

(Authoritative English text of this Department Notification No. STE-A (3)-1/2014-Loose, dated.....as required under clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India)

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Environment, Science & Technology



No. STE-A(3)-1/2004-loose

Dated: Shimla-171002, the

18.08.2022.

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Act No. 18 of 2003), read with rule 17 of Himachal Pradesh Biological Diversity Rules, 2019, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh, in consultation with local bodies, is pleased to notify the following areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites:-

- (i) Sural Bhatori, Block Pangi, District Chamba;
 - (ii) Hudan Bhatori, Block Pangi, District Chamba; and
 - (iii) Nain Gahar, GP Mooring, Sub-Tehsil Udaipur, District Lahaul & Spiti.
2. This notification shall apply to the aforesaid areas in following manner:-
- (i) Sacred grove at Sural Bhatori Monastery, Block Pangi, District Chamba;
 - (ii) High altitude meadow at Muhal Dhar Shinkal, Gram Panchayat Hudan Bhatori, Block Pangi, District Chamba, both in Pangi Forest Division; and
 - (iii) Birch-pine forest patch at Nain Gahar village, Gram Panchayat Mooring, Sub-Tehsil Udaipur, District Lahaul & Spiti, in Lahaul Forest Division.
3. Details of sites for declaration as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS):-
- 3.1 SACRED GROVE AT SURAL BHATORI MONASTERY
- 3.1.1 Area covered

Particulars of area	Land ownership	Khasra number and area (in Bighas)
Sacred Grove having trees of <i>Betula utilis</i> (Bhojpatra) as main species interspersed with <i>Salix</i> sp. under Sural Bhatori revenue village, Tehsil Pangi, District Chamba.	Owner: Himachal Pradesh Government. Control: Monastery.	Khasra No. 291 (Area: 07-15-00)
		Total: 07-15-00

- 3.1.2 GPS Coordinates: 33° 08' 48.16" N Latitude and 76° 27' 49.74" E Longitude.
- 3.1.3 Altitude: About 3400 meters above mean sea level.
- 3.1.4 Uniqueness: A patch of *Betula utilis* or Bhojpatra trees with some interspersed Willow trees. Dominant shrubs and herbs: *Rosa* species, *Lonicera* species, *Sorbus* species, *Agropyron longearistatum*, *Festuca* species, *Primula denticulata*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Plantago asiatica*, *Heracleum candicans*, *Berberis* species, *Artemisia* species, *Bunium persicum* etc. Major faunal species, in the surrounding area: Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Tibetan Wolf, Ibex etc.
- 3.2 HIGH ALTITUDE MEADOW AT HUDAN BHATORI

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3.2.1 Area covered:

Particulars of area	Land ownership	Khasra number and area (in Bighas)
High altitude meadow supporting <i>Betula</i> with growth of <i>Rhododendron campanulatum</i> , <i>Jurinea macrocephala</i> etc., under muhal Dhar Shinkal, Gram Panchayat Hudan Bhatori, Tehsil Pangi, District Chamba.	Owner: H.P. Govt. Control: Himachal Pradesh Govt.	Khasra No. 15/9/1 Area: 108-00-00
		Total: 108-00-00

3.2.2 GPS Coordinates: 33°06'17.67" N Latitude and 76°30'18.43" E Longitude.

3.2.3 Altitude: Around 3850 meter above mean sea level.

3.2.4 Uniqueness: *Cotoneaster* species, *Lonicera* species, *Sorbus* species, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Bromus asper*, *Festuca* species, *Poa* species, *Primula denticulata*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Anemone* species, *Iris* species, *Artemisia* species, *Lonicera* species, *Bunium persicum*, *Jurinea macrocephala* etc.

Important floral species recorded in the area: *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Podophyllum hexandrum* and *Saussurea costus* (cultivated). Major faunal species, in the region: Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Black Bear, Tibetan Wolf, Himalayan Marmot, Ibex and Royle's Pika.

3.3 FOREST PATCH AT NAIN GAHAR VILLAGE, AND GP MOORING, SUB-TEHSIL UDAIPUR, LAHUAL & SPITI

3.3.1 Area covered:

Particulars of area	Land ownership	Khasra number and area (in Bighas)
Birch-pine forest patch situated on left bank of the stream at Nain Gahar village.	Owner: Himachal Pradesh Government. Control: Local community.	No settlement, by Revenue Department.
		Total: 151 bighas

3.3.2 GPS Coordinates: 32°43'46" N latitude and 76°51'09" E longitude.

3.3.3 Altitude: 3400 to 3653 metres above mean sea level.

3.3.4 Uniqueness: Main trees are Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis*) and Blue Pine (*Pinus wallichiana*). A few middle aged trees of West Himalayan Spruce (*Picea smithiana*), Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) and Juniper (*Juniperus* species) are interspersed in the proposed patch. Besides, Willow (*Salix* species) and Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*) are also present in the site.

The proposed site also includes a very good patch of grassy area, which supports a very good population of important medicinal and aromatic plants like *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Aconitum violaceum*, *Bunium persicum*, *Hippophae rhamnoides* etc.

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Indirect evidence indicate the presence of important faunal species like Snow Leopard, Himalayan Brown Bear, Asiatic Black Bear, Himalayan Red Fox, Asiatic Ibex, Himalayan Musk Deer and Royle's Pika in suitable season of the year. Threatened bird species, the Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*) and Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) have also been reported from the area.

According to Trevor, 2019 (unpublished), Nain Gahar's birch forest patch appears to be a point of meeting of Kashmir elements and Himalayan elements of avifaunal species, with at least two bird species forming hybrid zones there, namely, Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* and *Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus*) an important ring species, and Variegated Laughing Thrush (*Trochalopteron variegatum*).

4. Management of these Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHSs) shall be done by the biodiversity heritage site team (As proposed by the related Biodiversity Management Committee, BMC), comprising of members from concerned Biodiversity Management Committee, respective Gram Panchayat, Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC), Praja, Mahila Mandals and stakeholder departments, as per the following management plan:
 - (i) Complete ban on grazing of cattle, sheep, goat etc. in the Biodiversity Heritage Site for 5 years.
 - (ii) Complete ban on tree felling and timber extraction for next 5 years.
 - (iii) Complete ban on extraction of any type of medicinal and aromatic plants from the Biodiversity Heritage Site for next 5 years.
 - (iv) Rights and privileges of local people shall be well respected in the management of the Sites.
 - (v) Deployment of traditional and scientific methods for valuation, conservation and rehabilitation of proposed landscape and biological resources.
 - (vi) Ensuring participation of local community, different line departments and district administration in effective execution of management plans by the Biodiversity Heritage Site team.
5. The collection of the species of plants, animals and microbes from Biodiversity Heritage Site areas shall be regulated by the concerned BHS committee under the guidance of the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board and the HP Forest Department (Government of Himachal Pradesh) and any infringement on the said declared site shall be dealt by the relevant section (s) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Indian Forest Act, 1927, The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and other related instruments.
6. Maps of the aforesaid Biodiversity Heritage Sites are at Annexure 'A'.

By order

Prabodh Saxena
Addl. Chief Secretary (Env. Sci., & Tech.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. as above.

Dated: Shimla-171002,

18.08.2022.

Copy is forwarded to the following for Information and necessary action:-

1. The Secretary to the Governor, Himachal Pradesh, Shima-171002
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shima-171002
3. Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. Shima-171002
4. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Govt. of HP.
5. All the Heads of the Department in HP.
6. The Director, Environment, Science & Technology U.S. Club, Shimla-1.
7. The Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, HIMPARIRESH, Phase-III New Shimla-9.
8. The Member Secretary, H.P. State Council for Science, Technology & Env. 34-SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9.
9. Dr. G.S. Goraya, IFS, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), Himachal Pradesh.
10. Dr. S.S. Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest research Institute, Panthaghati, Shima-9
11. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Kapila, Professor & Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology.
12. Dr. Arvind Kumar Bhutt, Professor and Dean Member Planning, HP University, Shimla-5.
13. Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Principal Scientist, Department of Forest Products (Medicinal & Aromatic plants), College of Forestry, Nauni, Solan-173230.
14. Guard file.


(Satpal Dhiman)

Additional Secretary (EST) to the
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
Phone No. 0177-262187

I. Biodiversity Heritage Site at Sural Bhatori, Pangi, District Chamba



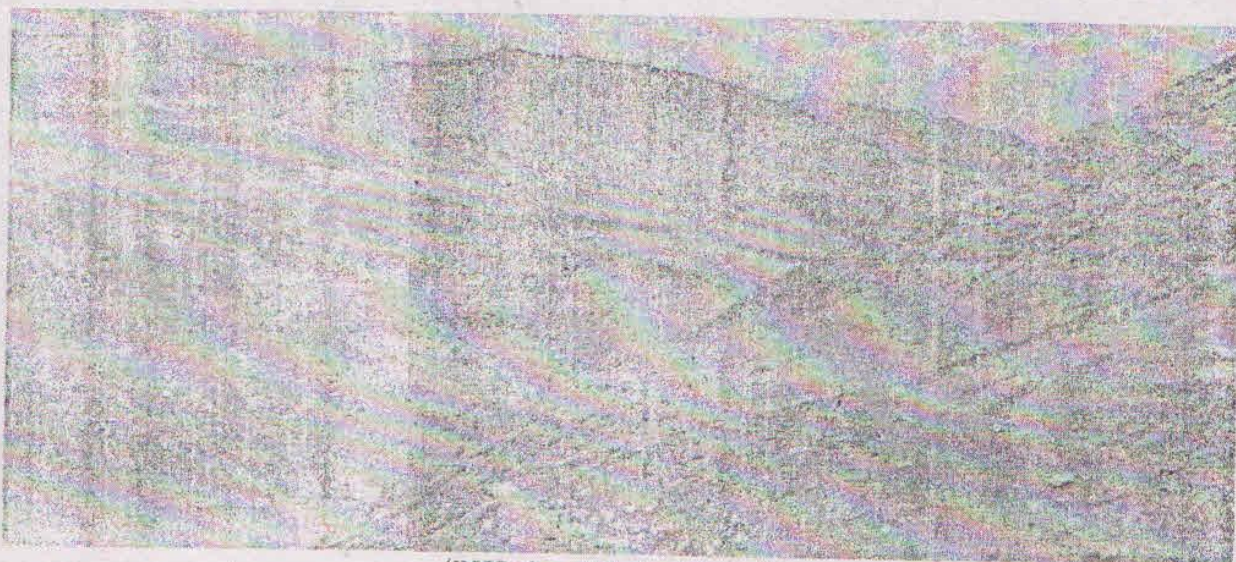
(BHS Site at Sural Bhatori)



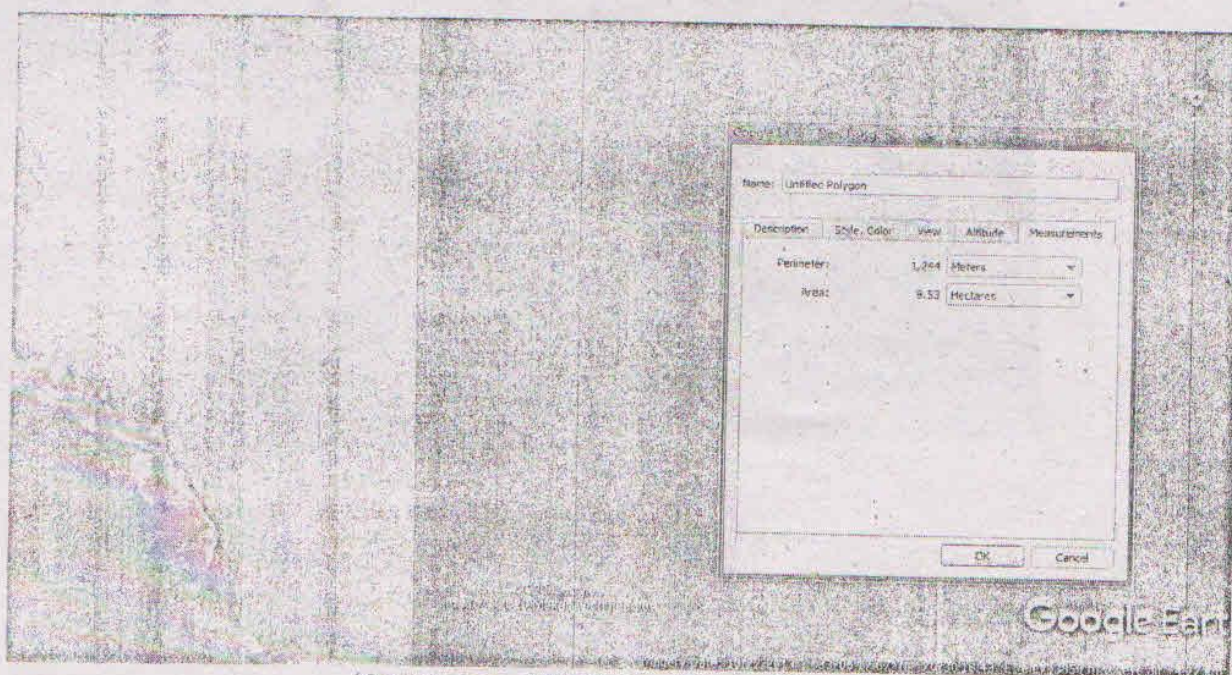
(Google map of BHS site at Sural Bhatori)

1. 11/11/20

II. Biodiversity Heritage Site at Hudan Bhatori, District Chamba



(BHS site at Hudan Bhatori)



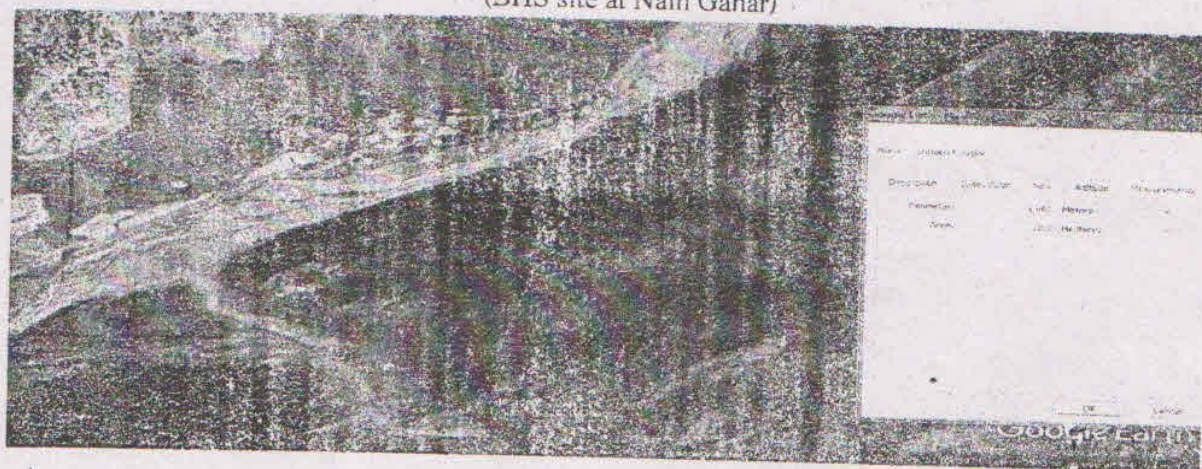
(Google map of BHS site at Hudan Bhatori)

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III. Biodiversity Heritage Site at Nain Gahar, GP Mooring, Sub-tehsil Udaipur, District Lahaul & Spiti.



(BHS site at Nain Gahar)



(Google map of BHS site at Nain Gahar)

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