dhaba – The area offers a good number of eateries and restaurant, 'Taste of Spiti' a restaurant located in Kaza market attracts many of tourists with its intrinsic Spitian cuisine.

Exhibit 10.201: Home stays, Dhabas and café in Kaza



Source: Site visit

H. Existing Community based products

Ethnomedicinal plants and their byproducts – Sea buckthorn juice

SSI is a registered self-help group, based in Kaza

As like Sea buckthorn berries, Valley of Spiti is a heaven of many shrubs, fruits and berries containing various ethnomedicinal properties. Bhot or Bhotia tribal community that inhabits in the area is overwhelmingly Buddhists (Census of India, 1991). They have a wealth of knowledge on the use of medicinal plants in their locality. Furthermore, due to its remoteness and lack of modern health facilities, local people depend on available plant resources and traditional medicine systems known as **Amchi** system of medicine, which is principally based on **Tibetan system of medicine**. The Amchi (**herbal practitioners**) considered experts in medicinal uses of plants and are playing an important role in providing health coverage to local people





Woollen material and handicraft work by local women –To encourage women entrepreneurship and self-reliance in the local community an NGO is working there from more than a decade, named 'Nature Conservation Foundation' (NCF) with the label 'SHEN' which means snow leopard in the local Spitian dialect, is a conservation-friendly enterprise started in 2013 in Spiti Valley. It produces and sells handmade products to offset some of their losses caused due to wildlife. "SHEN" intends to involve the women in conservation of the wildlife in their landscape.

Apart of them there are government assisted self-help groups of women are also developed.

Exhibit 10.202: Carpet weaving



Source: Site visit

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Trails around Kaza

- Kaza-Langza-Hikkim-Komic village-Kaza,
- Kaza-Ki-Kibber-Gette-Kaza,

- Kaza-Losar-Kunzum La and
- Kaza-Tabo-Sumdo-Nako.
- High altitude trek in Spiti
- Parang La Pass (connecting Ladakh with Spiti Valley),
- Pin Parvati Pass,
- Bhaba Pass, Hampta Pass treks, Spiti Left Bank Trek are few to name.

Road trip to Spiti,

The Spiti Valley Road is one of the toughest adventure roads left on this planet. The road includes gravel and asphalt sections. It's terrible narrow, pretty steep and very dangerous, and probably more challenging than the famous Leh-Manali Highway.

- Chandratal Lake,
- Baralacha La,
- Trilokinath temple,
- Neelkanth Mahadev trek,
- Pin Valley National Park,
- Suraj Taal,
- Lady of Keylong and

Manali-Chandratal-Keylong trek

This is one of the most beautiful treks in Himachal which leads to the icy blue waters of the Chandra Tal Lake. This 120-kilometer trek offers surreal views of mountains and glaciers, which are all around you. Chandra Tal, also known as the 'Moon Lake' is situated at a height of about 15,000 feet and its name arises from its shape, which is crescent-like.

Keylong-Suraj Tal-Baralacha La Trek

The transcendent Suraj Tal Lake is situated at a distance of 65 km from Keylong, the capital of Lahaul and Spiti. The beautiful Suraj Tal Lake is the main water source for the Bhaga River. It is located below the Baralacha La, the pass which connects Lahaul to Ladakh and is surrounded by mighty mountains on all sides. The trek goes up to heights of 16,400 feet.

Proper clothing and food remain crucial packing items for the trek. Proper woolen clothing and full body protection is a must along with the mountaineering gear. Avoid treks during the monsoon and the period between November and April as it snows the most and there can be possibilities of avalanches.

J. Market analysis

Black Pea

Traditionally along with barley the other subsistence crop in Spiti used to be the kala matar (black pea). However, over the years with the transition of the Spitian economy from subsistence based to more market friendly crops like the green pea driven by economic value attached, the black pea has now been replaced. As a result of this the black pea now faces the threat of extinction.

A legume with a high nutritive content, the black pea can also be consumed as a pulse (similar to Kidney Beans/ Rajma). The Black Pea also makes delicious sprouts and are a very good source of cholesterol-lowering fibre. Not only can these peas help lower cholesterol, they are also of special benefit in managing blood-sugar disorders since their high fibre content prevents blood sugar levels from rising rapidly after a meal.

These peas also provide good to excellent amounts of five important minerals, three B-vitamins, and protein—all with virtually no fat. Its proteins help with maintaining healthy muscles, bones and cartilage. Black peas also contain zinc, an essential trace mineral that has significant health benefits. Zinc is good

for your eyes and can help reduce your risk for macular degeneration and protect against night blindness. It's also a major immune system booster and can help fight influenza and heal wounds.

Sea buckthorn

Sea-buckthorn is a deciduous shrub which grown in Western Europe, central Asia and on the tibetan plateau. The leaves, flowers, and fruits are used to make medicine. The willow-leaved sea-buckthorn which is found in Spiti is restricted to the Himalayas, growing at high altitudes in dry valleys. A tea containing sea buckthorn is used as a source of vitamins, antioxidants, protein building blocks (amino acids), fatty acids and minerals; for improving blood pressure and lowering cholesterol; preventing and controlling blood vessel diseases; and boosting immunity. Sea buckthorn berries are used for preventing infections, improving sight, and slowing the aging process. Sea buckthorn contains vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, C, and other active ingredients.

This tiny yellow-orange berry packs 12 times the amount of vitamin C as an orange. With high amounts of protein, fibre, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals (at least 190 bioactive compounds to be exact), the sea buckthorn berry is a powerful food. Touted as one of the most nutritious and vitamin-rich foods in the world, this berry offers benefits both internally and externally such as losing weight, moisturisation, and skin glow.

Current Uses of Sea buckthorn are:

Functional Food

- Juice from sea buckthorn berries is a common drink in many parts of Asia and Europe. The juice is very high in protein, vitamins C and E, and organic acids.
- The leaves, either fresh or dried, can be steeped to yield a nutritional tea.
- The leaves, young branches and fruit pulp can be used as animal fodder.

Medicinal

- Topical application of sea buckthorn oil has been reported for skin therapy including sun, heat, chemical and radiation burns, eczema and poorly healing wounds. Russian cosmonauts used sea buckthorn cream for protection from cosmic radiation.
- Oil from the sea buckthorn fruit is rich in vitamin E, carotenoids, phytosterols and essential fatty acids, all of which have beneficial medicinal properties for the treatment of internal and topical maladies.

Agronomic and Environmental

- Sea buckthorn is a remarkably hardy bush that rapidly develops an extensive root system capable of fixing nitrogen. Thus, it is suitable for growth on marginal soils, eventually improving them to where they can support the growth of other plants. It is quite tolerant of salt-spray adjacent to highways. Sea buckthorn has been used for:
 - Soil erosion control and land reclamation projects
 - Wildlife habitat enhancement and farm stand protection
 - Ornamental bushes

Honey

The local farmers of Spiti produce their honey organically without heating, filtering or blending. Generally farming in Spiti is free of pesticide the quality of honey from this area is significantly better than the honey available in local grocery shop.

Barley Coffee

Grown in Spiti traditionally for centuries, coffee made after roasting barley beans is a caffeine-free. It can easily be made in typical espresso machines and coffeemakers or simply mixed in boiling water. Although traditionally considered a coffee substitute for children, it is an increasingly common choice in Italy and other places for those who choose to avoid caffeine for health reasons. It's better because of

following merits; naturally caffeine free means it won't interfere with heart or diabetic medications, and won't irritate bladder, cause shakiness, irritability or insomnia. It is gentle on the urinary tract, and bladder. It's ideal for pregnant or nursing mom who are to cut down or eliminate caffeine from their diets. It has none of the harsh acid in coffee and is a great alternative for people with acid reflux, ulcers, or cancer patients who suffer from nausea.

K. Community perception

This trans Himalayan area has wide variety of flora, fauna and cultural attributes. For actualization of their sustainable development and conservation of these ethnic characteristics of the area, many NGOs are working in the sites with involvement of local communities. These efforts are turning them more financially secured and awareness for conservation of traditional roots. Prominent NGOs can be enlisted as,

Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)

With a wide spectrum of aim and approaches this NGO is working in the area from very long in the past. With prime motto of conservation of Snow leopard (the state animal of Himachal Pradesh), they deal with;

Ecological balance in the area in terms of un-interfered function of agricultural activities, livestock maintenance, feed availabilities for carnivorous faunas there, especially snow leopards and to maintain their population records etc. Their key instrument and approaches are

- Studies on the ecology of animals and their ecosystems for effective conservation
- PAWS: Population Assessment of The Worlds Snow Leopard – A Case Study from Himachal Pradesh
- Tracking the Cat

Conservation practices in the area in terms of local wild creatures viz Snow Leopards, Blue Sheep and Ibex, branding and marketing of local handicraft and art. For this they took initiatives like

- Grazing Free Reserves
- People, livestock and snow leopards
- Living and learning with snow leopards
- SHEN – Branding for local handicrafts products
- Assistance to Govt. Forest department of the region in various man power, technical and instrumental needs.

Encouraging a harmonious relationship and elevated People-Wildlife Interface through awareness campaigns, assimilation of local community in conservation and other watch-guard activities.

Snow Leopard Trust

The Snow Leopard Trust aims to protect this endangered cat through community-based conservation projects that are based on an improved scientific understanding of snow leopard behaviour, needs, habitats and threats.

NCF and the Snow Leopard Trust work together in India's high altitudes, striving to help conserve the snow leopard – as well as the diversity of life & landscapes that this beautiful cat symbolizes – in a scientifically robust and socially responsible manner. They combine research, community involvement, conservation education, and policy-level dimensions.

Ecosphere Spiti

It is a social enterprise whose mandate is to work on the triple bottom line of conservation, economy and development. All revenues (100%) generated by Ecosphere are ploughed back for the furtherance of these objectives. And to attain these objectives their key approach areas are:

- *Travel and tours:* As an effort to undertake a responsible way of travel and conservation of the destination and to promote Responsible Eco Travel.
- *Organics:* Processing and marketing of these natural products from the Himalaya that conserves its ecosystem and sustains local livelihoods with manifolds of gains like financial and sustainability.
- *Handicrafts:* Promotion of traditional art and handicraft from 'thangka' paintings on silken canvas, 'Zama' with local clay to woollen handicrafts with natural dyes.
- *Practices for Conservation:* As to enable a more sustainable future by linking local economies, conservation and development. And maintaining crucial balance with the environment and sustainability.

Local women and men engaged in manual processing of Sea buckthorn



Pradhan, Up Pradhan of the Kaza Panchayat, Local tour operator, camp site & trekking operators and people from Sea buckthorn Society of Kaza



With collective participation of local residents along with support from government and NGOs, people of Spiti valley are now finding more place in planning procedure of schemes of local benefit and

becoming more financially empowered. These efforts are also yielding positive gains in promotion of local handicrafts and horticulture products.

The sea buckthorn society of Kaza is doing well, in all efforts of manual processing of these berries and making them ready for further processing in factory plants.

L. Key challenges of the destination

Absence of tourist facilities: The tourism facilities in Spiti area are quite basic and substandard. The area has more of home stays with basic facilities and less of hotel, which offering more luxurious and comforts like heaters, geysers, facility. Most of homestays don't serve food as there are only few restaurants in the area, most of the food places – Dhabas, restaurants etc are packed with people during lunch and dinner time. There is only one petrol pump in entire Spiti region and the vehicle repair shops are available only on Kaza.

Over Grazing: The preservation of vegetation is a major problem in the Kibber WLS due to intensive grazing by goats, sheep and domestic yaks, which leaves the ibex and blue sheep's survival difficult, which is the favourite food for snow leopard.

Lopping of vegetation:

In the prevailing geographical and climatic conditions, where in winters the temperature drops to -20, During summer, the local people, with the help of their yaks, collect any available plant in the area. The flat rooftops in their habitation are well stacked with bushes during summer when the daytime sun quickly dries up this fuelwood material and it helps them to survive the harsh winters but is one of the reasons for soil erosion.

Military exercise: As the area shares an international border, military and para-military forces regularly patrol the area and conduct drill exercises

Limited working season: Since the area remains snowbound and landlocked for almost 6 months i.e., from December to May, the working season for developmental activities is limited to 6 months only, resulting in delay in completion of works and higher costs of construction.

High Maintenance Cost of Roads and Irrigation Channels: The soil of this valley is loose and sandy and as such roads and irrigation channels get damaged even with slightest rain, melting of snow landslides, falling of boulders and avalanches. Thus, the repairs of Kuhls and roads consume hefty sums of money and sometimes it costs more than that for new construction.

Marketing of Hops: There was no proper infrastructure for the marketing of Hops, which can become main cash crop in addition to potatoes & peas and can reap rich benefits to the farmers of the valley, but last year with the commissioning of Hops Palletting Plant at Baddi, the scenario has improved.

Non-availability of skilled and semi-skilled labour: Since the involvement of local labour is quite negligible and almost all skilled and semi-skilled labours are imported from outside the Valley, the labour rate as applied to tribal areas is 25% above the normal rate prevailing in other areas. Material cost and transportation charges are higher than those in other areas of the Pradesh due to un-certain climatic conditions and difficult topography.

Erratic Mail System: Erratic mail system in the Valley is the main impediment in proper implementation of developmental activities. It has been noticed that even an ordinary mail takes a month's time to reach its destination. Sometimes the dak (Post) regarding allocation of budget is received when the financial year is already over. Therefore, the regular dak (Post) system is to be ensured.

M. Destination potentials

Snow leopard: Kibber WLS is perfect place to spot a snow leopard, because of the conservation programs by NCF the numbers of the Snow leopards in the sanctuary have gone up and the visibility in the region have gone up. The community at Kibber and surrounding villages supports the conservation program as they make a living from the tourists, as trekking guides, naturalist and homestays, who come to get a glimpse of this amazing predator who is surviving in toughest of the terrains.

Camping and Home stays: Camping in Spiti Valley is certainly possible and thousands of people camp every year in Spiti. There are few places like Chandratal lake and around Kaza, where decent camps are available, but self-camping can be challenging as it is difficult terrain and it gets really cold in night and at high altitude. Homestays are certainly more popular and easily available. They are cheaper and travelers gets chance to interact with the locals, as most of the people speak good Hindi.

Trails and high-altitude treks: Spiti offer ample opportunity for a traveler to go on small trails which takes from 2-3 hours to high altitude treks which can stretch to 5-7 days. Spiti Valley trekking span is 55 km (approximately) starting from Langza and ending at Dhankar over the 5 days. Some of the decent treks are:

- Kaza-Langza-Hikkim-Komic village-Kaza,
- Kaza-Ki-Kibber-Gette-Kaza,
- Kaza-Losar-Kunzum La and
- Kaza-Tabo-Sumdo-Nako.
- High altitude trek in Spiti
- Pin Parvati Pass,
- Bhaba Pass, Hampta Pass treks, Spiti Left Bank Trek are few to name.

Challenging Road trips: Spiti Valley Road trip can be really challenging and memorable. The road includes gravel and asphalt sections. It's terrible narrow, pretty steep and very dangerous, and probably more challenging than the famous Leh-Manali Highway. Some of the road trips are mentioned below

- Chandertal Lake,
- Baralacha La,
- Trilokinath temple,
- Neelkanth Mahadev trek,
- Pin Valley National Park,
- Suraj Taal,
- Lady of Keylong

Tourist facilities: Spiti valley is quite popular in youngster who travels on budget and love adventurous rides on their motor bikes / other vehicles. Because of harsh conditions of road, weather and high altitude, it's really challenging, yet beautiful. Most of the people travel in summers which are certainly more comfortable than winters, when the temperature drop to -20, roads are blocked for days

Winter sports in Spiti valley: The Spiti Valley has some of the best and untouched snow in the world during the winter months from November – March. This provides a wonderful opportunity for back-country skiing, snowboarding and other snow-based activities.

N. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Kibber wildlife are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Snow leopard, Remote exclusive moon landscapes

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by road from Shimla- Rohru route for most of the year, from Spiti in summers
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not Satisfactory, but reaching its carrying capacity limit
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

Current Situation Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as an exclusive destination for winter sports.

10.3.9 Chanshal Pass, Kharshali, Rohru

A. Brief introduction

The Chanshal Pass, or Chanshal Valley, links Dodra Kwar and Rohru (Chirgaon) in the Shimla district of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The pass sits atop Chanshal Peak, which at 4,520 metres (14,830 ft) is the highest peak in the Shimla district. The pass remains open from May to October and is covered with snow for the rest of the year. Located at the upper end of the Pabbar Valley in Himachal Pradesh, around 160 km from the State Capital Shimla.

Exhibit 10.203: View of Chanshal valley

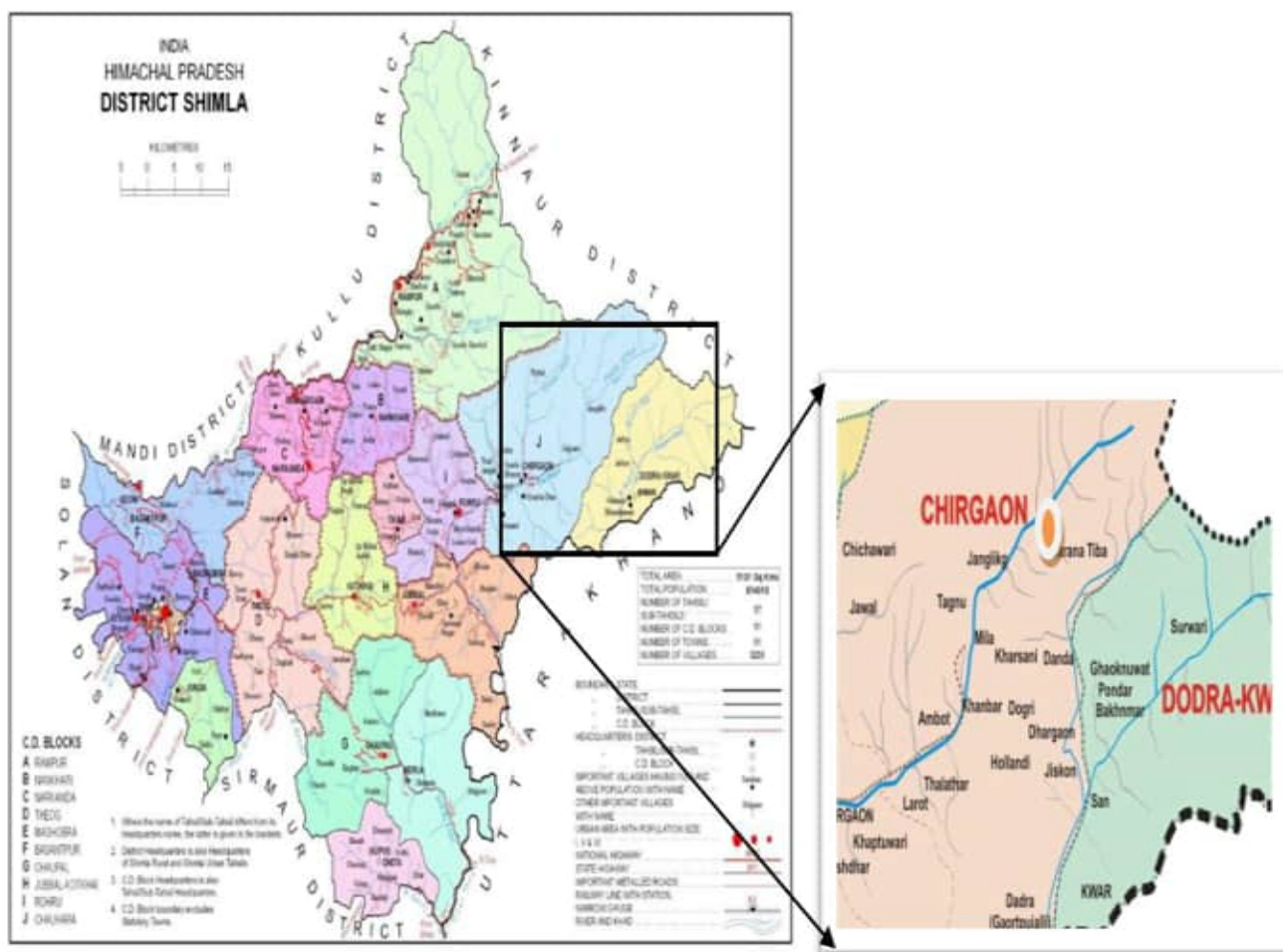


B. Site details

The Chanshal Peak & Chanshal Pass offer magnificent views of the surrounding Himalayan ranges. The area is characterized by both gentle and steep slopes and remains covered with snow from November to April.

With presence of snow for over 6-7 months a year and slopes suitable for beginner, intermediate-level as well as advanced skiing, Chanshal has been identified for development as a 'snow and ski' tourism hotspot. Broadly, this shall involve development of facilities for skiing & other snow sports, adventure, travel and accommodation. Keeping in view its unique features, the idea is to promote Chanshal as a world-class Winter Olympics destination. Ropeways and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation H.P. Limited (RTDC), a State Government undertaking, has been entrusted with accomplishing the job. It is proposed to undertake the project through Public Private Partnership (PPP), on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

Exhibit 10.204: Map of District Shimla and Chanshal



Source: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011census>

C. Connectivity

Chanshal area is accessible only by road currently. It is a 6–7-hour road journey from Shimla, with the last 30 kms (from the bridge on river Pabbar at Tikri village to the Chanshal Pass) taking almost 4 hours; due to poor road conditions.

Exhibit 10.205: A road from Rohru to Dodrakwar



Source: Site visit

By Air – Shimla has direct flights to Delhi. There is a helipad at Kwar village, where, choppers land with special permission.

By Train - The nearest railway station at Shimla is connected by a narrow-gauge line from Kalka (96Km.)

By Road – Chanshal Pass, also known as Chanshal Valley, affords good views of the scenic beauty of the Himalayas public bus operated between Rohru and DodraKwar.

Two routes connect Shimla to Chanshal Valley:

- Shimla-Theog-Kotkhair-Kharapathar-Hatkoti-Rohru-Larot-Valley, 160 km (99 mi)
- Shimla-Theog-Narkanda-Tikkar-Rohru-Larot-Valley, 175 km (109 mi)

Exhibit 10.206: Map of major cities and places nearby the area

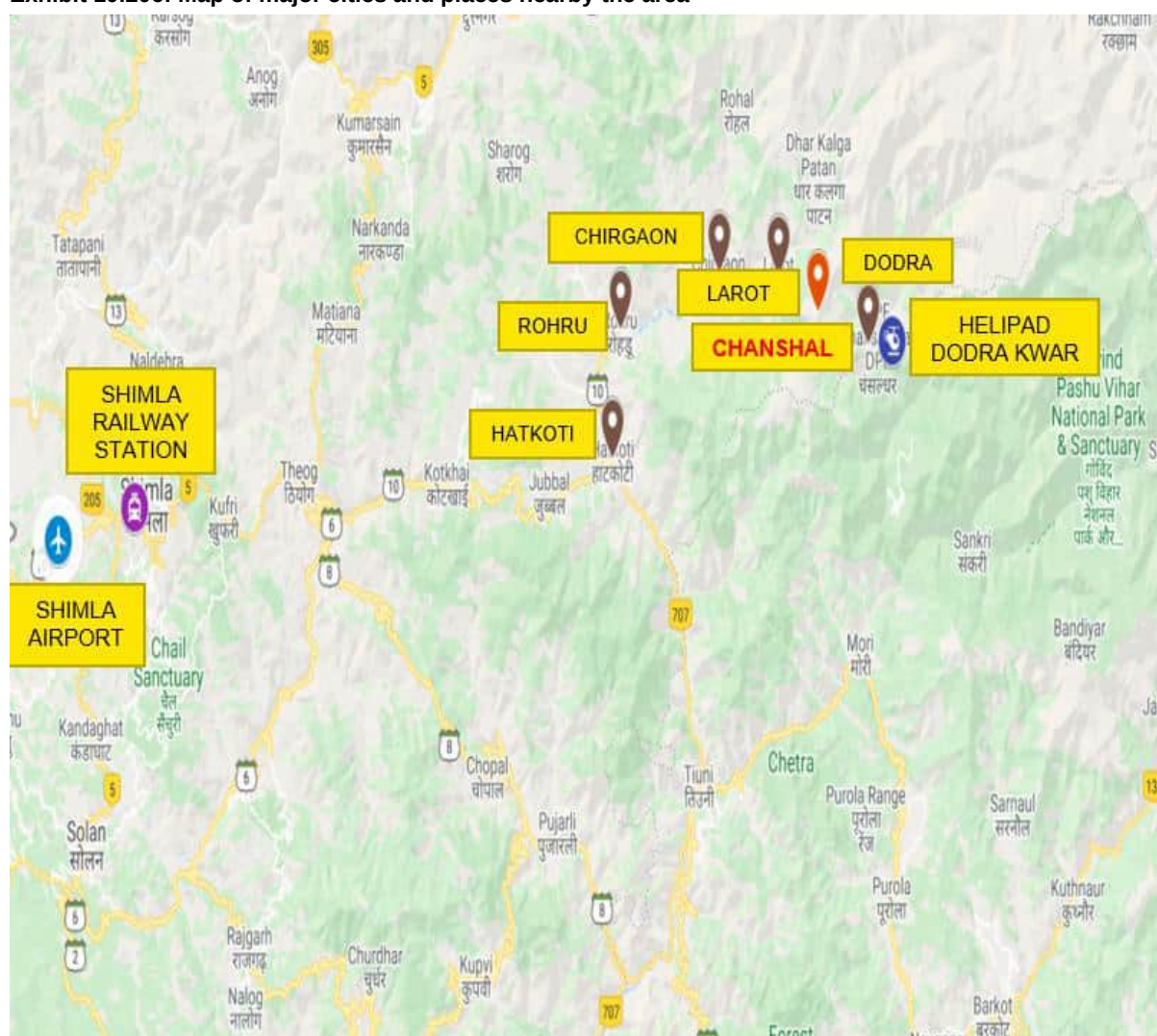
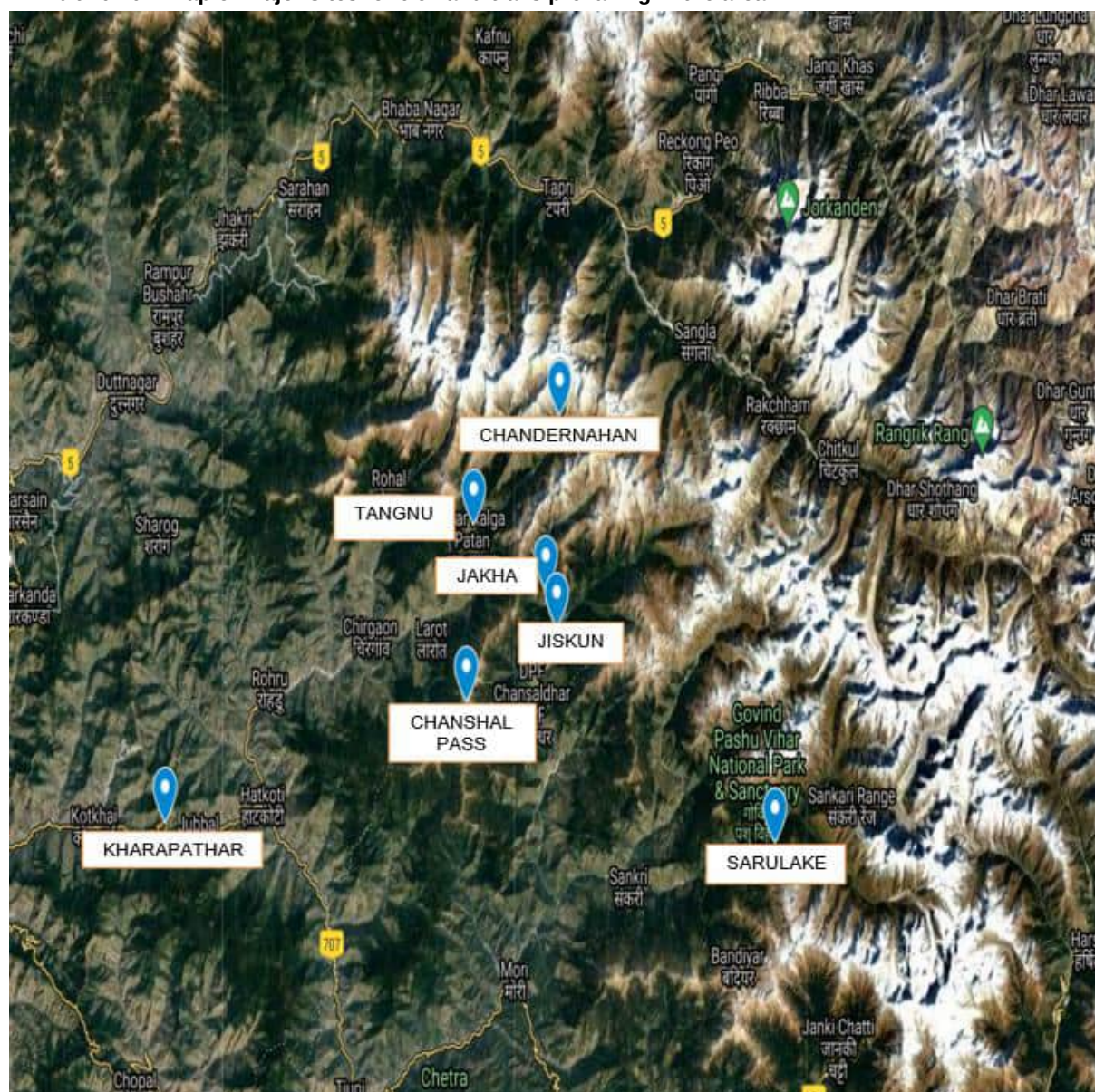


Exhibit 10.207: Map of major sites for trek and trails prevailing in the area



D. Destination surroundings

Shikharu Devta Temple - This is a beautiful temple located in the heart of the town, Shikharu Devta is held in high veneration and is the sight of an annual fair which is celebrated during the month of April every year.

Chirgaon - 15 km from Rohru. Scenically enchanting, Chirgaon has a trout hatchery. Good fishing spots in the area are Seema, Mandi, Sandasu, Tikri and Dhamari. Larot is another attractive spot near Chirgaon. This is the base for treks to Dodra - Kwar, the Sangla Valley and to Sarahan via Tacklech and to Nichar.

Chanshal Peak - Like the resplendent crown for a noble face, the snow clad Chanshal range rises above the Pabbar Valley. At 4520 m the Chanshal Pass remains open from May to October. The Chanshal area also has some excellent ski slopes.

Exhibit 10.208: A view from Chanshal Peak



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.209: A view of Pabbar River



Source: Site visit

Adventure activities - Apart from fishing, camping and trekking, the Pabbar area is fast emerging as an adventure-sports focus, with rafting and canoeing, hang gliding and paragliding. The Chanshal slopes has been identified as excellent for Heli skiing.

Exhibit 10.210: Camping site area



Source: Site visit

DodraKwar - The villages of Dodra and Kwar are separated by a few kilometres. Still unconnected by a motorable road, this pocket retains a pristine beauty. There are countless wild flowers and medicinal herbs, thick woods of flowering rhododendron, cedar and birch, waterfalls and fast-flowing streams. All this is set against a majestic backdrop of high peaks like the Sharangcha. The villages and their temples, are remarkable examples of local wood work skill and come packed with fascinating legends.

The 45 km trek from Tikri to Kwar is via Larot, Chanshal, Gajyani-Thach, Kalapani, Dodra and Gaon Pujari, then over the Rupin stream at Gusangu, before Kwar.

Other places worth seeing from Rohru are Sudash (17 km), Larot (36 km), Sungri (32 km) and Dhanwari (26 km) which is famous for trout fishing.

Exhibit 10.211: Giri Ganga temple



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.212: Durga Mata Temple at Kharshali village: A cultural site



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.213: soon-to-be-harvested Amaranth (chollai) crop



Source: Site visit

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access – The site is strategically located which is connected with Shimla, Paonta Sahib and Dehradun by road, there are two main routes from Shimla to Chanshal Valley;

- Shimla—Fagu -Theog-Kotkhair-Kharapathar-Hatkoti-Rohru-Larot-Valley (160Km)
- Shimla- Fagu -Theog-Narkanda-Tikkar-Rohru-Larot-Valley (175Km)

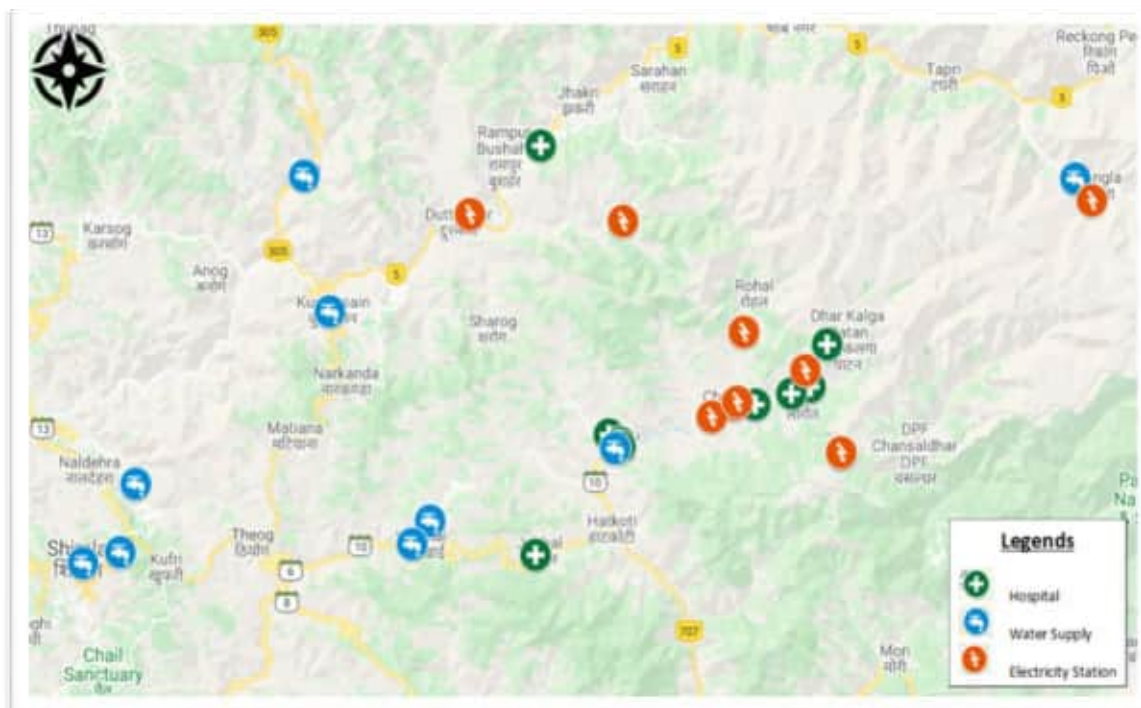
Alternative Routes from Delhi are:

- Delhi – Sonipat – Panipat – Kurukshetra – Yamuna Nagar – Paonta Sahib – Chakrata – Rohru – Chanshal Pass.

Electricity – Presently, 13 number of electric transformers are installed at various strategic locations in and around the Rohru area. With the capacity of ranging from 100 KVA to 630 KVA and total installed capacity is around 3060 KVA.

Water supply – Water supply in the area is channelized by J.S.V. CIRCLE ROHRU (STD CODE-01781, NERWA-01783).

Exhibit 10.214: Hospital, water supply and Electricity - Power station facility near Chanshal



Solid waste management –As per Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation & Implementation (URDPFI) norms for small and medium towns in hill areas, quantum of waste generation is on an average 0.25 kg per capita. Therefore, waste generation is estimated around 2.2 tons in the existing planning area having a population of 9501 persons. As per record of Municipal Council, there are 8 dumpers in the Municipal Council area, which are placed in unplanned manner here and there due to inadequate availability of space for them along the roads, commercial and residential buildings. Besides, there are 15 dustbins, one tractor trolley and pressure Dumper with Nagar Parishad. Even shopkeepers don't have door-to-door collection facility. Therefore, majority of waste is dumped in front of shops and doorsteps. There is no specific dumping site in the Planning area. Majority of solid waste is thrown in open areas and in local nallahs.

Exhibit 10.215: Segregated Waste Disposal bins at Chanshal Peak

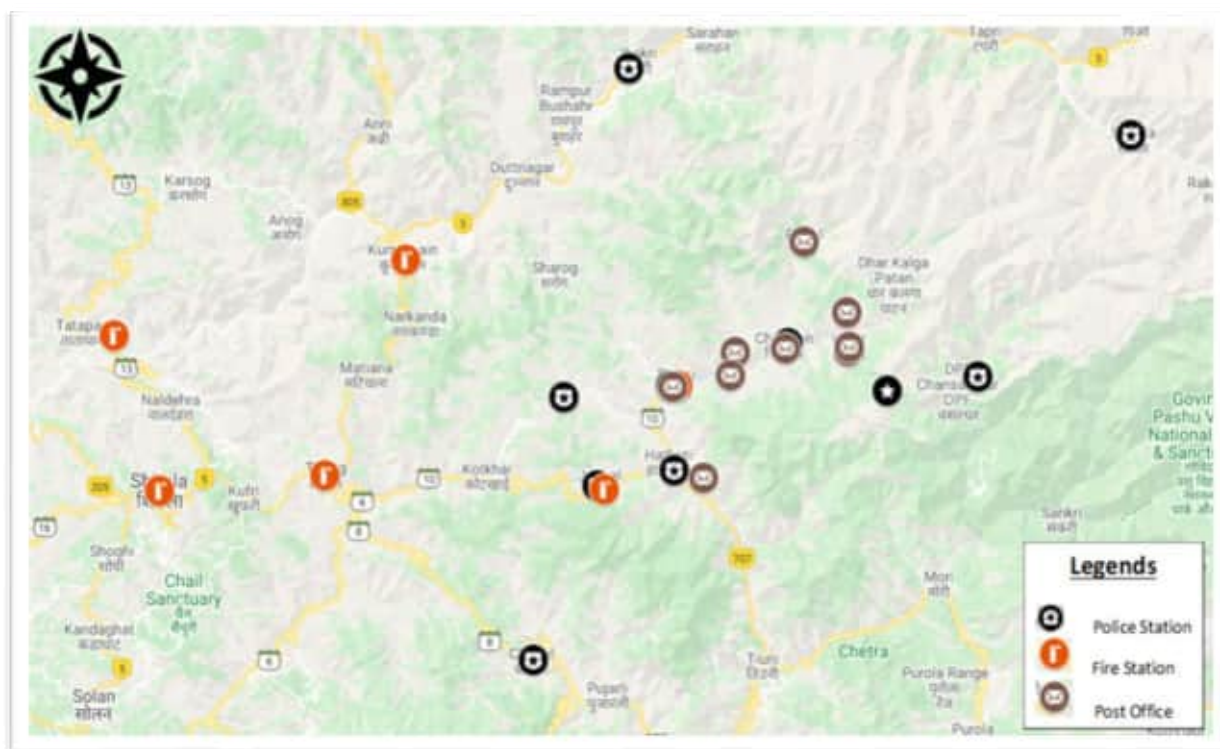


Source: Site visit

Drainage and sewerage – The Sewerage system for Rohru town was laid in 1994-95 by the Department of Irrigation & Public Health. As per the record of this Department, the scheme was designed for the population of 6607 persons, Sewerage network is connected with household in town area. Sewerage Treatment Plant is set up along the Pabbar River in western part of the Planning area. Yet, in town area most of the drains are open, running along the major roads and residential houses, which are creating inconvenience to pedestrian and customers. Besides, scarce availability of precious urban land for planned development of sewerage networks is prime concern for ongoing rapid constructions of residential houses. The Sewerage system needs to be expanded in view of growing as well as anticipated population.

Medical facilities – The area gets medical facilities through Primary health centres established by Government with distance range of 6 to 16 kilometres and in case of advanced need of medical assistance and facilities one has to reach to Rohru, which is approximately 23 kilometres far and equipped with some private owned hospitals, one government's civil hospital and a Patanjali ayurvedic chikitsalaya.

Exhibit 10.218: Police station, Fire Station and Post office facilities around Chanshal



F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

In order to optimum utilization of present tourism resources of the area and tap most of the potential, The Himachal Pradesh government has set the ball rolling to develop Chanshal valley in Rohru subdivision of Shimla district into a world-class tourist destination. Proposal and execution of big projects such as promotion of skiing and ropeway to Chanshal are already under consideration but the administration has suggested a few more activities.

Green check post to check garbage disposal: The biggest challenge before the authorities is likely to be that of solid waste management once the area is developed into a tourist hub. To tackle this, the administration has proposed to set up a green check-post, where ₹500 would be charged from every vehicle crossing through. The travelers would be refunded ₹450 if they bring back their garbage, else the entire amount would be forfeited. For disposal of the collected waste, land filling mechanism will be adopted until a proper solid waste management system comes up.

Locals to be trained as paragliding pilots: The plan also proposes to develop Chanshal peak into a paragliding site. It has been suggested to depute a committee of experts to work out the modalities, such as take-off and landing points. There is also a plan to use the 15-km river stretch between Mandali and Sandour for rafting while the reservoir of Sawara-Kuddu Hydropower project could be used for boating.

Services of Hatkoti Temple Trust are proposed for management of boating facilities. With a lake, temple and beautiful forest cover, Kharshali is another center of attraction. Located at a distance of 4km from the main Chanshal Road, it will serve as a gateway point.

Government to develop trails: Chanshal is at a commanding location with breathtaking all-around view. The authorities propose to establish three to four site-seeing points on the peak and equip it with telescopes and proper toilet facilities. For maintenance, local youth clubs will be roped in. For the benefit of trekkers who frequent the famous trails such as Tangnu to Chandernahan, Jakha-Jiskoon to Sangla

and Chanshal to Lake Saru, facilities such as resting and camping sites will be set up. The temple of Shikhru Devta, the chief deity of the area, is to be renovated and local traditions, costumes, cuisines, songs, dance etc are to be promoted and publicised to add to the attraction.

Heli taxi services for peak: The administration also proposes to start heli-taxi services to the peak in summers. An annual Chanshal Festival, proposed for May end when the tourist season is at its peak, will also help popularize the destination.

A committee is suggested to be formed to work out the activities of the festival and also make logistical arrangements. It also proposes a disaster management plan for the region.

To increase the curiosity of tourists and make it a 'must-visit' destination, the administration proposes to put up hoardings depicting the beauty of Chanshal on the Kalka-Shimla highway.

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

Accommodation – Area has enough options to stay ranging from Hotel Chanshal, HPPWD rest house, and Govt. circuit houses.

HPTDC Hotel Chanshal is located next to the Circuit House on Hatkoti – Rohru road. The hotel successfully combines modern facilities with a traditional facade. With an excellent view of the riverfront and the valley making the place a perfect setting for tourists.

HP Govt rest house, lodges, homestays and river camps. Forest Rest House is also available at Larot village. Camping site has been also developed across Pabbar river side.

Exhibit 10.219: Camping site



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.220: Inside view of a Camp



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.221: Resort in Chanshal



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.222: Chanshal resort



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.223: Forest Rest House - Larot



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.224: View of Pabbar river from resort



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.225: Hotel Pavilion Rohru



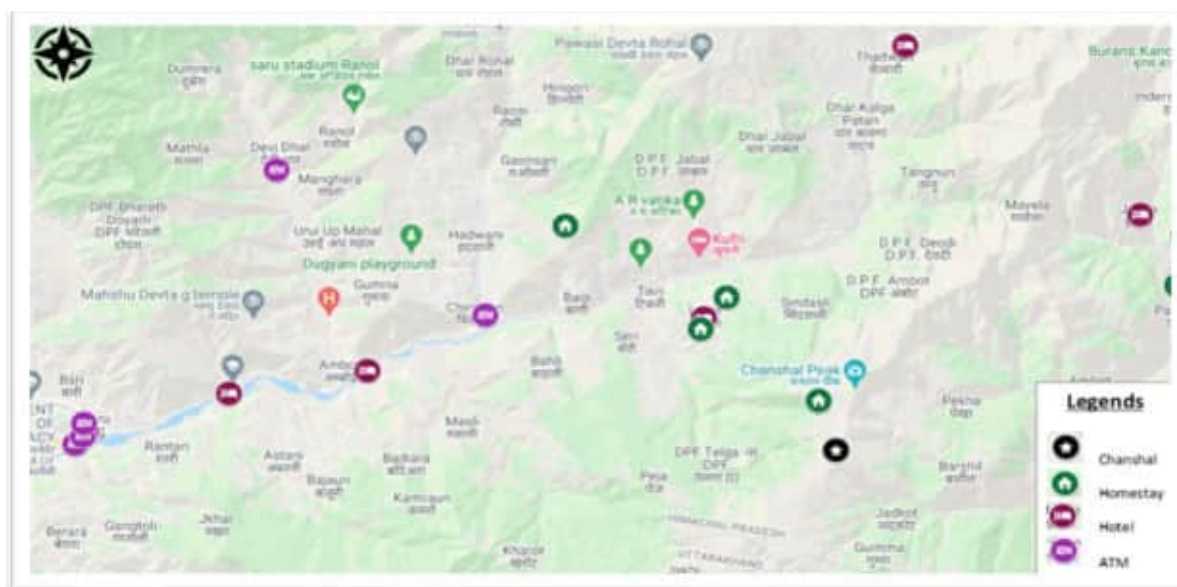
Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.226: Hotel Thira Chanshal, Larot



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.227: Homestays, Hotels and ATM facilities near Chanshal



Eateries / Restaurants / Dhaba – Wide range of small eateries, restaurants, café and roadside Dhabas are available here. They provide packaged food, snacks and basic meals.

H. Existing Community based products

- **Knitting and woollens** – After talking to the members (women) of Self help group, it was revealed that the most of the SHGs are involved in making product that are sold in the weekly marts or in the regular shops locally. The woollens knitted by these women are namely Socks, gloves, mufflers or even sweaters.
- **Food based products** - The areas Rohru to Chanshal is very rich when it come to horticulture. It grows a number of fruits like cherries , apricots, plums etc.. As the local farmers many a times are not able to sell their entire produce to buyers, the leftovers are bought by SHGs. Some of the self

help groups are focusing on food related product such as fruit Jams, Fruit juices, pickles, Chutney, papad, etc... The women based Shgs not only prepare them but also pack and sell them locally. As these are regular products which are consumed by most members of the families, there is good demand of the produce.

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Existing treks:

- **Chanshal Pass Trek** – Situated at height of 3750 Meters, The Chanshal Pass is a link (75Km) which connects Rohru & Dodra Kwar. Chanshal peak is the highest point of Shimla district offering magnificent scenic views of this beautiful valley, abundant in natural elegance. This high-altitude trek belongs to list of difficult level treks and require various needed equipment, competence with much of physical acclimatization.

Nature trails – Apart from high altitude trek the area offers various short nature trails, which connects a trekker to plenty of natural beauties with minimum risks and requisite preparedness as comparison to high altitude treks. Some prevailing trails of the valley are;

- Khara Patthar Trail
- Tangnu to Chandernahan
- Jakha - Jiskoon to Sangla
- Chanshal to Lake Saru,

Hiking– Chanshal Peak curve and Kalga pattan tourism place are famous areas with elevation and offers best choice for hiking activities.

Camping –With wonderful landscapes and scenery around this place is very ideal for camping and is now attracting many of tourists.

Exhibit 10.228: An adventure sport setup



Source: Site visit

J. Market analysis

Regarded as “Apple bowl” of Himachal Pradesh, this state has a lot of potential to be marketed for apple orchards visits with picturesque surroundings. Apple orchards and related horticulture products are becoming a boon in empowerment of rural women there. These apple products, including like jams,

pickles and chips, are making impressive sales in many cities across the country, while helping them earning a fair amount for living.

Apple is so far the most important fruit crop of Himachal Pradesh, which constitutes about 48 percent of the total area under fruit crops and about 87 percent of the total fruit production. Area under apple has increased from 400 hectares in 1950-51 to 3,025 hectares in 1960-61 and 1,01,485 hectares in 2010-11. Apni Mandi Scheme has been launched in the State to benefit farmers. To make apple cultivation viable in the state, “Apple Re-plantation Project” has been started and “Anti Hail Radar & Gun” unit has also been established in Shimla District.

At present more than thirty types of fruit species are being grown in the state; maybe on a large or small scale but they are available within the state. Most important are – apple, apricot, peach, pear, plum, almond, walnut, pecan nut, mandarin, sweet orange, Kagzi lime, hill lemon, mango, guava, papaya, litchi, kiwi fruit, olive and strawberry.

The time series data exhibit erratic patterns of annual fruit production in the state. The main reason for this is that fruit cultivation in Himachal Pradesh is done mainly under rainfed conditions. Moreover, the weather vagaries like hailstorms, frost, drought and heavy rains, etc., act as limiting factors in fruit production.

K. Community perception

Discussions with various local stakeholders were carried out.

Exhibit 10.229: Site visit DFO, BFO and other forest officials



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.230: Stake holder consultation community at Larot village with Pradhan and SHG members



Source: Site visit

L. Key challenges of the destination

Grazing –Grazing has always been a big challenge in the site area as rights to graze livestock constitute one of the important recognised rights of the rural population, as laid down in the settlement reports. Three types of graziers are defined in the state: local graziers who keep cows and buffaloes for milk and manure, bullocks for draught purposes and sheep and goats for wool, meat and manure. Grazing rights mean that there is no restriction on the number of cattle they can graze in the forests without paying any fee. This has resulted in increase in uneconomical livestock population putting pressure on the forest resources besides adding to economic poverty, soil erosion and ecological degradation.

Under developed infrastructure –Poor condition of roads, lack of sanitation and toilet facilities and a smaller number of accommodation and dining places in the site area, creates a big breach between expected tourist footfalls and actual one.

Lack of skilled and efficient numeral of man power–The site requires a lot of emphasis on training and initiation of skill development program as to make local people more empowered in terms of knowledge, ability and financial gain and to minimization of labour and skill outsourcing.

M. Destination potentials

Ancillary horticultural products – As possessions of rich diversity of agro-climatic conditions, topographical variations and altitudinal differences coupled with fertile, deep and well drained soils favour the cultivation of temperate to sub-tropical fruits in H.P. The site is suitable for cultivation of ancillary horticultural produce, like flowers, mushroom, honey and hops.

Medicinal herbs –The site is heavily comprising of significant potential market for medicinal herbs. Though at present middle men collect herbs from villagers at nominal prices much lower than market

rates. However, the biggest jump in prices is between exporters and foreign buyers – the increases between middlemen are more gradual. Local people know that medicinal herbs are of fundamental importance both as herbs and for income generation but have detailed knowledge on the uses of only a few of the more popular herbs.

Provision of information on the identification and scope for using a broader range of herbs would encourage potential income generation, but at the risk of depleting resources if not complemented by an in-situ conservation strategy.

Apple orchards and 'Farm tourism' – Proximity to various needed channel present in capital district of Shimla, this site can be developed as 'Farm tourism' in respect of visit to Apple orchards and may be able to allure urban tourists to these rural sites for in-hand experiences of pastoral lifestyle of these Pahari villages.

Adventure sports – The entire stretch of Chanshal peak is very appropriate for mountain adventure sports like skiing and skating. It has strong potential as to be developed by way of prominent destination for winter or snow sports.

Exhibit 10.231: Tentative indication of slopes for different levels of skiing



Nature Trails – The whole valley is packed with various swarming trails offering whole lot of unforgettable natural scenic views.

O. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Chanshal are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Connects remotely located Dodra- Kwar & Rohru. Beautiful undulating landscape good for snow sports in winters.
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by road from Shimla- Rohru route
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not adequate, Not Satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Initial stage

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

 Current Situation
  Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as a Community Managed Tourism area

10.3.10 Chitkul

A. Brief introduction

About 28 km away from Sangla Valley, at an altitude of 3450m, and on the banks of Baspa river, there lies the last inhabited place in India before the Indo-Tibet border named Chitkul. The magical beauty which this village offers is unmatched and incomparable. Chitkul remains closed in winters and is extremely famous for its apples in the whole world which are extremely costly as well. It is part of lower Kinnaur, comprising Kalpa, Sangla Valley and Chitkul. This is the last village of the Baspa Valley and the last village on the old Hindustan-Tibet trade route. It is also the last point in India one can travel to without a permit.

Exhibit 10.232: A signage – Chitkul, India's last village



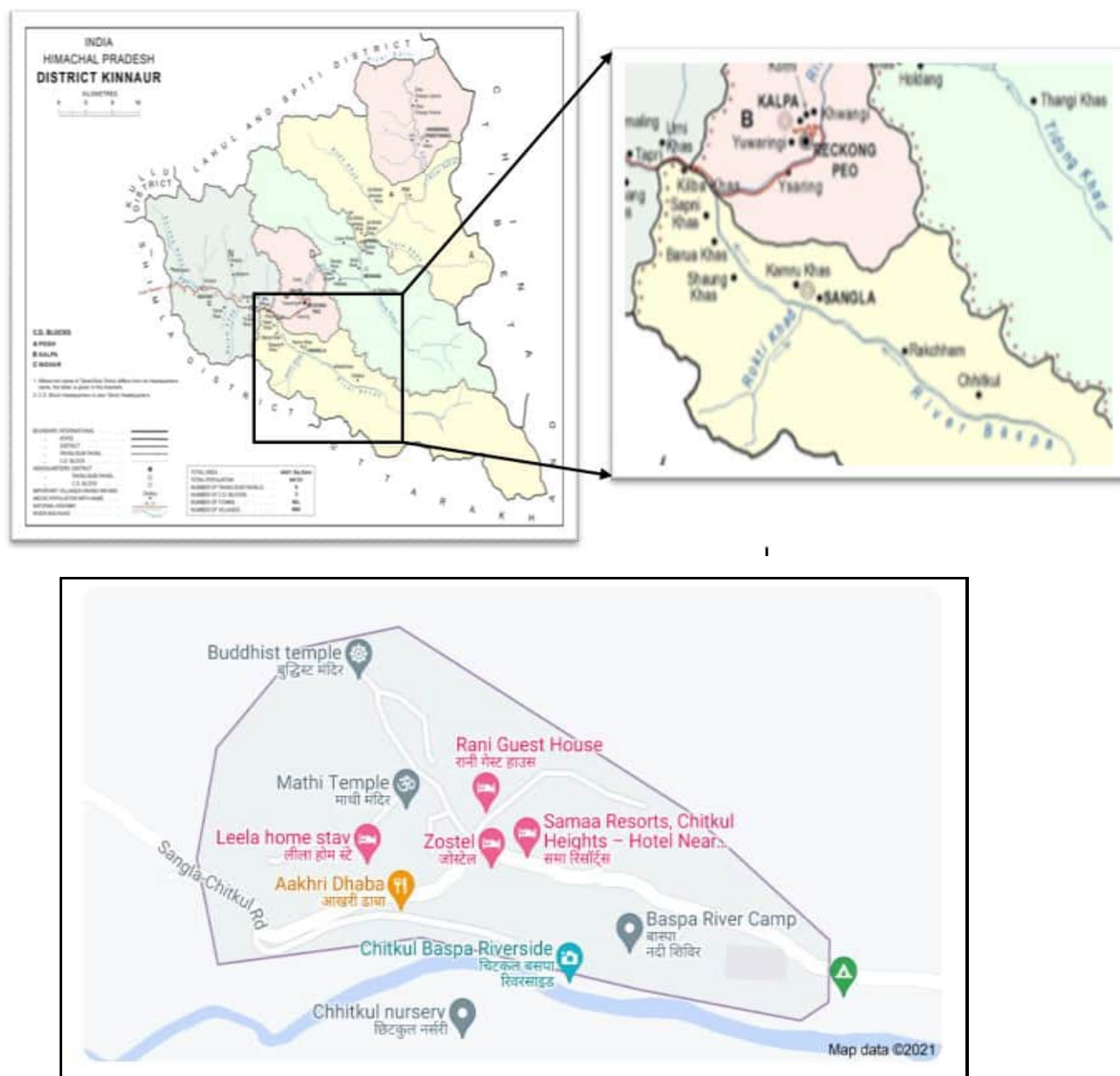
Source: Site visit

B. Destination details

Chitkul lies just 120 km before the Indo-Tibetan border and Uttarakhand border is just 20 km from Chitkul village. One can walk into Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary of the neighbouring state after crossing Borasu Pass, situated at an altitude of 17,880 ft. The reasonably inhabited place is home to about 1,000 people, who live in small houses of almost identical shapes with great harmony. The last ITBP camp toward the Indo-Tibetan border is just 1.5 km from the village. Chitkul grows quality organic potatoes and peas that fetch almost double the market price. Chitkul is just 40 km from National Highway 22.

Of particular interest at Chitkul are its houses with either slate or wooden plank roofs, a Buddhist temple and a small tower. However, there has been an increased use of tin-roofs, especially the high school and the army/ITBP barracks.

Exhibit 10.233: Map of District Kinnaur and Chitkul



Source: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011censusand> Google Maps

Exhibit 10.234: Location of places of attraction, restaurant, accommodations and other public amenities in and around Chitkul



Exhibit 10.235: Way to Chitkul



Source: Site visit

The Kagyupa temple has a highly valued old image of the Shakyamuni Buddha, a Wheel of Life mandala and four Directional Kings on either side of the door. Chitkul is practically the last point of the famous Kinner Kailash Parikrama as one can hitch a hike from here onwards.

After one cross over the 5,242 m high Charang Pass., it is a long and steep run down through slithery scree slopes to Chitkul (3450m). The powerful goddess of Chitkul is the only non-Buddhist deity to which respect must be paid by the Parikrama pilgrims. It is believed that the local Deity is related to the Deity of Gangotri and till recently the locals would carry the Deity to Gangotri on foot over high mountain passes.

Chitkul is situated around 40 km from Karcham, the place where road bifurcates from Hindustan-Tibet Road (NH 22). The Sangla Valley is a delight for nature lovers; especially the stretch after Raksham and right up to Chitkul. The valley is extremely beautiful, on the left bank of the Baspa River are snow-clad mountains and on the right bank the whole terrain is full of apple orchards and wooden houses.

Chitkul is start point for Lamkhaga pass trek and Borasu pass trek. Nagasthi ITBP post is 4 km and Ranikanda meadows is 10 km trek from Chitkul.

C. Connectivity

Chitkul is around 569 km from the National capital Delhi and 28 km from Sangla. Following are the details of various modes of transportation to reach this site:

By Air - There is no direct flight to Kinnaur and the nearest Airport is Shimla which can be reached from Delhi. Bhuntar airport is found at a distance of 224.86 km. Then Shimla airport is found at a distance of 266.27 km. Chandigarh airport is at the 362.8 km distance.

By Train - There is no Rail service to Kinnaur and the nearest Railway Station at Shimla is connected by a narrow-gauge line from Kalka (96Km.)

By Road –Reckong Peo, the District Headquarters of Kinnaur is 235 Kms. from Shimla. National Highways -22 is the most convenient communication network to Kinnaur. For those who can afford it, jeep and taxis are the best way to go to Kinnaur. For a round trip with a fixed schedule, a lump sum contract for the entire duration would be the less expensive option. For those travelling with the flexible schedule, taking in treks and visits to valleys off the main highway, it is best to make a per day arrangement for a specified time period.

In the alternative, take one-way taxis to Kalpa or Reckong Peo and hire other taxis locally as and when needed. Buses ply regularly, except in winter and early spring when road conditions often impose long breaks.

Himachal Pradesh Transport Corporation runs a number of buses to different parts of Kinnaur. There is one direct service from Shimla to Kaza plying on the Sutlej valley route, which takes 24 hours. In Kinnaur, at least four bus routes connect Reckong Peo with Shimla every day and other services go to Nichar, Sangla and Pooh.

Day services to travel to places within Kinnaur are also available but with less reliability than the long-distance routes. With drive to Kinnaur very adventurous, care is to be taken while driving. Long suspension bridges connect two banks of the Sutlej River at many places. The road condition after the flash floods in August,2000 is not the best. With blocks in some places in winters and rainy seasons it is always advisable to get information about the road condition and then start the journey in these months. The other route from Manali-Kaza-Reckong Peo remains closed in most part of the winters and springs.

D. Destination surroundings

Sangla Meadows - The beautiful Sangla Meadows, also known as Sangla Kanda is another very popular place of attraction nearby Sangla, which is known for its natural views and snow-covered mountain ranges. Tourists from every corner of the country visit this wonderful place to enjoy the exquisite beauty of Sangla Meadows, covered in greenery and surrounded by snowcapped mountain ranges of Himalayas. Sangla Meadows also makes for a perfect site to see the Kinner Kailash mountain range with a 180-degree view. The tourists visiting here can enjoy the view of the local huts of Himachal along with the customs and lifestyle of its local people. The place is completely covered with beautiful green gardens & apple orchards that tourist love seeing. Also, the distance between Sangla Meadows and Sangla valley is not much and the visitors can easily reach the spot through a car or taxi. Some people enjoy trekking though and they come here to experience trekking in the stunning location of Sangla Meadows. One can do a full day trek here that starts from Sangla Meadows and passes through glaciers and some of the most stunning scenery of the area. During the trek, one can enjoy the panoramic views of the Kinner Kailash range and further enjoy overnight camping, which is another popular activity that takes place in this beautiful valley.

Exhibit 10.236: Outskirts of Chitkul



Source: Site visit

Mathi Devi Temple - Mathi is the Goddess of local people of Kinnaur. There are three temples in the same complex among which the oldest one is believed to be constructed by a resident of Garhwal around five hundred years ago. The temple houses an ark which is made of walnut wood and is covered with clothes and a tuft of yak tail. Two poles are inserted into this ark to carry it with.

Exhibit 10.237: Mathi Devi Temple



Source: Site visit

Baspa River - The Baspa River originates from Baspa Hills and joins the Sutlej River. The valley adjacent to this river is covered with huge oak and pine forests, which is the essence of the natural beauty of this place. While the lower side of the valley is covered with green fields, meadows, and

pastures, the upper terrains have snow-covered mountains that look truly mesmerizing. There are also many villages around the Baspa River that give immense opportunities to tourists to explore the picturesque surroundings of Baspa valley. The Baspa River is regarded as anglers' heaven because of the vast variety of fishes found here and it is also a big attraction for campers and trekkers. The locals have created a unique kind of boat to cross the river and it looks like a basket. The tourists can take this ride with the help of locals and travel amongst such beautiful hills to have an unforgettable moment. The people coming here mainly love to engage themselves in sightseeing and eating delicious Tibetan style food, and to indulge in shopping of handicrafts and more.

Exhibit 10.238: Baspa River



Source: Site visit

Bering Nag Temple - The famous Bering Nag Temple is the prime attraction in Sangla valley, which is visited by large number of people every year, especially between the months of August and September. It is a very important place of worship for Hindus, who visit the temple to attend its famous event the "Fulaich fair", which takes place every year between August and September. This beautiful temple is dedicated to Lord Jagas, also known as Lord Shiva, whom the local people worship for the wellbeing of the village and its inhabitant. The tourists never miss to visit this exquisite temple destination, which is only a few kilometers away from Sangla. One can easily visit Sangla through a car or bus and then come to Bering Nag Temple, by following a simple trek of few kilometers.

Kamru Fort - The Kamru Fort lies at an altitude of 2600 meters above sea level and is only 2 km from the beautiful Sangla Valley. The fort is set at a picturesque location and offers tourists beautiful views of the Sangla valley, streams, apple gardens and many more. The entry to the fort is through a series of gates and at the main gate, a stunning image of Lord Buddha is kept to greet the guests. The Kamru Fort is a popular tourist attraction in the region, which is visited by a large number of tourists every day. The Kamru Fort has a graceful wooden balcony and at the top of the building is an idol of Kamakhya Devi (Kamakshi Devi), which is worth seeing. The idol is believed to have been brought from Guwahati and is of great importance for the people of Sangla village. There is also a Badrinath Temple in the Kamru Fort, which dates back to the 15th century and serves as the venue of a fair, held once every three years in the honor of the deity. In the procession that takes place at the time of fair, the idol of the deity is taken to Gangotri, the origin of the River Ganges.

Tibeta Wood Carving Centre – Amazing place for shopping lovers. It offers amazing craft items made out of wood carvings in Tibetan style. This place is very popular among shopaholics in the city and amid the tourists who visit Sangla from different parts of the country.

Exhibit 10.239: Reckong Peo Mall Road



Source: Site visit

Brelengi Gompa – Amidst of picturesque and serene beauty this place is located in Reckong Peo. The monastery of Mahabodhi society was constructed specially for the Dalai Lama to perform the Kalachakra ceremony in 1992. Next to the monastery is a 10-meter statue of the standing Buddha, which is visible from a considerable distance.

Akhri Dhaba –

Exhibit 10.240: An eatery prominently known for its specific location



Source: Site visit

Borasu Pass Trek - Borasu Pass or Bara-su is a high mountain pass that is located on the border of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh along the border with Tibet. It was an ancient trade route between Har ki Dun valley and Kinnaur valley. It is no longer used by the locals and is an escapade for trekkers and mountaineers. Having maximum altitude of 17224 ft this trek comes under High level in terms of difficulty level. The best time to do so is June, Sep – Oct (Excluding monsoon season).

Hydro flour mill – Basically not a prominent tourist attraction site but one can visit this place just to experience those hardships that turned into innovative ways in adapting the available resources by the locals of this remote village at high altitude.

Rakham Wildlife Sanctuary– Rakham Wildlife Sanctuary located in the Baspa (Sangla) valley with geo-coordinates of latitude 31° 14'22" N - 31° 28'37" N and longitudes 78° 17'31" E - 78° 31'30" E covering an area of about 304 Km² in the northeast corner of Kinnaur. These rugged, precipitous peaks represent two of the world's greatest mountain ranges namely Great Himalayan range and Dhauladhar ranges on the right and left bank of Baspa river respectively. The temperature varying from -15°C to 18°C, mean rainfall 463 mm and annual snowfall 1,130 mm.

Highly endangered species of pheasants, including the Western Tragopan melanocephalus are found in this Sanctuary. The main large mammals found in this sanctuary are Snow Leopard *Uncia*, Musk Deer *Moschus chrysogaster*, Bharal *Pseudois nayaur*, Himalayan Tahr *Hemitragus jemlahicus*, Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* at high altitudes, bordering alpine and subalpine regions. At lower elevations, Goral *Naemorhedus goral*, Serow *Naemorhedus sumatraensis*, Leopard *Panthera pardus*, and Common Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* are found. No information is available on smaller mammals, reptiles and other fauna.

Exhibit 10.241: Cattle Grazing in Baspa



Source: Site visit

E. Access to Physical and social Infrastructure

Site access –From Shimla, Chandigarh or Delhi you can take the HRTC bus to visit Chitkul. Either one can reach Sangla which is near to Chitkul or else can visit Reckong Peo first. There one can explore the beauty of Kalpa and then visit Chitkul.

Electricity –300 MW Baspa Stage II Project is the first Independent Power Producer (IPP) project after the Government of India liberalized the power policy by inviting private sector participation for setting up hydropower project on "BOO" basis i.e., on "Build, Own and Operate" basis. The plant was fully commissioned on 8th June, 2003 and has since been generating power. In 2014, the plant was bought by JSW, together with Karcham Wangtoo hydroelectric plant for US\$1.8 billion.

300MW, the first plant of this size in the private sector, is also one of the main conflictual plants in Kinnaur valley. Workers also join hands with affected communities under the slogan "Kinnaur Bachao". The plant is an environment friendly one devoid of any rehabilitation or resettlement issue.

Exhibit 10.242: Baspa Stage II Project is the first Independent Power Producer (IPP) project after the Government of India

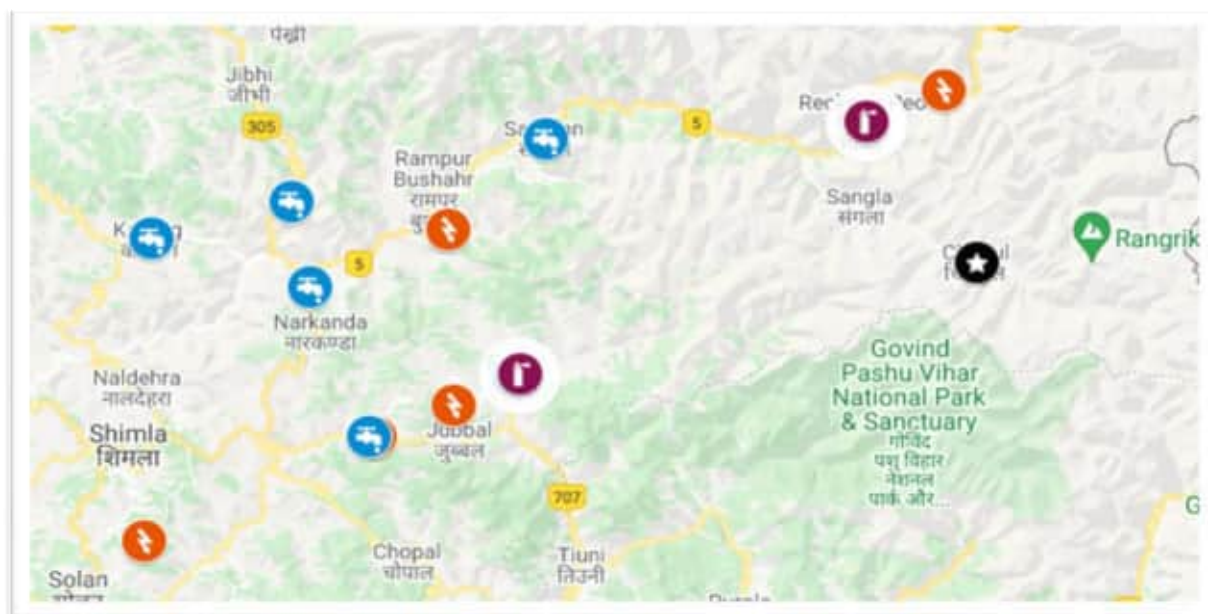


Source: Site visit

The MOU was signed with Government of Himachal Pradesh in November, 1991 and was granted approval to develop 300 MW Baspa Stage-II Hydroelectric projects in private sector on "Build, Own and Operate" basis by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in October 1992. The project was fully commissioned on 8th June, 2003 and has since been generating power.

The project is located on the river Baspa, a tributary of river Sutlej in Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh. The diversion barrage is located on river Baspa at village Kuppa near Sangla and the power house is located near village Karcham about 800m upstream of the confluence of rivers Satluj and Baspa on NH-22 (Hindustan Tibet Road). Baspa Stage –II project has Karcham-Wangtoo hydel project on its downstream.

Exhibit 10.243: Water, Fire, Electricity power station around Chitkul



Water supply –The water is supplied through pipelines to entire Kinnaur region by Jal Shakti. The headquarters of Jal Shakti in Kinnaur is at Reckong Peo. Other than that, hand pumps are also there

at most of the villages, in case supply of water is disrupted or less water is supplied than the requirement.

Solid waste management –The local governance structure has installed a dumping yard at a corner of the village, though its proper utilization is a debatable issue.

Practice of solid waste management in this village of 100 households and approximately 600 inhabitants involve, collecting waste and sending it to a dump yard on the outskirts of the village, close to the famous 'Aakhari Dhaba'. However, increasing influx of tourists and related amenities has made this remote area more populous than before and thus, small dumping yard seems barely enough to absorb the growing waste from commercial activities there. A waste segregation plant is proposed to be installed at Rakcham 10 kilometres away

Exhibit 10.244: Police, Medical, Postal facilities around Chitkul



Medical facilities – For medical assistance in Kinnaur, there is a one district hospital at Reckong Peo, being the headquarters of Kinnaur Valley. There is a local hospital at Sangla village, too, being the biggest village in Baspa Valley. The next help for anything major will be available in Shimla.

Tele-communication facilities – Services from BSNL are having good network connection in all over Himachal Pradesh.

F. Tourist Infrastructure gap assessment

- Poor condition of road and transport facilities
- Insufficient telecommunication network
- Requirement of intensification towards awareness and efforts for green and responsible tourism practices

G. Existing standards of hospitality sector

Accommodation – There is a single-floored PWD rest house at the entrance of the village. Apart from this, there are some privately owned lodges and homestays. Which are budding increasingly in each coming year. These homestays offer an unforgettable experience providing through typical Himalayan

ambience, architecture and food. Camping sites and tents are also emerging the area nearby, offering other choices to stay and recreate

Exhibit 10.245: Hotel Shenang



Source: Site visit

Exhibit 10.246: Eskape adventure camps, Sangla



Source: site visit

Exhibit 10.247: Banjara camps, Sangla



Source: site visit

Exhibit 10.248: Hotel White Castle, Kalpa



Source: site visit

Exhibit 10.249: Samaa resort, Chitkul



Source: site visit

Eateries / Restaurants / Dhaba – Approximately 5 to 6 Small eateries, restaurants, café and roadside Dhabas are available in road stretch. They provide packaged food, snacks and basic meals.

Dhaba named 'Aakhari Dhaba' is a popular place to visit, as the name suggest, it is located at last permit free zone of India. Meal menu is very limited here, but one can enjoy the scenic beauty of surroundings.

H. Existing Community based products

Traditional woollen and weaving products -

Many wool items are produced in Kinnaur for both personal consumption as well as the commercial market. These products include: Lengchas, chhanlis, dohrus, pattus, shawls, chaddars/lois, caps, border strips, patti. and kamrudar pyjamas.

- **Lengchas**—Lengchas are another sort of "shawl" woven in a smaller size, about 1 meter x 1 meter, that have phools and taras all over the body. It is worn draped over the shoulders and fastened in the front by a brooch known as a digra.
- **Chhanlis** -Kinnauri women's shawls are known as chhanli. They measure 2 meters in length x 1 meter in width and have three lines of continuous motifs known as phools, interspersed with three lines of separated motifs, known as taras, running across each end of the shawl.
- **Doharus** -The Kinnauri woman's outer garment is called a dohru. Dohrus have a plain or chequered ground with a border that measures about 15 - 20cms on the lateral ends and are classified by the intricacy of the patterns on the borders.

Exhibit 10.250: A shawl shop



Exhibit 10.251: A craftsman at Reckong Peo



Source: Site visit

The main local varieties of fleece used to weave these shawls include: deshkar (the fleece from local, lowland sheep and bihang (the fleece of sheep from Kinnaur and even higher altitudes). Usually, one colour is used predominately for the motifs in Kinnauri weaving, while other colors are used sparingly. Red is generally the predominant colour, which gives the Kinnauri products their trademark overall brick-red appearance. It is combined with yellow and blue, with smaller amounts of white and green.

Processed food itemed of Apples—Known for Apples of super best quality; this region has a reckonable place in list of places yielding export quality apples. A wide number of locals are engaged in apple production and processing of related products viz. dried apple strips, jam and marmalade etc. The noticeable thing in this region is that all apples are grown and processed organically.

Other medicinal fruit and herbal products - Other products with medicinal properties like Chulli Oil (Wild Apricot Oil), Chilgoza (Pine Nut), Kala Zeera (Black Cummins), Chestnut Fruit, Walnuts, Almonds, Kidney Beans (Red, Yellow & White), Guchchi (wild dried mushrooms), Fafra flouretc. are also grown in this area.

I. Existing ecotourism activities and facilities

Existing treks–

- **Lamkhaga Pass** - The Lamkhaga Pass (5,282 m / 17,320 ft) is one of the toughest pass which connects Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh with Harshil in Uttarakhand. The Lamkhaga Pass trek starts from Chitkul the last Village of Sangla valley in Himachal, though it can be done from Harshil side also.
- **Borasu Pass or Bara-su Pass** – The Borasu Pass (el. 5,450 m or 17,880 ft) is a high mountain pass in the Himalaya Mountains of Uttarakhand in the India. The pass is located on the border of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh near the border with Tibet. It was an ancient trade route between Har Ki Doon valley and Kinnaur valley.
- **Treks around Chitkul and Sangla in Kinnaur region**

NAME OF TREK	ELEVATION	GRADE
Bhaba Valley to Pin Valley	4865 meters	Moderate
Kinner Kailash Parikarma	5243 meters	Strenuous
Sangla to Dodra Kwar	4220 meters	Moderate
Sangla to Dhamwar	4878 meters	Strenuous
Sangla to Barang	2713 meters	Moderate
Tapri to Chitkul	3451 miters	Moderate
Tapri to Kalpa	3000 meters	Moderate
Reckong Peo to Nako	4900 meters	Moderate
Chitkul to Yamunotri	5170 meters	Challenging
Shimla to Buran Ghati	4575 meters	Moderate
Dehradun to Rupin pass to Sangla	4685 meters	Moderate
Yulla Kunda Trek	3895 meters	Moderate

- **Nature trails** – One can enjoy trailing towards in magnificent meadows and apple orchards.
- **Hiking** – One can also go for an easy 3-4 Hrs. hike to the **Glacier point** if interested in some snow play. **Batseri village to Sangla Village** walk of about 12 km through dense Cedar forests is also quite famous among people who love being midst nature and actually feel it.
- **River Crossing** – River crossing activity at Chitkul upon magnificent River Baspa, is now getting much attention of tourists, offering them an exhilarating experience.
- **Angling** - The Baspa River is regarded as anglers' heaven because of the vast variety of fishes found here and make it a prominent site for angling activity lovers especially for adoreders of trout species. India's first trout breeding farm was set up in Sangla way back in 1926. Besides April, October is the best time to angle for Brown and Rainbow Trout.
- **Trekking / High altitude trekking** – The beautiful Sangla valley offers some handful treks and trails in and around the area offering marvelous views, village life and challenging terrains. Some of popular treks prevailing in the area are,
 - Batseri Trek
 - Trout Farm Trek
 - Kamru Fort Trek
 - Glacier Point Trek
 - Sangla Kanda Trek
 - Raksham Trek
- **Rock climbing**– Emerged as a most captivating bouldering site, Shoshala Peak situated in Batseri village is very famous amidst rock climbers.

- **Rappelling** – With its amazing valley and heights, this region is also a promising site for rappelling activity.

J. Market analysis

Discussion on this destination is totally incomplete without mention of Kinnauri apples; its specialties and market scope. Few years back Kashmiri apples were the main player in this market of horticulture product but as in recent years, Kinnauri apples has become the king in all choices available for this horticulture business due to special characteristics.

As it is well-known apple is a high-altitude fruit, requires a specific kind of temperature, rain showers, cold and temperate weather and having all these properties Kinnaur has become the kingdom of this heavenly fruit. Here, the temperate climate, long winters, Arid conditions, High altitude, pollution free air, and pristine water from glaciers irrigating the orchards, all this adds up to the making of some of the sweetest, juiciest, crunchiest, and long shelf-life apples- the famous Kinnauri Apples. The importance of apple in the state economy can be judged from the fact that around 50 percent of area under the fruits and around 90 percent of fruits produced in the state consists of apple. It came out from the analysis that apple production is shifting to high altitude and districts, like Kinnaur and Lahul-Spiti are emerging as prominent apple producers.

Research articles like 'Dynamics of Apple Production in Himachal Pradesh, by Prof.Chander Mohan Negi, University of Delhi, illustrates that, Shimla and Kinnaur districts record positive and more than unit growth rate in area, production and productivity among nine apple producing districts in the state. All the apple producing districts show various degrees of instability in production, productivity and area under the crop except Kinnaur, which is the only district where we found a consistent decline in instability in area, production and productivity during the period under study. It came out from the analysis that apple production is shifting to high altitude and districts, like Kinnaur, Lahul-Spiti are emerging as prominent apple producers. For making this business more sustainable, systematic and more efficiently prospering towards the local community, the following measures can be considered as promising;

- Building up basic infrastructure and good channel of transportation between intra state markets as well as adjoining states.
- Impartment of basic training and skill management among apple growers of the area.
- Seed bank, organic farming, schemes of subsidy and insurance etc. will work as a push key for increasing this horticulture product.
- Lucrative financial schemes and avenues should be open up by the government for private players to invest in cold storage units. Loans at lower interest would work a long way to attract them.
- In low height districts, new varieties of apple, conducive to the changing weather conditions should be promoted and farmers should be motivated to grow the other offseason vegetables and fruits.
- Climate change would be major factor determining the production and hence, productivity of apple in the hill state, so it requires immediate steps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

K. Community perception

The main occupation of the people living in Kinnaur region is Agriculture and Horticulture. People are focusing on apple and other cash crops than regular cereals. After agriculture the second most popular occupation in the region is ecotourism. The activities people are generally engaged in ecotourism are Homestays, trekking & Camping. The youth certainly is very keen to be part of the ecotourism but needs training. Capacity building exercise needs to be followed seriously as the quality and the standard of the service are not very high.

L. Key challenges of the destination

Landslides -Kinnaur is a mountainous district having rugged topography and deep and narrow valleys and steep slopes which makes it very prone to different types of slope failure namely Land sliding, Slumping/Creeping, Rock fall, Shooting Stones, etc. Landslides are the downslide movement of soil, debris or rocks, resulting from natural cause, vibrations, overburden of rock material, removal of lateral supports, and change in the water content of rock or soil bodies, blocked drainages etc. This problem has been compounded by the increasing anthropogenic activities. The main cause of slope failure/landslide etc. is steep and fragile slopes, loose soil, fissured/fractured rock strata, some tectonic activity, heavy rainfall, toe erosion by running water and human intervention with the natural settings like various unplanned construction activity, deforestation, faulty land use planning, use of explosives in construction, practicing unscientific mining, quarrying, tunnelling methods, unscientific dumping on the valleys etc.

Marketing of local community-based products – Though cultivating best quality of products with organic way of processing by these growers, their products are not able to reach the market efficiently where there is a great demand of these products. Due to bad road conditions, lack of funds, harsh weather and lack of knowledge of marketing etc. had made their products non-profitable. Even the funds put by them to grow these products are not recovered sometimes. A good channel of marketing and distribution is a very need of this place.

Poor condition of roads and related infrastructure facilities - This condition has enormous negative impacts and hamper this distinct business of apple farming.

Lack of weather forecasting methods, its awareness and availability - These days such kind of forecasts and related digital interventions help a lot farmers for better way of predictability, preparation and procurement.

M. Site potentials

This dry region of state of Himachal Pradesh, apart of tourism activities, this site has huge potentials in terms of:

- Apple farming
- Processed food made of Apples
- Kinnauri Jewellery
- Kinnauri shawls and Doharus
- Adventure based tourism activities
- Community based tourism

N. Destination benchmarking and rating

The benchmarking attributes for Chitkul are as follows:

S. No	Benchmarking Attributes	Description
1	Unique Selling Point	Very high altitude landscape, Apple & woolen crafts
2	Accessibility/Connectivity	Accessible by good road from Shimla
3	Infrastructure/Facilities	Not Satisfactory
4	Maturity of Ecotourism Lifecycle	Development stage

The following table presents the current situation (dark grey colour) of the sites in terms of the various parameters. Further, it is envisaged that if additional investment is carried out in the destination/ site areas, then there is possibility to have more improved attributes leading to better ecotourism activities/ facilities. In this context, the light grey colour presents the possibility to achieve and upgrade the situation of these parameters of the site by carrying out investments in this area.

10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
Scale	USP	Sustainability	Access	Visibility	Infra- Quality	Experience Quality

Current Situation Reaching Potential

Key Takeaways - Has the potential to be developed as an exclusive destination for Mountain Adventure, winter sports and Horticulture

10.4 Annexure: List of overall potential ecotourism sites

This comprehensive list was prepared based on the details received from HPFD, that includes the list of 136 potential sites shared by the HPFD and the GIS file shared by HPFD. Beside this, consultant's team discussed with local and industry players, divisional forest officials to identify additional potential sites. In addition to this, HPFD suggested additional sites over the time. This resulted in identification of more than 250 potential sites. These detailed lists were shared with respective officials of the forest divisions to verify and share the details. Based on the same, 93 sites were verified and for the same details have been mentioned in the Section 4.4.

SN	Forest Circle	Forest Division	Location	Identified by
1	Shimla	Shimla-Urban	Potter Hills, Shimla	Consultant
2	Shimla	Shimla-Urban	Glean, Shimla	Consultant
3	Shimla	Shimla-Urban	Panjeri	Consultant
4	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Naldehra	Consultant
5	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Mashobra	Consultant
6	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Baldehyhan	Consultant
7	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Mahasu	Consultant
8	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Mool koti	Consultant
9	Shimla	Shimla (R)	Carignano Nature Park	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
10	Shimla	Shimla (R)	Development of camping site Kamyana Top	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
11	Shimla	Shimla (R)	Development of Nature Park nearby Gausadan	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
12	Shimla	Rohru	Rawda	Consultant
13	Shimla	Rohru	Manjhani	Consultant
14	Shimla	Rohru	Ranol	Consultant
15	Shimla	Rohru	Ghanasi dhar	Consultant
16	Shimla	Rohru	Kharapathar	Consultant
17	Shimla	Rohru	Kaina	Consultant
18	Shimla	Rohru	Sheelghat	Consultant
19	Shimla	Rohru	Umladwar	Consultant
20	Shimla	Rohru	Chambi	Consultant
21	Shimla	Rohru	Tunadhar	Consultant
22	Shimla	Rohru	Sradoo	Consultant
23	Shimla	Rohru	Chunjar	Consultant
24	Shimla	Rohru	Deorighat	Consultant
25	Shimla	Rohru	Kharshali	Consultant
26	Shimla	Theog	Fagu	Consultant
27	Shimla	Theog	Theog	Consultant
28	Shimla	Chopal	Khanali	Consultant
29	Shimla	Chopal	Basa dhar	Consultant
30	Shimla	Chopal	Halda Jubber, Chopal	Consultant
31	Shimla	Chopal	Kufta	Consultant
32	Shimla	Shimla	SHOGI CAMPING SITE	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
33	Shimla	Theog	Giri Gangas	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
34	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Gool Pahari	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
35	Shimla	Chopal	Sarain FRH	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
36	Shimla	Shimla Urban	Bharari near Ever Sunny (Badash).	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
37	Shimla	Shimla	Khawara Chowki near Shoghi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
38	Shimla	Shimla	Jagloh-Dogra Pull, (Ashwani Khad, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
39	Shimla	Shimla	Tara Devi, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
40	Shimla	Shimla	Valley view near Chedwick Fall (Near Summer Hill), Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
41	Shimla	Shimla	Parmar(Mahauri Shoghi), Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
42	Shimla	Shimla	Sonu Bangalow Site, Tara Devi, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
43	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	Shalli (Khatnol Bag)Tehsil Sunni, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
44	Shimla	Shimla-Rural	D-135 Chiroti ki dhar	136 site list by Forest dpt.
45	Shimla	Rohru	Larot, Rohru	136 site list by Forest dpt.
46	Shimla	Rohru	Mandli,Rohru	136 site list by Forest dpt.
47	Shimla	Rohru	Chansal, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
48	Shimla	Shimla	Wild Life View Point at Hassan Valley, Chharabra (Kufri)	Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, HP
49	Rampur	Kotgarh	Hatu	Consultant

SN	Forest Circle	Forest Division	Location	Identified by
50	Rampur	Kotgarh	Raenimla	Consultant
51	Rampur	Kotgarh	Dhomri	Consultant
52	Rampur	Kotgarh	Sara	Consultant
53	Rampur	Kotgarh	Narkanda	Consultant
54	Rampur	Kotgarh	Jau baag	Consultant
55	Rampur	Kotgarh	Thanedhaar	Consultant
56	Rampur	Rampur	Bagha sarahan	Consultant
57	Rampur	Kinnaur	Sangla	Consultant
58	Rampur	Kinnaur	Chitkul	Consultant
59	Rampur	Kinnaur	Kalpa	Consultant
60	Rampur	Ani	PANEO	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
61	Rampur	Ani	Camping site at Raghupur Fort	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
62	Rampur	Kotgarh	Mahri (not Nihari)	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
63	Rampur	Kotgarh	Chamunda/ Jhamunda	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
64	Rampur	Rampur	Teklech, Rampur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
65	Rampur	Kotgarh	Tanu-Jubber, Kotgarh	136 site list by Forest dpt.
66	Rampur	Kotgarh	Dalogh Ghati; DFO Kotgarh	136 site list by Forest dpt.
67	Rampur	Kotgarh	Nihari; , DFO Kotgarh	136 site list by Forest dpt.
68	Rampur	Kotgarh	Sidhpur, Kotgarh, Shimla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
69	Rampur	Kinnaur	Nichar, Kinnaur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
70	Rampur	Kotgarh	Hattu	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
71	Rampur	Kotgarh	Tannu Jubbar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
72	Rampur	Kotgarh	Jo-bagh	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
73	Mandi	Suket	Nihri	Consultant
74	Mandi	Mandi	Prashar	Consultant
75	Mandi	Mandi	Jaitari mandi	Consultant
76	Mandi	Mandi	Badoni dhar	Consultant
77	Mandi	Mandi	Balh	Consultant
78	Mandi	Karsog	Karsog	Consultant
79	Mandi	Nachan	Dudhli	Consultant
80	Mandi	Nachan	Bhulah	Consultant
81	Mandi	Nachan	Shatadhar	Consultant
82	Mandi	Nachan	Kandha	Consultant
83	Mandi	Nachan	DPF Golhan	Consultant
84	Mandi	Nachan	Raigarh	Consultant
85	Mandi	Nachan	Saryach	Consultant
86	Mandi	Mandi	NATURE PARK JHIRI	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
87	Mandi	Joginder nagar	BAROT	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
88	Mandi	Joginder nagar	FULLADHAR	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
89	Mandi	Mandi	FRH PARASHAR	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
90	Mandi	Mandi	FRH DHUMA DEVI	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
91	Mandi	Mandi	FRH DEVIDARH	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
92	Mandi	Mandi	Dhuma devi	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
93	Mandi	C.F.Mandi	Tikkar Balh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
94	Mandi	Renukaji	GOORA	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
95	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Trekker Hut Kulla dhar	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
96	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Inspection Hut Barot	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
97	Mandi	Mandi	FRH Rewalsar, Mandi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
98	Mandi	Mandi	Daina Park, Mandi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
99	Mandi	Mandi	Janitari, Mandi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
100	Mandi	Mandi	Mohul Hataun, Mandi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
101	Mandi	Mandi	Janjhayali (Mandi)	136 site list by Forest dpt.
102	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Chamanpur , J/Nagar	136 site list by Forest dpt.
103	Mandi	Joginder Nagar	Trekker Hut Winch Camp., J/Nagar	136 site list by Forest dpt.
104	Mandi	Suket	Murari Devi Temple, Suket / Sundernagar Murari Devi Temple	136 site list by Forest dpt.
105	Mandi	Karsog	Chamanpur (Churag), Karsog	136 site list by Forest dpt.
106	Mandi	Karsog	Behal(Near Mahunag), Karsog	136 site list by Forest dpt.
107	Mandi	Karsog	Sainj Bagra, Karsog	136 site list by Forest dpt.
108	Mandi	Nachan	Dev Kanda, Nachan	136 site list by Forest dpt.
109	Mandi	Nachan	Jabal, Nachan	136 site list by Forest dpt.
110	Mandi	Nachan	Spenidhar, Nachan	136 site list by Forest dpt.
111	Mandi	Mandi	Janitary	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.

SN	Forest Circle	Forest Division	Location	Identified by
112	Mandi	Mandi	Nagan	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
113	Mandi	Mandi	Kotli	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
114	Mandi	Mandi	Baggi	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
115	Mandi	Mandi	Kataula	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
116	Mandi	Mandi	Padhar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
117	Mandi	Mandi	kufri	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
118	Mandi	Mandi	Bassadhar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
119	Mandi	Mandi	Ganganaal	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
120	Mandi	Mandi	Chambadhar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
121	Mandi	Mandi	Ansar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
122	Mandi	Mandi	Lakshal	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
123	Mandi	Mandi	Sari Thach	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
124	Mandi	Mandi	Chubhalu	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
125	Mandi	Mandi	Panarsa	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
126	Mandi	Mandi	Chabhuan	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
127	Mandi	Mandi	Sadar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
128	Kullu	Kullu	Patlikulah	Consultant
129	Kullu	Lahaul	Chandertaal	Consultant
130	Kullu	Seraj	Shoja	Consultant
131	Kullu	Banjar	Jalori	Consultant
132	Kullu	Parvati	Kasol	Consultant
133	Kullu	Parvati	Vrindavan	Consultant
134	Kullu	Parvati	Dhara	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
135	Kullu	Kullu	Kaisdhar near FRH	136 site list by Forest dpt.
136	Kullu	Kullu	Solang Nalla	136 site list by Forest dpt.
137	Kullu	Kullu	Gulaba	136 site list by Forest dpt.
138	Kullu	Kullu	Shikari Devi,WL Kullu	136 site list by Forest dpt.
139	Kullu	Kullu	Kothi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
140	Kullu	Kullu	Kulang	136 site list by Forest dpt.
141	Kullu	Kullu	NH-21-100mtrs- (BG-III) Baragarh	136 site list by Forest dpt.
142	Kullu	Kullu	NH-21 -1 Km. Patlikuhah, Kullu	136 site list by Forest dpt.
143	Kullu	Kullu	Bijli Mahadev	136 site list by Forest dpt.
144	Kullu	Kullu	Gorudugh	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
145	Kullu	Banjar	Cham Nal (Jibhi), Seraj	136 site list by Forest dpt.
146	Kullu	Banjar	Jibhi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
147	Kullu	Banjar	Soma Ropa	136 site list by Forest dpt.
148	Kullu	Parvati	Pather Bihal , Kullu	136 site list by Forest dpt.
149	Kullu	Parvati	Khirganga, Parvati	136 site list by Forest dpt.
150	Kullu	Parvati	Shondadhar, Parvati	136 site list by Forest dpt.
151	Kullu	Parvati	Paah, Parvati	136 site list by Forest dpt.
152	Kullu	Parvati	1/16 Batahar Bihal	136 site list by Forest dpt.
153	Kullu	Paravati	Garsa Bihal	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
154	Kullu	Paravati	Diyar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
155	Kullu	Paravati	Pah	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
156	Kullu	Lahaul	Sissu Lake, Lahaul	136 site list by Forest dpt.
157	Kullu	Seraj	Bahu	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
158	Kullu	Seraj	Pundrik Rishi Lake	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
159	Nahan	Solan	Chail	Consultant
160	Nahan	Rajghar	Dudhria Harech,Habban	Consultant
161	Nahan	Renukaji	FRH Gorra	Consultant
162	Nahan	Solan	Chewa Camping Site	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
163	Nahan	Solan	R-46 Jagatgarh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
164	Nahan	Rajgarh	Bhursingh Temple	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
165	Nahan	Solan	Sari Ghat	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
166	Nahan	Pontasahib	I/Hut Bhiunkhary	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
167	Nahan	Solan	R-30 Chabal	136 site list by Forest dpt.
168	Nahan	Solan	Barog Camping Site	136 site list by Forest dpt.
169	Nahan	Solan	Heritage site Banasar Fort	136 site list by Forest dpt.
170	Nahan	Solan	Motikuna Camping Site-Solan	136 site list by Forest dpt.
171	Nahan	Solan	R-35 Kadon, Solan	136 site list by Forest dpt.
172	Nahan	Solan	Kasauli	136 site list by Forest dpt.
173	Nahan	Solan	D-178, Cheroti ki Dhar C1,	136 site list by Forest dpt.
174	Nahan	Nahan	Panjain, Nahan	136 site list by Forest dpt.

SN	Forest Circle	Forest Division	Location	Identified by
175	Nahan	Rajgarh	Camping Site at Habban	136 site list by Forest dpt.
176	Nahan	Rajgarh	Camping Site at Bathau Dhar	136 site list by Forest dpt.
177	Nahan	Rajgarh	Banali Dhar Habban	136 site list by Forest dpt.
178	Nahan	Renukaji	Haripurdhar (Sirmour)	136 site list by Forest dpt.
179	Nahan	Renukaji	PF Braila- Habban	136 site list by Forest dpt.
180	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Satobari	Consultant
181	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Rakkar (Theru)	Consultant
182	Dharamshala	Palampur	Kukar Gunda	Consultant
183	Dharamshala	Palampur	Chakban Palah Chak	Consultant
184	Dharamshala	Palampur	Ruling	Consultant
185	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Triund	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
186	Dharamshala	Palampur	Baggidhar	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
187	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Indrunag	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
188	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Kareri	136 site list by Forest dpt.
189	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Sokani Da Kot	136 site list by Forest dpt.
190	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Khniyara	136 site list by Forest dpt.
191	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Naddi, D/Shala	136 site list by Forest dpt.
192	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Kutharna, D/Shala	136 site list by Forest dpt.
193	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Machhial, D/Shala	136 site list by Forest dpt.
194	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Rirkumar, D/Shala	136 site list by Forest dpt.
195	Dharamshala	Dharamshala	Manjigram, D/Shala	136 site list by Forest dpt.
196	Dharamshala	Palampur	Billing	136 site list by Forest dpt.
197	Dharamshala	Palampur	Bir	136 site list by Forest dpt.
198	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sukeri	136 site list by Forest dpt.
199	Dharamshala	Palampur	Rajgundha	136 site list by Forest dpt.
200	Dharamshala	Palampur	Swar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
201	Dharamshala	Palampur	Gunehar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
202	Dharamshala	Palampur	Tatwani	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
203	Dharamshala	Palampur	Neugal Park	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
204	Dharamshala	Palampur	Andretta	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
205	Dharamshala	Palampur	Bindyabas ini / Bundla Mata Temple	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
206	Dharamshala	Palampur	Shamlat Mainja	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
207	Dharamshala	Palampur	Multhan	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
208	Dharamshala	Palampur	Sourabh Van Vihar	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
209	Dharamshala	Palampur	Vikram Batra Nature Park/ Nagar Van	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
210	Dharamshala	Palampur	Chowki Khalet	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
211	Dharamshala	Palampur	Dadh	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
212	Chamba	Dalhousie	Ala Frh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
213	Chamba	Chamba	Ghatasani	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
214	Chamba	Chamba	Holi	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
215	Chamba	Chamba	Sahu	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
216	Chamba	Chamba	Kundi Sub Tehsil Dharwala	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
217	Chamba	Dalhousie	Bakloh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
218	Chamba	Churah	Devi Koti	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
219	Chamba	C.F. Chamba	Batoth (Khundai Panchayat)	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
220	Chamba	C.F. Chamba	Ajog	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
221	Chamba	Chamba	Ranikot	136 site list by Forest dpt.
222	Chamba	Chamba	Chhatrari	136 site list by Forest dpt.
223	Chamba	Chamba	Langha	136 site list by Forest dpt.
224	Chamba	Chamba	Van Vihar in Dehri phati	136 site list by Forest dpt.
225	Chamba	Dalhousie	Jot	136 site list by Forest dpt.
226	Chamba	Bharmour	Rock Garden in Jabla, DFO Bharmour	136 site list by Forest dpt.
227	Chamba	Bharmour	Bharnani, Bharmour	136 site list by Forest dpt.
228	Chamba	Bharmour	Mani Mehes, Bharmour	136 site list by Forest dpt.
229	Chamba	Bharmour	Nagbani Ciya, Bharmour	136 site list by Forest dpt.
230	Chamba	Bharmour	Churasi Temple, Bharmour	136 site list by Forest dpt.
231	Chamba	Pangi	Mindhal Mata, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
232	Chamba	Pangi	jog, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
233	Chamba	Pangi	Hudan Bhatory, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
234	Chamba	Pangi	Parmar Beturi, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
235	Chamba	Pangi	Sural Bhatory, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
236	Chamba	Pangi	Hill down Beturi, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
237	Chamba	Pangi	Chakas Beturi, Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.

SN	Forest Circle	Forest Division	Location	Identified by
238	Chamba	Pangi	Dar Khad (Brair Panchayat), Pangi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
239	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Children Park Hamirpur	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
240	Hamirpur	C. F. Hamirpur	D-245 SanawarC-4	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
241	Hamirpur	C. F. Hamirpur	D-239 Sari	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
242	Hamirpur	C. F. Hamirpur	D-242 Gahinala	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
243	Hamirpur	C. F. Hamirpur	R-24 Rajgarh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
244	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Deoth Sidh	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
245	Hamirpur	Una	S.L. Area upper Pandoga	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
246	Hamirpur	Dehra	Mangarh (Dehra)	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
247	Hamirpur	Una	Forest Inspection Hut Guret.	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
248	Hamirpur	Una	Una	GIS file by Forest Dpt.
249	Hamirpur	Dehra	Eco site Habrol, Dehra	136 site list by Forest dpt.
250	Hamirpur	Una	Pandoga, Una, Hamirpur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
251	Hamirpur	Una	Shamlat land upper Pandoga., Una	136 site list by Forest dpt.
252	Hamirpur	Una	Solah Singhi Dhar, Bangana, Hamirpur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
253	Hamirpur	Una	Eco site Raipur, Una	136 site list by Forest dpt.
254	Hamirpur	Una	Sidchaler, Una	136 site list by Forest dpt.
255	Hamirpur	Una	Sidhchaler	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
256	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Swarnim Van Vatika	Suggested by DFO
257	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Chakmoh	Suggested by DFO
258	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Baba Balak Nath Temple	Suggested by DFO
259	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Nav Grah Vatika	Suggested by DFO
260	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	View Point	Suggested by DFO
261	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Way side amenity Site	Suggested by DFO
262	Hamirpur	Kutlehar	Dhar Chamukha	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
263	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Bahadurpur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
264	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Lakhanpur	136 site list by Forest dpt.
265	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Chalella, Naina devi	136 site list by Forest dpt.
266	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Biodiversity Park, Ghumarwin	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
267	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Bandla Dhar Eco camps	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
268	Bilaspur	Kunihar	Bari Dhar	136 site list by Forest dpt.
269	Bilaspur	Kunihar	Lathru Mahadev Temple	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
270	Bilaspur	Kunihar	Surangdwari, Near Joharji Gurudawara	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.
271	Bilaspur	Kunihar	Niku Baba waterfall	Suggested by DFO/ Forest dpt.

10.5 Annexure: Stakeholder meetings

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
1.	20th Nov'20	1. Mr. RD Dhiman 2. Dr. Savita 3. Mr. Rajesh Sharma	1. Addl. Chief Secretary Forests-cum Chairman HP ECOSOC 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, HP (HoFF) 3. CEO HPECOSOC	in-Person	Project Inception Report Presentation
2.	12th Jan'21	1. Dr. Savita 2. Mr. Rajesh Sharma 3. Mr. Preeti Bhandari	1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, HP (HoFF) 2. CEO HPECOSOC 3. DCF HPECOSOC	in-Person	Inception Report Review meeting with HPECOSOC and 1 st set of comments shared to amend the report
3.	13 th -15 th Jan'21	1. RFO Barog 2. RFO Solan	Forest Department officials in Barog, Solan	in-Person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations for suggested key sites in Shimla, and Solan (Site Visit 1)
4.	Jan'21-Feb'21	HPFD – CCFs and DFOs	CCFs and DFOs	Virtual	Telephonic consultation with the various Forest Circle officers (CCFs and DFOs) (Phase 1) for Introduction and Project Overview
5.	18 th Feb'21	1. Dr. Savita 2. Mr. RK Gupta 3. Mr. Rajesh Sharma 4. Ms. Preeti Bhandari 5. Mr. Krishan Kumar 6. Mr. Kanchan Bedi 7. Mr. D.R.Kaushal 8. Mr. Anil Joshi 9. Mr. B.L.Negi 10. Mr. S.K.Musafir 11. Mr. Anil Sharma 12. Mr. Nishant Mandotra 13. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 14. Mr. Saurabh	1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, HP (HoFF) 2. CEO cum APCCF Campa 3. CEO cum CCF Ecotourism 4. DCF, Ecotourism 5. DCF, WL Shimla 6. District Deputy Tourism Director 7. CCF Bilaspur 8. CCF Hamirpur 9. CCF Rampur 10. CCF Mandi 11. CCF Kullu 12. DFO Chamba 13. DFO Dharamshala	Virtual	Stakeholder Consultation Workshop at Conference Hall, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department Headquarters, Talland, Shimla

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
		15. Mr. S.S.Kashyap 16. Mr. Vinod Zutshi 17. Dr. H.S.Pabla 18. Mr. Sharang Shah 19. Mr. B.K.Kaushik 20. Mr. Swapnil Chaudhari 21. Mr. Jitender Verma 22. Mr. Jose Dominic 23. Mr. Mandip Singh Soin	14. DFO Nahan 15. DFO Mandi 16. Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism 17. Former PCCF, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department 18. Consultant, Air BnB 19. GM Marigold Sarivar Portico, Mashorba, Shimla 20. Ceva Chamba and Res Asia, Pune 21. President, Centre for Sustainable Development, Sundarnagar 22. CEO, CGH Earth 23. Founder, Ibex Expeditions, Adventure Travel Company		
6.	Feb'21 – Mar'21	HPFD – CCFs and DFOs	CCFs and DFOs	Virtual	Telephonic consultation with the various Forest Circle officers (CCFs and DFOs) (Phase 2) – to seek inputs and recommendations on Sites
7.	3 rd Mar'21	Mr. Swapnil Chaudhari	Co-Founder, CEVA Pangti	Virtual	Community perspective of CEVA, Pangti
8.	2 nd – 6 th Mar'21	1. Anil Sharma 2. Ashwairya Raj 3. Praveen Thakur 4. Sachin 5. Ajit Thakur 6. Rakesh Kumar	1. CCF Kullu 2. DFO Parvati 3. DFO Seraj 4. ACF GHNP Shamshi 5. Director GHNP Shamshi 6. DFO Wildlife Kullu 7. Ground level and RFO Officials at Kullu, Seraj, Parvati	In-Person	Site Visit and Local Stakeholder Consultation at Kullu Circle (Site Visit 2)
9.	7 th Apr'21	1. Mr. Rajesh Sharma 2. Mr. Anish Sharma 3. HPECOSOC Committee for evaluation of deliverable	1. CEO HPECOSOC 2. DCF 3. HPECOSOC Committee for evaluation of deliverable	In-person	Meeting with the HPECOSOC to discuss way forward

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
10.	13 th June'21	Mr. Pranav J Patar	CEO, Global foundation for advancement	In-person	Discussion on Nature based tourism, landscape approach to HP
11.	13 th June'21	Mr. Bezbaruah	Former Secretary Tourism	Virtual	Ecotourism in HP
12.	15 th June'21	Ms. Seema Bhatt	Biodiversity expert (Independent)	Virtual	Biodiversity of HP as tourism attraction, carrying capacity
13.	16 th July'21	1. Ms. Nisha Thakur, (IAS) ACS (Forests) and 2. Mr. Rajesh Sharma	1. (IAS) ACS (Forests), GoHP 2. CEO, HPECOSOC	In-person	To present project progress and discuss way forward. Discussed the Landscape Approach with focus on 10 ecotourism sites at 5 ecosystems.
14.	25 th July'21	Mr. Mandip Singh Soin	MD – IBEX Expeditions & Adventure Tourism specialist	In person	Adventure activities in HP, SOPS
15.	4 th Aug'21	Mr. Stephan Marchal	CEO & Founder	Virtual	Community Benefit Sharing Mechanism in a for profit community owned and managed organisation
16.	17 th to 18 th Aug'21	1. Mr. Pradeep Thakur 2. Mr. Rahul Rohane 3. Ms. L.C.Bandana 4. Mr. Ankush 5. Mr. Kushal Kumar 6. Mr. Joginder 7. Representative 8. Representatives 9. Dr. Pankal Patlial	1. CCF Hamirpur 2. DFO, Hamirpur Wildlife 3. DFO, Hamirpur 4. Forest Guard, Hamirpur 5. Forest Guard, Hamirpur 6. Maintenance person for FRH and forest camp site, boat operator 7. Sukhnara and Khatoli village 8. Regional water sports centre at Pong Dam 9. Fisheries officer, Khatiar fishermen co-operative society	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Hamirpur and Hamirpur WL divisions
17.	19 th to 20 th Aug'21	1. Mr. Raj Kumar 2. Mr. Abhishek 3. Representative 4. Representative	1. Range Forest Officer 2. Forest Guard, Chakmoh 3. Baba Balaknath Temple Trust 4. Sarai operator	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Hamirpur division around Deostidh

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
		5. Mr. Ramanand Sharma	5. Representative from Chakmoh village		
18.	23 rd to 24 th Aug'21	1. Mr. Vasu Deogar 2. Mr. Chitranjan 3. Mr. Maresh Kumar 4. Range officer 5. Mr. Chuamani Khazana 6. Mr. Krishna Kumar 7. Representatives 8. Villagers/ representatives	1. DFO, Mandi 2. ACF, Mandi 3. Forest Guard, Kataula 4. Range Officer, Mandi 5. Sookasar camp site operator 6. Private camping and trekking service provider, restaurant owner 7. Parashar lake Temple Committee 8. Bandi and Sigli Panchayat	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Mandi division
19.	26 th to 28 th Aug'21	1. Mr. Kishore 2. Mr. Ratish Kumar 3. Operator 4. Mr. Raj Kumar 5. Representative 6. Mr. Amitabh Bharadwaj 7. Dr. Sadhana Thakur	1. Forest Guard, Shikari Devi 2. Forest Guard, Shikari Devi 3. FRH, Shikari Devi 4. Private camp operators 5. Camp operators at Jhanjheli 6. Range officer 7. Wife of Honourable Chief Misnister	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Shikari Devi
20.	24 th Aug'21	Mr. Manoj Sharma	Additional Director, Tourism Department, GoHP	In-person	Discussion on tourism and eco-tourism
21.	28 th Aug'21	Mr. Ajay Shrivastava	HPSFDA	In-person	Discussion on the current ecotourism sites under HPSFDA
22.	13 th Sept'21	1. Dr. Savita 2. Mr. Rajesh Sharma 3. Mr. Anish Sharma	24. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, HP (HoFF) 25. CEO HPECOSOC 26. DCF HPECOSOC	In person	Meeting, Presentation on Mid-term progress report
23.	14 th Sept'21	Mr. Ravi Shankar	DFO, Shimla Wildlife	in person	Water catchment area as potential ecotourism site
24.	20 th Sept'21	Mr. Kuldeep	Adventure Tour Operator	In person	Adventure activities in HP
25.	6 th Oct'21	Mr. Ashwarya Raj	DFO, Parvati Division	Virtual	

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
26.	6 th to 7 th Oct'21	1. Ms. Tenzing 2. Mr. Gobind thakur 3. Raghubeer Singh 4. Owner 5. Manager 6. Owner 7. Manager 8. Manager 9. Mr. Ravinder kumar 10. Mr. Akash Duggal 11. Mrs. M. Devi 12. Mr. Jog Raj 13. Uday Verma	1. DFO office , Parvati Division 2. DFO office , Parvati Division 3. RFO Kasol 4. Dhaba Kasol 5. Hotel Sandhya, Kasol 6. North Deodar Camps 7. Kasol Camp 8. Earthly Parvati Woods camp 9. Pradhan of Village Barshaini 10. Homestay Owner Tulga 11. Saraj Pal , SHG Tulga 12. BO, Kheer Gnga 13. RFO		Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Parvati Division
27.	7 th to 9 th Oct'21	1. Mr. Shah Nawaz Bhatt 2. Mr. Rajat Rathore 3. Owner/ Manager 4. General Manager 5. Supervisor 6. Pradhan 7. Ms. Devi Kumari 8. Ms. Ved Vnti Rumila 9. Ms. Poonam 10. Ms. Sonam 11. Mr. Negi 12. Manager 13. Mr. Harry Negi 14. Mr. Manmeet 15. Mr. Mukesh Romdhari 16. Mr. Thakur 17. Mr. H.K.Kalyan 18. Mr. Anil Kumar 19. Mr. Padam Dev Jousta 20. Mr. Aram Krishan 21. Ms. Babita	1. DFO, Rohru Division 2. Hotel Pavillion, Rohru 3. Chanshal camp resort 4. Pabbar River resort 5. Thira Chanshal, Larot 6. Gram Pachayat, Kindari 7. SHG member 8. SHG member 9. SHG member 10. BDO Office, Kalpa 11. Escape adventure camp, Sangla 12. Banjara camps, Sangla 13. Hotel white castle, Kalpa 14. Samaa resort, Chitkul 15. The Monk hotel, Kalpa 16. BO, Rohru 17. JICA 18. Vice President, JICA 19. Joint Secretary, JICA 20. Facilitator, JICA 21. Vice Pradhan, JICA	In person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Rohru Division

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
28.	8 th Oct'21	1. Mr. Munir Suri	1. Hotelier, Kullu	Virtual	Ecotourism stakeholder
29.	9 th Oct'21	1. Mr. Kirti Singh	1. Ex BDO, Kalpa	Virtual	Discussion on ecotourism sites
30.	10 th to 11 th Oct'21	1. Mr Rao 2. Balak Ram 3. Manav Verma 4. Ms Priya Nagta 5. Vinod Kumar 6. Jadish Chand 7. Mr. Sangha 8. Mr Tenzin Nerupa 9. Mr Vishal 10. Ms Sunita 11. Dr. Vivek Gularia	1. Deputy director - Agriculture / Keylong 2. BO Sissu Village 3. Superintendent of police / Lahual & Spiti 4. Sub Divisional Officer 5. Garam Panchayat Officer Sissu 6. Owner - Rat Travels / Tashi Yang Homestay 7. Sissu Adventure 8. Owner PLM Dhara Hotel 9. Manager Tashi Hotel 10. SDO Office (SHG Handler) 11. BDO Keylong	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Sissu
31.	13 th to 14 th Oct'21	1. Mr.Ramesh Lotey 2. Ms. Ashita Khanna 3. Mr Tsering 4. Mr. Hardev Negi 5. Mr Abhishek 6. Mr Tashi Chhering 7. Mr. Szangmo 8. Mr Amar Singh 9. Mr. Tenzing	1. Owner Himalayan Cafe Kaza 2. Taste of Spiti / Spiti sphere 3. Sakya Abode 4. DFO Spiti Wildlife 5. Manager, Piti Cafe 6. Forest Guard , Kibber 7. BDO Office, Kaza 8. Sea buckthorn society of Spiti 9. Owner of Homestay, Kaza	In-person	Site Visits and Local Stakeholder Consultations at Kibber
32.	14 th Oct'21	10. Mr Thille	11. NCF Researcher, Kibber	Virtual	
33.	29 th Oct'21	Mr. SD Sharma	CCF Shimla	In-person	Brief discussion on project updates and status
34.	1 st Nov'21	1. Mr. Ajay Shrivastava 2. Mr. Rajesh Sharma 3. Mr. Anish Sharma 4. Mr. SD Sharma		In-person	Discussion on progress and way forward

SN	Date	Name of the person	Designation, Department	Virtual/ in-person	Agenda
35.	1 st Nov.	Ms. Arti Gupta	Former head, WWF Shimla	In-person	Discussion on ecotourism for HP
36.	19 th Nov'21	Mr. Krishan Kumar	DFO Shimla Rural	In-person	Discussion on ecotourism sites
37.	21 st Nov'21	Ms. Richa Banchata	DFO Shimla Urban	In-person	Discussion on ecotourism sites
38.	22 nd Nov'21	Mr. Ashok Negi	DFO Theog	In-person	Discussion on ecotourism sites
39.	Nov'21	HPFD – CCFs and DFOs	CCFs and DFOs	Virtual	Telephonic consultation with the various Forest Circle officers (CCFs and DFOs) for identifying and ratifying ecotourism sites