

A tiger is the central focus of the image, positioned in the lower half. It is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees, with sunlight filtering through the leaves. The tiger's mouth is wide open, revealing its sharp canines and pink tongue. The overall scene is a lush, natural habitat.

Aaramyak

NOURISHING NATURE TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Aaranyak's MISSION

Our mission is 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

Aaranyak Society Registration No -
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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.



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FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND CEO

Conservation of biodiversity has reached an all-encompassing proportion as on date given that the mankind's lifestyle has become intricately linked to it in tune with Mission LiFE that aims to motivate at least 1 billion Indians and other global citizens to perform both individual and group actions for environmental protection and conservation between 2022-2028. The hitherto 34-year-long unrelenting efforts of Aaranyak since September, 1989 to remain focused on its avowed mission to 'conserve nature to secure our future' has, in fact, received a

shot in the arm because of the spirit of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) that has been promoted by the Government of India as this critical juncture for global environment protection thereby preservation of biodiversity by involving all concerned stakeholders especially the masses on the ground. We have all along been working with the community on the ground in our efforts to carry out our various research-based conservation initiatives that aim to complement the efforts of concerned government agencies/departments especially the Environment and Forest Department, the civil administration, the police administration, the village defence organisations, paramilitary forces etc. Over three decades of experience working for biodiversity conservation, not only species conservation, has made us firmly believe that conservation goals are hardly achievable without coordination amongst all the stakeholders. So, facilitation of synergy among all concerned agencies and people as a whole must be the core to any conservation initiatives. All our research-based conservation initiatives, various mass awareness and mass education efforts carried out under various initiatives across our divisions and programmes, therefore, are aimed at creating synergy amongst stakeholders to achieve the goal. Having said so, it is not so easy to create such a synergy and requires tremendous persistent efforts on our part as an NGO. Hurdles as usual have been there, but we have remained undaunted in our efforts throughout the year which turned out to be another year of encouragement for all our programmes that are spread across Northeast and Eastern India. Thanks to our well wishers for the continued support and encouragement.

Our collaborations with different stakeholders including government departments, various agencies and even security forces have gained solid ground during the year thanks to the persistent efforts of all team members who have remained focused on complementing efforts of government departments and agencies to conserve and enrich biodiversity by devising innovative ways. Our collaboration and inter-dependence on the community on the ground have acquired a more intricate dimension during the year with the communities including womenfolk responding to our call have taken the lead in our various activities related to facilitating coexistence with wildlife through various mitigation measures. The community has responded overwhelmingly in our efforts to promote age-old community-based practices for conservation of biodiversity and ethnic practices that promote conservation of the biodiversity in various landscapes where we have launched a number of community-oriented initiatives. I have to praise our team members who have put up wonderful efforts to set up harmony and coordination with community members across our project/programme sites.

The support of the community has been vital in eliciting positive response from concerned government departments and agencies to our efforts. Besides the communities in Kaziranga and Manas landscapes, we have been able to elicit tremendous cooperation and support from the masses in districts of Udalguri, Baksa, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and in at least five eastern Assam districts towards our efforts for human wildlife coexistence. The community support has been instrumental in our coordinated efforts for habitat restoration, wetland conservation etc. Our team members have devised various ways and initiatives to supplement the livelihood of the community members in various project areas so as to garner their unrelenting support

towards our biodiversity conservation mission. We believe that a community empowered economically and knowledge/skills can do wonders for the good of any biodiversity conservation efforts.

Like the previous year, Team Aaranyak has gone on an overdrive to complement the efforts of various government agencies/departments and police/security forces deployed in this frontier NE India region to check burgeoning wildlife crime. Besides striving to raise the awareness level of the crime scenario, we tried hard to facilitate synergy among border-guarding forces, state police forces in fighting wildlife crimes that have threatened the efforts for conservation of biodiversity in the region.

It has been our priority to make available essential field gear, equipment and vehicles to forest, police, and VDOs engaged in protection of biodiversity in various protected landscapes of the region. We have also tried our best to provide solar fencing, solar street lights, torch lights etc., to community members to help them facilitate coexistence with wildlife who often stray onto human settlements because of their shrinking habitats.

We are humbled by the overwhelming support we have received from our members spread over the entire Northeast landscape and they, obviously, have been a major source of strength. The support from our donor agencies based within and outside the country have been most instrumental in keeping the efforts/ initiatives for biodiversity conservation going on unhindered across the region.

We have remained firmly committed through our conservation initiatives to secure potable water and pure oxygen that are lifelines for the entire animal kingdom by contributing towards conservation of green cover, wildlife habitat and human well-being through sustained efforts. We must all put up a concerted efforts to protect the future of our forests, wetlands and other wildlife habitats to facilitate uninterrupted supply for potable water and oxygen.

Over the 34 of years of our existence the organisation and its activities have expanded exponentially so has out team's strength. We always aspire and strive to help our team members to excel in what they are assigned to do by creating a professional environment within the organisation where new ideas and innovations are always encouraged. The process of restructuring of the organisation has been put on the roll to make it more efficient through creation of synergy in action amongst various divisions/programmes.

Our researchers and conservationists have remained in the forefront by implementing needed conservation initiatives. No wonder, Aaranyak is gradually becoming a sought-after destination for young and committed conservation workers, researchers, scientists, communication professionals, administrators, financial, managers, logistics experts from across the region much to the benefit of the organisation that aspires to be identified as an organisation of the people of the region who want to preserve precious wildlife resources in this hugely biodiverse region. Without the support and goodwill of the people, the donors and the government departments/agencies our journey wouldn't have been as fruitful as it has turned out to be so far.

(Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, PhD)

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- Berlin Zoo
- Bird Conservation Fund
- Bodoland University
- BMUV & IKI (International Climate Initiative)
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- Department of Textile and Apparel Design, Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat
- Department of Life Science and Biotechnology, Assam University Diphu Campus
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- Forest Department, BTC
- Forest Department, Dima Hasao
- Forest Department, Meghalaya
- Guwahati Wildlife Division
- GIZ
- Global Gibbon Network
- Global Water Partnership-South Asia
- Gyan Vigyan Samiti Assam, Hajo block
- India Water Partnership
- International Rhino Foundation
- IUCN-KFW
- IUCN SSC PSG Section on Small Apes (SSA)
- IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group
- IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group
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- Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt of India
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- NABU International
- NESAC
- NCSTC Division of Department of Science and Technology
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- WiNN
- Wilhelma Zoo
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- Wroclaw Zoo
- West Bengal Forest Department

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- Dr. Meenakshi Nagendran
- Vanessa Stephen
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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 33 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- Receiving the RBS ‘Earth Guardian Award 2011’, ‘Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Purashkar 2012’ by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, and the ‘Institutional Award in the field of Science and Technology’ in 2017, by Government of Assam.

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

AARANYAK’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021-23



Ranjan Bhuyan
President



Dilip Chetry
Vice President



Bibhab Kr. Talukdar
Secretary General



Jimut Prasad Sarma
Finance Secretary



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Publicity Secretary



Udayan Borthakur
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Koushik Boruah
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Partha Jyoti Das
Executive Member



Bijay Sankar Bora
Executive Member



SPECIES RESEARCH & CONSERVATION




Photo- Aaranyak

Researchers conducting surveys to record elephant presence in Meghalaya

The growth in human population and consequent resource consumption, developmental activities and the constant competition for space are changing the planet in fundamental ways. One consequence of this growth is the rampant loss of biodiversity. As species disappear, we lose both known and unknown benefits that they provide. From balancing the food chain and energy flux in the environment to the myriad ecosystem services for human wellbeing, wildlife and ecosystems, more particularly the natural environment has proved to be a significant entity and we, human beings are infinitesimal speck embedded in it. Species conservation and research, therefore, is essential to help inform the science-based management of wildlife and ecosystems that eventually safeguard human wellbeing. The species conservation initia-

tives of Aaranyak are targeted towards building scientific evidence to aid in their conservation. Aaranyak's species conservation broadly spans across ecological research using both cutting-edge tools and traditional scientific methods, viz., use of advanced technology such as GIS and remote sensing, conservation genetics and wildlife, DNA forensics, conservation breeding and subsequent reintroduction of species and habitat restoration.

For aiding species conservation, our research works are supplemented by community-based conservation approaches, coupling traditional ecological knowledge/perceptions of communities with scientific observations to serve holistic conservation efforts, supporting the law and enforcement efforts of the competent authorities, supplementing

livelihoods of the local communities of high-value conservation areas and most importantly providing conservation education among masses.

CONSERVING ASIAN ELEPHANTS USING GENETIC TOOLS AND ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS

The northeastern region of India is recognised as a key conservation region for Asian elephants, supporting around 25% of the wild elephant population in India. However, there is paucity of information on both ecological and genetic aspects of the species. Therefore, we have conducted a landscape level genetic assessment of the Asian elephants in northeast India to identify various source populations and distribution of genetic diversity in the landscape. We conducted field surveys to collect elephant

dung samples from the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, covering four of the five reported major source populations of elephants in the north-east India. DNA sequencing and microsatellite allelic data generated from over 300 elephant dung samples and various parameters of genetic diversity, such as haplotype and nucleotide diversity, allelic richness and heterozygosity were obtained as well. We are also focusing on the analysis on population genetic structure and gene flow from different geographic locations. This will aid in understanding how different populations and sub-populations of elephants are connected to each other genetically and demographically, thereby understanding population history and identifying the Conservation Significant Units (CSUs), which eventually can help priorities conservation actions and management, mostly in regard to mitigation of human elephant conflicts.

The state of Meghalaya harbors



Photo- Udayan Borthakur

A wildlife geneticist during labwork

the second largest population of Asian elephants in northeast India. We undertook a landscape-wide study to understand elephant distribution patterns and the factors that potentially impact the species distribution using grid-based sampling technique, which highlighted the current as well as historical distribution pattern of the Asian elephants, its extant threats on elephants and habitats across the

landscape.

As elephants are a wide-ranging species, their migratory routes span across interstate and trans-boundary landscapes. To secure the elephant population and its habitat in this shared landscape, we conducted sign surveys and questionnaire surveys to understand the current and historic uses of the areas for elephant movement.

MONITORING ONE-HORNED RHINOS

The Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River is a crucial rhino-bearing area that has the highest density of rhinos, standing at a population of 107 rhinos in an area of around 38.81 km². In this sanctuary, we have been monitoring the grassland habitat, and how the habitat is used by rhinos to aid in habitat revival.



Photo- Ujjal Bayan

A Greater one-horned rhinoceros in its natural habitat

STUDIES ON HERPETOFAUNA

Amphibians and reptiles, together termed as herpetofauna are one of the most imperiled groups of animals globally. The north-east India is one of the hotspots of herpetofauna, which harbours many rare, threatened and endemic species. During our study on breeding biology of *Rhacophorus translineatus* in Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh, we found rare observations which are different from other species of genus *Rhacophorus*. This led to the first description of the larvae of *Rhacophorus translineatus* from the study.



Photo- HRCD, Aaranyak

An adult *Rhacophorus translineatus* male



Photo- TRCD, Aaranyak

Researchers working in the forests of Dima Hasao district

MONITORING THE TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS OF NORTHEAST INDIA

Monitoring of species population is essential to detect changes and ensure long term conservation of threatened species. Given, we deployed camera traps to monitor

population and occupancy of the terrestrial mammalian assemblages across ~400 km² in Raimona National Park (RNP), ~255 km² in Dima Hasao district of Assam, while another ~200 km² in Protected Areas and ~50 km² in community reserves of Megha-

laya. Besides, we conducted trail-based sign surveys of around 360 km in Dima Hasao district of Assam, and 52 km in the Saipung Reserved Forest of Meghalaya to document the presence of mammalian diversity, relative abundance, and occupancy along with

their conservation threats. In RNP and its adjacent forested areas, we conducted Random Encounter Modelling (REM) based sampling to estimate non-individual-ly identifiable ungulate species' abundance and density. Besides, we successfully used "camtrapR", a data interpretation and analysis program on R environment, to visualize and analyse the data captured through camera traps.

Moreover, we conducted systematic surveys to search for the Critically Endangered and extremely rare Namdapha Flying Squirrel which is only known from the Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh.

TACKLING WILDLIFE TRADE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

The northeast India is a biodiversity rich and high-value conservation landscape. The geographic location and proximity to the Southeast Asian wildlife trade market, makes the wildlife of the region vulnerable to illegal trade. Unsustainable wildlife trading leads to local extinctions. Population declines of such species are bound to negatively impact the species population and ecosystem health. This brings into the dire need of understanding the wildlife trade scenario in Northeast India for species conservation.

We, therefore, conducted an exhaustive survey to collect information on wildlife trade hotspots and offenders involved in such activities. The effort includes questionnaire surveys with local villagers having knowledge and information on illegal trade of wildlife which has scope of publication and further spread awareness on protecting species from illegal wildlife trade. We have also made efforts on scoping research to understand the illegal trade routes of Pangolins from NE India to Southeast Asia.



A Chinese Pangolin in its natural habitat

Photo- Bidyut Bisahya

SAVING THE RAREST PIGS OF THE WORLD

To safeguard the Pygmy Hogs, an Endangered suid, we have adopted multi-pronged approach of conservation-breeding, monitoring the wild and reintroduced population in different Protected Areas, and through habitat improvement. During this year, 10 Pygmy Hogs were released in Manas National Park (MNP), of which six were implanted with radio transmitters and monitored through 67 camera traps.

We conducted sign surveys for Pygmy Hog after grassland burning in an intensive study site of 4 km² in Orang National Park (ONP), which resulted in findings of 65 burnt nests and 221 pellet locations. Similar sign surveys in MNP recorded Pygmy Hog signs, along with other grassland-obligate species such as the Critical-



Radiotelemetry in Manas

Photo- Shardha Gogoi

ly Endangered bird- the Bengal Florican. We established a long-term Bengal Florican habitat monitoring initiative along with the Pygmy Hog monitoring. This year we reported twelve Florican sites in ONP.

Considering the Pygmy Hog population in the conservation breeding centers, currently 39 new-born and 74 Hogs are maintained in the captivity.



A Pygmy Hog mother with its piglets

Photo- Parag Deka



HABITAT RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



Aaranyak team during field work on habitat restoration

Photo- ERCD, Aaranyak

Conservation of habitats is crucial for reversing biodiversity loss and ensuring people's wellbeing. However, unthoughtful human activities have led to loss and fragmentation of habitats, loss of biodiversity, spillover of zoonotic diseases and even species extinction. Altering natural habitats have a cascading effect on the entire ecosystem. Thus, a consolidated approach is needed to secure habitats, the wildlife population and people. Taking cognizance of the same, we through a harmonized team of conservationists, local communities and Government line departments, designed and implemented various actions to revive the habitats that ranged from grasslands, agroforest and woodlands. We worked towards evaluating the current habitat status and implemented different measures such as management of invasive alien

plants and native woody plants, assisted regeneration and plantation of native plants.

RESTORATION OF GRASSLAND HABITATS IN ASSAM

The grasslands of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary provide habitat to the threatened One-Horned Rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and host of other species. We conducted surveys and recorded the presence of invasive species, and woody plant encroachment which leads to shrinkage of grassland habitat so as to understand the status of these grasslands. As a measure of reviving these invaded grasslands from IAPs and native woody plants, we manually uprooted the IAPs and girdled around 250 trees during this year. We monitor these sites at regular intervals. By managing IAPs and native woody plants, we

aim to revive the grasslands habitats for safeguarding the rhinos and other grassland dependent species in the sanctuary.

The sub-Himalayan grassland ecosystem of Manas National Park (MNP) is crucial for survival of the highly threatened Pygmy Hogs and a multitude of other grassland obligate and rare species. This year we mapped the Pygmy Hog habitat in MNP using 30X30 m grid cells with a total of 550 grids in the eastern range of the park, wherein soil samples were analyzed from 23 grids. Moreover, applying the tried and tested method of manually uprooting the IAP- *Chromolaena odorata* we revived an area of around 3 km² of grassland habitat in central and eastern ranges of the park, that would benefit highly threatened species such as the One-Horned Rhinos, Pygmy

Hog, Hog Deer, Bengal florican among others. Of these, an area of 3-hectare (area which used to have > 90% invasion by IAPs) is fenced using solar-powered electric fence to protect it from cattle grazing and aid in revival of native grassland. In addition to this, for management of problematic native trees, 941 *Bombax ceiba* trees were marked and 580 trees were girdled.

In the Orang National Park (ONP), another abode of grassland dependent species, we surveyed around 6.99 km² grassland habitat to record the presence of IAPs using grid cells of 30X 30 m and recorded presence of IAPs in 7118 grids. *Chromolaena odorata* was uprooted from 4.6-hectare area while in 9-hectare area we cut the *Chromolaena* plants. The *Mimosa diplotricha*, another IAP was removed from 6.3 ha. Besides, to manage native problematic trees, we girdled 679 *Lagerstroemia spp.*



Youths from local communities uprooting the IAPs

Photo- ERCD, Aarnayak



Girdling of Bombax trees in Manas National Park

Photo- Parag Deka



An eco-restoration plot established in the buffers of Raimona National Park

Photo- TRCD, Aaranyak

COMMUNITY-BASED HABITAT RESTORATION INITIATIVE

The restoration of degraded habitats in Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKL) has been prioritized, and consultations with 16 jhumia families who practices Jhum (slash and burn cultivation) traditionally were done. Furthermore, another 16 households were consulted to work towards agroforestry-based livelihoods and habitat restoration models. To aid the restoration and supplement livelihoods, a community-based plant nursery was established in Kohora, which had produced over 20,000 saplings of native plant species to contribute for plantation in the habitat restoration areas and in the homestead areas.

To encourage creation of backyard nurseries to boost availability of plants for habitat revival, local economy and human well-being, community consultations were conducted with 33 households in KKL.

The greater adjutant stork, locally known as “hargila” mainly inhabits tall trees in human-use areas. We have been working with the

IMPROVING HABITAT AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

The Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Jorhat district of Assam, famous for harbouring a rich diversity of primates and other wildlife species, will gain immensely through habitat expansion and restoration. With a long-term goal of habitat restoration, we purchased around



Making of bundh at HL AF model by the members

Photo- Aarnayak

local communities to save the nesting and roosting trees of these birds, which also benefits other threatened species such as the lesser adjutant storks. We are working towards secur-

ing habitats of these threatened birds, by saving the trees from being cut down and plantation of native trees in recent years which has led to increase in nesting colonies and the bird population.

0.5 hectare (4 bighas) of land adjacent to the sanctuary for expansion of the habitat. We established baselines through documentation of biodiversity, as well as developed visual communication materials for raising awareness and gathering conservation support for the sanctuary at local as well as global scale. We conducted a systematic vegetation survey across an area of 421 km² in and around Raimona

National Park in western Assam, by laying 66 quadrats of 100 m² to collect data on the trees, shrubs, herbs, and grass species abundance and diversity, along with the canopy cover, dry leaf litter and bare ground percentage. In addition to this, efforts were made to understand the prevalence of burning and its effects in the park through systematic sampling efforts. Two micro-watersheds in the buffer area of the



Photo- MPCD, Aaranyak

A bird's eye view of a restored habitat near Hollongapar Wildlife Sanctuary

park were identified to initiate conservation and eco-restoration activities where communities are significantly dependent on water from the Protected Areas for agricultural and livelihood activities.

Besides, using participatory GIS tools, we prepared land-use land-cover maps for three fringe villages around Raimona National Park. In order to support the habitat restoration initiative, we established a nursery jointly with Kachugaon Forest Division to raise saplings and plant them in the degraded habitats of park and its buffer areas.

We conducted baseline field surveys on the current conservation status and threats of the wildlife corridors along the riverine landscape of Orang Tiger Reserve.

CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION FOR THE ENDANGERED GOLDEN LANGURS

The Golden Langur is an Endangered primate, which is endemic to India's Assam and neighbouring country of Bhutan. The species has a narrow distribution range, stringent conservation action is essential to ensure its long-term survival. During 2022-2023, we conducted a study in the district of Bongaigaon, which harbours this Endangered primate, to identify the existing and potential corridors to facilitate their movement. We identified five existing corridors and three other potential corridors in the district. This study also identified three strategic points to develop canopy bridges to fa-

cilitate the langur movement. It is worth mentioning that in the recent years there has been an increase in golden langur deaths due to vehicle collisions and electrocution. This year we recorded death of three golden langurs (one adult male and two adult females) while crossing the highway, and the death of another two langurs (one adult male and one adult female) due to electrocution. Canopy bridges will aid in safe movement of the langurs. There is an ardent need to ensure safe movement of golden langur across the highway.

APPLYING GIS TOOLS FOR DELINEATION OF HABITAT

Remote sensing and GIS are important tools that can provide an



Photo- PRCD, Aaranyak

Forest staff during a training on Hoolock gibbon and its habitat conservation

insight on the status of wildlife habitats as well as understanding the history of the habitat. We apply these tools to delineate wildlife habitats and understand the change in habitats.

We conducted a site visit and created a database of Pabha Reserve and another three forest patches under Haltugaon forest division to understand the future scope for habitat restoration, which was shared with the Assam Forest Department as well. While implementing participatory GIS tools, we prepared land-use and land-cover maps for three fringe villages around Raimona National Park.

Analysing satellite imageries and conducting ground truthing, land-use land-cover maps were developed, including assessment of habitat connectivity in between the Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts of Assam,



Photo- Orang NP staff

Hands on GPS Training for frontline forest staff of Orang National Park

which are biodiversity-rich areas inhabited primarily by indigenous communities. We did geo-referencing of the Survey of India toposheet of 1:50,000 of entire Dima Hasao district of Assam to generate village level database.

In order to aid in the study design, we developed GIS-based

thematic maps, highlighting the fringe villages around Deepor and Doloni beels, two important wetlands of the state which are biodiversity rich, and provide excellent ecosystem services to the local communities around the wetlands.



LIVELIHOOD & SOCIAL ENTERPRENEURSHIP



Community women receive vermicompost training

Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak

The local communities who live in biodiversity-rich areas play a crucial role in safeguarding biodiversity, and their wellbeing is intricately intertwined with the wellbeing of the ecosystems they share. These communities often have high dependence on forests, and bear the brunt of negative interactions between them and wildlife. With an aim to empower them and aid in supplementing livelihood that would offset the losses incurred due to human-wildlife conflict and reduce their dependency on forests, we work cohesively with them, helping in building capacity, hone their skills and generate additional income.

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF THE COMMUNITIES

The social and economic aspects of a community go a long way in understanding how a communi-

ty avails the ecosystem services and if such dependency is sustainable. This helps in constructing community-based conservation approaches. Taking that into account, we have carried out detailed socio-economic assessment along with implementation of ESMS (Environmental and Social Management Systems) in 10 Karbi villages in Kohora and Dipholu river basins in Assam to understand social and environmental vulnerability and further implement actions to mitigate those.

We have also conducted a baseline village survey for community profiling to document village level infrastructure, village level institutions, traditional cultural practices and source of income in the 96 fringe villages of the Raimona National Park, 30 forest fringe villages in Dima Hasao district of Assam and parts of Meghalaya. Further, we have conducted a

series of consultations in three prioritized fringe villages in the Western Range of Raimona National Park to generate information on the socio-economic situation, level of reliance on forest resources, people's perception on forest and wildlife and possible interventions to strengthen park-people relationship for greater benefit in conservation. In the state of Assam, human-elephant conflict (HEC) is on upsurge, and it is imperative to understand the underlying factors driving such conflicts in HEC prone areas to form mitigative strategies. In response to this, Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal was carried out in 16 villages of eastern Assam and four villages of West Garo hills in Meghalaya to aid in promotion of human elephant coexistence.

CAPACITY BUILDING TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD

Capacity building forms a cornerstone in any conservation efforts with an aim to develop sustainable livelihood options and opportunities for the fringe area communities of high-value conservation landscape. We have provided trainings and support based on the interests and social, economic, and cultural anatomy of the communities to supplement the livelihood opportunities for local communities and reduce their dependence on forests for subsistence.

We were successful in preparing and handing over two micro-plans for Sudempara and Palsiguri EDCs (Eco Development Committees) to conduct institutional building training. We have tried arranging systematic engagement with cattle farmers to promote awareness on scientific livestock farming and pig rearing and avoid outbreak of epidemics like African Swine Fever (ASF). Almost 80% of the total cattle population of 1176 cattle were also periodically vaccinated during the period. Six capacity development training on different livelihood options such as farm-based livelihood practices like goatery and piggery, and activities specialized on establishing food processing units. All of these were organized among the selected 54 INREs. Moreover, we have successfully facilitated the formation of Farmers' Producer Company (FPC) called Swmkhwr Bilai FPC in Kokrajhar district under NABARD for promotion of piggery.



During a training on Natural Dye

Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak



During a Goat distribution programme

Photo- CLD, Aaranyak

Besides these, two project preparatory meetings among Adivasi community, EDC and self-help groups (SHGs) members in the surrounding areas of Manas National Park were organised. Institutional build-up training was organized for 300 members of 34 SHGs from the fringe villages EDCs under Bansbari Range of Manas National Park. Similarly, 290 women from 27 SHGs were given training on mushroom cultivation along with distribution of mushroom spawn for cultivation.

With an aim to build capacity

and supplement livelihood of the fringe villagers of rhino-bearing areas such as the Kaziranga and Orang National Parks, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries, we provided trainings and supported them with various tools. We conducted six workshops for local communities on livelihood opportunities and trained 150 people on organic farming and vermicomposting, animal husbandry, cutting and tailoring and nature-based farming practices. We supported the local farmers with five vermi-

compost tanks in Kaziranga and Pobitora to encourage organic farming around the rhino-bearing areas. These farmers were trained in the previous year and realizing the potential of use of vermicompost they have now started producing vermicompost in their backyards for their own use and selling of the surplus quantity. The benefits of using vermicompost is two-fold – reduction of pollution of ecosystem, thus preventing negative impact on the human health and wildlife, and providing alternative livelihood to the fringe villagers.

SUPPLEMENTING LIVELIHOOD

We are working with the local communities and encouraging them to cultivate crops that are less palatable to the elephants and can yield good market value so as to help them offset the losses incurred due to human-elephant conflict. In high-HEC areas such as the districts of Golaghat, Udalguri, Baksa and Goalpara we have supported local farmers and women groups with crops such as turmeric, taro, black lentil. Cultivation of such crops act as effective HEC mitigation tool and facilitate coexistence.

With an aim to reducing forest-dependency of local communities and supplement their income, we have supported local communities with more than a hundred goatery, and winter seeds/rabi crops such as red lentils, peas, potato, coriander and other leafy vegetables to 25 farmers around Manas National Park.

We have established network and invited expert Prof. Jitu Ran-



Tailoring training to forest fringe women in Kaziranga

Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak

jan Chetia from Dibrugarh University for an interaction with indigenous Bodo people to facilitate research on a locally made wine to facilitate value-addition to wine brewed by the community in traditional ways.

ENHANCING ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS OF THE LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The people who share their habitat with the Endangered Greater Adjutant Stork (GAS), have adopted the bird in their culture and turned it into motifs and design to add value to their weaving products which is aimed at generating livelihood and creating awareness on the conservation of these rare storks. We supported these women weavers with handloom, threads and yarns, and organised skill development workshops to hone their skill and develop an aptitude for entrepreneurial establishments.

In order to enhance the capacity of the fringe villagers around

Manas National Park, we conducted training on cutting and tailoring for the self-help groups, wherein they learned about tailoring techniques and making merchandise with different designs. Equipped with the training and support from us, the confidence of these women were boosted and they developed capacity to boost economic health of their respective families.

Another remarkable step to boost local economy and showcase skills and expertise of the indigenous Karbi community in Assam, Aaranyak supported establishment of a community-managed stall near Kaziranga National Park- the *PIRBI Karbi Ethnic Haat*. This stall was established to provide better market linkages to communities' farm and non-farm products to boost household finance and reduce their dependence on forest and its resources.



EDUCATION OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS



Photo- Aaranyak

The participants during a nature walk

Education outreach and communication are instrumental for the promotion of sustainability, conservation and well-being of nature. Environmental education is essential for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and its conservation. Outreach and communications on conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystem services and components of the environment is the key to address and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Reaching out to students, youths, local communities and policy makers promotes the adoption of sustainable use of natural resources and ensure coexistence.

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Sustainability education is the urgent response to the dramatic changes and challenges faced

by mankind due to alteration of the Earth's processes. Through our sustainability education programs we have trained 88 teachers from 44 different schools involving 1000 students across five districts of Assam to bring about personal and societal transformation. Altogether 132 students across the state were engaged in preparation of sustainability projects. A total of 13 awareness and sensitization programs were conducted involving 400 students in five districts of Assam focusing environment and sustainability education. Sustainability Congress is a platform provided to the younger generation to share their ideas, innovations and activities on environmental and sustainability education, started from 2022.

The First Sustainability Congress

was organized on hybrid mode where five sustainability projects were showcased. It is worth mentioning that 78% of the total participants had their first-time experience of availing such platform.

"Amar Bagisa" (Our Garden) an experiential learning program named has been initiated for at the Chandrasing Rongpi Memorial High School, Kohora in the Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong Landscape as a model to engage students in scientific farming utilizing curriculum based theory and practices. So far 60 students have been engaged during 2022-23.

"Janu Aaha" (Let's Know) campaign was formulated to sensitize school students as well as inhabitants of fringe villages on

importance of wildlife conservation. The programs were designed to orient participants towards wildlife conservation and instill in them a sense of responsibility towards conservation of wildlife and their habitats. The participants were engaged in interactions and group discussions, provided with leaflets on wildlife conservation and wildlife documentaries were screened. Four-such campaigns were organized close to rhino-bearing areas that reached out to 580 targeted participants.

In Dadara learning session with children was conducted to teach about reuse and upcycling of waste materials. In addition outreach program were conducted with an aim to make school students aware about their relationship with nature. Kids' re-wilding program was organized at Kuxol Kunwor High School, Pacharia where the students were provided with basic knowledge on the Storks of Assam and North East India, their lifecycle, breeding and habitat aided with videos on Storks for better learning experience.

For the newly appointed sub-Registrars under Assam Public Service Commission we facilitated a session on environmental awareness and social entrepreneurship organized by National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam.

Furthermore, we work closely with the school students. Under this initiative a total of 58 students from 10 schools around Manas National Park participated



An open air session on sustainability education

Photo- Aaranyak

in a daylong outreach program at Bansbari Range of the park, which included presentations, environmental games as well as safari inside the park.

Similarly, around 39 students and seven school teachers from five schools of fringe villages were taken on an Exposure trip to Assam State Zoo cum Botanical garden.

In order to sensitise Aaranyak staff on Environment Leadership and Community Engagement an outreach program was conducted in collaboration with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal at the Manas Community Outreach Center (MCOC).

Snake Conservation and Modern Treatment of Snake Bite A sensitization programme on



Students participating in bird watching session

Photo- Aaranyak



Participants during the second Orang Nature Camp

Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak

snake conservation and snake-bite treatment was conducted at Kalo Gaon Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar by Dr. Surajit Giri, who is an eminent snakebite specialist. Dr. Giri highlighted about various aspects of snakebite management which was attended by students, teachers, locals, and nature enthusiasts. As a resource person, Dr. Surajit Giri, eminent snakebite specialist.

NATURE CAMPS TO INCULCATE CONSERVATION VALUES

Nature camps are one of the most effective means to reconnect people with nature by instilling in them a sense of belongingness towards nature and its immeasurable services. One such

rewilding camp for well-being of nature and human beings was organized at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary where 64 students and nine teachers from six different schools of Assam participated. During this 2-day camp students were engaged in nature-oriented activities and interactions with conservationists, foresters, wildlife biologists, wildlife photographers and filmmakers.

A 25-day Summer Nature Camp was organized at Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve for Higher Secondary school students with an objective to orient them towards nature conservation. The camp facilitated learning of academic courses as well as participation in environment education. Teachers and guest teach-

ers imparted academic lessons to the students for 20 days, while the remaining five days were dedicated for sensitization of students towards conservation.

While a second edition of the Orang Nature Camp based on the theme "Connecting Kids towards Nature Conservation" was conducted with 35 students from six schools of the fringe areas. This 3-day camp was jointly organized with the Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve Authority.

Aaranyak in partnership with Bodoland University, Kokrajhar and Ultapani Bathow Research society conducted a 'Nature Camp cum Field Training' in Ultapani Forest Range of Chirang Reserve Forest. A total of 25 Aaranyak's members partici-

pated in the camp wherein they learned many aspects of ecological research and conservation activities through theory classes, field visits, interactions with the experts and hands-on sessions which included nature walks, bird watching, village walks and social surveys to understand the perception of local communities towards local environmental issues and challenges. Besides they were taught how different tools such as the Remote Sensing and GIS are useful in wildlife conservation, along with importance of data analyses and interpretation, effective ways to mitigate human wildlife conflict among other pressing issues.

NATURE AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

Nature plays a vital role in human well-being, providing essential resources, clean air and a sense of tranquility contributing to physical and mental health. We organized a free health check-up and awareness camp at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (Range Office campus) for the frontline staff in association with the Indian Medical Association - Guwahati Branch, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Guwahati Wildlife Division. The camp was attended by 150 frontline staff and their family members as well as natives of adjacent areas.

Focusing on women health and hygiene a health campaign was organized at Kuxol Kunwor High School, Pacharia in collaboration with the B. Barooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) and Hargila Army. This campaign was for organized with



Photo- Aaranyak

Tree hugging to connect children with nature

the motive to prioritize on women health issues and protecting them from oral, breast and cervix cancer. Women from Dadara and Pacharia attended the campaign and underwent health screening. Another free health check-up was organized for the community of Pacharia village. A team of three physicians and 10 health workers screened more than 400 people. Besides, we conducted a campaign on environmental education, health and hygiene at Kuxol Kunwor High School, Pacharia focusing menstrual hygiene, distribution of sanitary pads and also highlighted the benefits of using low cost and eco-friendly menstrual cups.

MASS OUTREACH USING MEDIA

Media swiftly conveys information reaching wide audience stimulating behavior change, influencing public opinion and encouraging positive changes in society. Six programs on various issues of science and environment - snakebite management, nature and human well-being, climate change adaptation, etc. were broadcasted through All India Radio Guwahati and Nagason stations aligning with the objectives of Prasar Bharati. More than 25,000 people have been reached out through these programs.

Two documentaries focused on grassland recovery by managing invasion of alien species (IAP) in



Photo- MPCD, Aaranyak

Aaranyak's communication official during field work

Manas National Park and mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) and facilitation of coexistence were produced.

The BBC News shot on Greater Adjutant Stork conservation activities at Dadara and Pacharia for UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2022, to Dr. Purnima Devi Barman. Hargila Army, community members and interns facilitated process.

Media Production & Communications Division (MPCD) has produced a 3-minutes long film on the functioning of Aaranyak's Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) initiative and how it helps the inhabitants of HEC prone areas to mitigate conflict with elephants.

An online magazine cum digital



A poster popularising science

platform for biodiversity and environmental issues of northeast India, EcoNE (www.econe.in), publishing several articles in various formats such as text, photo and video stories, multimedia stories, talks and interviews, infographics etc is developed and managed by us. A total of 15 articles have been published on various issues related to environment and biodiversity of North-east India in the last one year. A new section “EcoViews” has been launched. Our team have developed illustrations, infographics and short videos on different issues of wildlife conservation and published in different places in order to generate awareness among public. Assamese dubbing of five science communication films of Vigyan Prasar have been completed as part of SCOPE – Science Communication in Assamese. Aaranyak provided around 400 books on Climate Change and

Tiger to different stakeholders to augment conservation efforts.

Dr. Partha J Das of WATCH appeared in a TV Talk Show in the NEWS 18 channel where he expressed his views on rainfall, climate change and flood situation of Assam and Guwahati. Dr. Das also participated in a TV discussion recorded at the studio of NE Now where he spoke on the issues of urban flooding in Guwahati. He also mentored a fact-finding team of journalists and researchers called ‘Climate Fact Check’ in the capacity of a climate specialist. Dr. Das contributed to feature articles and explainers by giving input, expert comment, and scientific perspectives on various global as well as regional issues on climate change and environment covering India and Sri Lanka, published on the website www.climatefactchecks.org.

OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Education, awareness and outreach program for local communities empowers people, enhances their knowledge and skills and enables communities to address challenges by fostering self-sufficiency and resilience. Two such general meetings were held with all the members of Swmkhwr Bilai Farmer Producer Company (FPC) in Jharbari and one general meeting among the stakeholders of Swmkhwr Bilai FPC at Jharbari, Kokrajhar. Around 12 consultation meetings were organized with Self Help Groups (SHG) in Bhuyanpara and Kokilabari areas. Four community consultations were held to develop an Environmental and Social Management System in the Daodhara area. A public meeting was conducted with Khilina Farm-ers Producer Company Ltd. for discussion on their future road

map. A total of 11 focused group discussions (FGD) were carried out with the SHG members of Bhuyanpara Cluster and Kokilabari, beneficiaries of Panbari clusters, Chowrang (No.1), Panbari along with the beneficiaries of previous projects at Kokilabari and Gorumara. We also conducted two surveys on willingness assessment at Kumguri, Daoharu village and Adibasi Chuba under Kokilabari cluster. Two meetings were held with the beneficiaries of Daoharu, Kumguri, Hatijan and Adibasi Basti villages at Hatijan.

A nature connection pilot survey was also conducted in the schools of fringe villages under Bansbari Range of Manas National Park to understand the community's perception on their relation with nature.

Awareness programmes with different stakeholders were conducted around various Protected Areas. One such awareness program was carried out with Eco Development Committee (EDC) members at D'Ering WLS in coordination with the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department.

Around Kaziranga National Park 12 community awareness programs on pre and post-flood preparedness were organized for community emphasizing local conservation issues, conflict mitigation and morale boosting of the VDP and EDC members to facilitate networking among various stakeholders. In addition to these, Aaranyak in collaboration with Biswanath wildlife division and Upaityaka organised pre-flood awareness campaigns in Koroioni village of Nagsankar



Photo- GACP, Aaranyak

Community women came together for Hargila conservation

Range, and Ahotguri near Raunamuk for the fringe villagers and students. This campaigns were aimed at promoting awareness, as the animals might stray out due to rise in water level in its natural habitat during the flood. We highlighted how the people around the fringes must be vigilant and facilitate animal protection, focussed on flood preparedness, rescue, and monitoring. The programs reached out to around 2500 people including village heads, VDP members, EDC members besides native people.

Interactions were held with the women in Hargila Army School where they meditated together and shared about their childhood, school and education highlighting their shortcomings in getting proper education due to family issues or responsibilities and heed not paid to girl child's education. This helped them open up about this social issue, and how the conservation platform have shown them a new horizon and empowered them.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Hargila Army in collaboration with a pathsala organized a session for women on gender equality, climate education and climate justice.

COEXISTING IN HARMONY

Coexistence in harmony with wildlife is essential for the well-being of ecosystems and human communities encouraging sustainable practices, habitat restoration and ensuring welfare of wildlife. A street play on Eco-Friendly Diwali was performed in Dadara and Singimari by the community members and interns, which attracted a huge crowd. This campaign helped in generating awareness to celebrate Diwali in ecofriendly manner and to avoid crackers highlighting the adverse impacts on birds and animals. This campaign was led by Dr. Purnima Devi Barman and Hargila Army.

On the momentous occasion of



Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak official interacting with the local communities

India hosting the G20 summit, delegates and guests of the summit visited Dadara, Kamrup. They were welcomed by community members and the Hargila Army, however, on that day a three and a half month baby Hargila fell from its nest. Our rescued team rescued it and safely handed over to young bird to the Assam Forest Department. It was an honour to showcase the dedication of people and share our conservation journey with the G20 guests.



Photo- GACP, Aaranyak

Outreach on green Diwali celebration by community women in Kamrup

EDUCATING PEOPLE ON THREATENED SPECIES

Educating people about threatened species is crucial for their conservation. Understanding the issues of survival of threatened species through awareness, education and information fosters empathy and support of their conservation among individuals, communities, civil bodies, societies, youths and students.

“Rhino Goes to School”, our signature campaign on greater one horned Rhinos is aimed at promoting awareness and conservation by educating school students on global population distribution, lifespan and conservation needs so that the future generation develop deep affinity towards this ancient animal. Altogether 41 school programs were carried out reaching around 6000 students from fringe villages of Rhino-bearing areas of Assam. The programs were facilitated by expert talk and presentations, environmental education game,



Photo- GACP, Aaranyak

Community women spreads awareness on Hargila conservation

open quiz, Rhino poster drawing and presentation. The popularity of the program has encouraged us to form a “Nature Club for Rhino” in Bonkual Govt. ME School as a spin-off. As an extension of the program, we now undertake periodic visit to fringe areas and schools as well.

In a bid to inculcate love and facilitate coexistence, we celebrated Hargila Panchamrit at Dadara. An

Argentinian filmmaker made a documentary on this event, and the love and care provided by Hargila army for the conservation of the birds. A stall was also exhibited to showcase all the art and traditional weaving craft by Hargila Army members at Pachariya. Moreover, many kids participated and were inspired by our youth team members. Pranita, a woman, weaver and a farmer displayed her alluring artistry of

Hargilas weaved on traditional Chador Mekhela. She has inspired many to explore innovative weaving patterns as well as spreading message of conservation through her work.

To sensitize Forest Guards of the Assam Forest Department, we conducted a session on “Breeding behaviour of Greater Adjutant, Community Conservation and Women Empowerment” at Dadara and Pacharia.

SENSITIZATION TO CURB WILDLIFE CRIME

Under the novel initiative D.E.T.E.R.S. (Disrupt and End Trade of Endangered and Rare Species) 26 workshops/sensitization programs were conducted across different states of North East India. Of these, five workshops were arranged targeting more than 500+ young school and college students to make them aware of the crimes related to wildlife and its products. Twelve sensitization workshops were conducted for officials of State Police from Nagaland, Manipur and Assam, and officials of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) benefitting more than 400 participants. The forces were made aware of the problem arising due to illegal trade of wildlife in the region.

CAMPAIGNS FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

Rivers are biodiversity rich ecosystems and crucial for human well being. Clean rivers are essential for the environment, human health, economy and over



Photo-LAD, Aaranyak

A workshop on transboundary wildlife crime prevention



Photo-WATCH, Aaranyak

A brochure called ‘নদী, মানুষ আর সমাজ: প্রসঙ্গ কলং’ was launched by Dr. Manik Kar

all societal well-being. Pitching on the campaign for clean rivers, one brochure and three posters were published with an appeal to public to keep the Bharalu River of Guwahati city clean. These awareness materials also contain information on how citizens can discharge their duty and responsibility to protect and rejuvenate the rivers. This campaign was carried out as part of a project ‘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 State Innovation and Transformation Ayog (SITA), Government of Assam.

A brochure on the Kolong River titled “Nadi, Manuh and Samaj: Prasanga –Kolong” was prepared jointly by Aaranyak and the Laokhowa Burachapori Abhayaranya Sangrakhyan Samiti, Nagaon. The brochure was released in a consultation workshop held at

Samaguri College, Nagaon.

In additon we conducted a series of orientation programs on conservation of aquatic biodiversity for self-reliance and well-being in Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Morigaon, Darrang, Goalpara, Chirang districts of Assam. This initiative emphasized on multifarious connections of nature particularly aquatic biodiversity for human well-being emphasizing on conservation of local waterbodies for ecology, rural economy, culture as well as water security benefits. Around 650 individuals were reached effectively through this campaign.

Aaranyak and Bijni College jointly organised a day long workshop on 'Aquatic Biodiversity and Human Well-being & Waste Management' at the premises of Bijni College. Prof. Saroj Kr. Pasayat, the Vice-Principal of Bijni College spoke on the different initiative taken by the Swachh Campus Initiative Cell of the college, while Aaranyak's members and officials took sessions on waste management with special reference to aquatic biodiversity, connection of conserving aquatic biodiversity and human well-being livelihood opportunities, current threats to the aquatic biodiversity, and local solution to minimize it.

NAVIGATING WITH THE SATELLITES

Geospatial knowledge has an effective role in monitoring and managing natural resources, tracking climate change effects, planning, optimizing location fa-



A snapshot from outreach event on aquatic biodiversity conservation

Photo-EEECBD, Aaranyak



The WACTH team during a survey on the bank of the Saru-Sola Beel, Guwahati

Photo-WATCH, Aaranyak

cilities for wildlife conservation and early warning. We collaborated with the Pollution Control Board Assam under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) for series of awareness programs and delivered presentation on "Urban Biodiversity - A scenario of Guwahati with major issues" organized in Arya Vidyapeeth College, Pragjyotish College and Guwahati College.

We conducted classes on "GIS and its application in habitat

mapping" for the sixth semester students of Department of Zoology, North Lakhimpur College. A field trip was also carried out for hands-on training of GPS and mobile GPS app for the students in Kakoi Reserve Forest.

During Bodoland International Knowledge Festival, we interacted with the audience using a land Use/Land Cover map of BTR region. Similarly, spatial map of Raimona National Park, Manas Tiger Reserve and Protected Area of As-

sam were displayed in our stall . A talk "The Science of Where" was delivered on the occasion of National Science Day in New Guwahati Adarsha High School, Noonmati. On the occasion of World Wildlife Day around 60 students of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsh Mahavidyalaya were addressed on the "Applications of Geospatial Technology in Wildlife Research and Conservation"

EXHIBITION EVENTS FOR MASS OUTREACH

Aaranyak took part in the 49th Karbi Youth Festival, one of the oldest ethnic festivals of NE India, held at Taralangso of Diphu Town of Assam from 15th to 19th Feb, 2023. We showcased our various community based sustainable livelihood interventions and conservation initiatives, natural resource management approaches, community based enterprise as well as scientific and research based approaches to conserve the rich biodiversity of the region to ensure well-being.

Another important event where Aaranyak participated was during the 4-day Bodoland International Knowledge Festival (BIKF) 2023, organised by the Bodoland University (BU) and Bodoland Territorial Council authority from February 27 to March 2, We set-up an exhibition stall with various Information Education and Communications materials and publications of Aaranyak. In addition, our conservationists working extensively in BTR region showcased their research-based conservation work,



Group photograph with participants of customised training on supervised image classification

Photo- GTAD, Aaranyak



Aaranyak official presenting a research paper during Bodoland International Knowledge Festival

Photo- Aaranyak

community-based approaches for safeguarding human wellbeing, nature-based solutions, use of technologies, natural resource management approaches and community-based enterprises through talks and posters. An interactive exhibition on impactful conservation work through photo stories, documentaries on environmental themes, and interaction with the visitors were held. A spot contest was held in the exhibition premises specially to share observation of the young students on local environmental issues that they know about.

NATURE WALKS AND BIRD WATCHING

Aaranyak conducted a nature walk and bird watching programme in Garbhanga Reserve Forest for 25 people 25 to orient them towards nature conservation and portray the rich biodiversity of Grabhanga forest complex.

Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve Authority in collaboration with Kaziranga study centre, JDSG College and Rhino Nature's Cell, CNB College, Bokakhat organised another



A group photo with participants from nature walk and bird watching

Photo- Aaranyak

such session near Panbari Reserve Forest to promote interest in bird watching and nature observation among students and to teach them basic bird watching skills.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE “DAYS”

We observe various days dedicated to wildlife and environment to raise awareness and inculcate a conservation-sensitive behaviour. Given, Aaranyak in collaboration with other agencies observed the World Environment Day across the state and beyond. In Kamrup district's Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Aaranyak was invited to speak on the rich biodiversity of northeast India and its significance, and on anthropogenic pressure and sustainable living.

In eastern Assam's districts of Di-



An outreach programme on World Environment Day

Photo- Aaranyak

brugarh, Tinsukia, and Sivasagar a range of environmental concerns including the need of biodiversity conservation, human elephant conflict mitigation, and superstitions concerning snake conservation were the subjects of interaction with local communities, along with plantation drives, outreach through street play,

essay competitions and environmental games. On the occasion, a radio programme on 'Relevance of World Environment Day in the present context' was broadcasted through All India Radio, Dibrugarh, wherein Aaranyak's member Dr. Tikendrajit Gogoi took part as a panelist, which was moderated by Aaranyak's mem-

ber Dr. Sailendra Mohan Das.

Around Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, we participated in a cleanliness drive under Burapahar Range area, organized by Kaziranga National Park Authority in all the animal corridors of Kaziranga the preceding day. While on 5th June, five outreach events were conducted, including a poster competition in Bokhuwal Chitrakala Vidyalaya, a plantation and seedling distribution in Diring in collaboration with Diring Bagisa LP School, and in Bosagaon, an awareness meeting, plantation and seedlings distribution in Srimanta Sankardev Sangha Jilla Namghar in Bokakhat in collaboration with Sewa Bahini, Srimanta Sankardev Sangha, Bokakhat and an awareness meeting and art competition in Kaziranga Chitrakala Vidyalaya. Altogether, we reached out to 950 people through these series of events on the day.

In Baripukhuri village of Bongaigaon district, where majority of the villagers belong to the fisherman community were reached out to highlight the importance of maintaining ecological balance of the Tamranga beel ecosystem through conservation of local fish species, and other plant and animal diversity for their own wellbeing.

Aaranyak teamed up with the Kolkata Assamese Cultural Association (KACA) to organise a sensitization campaign at the Assam Bhawan, Kolkata. Miranda Das, the Deputy Secretary of Assam Bhawan spoke on the occasion, besides, a talk on

how it is important to conserve the nature if we want to sustain ourselves by Aaranyak's members, and an art competition was held. Aaranyak's members Anjan Gupta and Chandamita Goswami facilitated the event.

Aaranyak observed the World Wetlands Day at Barjuli village near Doloni beel of Bongaigaon district in collaboration with Aie Valley Forest Division, Department of Botany, Abhayapuri College and Eco Club & Environment & Climate Cell of Abhyapuri College, wherein 20 young boys and girls from fringe villages and students from Abhayapuri College were selected as "Wetland Mitra" and pledged to protect the wetland. They were gifted with T-shirt and cap. This was followed by a drawing contest for the students of lower primary schools.

Aaranyak collaborated with the Department of Environmental Science (DES), Gauhati University and Kamrup East Forest Division. During the event, which had activities both indoors (Seminar Hall, DES) and activities around Silsako and Khamranga Beel. The objective of the event was to focus on the role of youth engagement in wetland conservation.

Aaranyak collaborated with the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Abhayapuri College and organised an open meeting in Bongaigaon on the occasion of World Wildlife Day highlighting the threat of vehicle collision of Golden Langurs. "Control vehicle speed and Save Golden Langurs" was the slogan of the meeting. The golden langurs fall

prey to speeding vehicles where their attempt to cross the NH-117 near Kakoijana Reserve Forest, which is famous for the Endangered Golden Langurs.

In Tinsukia district's Ujani Sadiya HS School we held a plantation drive and an outreach programme, while at Makum College, along with the college's Eco-club and National Green Corps, we conducted essay competitions to mark the Earth Day.

The International Biodiversity Day (IBD) was observed in Bonkual, Bokakhat in collaboration with Bonkual Chitrakala Vidyalaya with a day long program with plantation, seedling distribution and an art competition, participated by 240 students. A total of 100 seedlings were distributed from Aaranyak Geleki nursery.

During another event on IBD the women offered prayers to trees and ponds of the village. A group of women was formed to protect the ponds, and they are recognised as "Pukhuri Prahari" (Pond Protectors) to monitor the ponds.

Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park Authority jointly celebrated the World Rhino Day in Agoratoli Range, Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Around 25 students and two faculty members of Rangagora Junior College, took part where we highlighted the need of rhino conservation and the vital role students and common citizen need to play for its conservation.



LEGAL & POLICY ADVOCACY



During a wildlife crime prevention workshop in Manipur

At Aaranyak, we understand the importance of impacting the various legal and policy-level advocacy to bring in the attention of decision makers in aiding conservation in the long run. We have constantly campaigned for strategy reforms to effectively conserve wildlife and its habitat. We have been successful in building strong relationships with various enforcement and non-enforcement government agencies to collaborate and positively direct decisions related to conservation.

CRIME-RELATED AND LEGAL INTERVENTIONS

One of our main interventions is tackling wildlife crimes through capacity building of various government enforcement agencies in areas related to local wildlife crimes, documentation, and crime scene investigations. We

provide both training and collaborate with government bodies like Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the various State Legal Services Authorities and border security forces to initiate wildlife related discussions and interventions. We collaborated with the Office of the Superintendent, Integrated Custom Post at Moreh, Manipur which helped generate information and contact of

officials involved in checking smuggled wildlife goods across the India-Myanmar border. We constantly provide valuable input both in terms of information and intelligence regarding wildlife crime in the region. This year we provided such inputs to three Lead Intelligence Agencies (LIA), and held meetings held at the Sectoral HQ, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Rangia Campus.



A workshop on Wildlife crime prevention in Moreh

Photo- LAD, Aaranyak

Photo- LAD, Aaranyak



Photo- LSSB-Dirang, Arunachal

Wildlife crime prevention workshop with SSB

INTERVENTIONS AT
COMMUNITY-LEVEL

Our collaborations with policy stakeholders also extend to various community-related interventions. Workshops with Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village councils, Village Defence personnels and indigenous autonomous councils to promote the community's role in protecting the environment whilst supplementing the alternate livelihood also remains one of Aaranyak's focus to promote community-based conservation. We, in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Govt of India organized two such workshops in Assam, with a participation of around 100 people representing Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) members, village heads, Village



Photo- LAD, Aaranyak

Wildlife crime prevention workshop with Judiciary in Bongaigaon

Defence Parties personnel, and representatives from tea garden managements, and local communities. During these workshops we focussed on the crucial issue of how human well-being depends on nature's well-being and environmental health.

As the northeastern region of India is a biodiversity-rich region, and a transit point to the South Asian markets of illegal wildlife trade, this makes the region vulnerable to wildlife crimes. To counter, and garners support from the local communities we held series of meetings with the village council members from the fringe villages of D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. We formed a Community Surveillance and Monitoring Team (CSMT) which would form a line of defence against wildlife crimes.

We have been constantly liasioning and seeking influence for participatory Natural Resource Management-based sustainable livelihood policies, partic-

ularly in the three Autonomous councils of Bodoland Territorial Region, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous Council in Assam for the benefit of indigenous and local Communities living in forest fringe villages to promote coexistence and biodiversity conservation in the long run.

WORKING COHESIVELY WITH THE
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Aaranyak works in tandem with the government line departments and collaborates with various relevant agencies. This year too some crucial milestones were reached. Our sustained coordination with Guwahati Wildlife Division of Assam Forest Department and the district administration of Morigaon in Assam helped highlight the issue of livestock grazing in the rhino-bearing area of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

We reviewed existing laws, regulations and policies on environment and natural resource

management in Meghalaya to understand its impact on livelihoods and sustainable management and provide input to the Forest Department to amend relevant sections as may be needed. We consulted the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya on the preliminary findings of the socio-economic study conducted at fringe villages of Balapakram National Park, Nongkhylllem and Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuaries and prepared a roadmap for promotion of ecologically prudent an environmentally sustainable livelihood options for in-situ conservation of the enigmatic clouded leopard in the state.

For facilitating coexistence, Aaranyak attended a series of meetings with the Bodoland Autonomous Council and policy-makers of the region to discuss issues to mitigate human-elephant conflicts, habitat connectivity in the presence of the BTR CEM, shared knowledge and potential ways of advancing this.



Photo- LAD, Aaranyak

Wildlife crime prevention workshop for Village institutions in Karbi Anglong



HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION



Photo- Avijan Saha

A herd of elephants

Human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) occur due to competition between people, and wildlife for the same resource- habitat. These HWC are negative interactions that broadly includes physical damages such as crop foraging by wild animals, predation on domestic animals, property damages, human injury or death, and deliberate killing of animals. Consequently, HWC impinges on the health, and emotional well-being of people. Finding ways to mitigate these conflicts while preserving wildlife and their habitats is an ongoing challenge in conservation and land management. Strategies often involve using non-lethal methods to deter wildlife, creating buffer zones and implementing communi-

ty-based conservation initiatives.

PROMOTING HUMAN-ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE THROUGH ENAGEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Human-elephant interactions are mostly negative in the form of crop foraging, damage to property and infrastructure, and loss of human lives leading to financial burden and tendency of retaliatory killings, which poses threats to the survival of the elephants. Human-elephant conflict affected people, mostly in the rural areas use lethal and illegal electric fences to restrict elephant movement and protect their sub-

sistence livelihoods. These lethal fences cause elephant deaths, or even human deaths when they come in contact. To understand the scale of this problem, we conducted surveys in high HEC areas like Kamrup, Udalguri, Tamulpur, Baksa, Golaghat and Goalpara districts in Assam to identify the occurrence of lethal electric fences used to ward off elephants. This study helped us identify and prioritize the areas, which was shared with the Assam Forest Department and with Ministry of Power, Government of Assam in the form a report to aid in informed policy level decision and to protect the national heritage animal- the elephants, and the people.

The HEC incidents impinge on the safety of people and elephants alike, impacts food and nutrition security as well as biodiversity conservation. To mitigate these, we have engaged with local communities and supported them with around 26.7 km of community-managed solar-powered electric fences to protect the lives and livelihoods of people, without obstructing the elephant movement in high HEC zones of Goalpara, Baksa, Udalguri and Golaghat districts of Assam. The fences were installed along the cropfields, human-use areas and primary schools which were damaged by elephants.

As a mitigation tool to facilitate human elephant coexistence, we provided 235 rechargeable torch lights to the members of Anti Depredation Squads (ADS), Village Defence Parties (VDPs), local communities, and the Forest Department personnel in high HEC districts. Besides, 90 solar streetlights were installed in high HEC-affected districts of eastern Assam.

Considering that alerting people to elephant presence will effectively reduce accidental encounters between people and elephants, and thus reduce HEC. We initiated a community based early warning system called Elephant Conservation Network (ECN). The ECN is a volunteer group where villagers form a team to monitor elephant movement in their villages and share information through WhatsApp group, that serve as early warnings. This year we formed six ECN groups in high HEC villages of Assam. We held workshops with



Solar street light system installed in an HEC affected area

Photo- ERCD, Aaranyak



Handing over of solar fence to local solar fence committee

Photo- ERCD, Aaranyak



ECN members monitoring a house damage by wild elephants

Photo- ERCD, Aaranyak

these ECN members and share knowledge on elephant ecology and behaviour, potential HEC mitigation measures and how to monitor elephants, and pass on the information of elephant whereabouts to the villagers.

BUILDING BASELINE

We conducted a questionnaire survey to gain insights on how different indigenous practices are effective in mitigating human wildlife conflict in remote areas of South Garo hill district and East Khasi district of Meghalaya, and areas from Kamrup (R) district. We found that indigenous practices have their own values and significance to coexist with nature, and thus aid in biodiversity conservation.

RESCUING SNAKES



An exquisite photograph of a Cobra

Photo- Boyka Tamang

Our team has rescued more than 50 snakes, which included both venomous and non-venomous species such as the banded krait, Checkered keelback, Green

cat snake, white-lipped green pit viper, Copper-headed Trinket Snake, Monocled cobra, Common wolf snake in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape.



COMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS



A habitat snapshot

Photo- Aaranyak

Aaranyak works in tandem with Government line departments and local communities to complement the conservation efforts in safeguarding the region's rich biodiversity and people's wellbeing.

SUPPORTING WITH CONSERVATION KITS

With objective to complement conservation efforts for safeguarding the One-Horned Rhinos, and the Asian elephants along with other wildlife in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh we had provided conservation kits around the rhino-bearing areas and areas with high human-elephant conflict.

Around 23 torch lights and 20 raincoats were provided to the members of Village Defense Par-

ty (VDP) from the fringes of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. We provided such equipment in areas around the Kaziranga National Park (including the additions). We supported 170 VDP members under the Bokakhat Police station with the torchlights and sweaters, and another 30 sweaters to VDP members from the north bank of the river Brahmaputra. We handed over 50 torchlights and raincoats and 20 charge lights and raincoats respectively to the Biswanath Wildlife Division and Burhapahar Range.

We supported the local communities around D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh with 200 caps while 75 raincoats were handed over to the forest officials of the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

In order to support conservation of the rich wildlife and strengthen protection in the newly declared national park in Assam- the Raimona National Park, we provided ten radio communication devices and four motorbikes to the authority. We have also been supporting the capacity building of frontline staff of Raimona National Park for conducting SMART patrolling to improve patrol efficiency on ground.

Ten solar light systems were provided to Biswanath Wildlife Division and around 40 spotlights with solar panels were provided to the Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary for installation at the forest camps. Besides, we installed 10 solar



Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak

Solar kits presented to forest authority



Photo- TSRP, Aaranyak

Mushroom cultivation training for forest fringe women

streetlights in eight villages surrounding the sanctuaries to reduce accidental encounters with wildlife. Another six solar streetlights were installed in six villages in the eastern part of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve under Golaghat Division.

We provided four camera traps to monitor wildlife in the D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh.

CATTLE VACCINATION FOR PROTECTING WILDLIFE

We assisted the State Veterinary Department and Kaziranga National Park Authority during cattle vaccination in the fringe villages under Burhapahar Range of the park, to ensure security to the wildlife from transmission of diseases. We assisted in vaccination of around 4794 cattle from 806

households in 25 villages including two river isles (chapori). This was a joint activity by Kaziranga National Park Authority and State Veterinary Department where Aaranyak and other organizations working in the landscape assisted to reach maximum villages and ensure the maximum immunization of the cattle in the area.

MAPPING ESSENTIALS

Aaranyak's Geo-spatial laboratory has been in the forefront in supporting various Government and Non-government agencies with maps that help in research and decision-making. A map was prepared for the Dibru-saikhowa National Park upon request from the authority highlighting elephant-present blocks along with elephant corridors and shared with the relevant authority for

the proposed elephant population estimation 2023. Moreover, we also handed over a wall map of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Biosphere Reserve for display in the office of the Division Forest Officer, Tinsukia.

We developed a map on NAMP (National Air Quality Monitoring Program) stations within Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority and shared the same with Pollution Control Board, Assam.

Raising our concern on the proposed powerline installation plan at the Bhairab Proposed Reserve Forest, an important habitat for the globally threatened Golden Langur, we prepared a map suggesting alternate powerline installation possibilities and submitted an appeal to the office of the PCCF and HoFF, Assam.



Photo- RRCD, Aaranyak

Livestock immunization programme in the fringes of Kaziranga



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The sustainable use of natural resources needs a framework to be developed by the alliance of policymakers, researchers and the local stakeholders. Natural Resource Management (NRM) concerns activities such as forestry, agriculture, water allocation and tourism. NRM embraces watershed or catchment and landscape-scale management strategies, and engages with biodiversity conservation, control of pest plants and animals, maintenance of soil and water quality. This year we have worked towards bridging the gap between indigenous people and policymakers and evaluated the status of wetland and forest resources across the NE region.

MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCE

We have initiated the work of preparing 'Integrated Wetland Management Plan (IWMP)' for Doloni Beel and the Deepor Beel through the project 'Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands for local livelihood security and climate resilience: A research-based pilot intervention in the Deepor and Doloni Beel of Assam, India', launched in January 2023 with support from the Assam Forest Department and GIZ. In this regard, our experts attended a meeting on "Integrated Wetland Management Plan" at GIZ Regional Office, Guwahati.

We prepared a consolidated report on 'Advocating for a Water and River Management Policy in Assam through youth campaign and action' highlighting the study findings, which was carried out in partnership with Global Shapers (Guwahati Hub).



Photo- Aaranyak

An individual from Aaranyak's partner organisation having glimpse of forest in KKL

In order to understand the change in land use and land cover, and other necessary details, we developed thematic maps on LULC, stream ordering, watershed area delineation, slope, aspect, elevation and overall catchment area delineation of the Diphlu River watershed area in Karbi-Anglong till the confluence location of the Brahmaputra River. Thematic maps on LULC and bank line changes across the years were prepared for Majuli island district of Assam and the larger landscape.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

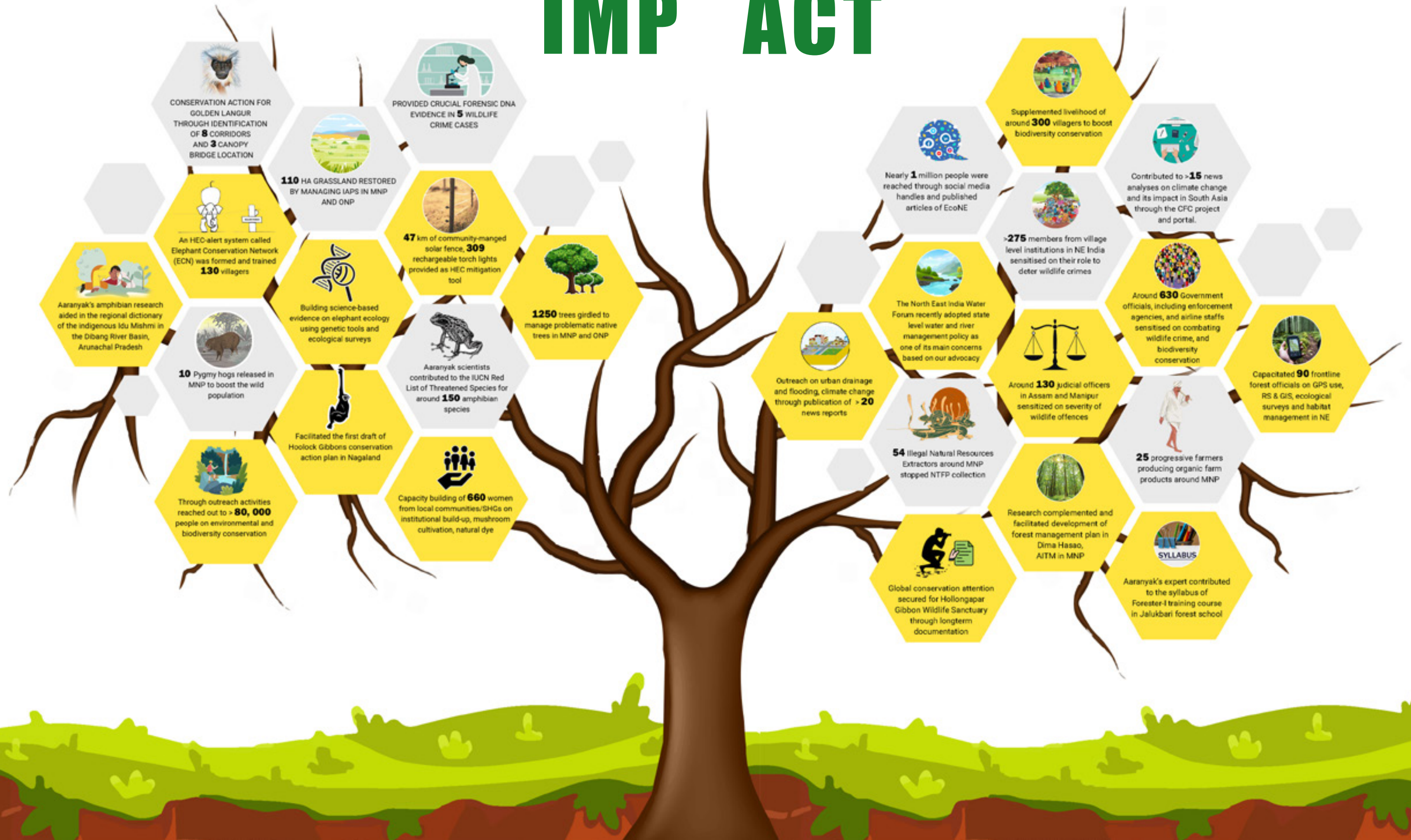
In the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKL), ten Rong Asar Amai (RAA)- traditional Karbi village, governance institution was engaged for all the village level activities to strengthen their

roles and responsibilities in the village development with an aim to strengthen decision-making on natural resources and its management.

We provided an orientation to the Eco-development Committee members and the forest staff from D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, through attendance of J4L (Journey for Learning) programme to have a firsthand experience of conservation of natural resources through community participation in KKL.

We worked towards building baseline of the fringe communities around the Protected Areas in Meghalaya to facilitate the future conservation and green livelihood engagement by Forest and other line departments.

IMP ACT



SUCCESS STORIES



Researcher in action at WGL Aaranyak

Photo- Udayan Borthakur

MARCHING EAST

The Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of Aaranyak is a flagship unit when it comes to the wildlife DNA forensic analysis in Northeast India. It is acting as the sole service provider in wildlife DNA forensic analysis in Northeast India, and in recent times have extended its service to the state of Arunachal Pradesh. This is expected to be instrumental in wildlife crime mitigation in the state in the coming years.



Practical session of vermicompost training in Kaziranga

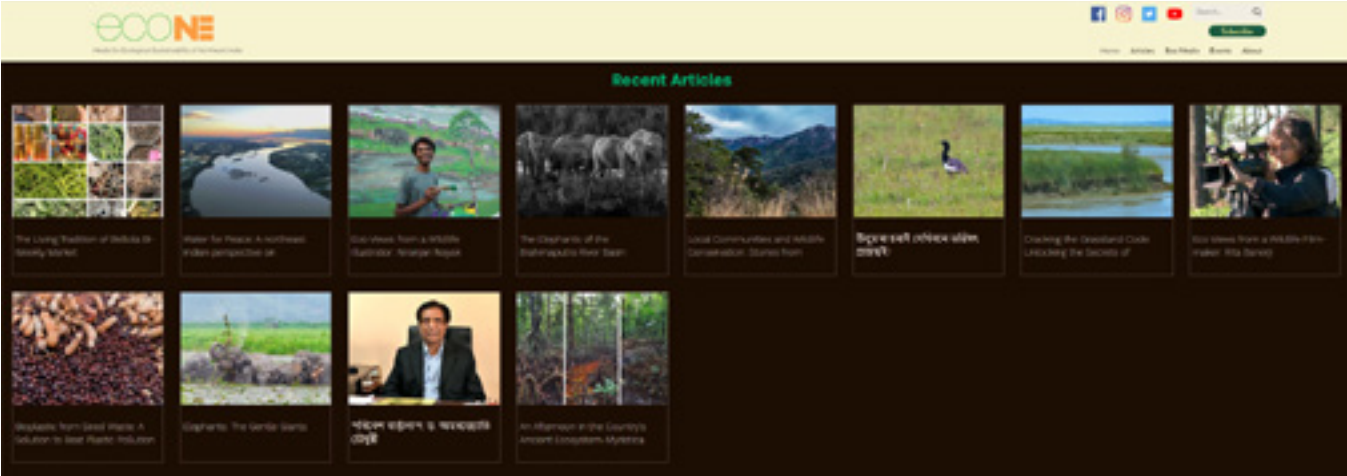
Photo- Aaranyak

GOING CLEAN AND GREEN

The rhino bearing PAs of Assam are surrounded by human use areas, primarily agricultural lands. We are working with the farmers around Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, building their capacity on using vermicompost through trainings and support. With these

efforts many farmers have now started producing vermicompost in their backyards for use in their own agricultural lands as well as for selling the surplus in the market. This has served as a stepping stone towards the goal of increased use of organic manure so as to reduce the negative impact of chemical fertilisers on

the wellbeing of both wildlife and people. Our efforts to promote organic farming among fringe area villagers have paid rich dividends given that targeted farmers from Japaripathar farmer group among them could earn Rs 10,000 and the efforts ended up reducing use of chemical fertilisers in the area.



A snapshot of EcoNe web portal

NORTHEAST’S FIRST DIGITAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

Aaranyak’s EcoNE- is a multimedia platform that tends to highlight stories, photos, videos and articles on northeast India’s biodiversity and environment conservation. We take pride in for EcoNE being the first ever and only digital platform from the region, and over the years have made substantial contribution through its publications.

COMBATING THE WILDLIFE CRIME

Aaranyak has been working diligently with enforcement agencies, judiciaries and other relevant department of the Government to combat wildlife crime through sensitization workshops and outreach. As a result of the multiple outreach programme conducted and the training materials provided to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam led to the seizures of Agar



A workshop on illegal wildlife trade with airport authority

Photo- LAD, Aaranyak



Aaranyak’s K9 unit in operation in Orang

Photo- LAD, Aaranyak

oil. The airline staffs were frequently in touch with our team for any wildlife trade related issues during the entire seizure process.

Besides, Aaranyak’s novel approach of deploying K9 dog squad to combat wildlife crime at strategic PAs in Assam have successfully assisted the forest officials in tracking suspects involved in wildlife offences.

A BIG LEAP

Aaranyak joined the Global Gibbon Network in 2022 as a founding partner to safeguard and conserve key element of Asia’s unique natural heritage, the singing gibbons and their habitats, by promoting participatory conservation policies, legislations, and actions.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Inculcating conservation sensitive behaviour among people, students and other stakeholders need a continuous and consistent effort. Aaranyak has been actively engaged in educating various stakeholders on biodiversity and environment conservation, and on people’s wellbeing since its inception. Last year in one such incident, students from Maharishi Vidya Mandir School, Birkuchi in Guwahati visited Aaranyak. The purpose of visit was remarkable, as the students “won” the visit to Aaranyak as prize for a competitive event held at the school. We acknowledge and appreciate the school authorities for such a unique step, and pledge to continue our good efforts so that we can motivate young minds towards nature conservation.

Taking opportunity of the special visit, the Environment Education and Capacity Building Division of Aaranyak interacted with students on biodiversity conservation.

WOMEN- THE FLAGBEARERS

The Greater Adjutant stork, a huge but highly threatened species mostly occur in the human-use areas. Protecting the birds become all the more difficult as it shares habitat with people, unless the people themselves stand up to protect it. This is what exactly happened in the villages of Dadara and Pachariya, near Guwahati where the women of these villages have come together and dedicated their lives to preserve the storks. A big group of around 10,000 women led by Aaranyak’s conservation biologist, Dr. Purnima Devi Barman has been working relentlessly to conserve and coexist with this magnificent bird for almost two decades now. With all the hard work put in, the population of the bird has increased drastically, and has found acceptance in in their culture and has become part of their lives. The women defenders were capacitated, and empowered which augmented their livelihood and helped them become economically independent as well. The conservation efforts to safeguard the birds through local community empowerment, has been highlighted globally through publications in esteemed dailies such as the New York Times, The Guardian magazine, Reader’s Digest India among others. These have substantially boosted up the confidence of these village folk and

they are determined more than ever to protect the stork.

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

Aaranyak’s continuous efforts to engage with local and indigenous communities across north-east India, who are the custodians of the rich biodiversity that the region harbour has led to many success stories, right from safeguarding people’s wellbeing through reducing human elephant conflict in areas of Aaranyak’s intervention, helping local Government to develop plans on sustainable resource management, and preserving habitats and wildlife. For our ongoing efforts in emphasizing sustainable management of natural resources to improve people’ standard of living and biodiversity conservation have caught attention of the Dima Hasao district administration, who have invited us to collaborate in developing a plan on sustainable resource management.

Our efforts through supporting and empowering the local and indigenous communities in human-elephant conflict (HEC) affected areas in Assam and Meghalaya with effective and low cost HEC mitigation tools such as solar-powered electric fence, cultivation of crops that are less palatable to elephants have promoted wellbeing of people and wildlife alike. In areas of our intervention in the high HEC affected districts in Assam, deliberate electrocution of elephants have been reduced by around 20%, along with benefitting more than 20,000 people by safeguarding their subsistence livelihood.

FUTURE ROAD MAP



Photo- Parag Deka

A Pygmy hog mother with its offsprings

SAVING THE PYGMY HOGS

The Pygmy Hogs being the rarest suid, habitat-specialist with narrow ecological distribution niche needs a comprehensive approach to safeguard the species. We have developed a holistic and dynamic conservation action plan with a multi-pronged approach. Under this plan we will continue the conservation breeding and preparation of hogs in pre-release sites for future reintroduction at suitable locations. We plan to facilitate breeding of at least 14 hogs, to produce around 40 hogs and maintain 80 Hogs in the captivity.

To reduce the risk of any disease spread to the captive pygmy hog population, community-based biosecurity will be continued wherein we will continue our work with 100 households of Mishng community around Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme pre-re-

lease center around Nameri National Park.

Moreover, we aim to release 18 hogs during this period in Manas, as a part of reintroducing 60 Pygmy Hogs in Manas by 2025. To secure around 10 km² pygmy hog habitat in MNP, we plan to continue our efforts in managing invasive alien plants through cyclic removal and girdling of native woody plants. Similarly, around 5 km² of grassland is targeted to be restored in Orang National Park. To understand the status of the pygmy hog (which was reintroduced previously), and Bengal Florican populations in ONP we shall monitor them using camera traps and sign surveys respectively.

RESTORING HABITATS

Habitat degradation and loss is one of the primary causes of rapid loss of biodiversity globally. To arrest biodiversity loss, pro-

mote human-wildlife coexistence and ensure people wellbeing we must work towards reversing habitat loss. With this aim we have a longterm plan of restoring and reviving habitats.

With an aim of long-term solution to reduce human-elephant conflict and secure habitats for wildlife and enhanced ecosystem services, we are working towards reviving around 100 ha area in Udalguri district through community engagement. In the upcoming year we will continue our efforts in restoring the habitat through plantation of native plants and managing invasive plants.

The grassland ecosystems in the protected areas such as Manas and Orang National Parks and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary are threatened by invasion of the invasive alien plants, and native woody plant encroachment. Through evidence-based ap-



Photo- ERCDD, Aaranyak

During a fieldwork on habitat conservation

proaches we are aiding in recovery of native grasslands to benefit grassland obligate species such as the one-horned rhinos, pygmy hog, hog deer to name a few. Habitat recovery needs a longterm investment and we shall continue our efforts in the coming years.

In Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a primate abode, we will secure the habitat through expansion, and associated change monitoring and documentation work.

HERPS

The Northeast India is rich in amphibian and reptiles diversity, and studies at genetic level is still in infancy from the region. We plan to work on DNA barcoding for the identification of amphibian species and resolve taxonomic complexity.

Another species, which needs research attention is the Assam Roof Turtles, and thus we plans



Photo- HRCD, Aaranyak

An Assam Roof Turtle basking in the sun

to study the species in Kaziranga National Park.

DISRUPT AND END TRADE OF ENDANGERED AND RARE SPECIES

Under the initiative of DETERS, we plan to expand the interventions in the eastern Himalaya region to reduce the incidences of wildlife crime. We plan to strengthen community surveil-

lance and monitoring, as well as collaborate with the national and international organizations to combat the trade on wildlife products.

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION APPROACH

To continue our work on natural resource management in Diffolu and Kohora River Basins in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape in Assam we will establish

strong communication network and bonding with the local and indigenous communities in the extended project sites. Further, we will strengthen the creation of model-based eco-restoration framework by integrating traditional knowledge systems and modern techniques for recovery of habitats and enabling coexistence with wildlife, and arrest biodiversity loss in the region. We shall continue our support in the Dima Hasao district to plan and implement natural resource management initiatives for the sustainable use of natural resources.

We are working with the local and indigenous communities to supplement the livelihood of the fringe people of biodiversity rich areas to reduce pressure on forests and offset losses incurred to them as a result of human wildlife conflict through capacity building trainings, supporting and hand-holding them to implement various livelihood opportunities and providing market links. We are currently working with around 1000 households across Assam and Meghalaya to augment their livelihood. Besides, community interventions through working with 10 Eco Development Committee and community volunteers in the fringe villages of MNP are planned.

CONSERVING THE PACHYDERMS

The Asian elephants being a wide-ranging and large bodied animals occur beyond the protected areas, which bring them in increased confrontation with people, mostly negative con-



Photo- Aaranyak

A training on tailoring for local women around Manas National Park



Photo- ERCDD, Aaranyak

A cropfield of alternative crops

frontations. To avert this, we are working with multi stakeholders using multipronged approach of habitat revival, generating baseline information on elephant movement patterns, empowering communities through capacity building, livelihood support, application of technology to mitigate HEC and promote coexistence, and educating villagers on HEC, and protecting people, property, and elephants, sensitising relevant Government Line

departments and conducting research to generate science-based information on elephant population. In 2023-24, we will continue with this multipronged approach to secure elephants, habitats and people's wellbeing. It is worth mentioning that we have developed an overarching and dynamic conservation action plan to protect the species and promote coexistence. Whilst the other pachyderm- the one-horned rhinos of which As-

sam is a stronghold, requires habitat improvement and zero poaching for longterm conservation. In the upcoming year, we will conduct applied research on rhino ecology, estimation process and habitat monitoring along-with engagement with key stakeholders in both Government and non-government sectors for reaching towards zero-poaching goal. shall be further strengthen and maintained.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

To promote environmental media communications, we aim to conduct capacity building workshops for various stakeholders and human resource development in Northeast India through consultation workshops, motivational seminars, and hands-on training modules. We shall also work towards developing a digital repository on Information Education and Communication (IEC) material, which will enable use of these material by various stakeholders in nature conservation and environmental protection. We aim to align our activities under the ambit of ‘One Health and Human Well-being’ and reach out around 3000 students the following year to develop a deeper understanding of the impacts of current practices on ecosystem services and encourage a shift towards environment friendly and responsible behaviour. For the same, we shall develop illustrative and engaging IEC materials. The youth of the country plays a vital role, and their energy will tapped to advance the cause of biodiversity conservation.



Photo- ERCDD, Aaranyak

Student field trip to Manas National Park

We shall capacitate around 50 youths and collaborate with different stakeholders for biodiversity conservation and safeguarding human well-being.

In western Assam, we shall initiate a nature connection programme by engaging with the school children from 12 schools in the fringes of the Manas National Park. Whereas, in the riverine landscape of the Orang Tiger reserve, we will conduct outreach campaigns to enable human wildlife coexistence, targetting educational institutions.

CONSERVING THE PRIMATES

The northeast region harbours some of the planet’s rarest and highly threatened primate species. To safeguard thos especies, we plan to conduct study to identify the existing and potential corridors in Golden langur habitats in its entire distribution range in India, which includes field survey in Kakojiana-Bamun hills Wildlife Sanctuary as well.

For conservation of the only ape species known to occur in India, the Gibbons we will facilitate in capacity building of the local communities and frontline forest staff across the gibbon-bearing areas in northeast India. We shall formulate the action plan for the conservation of hoolock gibbon in India. Using GIS tools, we will generate thematic maps for Western Hoolock gibbon habitats in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

SECURING WETLANDS

The wetlands are in dire need of conservation attention because wellbeing of people is intricately related to the health of the wetlands. We aim to prepare integrated wetland management plans of selected socioeconomically and ecologically important wetlands in the Brahmaputra River Valley in Assam. Furthermore, we shall continue documentation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation and

bio-engineering applications to flood and erosion mitigation for facilitating improved flood resilient infrastructure.

For the Doloni beel- an important wetland in western Assam, which provides livelihood to thousands of people in its fringes, we will conduct a study using GIS tools to generate thematic maps of its watershed’.

The team will continue its work on urban water governance and urban climate change, along with the development of a framework for loss and damage due to climate induced water hazards (flood, erosion, storm, landslide etc.).

APPLICATION OF GENETIC TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION

To aid in landscape level planning for conservation of the threatened species such as the Asian elephant and the Hoolock Gibbon in northeast India we will continue our longterm study at the species’ population level using genetic tools.

Further, as the region’s prominent and only facility we shall continue providing wildlife forensic DNA analysis support to the state Forest Departments in Northeast India as well as other law enforcement agencies and build capacity of local field offi-



Photo- Aaranyak

Ms. Patricia Dorn, Project Manager, NERAQ Project, GIZ- India speaking during a Community Consultation



Photo- Udayan Borthakur

Labwork in progress in Wildlife Genetics Labotarory of Aaranyak

cers in proper collection of forensic DNA evidences for aiding in wildlife crime investigations.

AARANYAK GETS BOOST WITH SUPPORT FROM GROW FUND

Aaranyak with support from GROW Fund by Edelgive Foundation conducted series of capacity building workshops and trainings for their staff. The workshops were conducted by the subject experts, details of which are provided below-

UNDERSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AND STRATEGIC APPROACH IN PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This workshop was conducted on 9th August 2022 by Mr. Anjan Choudhury who delved into the skills essential for project management, focusing on Shanon and Weaver's model of communication, and strategic planning abilities which was attended by 35 of Aaranyak's employees. The workshop further delved into communication models, effective listening, conflict resolution, stress management, and strategies for working with diverse groups.

A FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2022 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, ADMIN OFFICE AARANYAK

The workshop proved invaluable to the 26 attendees comprising Aaranyak employees. Facilitated by Mr. Tariq Aziz, the workshop extensively covered effective fundraising strategies, the importance of diversifying fundraising approaches, and the



snapshot from workshop on organizational development

Photo- Aaranyak

intricacies of managing the fundraising process. A focal point was the utilisation of social networks to enhance donor engagement and broaden the donor base. The event aimed to integrate fundraising seamlessly into Aaranyak's overarching organisational strategy, underlining its critical role in ensuring sustained conservation efforts.

AARANYAK BENEFITED FROM AN EXTERNAL EXPERT REVIEW AND STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION COORDINATED BY THE GROW FUND COMMITTEE

This event conducted on 30th September focused on comprehending Aaranyak's organisational thought processes and current trends, pinpointing any policy and compliance gaps, and fostering analytical approaches for effective problem-solving and

strategy formulation. The session aimed to craft both short-term and long-term strategies, integrating considerations for fundraising amidst national and global shifts. Led by an external expert, the review underscored Aaranyak's commitment to adapting and thriving in a post-COVID space while upholding its reputation and operational efficiency.

A TRAINING ON HR PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT, L&D STRATEGIES, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, AND LABOR LAWS, HELD ON MARCH 14, 2023 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, IIBM, GUWAHATI

The workshop proved beneficial for Aaranyak, with 25 attendees. Dr Bhaskarjyoti Chakravarty led the session coordinated by the GROW FUND COMMITTEE, focus-

ing on various critical aspects. HR Planning and Recruitment addressed workforce forecasting, talent acquisition strategies, optimising the recruitment process, and enhancing employer branding and candidate experience. L&D strategies covered needs assessment, designing and implementing training programs, evaluating effectiveness, and fostering career development and succession planning. The session on Labor Laws emphasised understanding employment contracts, compliance with national and international regulations, managing workplace disputes, and ensuring fair labor practices and employee rights. By integrating these elements, the training aimed to equip participants with essential HR skills to drive organisational success, foster a positive workplace culture, and enhance overall efficiency.

A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING HELD ON MARCH 21, 2023 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, IIBM, GUWAHATI

This workshop facilitated by Mr. Irfan Ullah and Dr. Karabi Goswami, delved into range of topics crucial for senior officials. These included leadership styles, fostering moral commitment to shared goals, managing team

dynamics and effective communication, wielding power and influence within organisations, understanding and leveraging personal networks, and strategic planning for goal achievement. Participants also focused on their role in executing organisational commitments with stakeholders, enhancing capacity in managing people, developing self-esteem, and mastering time management. The module aimed to cultivate strategic leadership and organizational management skills, preparing individuals to navigate challenges, drive sustainable competitive advantages, and uphold ethical practices in an evolving business landscape.

ORGANISATIONAL MARKETING, STORYTELLING AND COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2022, COORDINATED BY THE GROW FUND COMMITTEE

The event focused on crucial aspects such as website development and maintenance, as well as the preparation of communications materials including brochures. Additionally, the initiative provided substantial benefits to the organisation, through salary provision, of five staff for a year, and office expenses for both the

Head Office and Research Division in Guwahati over eight quarters. Furthermore, custom-made apparel and accessories featuring the organisation's logo were distributed to staff and guests. Supported by the GROW Team and the Edelgive Foundation, the training sessions throughout 2022 and early 2023 have further bolstered Aaranyak's technical capabilities, particularly in areas like website design, enterprise technology, finance, and human resources. These efforts underscore Aaranyak's commitment to enhancing operational efficiency, strategic planning, and fundraising capacities, ensuring sustained growth and organizational resilience.

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SEMINARS/WORKSHOP/
CONFERENCES

- **Aaranyak** participated in two-day long ‘NORTH-EAST SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS’ CONFERENCE’.
- **Abhijit Boruah** participated in an e-workshop on “Data-Analysis with ‘R’ programming”.
- **Abhijit Boruah** gave a talk on “Behaviour of Asian elephant” to forest personnel of South-west, West and East Garo hills in Meghalaya.
- **Abhijit Boruah, Niranjan Bhuyan, Anjan Baruah and Rabiya Daimary** attended a training on Environmental Leadership and Community Engagement at MCOC, Bhuyanpara.
- **Abhijit Boruah** attended a training programme on leadership development organised by Aaranyak.
- **Alolika Sinha** delivered a talk (virtually) on revival of grassland ecosystem by managing Invasive alien plants in Manas World Heritage Site, organized by Ecological Restoration Alliance-India.
- **Alolika Sinha** was nominated for an exchange visit under Climate Crises, International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) to the United States for three weeks.
- **Alolika Sinha** presented a talk to the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Khanapara through virtual medium.
- **Anjan Baruah, Abhijit Boruah, and Alolika Sinha** coordinated a day-long training programme for Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) group at Rangatari village of Goalpara district. During the workshop, t-shirts were distributed to the ECN members from Aaranyak.
- **Anjan Baruah** attended an online “Coaching Connect intervention” programme conducted by GIZ and Dale Carnegie India and submitted a presentation based on the successful application of training methods and tools in various training programmes of Aaranyak.
- **Anjan Baruah** attended a training programme for RRT, North Bengal conducted by GIZ at Birpara range, Bengal.
- **Anjan Baruah and Dibakar Nayak** attended the outreach campaign on Prevention of Wildlife crime and role of stakeholders and PRI members conducted by WCCB at Nunai Range, Udalguri.
- **Anjan Baruah, Rabiya Daimary, Jibon Chetry and Dibakar Nayak** attended awareness meeting on HEC held at Bangalipara High School, Tamulpur organised by District administration, Tamulpur.
- **Anjan Baruah** attended a public awareness meeting organised by Forest Range Officer, Palashbari Range at Pirpara village.
- **Anjan Baruah, Rabiya Daimary and Dibakar Nayak** attended a plantation drive carried out on the occasion of World Environment Day in 3 No. Kundarbil L.P. School with school children in Udalguri district.
- **Anjan Baruah** participated in an HR planning, recruitment, creating L&D strategies, Performance, Management strategies and Labour Laws training at IIBM, Guwahati.
- **Anjan Baruah** attended a programme on HWC mitigation organised by GIZ at Kodagu, Karnataka.

- **Arup Kr. Das** attended the virtual conference on “5th Pre-event of 2nd UNWGI Congress” organised by Dept. of Geography, Guwahati University, Assam with support of DST and presented on “Geospatial technology in wildlife research”.
- **Arup Kr. Das** presented on the title “Studying Water induced disasters and climate risk in the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam: Basic concepts, issues and scope for application of geospatial technology” during their three weeks RS/GIS training program at Techno. Demo Centre (TDC), premises of Assam Science Society, Khanapara, Guwahati.
- **Arup Kr. Das** presented a talk at Aaranyak’s Summer Camp at Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve in Darrang district.
- **Arup Kr. Das** attended a programme organised by TRCD of Aaranyak at Kohora river basin on traditional food preparation event involving local SHG for eco-tourism prospects in presence of Dr. Jayanta Roy and other members of Aaranyak.
- **Arup Kr. Das** attended a seminar on Climate Change organised by Raj Bhavan, Assam.
- **Arup Kr. Das** attended a half day workshop on “Internal capacity building on Project Planning”.
- **Arup Kr. Das** delivered a presentation titled ‘Understanding vulnerability and adaptation in the context of river erosion and flooding: A study on the riparian communities in the Salmora Mouza, Majuli District, Assam, India’ in the ‘International Seminar on Sustainable Technologies for River Erosion Alleviation and Management (STREAM-2022) at the Assam Water Centre, Guwahati. The abstract with the same title was authored by Partha Jyoti Das, Arup Das, Bedika Borah and Anuradha Barua based on a study carried out during 2019-2020 by the WATCH Division of Aaranyak.
- **Arup Kr. Das** attended a workshop as Expert/Evaluator on the theme “Sustainability Education” organised by Aaranyak and Wipro Earthian at the conference hall of administrative office of Aaranyak. Four government schools of Guwahati city participated in the workshop.
- **Arup Kr. Das and Madhumita Borthakur** attended a workshop on fundraising by renowned wildlife conservationist Tarik Aziz at Aaranyak’s Admin office campus. The workshop was supported by Grow Fund.
- **Arup Kr. Das, Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar** attended a half-day workshop on “Gender and Environment” at Aaranyak’s Admin Office conference room. The workshop was organised by WATCH division of Aaranyak and Ms. Gita Rani Bhattacharjya and Ms. Chitralekha Baruah were the Resource Person in the workshop.
- **Arup Kr. Das** was invited by GIZ Guwahati and presented on the topic “Application of GIS as a tool for Aquaculture” at Fishery College, Roha and at Fishery office, Tezpur. Fishery officials of the nearby districts participated.
- **Arup Kr. Das** presented a paper in 2nd international conference at Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Behali, titled “Land Use and Land Cover change in Dibru-saikhowa National Park, Assam”.
- **Dilip Chetry** presented a paper on “Western hoolock gibbon: Current status and Distribution in Doomdooma Forest Division in Assam, India during XXVIII International Primatological Society Congress, Quito, Ecuador. (Virtually)
- **Arup Kr. Das** along with Dr. Dhritiman Das attended Asia Consultative workshop on “Ecosystem and Nature-Based solution” at Kerala Forest Research Institute organised by IUCN CEM.

- **Arup Kr. Das** attended a workshop on “HR Planning and recruitment, creating L&D Strategy, Performance Management strategies” under Grow fund activities of Aaranyak at IIBM Guwahati.
- **Avishek Sarkar** delivered a talk on “Biogeography and Sustainability” during World Environment Day, celebrated in collaboration with Dimoria College Khetri.
- **Avishek Sarkar** attended AVICON 2022 organised by Assam Bird Monitoring Network at Cotton University.
- **Avishek Sarkar** attended week-long Capacity building workshop on Watershed for Assam at Shantiniketan (West Bengal) organised by Banker’s Institute of Rural Development.
- **Bibhab Talukdar** attended the 2nd Asia Park Congress at Kota Kinabalu and delivered a talk on Regional and Transboundary Conservation Opportunities for Asian Rhino Conservation.
- **Bibhab Talukdar** delivered a talk on Forest Conservation and Biodiversity of North East India in the GURU-DAKSHTA Faculty Induction Prog (FIP-06) in online mode Organised and Conducted by University Grant Commission – Human resource Development Centre, Gauhati University, India.
- **Bibhab Talukdar** delivered an invited talk on the World Rhino Day 2022 on “Current Conservation Scenario of Greater One Horned Rhinoceros in India” organised by South Eastern Region Pipelines in Collaboration with Indira Gandhi Zoological Park.
- **Bibhab Talukdar** delivered a talk on Biodiversity of North East India in the Faculty Induction Programme (FIP-07) on online mode organised by University Grant Commission – Human resource Development Centre, Gauhati University, India.
- **Bibhab Talukdar** delivered talk on issues on rhinos on A podcast episode which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsZiNzMLN-zo&pp=ygUaQmliaGFilFRhbHVrZG-FyIGluIHNwb3RpZnNk%3D>

- **Bibhab Talukdar**, as Chair of AsRSG, attended 19th Conference of Parties (CoP) to Convention on Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) held in Panama and presented a talk on current state of Asian Rhinos in a side event of CITES.
- **Bibhuti P Lahkar** attended the 16th Steering Committee meeting of Project elephant, MoEFCC in FRI at Dehradun, which was chaired by Cabinet Minister, MoEFCC.
- **Bibhuti P Lahkar** presented a talk on grasslands of south Asia during “South Asian Grasslands Dialogue”.
- **Bibhuti P Lahkar and Alolika Sinha** attended online workshops organised by Biodiversity Challenge Funds on reporting essentials (Finance, Administrative and Technical), and Monitoring and Evaluation and communication strategy.
- **Bibhuti P Lahkar** attended the meeting of IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group in Delhi and Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand as a member of the group.
- **Bibhuti P. Lahkar, Alolika Sinha, Deepak Bhattacharjee, Zakir Islam Bora, Rubul Tanti, Niranjan Bhuyan, Bijoy Kalita, Afridi Rehman** including all project assistant and field assistants attended an orientation training programme organised at Aaranyak’s Dibrugarh Field Station.
- **Bibhuti Lahkar and Anjan Baruah** visited Dhenkanala district of Odisha on an invitation of Amrita University to understand the HEC scenario in Hindol block of the district, and share knowledge on potential mitigation tool such as community based solar powered fences.
- **Bibhuti P Lahkar**, attended the 17th Steering Committee meeting of Project elephant, MoEFCC in Periyar on 12th August, which was chaired by Cabinet Minister, MoEFCC.
- **Deepika Chetri, Bhargavee Rava, Joshna Terangpi and M. Firoz Ahmed** attended the International Seminar on “Climate Change: Impact and Resilience”.
- **Dilip Chetry** attended and Presented paper at the 8th Asian Primate Symposium, 2022 at Hanoi, Vietnam, under the title “Primates in Doom-dooma Forest Division in the state of Assam, India”.
- **Dipankar Lahkar** presented a poster at the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) held at the Department of Zoology, Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- **Dipankar Lahkar** has participated in a knowledge exchange program on data analysis techniques for Random Encounter Modelling (REM) at Zoological Society of London (ZSL), London, United Kingdom.
- **Dipankar Lahkar** participated in the National Children Science Congress (NCSC 2022)- a state-level congress as a State Academic Committee (SAC) member cum state-level evaluator, held in Tezpur.
- **ERCD** in collaboration with WWF-India and Assam Elephant Foundation organised a multistakeholder workshop to review the existing communication tool and develop effective communication tools which will aid in facilitating human-elephant coexistence.
- **Gayatri Dutta** completed an online course “Young Advantage Program, 2022 “ organized by Institute of Biosciences, Virginia, USA (Online).
- **Gayatri Dutta** attended an online webinar series on “Standards of practice to guide the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration” organised by the Society of Ecological Restoration.
- **Gayatri Dutta** attended an online talk organised by the Society of Ecological Restoration, “Back to Roots – Fungi and Forest Restoration”.

- **Gayatri Dutta** attended a National workshop (in person) on climate actions and SDGs (CAS23) on 21st March at Tezpur University, Assam, India
- **Gayatri Dutta** delivered a talk in an online “Introduce programs youth can engage in for protected areas” at “Asian Youth Network for Protected Areas: 1st Workshop in Korea Protected Areas and Roles of Youth” organised by Korea National park Service.
- **Gayatri Dutta, Sourav Gupta and B. Charles** presented a paper at “National Conference on Emerging Challenges and Prospects in Biological Sciences” at Sikkim University.
- **Ivy Farheen Hussain** presented on Demonstrating SOPs to combat illegal wildlife trade and strengthening wildlife forensics in India. Zoological Society of India, Kolkata.
- **Ivy Farheen Hussain** presented at the Asia Parks Congress 2022, Sabah, Malaysia as Youth Keynote Speaker on Female Rangers of Assam.
- **Ivy Farheen Hussain** represented India in the Korea National Parks Friendship Program and presented about Aaranyak’s conservation efforts, wildlife crime scenarios and future of PA management in India.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** attended and interacted on basic understanding of climate change, signature of climate change in local context, climate change adaptation in a workshop organised by the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), Govt. of Assam.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered a lecture on “Nature Education” targeting forest officials at Assam Forest School.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered a speech effectiveness of environmental education and community engagement activities and approaches to the refresher trainee (ACF) of WII Diploma course at Manas National Park. The training was organised by MTR authority.

- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered a talk on “Approaches and techniques in environmental education” at Guwahati organised by Anaajoree, an NGO based at Guwahati.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered two talks in the “refresher training program on climate change and adaptation” organised by the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), Govt. of Assam.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** delivered several talks in the “refresher training program on climate change and adaptation” organised by the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), Govt. of Assam.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** trained over 250 zonal level resource persons of NCSC 2022 about “Ecosystem-based approach (EBA) for self-reliance”.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** trained over 250 teachers of different level of Dibrugarh districts. Mr Pathak delivered talks on “Understanding Ecosystem for Health and Well-being” and “Ecosystem-based approach.
- **Jayanta Kumar Pathak** attended a workshop on Sustainability Education at The School Of Ancient Wisdom, Bangaluru organised by Wipro Earthian.
- **Jayanta Kr Sarma** attended as a panelist in the panel discussion of the workshop on “Indigenous Knowledge in Transformation: Northeast India”, 2022, Collaborative Research Centre: Scales of Transformation, Kiel University, Germany.
- **Jayanta Kr Sarma and Shilpa Rani Pathak** attended the 6th edition of Judima Festival at Gunjung of the Dima Hasao, Assam.
- **Jayanta Kr Sarma** delivered a talk at a conference ‘Indigenous Knowledge in Transformation: Northeast India’. Collaborative Research Centre: Scales of Transformation, Kiel University, Germany.
- **Jayanta Kr Pathak** attended a strategic workshop on SDGs organised by SIPRD, MoP&RD, Govt of India.
- **Jayanta Kr Pathak** attended a workshop on organizational fund raising at Aaranyak.
- **Jayanta Kr Pathak** attended a stakeholder workshop on small grant project of UNDP organised by TERI & MoEF&CC, Govt of India.
- **Jayanta Kr Roy** attended National Seminar on Forest-dependent Rural Livelihoods held in NEHU, Shillong.
- **Jayanta Kr Roy** attended ‘R&D Funding Opportunities by SERB- DST: Awareness Workshop for Researchers from North-East Institutions’ organised by: Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology.
- **Jayanta Kr Roy** attended 4 online sessions of “PANORAMA”.
- **Jayanta Kr Roy** presented a PPT in the National Seminar (Virtual) on Forest-dependent Rural Livelihoods held in NEHU, Shillong.
- **Jimmy Borah and Ivy Farheen Hussain** attended a meeting on implementing Code of Conduct for rangers across the world conducted by International Rangers Federation and United Rangers Support Alliance (URSA).
- **Jimmy Borah and Ivy Farheen Hussain** attended a workshop on UNTOC and Wildlife - How can an additional Protocol help us tackle illicit wildlife trafficking?
- **Jimmy Borah and Ivy Farheen Hussain** attended and presented on a webinar on “Protected and Conserved Areas need people. Building a workforce to manage 30 percent of the planet”, organized by URSA.
- **Jimmy Borah and Ivy Farheen Hussain** attended and presented on a webinar on “Enabling Trust Between Rangers and Communities”, organized by URSA.
- **Koushik Rajbongshi** attended a conference on “Current Research and Management Interventions in the Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites” at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur organized by WII- Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management & Training for Asia and the Pacific Region.
- **Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar** attended the NESAC User Interaction Meet-2022 at NESAC campus, Umiam, and interacted with NESAC scientists and other RS-GIS based organisations for possible collaborations.
- **Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar** attended a workshop on “Understanding professional and strategic approach in planning and Organizational development” under the initiative of Aaranyak supported by Grow Fund.
- **Madhumita Borthakur** had attended five days training on ‘Hydrological Modelling using SWAT’ at Guwahati organised by NIH-NERC in collaboration with NEHARI, Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the Organizational Diagnostic Study with Grow Team in April 2022
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a Process Training organised by Grant Thornton Team under Grow Team.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a Capacity Building Orientation organised by Social Lance Team under Grow project.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a day-long workshop on Sustainable Development Goals scheduled at Khanapara, Guwahati.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop on “Technology for Enterprise” organised by GROW team.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop on ‘Intelligent Knowledge Management: The Driving Force Behind Customer Self-service in Industry 4.0’ on September 2022 organized by Economic Times.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a convergence workshop with different line departments organised by IIE.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended another day-long seminar on export oriented skill development training, Export Packaging.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a workshop on ‘Smart Ops the Future Is Intelligent Operations’, organised by Economic Times.

- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended two inhouse workshops organised under GROW fund on “Understanding professional and strategic approach in planning and organizational development” and also on “Fund Raising”
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the central capacity building training under the Finance domain of GROW fund.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the cluster-catch-up meeting with GROW team to mark the start of the second year of GROW fund.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the central capacity building training sessions under Human Resource Domain Session on Risk Management workshop by Social Lens Team under GROW Fund.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the orientation of NGOs shortlisted for organisational development exercise under Social Lens.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended the GROW Central Capacity Building: HR Session 3.2 “Learning, Development, and Organizational Culture” session.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended a leadership development training in IIBM organised under GROW fund.
- **Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya** attended another training on HR Management in IIBM organised under GROW fund.
- **Manas Kr. Bhattacharjya** took part in another nineteen capacity building and awareness webinars during the tenure.
- **Munmita Boruah** attended a training titled “Understanding Professional and Strategic Approach in Planning and Organisational Development” on September 8 at Guwahati.
- **Momita Narzary** attended the 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 at Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati, Assam, India.
- **Niranjan Bhuyan** highlighted the issue of increasing HEC incidents and discussed about the mitigation measures during Bihu programme organised by Amarjyoti Youth Club and Local VDP. He was felicitated during the programme for his continued efforts towards addressing HEC.
- **Niranjan Bhuyan** presented a talk on HEC and conservation of nature and elephant during an outreach programme organised by Bogijan Police station.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended an online meeting convened by IIT Guwahati and provided input to the doctoral research of Ms. Swagata Das, (a Ph.D. Researcher, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering Science, Urban Design, Urbanism, Landscape and Planning, Leuven (Arenberg), International Center of Urbanism, OSA Research Group Urbanism & Architecture, Ku Leuven, Belgium) on the topic - (re)Learning relationships with water: Strengthening the socio-ecological configuration of the Brahmaputra River’.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended a meeting of the ‘Technical Committee on Dolphins of Kulsi river’ convened by DC Kamrup at the DC office, Amingaon, Kamrup District.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended the programme of the first day of the ‘NADI conclave: Towards a prosperous Bay of Bengal Neighbourhood’ organised by the Asian Confluence in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, GoI and the Department of Act East Affairs, GoA. He also spoke as a panelist in a parallel session on ‘Meghna Deep Dive: Multilevel Cooperation for Long-term Freshwater Security and Climate Resilience in Bay of Bengal’, co-organised by the IUCN - Asia-Bangkok Office. The events held in the Hotel Radisson Blue, Guwahati.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered a talk in the ‘NADI-3 Conclave: Towards a prosperous Bay of Bengal Neighbourhood’ organised by the Asian Confluence in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, GoI and the Department of Act East Affairs, GoA. The topic of his presentation delivered in the parallel session 5 was ‘Cooperation for Disaster Management and Climate Change Resilience’. The events held in the Hotel Radisson Blue, Guwahati.

- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered the keynote lecture on the occasion of the WED-2022 in the presence of Honourable Governor of Assam and the First lady of Assam with children of various schools of Guwahati as the main audience in a function held at the Raj Bhawan.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** participated in the second day's programme of the 1st Capacity building workshop on climate change (course level: basic) on the occasion of World Environment Day-2022 organised jointly by the Department of Environmental Science, GU and the Assam Climate Change Management Society, Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam. He delivered an invited talk on ‘Climate Change Adaptation: Concepts and Practices (In the context of the Brahmaputra River Basin, India)’; Dr. Das also moderated a panel discussion on “Living in Harmony with Nature in the Age of Anthropocene” in the same program. The program was held at the conference hall of the GUIST (GU Institute of Science and Technology).
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered the main technical lecture on ‘Climate Change Resilience in Urban Planning: The case of Dhubri District’, in the ‘Workshop on Climate Change Resilience in Urban Planning’ organized by Aaranyak & District Disaster Management Authority, Dhubri and catalyzed and supported by the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council, Dept of Science & Technology, Govt. of Assam held at the Circuit House Conference Hall, Dhubri.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** visited Thailand and participated in the ‘Dissemination Workshop for the initiative Science Communication for Water Diplomacy in the Brahmaputra in Bangkok’ held at the Asian Institute of Technology, Pathumthani. Dr. Das spoke in the program as a panelist in the Plenary Discussion.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** spoke on the flood situation in Assam in an online program called ‘Sunday Satsang’ on ‘flood and drought’ hosted by Dr. Yogendra Yadav, a renowned political activist with Dr. Dinesh Mishra (well-known river scholar and activist from Bihar) as the other speaker.

- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered a presentation on ‘Studying Water induced disasters and climate risk in the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam: Basic concepts, issues and scope for application of geospatial technology’ in the ‘3-week Summer Training Program on Geospatial Technology’, organised by the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), DST, GoI at the Techno. Demo Centre (TDC) (premises of Assam Science Society), Khanapara, Guwahati.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended an online meeting on ‘Elevating River Basin Management and Cooperation in the HKH Region: Brahmaputra River Basin’ where he spoke as a panelist in the panel on ‘Opportunities for strengthening transboundary river basin management in the Brahmaputra Basin’. The virtual workshop was organised by ICIMOD and its Australian Water Partnership.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered a presentation on ‘Climate Change Issues and Policies in India’ at a meeting organised by Green Umbrella, at Cincinnati, Ohio, USA where the Board Members of the Green Umbrella, a reputed non-profit of the USA was present. Dr. Das also talked about the work being done on climate issues of northeast India in Aaranyak.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered an invited talk on ‘Understanding Climate Change: From Science to Society’ in the JB College, Jorhat organised by the JB College Chemical Society, and the Department of Chemistry.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended a meeting online on ‘YUVA on Climate Change: Engaging Youth for Climate Action’. The meeting was organised by the EMK Center and BRIDGE, held at the Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center, Dhaka.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** visited the Guwahati campus of the Shankardev University with Prof. Nilanthi Samaranyake, Research Program Director, in Strategy and Policy Analysis, Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA), Washington DC and Anutosh Biswas, Established Opinion Leader, Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata American Center. He also spoke there in a meeting before students and faculties on the ‘Importance of the Brahmaputra River for strategic and transboundary water cooperation in South Asia’.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended the ‘International Workshop on Current and Traditional Practices for Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems’ at the Kohima Science College(A), Jotsoma, Nagaland at the invitation of the GIZ-India. Dr. Das participated actively in different technical sessions contributed to the discussions through his views and opinions.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** spoke as a panelist in the ‘National Symposium on Climate change: Impacts, risks and adaptations in North East India’ held at the NEDFi Convention Centre, Guwahati, Assam, which was organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended the Inception Meeting of the North East India Water Forum (NIWaF) at the Institution of Engineers, Assam State Centre, where he spoke on the importance of adopting a regional approach to water resources research and development for sustainable development in NE India. Aaranyak is a founder institutional member of the NIWaF.

- **Partha J Das** delivered an invited talk on ‘Climate change and its implication for hydrometeorological disasters in Northeast India: With special reference to Assam’ in the Jorhat Institute of Technology, Jorhat.
- **Partha J Das** participated in an ‘Orientation Program’ of the Centre for North East Studies (CNES), held at their office in Chandmari, Guwahati. Dr. Das spoke as a Resource Person on methodologies of field research to a batch of field researchers who were working on assessment of climate change vulnerability in river islands of Assam.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended a public meeting organised by the Assam Forest Department celebrating the World Wetland Day-2023 at Deepor Beel watch tower site. Dr. Das spoke there as an invited expert on ‘Ecosystem services of wetlands for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation’.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended the National- Level Workshop on ‘Himalayas for Future: Perspectives on Future Scenarios: An IUCN- TATA Initiative’ supported by TCS Foundation held at the Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Dr. Das spoke in a panel discussion on ‘Building resilience against increasing natural disaster risk in the Indian Himalayan Region’.
- **Partha Jyoti Das**, along with a team from Aaranyak attended a ‘Discussion on Integrated Wetland Management Plan’ organised by the GIZ-India at the Conference Hall (2nd Floor), GIZ Regional Office, Sarbeswar Bhawan, Bye Lane No. 1, Jaya Nagar, Six Mile, Guwahati-22. Dr. Das delivered a presentation on the two case studies of the Deepor Beel and het Doloni Beel that Aaranyak is carrying out under the NERAQ project.

- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered an invited lecture on 'Hydrometeorological disasters in a changing climate: Vulnerability and impact in Assam' in the 'State Level CSO Consultation on Climate Change in Assam' organised by NEADS, Jorhat at the Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, Guwahati.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered an invited talk online in the platform of 15 Minit Xikhya(<https://www.youtube.com/@15minitxikhya7/about>), an online educational platform created and run by a group of non-resident Assamese diaspora in collaboration with selected educational institutions of Assam catering to the need of college teachers and students. Dr. Das spoke on a topic 'Assam at risk: A hydro-climatic perspective'. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEh641KLS6M>
- **Partha Jyoti Das** attended and spoke in Panel Discussion on 'India's G-20 Presidency and Development Prospects for Northeast India', organised by Tezpur University at the conference Hall. He delivered a talk on the subject 'India's G-20 Presidency: Prospects for addressing environmental and climatic vulnerability of NE India.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** delivered a talk on 'Basic concepts of climate change and resilience science for field research: Context Assam' in the 'Orientation cum Training Programme for the "Chief Minister's Climate Resilient Village Fellows", at the Conference Hall, Gauhati Medical College and organized by the Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (AS-TEC), Government of Assam.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** participated in a two-day workshop on 'Implementing Community-Based Flood Early Warning System (CBFEWS) in Lal Bakaiya River basin: Dissemination of scoping study findings to communities' at the Gaur city, Rautahat District, Nepal organised by ICIMOD in collaboration with Mandwi (a local NGO).
- **Partha Jyoti Das** participated in a panel discussion and spoke on 'Role of communities in flood disaster response in the context of the CBFEWS'. Dr. Das also took part in two local field visits.
- **Partha Jyoti Das** took part in 'Consultative meeting on Nature-based Solutions for disaster risk reduction' held at the Lhtose Meeting Hall, ICI-MOD. He spoke on his field experiences of visiting the interventions on the Ratu River basin during his field trips in Nepal.
- **Rubul Tanti** presented a talk on "Making space for Asian elephants, a case study from Nagaon and Baksa Forest Divisions" during the international elephant symposium organised by International Elephant Foundation.
- **Rubul Tanti** provided a hands-on training on GPS to colleagues who are working on promotion of human-elephant coexistence.
- **Rubul Tanti** attended a webinar titled "Human wildlife conflict-bridging the gap between conservation and policy.
- **Rubul Tanti** attended an international conference on environmental degradation held at Kumbakonum, Tamil Nadu.
- **Rubul tanti** delivered a lecture on human-elephant coexistence at Sadia of Tinsukia district.
- **Sarlongjohn Teron and Jayanta Kr Roy** present in the National Seminar on Environment, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance (Atmanirbharta) with special reference to North-East India.
- **Sourav Gupta** attended National Conference on Emerging Challenges and Prospects in Biological Sciences" at Sikkim University.
- **Sourav Gupta** delivered a talk on Wildlife Monitoring and Mapping Techniques at the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College (Autonomous).

- **Swapan Das** attended a workshop "The Landscape Livelihood Group Training (TLLG) by IUCN held in Guwahati.
- **Swapan Das** attended the four-day long knowledge festival at the Bodoland International Knowledge Festival, 2023.
- **Swapan Das** attended the training on Environment Leadership & Community Engagement in MCOC.
- **Bipul Das attended the "Capacity Building Programme on Watershed for NGOs"** Conducted by Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) Kolkata, West Bengal in association with Regional Office, NABARD, Guwahati.
- **Udayan Borthakur** attended a two-day symposium on SCOPE – Science Communication in Assamese organized by Vigyan Prasara and Tezpur University. MPCD of Aaranyak shall now coordinate the work on dubbing 5 science communication films and developing infographics in Assamese in this regard for Vigyan Prasara.
- **Udayan Borthakur and Munmita Boruah** attended two-day long 'NORTH-EAST SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS' CONFERENCE' organised by Vigyan Prasara, Vigyan Prasara, Govt. of India at Gauhati University, Guwahati.
- **Wasima Begum** attended a workshop on "understanding professional and strategic approach in planning and organizational development" in Guwahati.
- **Wasima Begum** attended a workshop organised by Nature Conservation Foundation in collaboration with Wipro Foundation at Bangalore.
- **Wasima Begum** attended a workshop on Sustainability Education at The School Of Ancient Wisdom, Bangalore organised by Wipro Earthian.
- **Zakir Islam Bora and Rabul Tanti** attended an Elephant day event as resource persons at the Sadia Higher Secondary School.

TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS ORGANISED

- **Aaranyak** and Bijni College organised a day-long workshop on 'Aquatic Biodiversity and Human Well-being & Waste Management'.
- **Aaranyak** celebrated the first Anniversary of Raimona National Park jointly with the Kachugaon Forest Division, WTI, WWF-India and BTR Government at Western Range (Raimona), Raimona National Park, Assam.
- **Aaranyak** in collaboration with Nagaland Forest Department (Wildlife) with support from IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group's Section on small Apes (SSA) trained frontline forest officials on Nagaland in Nagaland. This workshop is unique and first of its at Nagaland where the local community from 9 districts of Nagaland, Nagaland Forest Department, Primatologist, experts from Bodoland University, Guahati University, University of Science & Technology Meghalaya, International Rhino Foundation, Foundation for Ecological Security, Primate Research Centre NE, Handique Girls College, Conservation Initiative, and Wildlife Areas development & Welfare Trust together planned for the future conservation of the Hoolock gibbon in Nagaland.
- **Aaranyak** on the occasion of International Day of World's Indigenous People- 2022, in collaboration with YADEM, Haflong organised a webinar on "The Role of Indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge" with special reference to Assam". The webinar highlighted the perspectives on the subject area from lived and observed experiences of women from the indigenous communities /tribes of Assam to review and understand the situation.
- A workshop on "From Awareness to Actions for Nature Conservation" was organised at Zamduar College, Saraibil, Kokrajhar district of Assam in collaboration with the Kachugaon Forest Division, Assam.
- **CLD** organised two numbers of capacity development training against farm-based opted livelihood options (Viz Goatery, and Piggery) had been organized among the newly selected fifty-four Illegal Natural Resource Extractors.
- **CLD** organised a capacity building cum awareness meeting along with Maindangshree SHG to restart the activities on which they had specialized which is inclusive of different food processing units.
- To build conservation-sensitive generation, **CLD** organised a session at Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya. During his interaction with students, Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya discussed various aspects of biodiversity conservation and related topics.
- **CLD** organised a crucial training workshop on Cutting and Tailoring for Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Majrabari, Baksa of BTR for the members of SHGs within the Bhuyanpara range of Manas National Park. The training workshop resulted in some finished products following the completion of the workshop.
- **CLD** organised a free health check-up and awareness camp at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary's Range office campus in association with the Indian Medical Association - Guwahati Branch, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam Forest Department's Guwahati Wildlife Division. The camp was attended by 150 frontline workers, their family members, and nearby community members.
- **CLD** organised a stakeholder consultation workshop on community engagement around the eastern part of Manas National Park.
- **CLD** organised an in-depth Natural Dye workshop for fringe women in the Koklabari Cluster and Bhuyanpara Cluster of Baksa District in February 2023. The training was attended by twenty-five participants in the Koklabari cluster and twenty-eight participants in the Bhuyanpara cluster.
- **Central Assam Zone of Aaranyak**, Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve authority and WildWings jointly organised two training programmes on tourist guide in the conference hall of the national park authority. Over 70 local youths joined the programmes.

- **EECBD** in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Assam, Baksa district and Assam Science Society organised a Webinar on “Micro- Forest for youth and Eco-club in schools”. 120 teachers from the Baksa districts took part in the webinar.
- **EECBD** in collaboration with District Disaster Management Authority, Dhubri organised a day-long workshop on Climate Change Resilience in Urban Planning at Dhubri, Assam. Representatives of 18 Govt departments/divisions including the ward commissioners and Dhubri municipal board attended the workshop.
- **EECBD** trained 88 guide teachers from 44 schools representing 05 districts of Assam on sustainability education through 8 trainings.
- **EECBD** jointly with ERCD organised an orientation workshop for the media personnel on ‘Biodiversity Conservation and Human-Wildlife Coexistence’ on at Goalpara.
- **EECBD** organised a rewilding camp for students and youths at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **EECBD** organised a knowledge sharing workshop under the banner ‘In dialogue: Nature and well-being’ at Aaranyak’s Administrative Office premises. Mr. Raghunath T.P., Director of Svarnim Puducherry of Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry and Er. U.N Ravi Kumar, Former Director, Centre for Appropriate Rural Technologies, Mysore presented as guests.
- **ERCD** and **CLD** collaboratively organized three outreach programmes in Golaghat district to raise awareness on human-elephant coexistence and distributed 40 rechargeable spotlights at four different human-elephant conflict prone areas.
- **ERCD** organised a workshop on Habitat Management for frontline Forest Department staff of Pobitora WLS.
- **ERCD** organised 2 trainings for uses of invasive species for alternative livelihood in Eastern Manas.
- **ERCD** organised a participatory workshop on developing education and outreach strategy to facilitate human elephant co-existence at Dibrugarh University.
- **ERCD** organised a training workshop on nutrition by Dr. Manisha Choudhury, AAU, Jorhat.
- **ERCD** organised an orientation programme at All Student Kachari Student Union Campus.
- **ERCD** organised 4 training cum workshops on alternative crop and lemon bio-fencing to the farmers of Udalguri, Baksa and Goalpara district.
- **ERCD** organised 2 workshops with Media persons on Biodiversity conservation & Human Wildlife conservation at Goalpara district Journalist Association office, Goalpara and Sibsagar Commerce College, Sibsagar.
- **ERCD** on the occasion of World Elephant Day organised multiple outreach programmes in Baksa, Goalpara and Udalguri districts, focusing elephant conservation by involving local communities. The newly formed Elephant Conservation Networks (ECNs) in all the districts too participated. During this event, we felicitated five people from local communities and frontline Forest Department staff for their active role in protecting elephants.
- **Eastern Assam Zone of Aaranyak** organised a field training programme on Organic Farming and Vermicomposting at Nakatani Kalu gaon, Sivasagar.
- **GTAD** organised a three-day Customized Training on Supervised Image Classification. The training, one of its kind, was attended by researchers from across North-East India.
- **GTAD** with support from The Rufford Foundation and Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve authority organised a day long training programme for the frontline staff of Orang National Park, Assam on “Application of space technology in Wildlife Research and Conservation with hands-on training of GPS”.

- **LAD** 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 The Superintendent of Police, Morigaon, Assam.
- **LAD** 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.
- **LAD** organised a workshop at the Divisional Forest Office of D’Ering WLS, at Pasighat, which was attended by police officials of East Siang District and forest officials of Pasighat division.
- **LAD** organised three important Judiciary workshops along with collaboration with State Legal Services Authority of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland on wildlife crime cases and roles of stakeholders which were attended by top judiciary officers, police, border agencies, other NGOs and forest representatives.
- **LAD** organised two important border agency meetings in the border towns between India and Bhutan which brought together 80 personnel from both India and Bhutan counterparts to mark one of the most successful workshops to tackle wildlife crime and international illegal wildlife trade.
- **LAD** co-organised workshops for the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and village councils in Karbi Anglong and schools in Bongaigaon were co-organized with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Government of India.
- **LAD** co-organised workshops for capacity building of Forester-1 and above in Orang National Park was with International Rhino Foundation.
- **PRCD** organised Hoolock gibbon conservation training for the field staff of Nagaland Forest Department in collaboration with Nagaland Forest Department (Wildlife) and with support from US Fish and Wildlife Service (GACF) in Nagaland.

- **PRCD** organised consultative workshop for the formulation of the conservation action plan for the Western Hoolock gibbon in Nagaland.
- **PRCD** organised one field study tour to Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary for 25 Forest Guards of Nagaland Forest Department.
- **Shristee Bajpai**, a young researcher working at Kalpavriksh has participated as Guest Speaker in one of the flagship programs of EECBD. Ms Bajpai spoke on “Rights of the River”.
- To provide a platform to the younger generation to share their environmental and sustainability education (ESE) works, **EECBD** has organised its first sustainability congress.
- **TRCD** organised three days inhouse training on camera trap data management with camtrapR.
- **TRCD** organised a hands-on training on ‘Field survey techniques’ at the Garampani Range of the Krungming RF.
- **TRCD** in collaboration with The Eastern Range, Athiabari, Raimona National Park organised World Wetlands Day 2023 outreach workshop.
- **The 50th World Environment Day** was commemorated by Aaranyak at Joleswari High School in Kachugaon, BTR, Assam in partnership with the Kachugaon Division, Gossaigaon, WTI, and WWF.
- The Raimona National Park Authority, **Aaranyak** and Panthera conducted an Advanced Patrolling and Data Management Training for the frontline forest staff at IB premises of the Central Range, Raimona National Park.
- **The 68th National Wildlife Week** was celebrated in collaboration with the Kachugaon Forest Division, and Raimona Haijri Banglow Dwimu Eco-tourism Society at BB Memorial ME School, Takabazar, fringe of Raimona National Park of Assam.

- **The International Tiger Day** was celebrated at Central Range, Raimona National Park in collaboration with Kachugaon Forest Division, Wildlife Trust of India, WWF-India, Green Forest NGO.
- **The 73rd Van Mahotsav** was celebrated at Goodwill English Medium School, located in Athiabari Forest Village, fringe of Raimona NP, Assam in collaboration with Eastern Range (Athiabari) of Raimona National Park, and Bamba Eco Tourism Society.
- **The World Environment Day 2022** was celebrated in collaboration with Sanfan Range, Raimona National Park and Green Forest Conservation NGO i at No. 989 Hel Lower Primary School, Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam.
- **World Wildlife Day** was celebrated by Assam Forest Department and Aaranyak jointly at the Raimona Community Hall, Mathambill under Western Range (Raimona), Raimona National Park, BTR, Assam.
- **WATCH** organised a ‘Consultation Workshop on ‘Rivers and Wetlands of Guwahati City: Towards an integrated action plan for rejuvenation and conservation for sustainable urban development’ at the NEDFi House, GS Road, Dispur, Guwahati in collaboration with the State Innovation and Transformation Ayog (SITA) and the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Assam. This workshop was a part of the second phase of the project ‘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 SITA, GoA.
- **WATCH** organised a consultation Workshop on the ‘Importance of rivers for human well-being: The case of River Kolong, Assam’ at the Samaguri College, Nagaon in collaboration with the Department of Geography, Samaguri College, Nagaon and the Laokhowa Burachapori Abhayaranya Sangrakhyan Samiti, Nagaon. This workshop was a part of the second phase of the project ‘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 SITA, GoA

- **WATCH** organised an Expert Lecture on ‘Water Security in the Brahmaputra River Basin in the context of Climate Change’ Prof. Nilanthi Samaranayake, Director in Strategy and Policy Analysis, Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA), Washington DC, at the Conference Room, Admin Building, Aaranyak.
- **WATCH** organised a ‘Training Workshop on Gender, Environment and Water: An Introduction to basic concepts and practices’ at the Conference Hall of the Admin Office of Aaranyak. It was attended by two invited Resource persons and about 20 inhouse staff members of Aaranyak.
- **WATCH** celebrated the World Wetland Day in Barjuli village under Sankarghola Gaon Panchayat of the Bongaigaon district focusing this year theme “it’s time for wetland restoration” in collaboration with the Aie Valley Forest Division, Bongaigaon District the Department of Botany of Abhayapuri College and Eco Club & Environment & Climate Cell of Abhayapuri College. A public meeting was held in the bank of Doloni beel of Barjuli village, near the Doloni beel.
- **WATCH** organised a ‘Community Consultation: Role of local people in the conservation of the Doloni Beel’ at the Sankarghola Village, Boitamari Development Block, Bongaigaon District. About 150 people participated from more than 15 villages living on the banks of the Doloni Beel. Several officials from GIZ India also took part in the event.
- **Western Assam Zone of Aaranyak** and Botany Department of Abhayapuri College jointly organised a training on organic farming and vermicomposting in Bongaigaon.
- **Ankur Barman, Aaranyak’s** member and the Assistant Zonal Coordinator of Western Assam Zone cycled a total of 440 km covering fringes of Manas Tiger Reserve to promote ecotourism

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

- Chair, IUCN/SSC; Asian Rhino Specialist Group.
- Expert Member, Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- Member, Rhino Task Force of Assam.
- Member, Editorial Board, Pachyderm Journal .
- Member, Rhino Taxon Advisory Group of European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).
- Member, IUCN/SSC; African Rhino Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN/SSC; Conservation Planning Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Ecosystem Services Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Climate Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN SSC Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM Red List of Ecosystems Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Governance, Equity and Rights Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Governance Thematic Group 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Climate Change : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Capacity Development : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA Biodiversity and Protected areas : Network 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Biosphere Reserve Thematic Group 2021-2025.

- Member, IUCN CEESP Human Wellbeing and Livelihood 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.

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.

Dr. Dipankar Lahkar

- IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group.
- IUCN CEC Nature Education for Sustainability Network.
- IUCN CEC Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Partnerships Network.
- General 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 of “Newsletter for Birdwatchers”.
- Member, Committee on vulture death, formed by O/O PCCF, Assam.

Ivy Farheen Hussain

- Member, Editorial Team, IUCN-WCPA Annual and Technical Report and PARKS Journal.

- Member, IUCN-WCPA .
- Member, The Korea National Park Friendship Network.
- Member, The Asia Youth Network for Protected Areas (AYNPA).
- Volunteer, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Jayanta Kumar Pathak

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC).
- Member, IUCN CEC Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Network.
- Member, IUCN CEC South and Southeastern Asia.
- Member, IUCN CEC Reimagine Nature Communications Network.
- Member, IUCN CEC Nature For All Network.
- Life Member, Aaranyak.

Dr. Jaynata Kr. Roy

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

Dr. Jimmy Borah

- Wildlife Crime Expert, Global Initiative Network Against Transnational Organized Crime.

Jonmani Kalita

- Member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) for the period 2021-2025.

Koushik Rajbongshi

- Member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) for the period 2021-2025.

Dr. M Firoz Ahmed

- Member, IUCN-SSC
- Member, IUCN-SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group
- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)
- Advisor, Wild Landscape, USA

Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka

- Member, IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group.

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das

- Member, ‘Expert Committee on Closing of Sub-Channels of River Brahmaputra to protect erosion and to confine the stream into a single channel in between Koliabhomora and Saraighat Bridge’ constituted by the Department of Water Resources, Government of Assam (2022)
- Member, ‘Technical Committee on ‘Dolphin conservation in the Kulsi river, Kamrup District and local livelihood security’, constituted by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup District. (2022-23).
- Member, Technical Advisory Panel, Elopa-Etugu Eco-Cultural Preserve’ (EECEP) Community Conserved Area, Rowing, Lower Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh (2022 onward)
- Core Committee Member, Transboundary Working Group on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), Koshi Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Hub (KDKH), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal (2023 on ward)
- Monitoring and Advisory Committee, Chief Minister’s Climate Resilient Village Fellowship Programme, ‘Science, Technology and Climate Change Department’, Government of Assam (2022-2023).

Udayan Borthakur

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

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLE

1. Chetry. D., R. Chetry , A.K. Das.. and R.C. Kyes, 2022. Connecting Fragments and Gibbons After a Century of Separation:A Natural Canopy Bridge at the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India. Primate Conservation (36):233-242pp. <http://www.primate-sg.org/primare-conservation-36/>

2. Dutta, A., S. Gupta, J.K. Roy, and M.F. Ahmed 2023. New distribution record of Roridomyces cf. phyllostachydis (*Agaricales: Mycenaceae*), a bioluminescent fungus from Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 15(3), 22920-22923. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8101.15.3.22920-22923>

3. Dutta, G., I.F Hussain, P.J. Nath and M.F Ahmed 2022. New distribution record of Black Softshell Turtle *Nilssonia nigricans* (Anderson, 1875) from Manas National Park, Assam, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 14(10), 22029-22031. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.7908.14.10.22029-22031>

4. Dutta G., Hussain, I.F., Nath P.J. and Ahmed, M.F. 2022 New distribution record of Black Softshell turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*) from Manas National Park, Assam, Journal of Threatened Taxa • Oct 26, 2022

5. Hussain, I., Borah, J., & Talukdar, B. 2023. D.E.T.E.R-ring Wildlife Crime. Oryx, 57(1), 12-12. doi:10.1017/S0030605322001314.

6. Sinha A, A., Nath, B.P., Lahkar, N., Brahma, H.K., Sarma and A., Swargowari. 2022. Understanding the efficacy of different techniques to manage Chromolaena odorata L., an Invasive Alien Plant in the sub-Himalayan tall grasslands: Toward grassland recovery. Ecological Engineering, 179. 2022. 106618.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Chetry, D., R. Chetry and P.C. Bhattacharjee. 2023.Challenges and Prospects in the Conservation of Hoolock Gibbon in India. In Susan M. Cheyne, Carolyn Thompson, Peng-Fei Fan and Helen J. Chatterjee (Eds), Gibbon Conservation in the Anthropocene. Cambridge University Press, UK: 147-166.

2. Chetry, D., R. Chetry and P.C. Bhattacharjee. 2023. Challenges and Prospects in the Conservation of Hoolock Gibbon in India. In Susan M. Cheyne, Carolyn Thompson, Peng-Fei Fan and Helen J. Chatterjee (Eds), Gibbon Conservation in the Anthropocene. Cambridge University Press, UK: 147-166.

3. Chetry, D., R. Chetry and P.C. Bhattacharjee. 2023. Challenges and Prospects in the Conservation of Hoolock Gibbon in India. In Susan M. Cheyne, Carolyn Thompson, Peng-Fei Fan and Helen J. Chatterjee (Eds), Gibbon Conservation in the Anthropocene. Cambridge University Press, UK: 147-166.

4. Pathak J. K. 2022. Understanding ecosystem for health and well-being. In Jagriti, the mouthpiece of National Children Science Congress 2022, Dibrugarh, Assam. Pp 40-43 (in vernacular language)

5. Water,S., Watson,T., Farris, Z.J., Bornbusch,S., Valenta K., Clarke,T.A. Chetry,D., Randriana,J.R.O., Harrad, A.E., Pal, A., Home,C.2023. Dogs, Primates and People: A Review. In Tracie McKinney, Sian Waters and Michelle A. Rodrigues (Eds), Primates in Anthropogenic Landscapes. Springer Nature, Switzerland.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

1. Ahmed M.F and D. Lahkar. 2022. Strengthening Conservation of tigers, prey animals, and habitats in the Ripu-Chirang-Phibsoo Forest Complex within the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) in India and Bhutan. Report submitted to USFWS. TRCD: 14/2022. 43pp.

2. Ahmed, M.F and D. Lahkar 2023. Assessing Conservation potential of Tiger, Elephant, Gibbon, their habitats and connectivity corridors in the poorly known Karbi-Dimasa-Jayantia Landscape of Assam and Meghalaya, India. Mid-Term Technical Report submitted to USFWS. Aaranyak, TRCD:12/2023.

3. 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. Mid-Term Technical Report submitted to USFWS. Aaranyak, TRCD: XX/2023.

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5. Das, P.J., Sharma, B.B., Choudhury, R. and Goswami, P.2022. 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. Progress Report of Phase-1 submitted to the State Innovation and Transformation Ayog (SITA), Government of Assam. 27 p.

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ABSTRACT

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Research Office

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Ajanta Path, Beltola Survey
Guwahati, India - 781028

Manas Landscape

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

Majrabari Field Station

Bhuyanpara Range, Manas National Park

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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Gibbon Conservation Centre,
Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary
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Mobile: +91-9435043892
Email: dilip@aaranyak.org

Orang National Park

Aaranyak Filed Station
Nalbari, Silbori- 784114
Darrang, Assam

FINANCIAL REPORT
2022-2023

Acknowledgement Number:481413790311023

FORM NO. 10B
[See rule 10CC and 17B]

Audit report under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 and sub-clause (i) 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-2023 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-2023; 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-2023.

Subject to the following observations/qualifications-

(a) The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

GUWAHATI
30-Oct-2023

Chartered Accountants
FRN
013617C
GUWAHATI

Biswajit Baruah
BISWAJIT BARUAH
ARCA063538
0013617C
37 ANANDA NAGAR SIX MILE GUWAHATI 781028
122.161.91.154
UDIN : 2306353866 THNO 9128

AARANYAK SAMANWOY PATH SURVEY,BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2023			
LIABILITIES	AMOUNT(₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT(₹)
FUND ACCOUNT		Fixed Assets	4,47,96,601.01
General Fund			
Opening Balance	80,29,596.34		
Add : Surplus of income over expenditure	44,61,899.09		
Add: Received from Wildlife Conservation Society	2,28,804.00		
Less: Over expenditure of Project adjusted with General Fund	43,80,961.30		
	83,39,338.13	Current Assets	
		TCS	41,061.99
Capital Fund out of Project Expenses		Tax Deducted at Source	12,65,513.95
Opening Balance	2,80,38,823.00	Advance for Project Expenses	3,61,409.23
Add:Additions during the year	89,98,658.01		
Less: Deduction during the year	11,58,924.00	Advance for statutory due	22,572.60
	3,58,78,557.01	Advance to Indian Oil Corporation	6,512.06
Unutilised Project Funds	14,04,54,339.42	Add:Additions during the year	4,000.97
			10,513.03
Jane Macdonald (Greater Adjutant Stork)	8,300.30	STTA receivable	18,322.00
Less: Expenditure incurred during the year	8,300.30	Add:Additions during the year	36,641.00
			54,965.00
		Loan to Employee	15,000.00
		Interest on Income Tax receivable	25,181.00
Outstanding Liabilities		Security Deposit to Kamakhya Energy Point	20,000.00
Earnest Money payable	20,000.00		
Green Audit Expenses Payable	4,165.00	Advance to Assam Professional Tax paid	12,394.00
Payable to D.Os for payment of Statutory Dues	30,313.00	Less:During the year	8,952.00
	54,478.00		3,442.00
		Advance ESIC paid	813.00
		Less:During the year	813.00
			-
		BPCL FLEET CARD	24,707.60
		Advance Provident Fund paid	17,300.00
		Less:During the year	17,300.00
			-
		BANK GUARANTEE FOR FUND	6,21,909.09
		CLOSING BALANCE	
		Cash in hand	8,456.53
		INVESTMENTS	
		Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,88,166.66
		Fixed Deposits with BOB	6,71,58,557.00
		Fixed Deposit with NESF Bank	22,63,029.00
		Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	67,39,334.50
		Fixed Deposit	25,68,418.42
		Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	8,53,940.00
		Fixed Deposit at NESF Bank	24,54,296.33
		Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	39,50,743.30
		UTI	54,00,000.00
		Fixed Deposit at SBI DISPUR	30,52,865.00
		BANK ACCOUNTS	4,18,86,110.21
TOTAL	18,47,26,712.56	TOTAL	18,47,26,712.56

Place: Guwahati
Date: 05.10.2023

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

(DR. BISHWAS KR. TALUKDER)
SECRETARY GENERAL
Secretary General
Aaranyak

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

Chartered Accountants
FRN
013617C
GUWAHATI

Biswajit Baruah
(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)
PARTNER
PIN:063538
FRN:013617C
UDIN: 2306353866THNO9128

AARANYAK
SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM.
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT(₹)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT(₹)
To: OPENING BALANCE		By Project Expenses against Foreign Contribution	16,72,67,879.88
Cash in hand	1,116.53		
To: INVESTMENTS		By Advance for Project Expenses	3,61,409.23
Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,48,166.66		
Fixed Deposit with NISF Bank	40,29,400.00	By Bank Charge	1,63,330.59
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	1,25,47,515.70	By Admin expenses	1,250.00
Fixed Deposit	25,66,418.42	By MPCD Project Expense	2,45,471.29
Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	7,65,728.00		
Fixed Deposit at NISF Bank	53,38,225.33	New Modern Loom Training Project Expenses	17,696.00
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	25,00,000.00	By Jane Macdonald Expenses	8,300.30
UTI	54,00,000.00	By Indian Oil Corporation	4,000.97
	3,43,97,854.11	By TDS on Contract	103.00
To: BANK ACCOUNTS	3,76,51,012.42	By TDS on Consultancy	1,113.00
To: Contribution Received	16,88,07,829.69	By BPCL FLEET CARD	24,707.61
To: Recovery of Project Advances	77,916.49	By Interest on DST fund Returned	2,38,020.00
To: Incidental Receipts		By EXCESS TDS DEDUCTED IN SITA	36,643.00
Recovery from books	6,865.00	By Tax Collected at Source	27,274.99
Donation from visitors	6,000.00	By TAX DEDUCTED AT SOURCE	1,43,455.30
Receipt MCOF Fund	7,520.00	By Land at Hollongapar	4,00,800.00
Internship fees	26,000.00	By CLOSING BALANCE	
Demand Draft		Cash in hand	8,456.53
Receipt for Winter Camp	24,500.00		
	70,885.00	INVESTMENTS	
To: Bank Interest	9,97,253.64	Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,48,166.66
To: Interest on Fixed Deposit	32,80,075.70	Fixed Deposits with BOB	6,71,56,167.00
To: Interest received from BPCL	302.83	Fixed Deposit with NISF Bank	22,63,029.00
To: Membership Fees	13,343.00	Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	67,39,334.50
To: Donation U/S 80G	1,25,137.80	Fixed Deposit	25,66,418.42
To: Receipt from Awareness Materials	800.00	Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	8,53,840.00
To: Award for Environmental Film Manas & Manhu	50,000.00	Fixed Deposit at NISF Bank	24,54,296.33
To: Donation received from Books		Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	39,50,743.30
To: Insurance Received	51,042.00	UTI	54,00,000.00
To: Received from Sale of ECCO Van	2,41,887.00	Fixed Deposit at SBI DESPUR	30,52,865.00
To: Received from Sale of Scorpio	2,80,000.00		9,56,79,258.21
To: Received from Wildlife Conservation Society	2,28,804.00	By BANK ACCOUNTS	4,18,06,110.21
To: Receipt from Nabad Meeting	6,340.00		
To: Scrap Sale	10,700.00		
To: Assam Professional Tax	8,952.00		
To: ESIC	813.00		
To: Provident Fund	17,300.00		
To: TDS 194	11,870.00		
To: TAX DEDUCTED AT SOURCE	1,09,308.00		
To: TDS on Rent	4,328.00		
TOTAL	24,63,44,571.21	TOTAL	24,63,44,571.21

Place: Guwahati
Date: 05.10.2023

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

(DR. BISHAB KR. TALUKDAR)
SECRETARY GENERAL
Secretary General
Aaranyak

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

(CA. BISWAJIT BARIJAH)
PARTNER
M.No.063538
FRN.013617C
UDIN: 23063538BGTHN09515

AARANYAK
SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM.
CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT(₹)	INCOME	AMOUNT(₹)
To: Bank Charge	1,63,330.59	By Incidental Receipts	
To: Admin Expenses	1,250.00	Recovery from books	6,865.00
To: MPCD Project Expense	2,45,471.29	Donation from visitors	6,000.00
To: New Modern Loom Training Project Expenses		Receipt MCOF Fund	7,520.00
To: Interest on DST fund returned	17,696.00	Internship fees	26,000.00
	2,38,020.00	Demand Draft	
		Receipt for Winter Camp	24,500.00
To: Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	44,61,899.09		70,885.00
		By Bank Interest	9,97,253.64
		By Interest received from BPCL	302.83
		By Membership Fees	13,343.00
		By Donation U/S 80G	1,25,137.80
		By Receipt from Awareness Materials	800.00
		By Award for Environmental Film Manas & Manhu	50,000.00
		By Donation received from Books	
		By Insurance Received	51,042.00
		By Received from Sale of ECCO Van	2,41,887.00
		By Received from Sale of Scorpio	2,80,000.00
		By Travel Reimbursement from NABARD	6,340.00
		By Scrap Sale	10,700.00
TOTAL	51,27,656.97	TOTAL	51,27,656.97

Place: Guwahati
Date: 05.10.2023

For & Behalf of
AARANYAK

(DR. BISHAB KR. TALUKDAR)
SECRETARY GENERAL
Secretary General
Aaranyak

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


(CA. BISWAJIT BARIJAH)
PARTNER
M.No.063538
FRN.013617C
UDIN: 23063538BGTHN09515

STAFF LIST

(1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2022)

ADMIN & ACCOUNTS DIVISION

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar,
Scientist G, SG & CEO

Mr. Dipak Kumar Bhattacharyya
Head of Operations

Mrs. Bobby Nath
Manager, Administration

Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar
Manager, Accounts

Mr. Tapash Mahanta
Accountant

Mr. Suranjan Sarma
Executive Coordinator

Mr. Pranab Goswami
Organising officer

Mr. Jayanta Gogoi
Accounts Officer

Mr. Nripen Kumar Nath
Office Executive (Operation)

Mr. Gunajit Mazumdar
PR Executive

Mr. Hriday Jyoti Ojha
Accounts Associate

Mr. Gouranga Mandal
Office Assistant

Mr. Krishnamoni Das
Site Maintenance Assistant

Mr. Rajghar Kalita,
Office Supporting Assistant

Mr. Dhiren Sarma
Site Assistant

Mr. Moni Kumar Haloi
Field Assistant cum Watchman

Mr. Jitu Daimary
Field Assistant

Mr. Arun Basfor
Supporting Assistant- Swach Office

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. Bipul Das
Manager

Mr. Swapan Kr. Das
Project Coordinator

Ms. Rabiya Daimari
Field Coordinator

Mr. Bijay Basumatary
Community Coordinator

Mr. Songsar Basumatary
Community Coordinator

Mr. Udang Basumatary
Community Coordinator

Ms. Bornali Baro
Field 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
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
Field Coordinator

Ms. Rabiya Daimari
Field Coordinator

Mr. Avijan Saha
Field Assistant

Ms. Rimpee Moran
Project Officer

Ms. Deepika Chiring Phukan
Project Officer (Trainee)

Ms. Anushka Saikia
Field Biologist (Trainee)

Mr. Jiban Kumar Chetry
Project Assistant

Mr. Pranjal Deka
Project Assistant

Mr. Pranjit Borah
Project Assistant

Mr. Binoy Kumar Gogoi
Project Assistant

Mr. Tibrajyoti Gogoi
Project Assistant

Mr. Ejaj Ahmed
Project Assistant

Mr. Vendo Theodore Chebath S. Sangma
Project Assistant

Mr. Ripunjoy Kumar Nath
Field Assistant

Mr. Dibakar Nayak
Field Assistant

Mr. Sudip Das
Accounts officer

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. Afride Rahman
Office Assistant cum Data Entry Operator

Mr. Subhashchandra Rabha
Field Assistant

Mr. Sumit Dey
Accounts Assistant

Mr. Lekhon Gogoi
Field Assistant

Mr. Pradeep Barman
Driver

Mr. Bijoy Kalita
Driver

Mr. Rupam Goyari,
Driver cum Field Assistant

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING DIVISION (EECBD)

Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak
Senior Manager

Ms. Wasima Begum
Environmental Facilitator

GANGETIC DOLPHIN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (GDRCD)

Dr. Abdul Wakid
Head

Mr. Manoj Kumar Das
Boat Supervisor

Mr. Gobardhan Mallah
Boat Driver

Mr. Kedar Mallah
Boat Driver

Mr. Binod Borgohain
Boat Assistant

Md. Noor Islam
Driver cum Field Assistant

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY & APPLICATION DIVISION (GTAD)

Mr. Arup Kumar Das
Manager

Ms. Madhumita Borthakur
Spatial Database Officer

Mr. Avishek Sarkar
GIS Assistant

HERPETOFAUNA RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (HRCD)

Dr. Firoz Ahmed
Scientist F, Head

Mr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
Manager

Mr. Sourav Gupta
Project Officer, Research and Monitoring

Mr. Arijit Dutta
Project Officer

LEGAL & ADVOCACY DIVISION (LAD)

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar
Scientist G, Head

Dr. Jimmy Borah
Senior Manager

Ms. Binita Baruwati
Deputy Manager

Ms. Ivy Farheen Hussain
Project Officer

Mr. Rounak Emmanuel Dean
Sr. Project Officer Analyst (Trainee)

Mr. Mukesh Kherkatary
Asst. Project Officer- Law Enforcement

Mr. Bijee Baro
Assistant Project Officer, Law Enforcement

Mr. Mizing Boro
Assistant Project Officer- Law Enforcement

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. Lakhi Ram Boro
Driver cum Field Assistant

Mr. Mrigen Das
Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Bhiraj Deka
Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Dhurajyoti Thakuria
Junior Dog Handler

MEDIA PUBLICATION & COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Mr. Udayan Borthakur
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

RHINO RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (RRCD)

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar
Scientist G, Head

Md. Arif Hussain
Manager

Mr. Pramod Choudhury
Researcher

Ms. Kakali Baishya
Junior Researcher

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 (Grade I)

Mr. Koushik Rajbongshi
Assistant Field Biologist, (Grade I)

Mr. Ajay Kumar Das
Logistic coordinator (Grade II)

Mr. Bedango Kotoki
Community Coordinator

Ms. Hrista Debbarman
Assistant Field Biologist (Grade II)

Ms. Karishma Sharma Chamlagain
Junior Field Biologist

Mr. Dwipendra Narayan Dev
Sr. Field Assistant, (Grade III)

Mr. Bhaben Hazarika
Site Coordinator (Grade I)

Mr. Kishur Payeng
Site Maintenance Assistant (Grade II)

Mr. Raju Mili
Site Maintenance Assistant (Grade II)

Mr. Amal Deka
Community Facilitator (Grade II)

Ms. Monora Begum
Animal Keeper (Grade III)

Mr. Raju Das
Field Assistant

Mr. Niranjan Barman
Site maintenance Assistant (Grade I)

Mr. Tulshi Nath
Animal keeper (Grade II)

Mr. Lutar Ch. Marak
Animal Keeper (Grade II)

Mr. Grikseng Chandra Marak
Animal Keeper (Grade II)

Mr. Rudra Gogoi
Assistant Animal Keeper (Grade I)

Mr. Dhon Chetry
Assistant Animal Keeper (Grade 1)

TIGER RESEARCH & CONSERVATION DIVISION (TRCD)

Dr. Firoz Ahmed
Scientist F, Head

Mr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma
Senior Program Associate, NRMP

Mr. 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 Chhetry
Project Officer

Ms. Bhargavee Rava
Project Officer-NRM

Mr. Randeep Chetia
Project Officer –NRM

Mr. Bhaskor Barukial
Project Officer -Logistics and Accounts

Mr. Arbanki Sungoh
Project Officer

Mr. Vendo Theodore Chebath S.Sangma
Project Officer

Ms. Bemchoube Singha
Project officer (Trainee)

Mr. Avinash Phangcho
Project Officer

Ms. Shilpa Rani Pathak
Project Officer (Trainee)- Research and Monitoring

Ms. Leenthoi Laishram
Project Officer (Trainee)

Ms. Joshna Terangpi
Project Assistant

Mr. Binod Dewry
Asst. Project officer- logistics

Mr. Rangsina Phangcho
Assistant Project Officer- NRM

Ms. Karishma Saikia
Assistant Project Officer (Trainee)

Mr. Birdutta Baro
Field Assistant- Law Enforcement

Md. Majammil Haque
Office Assistant cum Driver

Ms. Devi Das
Field Assistant, Law Enforcement

Ms. Sajati Das

Field Assistant, Law Enforcement

Mr. Ratul Das
Field Assistant, NRM

Mr. Rowel Engti
Field Assistant- NRM

Mr. Biswajit Basumatary
Field Assistant

Ms. Momita Narzary
Field Officer (Trainee)

Mr. Dhananjoy Mashahary
Field Assistant

Mrs. Jonali Patra
Office Assistant –NRM

WATER CLIMATE & HAZARDS DIVISION (WATCH)

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das,
Scientist E,

Ms. Madhurima Choudhury
Research 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

Dr. Pranjal Kumar Das
Senior Manager

Mr. Nipan Kumar Gogoi
Assistant Manager

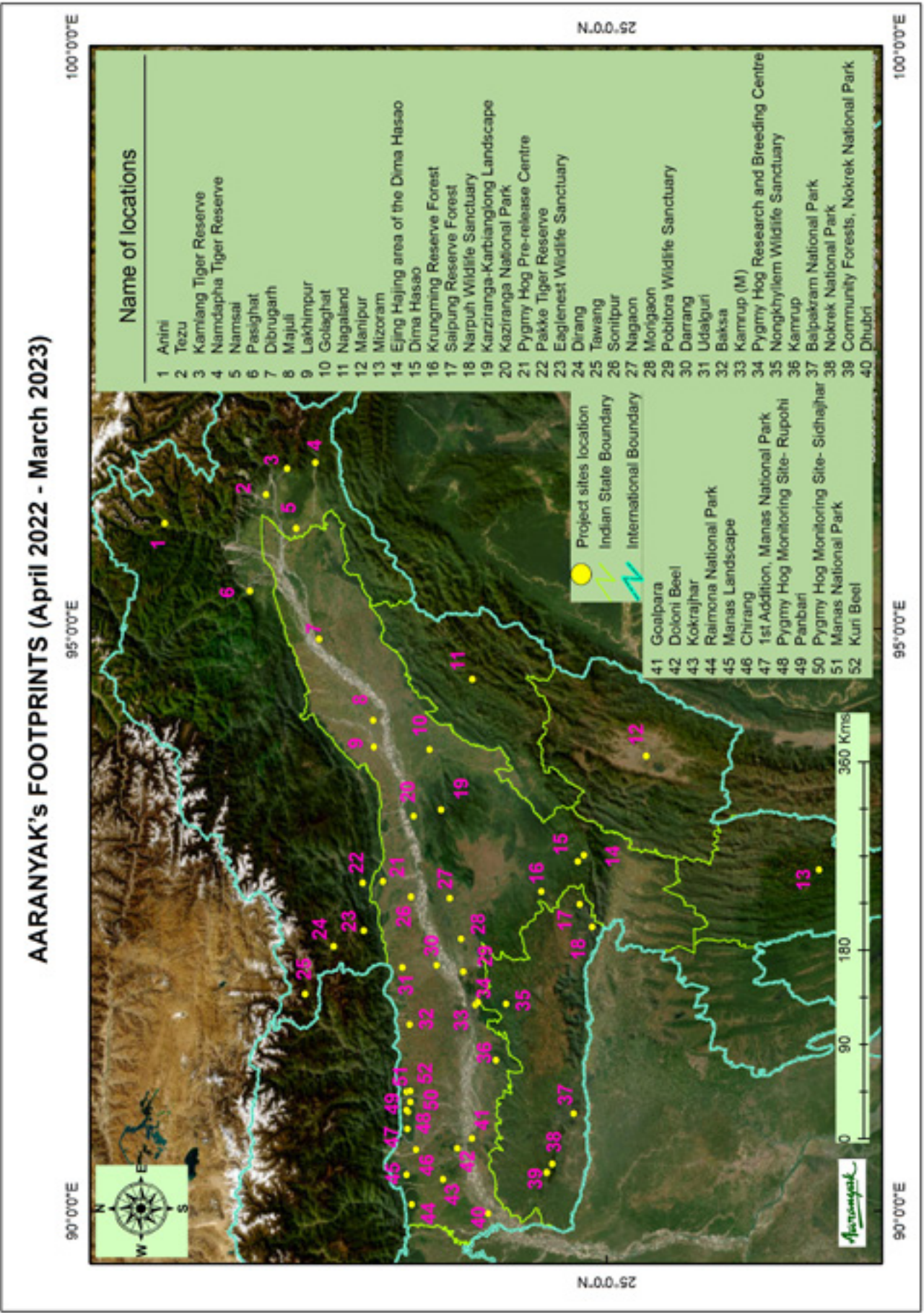


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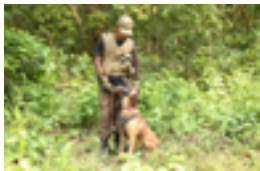
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By- Avijan Saha



By- Avijan Saha



By- M Firoz Ahmed

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

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