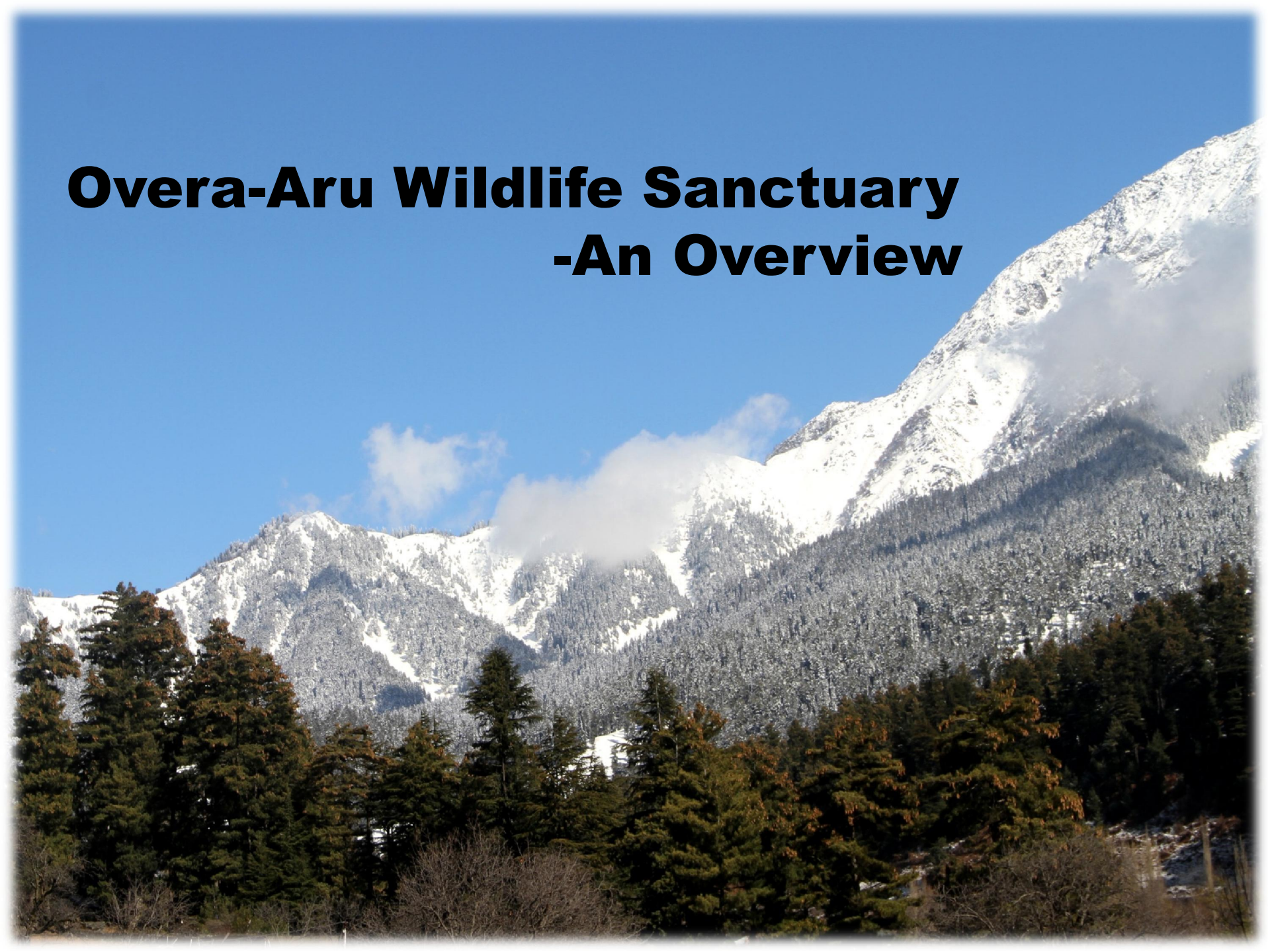
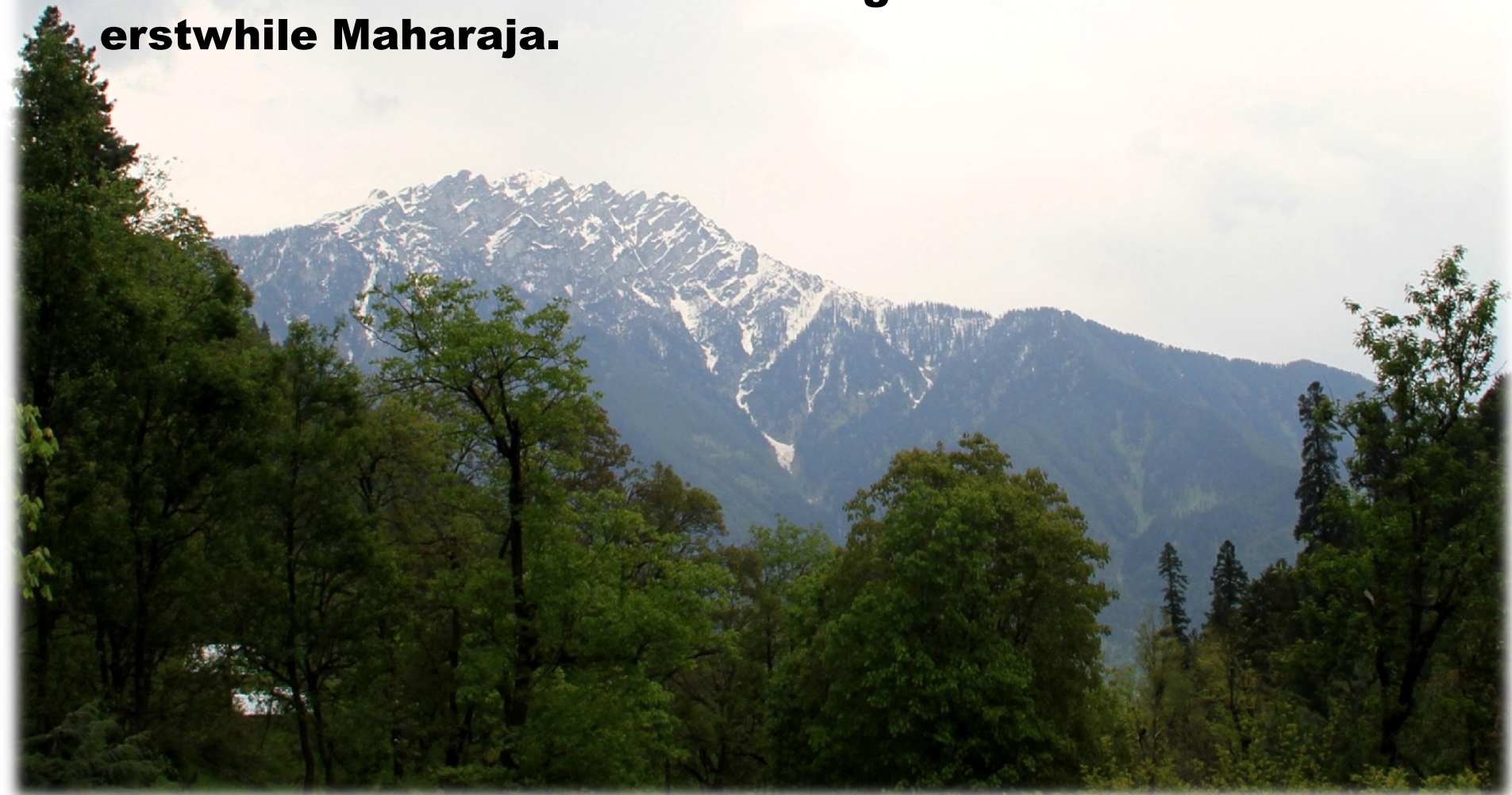


# **Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary -An Overview**



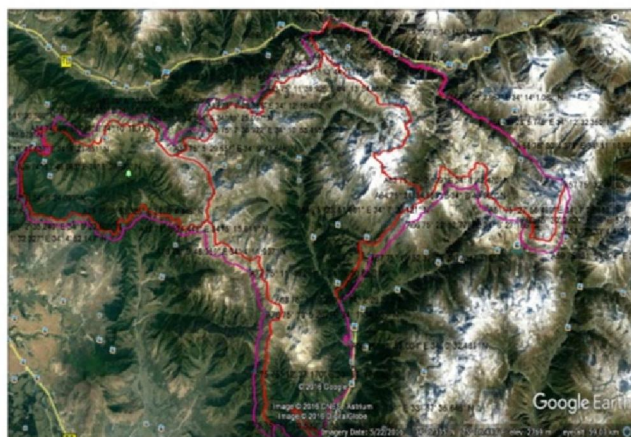
- **Named after two villages of Overa & Aru located at its fringes**
- **Falls in District Anantnag of Kashmir province**
- **Overa forests used to be a hunting reserve of the erstwhile Maharaja.**



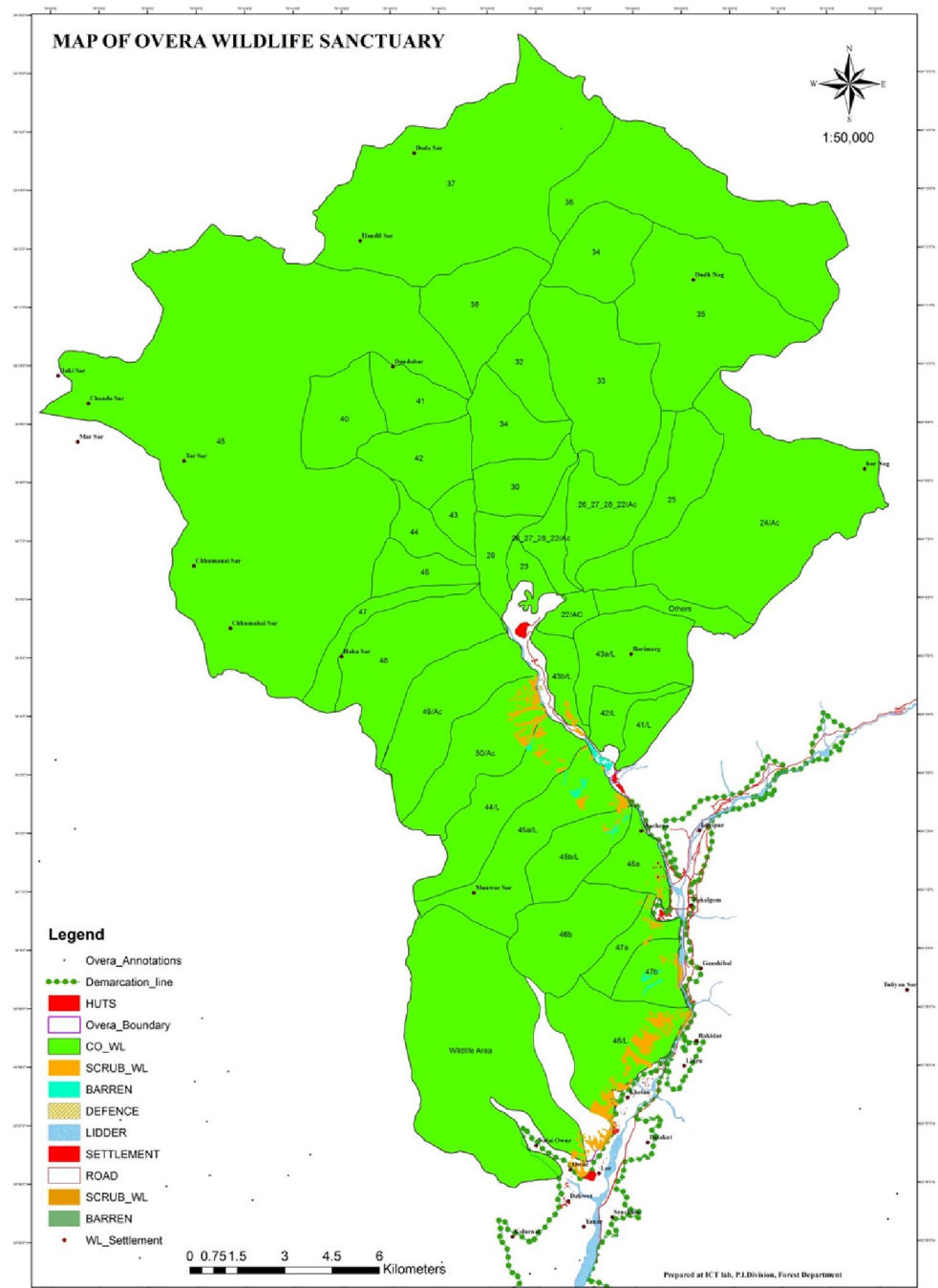
- **Notified in 1987 vide SRO-154**
- **Area: 511 sq. km**



MAP OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
SHOWING THE ECO SENSITIVE ZONE  
OF  
THAJWAS, OVERA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY &  
DACHIGAM NATIONAL PARK

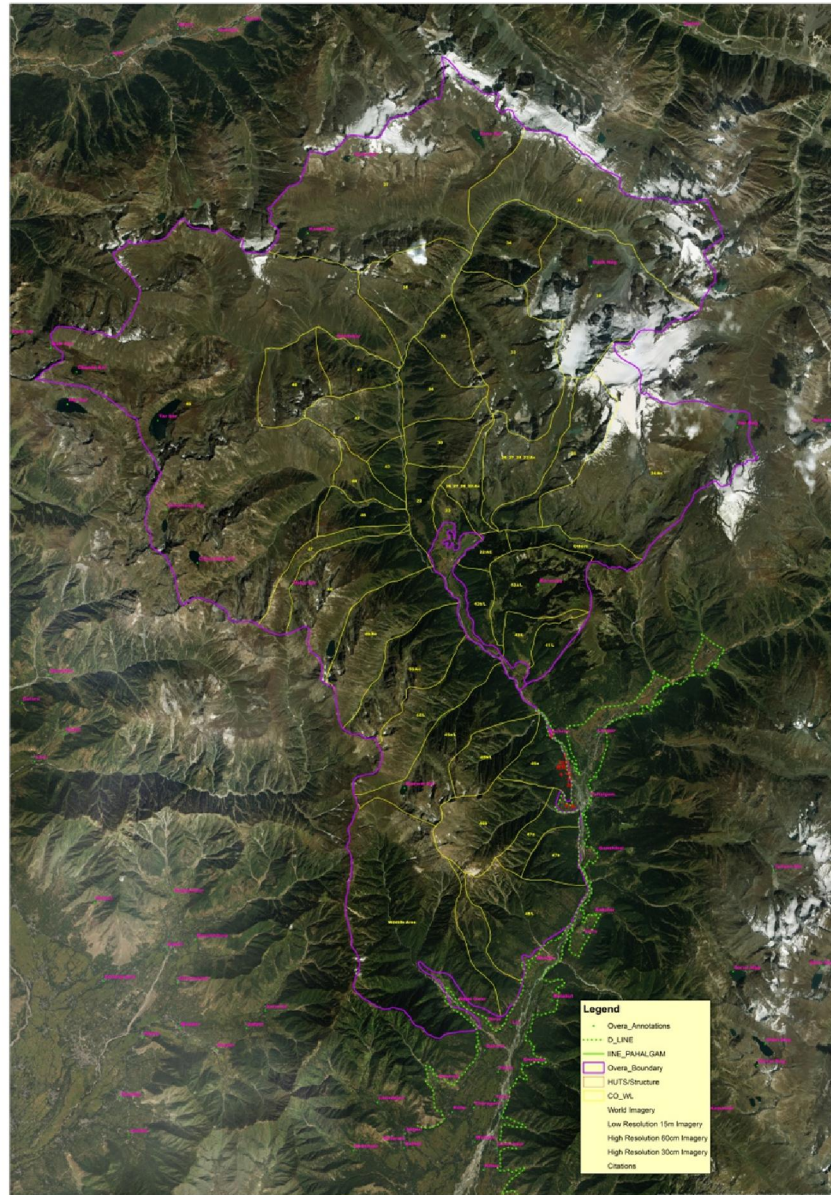


- **Comprises of 38 Forest compartments**
- **Spread over major catchment areas of Lidder river**
- **Villages Overa, Laddi, Dahwatoo, Khelan, Veersiran, Mamal, Mandlan and Aru located on the fringes**



**A host of Bio-geographic hot spots including lakes, glaciers and peaks are located within the sanctuary area:**

- **Tarsar**
- **Handilsar**
- **Dodhsar**
- **Chhumnaisar**
- **Kolhai Glacier**



# **Significance**

- **Forms a catchment of Lidder River, a major tributary of Jhelum, which is a an important source of irrigation & drinking water for entire Anantnag district**
- **A repository of rich bio-diversity:**
  - ✓ **15 mammal species**
  - ✓ **120 bird species**
  - ✓ **20 butterfly species**
- **Distributory Range of Kashmir Red Deer or Hangul**
- **Breeding ground of eight species of Leaf Warblers (Trevor price, 1989)**

# Flora

- **The type of vegetation is broadly Himalayan Moist Temperate and Himalayan Dry Temperate:**
  - **Riverian Vegetation: (1600-2300m ASL)**  
Blue Pine (*Pinus Wallichiana*), Horse Chestnut ( *Aesculus indica*), Witch Hazel (*Parratiopsis jacquemontiana*)
  - **Coniferous Forest: (1600-2300m ASL)**  
Blue Pine (*Pinus Wallichiana*), Fir (*Abies pindrow*), Spruce (*Picea smithiana*)
  - **Alpine Scrubs and Pastures:(Beyond 3000-3500m ASL)**  
Birch (*Betula utilis*), Juniper (*Juniperous recuvra*), *Rhododendron*
  - **Shrubs**  
*Viburnum*, *Lonicera* , *Primula*, *Stachya sericea*, *Sieversia elata*, *Veronica*

# Medicinal Plants

Sr. No.	Scientific Name	Local Name	Trade Name	Part Used	Medicinal Property
01	Aconitum heterophyllum	Patis	Atis	Roots	Expels intestinal worms, anti-pyritic, anti-rheumatic
02	Arnebia benthamii	Kahzaban	Gaozaban	Leaves	Heart ailment, anti-pyritic
03	Artemisia absinthium	Tethwan	Tethwan	Whole Herb	Vermifuge, anti-pyritic, insect repellent
04	Berberis lycium	Kaoduch	Daruharidra	---	Anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory
05	Bergenia lingulata	Zakhmihayat	Pashan Bed	Roots	Applied on wounds
06	Datura stramonium	Datur	Datur	Petals, Leaves	Anti-spasmodic, sedative, anti-cholinerjic
07	Dioscorea deltoidea	Krech	Shingli Mingli	---	Anti-inflammatory, anti-fertility
08	Lavatera cashmeriana	Sazposh	Sazumal	Roots	Urinary irritation, anti-phlogistic
09	Saussurea costus	Kuth	Kuth	Roots	Stomach craps, dysentery and joint pains
10	Taxus wallichina	Postul	Himalayan Yew	Leaves	Asthma, anti-pyritic

# MAMMALS

## Kashmir Red Deer or Hangul *Cervus hanglu*

- IUCN Status:  
**Critically Endangered**
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**



# MAMMALS

## Kashmir Muskdeer *Moschus cupreus*

- IUCN Status:  
**Endangered**
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**



# MAMMALS

## Asiatic Ibex

*Capra sibirica*

- IUCN Status:  
Least Concern
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
Schedule I
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
Schedule I



# MAMMALS

## Himalayan Serow *Capricornis thar*

- IUCN Status:  
**Near Threatened**
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**



# MAMMALS

## Common Leopard

*Panthera pardus*

- IUCN Status:  
**Near Threatened**
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**



# MAMMALS

## Asiatic Black Bear

*Ursus thibetanus*

- IUCN Status:  
**Least Concern**
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule II**
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
**Schedule I**



# MAMMALS

## Himalayan Brown Bear

*Ursus arctos*

- IUCN Status:  
Least Concern
- J&K Wildlife Protection Act:  
Schedule I
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:  
Schedule I



# Avifauna

- Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary is an Important Bird Area (IBA) (now re-named as Important Bio-diversity Area)
- 120 species of birds recorded
- One 'Endangered', One 'Vulnerable' and two 'Near Threatened'



# Egyptian Vulture

*Neophron percnopterus*

ENDANGERED

- Perhaps the most widespread vulture of the old world
- A long-lived & slow breeding bird
- Usually solitary or in pairs with juveniles but very large numbers are seen at good feeding grounds
- Resident in India, Nests mainly on cliffs, rocky outcrops & old buildings
- Recorded from Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh regions (summer visitor /passage migrant)

**THREAT: Use of veterinary drug Diclofenac**



# Kashmir Flycatcher

*Ficedula subrubra*

- Endemic to the northwest Himalayas & breeds in Kashmir valley
- Winters in Sri Lanka & parts of South India
- Inhabits temperate mix deciduous forests with good under growth
- Insectivorous & invariably nests in holes

**THREAT:** Habitat loss, anthropogenic pressures.

**VULNERABLE**



# European Roller

*Coracias garrulus*

NEAR THREATENED

- Has an extensive breeding range in Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia & Northwest China
- A passage migrant in northwest India, breeds only in Kashmir valley
- Nests in tree hollows and mostly in bank holes
- In J&K old and recent records from Anantnag

**THREAT:** Trapping for religious purposes, Pesticide pollution.



# Tytler's Leaf-warbler

*Phylloscopus tytleri*

NEAR THREATENED

- A small bird endemic to the Indian sub-continent
- Has a very limited range in western Himalayas from northeastern Afghanistan to Kashmir
- Recorded from Kashmir valley and Udhampur district in Jammu & Kashmir

**THREAT:** Anthropogenic pressure, grazing .

