

Secure Himalaya' project

By IAS Toppers | 2022-10-18 17:55:00



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The Secure Himalaya project is launched by Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in association with United Nations development program (UNDP).



[ref: Times of India]

About SECURE:

- SECURE is for **Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems.**
- It is a part of “**Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development**” (Global Wildlife Program) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- It promotes **sustainable management** of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems.
 - **Aim:** To secure conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats.
 - To ensure sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic benefits for communities in the selected high-altitude landscapes in the Trans- and Greater Himalayan regions.
- It contributes to the **Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)**, a joint initiative of 12 range country governments, international agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

Key Components:

- **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
- **Securing sustainable community livelihoods** and natural resource management in high range Himalayan ecosystems
- **Enhancing enforcement, monitoring and cooperation** to reduce wildlife crime and related threats
- Knowledge, advocacy, communication and information systems established.

Achievements:

- **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI)** launched for accurate estimate the Snow Leopard population;
- Trained **2,000 frontline forest staff** and community members in monitoring of wild habitats;
- Inspiring innovation and youth participation through **SECURE Himalaya Hackathon** to develop technology-based solutions for conservation;
- Developed a **Virtual Reality experience** to highlight the importance of snow leopards among the general public and encourage policy initiatives aimed at conservation of the critically endangered species.