

Press Release

Guwahati 20 July: Aaranyak in 2004-2006, under the leadership of Dr. Dilip Chetry, launched the Hoolock gibbon conservation Programme in Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India with the support from US Fish Wildlife Service (Great Ape Conservation Fund). As a part of the programme a series of education programme, research, training and socio-economic development programme launched. Since 1887 a railway track has been passing through the sanctuary which became a very sensitive barrier for the wildlife, particularly for the arboreal species like Hoolock Gibbon of the Sanctuary. Due to this railway track passing through sanctuary the populations of Hoolock gibbon in the compartment-I lost their communication with the counterparts in compartment-II. And this isolation has been going on till this year. Aaranyak came forward to bridge this canopy gap as a part of Hoolock gibbon conservation programme.

A series of plantation drive was carried around the sanctuary keeping in mind the long term conservation of Hoolock gibbon and other wildlife of the sanctuary. Plantation drive was carried out along the 1km railway tract within the railway land with the help of local community. The different species of food and lodging plants of the gibbon were planted in 2006 on either side of the railway track. The ultimate goal of these plantation programmes was to develop natural canopy bridge. Many of these planted trees were even felled by the railway department annually. At last at one point canopy bridge has formed. It took 13 long years for the development of this bridge. And as we have expected gibbon, capped langur, squirrels are using this bridge regularly. The barrier created by the railway line is no more with this new path of connection. This canopy bridge has rejuvenated the process of reunion of Gibbon in particular and other wildlife of compartments I and II.

Special Thank goes to Assam Forest Department (Jorhat Forest Division), N.F. Railway and to the Team mate Dr. Kumud Ghosh, Late Noren Bhuyan, Deben Borah, Pradip Baruah, Lalit Saikia, Jibon Borah, Jiten Gogoi, Bishnu Chetry, Rekha Chetry and other participants of the fringe villages, members of Aaranyak and Gibbon Conservation Programme!!!

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