

## MULES: THE SILENT HELPERS

*In Himalayan Restoration Project, the most dedicated conservationists do not attend meetings, don't ask for incentives and definitely don't give speeches. They are the mules.*

*In the morning while we argue about routes, weather, and chai breaks, the mules quietly line up for duty. Each mule carries a precious load of 40-45 saplings carefully packed like green passengers, heading towards a new life. The exact numbers depend on the path - steep trails get fewer saplings while smoother routes get more saplings. The mules, however, never complain. No. "is this in my job description and overtime pay?" Nothing! The funniest part is, the mules have absolutely no idea how they play a significant role for saving the Himalaya.*



# HRP-Anecdotes

They don't know about climate change, biodiversity loss or ecological restoration. They think they are just going for another walk with leafy luggage. Yet step by step they transport future forests from nurseries to restoration sites. They demand no salary, certificates, appreciation posts on social media, they don't even ask for credit. They just walk, chew and occasionally give us looks that say, "Why are you walking so slowly?" So while we proudly call ourselves conservationists, the real silent heroes are the mules, unknowingly helping plant future forests.

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