

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

NOTIFICATION

JAMMU, THE , 1987

SD 154 :- 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.

NO: 74/W/San/~~1000~~/87 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.

( Hamid-Ullah) 19/3  
Deputy Secretary to Government  
Forest Department

STATUS SURVEY REPORT, OF THE PROPOSED  
OVERA - ARU

WILDLIFE - SANCTUARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT  
SRINAGAR.

Status Survey Report of the Proposed

OVERA - ARU

Wildlife - Sanctuary

Nomenclature :-

Names after the villages of Overa and Aru falling in the out skirts at the extremities of the said tract.

Location and limits :-

The tract situated in Jammu and Kashmir State about 70 kms, to the south-east of Srinagar is located between 75°-21' to 75°-22' east longitude and 33°-55' to 34°-15' north latitude.

Boundaries :-

North ..... Sindh Forest Division.  
South ..... Liddar Forest Division.  
East ..... Tourist/Health resort-Pahalgam, Sindh Liddar Forest Division.  
West ..... Dachigam National Park and Sindh Forest Division.

Area :-

The Reserve encompasses an area of roughly 425 Sq.Kms and includes famous Overa Wildlife Sanctuary and a part of Liddar Forest Division, between Overa and Koloheic glacier enroute the Aru. It occupies the right bank of river Liddar and the rough shape is of human brain.

Configuration :-

The tract is of mountainous type, conspicuously steep, one broken by rocky cliffs, extending over an elevation ranging from 2,200 mtrs. to about 6,000 mtrs. (near Kolahai glacier). The area abounds in, loggy, snow peaked mountains and is drained by various gullies into the liddar river.

Access :-

The Preserve is well connected to Srinagar, Anantnag and Pahalgam by a nice road, fringing its south-eastern border.

Geology, rock and soil :-

Diverse geological formations are negotiated. The tract is rich in Shales and slates. Panjal trap is well exhibited in the higher reaches whereas lime-stone outcrops are exposed in the interior valleys.

Climate :-

The climate is characteristically nearly arctic in upper reaches and temperate, distinctly cooler in the lower reaches. Snowfall occurring heavily in winter, is the main source of precipitation which melts up till May-June in many parts. Monsoons are conspicuously absent. A temperature range from 80 Zero to 90°F has been experienced.

Flora :-

Due to the variation in altitude, aspects and soil, a diversity of vegetation is discernible in the tract as discussed below:-

(1) Coniferous Forests:-

The three principal conifers viz; Pinus griffithii, Cedrus deodara and Abies pindrow are met with, following their characteristic altitudinal zonation, getting purer in their respective zones and interspersed by the spruce (Picea spp) or yew (Taxus wallichiana) at places. The undergrowth consists mainly of Viburnum spp; Skimmia laureola, Indigofera heterantha, Lonicera spp; Lasianthus spp; Panicum spp; Phytolacca spp; Trifolium spp; Thymus serpyllum, Primula spp. Clematis spp etc.

(2) Riverian Forests:-

The broad-leaved associates include Padus cornuta, Fraxinus spp; Rhus succedanea, Pyrus lanata, Juglans regia, Rhododendron campanulatum etc. which richly occupy moist pockets and depressions.

(3) Birch Forests:-

In upper reaches Betula utilis, Juniperus recurva, Juniperus communis and Rhododendron spp are met with.

(4) Alpine Pastures:-

The alpine pastures locally called margs are confined to the zone above 3,000 mtrs, altitude and mainly constitutes the herbaceous cover mixed with isolated clumps of Indigofera heterantha etc.

Fauna :-

The project area presents an abundance of pockets very richly blessed with wild animals and avi-fauna. It overlaps the Wildlife rich, Over Wildlife Sanctuary which also will help to serve as core area for the Preserve. The wild animals harboured by the area include the Kashmir Stag (Cervus elaphus hanglu), the Musk Deer (Moschus moschiferus) the Himalayan Black Bear (Selenarctos thibetanus) the Himalayan Brown Bear (Ursus arctos) the Himalayan Mouse Hare (Ochotona roylei) the Himalayan Langur (Presbytis entellus) the Snow Leopard (Panthera unica) etc. The tract is endowed with a beautiful and rich asset of avi-fauna consisting of pheasants viz; the Monal (Lophophorus unpeyanus), the Koklas (Fucisia macrolopha) and birds such as the Black-eared kite (Haliastur intermedius), the Himalayan Griffon vulture (Gyps himalayensis) the Red Turtle dove (Streptopelia tranquebari) the European Hoopoe (Upupa epops), the yellow fronted pied wood pecker (Picoides maharathensis) besides Minivets, fly catchers, thrushes, wagtails buntings etc.

Landscape:-

The tract is viewed with high appreciation for its unparalleled scenery, picturesque snow-peaked mountains, green meadows and snow fed gurgling brooks and streams. The Deodar and line tree clad mountains, enclose numerous beautiful valleys full of greenery. The world renowned health resort - Iskcon located adjacent to Reserve reflects beauty, serenity, of the tract.

DISSENT :-

The forest belts bordering the habitations, approaches and paths get subjected to good amount of injuries at the hands of the villagers, Bakerwals, Gujjars and their cattle. The nomadic (Bakerwals) graziers shift their cattle to alpine pastures in summer and comedown towards plains during winter. Their cattle is responsible for a sizable damage to the young generation coming along the various passes and paths. Most of the area of the preserve, however is inaccessible where of course an ecological balance, free from biotic interference is a play.

The tract has a natural setting of extra-ordinary beauty and is a typical representation of high altitude mountainous environment. The flora and fauna harboured by it is luxuriant rich and varied. The area has a sizable area under green grassy pastures and meadows which though uncommercial from forestry view point, are equally essential for the fauna which is mostly herbivorous. The characteristic topography and unaccessibility of major part has accorded to the tract a natural protection against biotic influences.

Richness of the virgin forests and luxuriant mammalian and bird life, and natural scenic beauty the area represents as the extension to the Buffer zone of the Dachigam National Park as the area falls on its west. Due to the protective measures and habitat rehabilitation in Dachigam, the various Wildlife species therein have not only multiplied but has restocked its surrounding forests including the project area. The area also bear a distinctio- of being on the distributory range of threatened species.

In the light of above enumerated facts, the close proximity of the tract to Dachigam and its rich wild life potential holds a promise and invited special attention for developing the tract as a Wildlife Sanctuary under section 17.1 of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1978.

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1. Alpine Pastures:-

This zone appears from the upper most limit of the Fir zone in the form of pasture lands, viz "margs". The vegetation comprises of stunted tree of Betula utilis and individuals of Rhododendron spp.

Fauna:-

Animal

<u>S.No:</u>	<u>Name of the animal.</u>	<u>Population.</u>
1.	Himalayan Langur ( <u>Presbytis entellus</u> )	Common occasional
2.	rhesus Macaque ( <u>Macaca mulata</u> )	-do-
3.	Himalayan Black Bear ( <u>Selenarctos thibetanus</u> )	-do-
4.	Himalayan Brown Bear ( <u>Urus arctos</u> )	Rare.
5.	Leopard or Panther ( <u>Panthera pardus Linnaeus</u> )	-do-
6.	Leopard Cat ( <u>Felis bengalensis</u> )	-do-
7.	Red Fox ( <u>Vulpus vulpus</u> )	Occasional.
8.	Himalayan Yellow-throated Martin ( <u>Martus flavigula</u> )	-do-
9.	Kashmir Flying Squirrel ( <u>Eupetaurus cinereus</u> )	Common.
10.	Goral (	Occasional.
11.	Markhor ( <u>Capra falconeri</u> ).	-do-
12.	Himalayan Musk Deer ( <u>Moschus moschiferus</u> )	-do-

(B) Avi-fauna:-

The inhabiting birds of this catchment includes; Black orned Kite (Milvus forficatus) Black Eagle (Aquila verreauxi), Booted Eagle, Himalayan Griffon (Vulture cyas himalayensis) Bearded vulture (Cybernetus barbatus himachalensis) Egyptian vulture, Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus) Chukra monal pheasant (Lophophorus impejanus) Chukar (Maclectoris chukar) Koklas (Pucrasia macrolopha) Common Snipe (Centrocercus urophasianus) Scally billed Green wood pecker (Picus squamatus) Kashmir Red wood pecker (Dryobates himalayensis) Indian Myna (Acridothera tristis) Himalayan Jungle Crow (Corvus macrorhynchos) Eastern Jackow (Corvus monedula) Western Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Urocissa flavirostris) Large spotted Nutcracker (Nucifraga multipunctata) Lullul (Pychnotus leucogenys) western spotted Forktail (Enicurus maculatus) White capped Red-start (Chamaerhornis leucocephalus) Himalayan whistling thrush (Mniophonus temminck) Streaked Laughing thrush (Troch. alb. teru. lineatum) Kashmir wren (Troglodytes troglodytes) Indian Brown Dipper (Cinclus pallasi) Grey tit (Parus major) Crested Black tit (Lophophanes melanolephus) Hudson's tree creeper (Crethia familiaris) Kashmir Sky Lark (Alauda ulgula) Kashmir House Sparrow (Passer domesticus) Black and Yellow Cross-beak (Perrisospiza icheroides) Orange Bulfinch (Pyrrhuloxia aurantiaca) Eastern Meadow Lark (Emberiza stracheyi) Pine Bunting (Emberiza leucophaea)

Past History and  
Legal Status :-

The demarcated Game Reserve which constitutes the upper reaches of the catchment was the Rakh in the days of late Maharaja and at present is not under the proper administrative and technical control of this Department.

Zonation :-

The entire catchment encompasses an area of about 26 sq.kms in identified to be declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary, where the existing Game Reserve i.e; the top catchment spread over an area of about 12 sq.kms will represent the core area and the balance area towards the south constituting 10 to 15 compartments will be delineated as the buffer zone of the Wildlife Sanctuary, where the rights of the habitation will be considered without conflicting the norms of the Wildlife Sanctuary. The demarcated Game Reserve i.e. the core area which is devoid of any human settlement will be kept free from any biotic disturbance and the non-local graziers will be accommodated in other open forest areas during the summer.

Recommendations :-

The area shelters the unique majestic Wild goat namely the Markhor and stray herds of Bush Deer and Leopard. Besides this the area bears high potential of the pheasants like Monals, Koklass and Chakras and reportedly the Tragopans and Snow Cocks and the threatened Vulture i.e. Bearded Vulture. The number of these colourful pheasants is drastically declining due to habitat destruction and indiscriminate poaching through out the Himalayan range. Steps are on to conserve these innocent attractive pheasants by the World Pheasant Association. The superb and endangered Markhor now taking shelter in a few corners of the vale which includes the said area also.

To conserve protect and multiply the precious wild wealth of the area it is recommended to be declared as wildlife sanctuary under section 17 of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1978.

