

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are packed closely together, creating a vibrant green canopy. In the center-left of the image, a single tree stands out with bright orange or red foliage, providing a focal point against the sea of green. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall atmosphere is one of natural beauty and vitality.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Aaramyak

A C H I E V E M E N T S

Over
9500

people were reached
through various
Environmental
education
activities

Hands on
GPS training
to approximately

300
individuals

Trained
100
Tourist
Guides
working in
Kaziranga

110

Pygmy hogs in

23

social groups
have been released

801

numbers of
Improved
Cooking Stoves
installed
in MTCP
project areas

40

Rhino Goes
to School
activities in
various schools

Helped
the authorities
to apprehend
or surrender of
over 40
poachers

Phylogenetic
validation
of the presence of

white-
cheeked
macaque
in Arunachal
Pradesh, India

7500
saplings

were distributed
including saplings of
the nesting trees of

Greater
Adjutants

Aaranyak's MISSION

Our mission is to foster conservation of biodiversity in Northeast India through research, environmental education, capacity building and advocacy for legal and policy reform to usher a new era of ecological security.

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Udayan Borthakur

Executive Editor:

Munmita Boruah

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Dr. Dilip Chetry and

Mr. Jayanta kr. Pathak

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Aaranyak is a registered society working towards nature conservation in North East India, since 1989. Our strength lies in applied research in biological and social fields and our thrust area of work is the North Eastern India and Eastern Himalayas. Aaranyak is steered ahead by young professionals dedicated and committed to the cause of conservation. Aaranyak is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Government of India.

Know more about us at

www.aaranyak.org you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Aaranyak Society Registration No.-

3096 of 1989-90

Donations made to Aaranyak in India carry tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976 entitles Aaranyak to receive foreign contribution to work in the field of biodiversity research and conservation.





From the desk of Secretary General and CEO

Aaranyak has crossed another milestone year in the field of biodiversity conservation and research in various field sites where it has been working over the years. In pursuit of excellence in research as well as to build a team of next generation young researchers in diverse fields of biodiversity conservation, Aaranyak signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dibrugarh University in February 2018 recognising the importance of research and development and intend to form a nucleus for promoting excellent quality manpower in the fields of wildlife research, biodiversity monitoring, water and climate change and related fields.

During 2017-18, Aaranyak was handling over 30 conservation projects in Northeast India as well as in West Bengal. One of the approaches of Aaranyak is to work closely with environment and forest departments of different states of the region to compliment the efforts undertaken by the government to strengthen overall conservation initiatives to secure the future of flora and fauna of the region.

In order to undertake multimedia tool based documentation, production and publication on pertinent issues of biodiversity and the environment in Northeast India, Aaranyak launched a new division named Media Production and Communications Division (MPCD), starting from January 2018.

One of our field researchers Mrs. Purnima Debi Barman received Nari Shakti Award 2017 from Hon'ble President of India for her work in engaging local communities in the conservation of Greater Adjutant Stork, a bird locally known as Hargila in Assam. She has also won the Whitley Awards 2017 which is also known as Green Oscar award in the field of environment. Aaranyak is proud to nurture and support her efforts, commitment towards conservation and leadership that have given Purnima Debi Barman well earned national and global recognition as a conservation leader.

Aaranyak has a pool of talented field workers working silently in diverse fields of conservation and it is the team work that helped Aaranyak excelled as a premier non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Northeast India in the field of biodiversity research and conservation.

As Aaranyak steps into its 30th year of glorious existence in the field of conservation in North East India, we do acknowledge the support and cooperation extended by various government agencies, civil society organisations, our members and staff, print and electronic media over the years.

(Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Assam;
 Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Arunachal Pradesh;
 Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Nagaland;
 Department of Environment & Forest, Government of West Bengal;
 Department of Forests and Park Services, Royal Government of Bhutan;
 Forest Department BTC;
 Kamrup District Administration;
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Changes - Government of India;
 Jorhat Forest Division;

ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTES

Awely;
 Atree;
 ASTER GDEM;
 Assam State Zoo Authority;
 Assam Science Society;
 Assam Veterinary College
 Assam University, Diphu Campus;
 Ban Bannyapranis Suraksha Samiti;
 Bhuvan;
 Bhumi;
 Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuaries;
 Barpeta Nursery;
 Bombay Natural Historic Society;
 Central Academy for State Forest Service ;
 Center for Global Field Study;
 Conservation Leadership Program;
 Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust;
 Department of Civil Engineering School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University ;
 Department of Environment Biology and Wildlife Sciences, Cotton

University, Guwahati, ;
 Dadara;
 Dalgaon;
 Directorate, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve
 Directorate, Jomots Shankha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhutan;
 Directorate, Manas Tiger Reserve;
 Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC), Bangladesh;
 EcoSystems-India;
 Emami India;
 Global Wild life Conservation;
 Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary;
 Google Earth;
 IIE, Guwahati, Export Promotion Council;
 IUCN;
 IIT Ghy-Ruteg;
 J.D.S.C. College, Bokakhat, Assam ;
 Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, Kamrup District, Assam;
 Kaziranga National Park Authority;
 Krishi Vigyan Kendra Guwahati;
 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chirang;
 Kamrup Police;
 Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Joypur, Dibrugarh;
 Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), CCMB;
 Majrabari Puthibharal, Baksa;
 Manas National Park;
 Media Houses
 National Tiger Conservation Authority;
 North Gauhati College, Kamrup;
 Northeast Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat;
 North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, Meghalaya;
 National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad;
 One Earth Institute;
 Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong;
 Primate Action Fund, Conservation International;
 Pobitora Eco-tourism Development Society, Morigaon;
 Park Management, Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan;
 Rufford Small Grant;
 Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Bhutan
 RG Orang National Park;
 Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuaries;
 Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS), New York;
 Sonapur College, Kamrup Metro District;
 Shipa;
 State Industrial Rural Development (SIRD);
 Tata Trust;
 US Fish and Wildlife Service (Great Ape Conservation Fund);
 University of Washington, Seattle;
 Unified Forest Conservation Network (UFCN);
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
 University of Washington;
 United States Geological Survey (USGS) EarthExplorer;
 Veterinary College, Khanapara
 West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society;
 Wildlife Institute of India;
 Wildlife Conservation Trust;
 WWF-India;
 WTI;
 Wild Wings;
 WCS, Cambodia;

DONORS

ASTEC;
 Center For Global Field Study,
 University of Washington;
 Conservation International;
 David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation;
 Department of Science and
 Technology, Gov. of India;
 Department of Environment &
 Forest, Government of Nagaland;
 Disney Conservation Fund;
 Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust;
 EcoSystemsIndia;
 EPRC;
 Forest Department - Govt. of Assam;
 Global Wildlife Conservation;
 International Rhino Foundation;
 IUCN;
 IUCNSSC Wild Pig Specialist Group;
 Kurita Water and Environment
 Foundation (KWEF), Japan;
 Ministry of Environment, Forest &
 Climate Changes - Govt. of India;
 NABU International Foundation For
 Nature;
 One Earth Institute;
 Panthera;
 Ringling Bros. and Barnum &
 Bailey's Center for Elephant
 Conservation;
 Royal Society for Protection of
 Nature;
 Saving-species;
 Taiwan Forestry Bureau, CoA;
 The Rufford Small Grant Foundation;
 The Asia Foundation;
 Tata Trust;
 Wildlife Institute of India;
 Wild Cats Conservation Alliance;
 West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity
 Conservation project (WBFBCP)
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
 University of Washington;
 UNICEF
 Zoo Basel;



BACKGROUND

Aaranyak's nature conservation efforts can be traced back to 1989, when a passionate group of young environment enthusiasts, gave shape to a green concept and named it 'Aaranyak'. Deeply motivated towards protecting the rich bio-diversity of the region, Aaranyak, which was based in Guwahati, Assam, embarked on an unrelenting voyage that so far has overcome uncountable barriers. Over a quarter century of work has brought major changes in the nature conservation field of North East India.

Aaranyak's beginning was humble, but the mission was as strong as it is today and the vision vibrant with dreams of ushering in a new era of environmental consciousness among the masses. Unearthing new findings on North East region's incredibly rich flora and fauna was the first step towards building such much needed awareness among the common people of the region. Aaranyak then and now believes that effective conservation of wildlife and ecology is conceivable only through co-operation from the masses.

Aaranyak's initial goal was to generate mass awareness on the wildlife heritage of Assam and the critical need for its conservation. The turning point came in 1989, when Aaranyak filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Gauhati High Court, challenging the decision of the Assam Government to lease out fisheries inside the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam. The Dibru-Saikhowa NP is one of the potential conservation sites of critically endangered White-winged Wood Duck, the 'State Bird of Assam', and also Aaranyak's symbol encrypted in our logo. The battle was akin to David versus Goliath, and David won! The court ruled in favour of Aaranyak and the Government had to withdraw the destructive lease permits, giving a fresh breath of life to the wildlife and habitats of Dibru-Saikhowa. Steadily progressing, Aaranyak soon became involved in bird-watching that brought together young students from all across Assam and created an emerging group of avid birders. Meanwhile, Aaranyak extended its activities to key conservation aspects, which soon became the major work areas of the organization. At present, the primary thrust areas of Aaranyak are:

- To conduct quality research on biodiversity, water resources, hydrology, climate, sustainable development, natural disasters and environmental impact assessment in North East India, viz. floods, erosion, revival of traditional water harvesting systems, water shed management, climate variability, deforestation and climate change, rainfall-runoff modeling, application of remote sensing and GIS in

environmental research and Wildlife Genetics Research.

- To create awareness among the people about the need for biodiversity conservation through environmental education and capacity building.
- To curtail and eliminate wildlife trade in the region
- To explore and access the legal and judiciary provisions for protection of biodiversity
- To complement and support Government agencies working for protection of the rich biodiversity of the region
- To assist the fringe communities of protected areas to diversify their livelihood options and minimize dependence on forest resources
- To foster scientific applied research in the field of biodiversity and environment that would provide new avenues for sustainable livelihood generation.

Through 29 years of hard work and commitment, Aaranyak has carved a niche for itself, in the field of biodiversity conservation, not just in India, but also globally. It has established itself as a prominent

figure in the global network of institutions involved in nature conservation.

Aaranyak is a closely knit team of environmental scientists, researchers, community workers, educators and environmental legal specialists. With great focus on facilitation team spirit, Aaranyak provides space for each individual to emerge as resilient leaders. Aaranyak's foundation of research and development is augmented by untiring fieldwork by our team members. The team is on a combined mission to contribute towards protection of nature by providing key inputs to biodiversity management based on quality research on ecosystems, environmental education, capacity building, legal and policy research.

Aaranyak at present has 14 Divisions which form the core of our conservation strategy. Together, these blend science and technology resources with involvement of stakeholders to rediscover the traditional peaceful co-existence of man and wildlife in North East India.

Aaranyak's efforts towards bridging the gap between research and adaptive management of wildlife and forests have won us many accolades from around the globe. In 2011, Aaranyak received the

prestigious RBS 'Earth Guardian Award 2011' conferred by the Royal Bank of Scotland. Aaranyak was bestowed with the 2012 Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Purashkar, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India. Government of Assam also conferred the "Institutional Award in the field of Science and Technology" to Aaranyak on 27th February 2017.

Aaranyak has been building a network of symbiotic alliances with frontline institutions and universities to consolidate research and conservation activities. The formidable pool of database on various ecological aspects of North East India that has been created by Aaranyak is openly available to experts and nature enthusiasts but more importantly also to the common people. Ensuring ecological security across North East India is Aaranyak's goal, and therefore we are keen to encourage and establish a chain of committed to sustaining multiple conservation initiatives, address diverse ecological issues, sustainable development and climate change.

Aaranyak's Executive Committee



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President

Dr. Dilip Chetry,
Vice- President

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar,
Secretary General & CEO

Mr. Jimut Prasad Sarma,
Finance Secretary

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Mr. Shyamal Dutta,
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Mr. Rajib Rudra Tariang,
Executive Member

Greater Adjutant Stork Project (GASP)

Photo: Udayan Borthakur



INTRODUCTION

The Endangered Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) has a global population of less than 1200, which is distributed in Assam and Bihar in India, and in Cambodia. Currently Assam harbours about 700-800 individuals of this bird which is about 80% of its global population. Aaranyak initiated a Community based Conservation project in 2009 to protect the population of this stork species. Greater Adjutant makes nesting colonies in privately owned trees in thickly populated villages. The support of nest tree owners and local villagers are crucial for conservation of this bird. The current activities of the project is concentrated in Dadara and Pachariya villages of Kamrup district in Assam, though there are sporadic programs held in other districts of Assam as well.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Project Manager Purnima Devi Barman was conferred the prestigious Whitley Awards also known as the Green Oscars in May, 2017, by Whitley Fund for Nature, for her efforts to save the highly endangered Greater Adjutant Stork.
- On International Women's Day 2018, Purnima Devi Barman was awarded the Nari Shakti Purashkar 2017 award which was conferred by the Honorable President, Ram Nath Kovind, in New Delhi.
- Purnima Devi Barman was conferred with the 'PragPreronaSamman', by Prag Channel, in March, 2018. She received the Award from the hands of the Hon'ble



Photo: Aaranyak

Prof DK Sharma, Former Professor, Guwahati University
inaugurating Weaving Training Center

Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- On the 5 June, 2017, GASP and Kamrup Police together celebrated World Environment Day. 7500 saplings were distributed which included saplings of the nesting trees of Greater Adjutants, as well as other important economic plants. Till the 11th of June, 2017, the Plantation Week was held where the women of Dadara, Pacharia and Singimari villages (collectively called the Hargila Army) planted a whopping number of 7500 saplings across the villages.
- On 1 July, 2017, a Programme called the Biodiversity Classroom for empowering the women of Dadara-Pachariya-Singimari was held in Dadara Higher Secondary School. where HargilaBaideu, as Purnima Devi Barman is fondly called, interacted at length with the women about the importance of biodiversity and other basic concepts of conservation.
- On 28 July, 2017, in an effort to empower the Hargila Army to enhance their own traditional skills, an initiation of a Weaving Training Center cum Outlet for Hargila Army Women's Group was organized.
- On 6 July, 2017, a Field trip and an Organic Farming Training were organized for the women of the villages to get an initial idea. Fruit saplings and economic plants were distributed among the women as incentives.
- On 27 September, 2017, which was also the first day of Durga Puja, the villagers of Dadara celebrated the festival in a unique manner, by organizing a Hargila Fancy Dress Competition named, "Hargila Steals the Show."
- Wildlife Week was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Regional Science Center, Guwahati on 4 October, 2017.

It was an educational tour exposure to the Hargila Army women group and their children.

- On 19 October, 2017, a rally was organized by the villagers of Dadara, Pacharia and Singimari, led by the Hargila Army appealing for a “Cracker-free Diwali” on the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights, celebrated in India.
- On 15 November, 2017, All India Radio (AIR), Guwahati, invited Purnima Devi Barman for a Talk Show on Inspirational Women, where she was interviewed at length about Greater Adjutant Stork awareness and conservation.
- On the 19 November, 2017, the Hargila Army came up with an idea to include the Greater Adjutant as one of their family members in a wedding ceremony of one the women in the group in Pacharia village. It was a unique way of associating wildlife awareness within a sacred ceremony.
- On 30 November, 2017, the villagers along with the Whitley Award winner celebrated “Happy Hatching Day of Hargila”, where tradition, culture and conservation merged together to welcome with open arms, the fruitful efforts to save the stork and ensuring arrival of hatchlings.
- On 13 October, 2017, Dadara Higher Secondary School exhibited two statues of the Greater Adjutant Stork to welcome guests as part of Gunotsav. Gunotsav is a Quality Enhancement Initiative of the State for

bringing about improvement in learning levels of students at elementary level.

- On 18 October, 2017, two more statues of the Greater Adjutant were installed in the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden's children park, by the Zoo Authority in collaboration with Aaranyak.
- From 1 October to 30 November, 2017, there was regular monitoring done in the Guwahati Municipality Corporation's garbage dumping ground, Boragaon, Guwahati and also in DeeporBeel for Population Survey of the Greater Adjutants. Simultaneously, from 1 to 30 November, 2017, there was monitoring done of the nesting trees and regular nest counting done in Dadara, Pacharia and Singimari villages in Kamrup district.
- Additionally, from 1 to 10 October, 2017, two artificial nesting bamboo platforms have been constructed for the Greater Adjutants in Dadara

and Pacharia. Two more such platforms have also been constructed in the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden, Guwahati.

- The GASP team continued with the work of new Nets being installed under nesting trees to reduce the injury of nest fallen chicks.
- The Division is engaged in continuous studying of different behavioral parameters and monitoring nests by constructing bamboo platforms near habitat areas of the Greater Adjutant Stork.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

The Division's perpetual efforts in educating the local communities since 2009 has yielded great result as they are developing an ownership feeling towards the presence of this bird in their villages. Locals now offer regular rituals for Greater Adjutants in religious festivals. Women of Dadara area have developed 12 self-help groups (Hargila



Photo: Aaranyak

Performing a *naam* song on hargila at Deepor Beel

Conservation Family) and are now working for conservation of this rare bird on their own. Local youths are regularly monitoring nests and they rescue the birds that fall from the nests. The local school has also sustained the campaign and the students have become the guardian of the species in these villages. Local police has become the key stakeholder for conservation of the species. The Colony has now become globally famous. The number of nests has

steadily increased in the colony. From 2010 not a single nesting tree has been cut which is a tremendous success.

- Women of Dadara area have developed 12 self-help groups (Hargila Conservation Family), working for conservation of this rare bird.
- Local youths are regularly monitoring nests and engaged in rescue of the birds that fall from the nests.

- The local school has also sustained the campaign and the students have become the guardian of the species in these villages.
- Local police has become the key stakeholder for conservation of the species.
- The number of nests has steadily increased in the colony. From 2010 not a single nesting tree has been cut which is a tremendous success.
- For their effective conservation efforts, the community has earned a global name and fame.



Photo: Aaranyak

Mr. Ranjit Konwar, DFO, Kamrup East Division delivering his address and distributing yarns



Photo: Aaranyak

Performing a *naam* song on hargila

ROAD AHEAD

- Creating a Community Conservation area of the nesting colonies with the aid of government initiatives.
- Launching of Plantation and “Save Wetland, Save Greater Adjutant” Campaign.
- Initiating a unique concept of 'Hargila Restaurant', by creating a space for dead animals, butcher house wastes to be dumped in a common area in urban areas rather than dumping in many places.
- Creation of artificial nests in dumping and nesting sites across Assam.

CONTACT

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Conservation and Livelihood Division
(CLD)

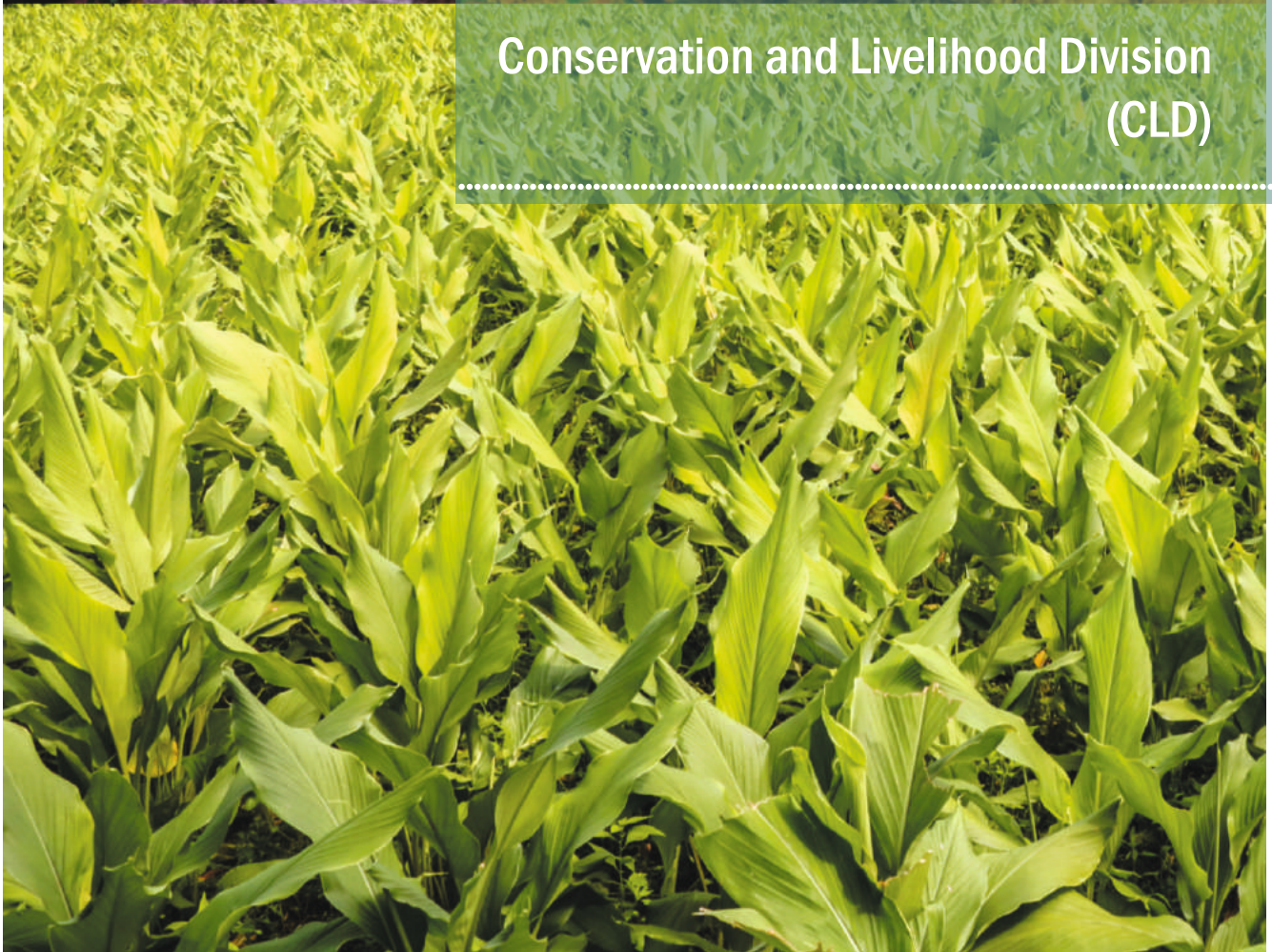


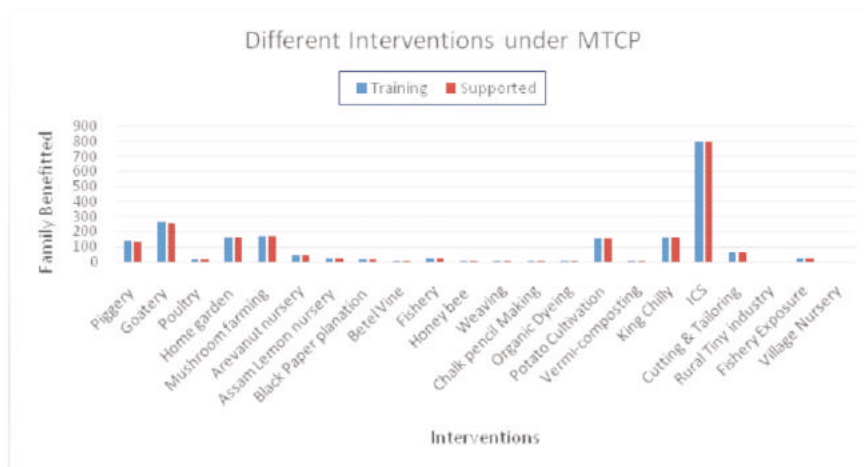
Photo: Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

“Manas Tiger Reserve” is a unique and an important landscape in the state of Assam, recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Elephant Reserve. It shares boundary with Bhutan. Manas represents diverse and distinguishing ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands and different seasonal and permanent water bodies that support varied life forms and support a large number of threatened and endemic flora and fauna including, Golden langur, Pygmy hog and Bengal Florican. Anthropogenic pressure, like extraction of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), fishing, firewood collection, collection of wild edibles etc., are posing conservation problems in the Park. Considering the increasing anthropogenic pressure on the forest areas, provision of alternative livelihoods for the forest fringe communities has proved highly significant for conservation of the forest resources. Keeping this in view, the Conservation and Livelihood Division at Aaranyak, aims to provide sustainable livelihood options and opportunities for the fringe area communities.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP)



- Training on Livestock rearing (Piggery, Goatery, Poultry, etc.) provided to 434 beneficiaries.
- Training on various agriculture and allied components provided to 429 beneficiaries.
- 138 women have been trained and provided material support on weaving, organic dyeing, cutting-tailoring and chalk pencil making.
- Establishment support for apiary to the 8 youth who have been provided with training on honeybee rearing.
- Production of natural dyed thread and chalk pencils have been started by the women-run SHG.
- 801 numbers of improved cooking stoves installed in MTCP project areas.

- 520 beneficiaries have been making surplus income, and the dependence on forest resources for livelihood sustenance, has significantly reduced.

Manas Traditional Dress Cluster (MTDC)

- Organized a one-day awareness and motivation programme on maintenance of basic accounting system for weavers at Majrabari Library for 67 weavers.
- Distributed 19 looms to the beneficiaries.
- Organized training on modern jacquard loom for the beneficiaries of Majrabari, Madanguri & Bhuyanpara.
- Attended Indian International Trade Fair from the 14th to 27th of November, 2017, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, and along with beneficiaries, sold products of MTDC.
- Organized skill development and capacity building on home furnishing training, from 21st of December, 2017 to 8th of January, 2018, at Majrabari Library where 40 participants participated in the event.
- 14 beneficiaries were taken for an exposure visit to West Bengal, from the 21st to 28th of February, 2018.
- Organized skilling and capacity building on dyeing of yarns for 50 beneficiaries at Majrabari from the 20th to 29th of March, 2018.
- Organized skilling and capacity building on dyeing of yarns for 50 beneficiaries at Madanguri from the 30th of March to 8th of April, 2018.

Tata Trust Manas Project (TTMP)

Piggery:

- 954 piglets distributed among 477 beneficiaries of conservation volunteers of 4 different districts of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) covering 354 households.
- Piglets were distributed among 17 piggery clusters among 128 villages.
- 227 beneficiaries have been trained on piggery farm management and deworming techniques.
- 17 beneficiaries have been trained on piggery business skill development for self-employment.
- 8 local youths have been trained as piggery Para-Vets.

Dairy:

- 106 crossbreed cows distributed among 106 beneficiaries of conservation volunteers among 7 dairy clusters of 4 BTC District.
- 33 beneficiaries have been trained on artificial insemination.
- 12 beneficiaries have been trained on dairy farm management.
- 4 local youths have been trained as a dairy Para-Vets.

Fishery:

- 8 beneficiaries among 2 cluster groups have started fishery in 11 bighas area in Baksa District.
- 25 kg of fishes have been introduced in each fishery during financial year 2015-16 for 4 beneficiaries, and 28 kg fishes introduced during the financial year 2016-17 for another 4 beneficiaries in Baksa District.



Photo: Aaranyak

Manas Traditional Dress Cluster in International Trade Fair at New Delhi



Photo: Aaranyak

Training of weavers under Manas Traditional Dress Cluster

STRATEGIC ACTION

Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP):

- Regular monitoring of activities, performances and problems of the beneficiaries, is being done.
- Livestock beneficiaries have also been provided with medicines and vaccines for the animals and birds.
- A weaving unit has been developed in Thuribari and Karebari in Buyanpara cluster and Gorumara village in Kokilabari cluster and Oxyguri and Nathpara in Kahitema cluster, to support marginal weavers.
- Completion of nature guide training for 24 youths from villages of Bhuyanpara range, who are ready for getting engaged with tourists in the upcoming season.

- 42 persons have been taken to two separate exposure visits for orienting them to the modern techniques of fishery, as well as modern agricultural and nature farming techniques.
- 414 beneficiaries were provided with piglets (1/HH), Goats (1/HH) and poultry chicks (10/HH). Regular monitoring is being done.
- 770 beneficiary households were provided with various agronomic input material support like vegetable seeds, arecanut seeds, saplings of Assam lemon, king chilly seedlings, betel vine and black pepper, mushroom spawn, fish spawn, bee hives, etc.

Manas Traditional Dress Cluster (MTDC)

- Field level training followed by hand holding support to the

beneficiaries, was undertaken across the Manas landscape.

- Day to day monitoring of the artisans, back up support and establishment of market linkages to sell their products.
- Construction of a Common Facility Centre is going on at Majrabari Field Station which will be equipped with Looms, Sewing Machines, Wrapping Drums, Calendaring Machine, etc.
- As a part of product diversification and value chain development of the programme organic dyeing, and market linkages are being established with different layers of buyers.
- Cutting & tailoring training imparted to the beneficiaries, along with products in demand locally, like designer blouse, petticoat, baby suits, etc. Such products were



Livestock Health Camp under Manas Tiger Conservation Programme

Photo: Aaranyak

produced in the villages, and sold in local market.

Kaziranga Landscape under Rhino conservation Programme:

- 20 trained beneficiaries have received goats (2 Goats each), in 5 different villages under Burapahar Range.
- Piglets from old beneficiaries were distributed to 8 new beneficiaries (2 piglets each), under Agaratoli Range. But unfortunately, the piglets died from disease.

Tata Trust Manas Project (TTMP)

- Motivation and awareness among the beneficiaries.
- SHG formation and strengthening of targeted beneficiaries
- Exposure trip to the beneficiaries to dairy, piggery and fish farming institutions.
- Vaccination and medicines support to the cattle and pig of identified farmers.
- Veterinary care facilities to the identified farm.
- Feed supplement support to the identified farm.
- Low cost piggery shed construction among the piggery beneficiaries.
- Awareness and caring of veterinary health, hygiene and sanitation.
- Low cost dairy shed construction among the beneficiaries

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- Purnima SHGs of Langdangpara village were trained on cotton thread dyeing with natural dye and chalk pencil making and they



Photo: Aaranyak

Exposure visit of farmers under Tata Trust Manas Project



Photo: Aaranyak

Diversified weaving products of MTDC

- have been able to earn 18000 and 4500 INR per month in respective activities.
- A number of beneficiaries like Mr. Ghega Narzary, Mrs. Sotrasen Basumatary and Ranjita Basumatary are earning a steady income ranging from 1800-2000 per week selling homestead garden products in local market.
- Mrs. Sabitri Barman has stopped depending on the forest, and is profitably engaged in Puffed Rice Business.
- Ranjit Basumatary of Kahitema area has earning a considerable amount through mushroom cultivation round the year.
- 8 youths from Gwjangami village have started their own apiary and hope to extend the cultivation in coming days with plantation of flowering plants.



Photo: Aaranyak

Distribution of Piglet to beneficiary

- Entrepreneurship development in local boys & girls.
- Ecotourism development through training, exposure of local youth across the landscape.
- Establishment of dairy co-operative society assembling dairy clusters for TTMP beneficiaries.
- To introduce a model “three wheeler pork selling mobile vehicle” in two different districts.
- Local unemployed youth to be absorbed as Para vets for vaccination and veterinary support.



Photo: Aaranyak

Community Nursery initiative at Majrabari under MTCP project

- Through the TTMP Project, livelihood of 591 poor households has been improved through Piggery, Dairy and Fishery across the Manas landscape.
- Average income of Rs. 44,000 in Udalguri, Rs 45,000 in Baksa and Rs. 44,000 in Chirang out of diary activities.

ROAD AHEAD

- Establishment of programme, market & financial linkages for better price, and sustainability of interventions.
- Training of groups on development of products with varied use potential.
- Value chain development of various agricultural & horticultural crops, for creation of local market hub.

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Elephant Research and Conservation Division
(ERCD)



Photo: Abhijan Saha

INTRODUCTION

The declining number of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), shrinking habitats and intensified human-elephant conflict (HEC) have posed a complex challenge for its conservation. At ERCD, over the years, we have been studying the population ecology and working on identifying the underlying patterns of HEC and preventive measures to mitigate HEC. As the HEC can reduce to a great extent by empowering local communities, we work closely with the communities. The ERCD has been instrumental in capacity building of local biologists and so far, have made tangible difference in addressing various issues, particularly in Assam. Our work spans across Assam and northern West Bengal. along with elephant, ERCD also carries out works on herbivores species like Guar and Hog deer and their habitat.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully tested and found out that the leaves of *Chromolaena*, which is otherwise an invasive species destroying grasslands, has beneficial dyeing properties. Thereafter, capacity building of local women has been done to use *Chromolaena* leaves as natural dye augment, hence serving as a source of alternative livelihood.
- Historical and current human elephant conflict assessment has been carried out in the riverine landscape of Eastern Assam.
- All major elephant corridors in North Bengal were assessed for their present usage.



Photo: Ankita Thakuria

Dung marking at Dehing Patkai WLS



Photo: Deep Borah Sonowal

Interview and peoples perception Survey at Bogapani near Elephant Corridor, Digboi

- Gaur population has been estimated in different protected areas in North Bengal.

Bengal (Duars landscape).

- In Eastern Assam, ERCD is assessing the dependency of local communities on the three designated elephant corridors namely Bogapani, Kotha and Golai and their usage by elephants, along with elephant population estimation in the Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve.

STRATEGIC ACTION

The ERCD's work spans across different landscapes - Eastern Assam, Central Assam (Golaghat district), Western Assam (Manas National Park) and Northern West

Capacity Building training for the frontline staff and mass awareness are also being conducted at regular intervals.

- Single season Occupancy Survey is conducted to understand the distribution pattern of elephants in the riverine landscape of Eastern Assam.
- Golaghat district is one of the most human elephant conflict-prone districts of

Assam and has claimed the lives of human and elephants over the years. Presently, ERCD is testing elephant deterrent plants to keep the elephants at bay. We have established experimental plots at two sites and are regularly monitoring the plots.

- In Northern West Bengal, EECBD is conducting studies on elephant occupancy, their population abundance and understanding human



Photo: Abhijan Saha

Gaur at Jaldapara WLS

elephant conflict patterns. Based on our results, inputs will be provided to the forest department for developing a management action plan.

- In Manas National Park, ERCD has studied the alien invasive plant species in the grasslands and identified measures to control it.
- Hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), is an Endangered ungulate with declining population. ERCD initiated a study in 2014, on the factors affecting the distribution and abundance of the species in Manas National Park.
- ERCD has been conducting surveys across the Duarslandscape to study the ecology of a mega herbivore, the Indian Gaur (*Bosgauras*), and understand the conflict patterns.



Photo: Rohan Gayatri

Vegetation survey for Elephant and Gaur, North Bengal

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- Information on the present status of elephant corridors in Eastern Assam were lacking, and our fills the existing gap.
- Our results from the experiment conducted, to identify elephant-deterrent plants (*Homalomenaaromatica*, *Curcuma aromatica*, Citronella, Lemon grass, King chilli), will help the local



Photo: Abhijan Saha

Data collection on elephants in North-bengal



Photo: Manjit Konwar

Cultivation of Elephant repellent crops at Golaghat

communities to adopt alternative crop cultivation to reduce the losses caused due to crop damage by elephants.

- Control measures to arrest invasion in the grasslands of Manashave been adopted by the forest department. These

control measures are successfully implemented by other conservation organizations and the forest department, in other areas as well.

- Information of human elephant conflict and

elephant distribution pattern will help to develop conflict mitigation strategy in the riverine landscape of Eastern Assam.

ROAD AHEAD

- Most of our conservation projects require a long-term commitment to achieve a substantial outcome on ground. We therefore, will continue with our existing work on animal ecology, capacity building of local communities and biologists, outreach activities and empowering local communities. Upcoming initiatives include habitat restoration and work with the electricity department, to minimize the electrocution of elephants.
- We are collaborating with the Bhutan Department of Forest for research and conservation of elephants for the first time in the TransboundaryManasConservation Area (TrAMCA) region. At Aaranyak, this will be the first trans-boundary project on elephants.

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Environment Education and
Capacity Building Division
(EECBD)

Photo: Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

Environment education (EE) is a dynamic and progressive exercise which allows people to explore environmental issues, solve problems and take action to improve environment through developing essential skills.

The activities of EECBD are diversified into various fields including capacity building of individuals through training and hand-holding to ensure the conservation of biodiversity. Besides, the division has also been equally emphasizing on sensitization, awareness and public outreach activities amongst its multiple target audiences to increase knowledge, boost thinking and motivate into action to conserve the biodiversity of Assam. EECBD has also been engaged in developing Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on different ecological issues.

The EECBD works in close collaboration with the other Divisions of Aaranyak, as well as strategic grass-root partner organizations, government



Photo: Aaranyak

Workshop on Green Reporting at Mongaldoi College

agencies, academic institutions, local communities etc.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Published a popular book on Climate Change, titled “*Batar Jalabāyuāru Jivan*” (Weather, Climate and Life) in Assamese. Besides, the EECBD has also published different IEC materials in association with other divisions of Aaranyak.

- Organized 11 orientation workshops, 8 capacity building training sessions, 130 awareness programmes and 57 strategic meetings.
- Offer hand holds support to 63 numbers of schools on effective conservation education at Manas landscape.
- Over one lakh people have directly been reached with effective conservation messages during the reporting period.



Photo: Aaranyak

Participants of Public outreach programme

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

Education and Outreach:

- Organized 130 environmental awareness activities targeting students spanning from elementary to graduation level and community.
- Successfully organized 6 orientation programmes to sensitize village community leaders and Panchayati Raj Insinuation members, about the adverse impacts of



Photo: Aaranyak

An Orientation workshop on Climate change

climate change on human and natural systems and also the need to educate common people and prepare them to handle such challenges. The programmes were organized at six different districts of Assam.

- Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP) organized 6 rallies in the entire Manas landscape, targeting to the students and important stakeholders of that locality.
- Established 3 herbal gardens in three different schools in Manas landscape.
- Organized 4 “Eco-friendly Holi” workshops to sensitize students and community towards diversified uses of natural resources.
- Regular interaction with 1400 beneficiaries with various issues like conservation, culture, wildlife, livelihood, education, sanitation etc.

Capacity Building:

- Green Reporting: Successfully organized two media workshops on 'Green Reporting' at Darrang district and Mathanguri, Manas National Park, Assam, targeting the local



Photo: Aaranyak

Students participating at Nature Orientation Initiatives

correspondents of print and electronic media and freelance writers.

- Teachers Training: Organized 2 residential teachers training of three-days long for Baksa and Chirang district of Assam where 51 teachers took part.
- Conservation Theatre: Trained 30 local artists through three workshops on Conservation Theatre at Manas landscape. 102 numbers of Conservation Theatre play have been performed in the Manas landscape.
- Nature Orientation Initiative:

Organized a 4-day long residential training cum motivation camp, namely 'Nature Orientation Initiative' (NOI) at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. A total of 48 students of standards VI to XII took part in the programme.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- New developments on reporting in regards to print and electronic media are observed in 'Green Reporting' after the workshop. Some of the participants have organized various conservation awareness activities in their localities



Photo: Aaranyak

A glimpse of participants at Climate Change orientation workshop

after attending the workshops.

- Alumni participants of NOI and participants of the flood preparedness meeting have actively participated in conservation activities during the time of flood in Kaziranga.
- Trained teachers have been carried out conservation education activities in their respective schools.
- Trained artist has been successfully carried out conservation theatre at Manas landscape.



Photo: Aaranyak

Orientation Workshop on Climate Change

ROAD AHEAD

- The division will prepare different IEC materials on various ecological issues. Popular books on Tiger in Assamese and Bodo language, will be published in association with Manas Tiger Conservation Programme.

- Current activities will be continued. The division will also extend academic support and training to the alumni participants of different EE activities.

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**Gangetic Dolphin Research and
Conservation Division
(GDRCD)**

Photo: Abdul Wakid

INTRODUCTION

Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Division (GDRCD) was established in 2005 with an aim to undertake long term conservation activities on the Gangetic dolphins of the Brahmaputra river system in association with all concerned stakeholders. With a dedicated survey boat, manpower, equipment and community support, GDRCD is one of the best recognized Dolphin conservation programmes in India. Besides working on the Ganges River Dolphin of Brahmaputra river system, GDRCD also worked on other dolphin species, mainly the Irrawaddy Dolphin and Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins of the Indian Sundarbans of West Bengal.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

GDRCD-Aaranyak collaborated with the Wildlife Institute of India (an autonomous institution under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Government of India) for the project 'Development of Conservation Action Plan for River Dolphins' for 2016-21. Under this project and within the reported period, GDRCD received the

following achievements:

- Collaborated with Wildlife Institute of India for works on the Ganges River Dolphin in Brahmaputra river system within Assam.
- Conducted the Range-wide Survey of the Gangetic dolphins in the Brahmaputra river system.
- Conducted community based dolphin conservation activities in 20 priority sites across Assam.

STRATEGIC ACTION

In collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, GDRCD did following works in 2017-18.

- Total 1046 km stretch of the Brahmaputra river system was surveyed. This includes 884 km stretch of Brahmaputra River from Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border to India-Bangladesh border, 93 km stretch of Subansiri River and 69 km stretch in Kulsi River. Data analysis is ongoing.
- With the help of 40 trained members of Dolphin



Dolphin awareness campaign

Photo: Abdul Wakid

Conservation Network, GDRCD conducted regular monitoring of dolphins, fishes and birds in 20 important dolphin habitats through standardized monitoring methods. Data analysis is ongoing.



Photo: Abdul Wakid

Brahmaputra dolphin survey 2018

- Fishermen Awareness Campaigns were conducted as an attempt to develop sustainable development of fishery resources in and around dolphin habitats in Assam, in collaboration with the State Fishery Department

of Government of Assam. Total 10 awareness campaigns were conducted during this reported period in collaboration with 7 District Fishery Development Offices of Assam, where about 400 fishermen participated.

- Total 20 Community Awareness Programmes on dolphin conservation were conducted in the river-side villages, where 2418 people participated of which 40% were students.



Photo: Aaranyak

Gangetic River Dolphin

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- To be assessed.

ROAD AHEAD

- Conduct detailed Ecological studies on the dolphins of Brahmaputra.
- Conduct more Community-based Dolphin and River Ecosystem Conservation work.

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Geo-Spatial Technology and
Application Division
(GTAD)

Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

The Geo-Spatial Technology and Application Division (GTAD) was established in Aaranyak in 2004 in view of the increasing importance of remote sensing and GIS technology in environmental research, landscape planning and decision-making in conservation and management of forest and wildlife. The primary work of this Division comprises spatial and non-spatial database creation, GPS based surveying and applying RS-GIS-GPS techniques in a range of environmental appraisals such as detection and analysis of change in wildlife habitat, other critical ecosystems and animal corridors and studies in urban biodiversity, river basin, wetland and human-wildlife conflict. The Division regularly organizes short training courses for students, researchers, NGO workers, and professionals from various disciplines and

in-service Government officials. The Division supports the Assam Forest Department by preparing maps of protected areas, imparting training to its staff on using RS, GIS and GPS, and providing technical support during wildlife census. The Division has carried out practical sessions on geospatial technology methods for several reputed educational institutions such as the Cotton University and Central Academy for State Forest Service, Burnihat, Assam

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Imparted hands-on GPS training to approximately 300 individuals from the Assam Forest Department, students from various colleges and universities and researchers of other organizations.
- Prepared a detailed map of the Manas National Park and handed over to the Field Director's office.
- Prepared a map of the area of jurisdiction of Morigaon District Police and handed over the same to the office of the Superintendent of Police of the District.
- Provided a map of Protected Areas of Assam to the Assam Forest Department for the 'National Green Tribunal Conference', Guwahati.
- Supported the Assam Forest Department by preparing maps of proposed Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) of Assam such as Doomdooma Dangori Wood Duck WLS, Kundil Kalia Conservation Reserve, Luit-Dolphin Sanctuary, Sadiya Gibbon Sanctuary and Jokai Slow Loris WLS.



Photo: Aaranyak

Map of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam had been used by Assam Forest department during National Green Tribunal conference

STRATEGIC ACTION

- Organized two short training sessions on Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS, the first in July 2017 and the second in January 2018. Altogether 24 participants from all over North East India benefitted by attending these courses.
- Generated maps based on data compiled from elephant census done in March 2017 in the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and delivered to the Park Director; participated in tiger census in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in February 2018 and rhino estimation at Pobitora WLS in March 2018.
- Provided 60 numbers of thematic maps to various Divisions and Projects of Aaranyak.
- Carried out intensive fieldwork for ground truthing, GPS based data collection and preparation of maps of the North Bengal Landscape for the Wildlife Genetics Division of Aaranyak.
- Generated RS/GIS/GPS database of land use/land cover change in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape and Sonai-Rupai-Nameri landscape.
- Analyzed land use and land cover change of Eco-sensitive Zone of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary for the Forest Department of Assam.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- Five maps of proposed Wildlife Sanctuaries in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts prepared by GTAD to the Assam Forest Department are being used



Photo: Aaranyak

Handover detail wall map of Manas National Park to Field Director Mr. Hiranya Sarma with support from MTCP Aaranyak



Photo: Aaranyak

Arup Das explaining the concept and application during GPS hands on training to the participants in Deepar Beel

- for finalizing decisions regarding creation of the said protected areas.
- Amap of Manas National Park prepared by GTAD is on display in the Field Director's office and is being used for quick reference and decision-making.
- The map provided to the Morigaon District Superintendent of Police is facilitating the police authority in managing their operational activities.
- Maps provided to various Divisions and Projects of Aaranyak are being used for a number of purposes such as research, conservation, resource planning and decision making related to project management.



Photo: Aaranyak

GTAD staff of Aaranyak with forest officials during GPS hands on training in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary

ROAD AHEAD

We have plans to

- To prepare a pocket-sized GPS manual with guidelines on basic handling for different models of GPS in English language, targeting mainly Forest Frontline staff and researchers.
- To conduct customized workshops and training on geo-spatial techniques for different target groups like students, researchers, forest staff and civil society workers.
- To expand the domain of service provision by including various Government agencies, NGOs, corporates and relevant organisation in private sector in the target category.



Photo Bidyot Bikash Saikia

GIS training Participants, trainers and staff of Aaranyak with Dr. Arup Kumar Mishra Director (ASTEC) Guwahati



Photo: Aaranyak

Arup Kumar Das Manager, GTAD Aaranyak with the officials of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park during All India Tiger Census

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Herpetofauna Research and
Conservation Division
(HRC D)



Photo: Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

The Division started working in the field in 1997 to strengthen herpetofauna research and conservation in NE India region, and has been able to establish a strong conservation network among targeted stakeholders within India and abroad. HRCD, since the beginning, has continued to contribute towards inventory, taxonomy, ecology and conservation research, starting from the Brahmaputra flood plains to alpine forests of the Himalayan range of mountains.

The prime objectives of the division are to assess herpetological diversity and monitor them in the biodiversity hotspot, assess ecosystem health, vulnerability of herpetofauna species to the anthropogenic habitat changes/habitat loss, maintain a strong conservation network to strengthen herpetofauna conservation, understand and resolve taxonomic problems

associated with herpetofauna using integrated taxonomic approaches, create awareness about the importance of herpetofauna in the environment and the need for their conservation.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Received the prestigious EMR Research Grant from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, to work on Amphibians of the Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Successfully carried out field work and collected relevant data during the first session of research from June to September 2017.
- Completed a study titled 'Stream Channel Morphology influencing Amphibian Distribution across Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh, India'.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- Model Amphibian species distribution pattern at different elevation zones, using data collected from field.
- Physiochemical characterization of Amphibian breeding habitats to estimate the runoff contamination into the stream and other breeding pools, across Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Amphibian taxonomy and



Rhacophorus suffry (Least Concern LC) a rare report after its original description from Assam (Bordoloi *et al.*, 2007)

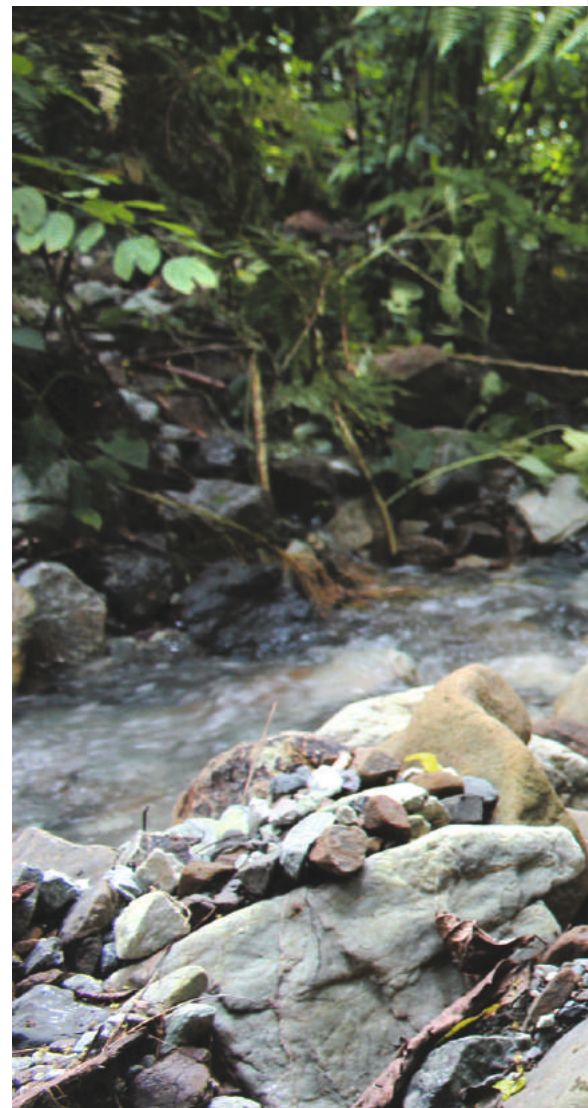


Photo: Aaranyak

understanding their phylogeography in the Northeast Hills-Eastern Himalayas-Indo-China region.

- Evaluate amphibian taxonomy of the region using molecular phylogeny in combination with traditional morphological taxonomy.



Photo: Aaranyak

Activities in Dibang Valley



Photo: Aaranyak

Water chemical test and measuring other habitat variables across Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh



Photography and successful releasing of the species (Jerdon’s pit viper *Trimeresurus jerdonii*) from Dibang Valley

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

The completed and ongoing field work and related data has helped in understanding the effect of topography including slope of mountain, aspects and solar radiation in amphibian distribution. Such preliminary data has helped in designing future field work plans and understanding the distribution pattern of amphibians in the Dibang River Basin.

ROAD AHEAD

- Understand potential impact of weather change on amphibian distribution in the Dibang River Basin.
- Resolve taxonomic status of complex amphibian species groups using molecular techniques.
- Generate predictive distribution models of key amphibian species over large biogeographic regions.

- Further strengthen conservation network through collaboration with PhD students and scientists across Southeast Asia.

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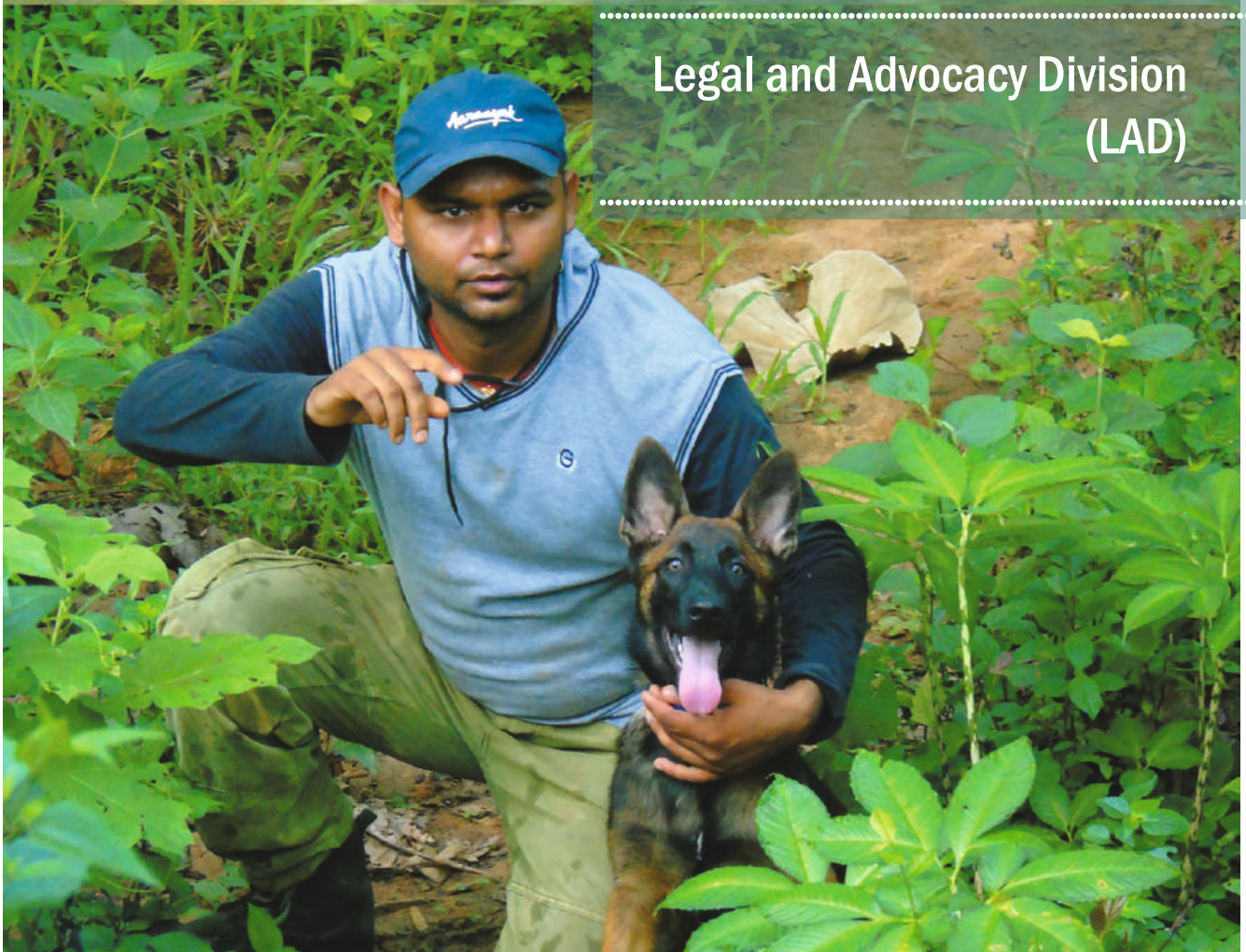
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Legal and Advocacy Division
(LAD)

Photo: WCMP, Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

The North East region of India, particularly the state of Assam, has been a clandestine route for illegal trade on wildlife parts. The division has been administering a wildlife crime monitoring project, incessantly conferring support to the law enforcement agencies in strengthening effective and operational intelligence-gathering network to combat wildlife crime. The division has been managing the K9 Sniffer Dog Unit, currently having six trained Belgian Melinois dogs along with its handlers. The K9 Unit has been assisting enforcement agencies in nabbing hunters by giving vital leads from scene of crime, thereby contributing enormously to the crime detection and its investigation.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- LAD has successfully completed legal workshops for police officers in districts of Assam. Salient emphasis was given to sensitize police officials filing a complaint case as per Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 to ensue increase conviction.
- The division has also trained 100 numbers of tourist guides working in Kaziranga.
- The division has been able to orient 70 freshly recruited judicial officers of Assam Judicial Service, and 30 numbers of eminent media persons.
- K9 dogs of the division assisted rhino bearing areas in Assam in field investigation from scene of crime that

enables forest and police officials getting vital clues on culprits involved.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- During 2017-18, the Division initiated Legal Orientation for police officers in districts of Assam targeting at proper filing of complaint case by police officers as per Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and its subsequent amended versions to secure success in conviction of culprits involved in wildlife offences.
- The division assisted Primate Research and Conservation Division in orienting 150 frontline forest staffs from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on legal matters.
- The Associate lawyer of LAD



Legal Workshop with Dhubri Police at Dhubri



Photo: WCMP, Aaranyak

K9 dog unit during training imparted by a trainer from Germany

delivered lectures related to Wildlife Laws at –

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary for the fresh recruits of the cadres of Grade- III, Assam Judicial Service organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam and North Eastern Judicial Officer' Training Institute.
- Cotton University
- Centenary Convention Hall, Kohora, organized by Kaziranga National Park Authority, Assam Tourism, Aaranyak, WWF-India, Bhumi and Corbett Foundation on 20 September 2017

- Mathanguri in Manas National Park, to a group of eminent journalists.
- More demand from field sites for K9 dogs has been received and based on that, suitable puppies of Belgian Melinois dog breed have been sourced and trained along with handlers to expand the area of operations.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- 017-18 has witnessed an enhanced rate of convictions in the wildlife crime cases, and speedy disposals of such cases due to proactive steps taken by the Judiciary by

establishing fast track courts in Assam to dispose wildlife cases. It is a result of the active advocacy and persistent intervention of AD in the policy matters in various forums by complimenting the initiatives of government agencies.

- Initial success of K9 sniffer dogs has further increase its demand in the field leading to expansion of K9 dog numbers to along with handlers.

ROAD AHEAD

- The Division will continue the legal workshops for police officials in different districts.



- K9 sniffer Dog Unit shall be further strengthened to deploy more dogs and handlers in key areas to assist enforcement agencies in checking wildlife crime.
- The division shall make efforts to build next generation of young lawyers to deal with wildlife crime.

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Photo: WCMP, Aaranyak

Two Bikes gifted to Golaghat Police to combat wildlife crime



Media Production and
Communications Division
(MPCD)



Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

In order to undertake multimedia tool-based documentation, production and publication on the pertinent issues of biodiversity and environment in North East India, Aaranyak has launched a new division named the Media Production and Communication Division (MPCD) commencing from January 2018. MPCD works in tandem with the other divisions of Aaranyak, as well as other



MPCD team conducting drone based aerial surveillance of wildlife with Assam Forest Department

government and non-government organizations for the effective use of multimedia tools for mass communication, in order to promote biodiversity conservation and environment protection in the region. The major areas of functioning of MPCD are public relations and communications, research-based media production and publications on pertinent issues of biodiversity conservation and environment protection, manpower and in-house facility development for media productions and establishment of relevant collaborations with organizations and individuals and work jointly towards the use of multimedia tools for mass communication.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of In-house facilities along with equipment and editing facilities, for photography and video production.
- Development of manpower pool for multimedia documentation through enrollment of affiliate photographers and videographers, besides training employees of the

Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak



Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak

MPCD videographer documenting community based conservation activities of Aaranyak

Division.

- Production of a short film under the title “Women Power of Aaranyak” showcasing the achievements of the female employees of Aaranyak.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- Establishment of facilities such as photography and video production, equipped with high-end photo and video equipment such as 4k dSLR cameras, drone for aerial photography and video, action cameras, professional sound recording system, various photo and video support system, underwater housing and other accessories. The division is also equipped with a media laboratory with iMac 5K system, Laptops and desktops for digital post processing and video editing (FCP X).
- MPCD has developed In-house manpower for photography, videography and public relations activity, trained and well versed with the use of multimedia tools for communication. In addition to the core team of MPCD comprising of permanent employees, the division also enrolls freelance photographers and videographers as affiliates,
- designing consultants, thus having a workforce of people from various genre of art, expertise and experience.
- During the reported period of 3 months, MPCD has produced one short film titled “Women Power of Aaranyak”, which showcases the achievements and activities of the female employees of Aaranyak, and provide examples of women empowerment in the society. In addition, MPCD is working on 1 documentary film and 3 other short educational and promotional films.
- MPCD maintains Aaranyak



Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak

Field conservation project documentation by MPCD team

press communications, maintenance of Aaranyak social media and website etc. In addition, publications such as Aaranyak Annual Report, biannual newsletter Biolink etc. are some of the activities that MPCD performs at regular basis.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

In-house media production facility of MPCD is enabling Aaranyak to plan and develop quality audio-visual media for education and sensitization on wildlife conservation, environment protection and other associated social issues.

ROAD AHEAD

- To undertake projects on multimedia tool based documentation, production and publication on pertinent issues of biodiversity and the environment in North East India.
- Provide service to the other divisions of Aaranyak, as well as other organizations working for the cause of conservation in photo and video documentation, and also in the production of educational and promotional media.

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Photo: Udayan Borthakur



Primate Research and
Conservation Division
(PRCD)

Photo: Randell C. Keyes



INTRODUCTION:

Aaranyak in the year 2002 launched Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD) aiming at spreading awareness and undertaking research, training and conservation of the non-human primates of Northeast India. Northeast India has the highest primate diversity in the country with 12 species out of the total 26 species known in India.

Major Achievements:

1. Successfully conducted week-long residential training programme for forest guards of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Nagaland for conservation of hoolock gibbons.
2. Successfully conducted week-long field course on

Conservation Biology and Global Health at Gibbon Conservation Centre in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. Conducted rapid survey on the primates especially white-

cheeked macaque in Anjap district of Arunachal Pradesh.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- A. Primate survey with special



Photo: Prodiip Bhuyan

Group photo of the Conservation Biology field course trainee and Resource Person



Photo: Mridupaban Phukan

Providing field instruction to the trainee at Hoolock Gibbon wildlife Century



Photo: Prodigy Bhuyan

Group photograph of Foresters trainee and Resource Person of Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training programme

reference to white-cheeked macaque in Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh was conducted and data were collected using modified line transects and total counts.

B. Conducted training on the conservation of hoolock gibbon at Gibbon Conservation Centre in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam. The primary goal of hoolock gibbon conservation training was to ensure long-term conservation of the species and its habitats and to develop a group of skilled and motivated frontline forest staff who can take up conservation of hoolock gibbon as gibbon ambassadors by involving their respective communities. This includes:

- 7 days residential training programme conducted for the forest guards of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in 3 batches and 7 days residential training programme for foresters of Nagaland and Assam in 2 batches.
 - Conducted 3 days rapid training for forest guard trainees of Makum Forest School, Assam.
- C. Organized 8th Field Course on Conservation Biology and Global Health with wide range of topic covered, such as field study methods, management and conservation strategies, wildlife conservation in Assam, primate behavior and ecology, the human-environment interface,

and translational research. The course consisted of daily lectures, field exercises, and community outreach education.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT:

- A. Generated 55 trained forest guards from Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, 30 foresters from Nagaland and Assam and 30 forest guard trainees from Assam Forest School Makum on hoolock gibbon conservation.
- B. Generated 16 trained participants from the field training on Conservation Biology and Global Health at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India.



Photo: Mridupaban Phukan

Dr. Dilip Chetry presenting on the Primates of Northeast India and its conservation

ROAD AHEAD:

(A brief but focused outline of future plans. In Bullets)

- To expand hoolock gibbon conservation training programme in other states of Northeast India.
- To explore trans-boundary areas of Northeast India to know the different species of primates.
- Reassessment on distribution and current status of Hoolock gibbon along its distribution range.
- Genetic and parasitological studies on primates of Northeast India in collaboration with Wildlife Genetic Division of Aaranyak
- Publication of book on different primates of Northeast India.
- To conduct the education and awareness programme on non-human primates conservation.

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Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD)



Photo: RRCD, Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

RBCD of Aaranyak was launched in 1994 to address diverse conservation challenges posed to Greater One-horned Rhinos. Demand for rhino horn in illegal international market ultimately triggers rhino poaching. It is a matter of serious concern that 3 of the 5 species of rhino are Critically Endangered, and 2 of them have fewer than 80 animals left in the wild. In the year 2017-18, the RBCD of Aaranyak has undertaken variety of activities to compliment conservation efforts of government agencies to protect Greater One-horned Rhino from diverse threats.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

- Gifted a 4WD Gypsy to Kaziranga National Park to enhance Field Vigil to complement ongoing efforts of the Park authorities to secure the future of rhinos.
- RBCD, in association with Environmental Education and Capacity Building Division has conducted about 40 'Rhino Goes to School' activities in various schools around rhino bearing areas of Assam.
- 100 no. of torch lights were distributed to the members of Village Defense Petrol (VDPs) in and around Kaziranga National park in June 2017, to enhance vigil to check rhino poaching.
- 50 no. of high power spot lights were distributed to the Kaziranga National park authority in December 2017.
- RBCD partnered with Kaziranga National Park Authority, State Veterinary Department, Corbett Foundation, WWF India and Bhumi to organize around 100 cattle vaccination camps. This effort has covered around 57,000 cattle in the fringe villages of Kaziranga NP to check disease outbreak that may affect the rhino population.



Photo: Manas Bhattacharjya

RBCD official assisting rhino tranquilization in Manas NP for treatment



Photo: RRCD, Aaranyak

Rhino Goes to School activities in a school around Pabitora WLS

- RRCD officials assisted a team of experts to tranquilize an injured male rhino in Manas National Park for treatment.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- RRCD made efforts to reach out to new schools and areas during 2017-18, to reach out to new students in schools around rhino bearing areas of Assam.
- Need for field vehicles in rhino bearing areas were assessed with forest officials to strengthen mobility of forest staffs. A new Electronic Rhino Educational Board had been designed with information on rhino in general which can be used as quiz board for the school students to enhance awareness on rhino.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- RRCD could reach out to about 8500 students during 2017-18 covering to sensitize

গঁড়ৰ বিষয়ে জানো আঁহা!

তলত দিয়া প্ৰশ্ন সমূহৰ শুদ্ধ উত্তৰ বাচি উলিওৱা

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বৰ্তমান পৃথিৱীত কেইটা প্ৰজাতিৰ গঁড় পোৱা যায় ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Aaranyak 25th Anniversary David Shepherd WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Photo: Arif Hussain

Electronic Rhino Quiz Device for students to test their basic knowledge on rhinos



Photo credit Uttam Saikia

A new 4 WD Maruti Gypsy gifted to Kaziranga National Park to enhance mobility



Photo credit RRCD Aaranyak

Rhino goes to school activities in school around Pabitora WLS

ROAD AHEAD

- RRCD will always complement the sincere efforts made by the Govt. to safeguard the Greater One-horned Rhino.
- Based on requirement, the division will continue to extend support with equipment and field gear, to rhino bearing areas of the state and other parts of the country.
- RRCD will work closely with the different agencies engaged in rhino conservation, in the national as well as international level, to safeguard the species.
- RRCD will also continue the Educational Programme in and around rhino bearing areas of the state, to inculcate in minds of students, the love for rhino.

need for rhino conservation.

- Electronic Rhino Quiz board introduced during the period has attracted students to know about basic information on rhinos.
- RRCD offered Field equipment to rhino bearing areas to complement the

efforts of Frontline Forest staff.

- Vaccination of about 57000 cattle individuals in and around Kaziranga National Park has boosted the morale of the people, which indirectly contributes towards conservation of the park.

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Tiger Research and
Conservation Division
(TRCD)



Photo: Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

The Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) was established in 2005. The division functions primarily to estimate prey and predator population, demography, mapping spatial distribution, assessing conservation threats and formulate mitigation measures through scientific research, environment education and capacity development of forest fringe communities across the protected areas and non-protected areas laying in the Eastern Himalayas in India. TRCD has contributed significantly towards conservation of tigers, co-predators and prey animals through obtaining reliable estimates of tigers, assessment of connectivity, policy interventions leading to strengthening of habitat protection, etc. During 2017-2018, the division focused its activities in the Manas National Park (MNP), Barnadi-Jomotsangkha Forest complex in the Transboundary Manas Conservation Landscape and Dibru Saikhowa-Poba-D'Ering-Debang Valley Forest complex.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Supported Manas National Park Authority, Wildlife Institute of India and National Tiger Conservation Authority in All India Tiger Monitoring (AITM 2018).
- Lead partner in joint monitoring of tigers, co-predators and prey animals in the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA).
- Conducted camera trapping and sign survey study in Dibru-Saikhowa-Poba-D'Ering-

Dibang Valley Forest complex for the first time to assess potentials of tiger conservation and understand local and landscape level conservation threats.

- Successfully conducted camera trapping study in the transboundary Barnadi-Jomotsangkha Forest complex and confirmed presence of 28 species of terrestrial mammals, including 6 species of cats and 9 species of ungulates.
- Experimental 'Pull and Push Model' intervention protection, livelihood and conservation education established in Bhuyapara Range of Manas National Park has resulted in overall improved law enforcement scenario and changes in behaviour among fringe villagers.
- Support to law enforcement activities in Bhuyapara Range of Manas has helped the authorities to apprehend or surrender of over 40 poachers with arms and ammunition.

- Continuous training and capacity building of team members led to trained human resource for rigorous scientific monitoring of species and habitats.
- Conservation livelihood initiatives implemented in the fringe villages of Manas National Park has significantly and positively impacted conservation scenario in the park as well as economic status of fringe villagers.
- Implementation Participatory Natural Resource Management approaches in Karbi Anglong Hills with first hand assessment of NTFP use and its impact on socio-economy.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Securing Source Population of Tiger, Prey and Habitats in Indo-Bhutan Manas Landscape.
- Supporting law enforcement activities in Bhuyapara Range of MNP.



Protection Team organised Refresher Training for Manas Tigers- A mobile team in Bhuyanpara Range once every month

- Annual monitoring of Tigers, co-predators and prey as well as monitor other indicators to evaluate effectiveness of law enforcement and other conservation efforts in the MNP.
- Transboundary Tiger Conservation in Indo-Bhutan Barnadi-Jomotsangkha Forest Complex.
- A pioneering extensive systematic camera trapping exercise was conducted across the forest complex.
- Assisting Conservation and protection of tigers and habitats in the upper Brahmaputra Valleys of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- A pioneering systematic camera trapping exercise was conducted across the forest complex.
- Mapping status of the forests and animal connectivity corridors with the complex to understand and plan metapopulation conservation in the larger landscape.



Photo: Aaranyak

Camera-trapping data analysis workshop, organised for the frontline forest officials of Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhutan



Photo: Aaranyak

Volunteers and frontline forest officials were trained for the All Indian Tiger Monitoring 2018 in Manas National Park

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- Study across the Manas NP (500 sq.km) has shown that ethno-political conflict during late 1980s to 2003 had an impact on abundance and distribution of terrestrial mammal species in the park. The study also highlights the importance of larger conservation landscape like TraMCA (Transboundary Manas Conservation Area) between India and Bhutan to ensure conservation of

species and prevent extinctions.

- Improvement of overall Law Enforcement outcome in the Manas NP particularly in the Bhuyapara Range through focused approach of using 'Problem Oriented Policing' in addition to Conservation Livelihood interventions along with sustained Conservation Education campaigns.
- Improvement to habitats due to improved law enforcement in MNP aided by positive

changes in behaviour of fringe villagers.

- Reduced anthropogenic pressure on tiger habitats through conservation livelihoods options to Illegal Natural Resource Extractors (INRE) off MNP.
- Long-term continuous research and conservation of tigers in Manas National Park with the help of cutting edge technologies revealed that the healthy rate of the growth of the tiger population corresponds to an average

4.2% for the period 2011-12 to 2016-17.

- Systematic camera trapping study findings in Indo-Bhutan Barnadi-Jomotshangkha Forest Complex assisted in preparing management plan for Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary.
- First ever assessment of potential of conservation of key threatened species across Dibru-Saikhowa-D'Ering-Poba-Dibang Forest Complex to support trans-state conservation areas model across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in upper Brahmaputra Valleys.

ROAD AHEAD

- Application of Participatory Natural Resource Management approaches for livelihood and ecological security of forest dwelling villagers of Northeast India as models for conservation of threatened species, their habitats and connectivity corridors.
- Conduct a study across protected conservation areas of Northeast India to assess habitat connectivity to strengthen current and future conservation approaches by multiple agencies.
- A landscape level assessment of species



Photo: Aaranyak

Mr.Hiranya Kumar Sarma, Field Director of Manas Tiger Reserve sharing his experience on All Indian Tiger Monitoring, 2018



Photo: Aaranyak

Forest officials of Jomotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary carrying their required food, logistics and research equipment to reach remote location

occupancy, habitats, threats and land-use land-cover changes in the Manas Tiger Reserve area within the TraMCA landscape to strengthen law enforcement and conservation approaches by multiple agencies.

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Photo: TSRP, Aaranyak



Threatened Species
Recovery Programme
(TSRP)

Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak



INTRODUCTION

The Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP) was established in 2018 in the aegis of partnership between Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (www.durrell.org) and Aaranyak. The first project undertaken by TSRP is the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP - www.pygmyhog.org): a long-term collaborative project of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group, Forest Department - Govt. of Assam, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Changes - Govt. of India. Besides Aaranyak, the EcoSystems-India is also a local partner in the project. This Species Recovery Programme involves Conservation Breeding, Habitat Restoration and Reintroduction of Critically Endangered Pygmy Hog (*Porculasalvania*) in the eastern *Terai* grassland, particularly in Assam, since 1996.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of strategic partnership between Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Aaranyak, to further restore the Eastern *Terai* grassland and this iconic species, starting with the successful delivery of the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP).
- Creation of TSRP within Aaranyak and beginning the delivery and integration of PHCP activities through TSRP since January 2018. This includes administration and management of the PHCP sites, staff and resources.



Photo: Aaranyak

Pygmy Hog Research and Breeding Center, Basistha

- Beginning of the development and management of the PHCP centers in Assam (Pygmy Hog Research and Breeding Centre, Basistha, Guwahati; Pygmy Hog Pre-release Centre, Potasali - Nameri, Sonitpur and PHCP Field Stations at Barnadi and SonaiRupai Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Orang and Manas National Parks).

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Conservation breeding, an integral part of PHCP, is aimed to continue healthy captive population of pygmy hogs as a source for individuals for reintroduction every year. To achieve this goal, hogs were paired in December 2017 under a scientific small population management plan and maintained at the two centres. At the end of the reporting period, 60 pygmy hogs were being maintained in captivity by PHCP and this represented the global captive population of the species.
- A group of six captive-bred pygmy hogs are being maintained at the Potasali Pre-release Centre since December 2017 under minimal human care to prepare them for independent survival in the wild. They will be released in Barnadi in May 2018. Reintroduction is a continuous process under PHCP and 110 pygmy hogs in 23 social groups have been released in the wild at three different sites since 2008.
- One of the main tasks of PHCP was spearheading the grassland habitat restoration efforts in Barnadi. Uprooting *Chromolaena* and other weeds and removing invasive trees from erstwhile open grassland patches was a major activity of the project. PHCP also assisted in the removal of trees from the grassland of the RG Orang National Park. Additionally, the project also participated

in controlled early burning of grasslands in Barnadi and Orang.

- Pygmy hog nest and field sign surveys were conducted in March in Orang just after burning the grass to assess reintroduction success.
- Rapid pygmy hog nest and field-sign surveys were carried out to assess the status of wild pygmy hogs in Kuribeel area of Manas, that may hold the last original population of the species on earth.
- A pair of pygmy hog was taken to a custom-built enclosure in Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, in February this year, to continue the public display for generating awareness. The zoo is the only one in the world displaying the species.
- All major renovation and development activities such as repair and expansion of drainage at both the centres, repair and painting the captive animal facilities, and installation of perimeter fences were initiated in the beginning of 2018.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- This year, 14 females were paired for breeding in captivity and all of them appeared pregnant by the end of March 2018. Altogether 197 nests and numerous pellets were detected at 98 different locations covering about 6 km² area in Orang during the post grass burn surveys. These record numbers



Photo: Aaranyak

Mother taking baby hogs into a nest



Photo: Aaranyak

Pygmy Hog Pre-release enclosure at Potasali Nameri

indicated spreading and expansion of reintroduced population in the Park. However, rapid surveys in about 2 km² of Kuribeel area in Manas, indicated presence of very small number of hogs in the last original population.

- Grassland restoration efforts

in an area of about 25 ha continued in Barnadi and it was possible to link three grassland patches. Based on experiences and learning from Orang and Barnadi, PHCP was able to demonstrate different tools and hands-on practices of



Photo: Aaranyak

Grassland management in Barnadi

grassland management to members of different organizations and Park management in a workshop in Manas.

ROAD AHEAD

- Trial of intra-abdominal radio implant in reintroduced hogs in May - June 2018, to find out an effective tracking device for hogs for their long-term monitoring in the field.
- Research and monitoring planning workshop for Pygmy hog for next three years in June 2018 with project personnel and scientists from Durrell UK. This will lead to Methodical monitoring of wild populations of hogs in
- Manas, Monitoring of reintroduced animals, Habitat suitability and Viability analysis of pygmy hog, and other essential research on the grassland habitat and the species.
- Re-wilding Planning Workshop from August 2018, to plan the activity of the project for the next ten years, according to the Re-wilding strategy of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.
- IUCN SSC Species Action Plan Workshop for Pygmy hog in November 2018.

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Water,
Climate and Hazard
(WATCH) Division

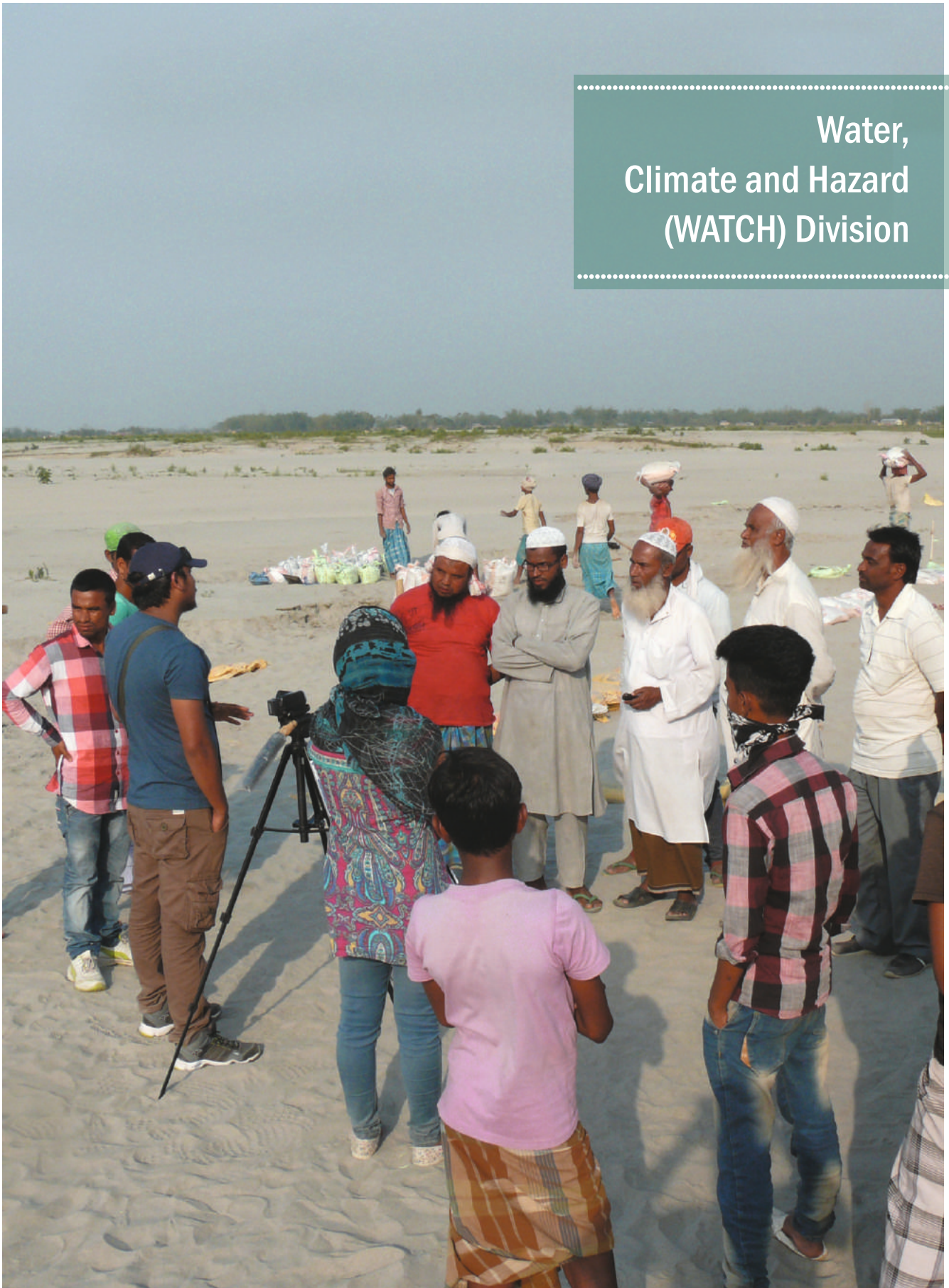


Photo: Aaranyak

INTRODUCTION

Established in 2001 and having evolved with several names and thematic mandates over the last 17 years, the WATCH Division addresses issues in water resources (local water management practices, water governance, water conflict, impact of hydropower and river structures, environmental flow, transboundary waters, water quality), climate change (hydrometeorology, impacts, vulnerability, adaptation and resilience), water and climate induced disasters (flood, river bank erosion, disaster risk mitigation, flood early warning), wetland ecosystems, water based livelihoods, environmental migration, ecosystem services, natural resources management and sustainable development goals. The main geography of operation of the Division is the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins in India.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully conducted trans-boundary exposure visits and interactions of stakeholders from Assam (India) and Bangladesh during October-November, 2017. This was a pioneering Track-III civil society led initiative in participatory transnational learning of management of water-induced hazards between India and Bangladesh.
- 'The Regional Consultation on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the Brahmaputra River Basin' organized by the WATCH Division on November 10-11,



Opening session of the 'Knowledge sharing workshop on CCA and DRR Practices at community level' organised by the Environment and Population Research Centre, Dhaka Bangladesh, supported by the National Development Programme



Expert resource persons speaking in the workshop on 'Developing knowledge products on SDGs with focus on DRR and CCA for children' Organised by WATCH Division, Aaranyak in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam and UNICEF.



Participants of the 'Regional Consultation on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Brahmaputra River Basin Topic: Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation' organised by the WATCH Division of Aaranyak with support from the Asia Foundation-New Delhi



Participants (from India and Bangladesh) of the 'Knowledge sharing workshop on CCA and DRR Practices at community level' organised by the Environment and Population Research Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2017, was one of the largest congregations of experts, researchers, CSOs, media and communities that discussed trans-boundary cooperation on DRR and CCA in the Brahmaputra River Basin.

- Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, HoD of WATCH Division, served as an expert in the Expert Committee formed by Government of Assam on Rejuvenation of Kolong River.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Successfully completed the project 'Developing Capacity of Community to Improve Resilience to Disaster Risk by promoting Best Practices,

appropriate policies and regional cooperation, in the Lower Brahmaputra River Basin in India and Bangladesh' funded by 'The Asia Foundation' -New Delhi.

- Launched a project on 'Developing Knowledge Products on Sustainable Development Goals, with focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' supported by the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam and UNICEF.
- Documented good practices initiated by communities and CSOs to respond to water induced disasters in twelve

districts of the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam, which led to a complication of sixteen numbers of case studies.

- Initiated a study on 'Environmental and social impact of structural interventions on the River Ranganadi in downstream plains of Lakhimpur District in Assam.'

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- Training imparted by the Division on 'Enhancing Capacity of Community and CSO Practitioners to Improve Resilience to Disaster and Climate Risk in the Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam' benefitted 38



Inaugural session of the 'Training Workshop on Enhancing capacity of community and CSO practitioners to improve resilience to disaster and climate risk in the Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam' organised by the WATCH Division of Aaranyak with support from the Asia Foundation-New Delhi.

practitioners from rural communities, CSOs, and Government agencies, out of which 16 were women and 22 were men.

- The Transboundary exposure visits benefitted 25 stakeholders: 12 from India and 13 from Bangladesh.
- The exposure visits of Indian stakeholders to Bangladesh, resulted in 6 feature articles in the Assam Tribune by Mr. Ajit Patowary, veteran journalist of Assam, that were appreciated as an important contribution to advocacy for regional cooperation in the Brahmaputra river basin.

ROAD AHEAD

- Will bring out final publications of the draft versions of the books 'A compendium on Local practices for mitigating risk of water induced disaster and climate change in the Brahmaputra river basin, Assam, India' and 'Resource Book on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for communities and civil society organisations of the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam, India'
- Will continue ongoing work under the Programme

of Urban Water, Climate and Hazard (U-WATCH), and Water, Sanitation, Health and Hygiene (WASH)

- Completion of the ongoing study on 'Water-Energy-Climate Nexus in NE India' will be completed.

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Photo: Pranjal kr. Das



**Wildlife Genetics Division
(WGD)**

Photo: MPCD, Aaranyak



INTRODUCTION

Wildlife Genetics Division (WGD) has completed the 10th year of its existence with excellence in the field of Conservation Genetics and Wildlife DNA Forensic Research in India and abroad. The Wildlife Genetics Laboratory (WGL), an in-house molecular biology laboratory, situated in Guwahati with state of the art facility, is at core of the functioning of WGD. The Division functions with objectives such as building a reference genetic database of the rich biodiversity of North East India, standardizing DNA-based techniques for species, gender and individual identification from various types of wildlife samples, and undertaking population

genetic research to answer pressing wildlife management questions. WGD has been undertaking population genetic monitoring of threatened species of mammals such as tiger, leopard, greater one-horned rhino, elephant, primates particularly white-cheeked macaque and birds such as White-bellied Heron. WGL is also offering wildlife forensic DNA analysis assistance to Assam forest department.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Assistance to Assam forest department in Wildlife Forensic DNA cases for species identification and forensic matching of evidence with crime scene through DNA fingerprinting.

- Molecular tracking of Asian elephants through dung DNA fingerprinting.
- Phylogenetic reconstruction of macaques of Arunachal Pradesh and validation of the presence of white-cheeked macaque in India.

STRATEGIC ACTION

- Phylogenetic relationship of white-cheeked macaque (*Macacaleucogenys*) with other sympatric macaque species found in Arunachal Pradesh was evaluated. The study confirmed the presence of white-cheeked macaque in Arunachal Pradesh, as reported earlier by Aaranyak biologists.



Wildlife DNA forensic expert from Aaranyak during field sampling of elephants at Balipara



Photo: Udayan Borthakur

Researchers during field work at Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary as part of tiger and leopard ecology work at North Bengal

Additionally, unique pattern of genetic clustering was observed among sympatric macaque species. DNA sequence data for field collected samples have been generated and further analysis is in progress.

- Dung DNA based population monitoring method standardized at Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of Aaranyak was employed to estimate population size of wild Asian elephant population and monitor movement of the conflict-causing individuals in Human-Elephant conflict prone areas.
- Assam forest department

was assisted in investigations related to wildlife crime through forensic DNA analysis which include,

- Confirmation of parentage of new-born elephant calf.
- Confirmation of crime through matching of seized rhino horn with carcass from the scene of crime using DNA fingerprinting method.
- Confirmation of origin of rescued elephant calf through genetic analysis.
- Confirmation of species identity for morphologically indistinguishable samples such as processed meat, seized by the forest department.

- Assessment of genetic status of White-bellied Heron, a Critically Endangered bird species is under progress. The study is being conducted in collaboration with Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Bhutan.
- Study on leopard ecology along with socio-economic survey, are being carried out in five districts of North Bengal, in order to formulate policy guidelines and management options to effectively deal with the human-leopard conflict situations in North Bengal.
- Ecological study to evaluate the population status of Royal Bengal tiger in the



Photo: MFCD, Aaranyak

Researcher processing faecal samples in the dedicated facility of Wildlife Genetics Laboratory

protected areas of North Bengal, is being initiated. The study will help in designing an effective conservation action plan for tigers in North Bengal.

- Our macaque phylogeny work, through assessment of cryptic macaque species in Arunachal Pradesh, is adding to the knowledge base on biodiversity significance of the area.

- Use of DNA tools in understanding of human-elephant conflict through the molecular tracking of conflict animals.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- WGL, continues to assist government agencies in obtaining wildlife forensic evidences through various DNA analysis techniques, and thereby assisting in wildlife crime prevention, particularly for species such as tiger, greater one-horned rhino and elephant in Assam.

ROAD AHEAD

- The focus area of WGD's activities shall be to continue assisting the Govt. agencies of Assam and other states of Eastern India, in wildlife DNA Forensic Analysis-based Crime Investigation Support, along with sensitizing of the agencies concerned in this matter.

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SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY AARANYAK STAFF

- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a seminar and Plenary Discussion on Rethinking Brahmaputra: Heritage, challenges and the way forward organized by District Administration, Nagaon and Nowgong Girls' College on the occasion of Namami Brahmaputra Festival on 4th April 2017 at Auditorium, Nagaon Girls' College and presented on "Management of the Brahmaputra River".
- **Arup Kumar Das, Madhumita Borthakur and Bankim Baruah** attended "National Seminar on Emerging issues of Biodiversity and its Conservation with Special reference to North East India" organized by Kaziranga study centre, J.D.S.C. College, Bokakhat, Assam in association with Kaziranga National Park on 29th and 30th June 2017 at J.D.S.C. College, Bokakhat, Assam and presented on "Status of Land Cover in Kaziranga National Park by using Google Earth".
- **Jyoti P. Das** attended "28th International Congress for Conservation Biology" organized by Society for Conservation Biology from 23rd to 27th July 2017 at Cartagena, Colombia and presented on 'Population modeling of Asian elephants in a tropical forest of northeast India'.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** attended the second annual global networking event "WiNN Mexico 2017: Connecting for Conservation" organized by Women in Nature Network (WiNN) from 9th to 12th August 2017 at Tepoztlán, Mexico City.
- **Dipankar Lahkar** attended "Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York (SCCS-New York)" organized by Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History from 11th to 13th October 2017 at American Museum of Natural History, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, New York, USA and presented on "Tiger population recovery post ethno-political conflict in Manas National Park, India".
- **Mr. Udayan Borthakur** attended "The Role of Parks and Sanctuaries in Preservation of India's Biodiversity" organized by University of Chicago, Wildlife Institute of India and Aaranyak from 20th to 23rd January 2018 at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, India.
- **Dr. Dilip Chetry** attended "International Symposium on Asian Primate" organized by Primate Research Institute Kyoto University, Japan & Nepal Biodiversity Research Society and Tribhuban University, Nepal from 17th to 20th February 2018 at Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal and presented on "Current status of Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and its Conservation Perspectives in and around Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam India".
- **Alolika Sinha** attended "Student Conference for Conservation Science, Cambridge" organized by University of Cambridge from 27th to 29th March 2018 at Zoology Department, Cambridge University and presented on 'Mind the gap: putting hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) into conservation agenda"

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY AARANYAK STAFF

- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a national workshop on "New Developments in the Water Sector & Overview and Visioning of Forum's Work" organized by Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India from 20th to 21st April 2017 at Management Development Centre (MDC), YASHADA, Pune .
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a workshop on "Empowering Civil Society to Improve Business Respect for the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation" organized by Pacific Institute and Freshwater Action network, South Asia on 25th April 2017 at Lemon Tree Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi, India.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "Second Bangladesh - India Joint Consultation on the Roadmap for Sustainable Management of Inland Navigation and Fisheries Resources" organized by IUCN, Asia Regional Office-Bangkok from 30th to 31st May 2017 at MaulanaAbulKalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.
- **Ms. Juri Baruah** attended "Developing skill and knowledge – training workshop on the Trans boundary Brahmaputra River" organized by SaciWATERS and Centre for North East Studies (C-NES) on 13th and 14th June 2017 at Ginger Hotel, Guwahati.
- **Mr. Nayan Das** attended "Consultation on climate change and its impact in Assam" organized by North East Dialogue Forum on 24th and 25th July 2017 at Bosco Reach Out, Ulubari, Guwahati.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a meeting on "Establishment of a laboratory on boat on the Brahmaputra River: "Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4)" organized by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India on 8th August 2017 at Department of Biotechnology, Block II, , Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
- **Arup Kumar Das** attended a training program organized by National Remote Sensing Center, Department of Space, Government of India, Balanagar, Hyderabad on "Advances in GIS" from 6th to 19th August 2017 at Remote Sensing and GIS training center, NRSC, Hyderabad.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a discussion meeting on "Brahmaputra: Current Issues and Possible Solutions" organized by Assam Science Society on 26th August 2017 at Conference Room, Assam Science Society, Khanapara, Guwahati.
- **Dr. Putul Bhuyan and Mr Bipul Das** attended a training program organized by Ministry of Environment & forest & Climate Change, Govt of India on "Forestry in addressing livelihood issues of people North East India from 6th to 8th September 2017 at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a workshop on "Identifying pathways on better transboundary basin management and planning of Brahmaputra basin" organized by International Rivers from 19th to 21st September 2017 at Hotel Summit, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "Brahmaputra River Symposium 2017: Knowledge Beyond Boundaries" organized by SaciWATERS, IIT-Guwahati and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Delhi on 25th and 26th September 2017 at SHANGRI-LA EROS, New Delhi.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "Discussion on a roadmap for inclusive and integrated management of the inland navigation and fisheries sector in Bangladesh and India Dhaka)" organized by IUCN, Asia Regional Office-Bangkok on 8th October 2017 at BW La Vinci Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "NADI 2 Dialogue" organized by Asian Confluence, Shillong in collaboration with the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, the MaulanaAbulKalam Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh,

the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and the Bangladesh Ministry of Culture on 9th and 10th October 2017 at Sonar Gaon Pan Pacific Hotel, Dhaka.

- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Nayan Das and Juri Barua** attended a "Knowledge Sharing Workshop on CCA and DRR Practices at Community Level" organized by Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC), Bangladesh and National Development Programme (NDP), Bangladesh on 16th October 2017 at National Development Programme (NDP) Guest House, Kamarkhanda, Bangladesh.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "AICTE-QIP Short Term Course on Combining hydrology and hydrosocial: towards comprehensive understanding of riverine systems" organized by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur from 23rd to 29th October 2017 at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "2nd annual meeting of the Civil Society Fund South Asia Water Governance Programme" organized by The Asia Foundation, New Delhi on 25th and 26th October 2017 at Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata.
- **Arup Kumar Das** attended a training program as a resource person organized by Assam Don Bosco University, Azara, Guwahati on 28th October 2017 and presented on "GIS Application of Google Earth".
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended a workshop on "Flood disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Brahmaputra valley" organized by Dibrugarh University and National University of Singapore on 15th and 16th November 2017 at Conference Hall, Department of Applied Geology, Dibrugarh University, Assam.
- **Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, Dr. Bibhuti P. Lahkar and Dipankar Lahkar** attended a Coordination meeting on "Biodiversity conservation in Trans-boundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) hosted by Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan from 21st to 23rd December 2017 at Thimphu, Bhutan.
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das** attended "Rethinking Transboundary Rivers: A Civil Society Perspective on Water Cooperation between Nepal and India" organized by Nepal Water Conservation Foundation on 18th and 19th December 2017 at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Arup Kumar Das** attended a training program as a resource person organized by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India at Central Academy for State Forest Service on 24th January 2018 and presented on "Application of GIS in wildlife research and monitoring".
- **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das and Nayan Das** attended "BRIDGE GBM CSOs Network Semi-annual Meeting on Cooperation for improved transboundary flood management" organized by IUCN and Oxfam from 6th to 8th February 2018 at Hotel Radisson Blue, Guwahati and IIT Guwahati.
- **Arup Kumar Das** attended a popular talk program as a resource person organized by IBT (Advanced level hub), Department of Zoology, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati on 28th March 2018 at Department of Zoology, Arya Vidyapeeth College and presented on "Application of Geo-Spatial technology in Wildlife Research and Conservation".

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS ORGANIZED BY AARANYAK DURING 2017-18

- **TRCD** in collaboration with Forest Department, Namdapha National Park, Assam organized "Hands-on Training on GPS and Camera Trapping" on 8th January, 2017 at Dighaltrarang camp, Dibru-Saikhowa National park.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with Forest Department, Namdapha National Park, Assam organized "Hands-on Training on GPS and Camera Trapping" on 9th January, 2017 at Kundaghat camp, Dibru-Saikhowa National park.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with Panthera organized workshop on "Prey density estimation with Program DISTANCE, occupancy estimation with Program PRESENCE and Demographic analysis with Program MARK" from 18th to 23rd April, 2017 at Conference hall, Research office, Aaranyak.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service organized "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the Forest Guards of Arunachal Pradesh & Assam" from 24th to 30th April, 2017 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service organized "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the Forest Guards of Arunachal Pradesh & Assam" from 19th to 25th May 2017 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the Forest Guards of Arunachal Pradesh & Assam" from 1st to 7th June, 2017 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Golaghat District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Golaghat District" on 3rd June 2017 at Conference Hall of Kaziranga Centenary Centre, Kohora, Kaziranga.
- **WATCH** Division in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, New Delhi organized "Training Workshop on Enhancing capacity of community and CSO practitioners to improve resilience to disaster and climate risk in the Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam" from 7th to 9th June 2017 at Hotel Sunview, VIP Road, Six Mile, Guwahati.

- **GTAD** in collaboration with Aaranyak Rufford Small Grant organized "10 days' workshop on Geo-Spatial Techniques" from 15th to 25th July 2017 at Conference Hall, Aaranyak, Guwahati.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Dhubri District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Dhubri District" on 26th July 2017 at Dhubri Police Reserve Community Hall.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with Mangaldai Media Circle, Mangaldai College and Mangaldai Wildlife Division organized "Orientation workshop on green reporting" on 29th July, 2017 at Mangaldai College, Darrang, Assam.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Dhubri District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of West Karbi Anglong District" on 4th August 2017 at Conference Hall, Dongka .
- **LAD** in collaboration with Baksa District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Baksa District" on 7th September 2017 at Conference hall of Baksa Police Reserve.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Darrang District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Darrang District" on 11th October 2017 at Conference Hall of SP office in Mangaldoi.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with ZSL, Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan organized "Workshop on Intensive camera trapping data interpretation and analysis" on 25th and 26th October, 2017 at Division office, Jimotsangkha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhutan.
- **WATCH** Division in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, Kamrup District, Assam and The Asia Foundation, New Delhi organized "Transboundary Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Disaster and climate risk mitigation in the Brahmaputra River Basin: Perspectives from India and Bangladesh" on 9th November, 2017 at Conference Hall, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, Kamrup District, Assam.
- **WATCH** Division in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, New Delhi organized "Regional Consultation on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Brahmaputra River Basin" on 10th and 11th November, 2017 at Grand Bhabendra Alay, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati-781028, Assam.
- **ERCD** in collaboration with Park Directorate Manas National Park, WWF-India, WTI and Atree organized a workshop on "Habitat Management Workshop in Manas National Park" from 14th to 16th November 2017 at Bansbari Range office, Manas National Park.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with Department of Environment and Forest, Arunachal Pradesh organized "Training on All India Tiger Monitoring (AITM)" on 18th November, 2017 at Deban Camp, Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with Directorate, Manas Tiger Reserve, IUCN-KFW, Panthera, Awely and Wildlife Conservation Trust organized "Hands-on Training on Camera Trapping" on 4th and 5th December, 2017 at Bansbari and Bhuyanpara Range, Manas National Park.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre and Center for Global Field Study at University of Washington organized "8th Annual Field Course Topic: Conservation Biology and Global Health" from 11th to 15th December, 2017 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam.
- **EECBD** organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 20th December 2017 at Majrabari Library, Majrabari, Baksa, BTAD.
- **GTAD** in collaboration with Aaranyak Rufford Small Grant organized "22nd week long training course on Application of RS, GIS and GPS Applications in Various Fields" from 4th to 10th January 2018 at Conference Hall, Aaranyak, Guwahati.

- **EECBD** in collaboration with Rainforest Conservation Education Centre organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 18th January 2018 at Joypur Higher Secondary School, Dibrugarh, Assam.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with Assam Science Society, North Guwahati Branch & North Gauhati College, Kamrup, Assam organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 27th January, 2018 at North Gauhati College, Kamrup, Assam.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Chirang District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Chirang District" on 29th January 2018 at Conference Hall of SP Office, Chirang District.
- **WATCH** Division in collaboration with Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam and UNICEF organized "Developing knowledge products on SDGs with focus on DRR and CCA for children" on 30th January 2018 at Hotel Sunview, VIP Road, Six Miles, Guwahati.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with Sonapur College, Kamrup (Metro), Assam organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 31st January 2018 at Sonapur College, Kamrup (Metro), Assam.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with Dalgaon Ban Banyapranis Suraksha Samiti and Wild Wings organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 4th February 2018 at Roumari Practising LP School, Dalgaon, Darrang, Assam.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with Guwahati Wildlife Division, Pobitora Eco-tourism Development Society and Shipa organized "Orientation Workshop on Climate Change" on 10th February 2018 at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Morigaon, Assam.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service organized "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training For Forest Guards Trainees of Makun Forest School" from 13th to 15th February, 2018 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service organized "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the Foresters of Nagaland & Assam" from 21st to 27th February, 2018 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Sibsagar District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Sibsagar District" on 22nd February 2018 at Conference Hall, SP Office Sibsagar.
- **PRCD** in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division, Rainforest Conservation Education Centre, Assam Forest Department and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, Supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service organized "Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the Foresters of Nagaland & Assam" from 21st to 27th March, 2018 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Mariani, Assam, India.
- **LAD** in collaboration with Morigaon District Police organized "Legal Orientation to Police of Morigaon District" on 30th August 2018 at Morigaon Police Conference Hall.

MEMBERSHIP/ POSITION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATION

DR. ABDUL WAKID

- Member of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission

DR. BIBHUTI PRASAD LAHKAR

- Invasive Species Specialist Group, SSC IUCN
- Asian Elephant Specialist Group, SSC IUCN
- Commission for Ecosystem Management, IUCN
- World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN

DR. BIBHAB KUMAR TALUKDAR

- Member of Governing Council of Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council, Assam
- Member State Board of Wildlife, Govt. of Assam
- Member, Editorial Board of Pachyderm Journal
- Chair: IUCN/SSC; Asian Rhino Specialist Group
- Commission Member - IUCN CEESP Asia 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEESP Theme on Environment and Peace 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEESP Theme on Human Wellbeing and Sustainable Livelihoods 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEESP Working Group - Natural Resource Governance Framework 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Biosphere Reserves 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Ecosystem Restoration 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Forest Ecosystems 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM South Asia 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN CEM Wetland Ecosystems 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN SSC Chairs 2017-2020

- Commission Member - IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Capacity Development : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Climate Change : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Governance of Protected and Conserved Areas : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Management Effectiveness : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA South Asia Region 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation : Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA World Heritage: Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - IUCN WCPA-SSC Biodiversity and Protected Areas: Network 2017-2020
- Commission Member - WI-IUCN SSC Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group 2017-2020

DR. DILIP CHETRY

- Member, State Wildlife Board of Assam, Govt. of Assam.
- Vice Chair, IUCN, SSC Primate Specialist Group, South Asia Section.
- Executive member, IUCN, SSC Small Ape Section.
- Member, International Primatological Society.
- Member, American Primatological Society.
- Member, Gauhati University Ethics Committee.
- Member, Vijnana Bharati Northeast/Northeast Science Movements.
- Member, Nepal Biodiversity Research Society.
- Board of Director in Scholars Institute of Technology and Management, Guwahati, Assam.

DIPANKAR LAHKAR

- Member: Editorial board member of "Newsletter for Birdwatchers", a bi-monthly publish scientific newsletter on Ornithology.
- Member: South Asian Regional Network of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN, CBSC-SA from India.
- Guest Faculty: University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya.

DR. M. FIROZ AHMED

- Member: IUCN SSC, Declining Amphibian Population Task Force.
- Member: IUCN, The World Conservation Union (SSC).

DR. PARTHA JYOTI DAS

- Member, Steering Committee, Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India, Pune
- Life Member, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE), Bangalore
- Life Member of India Water Partnership, New Delhi (Country chapter of Global Water Partnership)
- Member, Expert Committee on Rejuvenation of KolongRiver constituted by Government of Assam
- Member, India Rivers Forum, New Delhi

PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN

- Women in Nature Network

UDAYAN BORTHAKUR

- Member, IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group
- Member, IUSC SSC White-bellied Heron Working Group
- Member, Nikon Professional Services, India
- Official Wildlife Photography Mentor, Nikon School India

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

- Pathak, J.K., Sarma, J.K., Barman, P., Deka, D. 2017. Batar Jalabāu āru Jivan (Weather Climate and Life), a book on climate change. Aaranyak, Pp 32. (Local language -Assamese)
- Das, P. J.; Das, N and Boruah, J. (2017). A compendium on Local practices for mitigating risk of water induced disaster and climate change in the Brahmaputra river basin, Assam, India' was published in June 2017 in English and Assamese. Draft version. Published by Aaranyak with support from the Asia Foundation, New Delhi.
- Das, P. J. and Sarma, J.K. (2017). 'Resource Book on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for communities and civil society organisations of the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam, India. Draft version. Published by Aaranyak with support from the Asia Foundation, New Delhi.

BOOK CHAPTER:

- Arpita Das and Partha J Das (2017). 'Local Solutions to Local Disasters: Governance in Flood Management in Assam'. In: '*Bottom-up' Approaches in Governance and Adaptation for Sustainable Development: Case Studies from India and Bangladesh*, Edited by Swarnakar, P., Zavestoski, S., Pattnaik, B. SAGE Publications, New Delhi.P.....
- Soumyadeep Banerjee, Dominic Kniveton, Richard Black and Partha Jyoti Das (2018). Exploring vulnerability in flood affected remittance-recipient and non-recipient households of Upper Assam in India'. In: *Climate Change, Vulnerability and Migration*, Edited by S. IrudayaRajan and R. B. Bhagat. Routledge. India
- Das, P.J. (2018). 'Jiadhal river catchment: Conflicts over embankments'. In: *Water Conflicts in Northeast India*, edited by K. J. Joy, Partha J. Das, Gorky Chakraborty, ChandanMahanta, SuhasParanjape, ShrutiVispute. Routledge India, p. 272.
- Das, P.J. (2018). Impact of climate change in Northeast India: Some observations on water induced disasters. Souvenir of the 'XI International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission Seminar cum 29th Biennial Conference of North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS)' organised by the B. Borooah College from 8 to 10 February 2018.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Pathak, J.K. (2018): Climate Change: Sensitizing the Members of Panchayati Raj Institution and Village Community Leaders of Assam. Pp 27. Report submitted to ASTE Council.
- Das, J.P., Boruah, A., Goyari, R., Lahkar, B.P. (2017). Population estimate and transboundary collaboration for Asian elephants in Manas national park, India. Technical report submitted to USFWS.
- Das, J.P., Bhuyan, N., Kunwar, M., Momin, A., Lahkar, B.P.(2017). Conflict to coexistence: Enhancing community-managed conservation of Asian elephants in Golaghat, Assam. Technical report submitted to USFWS.
- Lahkar, B.P., Sinha, A., Nath, A (2017). Monitoring and control of Invasive species in the grassland of Manas National Park. Final Report submitted to Rhino and Tiger Conservation Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA. Aaranyak Technical Report 04-2017.
- Roy, J.K. (2017). Stream channel morphology influencing amphibian distribution across Dibang river basin, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Technical Report submitted to Kurita Water and Environment Foundation (KWEF), Japan, 10/2017. Pp 10.
- Talukdar, B.K., M. Bhattacharjya and A.K. Das. 2018. Intensification of the security of Greater One Horned Rhino using legal orientation among police officials in various districts of Assam during 2017-18. A joint technical report of Rhino Research and Conservation Division and Legal & Advocacy Division.
- Swargowary, A., Sarma, H.K., Ahmed, M.F., Lahkar, D. (2017): Technical Summary Report: Annual Monitoring of tiger and prey population in Manas National Park, India. The report submitted to Directorate, Manas Tiger Reserve, Barpeta Road, Assam 27pp.
- Ahmed, M. F., D. Lahkar, B. Baruwati and A. Hussain. (2017). Endangered Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus*: Status, Distribution and Conservation in Assam, India. Technical Report, Aaranyak, TRCD: 10/2017. 40pp.
- Swargowary, A., Sarma, H.K., Ahmed, M.F., Lahkar, D., Das, S. (2018): Technical Summary Report: Annual monitoring of tiger, co-predators and prey in Manas National Park, India. The report submitted to Directorate, Manas Tiger Reserve, Barpeta Road, Assam 34pp.
- Das, P. J.; Das, N and Boruah, J. (2017). Report on the 'Training workshop on sustainable management of the Brahmaputra River System, India in a changing climate for water security and disaster resilience' organised by the WATCH Division in November 2016 was published in November 2017.
- Borthakur U, Chetry D, Das RK, Das PK, Chase T. 2017. Saving the White-cheeked Macaque in Arunachal Pradesh. Pp. 1-39. Final report submitted to Global Wildlife Conservation, USA.

PAMPHLET:

- Baruah, A., Pathak, J.K., Das, J.P., Tanti, R., Talukdar, B.K. 2018. Deoanh (White-winged wood duck), a pamphlet describing the need of conservation of Endangered *Ascomis scutulata*. Aaranyak, Pp 8.

PEER REVIEWED:

- Gross, E., Lahkar, B.P., Subedi, N., Nyirenda, V., Lichtenfeld, L., and Jakoby, O. (2018). Seasonality, crop type and crop phenology influence crop damages by wildlife herbivores in Africa and Asia, Biodiversity and Conservation, DOI 10.1007/s10531-018-1523-0.
- N. J. Collar, H. S. Baral, N. Batbayar, G. S. Bhardwaj, N. Brahma, R. J. Burnside, A. U. Choudhury, O. Combreau, P. M. Dolman, P. F. Donald, S. Dutta, D. Gadhavi, K. Gore, O. A. Goroshko, Hong C., G. A. Jathar, R. R. S. Jha, Y. V. Jhala, M. A. Koshkin, B.P. Lahkar, G. Liu, S. P. Mahood, M. B. Morales, S. S. Narwade, T. Natsagdorj, A. A. Nefedov, J. P. Silva, J. J. Thakuri, M. Wang, Y. Zhang & A. E. Kessler (2017): Averting the extinction of bustards in Asia, FORKTAIL 33 (2017): 1–26
- Roy, J.K., Begum, R.H. and Ahmed, M.F. 2018. Unsustainable collection of Paris polyphyla (Smith, 1813): a highly medicinal plant in Dibang Valley, Eastern Himalayas, India. Plantasia #7, In: Zoo's Print 33(7): 19-22.

- Roy, J.K., Das, A. Vasudevan, K. Begum, R.H. and Ahmed, M.F. 2018. Stream habitat relation to the occurrence of selective amphibian species along head water stream, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Hamadryad, Vol. 38, No 1&2, pp: 33-35.
- Roy, J.K., Begum, R.H. and Ahmed, M.F. 2017. Report on poorly known *Theloderma moloch* (Annandale, 1912) from Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India. Russian Journal of Herpetology, Vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 248 – 250.
- Chetry R, Chetry D, Bhattacharjee PC. 2018. Golden langur *Trachypithecus geei* Khajuria 1956, India and Bhutan. Primates in Peril " The World's 25 most Endangered Primates 2016-2018. Edited by Christoph Schwitzer, Russell A. Mittermeter, Anthony B. Rylands, Federia Chiozza, Elizabeth A. Williamson, Elizabeth J. Macfie, Janette Wallis and Alison Cotton. Published by IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, IPS, CI, BZS. Pp55-58.
- Lahkar D, Ahmed MF, Begum RH, Das SK, Lahkar BP, Sarma HK, Harihar A 2018. Camera-trapping survey to assess diversity, distribution and photographic capture rate of terrestrial mammals in the aftermath of the ethnopolitical conflict in Manas National Park, Assam, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 10(8): 12008–12017. <http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.4039.10.8.12008-12017>.
- Ranabhat, S.; L.D. Bhatta; R.K. Rai; B. Pant; N. Timalina; P.J. Das; N. Bisht (2017). Can forest stand alone? Barriers to the restoration of the last remaining rainforest in Assam, India, International Forestry Review Vol.19(S4), 2017, pp. 62-74.
- Natesh M, Atla G, Nigam P, Jhala YV, Zachariah A, Borthakur U, Ramakrishnan U. 2017. Conservation priorities for endangered Indian tigers through a genomic lens. Nature Scientific Reports, 7:9614. DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-09748-3.

NON-PEER REVIEWED:

- Conserving Grass, The Assam Tribune, 4th February, 2018.
- Prabal Sarkar, Mukul Kalita, Asif Ekbal Hussain, Arup Kumar Das, Animesh Bhuyan, (2017) "Study on the Communal Resting behaviour of Some Birds with Response to Land Use/Land Cover Change in Guwahati Metro City of Assam". *International Journal of Engineering Technology Science and Research*, Vol.04, Issue 11, ISSN 2394 – 3386, pp. 1126-1132, November 2017.

ABSTRACT:

- Arup Kumar Das, Madhumita Borthakur, Bankim Baruah, (2017) "Status of Land Cover in Kaziranga National Park by using Google Earth Imagery" National Seminar, 29th to 30th June, J.D.S.G. College, Bokaghat.
- Chetry D., Phukan. M., and Chetry. R. 2018. Current status of Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and its Conservation Perspectives in and around Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam India. 8Pp. Abstract Vol. Asian Primate Symposium, 17th to 20th Feb, 2018. Kathmandu, Nepal.

FINANCIAL REPORT
2017-18

DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

92, Dilip Huzuri Path, Sarumotria, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
Ph. No: - 94350-17438, E-mail: cabiswajitbaruah7@gmail.com

FORM NO. 10B

(See rule 17B)

Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

I/We have examined the balance sheet of AARANYAK as at 31st day of March, 2018 and the income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust or institution.

I/We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of my/our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In my/our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above-named trust/institution visited by me/us so far as appears from my/our examination of the books, and proper returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by me/us, subject to the comments given below:

In my/our opinion and to the best of my/our information, and according to information given to me/us, the said accounts give a true and fair view –

(i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above-named trust/institution as at 31st day of March, 2018, and

(ii) in the case of income and expenditure account, of the excess of Income over Expenditure of its accounting year ending on 31st day of March, 2018

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Place: Guwahati
Date: 26.09.2018



For, DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

Biswajit Baruah

(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)
Partner
M. No. 063538
FRN: 013617C

FINANCIAL REPORT

AARANYAK
50 SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (Rs.)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT (Rs.)
Opening Balance			
CASH IN HAND	6,178.00	Project Expenses against Contribution	83,634,638.96
INVESTMENTS		Advance for Project Expenses	1,803,126.96
Branch	29,400,299.00	Accounting charges	2,000.00
Fixed Deposit with Bank of Baroda, Six mile	79,744.00	TDS	365,407.50
Fixed Deposit with Union Bank of India, Basistha Road branch	1,259,631.00	Providend Fund Paid	10,078.00
UTI	1,100,000.00	Health Insurance	2,964.00
	31,839,674.00	Bank Charge	123,406.65
BANK ACCOUNTS		Administrative expenses	41,294.00
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(ERCI-1)	3,615.64	Admin Salary	1,547,663.30
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-2)	3,998.45	Land purchased at Bhuyapara	400,000.00
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-3)	3,016.55	Closing Balance	
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(GDRCI)	2,107.96	CASH IN HAND	1,415.00
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(ARCI)	45,978.00	INVESTMENTS	
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(WGP)	1,293.42	Fixed Deposits with Bank of Baroda, Dispur Branch	38,887,567.56
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(LIVELIHOOD)	512.35	Fixed Deposit with Union Bank of India, Basistha Road branch	783,497.00
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(PRCI)	82,169.67	UTI	4,300,000.00
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (RRCI)	12,913.21		43,971,064.56
YES BANK (RRCI)	65,604.81	BANK ACCOUNTS	
State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-2)	215,820.23	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(ERCI-1)	13,173.17
State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-2S/A)	451.00	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-2)	3,790.45
State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI)	358,360.13	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-3)	304.68
IDBI, Beltola Branch(WATCH)	50,914.00	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(GDRCI)	1,599.41
Bank of Baroda, Dispur Branch	4,117,662.44	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(ARCI)	327,612.65
Punjab National Bank, Beltola Branch	95,412.65	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(WGP)	142,235.57
Union Bank of India, Basistha Road Branch(PRCI)	180,000.00	KOTAK MAHINDRA (LAD)	17,266.30
State Bank of India, Dispur Branch	1,417.44	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(LIVELIHOOD)	172.99
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(LIVELIHOOD-2)	1.00	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(PRCI)	48,906.67
Indusind bank, Bangagarh Branch	157,662.97	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (RRCI)	56,384.91
Union Bank of India, Basistha Road Branch	706,911.30	YES BANK (RRCI)	160,210.75
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (WATCH)	45.79	State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-2)	96,959.55
Bank of Baroda (TTMP)	560,566.50	State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-4)	38,213.11
HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(TTMP)	2,086.54	State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI)	71,308.12
Branch(MTDC)	509,886.00	State Bank of India, Beltola (TSRP)	1,249.00
Yes Bank, (WGD-2)	5,000.00	IDBI, Beltola Branch(WATCH)	4,540.41
	7,183,408.05	Bank of Baroda, Dispur Branch	2,933,266.37
Contribution Received	100,429,163.40	Punjab National Bank, Beltola Branch	200,728.44
		Union Bank of India, Basistha Road Branch(PRCI)	9,213.83
Recovery of Project Advances	1,004,964.44	State Bank of India, Dispur	16,417.44
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (Livelihood-2)	19,689.97
Bank Interest	364,479.24	Indusind Bank, Bangagarh Branch	157,662.97
		Union Bank of India	456,007.90
Interest on Bank Fixed Deposits	2,210,055.06	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(WATCH)	45.79
		State Bank of India, Beltola, (TRCI-3)	128,948.93
Membership fees	13,400.00	YES BANK(AARANYAK)	2,216,567.81
		Bank of Baroda (TTMP)	3,298,906.15
Donation received	1,157,675.00	HDFC, Bangagarh Branch(TTMP)	745.14
		Punjab National Bank (Manas Traditional Dress Cluster)	2,465,715.00
IOC	13,497.54	Yes Bank (WGD-2)	24,588.18
			12,912,431.66
Incidental Receipts	452,116.86		
Receivable from WII received	130,879.00		
RECEIPT FROM WII	10,000.00		
TOTAL	144,815,490.59	TOTAL	144,815,490.59

Place: Guwahati
Date: 26/09/2018

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

Sd-
(DR. BIBHAB KR. TALUKDAR)
SECRETARY GENERAL

As per our report of even date
FOR DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd-
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)
PARTNER
M.No.063538
FRN.013617C

AARANYAK
50 SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT(Rs.)	INCOME	AMOUNT(Rs.)
To Health Insurance	2,964.00	By Bank Interest	364,479.24
To Bank Charge	123,406.65	By Interest on Bank Fixed Deposits	2,210,055.06
To Admin Salary	1,547,663.30	By Membership fees	13,400.00
To Administrative expenses	41,294.00	By Donation received	1,157,675.00
To Accounting charges	2,000.00	By Incidental Receipts	452,116.86
To Surplus of Income over Expenditure	2,480,398.21		
TOTAL	4,197,726.16	TOTAL	4,197,726.16

Place: Guwahati
Date: 26/09/2018

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

Sd-
(DR. BIBHAB KR. TALUKDAR)
SECRETARY GENERAL

As per our report of even date
FOR DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd-
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)
PARTNER
M.No.063538
FRN.013617C

AARANYAK
50 SAMANWOY PATH,SURVEY,BELTOLA,GUWAHATI-781028,DIST.KAMRUP,ASSAM.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2018

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT(Rs.)	ASSETS	AMOUNT(Rs.)
FUND ACCOUNT			
General Fund		Fixed Assets	32,517,201.00
Opening Balance	19,788,550.29		
Add: Net surplus during the year	2,480,398.21		
Less: Adjusted with Project Fund	805,374.36		
	21,463,574.14		
Current Liabilities		Current Assets	
		Tax Deducted at Source	1,820,260.50
Capital Fund out of Project Expenses:		LOAN AND ADVANCES	
Opening Balance	19,507,438.00	Advance for Project Expenses	1,803,126.96
Add: Additions during the year	4,534,416.00		
	24,041,854.00	Advance in India Oil Corporation	35,167.68
Unutilised Project Funds	47,560,239.22	Loan to Employee	15,000.00
Providend Fund payable	10,078.00	Receivable from WII	130,879.00
Less: Paid	10,078.00	Less: Received	130,879.00
Loan from WII	10,000.00		
		Cash in hand	1,415.00
		INVESTMENTS	
		Fixed Deposits with Bank of Baroda, Dispur Branch	38,887,567.56
		Fixed Deposit with Union Bank of India, Basistha Road branch	783,497.00
		Deposit with UTI	4,300,000.00
			43,971,064.56
		BANK ACCOUNTS	
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-1)	13,173.17
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-2)	3,790.45
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ERCI-3)	304.68
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (GDRCI)	1,599.41
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (ARCI)	327,612.65
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (WGP)	142,235.57
		KOTAK MAHINDRA (LAD)	17,266.30
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (LIVELIHOOD)	172.99
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (PRCI)	48,906.67
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (RRCI)	56,384.91
		YES BANK (RRCI)	160,210.75
		State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-2)	96,959.55
		State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-4)	38,213.11
		State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI)	71,308.12
		State Bank of India, Beltola (TSRP)	1,249.00
		IDBI, Beltola Branch (WATCH)	4,540.41
		Bank of Baroda, Dispur Branch	2,933,266.37
		Punjab National Bank, Beltola Branch	200,728.44
		Union Bank of India, Basistha Road Branch (PRCI)	9,213.83
		State Bank of India, Dispur	16,417.44
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (LIVELIHOOD-2)	19,689.97
		Indusind Bank, Bangagarh Branch	157,662.97
		Union Bank of India	456,007.90
		AARANYAK HDFC (WATCH)	45.79
		State Bank of India, Beltola (TRCI-3)	128,948.93
		YES BANK (AARANYAK)	2,216,567.81
		Bank of Baroda (TTMP)	3,298,906.15
		HDFC, Bangagarh Branch (TTMP)	745.14
		Punjab National Bank (Manas Traditional Dress Cluster)	2,465,715.00
		Yes Bank (WGd-2)	24,588.18
			12,912,431.66
TOTAL	93,075,667.36	TOTAL	93,075,667.36

Place: Guwahati
Date: 26/09/2018

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

Sd-
(DR. BIBHAB KR. TALUKDAR)
SECRETARY GENERAL

As per our report of even date
FOR DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd-
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)
PARTNER
M.No.063538
FRN.013617C

FIND AARANYAK

Registered address:

50, Samannoy Path,
Beltola Survey, Guwahati,
India-781028

Administrative Office:

Aaranyak,
13 Tayab Ali Lane,
BishnuRabha Path, Beltola Tiniali,
Bhetapara Link Road,
P.O. Beltola, Guwahati, India
E-mail: Info@aaranyak.org
Tel: +91-361-2230250
Fax: +91-361-2228418

Research Division Office:

12, Kanaklata Path,
Byelane 3, Ajanta Path
Beltola Survey, Guwahati,
India - 781028

Field Stations:

Manas Landscape:

Aaranyak, c/o Biraj Das, Chandrapur, Ward No. 7
Barpeta Road

- Panbari Field Station, Panbari Range, Manas National Park
- Majrabari Field Station, Bhuyanparan Range, Manas National Park
- Basbari Field Station, Basbari Range, Manas National Park

Kaziranga Landscape:

Aaranyak,
C/o M. Firoz Ahmed,
Pilkhana, Kohora-785609
Contact: Arif Hussain, Mobile: +91 9854797419

Golaghat Landscape:

Aaranyak,
C/O Girish Lahon,
Near LIC Office, Bokakhat, PIN: 785612

Eastern Assam Landscape:

Aaranyak,
C/o: Bipin Chandra Datta
Itabhata, Near Digboi College, Digboi - 786171

Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary and Jorhat District:

Aaranyak,
C/o Dilip Chetry, Gibbon Conservation Centre,
Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary
PO: Mariani PIN: 785634. Mobile: +91 9435043892

Dhemaji Landscape:

Aaranyak,
C/o Prafulla Saikia, Near BRO Gate
Village-Nagaon PO- Gogamukh
Dist-Dhemaji, PIN: 787034, Assam

North Bengal Field Station

C/o: Utpal mazumdar, Near Netaji school, Lechutala
Alipurduar junction, PIN: 736121

Roing field station

T. Meya complex, Mayu, Roing
PIN: 792110, District: Lower Dibang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh)
Land mark: Near Government Secondary School, Mayu

Diphu field station

Diphu (Terang Villa, Rongnihang, Diphu, Assam)

STAFF LIST

(1st April of 2017 to 31 March 2018)

Admin and Accounts Division

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar,
SG & CEO & Head,
(RRCD& LAD)

Mrs. Bobby Nath, Administrative
Officer

Mr. Ranjan Jyoti Khound, Manager
(Finance)

Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar,
Manager (Accounts)

Md. Zakir Islam Bora,
Manager to the Office of SG & CEO

Ms. Binita Subba,
Accounts Assistant

Mr. Gauri Sankar Borah, Accounts
Assistant

Ms. Bijoyinee Sarma,
Office Executive

Mr. Nripen Kumar Nath, Assistant
Office Executive

Mr. Gouranga Mandal,
Office Assistant

Mr. Rajesh Das,
Office Supporting Assistant

Mr. Krishnamoni Das,
Office Supporting Assistant

Mr. Moni Kumar Haloi,
Field Assistant cum Watchman

Mr. Arun Basfor,
Office Cleaner

Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD)

Mr. Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya,
Manager

Mr. Anil kumar Das,
K-9 Dog squad Handler cum field
and office assistant

Mr. Goura Baidya,
K-9 Dog squad Handler cum field
and office assistant

Md. Arif Hussain, Senior Project
Officer (Conservation)

Mr. Nirmal Kalita, K-9 Dog squad
Handler cum field and office
assistant

Mr. Sanatan Mali,
Dog handler cum Field Assistant

Mr. Rahul Das,
Assistant Dog handler in K9 Dog
Squad cum office Assistant

Mr. Minkul Sarma,
Assistant Dog Handler, in K9 dog
Squad

Mr. Montu Boro,
Animal Keeper

Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD)

Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar,
Head ERCD & Landscape
Administrator, Manas Landscape

Dr. Jyoti Prasad Das,
Manager

Ms. Alolika Sinha,
Research Scholar

Mr. Abhijit Boruah,
Research Scholar

Mr. Monjit Konwar,
Project Assistant

Mr. Sandhi Mitra,
Consultant Biologist

Mr. Niranjan Bhuyan,
Community Coordinator

Mr. Avijan Saha,
Field Coordinator

Mr. Rubul Tanti,
Junior Research Scholar, ERCD

Mr. Porash Moni Hazarika,
Field Assistant

Mr. Hiren Dutta,
Field Assistant

Mr. Pradeep Burman,
Driver

Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Division (GDRCD)

Dr. Abdul Wakid,
Head

Mr. Gobardhan Mallah,
Boat Pilot

Mr. Kedar Mallah,
Boat Driver

Mr. Ishwar Prasanna Saikia,
Boat Assistant

Md. Nur Islam,
Driver

Conservation Officer

Manash Protim Buragohain,
Conservation Officer

Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD)

Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak,
Manager

Geospatial Technology and Application Division (GTAD)

Mr. Arup Kumar Das,
Manager

Ms. Madhumita Borthakur,
Spatial Database Officer

Ms. Kongseng Konwar,
Database Officer

Mr. Bankim Baruah,
Project Coordinator

Herpetofauna Research and Conservation Division (HRCD)

Mr. Jayanta Kumar Roy,
Wildlife Biologist or Senior
Research Scholar

Mr. Thejavitso Chase,
Research Assistant

Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD)

Md. Firoz Ahmed,
Head, TRCD

Mr. Dipankar Lahkar,
Manager Research, TRCD & Senior
Project Officer- Research and
Monitoring, MTCP

**Mr. Navaneethan
Balasubramaniam,**
Research Associate, MTCP

Ms. Kalloli Dutta,
Senior Project Officer, TRCD

Mr. Sarlongjon Teron,
Project Officer, TRCD

Dr. Sudip Kanta Basistha,
Deputy Project Manager, MTCP

Dr. Putul Bhuyan,
Coordinator Livelihoods, MTCP

Mr. Debashis Buragohain,
Project Coordinator, Conservation
& Protection, MTCP

Ms. Binita Baruwati,
Project Officer, Protection

Mr. Prosenjit Sheel,
Project Officer, Protection, MTCP

Mr. Pronit Basumatary,
Assistant Project Officer –
Protection, MTCP

Mr. Bhaskor Barukial,
Senior Research Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Bijoy Basumatary,
Assist Project Officer-Livelihood,
MTCP

Mr. Detsung Basumatary,
Project Officer – Conservation
Education, MTCP

Mr. Kamal Kumar Machary,
Project Officer, MTCP

Ms. Nisha Bora,
Senior project Officer,
Communication, MTCP

Dr. Hridul Lal Das,
Field Veterinarian, MTCP

Mr. Phawjwngar Narzary,
Law Enforcement, MTCP

Mr. Silash Basumatary,
Project Coordinator, MTCP

Mr. Manjit Basumatary,
Project Officer, MTCP

Mr. Tapash Mahanta,
Accounts Assistant, MTCP

Dr. Sushil Ekka,
Field Veterinarian, MTCP

Mr. Amit Dewry,
Assistant Project Officer- Logistics,
MTCP

Mr. Jiban Kr Chetry,
Assistant project officer-
Livelihood, MTCP

Mr. Kuldeep Das,
Sr. Project Officer, Conservation
Education, MTCP

Mr. Rinku Das,
Data Operator (Trainee), MTCP

Mr. Ranen Basumatary,
Project Officer, MTCP

Mr. Longso Yimchunger,
Documentation officer, MTCP

Mr. Mukesh Kherkatary,
Trainee Project officer- Protection,
MTCP

Mr. Dipen Deka,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Gobinda Narzary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Faruque Abdullah,
Project officer- Operations, MTCP

Mr. Kunja Brahma,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Nabin Basumatary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Ms. Priya Brahma,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Ms. Shewali Swargiary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Songsar Basumatary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Udang Basumatary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Raju Boro,
Nursery Caretaker, MTCP

Md. Majammil Hoque,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Birdutta Baro,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Ratul Das,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Ms. Alary Brahma,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Ms. Mayurim Das,
Senior Project Officer-
Communication, MTCP

Mr. Rathindra Nath Das,
Consultant- Law Enforcement and
Informant Coordinator, MTCP

Mr. Pankaj Das,
Filed Assistant, Livelihood, MTCP

Mr. Swmdwm Basumatary,
Field Assistant – Conservation
Education, MTCP

Mr. Amin Basumatary,
Project Officer - Conservation
Education, MTCP

Mr. Khanen Boro,
Assistant Project Officer (Cluster
Coordinator), MTCP

Mr. Kautuk Talukdar,
Consultant, MTCP

Mr. Haidor Ali Sarkar,
Consultant, MTCP

Ms. Monalisha Basumatary,
Consultant, MTCP

Mr. Pranjal Kumar Dutta,
Manager Livelihood, MTCP

Ms. Beauti Rani Basumatary,
Field Assistant, MTCP

Ms. Karpagam Chelliah,
Consultant, MTCP

Mr. Bhajan Das,
Driver cum Field Assistant, MTCP

Mr. Hiranyjit Moran,
Field Assistant (Research), TRCD

Mr. Koushik Medhi,
Project Officer – Admin and
Management, MTCP

Mr. Abinash Parida,
Consultant Biologist, MTCP

Mr. Chandan Das,
Marketing Coordinator and
Community Mobilizer, TRCD

Mr. Pranjon Daimari,
Project Officer- Protection, MTCP

Mr. Yadav Chandra Mandal,
Consultant, MTCP

Conservation and Livelihood Division (CLD)

Mr. Shyamal Datta,
Project Manager

Mr. Bipul Das,
Assistant Project Manager

Mr. Kumar Brahma,
Field Assistant

Mr. Bijoy Kalita,
Driver

Mr. Jack Karjee,
Field Assistant

Mr. Swapan Kumar Das,
Cluster Development Executive

LEGA Land Advocacy Division (LAD)

Mr. Ajoy Kr. Das,
Associate Lawyer

Publicity

Ms. Munmita Baruah,
Public Relations and
Communication Officer

Mr. Bidyot Bikash Saikia,
Documentation Officer, MPCD

Mr. Sarkiripo Rongpi,
Documentation Officer, MPCD

Water Climate and Hazards Division (WATCH)

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das,
Head, Water climate and Hazard
Division

Mr. Nayan Das,
Project Coordinator

Ms. Juri Baruah,
Research Associate

Mr. Dipmoni Nath,
Driver cum Technical Field
Assistant

Wildlife Genetics Division (WGD)

Mr. Udayan Borthakur,
Head, Wildlife Genetic Division

Mr. Pranjal Kumar Das,
Laboratory Manager

Mr. Ankur Neog,
Researcher

Ms. Rumana Maheen,
Researcher

Mr. Tridip Saikia,
Field Assistant cum Driver

Avifauna Research and Conservation Division (ARCD)

Ms. Purnima Devi Barman,
Project Manager, GAS

Mr. Bibekananda Kakoty,
Project Assistant

Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD)

Dr. Dilip Chetry,
Programme Head, PRCD

Regional Coordinators

Eastern Assam Zone –

Sailendra Mohan Das

Sanjay Das (Asst.)

Western Assam Zone –

Ashoke Kumar Das

Kushal Choudhury (Asst.)

Central Assam Zone –

M. Arif Hussain

Niranjan Bhuyan (Asst.)

Legal Advisors

Gautam Uzir

Advocate – Gauhati High Court

Bhaben Narzary

Advocate – Gauhati High Court

Research Advisory Board

Prof. Alak Kr. Buragohain

Dr. Annwaruddin Choudhury, D.SC.

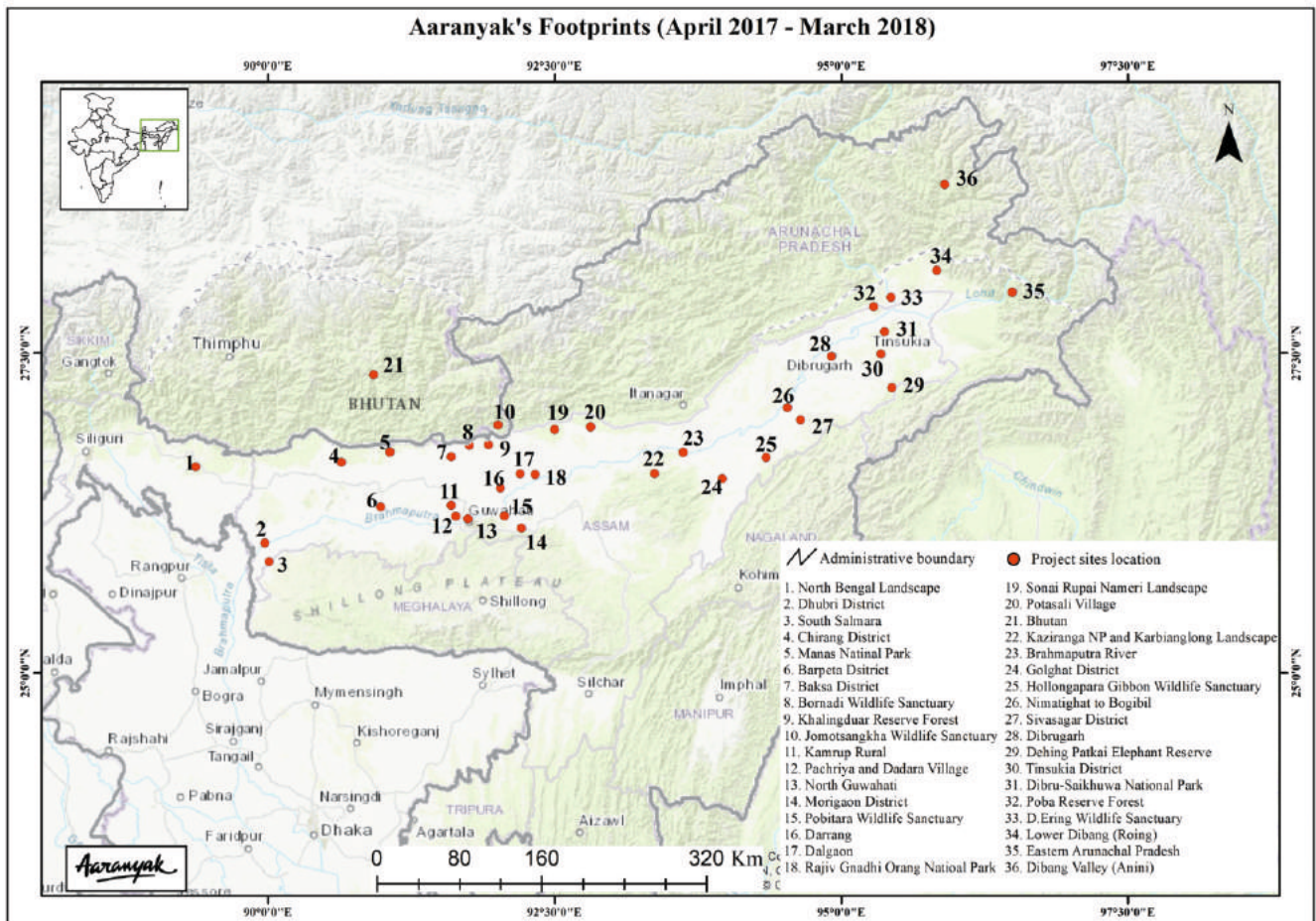
Prof. Qamar Qureshi

Prof. S.K. Duta

Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam

Secretary General of Aaranyak
as Member Secretary of RAB

AARANYAK'S FOOTPRINTS



Nourishing Nature to Secure our Future

We strive to protect nature and its resources ranging from animal and plant species, forests, various water bodies, mountains, as we believe that welfare of our communities is intricately linked to pristine nature. We work to secure a future for all species that are under any sort of threat. We bank on scientific means, law, advocacy, community engagement, education and much more, in our endeavour to protect land, water, and climate that are vital for survival of all animal and plant species. The efforts to leave behind a vibrant nature face a range of national and worldwide threats to biodiversity that include overpopulation, climate change and man's quest for rapid development. Now into the 29th year of our mission, we try hard for continued expansion, creativity, and unrestrained action for protection of most endangered species, rivers and water bodies, mitigating impact of changing climate in North East India.

Aaranyak

Administrative office

Aaranyak, 13-Tayab Ali Byelane,
Bishnu Rabha Path,
Beltola Tinali-Bhetapara link Road,
P.O.: Beltola, Guwahati,
India: 781028

Research Division Office

12, Kanaklata Path,
Byelane 3, Ajanta Path,
Beltola Survey,
Guwahati, India- 781028

Registered address

50, Samanwoy Path,
Beltola Survey,
Guwahati, India-781028

www.aaranyak.org