

Traditional Society and Bio-Cultural Values In the Western Himalayas

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ABSTRACT Existence of an age-old tradition of preserving the forests on the ground of cultural and religious beliefs has become imperative not only for biodiversity conservation but also for overall sustainability of the traditional societies existing in Kullu district of western Himalayas. Existence of scared ecosystems has shown potential for conservation of bio-diversity. However, it is unfortunate that the so-called environment planners view local communities as primary threat to bio-diversity conservation. In recent times, indigenous socio-cultural practices are under constant threat due to the introduction of various western models of resource conservation. It is felt that there is an urgent need to initiate action-oriented resource management programmes involving the indigenous knowledge systems. This will help us to conserve our natural resource in a better way.