

# Country Profile: India



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## OVERVIEW

**Project Title:** Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems (SECURE-Himalayas)

**Project Sites:** The Ladakh Autonomous Region of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh

**Species Focus:** Snow Leopards and medicinal plants

**Total Project Cost:** \$11.5 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

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## CONTEXT

The high range Himalayan Ecosystem in India harbors important biodiversity and ecosystems that are essential life-support systems for a remote and rural communities. Since the harsh climate and topography of the area are less conducive to agriculture and industry, most of the region's population is dependent on livestock. Livestock numbers have increased significantly over the years, resulting in degradation due to overgrazing. Additionally, these ecosystems serve as critical habitats for snow leopards and other threatened species. The human wildlife conflict (HWC) that results from the rural communities and snow leopards sharing habitats and ecosystems, poaching, poor law enforcement, illegal wildlife trade, and the impact of climate change endangers the species further.

India's ongoing conservation efforts include establishment of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). In addition, India is a participating state in CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force. The country also launched the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), and in 2009 launched the Recovery Programme for 16 Critically Endangered Species that includes the snow leopard.

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP India project aims to enhance the ecological integrity and economic security of high range Indian Himalayan Ecosystem.

The project components are:

1. Conservation of key biodiversity areas and their effective management to secure long-term ecosystem resilience, habitat connectivity and conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats
2. Securing sustainable community livelihoods and natural resource management
3. Enhancing enforcement, monitoring, and cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats
4. Improved knowledge, advocacy and information systems for promotion of landscape conservation approaches

See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](#)