



## My Himachal

6520 Springcrest Dr, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (USA) • [www.myhimachal.com](http://www.myhimachal.com)

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Dated: September 4, 2012

To

Mr. Ajay Srivastav  
Director,  
Great Himalayan National Park  
Shamshi, District Kullu  
Himachal Pradesh, India

**Re: GHNP World Heritage Site**

Dear Mr. Srivastav,

We at **My Himachal** are writing to support the current effort to have the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Through our ground teams in the Kullu Valley, working under the direction of our board advisors Payson R. Stevens and Sanjeeva Pandey, we have been involved with community development and issues related to the rural poverty in the area since 2006. From our Kullu Health Melas/Fairs working on child health issues, we are well aware of importance of supporting communities living in the Park Eco-Zone.

My Himachal has provided logistical, management, and financial support for projects that included:

- a. Ecotourism trekking men's group training in basic health care and first aid working with Dr. Jeph Matthias from Jibhi CHAI.
- b. Nutritional and medical health worker training for women.
- c. Annual health Melas with Indian and foreign physicians from Lady Willingdon Hospital (Manali) providing health care for local children (including immunizations, health/teeth/eye exams, de-worming, nutritional supplements, recommending further medical treatment in regional hospitals.
- d. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Training for local men at New Delhi Centre for Science and Environment.
- e. Assessment of converting local stone mills for small-scale electricity generation
- f. GHNP Ecotourism study and report carried out by MBA student interns from the prestigious SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai; delivered to HP government.
- g. *Save the Weaver* Project to assess traditional Kullu weaver issues in the Eco-Zone.
- h. Surveys to assess global warming on pre-monsoon water availability in higher villages, suffering from annual drought.



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- i. "Kala Jatha" Street theater and music performances at local villages on relevant community and environmental issues.

As a small NGO, comprised primarily of Himachali Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), we have endeavored to execute projects that address and support health, livelihood issues, and education outreach realizing that protection and conservation of "the Park" is further enhanced when local needs are addressed and met.

We hope that UNESCO will see the value of inscribing GHNP as a World Heritage Site and further the Park's recognition as a unique natural resource that benefits the people, flora and fauna of Himachal Pradesh.

Sincerely yours,

Anil Chandel

President