

**Submission for the
Great Himalayan National Park
for inclusion in the World Heritage Site List**



Great Himalayan National Park mountain range at Khandedhar
Inset: Efforts to bring community and conservation together

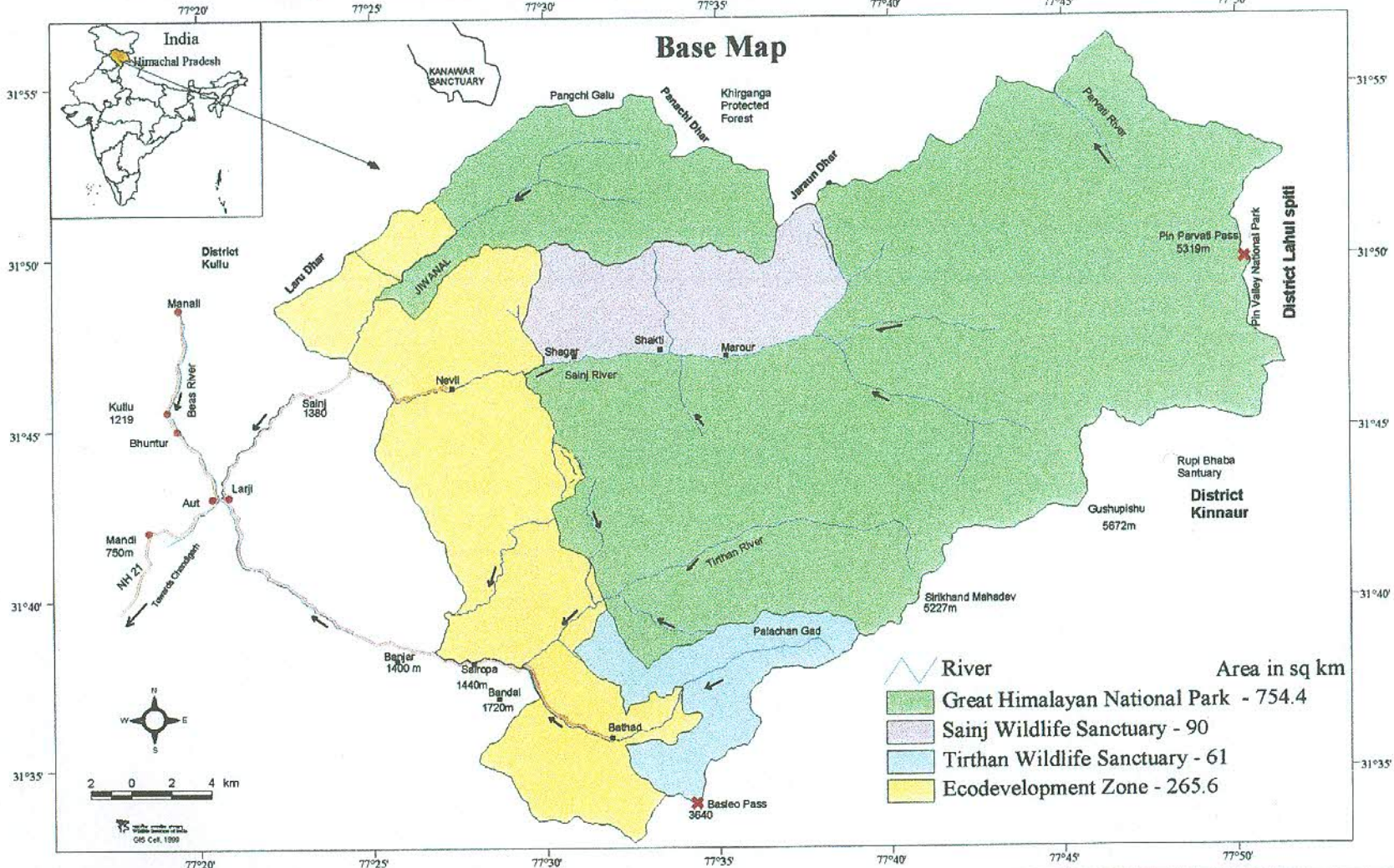


GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA), Himachal Pradesh

Base Map



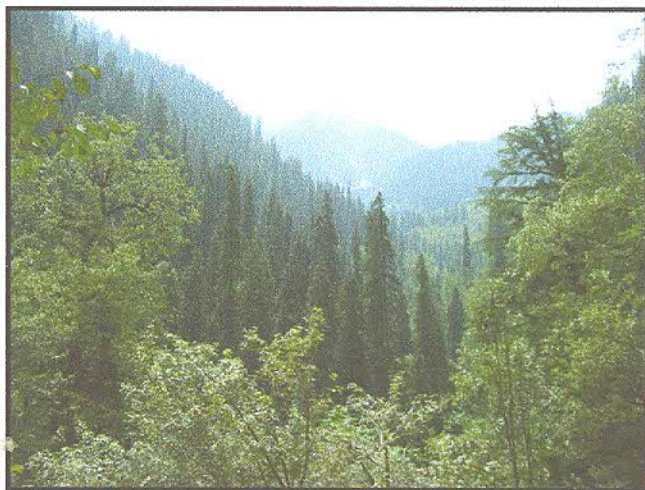
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Great Himalayan National Park
for inclusion in the World Heritage Site List**

Name of Country	:	India
List drawn up by	:	Director, Great Himalayan National Park
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Date	:	January, 2006
Name of Property	:	Great Himalayan National Park
Geographic Location	:	31 ⁰ 38'28" and 31 ⁰ 54'58"N Latitude 77 ⁰ 20'11" and 77 ⁰ 45'00" E Longitude
Altitudinal Range	:	1700-5800 metres above mean sea level

Description

1. Located in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh in the Himalayan state of India, the area of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) is 754.4 sq km. The GHNP is naturally protected on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries because of area being under permanent snow or with steep ridges (please see map). To facilitate ecologically sustained development (ecodevelopment) an area upto 5 km. from the western periphery of the Park has been notified as Buffer zone, popularly known as Ecozone. The Ecozone has an area of 265.6 sq km with about 160 small villages, comprising 2200 household, a population of about 14000 people. Two wildlife sanctuaries of Sainj (90 sq km) and Tirthan (61 sq km) exist close to the Park.
2. GHNP is a major source of water for the rural and urban centers of the region with four major rivers (Tirthan, Sainj, Jiwa Nal, and Parvati) originating from the glaciers in the Park. The Park is nowhere connected by road. Being remote and insulated within the Kullu valley, the Park has its own microclimate. At higher elevations, unexpected thunderstorms can build up any time. And just as quickly, the storm can pass, leaving the sky saturated with azure blue.
3. A total of 832 plant species belonging to 427 genera and 128 families of higher plants have been recorded within Park. The GHNP has 17.0% of its area under forests. The low percentage of forest area in GHNP is due to preponderance of high altitude meadows beyond tree line and rocky and snow bound areas in the Park. The forest consists of extensive stands of Oak (*Quercus semecarpifolia*), coniferous forests of Blue Pine (*Pinus wallichiana*), West Himalayan Silver Fir (*Abies pindrow*), West Himalayan Spruce (*Picea smithiana*) and Himalayan Cedar or deodar (*Cedrus deodara*). The broad-leaf forests contain Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus indica*), *Rhododendron*



**Coniferous forest in Tirthan Valley of the Great
Himalayan National Park**

