

Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, western Himalaya

Ecologically Restoring Landscapes, Species, and Livelihoods

The Himalayan Restoration Project restores the extremely neglected, poorly-known, deteriorated broad-leaf oak, and pine forest habitat in Chamba, western Himalaya. This is a long term project in partnership with local communities in 28 villages who are interested in growing native vegetation on their non-arable farmland to support local wildlife such as langurs, black bears, macaques, and porcupines and reduce crop raiding and mitigate climate crisis.

Himalayan Restoration Project was formally inaugurated on the World Forestry Day on 21 March 2024 where we had a restoration drive with the participation of high school students in a government school under the National Social Service scheme.

Activities April 2024-March 2025

- 1.5 ha of degraded forest land restored with 1500+ saplings of 10 native species.
- 5000+ saplings of 13 native species germinated for 2025 restoration (*Quercus leucotrichophora*, *Prunus cerasoides*, *Juglans regia*, *Melia azedarach*, *Grewia optiva*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Aesculus indica*, *Morus serrata*, *Populus ciliata*, *Pyrus pashia*, *Punica granatum*, *Sapindus mukorossi*) in the community led nursery.
- We have educated 700+ students & youth on coexistence & restoration. 100+ students joined the group in restoration.
- We have trained 100+ indigenous women on eco-based adaptations and ecologically sustainable livelihood options. Women have been trained in nursery management, para taxonomy, plant identification, and germination skills.
- We have hired 3 local & indigenous community members as local ambassadors to help in various aspects of the project.
- The team has also been working on understanding the distribution and population of Himalayan black bears in the region with the forest department and upskilling the rangers on the same.

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Zooreach Activity Update

The Himalayan Restoration Project is the only UN recognized Global Landscape Forum Chapter: **GLFx Himachal**

