

## **An Assessment of CBT and Homestay Sites in Spiti District, Himachal Pradesh**

Conducted by:

**Nandita Jain, The Mountain Institute**  
**Rinchen Wangchuk, Field Program Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy (India)**  
**Rodney Jackson, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy (USA)**

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**Introduction:** The survey described in this report builds upon prior CBT activities undertaken by The Mountain Institute (TMI) in partnership with the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) in Ladakh, supported by a grant from UNESCO (with co-financing from SLC). Under the evolving concept of “Himalayan Homestays”, initially developed and tested in Ladakh, it is proposed that activities be expanded to selected states in India in a strategic and effective way. *Himalayan Homestays* are part of a larger integrated program to link snow leopard conservation with local livelihoods in Asia.

The neighbouring well-endowed Buddhist areas of Lahul and Spiti of Himachal Pradesh also support good populations of snow leopard, ibex, and other wildlife. Lahul and Spiti have not received, at least until recently, the number of visitors that Ladakh has in large part to its better access (there are no direct flights into Spiti) and also to regulations (these areas have required Inner Line Permits). However, these areas are gaining in popularity among domestic and foreign visitors alike and present another opportunity to link cultural and natural heritage conservation with income generation for local populations. Important protected areas that are home to the snow leopard and its prey include the Pin Valley National Park and Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.

Not every homestay will be the same, but they all share common characteristics of commitments to reliability, protecting and sensitively interpreting of local cultural and natural heritage values, and value for money for both host and visitor. With similar products emerging in other Himalayan areas, such as Kumaon in Uttaranchal and Sikkim, there are good opportunities to network with other organizations and practitioners to learn and then jointly promote the product to the appropriate market segment.

This survey was undertaken by Nandita Jain, Rinchen Wangchuk and Rodney Jackson between August 3 and 14, 2003. The primary objectives of the survey were to:

- Gather initial baseline information on tourism visitation levels and patterns
- Assess snow leopard conservation linked-ecotourism potential with focus on traditional accommodation options and cultural heritage conservation

- Identify potential partners (local) for project implementation
- Identify prospective candidates for training at the upcoming Nanda Devi Workshop and recruitment by SLC to manage a CBT program in the Spiti area
- Identify sites for community stewardship of snow leopards and their habitat which address key threats (especially depredation “hotspots” within or adjacent to the Pin Valley National Park and Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary)

The itinerary of the survey is shown in Annex 1. Information was solicited through interviews of local government officials, NGOs, guesthouse owners, tour operations, tourism-sector entrepreneurs and others. Additional information accrued from the literature, and notably the publications by Chardutt Mishra and his associates. To the extent possible within the survey’s short-time frame, we collected the following information on each important location visited:

- Number of households in the community
- Local economic context (degree of dependence of natural resources, especially rangeland) and potential co-financing capacity
- Labor or other constraints (if any)
- Current tourist visitation pattern (approx number, FITs versus groups and agency organized trips)
- Number and names of existing guest houses/hotels (approx visitation levels and rates)
- Names of main travel agencies or promoters pushing the area (prospective marketing partners)
- List of scenic, cultural and wildlife viewing opportunities (day walks, special trip opportunities)
- Unique attractions setting this site apart from others
- Interest among youth in guiding and tourism-related work
- Site access routes (trekking or via vehicle), accessibility and transport requirements
- Interest and willingness of community to invest and participate in CBT, especially homestays
- Constraints faced by existing guest-houses or homestays (if any)
- Site interpretation and marketing or promotional needs
- Options for co-financing from private and government sector (local investors, entrepreneurs etc)

**Background on Spiti:** This district is located within the Trans-Himalayan region of India, and consists of a high altitude “cold desert” zone with cold winters (-30° C to 3 °C) and warm summers (1°C to 28° C). Vegetation is sparse. Spiti covers some 12,200 sq km centered on the catchment of the Spiti River. The human population is about 10,000,

giving it one of the lowest densities in India (less than one person per square kilometer). In 1891, Spiti's population was around 3,500.

Protected areas comprise 17% of Spiti District. The Pin Valley National Park has a core area of 675 km<sup>2</sup>, and is centered about the Parahio River. The intention to constitute Pin Valley as a national park was declared in 1987. It harbors a significant population of ibex and snow leopards, along with 20 other important animal species, and over 400 plant species (Green 1993). Wolves are occasional visitors. There are 15 settlements (population 1,600 people) within the park's buffer zone that totals 1,150 km<sup>2</sup> in area, as well as a summer settlements (*dogharies*) of 6 settlements within the core zone that are used by local and migrant herders (Bagchi et al. 2002). Some pea and barely cultivation also occurs in the Parahio catchment core zone. The park is also used by migratory graziers who bring their sheep and goats across the 5,400 m Pin Parvati pass each summer (six herds each comprised of 500-800 animals). The above researchers believe that such use is incompatible with ibex conservation, due to competitive exclusion for fodder. Shelters, known as bunkers are situated at 10-15 km intervals, and are available for use by trekkers.

Established in 1992, the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary (1,400 km<sup>2</sup>) is located in the northern catchment of the Spiti River and is flanked by Ladakh to the north and Tibet to the east. Important wildlife species are blue sheep, ibex, wolf, snow leopard, red fox, and a number of bird species characteristic of the cold mountain desert ecosystem (Green 1993). There are some 13 settlements along the periphery of the sanctuary, and one (Kibberi) village within its boundary. Seven summer settlements with some cultivation occur within the sanctuary (Mishra 2001). Kibber was the first village in Upper Spiti connected by road to the tourist center of Manali over the Rohtang La. It is located about 20 km from Spiti's administrative centre of Kaza.

Subsistence livelihoods prevailed in all communities until the late 1970's or early 1980's. Spitians grew barley, raised livestock and traded grains in exchange for wool, salt, and rugs with herders (known as *Changpa*) from Changtang (Ladakh) who visited during the summer with their livestock. Spiti is renowned for its high quality horses, which were also sold to Tibetans or exchanged for yaks. Except for the latter, such trade has now almost died out due to virtually complete shift to a cash-based economy.

While the amount of cultivated land per household has not changed, there has been a major shift in terms of the crops grown. In 1983, the growing of green peas was initiated by an enterprising Kibber family. It quickly led to a small agro-revolution in Spiti, resulting in the shift from bartering to a market-driven, cash-based economy which was closely linked with the introduction of roads (enabling the transport of this high value cash crop to the markets in Kullu and Kinnaur). Barley production now takes up less than half or even 30% of the available cropland. The estimated annual production of green pea per household in Kibber is estimated at over 2,550 kg, and valued at around US \$ 210 per annum (1994 exchange rate). This compares to an annual per household barley production of around 1,300 kg (Mishra 2000). In Pin Valley, the equivalent household value for pea barley production is \$365 (Bagchi et al. 2002). Prior to 2001, households in

the Parahio area earned \$197 through trade in livestock, mostly horses of the famous *churmurti* breed, sold to the Indian Army.

Mishra (2000) reported that livestock holdings in Kibber increased from 2.6% (1971-1987) to 3.5% (1987-1997), with the rest of Spiti experiencing a 3.2% increase since 1987. Numbers of yak, goats and sheep have increased, while those of cows and dzomos have declined. He noted significant people-wildlife conflict due to predation of domestic stock by snow leopard in Kibber, estimating that 17.5% of the livestock holdings were killed by the endangered cat species in the late 1990's. However, these numbers are almost certainly an over-estimate, and include losses to other factors. Bagchi et al. (2002) noted people in Pin Valley considered livestock loss to predators (especially snow leopard) affects their livelihoods adversely. They are also not satisfied with the government's compensation scheme. Livestock losses due to fodder shortage were equally severe, and along with the introduction of cash cropping, the trend is toward reduced herd size (especially of predation-prone horses) here as well.

Although roads were constructed into Spiti in the early 1980's, the area was not opened to tourism until 1992. Spiti (translated as "middle country") is known for its spectacular scenery, narrow valleys and unusual geological features, ancient monasteries (such as the 10<sup>th</sup> century Tabo, the cliff-top Dhankar, and the fortress-like Ki), predominant Buddhist culture and its many festivals. It was loosely ruled for several centuries by the hereditary *Nono*, with its warm and hospitable people belonging mostly to the Geluk-pa branch of Tibetan Buddhism. Religion plays a major role in everyday life of the Spitian.

The millennium celebration of Tabo took place in 1996, at which H.H. The Dalai Lama conducted the Kalachakra ceremony. Tabo is the oldest functioning Buddhist monastery in India and the Himalaya, an ancient center of learning, and second only to Tholing Monastery in Tibet in terms of its number of followers. Known as the *Himalayan Ajanta*, it is unusual in its "doctrinal circle" construction, having 9 temples, one with 33 unusual stucco wall images, four decorated stupas and 23 chortens with a series of nearby cliff caves used long-used for meditation. It was linked to the ancient Kingdom of Guge (Tsaparang) in western Tibet along the Chandrabhaga, Spiti and Sutlej rivers, the route used by the revered rimpoche Rinchen Zangpo in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Situated at 3,900 m on a hilltop, the four or five century old Dhankar gompa and fort formerly served as the traditional capital of Spiti. Ki (Kye) Monastery was established by the founder of the Gelugpa sect in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, and is famous for its ancient thankas, rare manuscripts, stucco images and musical "wind" instruments, as well as its beautiful though restored murals. The legendary masked Devil Dance is celebrated here. There are also important monasteries in Mud, Kungri, Thangyud, Lalung, Hikim, Sagnam, Mane, Gogma, and Giu.

Due to the lack of year-round access and cold, the tourist season lasts just three months, from June through August. Winter snows close the trunk road from the main Manali-Leh route from October through late April or May. Intermittent year-round access is provided from Kinnaur along the lower elevation Sutlej valley, but this area lies close to the

Chinese border and a special “Inner Line” permit is required (issued only to groups of 4 or more foreigners).

Spiti is heavily subsidized (approximately 70% of the economy) by the Himachal Pradesh Government. Under the Public Works Department, most villages have now been connected by road, and many have small hydroelectricity facilities as well. Literacy has doubled in the last 25 years from 22% to the current level of over 50%. Along with civil servants, there is a significant summer migrant force from Nepal and Bihar and other parts of India, the combination of which probably equals the indigenous population. With the government’s intensive infrastructure development program, there are plenty of construction and labor contracting opportunities for local residents to earn income. In study conducted in 2002 (Bagchi, et. al) in the Pin Valley, it was found that of 81 households surveyed, 71% had alternate sources of income to agriculture such as part-time employment, as well as full-time jobs in government departments.

### **Findings**

***Visitations to Lahul and Spiti District:*** During the period, June 15 to July 31, 2003, some 340 persons entered the district, while 380 left (coming into the district from Kinnaur) according to records of the Lossar check-post. These and other check-post records are not formally compiled, but total visitation estimates range from 500 to 1,000 foreign visitors for 2001. The number of tourists this year is significantly higher than 2002, when the USA and Britain countries issued blanket travel warnings for India.

The most common foreign nationality is Israeli, followed by French, Germans and other Europeans. The number of Indian visitors is not recorded, but anecdotal information suggests small numbers of college students, although Tabo seems to have received Indians who come in via Kinnaur (especially Army and Government officials).

The main Indian travel agents operating in the area are from Manali, Delhi and Ladakh, with transportation services being dominated by Himachal Pradesh tourist taxis.

***Wildlife Conservation Initiatives:*** Besides the two protected areas described above, there are two small-scale community-based wildlife conservation initiatives being undertaken by the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT): a Grazing Land Aside, established in 1999 and a Livestock Depredation Insurance Program initiated last year.

Local residents have largely negative or at least ambivalent attitudes toward wildlife, because of livestock losses to snow leopard and/or wolf. Our limited interviews indicated that depredation levels have declined in recent years from those reported by Mishra (1997) and Bagchi et al. (2002).

The Wildlife Wing of the HP Forest Department manages a compensation program for herders who lose livestock to snow leopard and wolf while grazing within a protected area or its buffer zone. Last year it settled 30-40 claims, amounting to about 1.5 lakhs,

out of a total of 150 applications filed. Horses are reimbursed at Rs 1,000, goats and sheep at 250, and yaks at 1,500 or less. However, the program suffers badly from lack of funding, fraudulent claims, and support or endorsement on the part of the villagers. Multiple killings occur periodically. The department identified a number of depredation hotspots, as indicated below:

Protected Area	Depredation Hotspot Village Names
Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary	Chirhum, Kibber, Demule, Komic, Gete, Tashigang, Lalung
Pin Valley National Park	Guling upper Guling, Kungri, Sagnam, Tangti Yogma, Gogma, Khar, Talung, Mudh, Bhar

*Depredation:*

1) Pin Valley: Predation rates appear to be less than 3% of the total herd, and have declined in recent years according to the knowledgeable persons we interviewed. However there are some hotspots. Losses around Mud consist of 7-8 young horses each year, but with 2 of 30 killed in 2002 (15%). This year over 25 sheep and goats were killed in a single event at Korsa. All losses are due to snow leopard, and no wolf predation has been recorded in the past few decades. Predation risks for horses during their first two years of life are very high. Such losses are not compensated by the Wildlife Wing, despite the high value of horses (Rs 30,000-40,000/-). Adult horses and yak are free roaming, except in winter when stall-feeding is required because of deep snows. Shepherding is on a rotating basis, with two herders from each family serving a single day on a 9-day rotating basis. Horse rearing has declined in the past two years, due to the advent of the road which enabled residents to earn good cash from growing green peas like the Kibber households. Also, pack animals are no longer needed to ferry rations to each village following widespread road construction.

2) Kibber: Depredation levels have declined in recent years from high level reported in 1997, when the villagers estimated that 12% of their herds (valued at \$128 per family per year) were killed by snow leopard and wolf (Mishra 1997). Sheep and goats comprised 42% and horses 37% of the loss respectively. These losses are probably exaggerated, although villagers reacted to predation on horses by reducing the number they owned. Only nine animals have been lost in the past year in Kibber. Gete and Tashigang remain as local depredation hotspots, given their proximity to preferred snow leopard habitat. Protective measures employed in Kibber include:

- Communal herding of sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys (*Lukzee* – head shepherd, *Bhayok* – cows and dzos, *Bhuyok* – donkeys, *Rayok* – sheep and goats) one recruited on a rotational basis from each family, with the head shepherds guaranteed work in the PWD. The reward for good shepherding goes to the *Lukzee* for which key criteria include livestock losses and status of pastures. The group of shepherds decides which area to graze on a daily basis.
- Significant reduction in numbers of vulnerable free-ranging horses
- Wire-mesh predator-proofing of corrals in hotspots like Gete
- Protection of natural prey species like blue sheep and ibex

Prior to the establishment of the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, herders would locate wolf dens and destroy litters by removing or killing the pups. Snow leopards were rarely trapped, but one was killed in a livestock pen according to Mishra (1997).

### **Potential Opportunities for CBT**

TMI and SLC's overall strategy for promoting community-based tourism is to proceed at a measured pace, build upon successes and not raise expectations unduly. Our approach emerges from the experience and results of several years of developing and supporting community-based tourism in mountainous regions. If seen as key steps these would be taken in the following order, with significant investments in skills development and building reliability and followed by an increasing focus on promotion and expansion later.

- Skills development of providers of services building capacity to plan, manage, adapt and innovate;
- Building reliability in services and methods used, e.g. field testing, monitoring mechanisms, manuals, market research methods, etc., such that these can not only inform more than one project;
- Promotion and expansion of services and products, but in a measured manner so that the right clientele are drawn to a reliable product, and
- Monitoring and adaptive management, based on lessons learned from all programme sites and partners.

With the above in mind, our implementation strategy for Spiti will include the elements described in the following paragraphs.

*Field to Policy linkages:* For successful CBT it is important that small and large-scale efforts are linked in order to inform and strengthen each other. CBT is more likely to often succeed when there is adequate policy support from government, especially in the areas of community conservation efforts and financing of small scale economic development. In Spiti, the local stakeholders talked about the need to increase awareness among policy-makers as an important activity. So our activities will need to influence Spiti block level policy, based on actual field and site experiences.

*Ecotourism Awareness Workshop:* One possible activity to help start this process is a Spiti-level workshop with a range of stakeholders to raise awareness about ecotourism in general, and to brainstorm ideas for locally adapted community-based initiatives. TMI and SLC have conducted similar workshops in Ladakh, Sikkim and Utranchal with considerable success. With assistance from local experts, it will be possible to have a similar workshop in Spiti, drawing upon ideas from local stakeholders as well as experience elsewhere in India.

*Community or Village based Activities:* Criteria for selecting community or village sites should include the following:

1. existing tourism activities and ability to encourage responsible tourism

2. potential to meet SLC / TMI objectives
3. ability to make an impact
4. community commitment and willingness to co-finance / support CBT and conservation activities
5. monitoring capacity and commitment

From our initial survey (see matrices below), we think that Sagnam, Kibber and Tashigang are suitable potential communities with whom to start CBT activities based on the above criteria. These communities are located close to or in the Kibber WS and Pin Valley NP, and offer prospects for cultural and wildlife-based tourism that could build upon existing local skills and knowledge. For the time being, we do not see Mud village and its surrounding environment meeting the above criteria, in large part because of changes the trunk road is bringing about.

We envisage that local NGOs who receive CBT training in September 2003 will be able to develop local CBT plans with the communities, for which SLC/TMI can provide technical and financial support for both planning and wildlife tourism development. Such an approach does not preclude these NGOs from developing other CBT activities: indeed they should do so to ensure a more integrated tourism development, for which additional funds can be sought.

*Partnerships and Partners:* In order to help ensure sustainability and ownership, and to build local capacity, TMI and SLC have a policy of working with, and preferably through, local Spiti organizations. Our approach in Spiti for CBT development will be to contract such NGOs to carry out all CBT planning and subsequent plans in mutually identified sites, with the focus of our funding going to planning and cultural and wildlife tourism. TMI and SLC will provide overall technical and financial supervision and technical assistance as needed.

Generally, Spiti has relatively few operational NGOs compared to Ladakh, and significantly less compared to other mountain regions such as Utranchal. Two NGOs were identified, namely, MUSE – working with local women on the processing of sea buckthorn, and the All Spiti Youth Organization – a Spiti-wide organization working with young people. Both organizations expressed interest in ecotourism and community-based activities, and each nominated a staff person to attend the CBT course in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve which is being funded in large part through our UNESCO grant.

Additional technical and institutional support will also accrue from ECOSS (EcoTourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim) and CESL (Center for Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihoods). The role of ISLT has yet to be determined.

*General Ecotourism and CBT Activities in Spiti:* In addition to the suggested Ecotourism Awareness workshop, we identified other general activities in support of CBT development:



- Study tour for mixed group of participants (NGO reps, community leaders, homestay, lodge or tour operators) to Ladakh to learn about collaborative CBT initiatives;
- Specific training courses, CBT planning for Spiti (and possibly Ladakh) by previously trained people, nature guide training – basic and advanced courses using Disney and other funds with commitments from trainees to monitor wildlife and habitat along trail routes (to include participants from Ladakh);
- Nature interpretation for PAs – species lists and signage (check with Rajiv Bhartari about potential ideas and materials appropriate for Indian PAs);
- Promote environmental education and awareness through alliances with monasteries and Rimpoches; and
- Cultural Guide training – basic interpretation of Spiti people and culture to improve appreciation of monasteries and the cultural landscape.

*Linkages with current activities:* At present SLC/TMI are supporting a *Himalayan Homestays* program in Ladakh with local communities and operators. Current homestays (in Kibber and Tashigang), and some additional ones in Spiti could potentially be part of this program, making collaborative use of homestay planning, training materials, website marketing and interpretive materials. There is also potential to carry out training courses for small guesthouses (2-4 rooms) in hospitality, hygiene and food preparation (e.g. in Sagnet).

ISLT and NCF are supporting wildlife monitoring and research activities in Kibber, and to a lesser extent in Pin Valley. Initially, we see a need to coordinate TMI/SLC activities with those of ISLT/NCF, especially to build upon each organisation's strengths, and to minimize or avoid duplication of effort.

*Monitoring and Evaluation:* SLC and TMI recognize the value of participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) in their programs, as a basis for adaptive management by all stakeholders. Such PM&E provides a more effective strategic function for stakeholders, for it does not rely on costly, time-consuming and highly technical methods. A critical component of PM&E is the development of locally identified indicators that inform and help local stakeholders as opposed to those indicators which help or appeal more to scientists and donors. Toward this end, we note the importance of ensuring that the ongoing wildlife monitoring being conducted by NCF/ISLT under the SLIMS or other protocols also benefits CBT development.

*Funding:* The activities described above are funded under grants from UNESCO and Disney. The joint ISLT/SLC proposal to Disney requested \$60,000 over two years (total project budget \$116,000), but \$12,000 only was provided. The proposal identified 5 primary objectives (people-wildlife conflict alleviation to income-enhancement, awareness raising and baseline research). Indicative actions suggested in this document included corral improvements, herder education, livestock insurance, CBT, handicrafts (Snow Leopard Enterprises), and research. Potential CBT products and activities mentioned include homestays in traditional houses, village-based cafes and food services, improved campground facilities, guide services, horse-pack rental, and signage and interpretive materials.

However, the proposal made clear that no activity should be prescribed from outside, but rather developed under a “bottom-up” approach using APPA within the context of local opportunities and market or environmental realities. Given the substantial budgetary shortfall, and in light of opportunities identified during our field trip, we believe that a good use of the \$6,000 available under SLC’s share of the Disney grant would be to conduct a special nature guide training for local residents and homestay or guest-house entrepreneurs. This would offer clear linkages with snow leopard and wildlife conservation, especially if also imbedded with participatory monitoring commitments on the part of the trainees. TMI and SLC intend to seek UNESCO funding for a more comprehensive CBT program next year. Initial discussions with local Spiti stakeholders indicate a keen interest in building local capacity for ecotourism.

Thus, our first step is to train individuals from two Spiti-based NGOs in basic CBT planning, and then to provide each organization with a small grant to enable them to develop their own locally-based and participatory “Spitian-driven” CBT plan (with technical input from TMI, SLC and other organizations). These activities can be largely funded under our 2003 UNESCO Spiti site assessment grant, and Disney funds will complement these participatory initiatives.

In completing our survey on schedule, we feel that important progress has been made toward initiating the indicative community-based output identified under the Disney grant. But clearly, both SLC and ISLT will have to secure significant additional funding in order to meet the broad-based snow leopard conservation program indicated by the Disney application.

Finally, ISLT/NCF’s focus and contribution to the project needs to be discussed and identified without further delay. Therefore, we recommend that a meeting be arranged with Yash Veer Bhatnagar and/or Charu Mishra to discuss activities and coordination protocols under the Disney Grant. The suggested date and venue is September 4th in Delhi, when both Rodney Jackson and Nandita Jain will be available prior to leaving India.

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## Site/Village Assessment Matrix

Site	Wildlife and Natural	Cultural	Tourist Demand/Visitation	Financial	Social/Organisations	Infrastructure	Skills/Technology
<b>Mud</b> 35 households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scenic backdrop</li> <li>Good ibex / SL habitat</li> <li>View toward 2 passes</li> <li>Scenic access drive</li> <li>Some depredation (3%), appears to be declining</li> </ul> <p>PVNP is immediately to the N of Mud &amp; ibex are often visible from the village – even in summer (see comment below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clustered colorful houses</li> <li>No other unique cultural attractions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ending point of Pin Parvati Trek from Kinnaur</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Trans-Himalayan settlement</li> <li>33 HH / 6 guest-houses</li> <li>6-7 years experience</li> <li>Limited current competition</li> <li>NEW road construction in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for local investment from sale of peas</li> <li>In come sources, in order: peas – contracts – tourism</li> <li>12-15 rooms &amp; 30-35 beds w/ 10 under development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotating village council (5 members of richer HH)</li> <li>No women's organization</li> <li>High government subsidy may inhibit community cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At roadhead</li> <li>No phone</li> <li>Non-working electricity</li> <li>Basic health post</li> <li>Impact of new road development high (increased #'s tourists to pass by village/ possible truck stop w/ dhabas)</li> </ul> <p>Some infrastructure is common in all villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road, Electricity, PWD GH, Medical, Vet., Irrigation, Community Hall, LPG connections</li> <li>Numberdars &amp; youth clubs (social organizations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic hospitality skills only</li> <li>Solar lighting &amp; local toilets</li> <li>Possible labor constraints (esp during agric season = tourism visitations)</li> </ul>
<b>Sagnam</b> 150 households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More picturesque than Mud</li> <li>Proximity to PVNP</li> <li>Ibex visible above Tiling village</li> <li>Depredation is low – 3% mostly free-roaming horses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close to Guling (gumpa – museum)</li> <li>Village gumpa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5- GHs – 30 beds</li> <li>200-300 visitors – currently mainly Israelis, more Europeans in past</li> <li>Dorje has taken Swiss visitors to see Ibex and SL</li> <li>Potential park trekking routes – use bunkers, bridges?</li> </ul>	Same as Mud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotational shepherding (2 person teams)</li> <li>Local council – check??</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road – but village is below</li> <li>Government GHs but set away from village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dorje Zangpo – local knowledge, asst to YV, tracking skills, resource person for training</li> <li>Some English language skills</li> <li>Better GH management skills</li> <li>Solar lighting</li> <li>Some labour available</li> </ul>
<b>Kibber</b> 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unique house construction</li> <li>Old gumpa at top of village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staging point for Parang-la trek – both directions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash from peas, contracting and wage labour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village council</li> <li>Youth Association</li> <li>Livestock insurance committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telecommunications but unreliable</li> <li>Electricity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-educated youth (10 and 10+2)</li> <li>Young labour force</li> </ul>

Site	Wildlife and Natural	Cultural	Tourist Demand/Visitation	Financial	Social/Organisations	Infrastructure	Skills/Technology
households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat for blue sheep</li> <li>Location and views</li> <li>Decreasing levels of depredation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>top of village</li> <li>Day hikes to Gete, Tashigang</li> <li>Sacred spring</li> <li>Funds for museum – but internal problems in village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40-60 trekking groups (till July end)</li> <li>Low-end backpackers throughout season</li> <li>Circular route to Kye</li> <li>Some pilgrims to spring</li> <li>Campsite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 hotels, 22 rooms</li> <li>Some stay in houses but few – 4 homestays</li> <li>Grazing and camping fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>committee</li> <li>All functional and working together</li> <li>No tourism association but one operator talked about its value in setting rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well- connected by roads</li> <li>Medical facility</li> <li>Irrigation</li> <li>Veterinary dispensary</li> <li>Community hall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High school</li> <li>Some English speakers</li> <li>Solar lighting</li> </ul>
Gete 6 households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good for blue sheep</li> <li>Two small wetland areas</li> <li>Depredation declining since 96</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sinking village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little visitation – mainly day hikes from Kibber</li> <li>Part of route to Kye</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash from peas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falls under Kibber</li> <li>Not part of insurance scheme</li> <li>Local initiative to reduce depredation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local telecommunication (part of Kibber)</li> <li>Electricity</li> <li>Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not clear – quite young children</li> </ul>
Tashigang 6 households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good for blue sheep</li> <li>Snow leopard signs and sightings</li> <li>Attractive gorge scenery and peaks</li> <li>Most kills by snow leopard</li> <li>Depredation impacts can be acute</li> <li>Lower livestock holding than Gete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100+ year old house</li> <li>Attractive village gumpa and chortens</li> <li>Local meditation cave with carvings (and snow leopard visit)</li> <li>The Dalai Lama's 'Palace' built entirely thru local contributions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20-30 visitors/year</li> <li>5-6 stay in 6 village houses</li> <li>Trek route to Kye, Kibber, Langcha and on to Kaza and Dhankar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash available from peas, horses and some wage labour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Gete</li> <li>No local depredation mitigation measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local telecommunication</li> <li>Electricity</li> <li>Roads (goes 6km further)</li> <li>Fenced fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainly very young children</li> <li>School till year 5</li> </ul>

## **Annex 1: Itinerary**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. Day 01:** Delhi to Chandigar to Manali

**4<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 02:** Manali - Meetings & review of survey methods and objectives; Meeting Director of Great Himalayan National Park.

**5<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 03** Manali to Kaza - Meetings with government officials & NGO staff

**6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 04:** Kaza to Mud via Sagnam, visit Lhalung Gonpa.

**7<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 05:** Sagnam – Tabo, visit Pin National Park

**8<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 06:** Tabo - Tabo Monastery; data review and report preparation

**9<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 07:** Taboo to Kibber

**10<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 08:** Kibber - Visit Gete and Tashigang

**11<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 09:** Kibber to Kasa

**12<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 10:** Kasa to Keylong

**13<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 11:** Keylong to Serchu

**14<sup>th</sup> Aug. Day 12:** Serchu to Leh

## **Annex 2: Persons met during the field trip**

### **Manali:**

Sanjeeva Panday – Director, Great Himalaya National Park

### **Kaza:**

Nono Sonam Angdui – ICDPO – in-charge, Kaza

Ishita Khanna – MUSE (Tirku or Seabuckthorn NGO)

Prakrashit Khanna - MUSE

Sunil Chauhan - MUSE

Amar Singh/Angchuk Dorje – All Spiti Youth Organization

Wildlife Range Officer – Kaza (Pin Valley NP Director was out of station)

Forest Range Officer- Kaza

### **Mud:**

Padma Dorje, Numbardhar

Padma Dorje – Guest house operator

### **Sagnam:**

Father of Dorje Zangpo

Dorje Zangpo – naturalist and guest house operator

### **Kibber:**

Tundup Dorje Sushil (Field staff of ISLT and NCF)

Rainbow Lodge operator (woman)

By phone/email: Charu Mishra and Yash Veer Bhatnagar