

*Aaranyak*

# Annual Report

2024-25

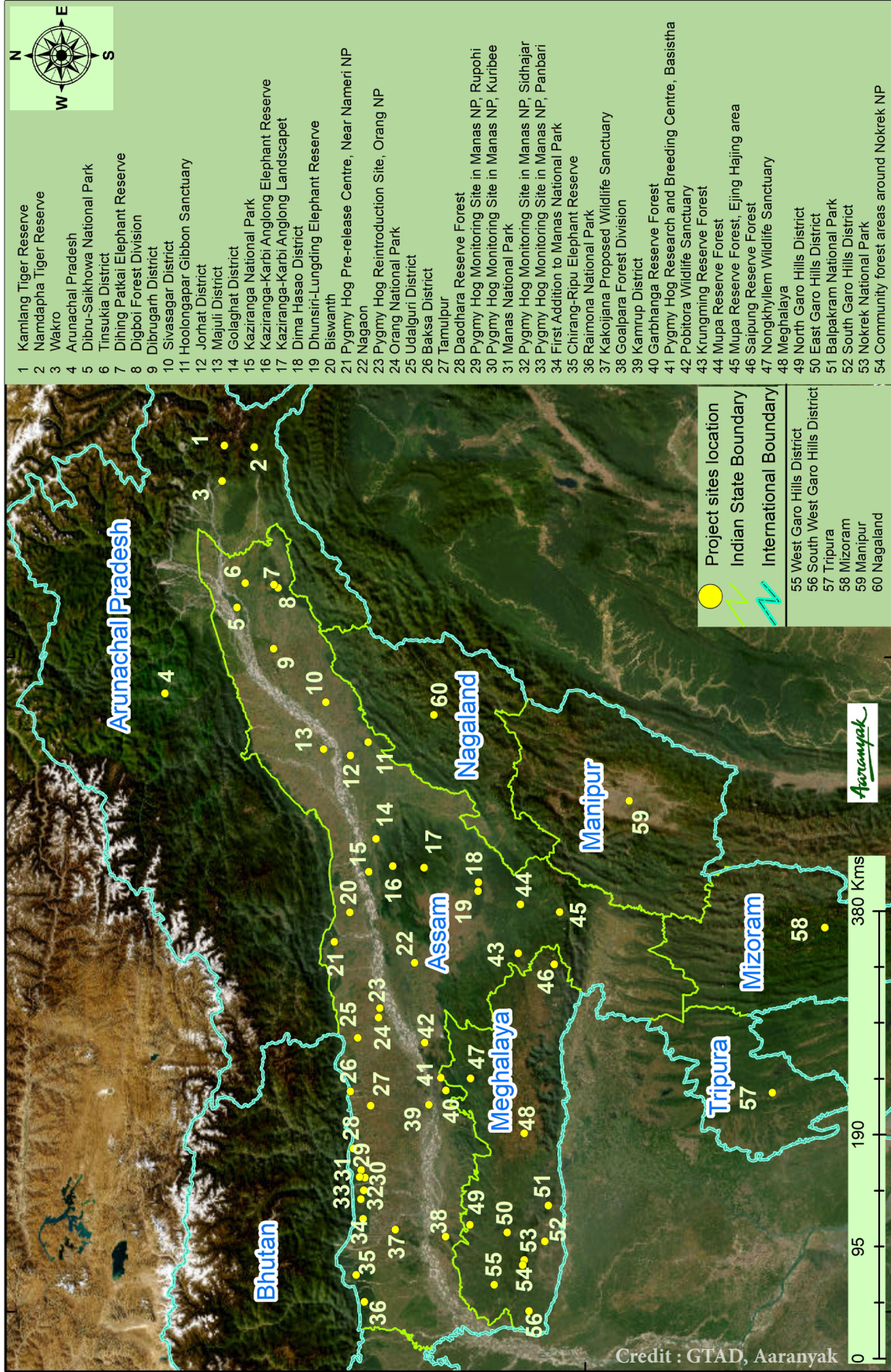


# AARANYAK's FOOTPRINTS (April 2024 - March 2025)

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- 1 Kamlang Tiger Reserve
- 2 Namdapha Tiger Reserve
- 3 Wakro
- 4 Arunachal Pradesh Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- 5 Tinsukia District
- 6 Dihing Patkal Elephant Reserve
- 7 Digboi Forest Division
- 8 Dibrugarh District
- 9 Sivasagar District
- 10 Hoolongapar Gibbon Sanctuary
- 11 Jorhat District
- 12 Majuli District
- 13 Golaghat District
- 14 Kaziranga National Park
- 15 Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve
- 16 Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscapet
- 17 Dima Hasao District
- 18 Dhunsiri-Lungding Elephant Reserve
- 19 Biswanth
- 20 Pygmy Hog Pre-release Centre, Near Nameri NP
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- 24 Baksa District
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- 43 Mupa Reserve Forest, Eijing Hajing area
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25°0'0"N

25°0'0"N

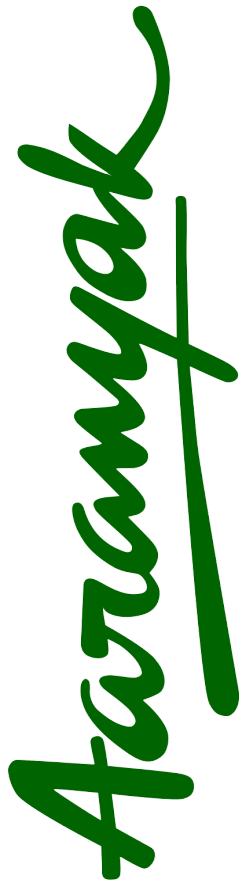
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Credit : GTAD, Aaranyak





## **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

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 recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Government of India.

#### **Know More About Us**

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

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

Aaranyak Society Registration No. RS/3096 of 1989-90

Donations made to Aaranyak in India carry tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976 entitles Aaranyak to receive foreign contribution to work in the field of biodiversity research and conservation.



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# From the Desk of Secretary General

## Rich biodiversity and human wellbeing - Two sides of the same coin

For over 35 years we have been steadfastly working towards ushering a new era of hope in biodiversity conservation efforts especially in bio-resources rich landscapes of Northeast India. Our community-focus and applied research driven strategy in tune with our avowed mission of “Nourishing nature to secure our future”—a phrase that has become so relevant today when our earth, hitherto only liveable planet in the universe is fraught with a critical time induced by plethora of issues like global warming, glacier melting, rising sea level, climate change adaptation challenges etc. We also realise for a Viksit Bharat, the health of our ecosystems has to be good to attain the goals set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that our country is committed to achieve.

We firmly believe that facilitating persistent human wellbeing at this challenging time, is possible only through efficient conservation of biodiversity across the globe to enable the earth’s lung performs to support mission life. We as a team remain committed to contribute towards this cause as best as we can do given our limited resources and expertise as well as limitless sincerity and perseverance.

Having said so, it needs to be underscored that biodiversity conservation is a fundamental basis of human wellbeing that support much needed ecological processes that can ensure future water security and better air to breadth. It sustains ecosystem stability, underwrites economic systems, protects citizens ‘health, enhances climate resilience, and supports cultural diversity and unique identity of every tribes of the country.

Biodiversity loss represents systemic risk to planetary stability and socio-economic

development because biodiversity encompasses genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity as well as constitutes the biophysical foundation of human wellbeing to help us achieve the goal set under One Health.

Increase in human-wildlife and livestock contacts facilitates exchange of pathogens, potentially creating conditions for emergence and transmission of zoonotic disease. As such investment in ecosystem integrity and wildlife health monitoring is often more cost effective than downstream disease response. Access to green spaces further contributes to mental health, reducing stress and enhancing overall psychological wellbeing. Ignoring ecological drivers of disease will increase health cost, inequality and vulnerability.

Ecosystems provide regulating, provisioning, supporting, and cultural services and biodiversity enhances ecosystem functionality, redundancy, and resilience, increasing adaptive capacity under disturbance.

Degradation of ecosystems translates into long term economic losses, supply chain disruptions. Biodiversity conservation, therefore, functions as a macroeconomic risk mitigation strategy and many SGD are linked with biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity conservation ensures that ecosystems remain functional, resilient, and capable of providing essential services that directly and indirectly support human wellbeing and keep the option of nature based solutions to diverse catastrophic challenges that the world has been facing

At the most basic level, biodiver-

sity sustains ecosystem services that are indispensable for survival. Forests regulate climate by sequestering carbon dioxide, wetlands purify water and reduce flood risks, and diverse soil organisms maintain soil fertility through nutrient cycling.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds enable the reproduction of crops that feed billions of people. Without species diversity, these ecological processes weaken, leading to reduced agricultural productivity, water scarcity, and heightened vulnerability to climate extremes. In this sense, biodiversity forms the natural infrastructure upon which human life depends.

Obviously, biodiversity loss disproportionately affects Indigenous people and rural communities who rely directly on ecosystem services. We, therefore, in our project-based conservation strategy emphasizes indigenous knowledge integration and promotion as well as ecosystem restoration as much as possible based on traditional knowledges mixed with scientific inputs.

Beyond ecological stability, biodiversity is central to food security and livelihoods. Agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism all rely heavily on healthy ecosystems. Crop genetic diversity enhances resistance to pests, diseases, and climate variability. So, biodiversity conservation must be oriented on multi-agencies and multi-stakeholders approach in the greater interest of human wellbeing.

Soil microbial diversity is critical for food security, as it drives soil fertility, nutrient cycling, and plant resilience, ultimately supporting sustainable agricultural productivity. Researchers need to carry out more in-depth research on soil to ensure that ability of soil to gather natural nutrients are not hampered due to excessive use of chemicals.

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. Diverse ecosys-

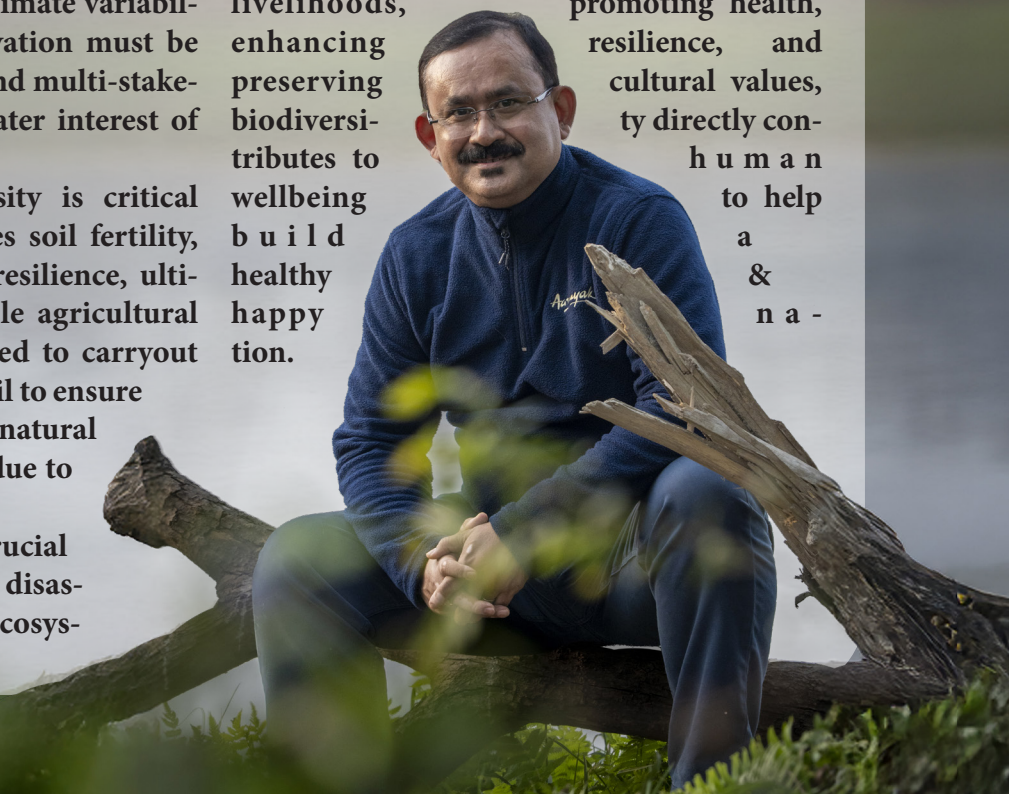
tems are more adaptable to environmental change and can recover more quickly from disturbances.

Nature-based solutions, which integrate biodiversity into climate adaptation strategies, are increasingly recognized as cost-effective and sustainable approaches to addressing environmental challenges.

Cultural and spiritual values associated with biodiversity further enrich human wellbeing. Many communities maintain deep cultural connections to specific species, landscapes, and ecosystems. Traditional knowledge systems often embody sustainable resource management practices developed over generations. Protecting biodiversity therefore preserves not only ecological integrity but also cultural heritage and identity.

Conservation efforts—such as protected areas, sustainable resource management, ecological restoration, and community-based conservation—are essential to reversing these trends.

For Aaranyak, Biodiversity conservation is not merely an environmental concern; it is a cornerstone of sustainable development and human survival. By maintaining healthy ecosystems, safeguarding economic livelihoods, promoting health, enhancing resilience, and preserving cultural values, biodiversity directly contributes to human wellbeing and a healthy happy nation.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## Government Agencies

- All India Radio
- Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department
- Assam Forest Department
- Assam Forest School
- Assam Police
- Assam Project on Forests and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC)
- Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC)
- Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA)
- Border Security Force (BSF)
- Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymer Limited (BCPL)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Govt. of Assam
- Forest Department, BTC
- Forest Department, Dima Hasao
- Forest Department, KAAC
- Goalpara Forest Division of Assam Forest Department
- Government of Arunachal Pradesh
- Government of Assam
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- Indian Space Research Organization
- Institute of Advanced Study on Science and Technology
- Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council (KAAC)
- Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baksa
- Krishi Vikash Kendra (KVK), Diphu
- Manas National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Manipur Forest Department
- Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
- Meghalaya Forest Department
- Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India
- Mizoram Forest Department
- Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- NESAC at Umiam, Meghalaya
- Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve
- Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam
- Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Diphu, Assam
- Samgara Shiksha Assam
- Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Social Forestry Division, Department of Forest & Environment, Meghalaya
- Soil Conservation (Hills) Department, Karbi Anglong, Assam.
- Sikkim Forest Department
- State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)

- of Mizoram, Manipur and Meghalaya
- Survey of India
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Terrestrial Ecology Lab, IISER, Kolkata
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

## Academic Institutions

- Abhayapuri College
- Azim Premji University, Bhopal
- Bodoland University
- Assam Down Town University
- College of Agriculture, Jorhat, AAU
- Civil Engineering, SITM, Guwahati
- Department of Geography, Dimakuchi College
- Department of Life Science and Biotechnology, Assam University, Diphu Campus
- Department of Zoology, Gauhati University
- Department of Zoology, Nagaon College (Autonomous)
- Department of Zoology, North Lakhimpur College
- Manipur University
- Sonapur College
- The University of Science and Technology (USTM)
- Tripura Biodiversity Board
- Tripura Forest Department
- Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

## International/National Partners

- Arcus Foundation
- Asian Elephant Conservation Fund
- Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques (AFdPZ)
- Beauval Nature (BN)
- BinBag
- Bonyabondhu
- British Asian Trust (BAT)
- Clarkson Jersey Trust (CJT)
- Darwin Initiative
- David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF)
- Disney Conservation Fund (DCF)
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
- EcoSystems-India
- Elephant Family
- French Development Agency (Agence française de développement)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Global Gibbon Network
- Global Initiative (GI)
- Help Aid Foundation
- Help Earth
- International Rhino Foundation (IRF)
- IUCN (CAG)
- IUCN SOS

- IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group
- IUCN SSC PSG Section on Small Apes (SSA)
- IUCN SSC Small Mammals Specialist Group
- IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group
- IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group
- IUCN-KfW
- Journalist Associations of various parts of Assam
- Kahini
- Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)
- LIC Housing Finance
- MBZ species Conservation Fund
- NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union)
- Nature Conservation Society (NCS), Tinsukia
- Oriental Bird Club (OBC)
- Panthera, USA
- PDUAM-Behali
- People for Nature & Peace (PfnP)
- Re:Wild
- SBI Foundation
- Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya
- The Habitats Trust (THT)
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy India Limited
- Tilinga Sports Club
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- UNDP-SGP
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- West Assam Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
- WildLandscape International
- Wipro Earthian
- World Resources Institute India (WRI India)
- Wroclaw Zoo
- Zoo Berlin
- Zoological Society of London, UK

## Community Partners

- Fifty-six SHG and 10 EDC of Bansbari Range of the Manas National Park.

## Personalities

- Cory Brown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dr James McNamara
- Dr Meenakshi Nagendran
- Dr. Marcus Rowcliffe, Zoological Society of London, UK
- Krunal Patil
- Vanessa Stephen, Wild Landscapes



# BACKGROUND

North-East India, located at the confluence of the Eastern Himalayas and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots, is among the most biologically rich regions of the world. Its extensive forests harbour numerous rare, endemic and threatened species. Yet, limited awareness and inadequate scientific documentation have long challenged effective conservation.

Founded in Guwahati in 1989 by a group of young environmentalists, Aaranyak has grown into one of India's leading research-driven biodiversity conservation organisations, with a strong footprint across Northeast India. The organisation works to conserve the region's natural heritage through scientific research, environmental education, community engagement, sustainable livelihood initiatives, capacity building and legal and policy advocacy. Its focus areas include species and habitat conservation, climate change adaptation, technology-based solutions, nature-based approaches and community-led natural resource management.

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, Geospatial 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.

Since 1989, Aaranyak has earned significant national and international recognition. The Government of Assam notified its Wildlife Genetics Laboratory under the BNSS 2023 to support wildlife forensic investigations - a first in Northeast India. The organisation has received prestigious honours including the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, the Mark Shand Award by Elephant Family, the SGP Best Innovation Award by UNDP-TERI and the National Film Award for Manas and People. A member of IUCN, Aaranyak continues to play a pivotal role in safeguarding Northeast India's unique ecosystems through the dedicated efforts of its scientists, researchers, educators and community partners - nurturing nature to secure our future.

# Aaranyak's Executive Committee 2023-25



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*President*



**Dr. Dilip Chetry**  
*Vice-President*



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*Secretary General*



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**Mr. Kaushik Barua**  
*Executive Member*



**Dr. Alolika Sinha**  
*Executive Member*



**Prof. Dandadhar Sarma**  
*Executive Member*

# SPECIES RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



**I**n Northeast India, where rivers breathe life into floodplains, forests rise and fall with the seasons, and grasslands shimmer between fire and renewal, 50% of the country's biodiversity quietly calls it their abode. This is a land of rare abundance, home to elephants that trace ancient paths across human-altered landscapes, rhinos that wander far beyond protected boundaries, tigers that thrive on the richness of the species diversity, dolphins that echo through the braided Brahmaputra, and birds, primates, reptiles, and amphibians whose fates are woven into the health of the forests that are gradually shrinking. The richness, today, stands at a fragile crossroad, shaped by ever accelerating change, shrinking habitats, and growing conflict.

Within this living mosaic, Aaranyak has become both witness and steward. The organization has long been working across forests, riverbanks, and villages to understand how species move, adapt, and endure. By tracking elephants through changing landscapes, listening for gibbons in the canopy, mapping rhino movements across floodplains, monitoring tigers across landscapes and safeguarding nesting storks and grassland specialists, Aaranyak reveals the hidden rhythms of wildlife in North-

east India. Its work extends into genetic laboratories, geospatial analyses, community partnerships, and the persistent strengthening of frontline conservation capacity to ensure long term protection of the region's biodiversity.

### **On the footsteps of the giant: Tracking the Asian Elephants**

Human–elephant conflict (HEC) has increased significantly in Assam in recent years, emerging as a year-round challenge across many landscapes. Traditional community-based mitigation measures such as solar-powered fences and elephant-deterrent crops have offered only short-term relief, mainly addressing seasonal conflicts during the harvest of dry paddy. However, with rapid changes in land use and increasing human presence across elephant habitats, these measures alone are no longer sufficient. There is a growing need to better understand how elephants navigate and respond to the speed and rhythm of rapidly transforming, human-dominated landscapes through technology-supported approaches.

To generate science-based insights for improved conservation planning and coexistence, the Elephant Research and Conservation Division



*Researchers collecting elephant faecal samples at Gesuapara, South Garo Hills*



*Radio collaring operation in Baksa district*

(ERCD) of Aaranyak has undertaken a series of landscape-level research and monitoring initiatives across Northeast India. These efforts focus on understanding elephant movement patterns, range use, vegetation preferences and habitat connectivity to support informed conservation decision-making.

As part of this broader landscape-based approach to Asian elephant conservation, Aaranyak conducted a comprehensive study in Meghalaya to assess the status and distribution of wild Asian elephants. The team successfully mapped elephant distribution across the state and estimated their population density in Balpakram National Park using the Indirect Dung Count method. To better understand ecological factors influencing elephant presence, key environmental and landscape covariates were identified and quantified.

The study also identified critical biological corridors across Meghalaya that facilitate elephant movement and ensure connectivity between habitats. A functional assessment of officially notified elephant corridors in the state was carried out to evaluate their effectiveness. Existing threats were mapped and specific areas where corridors are disrupted or fragmented were pinpointed. Based on these findings, targeted recommendations were

provided to the Forest Department of Meghalaya to safeguard these crucial movement pathways and identify additional potential corridors for long-term conservation planning.

Expanding beyond state boundaries, Aaranyak also mapped interstate habitat connectivity across Northeast India, with particular emphasis on linkages between Assam and neighbouring states including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland. This landscape-level mapping is essential for maintaining long-term connectivity and ensuring the survival of Asian elephant populations across the region.

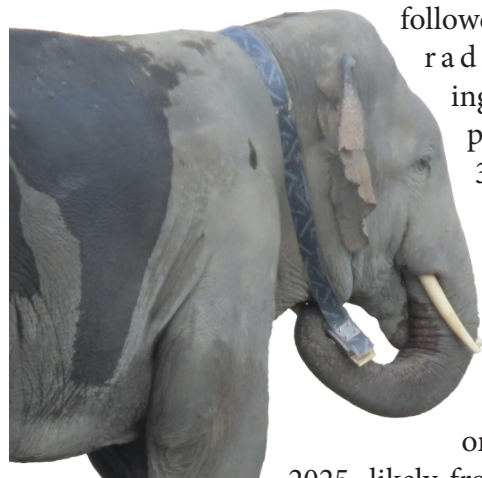
To further aid in landscape management and conservation planning, elephant occupancy surveys were conducted across five proposed elephant reserves in Assam: Ripu–Khalingduar Elephant Range, Dehing–Joypur Elephant Range, Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong Elephant Range, Dhanisiri–Lungding Elephant Range and Goalpara. These surveys aim to generate baseline data on elephant presence and habitat use across priority conservation areas.

### **Radio-collaring for deeper insights**

In the Baksa–Tamulpur landscape, hu-

man–elephant conflicts typically peak during the paddy harvest season from October to January. However, there has been limited understanding of elephant movements and habitat use during the rest of the year. Data on space use, connectivity, food availability and herd dynamics remain scarce, making it crucial to study elephants' seasonal movement patterns, habitat preferences and grouping behaviour, including fission–fusion dynamics.

Radio-collaring offers a valuable scientific method to gather such information. On 18 November 2024, Aaranyak successfully radio-collared a 25–30-year-old tusker in the Baksa Forest Division—marking the first-ever radio-collaring of a tusker in Assam.



herd.

These radio-collaring efforts are expected to generate critical data on elephant movement patterns, range use, habitat preferences and seasonal behaviour. The findings will support actionable conservation strategies, including habitat prioritisation, corridor planning and conflict risk mapping. Ultimately, the study aims to strengthen evidence-based elephant management and promote long-term coexistence between elephants and local communities across Northeast India.

### Wings of hope: Conserving the Greater Adjutant Stork

Since its inception in 2007, the Greater Adjutant Stork Conservation Project has grown into a pioneering conservation movement. By addressing the underlying causes of the species' population decline, the initiative highlighted the



*A hargila conservation outreach in Kamrup district*

urgent need to integrate community participation with focused conservation efforts. As part of this work, the Avifauna Research and Conservation Division (ARCD) of Aaranyak successfully rescued a vulnerable 4.5-month-old Greater Adjutant Stork chick and handed it over to the Assam Forest Department's Sila Range for rehabilitation. The division regularly monitors storks, their nests, and nesting behaviour, and installs protective nets below nesting trees to ensure successful breeding. In addition, ARCD has identified a new Greater Adjutant nesting colony at Kulahati in Rural Kamrup.

### Dolphins echo in the river

The report "Population Status of River Dolphin in India", released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in March 2025, presents the findings of the first-ever All India River Dolphin Survey conducted under Project Dolphin from 2021–23 by the Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with State Forest Departments and partner environmental organizations. In Assam,



*Training on river dolphin conservation on the Brahmaputra bank*

the Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Division (GDRCD) of Aaranyak served as a key partner. The report documented 635 Ganges River Dolphins in Assam, highlighting the state's vital role in the species' survival and demonstrating the impact of ongoing conservation efforts in the Brahmaputra River system.

### Forest floors to riverbanks: Conserving North-east India's reptiles and amphibians

In 2024, the Herpetofauna Research and Conservation Division (HRCD) of Aaranyak carried out extensive field surveys and conservation activities across Northeast India. Field surveys were completed in Nongkhylllem, Siju, Nokrek, and Tura in Meghalaya, where encounters with venomous snakes were relatively low. To improve venom collection efforts, local volunteers were engaged across the region to provide information on venomous snake presence. Further, snake handling and venom collection training were imparted at Mizoram University. In Assam, field surveys and nest monitoring for the Assam roofed turtle were carried out in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, documenting rare information on nesting habitats, threats, and the species' conservation status. Additionally, herpetofauna surveys in Kaziranga contributed important data on the diversity of reptiles and amphibians in the region.



'Frog watch' at Kohora, Karbi Anglong, Assam

### Wildlife crime under the lens

The Legal & Advocacy Division (LAD) of Aaranyak compiled and analyzed over 150 wildlife crime cases from Northeast India between 2024-2025, focusing on rhinos, tigers, pangolins, and exotic species. Further, illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) hotspots were geo-referenced along the

Indo-Bhutan, as well as in the transit routes of central Assam. A detailed survey of pet shops in Guwahati revealed more than 30 establishments trading in exotic and CITES-listed species, highlighting urban wildlife trade threats. Intelligence inputs supported enforcement agencies, including



Workshop on wildlife crime mitigation in Assam

a major bust in Chirang, Assam. Intelligence inputs from LAD supported enforcement agencies, including a major wildlife bust in Chirang, Assam. These combined efforts strengthened species conservation by enhancing intelligence, monitoring, and proactive deterrence of trafficking networks. Additionally, support in generating patrol data (335 patrols covering over 12,500 km) further reinforced the monitoring of critical wildlife landscapes.

### Primates in peril: Conservation through monitoring, capacity building, and GIS applications

During 2024-2025, the Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD) of Aaranyak carried out extensive surveys to assess Western Hoolock Gibbon populations across key protected areas in Northeast India. At Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, 21 groups totaling 78 individuals were recorded. In Namdapha National Park, 14 groups comprising 52 individuals were observed directly, with an additional 57 groups identified through call count methods. At Garbhanga Reserve Forest, eight groups were detected via call counts and one group through direct sighting. In Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, a single group of three individuals was observed.

In addition to field surveys, PRCD collaborated with the Assam State Forest Department and Arunachal State Forest Department to conduct week-long residential training courses cov-

ering a wide range of topics, including biodiversity and conservation in Northeast India, primate conservation with a focus on Hoolock Gibbons, gibbon population estimation, data collection and reporting, floristic studies, habitat characterization and restoration, population and habitat monitoring, gibbon rescue and rehabilitation, GPS use



*Field study during Hoolock gibbon conservation training*

in the field, and wildlife laws and their applications. These courses provided participants with foundational knowledge in primatology and practical experience with field research techniques. A total of 188 forest staff from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh were trained. Furthermore, a similar Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Training was conducted at Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, where 56 frontline staff participated in hands-on sessions using equipment such as compasses, GPS devices, and range finders.

The Geo-Spatial Technology & Application Division (GTAD) of Aaranyak has provided vital support to conservation efforts using its technical expertise. A Species Distribution Model was developed to predict suitable habitats for Western Hoolock Gibbons across Northeast India. The model, created using the MaxEnt algorithm, incorporated both primary and secondary occurrence data to identify areas likely to support the species.

### **Rhinos on the move: Insights on stray rhinos and conservation challenges**

In 2024-2025, the Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCDC) of Assam conducted several studies to understand the ranging patterns of stray rhinos across the state. Rhino

movements were recorded in 15 districts, including Baksa, Biswanath, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup (Metro and Rural), Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Sivasagar, and Sonitpur, revealing that 44.1% of Assam's geographical area, covering both protected and non-protected landscapes, bears rhino footprints. In Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, the frequency of both rhino and buffalo strays increased by 3-4% compared to previous years, resulting in higher human-wildlife conflicts. Seasonal patterns of rhino movement during floods were observed, with rhinos straying outside the park not only during late evenings but at any time of the day, posing challenges to patrolling regimes and local community safety. RRCDC, in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati, completed socio-economic and ecological perception studies. Further, the division also assessed the effectiveness of human-wildlife mitigation measures within the Sanctuary. Rhino and other wildlife movements across 35 river islands of the Brahmaputra near Kaziranga National Park were surveyed to gain insights into regional wildlife movement. Additionally, 80% of the rhino population has been uniquely identified through the Rhino UNIQUE identification program. RRCDC also conducted

a feasibility  
assess-



ment of habitat suitability for potential rhino reintroduction in D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, further supporting long-term conservation planning.



*Training on camera trap in Mizoram*

### **On the trail and traps: Efforts to reveal the hidden wildlife of Assam**

In 2024, extensive wildlife monitoring surveys were conducted by the Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) of Aaranyak, across key landscapes in Assam to assess terrestrial mammal and primate populations. Camera trapping surveys covered approximately 208 sq. km across Krungming and Barail Reserve Forests, as well as unclassified areas including Ejing Had-ing, Indinglo, Hejilo, and Mahur in Dima Hasao District; around 24 sq. km in Garbhanga Reserve Forest, Kamrup (M) District; and about 43 sq. km in the Digboi Division of Dehing Patkai National Park. In addition, trail-based sign surveys were carried out over 170.6 km in Dhansiri Reserve Forest (Karbi Anglong District), 89.3 km in Dima Hasao, and 53.78 km in Batabari and Daodhora Reserve Forests within Manas Tiger Reserve. Complementing these efforts, a survey spanning approximately 101 sq. km of trail-based direct observations was conducted in the Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong landscape to monitor primates and small mammal species.

### **Conserving Assam's threatened "Grassland guardians"**



*Wall painting in a school near Manas NP*

The Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP) of Aaranyak has been focused on conserving and monitoring Pygmy hogs and Bengal floricans, two highly threatened species of the world. A total of 12 Pygmy Hog litters, comprising 52 hoglets, were recorded, with 22 surviving, and 91 individuals are currently maintained in captivity. In Manas National Park's Kanchanbari grassland, nine Pygmy Hogs were released, and six individuals fitted with radio transmitters generated 1,128 telemetry locations over 561 hours.



*A pygmy hog nest in Manas NP*

Camera trap surveys yielded six presence locations with 13 captures, while post-burning surveys documented 19 burnt nests and 66 droppings in Kanchanbari and 26 nests with 36 droppings in Panbari. In Orang National Park, 136 burnt nests and 278 droppings were recorded across 4 km<sup>2</sup> of grassland. Bengal Florican surveys conducted in Manas National Park (Bhairabkunda, Kokilbari Agricultural Farm, and Rupahi), Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaziranga National

Park, and the riverine areas of Sadiya and Majuli Islands recorded the presence of the species along with associated habitat data, contributing valuable insights for ongoing conservation and habitat management efforts.



*Researcher during survey of elephant source population in Raimona NP*

### Conservation Genetics of Threatened Fauna

Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, (WGL), as part of the Wildlife Genetics Division (WGD) of Aaranyak, undertook several population genetic research projects.. undertook several population genetic research projects on Western hoolock gibbon and Asian elephant in northeast India, primarily to identify genetic source populations, understand genetic diversity and barriers to gene flow amongst populations. Landscape genetic work on gibbons is an ongoing project, where fecal sampling of the species from various populations was undertaken and genetic in form of DNA sequences and microsatellite genotypes have been generated. DNA markers for identification of species, gender and individuals of the species from fecal samples have been developed and optimized. The laboratory is also investigating physiological stress in gibbons in var-

ious populations due to anthropogenic influence, through enzyme immunoassay-based analysis of stress hormones from the fecal samples.

A major project on the landscape genetics of Asian elephants was completed, revealing that the region primarily harbours four major source populations, instead of the previously reported five. In collaboration with the ERCD and GTAD of Aaranyak, the laboratory conducted a rapid assessment of landscape-level corridor connectivity for elephants in Meghalaya, identifying genetic source and sub-populations and highlighting the importance of corridors for maintaining genetic connectivity.

Furthermore, the laboratory also contributed to a phylogenetic study of macaques in Eastern Arunachal Pradesh as part of a Ph.D. research work and have made significant progress in the understanding of the evolution and population genetic structuring of various ma-



*During faecal sample collection in Raimona NP*

caque species of the Sinica group in the region. In addition to the above, the laboratory undertook several research studies to develop and optimize genetic markers useful in forensic DNA investigations of various wildlife species.

# HABITAT RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



**I**n the lush and diverse landscapes of Northeast India, Aaranyak has woven science and stewardship into the fabric of conservation. From the grasslands and forests of Assam to the wetlands of Deepor Beel and Doloni Beel, native habitats are being restored, invasive species removed and ecosystems nurtured back to life. Herons are being safeguarded through habitat management, while storks are being protected through the hands and hearts of local communities. Guided by insights from GIS mapping, river health studies and landscape monitoring, these efforts have combined to build a vision of ecological resilience where wildlife thrives, rivers flow and humans and nature coexist in harmony.

#### **Baseline to recovery: Nature's comeback at Bhairabkunda**



*Bhairabkunda plantation drive*

The Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak, in collaboration with the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD), initiated the restoration of native landscapes in Bhairabkunda Reserve Forest in Udalguri district, Assam. As a first step, a vegetation survey covering 51 hectares, along with soil analysis, documented 35 species of vascular plants and trees and five grass species within the restoration area.

Baseline assessments identified four major invasive alien plant species—*Chromolaena odorata*, *Mimosa invisa*, *Lantana camara* and *Mikania micrantha* with *Chromolaena odorata* dominating

the grassland-woodland mosaic. Density surveys helped prioritise areas for management and targeted removal of invasives supported ecosystem recovery. In collaboration with the Dhansiri-Shikaridanga Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC), 20 hectares were restored, with natural regeneration of native grasses observed within two years in a five-hectare intervention site.

During 2024-25, altogether 100,520 tree saplings and *Alpinia* rhizomes were planted, supported by infill planting and nursery development using locally sourced seeds. Fire lines spanning nearly two kilometres were also established to protect plantation areas from accidental fires.

#### **Restoring native vegetation and controlling invasives in Assam's Protected Areas**

##### **Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve**

During 2024-2025, The Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) focused on restoring the grasslands in the Bansbari Range of Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve by managing invasive species and removing young trees that threaten open habitats essential for wildlife. To address this issue, various experimental methods were implemented to control their growth in pre-selected plots. *Bombax ceiba* trees with diameters over 40 cm were debarked. Overall 181 trees were debarked below breast height to prevent seed dispersal and facilitate their eventual die-off. These trees are being monitored to evaluate the method's long-term success. Invasive species such as *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha* have spread across the plots. *Chromolaena* was cut during its flowering stage in January to prevent seed dispersal. After cutting, the plant residues were burned

through controlled burning with the support of forest staff. This was followed by manual uprooting involving local Eco-Development Committees (EDC) members. Further, to preserve open grassland, 8,427 saplings of encroaching trees were manually uprooted, including 2,857 of *Bombax*



Habitat restoration: Removal of *Leea asiatica* in Manas NP

*ceiba*, 1,933 of *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, 2,286 of *Callicarpa arborea* and 1,351 of *Dillenia pentagyna*. These interventions aim to curb woodland expansion and promote the growth of native grasses. Regular monitoring continues to assess the impact of these methods and guide further action, with the ultimate goal of maintaining a healthy, wild-life-friendly grassland ecosystem in Manas landscape.

Additionally, the Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP) of Aaranyak conducted habitat management trials across the Kuribeel and Rupahi areas of Manas NP & TR to restore and manage native grasslands. Altogether 254 *Bombax ceiba* trees across 94.34 hectares and 61 *Dillenia pentagyna* trees across three hectares in Kuribeel were girdled as part of these trials. Tree evaluations showed that 86 mid-girth and 94 large *Bombax* trees had died, while 709 trees remained alive. Additionally, 2,847 and 728 *Bombax* saplings were uprooted in Kuribeel and Rupahi across 7.83 hectares and 2.3 hectares respectively. Pruning and topping trials were carried out on 40 *Bombax* trees across 1.5 hectares. Grass planting was implemented over 2.38 hectares in Kuribeel and 1.70 hectares in Rupahi to support grassland regeneration.

Further, *Chromolaena* management included evaluations of 720 grids at Kuribeel and

352 at Rupahi, with uprooting covering 1,391 grids (125.19 hectares) and 1,151 grids (103.59 hectares) respectively. Additional surveys at Panbari documented 751 *Chromolaena* grids (67.59 hectares), of which 308 grids (27.72 hectares) were cleared. Long-term grassland experimental plots with groundwater monitoring wells were established at Kuribeel, Rupahi and Sidajhar. New invasion experiments with *Leea asiatica* were initiated in Kuribeel and Rupahi grasslands.

### Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve

Restoration and invasive species management were carried out by TSRP across 15.3 hectares in Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve. Activities included uprooting 6,487 *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, 137 *Bombax ceiba*, 375 *Chromolaena odorata*, 104 *Syzygium* species and 266 *Sterculia* species. Further invasive alien plant species such as *Mimosa diplotricha* and *Chromolaena odorata* were removed from an additional 17.3 hectares of grassland to improve habitat quality and support native vegetation recovery.

Additionally, approximately 1.6 sq.km. of park area and seven kilometres of surrounding tourist roads were restored through physical removal of invasive species, carried out collaboratively by RRCD and TSRP.



Tree removal after uprooting invasive species in Orang NP

### Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD) of Aaranyak conducted the first phase of an overview study of invasive species such as *Chromolaena odorata* and *Parthenium* species in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Mayong Revenue Circle during 2024–2025.

Further, the Elephant Research and Con-



*Uprooting of invasives at Pobitora WLS*

servation Division (ERCD) rejuvenated the Pobitora grasslands by woody invasion control and invasive species management. Altogether 8,372 woody saplings were uprooted from restoration areas to mitigate tree encroachment and maintain optimal grassland conditions. The primary focus was on controlling regeneration of *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Azar), *Tetrameles nudiflora* (Bhelkor) and *Ziziphus jujuba*. A total of 5,378 saplings of *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, 1,730 *Tetrameles nudiflora* and 1,262 *Ziziphus jujuba* were successfully uprooted during the reporting period. In order to manage the invasive species, a total of 11 hectares of *Ipomoea carnea* infestation was manually uprooted with the involvement of local communities. Then, the 3,726.06 cubic metres of uprooted tree saplings and 1,027.65 cubic metres of *Ipomoea carnea* were transported and disposed of at distant locations to prevent further invasions.

These sustained grassland restoration efforts in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary have significantly reduced woody plant and invasive species encroachment. Community involvement and effective mechanised support ensured smooth implementation. These measures are expected to improve grassland health and support biodiversity conservation, particularly for flagship species such as one-horned rhinoceros.



*An eco-restoration plot in the buffers of Raimona NP*

## **Raimona National Park and other areas of Bodoland Territorial Region in Assam**

Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) of Aaranyak implemented restoration activities across nine hectares of degraded forest in the Kachugaon Division, where plant growth and survival, forest disturbance, herbivory and soil physicochemical properties are being monitored. Reference plot selection and baseline biodiversity assessments of birds, butterflies and plant diversity are ongoing. A one-hectare vegetation survey was also completed in Raimona National Park. Additionally, a community-managed firewood plantation was established in Dumbazar village along the fringe of Ripu Reserve Forest, strengthening local participation in sustainable resource management.

## **Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong landscape**



*Plantation drive in the Kohora River Basin*

Participatory restoration of jhum fallows and forest floor was carried out by TRCD with 22 jhum farmers across 11.5 hectares in the Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong landscape, with continued monitoring of plant survival and growth.

## **Protecting the storks and herons: Habitat restoration and species management**

Avifauna Research and Conservation Division (ARCD) of Aaranyak carried out habitat restoration and conservation activities for the Greater Adjutant Stork through community engagement and field-based monitoring. A total of 450 saplings were distributed among local residents to enhance



*A tree with hargila nests atop in Kamrup district*

green cover, while large-scale plantation drives led to the successful planting of hundreds of Kadam trees and thousands of other saplings. Several trees in stork-bearing habitats were protected from felling.

Nesting surveys were conducted in Morigaon and Kulahati, alongside community interactions to raise awareness and build support for stork conservation. Habitat conditions across key sites were regularly monitored, and a women-led community group was formed at Kulahati to safeguard nesting habitats. Field assessments at local garbage dumps and adjacent wetlands documented stork population numbers and behaviour, providing critical inputs for ongoing conservation.

The Wildlife Genetics Divi-

sion (WGD) of Aaranyak has been developing a Species Management Plan for the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) in Assam by studying habitats across several parts of the state and conducting surveys to understand public perception towards the species and its conservation.

### **GIS-based wildlife and habitat analysis in North-east India**

During 2024-25, Geospatial Technology and Applications Division (GTAD) of Aaranyak conducted several GIS-based analyses across multiple landscapes in Northeast India to support wildlife and habitat management. At Doloni Beel, water quality mapping and Sentinel-2-based delineation were carried out. Functional characteristics and land use/land cover change maps (1988–2024) were generated for PAMP areas, elephant reserves and protected areas using Google Earth Engine, ArcGIS and rainfall interpolation.



*Ground truthing for GIS mapping in Goalpara district*

In the Bodoland Territorial Region, assessments included land degradation, reforestation modelling, elephant conflict density mapping, vegetation trend analysis, biomass sampling and village prioritisation. Forest canopy density analysis spanning 1988–2024 was completed for Assam, Manipur and Mizoram.

In the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya, elephant



*Awareness programme on wetland near Doloni beel*

corridor modelling and spatial genetics analyses were undertaken.

Rhino ranging, habitat and density maps were also developed, providing critical spatial insights for conservation planning and management.

### **Wetland conservation, river health monitoring and climate resilience**

WATCH Division, through its project “Conservation and Sustainable Management of Wetlands for Local Livelihood Security and Climate Resilience: A Research-Based Pilot Intervention in Deepor Beel and Doloni Beel, Assam”, has significantly raised public awareness about the critical role of wetlands. These ecosystems support rich biodiversity and provide essential ecological goods and services that underpin food security, livelihoods and environmental well-being for local communities.

A similar community-based intervention in Udalguri district (2025) has developed sustainable solutions to help communities adapt to multiple hazards, including water scarcity, human–elephant conflict and climate change, thereby promoting resilience and coexistence between people and nature.

TRCD also conducted hydrological assessments of the Kohora River, revealing a 55% decline in annual discharge over five years, reflecting deteriorating river health. Water quality analyses from

2020–2024 showed fluctuating pH levels (5.63–6.69, becoming slightly more acidic by 2024), improved dissolved oxygen levels (6.3–7.09 mg/L), declining phosphate concentrations (2.80 to 0.47 mg/L) and consistently low nitrate levels (0–0.77 mg/L). These findings indicate generally clean water with reduced nutrient loads, although slight acidity fluctuations may pose stress to aquatic life.

### **Enhancing surveillance and ecological security in transboundary landscapes**

Through patrols, Community Surveillance and Monitoring Teams (CSMTs) and intelligence-led monitoring, approximately 5,000 sq. km of forested landscapes-including Raimona National Park, D’Ering Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mizoram-Myanmar border were indirectly covered. Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD) of Aaranyak



*Complementing the efforts of CSMT, Pasighat*

supported technical analysis of patrol data to identify gaps and enhance field team efficiency in detecting intruders or potential wildlife crimes.

A total of 335 patrols covering 1,641 km on foot and 10,901 km by vehicle helped identify poaching risks, timber smuggling and wildlife trafficking routes. By integrating community surveillance with Forest Department operations, LAD contributed to a reduction in poaching incidents in D’Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh and strengthened the ecological integrity of these critical transboundary habitats.

TRCD, under a transboundary project, conducted a landscape-level assessment in the Dampa landscape of Mizoram, covering six buffer villages to initiate conservation planning for big cats alongside livelihood interventions.



# LIVELIHOOD & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**S**ustainable conservation is increasingly recognised not as the isolation of nature from people, but as the integration of human welfare with ecosystem preservation. During 2024-25, the commitment to this harmony was exemplified through various initiatives under Livelihood and Social Entrepreneurship to integrate community welfare with biodiversity protection as a multi-faceted strategy. While our primary mission remains the safeguarding of species and habitats, by fostering community resilience and economic independence, these efforts aim to reduce human dependence on forest resources while empowering local populations as active stakeholders in biodiversity protection.

### Empowering through skill development and handicrafts

One of the most vibrant expressions of social entrepreneurship was the revitalization of traditional crafts to support conservation.

**From local to global:** In the Kamrup district, a revolutionary movement led by the “Hargila Army” initiative of Greater Adjutant Stork (GAS) Conservation Initiative of Avifauna Research and Conservation Division (ARCD) empowered over 2,000 women by sup-



*Handloom products in the market in Kamrup*

porting them with yarn, and more than 300 women with handloom machines to facilitate home-based weaving. This initiative was supported by an immersive five-day training programme where

senior community women served as trainers for 220 other participants. These women are encouraged to sell the Hargila-themed products, including chadors, gamosas, bags, and home décor through platforms like the Stork Sister Store and Pashoopakshee, providing a steady income directly linked to the protection of the Greater Adjutant Stork.

**Handloom diversification:** In the Manas landscape, the CLD supported Self-Help



*Beneficiaries from Dadara during handloom weaving*

Groups (SHGs) like the Purnima SHG in Langdangpara by handing over traditional looms to encourage alternative livelihood. They also conducted training on handloom diversification to improve product quality and marketability, engaging 34 participants.

### Sustainable agriculture and food security

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of rural livelihoods, and transitioning toward sustainable practices is vital for reducing forest encroachment.

**Crop support and planning:** Baseline

studies for 243 households across eight villages to understand livelihood challenges was conducted by CLD. Subsequently, 128 beneficiaries received support for summer crop cultivation, including



*Beneficiaries receiving alternative crop support in Baksa*

the distribution of 4,140 kg of potato seeds along with pumpkin, cauliflower, and lentil seeds.

**Resilient cropping systems:** In the Udalguri region, the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) showcased work on alternative crop support titled "Mitigating Crop Raids by Elephants: The Impact of Adopting Resilient Cropping Systems". This approach is intended towards helping farmers maintain productivity despite human-wildlife conflict.

**Nutritional home gardens:** Community members were trained in developing home gardens to ensure household food security, with 30 participants at Bhuyanpara learning to cultivate nutritional gardens for personal use.

**Organic farming promotion:** In the GAS project areas, the community members actively promoted organic farming during the harvesting season,



*Human, elephant sharing landscapes of Baksa district*

fostering eco-friendly agriculture.

### **Social entrepreneurship and alternative income streams**

Beyond traditional crafts and farming, a diversification into various social enterprises was also observed.

**Tailoring and cutting centers:** SHGs were supported for establishing and managing centers to train others in tailoring, making cloth bags, and stitching, creating new vocational opportunities within the community.

**Ecotourism and nature education:** Ecotourism has emerged as a viable income source, particularly in Dadara village, where tourists visit for bird watching and to purchase items from the Stork



*Mushroom cultivation training at Kohora*

Sister Store. Additionally, Nature Camps organized at schools like Bormajra ME provided hands-on learning, indirectly supporting a culture of conservation-based tourism.

**Community restoration partnerships:** Restoration efforts also provide local employment. For instance, in the Bhairabkunda Reserve Forest, collaboration with the Dhansiri-Shikaridanga Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) led to the restoration of 20 hectares, involving local labourers and nursery management skills.

### **Socio-economic assessments and project evaluation in Eastern Assam, parts of Meghalaya, Western Assam, and North Bengal**

The Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) of Aaranyak have undertaken

assessments to generate evidence-based insights into the socio-economic realities, ecological vulnerabilities, and community priorities of human–elephant conflict prone landscapes, ensuring that interventions were context-specific and participatory.

As such, a feasibility assessment of the Dooar's Landscape (North Bengal and Bhutan



*Socio-economic survey in Dibrugarh district*

foothills of Assam) for a Carbon Project was undertaken, with the inception workshop serving as the key activity during this period. The workshop addressed the goals, significance, processes, and challenges of carbon projects, provided an overview of carbon markets, high-quality project components, the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Afforestation, Reforestation, Revegetation (ARR) methodology, and Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards, while also discussing governance principles, risks, and community impacts. It strengthened technical and practical understanding, emphasized the role of GIS and community engagement, and offered insights for improving site selection, communication, and reforestation strategies. Subsequently, field engagement was carried out to establish contact with selected villages and gauge community interest in ARR through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). This included meetings with village heads, Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) members, secretaries, and student union representatives, as well as key informant interviews, data collection sheets, and resource mapping. Information gathered covered village demographics, land ownership, livelihoods, community perspectives from Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) discussions, as well as field measurements such as Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and vegetation types across Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) classes, including forests, grazing lands, and barren areas.

While in the Eastern Assam landscape, to

gain in-depth knowledge on the socio-economic status of the villagers, we have conducted a Household Socio-economic survey in all five project villages in Dibrugarh district. During this exercise, we conducted interviews with 25 households in Modhupur Deori Gaon and 36 households in four project villages in the Jeypore region. Building on this, we implemented a structured Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in the same five Dibrugarh villages, which were affected by human–elephant conflict (HEC). Activities included: Assessing socio-economic status, documenting HEC history and patterns, evaluating current mitigation measures, community-led resource mapping, and identification of elephant entry/exit routes. In total, 177 villagers took part in these PRA sessions (99 men, 78 women).

To further tailor intervention strategies, a willingness survey was conducted to capture baseline information from prospective beneficiaries of lemon-based biofencing and vermicomposting programs. The survey assessed land availability, potential time commitment, existing skill sets, motivation, and understanding of possible risks. Thirty-one individuals across four villages in the Jeypore region participated in this assessment.

In parallel, after all the planned interventions were made, 20 village-level project evalua-



*Consultation with villagers in Dibrugarh district*

tion meetings were organized across Eastern Assam and Meghalaya to reflect on the year's project activities and gather community feedback. These sessions successfully engaged 861 community members, comprising 363 men and 498 women.

### **Imparting training and supporting livelihoods in HEC prone landscapes**

The Elephant Research and Conservation

Division (ERCD) of Aaranyak has been involved in imparting training and supporting livelihoods of HEC conflict victims in different landscapes of Assam.

**Integrated livelihood development in the project districts of Western Assam:** Seven Training programmes were conducted to promote alternative cropping systems among farmers in Udalguri, Tamulpur, and Baksa districts. These sessions were organised in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the Tamulpur District Agriculture Department. In-house experts conducted some additional sessions. Furthermore, a total of 12,055 saplings, 144 kg of seeds, and 1,450 kg of rhizomes were distributed to 163 individuals and one community group across the three districts to promote sustainable agricultural practices. To support alternative livelihoods, 56 bee boxes with bee colonies were distributed to individuals and groups in Udalguri and Baksa. Recipients were also given hands-on training in beekeeping techniques.



*Alternative crop support in Udalguri district*

### Catalyzing community growth in West Garo Hills

**In West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, the following livelihood initiatives were carried out during the reporting period:**

Weaving training was provided to 22 women, accompanied by the distribution of 85 kg of yarn to support their new skills. Areca nut plantation support reached 24 households, each receiving 150 saplings to establish or expand their crops.



*A beneficiary receiving yarn in West Garo Hills district*

Assam lemon cultivation assistance was extended to 14 households, with each supplied with 300 lemon saplings. Mushroom cultivation training benefited 25 participants, who were also supplied with a total of 18 kg of oyster mushroom spawn to start their cultivation journey. Carpentry tools have also been provided to 3 beneficiaries. Seven people chose to start a small business and were supported with supplies worth Rs. 10,000/- each in West Garo Hills in Meghalaya.

### Strengthening livelihoods in Eastern Assam

**Weaving:** In eastern Assam, we held 6 training sessions for 102 weavers to expand their handloom production. Additionally, 21 previously trained participants received 5 kg of yarn each in Jeypore (5) in Dibrugarh district, Haldhibari (5) in Majuli district, Sagunpara (10), and one in Hatisal in Jorhat. Notably, a Haldhibari participant chose to weave Eri silk and was supported with 1.5 kg of locally sourced yarn.

**Providing crops and saplings:** In Tinsukia and Jorhat districts, 46 households were supported with 1950 kg of potatoes. 52 households from Tinsukia, Majuli, Dibrugarh, and Jorhat were sup-



*Beneficiaries undergoing handloom training in Eastern Assam*

ported with winter crops.

Additionally, six participants from Hati-sal village in Jorhat district received 1100 lemon saplings, and two from Dibrugarh were supported in setting up small businesses. In elephant-human conflict (HEC)-prone areas, lemon trees serve as living biofences, helping protect crops by naturally deterring elephants through the plants' scent and thorniness.

**Setting up vermicomposting units:** We established a fully operational vermicomposting unit on a 0.15-acre site in Abhoypur Gaon, Dibrugarh. A 40 × 24 ft bamboo hut now serves as both a production and training facility. Six local women manage six composting beds, while three bene-



*Vermicompost bags distribution around Laokhowa-Burhachapori WLS*

ficiaries in Chamorajan village were trained and equipped with vermicompost units. 2 Key trainings in Dibrugarh were hosted, a day-long session with an expert from Krishi Sakhi, Kachari Pathar, covering topics like composting methods, equipment needs, and market opportunities. Six women participated in this. In another instance, an expert from KVK Dibrugarh conducted a detailed technical training on vermicompost production, attended by 31 participants (30 women and one man).

**Promoting biofence and sustainable livelihoods:** To promote eco-friendly farming practices that mitigate human–elephant conflict (HEC) and enhance rural livelihoods, four Stakeholders' Consultation Workshops were conducted across project villages. These sessions focused on the implementation of lemon-based biofencing as a natural deterrent for elephants and explored the po-

tential of vermicomposting units as a sustainable income source for villagers.



*A lemon biofence initiative in Sivasagar district*

For successful implementation, two training workshops were held in Modhupur Deori Gaon and Konwabam and Kamargaon villages, with 35 participants (9 men, 26 women) and 38 participants (17 men, 21 women) respectively. Two additional meetings were held in Lebankula Gaon and Abhoypur Gaon, with a total of 43 participants across both sessions.

As a practical extension of these discussions, Aaranyak, in collaboration with KVK Dibrugarh, organized a hands-on lemon cultivation training in Konwabam village. The training equipped 26 participants (2 men and 24 women) with skills in sustainable lemon farming, which not only serves as a biofencing method but also contributes to community-based livelihood development.



*Training on water hyacinth craft near Kaziranga*

### Capacity building and knowledge sharing

The success of these livelihood initiatives depends on robust capacity building and the dissemination of technical knowledge.

**Geo-Spatial training:** The Geo-Spatial Technolo-

gy & Application Division (GTAD) provided GPS and GIS training to approximately 600 participants, including grassroots leaders and research scholars, equipping them with tools for better natural resource management.

**Conservation education:** The Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) focused on sensitizing stakeholders, from community leaders to students, to address ecological issues through training and handholding. Through initiatives like natural Holi color production and water conservation programs, they demonstrate that "green" skills can lead to immediate domestic savings and potential entrepreneurial ventures.

**HWC data reporting:** To bridge the gap between



*Interaction with women's collective at Kohora*

conflict and mitigation, orientation programs were organized for local volunteers in Bhuyanpara and Kokilabari to train them in effective Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) data collection and reporting.

### Strategic shift towards sustainable livelihoods

The paradigm of conservation in North-east India has shifted from exclusionary practices to inclusive models. This evolution is driven by the understanding that forest-dependent communities are the most effective stewards of nature when their socio-economic needs are met through sustainable means.

**Holistic resource management:** The Water, Climate, and Hazard (WATCH) Division redefined the scope of livelihood by addressing water-centric economies. Their work recognized that man-

aging water bodies and aquatic ecosystems is fundamental to the sociocultural aspects of rural life and the sustainability of traditional occupations.

**Tiger conservation and social economics:** The Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) has prioritized the documentation of traditional knowledge and cultural ethos. By mapping the socio-economic profiles of forest-dependent communities, they aim to expand models of natural resource-based sustainable livelihoods that benefit both people and predators.

**Legal advocacy and community vigilance:** The Legal & Advocacy Division (LAD) has pioneered community-based surveillance through Community Surveillance and Monitoring Teams (CSMTs) in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. This approach aims to transform local citizens into proactive defenders of their environment, bridging the gap between legal advocacy and grassroots action.

### Social entrepreneurship as a conservation tool

Social entrepreneurship in this context refers to the creation of business models that solve environmental problems while generating income.

**Primate conservation through awareness:** The Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD) worked closely with local communities to conserve the country's rich biodiversity. Their initiatives focused on training and capacity building,



*Livelihood mapping in progress in Nagaon*

ensuring that communities living near sensitive habitats like the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary are partners in conservation rather than adversaries.

**The Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP):** This programme exemplified a large-scale partnership model, collaborating with over 56 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 10 Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) in the Bansbari Range of Manas National Park. By engaging these organised community groups, the programme ensures that the recovery of the endangered pygmy hog is supported by a robust local social infrastructure.

**Resilience and disaster management:** The WATCH Division also addressed climate change impacts and disaster risk management by promoting renewable energy and sustainable development goals. They provided the technological and structural foundations for communities to build resilient livelihoods in the face of hydrometeorological hazards.

During the year 2024-25, it was observed

that when livelihood support is tailored to the specific ecological and cultural context of a region, it fosters a deep-seated commitment to conservation. In the Manas landscape, the collaboration with SHGs has created a sense of collective ownership over the survival of the pygmy hog. In the border regions of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, CSMTs are redefining what it means to be a "guardian of the forest" by aligning village pride with biodiversity protection.

These efforts demonstrate that the path to a sustainable future is paved with economic independence. By empowering communities with new skills, whether in sustainable weaving, organic agriculture, or community-based surveillance, conservation efforts are moving toward a model where the prosperity of the human population is inextricably linked to the flourishing of the natural world.

**EDUCATION, OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION**



The Education, Outreach, and Communication efforts across various divisions have evolved into a sophisticated, multi-layered framework designed to bridge the gap between scientific research and community-driven action. By leveraging specialized divisions and collaborative partnerships, Aaranyak has created a robust ecosystem for knowledge transfer, legal empowerment and multi-stakeholder sensitization.

### Framework for ecological literacy and environmental education

The Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) serves as the primary engine for fostering a scientific temperament among the youth and local communities. Their mission is to create an ecologically literate and resilient society capable of addressing modern environmental crises.

### Eco-action and water conservation



*Short term training course on water conservation*

A flagship event was the 10-day Student Summer Learning Programme titled “Eco-Action towards Water Conservation.” This initiative resulted in a measurable impact, with participants collectively saving 1,550 liters of water daily in their households, demonstrating that educational outreach can lead to immediate behavioural change.

### Cultural integration in education

The division successfully inte-

grated local traditions with sustainable practices by organising a workshop on Natural Holi Colour production in Barpeta. Fifty participants were trained to use local natural ingredients, bridging the gap between cultural celebrations and environmental safety.

Wall murals depicting grassland biodiversity and key species Pygmy hog, Hispid hare, and Bengal Florican were created in 13 fringe village schools, three EDC community halls, and four EDC weaving centers.



*Nature learning programme at Garbhanga*

### Hands-on nature learning

In collaboration with the Conservation Livelihood Division (CLD), nature camps were organised at Bormajra ME School and Khamardwisa High School. These camps engaged 55 students in experiential learning about biodiversity and the importance of habitat protection.

Additionally, 10 inquiry-based nature learning camps were organised for 216 students from 10 project villages in the Manas Landscape.

### Conservation education consultation workshop

A two-day Conservation Education Consultation Workshop for the Manas Landscape was organised at the Manas Conservation and Outreach Centre (MCOCC) where 33 conservation educationists, natural resource management specialists, habitat conservation



Judiciary workshop on wildlife crime in Aizawl

experts, culture and folklore experts, and social scientists from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) actively participated.

**Legal advocacy and institutional sensitization**

The Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD) focused on a specialized form of outreach: educating custodians of the law and local governance systems to combat wildlife crime.

**Judiciary and enforcement training**

LAD conducted multi-agency training and judiciary sensitisation to strengthen environmental governance. By mapping illegal wildlife trade hotspots and monitoring online trafficking, the division provides enforcement agencies with intellectual and technical tools for deterrence.



Judiciary workshop on wildlife crime at Aizawl

**Empowering local governance**

A critical outreach component involved sensitising members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in Orang. Conservation strategies gain stronger support at the grassroots administrative level by educating village-level leaders on wildlife laws.

**Sector-specific outreach**

Targeted sensitisation programmes were also held for transport agencies to mitigate the use of logistics networks for illegal wildlife trade.

**Community-based communication and participatory conservation**

Effective communication is essential for managing the delicate balance between human activities and wildlife presence, particularly in conflict-prone areas.

**Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) literacy**



Dignitaries being honoured at Manas landscape

The CLD prioritised community consultations across Thwribari-Langdangpara and Bamunkhal villages, engaging 181 participants. These sessions gathered community perceptions of conflict and communicated mitigation strategies.

International Tiger Day was celebrated in the Manas Landscape in collaboration with IUCN India and other stakeholders to create awareness among students and communities.

A Park Safari cum Awareness Programme was organized for SHG members of Dauraihari EDC, engaging 57 participants in nature orien-

tation, safari, group discussions, and interactions with service providers and nature guides.

### Empowering volunteers

Outreach extended to technical training for local volunteers at Bhuyanpara and Kokilabari. Participants were trained in systematic HWC data collection and reporting to ensure community voices are accurately represented in conservation data.

### Hargila movement



*Student outreach on Hargila conservation in Kamrup district*

The Avifauna Research and Conservation Division (ARCD) transformed a persecuted species into a symbol of pride through a revolutionary conservation movement. By focusing on nest tree owners and empowering local women, the Greater Adjutant Stork project fostered community ownership that led to an eight-fold increase in nesting sites.

### Empowering Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) affected communities

Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) constitutes one of the critical areas of intervention addressed by the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD). The Division has undertaken multifaceted initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of communities of HEC-prone villages, developing adaptive strategies and community-based mechanisms that enable coexistence with elephants while mitigating conflict.

### Awareness and outreach

More than 35 community outreach pro-

grammes were organised across villages in Udalguri, Baksa, Tamulpur, and Nalbari to promote coexistence with elephants. Additionally, around 84 outreach programmes were conducted in Eastern Assam and Meghalaya, reaching 4,167 people (M: 921, F: 915), including 2,331 students. These sessions included discussions, IEC materials, documentary screenings, biodiversity education, nature games, and conservation-themed drawing workshops. Village-level meetings promoted community-based HEC mitigation and encouraged participation of Elephant Conservation Networks (ECNs) and solar fencing committees, including demonstrations of the Haati App.

A dedicated event at the Bhairabkunda restoration site addressed flood-related damage to planted saplings. Twenty participants, including Forest Department officials, JFMC members, and local residents, attended and discussed collaborative monitoring strategies.

The “Gajah Kotha” campaign (Elephant Stories / Mongma Golpo in Garo) was launched in two phases:

Phase I: Elephant ecology, cultural significance, and conservation status.

Phase II: Causes of HEC, mitigation strategies, and peaceful coexistence.

Altogether 46 sessions engaged 1,963 individuals (730 men, 691 women, 542 students).

Street play training sessions at Shripanshami Himali High School in Baksa engaged 23 students in a three-day theatre workshop. Three street plays were later performed at the school, a weekly market and the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Mela, reach-



*'Gajah Kotha' session in West Garo Hills district*

ing over 800 individuals.

Twenty-six school outreach programmes were executed across Udalguri, Baksa, and Tamulpur districts. Activities included interactive sessions using IEC materials, presentations on ele-

phants and biodiversity conservation, documentary screenings, art and quiz competitions, conservation rallies, and more.

Another outreach programme on Human-Elephant Coexistence was held at Kamar Gaon M.E. School in Dibrugarh, engaging students from both M.E. and High School sections. Elephant-themed masks were distributed as interactive learning tools, and an art activity for lower primary students to encourage creative expression. The event engaged 63 students and five teachers.

### Radio outreach

Radio remains an important communication medium in rural Assam. A radio discussion on HEC, Van Mahotsav, and ecosystem restoration aired on All India Radio reached approximately 60,000 listeners. Another radio show discussed solar-powered fence and nature-based HEC solutions. A live call-in radio programme reached audiences across Assam, with diverse listeners' participation. AIR Dibrugarh visited the Majuli project site to record community stories on coexistence initiatives. AIR Dibrugarh-recorded stories were aired in two half-hour segments highlighting community experiences and mitigation effectiveness.



*Community women tune into a radio talk on coexistence*

### Media engagement and journalism workshop

A media workshop on HEC mitigation for journalists in Dibrugarh District was conducted in collaboration with local press clubs. Fifteen journalists participated in the workshop, resulting in dissemination of multiple positive stories in regional media.

A media roundtable by the ClimateRISE Alliance engaged over 20 journalists from region-

al and national media including Doordarshan, News18 Assam & NE, Dainik Janambhumi, NE Live, TV9 and ANI.

### Observation of key environmental days and important events

Major environmental days including IDBD, Earth Day, World Environment Day, World Elephant Day, World Wetland Day, World Migra-



*'Primate watch' in Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary*

tory Bird Day, International Primate Day, International Gibbon Day and Wildlife Week—were observed through restoration events, seed collection drives, seminars, plantation drives, and HEC outreach.

Community engagement during Wildlife Week included football matches with forest departments and disaster management authorities in Baksa, Udalguri, Goalpara, and Dibrugarh districts of Assam. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Elephant Football Cup in Goalpara strengthened inter-state cooperation between Assam and Meghalaya facilitating human-elephant coexistence

Community events such as Children's Day, Bhugali Utsav, and Hasti Puja were organised in Eastern Assam and Meghalaya.

### Capacity building programmes

#### Disaster preparedness training

In collaboration with Civil Defence, 10 first-aid training sessions were conducted for 515 villagers, with women comprising 62% of participants in Eastern Assam and West Garo Hills. The initiative was acknowledged by the Assam CM's Office. Similarly, 10 first-aid trainings were conducted in Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udalguri in collaboration with DDMA.

### Capacitating the ERCD project teams

A 2-day in-house capacity-building event was conducted in Bhairabkunda (May 9–10, 2024). A three-day exposure visits to Hollemathi Foundation, Karnataka (Oct 25–27, 2024) enhanced educational initiative capabilities. ERCD Eastern Assam team attended data management training at Dibrugarh University. A two-day refresher



*Training-cum-exposure visit for Udalguri farmers*

workshop on Applied Environment Education was attended at Assam Agricultural University.

### Strengthening local groups

Two training sessions organised for Village Defence Party (VDP) members engaged 126 participants. Elephant behaviour and mitigation training was provided to ADS and ECN members. A three-day exposure visit (Feb 2025) for 24 stakeholders to Jaldapara and Kurseong Forest Divisions. Village Champions training completed; multiple consultations held. Capacity-building exposure trip to Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong was conducted for 11 village champions (April 4–7). Two Village Fencing Committee trainings organised in Jorhat engaged 124 villagers.

### Training and forming Elephant Conservation Networks (ECNs)

Three ECN training and five strengthening events were conducted.

New ECNs formed:

Kumarikata Anchalik ECN (22 members)  
Bongurum ECN (35 members from 13 villages)

### Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials

IEC materials meant for HEC mitigation, were translated into Bodo language. Video documentary and leaflets were developed combining “Gajah Kotha” and “Hati aru Ami.” Educational ruler and leaflets for schools (Assamese

& Bodo) and booklet and audio-visual IEC versions were developed. A handbook on solar-powered fence was brought out in local language. A Documentary: “Harvesting Hopes – The Biofence Initiative,” was made to promote HEC mitigation efforts among masses to elicit their cooperation.

### Technical and scientific communication

#### Geospatial capacity building

The Geo-Spatial Technology & Application Division (GTAD) provided GPS and GIS training for research scholars and forest staff.

#### Herpetological awareness

HRCD organized nine orientation camps at Kaziranga National Park to improve identification and conservation of the Assam roofed turtle.

#### Meteorology for society

WATCH Division co-organised World Meteorological Day with Gauhati University, emphasizing meteorology’s societal importance.

#### Multi-stakeholder collaboration and narrative impact

#### The Dolphin Yatra

A boat-based outreach programme in the Brahmaputra engaged 164 teachers, 55 forest officials, and 29 community leaders, fostering commitment to Gangetic Dolphin conservation.



*Students in a dolphin conservation outreach in Kamrup district*

#### Strategic partnerships

The Threatened Species Recovery Programme leveraged 56 SHGs and 10 EDCs in the Manas landscape to communicate species recovery goals, including that for the Pygmy Hog.

# LEGAL & POLICY ADVOCACY



The Legal & Advocacy Division (LAD) plays a central role in strengthening wildlife conservation outcomes by addressing the legal, institutional and policy dimensions of wildlife crime. During the reporting period 2024–25, LAD's legal and policy advocacy efforts focused on closing gaps between detection, and investigation of wildlife crime cases, while simultaneously sensitizing efforts that recognise wildlife crime as a serious organised and transboundary offence.

LAD's engagement in regional and national forums, including ranger and enforcement platforms, contributed to policy conversations on integrating wildlife crime into broader organised crime and financial crime enforcement strategies. Advocacy efforts emphasised the need to operationalise existing legal provisions more effectively rather than relying solely on new legislation, particularly through coordinated use of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, PMLA, Customs Act, and allied laws.

### **Strengthening judicial understanding and prosecution of wildlife crime:**

A major thrust of LAD's legal advocacy during the reporting year was direct engagement with the judiciary and legal service institutions. Judicial orientation workshops were organised in Mizoram and Manipur, bringing together Hon'ble

Judges from the Supreme Court as well the Gauhati High Court, judicial officers, public prosecutors, forest officials, and police officers. These interactions emphasized the evolving nature of wildlife crime as an organised criminal activity with linkages to money laundering, arms trafficking, and transnational crime networks.

The workshops focused on the application of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in conjunction with other penal statutes, particularly the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Discussions highlighted how wildlife crime cases often suffer from weak charge-framing, lack of financial investigation, and procedural delays that undermine conviction rates. Judicial officers were sensitized to the scope of aggravated offences, evidentiary value of digital and forensic evidence, and the importance of deterrent sentencing in repeat and organized wildlife crime cases.

These engagements resulted in meaningful dialogue on the need for fast-tracking wildlife crime cases, exploring the feasibility of special courts or designated sessions for wildlife offences, and strengthening coordination between investigating agencies and prosecutors. LAD's advocacy contributed to a growing recognition within the judiciary that wildlife crime is not a marginal environ-



*Workshop on deterring wildlife crimes in Aizawl*

mental offence but a serious threat to biodiversity, national security, and rule of law.

**Legal capacity of enforcement agencies:** LAD undertook extensive legal capacity-building initiatives for frontline enforcement agencies, including Forest Departments, Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) including CISF, transport authorities, and airport personnel. These training went beyond species identification and seizure procedures to focus on legal compliance, evidence handling, and prosecution-oriented investigation.

Specialised sessions were conducted with CISF and airline staff at the Guwahati airport to enhance detection of wildlife contraband and ensure legally sound handover procedures to forest authorities. Similarly, training sessions with Dis-



*Workshop with border security personnel*

trict Transport Offices (DTOs), highway enforcement units, and transport unions emphasised legal liabilities under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and associated laws, reinforcing the responsibility of transport intermediaries in preventing wildlife trafficking.

Border-focused legal sensitisation workshops were organised with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along the Indo-Bhutan frontier, linking wildlife crime enforcement with national security frameworks. These sessions underscored the legal mandate of border forces to act against wildlife crime and the importance of intelligence sharing with forest and police authorities.

**Policy advocacy and strategic legal engagement:**

At the policy level, LAD continued to advocate for stronger legal frameworks and institutional reforms to combat wildlife crime. Drawing on field data, crime analysis, and judicial reviews, the division highlighted systemic challenges such as case backlogs, weak inter-agency coordination, limited

financial investigation, and lack of standardized SOPs.



*Meeting with dignitaries of Sikkim Forest Department*

A focused review of pending wildlife crime cases in courts, carried out with the support of a law student intern, provided evidence-based insights into procedural bottlenecks affecting prosecution outcomes. These findings are being used to inform future advocacy for SOP reforms, prosecutor training, and judicial capacity-building.

**Community-law interface and legal empowerment:**

LAD's legal advocacy extended beyond formal institutions to the community level through its Community Surveillance and Monitoring Team (CSMT) model. Community members engaged in surveillance were oriented on basic legal provisions, reporting protocols, and safe information-sharing mechanisms. This ensured that information generated at the grassroots level could be



*Distribution of field gear to Pasighat CSMT members*

translated into legally actionable inputs without exposing community members to risk.

By facilitating Letters of Agreement (LoAs) with Forest Departments, LAD helped institutionalize community participation within legally recognized frameworks. Discussions on in-

insurance coverage and safety mechanisms further reinforced the legal protection of community patrollers, acknowledging their role as frontline contributors to wildlife law enforcement.

**Integrating K9 units into legal and enforcement frameworks:** A significant innovation during the reporting period was the continued integration of Aaranyak's K9 units into formal enforcement operations with the forest department. LAD played a critical role in ensuring that K9 deployments were aligned with legal protocols, evidentiary standards, and enforcement mandates.

The success of trained K9 units—particularly in rhino-bearing landscapes such as Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Pobitora, and Burhachapori—demonstrated the legal value of canine-assisted tracking and detection. With over 60 successful tracking operations recorded by pioneering K9 units, including recovery of wildlife contraband and support to arrests, LAD has advocated for wider institutional acceptance of K9 evidence and formal inclusion of canine units in wildlife crime SOPs.

**Transboundary legal cooperation and regional advocacy:** Recognising the transnational nature of wildlife trafficking, LAD's legal advocacy also focused on cross-border cooperation. Two transboundary workshops were conducted along the Indo–Bhutan border with SSB participation and

Bhutanese observers, laying the groundwork for structured legal and intelligence collaboration. These engagements emphasized harmonization of enforcement approaches, informal intelligence sharing, and mutual legal assistance mechanisms.

While direct engagement with Myanmar remained constrained due to political instability, LAD pursued alternative legal pathways by engaging Indian enforcement agencies stationed along the Indo–Myanmar border, including Assam Rifles, and exploring collaboration with civil society actors operating in frontier regions.

**Outcomes and Strategic Significance:** Collectively, LAD's legal and policy advocacy during 2024–25 contributed to measurable improvements in enforcement coordination, and judicial awareness. By bridging the gap between law, enforcement practice, and community action, LAD strengthened the deterrence framework against wildlife crime across Northeast India.

The division's work reinforced the principle that effective conservation enforcement depends not only on field patrols and seizures, but on robust legal processes, informed judicial decision-making, and policy coherence. These efforts will also lay the foundation for long-term reforms, including fast-tracked trials, stronger financial investigations, institutionalized K9 deployments, and community-backed legal enforcement models.



*A K9 unit on duty*

# HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION



In the biodiverse landscapes of Assam, humans and wildlife share fragile spaces. Through careful guidance, protective measures, and nurturing of the land, communities have learned to live alongside elephants, rhinos and other wildlife. Fences, watch-towers, and new ways of farming become bridges between survival and co-existence, turning conflict into harmony. Aaranyak has been instrumental in shaping these human-wildlife interactions, gradually paving a way for a future of peaceful coexistence.

implementation and use in the field.

### Infrastructure and community support for human-elephant conflict mitigation



*Feasibility survey for solar fence in Tinsukia district*

### Launch of the HaatiApp



*During the launch HaatiApp in Guwahati*

The HaatiApp was officially launched with a grand inaugural ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, attended by Assam's Cabinet Minister Smt. Nandita Gorlosa. Following the launch, our team has been actively demonstrating the app to forest officials, frontline staff, and local communities across major human-elephant conflict areas to ensure its effective

Solar-powered electric fences were installed by Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) at four schools in Udalguri District, Nunaipara L.P. School, No.2 Bholatar Darachuba L.P. School, Bhumi L.P. School, and Thalungihar L.P. School, to safeguard the premises from potential damage by wild elephants. In addition, 40 solar streetlights were set up at strategic locations across Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udalguri districts. To further enhance community safety, 318 torchlights and 24 LED blinking lights were distributed across these districts.

Installation of another 30.1 km of solar fences was done, which helped protect 1937 acres of paddy fields in Jorhat. In Sibsagar, a 13 km solar fence was in-



*Solar fence installation underway in Udalguri district*

stalled to protect 97.5 acres of paddy. Two solar fence installations of 2 and 2.1 km in Tinsukia protected 130 bighas of fields. The solar fences of 13.1 km in Majuli, Sadiya, and Borogobol (West Garo hills) were reinstalled during this reporting period. A 19.3 km biofence, utilizing Assam lemon, has been installed in Sivasagar, Majuli, and



*Solar street light installation in Goalpara district*

Tinsukia districts as a farm-based deterrent to elephants, thereby mitigating crop depredation.

ERCD also extended logistical support to community members and forest stakeholders through the distribution of essential field equipment, including over 347 torchlights, 250 raincoats, 72 jackets, 117 sweaters, and 129 pairs of field boots, benefiting members of Elephant Conservation Network (ECN), Elephant Protection Committee (EPC), Anti-Depredation Squad (ADS), local volunteers, and frontline staff in Kumarikata and Dhamdhama regions. A total of 40 road signages were installed in Baksa, Udalguri, and Tamulpur to raise awareness and minimize negative interactions with elephants along common crossing routes. Additionally, 18 watchtowers were constructed across the same districts to enhance monitoring.

Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD), through its collaborative habitat restoration project in Bhairabkunda Reserved Forest, have promoted improved practices in Udalguri and also engaged local communities in effective pathways for human-elephant coexistence. Local communities were sensitized and trained in cultivating less elephant-palatable crops, promoting alternative cropping systems,

and establishing bio-fencing using Assam lemon, along with vermicomposting practices. Currently, eight vermicompost units across three villages are fully functional.

As a part of community support, training sessions were conducted by ERCD for local groups to mitigate HEC in Eastern Assam and Meghalaya. In Eastern Assam and West Garo Hills (Meghalaya), 10 Rapid Response Unit (RRU) members and 20 Village Champions (VCs) on training, actively monitored elephant movement and human-elephant conflict across 20 project villages, engaging a total of 398 village residents. During this reporting period, these groups shared several information crucial to better management of HEC, for instance, forty-seven crop damage incidents affecting 23.31 acres of land within project villages, with five additional cases outside project villages were reported by RRUs and VCs. They also reported eighteen property damage incidents within project villages, largely due to repeated elephant incursions in a single day. RRUs did an appreciable job issuing 123 alerts via WhatsApp to warn communities about elephant movement and potential conflict situations. Further, the VCs, along with the project team, conducted more than 114 field visits to monitor mitigation measures, assess ground situations, and advise communities on safer practices.

### **Infrastructure and community support for human-rhino conflict mitigation**



*Field gear distribution near Pobitora WLS*

Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCDD) has provided extensive logistical support to fringe communities and village-based organisations, including the Village Duty Party (VDP) and Rapid Response Team, to address human-wildlife conflict in areas such as Pobitora

Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaziranga National Park, and conflict-prone villages in Majuli. Approximately 20,000 villagers across rhino habitats and other parts of Assam have benefited from this support. Key initiatives include equipping 110 VDP members in Biswanath, Majuli, and Kaziranga with rain gear and torchlights; providing 60 Anti-Depredation Squad volunteers at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary with rain and winter gear along with torchlights; installing 20 solar streetlights at vulnerable locations across Pobitora WLS; and constructing four elevated platforms to monitor rhinos in the most conflict-prone areas of Pobitora.

### Promoting alternative livelihoods in human-wildlife conflict-prone areas

Conservation and Livelihood Division (CLD), in collaboration with Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD), conducted a series of meetings on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation in Bhuyanpara, Karebari, and Madanguri villages near Manas National Park, reaching 56 farmers across eight farmer groups. During these meetings, participants discussed strategies for conflict prevention and coexistence with wildlife. To support livelihoods, farmers were

provided assistance for winter cultivation of coriander, red lentil, potato, and pea. To protect these crops from wildlife, three types of experimental fences were installed: solar fences in each village, green net fences in each village, and sound fences in Karebari and Bhuyanpara. These protective measures proved highly effective, allowing the groups to collectively harvest 2,534.63 kg of crops. By selling their produce, the farmers earned a total of INR 1,13,058.90, demonstrating the potential of combining crop protection with conflict mitigation.

In addition, ERCD distributed 56 bee boxes with bee colonies to community groups, farmers, and interested individuals in high human-elephant conflict areas in Udalguri and Baksa districts. Beneficiaries received practical demonstrations on beekeeping techniques, promoting sustainable alternative livelihoods. Furthermore, 163 individuals and one community across Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udalguri districts received 12,055 saplings, 144 kg of seeds, and 1,450 kg of rhizomes to encourage cultivation of alternative crops. These initiatives aim to reduce dependency on conflict-prone farming areas while enhancing income opportunities and fostering coexistence between local communities and wildlife.



*Bee box distribution in Udalguri district*

# COMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS



**A**aranyak complements conservation efforts across Northeast India by supporting government agencies, local communities and front-line stakeholders through technical assistance, capacity building, livelihood support and logistical aid. Its divisions work closely with forest departments, law enforcement and community groups to strengthen wildlife protection, mitigate human-wildlife conflict and promote sustainable livelihoods linked to conservation. Aaranyak integrates science, community participation and policy engagement to safeguard biodiversity in its endeavour to improve human well-being across the region through initiatives such as equipment and training support, community-based monitoring, habitat protection, wildlife forensic assistance, grassroots awareness and women-led conservation movements.

Joint livelihood interventions of Conservation and Livelihood Division (CLD) and Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD) are deeply intertwined with biodiversity conservation. Several direct support initiatives were implemented to strengthen both community welfare and ecosystem protection. In the winter season, 4,140 kg of potato, pumpkin, cauliflower, cabbage and other seeds were distributed to 128 beneficiaries. In summer, 230 kg of ginger and 560 kg of turmeric were distributed to around 50 farmers in eastern Manas Landscape. Three work sheds for different self-help groups were constructed in the same landscape. Around 20 bundles of yarn and 30 kg of mushrooms were also distributed among different beneficiaries to encourage household income.

Over one kilometer long fire lines were created and maintained in last two years to protect the restoration intervention in the Bhairabkunda RF by Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD), which also provided Water Pump and Water Storage as well

as field gear to Dhansiri-Shikaridganga JFMC to compliment conservation efforts under UNDP-GEF SGP project.

The Greater Adjutant Conservation Programme (GACP) had organised a number of events. Women groups celebrated World Environment Day by planting trees. Eight ft high Kadam trees were planted along with Guava, Neem, Simolu, Lychee and Bokul saplings. All the trained women who participated in the Hargila Weaving workshop, were felicitated with certificates on July 22, 2024. Altogether 220 women were felicitated and benefited from this event. The Greater Adjutant Stork Conservation Project team collaborated with art coaching classes in Bhattapara, to guide them to adopt an environment education programme through art and connect the young kids with nature as well.

A volleyball match for girls at Bongolarh, Kamrup was organised to promote sports as well as motivate them to work towards environmental conservation. Community women conducted a cleaning Drive at Dadara, highlighting the importance of maintaining a clean and safe habitat for our environment.

Community women were sensitised to look after their mental and physical health through weekly meditation classes conducted at Dadara. The GACP team organised an awareness campaign for celebrating Green Diwali in Dadara, Pacharia, Singimari and Dhimorbori encouraging the community to use eco-friendly crackers that won't harm any flora and fauna as well as the environment as a whole.

In order to promote the Hargila motif and support conservation efforts, the team showcased customised wrappers featuring Hargila design, raising awareness and visibility for this iconic species. Community women celebrated Bihu with joy while promoting a conservation theme. They wore Hargila stoles, combining tradition with conservation

awareness. The community women of Kulhati, where a new nesting colony has been established, organized a 'Naam Kirtan' (devotional singing) programme, showcasing their enthusiasm and commitment to conservation efforts.

On the vibrant occasion of Holi, our community sisters created magnificent Hargila-inspired Rangoli designs, beautifully blending culture with conservation awareness. This creative expression not only celebrated their heritage but also highlighted the importance of protecting the Greater Adjutant Stork and its habitat.



*Complementing hargila conservation efforts*

On the occasion of Janmashtami, the team organised a Hargila art and fancy-dress workshop for the children of Dadara village. The event aimed to combine cultural celebration with environmental awareness by encouraging children to express their creativity through Hargila-themed art and costumes. The young participants enthusiastically took part, showcasing their artistic talents while learning about the importance of conserving the Greater Adjutant Stork.

In collaboration with ERC Downtown Hospital, GACP also organized a free eye check-up camp that benefited over 200 people. Community members received eye treatment, free medicines and affordable glasses, ensuring better eye health and awareness among the local population.

On January 18, Aaranyak collaborated in the Asian Water Bird Census held at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. The census, organised by the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary authority in partnership with Aaranyak and the Assam Bird Monitoring Network, surveyed nine waterbodies within the sanctuary.

The census recorded a total of 56 species and 10,933 individual birds. Some notable species observed were the Baikal Teal, Tufted Duck, Greater White-Fronted Goose, Falcated Duck, Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Northern Pintail, Pied Avocets, and Northern Shoveler.

Arup Kumar Das of GTAD worked as an expert member for drafting management plan of DSNP & Biosphere reserve of Dibrusaikhowa National Park. The management plan was submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam. A six-day GIS training module has been developed for the Refresher Course at Assam Forest School, Jalukbari.

As part of its continued commitment to strengthening on-ground conservation initiatives, Aaranyak has extended comprehensive logistical support to forest departments, law enforcement agencies and community-based conservation practitioners across the Northeast. These efforts are aimed at enhancing monitoring, improving rapid response mechanisms and boosting morale among frontline stakeholders working to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and combat wildlife crime.

#### **Logistical support to the Forest Department:**

In order to strengthen monitoring efforts and facilitate timely elephant-related interventions in rural areas, the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) provided fuel support of ₹50,000 each to the Tamulpur and Nunai Forest Ranges of Western Assam.

In Meghalaya, 79 pairs of shoes were distributed to forest staff of the Baghmara Division in South Garo Hills to support their field duties. Additionally, four bicycles were handed over to the Lakhimpur Forest Range to enable beat staff to maintain smooth communication and mobility while on duty.

Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD) provided a number of conservation support to forest department – 150 winter and rain gear to staff of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, 100 field gear to Laokhowa and Burhachapori WLSs, 40 solar-charged torch lights to frontline staff of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

The division organised two health check-up

camps - one eye camp and one whole body check-up camp - at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. It provided regular PoL for Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. RRCD also provided ex-gratia and financial support to four injured forest staff of Kaziranga National Park.

Wildlife Genetics laboratory (WGL) provided support to the Divisional Forest Officer, Digboi Division, Assam in forensic DNA analysis-based parentage analysis of Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) samples and in the identification of wildlife species from a suspected tiger sample. WGD also assisted the Office of Range Forest Of-



Aaranyak scientist in Wildlife Genetics Laboratory

ficer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in forensic DNA analysis-based confirmation of species identity of seized articles (report for two cases has been delivered during April 2024 to March 2025 for species ID). WGD also provided support to the Raimona National Park authority in forensic DNA analysis-based identification of wildlife species from various seized articles (report for two cases has been delivered during April 2024 to March 2025 for species ID). WGD also aided the Range Forest Officer, Jorhat Range, Assam in forensic DNA analysis-based identification of turtle species (*Nilssonina hurum*) from seized wildlife articles.

#### **Logistical support to Police:**

Recognising the crucial role of law enforcement agencies in conservation and wildlife protection, Aaranyak provided 24 torchlights to the Majuli Police on April 11, 2024 to support their field operations.

Wildlife Genetics Laboratory (WGL) provided

forensic DNA analysis assistance to Assam Forest Department and Assam Police on various cases. The laboratory assisted the Superintendent of Police, Mushalpur of Baksa district in forensic DNA analysis-based identification of a suspected Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) horn.

#### **Logistical support to community practitioners:**

Aaranyak provided field kits to Rapid Response Unit (RRU) members in eastern Assam and Meghalaya to boost their morale and bolster monitoring of elephant movement. In eastern Assam, RRUs received 292 raincoats, 280 T-shirts, 285 caps and 295 pairs of field shoes, enabling them to carry out their responsibilities more effectively. Similarly, in West Garo Hills on Meghalaya, T-shirts, shoes, caps, and raincoats were provided.

In Baksa district of Assam, logistical assistance was extended to community stakeholders through distribution of 347 torchlights, 250 raincoats, 72 jackets, 117 sweaters and 129 pairs of field boots among members of the Elephant Conservation Network (ECN), Elephant Protection Committees (EPC), ADS, MSKETS, local volunteers and frontline forest staff across Kumarikata and Dhamdhama regions of Tamulpur and Nalbari districts of Assam respectively.

Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD) complemented conservation efforts by launching and supporting Community Surveillance and Monitoring Teams (CSMTs) in Arunachal Pradesh and initiating similar groundwork in Mizoram. Over 40 community members were mobilized and equipped with Global Position System (GPS) devices, uniforms, torchlights, gumboots, raincoats, and solar lights to enhance field operations. These teams logged more than 120 patrol hours in collaboration with the Forest Department, strengthening site-level vigilance and early detection of wildlife crime. By integrating grassroots efforts with formal enforcement structures, the initiative provided the required support to ongoing conservation strategies, thereby ensuring stronger protection for threatened species across sensitive landscapes. Integrated K9 Sniffer dog units into site protection in Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Orang NP, Pobitora WLS, and Burhachapori WLS, further enhanced enforcement efficacies.

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & INTERVENTION



**A**aranyak's Environmental Research & Intervention efforts integrate science, community planning and policy advocacy across Assam and Meghalaya. Initiatives include human-elephant conflict (HEC) perception studies, wetland management at Deepor Beel, climate-resilient livelihoods, micro-climatic monitoring and Illegal Wildlife Trade mapping to strengthen conservation, enforcement and climate adaptation strategies.

### People's Perception and Attitude on HEC in Assam and Meghalaya

A comprehensive study on People's Perception and Attitude on human-elephant conflict (HEC) in Assam and Meghalaya has been successfully completed. The study aimed to explore public attitudes toward elephant conservation, examine how socio-demographic and experiential factors influence perceptions.

By analysing responses across age groups, education levels, geographic locations, and emotional associations with elephants, the research highlighted the complex dynamics of human-elephant relationships. The findings revealed a nuanced blend of empathy and conflict, curiosity and fear, along with varying degrees of awareness and responsibility toward conservation efforts. Cultural values, livelihood dependencies, and practical concerns were found to shape public opinion and attitudes toward elephant conservation in the region.

### Micro-climatic monitoring

**Weather stations have been set up for micro-climatic data recording at:**

- Kohora River Basin
- Raimona National Park
- Manas National Park

These installations strengthen long-term ecological monitoring and cli-

mate-related research interventions.



*Weather stations installed in Raimona NP*

### Wetland conservation and sustainable management

The project titled "Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands for local livelihood security and climate resilience: A research-based pilot intervention in the Deepor Beel and Doloni Beel of Assam, India" was successfully completed in March 2025.



*Consultation on conservation of Doloni beel*

The project was funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), India under the NERAQ (Protection and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources in the North-Eastern Himalayan Region of India) Programme in Assam - a collaborative initiative between GIZ India and the Assam Forest Department.

### Summary of key outcomes:

- A detailed research study of Doloni Beel (Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon District) covering:
  - Limnology
  - Hydrology
  - Climatology
  - Ecology
  - Landscape dynamics
  - Socio-economic
  - Livelihood
  - Governance and management
- Preparation of an Integrated Wetland Management Plan for Doloni Beel.
- Development of a comprehensive socio-economic and livelihood assessment report for fringe villages around Deepor Beel.
- Compilation and documentation of recent court litigations related to Deepor Beel.



*Awareness rally on Doloni beel conservation*

### Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP)

The project titled “Conducting Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) for climate resilient livelihoods in Kathiatoli, Pakhimoria and Raha Development Blocks in Nagaon District, Assam” was completed between July 2024 and January 2025.

The project was funded by the World Food Programme (WFP), New Delhi and facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam.

This initiative was part of **Project EN-ACT-Assam** (Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-transformative Approaches in Nagaon District, Assam).

#### Key Achievements:

- Conducted SLM and CBPP exercises across 17



*Seasonal livelihood mapping workshop in Nagaon*

villages in:

- Kathiatoli (5 villages)
- Pakhimoria (7 villages)
- Raha (5 villages)
- Prepared participatory, bottom-up, village-level plans to promote climate-resilient livelihood options among communities.

### Community-based climate and HEC adaptation initiative – Udalguri

A new project titled “Innovating sustainable solutions for communities to adapt to the impact of multiple hazards of water scarcity, human-elephant conflict and climate change: A community-based intervention in Udalguri District, Assam” commenced in January 2025.

The project is funded by LIC Housing Finance Limited, Mumbai and is a collaborative initiative of the Water, Climate and Hazards (WATCH) Division and Elephant Research and Conservation Divisions.

#### Project Scope and Objectives:

- Implemented across 29 villages in:
  - Bhergaon Development Block
  - Udalguri Development Block
  - Majbat Development Block
- The district is recognised as an Aspirational



*Community-based intervention in Udalguri district*

District of Assam.

### Core Objectives:

- Develop innovative and sustainable solutions to reduce risks related to:
  - Water scarcity
  - HEC
  - Climate change
- Promote sustainable, climate-resilient alternative livelihood options aligned with existing government schemes, subsidies, and programmes.
- Strengthen community adaptation practices through awareness, education, and training initiatives.

### Study on HEC and women's nutrition

To understand how human-elephant conflict, particularly crop raiding by wild elephants, impacts the nutritional intake and dietary patterns of women, a study was conducted in conflict-affected villages of Jorhat in collaboration with the Assam Agricultural University.

The collected data is currently under analysis.

### Research & enforcement support by Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD)

LAD advanced critical research to strengthen evidence-based enforcement and policy advocacy.

### Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) mapping

A comprehensive geo-referenced mapping of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) hotspots was conducted across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. The study identified:

- Trafficking corridors along the Indo–Bhutan border
- Trafficking corridors along the Indo–Myanmar border
- Central Assam transit routes

These findings have directly informed enforcement planning and field patrolling strategies.

### Judicial pendency studies

Parallel judicial pendency studies examined bottlenecks in wildlife crime prosecutions, highlighting:

- Delays in legal proceedings
- Gaps in charge framing
- Low conviction rates

The findings are being used to advocate for procedural reforms and the potential fast-tracking of wildlife crime cases.

### Online wildlife trade monitoring

Systematic monitoring of online wildlife trade was undertaken to track the illegal sale of protected species and wildlife by-products across digital platforms.

### Urban pet shop survey in Guwahati

A survey of pet shops in Guwahati revealed over 30 establishments trading exotic reptiles, birds, and mammals. Several of these were linked to violations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The study highlighted the role of urban demand in driving illegal wildlife trade and informed the need for stricter local enforcement measures and awareness campaigns.



*Workshop supporting local efforts to reduce wildlife crime in Mizoram*



# ZONAL ACTIVITIES

As one of India's leading environmental research and conservation organisations, Aaranyak recognises its deep-rooted responsibility towards society. Motivated by this commitment, Aaranyak structured a provision as Social Responsibility Initiatives of Aaranyak to conduct diverse events, campaigns, and activities to garner support and address local environmental issues, education and awareness of targeted stakeholders, strengthening and capacitating communities, across various parts of the Northeast Indian states.

For implementing these activities in a decentralised manner, Aaranyak has strategically divided its activities in Assam into six zones, enabling more localised outreach and engagement. These initiatives targeted a broad spectrum of stakeholders, ranging from local farmers to researchers, through tailored strategies that significantly contributed to Aaranyak's overarching mission of environmental stewardship. A key driver of these efforts is Aaranyak's flagship outreach programme, WeForNature. This programme seeks to foster a network of environmentally conscious individuals by hosting a wide range of collaborative events like eco talks, nature photography, and interactive forums in partnership

with various institutions.

With the leadership of the central and zonal team, a series of impactful activities had been carried out during the report year.

World Environment Day (WED) became not just a symbolic occasion, but a common platform for students, teachers, researchers, and communities to act collectively for environmental stewardship. World Environment Day 2024 remained one of the most vibrant occasions of the year, witnessing diverse and decentralised activities across the zones of Aaranyak. In Guwahati, Aaranyak collaborated with V.V. Rao Research Scholars' Hostel, the Geography Department of Gauhati University, and the Assam Pollution Control Board to organise an inter-school quiz competition focused on the theme of the day. In Kamrup district, another engaging event was jointly organised on the occasion by Aaranyak and the Pub Kamrup College at Majgaon High School. Pub Kamrup College branch of Assam Science Society and Majgaon High School were the associate partners in the event which was participated by 92 students and 13 faculties.

Across the Kaziranga landscape, the Mid Assam Zone marked the occasion through extensive educational



*'Birdwatching and Conservation Adda' at Khamrenga beel in Chandrapur*

outreach. An essay competition held on June 1, 2024 in association with multiple academic and conservation bodies drew 650 participating students from 12 schools around the Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary. This momentum carried forward through a series of art competitions across Kohora, Bokakhat, and Bonkual on June 2, 2024 followed by specially curated events in Burapahar and Nagaon Girls' College on June 5. Art competitions were organised on June 2, 2024 in three art schools, Kaziranga Chitrakala Vidyalaya, Kohora, Trinayani Chitrakala Vidyalaya, Bokakhat and Bonkual Chitrakala Vidyalaya with the support of all three art schools involving 300 participants. Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve Authority and Aaranyak jointly organised an event on 5th June, 2024 in Burapahar Range which was attended by students of four schools. Another event was held on 5th June, 2024 in Nagaon Girls' College which included plantation, art and craft exhibition, district-level quiz competition, meeting and prize distribution.

Western Assam Zone of Aaranyak in association with the Botany and Chemistry Department of Abhyapuri College organised a day-long



*Nature trail in Kaziranga*

event at Gobinda Memorial H.S. School of Jogighopa on June 5, 2024. Along with plantation drive, spot essay writing and poster making competition during the event, a science model exhibition by students was also conducted. The Eastern Assam Zone of Aaranyak started a plantation drive with support from the local community. The team selected important locations including an academic institution, Healthcare centre, agriculture office premise as well as some other public places and planted several fruit bearing trees while involving

local people for proper maintenance of the respective sapling. For this celebration Aaranyak joined the Pollution Control Board, Regional Office Guwahati, Assam as collaborator to organise painting, essay writing and short video competition.

In order to advance the mission of nature conservation through inclusive participation of



*Awareness event in Bongaigaon*

individuals and organisations, Aaranyak collaborated with various government departments, CSOs, local community bodies, and partners during the report period. Mid Assam Zone of Aaranyak joined hands with the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP & TR) authority as a collaborator along with Kaziranga Cycling Club to observe the World Bicycle Day 2024 at Bokakhat and Kaziranga through a cycle rally from Bokakhat to Kaziranga National Park in Assam carrying messages of Health, Equity, Sustainability and Eco-friendly environment.

Aaranyak collaborated with Tilinga Sports Club, Mystique Mayong Resort and Padmawati's to organise a bicycle rally – 'Ride for Water Conservation' in Guwahati, Kamrup Metro district on August 4, 2024 to spread awareness on the importance of water conservation and responsibilities of citizens. Sixty-eight persons hailing from different areas and backgrounds pedalled together in the ride.

Marking International Vulture Awareness Day on September 7, 2024, Aaranyak collaborated with KNP & TR authority to organise an event at Japoripathar High School, Bokakhat, featuring interactive sessions, discussions on vulture conservation, and an open quiz competition.

Aaranyak partnered with the Nirmaan Rehabilitation Facility of Guwahati to conduct an



An eco-talk held in Guwahati

event on 'Drug abuse and mental health' on August 21, 2024. Focusing on the health and wellbeing, this open event was exclusively arranged for the staff and members of Aaranyak.

On the occasion of World Rivers day, Aaranyak collaborated with The National Cadet Corps (NCC) 7th Assam Battalion, Dhubri to organise an awareness event on 24th September 2024 in Abhayapuri College of Bongaigaon district of Assam. Interactive session and drawing competition drew participation from a number of local youths.

Under its flagship WeForNature programme, Aaranyak conducted a series of diverse

conservation and awareness activities which highlighted Aaranyak's commitment to fostering public awareness, community engagement, and sustainable conservation practices across Assam. These included an awareness workshop on zoonotic diseases on November 2, 2024, organised with the Department of Microbiology, College of Veterinary Science as part of the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses (NOHPPCZ), sponsored by NCDC, Ministry of Health & F.W.; an open forum on Fox-tail Orchid conservation on November 28, 2024 jointly with the Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI) and in collaboration with EIACP PC Hub Assam, ASTEC, Govt. of Assam at IEI Assam Centre, Guwahati, featuring botanist Khyanjeet Gogoi and attended by about 70 participants; and a wildlife photography workshop with Nikon India on December 7, 2024 led by Aaranyak scientist Udayan Borthakur, which drew 33 enthusiasts.

Further, under this programme, Aaranyak in collaboration with the Kamrup East Division of the Assam Forest Department organised a birdwatching at Deepor Beel on December 15, 2024, recording 54 species with 29 participants, and a Birdwatching & Conservation Adda at Khambrenge Beel on February 1, 2025 to mark World Wetlands Day. In this event, the organisation collaborated with Assam Forest Department's Kamrup East Division, Chandrapur High School, Thakurkuchi ME School, Khambrenge Eco Camp and Zeiss India, serving as a supporting partner. During the event, 46 species were recorded and students, experts, and community members en-



Aaranyak exhibition in Eastern Assam



*Aaranyak exhibition at Asom Sahitya Sabha session at Pathsala*

gaged in awareness sessions.

This was followed by a Nature Walk organised in association with Kamrup East Division of Assam Forest Department and the Eco Club of Girijananda Chowdhury University, Guwahati, organised at Garbhanga Reserve Forest on February 22, 2025 with participation of 27 youths, and another event was Nature Walk in collaboration with the Assam State Zoo authority at Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden on March 11, 2025 with 15 young participants, both supported by Zeiss India, focusing on introduction to various ecosystems, atmospheres, habitats, and wildlife inside the forest and received guidance on basic nature observation and documentation ecosystems, wildlife observation, environmental ethics, and conservation practices.

An insightful Eco Talk was organised in association with the National Science Centre, Guwahati at their auditorium on March 25. This event featured Dr Simon Tollington, a distinguished conservation scientist of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust from the United Kingdom.

During the flood season of 2024, Aaranyak's zonal teams, particularly the Eastern Assam Zone and Mid Assam Zone, made significant efforts in raising awareness on wildlife protection in flood prone areas of Sivasagar. On July 5, 2024, an awareness event was organised to disseminate preventive measures for saving wildlife, engaging VDP members, village heads, media personnel,

and the local community. This was followed by another event held at Rupahimukh Kumar Gaon on July 12, 2024, where important strategies for protecting wildlife during floods were discussed with the community along with issues such as compensation for damages caused by wild animals, safeguarding egret habitats, and long-term conservation measures including tree plantation on elevated terrains to provide refuge for animals during floods. From the Mid Assam Zone, two groups of VDP members and volunteers organised by the Aaranyak team in Kaziranga were actively engaged in assisting the Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve authority in protecting flood-affected animals during the flood season. In addition, awareness campaigns were conducted in fringe villages with the participation of VDP members and local youths. The team, led by Arif Hussain, Coordinator of Aaranyak Mid Assam Zone, kept ready to provide further assistance and manpower to support the park authority in tackling flood-time challenges.

Several events during the year focused on biodiversity conservation, with strong school and community participation across Assam. The Eastern Assam Zone conducted multiple awareness events, beginning with an event at Bampathar Bengenabari H.S. School, Sonari on May 25, 2024 in association with Kuhipat Seuj Sangha, with participation of 100 students and faculty. This was followed by an event at Ujani Sadiya H.S. School,

Tinsukia on August 10, 2024 highlighting the role of students in biodiversity conservation. On October 2, 2024, a community awareness meeting at Holychild School, Bijni in Chirang district engaged 30 participants including professionals and youth, with Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das and Ankur Barman emphasising local biodiversity conservation.

Further, an event on vulture conservation was held at Hafluting High School, Sivasagar on October 21, 2024 with 100 participants, followed by an awareness event on local bird conservation at Nazira Bortol H.S. School on November 23, 2024 attended by 110 students and 20 faculty members.

A team from Aaranyak represented the organisation in the glorious golden jubilee celebration programme of Sukdol High school at Morigaon district on November 11, 2024. Along with an interactive session for showcasing different initiatives and programmes of Aaranyak an engaging workshop on 'Nature and Wildlife Photography' was held at the same venue.

A school awareness event on migratory birds was organised on December 14, 2024 at Disangmukh Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar,

2025 on February 1 at Kumarkata Sristipara LP School, Bongaigaon, featuring a nature trail, bird-watching, botanical observation, drawing competition, and quiz to engage young minds.

Our Eastern Assam team participated in



Members' meet at Pobitora

Ekayan 2.0 at Dibrugarh University on March 22 and 23, 2025, showcasing its wide range of conservation activities through posters, models, video documentaries, and publications. Collectively, these initiatives underscored Aaranyak's commitment to fostering biodiversity awareness, conservation education, and community engagement across diverse regions of Assam.

Our team joined InnoVibe'25, an inspiring event organised by TISS, Guwahati on March 20, 2025 where the team actively engaged with students, exploring various ways they can get involved and make use of the opportunities offered by Aaranyak in the field of environmental sustainability.

We hosted a special gathering of esteemed members of Aaranyak at an exclusive event 'Members' Meet' on March 23, 2025 at Maibong Eco Resort,



Open forum discussion on Foxtail Orchid in Guwahati

engaging over 120 students and teachers in interactive sessions coordinated by Hiren Dutta.

Expanding to West Assam, Aaranyak collaborated with Abhayapuri College and Aie Valley Forest Division to celebrate World Wetlands Day

Raja Mayong village, near Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon District. This event was organised to bring members together for a joyful reunion to share experiences and stories related to the environment, people, and diverse cultures.

# VULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



Aaranyak continued its focused efforts to conserve vulture populations across Assam and North-east India through science-based interventions, community participation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

A citizen science-based monitoring framework was implemented to assess the ecological status of vultures, documenting population trends along with key nesting and roosting trees. To ensure availability of safe food sources, community-owned vulture feeding grounds were promoted and managed in partnership with local communities.

Recognizing the importance of collective action, Aaranyak strengthened engagement with village institutions, grassroots organizations, individuals, and relevant government agencies to address major threats to vulture survival. The Vulture Conservation Network (VCN) was established to facilitate coordinated action among multiple stakeholders. In addition, the Sagun Mitra and Nest Guardianship initiatives were launched to actively involve community members and organizations in protecting vultures and their critical nesting and roosting habitats.

To enhance long-term conservation outcomes, Aaranyak promoted human-vulture coexistence through tar-

geted conservation education and awareness programmes. Preventive measures were further strengthened through cattle vaccination drives, organized in collaboration with the Forest Department



*Appreciating vulture guardians in Sivasagar*

and local stakeholders, to promote vulture-safe practices and reduce the risk of diclofenac poisoning.



*Recognising Nature Guardians in Sivasagar*

Aaranyak acknowledges and appreciates nature guardians for preserving trees and safeguarding them as nesting sites for vultures.



*Sensitisation on vulture conservation in Kamrup district*

A photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The text 'QUOTABLE QUOTES' is overlaid in white, bold, uppercase letters, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise, and positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

# QUOTABLE QUOTES

**“The Prevention of Money Laundering Act is crucial in dealing with wildlife crimes, as these offences are deeply linked with organised trafficking networks and national security.” -Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Supreme Court of India quoted during Mizoram Judicial Workshop in April 2024.**

**“The Community Surveillance & Monitoring Teams (CSMTs) model is a grassroots innovation that bridges the gap between communities and enforcement agencies. It gives local people the tools and confidence to protect their forests.”- Senior Forest Officer, Arunachal Pradesh**

**“Workshops with enforcement and border security forces organised by Aaranyak have directly strengthened our ability to intercept wildlife contraband and protect sensitive border areas from traffickers.”- Commandant, Sashastra Seema Bal quoted during Indo-Bhutan workshop in October 2024.**

**“When communities become custodians and science becomes their guide, conservation rises beyond protection—it becomes true coexistence. In Assam’s rhino landscapes, harmony between people and wildlife is not just a dream, but a shared direction. We are proud to be part of Aaranyak’s efforts to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros in Pobitora.” -a member from EDC of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**“In 2022, elephants destroyed our crops entirely. But last year, a simple yet well-placed watchtower supported by Aaranyak helped save our harvest. It has made a real difference. This year, I feel more hopeful.**

**We now have a better way to protect our crops.” - Durga Magar, farmer, Onthaibari, Tamulpur, Assam.**

**“We always feared the elephants would break our bamboo towers. Now, with stronger, safer structures, we can guard our fields without fear. It's a huge relief for us.” - Rajesh Shaha, resident of Sonmuni, Tamulpur, Assam.**

**“Thanks to Aaranyak and the SBI Foundation, our community has now better-equipped watchtowers, torchlights; everything has helped us protect nearly 150 bighas of paddy. We are deeply grateful.” - Manual Mardi, community member, Sonmuni, Tamulpur, Assam.**

**“The solar fencing provided by Aaranyak has strengthened our school’s protection and maintenance. Earlier, wild elephants would often damage the premises. Now, we feel safe and thankful for this much-needed support.” - Gautam Kumar Nath, Head Master, Nonaipara LP School.**

**“The invitation of CSMT member Maksam Tayeng to attend Republic Day in New Delhi is an encouragement reflecting the credibility and impact of community-led conservation in Arunachal Pradesh.” - Government of India Invitation (Republic Day 2025).**

**“By linking community, law, and technology, Aaranyak’s Legal & Advocacy Division is setting a benchmark for tackling organised wildlife crime in the Eastern Himalayas.” - Partner NGO Representative quoted during awareness campaign, Assam-Arunachal border in June 2024.**

# IMPACTS

- Boat-based Dolphin Yatra strengthened Ganges-river dolphin conservation, reducing poaching and increasing community stewardship.
- Camera trapping confirmed successful wild breeding of released Pygmy hog, with a pregnant female recorded demonstrating population establishment in the new habitat and indicating improving grassland ecosystem health.
- Post-girdling assessment of 1,548 trees showed 95% large-girth (n=605) and 28% mid-girth (n=267) trees dead, while 65% mid-girth (n=614) lost main stems, indicating effective invasive tree control aiding in grassland restoration in Manas NP.
- Women-led livelihood initiatives enabled 11 SHGs to produce 2,479 kg of turmeric, doubling output, boosting household incomes and strengthening women's economic self-reliance and leadership.
- Biosecure pig rearing initiatives achieved 100% adoption of essential biosecurity measures across nine units, resulting in zero disease outbreaks demonstrating strengthened livestock resilience, improved farm management and enhanced livelihood security for participating households.
- Post-ASF awareness efforts triggered lasting behaviour change, with 4% of 240 pig-rearing households independently constructing improved pig housing demonstrating sustained adoption of safer, biosecure livestock practices.
- Forensic DNA support in eight wildlife crime cases strengthened scientific investigations, enhanced evidentiary credibility and significantly improved prospects for successful prosecution and deterrence.
- SGP Best Innovation Award (2025) received by Aaranyak for UNDP-GEF SGP project.
- 2 national awards and 3 regional awards won by school projects guided by Aaranyak.
- Sustainable agriculture and livelihood interventions empowered 207 farmers with seasonal seed support, while SHG work sheds catalyzed women-led enterprises in weaving and tailoring, strengthening household incomes and advancing community-level economic resilience.
- 25,000 people (15,000 students; 10,000 community members) reached through 97 outreach programmes on rhino conservation, with 35–40% learning gains among students.
- 500 households directly and 1,000 indirectly benefited from livelihoods support, achieving 10–15% reduction in crop depredation in rhino bearing areas
- Our initiatives in Western Assam directly reached over 10,000 individuals through 61 Outreach Programmes, with an additional 5,000 people engaged via radio broadcasts. These efforts have significantly enhanced public awareness and community preparedness around human-elephant coexistence (HEC).
- The 30 capacity-building events organised in Udalguri, Tamulpur, Goalpara, and Baksa involved various line departments. These events provided a valuable platform for fostering convergence in addressing HEC issues. They have also been instrumental in streamlining processes related to ex gratia payments.
- 20 solar lights and 4 watch platforms reduced collisions by ~30%; 12 Anti-Depredation Squads cut crop loss by ~40%, benefiting 20,000+ villagers around rhino bearing areas.
- 100 frontline staff improved rhino monitoring accuracy by 25%; 50 guides/drivers trained in responsible tourism around rhino bearing areas.
- 1.6 km<sup>2</sup> of invasive species removed in Orang

- NP, restoring native grassland for herbivores.
- Efforts to equip villagers in HEC-affected areas of Assam and Meghalaya with expert training to respond to elephant-related emergencies gained high-level recognition from the Assam CM Office.
- The solar-powered streetlights and multilingual warning signages installed at strategic locations across Udalguri, Baksa, and Tamulpur have markedly improved night-time visibility along high-risk elephant corridors, earning strong appreciation from local communities and reducing potential human-elephant conflict.
- The HaatiApp, now available on the Google Play Store, is steadily gaining users. The app facilitates real-time HEC reporting and provides step-by-step guidance on accessing ex gratia compensation, making institutional support more accessible for affected communities.
- The 18 concrete watchtowers constructed to bolster community-based deterrence and crop protection in Tamulpur, Baksa, and Udalguri are successfully offering a durable and safer alternative to traditional bamboo platforms while preserving the spirit of collective vigilance and traditional knowledge systems.
- In Eastern Assam, 46 sessions of our flagship awareness campaign "Gajah Kotha" engaged 1,963 participants (including 730 men, 691 women, and 542 students). Evaluations conducted over 22 sessions revealed a 7.4% improvement in knowledge retention, as indicated by an increase in the number of questions attempted after each session.
- The dedicated monitoring and upkeep of 47.1 km of seasonal solar fences by our team, in collaboration with Village Committees, played a crucial role in safeguarding agricultural livelihoods in project villages of Eastern Assam. These fences helped prevent elephant incursions, protecting paddy worth INR 9.66 crore and other crops worth INR 2.06 crore. Notably, all fences installed last year were successfully reinstalled this season in both Eastern Assam and the Garo Hills, reaffirming their reliability and community trust. Before these installations, up to 2.5 bighas of cropland (approximately 750 kg of paddy) were lost to elephant foraging.
- Secondary sources recorded 53 elephant deaths and 76 human fatalities in Assam—slightly lower than the previous period in 2023–2024, which reported 56 elephant and 90 human deaths. Although the reduction in mortality is minimal, it signals a positive trend and reinforces the need for continued and improved interventions.
- 150+ forest staff screened in health camps; 90% diagnosed with untreated conditions and referred for care around rhino bearing areas.
- Western hoolock gibbon conservation efforts strengthened protection across Namdapha NP, Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, and Garbhanga WLS through training 244 frontline staff, engaging 3,500+ students, and documenting 100+ gibbon groups.
- Hoolock gibbon monitoring recorded 14 groups (52 individuals) through direct sightings and 57 groups via call counts in Namdapha NP; 21 groups (78 individuals) in Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary; and 8 groups plus 1 direct sighting in Garbhanga WLS.
- Geospatial capacity strengthened with ~600 participants trained in GPS and GIS across Assam and neighbouring states.
- Wildlife crime deterrence strengthened by sensitising 3,000+ community members, training 540+ enforcement and judicial personnel and deploying 7+ K9 units leading to multiple wildlife seizures.
- Landscape-level impact achieved across 5,000+ sq. km through 17 workshops, 2 Indo-Bhutan meets, 120+ patrol hours, and 15+ media stories strengthening a durable, community-led wildlife protection framework.
- In Manas Landscape, our integrated conservation and livelihood initiatives empower 200+ farmers, strengthen women-led enterprises, engage 500+ community members, reduce forest dependence and foster resilient communities living in harmony with biodiversity.
- With the continuation of field research on the Assam roofed turtle in Kaziranga NP&TR, the park authority has released a leaflet featuring 17 freshwater turtles and tortoises.

# SUCCESS STORIES



## Pygmy hog recovery shows strong results

A significant milestone was achieved through the Orang sign survey, which recorded the presence of over 200 pygmy hogs, demonstrating that the reintroduced population is thriving and well established in Orang National Park. Field observations and video records indicate that pygmy hogs are dispersing from existing habitat patches into new grassland areas, reinforcing the success of conservation efforts. Grassland restoration initiatives in Manas National Park and Orang were further strengthened through tree girdling, uprooting, grass planting, invasive species control, fireline maintenance, and groundwater well establishment. New grassland restoration treatments under the Lea study have enhanced the programme's long-term habitat research and action framework. Adding to this success, Dr. Debjani Borah, Project Officer (Veterinary), Pygmy Hog Pre-release Centre, Potasali, received the Best Trainee award at the 10-Day Orientation Workshop on "Wildlife and Health Management" for Veterinary Officers of Assam, organised by the Wildlife Institute of India in partnership with the Assam Forest Department and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Government of Assam, held from 3rd-12th February 2025.

## A breakthrough year for wildlife genetics

The Wildlife Genetics Laboratory continues to play a pivotal role as the sole service provider in wildlife DNA forensic analysis in Northeast India, extending crucial assistance to the Assam For-



*Researchers at work in WGL*

est Department and Assam Police. This contribution is expected to significantly strengthen wildlife crime mitigation efforts in the region. The laboratory successfully identified major source populations and sub-populations of elephants in Meghalaya, enabling the recommendation of management interventions for improved corridor planning and maintenance of genetic and demographic



*Release of pygmy hogs in Manas NP*

connectivity. Additionally, it has developed and optimised DNA markers for species, gender and individual identification of Western hoolock gibbons from fecal samples, marking a major advancement in non-invasive genetic research and conservation management.

erment at its core, equipping local communities with knowledge, resources and support to become agents of change. Despite challenges such as human-elephant conflict and the unique ecological conditions of the Bhabar belt, the initiative has restored wildlife habitat across 20 hectares through



*SGP Best Innovation Award received in New Delhi*

### SGP Best Innovation Award

Aaranyak was honoured with the SGP Best Innovation Award jointly conferred by the United Nations Development Programme and The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) in recognition of its outstanding contribution to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, community empowerment and sustainable development. The award was presented during the World Sustainable Development Summit 2025 held in New Delhi on March 5, where Jayanta Kumar Pathak and Rabiya Daimari from Aaranyak received the honour on behalf of the organisation from Neelesh Sah, Joint Secretary & GEF-OFP India, MoEF&CC, Government of India. Under the aegis of UNDP-GEF SGP and MoEF&CC, with TERI as the nodal agency, Aaranyak has been implementing the project titled “Community-based integrated approach to facilitate Human Elephant Coexistence and biodiversity conservation in Udalguri, Assam” in Udalguri district.

The project places community empow-

erment at its core, equipping local communities with knowledge, resources and support to become agents of change. Despite challenges such as human-elephant conflict and the unique ecological conditions of the Bhabar belt, the initiative has restored wildlife habitat across 20 hectares through

invasive species management and plantation of native flora and elephant fodder species. Improved land-use practices are being promoted across 54 hectares through sustained community engagement. A community-led nursery, ‘Jaikhleng Community Nursery’, has been established in Badlapara, Dimakuchi, primarily empowering local women. The initiative has also helped address out-migration, with some returnees now engaged in vermicompost production and nursery management. The recognition has deeply motivated the community, especially the women involved, instilling confidence and inspiring them to expand their work towards building a more sustainable and resilient future.

### Empowering Karbi women through community homestays

Prity Tokbipi, a dedicated woman from Phumen Ingti village in Karbi Anglong, has been successfully running “Prity Homestay” since early 2022. Impressed by her warm and welcoming na-

ture, Aaranyak encouraged her to open her home to travellers and students seeking authentic village experiences. Since then, her homestay has grown into a popular stop for visitors eager to learn about the Karbi community's close bond with nature.



*Homestays of Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong*

Beyond managing her homestay, Prity also assists her husband in 'Jhum cultivation' to secure the expenses they need to support the family, particularly better education for her children. She also tends to her homestead garden, nurturing it with the same dedication she shows to her guests. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, as guests who have stayed at her homestay praise her warm hospitality and delicious food in their reviews. The income generated from her homestay has become a great support, especially in covering her younger son's school and tuition fees.

"Running 'Prity Homestay' is a fulfilling journey, sharing our Karbi community's nature connection with guests while supporting my family's education goals." Said Prity.

Jina or Jeena Rongpipi, a 39-year-old from Chandrasing Rongpi village in Kohora, Karbi Anglong, always had a natural love for meeting new people and learning about their cultures. Determined to turn this passion into an opportunity, she sought support from Aaranyak in 2019 and established "Jeena Homestay" near the Kaziranga World Heritage Site.

Building on this success, Jeena later co-founded a roadside eatery called Bamboo shoot (popularly known as Bamboo Dhaba) near Kohora Chariali, together with her brother-in-law's family. Many of her homestay guests now extend their experience by enjoying traditional Karbi dishes at the eatery, giving them a wholesome taste of the

community's food and culture.

The income from her ventures has allowed Jeena to support her children's education and become more financially independent, fulfilling her own aspirations as well.

She reflects, "Owning a homestay has exposed me to a world of different cultures, and the exchange has taught me many new things about food, traditions, and ways of living."

The homestays are collectively managed under Kindulangso, a group of 10 women who support, guide, and strengthen each other in running and sustaining these ventures. Guests are often touched by the warmth and care of homestay owners. Their hospitality left such a strong impression that built a close bond with the family. Many continue to stay in touch even today, exchanging greetings and gifts on special occasions, a reflection of the genuine relationships formed through her homestay.

### **Community-led anti-depredation squads**

Twelve community-based Anti-Depredation Squads were formally established across vulnerable areas of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. These teams now act as first responders during rhino and buffalo straying incidents, reducing crop and property damage by nearly 40%. Their leadership has strengthened community ownership and proactive participation in wildlife protection.



*Consultation on rhino conservation in Pobitora*

### **Safer night and safer rhinos**

The installation of 20 solar streetlights and four elevated watch platforms across key conflict-prone sites in Pobitora has led to a marked reduction in night-time wildlife-vehicle accidents. Local residents now report improved safety and greater vigilance, turning these once-risky areas



*Solar street light for human-wildlife coexistence in Pobitora*

into models of community-driven co-management.

### **Empowering women through climate resilient farming**

For the first time, climate-resilient agriculture practices were introduced in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary with a special focus on women's empowerment. Women-led groups have successfully cultivated flood-tolerant crops using rain-shelter structures, improving food security and reducing forest dependency. The initiative has been widely accepted and is now inspiring replication across other rhino landscapes.

### **From village movement to global applause**

A team from National Geographic Germany visited Dadara to document the inspiring conservation journey of Dr. Purnima Devi Barman and highlight the grassroots conservation movement led by local women. Her impactful work has also been featured by Femina, Forbes, Nat Geo Kids UK, The Logical Indian and the weekly magazine Pratidin Times through its publication "Sukanya." Her conservation journey has further reached global audiences through features on BBC Radio and a podcast with Mon Jai Studio, along with an in-depth interview on GPlus's YouTube channel.

Dr. Barman was honoured with the prestigious "Green Oscar" the Whitley Gold Award at the Royal Geographical Society in London. She received the award from Anne, Princess

Royal in recognition of her exceptional efforts to conserve the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork, locally known as Hargila. The celebration extended to her community, where children and youth organised awareness campaigns inspired by her achievement. She was also recognised as one of Time Women of the Year 2025 for successfully increasing the stork population from 450 in 2007 to over 1,800 and mobilising more than 20,000 women in conservation efforts. The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, congratulated her on this global recognition.

Dr. Barman's conservation efforts have also been celebrated through cinema and international exhibitions. The film Hargila: The Greater Adjutant Stork by Partha Sarathi Mahanta received a special mention at the 70th National Film Awards for its contribution to wildlife filmmaking. Visitors shared glimpses of the Hargila attire exhibited at the Natural History Museum, further showcasing the cultural dimension of the conservation movement. Additionally, French channel Ushuaïa TV released a film in its series ECO HEROINE, honouring her work and community engagement efforts. A French school has also signed a pact with Dr. Barman to promote Greater Adjutant



*Dr. Purnima Devi Barman receiving the Green Oscar*

Stork conservation internationally.

Her contributions have been widely recognised through numerous honours and invitations. She received the 29th International Guwahati Trade Fair Excellence Award 2024 and the prestigious “Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award 2024” from Sanctuary Asia in Mumbai. Dr. Barman was invited as chief guest at the Reserve Bank of India International Women’s Day celebration and was honoured by NABARD. She was also invited by the Regional News Department of Doordarshan Kendra, the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, State Bank of India Dispur Branch, and Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. On March 28, she was an invited speaker at the India Today Tourism Conclave, where she spoke on “Tourism Meets Tenacity: Enchanting Assam’s Enduring Effort.” She also conducted a training session for 36 Range Officers at Aaranya Bhawan, organised by the Assam Forest Department, on community-based conservation in unprotected areas.

A number of international dignitaries also visited Dadara to witness the impact of her work. Andrew Fleming, Deputy High Commissioner for East and Northeast India at the British High Commission, engaged with the women’s groups and appreciated the conservation model. Similarly, Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystem Restoration at the United Nations Environment Programme, visited Dadara and commended the vital role of women in ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, and food security. These recognitions and engagements collectively reflect the far-reaching impact of Dr. Purnima Devi Barman’s community-driven conservation model, which has transformed local attitudes toward the Greater Adjutant Stork and inspired global action.

### **Rapid herpetofauna survey in Kaziranga published**

A summary report on “Rapid survey on herpetofauna species in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, 14-17 June 2024” has been published by the Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve Authority web portal

Link: <https://kazirangasafari.in/storage/literature//YQqCabxXPjg9JhdWeIrlZnSCNzS0g-ypRcFakuP2j.pdf>

### **Innovation on the ground, recognition on the global stage**

Our solar-powered fence initiative aimed at securing schools in elephant-prone areas received national recognition as a best practice at the first regional workshop on improving education KPIs in Aspirational Districts, organised by NITI Aayog in Itanagar. The initiative highlights an innovative approach to ensuring student safety while addressing challenges posed by human-elephant conflict in vulnerable regions.

On November 18, 2024, a major milestone was achieved when a 25–30-year-old tusker was successfully radio-collared in the Baksa Forest Division—the first such effort in Assam. Subsequently, on January 6, 2025, a 30-year-old adult female, likely from the same herd, was radio-collared in the Daranga Reserve Forest. This pioneering initiative was acknowledged by the Assam Chief Minister’s Office and featured on its official social media platform. The effort has been construed as an important advancement in elephant monitoring and conflict mitigation strategies in the state.

Further strengthening global recognition of conservation leadership, Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, Head of the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD) of Aaranyak, was conferred the 2024–2025 Neville Shulman Award by Earthwatch Europe. Dr. Lahkar, who has dedicated his efforts to the conservation of Asian elephants and the well-being of communities affected by human-elephant conflict, is the only Indian to have received this prestigious international honour.

### **Local vigilance strengthens wildlife protection in Arunachal**

The Community Surveillance & Monitoring Team (CSMT) in Pasighat emerged as an effective grassroots conservation vigil group. In September 2024, CSMTs detected poaching attempts in DEMWS and alerted Forest officials, leading to seizures of wildlife meat. In October 2024, joint patrols intercepted 155 illegal timber logs floating down the Siang River. The Government of India invited CSMT member Mr. Maksam Tayeng to the Republic Day 2025 event in New Delhi - a milestone that inspired communities and validated the community model.

# ROADMAP TO FUTURE



## Conservation and human well being

Aaranyak is committed to working to align its objectives with the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) by focusing on community mobilisation initiatives for effective conservation in Assam. The organisation aims to enhance understanding of socio-economics to empower local communities, engaging with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to foster collaboration with custodians of customary law, such as Rong Asar in Karbi Anglong and Gami-afad and Dong Band (Traditional irrigation management committee) in Bodoland Autonomous Council. This approach acknowledges their ownership and responsibility in preserving local biodiversity.

A key objective of Aaranyak's approach that would like to continue and expand in more areas with the learnings in its pilot sites is to involve mobilising women's collectives, enabling them to take proactive measures in conservation. Plans are underway to expand handloom initiatives and empower community women through training and awareness programmes, promoting handloom creativity and providing a sustainable livelihood opportunity while preserving tra-

ditional craftsmanship.

This empowerment is facilitated through the provision of alternative livelihood options, skill development training and value addition to their raw products by establishing micro-scale processing units. One of the initiatives- Pirbi- a community-managed co-operative that establishes market linkages and would like to scale up support to communities to enhance their economic wealth.

Aaranyak aims to continue and expand its focus on mobilising women's collectives in conservation efforts, building on insights gained from pilot sites. This empowerment will be facilitated through the provision of alternative livelihood options, skill development training and value addition to their raw products by establishing micro-scale



*Handloom training session in Dibrugarh district*

processing units.

In coming years, Aaranyak plans to enhance handloom initiatives by empowering community women through training and awareness programs. This effort is expected to promote handloom creativity and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities while preserving traditional craftsmanship. Aaranyak's one of the key initiatives, 'Pirbi', a community-managed cooperative, keen to scale up support for communities to improve their economic well-being.

Aaranyak also prioritises and ventures more into the use of frugal technologies together with utilising traditional knowledge systems, such as restoring watersheds, promoting agroforestry and installing solar-based street



*A 'Dong' after rejuvenation in Udalguri district*

lights that utilise locally sourced materials, such as bamboo as poles and biosafety measures.

Additionally, Aaranyak would like to expand citrus fences (biofences) and solar fences; widen support for community vigil mechanisms to mitigate human-wildlife interface; develop community halls to support social engagement; revive socio-cultural faiths to promote ethical conservation. Aaranyak would like to promote rural eco-tourism initiatives in more extensive areas to complement the mandates outlined in the National Environment Policy of 2006, issued by the Government of India with the aim to reduce communities' reliance on forest resources.

In alignment with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Aaranyak is committed to working with marginalized communities, actively harnessing their traditional and cultural knowledge to restore forest ecosystems. Aaranyak supports and develops restoration models tailored for mass scalability to restore degraded lands, including Jhum (shifting cultivation) plots, restoring community managed forest floors, establishing backyard nurseries for fostering environmental sustainability that are keen to transfer for mass implementation. This holistic framework aims to drive significant improvements in biodiversity conservation, ensuring that efforts are not only aligned with scientific principles but also responsive to the socio-economic needs of local communities.

### **Education, outreach, capacity development and assist in community stewardship**

In the coming years, Aaranyak aims to enhance and strengthen connections with nature by engaging 20,000 students and individuals from fringe communities. Our objectives include



*Future stewards participating in a plantation drive*



*A nature education programme in Guwahati*

fostering positive relationships between local communities and park management, promoting a wildlife-friendly environment and improving communication between communities and the Forest Department. To achieve these goals, we will expand our initiatives including nature camps, wildlife observation events, art, drama and craft workshops and competitions to develop a deeper sense of understanding on ecosystem services. Additionally, we plan to host cycle rallies and disseminate the government's environmental initiatives through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. Through these efforts, we also seek to inspire greater environmental stewardship and community involvement in conservation efforts.

In the upcoming years, our initiatives will concentrate on fostering effective community stewardship for rhino conservation by establishing a comprehensive state-wide Rhino and Community Network. This network aims to manage the movements of stray rhino populations and mitigate the illegal wildlife trade.

Collaborating closely with the Forest and Police Departments, along with the active participation of local communities, these networks will function as decentralized hubs. They will facilitate critical activities such as real-time monitoring of rhinoceros movements, rapid response to incidents concerning wildlife safety, and the generation of awareness regarding conservation efforts. This integrated approach is designed to enhance the protection of rhinoceros populations while

promoting community involvement in conservation efforts.

Engaging local youth in conservation efforts is crucial for fostering long-term environmental stewardship, particularly regarding the protection of charismatic species such as the Greater Adjutant (hargila) (*Leptoptilos dubius*). In order to cultivate an appreciation for biodiversity and promote conservation action among the youth, "Hargila Corners" are being established within local schools.

These designated spaces are equipped with educational materials and interactive exhibits focused on the hargila and its habitat, thereby serving as a platform for experiential learning. The development of the eco-clubs in schools is underway with the aim to facilitate awareness around the hargila but will also encompass broader environmental education initiatives, promoting practices such as sustainable resource use, waste management, and habitat restoration. In coming years, we also aim to support building a community of eco-conscious leaders and "Hargila Ambassadors" will ultimately foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

Aaranyak is collaborating with Dakhin Kamrup High School in Miza, Kamrup District, to establish the first vulture interpretation center in Assam. This initiative aims to promote awareness and conservation efforts for vulture species. Additionally, Aaranyak plans to expand this initiative by establishing ten more vulture interpretation centers in different areas over the coming years.

Aaranyak is keen to initiate specialised short courses on Remote Sensing and GIS applications across various themes, including land use/land cover mapping, habitat modeling, climate change impact assessment, and landscape connectivity analysis particularly aim to prove a hands-on experience to the students and professionals.

### **Facilitate to strengthen communication and coordination**

Aaranyak's future focus is on consolidating and complementing effective interventions against wildlife crime. Key priorities include expanding Community Surveillance & Monitoring Teams (CSMTs) in Mizoram and strengthening existing models in Arunachal Pradesh to ensure

community involvement as frontline conservation allies and assist local law enforcing Departments.

At the enforcement level, Aaranyak will enhance skill development for combating trafficking routes, including railway and courier networks. Aaranyak would like to be a bridge to strengthen cross-border cooperation with the Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Myanmar border.

### **Complementing efforts for prevention of wildlife crime**

Aaranyak is committed to enhancing efforts to combat wildlife crime by strengthening judicial engagement and raising awareness of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). In line with this commitment, Aaranyak seeks to support the initiatives of the Wildlife Crime Control



*K9 on field duty in Kaziranga*

Bureau (WCCB). With a vision to establish 12 K9 units by 2030, Aaranyak plans to expand its canine operations in vulnerable areas. In the coming year, the organization intends to leverage innovative technological tools to facilitate a transition from a reactive to a proactive enforcement paradigm.

Recognised by the Government of Assam as a Wildlife Forensic Facility in 2025, Aaranyak is committed to providing ongoing support for wildlife forensic DNA analysis to the state Forest Departments in Northeast India and other law enforcement agencies. This includes enhancing the capabilities of local field officers in the proper collection of forensic DNA evidence. This initiative aims to provide proactive, faster and evidence-based support in wildlife crime investigations.

### **Biological action research**

Mitigation of the increasing interactions between humans and wildlife requires a multi-

disciplinary approach. Aaranyak aims to conduct genetic research aimed at identifying, monitoring and restoring genetic corridors for key wildlife species in Northeast India. Additionally, Aaranyak intends to enhance the use of radio collars and AI-based cameras to document deeper understanding of elephant ecology within human-dominated landscapes, particularly in the context of mitigating human-elephant conflict (HEC). Additionally, focus will also be paid on assessing the impact of HEC on the stress levels and nutritional status of both human and elephant populations.



*An Elephant herd on the move in West Garo Hills district*

Aaranyak plans to implement a comprehensive integration of advanced digital technologies, including GPS-based tracking systems, mobile data collection methods and drone-assisted surveillance, to enhance the monitoring of rhino populations and facilitate real-time decision-making.

A significant focus will be placed on reinforcing the movement corridors for rhinos that connect Kaziranga National Park, Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary through the Brahmaputra River system. This objective of the initiative is to establish a "living corridor" that fosters safe dispersal and promotes genetic connectivity among populations.

Aaranyak has been actively researching the elusive and extremely rare species to generate information that will aid in the development of effective management strategies. The Namdapha Flying Squirrel, which became notable following its discovery in the 1980s, has drawn significant attention for its rarity. Aaranyak successfully rediscovered this species in 2021 and plans to conduct further intensive research employing advanced technologies, including acoustic monitoring, to ascertain its current status and ecological needs.

Amphibians are a group of species that require genetic studies at the DNA level for accurate species identification, which is essential for understanding their distribution patterns. These distribution patterns are particularly sensitive to climate change, making amphibians strong indicators of even subtle environmental changes. Aaranyak has taken a leadership role in documenting several new species from Northeastern India and is committed to continuing its efforts to provide vital ecological information.

The status of the non-volant small mammals in North East India have significant research gaps, though these groups of species are an important foodbase of the multiple groups of predators including small wild cats. Aaranyak plans to initiate extensive research to document their status and role in different habitats for better understanding and open up an opportunity for future management implications.

The status of non-volant small mammals in Northeast India presents a significant research gap, despite these species being an important food source for various predators, including small wild cats. Aaranyak plans to initiate extensive research to document their status and ecological roles across different habitats. This research aims to improve our understanding of these mammals and create opportunities for future management implications.

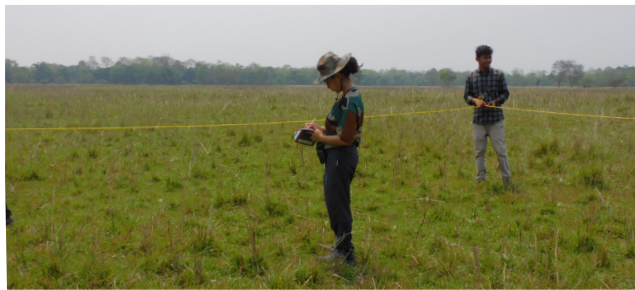
Aaranyak is complementing in initiating a community led vulture conservation initiative in few districts of Assam to revive their population in nature. Aaranyak plans to expand its approach throughout Assam targeting documentation to safeguard their remaining nest and nesting colonies, and mitigate their food shortage through strengthening "Sagun Mitra" and "Nest Guardianship" initiative.

Aaranyak is implementing a community-led vulture conservation initiative in select districts of Assam, aimed at reviving the populations of vultures in their natural habitat. Aaranyak intends to expand its efforts throughout Assam, focusing on the documentation and preservation of remaining nests and nesting colonies and will address food shortages for vultures through the strengthening "Sagun Mitra" and "Nest Guardianship" initiatives.

## Species management

Aaranyak's conservation breeding initiative for the Pygmy Hog is dedicated to establishing a substantial population of this Critically Endangered species within its natural habitat. Aaranyak is committed to monitoring the reintroduced individuals to document and implement effective conservation measures for this unique, habitat-specialist pig species.

Drawing on field insights gathered over the past three decades, Aaranyak is planning to update the Pygmy Hog Conservation Program's rewilding strategy for the period of 2026 to 2030. This strategic update aims to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of the conservation efforts in order to secure the future of the Pygmy Hog in the wild.



Bengal Florican habitat data recording in Manas NP

The Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) is a highly threatened species of bird characterized by its strong habitat specificity, primarily inhabiting grassland ecosystems. Conservation efforts for the Bengal Florican are vital, particularly in regions where its population coexists with human-managed landscapes. Aaranyak is planning to implement targeted conservation actions within the Kokilabari Agricultural Farm located adjacent to Manas National Park.

Efforts will focus on expanding GASCP at the national and international levels to strengthen its conservation impact, partnerships and outreach. Simultaneously, a comprehensive project proposal will be developed for herpetofauna research in remote and unexplored regions of Northeast India, aiming to generate baseline data and inform conservation strategies.

Priority will also be given to completing the draft of the Assam Roofed Turtle Species Management Plan (2025–2034), ensuring a structured, science-based roadmap for the long-term survival and recovery of the species.

## Complement in wildlife habitat management

In alignment with the objectives outlined in the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC 2021-2030), Aaranyak is dedicated to complementing governmental initiatives aimed at mitigating environmental degradation and facilitating carbon finance. Over the next decade, Aaranyak aims to restore 400 hectares of wildlife habitat and 100 hectares of sustainably managed forests. Additionally, the organisation is promoting agroforestry, establishing homestead gardens, and supporting the conservation of indigenous seed banks in 30 villages.

## GIS for conservation

The Geospatial Technology and Applications Division (GTAD) envisions strengthening its role in conservation science and applied research through strategic infrastructure and collaboration. This includes upgrading the GIS laboratory with advanced computing systems, licensed geospatial software, cloud-based processing platforms and high-resolution satellite datasets to enable cutting-edge spatial analysis.

The division will further enhance interdisciplinary collaboration with the in-house divisions to integrate spatial, ecological, and genetic data for holistic biodiversity planning. In addition, technical expertise, training and capacity-building support will be extended to the Forest Department to improve data-driven conservation management.

## Legal advocacy to combat wildlife crime

The Legal Advocacy Division (LAD) will continue to prioritise legal and policy interventions as a cornerstone of conservation action. Key efforts will focus on fast-tracking wildlife crime cases, advocating for the establishment of special courts for wildlife offences and updating Standard Operating Procedures to strengthen prosecution processes. By integrating community action, legal empowerment, and technology-driven intelligence systems, LAD aims to establish a durable, multi-layered deterrence framework capable of dismantling organized wildlife crime networks and safeguarding endangered species across the Eastern Himalayas.

# TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS ORGANISED/CO-ORGANISED

- Aaranyak organised the Biannual Research Seminar 2024 during 27th and 28th of September 2024 at College of Veterinary Science, AUU, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam bringing 31 numbers of Abstracts. As per the Management Group Meeting for Aaranyak Biannual Research Seminar 2024, Arup Kumar Das was nominated as Convenor of the research Seminar. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar and Parag Kumar Deka were Advisors of the seminar along with Banasree Sarma and Genous Teron as committee members.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised a five-day food processing training programme for 26 participants, focusing on value addition, preservation techniques, and small-scale enterprise development.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised a two-day training on handloom diversification at MCOC, Bhuyanpara, with 34 participants. The training introduced new weaving patterns and techniques to improve design, production quality, and marketability.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised a two-day training programme on traditional fermentation practices at MCOC, Bhuyanpara, with 16 participants, promoting eco-friendly and locally relevant techniques.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised a two-day training session for tourism stakeholders from the Manas Landscape was held at MCOC, Bhuyanpara, with 15 participants. The program aimed at strengthening sustainable tourism practices that align with conservation values.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised an orientation and observation sessions were organized for school students in Karebari village under the Bhuyanpara cluster to build awareness about environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised an orientation programme on education and home garden development was conducted at the MCOC, Bhuyanpara, empowering participants to cultivate nutritional gardens for household use.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised eight Focus Group Discussions across Daodhara, Randhanipara, Garumara, Thwribari-Langdangpara, Bhuyanpara, Bamunkhal, and Karebari villages, engaging 181 participants (95 women and 86 men). These discussions gathered insights on perceptions, challenges, and mitigation strategies.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised four meetings on HWC mitigation were conducted in Bhuyanpara, Karebari, Bamunkhal, and Madanguri villages to discuss conflict prevention and human-wildlife coexistence strategies.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised three community orientation programmes in Daodhara to introduce and strengthen fish farming practices among local farmers.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised two orientation programmes at Bhuyanpara and Kokilabari to train local volunteers in collecting and reporting HWC data effectively.
- CLD jointly with TRCD organised two-day Nature Camps at Bormajra ME School and Khamardwisa High School, engaging 55 students. The camps encouraged hands-on learning about biodiversity, conservation, and the importance of protecting natural habitats.
- EECBD with ERCD organised a workshop on Applied Environment Education at the Extension Education Institute - NE Region, Assam Agriculture University, Khanapara, Guwahati, on July 11-12, 2024.
- EECBD jointly with Kahini organised a workshop on the Natural Holi Colour production in Barpeta. Around 50 participants have actively participated and prepared Holi colours using different local natural ingredients.
- EECBD organised a training on nursery man-

- agement for the community members and members of the 'Jaikhleng community nursery' with collaboration of TERI Guwahati.
- EECBD organised exposure visits cum training of farmers organised to Pabhoi Greens and Daffodil nursery on nursery raising and homestead garden management.
  - EECBD organised five (05) trainings on vermicomposting, natural farming for community members of Udlaguri in collaboration with KVK, Udlaguri
  - EECBD organised a teachers training on sustainability education in Kamrup Metro in collaboration with Samagra Siksha Assam, Kamrup (M), and Wipro earthian.
  - EECBD, in collaboration with the Geography Department of Dimakuchi College, conducted an insightful workshop on the Basics of GIS & GPS, equipping local youth and faculty with essential geospatial skills for biodiversity mapping and land-use analysis.
  - EECBD conducted a 10-day Student Summer Learning Programme, "Eco-Action towards Water Conservation" for students. It is worth mentioning that, as a result of the training, participants collectively saved 1,550 litres of water per day from their daily domestic use during the training.
  - GTAD conducted a 6-day Refresher Course on Open-Source GIS training for Forester-I started on January 3-9, 2025. The training has been organised by the Assam Forest School, Jalukbari, Guwahati in collaboration with Aaranyak.
  - HRCDD co-organised nine orientation camps cum training programmes on Assam roofed turtle identification and its conservation to the ground forest staff of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve during April 10-28, 2024.
  - LAD co-hosted a workshop on Resilience Dialogues on Nature Crime, hosted and sponsored by Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.
  - LAD conducted a training for forest staff of Sikkim Forest department on functions of camera traps for surveillance purposes.
  - LAD conducted a workshop on legal aspects of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 for BSF front-line staff at Garo Hills.
  - LAD conducted a workshop on Prevention of Wildlife Crime and Role of Transport Agencies in collaboration with DTO, Biswanath Chariali.
  - LAD conducted a workshop on wildlife crime and illegal wildlife crime at SSB 27, Howly.
  - LAD conducted a workshop to enhance the legal proficiency of forest personnel in tackling wildlife-related crimes, Majuli, Assam.
  - LAD conducted awareness meetings with 3 different villages at Mizoram for CSMT formation
  - LAD conducted a legal aspect session during the Hoolock gibbon conservation training at Jorhat.
  - LAD conducted one awareness meeting at Raimona Central Range IB for the forest staff and EDC members on Snake Bite Prevention, Treatment and Health Measures with the National Park Authority of Raimona National Park.
  - LAD conducted two PRI sensitisation meetings at Simla, Baksa and Pobitora, Morigaon on Wildlife Crime Prevention with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.
  - LAD conducted two sensitisation workshops for SSB's transboundary BoP's at Phebsu and Moinaguri.
  - LAD organised a Sensitization programme on wildlife crime prevention for PRI members at Orang Tiger Reserve in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.
  - LAD organised a sensitization programme on wildlife crime prevention for PRI members at Raimona National Park in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.
  - LAD organised a workshop on "Deterring wildlife crime: Challenges & Opportunities" in collaboration with Mizoram State Legal Services Authority at Aizawl, Mizoram.
  - LAD organised a workshop on preventing wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade for border guards, SSB at Darranga.
  - LAD organised an awareness programme for CSMT in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - LAD organised an awareness programme for VDPs in Majuli, Assam.
  - Madhumita Borthakur, Avishek Sarkar and Evangel Bonnie Lyndoh from GTAD provid-

ed training on Basic of GIS & Remote sensing using open source QGIS to a total number of 20 forest officials on May 16, 2024 in Goalpara DFO Office. The training programme was co-ordinated by Arup Kumar Das, Senior Manager GTAD on request of DFO Goalpara.

- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitat Trust carried out a training programme on Hoolock gibbon conservation for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department. This training course was held during April 22-28, 2024 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitat Trust carried out a training programme on Hoolock gibbon conservation for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department during May 20-26, 2024 at the Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust carried out a training programme on Hoolock gibbon conservation for frontline staff of Assam Forest Department During September 16-22, 2024 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust conducted a training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department During October 21-27, 2024 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust organised a training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department. This training course was organised during November 12-18, 2025 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust carried out the training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam during December 17-23, 2025.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust organised a training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department during January 23-29, 2025 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust carried out the training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam during February 7-13, 2025.
- PRCD in collaboration with Assam Forest Department with support from The Habitats Trust organised a training programme for the frontline staff of Assam Forest Department during March 16-22, 2025 at Gibbon Conservation Centre at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary., Assam.
- PRCD in collaboration with Jorhat Forest Division conducted 'Primate Watch', the first of its kind in Assam at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary on March 16, 2025 as a part of celebration of International Macaque Day.
- PRCD organised a Hoolock gibbon Conservation training for the staff of Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. Hoolock gibbon Conservation Training was organised at interpretation centre of Kamlang Tiger Reserve at Miao at the headquarters of the park in the district of Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh on 30th and 31st October, 2024 in collaboration with Namdapha Tiger Reserve Authority where 49 staff were trained.
- TRCD organised a four-month Professional Conservation Biology (PCB) course (2025) since January 20, 2025.
- TRCD organised Earth Day 2024 in the Central Range (Kachugaon) of Raimona National Park in collaboration with Kachugaon Division and WTI.
- TRCD Organised National Bird Day in Central Range (Kachugaon) of Raimon National Park in collaboration with BTR Government and Kachugaon Division.

- TRCD organised pre Bhogali Bihu celebration with the community partners living near the Raimona National Park and forest officials of the Kachugaon Division of Raimona National Park on January 11, 2025 to strengthen park-people relationship and promote conservation efforts for greater benefit of the Raimona and people living around it.
- TRCD organised the International Tiger Day at MCOC, Bhuyanpara, Manas Tiger Reserve in collaboration with BTR Government, IUCN India, Directorate- Manas Tiger Reserve Forest, ASTEC, WWF and WTI.
- TRCD organised World Environment Day 2024 in Central Range (Kachugaon) of Raimon National Park in collaboration with BTR Government and Kachugaon Division.
- TRCD organised World River day with the community partners in the Hazirai Gaon under Kachugaon Forest Division on September 29, 2024. The event aimed to raise awareness about the ecological importance of rivers, their role in sustaining biodiversity, and the pressing need to protect them from pollution, encroachment, and unsustainable practices.
- WATCH co-organised the First Arun Roy Memorial Lecture on the theme 'Riverine Navigation, Transport and Trade in North East India' on July 07, 2024, in collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati and the Northeast India Water Forum at the Conference Hall, Institution of Engineers, Assam State Centre, Panbazar, Guwahati. The memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE), Jaipur, Rajasthan on the Topic 'Inland Water Transport: Challenges and Opportunities in the context of the Brahmaputra'
- WATCH celebrate and co-organised the World Meteorological Day (WMD) on March 25, 2025, jointly with the Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University at the Seminar Hall, GU. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Professor Nani Gopal Mahanta, Vice Chancellor of GU. Mr. K N Mohan, Head, Regional Meteorological Centre, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Government of India graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. A panel discussion was also held on the occasion on the topic 'Importance of Promoting the Science of Meteorology for Societal Well-being in Northeast India'. The panelists who took part in the discussion were: (i) Prof. Dhrubajyoti Saharia, Dept. of Geography, Gauhati University; (ii) Dr. Bulbuli Khanikar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University; (iii) Dr. Hirakjyoti Goswami, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics, Gauhati University; and (iv) Mr. K N Mohan, Scientist G and Head, Regional Meteorological Centre, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. The panel was moderated by Dr. Partha J Das, Senior Environmental Scientist of Aaranyak.
- WATCH organised a 'District Level Stakeholder Consultation on Integrated Management' of the Doloni Beel on April 6, 2024, in the conference hall of the District Commissioner's Office in Bongaigaon district of Assam. The meeting was convened jointly by the Bongaigaon District Administration, and Aaranyak. Bongaigaon District Commissioner Nabadeep Pathak, IAS chaired the meeting where Additional District Commissioner Apurba Nath, ACS was the Co-chair. The purpose of the consultation meeting was to sensitize stakeholders about the salient findings of the assessment that Aaranyak has done on the Doloni Beel and share the major recommendations for the integrated wetland management plan (IWMP) that is under preparation.
- WATCH organised a Block level workshop on 'Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) for the Kathiatoli Block' at the meeting hall of the Nij Kathiatoli Panchayat office, Nagaon District in association with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam and the Office of the BDO, Kathiatoli Block on August 29, 2024.
- WATCH organised a Block level workshop on 'Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) for the Pakhimoria Block' at the meet-

ing hall of the Block Development Office, Pakhimoria, Nagaon District in association with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam and the Office of the BDO, Pakhimoria Block on August 30, 2024.

- WATCH organised a Block level workshop on 'Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) for the Raha Block' at the meeting hall of the Dighali Ati Panchayat office, Nagaon District in association with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam and the Office of the BDO, Raha Block on September 2, 2024.
- WATCH organised an 'Orientation Program on Seasonal Livelihood Mapping (SLM) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP)' under Project ENACT – Assam ('Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-transformative approaches) in Nagaon District of Assam, India' in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) at the Conference Hall, Hotel Bidisha, Sankardev Mandir Road, Nagaon-782001 on August 10, 2024.

# SEMINAR/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES ATTENDED/PRESENTED

- Abhijit Saikia and Rabiya Daimari presented our works on alternative crop support titled "Mitigating Crop Raids by Elephants: The Impact of Adopting Resilient Cropping Systems." at the Students Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) in Bangalore, our team members
- Abhijit Saikia and Rabiya Daimari presented a poster at the Students Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) in Bangalore on alternative crop support, titled "Mitigating Crop Raids by Elephants: The Impact of Adopting Resilient Cropping Systems" in October 2024.
- Anjan Baruah and Rubul Tanti participated in an International Conference on Human-Elephant Conflict Management, organized by the Karnataka Forest Department in Bengaluru as a part of the World Elephant Day celebrations.
- Anushka Saikia presented a poster titled "Understanding landscape-level Asian elephant distribution in Meghalaya" at the Indian Wildlife and Ecology Conference (IWEC) in Bangalore in June 2024.
- Anushka Saikia presented a paper titled "Understanding landscape-level Asian elephant population in Meghalaya" at the ARS 2024 and was awarded the second-best oral presentation.
- Arup Kumar Das and Shivani Khalote attended a workshop on "Understanding and Mitigating Disaster Risks in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve" organised by WTI on February 7, 2025.
- Arup Kumar Das as Convenor of Aaranyak Bi-annual Research Seminar 2024 attended along with Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar and presented two papers during the seminar on September 27-28, 2024.
- Arup Kumar Das as resource person imparted GPS training to the forest frontline staff in Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary on September 16, 2024. The training was organized by PRCD, Aaranyak.
- Arup Kumar Das attended a two-day workshop on "Collaborative Approaches to Inclusive Energy Planning." organised by World Resources Institute India WRI India recently. The workshop brought together stakeholders from the states of Jharkhand, Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram, as well as international participants from Nepal, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.
- Arup Kumar Das attended Disaster Management Workshop at Guwahati on December 10, 2024.
- Arup Kumar Das carried out theory and hands on GPS training to newly recruited foresters of Assam Forest department at Assam Forest School, Jalukbari, Guwahati on April 1, 2024. On April 18, 2024, Avishek Sarkar, GIS Analyst had imparted training on basics of QGIS to the foresters.
- Arup Kumar Das had attended a workshop from August 21-25, 2024 along with other officials of Aaranyak at North Bengal on 'Feasibility of reforestation in private fallow cropland, degraded forest, and tea gardens within the Dooar's Landscape of North Bengal and Bodoland Territorial Region of Assam, India.'
- Arup Kumar Das had taken GPS and GIS classes in the department of Zoology, North Lakhimpur College for the degree and Post Graduate degree students followed by field visit on October 24-25, 2024. About 100 students took part in the program along with current and retired faculty members of the department.
- Arup Kumar Das highlighted the application of Global Positioning System (GPS) in wildlife research through as hands-on GPS training on October 30. Fifty-one participants from the Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve attended the programme organised by PRCD, Aaranyak.
- Arup Kumar Das imparted a two-day training on uses of GIS for grass-root leaders for implementing of seventh operational phase of GEE small Grants provided by June 27-28, 2024 at

the community centre, Chandrasing Rongpi Memorial High School, Chandrasing Rongpi of Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong Landscape organised by Aaranyak.

- Arup Kumar Das imparted GPS hands on training from April 23-24, 2024 to the forest front line staff at Gibbon Conservation Centre. The training was organized by the PRCD division of Aaranyak from April 22-28, 2024.
- Arup Kumar Das imparted hands on GPS training conducted by PRCD, Aaranyak for forest frontline staff for the Conservation of Hoolock Gibbon in Assam.
- Arup Kumar Das took a session on GPS as a resource person in the 5-Day Tour Guide Training Programme on October 21, 2024 at Maguri Eco-Camp, Tinsukia, Assam organised by Nature Conservation Society (NCS). Mr. Das demonstrated on how Geo-Spatial technology helps in tourism specially PAs and wildlife of Assam and use of mobile GPS in wildlife and its habitats.
- Arup Kumar Das, Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar imparted basics of GIS training to the students of Civil Engineering, SITM, Guwahati from 18-24 September, 2024.
- Arup Kumar Das, Madhumita Borthakur, Avishek Sarkar and Shivani Khalote imparted GIS Training to the forest staff in Jalukbari Forest School from January 3-9, 2025.
- Avishek Sarkar and Shivani Khalote participated in a training programme on Introduction to Biostatistics on January 2-5, 2025 organised by Aaranyak.
- Avishek Sarkar attended 3-day hands-on workshop on Wildlife Monitoring organised by the Assam Royal Global University.
- Avishek Sarkar attended the 2nd User Interaction Meet on September 5, 2024, organised by NESAC at Umiam, Meghalaya.
- Avishek Sarkar imparted hands on GPS training to frontline forest officials during the weeklong residential training programme organised by HoD, PRCD at Gibbon Conservation Center on January 24, 2025.
- Avishek Sarkar imparted hands on GPS training to frontline forest officials during the weeklong residential training programme organised by HoD, PRCD at Gibbon Conservation Center on February 7, 2025.
- Avishek Sarkar presented a paper entitled "Study on Ecosystem Service Valuation (ESV) dynamics using geospatial technology across the urban sprawl of Guwahati city, Assam, India" co-authored by Barnali Chakraborty, Madhumita Borthakur and Bibhab Kumar Talukdar at National Seminar on "Cultivating alternatives for our common future: Prospects and Challenges from Local to Global" organized by Dhanjit Medhi Foundation, Sonapur College and sponsored by ICSSR from November 7-9, 2024.
- Avishek Sarkar presented a research paper entitled "Impact of forest canopy density on invasive alien plants spread across the vulnerable ecosystem of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam" co-authored by Arup Kr. Das, Madhumita Borthakur and Bibhab Kr. Talukdar at the Biological Invasion and Stakeholder Engagement in India organized by Azim Premji University, Bhopal campus on February 21-22, 2025.
- Avishek Sarkar presented a research paper entitled "Urban leopards of Guwahati city: Understanding conflict hotspots using geospatial technology" at 3rd International Conference on Biodiversity: Exploration, Exploitation and Conservation for Sustainable Development organized by PDUAM-Behali at the college campus on March 6-7, 2025
- Avishek Sarkar provided hands on GPS training to front line forest staff of Assam Forest Department at Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary on May 21-22, 2024, organised by PRCD, Aaranyak.
- Banasree Sharma and Dipankar Haloi attended a training on Gender Mainstreaming organised by UNDP & TERI.
- Bibhab Talukdar and Deba Kumar Dutta attended Indian Wildlife and Ecological Conference (IWEC) 14-16 June, 2024 at National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru.
- Bibhab Talukdar and Deba Kumar Dutta attended International Workshop on Ecosystem and Wildlife of Assam from 26-27 September 2024 Organised by IQAC, Nagaon Girls College, Nagaon, Assam.
- Bibhab Talukdar attended workshop entitled

- “Developing Species Recovery plan for Greater One-horned Rhino, Wild Buffalo and Barasingha on September 12-13, 2024, at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- Bibhab Talukdar delivered a talk to the officials and public representatives of Arunachal Pradesh on possibilities of re-introduction of Greater One Horned Rhino in D. Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary leading to the assessment of habitat and security at D. Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary being carried out by Aaranyak.
  - Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar and Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya took part in the inauguration and partner meeting of the Thread Project in the WWF office, Delhi in 24 and 25 March, 2025.
  - Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar and Alolika Sinha presented their respective papers on grassland recovery in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Manas National Park, respectively, at the Indian Wildlife and Ecology Conference (IWEC) in Bangalore in June 2024.
  - Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar attended a conference on Biological invasion and stakeholder engagement in India, held from 21 to 22 February at the Azim Premji University, Bhopal campus. He presented ERCD’s habitat restoration and invasive management work at the conference.
  - Deba Kumar Dutta attended THREAD partnership meeting at New Delhi from 26-31st March 2025.
  - Deba Kumar Dutta Attending IUCN Red List Assessment Training Program at Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, 10-16 November 2024
  - Dilip Chetry attended and presented at Gibbon Action Plan Workshop for Bangladesh at Dhaka from 10-12 December, 2024 in Bangladesh.
  - Dilip Chetry Attended and presented at the 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 3–5 September 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.
  - Dilip Chetry attended and presented two papers at 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Primate Symposium, November 23-27, 2024. Sumatran Island in Medan, Indonesia.
  - Simanta Medhi delivered a talk at Handique Girls’ College under the title Hoolock gibbon habitats and its conservation in Assam
  - Dilip Chetry delivered a talk at Mariani college under the title “Halou-Ape conservation in India.”
  - Dilip Chetry delivered a talk at Nakachari College under the title Hoolock in our culture and tradition in Assam.
  - Dilip Chetry delivered a talk on Hoolock gibbon conservation in India with special reference to Tripura at Training workshop of frontline staff of Tripura at Tripura University, Agartala on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.
  - Dilip Chetry participated as Guest of Honour in the celebration of the International Day of Forest on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025 in the Department of Zoology, Manipur University, Imphal and also delivered talk Aaranyak’s role in the conservation of Biodiversity in Northeast India.
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended a course “Monitoring and Evaluation of Conservation Programs” from 27 – 31 January, 2025 organised by Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) at NCF Satellite Office, Bangalore, India.
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended a five day long course on IUCN Red List procedures organised by Zooreach organization at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended as a invitee and delivered a talk on ecology of tigers at “Ecosystem and wildlife of Assam” organised by Nowgong college between 26-27 September 2024, Nagaon, Assam, India.
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended as an invited guest in a talk show “ Aranya, Bagh & Manuh (in Assamese), Nature, tiger and human, broadcast at All India Radio, Guwahati Centre on 25 July 2024, Guwahati, India.
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended as an invited guest in a talk show “ IUCN Endangered Species and their future (in Assamese), broadcasted at All India Radio, Guwahati Centre on 15 May 2025, Assam, India.
  - Dipankar Lahkar attended as an invitee on a talk show “Ban aru Paribex” broadcasted on 22 February 2025 on Doordarshan Kendra Guwahati.
  - Dipankar Lahkar participated in Nation-

- al Children Science Congress 2025 as a State Assistant Academic Coordinator cum mentor organised by ASTEC, Guwahati, Assam, India.
- Dipankar Lahkar, Gayatri Dutta and Leenthoi Laisram attended and presented a findings of the eco-restoration initiatives of Tiger Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak on 'Workshop and Symposium on Tropical Forest and Grassland Restoration in the Eastern Himalaya – Concepts and Practice' between 14-16 October 2024, organised by Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) at Dampa Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India.
  - Gayatri Dutta participated in a conservation leadership program on Ecological Restoration: Principles, Practice and Monitoring organised by NCF at Dodamarg, Maharashtra from 20-24 February 2025, India.
  - Gayatri Dutta presented a poster in a national conference on "Climate Change impacts, Adaptation and Resilience (NCCCIAR-2024) on "Assessment of tree diversity and carbon stock potential of Raimona National Park" held in Tezpur University, Assam, India.
  - GTAD team comprising of interns Evangel Bonnie Lyngdoh conducted a two-days training on basics of RG & GIS provided to DFO and Range Officer, Social Forestry Division, Department of Forest & Environment, Meghalaya.
  - GTAD team conducted a three-day training on Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) was organised on 26th to 28th November 2024 for the representative of 23 numbers of grassroots level NGO's of Assam and Meghalaya. The training was organized in collaboration with GEF Small Grants Programme, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and UNDP. The training was carried out at the conference hall of Extension Education Institute (NE Region), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Government of India, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Khanapara, Guwahati – 781022. Arup Kumar Das coordinated the overall training with Support from Madhumita Borthakur, Avishek Sarkar and Shivani Khalote. Sounika Karmakar, Regional Coordinator, North-East, SGP-OP7, TERI actively coordinated and participated in the training.
  - GTAD team conducted one-week basics of RS/ GIS training provided to two research Scholars of Assam Down Town University during last week of July 2024.
  - GTAD team imparted training of research scholar from Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh on Basics of GIS and Handling open GIS software.
  - GTAD team imparted training on to one trainee in one month personalised online training on basics of Remote Sensing and GIS using open-source software during September 2024.
  - GTAD team provided training on handling GPS Device for collecting field-based GPS data to frontline staff of Assam Forest Department organised by PRCO, Aaranyak on November 13, 2024 at Gibbon Conservation Centre, Mariani.
  - Hemanta Phukan and Kakali Sarma participated in the training programme on 'Water Literacy – A Pertinent Issue' organised by the and at the North Eastern Regional Institute Of Water And Land Management, Tezpur sponsored by the National Water Mission, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti during 4th-6th December 2024.
  - HRCD team participated in the snake handling and snake venom collection training at Mizoram University, 27 to 28 Sept 2024.
  - Jayanta Kumar Pathak attended a training on nature learning centre at Hanur, Karnataka.
  - Jayanta Kumar Pathak attended the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) held at New Delhi on 5-6 March 2025.
  - Jayanta Kumar Pathak conducted a session on "Effective Conservation Education Campaigns" as part of the UGC-Sponsored Refresher Course in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development organised by Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University.
  - Jayanta Kumar Pathak delivered a speech on "Nature and Human Wellbeing," at Tihu College in Nalbari District.
  - Jayanta Kumar Sarma attended and delivered a lecture on "Conservation livelihood an approach to integrate nature and culture for

- regenerative development” ICSSR National Seminar organised by Dr B.R. Ambedkar university, Delhi on the focal theme Aligning Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Livelihoods with Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 for Resilient Northeastern Communities, February, 2025, India.
- Jayanta Kumar Sarma attended and delivered a lecture on “Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for Ecological Security and Sustainable Development (SDG goal 13.14.15) with special reference to North East India” and “Traditional Village institutions and social security (SDG goal 1.2. 12 and 16) with special reference to North East India” in the faculty Development Programme of UGC HRC, Gauhati University, September 2024, Guwahati, India.
  - Jayanta Kumar Sarma attended and delivered a popular lecture on “Care and nurture nature for our future” Jawahar Navodaya Vidalya, Ribhoi, Meghalaya, January, 2025, India.
  - Jonmani Kalita presented at the Indian Wildlife Ecology Congress on 14 September 2024 at NCBC, Bengaluru on 14 September 2024, titled- “Pygmy Hog Population Estimation through Sign Survey in Orang National Park, Assam.”
  - Jonmani Kalita, Koushik Rajbongshi, Karishma Sharma Chamlagain, Monica Basumatary, Karan Barman participated “Biostatistics for Wildlife Conservation Workshop” Organised by Aaranyak and Bodoland University on January, 2025.
  - Karishma Sharma Chamlagain presented at the IWEC on 14 September 2024 at NCBC, Bengaluru, titled: “Conserving the Bengal Florican in Orang National Park.”
  - Koushik Rajbongshi presented at the Indian Wildlife Ecology Congress on 14 September 2024 at NCBC, Bengaluru, titled: “Restricting Bombax ceiba Encroachment by Girdling in the Grasslands of Manas National Park, Assam.”
  - LAD expert as a resource person attended the Rhino Day celebration in Kaziranga.
  - LAD team attended ‘Wildlife Forensics: Conservation, Crime & Prevention’ workshop at School of Science, JAIN University, Bangalore.
  - LAD team attended a day-long discussion on Exotic Pet Trade in India held in Bangalore.
  - LAD team attended a private-public partnerships (PPPs) countering cybercrime at the national and regional levels.
  - LAD team attended a workshop on ‘New Frontiers in the Fight Against Environmental and Wildlife Crimes’ organised by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC).
  - LAD team attended an awareness programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and species in IWT with special relevance to Karbi Anglong, Assam.
  - LAD team attended Darwin Initiative Capability and Capacity Webinar.
  - LAD team attended Geo-tourism prospects organised by NESAC, Shillong.
  - LAD team attended GI-TOC Annual General Meeting.
  - LAD team attended panel discussion on “Building resilience support for those working on environmental crime”.
  - LAD team attended Regional Consultations for AGM 2024 organised by Global Initiative Network of Experts.
  - LAD team attended the Reimagining Conservation in Asia conference organised by IUCN in Bangkok
  - LAD team attended two-day workshop for (IDWH) developing species recovery plan for Greater one-horned Rhino, Wild Buffalo and Barasingha in Dehradun
  - LAD team attended virtual workshop on Pan-Regional Cybercrime Consultation organised by UNODC Civil Society Unit.
  - LAD team participated in a two-day long Conservation Education workshop at MCOC.
  - Leenthoi Laishram presented a poster titled “Ecological Restoration Engaging Indigenous Communities at Jhum Fallow Karbi Anglong-Assam” at the SCCS-Bng 2024 conference from 21-24 October 2024 held in Bangalore, India.
  - M Firoz Ahmed and Dipankar Lahkar attended the 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF 2024) between 3-5 September in Bangkok, Thailand.
  - M Firoz Ahmed and Dipankar Lahkar have presented scientific findings at International

Young Researchers' Conclave and Rural Science Congress (IYRCRSC - 2025) from March 6–8 2025 at Assam University, Silchar, India.

- Madhumita Borthakur and Avishek Sarkar participated in an organisational workshop entitled “Igniting Leadership Skills – A Strategic Approach to Enhancing Organizational Goals” on November 14, 2024.
- Madhumita Borthakur and Shivani Khalote provided training on GPS and GIS using GPS devices, mobile phones and open-source software was provided to the around 30 students and faculty from Dept. of Geography of Dimakuchi College. The training included Introduction to GIS & GPS, focusing on biodiversity studies, Harnessing smartphones for mapping and geospatial applications, Outdoor demonstration for real-world application with handheld GPS device and commitment to provide further hands-on experience in LULC (Land Use Land Cover) mapping and village mapping for interested participants. This workshop was conducted on 5th February 2025 under the UNDP GEF SG programme implemented by TERI, with the cooperation of GTAD, ERCD and EECBD of Aaranyak.
- Madhumita Borthakur imparted a two-day training on QGIS to trainees of Professional Conservation Biology in Kohora Field Station on June 27-28, 2024. The training was organised by TRCD, Aaranyak.
- Madhumita Borthakur participated in a session of Advantage Assam 2.0 under the theme 'Space and Geospatial' on the topic 'Advancing Geospatial Industry for Socio-Economic Development of Assam' in Khanapara Veterinary Field on February 26, 2025.
- Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya attended a stakeholder meeting on Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and its conservation held on November 4, 2024 at the District Commissioner's Office in Morigaon, which was a successful gathering of key conservation leaders and stakeholders.
- Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya attended a workshop organised by Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN) and GOGLA global association for solar energy companies, in association with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), SELCO, UNDP India, CES in Guwahati, Assam to facilitate discussions around Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE). The event's theme is 'Policy to Practice: Advancing Productive Use of Renewable Energy Solutions in North East India', held on 9 July 2024 at AIC-SELCO Foundation, Guwahati.
- Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya attended sixteen webinars on varied aspects on conservation and livelihood enhancement of forest fringe communities from April 2024 to March 2025.
- Partha J Das delivered an invited talk on 'Climate Change across NE India and its implications on urbanscapes /urbanization: The context of Extreme Events' in the Conclave on Climate Change and Urbanization in the North East organised by Action Aid and NEADS on July 5-6, 2024 at IIBM, Guwahati.
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in the programme 'Global Green Gathering' organised by the ACCMS (Assam Climate Change Management Society), Government of Assam as a part of the 'Advantage Assam 2.0. The Global Investors Summit' on February 25, 2025. He delivered an invited to talk on 'Community-led Water Management'. Dr. Das highlighted the lacunae in estimation of loss and damage caused by flooding based on which compensations are sought from the Central Government. He stressed on preparing the outline and master plan for addressing the chronic flood and erosion problem of Assam. He also emphasised that since the Brahmaputra River has been declared as a National Water Way, the flood and erosion problems of Assam originating from the Brahmaputra River should also be considered as a national disaster.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended a meeting organised by the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) on the flood issue of Assam at the Madhav Dev Prekhyagriha of the Sankardev Kalakhetra, Guwahati on July 25, 2024. He delivered an invited talk on the 'Challenges of managing flood and erosion in Assam'. Dr. Das highlighted the lacunae in estimation of loss and damage caused by flooding based on which compensations are sought from the Central Government. He stressed on preparing the outline and master plan for addressing

the chronic flood and erosion problem of Assam. He also emphasised that since the Brahmaputra River has been declared as a National Water Way, the flood and erosion problems of Assam originating from the Brahmaputra River should also be considered as a national disaster.

- Partha Jyoti Das attended a national conference on 'Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation: Status, Needs and Future Actions' held at the Fairfield by Marriott, New Town, Kolkata on 20-21 April, 2024. The conference was organised by the Alliance for Conserving Freshwater Ecosystems and IISER Kolkata. Dr Das made a presentation on 'Degeneration of freshwater ecosystems and consequences for their socio-ecological characteristics: The case of Deepor Beel, Assam' on April 20, 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended a talk Show in Door-darshan Guwahati in the programme called 'Prekhyapat' on the theme, weather and climatic anomalies and our rivers in Assam on June 5, 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended a webinar on 'Governance of hydroclimatic extremes in South Asia and Europe' which was organised by the Demotape Project in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on February 27, 2025. Dr. Das presented his views on the importance of early warning of floods in the rivers of the Brahmaputra Basin.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the '20th Regional Co-ordination Committee (RCC) Meeting' of the National Institute of Hydrology-North Eastern Regional Centre (NIH-NERC), Guwahati in the Conference Hall, Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati on February 6, 2025. He spoke on the topic 'Need of information, data and capacity building the water sector for the civil society organisations in NE India'.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the 'International Conference on Ecosystem and Wildlives of Assam', 26 and 27 September 2024 organised by Nowgong Girls' College, at the Chinta Juroni Kaksha on September 26, 2024. Dr. Das delivered a presentation on 'Water governance in Assam: Issues, challenges and way forward'.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the 'One-Day Consultation on Riverbank erosion in Assam with special reference to a Technical Report published by PAD' on April 24, 2024 at the Inspiration Building, Don Bosco Institute Kharghuli, Guwahati Assam. Dr. Das was the key note speaker in this programme and he delivered two presentations: the first one on 'Riverbank Erosion in Assam with special focus on the Brahmaputra River Valley: An Introduction' and the second one on 'Mapping riverbank erosion and assessing its impact on socio-economy and livelihood of people in selected villages in Lakhimpur and Majuli District, Assam: A case study for sustainable policy intervention to improve disaster and climate resilience of vulnerable communities'.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the 'Regional conference on NbS: A workshop on riverbank erosion management, embankment stabilisation, flood risk reduction at Brahmaputra River and creating buffer space for wetlands' 11-12 June 2024 at the Assam Water Centre, Guwahati. The conference was organised by the Water Resources Department, GoA; the Flood and River Erosion Management Agency, Assam (FREMAA) and Assam Agro-Forestry Development Board (AADB). Dr. Das delivered a presentation on 'NbS approaches: Ecological, social, and economic benefits-Learning from case studies in India and Nepal'.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the 'Stakeholder meeting for the Yarlung Zangbo-Brahmaputra Basin Network' in online mode. The event was organised by ICIMOD, Nepal at Dhaka, Bangladesh in the Surma Hall, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, Bangladesh on July 17, 2024. Dr. Das briefly spoke about various transboundary water cooperation issues in the Indian part of the Brahmaputra basin.
- Partha Jyoti Das attended the programme of celebration of the 21st Foundation Day of the Senior Engineers Forum where he delivered a presentation on 'Urban Flooding in Guwahati City, Assam: A bottom-up perspective' at the Institution of Engineers, Assam State Centre, Panbazar on February 20, 2025.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered a lecture in the Centre for Atmospheric Study, Dibrugarh University on 21 and 22.11.2024 on the topic 'Concepts of adaptation & Resilience to climate

change: The context of the Brahmaputra River Valley, Assam'. The presentation was given in two parts in two days.

- Partha Jyoti Das delivered a lecture in the Refresher Course on 'Environmental Studies, Disaster Management and Emergency Response' Organised by and at the UGC-MMTTC, Gauhati University on the topic 'Hydroclimatic Hazards in NE India: Causes, consequences and management' on 18 December 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered a lecture online on the 'Basic characteristics of the Brahmaputra River, India' to students of the Dibrugarh University pursuing the inter disciplinary course on the Brahmaputra Studies on August 19 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited lecture on 'Chinese intervention on the Brahmaputra River: Science, geopolitics and transboundary water cooperation' in the Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University on March 20, 2025.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited lecture on 'From Environmental Justice to Climate Justice: An Introduction' in the Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University on March 19, 2025.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited lecture on 'Northeast India: Environment, Climate and Hazards' in the Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University on March 21, 2025,.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited talk on 'Brahmaputra River: its natural and cultural heritage' at the J.N. College, Boko, Kamrup District. The program was organised by 'Ank-A Creative Line' in collaboration with the Boko College and Aaranyak as part of the Bullung Bhuthur International Theatre Festival on September 7, 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited talk at the Sonapur College, Kamrup Metropolitan District on September 6, 2024, on the topic 'Brahmaputra River: its natural and cultural heritage'. The program was organised by 'Ank-A Creative Line' in collaboration with the Sonapur College and Aaranyak as part of the Bullung Bhuthur International Theatre Festival.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited talk in online mode on 'Understanding the climate-hazard-development nexus and its implications in the context of NE India' to the students and faculty members of the Special Centre for the Northeast India Research Cluster on Energy and Environment Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on November 20, 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das delivered an invited talk on 'Exploring the water-climate-hazard-nexus for sustainable development and human wellbeing: Aaranyak's initiatives in the Brahmaputra River Basin, NE India' at the FREMAA (Flood and River Erosion Management Agency, Assam), GoA before its senior officials, engineers, scientists and other professional staff on May 9, 2024.
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in an Invited Lecture Programme held at the seminar room of the Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University on 5th June 2024. The programme was organised jointly by the Department of Environmental Science and the Society for Environmental Protection, Education, and Research (SEPER) celebrating the World Environment Day. Dr. Das delivered an invited talk on the topic 'Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Present and Future Generations'.
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in the 'International Scientific Networking Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in India: Emerging Perspectives, Practices and Ideas' organised by GIZ-India at the Hotel Lalit, New Delhi on 16 – 17 May 2024. He delivered a presentation on 'Water Management and Adaptation: Experiences from the Brahmaputra River Basin, Northeast India' on the first day of the conference.
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in the 'Northeast Water Talk Training, June 21-28, 2024, held at the Dibrugarh University on June 25-27, 2024. He delivered an invited talk on 'Understanding the climate-hazard-development nexus in the context of NE India with special reference to Assam'. The program was organised by the Northeast Water Talk and the Centre for Study on Social Work, Dibrugarh University at the Indira Miri Hall, DU.
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in the Annual Meeting of the HKH DRR Hub on December

- 9-10, 2024, held at the ICIMOD, Kathmandu, on 'Building Safer HKH through Early Warnings'. He delivered a presentation on 'Community-based monitoring and reporting of hazards: The case of CB-FEWS in the Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam (2010-2017)' in the Session-2 on 'Enhancing detection and monitoring of hazards through innovations in observations and forecasting' addressing the Pillar 2 'Detection, observations, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of hazards.'
- Partha Jyoti Das participated in the recording of a discussion programme on the topic 'Rejuvenation of the River Kolong: Can it be a reality or will it remain a dream?' in the Nagaon Radio Centre (Akashvani Nagaon) on July 16, 2024. The programme was anchored by Sri Chidananda Goswami, former Centre Director, Akashvani Nagaon.
  - Partha Jyoti Das spoke as a moderator in the webinar 'At the Water's Edge: How Weak Institutionalism Will Weaken Sustainable Futures of the Brahmaputra' organised by the 'Water Conflicts Forum' on February 1, 2025.
  - Partha Jyoti Das took part in the 'All Partners Meet' organised by the ZRS, AAU and the WFP at the conference hall of the Zonal Research Station, of the Assam Agricultural University at Shillongoni, Nagaon on October 8, 2024. Dr. Das delivered a presentation on the progress of the project that Aaranyak was doing for the WFP.
  - Partha Jyoti Das took part in the Workshop for High School Students on 'In the realm of digital technology: Climate Change and Disaster Awareness', organised by the IEEE Kolkata Section and the Department of Information Technology, Gauhati University at the GUIST (Gauhati University Institute of Science and Technology) Seminar Hall. He delivered the main lecture on the topic 'In the realm of digital technology: Climate Change and Disaster Awareness' on January 21, 2025.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended a workshop on climate change, emphasizing the crucial role of media in addressing this global issue on the occasion of ASDMA Foundation Day. Dr. Barman highlighted the importance of collective action and community engagement in mitigating climate change, how media can play a transformative role in raising awareness, influencing public opinion, and inspiring sustainable practices.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended an environmental training program in Kyrgyzstan, where participants from various countries gathered to learn and share insights on sustainable environmental practices. The program focused on topics such as biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, climate change mitigation, and community-driven environmental solutions.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended an event of Vigyan Anusandhan: National Children's Science Congress, organized by the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, at Shilpagram. Dr. Barman shared her inspirational journey with the students, motivating them to pursue their passions and make a positive impact on the environment.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended awareness campaign "SANKALPA" Say No to Single-Use Plastic, organized by Guwahati Municipality corporation. In the event Dr. Barman had an interactive session with young team of GMC
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended National Youth Summit 2024 of UNEPs Tide Turners Plastic pollution hosted at WWF.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended naturenomics workshop organized by Balipara Foundation on 6th July. The theme was Wings of Unity: Protecting the Greater Adjutant Together. Dr. Barman had a Day-long workshop on community led conservation with 25 indigenous women.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended North East Environment Conclave as guest of honour.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended Research and Industrial Conclave 2024 held at IIT Guwahati as a keynote speaker. Dr. Barman interacted with 400 school students and educated them about Environmental Education and Conservation.
  - Purnima Devi Barman attended the closing ceremony of the Youth Festival at Gauhati University, where Dr. Barman shared her inspiring work in Hargila conservation. Dr. Barman also

highlighted the importance of environmental awareness, and encouraged the youth to take active roles in preserving nature for future generations.

- Purnima Devi Barman had a interactive session with the 2024 trainees of the Professional Conservation Biology (PCB) course, coordinated by Tiger Research and Conservation division of Aaranyak. Dr. Barman had discussion on tools for environment education, awareness, and communication skill for sustainable conservation with communities.
- Purnima Devi Barman had two sessions on "Social Dimensions in Forest & Environment Sectors" for IFS Probationers of the 2023-25 course at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun.
- Purnima Devi Barman participated in a Panel discussion on the National Consultation of "Building resilient communities: Women and Ecosystem" organized by the National Commission of Women in collaboration with MoeFCC, MoRD, NRLM, NDMA and UN Women held at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Purnima Devi Barman presented a talk on Environmental Education and Sustainability model for transforming conflict into coexistence at the EAZA 2024 conference at Leipzig Zoo, Germany.
- Purnima Devi Barman took over Environmental Educational sessions in Germany at Wilhelma Zoological for a month.
- Purnima Devi Barman visited Stuttgart's Wilhelma Zoological and Botanical Garden, Germany. Dr. Barman was invited to Stuttgart in Germany to share Barman's experience with a select global gathering on Conservation scientists on "women focused community-oriented sustained conservation" of the endangered Hargila in Assam. Throughout Barman's stay in the Stuttgart, Dr. Barman exchanged her conservation experience, held educational sessions, Workshops, talks, environmental education games, crafting activities. Dr. Barman shared Assam's rich biodiversity, culture and the communities efforts towards Hargila with the participants.
- Purnima Devi Barman was invited as the guest of honor at the GU Model School. The event, held at the Guwahati University auditorium, brought together students, teachers, and distinguished guests to celebrate this special day dedicated to children. Dr. Barman shared her inspiring journey of Hargila conservation, encouraging the students to value nature and contribute to environmental preservation.
- Purnima Devi Barman was invited at a conference of Central Academy for State Forest Service, Burnihat based on Conservation Education as the Chief Guest. Dr. Barman shared an inspirational presentation with the participants. Dr. Barman also felicitated the participants with the certificates.
- Purnima Devi Barman was invited at IIT, Guwahati by Prakriti Techno-Environmental group. In this program Dr. Barman shared views on importance of technology in conservation.
- Purnima Devi Barman was invited at Pandu College as Guest of honor on the occasion of Teacher's day. Dr. Barman was felicitated by Pandu college for Barman's immense contribution towards the nature. In this event Dr. Barman had a interactive session with the students and teachers of Pandu college.
- Rabiya Daimari attended a two-day workshop on 'Ethical and effective community engagement' held by Ethical Conservation Alliance in Nameri on 23rd & 24th January 2025.
- Rimpee Moran presented a poster of the paper "Human Elephant Conflict and adjusting memories of Purona Haladhibari" at the ARS 2024.
- Rubul Tanti, Bidisha Borah, and Rimpee Moran attended the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) in Bangalore in October 2024, and presented a poster titled 'A community-based early warning system to manage HEC-alerts in human-animal conflict-affected districts in Northeast India.'
- Rubul Tanti presented a paper on the topic "A community-based early warning system to manage HEC-alerts in human-elephant conflict-affected districts in northeast India" at the ARS 2024.
- Rubul Tanti was featured in a programme by The Wildlife Academy and Gaja Conservation

- Trust, which included a talk, a discussion, and a Q&A session on “Ecological and Community-based approaches to Mitigate Human Elephant Conflict in eastern Assam.
- Rubul Tanti and Alolika Sinha presented their work at webinars conducted by Friends of Elephants, The Wildlife Academy, and Gaja Conservation Trust.
  - Ten researchers from Aaranyak participated in the district level workshop on ‘Seasonal Livelihood Mapping and Community-based Participatory Planning’ at the conference hall of the Zila Parishad, Nagaon District on August 9, 2024. The workshop was organised jointly by the United Nations-World Food Programme (UN-WFP) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam with support from the Nagaon District Administration.
  - Tikendrajit Gogoi along with the Mentor, Jayanta Kumar Pathak of EECBD participated in the Wipro Foundation Partner’s Forum 2024, held in Bengaluru from 4–7 December, 2024.
  - Tikendrajit Gogoi attended a day long workshop on Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse-with special emphasis on plastic generation at the Hotel Ornate, Ulubari, Guwahati on January 27, 2025.
  - Tikendrajit Gogoi participated in a two days’ workshop on Biodiversity Games Workshop at Tezpur, Assam to learn how to use innovative games for nature education.
  - Tikendrajit Gogoi participated in a workshop on reflective writing with a focus on nature and sustainability at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, to develop a deeper understanding of practice and make informed changes to improve facilitating sustainability education practices and enhance content writing skills on 20-22 February, 2025.

# PUBLICATIONS

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Barman, P.D. & Sharma, D.K. (2025). Foraging Ecology of the Greater Stork *Leptoptilos dubius* in Certain Wetlands and a Garbage Dump in Assam, India. *Academia Journal of Biology*, 47(2), 129–144.
- DOI: 10.15625/2615-9023/20939
- Bayan, U., Dutta, D.K., & Talukdar, B.K. (2024). Human–Wildlife Interactions with an Emphasis on the Feral Water Buffalo and the Conservation Consequences for Indian Rhinoceros in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. *Noesis Literary*, 1(2), 19–35.
- Doley, D.M. & Barman, P. (2025). The role of biodiversity communication in mobilizing public participation in conservation: A case study on the Greater Adjutant Stork conservation campaign in Assam, Northeast India. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 84, 126847.
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2025.126847>
- Greco, I. et al. (2025). Landscape-level human disturbance results in loss and contraction of mammalian populations in tropical forests. *PLoS Biology*, 23(2), e3002976.
- Gupta, S., Begum, R.H., Ahmed, M.F., & Roy, J.K. (2025). Current distribution and a road-kill record on Particolored flying squirrel *Hypopetes alboniger* from Assam, Northeast India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 125(1), 85–88.
- Lahkar, D. et al. (2024). First photographic evidence of the Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* in Raimona National Park, Assam, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 16(11), 26176–26179.
- Lahkar, D. et al. (2024). First photographic evidence of Mainland Serow *Capricornis sumatraensis* thar in Raimona National Park, Assam, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 16(6), 25478–25481.
- Lahkar, D. et al. (2024). Reconfirming the presence of the Asiatic golden cat in Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Cat News*, 80.
- Lahkar, D. et al. (2024). Post-conflict recovery

of tigers (*Panthera tigris*) in a transboundary landscape: The case of Manas National Park, India. *Biological Conservation*, 300: 110837.

- Lahkar, B., Saikia, A., Abedin, I., & Bora, B. (2024). Community-centric HEC mitigation efforts in Assam & Meghalaya. *Trumpet Vol. IV. Issue 2* (2024). A quarterly newsletter of the Project Elephant, MoEF&CC, Government of India. [https://moef.gov.in/uploads/pdf/Quarterly\\_Journal\\_Vol-4-Issue-2.pdf](https://moef.gov.in/uploads/pdf/Quarterly_Journal_Vol-4-Issue-2.pdf)
- Rajbongshi, K., Abraham, L.M., Kalita, J., Barman, K., & Das, D. (2024). Tawny Fish Owl *Ketupa flavipis* from Manas National Park and its status in the Brahmaputra Valley. *Indian Birds*.
- Saikia, A., et al. (2023). Conservation of Asian elephants and addressing human–elephant conflict in North East India. *Env Vul.Special Issue of the GUINEIS Journal*, Vol XI, 122–139 ISSN: 2347-2669
- Thakur, M. et al. (2024). Current conservation status of Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* in Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 16(7), 25507–25515.

## NON-PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE

- Barman, K., Kalita, J., Rajbongshi, K., Abraham, L.M., & Das, D. (2025). An observation of an early migration event of Amur Falcon in Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Zoo's Print*, 40(4), 30–32.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- Ahmed, M.F., Langthasa, T., & Lahkar, D. (Eds.) (2024). *Dima Hasao – Explore the Wonders of Nature*. Dima Hasao Forest Division (West), NCAC & Aaranyak. pp. 230.
- Sarkar, A., Borthakur, M., Das, A.K., & Talukdar, B.K. (2024). A geo-spatial approach to water spread prediction across selected rhino-bearing protected areas of Assam, India. Springer.
- Talukdar, B.K., Dutta, D.K., Thapa, K., & Choudhury, A. (2025). *Greater One-Horned*

Rhino *Rhinoceros unicornis*. In *Rhinos of the World*. Springer.

- Talukdar, B.K. et al. (2025). The Recovery of the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in India and Nepal. In *Rhinos of the World*. Springer.
- Sas-Rolfes, M. et al. (2025). The Impact of Poaching on Rhino Conservation. In *Rhinos of the World*. Springer.
- Vigne, L. et al. (2025). The Impact of Rhino Horn Trafficking on Conservation. In *Rhinos of the World*. Springer.

### **ABSTRACTS**

- Borthakur, M. et al. (2024). Supporting informed decision-making for forest conservation using space technology. Aaranyak Biannual Research Seminar.
- Chetry, D. et al. (2024). Education for conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon in Kamlang Tiger Reserve, India. 9th Asian Primate Symposium.
- Chetry, D., Chetry, R., & Bhattacharjee, P.C. (2024). Traditional culture and conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon in India. 9th Asian Primate Symposium.
- Deka, P. et al. (2024). Aliens in the grasslands: Building evidence and replenishing habitats in a rhino abode. Aaranyak Biannual Research Seminar.
- Dutta, D.K. & Talukdar, B.K. (2024). Sustainable management of stray rhino in Assam. IWEC, June 2024.
- Gore, P.J. et al. (2024). Igniting young minds towards Hoolock Gibbon conservation. Aaranyak Annual Research Seminar.
- Medhi, S. et al. (2024). Current distribution and population trends of Western Hoolock Gibbon.
- Sarkar, A. et al. (2024). Geospatial modelling for corridor identification in Brahmaputra riverine landscape. Aaranyak Biannual Research Seminar.
- Upadhyaya, A.K. & Chetry, D. (2024). Understanding human-monkey interaction around Basistha Temple, Guwahati.

### **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

- Ahmed, M.F. & Lahkar, D. (2024). Strengthening conservation of tigers in the Transbounda-

ry Manas Landscape. Aaranyak.

- Das, A.K. et al. (2024). Strengthening conservation of wildlife corridors in the Brahmaputra riverine landscape.
- Das, P.J. & Das, A.K. (2024). Mapping river-bank erosion and socio-economic impacts in Assam. PAD, Assam.
- Das, P.J. et al. (2024). Dying rivers of Assam: Phase-II report. SITA, Govt. of Assam.
- Das, P.J. & Koch, J. (2025). Urban flooding in Guwahati: A bottom-up perspective.
- Das, P.J. & Mitra, A.K. (2025). Flash floods in the Brahmaputra River Basin.
- Dutta, D.K. et al. (2025). Habitat assessment of D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary for rhino reintroduction.
- Ferreira, S.M. et al. (2025). African and Asian rhinoceroses – Status, conservation and trade. CITES CoP20.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for determining biological relationship (parentage analysis) of Elephant from two blood samples. Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to Divisional Forest Officer, Digboi Division, Digboi, Assam. 1-26 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a suspected Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) scat sample. Report submitted to Divisional Forest Officer, Digboi Division, Digboi, Assam. 1-6 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a hair and a tissue sample. Report submitted to Range Forest Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mayong, Morigaon, Assam. 1-7 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a jaw and two tissue samples. Report submitted to Range Forest Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mayong, Morigaon, Assam. 1-10 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a tissue sample, suspected as Spotted deer (*Axis axis*). Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to Range Forest Officer, Sanfan Range, Kachugaon, Assam. 1-11 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a tissue sample, suspected as Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to the Range Forest Officer, Sanfan Range, Kachugaon, Assam. 1-12 pp.

- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a horn sample, suspected as Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) horn. Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to the Superintendent of Police, Baksa, Mushalpur, Assam. 1-14 pp.
- Forensic Report. 2024. Forensic DNA analysis for confirmation of species identity of a Turtle species (*Nilssonina hurum*). Wildlife Genetics Laboratory, Aaranyak. Report submitted to the Range Forest Officer, Jorhat Range, Jorhat, Assam. pp 1-7.
- Qureshi, Q. et al. (2024). Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Action Plan. WII & MoEFCC.
- Rajbongshi, D. (2025). Human–Elephant Conflict around Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Roy, J.K. & Mandal, J. (2024). Rapid herpetofaunal survey of Kaziranga NP & TR.
- Saikia, A., Sarkar, A., Borthakur, U., Abedin, I., Das, A. K., Boruah, A., Gogoi, N. K., Das, P. K., Das, B. J., Gayary, R., & Lahkar, B. P. (2025). Understanding the landscape-level corridor connectivity of Asian elephants in Meghalaya (Technical report, 70 pp.). Submitted to Meghalaya Basin Development Authority.

## POPULAR ARTICLES

- Anushka Saikia's Assamese article "Bhutan-Oxom Ximantor haati aru gaaonbur," which translates to "Elephants and villages of Bhutan-Assam transboundary landscape," was published in Aaranyak's Biolink (December 2024)
- Dutta, D.K. (2025). Call to Action. Assam Tribune, 03/03/2025.
- Lahkar, D. (2024). COVID-19, environment and relevance of nature conservation (Assamese). BioLink, 4(1).
- Parashuram, D. (2024). March of the Adjutants. Birdlife, Jan–March, pp. 21–23.
- Pathak, J.K. (2025). Haati – A pamphlet on human–elephant coexistence (Assamese).
- Remote Sensing & GIS for Forest Management (2024). BioLink, Vol. 4, Issue 1.
- Rabiya Daimari's article "Wild elephants and farmers of Udalguri, Baksa, Tamulpur districts of Assam-strategies to reduce elephant crop raiding behaviour" was published in Aaranyak's Biolink Volume 04, Issue 02 (December 2024)
- অসমৰ পৰিবেশ সংৰক্ষণৰ প্ৰাথমিক কৰণীয় (২০২৫)।  
দৈনিক অসম, ১ জানুৱাৰী ২০২৫। -Partha Jyoti Das

# MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

## Dr. Abdul Wakid

- Member, IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group

## Arif Hussain

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

## Arup Kumar Das

- Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG)
- Member, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

## Avishek Sarkar

- Member, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
- Section Coordinator (Services), Indian Forum on Invasion Biology

## Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

- Member of Governing Council of Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council, Assam.
- Member State Board of Wildlife, Govt. of Assam.
- Member, Editorial Board of Pachyderm Journal.
- Chair: IUCN/SSC, Asian Rhino Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN Climate Crisis Commission.
- Member, IUCN CEESP Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN CEM South Asia 2021-2025.
- Member, IUCN WCPA-

South Asia 2021-2025.

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

Group 2021-2025.

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

## Dr. Bibhuti P Lahkar

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

## Dr. Deba Kumar Dutta

- Member, IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist group.
- Deputy Redlist Authority of IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group.

- Accredited Rhino Monitoring Instructor, IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group.

#### **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, IUCN, SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Human-Primate Interactions (SHPI)
- Member, International Primatological Society, USA.
- Member, American Primatological Society, USA.
- Member, Vijna Bharati Northeast/Northeast Science Movements.
- Member, Nepal Biodiversity Research Society.
- Member, Gauhati University Ethics Committee.
- Member, Zoological Society of Assam.

#### **Dr. Dipankar Lahkar**

- Member, IUCN, SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group.
- Member, IUCN, Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB).

- Assistant Coordinator, Assam State Academic Committee (SAC), National Children Science Congress, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.
- Editorial Board Member, Newsletter for Birdwatchers.

#### **Ivy Farheen Hussain**

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

#### **Jayanta Kumar Pathak**

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

#### **Dr. Jaynata Kr. Roy**

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

#### **Dr. Jimmy Borah**

- Wildlife Crime Network

Expert, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

- Member, IUCN Clouded Leopard Red List Assessment Group
- Member, IUCN Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group
- Member, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
- Member, Fishing Cat Specialist Group

#### **Jonmani Kalita**

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

#### **Koushik Rajbongshi**

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

#### **Dr. Leons M Abraham**

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

#### **Dr. M Firoz Ahmed**

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

#### Mammals Specialist Group 2021-2025

- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)
- Board member, Environment Education and Conservation Global, USA
- Advisor, WildLandscape, USA

#### **Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka**

- Member, IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group

#### **Dr. Partha Jyoti Das**

- Member, 'Steering Committee' of the 'Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India', a prominent water think-tank of India based in Pune, India.
- Life Member, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE), Bangalore.
- 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.

- Member, Editorial Board, Newsletter of the Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMS), Government of Assam, 2024.
- Professor of Practice, Dibrugarh University.
- Professor of Practice, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University.

#### **Dr Purnima Devi Barman**

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

#### **Pranab Goswami**

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Member - IUCN CEC Youth Engagement and Inter-generational Partnerships Network 2021-2025
- Member - IUCN CEC South and Southeastern Asia 2021-

2025

- Member - IUCN CEC Behaviour Change Network 2021-2025
- Member - IUCN CEC Nature Education for Sustainability Network 2021-2025

#### **Sourav Gupta**

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

#### **Udayan Borthakur**

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

#### **Wasima Begum**

- Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Member, Ecological Restoration Alliance

# FIND US

## Conservation and Livelihood Division (CLD)

Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar  
Head, CLD  
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Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya  
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## Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD)

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## Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD)

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## Gangetic Dolphin Research & Conservation Division (GDRCD)

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## Geo-Spatial Technology & Application Division (GTAD)

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Madhumita Borthakur  
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## Greater Adjutant Conservation Programme (GACP)

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## Legal & Advocacy Division (LAD)

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## Media production and Communications Division (MPCD)

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## Primate Research and Conservation Division

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## Tiger Research and Conservation Division

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Dr. Dipankar Lahkar  
Sr. Manager, TRCD  
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Phone: +91 7896427559

### **Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP)**

Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka,  
Project Director of PHCP and  
Project Manager of TSRP  
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parag.deka@durrell.org,  
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8638569163

### **Vulture conservation Initiatives (VCI)**

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Sr. Conservation Biologist  
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Wasima Begum  
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### **Water, Climate and Hazard (WATCH) Division**

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### **Wildlife Genetics Division (WGD)**

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Phone: +91 9435728717

### **CONTACT DETAILS OF ZONAL COORDINATORS**

#### **Western Assam Zone**

Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das,  
Coordinator  
Mob. No.: +91 8472027788/+91  
9864478595  
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gmail.com

#### **Central Assam Zone**

Md. Arif Hussain,  
Coordinator  
Mob No.: +91 7002357371/+91  
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arif.aaranyak@gmail.com

#### **Eastern Assam Zone**

Hiren Dutta Coordinator  
Mob No.: +91 8638871216  
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com

### **OUR OFFICES AND BASE CAMPS**

#### **Registered & Administrative Office**

Aaranyak, 13, Tayab Ali Byel-  
ane. Bishnu Rabha Path,  
Beltola Tiniali, Bhetapara Link  
Road,  
P.O. Beltola, Guwahati, In-  
dia-781028  
Email: info@aaranyak.org  
Tel/Fax: +91-361-2230250

#### **Research Office**

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

### **Manas Landscape**

Manas Conservation and Out-  
reach Centre  
Near Bhuyanpara Range, Manas  
National Park,  
Baksa, Assam  
Majrabari Field Station  
Bhuyanpara Range, Manas Na-  
tional Park

### **Bansbari Field Station**

C/o Gangarani Sarkar, Gyati  
Gaon,  
Bansbari-781315, Manas Na-  
tional Park

Kaziranga Landscape  
Aaranyak, C/o M. Firoz Ahmed,  
Pilkhana, Kohora – 785609

### **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctu- ary, Mariani, Jorhat**

Aaranyak, C/o Dilip Chetry  
Gibbon Conservation Centre,  
Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary,  
P.O. Mariani PIN - 785634  
Mobile: +91-9435043892  
Email: dilip@aaranyak.org

### **Orang National Park**

Aaranyak Field Station  
Nalbari, Silbori-784114  
Darrang, Assam

### **Eastern Assam Field Station Aaranyak,**

House of Nasiruddin Ahmed,  
Near Hatimora L.P School,  
Hatimora, P.O: Mancotta, Dist :  
Dibrugarh, Assam  
PIN: 786003

### **Dimakuchi Field Station**

Bhergaon-Dimakuchi Road,  
Dimakuchi, Landmark - K.B.  
Timbers  
P.O - Dimakuchi  
P.S. – Dimakuchi  
Pin- 784526

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## DHAWAN PANDEY & ASSOCIATES

### Chartered Accountants

House No. 50, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Basistha Road, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati-781028.

Ph. No: - 94350-17438, E-mail: cabiswajitbaruah7@gmail.com

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of AARANYAK, HOUSE NO 13, TAYEB ALI BYE LANE, BELTOLA TINIALI, BHETAPARA LINK ROAD, BELTOLA SO, GUWAHATI, KAMRUP METRO, 781028, ASSAM, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date. These financial Statements are the responsibility of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.
2. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing and accounting standards generally accepted in India. These standards required that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of materials misstatements. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimate made by the institute, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Further we report that:

- a. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our Knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- b. The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure & Receipts & Payments are in agreement with the Books of Account.
- c. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments account together with the Notes thereon give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Institute as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

For,

**Dhawan Pandey & Associates**  
Chartered Accountants



*Biswajit Baruah*

CA. Biswajit Baruah  
Partner

Membership No 063538  
FRN: 013617C

UDIN: 25063538BMNQLU9329

Place: Guwahati  
Date: 26.09.2025

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

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2025**

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (₹)	AMOUNT (₹)
<b>FUND ACCOUNT</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>		<b>Fixed Assets</b>		5,09,70,731.01
Opening Balance	1,38,88,267.19	(As per annexure B)		
Add: Surplus of income over expenditure	1,88,40,594.09	<b>Current Assets</b>		
Less: Expenses incurred in projects out of internal accruals subject to recovery	10,80,164.15			
Add: Expenses incurred out of internal accruals in projects now recovered	11,87,988.15	<b>BANGCHIARY FUEL STATION ADVANCE</b>		30,000.00
		<b>SITA RECEIVABLE</b>		54,965.00
<b>Capital Fund out of Project Expenses</b>		<b>TDS &amp; TCS</b>		
Opening Balance	4,17,72,715.01	Tax deducted at Source	5,83,571.85	
Add: Additions during the year	14,48,613.00	TDS on Contract Receivable	519.00	
Less: Deduction during the year	11,68,641.00	Tax Deducted at Source Receivable	33,74,891.99	
		TDS on Rent Receivable	3,954.00	
		TCS Receivable	61,231.99	
		Tax Collected at Source	25,100.00	
<b>Unutilised Project Funds</b>			40,49,268.83	
(As per annexure A)		Less: Refunded AY 22-23 and 23-24	11,93,221.00	
				28,56,047.83
<b>Loans and Advances:</b>		<b>Loans and Advances</b>		
MCOE Earnest Money	20,000.00	Advance for Project Expenses		435356.44
<b>Outstanding Liabilities:</b>		(As per annexure C)		
<b>Provident Fund Employers' Contribution</b>		Loan to Employee		15,000.00
O.B	59,696.00	Advance to BPCL Fleet Card		4,67,732.00
Less: Paid during the year	59,696.00	Advance to Kamakhya Energy Point		20,000.00
		Excess payment of Assam Professional Tax		7,204.20
Add: During the year	70,117.00	<b>Receivable</b>		
50% of 70117	70,117.00	Interest on Income Tax receivable		25,181.00
		Project fund receivable		33,320.00
		Tata Motors Receivable		39,200.00
<b>ESIC payable (Employers' Contribution)</b>				
O.B	(3,561.00)	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Add: Adjusted against this year's liability	2,600.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB		11,88,166.66
		Fixed Deposits with BOB		10,62,19,973.00
Add: Payable during the year	(961.00)	Fixed Deposit with NESF Bank		4,30,047.00
Balance	16,081.00	Fixed Deposit with YES Bank		76,79,503.50
<b>Employer's part</b>		Fixed Deposit at BOB		2,00,00,000.00
<b>Green Audit Expenses Payable</b>		Fixed Deposit at HDFC		10,00,000.00
<b>Indian Oil Corporation</b>		Fixed Deposit at Indian Bank		1,00,00,000.00
O.B	29,317.34	Fixed Deposit at Ujjivan Bank		40,00,000.00
Less: Net receivable during the year	3,629.49	Fixed Deposit		25,68,418.42
		FD at Axis Bank Survey branch		35,00,000.00
<b>Outstanding Administrative Expenses</b>		FIXED DEPOSIT AT AXIS SURVEY		33,32,451.00
During the year		FIXED DEPOSIT AT NESF BANK		12,94,739.33
		FIXED DEPOSIT AT SBI DISPUR		56,91,591.94
<b>Outstanding Salary</b>		FIXED DEPOSIT AT UJJIVIN SMALL FINANCE BANK		1,59,039.00
During the year		Fixed Deposit with Indian Bank-Guwahati		1,16,884.00
		FIXED DEPOSIT WITH UNION BANK		10,25,413.00
<b>Outstanding PRD THH Project Expenses</b>		FIXED DEPOSIT WITH YES BANK		2,26,072.30
During the year		UTI		54,00,000.00
		<b>Cash in hand</b>		92.00
<b>OTHER PAYABLES</b>		<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>		44923593.07
TDS Payable		(As Per Annexure-D)		
1928 TDS on Salary	73,369.00			
TDS 194J (Consultancy)	1,22,518.20			
TDS on Contract 194C	18,543.00			
TDS on Rent 194I	34,185.00			
<b>PF deducted from employees</b>				
<b>Amount reimbursible to D.C.Das</b>				
<b>ESIC Payable (Employees' part)</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		
	<b>27,37,10,721.70</b>			<b>27,37,10,721.70</b>

Place: Guwahati  
Date: 26.09.2025

For & Behalf of  
AARANYAK

(DR. BIBHAB KR. TALUKDAR)  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Secretary General  
Aaranyak

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




(CA. BISWAJIT BARUAH)  
Partner  
M.No. 063538  
FRN. 013617C  
UDIN: 25063538BNNQLU9329

**AARANYAK**  
**SAMANWOY PATH, SURVEY, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-781028, DIST. KAMRUP, ASSAM.**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (Rs)	INCOME	AMOUNT (Rs)
To MCOC expenses	5,13,920.00	By DONATION UNDER 80G	6,99,600.00
To Bank Charges	15,892.74	By MEMBERSHIP FEES RECEIVED	36,145.00
To Admin Expenses	13,39,231.00	By TRCD TRAINING FUND	22,400.00
To Expenses for Sale of Bolero	1,06,070.00	By BIOSTATIC TRAINING FEE	5,930.00
To Reactivation of Dormant Account	500.00	By PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGY CONSERVATION TRAIN	1,60,000.00
To Bank Charge	1,09,961.38	By INCIDENTAL RECEIPTS	61,729.00
To Admin Expenses	8,182.00	By INTEREST FUND S B Interest IC	4,53,006.00
To RSPN Project Expenses	2,545.00	By INTEREST ON BANK GUARANTEE	77,281.91
To WGD ORG Expenses	1,84,842.00	By INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSIT	10,69,859.00
To Admin Expenses	-	By INTERNSHIP FEE RECEIVED	14,300.00
To Charges Against Late Payment	1,844.00	By OTHER MISC RECEIPT	5,602.63
To Expenses Karad Projects & Motor Limited CSR Fund	2,51,496.00	By RECEIPT FROM WGD SERVICES	47,160.00
		By RECEIPTS FROM J4L PROGRAM	12,440.00
Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	1,88,40,594.09	By RECEIVED FROM SALE OF BOLERO (AS01AM6671)	1,43,500.00
		By RECEIVED FROM SALE OF HONEY	400.00
		By RECEIVED FROM SALE OF OLD MOTORCYCLE AT ADMIN	20,000.00
		By TRAINING AND WORKSHOP AT MCOC	7,50,026.00
		By TRAINING FEE FOR EECBD	7,500.00
		By TRAINING FEE FROM TERI	31,118.00
		By Bank Interest SB Interest FC	10,75,053.00
		By Misc Receipt	557.67
		By Interest on Bank Fixed Deposits	1,43,53,394.00
		By BCPL Bonus Receipt	2,748.00
		By Sale of Book	9,738.00
		By Sale of Bolero Car	2,40,001.00
		By Account Varification Receipt	2.00
		By Insurance of Bipul Das (Previous Year Adj)	45,286.00
		By Insurance Fund (Previous Year adjustment)	8,023.00
		By Rent paid out of project expenses refunded	1,20,000.00
		By Vehicle Insurance Receipt	86,327.00
		By Karad Projects & motor Ltd CSR fund 10BD	17,20,000.00
		By Tata Motors Pilot Project	40,000.00
		By Interest on IT refund	37,980.00
		By ICICI Lombard Refund (Project Expenses)	17,971.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,13,75,078.21</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,13,75,078.21</b>

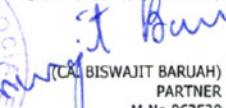
Place: Guwahati  
Date: 26.09.2025

For & Behalf of  
AARANYAK

  
(DR. BIBHAB KR. TALUKDAR)  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
**Secretary General**



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

  
(CA) BISWAJIT BARUAH  
PARTNER  
M.No.063538  
FRN.013617C  
UDIN: 25063538BMNQLU9329

**AARANYAK**  
**SAMANWOY PATH,SURVEY,BELTOLA,GUWAHATI-781028,DIST,KAMRUP,ASSAM.**  
**CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT(Rs)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT(Rs)
<b>To OPENING BALANCE</b>		<b>By Project Expenses against Foreign Contribution (As per annexure A)</b>	18,01,07,699.18
Cash in hand	1,116.53		
<b>To INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>By Advance for Project Expenses (As per annexure C)</b>	4,35,356.44
Fixed Deposit	25,68,418.42	<b>By MCOC expenses</b>	5,13,920.00
Fixed Deposit with UNION Bank	9,51,834.00	<b>By Bank Charges</b>	15,892.74
Fixed Deposit at NESF Bank	25,38,836.33	<b>By Admin Expenses</b>	13,39,231.00
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	2,26,072.30	<b>By Expenses for Sale of Bolero</b>	1,06,070.00
Fixed Deposit at Ujjavin Small Finance bank	20,01,858.00	<b>By Reactivation of Dormant Account</b>	500.00
UTI	54,00,000.00	<b>By By tax collected at source</b>	14,990.00
Fixed Deposit with SBI Dispur	40,80,447.94	<b>By Tata Motors fund receivable</b>	39,200.00
Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,88,166.66	<b>By Statutory Advance</b>	37,706.00
Fixed Deposits with BOB	10,84,08,658.00	<b>By Tax deducted at source</b>	7,81,887.00
Fixed Deposit with NESF Bank	24,30,047.00	<b>By Project fund Receivable</b>	33,320.00
Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	71,95,832.70	<b>By Bank Charge</b>	1,09,961.38
	13,69,90,171.35	<b>By BCPL Fleet Card E Collection A/c</b>	4,52,792.55
<b>To BANK ACCOUNTS ( ANNEXURE-D )</b>	3,89,65,814.26	<b>By Over Expenditure of fund adiuusted from Capital Fund</b>	3,34,318.00
<b>To Contribution Received (As per annexure A)</b>	19,92,71,397.99	<b>By Tax Deducted at Source</b>	7,39,688.09
<b>To Recovery of Project Advances (As per annexure C)</b>	3,15,450.44	<b>By Charges Against Late payment</b>	1,844.00
<b>To DIRECT INCOME</b>		<b>By Admin Expenses</b>	8,182.00
DONATION UNDER 80G	6,99,600.00	<b>By RSPN Project Expenses</b>	2,545.00
MEMBERSHIP FEES RECEIVED	36,145.00	<b>By WGD ORG Expenses</b>	1,84,842.00
TRCD TRAINING FUND	22,400.00	<b>By Expenses Karad Projects &amp; Motor Limited CSR Fund</b>	2,51,496.00
<b>To INDIRECT INCOME</b>		<b>By CLOSING BALANCE</b>	
BIOSTATIC TRAINING FEE	5,930.00	<b>By Cash in hand</b>	92.00
PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGY			
CONSERVATION TRAINING FEE	1,60,000.00	<b>By INVESTMENTS</b>	
INCIDENTAL RECEIPTS	61,729.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB	11,88,166.66
BANK INTEREST RECEIVED	15,28,059.00	Fixed Deposits with BOB	10,62,19,973.00
INTEREST ON BANK GUARANTEE	77,281.91	Fixed Deposit with NESF Bank	4,30,047.00
INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSIT	1,54,23,253.00	Fixed Deposit with YES Bank	78,79,503.50
INTERNSHIP FEE RECEIVED	14,300.00	Fixed Deposit at BOB	2,00,00,000.00
OTHER MISC RECEIPT	5,602.63	Fixed Deposit at HDFC	10,00,000.00
RECEIPT FROM WGD SERVICES	47,160.00	Fixed Deposit at Indian Bank	1,00,00,000.00
RECEIPTS FROM J4L PROGRAM	12,440.00	Fixed Deposit at Ujjavin Bank	40,00,000.00
RECEIVED FROM SALE OF BOLERO(AS01AM6671)	1,43,500.00	Fixed Deposit	25,68,418.42
RECEIVED FROM SALE OF HONEY	400.00	FD at Axis Bank Survey branch	35,00,000.00
RECEIVED FROM SALE OF OLD MOTORCYCLE AT ADMIN TRAINING AND WORKSHOP AT MCOC	20,000.00	FIXED DEPOSIT AT AXIS SURVEY	33,32,451.00
TRAINING FEE FOR EECBD	7,500.00	FIXED DEPOSIT AT NESF BANK	12,94,739.33
TRAINING FEE FROM TERI	31,118.00	FIXED DEPOSIT AT SBI DISPUR	56,91,591.94
SALE OF BOLERO	2,40,001.00	FIXED DEPOSIT AT UJJAVIN SMALL FINANCE BANK	1,59,039.00
<b>To OVER EXPENSES ADJUSTED FROM GENERAL FUND</b>	15,22,306.15	Fixed Deposit with Indian Bank- Guwahati	1,16,884.00
<b>To RECEIVED FROM ICICI LOMBARD</b>	17,971.00	FIXED DEPOSIT WITH UNION BANK	10,25,413.00
<b>To INSURANCE FUND</b>	86,327.00	FIXED DEPOSIT WITH YES BANK	2,26,072.30
<b>To INCOME TAX REFUND FOR THE F.Y 2023-24</b>	9,49,540.00	UTI	54,00,000.00
<b>To INCOME TAX REFUND FOR THE F.Y 2021-22</b>	2,43,681.00		17,38,32,299.15
<b>To HABEN MACHAHARI MARCH 25 SALARY</b>	-		
<b>To BANK GUARANTEE FOR FUND</b>	6,21,979.09	<b>By Closing Bank Balance Annexure-D</b>	4,49,23,593.07
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>To 192B TDS on Salary</b>	52,650.00		
<b>To 194 TDS on Contract</b>	25,299.00		
<b>To 194J - TDS ON CONSULTANCY</b>	50,876.00		
<b>To TDS 194 I RENT</b>	59,575.00		
<b>To ASSAM PROFESSIONAL PAYABLE</b>	5,750.00		
<b>To ESIC PAYABLE</b>	2,894.00		
<b>To PROVIDENT FUND PAYABLE</b>	32,921.00		
<b>To STATUTORY DEDUCTIONS</b>	2,20,661.00		
<b>To SALARY PAYABLE</b>	30,54,913.00		
<b>To KARAD PROJECTS &amp; MOTORS LIMITED CSR FUND</b>	17,20,000.00		
<b>To PRCD THT GIBBON EXP PAYABLE</b>	6,56,361.00		
<b>To TATA MOTORS FUND</b>	40,000.00		
<b>To Misc Receipt</b>	557.67		
<b>To BCPL Bonus Receipt</b>	2,748.00		



Secretary General  
Aaranyak

# STAFF LIST

(1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025)

## Admin & Accounts Division

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar  
Scientist G, Secretary General  
& CEO

Mrs. Mridusmrita Devi  
Head of Operations

Mrs. Bobby Nath  
Senior Manager-Administration

Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar  
Senior Manager, Accounts

Mr. Tapash Mahanta  
Deputy Manager

Mr. Suranjan Sarma  
Executive Coordinator

Mr. Pranab Goswami  
Organising officer

Mr. Jayanta Gogoi  
Assistant Accounts Manager

Mr. Nripen Kumar Nath  
Senior Office Executive (Operation)

Mr. Gunajit Mazumdar  
PR Executive

Mr. Hriday Jyoti Ojha  
Accounts Associate

Mr. Akash Kakati  
Office Executive-Administration

Mr. Anupam Sarma  
Accountant

Mr. Pritom Kalita  
Junior Accounts Assistant

Mrs. Lalita Hazarika  
Office Assistant

Mr. Nayanmani Sarma  
Office Assistant

Mr. Siva Sarkar  
Office Assistant

Mr. Sudarshan Chakraborty  
Office Assistant

Anurag Bora  
Office Assistant

Mr. Jitu Daimary  
Field Assistant-Logistics

Mr. Moni Kumar Haloi  
Field Assistant cum Watchman

Mrs. Devi Das  
Field Assistant-Logistics

Mrs. Sajati Das  
Field Assistant-Logistics

## Avifauna Research & Conservation Division (ARCD)

Dr. Purnima Devi Barman,  
Senior Project Manager, GASCP

Ms. Karishma Das  
Project Officer

Ms. Barasha Rani Das  
Project Officer

## Conservation & Livelihood Division (CLD)

Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar  
Scientist E & Head

Mr. Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya  
Senior Manager

Mr. Swapan Kumar Das  
Project Coordinator

Mr. Bijay Basumatary  
Community Coordinator

Mr. Sangsar Basumatary  
Community Coordinator

Ms. Bornali Baro  
Community Coordinator

Mr. Pankaj Das  
Field Assistant

## Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD)

Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar  
Scientist E & Head

Mr. Hiten Baishya  
Deputy Head

Dr. Alolika Sinha  
Senior Manager

Md. Zakir Islam Bora  
Assistant Manager

Mr. Abhijit Boruah  
Project Coordinator

Mr. Anjan Chandra Baruah  
Program Coordinator

Mr. Rubul Tanti  
Project Officer

Mr. Niranjana Bhuyan Field Coordinator	Accounts Assistant	Rahit Chandra Nath Field Assistant
Ms. Rabiya Daimari Field Coordinator	Mr. Monjit Das Senior Field Assistant	Mr. Bineswar Daimari Nursery Caretaker
Ms. Anushka Saikia Field Biologist	Mr. Ripunjoy Kumar Nath Field Assistant	Mr. Pradeep Barman Driver
Mr. Imon Abedin Biologist	Mr. Dibakar Nayak Field Assistant	Mr. Bijoy Kalita Driver
Mr. Jyotibrata Mahanta Biologist	Ms. Tonmoi Priya Gogoi Field Assistant	Mr. Rupam Goyari, Driver cum Field Assistant
Ms. Rimpee Moran Project Officer	Mr. Dhantu Gogoi Field Assistant	Mr. Jiaur Rahman Driver cum Field Assistant
Ms. Bidisha Borah Project Officer	Mr. Chiranjib Kalita Field Assistant	<b><u>Environment Education &amp; Capacity Building Division (EECBD)</u></b>
Mr. Nipul Chakma Project Officer	Mr. Ananta Dutta Field Assistant	Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak Senior Manager
Mr. Jiban Kumar Chetry Project Assistant	Mr. Jonak Boruah Field Assistant	Dr. Banasree Sharma Assistant Manager
Mr. Pranjal Deka Project Assistant	Mr. Lakhinath Taid Field Assistant	Ms. Wasima Begum Environmental Facilitator
Mr. Pranjit Borah Project Assistant	Mr. Subhashchandra Rabha Field Assistant	Mr. Tikendrajit Gogoi Project Officer
Mr. Tibrajyoti Gogoi Project Assistant	Mr. Didom Daimari Field Coordinator	Mr. Dipankar Haloi Project Officer
Mr. Ejaj Ahmed Project Assistant	Mr. Debojit Gogoi Field Assistant	Mr. Haben Moshahary Field Assistant
Mr. Abhijit Saikia Project Assistant	Mr. Bikash Tossa Field Assistant	<b><u>Gangetic Dolphin Research &amp; Conservation Division (GDRCD)</u></b>
Mr. Mondeep Basumatary Project Assistant	Mr. Jaugashar Basumatary Field Assistant	Dr. Abdul Wakid Honorary Head
Ms. Abhilasha Boruah Assistant Project Officer	Mr. Deepjyoti Buragohain Field Assistant	Mr. Manoj Kumar Das Project Officer
Mr. Sumit Dey	Mr. Digonta Saikia Field Assistant	

Mr. Binod Borgohain  
Engine Man  
Md. Noor Islam,  
Driver cum Field Assistant

Mr. Dilip Majhi  
Helmsman

**Geo-Spatial Technology & Application Division (GTAD)**

Mr. Arup Kumar Das, Senior  
Manager

Ms. Madhumita Borthakur  
Assistant Manager

Mr. Avishek Sarkar  
GIS Analyst

Ms. Shivani Khalote  
Project Officer

**Herpetofauna Research & Conservation Division (HRCD)**

Dr. Firoz Ahmed  
Scientist F, Head

Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy  
Manager

Ms. Nibedita Talukdar  
Project Officer (Trainee)

Mr. Rupankar Bhattacharjee  
Assistant Project Officer cum  
Office Assistant

**Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD)**

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar  
Scientist G, Head

Dr. Jimmy Borah  
Senior Manager

Ms. Binita Baruwati  
Deputy Manager

Ms. Ivy Farheen Hussain  
Senior Project Officer

Mr. Rounak Emmanuel Dean  
Senior Project Officer Analyst

Mr. Mukesh Kherkatary  
Project Officer

Mr. Bijet Baro, Assistant Pro-  
ject Officer

Mr. Mizing Boro, Assistant Pro-  
ject Officer

Mr. Kartik Thevar  
Senior Coordinator

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. Rupak Jyoti Bora  
Dog Handler

Mr. Mrigen Das  
Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Bhiraj Deka  
Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Dhurajyoti Thakuria

Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Rupak Das  
Junior Dog Handler

Mr. Shailendra Daimary  
Dog Handler (Trainee)

Mr. Jayanta Kalita  
Assistant Dog Handler

Mr. Lalvohbika  
Field Assistant

Mr. Lakhi Ram Boro  
Driver cum Field Assistant

Mr. Dhananjay Mashahary  
Field Assistant

**Media Publication and Communication Division**

Mr. Udyan Borthakur  
Scientist E, Head

Ms. Munmita Baruah  
Manager

Mr. Chinmoy Swargiary  
Documentation & Production  
Officer

**Primate Research and Conservation Division (PRCD)**

Dr. Dilip Chetry  
Scientist E, Head

Mr. Akshay Kumar Upadhyaya  
Research Fellow

Mr. Simanta Medhi  
Project Assistant

Mr. Pitam Jyoti Gore  
Project Assistant

Mr. Ranjit Saikia

Field Assistant	Mr. Koushik Rajbongshi, Junior Field Biologist	Mr. Niranjana Barman Junior Field Assistant	
Mr. Jibon Chandra Bora Field Assistant	Dr. Debjani Borah Community Biosecurity Project Officer	Mr. Tulshi Nath Senior Animal keeper	
Mr. Lalit Saikia Field Assistant	Genius Teron Program Coordinator	Mr. Lutar Ch. Marak Animal Keeper	
Mr. Jiten Gogoi Field Assistant	Mr. Ajay Kumar Das, Logistic coordinator	Mr. Grikseng Chandra Marak Animal Keeper	
Mr. Probin Bhuyan Site Assistant	Mr. Arunava Gupta Community Co-ordinator	Mr. Nipen Kro Assistant Animal Keeper	
<b><u>Rhino Research and Conservation Division (RRCD)</u></b>			
Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar Scientist G, Head	Ms. Monica Basumatary Assistant Community Coordinator	Mr. Kalpajyoti Barman Assistant Animal Keeper	
Dr. Deba Kumar Dutta Senior Manager	Ms. Karishma Sharma Cham-lagain Junior Field Biologist	Mr. Santosh Basumatary Assistant Animal Keeper	
Md. Arif Hussain Manager	Mr. Hirak Jyoti Das Junior Research Assistant	Mr. Dhon Chetry Junior Animal Keeper	
Ms. Kakali Baishya Researcher	Mr. Karan Barman Research Assistant	Mr. Rudra Gogoi Junior Animal Keeper	
Mr. Ujjal Bayan Researcher	Mr. Dwipendra Narayan Dev Sr. Field Assistant	<b><u>Tiger Research and Conservation Division (TRCD)</u></b>	
Mr. Dulal Das Driver cum Field Assistant	Mr. Bhaben Hazarika Site Coordinator (Grade I)	Dr. M Firoz Ahmed Scientist F, Head	
Mr. Mantu Boro Animal Keeper	Mr. Kishur Payeng Site Assistant	Mr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma Senior Program Associate, NRMP	
<b><u>Threatened Species Recovery Programme (TSRP)</u></b>			
Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka Programme Manager	Mr. Raju Mili Site Assistant	Dr. Dipankar Lahkar Senior Manager	
Dr. Leons Mathew Abraham Captive Breeding Manager	Mr. Amal Deka Community Facilitator	Dr. Partha Sarathi Ghose Project Coordinator	
Mr. Jonmani Kalita, Jr. Field Biologist	Ms. Monora Begum Animal Keeper	Mr. Sarlongjon Teron Senior Project Officer, NRM	
	Mr. Raju Das Field Assistant	Mr. Sourav Gupta Senior Project Officer	

Mr. Uttarn Dutta  
Assistant Manager

Ms. Gayatri Dutta  
Project Officer

Mr. Nitul Kalita  
Project Officer

Mr. Bhaskor Barukial  
Project Officer -Logistics and  
Accounts

Mr. Binod Dewry, Project Of-  
ficer- logistics

Ms. Leenthoi Laishram  
Project Officer

Ms. Joshna Terangpi  
Project Officer

Ms. Barnali Chakraborty  
Project Officer (Trainee)

Ms. Momita Narzary  
Project Officer

Ms. Karishma Saikia  
Project Officer

Mr. Stephen Basumatary  
Project Officer (Trainee)

Mr. Birdutta Baro,  
Assistant Project Officer-Logis-  
tics

Mr. Rangina Phangcho  
Assistant Project Officer

Ms. Moromi Nath  
Assistant Project Officer

Ms. Monisha Deb

Assistant Project Officer

Ms. Sushmita Baruah  
Assistant Project Officer

Mr. Ratul Das  
Assistant Project Officer

Ms. L Ria Rani Devi  
Assistant Project Officer, Ac-  
counts

Mr. Saikhong Basumatary  
Assistant Project Officer

Mr. Sunny Paul  
Assistant Project Officer, (Train-  
ee)

Mr. Purno Singnar  
Assistant Project Officer (Train-  
ee)

Mr. Sarlongki Teron  
Assistant Project Officer (Train-  
ee)

Md. Majammil Haque,  
Assistant project Officer cum  
Driver

Mr. Rahul Bey  
Field Assistant

Mr. Prakash Ingti  
Field Assistant

Mr. Rowel Engti, Field Assistant

Mr. Biswajit Basumatary  
Field Assistant

Mr. Mongalsing Rangfar  
Field Assistant

Mrs. Jonali Patra  
Office Assistant

**Water Climate and Hazards  
Division (WATCH)**

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Head

Mr. Hemanta Phukon  
Project Officer

Ms. Kakali Sarma  
Program Associate

Mr. Bistirna Burhagohain  
Project Assistant

Mr. Ankur Barman  
Field Assistant  
Mr. Dipmoni Nath,  
Driver cum Technical Field  
Assistant

**Wildlife Genetics Division  
(WGD)**

Mr. Udayan Borthakur, Scientist  
E, Head

Mr. Nipan Kumar Gogoi  
Assistant Manager

Ms. Rashmi Rani Boro  
Senior Researcher

Mr. Partha Pratim Das  
Biologist

Ms. Chandramika Nath  
Project Assistant

Mr. Shohidul Islam  
Driver cum Field Assistant



# NOURISHING NATURE TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

*We strive to conserve 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 36<sup>th</sup> year of our existence, we are tirelessly working towards safeguarding our natural resources, addressing climate crises and ensuring people's wellbeing.*

## **Administrative & Registered Office**

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