

Hamta Concise Micro Plan

Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services
(HP-FES) Project



Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change



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Indo-German Biodiversity Programme
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in India - Himachal Pradesh
Forest Ecosystem Services Project (HP-FES)
The project aims to enable the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh to introduce the Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) approach in the state's forest management system.
HP-FES

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Micro plan for Hamta

Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project

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Introduction

Forest Ecosystem Services Approach

Forests provide people with numerous services and goods like fuelwood, timber, fodder, fruits etc. They also regulate abundant aspects of the environment like water, air purity and micro climate which benefit people in many ways. These goods and services are together termed as “Ecosystem Services”. The ecosystem services derived from forests are referred to as “Forest Ecosystem Services” (FES). The FES approach states that forests are managed to produce services required for human well-being.

As demands and importance for these services differ much within society, a key element of the FES approach is to manage forests that enable a supply of FES prioritised by stakeholders, giving due importance to the remaining goods and services.

HP-FES Project Background

The Indian and German Governments are working together in many areas that are important for our society. GIZ, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department (HPFD), is implementing the Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES) Project on behalf of BMZ (GIZ’s commissioning party). The HP-FES project aims at integrating the Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) approach into the state’s forest management.

Important stakeholders are consulted to identify the set of ecosystem services for which the forest is managed. Together with them, the FES that are derived from the forest are listed and prioritised. Based on this, a management plan like this one is developed.

CHAPTER- 2

Hamta Forest Ecosystem Services Vision

Forests are ecosystems that need a long time for their development. The project can guide the plan for only two years or so. This is hardly anything, considering that the forests can be hundreds of years old. Therefore, it is important that a forest management has a long term vision and that the plan of today is in line with the long term vision.

Long Term Vision (30 years)

- 1. Conservation
 - a. Community is actively contributing to conservation efforts through person days or money generated through ecotourism
- 2. Social Entrepreneurship
 - a. Community has set up award winning social entrepreneurship models of ecotourism through transparent systems of benefit sharing
 - b. Self Help Groups, Cooperatives and private limited companies belonging to locals are well established in the national park
- 3. Community Development
 - a. Women self-help groups are earning through the handicrafts and products produced by them
 - b. The money earned by VFDS is also routed to development projects. For e.g. reforestation of degraded patch

- Measures:
- a. VFDS meetings ensure active community participation in forest management
 - b. Regular meetings of VFDS and SHGs, aiming on resolving and innovating ecotourism models.

Mid Term Vision (15 years)

- 1. Conservation
 - a. The community shares a common vision on the rejuvenation of these national park and takes action on this regard
 - b. Community established rules for ecotourism operations as per code of conduct are up and running
- 2. Social Entrepreneurship
 - a. SHGs become efficient cottage industry for cultural souvenirs for ecotourist
 - b. Capacity building of community user groups is complete
- 3. Community Development
 - a. Community plays efficient role in participatory monitoring for forest development

- Measures:
- a. Regular meetings of VFDS and SHGs, development of operational plan in joint participation with forest department and civil administration.

Short Term Vision (5 years)

- 1. Conservation
 - a. Community has identified economic value of ecologically sensitive nature-based tourism
 - b. Community finalises rules and period for review for ecotourism operations activities, established the do's and don'ts for tour operators and key elements of CBET and have installed the required checks and balances to regulate and reduce tourism pressure.
- 2. Social Entrepreneurship
 - a. Rights holders have established ecologically sensitive adventure tour operations with trained villagers from Panchayat
 - b. SHG's are well established with good savings and has started lending for production purposes amongst themselves
 - c. Static Campsite, Winter Tourism with Igloo models of houses, mountaineering paragliding etc., are identified as key products managed by community-based organizations
- 3. Community Development
 - a. Community plays effective role in participatory monitoring of forests.

- Measures:
- a. Regular meetings of VFDS and SHGs, development of operational plan in joint participation with forest department and civil administration
 - b. VFDS actively participate in ecotourism management

HP-FES Project Period (1.5 years)

- 1. Conservation
 - a. Community is aware of the concept of National Park and the mechanisms of conservation arising from economic benefits of ecotourism
 - b. The community has identified ecotourism activities to be taken into longer run which will generate maximum employment and minimise the impact on nature
 - c. Community frame rules for ecotourism activities, do's and don'ts for tour operators and key elements of CBET and have installed regulatory a system to reduce negative tourism pressure
- 2. Social Entrepreneurship
 - a. User groups for nature trails and trekking tours are identified, listed and registered
 - b. User groups have been actively trained and are setting up specialized eco-friendly tour operation businesses in the area
 - c. Users have formed community associations like Self Help Groups, cooperatives or private limited companies to carry out the work of ecotourism
- 3. Community Development
 - a. Women Self Help Groups have been made and are doing alternative income generation activity highlighting the National Park (e.g. Like embroidered T Shirts with park logo)
 - b. Institutions like VFDS, SHG strengthened and trained in ecotourism
 - c. There is a conscious reduction of deforestation through community groups keeping an eye on the poachers

- Measures:
- a. Institutional capacity building for VFDC.
 - b. Convergence planned with NABARD for SHG capacity building
 - c. Human capacity building for mountaineering, trekking, ecological sensitive tourism's code of conduct
 - d. Mass awareness for ecological sensitive community based rural tourism
 - e. Marketing strategy and infrastructure development through workshop, trainings, online communication tools





Micro plan Objective

To incorporate FES approach into the forest management in the Prini Panchayat forest of Hamta Valley area which lies in the territorial forest division of Kullu.



Methodology for data collection

1. The **environmental data** has been collected based on field measurement and other secondary data.
2. The **demographic data** was collected using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), baseline survey report, and other secondary sources like documents from the Gram Panchayats, Department of Animal Husbandry, Anganwaris (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) and Local Revenue Office.

3. **Facilitation and matrix** were the tools used to collect information on seasonality and labour availability.
4. **Facilitation and stakeholder map** were the tools used during stakeholder mapping.
5. **Resource mapping** (for ecotourism) was used for resource mapping related to various ecotourism products in the valley. Participants were asked to list all the symbiotic and nature-based products that are of prime interest to the tourists coming to Hamta. It also led the community to see forest resources as base for ecotourism-based business opportunities.

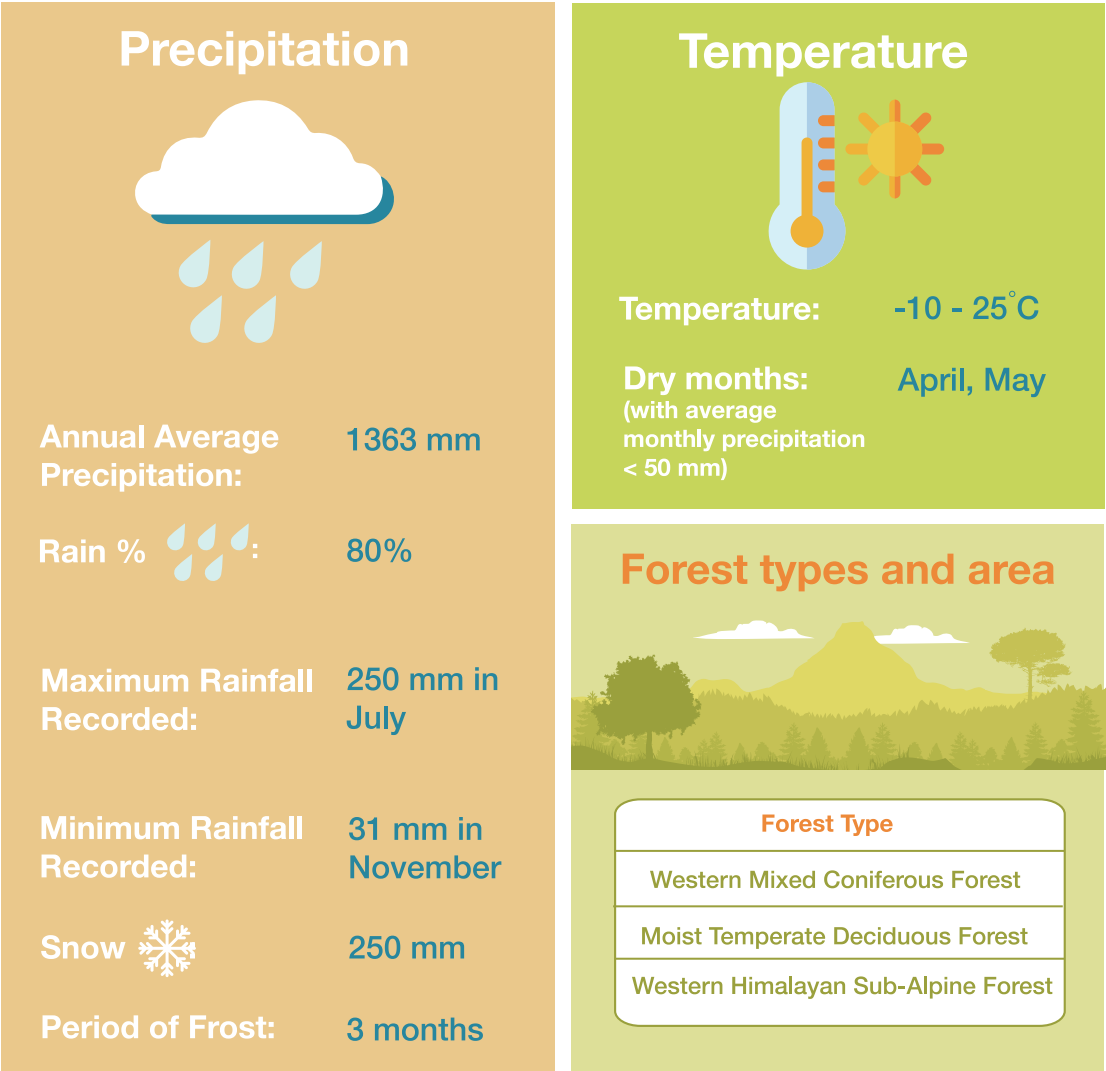


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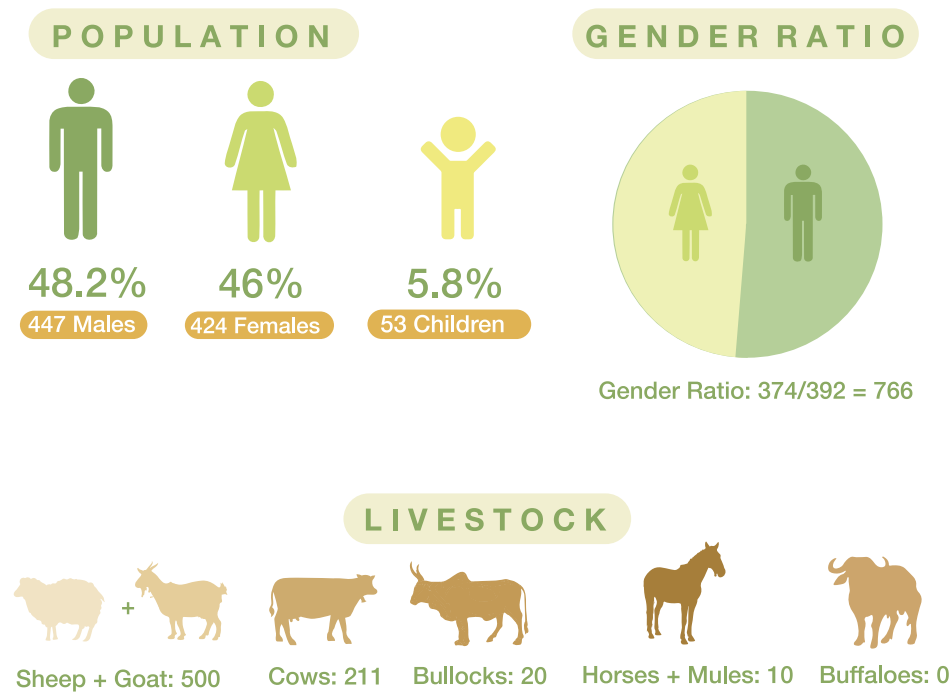
Data Collection Results

Environmental Data: Hamta

ELEVATION RANGE : 2000 m - 3500 m



Demographic Data: Hamta



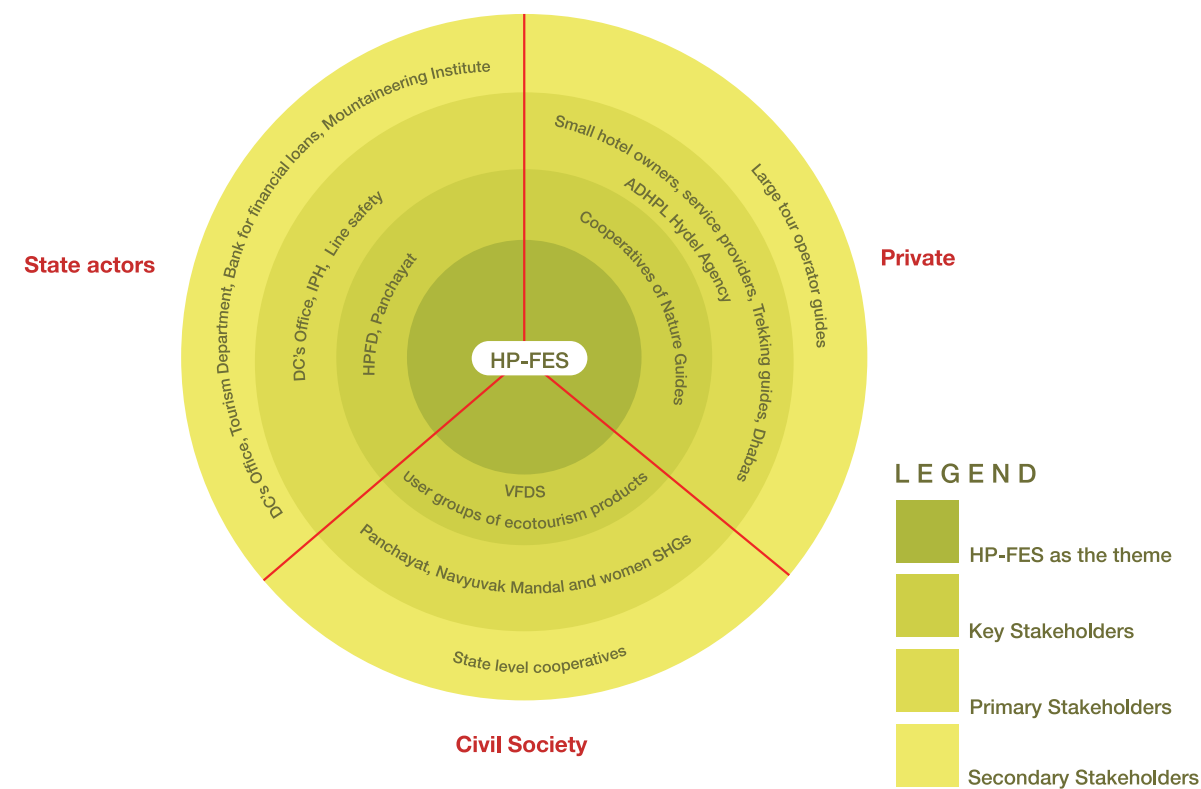
OCCUPATION

S.No.	Job Type	Number
1.	Government	25
2.	Private	45
3.	Self Employed	—
4.	Agriculture/ Horticulture	181
5.	Wage Labour	—

LAND HOLDING

S.No.	Land Holding Type	No. of Households
1.	Marginal	80
2.	Small	20
3.	Medium	—
4.	Large	—

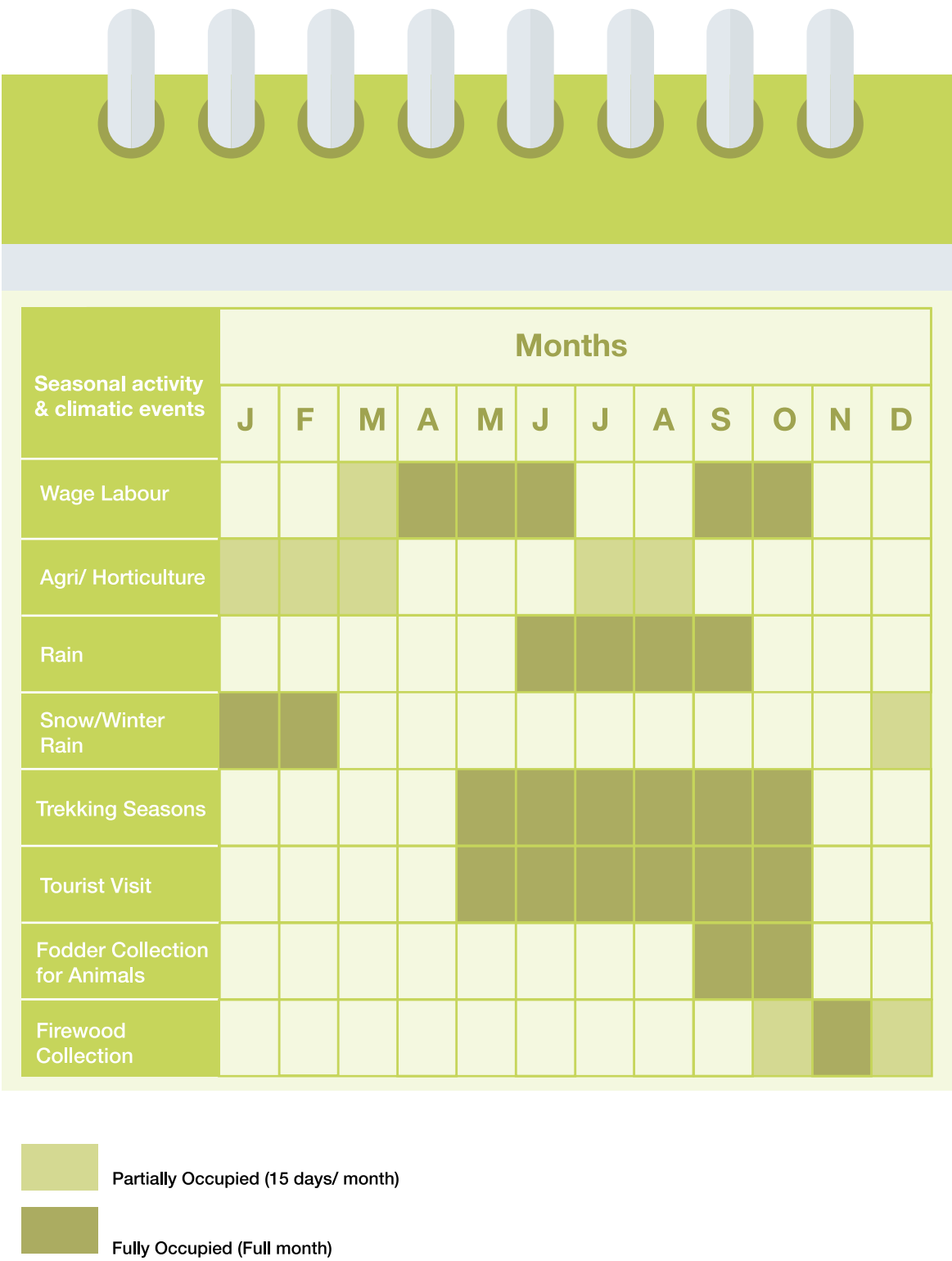
Major Stakeholders



The inner most circle consists of the key stakeholders, followed by primary and secondary stakeholders with HP-FES as the theme.
The 3 categories represent as to which class does each stakeholder belong.

Category/ Class	Key Stakeholders	Primary Stakeholders	Secondary Stakeholders
Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Village Forest Development Society(VFDS)User groups of ecotourism products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PanchayatNavyuvak Mandal and women SHGs	State Level Cooperatives
Private	Cooperatives of Nature Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small hotel owners, service providers like those providing mules, rentals for tents, winter clothes, food grocery suppliersTrekking guidesDhabasADHPL Hydel Agency	Large tour operator guides
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HPFDPanchayat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deputy Commissioner's officeIPHLine Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deputy Commissioner's OfficeTourism DepartmentBank for financial loansMountaineering Institute

Seasonality of labour distribution





Important Tourism Products at Hamta



Nature based soft adventure tourism products, Mountaineering, Camping, Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Heli-skiing, Mountain Biking

Examples: Ecotreks: Hamta Pass Trek (horse), Hamta Circle Trek (horse), Hamta Bhrigu Lake Trek (porter), Deo Tibba Base Camp Trek (horse), Inderkilla Base Camp Trek (porter)

PRIME ATTRACTIONS



Camping, Yoga, Meditation at Thatches

Examples: Pha Konda Peak, Pyagneru Thatch (Deo Tibba), Kansar Marasu Thatch, Hocking Bihal, Aara Thatch, Jwara, Bhalu Ka Ghera, Shia Garu, Hanasu Thatch, Pandu Ropa, Bhrigu Lake, Panduroopa

OTHER ATTRACTIONS



Waterfalls, Sunrise points, Excursion points, Day tourists

Examples: Tuna Waterfall (near barrage), Chalet Waterfall (2 Km from roadhead towards Bijauri Thatch), Chikka Waterfall (6 Km), Jhamir Waterfall (4 Km), Snow slides

SIGHTSEEING POINTS



Kullu handlooms, Fairs, Spiritual pilgrimage, temples, cuisines

Examples: Pattu, shawls, socks etc., Magha Ra Saja, Jamdagini Rishi Yatra, Bini Nawami (Ram), Pheemra, Momo, Khodre ki Roti, Makki ki Roti, Chawal ki Roti (chalethi), Siddu, Aksu, Red Rice

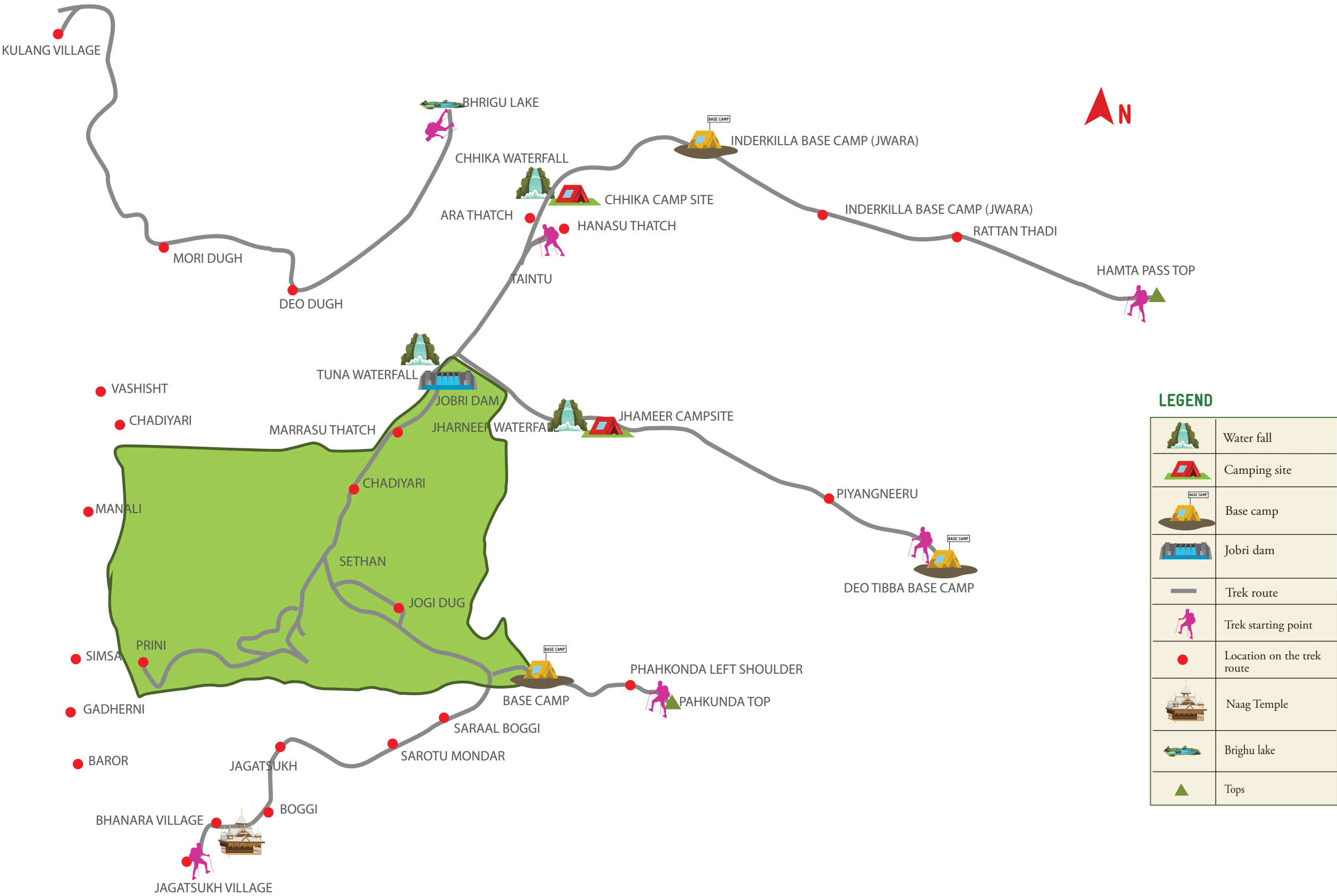
ETHNIC CULTURE PRODUCTS

CHAPTER- 4

Rankwise Priority Forest Ecosystem Services

RANK	FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICE
1.	 Ecotourism
2.	 Snow
3.	 Construction wood (Symbol Copyright: Jan Sosse)
4.	 Water
5.	 Fodder

Treks in and around Hamta



Hamta Activity Budget Line

S. No.	Activity	No.	FA (food, travel of resource persons, training equipment rental)
1	Institutional Training (management, marketing, accountancy, computerization, conflict resolution, team building etc., for panchayat level society	1	20,000
2	Mass awareness on ecologically sensitive community based rural tourism	1	45,000
3	Exposure visits to see community-based ecotourism for chosen members	1	1,00,000
4	Three-day cluster level residential camp for trainings on upgradation of homestays x 2 (basic and advanced levels for 20 persons)	2	68,000
5	Five-days cluster level residential camp for training on Trekking and Camping x 2 (basic and advanced levels for 20 persons)	2	2,15,000
6	Two-day non-residential training on solid waste management for 20 persons	1	20,000
7	Two-day non-residential training on culinary skills for 20 persons X 2 (Basic and Advanced)	2	45,000
8	Five-day cluster level residential training on static campsite management X 2 for 20 persons (Basic and Advanced)	2	2,60,000
9	Mountaineering training (Basic and Advanced course at ABVIMAS, Manali) at scheduled rates for five persons	2	1,80,000
10	Three-day non-residential training for identified trekking guides on First Aid and Rescue	2	25,000
11	Training on communication and marketing for guides, homestay owners and local tour operators	1	70,000
12	Any other trainings as suggested by the HP Forest Department (SHG training for handicrafts, etc)	5	80,000
Total Budget for Capacity Building			11,28,000
15	Digitalization of Tourism Resource Mapping of Entire catchment to identify and verify tourism resources and plan for participatory tourism interventions	1	-
17	Production of Brochures and other innovative print media with maps & contact information	1	-
18	Pictorial and Text Documentation of all tourism products in the area	1	-
19	Creation of Master Website as marketing hub with linkages	1	-
20	Maintenance of blogs, Web 2 Tools and Websites	2	-
Marketing Communication Media			
21	Basic Mobile Camping Equipment - each 10 Sets of tents, rucksacks, kitchen equipment and sleeping bag	10	-

Eco guide Equipment Total			
22	Office equipments and stationary	-	1,15,000
Office Total			1,15,000
Hub coordinator/community mobiliser			
Grand total			12,43,000

CHAPTER- 5

Monitoring and Evaluation

Framework for monitoring and evaluation segregated in two sections:

- 1. **M&E undertaken by the HPFD:** In-house monitoring of activities against physical and financial indicators as per a pre-defined timeline. This will be undertaken by the HPFD frontline staff. The work done will also be subjected to the monitoring framework used by the HPFD. This system will evaluate vegetation and other related ecosystem service flow over a period. GIS-based maps for JFM areas, with clearly delineated village boundaries will be deployed by HPFD.
- 2. **Participatory Monitoring by VFDS:** The M&E team will include a local forest guard of the beat, one member of VFDS nominated by the Executive Committee of the VFDS and the president of local Mahila Mandal. This group will provide report against indicators after ground truthing for various activities undertaken in the field.



VISITOR’S FEEDBACK

S. No.	Name	Address/ E-mail	Feedback

S. No.	Name	Address/ E-mail	Feedback



S. No.	Name	Address/ E-mail	Feedback

S. No.	Name	Address/ E-mail	Feedback

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