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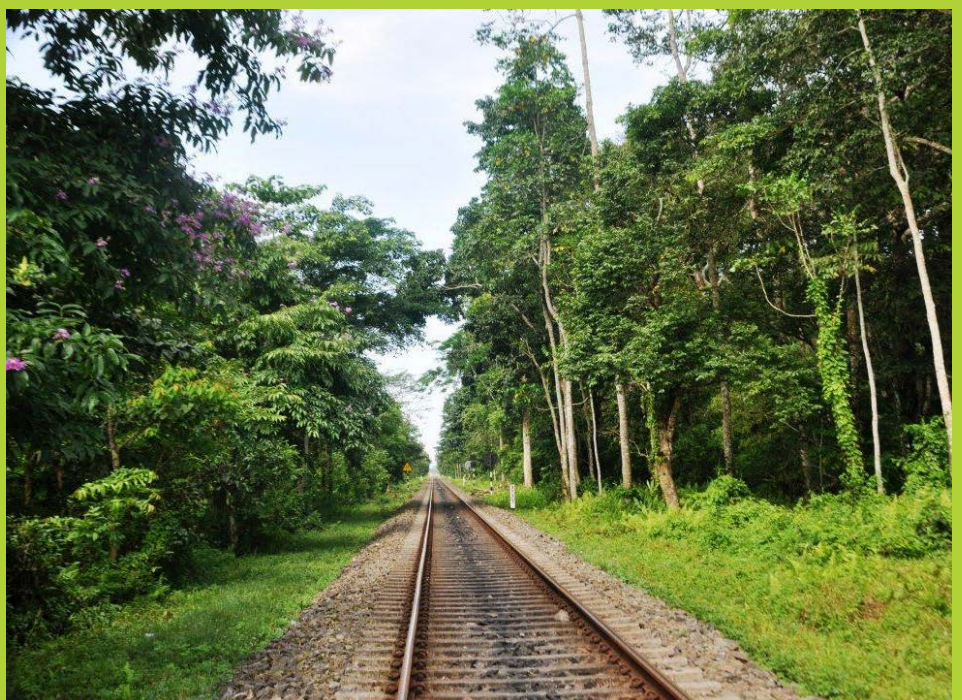


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First Canopy Bridge for Gibbon in India

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



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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 Team mates 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!

A call from Aaranyak on the occasion of World Environment Day 2019:

"Air pollution, environment and health: It is time to act for clean air"

This year's theme for celebrating and acting on the World Environment Day has been aptly chosen as Air Pollution. Polluted air has become a global threat to public health, ecosystems and many development pursuits. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 9 out of 10 people in the world breathe air containing high levels of pollutants. About 91% of the world's population lives in places where air quality exceeds WHO guideline limits. Around 3 billion people – more than 40% of the world's population – still do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies in their homes, the main source of household air pollution.

The health impact of air pollution is enormous. WHO has recognized air pollution as a critical risk factor for non-communicable diseases, causing an estimated one-quarter (24%) of all adult deaths from heart disease, 25% from stroke, 43% from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 29% from lung cancer. The WHO database says that approximately 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia.

The situation in India is also very grim. The State of Global Air 2019 report, prepared by the Health Effects Institute, reveals that India recorded about 1.2 million deaths triggered by air pollution each in 2017 which is one-fourth of the 5 million such deaths that take place globally every year.

A study report by AirVisual and Greenpeace published early this year study placed seven Indian cities among the 10 worst polluted cities of the world in terms of levels of PM 2.5 which refers to the fine particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns (1 million microns make 1 meter). New Delhi has the dubious distinction of being the most polluted capital city in the world.

The PM 2.5 is considered one of the most harmful of all air pollutants since being very light, the PM 2.5 particles can flow out and disperse to other areas and can also traverse deep into the human lungs that can eventually cause cancer and other respiratory problems. Some experts have also linked air pollution in India to diabetes, one of the most rampant life taking diseases in the country.

Back home in Assam, the air pollution scenario is much more serious than is believed to be by people. Assam is the most polluted state in North Eastern India. According to the Assam Pollution Control Board, the number of deaths that are caused due to Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) attributed to a rise in PM 2.5 and PM 10 in Assam has increased considerably. The National Health Profile, 2018, released recently by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) reported that Assam alone had 20,667 cases of ARI and 200 deaths caused therefore in 2016.

This figure increased to 22,834 ARI cases with 225 deaths in 2017. The high Air Quality Index(AQI) for Assam, which indicates low air quality, is likely to increase in the near future since most cities and townships are undergoing significant construction and infrastructural development, rapid expansion cum urbanization and other related development activities that ultimately increase the load of pollutants in the state's air space.

Monitoring of air quality by the Assam Pollution Control Board at Bamunimaidan in Guwahati has revealed the presence of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) well above the prescribed limit since 2008. Guwahati's air is found to have very high content of black carbon.

In case of Assam the outdoor air pollution is caused mainly by emission of harmful gaseous and particulate substances from vehicles, small factories, brick kilns, and other industrial units. Burning of solid waste and garbage is also a source of gaseous and particulate pollutants. Cooking with fuelwood, some stoves and cigarette smoking causes most of the indoor pollution which affects mostly women and children. Factories that do not use properly designed and chimneys puff out all toxic gases to the living space of human as a large chunk of people now-a-days live in high rise buildings especially in urban areas. Depending on the meteorological condition of the lower atmosphere, some situations involving continuous emission of polluting air in a particular place, can worsen in to a smog or a blanket of dirty air over the place which may lead to death of people and other organism and animals through direct and indirect health effects.

In such a situation, Government, private sector and civil society need to play an important role in making people aware and educated about the menace of air pollution and take effective action for mitigating air pollution including bringing behavioural change in our daily lives. Continuous monitoring of all potential areas where air pollution is in a critical level and dissemination of information to public with health advisories must be ensured as an immediate measure. The long and short term of impact of air pollution on human and animal health must be studied as priority for developing effective treatment of pollution induced diseases and alerting masses about the same.



There must be a paradigm change in our public transport system and related policy to bring down the rapid growth the ever soaring number of vehicles out on the roads by introducing mass transit system which will also help in climate change mitigation. Introduction of clean fuel and discouraging prevalence of dirty fuels as a policy strategy will go a long way in curbing vehicular air pollution. Cooking gas cylinders, improved, and smokeless ovens and other clean fuels of cooking must reach every nook and corner of the country especially in remote rural areas.

Observing the increasing intensities of air pollution all over the state, Aaranyak expresses concern over the possible consequences on human health, natural ecosystems, climate and other aspects of life and environment. Aaranyak requests the state Government and citizens in general to consider air pollution as one of the most serious environmental and public health problems and take immediate steps for mitigation through appropriate policy and action in an emergency mode.

Aaranyak is committed to work for safeguarding the environment. Aaranyak has prepared plans to help reduce air pollution and its impact by conceiving a series of awareness and action-based interventions. On the occasion of the World Environment Day, June 5, 2019, Aaranyak announces a program called 'Act for Clean Air'. It will be implemented as a long-term program with year round activities for sensitizing people about causes and effects of air pollution, communicating information about air pollution to masses, taking simple and feasible measures to reduce emission of air pollutants and people's exposure and providing support to Government, private sector and civil society in addressing the problem with urgency.

Partha J Das, Ph.D.

Organising Secretary, Aaranyak

Head, 'Water, Climate & Hazard Division & Head(I/C), 'Geospatial Technology Application Division, Aaranyak.

Earth Day Celebration, 2019 at Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College

Aaranyak has celebrated Earth Day, 2019 at Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College (Degree & Jr.), Guwahati in collaboration with the College authority. In this occasion, on 22nd April, 2019, with the college authority, an engaging plantation drive was carried out by Aaranyak at the college campus, Guwahati.

The practice of plantation is revitalized with a kind effort to nurture the saplings like family member. Students are largely engaged for nurturing the sapling. Aaranyak personnel present there interacted with the faculty, students, and other college staff regarding Aaranyak's different interventions in conservation of the rich biodiversity of N.E. India. Aaranyak has handed over some publications of Aaranyak to College authorities .

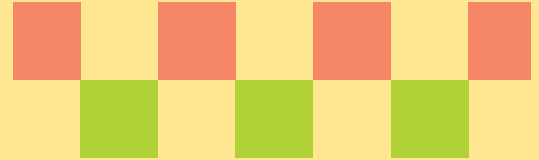
The event was vitalized by the sound presence of Dr. Sikhamoni Konwar, Principal, KHS

College(Degree), Mrs. Jita Rani Khanikar, Principal, KHS College (Jr.), a group of faculties, students and staff of the college and from Aaranyak Mr. Jayanta Kr Pathak, Mr. Arup Kr. Das, Mrs Madhumita Borthakur, Ms. Bijoyinee Sarma, Mr. Kukil Gogoi , Gauranga Mandal and Pranab Goswami.



Rhino Awareness programme at fringe villages of Pobitora WLS

Aaranyak in association with Morigaon District Administration and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary Authority organized an awareness programme at Koranibori ME Madrassa along with the people living in the fringe villages of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Mr. Swapnil Deka , SP (Morigaon) in his speech told the people to setting up of rhino protection groups comprising the villagers of these fringe villages. Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, SG and CEO of Aaranyak delivered his lecture on the importance of protection of rhino as well as biodiversity. Headman of the village Mr. Usman Ali, Range officer of Pobitora WLS Mr. Mukul Tamuly and OC of Mayong PS Mridul Hazarika and Head Master of the School Mr. Abdul Mannan also delivered their speech and tried to sensitize the people for conservation of Rhino. Mr. Manas Kumar Bhattacharjya and Mr. Bijoy Bora were also present during the meeting.



Career Counselling and Felicitation of Project Village Students at Kohora

Aaranyak and Chandrasing Rongpi Memorial High School jointly organized a career counselling programme for the recently passed out students of class ten from different project villages within the Kohora River Basin area. All the passed out students from these villages were also facilitated on the occasion.

The programme was attended by Mr. Richard Tokbi, Member of Autonomous Council from the Dura Bagori Constituency, KAAC as Chief Guest and felicitated the students along with Government Village Head Mr. Raising Rongpi. In his speech, Mr. Tokbi encouraged the students to study well and encourage others to study as 'education is the biggest weapon' to change Karbi society towards development. He praised Aaranyak for its social and community livelihood work initiated in the Karbi Village and offered his 110 percent support to the activities. Mr. Tokbi further said that people must come forward to help implement the schemes of the government and NGOs successfully.

On the occasion, Dr. Jayanta Sarma, Consultant of Aaranyak, interacted with the students on different career they can start preparing from now on so that they can prepare themselves for the future challenges in life. Mr. Sarlong John Teron, project officer, Aaranyak and Ms Moina Kramsapi, volunteer were also present in the event and interacted with the students. Mr. Swapan Nath, teacher of the CSRMH School and Senior Journalist anchored and coordinated the event.

The event was also attended by Mr. Hariram Ingti, Mr. Hon Phangcho, Mr Chatrasing Bey, Mr. Dhaniram Rongphar and Mr Rupsing Engleng all senior villagers from the villages.

It is worth mentioning that Aaranyak has been working with four villages viz. Chandrasing Rongpi, Hemai Lekthe, Phomen Ingti and Rongtara within the Kohora River Basin in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape on Participatory Natural Resource Management for ecosystem management to ensure livelihood and economic security of the villagers.



Meet on Mainstreaming Gender in Water Governance

A two day meet on “Mainstreaming gender in water governance in the Brahmaputra river, basin, Assam: A Consultation on Women and Water”, was organized by Aaranyak, Oxfam, in association with NERSWN, Kokrajhar, Assam; PAD, Lakhimpur, Assam and GDS, Lucknow, UP on 29th & 30th April 2019. The consultation was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Alaka Desai Sarma, Former MLA, along with the Guest of Honour was Dr. Bibhab K Talukdar, Secretary General and CEO, Aaranyak, Andrio Naskar, Manager-National Humanitarian Hub, Oxfam India, Kolkata and Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Head, WATCH Division, Aaranyak. People from different districts of Assam, along with representatives from Uttar Pradesh

and Bangladesh participated in the consultation.

The prime objective of the program was to focus on the importance of water governance, water polices and the major role played by the womenfolk in the management of water. The discussion highlighted on the roles and responsibilities of the womenfolk in water management as well as in ensuring water security not only for their families but also for the community and yet their lack of authority in the decision-making processes related to development and management of water resources as their voices are often not heard or ignored within their households, communities and also by Government institutions.



Plantation Drive and Awareness Program in Dadara Pachariya

Greater Adjutant Storks conservation initiative of Aaranyak conducted a plantation drive and awareness program on the occasion of 'World Environment Day' in Dadara Pachariya village in collaboration with Assam Forest Department, Kamrup District Administration, Hargila army, and Pachariya sanmilan Bihu committee with public participation. Green Oscar winner Dr Purnima Devi Barman of Aaranyak who is the leader of this initiative emphasized on monitoring and nurturing the plants and appealed everyone to protect environment by protecting trees and flora and fauna. Kamal Baruah, Circle officer, Hajo was felicitated with a few saplings of Cotton trees. Ms Arparna Sharma, Circle officer attached to revenue circle had actively participated in the plantation drive and described the burning issues of environment. Dr Purnima Devi Barman appreciated Assam forest Department for providing the saplings.



Pre-Flood Awareness Campaign 2019 in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park Authority in collaboration with Biswanath Wildlife Division, Upaityaka and WTI organized a series of Pre flood awareness campaigns in Nagsankar Range under Biswanath Wildlife Division, Kaziranga Tiger reserve.

Different awareness campaigns were undertaken in the Bhujmari, Boralimora, KatarAti, KoroiAni (northern part of Kaziranga) from 27th May to 29th May 2019. The main aim of the campaign was to create awareness among the fringe villagers along with the students. During floods, animals are more prone to risks and special attention is needed for their protection. To effect the cause, this awareness will motivate people to give their effort to protect the animals in the villages without any casualties. The programs included various topics and issues regarding flood preparedness, rescue and monitoring etc.

Dr. Rinku Gohain, WTI elaborated on rescue and rehabilitation of animals during flood. Arif Hussain Manager, RRCD, Aaranyak, Swapan Nath, Conservationist, Kaziranga, Soidur Rohman, President Upaityaka, J. Goswami, Deputy Ranger, Nag Sankar Range, Dr. Pranjal Gogoi, Ranger were present in the program and stated about the roles to be played by the fringe dwellers and other people during the floods.

Pre Flood Awareness Campaign at Burapahar Area

Aaranyak, Kaziranga National Park Authority and WTI jointly organized another pre flood awareness campaign in Rhino Land Park, under Burapahar Range on 13 June 2019. The program focused to bring everyone on a common platform to work together for conservation during any probable situation during flood. The meeting addressed VDPs, EDCs and local people from Burapahar to Silghat region.

The people were introduced to conservation aspects by various experts and were strongly determined to work diligently during flood situation. P. Sivakumar, Director Kaziranga, Rohini Ballav Saikia DFO, KNP, encouraged the mass to take over the responsibilities

Pre flood Awareness Campaign in Bokakhat

Aaranyak, Kaziranga National Park Authority and WTI jointly organized pre flood awareness campaign also in Diffolo Pathar High School, Bokakhat on 15th June 2018. The program mainly targeted the school students from the fringe villages of Kaziranga as the students are the future and they can take an important role in the fringe villages during flood time and take ahead the learnings of conservation and duties during flood.

Dr. Rathin Barman, Joint Director WTI, Rabindra Sarma, Research Officer, Kaziranga, K. Dekaraja, DCF, Kaziranga, Dr. Panjit Basumatary, WTI, Tarun Gogoi, Beat Officer, Bokakhat Beat and Arif Hussain, Manager, RRCD, Aaranyak interacted with the students. The students were insighted with the carefulness to be taken during flood towards themselves and towards environment. The students were enthusiastic in learning about the awareness and were highly motivated through documentaries and power point presentation. A total number of 300 students participated.

and to be prepared as we are the only caretakers of these wildernesses. Dr. Panjit Basumatary, WTI enriched the awareness program by talking about proper rescue methods and the measures to be taken. Mriganka Das, SDPO, Kaliabor and Nipu Kalita OC, Jakhalabandha Thana too encouraged the people and were willing to provide the necessary help needed from Police Department.

Swapan Nath Journalist Kaziranga, K. Dekaraja, DCF, Kaziranga, Arun Vugnes, ACF Kaziranga, Prodip Goswami, RO, Burapahar, Arif Hussain, and Sanjib Kumar Bezbaruah, Aaranyak were present and motivated people towards their duties during flood.



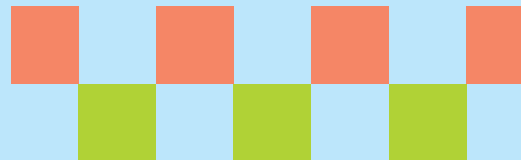
Orientation Workshop on Climate Change at Udalguri, BTAD, Assam

The Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak in collaboration with Gethsemane JFMC, Udalguri, BTAD, Assam organized an orientation workshop on Climate Change at office of the Gethsemane JFMC, Udalguri, BTAD, Assam on 21st May 2019.

The workshop was organized with support from Assam Science Technology and Environment Council. In the program Mr Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, EECBD of Aaranyak; Ms. Tanvi Hussain, Project Scientist, ASTEC; Mr Jayanta Kumar Das, Journalist; Mr Esmail Daimary of Gethsemane JFMC (man-made forest) interacted on various aspects of climate change to the participants.

Orientation Workshop on Climate Change at Chirang

Another event as a part of orientation workshop on Climate Change organized by Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak in collaboration with Action Research Organisation of North East India at Panbari High School, Chirang, BTAD, Assam on 28th May 2019. The workshop was organized with support from Assam Science Technology and Environment Council. In the program Mr Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, EECBD of Aaranyak; Achinta Kumar Das, Principal Panbari High School, Mr Detsung Basumtary, Mr Stephen Basaumtary, Mr Kuldeep Das interacted on various aspects of climate change to the participants.



Orientation Workshop on Climate Change at Barpeta

The Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak with support from Assam Science Technology and Environment Council have been conducting series of orientation workshops on climate change in different parts of Assam. Such an orientation workshop was held at Govt. Pensioner Bhawan, Barpeta district on 13th May 2019 which was organized jointly by Aaranyak and Shubham, Barpeta.

The objective of the workshop has briefly been described by Kuldeep Das of Shubham, a local NGO of Barpeta. An elaborate talk on Weather, Climate and Life was delivered by Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, EECBD of Aaranyak. Ms. Tanvi Hussain, Project Scientist, ASTEC explained the impacts of Climate Change and highlighted the adaptation and mitigation strategies in local context. Noted writer, journalist Akshay Misra and Dr. Kabindra Nath Das, Retired Lecturer has also shared their experience and observation on climate change. Arnab Misra, Field Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Barpeta also interacted with the participants.

More the 60 Village Community Leaders, members of Panchayati Raj Institution, College Students etc. are actively participated in the programme.

Orientation Programme on Climate Change at Halflong, Dima Hasao

One more orientation programme on Climate Change was organized by Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak, N. C. Hills Autonomous Council, Youth Association for Development and Empowerment (YADEM) and Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) at the Cultural Institute Hall, Halflong, Dima Hasao district of Assam on 22nd June 2019.

In the programme, Mr. Nojit Kemprai, EM (Forests), Ms. Nandita Gorlosa, EM (Education), Ms. Ranu Langthasa (Chairperson) of N. C. Hills Autonomous Council; Dr. Uttam Bathari, Associate Professor of Gauhati University; Dr. Subal Maibangsa (Chairman, YADEM); Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Secretary General cum CEO of Aaranyak, Dr. Firoz Ahmed, Wildlife Biologist; Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak; Dr Jayanta Kumar Sarma, eminent environmentalist; Ms. Tanvi Hussain, Project Scientist of ASTEC; Riki B Phukon, DPO, DDMA of Dima Hasao and Peter Sumer (Range Officer) has interacted on various aspects of climate change to the participants.

It is worth to mention that a popular book on climate change titled 'Weather Climate and Life' (ISBN: 978-81-936429-3-1) written by Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Pinkudhar Barman and Dr. Debajit Deka also released in the programme.

“Friends of Rhino” 2019 in Orang National Park

Aaranyak, as a part of its continuous effort to motivate school students towards conservation of Rhino, organized an event titled “Friends of Rhino” in Orang National Park on 21st May 2019 in collaboration with Orang National Park Authority and Silbori Youth Development Organisation.

To create awareness and also to understand in a better way about rhino and its habitat, jeep safari in to the national park was organized for the students along with interaction with experts. Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Chair person of Asian Rhino Specialist Group and CEO of Aaranyak interacted with the students and gave information about world distribution pattern of rhino, habitat, habits and specially about Greater One Horned Rhino in Assam through his audiovisual talk and made the session interactive. Mr. Ramesh Gogoi, DFO, Orang National Park elaborated the speciality of Orang, Orang’s history and possibilities of Orang and encourage that

students to involve in conservation activities in the fringe areas of Orang National Park in the future.

During the park safari Mr. Swapan Nath, Conservationist, and Mr. Arif Hussain, Manager, RRCD, Aaranyak interacted with the students and introduced the habitats and habits of Rhinos practically and make the trip memorable for students. It is significant that these group of students visited Oranga National Park first time.

A total number of 34 students from 4 different schools including 4 teachers participated in the program. Mr Ashok Deb Choudhary, ACF Orang National Park, Abdul Malek, Jamal Uddin and Muhibul Islam Members of Silbori Youth Development Organisation, Mr. Bijay Sankar Bora, RRCD, Aaranyak, Sanjib Kumar Bezbaruah, Ivan Loying, Sitaram Chetry and Akibur Hussain members of Aaranyak Central Assam Zone were present during the event.

“Friends of Rhino 2019” in Burhapahar Range

Rhinos are one of the most iconic creatures and pride possession of Kaziranga National Park. These magnificent animals are endangered and calls for the need of their conservation. With the thought of connecting kids to Rhino conservation and providing a platform to understand the Rhino, its habit, its habitat in the wilderness, Aaranyak in collaboration with Kaziranga National Park Authority organized a new programme titled “Friends of Rhino” on 21st April, 2019 in Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park. The program was supported by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

The program aims to create awareness and positive thoughts for Rhino conservation among the students of fringe village near Kaziranga National Park through their first time jeep safari to visit the World Heritage Site Kaziranga and interaction with naturalists. They will become the friends of Rhino and will spread the message of the beauty, importance and need of conservation of Rhino to their friends.

In this program a total number of 18 students participated from Kaliabor Higher Secondary and Kanyakashram Junior college, Silghat. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Pradip Goswami , Range officer Burapahar Range, Kaziranga National Park. Mr. Swapan Nath, Sr. Journalist, Kaziranga, Mr. Rehan Ali, life member, Aaranyak and Sr. Tour leader, Kaziranga, Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project Officer Aaranyak, and Mr. Sanjib Kr. Bezbaruah, Member, Aaranyak Interacted with the students about various topics and made the session interactive.

Mr. Bhupen Sarma, Principal, Kaliabor Higher Secondary, Mrs. Tunu Phukan, Principal, Kanyakashram Junior College, Miss Rupa kangkana Sarma, Asst. prof. Kanyakashram Junior College, Mr. Medeni Gogoi, and Mr. Jukti Bora, FR1, Kaziranga, Mr. Ivan Loying , Sitaram Chetry, Samim Sultana and Akibur Hussain members of Aaranyak Central Assam Zone were present.



International Day for Biological Diversity Celebration at Majuli

Aaranyak celebrated the 'International Day for Biological Diversity' on May 22, 2019 with the students and teachers of the Chamuguri Satra Raonapar Model H.S. School in Raonapar, Majuli. The main function of the celebration, organised as an awareness meeting in the campus of the School and attended by more than 250 students and 25 teachers, was presided by Sri Dlip Mahanta, the Principal of the school. Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Organising Secretary of Aaranyak, explained the significance of the day in the global, regional and local context. He informed the students about the biodiversity richness of India, the NE region and Assam and cautioned them about the anthropogenic threats faced by flora, fauna and biodiversity in the state. He emphasized that the rich diversity of crops, fish, plants and other biological species found in Majuli must be preserved at the initiative of the students and local people.

The students were addressed by several teachers and prominent citizens of Majuli viz. Mr. Muhin Gayan, (retired teacher and social worker), Sri Radhakrishna Nath (teacher of Raonapar HS School), Sri Manik Barua (teacher of Raonapar HS School), Mr. Jugal Hazarika (Fishery Department, Government of Assam), and Mr. Jayanta Dutta (teacher of Namani Majuli Junior College). They made the students aware about various dimensions of biodiversity and the need to protect and conserve the same citing examples from various countries from around the world. They highlighted the challenges faced by Majuli, the largest freshwater island in India at present, especially those that have posed threats to biodiversity because of wrong development planning and unwise structural interventions. Speakers talked about some of the good and bad practices prevalent in Majuli that have had a bearing on the island's biological resources, both positive and negative. All speakers encouraged the students to take active part in protecting the natural ecosystems and biological diversity of the island.

A competition was organised among students to promote the importance of knowing about local biodiversity. Students were asked to write about the meaning and significance of biodiversity and furnish information about various aspects of local biodiversity of Majuli such as varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants, fruits, vegetables, birds, animals, wetlands, rice etc. Twenty-five students from Classes IX, X and XI took part in the competition and received books (published by Aaranyak) as prizes.

The Principal, Sri Mahanta appreciated Aaranyak for its efforts to popularize awareness about nature conservation and biodiversity among the students and thanked Aaranyak for conducting this program in his school.

Other officials and staff of Aaranyak who took part in the function as part of the organising team were Mr. Arup Kr. Das (Manager, Geospatial Technology Application Division), Pranab Goswami (Organising Officer) and Dipmoni Nath (Vehicle Driver & Technical Assistant).

International Day for Biological Diversity Celebration at Panbari High School

On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2019, Aaranyak also organized another programme in collaboration with Panbari High School on 22nd May 2019 at the premises of Panbari High School near Chandrapur. A total number of 100 students and 10 teachers along with school Head Mr. Ranjit Basumatary were present during the event. On behalf of Aaranyak, Mr. Manas kumar Bhattacharjya and Dr. Purnima Devi Barman conducted some interactive sessions with the students and brief them about importance of biodiversity conservation for a better world. Aaranyak team also felicitated three student of the school who secured star marks in the HSLC examination.

International Day for Biological Diversity Celebration at Kaziranga High School

Aaranyak in collaboration with Kaziranga National Park Authority and Kaziranga High School celebrated International Biodiversity Day 2019 in Kaziranga High School on 22nd May 2019. A day long program was conducted among the school students with various activities. An exhibition was conducted among the students on variety of rice, medicinal plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables, with an aim to promote local food and its diversity and introduce our rare and indigenous species to the new generation to know the value and also to create awareness for conservation and preservation them in future.

Mr. Mahan Bora, famous farmer and expert who have preserved 270 numbers of rice breed in his seed library, interacted with the students and gave some valuable information about rice and seeds. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma of Aaranyak elaborated on the importance of biodiversity day to the students. Mr. Salim Ahmed, Ranger Officer, Kohora Range of Kaziranga inaugurated the exhibition hall. Mr. K.K. Deuri, ACF, Kaziranga, Mr. Swapan Nath, Journalist Kaziranga, Mr. Arif Hussain, Manager RRCD, Aaranyak interacted with the students about nature and encouraged them towards participation in conservation of biodiversity.

During the program Sarlong John Teron, Project Officer, Aaranyak, Aaranyak Staff- Animesh Hazarika, Mujammil Haque and Rowel Ingti and Aaranyak members Ivan Loying, Samim Sultana, Sitaram Chetry, Niren Sing, Akibur Hussain, Rana Paw, Akash Morang were also present.



Observation of World Biodiversity Day in Manas Landscape



Aaranyak organised an event at the Lachit ME School, located at the Bansbari Range of Manas National Park to mark the occasion of International Day for Biodiversity, 2019 in Manas Landscape. In accordance with the theme of 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health', the students of the schools have collected various locally available edible herbs and plants from their surrounding and displayed those collections. A total of 58 different species from the area have been collected by the students for the exhibition, which is used by the community for various medicinal and culinary purposes.

As a part of the event, Detsung Basumatary from Conservation Education division of Manas Landscape team of Aaranyak explained about the significance of the day to the students in an interactive discussion. The event was also graced by the members of the School Managing Committee and Mother's Group, who also took part in the discussion and shared the medicinal uses and importance of many exhibits.

It may be mentioned that Aaranyak has been actively working for a long period towards improvement of protection, conservation and community wellbeing in Manas National Park and its fringe areas and creating environmental awareness as well as educating the students on the Manas landscape forms an important mandate of the organization.



Celebration of World Environment Day at Manas Landscape

Aaranyak observed World Environment Day 2019 at Manas National Park fringe areas with the community members and civil society organisations from the locality. In one of the programme, Conservation Education team of Aaranyak organised a sensitization programme and plantation drive in association with Eco-Development Committees from the villages under Bhuyanpara range of Manas National Park. The programme organised at Barmajra Library premises was attended by office bearers of Laharipara, Bamunkhal and Koroibari EDC and Jayanta Basumatary, teacher, social worker and member of Rupahi Sahitya Sabha, Baksa. Further, the team Aaranyak also joined hands with All Assam Bodo Student Union and Manas Maozegendri Eco-Tourism Society in a mass plantation drive called 'Pakhiram Plantation Drive' held at Chepna NC, Baksa to mark the occasion.

It may be mentioned that Aaranyak has been actively working for a long period for conservation of pristine ecosystem and sustainable community well-being in Manas National Park and its fringe areas and creating environmental awareness among the community members forms an important mandate of the organization.



Celebration of World Environment Day 2019 in Kaziranga

Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park Authority jointly celebrated world environment day 2019 in Kaziranga and Bokakhat on 5th June 2019. The first program was held in Kaziranga Chitrakala Vidyalaya, Kohora with the help of Kaziranga Chitrakala Vidyalaya management. An Art competition was conducted among the students in different categories. The program gave a platform to the students to share their thoughts through colours. A total no. of 80 participants were participated in the program. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Rohini Ballav Saikia, DFO, KNP by plantation and a motivational speech.

Swapan Nath, Journalist, Kaziranga, Dimpi Bora, DFO, Golaghat, Firoz Ahmed, Arif Hussain, Jayanta Sarma, Aaranyak interacted with the students and encouraged

towards conservation. Animesh Hazarika, Sarlongjon Teron, Rowel Ingti, Majammil Hoque, Numal Das and Rehan Ali, Aaranyak were present during the program.

The Second program was held in Upper Assam Handicapped School in Bokakhat. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Bhabananda Kalita, and Mr. Aychut Hazarika, by plantation. In this program a short documentary film was screened. Swapan Nath, Journalist, Kaziranga, Arif Hussain, Aaranyak interacted with the students and made the session interactive. Animesh Hazarika, Sarlongjon Teron, Anil Das, Rowel Ingti of Aaranyak and Sitaram Chetry and Malabika Phukan, Member of Aaranyak Central Assam Zone were present in the program.



Celebration of World Environment Day at IoE, Guwahati

Aaranyak in collaboration with Institution of Engineers(India), Assam Centre observed the World Environment Day, 2019 at Guwahati on 5th June last. In this connection, an awareness meeting was organised at the premises of Institution of Engineers, Assam Centre. The programme witnessed around 100 participants including a numbers of significant personalities like Sri Deepak Kumar , Police Commissioner of Guwahati , Sri Dharmendra Das, Deputy Police Commissioner of Guwahati Central, Sri Prasanta Saikia, Deputy Police Commissioner of Traffic, Sri Gunendra Deka, ADCP,Guwahati , Dr. Hari Prasad Sarma, Head, Env. Sc. Dept, Gauhati University, Dr. S.K. Kakoty , FIE, Chairman, IEI, Assam Centre , Er. Pulak Sarma, Jt. Hony. Secretary, IEI, Assam Centre attended the programme. The programme was scheduled in two times of the day which focused on air pollution.

Deepak Kumar, Police Commissioner of Guwahati, highlighted effective management and related concerns as well as responsibilities of vehicle traffic with examples.

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Organizing Secretary, Aaranyak, during his speech on air pollution, made a public appeal to reduce tyre burning which has been a common practice among public protesters.

In the evening programme, Dr. Hari Prasad Sarma, Head, Env. Sc. Dept, Gauhati University delivered a talk detailing various issues related to air pollution in local context.

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Mr. Manas Kr. Bhattacharya, Ms Bobby Nath, Ms Madhumita Borthakur, Mr. Ajoy Kr. Das, Mr. Kukil Gogoi, Mr. Deepmoni Nath, Mr. Pranab Goswami etc represented Aaranyak in the events.

Celebration of World Environment Day at Gopal Boro Govt. HS, Ghy.

Aaranyak, on the occasion of the 'World Environment Day,2019' organized an awareness meeting at the premises of Gopal Boro Government Higher Secondary School, Dispur, Guwahati on 4th June last. The programme focused on different risk factors of air pollution, mitigation measures as well as role and responsibilities of individuals and societies. Special guest Dr. Yogiraj Das, Guwahati, during his speech, detailed different health risks of air pollution and preventive measures to the students. Mr. Nabin Ch. Sarma, President, SMDC, Gopal Boro G.H.S.S who presided the meeting, explained role and responsibilities of student as well as academic institution as a whole to beat air pollution. Mr. Nabin Gogoi, Principal of the school encouraged the students to be sincere and responsible towards proper management and conservation of our rich natural resources. He appreciated Aaranyak for organizing such programme at their school and expect more such intervention in coming days too. In the meeting, Green Oscar awardee Dr. Purnima Devi Barman of Aaranyak, while exemplifying her greater adjutant conservation work and some aspects of biodiversity conservation in N.E India, motivated the students to be a part of nature conservation movement and start the initiative from themselves. After interacting with the students on the topic, she took oath of responsibilities with the students to minimize air pollution. A short documentary on the community engagement for conservation of greater adjutant stork was screened. Mr. Manas Kr. Bhattacharya from Aaranyak encouraged the school authority and students to take initiative for conserving our greenery.

Other officials and staff of Aaranyak who took part in the event were Ms. Bobby Nath, Ms. Madhumita Borthakur, Ms. Kongseng Konwar, Mr. Bankim Baruah, Ms. Bijoyinee Sarma, Mr. Jyotish Ranjan Deka, Mr. Pranab Goswami and Mr. Gauranga Mandal.



Follow-up Programme at Holy Home Secondary School, Pamohi, Guwahati

On the occasion of World Environment Day, 2019, Aaranyak organised a meeting at Holy Home Secondary School, Pamohi, Guwahati on 3rd June last to encourage the young minds for their green efforts of nurturing saplings in their school campus. This is a follow-up programme of 'Trees are Our Friends', a plantation drive which was carried out in 2018 by the Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak in and around Guwahati including Holy Home Secondary School .

'Plantation is not merely planting a sapling, proper nurture of the sapling is crucial along the way' – Aaranyak conveys this message to the students by involving them in nurturing sapling at their school premises. The school authority and the little green warriors of that schools has done everything to make the saplings grow. During the programme Aaranyak presented an appreciation letter, different publications of Aaranyak and eco-friendly handmade dustbins to the

school authority as token of appreciation.

Dr. Mrigendra Lal Dutta, Chairman of the school expressed his gratitude to Aaranyak for such wonderful programme and showed willingness to work together in coming days too.

From Aaranyak Mr. Manas Kr Bhattacharjya, Manager LAD, Mr. Jayanta Kr. Pathak, Manager, EECBD, Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, Project Manager, Greater Adjutant Stork Conservation Project and Pranab Goswami, Organizing Officer spoke on different issues related to conservation of nature as well as role and responsibilities of human beings.

Aaranyak believe that our small initiative may bring bigger changes to the environment. The environment related days should be celebrated such way that has been proven by the kids of Holy Home Secondary school who have provided water to the saplings from their small water bottle.



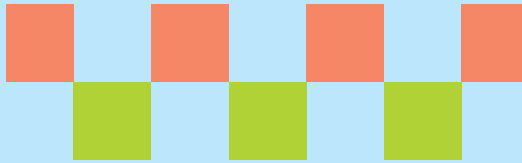
World Environment Day Celebration by West Assam Zone

Aaranyak west Assam zone celebrated the World Environment Day 2019 on 5th June at 49 No. Choibari L P School of Majargaon village under the Dhubri District. The Plantation on school campus and the surrounding filled of the premise was started by Mr. Kanak Adhirary a local senior person and Mr. Ashoke De, the Executive member of Aaranyak. Drawing and Quiz competitions among school children from Class I to class V was organized on the eve of the celebration. Awareness among local villagers and prize distribution meeting was held in the evening. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Tikendra Chandra Ray, another senior person of the local village.

The aim of the meeting was elaborated by Aaranyak member Mr. Mitul Ray. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Ashoke De. In his brief lecture Mr. De make an appeal to the participants to aware about the local causes of air pollution and requested the participants for more plantation in the villages and community places. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das, the Coordinator of west zone has elaborated the significance

of this year's theme "Air Pollution" of World Environment day along with its brief history of celebration. Mr. Sonaton Chandra Sarkar, the head Master of the school and Mr. Kanak Adhikary have also delivered brief lecture and both have congratulated Aaranyak and the team for organising the programme in their school. Mr. Ankur Barman, the Assistant Coordinator of West zone has anchored the whole programme and offer the vote of thanks to all the participants.





Training for Journalism Students on Environmental Issues

3 Day training cum field visit on "Understanding Biodiversity and Environmental Issues for Better Reportage" was organised by Media Production & Communication Division of Aaranyak in association with Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies, Cotton University during 17-19 June 2019.

The first day of the training was held in the conference hall of cotton university where several lectures and interactive sessions were organised. Total of 27 post-graduate students participated in the training. At the beginning, Mr. Udayan Borthakur, wildlife biologist and Head of Media Production & Communication Division of Aaranyak gave an overview of Aaranyak's research and conservation activities. The resource persons present on day one were Dr. Oinam Sunanda Devi, Scientific Officer of Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) speaking on significance of biodiversity and issues related to conservation, Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Scientist and Head of Water Climate & Hazard Division of Aaranyak speaking on the global climate crisis and the Northeast scenario, Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, senior journalist and Editor of nezine.com speaking on effective approaches to environmental reportage and Mr. Ramesh Bhusal, environmental journalist and South Asia Coordinator for Internews' Earth Journalism Network. This initiative is supported by Internews' Earth Journalism Network.



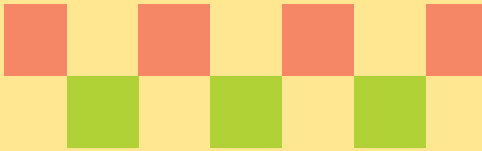
Exposure trip for Journalism Students to Manas National park

As a part of the 3 Day long training cum field visit on "Understanding Biodiversity and Environmental Issues for Better Reportage" organised by Media Production & Communications Division of Aaranyak in support with Internews' Earth Journalism Network, a field trip was conducted to Manas National Park on 18th June, 2019.

A total number of 11 students from Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies, Cotton University were selected to visit the national park. Dr. Bibhuti P Lahkar, Manas Landscape Coordinator and Programme Secretary of Aaranyak delivered a brief orientation on "Manas National Park and related issues" before entering into the park. Dr. Lahkar also delivered another presentation on "Ongoing research and conservation activities of Aaranyak in and around Manas National Park". Another session titled "Wildlife documentary film screening and interaction on Conservation Photography and film making" was conducted by Mr. Udayan Borthakur and a film "Legends of Hoolongapar" was screened at the end of the session. On 19th June, the day was started with nature walk and bird watching session in nearby areas of Smiling Tusker Elephant Camp. An exposure visit to fringe areas of Manas and understanding community conservation efforts was carried out under the guidance of Mr. Bipul Das of Aaranyak.

During the visit to fringe villages of Manas, Mr. Ramesh Bhusal, environmental journalist and South Asia Content Coordinator for Internews' Earth Journalism Network along with Mr. Muktikaam Hazarika and Pragjyotish Bhuyan, Assistant Professors of Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies, Cotton University, Guwahati guided the students on hands on reporting on different issues related to environment. Ms. Munmita Boruah and Mr Kukil Gogoi of Aaranyak also coordinated various aspects of organizing the event.





Exposure Trip for Students from Manas National Park Fringes

In an endeavour to promote environmental knowledge and conservation consciousness among the school students from the fringe areas of Manas National Park, Aaranyak started a series of field exposure visits from the month of June 2019. The programme at its inaugural phase will cover 10 schools from the areas falling under Panbari, Bhuyanpara and Bansbari ranges of the natural heritage site. As a part of the exposure programme, 15 students and one teacher from each of the 10 schools took part for gathering firsthand knowledge about the park and its biodiversity apart from discussion on its importance, global significance and ecological role. It was started with the students of Daudhara High School, Baksa on 8th June 2019.

As a part of the initiative, the students were taught on various aspects of environmental conservation. As bird hunting is a common practice among the teenagers and students of that locality, the programme covered few of the students involved in such activities and thus that helped them in changing their behavioural pattern from bird hunting to bird watching. The students from each of the school started a nature lover club in their respective schools and now conducting various to increase environment awareness and education within their school. The exposure visit, is will end in the month of July also aims at creating a cadre of new generation conservationist in that landscape, so that the park and its ecosystem can be protected and conserved for the future generation.

The programme has been taken up by Aaranyak in Manas Landscape with support from Stop Poaching Now (SPN), an US based charity organisation dedicated to the cause of wildlife conservation. Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP) led by Aaranyak in the Manas Landscape in association with Forest Department BTC, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Panthera and Awely has also supported the student exposure programme.



Annual research Seminar 2019 of Aaranyak

Aaranyak's Internal Research Seminar, 2019, was held on 14th June 2019 at Grand Bhabendra Alay, Guwahati where scientific research and conservation action based work carried out as part of Aaranyak projects were presented and reviewed. Total of 11 oral presentations were delivered during the seminar by Researchers as well as Scientists of the organization. In addition, 8 Poster presentations were also being made. Few moments from the event.



Field Gear Distribution Programme at Jakhlabandha

In order to support and motivate the Village Defence Parties who work for the conservation of biodiversity of Kaziranga National Park, Aaranyak organized a field gear distribution programme in Jakhlabandha Thana Campus on 16th May 2019, as a part of its continuous effort to support, encourage and motivate this group of people. As a part of this programme, several important equipments such as Boots, Raincoats, Torch lights were distributed among the Village Defence Party (VDP) of Sikoni Khelmati and Bamuni under Jakhlabandha Thana.

The program was attended by Mr. Mriganka Das, SDPO Kaliabor, Mr. Nipu Kalita , OC, Jakhlabandha Thana, Mr. Mridul Nath, SI, Jakhlabandha Thana and Mr. Sanjib Kumar Bezbaruah, Member Aaranyak.

Aaranyak Annual Staff Meet 2019

The Annual Staff Meet of Aaranyak was organized during 4th to 6th April 2019 at Smiling Tusker Elephant Camp of Bansbari Range, Manas National Park. President of Aaranyak Mr. Ranjan Bhuyan unfurls the Aaranyak's Flag as a part of inaugural session while Dr. Partha J Das, Organising Secretary of Aaranyak delivered the welcome address, followed by self-introduction session of Aaranyak's staff. A session on sharing of field experiences amongst field workers including supporting staff of Aaranyak provided opportunity to learn from experiences in this matter. In this 3 daylong residential programme, mind refreshing yoga sessions were led by Mr. Trijit Dash from Art of Living International Centre, Bangalore.

Various recreational activities such as sports, cultural events and fun quiz competition were performed by Aaranyak staff as a part of the Annual Meet. A brainstorming session on burning issues was conducted for reducing human elephant-conflict through innovative ideas and actions among the staff.

A personality and life skill development session was conducted by Mr. Bikash Kalita from Life Skills Training Institute, Guwahati also. In the evening, the first documentary film of Media Production & Communications Division of Aaranyak named 'Legend of Hollongapar' directed by Udayan Borthakur was screened.

Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, CEO & Secretary General of Aaranyak delivered a presentation on 'The Journey of Aaranyak: Past, Present and Future' through a participatory discussion and also demonstrated some key notes for organizational development with group exercises. On the final day, a field trip was conducted to Mathanguri for developing observation skills in the wild.



April - June, 2019

Aaranyak at '7th Baukhungri Festival celebration'

Aaranyak took part in the '7th Baukhungri Festival celebration' organized at Harinaguri, Kokrajhar from 12th to 14th April, 2019. In the event Aaranyak set up an exhibition stall to exhibit and discuss various social interventions of Aaranyak through scientific research and conservation in the field of biodiversity and also to convey awareness message regarding nature conservation to the people. Various students and teachers from nearby schools and colleges, interested people of the locality joined in the exhibition stall as visitor. A fruitful exchange of ideas was recorded during the time. Different scientific interventions were introduced to their traditional and ritual scope of nature conservation. Some brief programme like 'knowledge through play', 'spot quiz' etc also arranged in the stall for students visitors.

Aaranyak also screened an in-house documentary namely 'Manas and People' to encourage the local people for nature conservation and run their livelihood without destroying the ecosystem. It is worth to mention that 'Manas and People' is a thought-provoking and touching coverage of different cycles of human intervention in the area of Manas National Park. After screening the documentary, Aaranyak personnel arranged an brief interaction session where alongwith different Officials of Tourism Deptt., Forest Deptt., Education Deptt., Addl. Principal Secretary, under BTC Government, a group of community people were present.

Mr. Kuldeep Das, Project Coordinator, Mr. Pranab Goswami, Organizing Officer and Mr. Datsung Basumatary, Project Officer represented Aaranyak in the event.



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Aaranyak invites articles and photo stories on biodiversity and environmental aspects for publication in its biannual newsletter BIOLINK. Please write to The Editor, BIOLINK at pr@aaranyak.org and pr.aaranyak@gmail.com. For general queries on Aaranyak and its activities, please write to info@aaranyak.org.

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