



*Foundation for Ecological Research,
Advocacy and Learning*

September 17, 2012

Payson R. Stevens
Friends of GHNP
PO Box 810
Del Mar, CA 92014

Dear Mr. Stevens

This letter is in support of Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) being declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. I have been working on a research project in GHNP for the last one year. GHNP is a part of the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot. It is home to a variety of endemic and threatened taxa. Apart from the diverse assemblage of flora and fauna it harbours, the park is very unique in its topography, people and culture. Recognition and appreciation of this biological and cultural diversity is important for conserving the landscape in the long-run. Declaration of GHNP as a world heritage site by UNESCO can be one of such initial steps.

Great Himalayan National Park is also under major threat from different developmental activities. Various hydro-electric projects, which have come up in the recent decade, have destroyed the bio-diversity in the surrounding landscape. Given that India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world with more than a billion people, saving remnants of unique landscapes like GHNP is the need of the hour. I strongly support declaration of this park as a world heritage site, which can strengthen the conservation activities in this landscape.

Sincerely,
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