



Nourishing Nature To Secure Our Future

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



**Aaranyak's MISSION**

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

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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, environmental and social field and our geographical area of interest 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 -**

[www.aaranyak.org](http://www.aaranyak.org)

You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram Twitter and LinkedIn

**Aaranyak Society Registration No -**  
RS/3096 of 1989-1990

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.

*Aaranyak*

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## FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND CEO

### Every brick has to be strong !

It has been a long journey of 35 years with a diverse taste of challenges and opportunities. Every passing day has been a learning experience. Like life, the journey of Aaranyak too has been not without hurdles and occasional lean patches, but as the core of the organisation has always stood together through thick and thin, we have surmounted every uphill stretch till date with a positive mind and cordial approach. The experience has matured us as a team and placed the organisation on a harder base that won't be rocked so easily.

From the initial state of a neighbourhood nature club set up by a small group of college students, Aaranyak has today grown to a prominent research based conservation institution with over 200 employees including numerous conservation scientists with national and global repute, sociologists, researchers, professionals in organisation management, planning and financial management, many field staff and other employees engaged in fourteen divisions and one programme of the organisations besides in its administrative and finance wings.

The metamorphosis wouldn't have been possible, had we not encouraged the practice of shared responsibility in running the organisation from top to bottom as well as in operation of every division of it. I personally have encouraged people to ideate and shoulder specific responsibilities in their respective domain of work so as to differentiate the leaders in the crowd.

It is essential to trigger the sense of shared responsibility as the organisation has grown tremendously over the years because of the brilliance, hard work and commitment exhibited by the team. Sharing responsibility in running an organisation like ours helps individuals use the flexibility of the collective context to benefit themselves by claiming credit for good outcomes or avoiding the blame for bad outcomes. It further helps upcoming leaders to expand their space and test their skills and capabilities to build future leadership in the organisation. Division Heads are given space, responsibilities and freedom to shape the conservation projects based on need assessments.

The organisation has reached a stage where a single leader or a handful of persons won't always be able to decide for everyone else given the fast changing ecosystem of operations and the imminent plan to graduate ourselves into a full-fledged institution. So, the current leaders in the respective domains of operations in the organisation need to delegate responsibilities to bolster the efficiency and further augment the quality of

output. The process will also help us mark another generation of leaders in a different level in the organisation's hierarchy who may be able to infuse new and novel ideas as well as renewed vigour in the operations and functioning of the organisation.

Being able to create such a dynamic and positive work culture will be a boon for the current top-rung leaders to apply their mature minds, vast knowledge and wide network for further growth of the organisation to make it as robust as possible for the progeny to sustain the responsibilities towards planet earth.

Placed in a global biodiversity hotspot, Aaranyak's operational credibility is always under the scanner of people and government agencies and also within our own performance monitoring assessments at this crucial juncture of conservation efforts focused on sustainable future. We as a team have to work cohesively exploiting the strengths and expertise of each of our divisions while supporting each other in the true spirit of a team.

We have to stand out tall among the crowd by virtue of our expertise, our commitment, efficiency of operations and ability to deliver in the greater interest of the conservation of biodiversity and human wellbeing. Every one of us has to efficiently share his/her slice of the collective responsibility to add enough steam to our journey and must abhor complacency.

Every dawn brings us new rays of hopes. I am happy to have such a supportive and hardworking team at Aaranyak. Let's strengthen this stamina and tenacity to contribute further to address diverse conservation challenges that the north eastern region of India has been facing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bibhab Kumar Talukdar'.

(Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, PhD)



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  - IUCN SSC PSG Section on Small Apes (SSA)
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BACKGROUND

Aaranyak is a non-profit, non-government organisation which has been in existence since 1989, when a group of passionate young environment enthusiasts came together and vowed to protect the region’s rich biodiversity. We at Aaranyak strives to contribute towards biodiversity conservation and ensure human well-being through applied research, conservation education, legal and policy advocacy, community conservation, and capacity building.

We work on a range of wildlife species and their habitats, and environmental issues and climate change, with local communities and Government agencies to design appropriate conservation strategies and aid in informed conservation decisions. Aaranyak’s work is primarily carried out under 14 divisions and one programme: Avifauna Research and Conservation Division, Conservation Livelihood Division, Elephant Research and Conservation Division, Environment Education and Capacity Building Division, Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Division, Geo-spatial Technology Application Division, Herpetofauna Research and Conservation Division, Legal and Advocacy Division, Media Production and Communications Division, Primate Research and Conservation Division, Rhino Research and Conservation Division, Tiger Research and Conservation Division, Water Climate and Hazard Division, Wildlife Genetics Division and Threatened Species Recovery Programme.

Over the last 34 years, Aaranyak has grown in stature and has carved a niche in the field of biodiversity conservation. We are a close-knit team of environmental scientists, researchers, community workers, educators and environmental legal specialists. Our efforts towards bridging the gap between research and adaptive management of wildlife and forests have won us many accolades from around the globe. Of these, the noteworthy accoladaes are- the RBS ‘Earth Guardian Award 2011’, ‘Institutional Award in the field of Science and Technology’ in 2017, by Government of Assam and ‘Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Purashkar’ in 2021 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

AARANYAK’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-25



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President



**Dilip Chetry**  
Vice President



**Bibhab Kr. Talukdar**  
Secretary General



**Jimut Prasad Sarma**  
Finance Secretary



**Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar**  
Program Secretary



**Udayan Borthakur**  
Organizing Secretary



**Bijay Sankar Bora**  
Publicity Secretary



**Partha Jyoti Das**  
Executive Member



**Kaushik Barua**  
Executive Member



**Alolika Sinha**  
Executive Member



**Dandadhar Sarma**  
Executive Member



# SPECIES RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

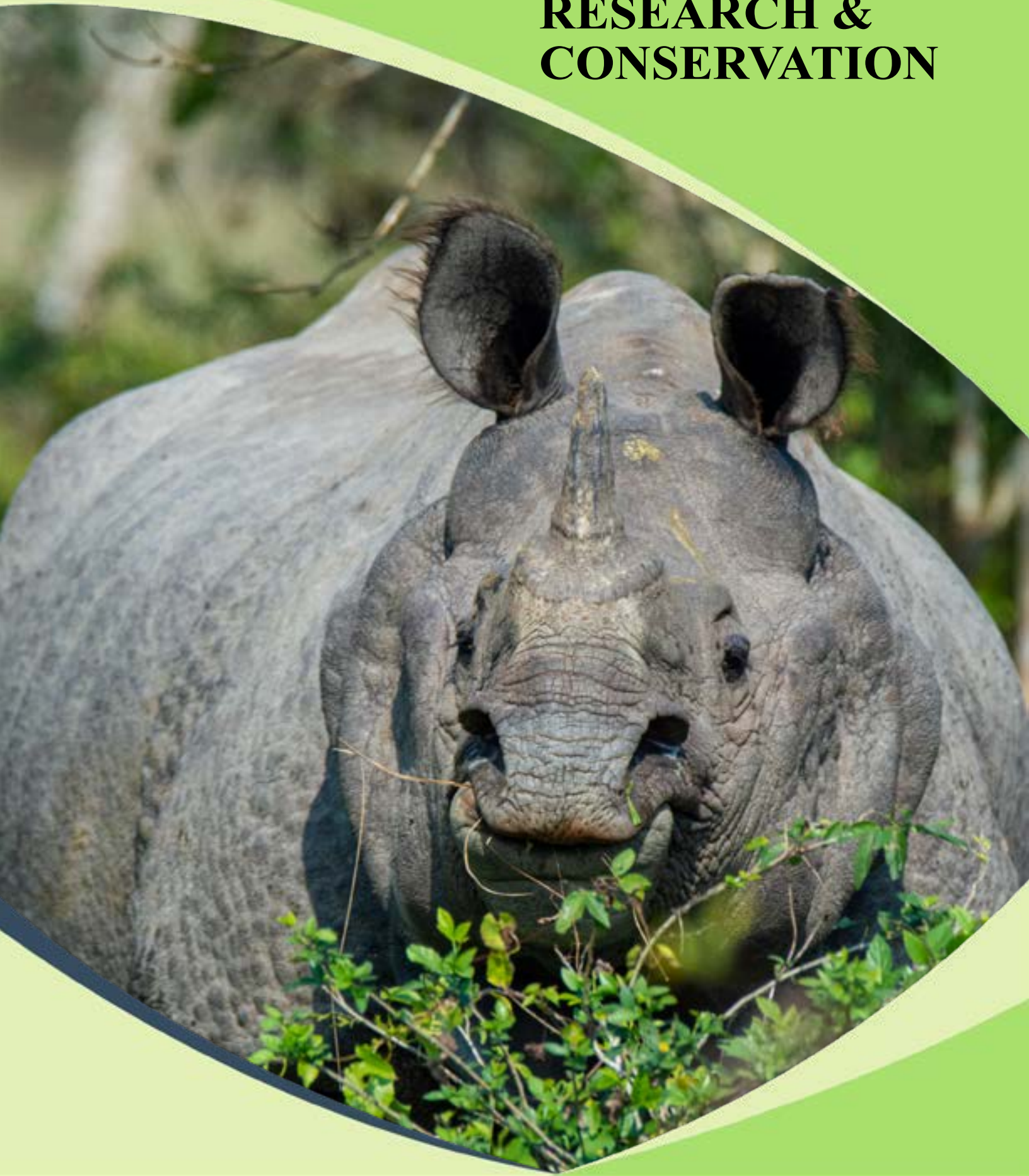


Photo- Aaranyak

Genetic diversity is enriched by abundance of varied species. So, loss of species diminishes genetic diversity, which is crucial for resilience against environmental changes, diseases, and natural disasters. The anthropogenic pressure, which the biodiversity faces now, define the urgency of the global prioritisation of species conservation. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), over 42,100 species are currently listed as threatened, comprising 28% of all assessed species. This alarming rate of decline underscores the critical need for action to prevent further biodiversity loss, as it poses risks to ecosystems and human well-being alike.

Biodiversity is integral to maintaining ecosystem services that support life on Earth. Healthy ecosystems regulate climate, purify air and water, pollinate crops and sustain livelihoods. A large

Pristine landscape in Assam

number of species could face extinction within decades if current trends continue, jeopardizing these vital ecosystem functions.

Northeast India, part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, is a treasure trove of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic and critically endangered. This region, comprising just 8% of India's land area, harbours nearly 50% of the country's biodiversity. It hosts over 8,000 plant species, 870 bird species, 500 fish species, 190 mammal species, and countless insects and amphibians. The region is, however, under serious biodiversity threat. It has lost approximately 76% of its original forest cover, as reported by the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021. Moreover, the region's biodiversity supports traditional knowledge systems and sustains indigenous communities, who derive food, medicine, and cultural identity from their

natural environment. Protecting species is thus essential for preserving not only ecological balance but also the social and economic well-being of millions.

Aaranyak's sincere initiatives in the North East India in species conservation through participatory research, has averred in connecting the loose ends required in bracketing the entire ecosystem since the last 34 years. We conduct scientific research, including population monitoring and habitat assessments, to guide conservation strategies. Addressing illegal trade, human-wildlife conflicts by promoting coexistence, we work towards conserving the threatened species. We also engage local communities in species conservation through education, capacity-building programmes, and sustainable livelihoods, ensuring long-term protection of the region's biodiversity.





Photo- Avijan Saha

A close view of a Greater one-horned rhino

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

The Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD) works towards assisting conservation of the Greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).

The division observes grazing patterns and habitat usage as part of monitoring of rhino populations in protected and outside protected areas. The purpose of

our research observations is to help managers of rhino bearing areas to further strengthen rhino conservation efforts.



Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak researchers collect dung sample for genetic analysis



Photo- Udayan Borthakur

A majestic tusker in Kaziranga National Park

HOOLOCK GIBBON

From September 2023 to February 2024, a 90-day field survey using direct encounter and call count methods was conducted by Primate Research & Conservation Division PRCD in Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, marking the first such study undertaken in the region. A conservation training programme for forest staff in Kamlang Reserve was held in November 2023, with emphasis on gibbon monitoring and habitat restoration techniques. Aaranyak also collaborated with the Tripura Forest Department and IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group to draft an action plan for hoolock gibbon conservation in Tripura during a workshop in January 2024. A week-long residential training for Assam's frontline forest staff covered topics such as gibbon rescue, habitat monitoring, and legal frameworks for conservation.

ASIAN ELEPHANT

The Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) conducted surveys on elephant distribution and population estimation in Meghalaya using occupancy frameworks and distance sampling techniques. Additionally, areas along the Assam-Nagaland border, including Dhansiri Reserve Forest, Intanki National Park, and Nambor-Doigurung Wildlife Sanctuary, were surveyed to understand elephant movement and habitat-use patterns. Concurrently, the Wildlife Genetics Division (WGD) performed landscape genetic assessments, analyzing over 400 dung samples from five major populations to map genetic diversity and identify critical corridors for gene flow.



Photo- Krunal Desai

A magnificent female Hoolock gibbon



AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

The Herpetofauna Research and Conservation Division (HRCD) documented the breeding behaviour and acoustics of the Arunachal chorus frog (*Microhyla eos*) in Namdapha National Park and identified new distribution records of the brown-spotted pit viper (*Protobothrops mucrosquamatus*) in Karbi Hills, Assam. HRCD also conducted systematic surveys of the endangered Assam roof turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*) in Kaziranga National Park and contributed to the Global Amphibian Assessment. Molecular studies of select amphibian species were conducted in collaboration with Assam Don Bosco University.



Photo- HRCD

First record of *Amolops nyngchiensis* from India

NAMDAPHA FLYING SQUIRREL REDISCOVERY

Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) conducted a 309.16 km nocturnal trail survey in Namdapha National Park to rediscover the critically endangered Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*). This effort underscores Aaranyak's dedication to documenting elusive species and developing conservation strategies.

BENGAL FLORICAN

Under Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP), a habitat survey was conducted for the critically endangered Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) in Orang National Park (ONP). Eight lekking sites were identified across seven distinct locations that provided critical data on breeding grounds. Habitat



Photo- Sourav Gupta

Elusive Namdapha Flying squirrel



Photo- Avijan Saha

Bengal florican takes a flight

improvement initiatives included the removal of invasive alien plants from 123.49 hectares in the ONP, contributed to the restoration of grassland ecosystems suitable for the Bengal florican.

GOLDEN LANGUR

Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD) assessed the population of the endangered golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) in Kakoijana-Bamuni Hills Sanctuary using visual encounter surveys conducted in May and October 2023. The surveys provided baseline data through individual and troop counts. Additionally, the Geo-spatial Technology and Applications Division (GTAD) conducted a wildlife corridor analysis in Kokrajhar district, identifying critical connectivity areas essential for the survival of fragmented langur populations.



Photo- Chinmoy Swargiary

Threatened Golden langurs in Assam's Kakoijana RF



# HABITAT RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



Photo- Aamayak

Researchers explore a forest area in Arunachal Pradesh

Habitat research and conservation are critical for maintaining biodiversity, supporting ecosystems and ensuring the well-being of human populations. The significance of these efforts can be categorized into several key areas which include biodiversity preservation, climate change mitigation, ecosystem services, economic benefits, Social and ethical responsibility and restoration opportunities. The loss of habitat directly correlates with species extinction, as many species cannot survive outside their natural environments. Protecting diverse habitats helps maintain the variety of life on earth, ensuring that ecosystems function effectively. Keeping the mentioned importance in mind, this year various conservation and habitat restoration project were successfully carried out.

## RESTORATION OF GRASSLAND HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM

Grasslands are essential ecosystems that store carbon and serve as vital habitats for wildlife, among other ecological services. Ongoing spatial loss and invasibility of these grasslands, however, necessitate prompt attention and action. In the light of this, a long-term project was created to support grassland recovery by managing different invasive alien plants (IAPs), girdling trees to prevent problematic woody plant encroachment in grasslands, and supporting local communities in planting native grasses where necessary. Our group is putting in a lot of effort through this initiative to restore around five square kilometers of grasslands in Manas National Park and an additional one square kilometer

of grasslands in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

Uprooting of *Chromolaena* across 167 hectares in Kuribeel and Rupahi was undertaken as a part of habitat management in Manas National Park. About 3,140 *Bombax* trees were girdled, and 833 trees were uprooted engaging 6920 person-days from five EDCs. In three experimental plots, various habitat management experiments (such as burning, cutting, and trimming) performed. For the tests and maintenance plots, about 515 person-days from 5 EDCs were assigned. Similarly, In Orang National Park, the habitat restoration involved uprooting of *Chromolaena* and *Mimosa* 616 *Lagerstroemia* and 331 *Bombax* trees from 123.49 hectares, and the entire process required involvement of 1237 person-days





Photo-Aaranyak

Grassland invaded by *Chromolaena odorata*

from local EDCs. At the same time physical removal of invasive species around 1.6 sq. km. areas was being done .

Through planting of native shrubs and tree species and the management of grasses, the team is working toward habitat recovery in the Bhairabkunda under Mazbat Range of Dhansiri Forest Division, which is jointly managed by the Forest Department and the Dhansiri-Sikaridanga Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC). This will not only improve the elephant habitat in the long run, but also reduce human-elephant conflict. In order to assist the plantation and nurture saplings, a community nursery was established on 0.89 hectares of land in the surrounding wooded areas after assessments were carried out to learn more about



Photo- Aaranyak

Community members in charge of a plantation drive the natural vegetation type. We raised nearly one lakh and twenty thousand saplings in the nursery during the first year after planting over 25,000 saplings. Additionally, 50 households immediately benefited socially from this project. In parallel with the restoration activities, a density assessment of invasive plant

species was conducted in 33 Ha of Rowta (Reserve forest), Udalguri. *Chromolaena odorata* and *Lantana camara* were found to be dominant during the process, Thus, out of the 13 Ha areas with the highest density, one Ha area was de-weeded to remove invasive plant species. Over 2000 *Alpinia spp.* were planted con-

currently as part of a 3 hectare elephant habitat replenishment. In accordance with normal procedures, soil samples were taken from 14 different locations within the Rowta RF restoration site and examined. Meanwhile, fireline of 20-25 ft breadth of more than 2.4 km covering approx 25 Ha area has been successfully completed at the restoration site at Bhairabkunda, Udalguri.



Photo- Aaranyak

Grass plantation in Pobitora WLS



Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak team members coordinate habitat restoration work



Photo- Chandramika Nath

Scenic Bhairabkunda at Udalguri district of Assam



Photo- Udayan Borthakur



HABITAT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

For effective conservation and monitoring, proper documentation allows for long-term comparisons to track changes in populations, habitats and biodiversity. Policy-makers and conservationists rely on clear, visualized data to make informed decisions about wildlife management and resource allocation. In the light of the aforementioned, the Aaranyak Media and Communications team has been conducting field documentation of biodiversity as part of a long-term project on the expansion and habitat restoration of the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Jorhat district of Assam. Additionally, the team has been creating a number of visual communication

A pair of Hoolock gibbon in their natural habitat materials to raise awareness and garner conservation support for the sanctuary on both national and worldwide scale.

Nine experimental eco-restoration plots were established in the buffer zone of western Assam’s Raimona National Park, in collaboration with BTC Forest department and Kachugaon Division. We also facilitated Participatory Ecological Restoration of Jhum fallow at Karbi Anglong, Assam and developed three Agroforestry models in Kaziranga Karbi Anlong Landscape (KKL). Both the eco-restoration events led to the active involvement of 21 jhumias of one village. 920 saplings of 11 species of native trees were planted covering an area of 7.78 Ha of jhum fallow. The survival rate after six months was 31.1%.

This low survival rate is related to factors like herbivory of wild animals and the level of individual participation of community members. Participatory development of three distinct agroforestry models in three villages of Kohora River Basin (KRB) and Diring River Basin (DRB) involving 28 individuals in an area of 8.33 Ha- 681 saplings of multipurpose trees, 200 rhizomes were planted.

At the same time, 2.6 km of the forest floor in the Kohora River Basin in Karbi Anglong, Assam, underwent a participatory forest floor restoration project using 100 kgs *Homalomena aromatica* and 100 saplings of *Calamus sp.* The NERAQ programme of the Assam Forest Department and GIZ India has carried out a number of

projects, including “Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands for local livelihood security and climate resilience: A research-based pilot intervention in Deepor Beel & Doloni Beel of Assam, India. These projects have significantly raised public awareness on the significance of preserving wetlands as habitats of biodiversity and sources of beneficial ecological goods and services, particularly for people’s livelihoods, food security and environmental wellness.



A birds eye view of Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary

Photo- Udayan Borthakur



GIS expert conducts GPS-GIS training for forest staff

MAPPING THE WILD: HOW GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS REVOLUTIONIZE HABITAT AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

GIS enables detailed mapping of habitats, showing the distribution and habitat that has occurred due to deforestation, urbanization or climate change. It is essential for understanding ecosystems and planning conservation strategies.

Our team has georeferenced

toposheets and Open Series Maps for delineation of protected areas, acquired from Survey of India of 1:50,000 scale. At the same time, the team has made an efficient effort in demarcating the boundary of Deepor Beel for post-monsoon season from 1973 till 2022. In addition, we also assisted in providing information

on wetlands of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve for Wetland Bird Estimation and Festival, 2024.



## LIVELIHOOD & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Photo-Aaranyak

Community women being trained on alternative livelihood option

Livelihood and social entrepreneurship are essential in wildlife conservation strategies because they address the intricate relationship between humans and the natural environment. Wildlife conservation often occurs in areas where local communities rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods. Without viable alternatives, these communities may engage in activities such as logging, farming in protected areas, or poaching, which can unintentionally harm wildlife and ecosystems.

By introducing sustainable livelihood programmes, wildlife organisations empower communities to adopt practices that are both economically beneficial and environmentally responsible. For

instance, ecotourism, organic farming, crafting from non-timber forest products can provide steady incomes while preserving ecosystems. These initiatives not only reduce poverty but also incentivize communities to protect their local wildlife and habitats.

Social entrepreneurship puts an added twist on these efforts through scalable and self-sustaining solutions. The entrepreneur may conceptualize eco-friendly businesses that give products or services toward conservation purposes, such as renewable energy options, wildlife monitoring technologies, or sustainable fisheries. Both conservation initiatives and local populations benefit from such venture. This has a benefit of encouraging owner-

ship among the locals, through integrating livelihood and social entrepreneurship in wildlife conservation. People tend to take care of their environment more, and hence protect it if they see tangible benefits from its preservation. It builds long-term resilience as human development and wildlife protection become less conflicting.

Livelihood and social entrepreneurship, therefore, play a critical role in shaping inclusive, equitable and sustainable conservation strategies, bridging the gap between human well-being and environmental stewardship in a way that both can exist together for generations to come.



FOSTERING SKILLS AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ADVANCEMENT

Various local communities particularly those from ecologically sensitive regions, eco-friendly practices such as organic farming, eco-tourism, and sustainable harvesting of natural resources were carried out through targeted skill-building initiatives. The efforts have facilitated alternative income opportunities reducing dependency on activities that harm biodiversity, thus fostering a harmonious balance between conservation and community welfare. Such practices included tailoring school established at Manas Conservation & Outreach Centre (MCOC) campus in Manas Landscape, training 26 women and girls. Eleven weaving workshops were conducted to train 280 women beneficiaries, who produced traditional items like mekhela-chadors and gamochas. At the same time, five skill development programmes covering 120 villagers were organized near Burhachapori and Lakhowa WLS. These programmes included training on water hyacinth crafts and hospitality at an ethnic food hub. Handmade tea processing was introduced with value addition. Sixteen women were trained in manufacturing green, orthodox, and black tea. Three types of millets were distributed viz., foxtail millet (Hanjangmilan), Finger millet (Kremalu) and Sorghum (Tamir) to 34 beneficiaries, who produced 200 kgs worth about Rs 16000 from which Aaranyak bought back 75 kgs for marketing and seedlings.



Photo- Aaranyak

HEC-affected community women release fish spawn provided by Aaranyak

There are various key activities conducted to nurture sustainable livelihoods, promote community empowerment and integrate conservation efforts with economic development in fringe areas, which include *Pond Assessment for Fish Farming, Distribution of Fish Seedlings, Community meetings & Agroforestry Plantation Program, Surveys and Villaeg profiling, Tailoring School establishment, Human Wildlife conflict monitoring, Nature Walking & Birding Trails, and Textile Production Unit.*

CAPACITY BUILDING IN FARMING AND AQUACULTURE

Different trainings were organized on organic farming, vermicomposting and intercropping. In the mean time, we supported 15 beneficiaries with aquaculture training and distributed 98 kgs of fish fingerlings that yielded 90 kgs harvest worth Rs 200/kg. Different winter varieties of oyster mushroom were provided to six beneficiaries, and were supported with 44 kgs of mushroom spawn which would eventually lead to harvesting of 540 kgs of mushroom that generated earn-

ing of over Rs 60,000. We also trained and supported 17 individuals in beekeeping and facilitated honey extraction.

FARM-BASED ACTIVITIES

We promoted seasonal vegetable cultivation with 279 farmers, producing 5.9 tonnes worth Rs 3,68,130. We distributed 45 kgs of alternative crops (chilli, turmeric, mustard, etc.) to mitigate human-elephant conflict in Baksa, Tamulpur and Udalguri districts. Thirty-eight women from 10 village clusters were also involved in cultivation of summer mushroom (*Calocyba indica*) and winter mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and that led in harvesting a total of 147 kgs of mushroom valued at Rs 24000. Community nurseries were established in Katajhar village for Bhut Jolokia saplings and vegetable seedlings.

FOOD PROCESSING AND VALUE ADDITION

Engaged 40 women from different villages in the value-addition chain of different products such as, millets, sesame



Photo- Aaranyak

Pirbi outlet of farm-based products at Kohora, Assam

seeds, turmeric, ginger, rosella, tapioca, elephant apple, black pepper, king chilli, etc., which are marketed through *Pirbi* biodiversity business initiative, a community based enterprise. ii. Handmade tea processing and value addition - Engaged 16 households and gave trainings to 16 women for handmade tea processing viz., Green tea, Orthodox tea and Black tea.

NON-FARM ACTIVITIES

These activities included food processing and value addition chains involving 40 women for products like millets, sesame seeds, turmeric, ginger, rosella, tapioca, elephant apple, black pepper, king chilli, etc. Six women were supported to undertake traditional pottery by providing 10 tonnes of soil. The effort generated Rs 50,800.



Photo- Aaranyak

Alternative crops promoted to facilitate coexistence

WOMEN-LED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We formed "Dwisa Sher Boro Cuisine," a women's catering group in Hatijan village focusing on traditional catering services. Two days training were conducted in Eastern Assam and West Garo-Hills which resulted in training of 280 beneficiaries as well as 50 other community members by an

expert. A total of 1310 kgs of cotton yarn were provided to these beneficiaries to start of the work. We also, supported community exhibitions like Rongali, to market traditional crafts and textiles.





Photo- Aaranyak

Field of crops non palatable to elephants

CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD

The organization works closely with indigenous and rural communities, particularly in biodiversity-rich areas like the Kaziranga and Manas landscape, to integrate conservation with economic development. The organization has implemented several projects that involve community-led monitoring of wildlife, including the protection of endangered species. These initiatives encourage local people to become stewards of their environment, improving both wildlife conservation outcomes and the quality of life for the communities involved.

BIO-FENCING AND ALTERNATIVE CROP SUPPORT

In the districts of Udalguri, Tamulpur, and Baksa, a total of 149 farmers received support to cultivate 45 kgs of alternative crops. Additionally, 400 citrus saplings



Photo- Aaranyak

Community evaluation in a HEC affected area were distributed to villages in Budlapara for use as bio-fences. The cultivation of alternative crops resulted in significant income, with 32 kgs of mustard seeds yielding a harvest of 1,020 kgs of mustard seeds. Meanwhile, six farmers in Udalguri harvested 586.5 kgs of mustard from the 15.75 kgs of seeds they had received. We distributed 18,750 Assam lemon saplings to farmers along with potatoes (N=33), ginger (N=12), "Bhut jolokia" (N=11) in Garo Hills and Assam for bio-fencing and livelihood support. We facilitated plantation of 350 saplings under agroforestry in Daodhara to encourage sustainable land use.

COEXISTENCE INITIATIVES

We are working with around 600 households in eastern Assam and West Garo Hills to supplement their livelihood with diverse income-generation activities and help garner support for conservation and promotion of human-elephant coexistence. We conducted surveys in human elephant conflict zones and trained 149 farmers in conflict mitigation through alternative crops. Monitoring of human-wildlife conflicts was carried out with the help of nine village volunteers.

HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAMMES

Periodic livestock vaccination of 738 cattle in 11 EDC areas was carried out against diseases like FMD and Lumpy Skin Disease in the areas of Bansbari range. Vermicompost pits were set up besides organising training on livestock fodder cultivation for 25 cattle owners.

The sanitary pad distribution campaign was organized to enhance women's health and hygiene. They were provided with sanitary napkins during eco-friendly awareness workshops.

We worked with Dept of Agriculture, Veterinary, KVKs to secure substantial support to alternative livelihood for fringe villagers including more than 60 individual farmers and 15 SHGs.



Photo- Aaranyak

Distribution of lemon saplings in Sivasagar, Assam



Photo- EECBD, Aaranyak

Training on natural farming conducted for community women



Photo- Aaranyak

Fringe community women work in their handlooms



# EDUCATION OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS



Photo- Aaranyak

Student participants in a nature connection survey organised by Aaranyak

Why they matter ? Building knowledge, advancing development and establishing deep connections within communities all depend on education, outreach, and communications. By acting as bridges between knowledge and action, these related fields make sure that important information is understandable, interesting and effective. Also, fostering curiosity, establishing connections and enabling people to actively participate in influencing their communities and the wider world, education, outreach, and communication work together to bring about positive changes. They are indispensable in addressing global issues, advancing equity, and ensuring that everyone has the chance to prosper in a globalized society.

## CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

The combination of community empowerment, education and conservation produces a strong foundation for long-term sustainability. A peaceful coexistence between people and nature is ensured when communities are informed and actively involved in protecting their surroundings. Keeping this in mind various activities and initiatives were carried out throughout which were on spotlight. On March 2024, Aaranyak, in collaboration with the Guwahati Wildlife Division, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and local NGO SHIPA, organised a health camp. This initiative provided essential healthcare services to over 105 participants including frontline forest staff and

community members. The camp was led by Dr. Abhijit Neog and a team of medical professionals from ARYA Hospital, Suknagug HWC and Bahakajari HWC. Supervision by senior officials, such as Dr. Deba Dutta from Aaranyak and Range Officer of Pobitora WLS Nayan Jyoti Das, ensured smooth execution. International support from Zoo Berlin highlighted the global partnerships involved.

The Farmer Producer Company (FPC), which is supported by NA-BARD, held a project monitoring committee meeting to discuss its progress. Market diversification, farmer capacity building, and climate-resilient agricultural practices were among the recommendations made during the meeting, which also covered issues related to community en-



gagement and piggery management. In order to guarantee long-term success, collaborations and consistent support were prioritized. Two fish farming orientation programmes were held in Daodhara to educate local communities on the fish farming practices. Also, several nature connection programmes for 310 students through park safaris and zoo visits were organised. A documentary on community managed solar-powered fencing for mitigating human-elephant conflict was produced and released. Knowledge-sharing sessions on various school science projects were conducted. Experiential learning programmes for youth and eco-clubs were also held.

**HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION AND ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION**

Various activities including seven Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted. The FDGs were participated by 157 persons from many villages to assess human-wildlife conflict situation. Perception assessments on ecosystem and wildlife conservation engaged over 500 individuals and 41 students. Two volunteer orientation programmes on collecting information about human-wildlife conflicts were conducted.

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

Seventeen beneficiaries attended an orientation session on mushroom farming held at Garumara under the Koklabari cluster. A four-day tailoring course for

eleven members of the Himalaya SHG in Bhuyanpara, was held with an emphasis on fabricating garments and designing dresses for girls in a range of styles and sizes. The Swmkhwr Bilai FPC's



A training session on farming



Mushroom cultivation training in West Garo Hills

**NATURE'S WONDERLAND AND PRAKRITI PARICHAY**

The nature learning programme 'Nature's Wonderland' was organised at locations such as Am-

promoters and board of directors participated in a training session held in Jharbari, Kokrajhar, as part of the NABARD FPC Programme.

Photos- Jayanta Kumar Pathak

**GAJAH KOTHA**

An outreach campaign called 'Gajah Kotha' was launched to raise awareness on elephant ecology, human-elephant conflict, and coexistence strategies. Two phases of Information Education & Communication (IEC) materials were developed focusing on elephant ecology, cultural relevance, and HEC mitigation. These events included workshops, live radio talks, and interactions with journalists to discuss biodiversity conservation and human-wildlife coexistence. Through "Gajah Kotha" Campaign, we raised awareness about elephant ecology, behaviour, relationship with communities and conservation importance, reaching over 6,660 people through 121 events.

**RHINO GOES TO SCHOOL**

Conservation of Greater one-horned rhino was promoted



Photo- Aaranyak

HEC-affected kids learn about coexistence through Gajah Kotha

with long standing 'Rhino Goes to School' by educating students about their distribution, population, life-cycle and conservation importance. The programme was conducted with 40 sessions reaching out to 6500 students from schools near rhino habitats in Assam. Overall, the programme covered approximately

10,000 people from various age groups.

**MASS COMMUNICATIONS**

Radio programmes broadcasted through All India Radio (AIR) Guwahati and Dibrugarh reached an estimated 30,000 people.



Photo- Aaranyak

A Rhino Goes to School programme underway



Digital outreach through ecoNE (www.econe.in ), led to publication of 15 articles on various issues related to environment and biodiversity of Northeast India.

The media and communications team developed various illustrations, infographics and short videos on different issues of wildlife conservation which were propagated in different places/platforms in order to create awareness among public.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CONSERVATION

A “training of trainers” programme was conducted for 20 youths selected as “Village Champions” from eastern Assam and West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. These champions facilitate local-scale outreach events in HEC-affected areas.

A range of diverse workshops along with hands on experience were conducted on geospatial technology for conservation professionals and Post graduate students. An awareness programme under Mission LIFE was organized by the Regional Office (Guwahati) of Pollution Control Board of Assam (PCBA) in collaboration with Aaranyak and Centre for Ecology, Environment and Sustainable Development, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati.

WOMEN-CENTRIC OUTREACH

Eleven outreach events reached 360 women in six districts of eastern Assam. These events provided platforms for women to



A discussion on human elephant conflict mitigation on AIR, Dibrugarh

Photo- Aaranyak



Introduction to importance of GPS and GIS during a Nature Walk

Photo- Aaranyak

share knowledge and engage in biodiversity conservation efforts. Conducted eco-friendly product awareness campaigns, including menstrual product training and sanitary pad distribution.

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES

Conducted African Swine Fever awareness campaigns reaching 249 pig-rearing households. Organised nature camps, football tournaments, and sapling distribution among local youth and schools. Meanwhile, 56 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were supported to register under the Amrit Briksha Andolan, resulting in the plantation of 1,120 saplings to boost afforestation efforts.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY DIFFERENT ZONES OF AARANYAK

Over the past year, a series of impactful biodiversity and conservation initiatives were undertaken by our different zones in collaboration with international and local organisations, engaging diverse stakeholders across various regions.

Various insightful activities took place in the central Assam. The City Nature Challenge (April-May 2023) saw an extensive effort to document biodiversity in Guwahati, highlighting its ecological significance. Participants engaged in wildlife observation activities, contributing valuable

data to global conservation efforts. Following this, the Poster Contest for International Day for Biological Diversity (May 2023) was launched as a nationwide event to celebrate biodiversity through artistic expression. The contest attracted enthusiastic youth participants, with four winners being recognised for their outstanding contributions.

In August 2023, the Inclusive Conservation Consultation brought together experts and indigenous communities for an in-depth discussion on sustainable biodiversity conservation. The event featured prominent speakers and panelists, fostering a dialogue on inclusive conservation strategies. Around the same time, the “Our Environment, Our Responsibility” campaign was launched to educate schoolchildren in eco-sensitive zones about environmental stewardship. Interactive sessions were conducted with a focus on addressing human-wildlife conflicts and promoting coexistence.

The year 2024 began with active participation in three major festivals dedicated to conservation. At the Kaziranga Bird Conservation Festival (January 2024), participants were engaged in water bird counts besides hosting an exhibition on conservation initiatives. The event also provided an opportunity to interact with visitors, including Assam’s Environment Minister. Similarly, the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (January 2024) in Arunachal Pradesh served as a platform to showcase ongoing hornbill and wildlife conservation efforts while engaging with key stakeholders.



Birdcount in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

Photo- Aaranyak



Aaranyak exhibition in Pakke Tiger Reserve

Photo- Aaranyak

Additionally, the Manas Festival (January 2024) emphasised experiential learning for students, fostering collaboration between conservation organisations and local communities. In February 2024, contributions were made to the National Biodiversity Strategy Consultation, where inputs on biodiversity strategies were presented alongside research initiatives and community em-

powerment programmes. Furthermore, support was extended to the Assam Forest Department for the Elephant Population Estimation in Chirang District, aiding in critical conservation efforts. The year concluded with participation in the Charaichung Festival (March 2024) in Majuli, where awareness sessions on environmental issues were conducted. Conservation efforts were fur-



ther highlighted through an exhibition, reinforcing the importance of biodiversity protection.

These collective efforts underscore a sustained commitment to conservation, fostering awareness, community participation, and policy engagement for a more sustainable future. World Environment Day campaign was organised in the Eastern Assam Zone during June 2023, to promote environmental awareness, focusing on tree conservation. Awareness posters were installed, and local communities actively participated in discussions on the importance of preserving trees.

Later, in October 2023, a Bird Conservation Drawing Competition was conducted, encouraging students to express their creativity while learning about the significance of bird conservation. This initiative helped instill a sense of responsibility toward protecting avian species.

In November 2023, a local bird awareness campaign was carried out, where students attended workshops on bird identification and conservation techniques. These sessions provided hands-on learning experiences and helped students recognize local bird species and their ecological roles. In January 2024, a Vulture Conservation Workshop was organised to highlight the ecological importance of vultures and the various threats they face. The workshop educated participants on the crucial role vultures play in maintaining ecosystem bal-



Photo- Aaranyak

A community meeting at Choraichung Festival 2024 in Majuli

ance and ways to protect them.

Continuing the conservation efforts, a local bird outreach programme took place in February 2024, featuring audiovisual sessions aimed at educating students and their parents on bird conservation. These interactive sessions facilitated better understanding and engagement from families in preserving local bird species.

Finally, in March 2024, a World Sparrow Day programme was

conducted, emphasising the need for sparrow conservation and raising awareness about the ecological threats affecting their population. This event encouraged participants to take small yet impactful steps toward protecting sparrows and other small birds in their surroundings. Through these initiatives, significant efforts were made to educate and involve communities, particularly students, in environmental and bird conservation, fostering a collective commit-



Photo- Aaranyak

Vulture conservation outreach event in eastern Assam

ment to safeguarding biodiversity.

Several initiatives were undertaken in our Mid-Assam Zone throughout 2023, to promote environmental awareness and conservation efforts among students and local communities.

In May 2023, International Biodiversity Day was observed with an art competition and awareness sessions. These activities encouraged participants to express their thoughts on biodiversity conservation creatively while learning about its significance.

World Environment Day programmes in June 2023 further strengthened environmental consciousness. The events included art contests and the distribution of 200 seedlings to schools, promoting tree planting and ecological responsibility among students. During July 2023, Summer Nature Camps were organized for high school students near Orang National Park.

These camps combined academic learning with wildlife education, providing students with hands-on experiences in conservation. Sessions led by experts covered various topics on local wildlife and conservation challenges, enriching the students' understanding of the ecosystem. International Tiger Day was celebrated in July 2023 in collaboration with Kaziranga authorities. The event featured art competitions and extempore speech contests focused on raising awareness about tiger conservation.



Photo- Aaranyak

World Environment Day celebration



Photo- Aaranyak

Participants of 3rd Orang Nature Camp, 2024

This initiative helped spread knowledge about the importance of protecting tiger populations and their habitats.

In September 2023, Foundation Day celebrations were organized in Bonkual, Bokakhat, featuring a series of events including cleanliness drives, contests, documentary screenings and quiz competitions.

These activities engaged both

students and the local community, reinforcing the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. Each of these initiatives contributed significantly to spreading awareness and inspiring active participation in conservation efforts. The engagement of students and local communities in these events highlights the growing commitment toward environmental stewardship and sustainability.





Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone, in collaboration with Aie Valley Forest Division and the Botany Department of Abhayapuri College, celebrated World Migratory Bird Day in Sankarghola village near Doloni Beel, Bongaigaon. A drawing contest on 'Image of a Bird' was organized for students from three local schools, followed by an interactive session on bird identification by Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das. Dr. Subrata Sarkar emphasized the importance of bird conservation, and the event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, attended by local teachers and community members. Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone marked the International Day for Biological Diversity at 961 Kumurakata Sristipara LP School, near Doloni Beel, in collaboration with Abhayapuri College's Botany Department and Aie Valley Forest Division. The event featured a plantation drive, a rally advocating conservation, a quiz, a cultural program, and a public meeting. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das

Migratory Bird Day celebration in Western Assam briefed villagers on Aaranyak's conservation efforts, while Dr. Subrata Sarkar and Ms. Trishna Roy Prodhani spoke on biodiversity conservation. Special invitee Prof. Rafiqul Awal engaged with students and villagers, discussing sustainable agriculture and green technology.

Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone and its Water, Climate & Hazards Division hosted a World Environ-

ment Day event at Doloni Beel Gaon, attended by over 50 people, including students, teachers, and representatives from GIZ India and the Assam Forest Department. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das and Dr. Partha Jyoti Das addressed environmental concerns. Dr. Rafiqul Awal highlighted ecotourism's potential in Assam. Awareness materials on fish conservation were released, followed by a drawing competition and a street play promoting environmental



Student awareness on Hoolock gibbon conservation

Photo- Aaranyak



Photo- MPCD

A capacity building workshop on nature and wildlife filmmaking

preservation.

Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone in collaboration with Aie Valley Forest Division and Abhayapuri College, celebrated International Primate Day at Hapachara Madhya & High School, Bongaigaon. The event included a drawing contest for students and an awareness session led by Dharam Ranjan Roy on primate conservation. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das elaborated on Assam's primate species, while Dr. Subrata Sarkar discussed their role in forest ecosystems.

Aaranyak, in collaboration with Tilapara Kherpuji Senior Basic School, Abhayapuri College, and Tilapara Milan Sangha, organized a World Wetlands Day program near Doloni Beel to highlight wetland conservation.

The event featured an awareness procession, a drawing contest on local natural scenery, and a public awareness meeting attended by over 200 students and local

self-help groups. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das and Dr. Partha Jyoti Das emphasized the importance of Doloni Beel for food security and livelihoods.

Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone, in collaboration with Abhayapuri College's Botany Department, conducted a nature tour in Bamungaon Reserved Forest under Aie Valley Forest Division on the International Day of Forests. Thirty-five students participated, exploring the region's biodiversity, including Golden Langurs and Chinese Pangolins. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das and Dr. Subrata Sarkar educated students on forest conservation, while Assistant Coordinator Ankur Barman led a nature trail.

These initiatives by Aaranyak's Western Assam Zone have actively engaged students, teachers, and local communities in conservation efforts, fostering awareness and environmental responsibility.

Aaranyak's multi-faceted initia-

tives, in collaboration with various partners, have significantly impacted wildlife conservation, community empowerment, and environmental education.

A range of activities including health camps, livelihood training, flagship awareness campaigns and capacity-building workshops, aim to foster sustainable practices, address conservation challenges, and empower local communities across Assam and beyond.

These efforts encapsulate Aaranyak's extensive efforts in biodiversity conservation, education, and community engagement across Assam during 2023-2024.



## LEGAL & POLICY ADVOCACY



Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak scientist addresses government officials on curbing wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade

Aaranyak's engagement in various advocacy of various legal and political aspects has been always been a veted interest.

This year, we played a crucial role in advocating for stronger wildlife protection policies and laws. Workshops were held to educate field officials on the Wildlife (Protection) Amended Act, 1972, and other forest acts and rules.

For instance, legal workshops in Kamrup (M), Darrang, Lakhimpur and Morigaon sensitized Judiciary, Forest Officials and Foresters on the application of these laws, enhancing their capacity to combat wildlife crimes effectively.

Additionally, Aaranyak partnered with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Govt. of India, to conduct workshops on wildlife crimes for enforcement agencies, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and legal frameworks in protecting biodiversity.



Photo- Aaranyak

Workshop on wildlife trafficking with airport security personnel at LGBI Airport

A close meeting was held with Secretary cum APCCF, Forest and Wildlife, Government of Sikkim, Pradip Kumar, IFS and DFOs of Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Kanchendzonga National Park, to elevate Sikkim's protection of their wildlife and human-animal conflict through technological approaches.

Aaranyak also produced a report on 'Recent litigations concerning the Deepor Beel (Ramsar Site), Kamrup Metropolitan District, Assam' authored by Ajoy Das and submitted to GIZ India as a component of the Deepor Beel Study project funded under the NERAG programme of GIZ and Assam Forest Department in March, 2024.



# HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

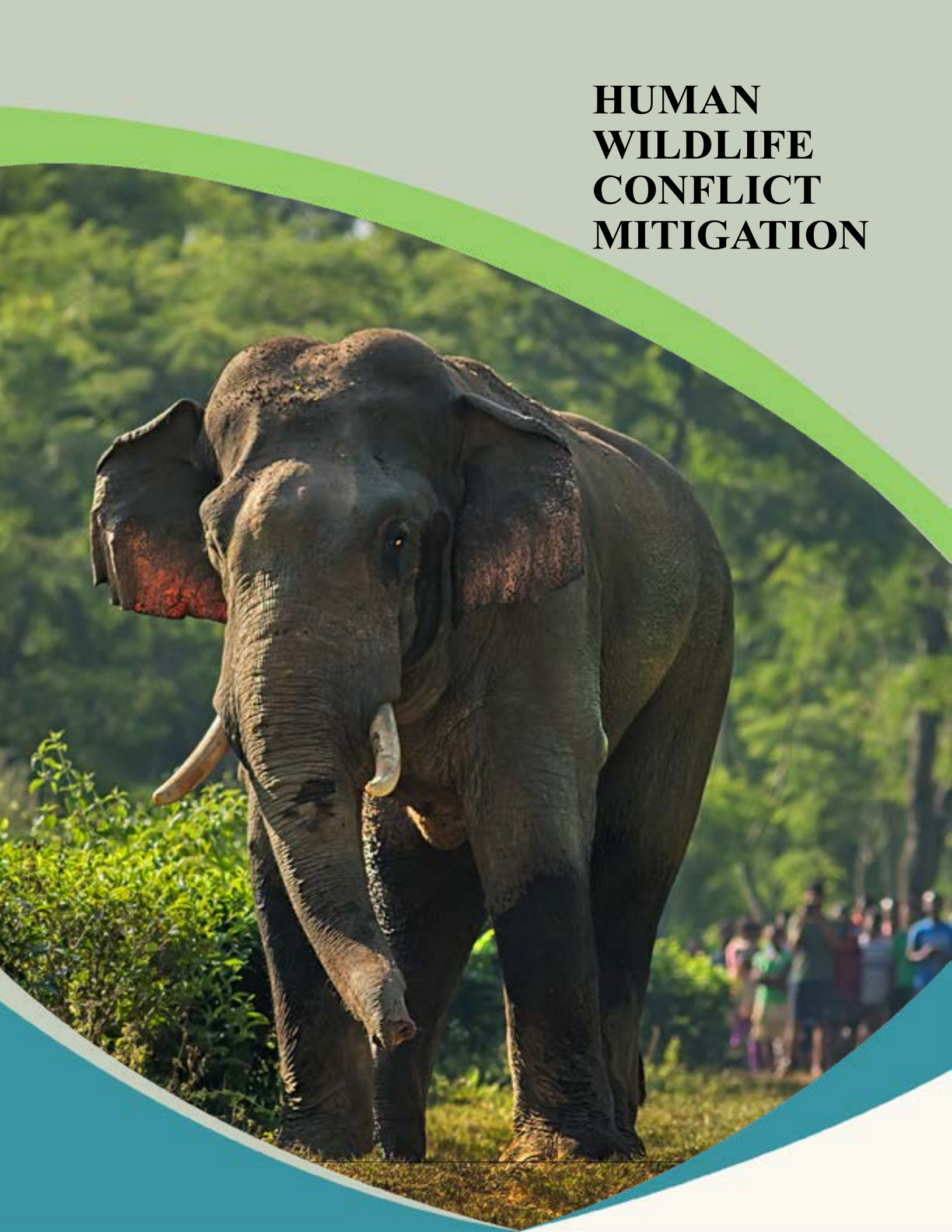


Photo- Partha Pratim Das

Face-off between community and wild elephants

Human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation impinges on the well-being of both people and wild-life, and is particularly prevalent in rural areas with low economies. In a bid to reduce HWC and promote coexistence we have implemented multi-pronged approaches through engagement of multistakeholder.

In this region, a majority of the HWC incidents are attributed to the Asian elephants. The elephants and the people compete for the same resources, which led to increased negative interaction between them. In the states of Assam and Meghalaya, we are working with the objectives of educating villagers about elephants, and effective ways of mitigating HEC, building capacity of local people, supplementing livelihoods, and supporting the local communities with HEC mitigation tools.



Photo- Aaranyak

Installation of solar panel to energise solar fence in a HEC-affected area

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION TOOLS

To facilitate community crop-guarding to protect it from elephant foraging, we have supported local communities with 11 concrete watch towers in the districts of Tamulpur and Udalguri in Assam to keep a vigil in their crop fields. The towers are concrete structures designed to

accommodate 5-6 people, enabling them to keep a vigil over their crops, and provide safety in case elephants come in close proximity.

We have strategically installed 65 solar-powered street lights across HEC-affected districts of western and eastern Assam, and West Garo hills in Meghalaya to reduce the risks of mishaps asso-





Rechargeable torchlights provided to community members to tackle HEC

ciated with elephant encounters by enhancing visibility through adequate lighting. In addition to this, we installed 40 solar-powered LED lights in Baksa and Udalguri districts, as optical deterrence to elephants. Moreover, 543 torch lights were provided to the forest officials of Goalpara, Baksa and Udalguri, members of anti-depredation squad (ADS), Elephant Conservation Networks (ECN) and Rapid Response Units (RRUs) and other local community members in Assam and Meghalaya.

Community-managed solar-powered fence is an effective mitigation tool that helps in protecting human-use areas. We encouraged solar fence model which is a single-strand, cost-effective fence with poles erected at a certain angle. Our solar fence installation engages local communities from planning to implementation stage, and consequently ownership of the fence.

This year we installed a total of 41.54 km of solar fence in Assam and Meghalaya. In Udalguri, a 7-kilometer-long fence encircling



Community discussion during a solar fence survey in Sivasagar, Assam

No. 3 Kundarbil village was installed. In addition, solar fences have been installed in Lebra Santipur village of Baksa (2.2 km) and 1 No. Dongorgaon in Tamulpur (2.4 km). Altogether in Mirza of Kamrup district, Araisopara of Kokrajhar District near Raimona National Park and in several villages of Goalpara district, we installed a total of 16.14 km of solar fences.

In eastern Assam's Majuli and

Sadiya we installed 9.3 km and 2.3 km of solar fences respectively. Another 1.2 km of solar fence was installed in West Garo hills of Meghalaya.

Moreover, three schools, namely, No. 2 Nonke Sonajuli L.P. School under the Khairabari Educational Block in Udalguri, Badlapara Tea Garden L.P. School, and 2 No. Tenki Basti L.P. School that were particularly vulnerable to damage by elephants, were protected

with solar-powered electric fences of length 0.4, 0.3, and 0.3 km respectively.

COMMUNITY BASED EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM

We initiated a community-based initiatives to form an early warning system and manage HEC-alerts.

We facilitated formation of Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) in western Assam and Rapid Response Units (RRUs) in eastern Assam and Garo Hills who are volunteers from local communities, to monitor elephant presence/movement in their vicinity, and share information of elephant presence/movement through dedicated "WhatsApp" groups to alert the villagers. Nine such ECN groups, comprising 182 members from 59 villages in Udalguri, Tamulpur, and Baksa, have been formed.

Ten RRUs, six in eastern Assam and four in West Garo Hills consisting of 398 members were formed. These ECNs and RRUs were trained on how to monitor elephants, share information with the villagers and ensure a safe passage for the elephants. The information generated helped us to understand the elephant space use and movement as well.

EMPOWERING LOCALS

For effective monitoring, managing human-wildlife conflict and ensuring safety of both local people and the species concerned, when they are human-dominat-



ECN members undertake training on facilitating co-existence



Installation of a solar light





Awareness programme on Human Elephant Conflict

Photo- Aaranyak

ed areas, we have provided support to fringe communities and village-based organizations such as the Village Defence Party and Rapid Response Team, across the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaziranga National Park (areas under Biswanath Division), and in Majuli. In these areas, we provided rain gear and torchlights to 90 VDP members. In addition to this, 50 volunteers under the Biswanath Wildlife Division received rain gear and torch lights. Twenty torch lights were provided to rhino monitoring groups around Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary .

CREATING BASELINES

To understand attitude and perception of local community on HWC, particularly focusing HEC in Assam and Meghalaya we designed questionnaire for surveys as well as monitoring the materials available online such as video



A questions-based survey related to HEC

Photo- Aaranyak

footages, photos and other documentations to understand the behaviour of the community and their tolerance level.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTION TO REDUCE HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

We established community-managed Jaikhleng Community Nursery, engaging women folks of No. 2 Bholatar and No. 2 Sonajuli villages of Dimakuchi area of Udalguri district of Assam to raise saplings of native plant species which are less palatable to Asian Elephants. These saplings will be planted in the homestead



Promoting hargila conservation

Photo- Aaranyak

gardens for enhancing the scope of livelihood of the people and to reduce the impacts of HEC. We also conducted baseline survey, willingness assessment and focus group discussion to understand the diversity in the homestead gardens of villagers. Furthermore, two polyhouses were built at Badlapara Udalguri at the nursery site and soil-less seed germination of chilli, tomato, lettuce and bokchoi.

ENABLING COEXISTENCE

The Greater Adjutant Stork nests and breeds in human-dominated areas. To facilitate coexistence, we have actively engaged with local communities, particularly the womenfolk, who are now crusader for conserving these birds. We celebrated “Hargila wedding Ceremony” to acknowledge successful bird breeding, and fostering community engagement

in conservation. Besides, we installed nets under the nesting trees to protect the storks, a proactive measure to prevent conflicts between the birds and human activities.



# COMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS



Wildlife crime sensitisation workshop for CISF personnel

Aaranyak has played a noteworthy part in complementing different conservation efforts of different governmental and societal agencies.

Combating wildlife crime, conservation efforts throughout northeast India were complemented by our activities such as providing technical support, equipment and capacity-building training to various stakeholders engaged in the same mitigation activities. These efforts also focused on educating community leaders about wildlife laws and the critical role they play in preventing wildlife crimes.

## PROVIDING EQUIPMENT, TECHNICAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

Legal & Advocacy Division (LAD) provided crucial field gear to various community vigilance teams including 60 VDP members in northbank of Kaziranga. We also assisted various forest departments in different capacities like



Field kits provided to forest staff

supporting field staff for training on wildlife monitoring at D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh and also supported the sanctuary in Asian Bird Census programme held at Pasighat. We were involved in training staff of Forest Department of Sikkim for monitoring of species and illegal activities in their protected areas through camera trapping. We also assisted Raimona National

Park Forest staff in Elephant Estimation 2024 survey, mapping and the data compilation.

## EMPOWERING GRASSROOT COMMUNITY

Various grassroots community members of various landscapes were extensively supported under our community livelihood interventions.

Photo- Aaranyak

Photo- Aaranyak





Photo- Aaranyak

Beneficiaries of our livelihood intervention

Many SHGs were supported- 3 in Manas Landscape were provided with three working sheds; one was supported with essential supplies including 200 meters of mosquito net fabric, needles, threads, machine oil, bobbin cases, and bobbins for smooth production activities; 21 kgs of yarn were distributed to members of one SHG in Kokilabari to assist their weaving business; another SHG was provided with 24 kgs of thread to support the production of traditional woolen shawls, attires and scarves.

Many beneficiaries in the Manas Landscape were supported. For example, 83 individuals were given summer seeds, winter crop seeds to 106 beneficiaries and 26 kgs of mushroom spawns to community members interested in mushroom cultivation.

We also distributed torch lights to 11 Village Defence Parties

near Kaziranga National Park to help preventing human-elephant conflict. The distribution of torch lights directly involved local communities in the mitigation of HEC, thereby promoting a sense of shared responsibility through a proactive and community-focused approach aimed at facilitating coexistence.

Under our environment ed-

ucation initiatives, we organised a crucial session on "Protection of Land, Water and Forest from Pollution, Encroachment and Indiscriminate Usage" in the Training of Trainers Programme for State Level Master Trainers organised by State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development (SIPRD), Guwahati in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Pancha-



Photo- Aaranyak

A discussion on livelihood enhancement

yati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad at SIPRD, Guwahati. We also provided various linguistic and illustrative IEC materials on climate change and HEC mitigation to programmes like the Chief Minister's Climate Resilient Fellowship to Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Science, Technology and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Assam.

## PROMOTING ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING

Under our avian conservation wing, we supported conservation efforts through Eco-Friendly Products Awareness Campaign and a Sanitary Pad Distribution Campaign, promoting eco-friendly menstrual products and a DIET College Programme in October, 2023 on Hargila conservation in different villages in Assam. A lecture on single-use plastics on World Environment Day, mehendi workshops, Hargila Bihu and art workshops for children were also held on different key occasions. There were multiple environmental competitions and campaigns, and educational tours and workshops on wildlife and ecosystems during November 2023.

## SUPPORTING FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

Our K9 unit supported Assam Forest Department and Assam Police in different areas such as Biswanath Chariali and Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve Authority in wildlife rescue operations.



Photo- Purnima Devi Barman

Greater Adjutant Stork



Photo- Aaranyak

A K9 unit with the handler and forest personnel in action

Currently, our unit has eight K9 dogs. Six of them are currently deployed in various parts of Assam, which actively assist Assam Forest Department in the field. Two K9 dogs are currently undergoing training at our Guwahati base camp.

## TRAINING IN GEOSPATIAL SKILLS

Aaranyak assisted forest departments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in specialised geospatial skill trainings and also produced high quality maps for general management and species census programmes. We were involved





Photo- Aaranyak

Sign survey on the Brahmaputra riverine landscape around Orang Tiger Reserve

extensively in the Dibru-Saikhowa Landscape in various operations like assisting the DFO, Tinsukia in updating of Management Plan of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Biosphere Reserve. We prepared the plan of Elephant Estimation in February 2024, under Tinsukia Wildlife Division and also prepared the detail format for the data collection on socio-economic conditions of the fringe communities of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

We also assisted Daodhara and Batabari RF to prepare the RF boundary in the Manas landscape. Trainings like “Basics of GIS and hands-on training” were held for forest staff of Goalpara Division, for the park authority of Dibru-saikhowa National Park for the Elephant Estimation 2024 and forest officials of the Kamrup West Forest Division. Block maps of areas around Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Kamrup West

Division for elephant estimation were also prepared. Additionally, a bird watching session was held for around 60 newly appointed Junior Assistants and Stenographers of Assam Forest Department.

**SUPPORT TO FRONTLINE FOREST STAFF**

Continuing our work in elevating conservation efforts for the greater one-horned rhino, we provided critical support for forest department personnel in different PAs of Assam. Ten Solar Home lights system were distributed to Biswanath Wildlife Division, 236 back packs, 200 sweaters, woolen caps and 40 firstaid



Photo- Aaranyak

Distribution of solar light systems in Biswanath Wildlife Division

boxes for forest camps of Laokhowa and Burhachapori WLS.

Two health checkup camps held and sanitary kits distributed for flood-affected frontline staff of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. We also provided ex-gratia and financial support to families of three frontline staff and four injured staff.

Similarly, under tiger conservation efforts, we played a key role in distributing essential field gears including 250 raincoats, 10 Ranger's torch and two Global Positioning System to the department to support their conservation and protection activities. We also provided GPS and camping materials to all the ranges of Raimona National Park in order to help improve park protection and vigilance.

**WILDLIFE GENETICS AID TO CONSERVATION**

Under our specialized genetic laboratory, Aaranyak also played a major role in providing individual genetic profile matching of skin tissue and horn scraping samples to the Addl. Superintendent of Police (Crime) in Baksa district of Assam.

We also provided support to the Range Forest Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in DNA-based species identification of a bone sample and also to Divisional Forest Officer, Digboi Division in Tinsukia district of Assam, for DNA-based parentage analysis of two blood samples related to wildlife crime cases.



Photo- Udayan Borthakur

A researcher at work in our Wildlife Genetics Laboratory

**BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION**

Aaranyak's flagship works dedicated for the empowerment of fringe community by supporting them with alternative livelihood modes.

Aaranyak's participation in the 2nd Regional Consultation on the updating of National Biodiversity strategy & Action Plan was also a highlight of the year. A team from Aaranyak took part in the consultation organised by National Biodiversity Authority in association with UNDP and BCIL, India under the guidance of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India, held at IORA, The Retreat, Kaziranga on 6th and 7th February, 2024. Senior officials of the organisation participated in the consultation as well as in showcasing different impactful research-based initiatives, approaches and success stories of the organisation, which has been rigorously working for protection and sustainability of the biodiversity in the NE Region of India. They also showcased



# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Photo- Aaranyak

Training on alternative livelihood for forest fringe women

## COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Northeast region of India has been blessed with abundant and diverse natural resources, particularly fertile soil and water that support forest and agriculture-based resources. These resources serve as the primary source of food, nutrition and livelihoods of millions of people living in the floodplains and mountains of the region. Given the conservation needs of the forests and biodiversity, which is also the primary goal of Aaranyak, it is noteworthy that approximately 169500 square km areas of the region out of 2,62,179 square km, are forested, on which, approximately 16.6 million of rural populations are directly dependent for their subsistence, nutritional and livelihood securities.

Out of total forest areas of the northeast region, 55% of the forest area (unclassified) is owned and used by indigenous communities for livelihoods and other purposes and the rest of the area is managed by forest managers. In addition, there are cultural and customary practices of sacred forest, community forest, village forest, clan forest among the indigenous communities of the region, which are the model of self-initiated forest conservation practices. Detailed documentation of such practices from conservation perspectives and in the contemporary regime of carbon trading is very much important along with safeguarding the identity of the indigenous communities through conservation.

Aaranyak is dedicated to the protection of forests, wildlife, and biodiversity. We recognize that

collaboration with local communities and resource managers to sustainably manage and utilize natural resources, significantly enhances our conservation strategies. These efforts allow us to directly engage with local communities, foster sustainable livelihoods that ensure the preservation of the environment and ecosystems, thus benefiting both present and future generations.

We have been initiating small-scale natural resource management activities in partnership with local communities. Over the years, these initiatives have expanded significantly, and we are now concentrating our efforts in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape and Manas Landscape. Our focused activities on natural resources management aim to promote alternative sustainable livelihoods and enhance ecosystem well-being.



**SALIENT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

- Homestead gardening: 130 marginalized households in six villages produced vegetables valued at Rs.187320 (app. US\$ 2542), of which, they sold vegetables for Rs.120970 (US\$ 1642) in the market besides consuming.
- Seven households adopted plantation of native species under the jhum plot restoration action.
- The PIRBI Biodiversity Business Management Committee, a col-

- lective of the local communities, started branding and marketing of local and ethnic produces providing fair prices for the producers.
- Twelve vermicompost units have been set up in four villages where nine households have actively practised vermicomposting for natural farming.
- Fifty-five households adopted sustainable entrepreneurship business models which include Karbi Handmade tea, vegetable selling and ecotourism

- (homestays, nature trail and food services).
- Over 60 women engaged in handloom, value addition to products and mushroom cultivation.
- In addition, regular awareness and outreach activities are carried out among the target communities including the students.
- ‘Amar Bagicha’- learning science through gardening, is designed to create science awareness and promote traditional home gardening among the students.



The women of KRB learning hand rolling techniques for processing Orthodox tea.

Photo- Aaranyak

**GROW FUND BY EDELGIVE FOUNDATION BOOST TO AARANYAK**



Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak officials participate in training on project management

**WORKSHOP ON PROJECT EVALUATION AND MONITORING**

Aaranyak organised a workshop on Project Evaluation and Monitoring on October 17, 2023, at Hotel Royale de Casa in Guwahati, as part of its capacity-building initiatives under the GROW Fund. This workshop aimed to enhance the skills of project team members in designing and implementing robust evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective execution and sustainability of Aaranyak’s projects.

- The workshop had the following objectives:
- To enable participants to design effective evaluation and monitoring frameworks tailored to project goals.
  - To train participants in using both quantitative and qualitative

- tools for assessing project progress and outcomes.
- To develop communication plans for disseminating findings, recommendations, and opportunities for improvement.
- To analyze outcomes to identify lessons learned and identify areas for continual improvement in project management.

The six-hour workshop comprised four focused sessions, blending theory with hands-on practice. Expert faculty introduced participants to key concepts of project evaluation and monitoring. Participants were divided into four groups and tasked with selecting either hypothetical or real-life projects similar to those undertaken by Aaranyak.

Through collaborative exercises,

each group developed evaluation and monitoring plans, analyzed potential outcomes, and presented their strategies. This approach encouraged participants to apply learned concepts directly to practical scenarios, fostering a deeper understanding of the tools and methodologies discussed. The presentations also facilitated peer learning and constructive feedback, enriching the overall experience. The workshop significantly enhanced participants’ capabilities in designing and implementing project evaluation and monitoring frameworks. The emphasis on practical applications ensured that team members could confidently apply these skills to ongoing and future projects. The interactive methodology also encouraged teamwork and knowledge-sharing, vital for Aaranyak’s



multidisciplinary project teams. This initiative reflects Aaranyak's commitment to building internal capacity and ensure that its projects achieve their objectives while delivering maximum impact. By equipping its team members with advanced project management skills, Aaranyak strengthens its ability to navigate challenges and drive sustainable development in diverse operational contexts.

A SHORT FILM ON AARANYAK

Marking the beginning of an audiovisual chronicle of Aaranyak's 35-year journey, a short film was produced to be inaugurated during the 35th foundation day of the organisation slated for September 9, 2024.

The film was produced by the Media Production & Communications Division of Aaranyak with financial support from EdelGive GROW. The direction and cinematography were by Udayan Borthakur. The video editing was done by Chinmoy Swargiary, and music was directed by Manas Kr. Bhattacharjya. Scriptwriting and production support were provided by Munmita Boruah.

The film captures Aaranyak's mission and achievements in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Over a year in the making, it serves as a powerful communication tool, showcasing the organization's work through engaging storytelling, stunning visuals and evocative music.



MEDIA INTERACTION

Aaranyak organised a Media Interaction Programme on September 23, 2023, at Prashanti Lodge near Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. The event was aimed at fostering collaboration with the media and raising awareness about Aaranyak's initiatives. It was participated by over 50 journalists from various regional and national media organisations. Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, a senior mem-

ber of Aaranyak's Executive Committee, welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the programme, emphasizing the critical role of the media in amplifying environmental issues. This was followed by remarks from the Organizing Secretary, Udayan Borthakur, who elaborated on Aaranyak's vision and highlighted the importance of media partnerships in driving impactful narratives for conservation and development.



Interaction with media persons near Pobitora WLS in Mayong, Assam

Photo- Aaranyak

The highlight of the programme was a detailed presentation by Dr. Alolika Sinha, who provided an overview of Aaranyak's journey, achievements, and ongoing initiatives. She underscored Aaranyak's work in wildlife conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods, citing examples of impactful projects that integrate community involvement with scientific approaches. The presentation, well-received by the attendees, set the tone for the interactive session that followed. Topics ranged from challenges in balancing conservation and development to the role of local communities and media in promoting sustainable practices. Journalists shared insightful observations and raised pertinent questions, making the session a productive exchange of ideas. The session highlighted the need for collaborative efforts between organizations like Aaranyak and the media to address environmental challenges effectively. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by senior Aaranyak official Manas Kr. Bhattacharjya, who expressed Aaranyak's gratitude to the media representatives for their active engagement and support. He reiterated Aaranyak's commitment to fostering long-term partnerships with the media to amplify conservation efforts.

The event's success was attributed to the efficient coordination by Aaranyak's team including Publicity Secretary Bijay Sankar Bora, Organizing Secretary Udayan Borthakur, Senior Administrative Manager Bobby Nath, and other staff members. The overwhelm-

ing participation of journalists and their positive feedback underscored the programme's success in achieving its objectives. Aaranyak's efforts in building robust media relations through this initiative have paved the way for greater visibility of its conservation related works. This interaction marks a significant step in fostering a unified approach to addressing environmental and societal challenges.

IGNITING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Aaranyak successfully conducted a comprehensive workshop titled 'Igniting Leadership Skills' at Hotel Nakshatra in Guwahati, as part of the GROW Fund initiative. The one-day programme was tailored for mid-level to senior employees, focusing on enhancing leadership competencies to address the evolving challenges of organizational and field-level responsibilities.

The workshop was facilitated by Anjan Choudhury, an expert in leadership and organizational development. His sessions provided a dynamic mix of theoretical insights and practical exercises, creating an engaging and interactive learning environment. The key topics covered included:

- Core principles of leadership.
  - Strategies for effective decision-making.
  - Techniques for building and managing high-performing teams.
  - Communication and conflict resolution in leadership roles.
  - Leveraging emotional intelligence for improved outcomes.
- Participants actively engaged in discussions, group activities,

and case studies, sharing experiences and gaining practical tools to enhance their leadership effectiveness. The programme emphasized actionable insights, ensuring attendees could implement their learnings directly in their professional roles. The initiative received excellent feedback from participants, who valued the workshop's relevance, structure, and impact. Many expressed confidence in their ability to apply the newly acquired skills to inspire and lead their teams effectively.

Conducted under the GROW Fund initiative, this workshop highlights Aaranyak's dedication to nurturing leadership and professional growth among its workforce, in tune with its commitment to promote excellence in achieving organizational goals.

Other benefits for the organisation under GROW Fund:

- 1.Coverage of salary costs (including PF) for five officials of the admin team for twelve months. (April 2023 to March 2024)
- 2.Office expenses for the Head Office and Research Division office in Guwahati, covering rent, internet, electricity, telephone, and routine admin costs for eight quarters.



# IMPACT

Trained **>170** teachers on ESE aspects.

Trained **>140** media personnel on biodiversity conservation.

Capacity building of **>300** villagers on solar-powered electric fence.

Benefitted **> 10,000** people through solar fence.

Reached out to **> 50,000** people on human-elephant coexistence.

Revived **> 1km<sup>2</sup>** of grassland habitat in Pobitora

Through **20** ECNs and **20** RRU's, able to reduce casualties in **>100** HEC affected villages.

Our Greater Adjutant Conservation Programme awareness reached worldwide.

**>4000** individuals of various agencies sensitised on wildlife crime across North East India.

The "ecoNE" engaged nearly **16K** readers and its social media handles reached about 1 million users.

Documentation & media production flagged conservation need of Hollongapar Gibbon WLS, and helped generating global support.

**46** Frontline staff from Kamlang Tiger Reserve trained on Hoolock gibbon conservation through use of GPS & GIS tools.

Formulation of First draft action plan for the conservation of Hoolock gibbon in Tripura, India.

**27** different schools were covered for education & awareness Programme on Hoolock gibbon conservation where **1520** student benefitted.

**2500** educational materials distributed among the students and community on Hoolock gibbon conservation.

Direct sightings of **8** groups of Hoolock Gibbon with altitude ranges from **517m** to **2019m**.

The first sighting record of Hoolock gibbons at **2019m** altitude.

**72** groups of Hoolock gibbon recorded with from call count in Kamlang Tiger Reserve.

**302** individuals from **31** distinct troops of the golden langur encountered in the area.

Our research in Dima Hasao generated information on presence of terrestrial mammals and its distribution.

**>4000** people in and around the Kachugaon Forest-Division have benefitted by our awareness efforts for strengthening park-people relations.

About **64** pygmy hogs born, **65%** survived, **85** maintain in captivity and **18** were release in MNP.

About **100** frontline forest staff of Assam and Meghalaya were trained on use of GPS and ecological census techniques.

Radio telemetry **3092.5** hrs. of released hogs provided **1237** locations, hogs ranging within **75** ha with maximum traveling in **1.5** km.

Invasive alien plant removal restored **167** ha in MNP and **123.49** in ONP.

About **3140** trees girdled and **833** tress sapling uprooted in MNP. About **947** trees sampling uprooted in ONP.

**15** quintal seeds distributed to **13** SHG and **46** individuals.

**738** domestic cattle vaccinated.

About **394** person engaged in nature awareness campaign.

About **249** pig rearing households were trained on ASF biosecurity.

Sensitisation of about **10** media reporters on interpretation of climate change and climate related fact checking.

Over **30** youths learned documenting river issues through the 'Dying rivers of Assam' project leading to case study reports on **12** degraded rivers.

About **3000** households and **15000** people from Deepor Beel and Doloi Beel areas were sensitised through public meetings and PRA-based surveys.

Wildlife Genetics laboratory provided crucial Forensic DNA evidence in **3** wildlife crime cases in Assam thereby helping in enhancing the rate of conviction.



NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL,  
COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD;  
INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."

— MARGARET MEAD



## SUCCESS STORIES

### THRIVING TEXTILE PRODUCTION AT MAJRABARI COMMON FACILITY CENTER

The textile production unit at Majrabari Common Facility Center (CFC), under the aegis of the Manas Traditional Co-operative Society, stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives. This unit, which has become a bustling hub of activity, engages 10 to 12 skilled weavers who meticulously craft a range of traditional textiles. Over the past years, the unit has achieved remarkable production milestones, manufacturing over 500 gamochas, 400 stoles, besides a significant quantity of traditional clothes in a year. This impressive output not only showcases the artisans' dedication and skill but also highlights the unit's efficient operations and the seamless collaboration within the team. The initiative has also contributed to the economic empowerment of the community by providing weavers with a sustainable source of income, thereby lessening their dependency on the forest for their livelihood. Furthermore, the production of high-quality textiles has bolstered the reputation of the Manas Traditional Co-operative Society, attracting attention and support from broader markets. The journey of the textile production unit at Majrabari CFC is a shining example of how grassroots efforts can lead to significant socio-economic impacts.



Traditional handloom items produced through Aarnyak's support



Weaving training for HEC-affected women to enhance their skills

This success story, which is a celebration of the resilience, creativity, and hard work of the weavers at Majrabari CFC, serves as an inspiration for other community-based projects aiming to blend conservation with efforts for generation of sustainable livelihood.

### REINTRODUCTION OF PYGMY HOG IN ORANG NATIONAL PARK

Eight years after the last release of pygmy hogs in Orang National Park (ONP), a remarkable monitoring initiative was undertaken to assess the status of this critically endangered species. A dedicated team of Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme during April and June 2023, placed 105 camera traps over a span of 45 days in one sq.km. area where previous signs of pygmy hogs had been detected. The results of this inten-

Photo- Aarnyak

Photo- Aarnyak





Photo-Leons M Abraham

Pygmy hogs being released in Manas National Park

sive monitoring effort were both inspiring and promising.

In 125 capture events, pygmy hogs in excellent body condition were recorded across 23 of the camera traps. These observations are particularly significant as they confirm that all of these hogs were born in the wild at ONP. Given the lifespan of pygmy hogs, which is about 7 to 8 years, the presence of these wild-born individuals highlights the success of the reintroduction efforts. The origins of this population can be traced back to a reintroduced group of 59 captive-bred pygmy hogs, released between 2011 and 2015. Today, this foundational population has grown, with estimates suggesting there are

now between 130 to 150 wild pygmy hogs living in the park. The successful reintroduction and subsequent population growth of the pygmy hogs in ONP is a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of conservationists and researchers working with Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme. It showcases the impact of meticulous planning, continuous monitoring and the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders associated with the programme. This story serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for similar conservation initiatives worldwide, demonstrating that with the right strategies and perseverance, endangered species can be brought back from the brink of extinction.

### REVIVING GRASSLAND HABITATS BY INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In Manas National Park, a focused and concerted effort was made to restore grassland habitats, leading to remarkable results. The habitat management initiative involved the extensive uprooting of invasive *Chromolaena* across 167 hectares in Kuribeeel and Rupahi. This critical task was accomplished by engaging 6,920 person-days from five Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), emphasizing community involvement in conservation efforts.

Additionally, about 3,140 *Bombax* trees were girdled, and 833 trees were uprooted. These steps were essential to reducing the dom-

inance of invasive tree species and allowing native grasses to reclaim the landscape. Further, various habitat management experiments including burning, cutting, and clipping, were conducted across three experimental plots. These activities involved another 515 person-days from the same EDCs, showcasing the significant labour and dedication invested in these restoration efforts.

Similarly, in Orang National Park, habitat restoration projects focused on uprooting invasive species such as *Chromolaena* and *Mimosa* across 123.49 hectares. The process was labour-intensive, requiring 1,237 person-days from local EDCs. This collaborative effort played a pivotal role in clearing the land for native grass species to flourish.

Moreover, the initiative included

### EXPANDING IMPACT OF AARANYAK'S WILDLIFE GENETICS LABORATORY

The Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of Aaranyak, known for its pivotal role as the only provider of wildlife DNA forensic analysis in Northeast India, has made a significant leap in this year. As a significant development, the laboratory extended its services to the Assam Police this year, marking a crucial step forward in wildlife crime mitigation across the state. This collaboration is set to be-



Photo- Parag Deka

Girdling of bombax trees in Manas National Park

the uprooting of 616 *Lagerstroemia* trees and 331 *Bombax* trees, further aiding the restoration of the grassland ecosystem. These actions were critical in reducing the encroachment of tree species and promoting a more balanced and sustainable habitat for grassland flora and fauna. These successful restoration proj-

ects in Manas and Orang National Parks highlight the importance of community-driven conservation efforts. By involving local communities through EDCs, the projects not only restored vital grassland habitats but also provided employment and a sense of ownership over conservation initiatives.



Photo- Udayan Borthakur

A researcher in our DNA extraction laboratory



come a cornerstone in the fight against wildlife crime, enabling law enforcement agencies to leverage cutting-edge DNA forensic analysis to crack down on illegal activities that threaten biodiversity. By providing precise and reliable genetic data, the Wildlife Genetics Laboratory is about to enhance the capabilities of the Assam Police, facilitating more effective investigations, and ensuring that justice is served. The extension of services underscores the laboratory's commitment to conservation and its proactive approach in fostering partnerships that amplify its impact.



Deepor Beel, a Ramsar site in Guwahati, Assam

Photo- Chinmoy Swargiary

**RAISING AWARENESS ON VALUE OF WETLANDS**

Through a remarkable initiative of Aaranyak, approximately 3,000 households and 15,000 individuals residing around Deepor Beel and Doloni Beel have experienced a transformative increase in awareness about the vital importance of wetlands. This notable achievement was accomplished through a series of public sensitisation meetings and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)-based surveys, which focused on the values of wetlands, socioeconomic conditions, and livelihood improvement. The primary objective of this initiative was to educate and empower local communities about the ecological and economic sig-

nificance of wetlands. Through interactive and engaging sensitisation meetings, residents gained invaluable knowledge about the roles wetlands play in maintaining biodiversity, regulating water cycles, and supporting livelihoods. By employing PRA-based surveys, the initiative actively involved the community in assessing and understanding their own socio-economic conditions and how they relate to the health and sustainability of nearby wetlands. This participatory approach ensured that the voices and experiences of local residents were central to the process, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to wetland conservation.

**PROMOTING HUMAN-ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE THROUGH ALTERNATIVE CROPS**

In the districts of Udalguri, Baksa and Tamulpur, a remarkable initiative has been implemented to promote human-elephant coexistence and mitigate crop losses caused by elephant foraging. This innovative project involved encouraging and supporting local farmers to cultivate crops that are less palatable to elephants, thereby generating additional household income and reducing their dependency on forest resources. To achieve this, the project introduced alternative cash crops such as chili, turmeric, mustard, taro, and lentils. Additionally, farmers were encouraged to plant Assam lemon as bio-fences, which not only protect cultivated lands and homestead areas but also provide a supplementary source of income. The project's success hinged on building the capacity of farmers through extensive training in collaboration with the respective Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra on plantation techniques, crop management, and harvest. In the districts of Udalguri, Tamulpur, and Baksa, 149 farmers received support, including about 45 kilograms of alternative crops. Furthermore, 400 citrus saplings were distributed to local villages in Budlapara to serve as bio-fences. The results of this initiative have been outstanding. The al-



Photo- Aaranyak

Plantation of lemon sapling at Hatisal

ternative crop cultivation has generated substantial income for the farmers. For instance, 32 kilograms of mustard seeds yielded a harvest of 1,020 kilograms of mustard. Additionally, six farmers in Udalguri produced 586.5 kilograms of mustard from the 15.75 kilograms of seeds provided. This project is a shining example of how innovative agricultural practices can foster harmony between humans and wildlife.

**SUNASRI NARZARY - A BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR AT 55**

In the village of No 2 Bholatar of Badlapara, located in Udalguri District, the traditional livelihood of

farming has faced significant challenges due to water scarcity, dry soil, and human-wildlife conflict. Many farmers have had to abandon agriculture in search of alternative sources of income. However, in the face of these adversities, an inspiring story has emerged. Under the Small Grant Project (GEF) by UNDP, Aaranyak has established a women-managed nursery in Dimakuchi. Among the dedicated women working in this nursery is Sunasri Narzary, affectionately known as Abwi (Granny) by the local community. At the age of 55, Sunasri has become a beacon of change and a burgeoning entrepreneur, bringing a fresh wave of hopes to the



nearby markets by selling lettuce.

Lettuce is a new commodity for the residents of Dimakuchi Bazaar and Bagaan Godhuli Bazaar. Many people had never seen lettuce before and even were unsure how to consume it. With her warm smile and persuasive charm, Sunasri has successfully introduced lettuce to these markets, encouraging locals to try and purchase this unfamiliar vegetable.

In the early days of the nursery's operation, Sunasri managed to sell lettuce worth about Rs 1,000, a significant achievement that filled her with pride and happiness. This success is not just about the financial gain. For Sunasri, it represents a step closer to her dream of becoming independent and earning her own money. She had never imagined she could achieve this, but she has proven to herself and others that it is possible.

Sunasri's journey has been transformative. She recalls feeling shy initially, but now, with growing confidence and a sense of accomplishment, she is more assured than ever. The nursery has been a stepping stone, boosting her self-esteem and preparing her for future endeavors. Sunasri's story is not just about selling lettuce; it's about resilience, empowerment, and the remarkable impact of community support.

Her success serves as an inspira-



Photo- Aaranyak

Students participate in a nature awareness activity

tion for the younger generation and a testament to the power of determination and hard work. Sunasri Narzary is setting a powerful example, showing that it is never too late to pursue your dreams and make a difference in your community.

**GUWAHATI SCHOOL TRIUMPHS AT WIPRO EARTHIAN AWARD 2023**

New Guwahati Adarsha High School has achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the prestigious Wipro Earthian Award 2023 at the national level. This award, presented on February 25, 2024, in Bangalore, recognized the school's exceptional efforts and innovative project focused on the theme of "Sustainability and Waste." This success story of New Guwahati Adarsha High School serves as an inspiration for other educational institutions. It showcases the power of collective effort and the impact of

educational initiatives in fostering a culture of sustainability.

**NEW AMPHIBIAN SPECIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

Researchers have successfully identified three new amphibian species in Arunachal Pradesh using advanced DNA barcoding techniques. The newly discovered species—*Amolops nyngchiensis*, *Amolops aniqiaoensis*, and *Quasipaa spinosa*—add significant value to the region's rich natural heritage and highlight the importance of preserving its unique ecosystems.

**BRIDGING SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY IN AMPHIBIAN RESEARCH**

A remarkable achievement in the field of herpetology has been seen with the publication of a book chapter dedicated to amphibian research in the Dibang River Basin. This chapter not only sheds light on the diverse am-



Photo- Aaranyak

Research work on herpetofauna

phibian species in this ecologically significant region but also underscores the invaluable role and support of the local community throughout the research process.

**ECONE, A PIONEERING DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR BIODIVERSITY IN NORTHEAST INDIA**

Aaranyak's *ecoNE* has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first and only digital platform dedicated to biodiversity and environmental issues in Northeast India. This innovative platform serves as a comprehensive hub for information, awareness, and action on critical environmental topics, uniting diverse stakeholders in the region. By leveraging digital technology, *ecoNE* has created a vibrant community space where conservationists, researchers, and local residents can collaborate, share knowledge, and drive



impactful conservation efforts. This pioneering initiative marks a significant step forward in promoting environmental stewardship and preserving the rich biodiversity of Northeast India.

**FIRST FIELD-BASED STUDY ON ABOUT 200 FERAL BUFFALO AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS**

This year, Aaranyak has conducted a pioneering research at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary with the first-ever field-based study on the interactions between approximately 200 feral buffalo and the surrounding human communities. This research aimed to develop a scientific understanding that would mitigate negative interactions and foster peaceful coexistence.



The study provided valuable insights into the behaviours and patterns of the feral buffalo, leading to strategies that significantly reduced conflicts with local communities. By addressing these issues, the research not only improved the safety and well-being of both humans and buffalo but also strengthened the overall conservation efforts within the sanctuary. One of the most notable outcomes of this study was its direct impact on the success of rhino conservation in Pobitora WLS. The reduction in human-wildlife conflicts created a more harmonious environment, allowing for better focus and environment for resources to be directed towards protecting the rhino population. This synergy highlights the interconnectedness of ecosystem management and the benefits of comprehensive conservation strategies.

**EMPOWERING VILLAGES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGROFORESTRY**

In the fringe areas of Raimona National Park, an inspiring transformation is taking place as three villages embark on a pioneering journey towards sustainable livelihood through backyard nurseries and agroforestry models. This innovative approach aims to reduce the villagers' dependence on the park for their livelihood, fostering both environmental conservation and community resilience.



Photo- Aaranyak

Training on crop management and prevention of pest infestation

Four families in our community have received comprehensive training on nursery management and have been connected to market linkages to sell their products. This support has significantly strengthened their livelihoods, boosting their motivation, confidence and overall well-being.

**BUILDING A COMMUNITY HALL AT RONGTARA**

In a remarkable display of community spirit and collaboration, the women's group and Rong Asar Amai have successfully developed a common space in Rongtara Village, which is located 3 km away from Kohora chariali. This newly-constructed community hall will serve as a vital hub for various village-level activities, including meetings, capacity building sessions, youth engagement programmes, skill

development initiatives and educational activities for children.

**COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING TEAMS AT ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

In keeping with its community-focused strategy for establishing grassroots surveillance to deter wildlife and nature crimes in relation to designated protected areas in particular, LAD launched an initiative to set up Community Surveillance and Monitoring Teams (CSMT) in various Northeastern regions to support multi-stakeholder efforts to prevent wildlife crimes. Comprising dedicated local volunteers, these teams are the vigilant eyes and ears of their communities, actively engaged in monitoring wildlife, preventing illegal activities, and fostering sustainable practices.



Photo- Aaranyak

The first Asian Ranger Forum held in Assam

**IMPACT OF SENSITISATION WORKSHOPS AT LGBI AIRPORT**

Following a series of impactful sensitization workshops conducted for airline staff at LGBI Airport in Guwahati, which aimed at educating staff about wildlife trafficking and the illegal transport resulted in a significant increase in vigilance and awareness among the airline personnel.

Shortly after the training sessions, both Air India and IndiGo airlines made several successful seizures of illegally transported agar oil at the airport. The airline staff, now well-informed and alert, were able to identify suspicious activities and effectively collaborate with authorities to intercept the contraband.

**SUCCESSFUL START OF ASIAN RANGER FORUM**

Aaranyak co-hosted the first Asian Ranger Forum with Assam Forest Department, International Ranger Federation (IRF), Ranger Federation of Asia (RFA), and Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) at Guwahati during December 5-8, 2023. This event, which saw participation from 20 countries, provided a platform for rangers and associated organizations in Asia to exchange expertise, foster collaborations, and enhance skills.



# ROAD MAP TO FUTURE

## CONSERVATION AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

Aaranyak is strategically striving to improve the socio-economic conditions of impoverished neighbourhoods close to Protected Areas. We have launched pragmatic approaches that include micro-enterprise development programmes, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation, climate change adaptation and mitigation of flood and erosion hazards, climate resilient water and agriculture management, and empowering economically vulnerable and marginalized individuals, particularly those who depend on forest resources.

We are particularly interested in engaging local youngsters in sustainable resource management and entrepreneurship development. We shall encourage traditional farming techniques by improving backyard gardens, homestead agroforestry, rotation of climate resilient crops. Simultaneously, we will work for establishing a linear canopy between the forest and its edges. We shall promote economic resilience and self-sufficiency through value addition and skill-based training to improve quality of life.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In the coming years, we aim to capacitate 5000 youths and students from the region in biodiversity conservation and well-being.



Photo-Aaranyak

Community members at work in their nursery

Through this initiative, we want to inculcate in them a greater sense of understanding and belonging to ecosystem services, as well as inspire a shift toward environment-friendly and responsible behaviour. To achieve this goal, we will strengthen engagement with our partners and stakeholders to address priority environmental issues in the state, as well as South and Southeast Asia regions. Under the D.E.T.E.R.S. programme, we will continue to extend interventions in the eastern Himalaya region to reduce wildlife

crime. We intend to intensify legal literacy campaigns for a broader range of community-based conservation enterprises, ensuring that they are both legally sound and environmentally sustainable.

We are also planning to employ neo communication channels, such as social media and community radio, to spread legal literacy programmes. We plan for creating interactive and digital educational resources, such as e-learning platforms, as well as compilations of tech-





Students sensitised on nature and environment

Photo-Aaranyak

nical papers, monographs, policy briefs and so on, in order to make wildlife education more accessible. We have plans for boosting our engagement in worldwide conferences and webinars, exchanging knowledge, experiences and best practices while learning from foreign counterparts.

**MOVEMENT ECOLOGY AND MITIGATING HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERFACE**

Aaranyak, together with the Assam Forest Department, is planning on using radio-collar technology on six elephant herds in high human-elephant conflict areas to facilitate informed management measures in the Northeastern states. Radio collar technology will aid in understanding elephant movement patterns throughout the year, as well as may assist in reducing human-elephant interfaces.



Awareness event on human elephant co-existence

Photo-Aaranyak

**RESTORATION OF HABITATS**

The fundamental driver of rapid biodiversity loss is habitat loss and degradation. Habitat repair or restoration necessitates significant long-term resource investments. On the other hand, the cooperation of custodians and the community is critical to achieving success.

We aspire to restore around five square kilometres of grassland ecosystems in the PAs of Manas and Pobitora, as well as approximately one square kilometres of elephant habitat in the Udalguri district. We intend to identify and implement strategies to restore degraded forest land in Dima Hasao.



An area after removal of invasive alien plant species

Photo-Aaranyak

**SNAKE BITE MANAGEMENT**

Aaranyak is embarking on a multi-institutions collaborative research to strengthen the snake bite management as well as to make the treatment more effectiveness.

In the first phase, field surveys and venom sample collecting will be carried out in various states of Northeast India, including Assam and Meghalaya.

It may be noted that Aaranyak has successfully collaborated with many premier institutes on the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-sponsored project to experiment production of antivenom for few of the dangerously venomous snakes of NE India.

Currently, antivenoms of these snakes are unavailable and polyvalent antivenoms used for treatment against these snakes are

less potent. This had an impact on the effectiveness of snake bite management treatments.

**SUPPORT PREVENTION OF WILDLIFE CRIME**

Aaranyak is planning to conduct more extensive action-based research into emerging wildlife crime trends and develop predictive algorithms to deter and mitigate future threats. We intend to strengthen policy review and recommendations by regularly evaluating and updating wildlife

protection policies, advocating for more stringent laws and better enforcement mechanisms. We also intend to strengthen collaboration with research institutions, foster partnerships with national and international research institutions to share knowledge, methodologies, and findings, organize frequent and inclusive policy dialogues, involving a diverse range of stakeholders to develop a unified and effective legal strategy for wildlife protection. We will work more active-



A sensitisation session on wildlife crime



ly with legislators to advocate for comprehensive reforms in wildlife protection laws, with a focus on tougher penalties and faster judicial processes.

We are also mandated to expand litigation support to create a broader network of legal professionals and volunteers to support more wildlife-related litigation cases, assuring strong legal action against violators. Local field officers must be capable of collecting forensic DNA evidence to aid in wildlife crime investigations.

Aaranyak intends to expand its wildlife forensic DNA analysis service to state Forest Departments in Northeast India, as well as other law enforcement organizations, by increasing their basic capacity in handling samples.

### GENERATING CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP

Aaranyak plans to create specialized training modules for advanced capacity building programmes across different enforcement agencies, focusing on the latest wildlife crime detection and prevention techniques, as well as long-term community engagement programmes that involve locals in monitoring and reporting wildlife crimes, thereby establishing community guardians of conservation. We are implementing strategies to promote environmental me-



A researcher in our laboratory

Photo- Udayan Borthakur

dia communications in Northeast India through consultation workshops, motivational seminars, and hands-on training modules.

We also intend to create a digital archive of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials, which will be accessible to a wide range of stakeholders involved in nature conservation and environmental protection.

Aaranyak is keenly complementing rhino conservation activities in Assam. We are planning to strengthen more on fostering community stewardship for rhino conservation across Assam, which will complement the ongoing government initiative. To achieve this, we are establishing rhino conservation networks, a community network aimed at monitoring stray rhino populations and illegal rhino killing, involving local villagers and students throughout Assam.

### BIOLOGICAL ACTION RESEARCH

The Aaranyak's mission revolves primarily around biological research. We are planning to use ecological and genetic studies to plan landscape-level conservation for at-risk species like Asian elephants, hoolock gibbons, and white-bellied herons in northeast India.

We also plan to extend Bengal Florican conservation actions to the human-dominated landscape at Kokilabari Agricultural Farm near the Manas National Park.

Performing DNA studies on elusive species like the Namdapha Flying Squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) is keeping as priority to better understand their biology.

We are also aiming to explore non-volant small mammals outside the protected areas in the community lands of Kaziran-



Photo- Avijan Saha & Udayan Borthakur

Charismatic wildlife of Northeast India.

ga-Karbi Anglong Landscape. Aaranyak is planning for an endeavour to tag critically endangered Assam Roofed Turtles to better understand their movement pattern, habitat utilization and other associated elements. The study will uncover many critical aspects that will aid in the Assam Roof Turtle's management plan.

We are also planning to conduct in-depth studies on habitat relationships and demographic patterns of rhinos in Pobitora WLS and Orang National Park. The finding will provide evidence-based conservation implications as well as the requirement of species habitat for rhino conservation.

The vultures are the fast disappearing birds and on the verge of extinction with less than 1% populations remaining in the wild. Aaranyak plans to continue with its intricate community-based

vulture conservation campaign to safeguard the surviving vulture populations in Assam and northeastern India. We plan to engage closely with cattle farmers to raise awareness about the importance of vultures in nature as well as against catastrophic poisoning that are responsible for killing hundreds of vultures in recent times in Assam. We are intending to apply citizen science tools for mass awareness and informed actions.

### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

In continuation of breeding and reintroduction of Pygmy Hogs in Manas National Park, we are expanding habitat management initiatives to the 500-ha area in Panbari Range and 300 ha in Bhuyanpara range. We are also executing a community pig biosecurity project at the 11 EDC areas in the fringe of the Manas National Park.

Strategically, we are also updating PHCP rewilding for 2026 – 2030.

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Under this initiative, we are continuously working to establish a strong communication network and bonding with the local community in the extended project sites covering Diring and Kohora River Basins in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape as well as in the fringe villages of Manas and Raimona National Parks.

We are currently co-creating suitable models of natural resource management for the wellbeing of both human and biodiversity that strengthens coexistence as well as ensures sustainable livelihoods from nature-based resources. The learning through the co-creation models would be expanded across larger landscapes and among communities in future for extensive restoration of habitats and participatory management of natural resources.



ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH AND  
INTERVENTION

- Aaranyak have completed the project 'Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring problems and sustainable solutions through youth engagement', funded by the India Water Partnership/ Global Water Partnership-South Asia, Gurugram, Haryana.
- The second phase of the 'Dying rivers of Assam: A study on degradation of selected rivers and riverine ecosystems in the Brahmaputra Valley for developing a community-based action plan for their rejuvenation' funded by the State Innovation & Transformation Aayog (SITA), Government of Assam was completed.
- Completed the project 'Fact-checking environment-related misinformation' as a partner to Fact Crescendo' funded by the Fact Crescendo, Crescendo Transcription Private Limited (CTPL), Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- Continued implementing the project 'Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands for local livelihood security and climate resilience: A research-based pilot intervention in the Deepor Beel & Doloni Beel of Assam, India, funded by the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), India under the NERAQ(Protection and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources in the North-Eastern Himalayan Region of India) Programme in Assam which is a collaboration between the GIZ India and Assam Forest Department.



A consultation of integrated management of Doloni Beel

Photo- WATCH

SEMINARS/WORKSHOP/  
CONFERENCES

- **Aaranyak led by the WATCH Division** participated in an Environmental Workshop in the Mayan Anchalik College, Mayong, Morigaon District, organised by Ank-A Creative Line and the Mayong Anchalik College in collaboration with Aaranyak (Knowledge Partner) of the Bhullung Bhuthur International theatre Festival-2023. Dr. Partha J Das delivered a presentation on 'Brahmaputra River: Its natural and cultural heritage'. The Aaranyak team performed recitation of poetry and rendition of songs on rivers as a theme.
- **Aaranyak** team performed in the Mayong Anchalik College, also performed in the same programme at the Krishna Kanta Henrique State Open University, Guwahati on 9th in "Environmental Sensitisation Workshop" organised by AANK-A Creative Line in collaboration with Aaranyak as a knowledge partner as part of the "Bhullung Bhuthur International Theatre Festival".
- **Abhijit Boruah** attended 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- **Alolika Sinha** presented a talk on "Empowering communities, protecting crops: a step towards human-elephant coexistence" during the 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- **Alolika Sinha** presented a talk on "Revival of the sub-Himalayan Grasslands by managing Invasive Alien Plants in Manas World Heritage Site" during the 24th Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) Cambridge, held in the Department of Zoology, Cambridge University, United Kingdom.
- **Arif Hussain & Bibhab Kumar Talukdar** attended Technical Seminar on Wild Buffalo Conservation as Panelist at Kaziranga National Park.
- **Arup Kumar Das** visited Makum Forest Guards School, Tinsukia District. A total of 29 In-service forest guards attended a lecture session on Basics of GIS and RS. Principal Makum Forest Guards School initiated the programme.
- **Arup Kumar Das** visited the Guijan Range office under Dibru-saikhowa National Park and imparted GPS hands on training to the staff and will be beneficial for conducting Elephant estimation 2023. Ms. Santana Medhi, RFO, Guijan Range initiated the training.
- **Arup Kumar Das, Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar** attended a daylong workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation with support from Grow fund activities at Hotel Royal de Casa, Guwahati.
- **Arup Kumar Das** with support from **Partha Jyoti Das** presented an online presentation titled "Assessment of flood in Brahmaputra floodplain using satellite data" on the one day Webinar on 'Earth Observation Insights for Flood-Prone Riverine Ecosystem Management in Assam'. The event is jointly organised by IEEE GRSS Kolkata Chapter, Assam University, and South Asia Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (SAADRI).
- **Banasree Sharma** attended the workshop on "Brushing up the Skill of Content Writing" organised by Aaranyak.
- **Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar** attended "Mudumalai Elephant Meeting" held in Mudumalai National Park.
- **Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar** presented a talk on "Promotion of coexistence in Human elephant conflict hotspots in Northeast India" during the 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- **Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar** presented a talk on "Revival of the sub-Himalayan Grasslands by managing Invasive Alien Plants in Manas World Heritage Site" during the 1st Bodoland International Wildlife Conference, held in the Bansbari, Manas National Park.
- **Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar** presented a talk on "Role of communities in managing HEC with special emphasis in Assam" in Gaj Utsav held in Kaziranga National Park.
- **Deba Kumar Dutta and Arif Hussain** attended Regional Consultation on the updation of National Biodiversity strategy & Action Plan at Kaziranga National Park.
- **Dilip Chetry** presented on "Current status of Hoolock gibbon in India" Global Gibbon Network 1st Meeting of Parners at Haiko, Hainan, China.
- **Dilip Chetry** presented on "Hoolock gibbon and its conservation in India" Global Primates Conservation Talks Planet of the Primates- A night with the International Primatologist at Swinburne University, Kuching, Malaysia.
- **Dilip Chetry** presented on Habitat Corridors of Golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) in Bongaigaon district



- of Assam at International Primatological Society Congress 2023, IPS-MPS Congress Kuching, Malaysia.
- **Dilip Chetry** presented on Identification of Knowledge gap for Future Conservation of Hoolock gibbon in India at International Primatological Society Congress 2023, IPS-MPS Congress Kuching, Malaysia.
- **Dipankar Lahkar** delivered an oral presentation at ‘International Conference on Conservation Biology’ organised by Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) at Kigali Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda (East Africa).
- **Gayatri Dutta** attended a webinar on “Climate Change Mitigation” hosted jointly by IUCN WCPA, IUCN ARO with KNPS, MoEJ, and Parks Canada.
- **Gayatri Dutta** attended a webinar on PARKS: The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation organised by the IUCN WCPA North Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East Region and BioConnect.
- **Gayatri Dutta** completed an online training program “Global Youth Climate training” organised by Global youth coalition, oxford net zero.
- **Gayatri Dutta** participated and co-organised “North east conclave on climate change: adaptation and resilience (NCCAR, 2024).
- **Gayatri Dutta** participated and co-organised “North east conclave on climate change: adaptation and resilience (NCCAR, 2024).
- **HRCD team** attended two-day Symposium on “From Venom Pharmacology to Drug Discovery: National and International perspective (SnakeSymp-2024)” organised by Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST).
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** attended as resource person for ‘The State of the Planet and Sustainable Future’ at the Guwahati Literature Festival.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** attended the “Orientation workshop on UNDP SGP project implementation” at TERI Delhi.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** attended the workshops on “Devising Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Forest and Biodiversity of Assam” organised by TERI and Environment and Forest Department, Government of Assam.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** carried out a session in the training of CRCC of SSA on “Life Mission connecting with

- the school curriculum” organised by the SSA Baksa.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** carried out a session in the training on “Conservation Education” organised by the Central Academy for State Forest Service, Burnihat, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered a talk on “Nature-based approaches for sustainable living” in an orientation programme organised by KKHSOU.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated as panelist in the panel discussion on “The fragility of food security, supply chains” in the North East Conclave on Climate and Urbanization, organized by Action Aid, NER at Guwahati.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in a workshop session on “Emerging Entrepreneurial scope & opportunities in NER” in the workshop on “Establish, Develop and Manage Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) and Incubation Centres (IC) in NorthEast Region’s Educational Institutions” sponsored by North Eastern Council, Government of India, Organised by IIE, Guwahati.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in a workshop session on “Emerging Entrepreneurial scope & opportunities in NER” in the faculty development programme organised by Entrepreneurship Development Centre and Incubation Centre, Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in a workshop session on “Prospect Natural Resource Based Entrepreneurial venture in North East India” in the workshop on Entrepreneurship Development organised by Entrepreneurship Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in a workshop session on “Resource Mapping: Its Importance and Relevance in NER”, in the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on ‘Entrepreneurship Development, organised by Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation, Tripura University (A Central University), Suryamaninagar, Tripura.
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in a workshop session on “Understanding and assessing vulnerability for identification of Climate Change risk and resilience development planning” in the workshop on “Integrating Climate Change into the NEP Curriculum.” organised by C4R, Cotton University,

- Guwahati and Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC).
- **Jayanta Sarma** participated in the drafting of “State Science, Technology and Innovation Policy- Assam” as member of sub-committee on “Grass root traditional knowledge for Biodiversity conservation and Bioeconomy” an initiative of Department of Science and Technology and ASTEC, Govt. of Assam.
- **Jayanta Sarma, Sarlongjon Teron, M. Narzary** attended a workshop on Civil Society Consultation on Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual respect organised by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture and Indigenous and tribal faith and Culture Department Government of Assam.
- **L. Laishram., J.K Roy, S. Teron, J.K Sharma, M.F Ahmed** presented a poster entitled ‘Ecological restoration of Jhum fallow at Kohora River basin, Karbi Anglong, Assam at “National workshop on the Role of Protected areas for Biodiversity Conservation- A Geospatial Perspective” at Kaziranga National Park.
- **LAD team** attended a meeting organised by National Biodiversity Board at New Delhi.
- **LAD team** attended a webinar on World Rhino Day-A Day in the Life of Rhino Rangers.
- **LAD team** attended Annual AGM Meeting: Asia & Pacific of Global initiative network of experts for Trans Organized crimes.
- **LAD team** attended Raising day celebration at SSB sector HQ, Rangia
- **LAD team** attended Regional AGM Meeting: Asia & Pacific of Global initiative network of experts for Trans Organized crimes.
- **LAD team** attended the 20 years completion programme of Manas Maozigendri Eco-Tourism Society (MMES) in Lawkhi Bazar.
- **LAD team** attended the 50 years of Project Tiger celebration at Mysuru.
- **LAD team** attended the Amrit Brikshya Andolan conducted by Government of Assam.
- **LAD team** attended the Animal committee meeting organized by MoEFCC at New Delhi
- **LAD team** attended the First Regional Cybercrime Consultation for Asia conducted by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Civil Society Unit.

- **LAD team** attended the Tigers Foreer Meeting in Malaysia and presented the success stories and ongoing conservation work in the Manas Landscape and stressed on the need of integrated efforts (Biological Research- Protection Modules-Conservation Livelihoods-Outreach).
- **LAD team** participated in the international seminar “Challenges in Health care and welfare and conservation of Asian Elephants and Rhinoceros” at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara.
- **LAD team** participated the World Environment Day celebration event at Nowgaon Girls College.
- **Leons M Abraham** attended “Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate” course at Durrell Conservation Academy, Jersey, Channel Islands, UK.
- **M. Firoz Ahmed, Dipankar Lahkar, J.K. Sarma, J.K. Roy, S.J. Teron** Attended a training on Ecological and Social Management System (ESMS), organised by Aaranyak.
- **Madhumita Borthakur** participated in the workshop on The Brahmaputra River: Its Natural and Cultural Heritage, an Initiative of Aaranyak as part of Bhullung Bhuthur International Theatre Festival at Mayong college and KKHSOU.
- **Madhumita Borthakur** took part as resource person in a capacity building training programme organised by GIZ SAFAL on “Practicing sustainable aquaculture in line with the principles of agro ecology” for the fishery development officers of eleven district namely Darrang, Nalbari, Borpeta, Chirang, Kamrup, Bishwanath, Udalguri, Karbi-Anglong, Karbi Anglong west and Marigaon, Nagaon, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam in venue: Tools and Training center, MSME, Amingaon, North Guwahati.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a programme along with the GROW Fund Team on the HUB platform.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop under the GROW Fund Team on Query Resolution.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop under the GROW Fund Team on open house query resolution sessions to discuss challenges faced by organizations during reporting on the Lumos platform.

- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop with the GROW central team on understanding the OD component or OD journey and look at some challenges that the organisation has encountered.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop with the GROW central team on Website Advisory Masterclass.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the Avengers Assemble, EDGE-2024 held in New Delhi, organised by EdelGive Foundation.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** took part in seventeen webinars from April 2023 to March 2024.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** took part in another awareness programme under the Niryat Bandhu Scheme of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade organised by EPCH in association with IIE.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** took part in another workshop on the Effective Management System organised by ET.
- National Geographic Documentary team visited Dadara and Pacharia of Kamrup, Assam to shoot a documentary on **Purnima Devi Barman's** initiatives to save the endangered Hargila bird.
- **Parag Jyoti Deka** delivered talk to the 18th MSc Wildlife batch, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as guest lecture for the course “Conservation Breeding and Wildlife Utilization”.
- **Partha J Das** attended the Field Orientation Program organised by Aaranyak and ASTEC(GoA)at the Community Resource Centre of Aaranyak, located in the premise of the Chatra Singh Teron School, Kohora, near KNP for the ‘Chief Minister’s Climate Resilient Village Fellowship Program (CMCRVFP)’. He participated in the session on ‘Interaction of the members of the Mentoring and Advisory Committee of the CMCRVFP with the first batch of fellows and their local mentors’ where Dr. Das spoke to the fellows on the objective and the expected outcome of the program and offered some suggestions on how go on with their respective field studies in their assigned villages. Dr. Das delivered a presentation on the ‘Approach of vulnerability and risk assessment in the context CC and DRR in Assam’ in the same program mentioned above. Dr. Das spoke in the same programme to the second batch of the fellows on the objectives,

- mandate, expected outcome and the importance of the program for the state’s sustainable development as well as their professional careers.
- **Partha J Das** attended the first day’s program of the ‘Aquaculture workshop on “Controlled Reproduction and Breeding of fish introducing Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS)”, organised by the GIZ NER-AQ Project, in collaboration with IfB Potsdam, Germany and the Aquaculture & Biodiversity Centre of Gauhati University. Two representatives from the Doloni Beel fringe area of Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon District, nominated by Aaranyak also participated in the workshop. They were Mr. Halen Marak and Ananta Sarkar.
- **Partha J Das** delivered a lecture on ‘Managing water-induced climatic hazards in NE India: the risk to resilience approach’ on 24th June 2023 in the ‘Seven Days Training Programme on Water’ organised by the Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University & North-East India Water Talks (NEIWT) with support from North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) and Heinrich Böll Stiftung Regional Office-New Delhi at the Indira Miri Conference Hall, Dibrugarh University, Assam.
- **Partha J Das** participated in a workshop on ‘Improving Flood and Drought Governance: Applying the EPIC Response Framework’ at the World Bank Office, New Delhi. It was jointly organized by the World Bank Group in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Global Water Partnership (GWP), Deltares (Netherlands), and the WAPCOS (Government of India) and the India Water Partnership (IWP) as the local facilitator. Dr. Partha J. Das moderated a panel discussion of distinguished experts in the field of hydrometeorological disaster management focusing mainly on scientific, technological, administrative, legislative, policy, and institutional dimensions of flood and drought management.
- **Partha J Das** participated in the “1st Technical Meeting of the ‘Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan (HKH) subregion”. The online meeting was organised by the ICIMOD.
- **Partha J Das** participated in the technical session the seminar organised by the Institution of Engineers, Assam State Centre’s as part of the Celebration of the World Water Day -2024. Dr. Das delivered a presentation on the topic ‘Water for Peace:



- A northeast Indian perspective on transboundary rivers. The program was held at the Conference Hall, IoE's, Panbazar premises in Guwahati.
- **Partha J. Das and the WATCH team** attended the 'Deepor Beel IWMP District Level Stakeholder Consultation Workshop', held at the Conference Hall, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati. Other members were Hemanta Phukan, Leena Sarma, Kalki Sarma and Dipmoni Nath.
  - **Partha J. Das and the WATCH team** attended the 'Climate Risk Assessment/Climate Vulnerability Assessment Meeting and NERAQ Stakeholder Experience Sharing Workshop' at Hotel Bhargav Grand, National Highway 37, Near D.T.O. Office, Lokhra Rd, Betkuchi, Guwahati, Assam 781034. Other members were: Madhurima Chowdhury, Hemanta Phukan, Ankur Barman and Dipmoni Nath.
  - **Partha J. Das** attended an online meeting of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) group of the Koshi Disaster Knowledge Hub (KDKH) organized by the ICIMOD.
  - **Partha J. Das** attended the 'Science-Policy Dialogue and Multi-Stakeholders Interaction on "Rethinking Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA) for water, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction in the Indian Himalaya" at the National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand. The event was organised by the ICIMOD(Nepal) and the NIHE.
  - **Partha J. Das** attended the 'State Level Consultation Workshop' on 'Adapting to the impact of climate change on socioeconomic and livelihood security of communities in Lakhimpur and Majuli Districts, Assam' the Inspiration Building of the Don Bosco Institute, DBI, Kharghuli. Dr. Das presented a case study on 'Adapting to riverbank erosion in the study area: Present status, future concerns and way forward for human security'. He also chaired a session in the post lunch period where I conducted a panel discussion as well as an interaction session.
  - **Partha J. Das** attended the extended EC meeting of the Northeast India Water Forum (NIWaF) at the conference hall of the Assam Water Research and Management Institute (AWRMI), Dept of Water Resources, GoA. He represented Aaranyak which is a founding partner of the NIWaF.

- **Partha J. Das** attended the first meeting of the editorial committee of the newsletter of the Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMS) at the Aranya Bhawan.
- **Partha J. Das** attended the workshop 'TransPath: Water Transformation Pathways for Inland Water Navigation in the Brahmaputra Basin' organised by IIT Guwahati and Cutt's International at Metropolitan Hotel, Connaught Place, New Delhi New Delhi. He spoke in a panel on 'Gender and Social Dimensions in Water Governance'.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered a lecture on 'Understanding the climate-hazard-development nexus in the context of NE India with special reference to Assam' in the International Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability, organised by Dhing College, Nagaon in the college conference room.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered a talk on "Adapting to climate change: Stories from the Brahmaputra River Valley, Assam" in the Centre for Atmospheric Studies, Dibrugarh University organised by the Centre.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered a talk on 'The Hydroclimatic Hazards: Impact of Climate Change on Natural Hazards as experienced in Assam' in the Three-Day Training Course on Climate Change and its Impact, organised by Assam Administrative Staff College at the AASC Conference Room, Khanapara.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered an invited talk on "Why is Resilience an Important Development Concern for Assam? - A Hydroclimatic Perspective" at the Indira Miri Conference Hall, Dibrugarh University, organised by the Centre for Social Work Studies of Dibrugarh University as a Professor of Practice of the DU.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered another presentation on Approach of vulnerability and risk assessment in the context CC and DRR in Assam' to the second batch of the fellows in the same programme.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered the keynote lecture in the Northeast Water Talk Festival at Majuli, Assam on the topic 'The present water scenario of northeast India: An overview'. Dr. Das was given a special felicitation for his contribution to research and sustainable management of the water sector in Northeast India.
- **Partha J. Das** delivered the theme talk on 'Community Based Participatory Research' in a workshop with the same title organised by the 'Centre for Social Work Studies' of Dibrugarh University on February 20, 2024, for the students and faculty members of Social Work at the Indira Miri Conference Hall.

- **Partha J. Das** participated in a meeting organised by the Rotary Club of Gauhati South on the Celebration of World Water Day-2024 at the conference room of the Hotel Rajdhani Regency, Last Gate, Dispur, Guwahati.
- **Partha J. Das** participated in a Panel discussion "Building Resilience Together: Communities for Climate Action" at the Taj Vivanta, Guwahati. The event was organised by the JSW Foundation and the Times of India Group.
- **Partha J. Das** participated in an online meeting of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) group of the Koshi Disaster Knowledge Hub (KDKH) organised by ICIMOD. Dr. Das presented the draft of an idea-note on the proposed documentation of the CB-FEWS projects across the HKH Himalayan Region.
- **Partha J. Das** participated in the 'Partners' Capacity Building Workshop: 'Programme for capacity building of tdh partners on Gender & Youth Engagement' at Ranchi, Jharkhand organised by the Eastern Zone of tdh Germany. Dr. Das delivered an invited lecture on 'Climate change in Eastern India: Issues and challenges.
- **Partha J. Das** participated in the workshop "Engineered land: Terrestrial Imaginaries and Realities" organised by the Indian Institution of Technology Guwahati, India and Wageningen University (Dept. of Social Science), the Netherlands, and held at the Conference Centre of IIT Guwahati.
- **Partha J. Das** virtually attended the 'India Stakeholder Meeting – BRIDGE/TROSA Meghna Initiative' organised by the IUCN at the IUCN India Office, 4, Green Park Ext Rd, Block H, Green Park Extension, New Delhi, Delhi 110016, India in hybrid mode. Dr. Das spoke briefly offering his views and suggestions on future work on the Meghna Basin under this program of the IUCN.
- **Partha J. Das** visited ICIMOD, Kathmandu and took. Part in the KDKH (Kosi DRR Knowledge Hub) Annual Dialogue 2023.
- **Partha J. Das**, Ankur Barman and Madhurima Choudhury attended the 'Stakeholder Networking Workshop: Protection and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources in the North-Eastern Himalayan Region of India (NERAQ)' at the Hotel Novotel, G. S. Road Dispur, Guwahati. They represented the study team of the ongoing Deepor Beel and Doloni Beel projects under het NERAQ program of GIZ and the Assam Forest Department. Rima Sarkar took part in the workshop as a community representative from the Doloni Beel area,

Bongaigaon District. Dr. Das spoke in a panel discussion on 'Making the models work' where he talked about the importance of the integrated approach to managing wetlands in the light of the stakeholder conflicts seen in the Doloni beel study area.

- **Partha Jyoti Das** participated as an invited speaker in the State Level Discussion Forum on 'Axomor Prakriti Surakhya Andolan aru Majulir Pakkhi Paryatanar Sambhawana' held as part of the Charaichung Festival organised by Majuli Xahitya during March 9-11, 2024. Dr. Das spoke on the topic 'The role of civil society organizations in promoting the nature conservation movement in Assam'. Aaranyak was a Co-organiser of this Forum.
- Photographer **Mayuresh Hendre** interviewed weavers, members of the Hargila Army, in Dadara and Pacharia about their conservation efforts and experiences as part of his research work.
- **Pranab Goswami** attended the 10th India CSR Summit and ESG Forum 2023 at New Delhi.
- **Pranab Goswami** attended the inception workshop for initiating a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) for freshwater aquaculture in Assam" held at Mayfair Spring Valley Resort, Sonapur
- **Purnima Devi Barman** attended the 12th World Environment Education Congress in Abu Dhabi, sharing her conservation journey and discussing a sustainable future.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** addressed students at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, on "Eco-Feminism and Restoration" and had an interview session with Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi, hosted by Ms. Rajani Sen.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** attended the 12th WEEC (World Environment Education Congress) in Abu Dhabi, participating in three sessions on various environmental issues and conservation action plans.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** delivered a speech on "Community-Based Conservation" at Indraprastha College for Women.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** discussed "Environmental Education and Community Empowerment."
- **Purnima Devi Barman** had two sessions, including one with Indian environmental activist Vandana Shiva, focusing on empowering the younger generation and managing plastic pollution.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** participated in Conclave 2023 in Delhi, organised

by Pratidin Time, where she discussed "Climate Change & Sustainable Development: Northeast India Perspective."

- **Purnima Devi Barman** received The KidVeda Change Maker Award-2023.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** spoke at an international conference organised by the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, on bioresource conservation in Eastern Himalaya with reference to UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** spoke on an awareness event organised by Pratidin Time on Children's Day.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was featured among "Five Passionate Environmentalists Restoring India's Biodiversity on COP 28."
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was interviewed by Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, about her work with the Greater Adjutant Stork.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was interviewed by photographer Mayuresh Hendre at the conclusion of his research on Hargila.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was invited by the Directorate of Women and Children, Government of Assam, to celebrate International Women's Day.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was invited to the 67th Foundation Day of Akashvani, Regional News Unit, Guwahati.
- **Purnima Devi Barman** was invited to the President Bhawan on Republic Day.
- **Rubul Tanti** attended 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- **Swapan Das** attended the training on Entrepreneurship Development at MCOC, Aaranyak.
- **Swapan Das** attended the training on Environment Leadership & Community Engagement in Manas Conservation and Outreach Centre (MCOC), Aaranyak.
- **Swapan Das** took part in a workshop "The Landscape Livelihood Group Training (TLLG) by IUCN held in Guwahati.
- **TRCD team** attended a training cum visit to Pakke NP with NCF's Restoration team..
- **TRCD team** attended Asia Ranger Forum, held in Guwahati
- **Udayan Borthakur** attended a roundtable brainstorming session on 'Carbon Project in the Tea Landscape of Assam' organised by the Rainforest Alliance in Kolkata, where various senior officials of top tea companies operating in As-

sam as well as senior officials of Tea Research Association and Tea Association of India took park.

- **Udayan Borthakur** imparted a training on Application of DNA forensics in wildlife crime mitigation to the field officials of Dima Hasao Forest Dept. at Haflong. The training was facilitated by TRCD.
- **Udayan Borthakur** took part in a roundtable brainstorming session on 'Carbon Project in the Tea Landscape of Assam' organized by the Rainforest Alliance in Kolkata, where various senior officials of top tea companies operating in Assam as well as senior officials of Tea Research Association and Tea Association of India took park.
- **Wasima Begum** attended the "Environmental Education" training at Pakke Tiger Reserve organised by Nature Conservation Foundation and "Understanding Waterscape and Embedded Lifescape for Regenerative Development" program organised by Assam Don Bosco University.
- **Wasima Begum** participated in Sustainability Teachers Training at Tawang, Lumla, Arunachal Pradesh and trained teachers on various sustainability activities.
- **WATCH GIZ** project team attended a one-day training on 'how to prepare an IWMP of a wetland' provided by the WISA (Wetland International-South Asia). The program was held at the Guwahati office of the GIZ-India. Dr. Partha J Das presented the major aspects of the draft IWMP that has been prepared on the Doloni Beel by this team.
- **WATCH team** conducting the Deepor and Doloni Beel research projects attended the district level stakeholders meeting on the Deepor Beel IWMP held at the Ghar Residency Hotel at Six Miles, Guwahati organized by GIZ-India and the Assam Forest Department. Partha J Das delivered a presentation on the topic 'Deepor Beel and its Riparian Fringe Area: A Socioeconomic and Livelihood Assessment in selected rural and urban human settlements'.



TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/  
ORGANISED

- A workshop organised by Daranga BoP of 64th BN SSB and delivered a talk on recent wildlife crime in Manas Landscape. Around 40 SSB soldiers from various BOPs attended the workshop facilitated by Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak.
- **Aaranyak** acted as knowledge partner for a 2-day long technical workshop on “Role of protected areas for biodiversity conservation- A geospatial perspective” at Kaziranga Convention Centre and Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve.
- **Arup Kumar Das** attended a FREE virtual event solely focusing on the trends, benefits, techniques and applications of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data and analysis.
- **Chinmoy Swargiary** conducted a photography workshop for participants of Journey for Learning an initiative of Aaranyak at Research office Guwahati.
- **Chinmoy Swargiary** participated and conducted a photography workshop at Pakke Hornbill Festival held at Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** conducted eleven perception assessment programmes on ecosystem conservation in Bhuyanpara, Kokilabari, and Daodhara clusters. A total of 214 villagers and students (136 women and 78 men) participated.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** conducted perception Assessment at Bormajra High School, where 41 students from classes VI to IX participated.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised two orientation programmes for volunteers on human-wildlife conflict information collection at Bhuyanpara and Kokilabari.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised FGDs on Human-Wildlife Conflict: Seven Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) across Daodhara, Randhanipara, Garumara, Thwribari-Langdangpara, Bhuyanpara, Bamunkhal, and Karebari villages to assess perceptions and the status of human-wildlife conflict. A total of 157 people (68 women and 89 men) participated.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised a four-day tailoring training for 11 members of the Himalaya SHG in Bhuyanpara,

focusing on blouse making and creating girl's frocks in various designs and sizes.

- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised a Mushroom Cultivation at Garumara under the Koklabari cluster, with 17 beneficiaries attending.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised a training programme in Jharbari, Kokrajhar, under the NABARD FPC Programme, for the Board of Directors and promoters of Swmkhwr Bilai FPC.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised an awareness Meeting with Swmkhwr Bilai FPC: the awareness meeting was held with the Board of Directors and members of the Swmkhwr Bilai Farmer Producer Company in Jharbari, Kokrajhar, to strengthen understanding and cooperation.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised two fish farming orientation programmes in Daodhara to educate local communities on fish farming practices.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised Wildlife Conservation Perception Assessments: Perception assessments on wildlife conservation, involving over 500 individuals from Bhuyanpara, Kokilabari, and Daodhara clusters.
- **Conservation and Livelihood Division of Aaranyak** organised a training for the trainers (ToT) on first-aid was conducted in collaboration with State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at IIBM, Guwahati for villagers from Goalpara, Golaghat, Baksa and Udalguri districts along with AAPADA Mitras on 10th April 2023.
- **Elephant Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised a sensitisation workshop for Government Line Departments to apprise them on the roles of responsibilities of different line departments and potential convergence in mitigating human elephant conflict at Harshinga circle office conference Hall, Udalguri district.
- **Elephant Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised a sensitisation workshop was conducted for Government Line Departments to apprise them on the roles of responsibilities of different line departments and potential convergence in mitigating human elephant conflict at the DC office, Goalpara.

- **Elephant Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised an inception workshop for Government Line Departments, Tea Garden authorities, and local communities to apprise them on Aaranyak's efforts in ensuring human-elephant coexistence and the potential role of different stakeholders.
- **Elephant Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised three sensitisation programmes for the 1st Battalion, 50th Battalion and 100th Battalion of Border Security Forces (BSF ) in the Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya to educate them on Asian elephant behaviour and potential measures to ensure coexistence.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division and Elephant Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** jointly organised workshop with local media on Human Wildlife Coexistence in various places such as Baksa, Udalguri, Dhakuakhana, Doomdoo, in collaboration with Mushalpur Press Club, and Baska Press Club, Dhansiri Forest Division, Dimakuchi E-Media Forum, Tangla Press Club, Media Circle Tangla and Udalguri Press Guild, Media Fraternity of Majuli, Dhakuakhana, Machkhwa, Ghilamara and Gogamukhin.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** organised Teachers Trainings on Sustainability Education in Baksa and Kamrup (M) and 2nd Sustainability Congress in Guwahati in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Assam Kamrup (Metro), Wipro Earthian, SBI Foundation and LASA.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** organised interactive session to sensitise about Waste Management in the urban landscape in collaboration with Midway Journey.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** organised three capacity-building workshops, two at Pabhoi Greens (Laxmi Agriculture Multipurpose Project) for learning the techniques of nursery management and home-stead gardening and one in Dimakuchi in collaboration with KVK, Udalguri.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** conducted training on documenting biodiversity for updating People's

Biodiversity Register (PBR) in collaboration with Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), Govt. of Assam.

- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** organised a hands-on-training programme on vermicompost in Badlapara, Udalguri.
- **Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak** organised the 2nd Sustainability Congress in Guwahati where students from high and higher secondary standards of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) district in Assam shared their thought-provoking activities about environmental and sustainability education.
- **Geospatial Technology and Applications Division of Aaranyak** organised 25th training on Basics of Remote Sensing and GIS in 2023.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** carried out the Media sensitisation workshop at Pobitora.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** carried out training refresher course for SSB staffs at Bhutan border, Darrah.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** conducted 90 minutes session on role of judicial officials on wildlife crime prevention at Judicial Academy, Amingaon, Guwahati Assam.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** conducted an awareness programme in collaboration with WCCB for PRI members at the Centre of Excellence for citrus fruits, Bamunigaon.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** hosted International Ranger Awards as Master of Ceremony.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a day-long sensitisation workshop on wildlife crime prevention with D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary and Eco Development Committee (EDC) – D'Ering in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a sensitisation workshop on the role of PRI in prevention of wildlife crime at Karbi Anglong in association with WCCB North East Office.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop at the Divisional Forest Office of the WLS, at Pasighat, which was attended by police officials of East Siang Dis-

trict and forest officials of Pasighat division.

- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop for sensitization media fraternity on wildlife crime reporting.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop on “Wildlife crime scenario and its various dimensions” in association with Meghalaya police at Tura, Meghalaya
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop on Curbing Wildlife Crime at SSB 27Bn, Howly.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop on Preventing wildlife crime through public awareness at Borsola Sonitpur district, Assam in collaboration Orang Tiger Reserve.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop with Judiciary and forest department on ‘wildlife crime prevention: challenges and opportunities’ at Orang Tiger Reserve in association with ASLSA.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised an awareness programme for students at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat in collaboration with forest department.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised an awareness programme for PRI members at Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised collaborated with WCCB for an awareness programme for the conservation of dolphins and other aquatic species and its illegal hunting and trade.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised collaborated with Morigaon Police and organised an interactive workshop on “Wildlife Crime Scenario and its Various Dimensions” for the police officials of Morigaon district at the office of Superintendent of Police, Morigaon of Assam.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised K9 Sniffer Dog unit's training around Deepar Beel and Rani Forest for five days. Training imparted by Ex German Police Mr. Swen Busch. Four dogs and seven handlers took part in the training
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised legal workshop on Forest Acts/Rules and



- Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and its application, Lakhimpur.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised orientation workshop for local partner at Manipur on CSMT initiative and initiation.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised sensitising police personnel on wildlife crime and wildlife laws at Biswanath Charali.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised sensitization workshop on combating wildlife crime at North Eastern Police Academy, Meghalaya.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised sensitization workshop in collaboration with WCCB on combating wildlife crime at Recruit Training Centre, SSB, Tezpur.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised the 1st Asian Ranger Forum (ARF) at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakhetra, Guwahati, Assam.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised two awareness events for CSMT in fringe villages of D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Pasighat.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised workshop on combating Wildlife Crime through Awareness, held at Paschim Chitalmari Rangamancha Singri in the Sonitpur district of Assam.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised workshop on combating Wildlife Crime through Awareness held at Borbhagia Belsiri Gaon Panchayat, community hall, Sonitpur district.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** organised workshop on wildlife crime scenarios and its various dimensions for Judicial officers and Police at Morigaon.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** sensitised border team of SSB on illegal wildlife trade.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** sensitised staffs of CISF's airport security group of Guwahati International Airport on detecting and reporting of illegal wildlife trade through airlines.
- **Legal and Advocacy Division of Aaranyak** sensitized staffs of major airlines operating from Guwahati International Airport on detecting and reporting of illegal wildlife trade through airlines.

- **Madhumita Borthakur and Avishkek Sarkar** provided training to the trainees of '1st Professional Conservation Biology Course' on Basics of Remote sensing and GIS, using open source GIS software.
- **Media Production and Communications Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop titled "Skills of Creative Writing" in Guwahati and people from different background participated. The workshop was conducted by Puspanjalee Das Dutta, a renowned writer and content creator from Assam. During the workshop, topics such as content types, freelance writing, microblogging, SEO optimization, pitching to publishers, use of social media platforms etc. were covered.
- **Media Production and Communications Division of Aaranyak** organised in association with Nikon India as equipment partner, organised 3 days long "Nature & Wildlife Filmmaking" Workshop in Guwahati to encourage visual story telling for wildlife conservation. The workshop covered various topics such as basics of videography and cinematography understanding nature and wildlife subjects, story development, hands-on video shooting and video editing etc.
- **Media Production and Communications Division of Aaranyak** organised a workshop titled "Essentials of Digital Post Processing in Wildlife Photography". The workshop covered various topics such as various essentials of image-making using digital tools, including the need and ethics of processing, image management and cataloging, various image formats and processing RAW files, use of Adobe Lightroom etc.
- **Partha J Das** conducted a 'hands on performance on "Role-Playing for Community-Based Participatory Research", for the students of the Master of Social Work Program of the Dibrugarh University.
- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** formulated Hoolock gibbon conservation action plan in Tripura.
- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** in collaboration with Tripura Forest Department and Tripura Biodiversity Board with support from IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group's Section on small Apes (SSA) organised conservation training at Tripura University.
- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** in collaboration with Assam Forest

Department with support from The Habitat Trust carried out the training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest.

- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for the staff of Kamlang Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training at interpretation centre of Kamlang Tiger Reserve at Wakro in the district of Lohit in Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with Kamlang Tiger Reserve Authority.
- **Primate Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training for Assam Forest Frontline staff.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised a community consultation on "The role of community in conservation and sustainable management of the Deepor Beel", in the conference hall of the Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya in Dharapur, Azara, Kamrup Metropolitan District. The event was a part of the wetland study being done on the Deepor Beel under the NERAQ programme of the GIZ India and the Assam Forest Department.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised a Community Consultation (Raij Mel) on Conservation of Deepor Beel and Development of the riparian community' was organised by Aaranyak at the Chakordo Kali Mandir Premises Matiya Village located on the bank of the Deepor Beel, Kamrup Metropolitan District.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised an 'Orientation Session on Socio-economic and Livelihood Assessment in the fringe villages of Deepor Beel, Assam', for the research staff of the Deepor Beel study project. Partha J Das, Bibhuti P Lahkar, Arup Kr Das and Pranab Kr Goswami participated as Resource Persons.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised a symposium on 'Rejuvenating rivers and wetlands of Guwahati City for efficient urban drainage and sustainable urban development' at the Conference room of the Institution of Engineers, Assam State Chapter, Panbazar in collaboration with the Northeast India Water Forum, Guwahati.

- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised an orientating session was organised for the staff of Aaranyak working on the Doloni Beel research project in the field office of Aaranyak at Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon District.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised a webinar celebrating the World Rivers Day on the theme 'Rivers: Life and culture'. Dr. Chandan Kumar Sarma, Associate Professor and Head, Department of History, Dibrugarh University delivered the thematic talk on 'Emerging River historiography'.
- **The Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised the 'World Wetland Day (WWD) Celebration' at the Tilapara Kherpuji Senior Basic School, Doloni Beel Village, Balapara Panchayat, Boitamari Development Block, Bongaigaon District in collaboration with Tilapara Kherpuji Senior Basic School, Tilapara Milan Sangha and the Department of Botany, Abhayapuri College.
- **Tiger Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak** organised a six-month Professional Conservation Biology Course (2024).
- **Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division of Aaranyak** organised a consultation workshop on the Deepor Beel on the premise of the Pachim Guwahati College, Dharapur for GIZ project. Dr. Partha J. Das organised the consultation.



MEMBERSHIP  
POSITIONS  
WITH OTHER  
ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Alolika Sinha

- Member, IUCN SSC Deer Specialist Group.

Arif Hussain

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC).

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.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA-South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN SSC Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group 2021-2025.
- Chair, IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group 2021-2025.
- Member: European Association of Zoos and Aquarium (EAZA)- Rhino Taxonomic Advisory Group (TAG) .
- Independent Expert Member Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- Member CEESP Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Climate Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Environmental Law and Social Justice Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Governance, Equity and Rights Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Human Wellbeing and Livelihood Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Biosphere Reserve Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Ecosystem restoration Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Ecosystem Service Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Red List of Ecosystems Thematic Group 2021-

2025.

- Member, IUCN CEM South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Biodiversity and Protected areas : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Capacity Development : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Climate Change : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Governance Thematic GROUP 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Governance, Equity and Rights Network 2021-2025.

Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar

- Member, IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN SSC Invasive species specialist Group.
- Member, World Commission on Protected Area.
- Member, Commission on Ecosystem Management.
- Member, Steering Committee, Project Elephant, Govt of India, MoEFCC

Dr. Dilip Chetry

- Vice Chair, IUCN, SSC Primate Specialist Group, South Asia Section
- Executive member, IUCN, SSC Small Ape Section
- Steering committee member, IUCN SSC PSG Section on Great Apes ARRC Task Force
- Steering committee member and founding partners of Global gibbon Network.
- Board of Director in Scholars Institute of Technology and Management, Guwahati, Assam.
- Member, International Primatological Society, USA
- Member, American Primatological Society, USA
- Member, Vijna Bharati Northeast/Northeast Science Movements.
- Member, Nepal Biodiversity Research Society
- Member, Gauhati University Ethics Committee
- Member, Zoological Society of Assam



**Dr. Dipankar Lahkar**

- Member, IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group
- Member, IUCN CEC Nature Education for Sustainability Network
- Member, IUCN CEC Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Partnerships Network
- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)
- Assistant Coordinator, Assam State Academic Committee (SAC), National Children Science Congress, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
- Editorial Board Member, Newsletter for Birdwatchers.

**Ivy Farheen Hussain**

- Member, IUCN WCPA Young Professionals : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA Climate Change : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA Biodiversity and Protected Areas : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA Capacity Development : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA Indigenous People and Protected Areas : Network 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA South Asia 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN WCPA South Asia Young Professionals 2021-2025

**Jayanta Kumar Pathak**

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Member, IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

**Dr. Jayanta Kr.Roy**

- Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) 2021-2025

**Jonmani Kalita**

- Member, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Honorary GIS Analyst at Assam Bird Monitoring Network.

**Koushik Rajbongshi**

- Member, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Honorary GIS Analyst for Assam Bird Monitoring Network.

**Dr. Leons M Abraham**

- Regional reviewer and hotspot editor, E-Bird India
- Project coordinator, Bihu Bird Count: <https://citsci-india.org/projects/project/bihu-bird-count/>
- Merlin Vision Project India - Bird Sound Annotator

**Dr. M Firoz Ahmed**

- Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) 2021-2025
- Member, IUCN SSC Small Mammals Specialist Group 2021-2025
- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)
- Board member, Environment Education and Conservation Global, USA
- Advisor, WildLandscape, USA

**Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka**

- Member, IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group.

**Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**

- Member, Women in Nature Network - India Chapter.
- Member, IUCN Stork, Spoon bill, Ibis group.

**Pranab Goswami**

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Member - IUCN CEC Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Network 2021-2025
- Member - IUCN CEC South and Southeastern Asia 2021-2025
- Member - IUCN CEC Behaviour Change Network 2021-2025
- Member - IUCN CEC Nature Education for Sustainability Network 2021-2025



Sourav Gupta

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- Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission
- Member, IUCN SSC Small Mammals Specialist Group

Udayan Borthakur

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- Member, IUCN SSC Heron Specialist Group
- Member, Nikon Professional Services (NPS)

Wasima Begum

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- Member, Ecological Restoration Alliance

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLE

1. Abraham, L. M., &Talwar, T. (2024). Scaly-breasted Munia (Lonchurapunctulata) extracting materials from feral dog scat. Indian Birds, 162A.
2. Abraham, L. M., Sonowal, A., &Pratim, M. (2023). Breeding record of Eastern Grass Owl from Assam and its status. Indian BIRDS, 19(1).
3. Rajbongshi, K., Kalita, J. and Das, D. (2023).Reptile fatality records during grassland burning: a short note from Orang National Park, Assam, India. Indian Forester. 149 (10): 1033-1037.
4. Talwar, T., L.M. Abraham, B. Rabha& M. Rabha (2024). An annotated checklist of the birds in Loharghat Forest Range, Assam, India. Journal of ThreatenedTaxa 16(1): 24568-24583.
5. Dutta, A., S. Gupta, J.K. Roy, and M.F. Ahmed 2024. First confirmed record of the Brown-spotted Pitviper, Protobothrops mucrosquamatus (Cantor 1839), from the Present-day State of Assam, India. Reptiles & Amphibians, 31(1), e21385. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v31i1.21385>
6. Gupta, S., A. Dutta, J. K. Roy, and M.F. Ahmed 2024. Breeding behaviour and advertisement call of the Arunachal Chorus Frog, Microhyla eos Biju et al., 2019, from Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Herpetology Notes, 17, 43-48.
7. Gupta, S., S. Arandhara, S. Sathishkumar and N. Baskaran 2024. Use of remote sensing and GIS in assessing the impact of Prosopis juliflora proliferation on land use, land cover and diversity of native flora at Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 16(1): 24451–24462. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8164.16.1.24451-24462>.
8. Gupta, S., R. H. Begum, J. K. Roy, M.F. Ahmed, and S. S. Talmale 2023. New locality record of the Asiatic Long-tailed Climbing Mouse Vandeleuria oleracea (Bennett, 1832) (Mammalia: Rodentia: Muridae) from Kohora River Basin, Assam, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 15(9), 23917-23919. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8643.15.9.23917-23919>.
9. Dutta, A., Gupta, S., Roy, J. K., & Ahmed, M. F. (2024). First confirmed record of the Brown-spotted Pitviper, Protobothrops mucrosquamatus (Cantor 1839), from the Present-day State of Assam, India. Reptiles & Amphibians, 31(1), e21385. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v31i1.21385>
10. Gupta, S., Dutta, A., Roy, J. K., & Ahmed, M. F. (2024). Breeding behaviour and advertisement call of the Arunachal Chorus Frog, Microhyla eos Biju et al., 2019, from Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Herpetology Notes, 17, 43-48.



## BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Das, PJ (2023). Climate change and its implication for hydrometeorological disasters in Northeast India: With special reference to Assam: Editors, Rajkhowa, S. and Rajkhowa, S., 'Climate Change and Climate Justice', pp. 386-404. Satyam Law International/Satyam Books Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2. Nath, A., N. Islam, S. Dar, A. Sinha, B.P. Lahkar and S. Ghosh. Factors Affecting the Habitat Suitability of Eastern Swamp Deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii* ranjitsinhi Groves, 1982) in Manas National Park and Implication for Terai Grassland Restoration. In *Ecosystem and Species Habitat Modeling for Conservation and Restoration*, edited by S. Dhyan, D. Adhikari, R. Dasgupta and R. Kadaverugu, Springer, 2023, pp- 271- 308.
3. Pathak J.K. 2023. Climate Change. In Jagriti, the mouthpiece of National Children Science Congress 2023, Dibrugarh, Assam. (in vernacular language).
4. Pathak J.K. 2024. Health and Human Wellbeing. In KHONGKHAI, the mouthpiece of Agri Association.
5. Baruah, P., Deuri, B., Sarma, K. K., and Deka, P., J. (2023). Anesthetic management in Pygmy Hogs (*Porculasalvania*). Abstract ISVS 2023, ANS08.
6. Das, B. and Das, P.J. (2023). 'Drinking water scenario in the city of Guwahati, Assam: A case study', case study compiled in Das, P.J. (Edited), 'Compendium of case studies on Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring sustainable solutions through youth engagement', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to the India Water Partnership in October 2023.
7. Das, P.J. and Konch, J. (2023). Urban Flooding in Guwahati City: Why is it an unresolved problem?' Case study compiled in Das, P.J. (Edited), 'Compendium of case studies on Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring sustainable solutions through youth engagement', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to the India Water Partnership in October 2023.

## ABSTRACT

1. Aaranyak in collaboration with Kaziranga Tiger Reserve authority has submitted a story on "Mahabahu and a Rhino Sanctuary" to the ESRI ArcGIS online story telling competition on 27th October. GTAD Aaranyak contributed maps of rhino stray out from Kaziranga to the Brahmaputra riverine landscape and forest cover map of Kaziranga TR. The story is written by Dr. Sonali Ghose, Field Director, KNP & TR.
2. Abstract submitted and presented to IPS-MPS Congress Malaysia 2023: Abstract ID # 370 Habitat Corridors of Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) in Bongaigaon district of Assam, India. D. Chetry, Arup.K. Das 1, R. Chetry, Ashoke .K.Das , P.C. Bhattacharjee
3. Abstract submitted on "A geospatial approach to Water spread prediction across selected Rhino-bearing protected areas of Assam, India"
4. An abstract on "People dependency on forest resources in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of Assam, India" have been published during the National Seminar on A New Frontier Areas of Research in Forest and Wildlife Sciences organised by Department of Forestry Wildlife and Environmental Sciences Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.
8. Das, P.J. and Sarma, B. (2023). 'The Water-Sanitation-Health-Hygiene (WASH) nexus: Why is it crucial for sustainable urban development?' Case study compiled in 'Das, P.J. (Edited), Compendium of case studies on Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring sustainable solutions through youth engagement', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to the India Water Partnership in October 2023.
9. Das, P.J., Goswami, P., Choudhury, R., Dutta, M., Bavishi, J., Gogoi, H., (2023). Advocating for a Water and River Management Policy in Assam through youth campaign and action', Consolidated Report of a project Implemented by Aaranyak In partnership with Global Shapers (Guwahati Hub) during 2021-22.; Submitted by Aaranyak to the Global Water Partnership- South Asia Colombo, Sri Lanka and India Water Partnership (IWP) Gurugram, Haryana, India in April 2023.
10. Das, P.J., Phukan H. Sarma, K., Gautam, P., Sharma, L., Sarkar, N.S., Borgohain, S., Neog, R.R., Elizabeth, R. and Das, A. (2023). 'The Deepor Beel

and its Riparian Fringe Area: A Socioeconomic and Livelihood Assessment in selected rural and urban human settlements', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to GIZ-India under the NERAQ Project implemented by Assam Forest Department and GIZ-India in November 2023.

11. Dhar, A. and Das, P.J. (2023). 'A case study on Urban climate change-water-development nexus in Guwahati: Citizen perception and a reality check', case study compiled in Das, P.J. (Edited), 'Compendium of case studies on Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring sustainable solutions through youth engagement', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to the India Water Partnership in October 2023.
12. Lahkar, B.P., A. Sinha, B.Stewart-Cox, A. Shashwat, R. Tanti and Z.I. Bora. 2023. Promotion of coexistence in human-elephant conflict hotspots in Northeast India. In Book of Abstracts, 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
13. • On 24th January, 2024. Arup Kumar Das, Sr. Manager GTAD Aaranyak had presented a paper "People dependency on forest resources in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of Assam, India" for the National Seminar on A New Frontier Areas of Research in Forest and Wildlife Sciences organised by Department of Forestry Wildlife and Environmental Sciences Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.
14. Sarma, K., Sarkar, N.S., Das, P.J. and Sharma, B.B. (2023). 'Developing an integrated plan for restoration and sustainable management of the degraded urban water bodies of Guwahati city: A citizen-centric approach', Case study compiled in Das, P.J. (Edited), 'Compendium of case studies on Urban water security in Guwahati City, Assam: Exploring sustainable solutions through youth engagement', Technical Report submitted by Aaranyak to the India Water Partnership in October 2023.
15. Sinha, A. 2024. Revival of the sub-Himalayan Grasslands by Managing Invasive Alien Plants in Manas World Heritage Site. In Book of Talk Abstracts, Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) Cambridge, Cambridge University.
16. Sinha, A., A. Baruah, R. Daimary and B.P. Lah-

kar. 2023. Empowering communities, protecting crops: A step towards human-elephant coexistence. In Book of Abstracts, 19th International Elephant Conservation & Research Symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on November 14-17, 2023.

17. Two Posters presented on "Role of Protected areas in biodiversity conservation – A geospatial perspective" from 12th to 13th March 2024, in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in collaboration with NE-SAC, ASSAC and Aaranyak.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

1. Sahai, S.M., H.C. Choudhury, M.F. Ahmed, A.P. James, A.C. Sangma, S.S. Gavade, P.Doonai, L. Wahlang, M. Marak, A.V.C. Marak, J.N. Areng, L. Wahlang, N.K. Medhi, N.Kalita, and D. Lahkar 2023. Assessing of terrestrial mammalian assemblages and their distribution in the Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary, Nongkhyllem Reserve Forest, Nokrek National Park and Community Reserves under Tura Division, Meghalaya, India. Report jointly published by Forests and Environment Department of Meghalaya and Aaranyak. 81p.
2. Sarma, J.K., M.F. Ahmed, S. Teron, S. Nongtdu, A. Sungoh, S.M. Sahai and H.C. Choudhary 2023. Socio-economic Assessment in the Narpuhh, Nongkhyllem and Balpakram Landscape to Prepare a Roadmap for Promotion of Ecologically Prudent and Environmentally Sustainable Livelihood Options for In-situ Conservation of Clouded Leopard in Meghalaya. Technical Report. Aaranyak, TRCD: 15/2023. 149p.
3. Ahmed, M.F and D. Lahkar 2024. Assessing wildlife and habitat connectivity in the poorly known Karbi Anglong and Dimasa Hasao districts of Assam, India. Technical Report, Aaranyak, TRCD: 12/2024. 8p.
4. Ahmed, M.F and D. Lahkar 2024. Records of the Tigers in Raimona National Park, BTR, Assam. Technical Report, Aaranyak, TRCD: 12/2024. 12p.
5. Ahmed, M.F and D. Lahkar 2024. Assessing diversity, population trend of wildlife, and their habitat along with experiments on evidence-based habitat restoration models in Raimona National



Park and adjoining areas under Kachugaon Forest Division, BTR, Assam, India. Technical Report, Aaranyak, TRCD: 12/2024. 29p.

- 6. Ahmed, M.F and D. Lahkar 2023. Strengthening conservation of tigers, co-predators, prey animals, habitats and biological corridors in the Transboundary Manas Landscape, India. Technical Report, Aaranyak, TRCD: XX/2023. XX pp.
- 7. Lahkar, D., A. Rahman and N. Kalita 2024. Study of avifauna of 120 MW LKHEP area of Dima Hasao, Assam, India. Technical Report, Aaranyak: 04/2024. 22 pp

NON-PEER REVIEWED ARTICLE

- 1. Abraham, L. M. (2023). A behavioural note on the Velvet-fronted Nuthatch from Nameri National Park, Sonitpur, Assam. BioNE-E-zine of biological sciences, 19(1). DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.23842.61127
- 2. Forensic Report. 2023. Forensic DNA Analysis of Individual Identity Matching of Rhino Carcass Skin Tissue and Horn Scraping. Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to Addl. Superintendent of Police (Crime), Baksa, Mushalpur, Assam. 1-24 pp.
- 3. Forensic Report. 2023. Forensic DNA Analysis of Wildlife Article for Confirmation of Species Identity. Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to the Range Forest Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mayong, Morigaon, Assam. 1-8 pp.
- 4. Forensic Report. 2023. Parentage Analysis of Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) from Digboi Division, Digboi. Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer, Digboi Division, Digboi, Assam. 1-24 pp.

BOOK PUBLISHED

- 1. Book: Published a book, “Bipul Sombhabaar Path Dekhuai” (বিপুল সম্ভাব্যৰ পথ দেখুৱাই), a bi-lingual book portraying conservation work and community engagement of Late Bipul Das of Aaranyak edited by Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Bijay Sankar Bora and Pranab Goswami.

POPULAR ARTICLE

- Boro R. 2023. How a traditional knowledge and indigenous people can safeguard &enrich wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Published on Biolink Vol. 3, Issue 02, December 2023, Aaranyak. 15-16 pp.
- An Assamese version of poster “Orang and we” has been developed by Pranab Goswami for the outreach activities in the educational institutions in the fringe of Orang NP & TR as part of on-going research project in Orang NP & TR supported by Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Pranab Goswami is also the team member of this project.
- Article published on Biolink-Vol-03 on the topic of “Reclaiming the soft corner through nature education” by Wasima Begum.
- Das, P.J. (2024). Importance of wetlands for human wellbeing: Special Article published in the Northeast News on the World Wetland Day 2024, February 02, 2024. <https://nenews.in/assam/importance-of-wetlands-for-human-wellbeing/6786/>
- Das, P.J. (2024). Water for Peace: A northeast Indian perspective on transboundary rivers. Published on March 22, 2024, on the occasion of the World Water Day. <https://www.econe.in/post/water-for-peace-a-northeast-indian-perspective-on-transboundary-river>.
- Doloni Beel Report
- <https://assamtribune.com/assam/18-more-endangered-pygmy-hogs-released-in-assams-manas-national-park-1497440>
- <https://m.timesofindia.com/city/guwahati/18-captive-bred-pygmy-hogs-released-in-manas/articleshow/104079260.cms>
- <https://theprint.in/india/18-captive-bred-pygmy-hogs-released-in-assams-manas-national-park/1784888/>

pygmy-hogs-released-in-assams-manas-national park/1784888/

- <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/african-swine-fever-threatens-india-s-pygmy-hog-other-asian-wild-pig-species-science-article-89008>
- <https://www.ptinews.com/news/east/18-captive-bred-pygmy-hogs-released-in-assams-manas-national-park/660890.html>
- <https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/assam-18-more-pygmy-hogs-return-to-manas-national-park-669254>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/18-rare-pygmy-hogs-reintroduced-in-their-historical-home-in-assam/article67365483.ece>
- Maheen R. 2023. The Hills of the East. Published on Biolink Vol. 3, Issue 02, December 2023, Aaranyak. 3-4 pp.
- Majuli Report
- Nath C. 2023. Urban green space: A tool for sustainable urban development and conservation of biodiversity. Published on Biolink Vol. 3, Issue 02, December 2023, Aaranyak. 9-10 pp.
- On 3rd April 2023, A book on memory of Late Bipul Das was released by Aaranyak. Arup Kumar Das was involved in the editorial team along with other colleagues of Aaranyak.
- Rufford Small Grants Report
- Saikia, A.; A. Boruah: “A glimpse into the grey picture of human-elephant conflicts in Meghalaya” Down To Earth, June 2023
- Sinha. Invasion to Recovery: A Saga of the Grasslands. Published in Current Conservation, Research in Translation on May 23, 2023.



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OUR OFFICES AND BASE CAMPS

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Research Office

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Guwahati, India - 781028

Manas Landscape

Manas Conservation and Outreach Centre  
Near Bhuyanpara Range,  
Manas National Park  
Baksa, Assam

**Bansbari Field Station,**  
C/o Gangarani Sarkar, Gyati Gaon,

Bansbari – 781315, Manas National Park,  
**Kaziranga Landscape**  
Aaranyak, C/o M. Firoz Ahmed,  
Pilkhana, Kohora - 785609  
**Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary and Jorhat District**  
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**Orang National Park**  
Aaranyak Filed Station  
Nalbari, Silbori-784114  
Darrang, Assam  
**Eastern Assam Field Station**  
House of Nasiruddin Ahmed,  
Near Hatimora L.P School,  
Hatimora, P.O: Mancotta, Dist : Dibrugarh, Assam  
PIN: 786003  
**Dimakuchi Field Station**  
Bhergaon-Dimakuchi Road, Dimakuchi,  
Landmark - K.B. Timbers  
Pin- 784526,  
P.O - Dimakuchi  
P.S. – Dimakuchi

FINANCIAL REPORT  
2023-2024



Acknowledgement Number:501462160250924

FORM NO. 10B  
(See rule 16CC and 17B)

Audit report under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 and sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of subsection (1) of section 12A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of a fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution.

We have examined the balance sheet of AARANYAK (name of the fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution) as at 31-Mar-2024 and the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account for the year ended on that date are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations to the best of our knowledge and belief which are necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained at the registered office of the above named fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution at the address mentioned at serial number 14 of the Annexure.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the particulars given in the Annexure are true and correct subject to following observations or qualifications:-

(a) In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to 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 fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution as on 31-Mar-2024; and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account, of the income and application or profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31-Mar-2024.

Subject to the following observations/qualifications:-

- (a) The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Name of Chartered Accountant  
Membership Number  
Firm Registration Number  
Address  
IP Address  
Place  
Date

BISWAJIT BARUAH  
ARCA063538  
0013617C  
HOUSE NO 50, BASISTHA ROAD, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028  
49.37.109.254  
GUWAHATI  
25-Sep-2024



*Ministry of Bank*

AARANYAK SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2024			
LIABILITIES	AMOUNT IN ₹	ASSETS	AMOUNT IN ₹
<b>FUND ACCOUNT</b>		<b>Fixed Assets</b>	5,06,90,759.00
General Fund		<b>Current Assets</b>	
Opening Balance	83,39,338.13	TDS on contract	7,138.00
Add: Surplus of income over expenditure	91,72,718.73	TDS on Rent	27,455.00
Less: Over expenditure of Project adjusted with General Fund	36,73,289.67	Advance for Project Expenses	2,83,232.44
		BANGCHARY HP FUEL STATION ADV	30,000.00
<b>Capital Fund out of Project Expenses</b>		Stra receivable	54,965.00
Opening Balance	3,59,08,957.01	Tax Collected at Source	71,341.99
Add: Additions during the year	63,39,158.00	Loan to Employee	15,000.00
Less: Deduction during the year	4,75,000.00	Interest on Income Tax receivable	25,181.00
		Assam Professional tax	11,140.20
<b>Unutilised Project Funds</b>		ESIC PAYABLE	3,561.00
MOOC Earned Money	20,000.00	BANK GUARANTEE FOR FUND	6,21,975.09
Green Audit Expenses Payable	4,165.00	RECEIVABLE FROM LIVELIHOOD 2	70,000.00
Indian Oil Corporation	29,317.34	Tax Deducted at Source	24,36,912.35
192 TDS on Salary	20,719.00	Indian Oil Corporation	9,929.07
Insurance of Boat Des	45,286.00	BPL FLEET CARD	14,875.85
TDS 194	73,531.20	KAMAGHYA ENERGY POINT	20,000.00
INSURANCE FUND	8,023.00	<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	
Advance received from Ganesh Talukdar (House Rent)	1,20,000.00	Cash in hand	1,136.53
ESIC Payable	15,787.00	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Payable from Livelihood 2	70,000.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,88,166.66
Provident Fund Payable	59,696.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB	10,94,08,408.00
		Fixed Deposit with NEST Bank	24,30,647.00
		Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	71,95,832.70
		Fixed Deposit	25,68,418.42
		Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	9,61,834.00
		Fixed Deposit at NEST Bank	25,38,836.33
		Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	2,26,072.30
		UTI	54,00,000.00
		Fixed Deposit at SBI DISPUR	40,80,447.94
		Fixed Deposit at UJJAYEN SMALL FINANCE BANK	20,51,858.00
		<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	3,89,65,814.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,03,50,612.14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,03,50,612.14</b>

Place: Guwahati  
Date: 25.09.2024

For & Behalf of  
AARANYAK  
(DR. BISWAS KIL TALUKDAR)  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
Secretary General  
Aaranyak



As per our report of even date  
FOR CHAIWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH  
PARTNER  
M.No.063538  
FRN.013617C  
UDIN: 24063538KEDSPH2760



AARANYAK SAMANWOY PATH,SURVEY,BELTOLA,GUWAHATI-781028,DIST.KAMRUP,ASSAM, CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024			
EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (Rs.)	INCOME	AMOUNT (Rs.)
To: MCOE expenses	17,000.00	By Bank Interest	9,69,592.36
To: Bank Charges	1,37,717.04	By Interest received from BPCL	1,280.00
To: Admin Expenses	20,708.00	By Interest on Bank Fixed Deposits	70,94,440.20
To: PUBLICITY BUDGET EXP	2,500.00	By ICICI Bank A/c Testing Receipt	1.01
To: JAL EXPENSES	1,69,428.00	By Sale of Car Alto	1,30,000.00
To: TRAINING AND WORKSHOP AT MCOE	5,108.00	By Sale of Jeep	90,000.00
To: Winter Camp Fund	20,000.00	By Recovery from Books	1,276.00
To: Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	91,72,218.73	By Star Health & Allied Insurance Misc Receipt	561.00
		By Earth Collab Receipt	10,000.00
		By Receipts for Environmental Education Awareness prog	4,650.00
		By Receipts From JAL Program	5,04,307.00
		By Recovery from Interns	5,500.00
		By Donation U/S BCG	2,14,980.00
		By Receipts From WTI for Training	73,930.00
		By SCRAP Sale	14,125.00
		By Membership Fees	10,800.00
		By Subsidy on Vehicle purchased	19,975.20
		By Training and Workshop at MCOE	3,12,570.00
		By Recovery from Vermicompost	300.00
		By Recovery from Lab Test DNA	35,000.00
		By Receipt from Training on Project Accounting	10,000.00
		By Donation Received From K9	3,000.00
		By Receipt Against IFS Training at Kaziranga	28,392.00
		By Receipt from GSS Training Workshop	10,000.00
TOTAL	95,44,679.77	TOTAL	95,44,679.77

Place: Guwahati  
Date: 25.09.2024

For & Behalf of  
AARANYAK  
  
(DR. BISWAJIT BARUAH)  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
Secretary General  
Aaranyak



As per our report of even date  
FOR DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
  
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)  
PARTNER  
M.No.063538  
FRN.013617C  
UDIN: 240635388KED5M2760

AARANYAK SAMANWOY PATH,SURVEY,BELTOLA,GUWAHATI-781028,DIST.KAMRUP,ASSAM, CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024			
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (Rs.)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT (Rs.)
To: OPENING BALANCE		By Project Expenses against Foreign Contribution	14,50,47,360.20
Cash in hand	8,416.53	By Advance for Project Expenses	2,83,732.44
To: INVESTMENTS	11,88,186.66	By Tax Collected at Source	20,320.00
Fixed Deposits with BOB	6,71,48,657.00	By TDS on Contract	7,138.00
Fixed Deposits with YES Bank	32,63,029.00	By Tax Deducted at Source	4,60,560.00
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	47,39,334.60	By DIVIDEN CH DAS FOR PAYMENT OF STATUTORY DUES	30,313.00
Fixed Deposit	35,68,418.42	By ESIC PAYABLE	3,360.00
Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	6,53,646.60	By ASAM PROFESSIONAL PAYABLE	13,882.20
Fixed Deposit at YES Bank	24,94,296.33	By PUBLICITY BUDGET EXP	2,500.00
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	39,50,743.30	By JAL EXPENSES	1,69,428.00
UTI	54,00,000.00	By Bank Charges	1,37,717.04
Fixed Deposit with SBI	30,52,685.00	By TRAINING AND WORKSHOP AT MCOE EXP	5,108.00
	9,56,29,259.21	By BANGOGARY HP FUEL STATION ADV	30,000.00
To: BANK ACCOUNTS	4,18,86,110.21	By TAX COLLECTED AT SOURCE	10,110.00
To: Contribution Received	17,31,52,636.51	By TDS on Rent Paid in Advance	27,455.00
To: Recovery of Project Advances	3,01,406.23	By TAX DEDUCTED AT SOURCE	5,67,654.00
To: Bank Interest	9,69,592.36	By MCOE Expenses	17,000.00
To: Interest received from BPCL	1,280.00	By Admin Expenses	20,708.00
To: Interest on Bank Fixed Deposits	70,94,440.20	By Winter Camp Fund	20,000.00
To: Return of Selling of Scrips to IC		By CLOSING BALANCE	1,116.53
amounts credited in PC		Cash in hand	
To: Sale of Car Alto	1,30,000.00	INVESTMENTS	11,88,186.66
To: Sale of Jeep	90,000.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB	10,94,08,658.00
To: ICICI Bank A/c Testing Receipt	1.01	Fixed Deposits with YES Bank	24,30,047.00
To: Star Health & Allied Insurance Misc Receipt	561.00	Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	71,45,832.70
To: ESIC Payable	15,787.00	Fixed Deposit	20,68,418.42
To: YES on Salary	10,143.00	Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	9,53,834.00
To: Provident Fund Payable	99,096.00	Fixed Deposit at YES Bank	25,38,836.33
To: TDS on Consultancy	13,086.00	Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	2,26,073.30
To: Assam Professional Tax	6,039.00	UTI	54,00,000.00
To: Indian Oil Corporation	29,921.30	Fixed Deposit at SBI DISBUR	40,80,447.94
To: MCL Fleet Card	9,768.16	Fixed Deposit at UJAYIN SMALL FINANCE BANK	20,01,858.00
To: INSURANCE FUND	8,035.00	By BANK ACCOUNTS	3,49,65,814.26
To: Recovery from Books	1,276.00		
To: ADVANCE FOR STATUTORY DUES	22,572.80		
To: Earth Collab Receipt	10,000.00		
To: Advance received from Ganesh Talukder (House Rent)	1,20,000.00		
To: Receipts From JAL Program	5,04,307.00		
Recovery from Interns	5,500.00		
Donation U/S BCG	2,14,980.00		
Receipts From WTI for Training	73,930.00		
SCRAP Sale	14,125.00		
Membership Fees	10,800.00		
Subsidy on Vehicle purchased	19,975.20		
Training and Workshop at MCOE	3,12,570.00		
Recovery from Vermicompost	300.00		
Recovery from Lab Test DNA	35,000.00		
UTIS TDS on Salary	10,576.00		
Insurance of Bipul Das	45,286.00		
TDS 19%	47,284.00		
Receipt from Training on Project Accounting	10,000.00		
Donation Received From K9	3,000.00		
Receipt from GSS Training Workshop	10,000.00		
Receipt Against IFS Training at Kaziranga	28,392.00		
Receipts for Environmental Education Awareness program	4,650.00		
TOTAL	37,29,81,048.52	TOTAL	37,29,81,048.52

Place: Guwahati  
Date: 25.09.2024

For & Behalf of  
AARANYAK  
  
(DR. BISWAJIT BARUAH)  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
Secretary General  
Aaranyak



As per our report of even date  
FOR DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
  
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)  
PARTNER  
M.No.063538  
FRN.013617C  
UDIN: 240635388KED5M2760



STAFF LIST

(1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2023 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 )

ADMIN & ACCOUNTS DIVISION

**Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar,**  
Scientist G, SG & CEO  
**Mrs. Mridusmrta Devi**  
Head of Operations  
**Mrs. Bobby Nath**  
Senior Manager, Administration  
**Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar**  
Senior Manager, Accounts  
**Mr. Tapash Mahanta**  
Deputy Manager  
**Mr. Suranjan Sarma**  
Executive Coordinator  
**Mr. Pranab Goswami**  
Organising officer  
**Mr. Jayanta Gogoi**  
Assistant Accounts Manager  
**Mr. Nripen Kumar Nath**  
Senior Office Executive  
(Operation)  
**Mr. Gunajit Mazumdar**  
PR Executive  
**Mr. Hriday Jyoti Ojha**  
Accounts Associate  
**Mr. Akash Kakati**  
Office Executive-Administration  
**Mr. Anupam Sarma**  
Accountant  
**Mr. Pritom Kalita**  
Junior Accounts Assistant  
**Mr. Gouranga Mandal**  
Office Assistant  
**Mr. Rajghar Kalita**  
Office Assistant  
**Mrs. Lalita Hazarika**  
Office Assistant **Mr. Nayanmani Sarma**  
Office Assistant

**Mr. Siva Sarkar**  
Office Assistant  
**Mr. Jitu Daimary**  
Field Assistant-Logistics  
**Mr. Moni Kumar Haloi**  
Field Assistant cum Watchman  
**Mrs. Devi Das**  
Field Assistant-Logistics

AVIFAUNA RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (ARCD)

**Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**  
Senior Project Manager, GASCP

CONSERVATION & LIVELIHOOD DIVISION (CLD)

**Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar**  
Scientist E & Head  
**Mr. Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya**  
Manager  
**Mr. Swapan Kumar Das**  
Project Coordinator  
**Mr. Bijay Basumatary**  
Community Coordinator  
**Mr. Sangsar Basumatary**  
Community Coordinator  
**Ms. Bornali Baro**  
Community Coordinator  
**Mr. Pankaj Das**  
Field Assistant

ELEPHANT RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (ERCD)

**Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar**  
Scientist E, Head ERCD &  
Landscape Administrator, Manas  
Landscape  
**Dr. Alolika Sinha**  
Senior Manager  
**Md. Zakir Islam Bora**  
Assistant Manager  
**Mr. Abhijit Boruah**

Project Coordinator  
**Mr. Anjan Chandra Baruah**  
Program Coordinator  
**Mr. Rubul Tanti**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Niranjan Bhuyan**  
Filed Coordinator  
**Ms. Rabiya Daimari**  
Field Coordinator  
**Ms. Anushka Saikia**  
Field Biologist  
**Mr. Imon Abedin**  
Biologist  
**Mr. Jyotibrata Mahanta**  
Biologist  
**Ms. Rimpee Moran**  
Project Officer  
**Ms. Bidisha Borah**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Nipul Chakma**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Jiban Kumar Chetry**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Pranjal Deka**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Pranjit Borah**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Tibrajyoti Gogoi**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Ejaj Ahmed**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Vendo Theodore Chebath S. Sangma**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Abhijit Saikia**  
Project Assistant  
**Ms. Reshma Narzary**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Mondeep Basumatary**  
Project Assistant  
**Mr. Sumit Dey**  
Accounts Assistant  
**Mr. Ripunjoy Kumar Nath**

Field Assistant  
**Mr. Dibakar Nayak**  
Field Assistant  
**Ms. Tonmoi Priya Gogoi**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Dhantu Gogoi**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Chiranjib Kalita**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Ananta Dutta**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Jonak Boruah**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Lakhinath Taid**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Subhashchandra Rabha**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Afride Rahman**  
Office Assistant cum Data Entry  
Operator  
**Mr. Didom Daimari**  
Field Coordinator  
**Mr. Debojit Gogoi**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Bikash Tossa**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Jaugashar Basumatary**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Lekhan Gogoi**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Deepjyoti Buragohain**  
Field Assistant  
**Mr. Bineswar Daimari**  
Nursery Caretaker  
**Mr. Pradeep Barman**  
Driver  
**Mr. Bijoy Kalita**  
Driver  
**Mr. Rupam Goyari**  
Driver cum Field Assistant  
**Mr. Jiaur Rahman**  
Driver cum Field assistant

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING DIVISION (EECBD)

**Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**  
Scientist G, Head  
**Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak**  
Senior Manager  
**Ms. Tanvi Hussain**  
Assistant Manager  
**Dr. Banasree Sharma**  
Assistant Manager  
**Ms. Wasima Begum**  
Environmental Facilitator  
**Mr. Haben Mochahary**  
Field Assistant

GANGETIC DOLPHIN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (GDRCD)

**Dr. Abdul Wakid**  
Honorary Head**Mr. Manoj Kumar Das**  
Boat Supervisor  
**Mr. Kedar Mallah**  
Boat Driver  
**Mr. Binod Borgohain**  
Boat Assistant  
**Md. Noor Islam,**  
Driver cum Field Assistant  
**Mr. Dilip Majhi**  
Helmsman

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY & APPLICATION DIVISION (GTAD)

**Mr. Arup Kumar Das,**  
Senior Manager  
**Ms. Madhumita Borthakur**  
Senior GIS Ananlyst  
**Mr. Avishek Sarkar**  
GIS Ananlyst  
**Mr. Mithilesh Padhan**  
GIS Ananlyst

HERPETOFAUNA RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (HRCD)

**Dr. Firoz Ahmed**  
Scientist F, Head  
**Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy**  
Manager  
**Mr. Sourav Gupta**  
Project Officer, Research and  
Monitoring  
**Ms. Nibedita Talukdar**  
Project Officer (Trainee)

LEGAL & ADVOCACY DIVISION (LAD)

**Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**  
Scientist G, Head  
**Dr. Jimmy Borah**  
Senior Manager  
**Ms. Binita Baruwati**  
Deputy Manager  
**Mr. Rounak Emmanuel Dean**  
Senior Project Officer Analyst  
**Ms. Ivy Farheen Hussain**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Mukesh Kherkatary**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Bijeet Baro**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Mizing Boro**  
Project Officer  
**Mr. Anil Kumar Das**  
Coordinator  
**Mr. Goura Baidya**  
Deputy Coordinator  
**Mr. Nirmal Kalita**  
Assistant Coordinator  
**Mr. Biswajit Tiwari**  
Intelligence Assistant  
**Mr. Sanatan Mali**  
Senior Dog Handler  
**Mr. Rahul Das**  
Dog Handler  
**Mr. Mrigen Das**



Junior Dog Handler

**Mr. Bhiraj Deka**

Junior Dog Handler

**Mr. Dhurajyoti Thakuria**

Junior Dog Handler

**Mr. Rupak Das**

Junior Dog Handler

**Mr. Jayanta Kalita**

Assistant Dog Handler

**Mr. Lakhi Ram Boro**

Driver cum Field Assistant

**Mr. Dhananjoy Mashahary**

Field Assistant

**MEDIA PUBLICATION & COMMUNICATIONS  
DIVISION**

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Scientist E, Head

**Ms. Munmita Baruah**

Manager

**Mr. Chinmoy Swargiary**

Documentation & Production

Officer

**PRIMATE RESEARCH & CONSERVATION  
DIVISION (PRCD)**

**Dr. Dilip Chetry**

Scientist E, Head

**Mr. Akshay Kumar Upadhyaya**

Research Fellow

**Mr. Simanta Medhi**

Project Assistant

**Mr. Pitam Jyoti Gore**

Project Assistant

**Mr. Ranjit Saikia**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Jibon Chandra Bora**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Probin Bhuyan**

Site Assistant

**RHINO RESEARCH & CONSERVATION  
DIVISION (RRCD)**

**Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**

Scientist G, Head

**Dr. Deba Kumar Dutta**

Senior Manager

**Md. Arif Hussain**

Manager

**Ms. Kakali Baishya**

Researcher

**Mr. Pramod Choudhury**

Researcher

**Mr. Ujjal Bayan**

Researcher

**Mr. Dulal Das**

Driver cum Field Assistant

**Mr. Mantu Boro**

Animal Keeper

**THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY  
PROGRAMME (TSRP)**

**Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka**

Programme Manager

**Dr. Leons Mathew Abraham**

Captive Breeding Manager

**Mr. Jonmani Kalita,**

Jr. Field Biologist

**Mr. Kaoushik Rajbongshi,**

Junior Field Biologist

**Dr. Debjani Borah**

Community Biosecurity Project

Officer

**Genius Teron**

Program Coordinator

**Mr. Ajay Kumar Das,**

Logistic coordinator

**Mr. Arunava Gupta**

Community Co-ordinator

**Ms. Karishma Sharma**

Chamlagain

Junior Field Biologist

**Ms. Hrista Debbarman**

Assistant Field Biologist

**Mr. Hirak Jyoti Das**

Junior Research Assistant

**Mr. Dwipendra Narayan Dev**

Sr. Field Assistant

**Mr. Bhaben Hazarika**

Site Coordinator (Grade I)

**Mr. Kishur Payeng**

Site Assistant

**Mr. Raju Mili**

Site Assistant

**Mr. Amal Deka**

Community Facilitator

**Ms. Monora Begum**

Animal Keeper

**Mr. Raju Das**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Niranjan Barman**

Junior Field Assistant

**Mr. Tulshi Nath**

Senior Animal keeper

**Mr. Lutar Ch. Marak**

Animal Keeper

**Mr. Grikseng Chandra Marak**

Animal Keeper

**Mr. Dhon Chetry**

Junior Animal Keeper

**Mr. Rudra Gogoi**

Junior Animal Keeper

**TIGER RESEARCH & CONSERVATION  
DIVISION (TRCD)**

**Dr. M. Firoz Ahmed**

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**Mr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma**

Senior Program Associate, NRMP

**Dr. Dipankar Lahkar**

Senior Manager

**Dr. Partha Sarathi Ghose**

Project Coordinator

**Mr. Sarlongjon Teron**

Senior Project Officer, NRM

**Ms. Gayatri Dutta**

Project Officer

**Mr. Nitul Kalita**

Project Officer Research &

Monitoring

**Ms. Deepika Chetry**

Project Officer

**Ms. Bhargavee Rava,**

Project Officer-NRM

**Mr. Bhaskor Barukial**

Project Officer -Logistics and

Accounts

**Mr. Binod Dewry,**

Project Officer- logistics

**Mr. Arbanki Sungoh**

Project Officer

**Mr. Avinash Phangcho**

Project Officer

**Ms. Leenthoi Laishram**

Project Officer

**Ms. Joshna Terangpi**

Project Officer

**Ms. Barnali Chakraborty**

Project Officer (Trainee)

**Ms. Momita Narzary**

Project Officer (Trainee)

**Mr. Stephen Basumatary**

Project Officer (Trainee)

**Mr. Birdutta Baro,**

Assistant Project Officer-Logistics

**Mr. Rangsina Phangcho**

Assistant Project Officer

**Ms. Karishma Saikia**

Project Officer (Trainee)

**Ms. Moromi Nath**

Assistant Project Officer

**Ms. Monisha Deb**

Assistant Project Officer

**Ms. Sushmita Baruah**

Assistant Project Officer

**Mr. Ratul Das,**

Assistant Project Officer

**Md. Majammil Haque,**

Assistant project Officer cum

Driver

**Ms. Sajati Das,**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Rahul Bey**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Prakash Ingti**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Rowel Engti,**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Biswajit Basumatary**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Mongalsing Rangfar**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Sanjit Bey**

Field Assistant

**Mrs. Jonali Patra**

Office Assistant

**WATER CLIMATE & HAZARDS DIVISION  
(WATCH)**

**Dr. Partha Jyoti Das,**

Scientist E, Head

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Research Associate

**Ms. Kakali Sarma**

Program Associate

**Ms. Madhurima Choudhury**

Research Associate

**Mr. Pragyan Gautam**

Junior Project Associate

**Mr. Ankur Barman**

Field Assistant

**Ms. Bamuni Rabha**

Field Assistant

**Mr. Dipmoni Nath,**

Driver cum Technical Field

Assistant

**WILDLIFE GENETICS DIVISION (WGD)**

**Mr. Udayan Borthakur,**

Scientist E, Head

**Mr. Nipan Kumar Gogoi**

Assistant Manager

**Ms. Rashmi Rani Boro**

Senior Researcher

**Ms. Chandramika Nath**

Project Assistant

**Mr. Jigyas Boruah**

Biologist

**Mr. Shohidul Islam**

Driver cum Field Assistant

**ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDIT**

**Avijan Saha**

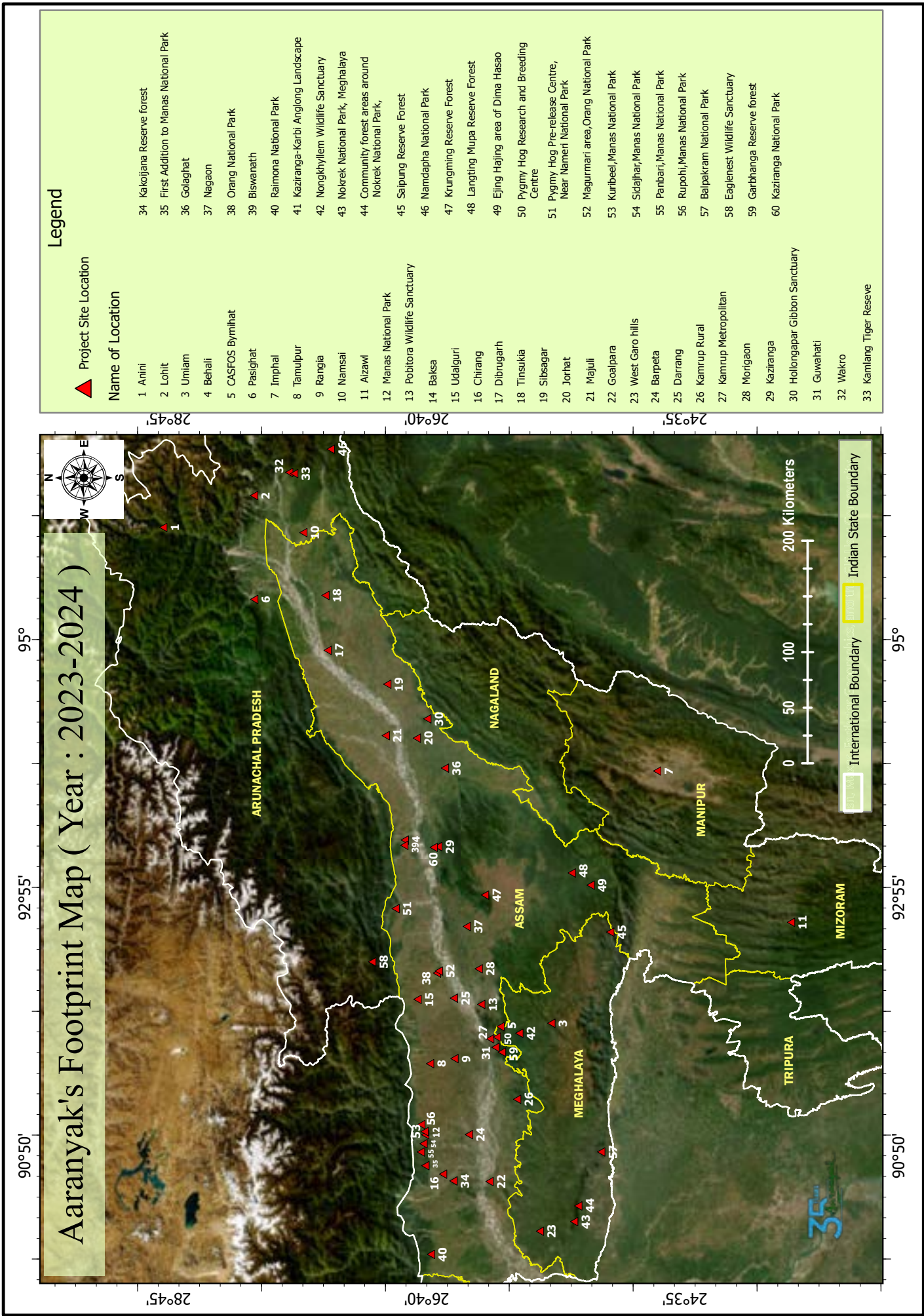
**Chinmoy Swargiary**

**Monim UI Hoque**

**Imon Abedin**

**Saurav Kumar Boruah**





# NOURISHING NATURE TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

We strive to protect nature and its resources ranging from wildlife and the ecosystems they live in, as we believe that welfare of our communities is intricately linked to pristine nature. We work to secure our future for all the species and the ecosystems that are under threat. We bank on research, 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. Now into the 33rd year of our existence we are tirelessly working towards safeguarding our natural resources, addressing climate crises and ensuring people's wellbeing.

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Aaranyak, 13, Tayab Ali  
Byelane,  
Bishnu Rabha Path,  
Beltola Tiniali-Bhetapara  
Link Road,  
P.O. Beltola, Guwahati,  
India - 781028

### RESEARCH DIVISION OFFICE

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Byelane 3, Ajanta Path,  
Beltola Survey,  
P.O. Beltola, Guwahati,  
India - 781028

[www.aaranyak.org](http://www.aaranyak.org)