

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
CIVIL SECTT: FOREST DEPARTMENT
(WILDLIFE PROTECTION)

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NOTIFICATION

JAMMU, THE , 1987

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SRO 153 :- Whereas, it appears to the Government that the area specified in Annexure "A" to this Notification, has adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological significance for purposes of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife of its environment.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the Powers conferred by section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (protection) Act, 1978, the Government hereby declare the said area as a sanctuary.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

sd/-
(N. R. Gupta)

Secretary to Government.

Hampora
NO: 74/W/San/1987 Dated: 19.3.1987

Copy for information and necessary action: to the:-

1. Secretary to Government, Law Department.
2. Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
3. Chief Wildlife Warden, Srinagar
4. Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District
5. Manager Government press for favour of Publication in Government Gazette.
6. Stock File.

Handid-ullah
(Handid-ullah) 19/3
Deputy Secretary to Government
Forest Department

Status Survey Report of the Proposed
Hirapera Wildlife Sanctuary

-101-

Nomenclature:- - Uri for Markhor (Capra falconeri)

The proposed tract is named after Hirapera Village, which falls in the out skirts-north-east of the proposed area.

Situation :-

The proposed area is situated in Rambiar range of shepian forest division of Jammu and Kashmir State and is about 70 Km to the south of Srinagar City. It is located between 33°-35' to 33°-40' north latitude and 74°-35' east longitude, represented on G.T. Sheet No: 43-K/10.

Area :-

The area encompasses about 110 Sq.Kms and is roughly triangular in shape. A detailed map of the area is enclosed for ready reference.

Boundaries:-

North	.....	Lake Gumsar.
North-East	.....	Village Hirapera.
East	.....	Rupri Forest.
South	.....	Lake Sranwar.
West	.....	Pir Panjal Pass.

Configuration of the ground:-

The main topographical features of the western and southern sides are steep to precipitous with many rocky cliffs and spurs while as its eastern mountaneous ridge is with gentle to moderate slope. The elevation of the area ranges from 2,557 m to 4,745 m above main sea level.

Approaches and means of communication:-

The proposed area is well connected to Srinagar Mugh. Amantnagh and Pulwama by nice metalled roads. The old Moghul road which connects the valley of Kashmir with Jammu region, passes through the proposed area along north-west mountaneous belt.

Geology, rock and soil:-

The river beds comprise of gravel, sand and clay and below the snowy peaks the glacial moraines and redistributed moraines are also added to it. The sub-recent (Karewas) consists of great thickness of interstratified soft sand, stones and partially hardened clay. The willy part embrace all the more solid rock system of schists, slates, massive lime stone and shales together with the volcanic rock known as the Panjal trap.

The soil depth depends upon the inclination of the slope; steeper the slope shallower the soil.

Climate :-

The microclimate is subjected to the modification with the altitudnal variation. The upper everlasting snow reaches experiences almost arctic climate. As we come down it works up to alpine and distinctly temperature in the lower reaches. Snowfall, occurring heavily in winter, is the main source of precipitation which melts upto May-June in many parts. Monsoons are quite common.

The whole Pir Panjal belt gets probably the highest average rainfall in Kashmir valley.

Legal position:-

At present the administrative and technical control of the area vests with the Shepian Forest Division.

Rights and concessions:-

Only the grazing of the domesticated livestock from Rajouri and Poonch has been observed in the area.

Flora:

General Vegetation:-

The main woody vegetal component of the area are the conifers like Kail, Fir and Sypruce. The eastern ridge of the tract is richly endowed with conifers and the alpine pastures are fringed with the Birch stands. The north-west mountainous ridge is dominated by the scrubs of Rosa and Viburnum etc. mixed with the isolated stands of conifers and the hill tops are met with the rock faces.

The six major biotopes distinguished in the proposed area are described as under.

(1) Blue Pine Forest:-

It is characterised by a woody composition consisting of species of Pinus griffithii associated with Abies pinerow, Picea spp, and Serbaria tomentosa etc. This community is enriched with the ground cover of Fragaria vesca, Rumex patientia, Gagea spp, Corydalis punctata, Prunella spp, Colchicum luteum etc.

It is virtually confined in the dry and exposed aspects.

(2) Silver Fir Forest:-

The communities dominated by Silver Fir (Abies pinerow) is associated with Pinus griffithii, Picea spp, with an under growth of Viburnum spp, Rosa spp, Isogen spp, Centaurea spp, etc and the ground cover of Fragaria vesca, Rumex patientia, Corydalis punctata, Gagea spp, Prunella spp, Colchicum luteum, Myosotis spp, Gentiana spp etc. At higher reaches the associates of under story are mainly Juniperus spp and Campanulatum spp at some places.

This community is the largest component of the vegetational complex of the area and is mainly confined in colder, shady and moister aspects.

(3) Birch Forest:-

The main component of this community is Betula utilis mixed with poor shrub cover of Juniperus spp, Campanulatum spp etc. The herbaceous associates are Fragaria vesca, Gagea spp, Taraxicum officinale, Prunella spp, Colchicum luteum, Tulipa spp, Gentiana spp etc.

This floral component is distributed along the main eastern mountainous ridges bordering the alpine pastures.

(4) Savanna Scrub:-

The biotope is sub-divided as under manifested by density of the dominant species and controlled by the altitudinal factor.

(4-a) Juniperous scrub/Evergreen Scrub:-

The Juniperus spp being the commonest scrub followed by Rosa spp and the other associates of this floral type are Lenisera spp etc and the ground cover include Fragaria vesca, Rumex patientia, Taraxicum officinale, Prunella spp, Artemisia spp, Gentiana spp etc.

This cover occupies the middle zone of the western mountainous ridge of the main nalla.

4-b: Rosa Scrub/Deciduous Scrub:

Rosa spp, represents the main crop of the biotope. The other associates are Viburnum spp, Isodon spp, Cotoneaster spp. The ground cover is very much rich dominated by the Artimisia spp. which is supported by Fragaria vesca, Rumex patientia, Gentiana spp. Corydalis punctata, Taraxicum officinale, Prunella spp, Colchicum luteum, Tulipa spp, Salvia near craftiana, Malva neglecta, Myosotis spp, Gentiana spp etc.

This community is virtually confined in the feet hills (Lower zone) of the western mountainous ridges.

(5) Alpine pastures:-

The vegetal complex distributed in levels of alpine pastures is mainly the herbaceous cover of which the major component being the dicotyledonous herbs of Fragaria vesca, Rumex patientia, Gentiana spp, Corydalis spp Taraxicum officinale Malva neglecta, Prunella spp. Myosotis spp Gentiana spp, Sambucus, waqinata, Anemone spp and a few monocotyledonous species which come into association are colchicum luteum, Tulipa spp and some other unidentified grass species. The alpine pasture (hill tops) of the eastern mountainous ridges sustain this herbaceous cover.

(6) Rock faces:-

The upper zone i.e. the hill tops of south-western mountainous ridges are steep to precipitous with rocky cliffs, The Juniperus spp, rich herbaceous cover of Potentilla spp, Gentiana spp and some mosses come into composition with it along small mountain groove at heights, whereas, the Pinus griffithii and a few herbs (mainly grasses) and little mosses and lichens are found associated with it along the spurs at low levels.

Fauna and Avi-fauna:-

In the living memory the area was enriched with the threatened, rare and protected species of animals and birds. But due to heavy poaching habitat destruction and extensive grazing, they have been adversely affected. The proposed area enjoys a place of pride for the endangered and superb majestic wild goat-the Markhor. In Kashmir the area earns the distinction for sustaining major part of the remaining viable population of this specie. The other two areas are the catchments of Limber and Lachipora of the Jehlum valley Forest Division.

Fauna:

The animals sighted in the area are listed as under:-

<u>S.No:</u>	<u>Family/Name:</u>	<u>Population:</u>
±.	<u>Apes, Monkeys and Langurs</u>	
1.	<u>Rhesus Macaqua (Macaca mulata)</u>	Common
2.	<u>Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes (Linnaeus))</u>	Rare.
3.	<u>Common otter (Lutra lutra Linnaeus)</u>	Occasional.
4.	<u>Himalayan yellow-throated Martin (Martia flavirostris)</u>	-de-

- Himalayan Mouse-Hare - Ochetona roylei Occasional
- Goats and Antelopes
- The Markhor - (Capra falconeri) Common.

Reportedly some other wild mammals e.g. The Common Langur, the Leopard, the Leopard-Cat, the Brown Bear and the Musk Deer and also found in the area but neither these animals nor their signs were traced out during the said survey.

2. Avi-fauna:-

The area sustains a variety of bird life of which the preying and water birds are met in appreciable number for the reason of the availability of food. The birds of the area are detailed as under:-

Sl. No: Family/Name:

1. Ardeidae (Herons Egrets and Bitterns)
1. Eastern grey Heron - Ardea cinerea
2. Accipitridae (Eagles Hawks Vultures etc)
- Black eared kite - Milvus migrans.
3. Indian Sparrow Hawk - Accipiter nisus.
4. Black Eagle - Aquila verreauxi.
5. Bristed Eagle - Aquila verreauxi.
6. Shikra - Accipiter hederius.
7. Crested Honey Buzzard - Pernis ptilorhynchus.
8. Long Legged buzzard - Buteo rufinus.
9. Himalayan Griffon Vulture - Gyps himalayanensis.
10. White or Scavenger Vulture.
11. White-backed, or Bengal Vulture - Pseudogyps bengalensis.
12. Lammergeier or Himalayan bearded vulture - Gypaetus barbatus himachalensis.
13. Falconidae (Falcons)
- Kestrel - Falco tinnunculus Linnaeus.
14. Peregrine - Falco peregrinus.
15. Phasianidae (Quails Partridges, Wild Fowls, Pheasants etc)
16. Himalayan Snow Cock - Tetraoallus himala-yensis.
17. Common Sand piper - Actitis hypoleucos Linnaeus.
18. Himalayan Rufous Turtle Dove - Streptopelia orientalis.
19. The Red Turtle Dove - Streptopelia tranquebarica.
20. Upupidae (Hoopoes)
- European hoopoe - Upupa epops epops.
21. Picidae (wood-peckers)
22. Scally-billed green wood pecker - Picus squamatus.
23. Kashmir Pied wood pecker - Dryobates himalayensis albescens.
24. Cervidae (Crows, Jays, Magpies, Nut-crackers and Choughs)
25. Himalayan Jungle Crow - Corvus macrochynchos intermedius.
26. Large Spotted Nutcracker - Nucifraga multipunctata.

White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla
White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

37. White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla
White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

38. White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

39. White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

White-capped Red start - Chamaea leucocapilla

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38. Kashmir Cinnamon Sparrow - Passer rutilans debilis

Emberizidae (Buntines)

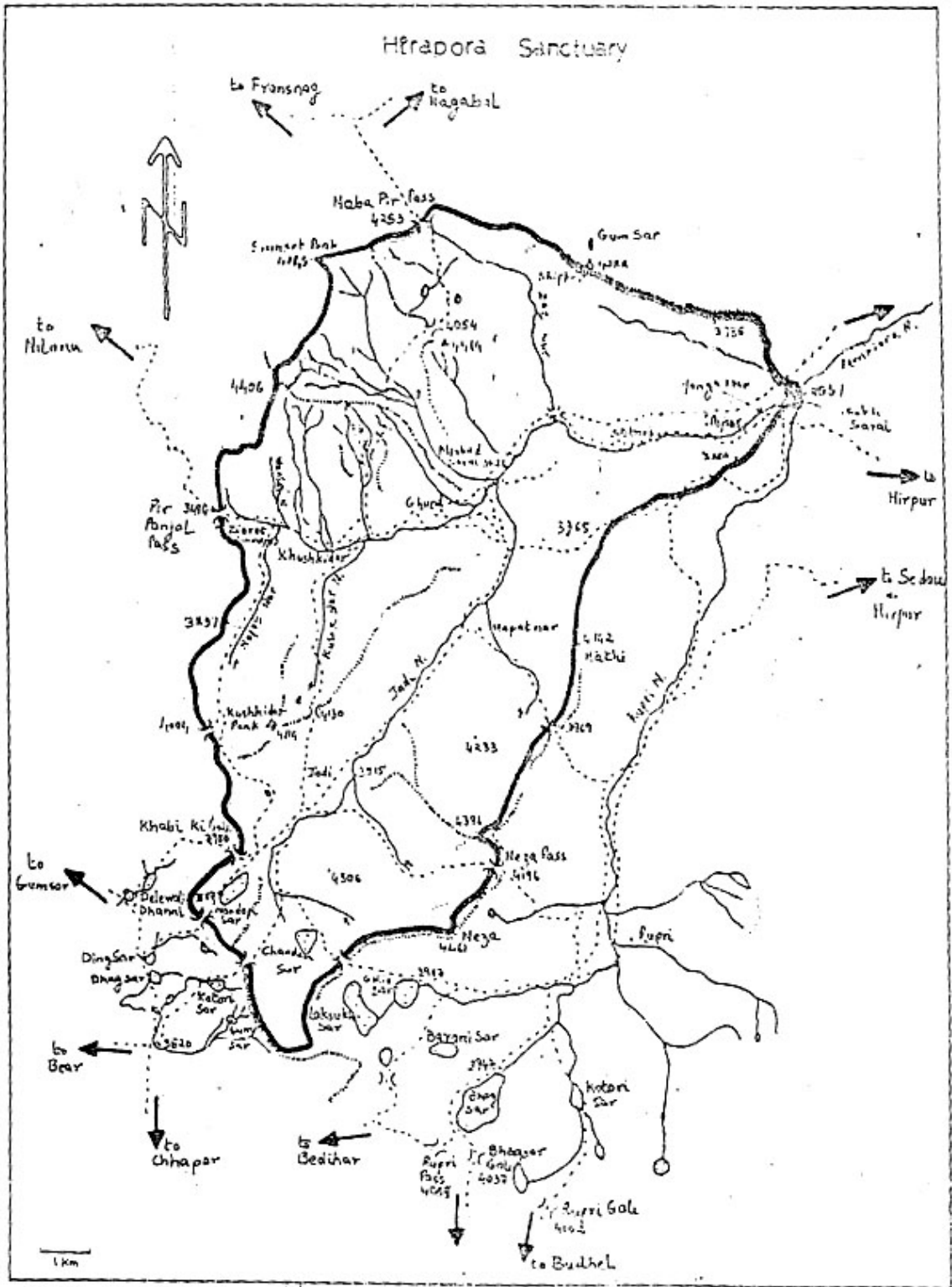
39. Eastern Meadow Bunting - Emberiza cia stracheyi

Recommendations:- The distribution of Markher in the valley of Kashmir is very much restricted in a few pockets like Limber and Lachipora of Jhelum Valley Forest Division of Uri Sector and the proposed tract of Shepian Forest Division. The proposed tract held a distinction for harbouring major part of the remaining viable population of this rare species. All the afore mentioned areas are at present under the heavy biotic interferences like indiscriminate grazing, mass peaching and extensive habitat destruction, which in turn had drastically declined the existing faunal and floral wealth. In addition to the limited distribution of the Markher in the valley, none of the mentioned areas have been given proper protection, so that this endangered and majestic wild specie which other wise may get extinct in near future, could have been protected prepagated and conserved.

See page 8 of the last para 2.

Besides, the Markhor the proposed tract shelters a rich asset of threatened, rare, protected and otherwise animals and birds like Rhesus Macaque, Himalayan Snow cock, Himalayan Bearded Vulture, Eastern Grey Heron etc, which adds considerable importance to develop the area into a Wildlife Sanctuary.

In the light of above facts and figures the proposed area is recommended to be notified as Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 17 of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1978.



Source: Surveyed in 1945-46. First edition fabricated by the Survey of India.

Latitude: $29^{\circ} 21' 11''$ to $29^{\circ} 21' 11''$ N
 Longitude: $76^{\circ} 50' 16''$ to $76^{\circ} 50' 16''$ E