

Natur**o**role



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Thirty years of unrelenting engagement in applied research and sustained efforts to nourish nature to secure our future have made us realise how much important it is to disseminate credible information related to environment, biodiversity and climate change among the stakeholders to achieve our common goal, a greener and cleaner environment.

So, we have come up with our first quarterly Newsletter – **Natur**o**role** from this year. The newsletter shall flag the activities Aaranyak is involved with and some key information related to environment, biodiversity and climate change issues.

This newsletter is being designed by our Media Production and Communications Division. We do hope that the newsletter will reach a wider readership that can contribute to create a pool of skilled researchers and conservationists from Eastern Himalayas to shoulder responsibilities in future to nourish nature to secure our common future.



Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Ph.D.
Secretary General & CEO
Aaranyak

Aaranyak Wildlife Documentary “Legends of Hollongapar” receives international accolades!

Legends of Hollongapar, first wildlife documentary from Media Production & Communications Division of Aaranyak and a joint production of Assam State Biodiversity Board and Aaranyak has received official acceptances in international film festivals such as Wildlife Conservation Film Festival 2019, New York, NY, 2nd South Asian Short Film Festival 2019, Kolkata and International Nature Film Festival Gödöllő 2019, Budapest, Hungary. This documentary presents the biodiversity significance and associated conservation issues of Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, a small protected area of 2098 hectare situated in the state of Assam in the northeastern part of India. The film was directed and edited by Udayan Borthakur, script written by Udayan Borthakur, Munmita Boruah and Mitrajit Deb, director of photography Udayan Borthakur with additional camera support from Samrat Sengupta, Dibyajyoti Borah, Kukil Gogoi, Preetam Kalita and Bidyot Bikas Saikia with voice over by Reeky Sharma.



Update on Activities

Inception Meeting for Aaranyak's New Project at Panbari, Chirang

An inception meeting cum public consultation event was organised by Aaranyak on 7th of March, 2019 at 876 No. Bari Chourang L. P. School with the selected beneficiaries of 1, 2 and 4 No. Chourang villages as a part of its new initiative on integrated natural farming for the communities in the locality. The event, which marks the formal beginning of the activities under the project 'Biodiversity conservation and livelihood security through homestead agroforestry and village forest development: an action research in Panbari area of Chirang district, Assam' was attended by Mr. Shyamal Kr Dey, DDM, NABARD, Barpeta and Chirang District, Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, Manas Landscape Administrator and Mr. Jayanta Kr. Sarma, Development Professional and Livelihood Consultant of the project along with field staffs of Aaranyak from the Manas Landscape. During the consultation, various objectives and working strategies of the project has been discussed in detail with the beneficiaries along with activities to be undertaken. It may be mentioned that, the project has been initiated by Aaranyak with support from NABARD and will aim at ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the fringe area communities of Panbari range, Manas National Park through integrated homestead agroforestry and village forests along with conservation of biodiversity in the area.



4th Annual Global event of Women in Nature Network (WiNN)

Aaranyak and Women in Nature Network (WiNN) in collaboration with Kamrup Police, Assam Forest Department and Kamrup District Administration successfully hosted the 4th annual global event of Women in Nature Network (WiNN) at Guwahati from 28th to 31st January, 2019. Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) have provided generous support in organizing the landmark event.

The event was spectacular with significant representation of People from various places of globe like Guyana, Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, USA and neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Vietnam. The rural women conservationists known as 'Hargila Army' from Kamrup district, who brought to the forefront by Aaranyak's Greater Adjutant Conservation project, caught special attraction during the event.

The objective of the event was to link women working on the management of natural resources at a global level, to support women who are just starting to enter the environmental field, and to create a global learning community that will create enabling conditions for the future generation of environmental leaders.

The event was started with a splendid inaugural session graced by special guest and dignitaries like Prof. Jagadish Mukhi, Hon'ble Government of Assam, Mr. Partha Sarothi Mahanta, S.P of Kamrup District, A.M Singh, PCCF and Head of Forests Forces of Assam, Mrs. Ranjana Gupta, Special PCCF (Wetland), Assam, Mr. Ranjan Bhuyan, President of Aaranyak, Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, CEO of Aaranyak etc.

Different activities like conservation round table, keynote presentation, workshop, Panel discussion, conservation symposium, rapid fire presentation, rally, field trip which covers extensive sharing of experiences and lessons learned from women-led conservation projects in India and around the world, enthralled the newly joined nature conservationist to continue the journey with vigour and perception. The programme was a grand success which successfully could able to create a link among the women conservationist in the globe also built platform for them to work together to achieve the global cause of environmental conservation.



Celebration of International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated by Team Aaranyak at the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape with the tribal women of the Karbi community. On the aide of this day, an event was organised at the Chandrasing Rongpi Memorial School, Kohora, Karbi Anglong district, where as many as 19 women from three different villages took part.

The event flagged off with an introduction to the women about the day, its importance, its history and objectives. Thereafter, this year's UN theme - Think equal, build smart, innovate for change - was explained to them in the context of gender equality to foster personal growth and economic self reliance. An inspirational speech on how women are the cartwheels of life of every individual was given to boost their self esteem and self importance. The women were then shown videos and presentations on possible entrepreneurship opportunities and innovative ideas to generate income.



24th Week long training course on "Application of Remote Sensing, GIS & GPS in various fields"

Geospatial Technology and Application Division (GTAD) of Aaranyak had organized 24th short course on Remote Sensing, GIS & GPS in various fields during 6th to 11th January 2019. Altogether ten participants from various institutes such as Rain Forest Research Institute Jorhat, Forest department officials from Karbianglong district, Balipara Foundation and University students attended the training course. Dr. Kasturi Chakraborty Scientist – E from North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, Shillong under department of Space, Government of India was the Chief Guest during inaugural session. GTAD imparted theory classes on basics of Remote Sensing and GIS and practical exercises on using ERDAS, Arc GIS, Google Earth software's and field trip to Assam State Zoo for hands on training on GPS and data collection.



Wildlife Photography Workshop at Pobitora

On 6th January 2019, Media Production & Communications Division of Aaranyak organised a day long advanced wildlife photography workshop at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. The workshop was mentored by Wildlife Photographers Udayan Borthakur and Ashok Kumar Das. Udayan Borthakur is the Publicity Secretary of Aaranyak who Heads Media Production & Communication Division as well as Wildlife Genetics Division of the organisation. Ashok Kumar Das, an

officer of the Assam Forest Department has previously served as the Range Officer of Pobitora for 6 years. Total of 14 participants took part in the workshop, where discussions on several techniques of photography and importance of understanding wildlife behaviour was discussed. The venue for the discussion sessions of the workshop was Maibong Eco Resort adjacent to Pobitora. The participants were also guided by the mentors in the field during safari inside the wildlife sanctuary.



Aaranyak Organized Members' Meet at Guwahati

A Members' Meet was organized by Aaranyak on January 22, 2019 at 2.00 PM at the Aaranyak Research Office at Guwahati. About 40 General and Life Members of the organization attended the meeting which was inaugurated by Mr Ranjan Bhuyan, President of Aaranyak, Sri Pranab Goswami, Organising Officer of Aaranyak informed the audience about the present status of various categories of membership of the organisation.

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das, Organising Secretary of Aaranyak welcomed the members and narrated the background of the meeting saying that the meeting was being convened with the objectives (i) to have an intimate interaction with the members about various topical environmental issues that Aaranyak is addressing at present and how members can associate themselves with the same and contribute to the mission and vision of the organisation, (ii) seek suggestions from the members about the 'Youth for Environment Network' and related programs that Aaranyak is planning to launch soon and (iii) discuss how to promote Aaranyak among the students of the educational institutions of Guwahati with a properly designed outreach programs.

Dr. Das expected that members would play an important role in the future activities of the organisation being planned to promote and popularize Aaranyak and its work among masses in general and the youth in particular.

Dr. Bibhab K. Talukdar, Secretary General of Aaranyak, apprised the members about the recent activities and achievements of the organisation in the field of nature conservation and environment protection.

The members participated enthusiastically and observed that such interactions should be organised frequently in enhance involvement of the members with various activities of the organisation. Members offered a number of important suggestions for organizational development such as enhancing membership, involvement of youth and senior citizens in conservation efforts, providing an institutional structure to Aaranyak to carry out its research agenda and facilitating networking among the members.

Aaranyak will soon launch a series of participatory action program to create opportunities for members to contribute to its mission, vision, research activities, and environmental educational campaign.

Dr. Dilip Chetry, Vice President and Dr. Bibhuti P Lahkar, Programme Secretary of Aaranyak also spoke on the occasion.



Successful Completion of 'Journey for Learning' programme

In an effort to promote community based eco-cultural tourism, Aaranyak successfully completed its first ever 'Journey for Learning' programme from 17th December, 2018 to 1st January, 2019. 'Journey for Learning' (J4L) is a recent initiative of Aaranyak to provide learning experiences to interested persons irrespective of their age, profession or background and has been designed in coherence with the principles of community-driven ecological learning.



A total of 38 students from PGDFM course, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal participated in J4L and stayed in the fringe villages under Bhuyanpara Range of Manas National Park(MNP) and Kohora river basin of Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape (KKL) and interacted with the respective ethnic communities. The students also learnt about different aspects of natural resource management, grassland and river ecology, community based biodiversity conservation, conservation livelihood, human-wildlife conflict, traditional agriculture, rural eco-tourism as well as field research methodologies in wildlife sciences. They also visited Kaziranga, Manas and Nameri NP and Pigmy Hog Conservation Centre of Aaranyak to gather first-hand knowledge of forest management operations. The programme also contributed towards initiation of home-stays under Bhuyanpara Range of MNP and villages located in Kohora river basin area of KKL.

Experts from KNP and MNP Authority, Dept. of Forest, GoA, NEIST and RFRI, Jorhat, WWF, WTI, Corbett Foundation, TISS-Guwahati and entrepreneurs of BVAPU and Jasingfa Aquaresort, Nagaon acted trained the students along with in-house experts of Aaranyak.

Apart from exposure of the students to the lives of the fringe communities in Manas and Kaziranga landscape, J4L also allowed the community members to generate income from their home-stays along with first-hand training on hospitality services. The programme also facilitated knowledge sharing by Aaranyak to a larger audience through this group of young students.

12th Nature Orientation Initiative 2019

The 12th “Nature Orientation Initiative 2019” was organized in campus of Bagori Range Office of Kaziranga National Park from 14th March to 17th March 2019. A total number of 42 participants from fringe villages of different ranges such as Agaratoli, Kohora, Bagori, Burapahar, Bokakhat Beat and Biswanath division under Kaziranga National Park participated in the three days residential program organized by Kaziranga National Park Authority, Aaranyak, WWF-India, WTI, Bhumi and TCF.

On 14th , March the camp was inaugurated by Mr. Akashdeep Baruah, Field Director, KNP, in the presence of Mr. Rohini Ballav Saikia, DFO, KNP, Mr. Mukut Das, DFO, Biwswanath Wildlife Division, Dr. Bibhab K. Talukdar, CEO & Secretary General of Aaranyak, Dr. Rathin Barman, Joint Director, WTI, Mr. Kaushik Baruah, Honoraray Wildlife Warden-Guwahati, Mr. Khageshwar Dekaraja, DCF-Kaziranga, Mr. K.K. Deuri, ACF-Kaziranga, Mr. Swapan Nath, Sr. Journalist, Kaziranga, Mr. Ritupawan Bora, Range Officer-Kohora, Mr. Dhoronidhor Bora, Range Officer - Agaratoli and Mr. Pankaj Bora, Range Officer- Bagori.

During the camp various activities were held among the students such as Nature Trail, Jeep safari to the National Park, Bird watching, Environment Education Game and audio visual classes and interactions etc. Many experts from different fields and experts from organisers (KNP

authority & NGO’s) interacted with the kids and gave their effort to motivate the kids towards wildlife conservation.

It is significant that Nature Orientation Initiative is a yearly event and a platform for younger generation to motivate them towards conservation. This platform gives an opportunity to the kids to know about the basics of Nature conservation as well as our heritage Kaziranga so that in the coming days they can support, involve and can be role model as a conservationist in their local areas.



Photo Credit: Subhamoy Bhattacharjee

Bike Rally for Conservation of Golden langur & Manas Tiger Reserve

A bike rally was organized by United Bikers Club Assam (UBCA) in association with Aaranyak on 13th January 2019 from Bijni toll gate of Chirang district to Abhayapuri town of Bongaigaon district. The rally was specially conducted for the first year anniversary of UBCA and to make a public awareness among bikers and public on the road to save Golden langur of the region and also to save Manas Tiger Reserve.

About 100 youth bikers from the districts of Nogaon, Kamrup, Baksa, Chirang, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Dhubri has taken part in the rally. The coordinator of Aaranyak

West Zone Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das has flagged off the rally, he was assisted by Ankur Barman, Assistant Coordinator, other members- Manas Jyoti Ray, Mrinmoy Adhikary, Basanta Kr Das, Bhaskar Das, Ratnaprabhakar Rabha, Hiranya Ray, and Dharam Ranjan Roy. On the occasion, an open meeting was organized where Dr. Das has delivered a brief lecture among the bikers to save the current habitats of critically endangered Golden langur and Manas Tiger Reserve. He advised the bikers to follow all necessary rules & regulations of road and safety during the time of riding.



Aaranyak Winter Nature Camp 2019

A three days long nature camp was organized by the Western Zone of Aaranyak at Thakuranipara village of Kakoijana near Kakoijana Reserve Forest from 5th to 7th February 2019. The theme of the camp was "Save Forest to Save Golden langur in Kakoijana". A group of Aaranyak members and 20 selected students from schools of Kakoijana area participated in the camp. Special sessions by resource persons on "Habit & Habitat of Golden langur and its Conservation", "Environment study with joy", "How to study wildlife in Natural Environment", "Components of Ecosystem and its conservation", "GIS and its application" and other regular programmes like bird watching, Know Golden Langur and its habitat, trekking etc were the special attractions during the camp.

Mrs. Anindita Chakrabarty, Aast. Professor of Zoology department, Bijni College, Mr. Mithun Barman, Aast. Professors, Dept. of Geography, Abhayapuri College, Mr. Trikendra Nath Sarma, Senior Subject teacher in Biology of Birjhora HS School Bongaigaon, Mr. Dhanjit Ray, member of Aaranyak & subject teacher in Biology of L B Academy Abhayapuri, Mr. Hormohan Rabha, Member of Aaranyak and tourist guide and Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das from Aaranyak were the resource persons in the camp. Mr. A. S. Ahmed, DFO and Mr. A. Rahman, Range Officer, Env. & Forest Dept., Bongaigaon also attended the event.

The Inaugural and closing ceremony of the camp were became fruitful with various thought-provoking discussion on the theme of the camp in presence of distinguished guests like Dr. Ranu Ray, former executive member of Aaranyak and Associate Professor of Birjhora Mohavidyalaya, Bongaigaon, Mrs. Padumi Singha, Aast. Professor, Dept. of English Bongaigaon College, Mrs. Anindita Chakrabarty, Aast. Professor of Zoology Department of Bijni College, Sri Mahen Barman, senior citizen of Kakoijana, Mr. Chanakya Brahma, Aast. Professor, Dept. of Travel & Tourism, Abhayapuri College, Mr. Dharmendra Das & Mr. Mithun Barman, Aast. Professors, Dept. of Geography, Abhayapuri College, a group of young lady professors from Birjhora Mohavidyalaya, different villagers from Kakoijana Village, local NGO workers and Forest Dept. personnel from Kakoijana RF beat office. From Aaranyak Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das, Mr. Ankur Barman, Mr. Pranab Goswami and a group of General Members of Aaranyak were present.



Aaranyak in "Assam Science Festival 2019"

Aaranyak took part in "Assam Science Festival 2019" organized by Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (DST, Government of Assam) in collaboration with Tezpur University from 23rd March to 25th March 2019 at Tezpur University. With the objective to convey scientific thinking and approaches for conservation of our biodiversity to students as well as other people, Aaranyak set up an exhibition stall at the event and various social interventions of Aaranyak through scientific research and conservation in the field of biodiversity were presented there. Aaranyak team also conducted open quiz competition among different school students and some books published by Aaranyak were distributed as prizes.



Mr. Udayan Borthakur, Publicity Secretary of Aaranyak and Head, Wildlife Genetics Division and Media Production and Communications Division of Aaranyak delivered a talk on "Wildlife Photography" and interacted with the participants about his experiences in this field. Aaranyak team present during the event were- Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, Mr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Pranab Goswami, Kuldeep Das, Munmita Boruah and Detsung Basumatary.

Third NE Water Lecture

The 'Third Northeast Water Lecture' was delivered by Prof. Nimmi Kurian of Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi on 'Flows and Flaws: Diverting the Debate on Brahmaputra' at the Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), Guwahati, Assam March 3, 2019. The lecture was jointly organised by Aaranyak, Guwahati and Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India (Forum to be brief).

This was the third occasion that this lecture was held in Assam. Aaranyak and the Forum instituted this lecture series back in 2010. The first NE Water Lecture was delivered in 2010 by the late Ramaswami Iyer, an eminent water scholar of India. Prof. Amita Baviskar, a well-known social scientist of the country was the speaker of the second lecture in the year 2013.

In her insightful and precisely orated lecture, Prof Kurian delved in to the dynamics of relationship between India and China contextualized in the cooperation and conflicts over the Brahmaputra. She emphasized that water quality of the

Environmental Justice Workshop at IIBM, Guwahati, 02-04 March 2019

A three days long workshop on “Environmental Justice, Ecological Economics and Water Infrastructure in the Northeast India: Hydropower and Waterways” has started today at IIBM, Khanapara. The workshop aims to bring different views of stakeholders and practitioners on Environmental justice, Ecological Economies and Water Infrastructure from entire country in the special context of NE India. The workshop also wants to create a space for discussion between academicians, activists and other practitioners so that a constructive framework can develop for bringing justice to vulnerable communities and to build a sustainable model of Environmental Justice. The workshop has been organised jointly by Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflict, Coventry University, UK, Aaranyak, Guwahati, Water Resource Management Group of Wageningen University, Netherlands, Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, Pune, C-PAC of Shiv Nadar University, UP, IIT Guwahati and Dept of Peace and Conflict Studies and

Management, Sikkim University, Gangtok, Sikkim.

Partha J Das welcomed the participants by saying that interaction among activists, researchers and academicians always is important for the society to improve understanding and effective interventions for ensuring an environmentally just governance system. KJ Joy explained the background and incentive working behind organising the workshop. The participants flagged a number of issues related o water, rivers, in het context of environment management and development paradigm.

In the first thematic session Dr. Vimal Khawash of Sikkim University led the discussion on hydropower and related issues with Mr. KK Chatradhara from Assam as the co-speaker. In the second session Professor Nimmi Kurian of Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi spoke on ‘Northeast, borderland and environmental justice’.



Brahmaputra, cumulative impact of Chinese dams on the Brahmaputra and the possibility of dam induced earthquakes in China (which could have implications in the Indian downstream) should be considered by India as the three main transboundary concerns for proactive collaborative engagement with China.

The Lecture was followed up by a panel discussion on ‘Brahmaputra and the China Factor: How it affects water governance in South Asia? Prof. Chandan Kumar Sarma of Tezpur University and Sri Samudragupta Kashyap, a senior journalist of the state spoke as panelists on various factors that affect water cooperation and conflict between the two countries.



Awareness Campaign in Brahmaputra Island 2018

The awareness campaign in Islands (Chaporis) of river Brahmaputra by Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park authority was organized from 25th December to 29th December, 2018 in the Chaporis of river Brahmaputra in the eastern part of KNP. The four day island program included major activities like schools programs, community programs and discussions.

Prime motive of the program was to introduce the conservation issues and to make the people aware about the need of conservation. The program targeted all the age groups so that the message of protecting wild and wilderness is distributed in different levels. Awareness campaign was carried out by various mediums like documentary shows, audio visual talk, wildlife quizzes and interactions. The islands covered were Sadhu chapori, Missamora chapori, 1 no. Kumolia chapori and 2 no. Kumolia chapori and participation number was good with 150, 250, 350 and 300 in the respective Islands.

The members of the team involved were Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Kaziranga, Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project Officer, Aaranyak, Biman Doley, Volunteer, Trinath Nahok, Volunteer, Akibur Hussain, Volunteer and the Staff of KNP Mr. Santiram Bori, Ashok Kurmi and Dilip Doley.

Island Awareness Program Phase – II

The second phase of Island Awareness campaign was organized on 9th and 10th January 2019 in some important islands, under Golaghat division. The activities carried out during the awareness programme were - wildlife documentary shows, interaction on wildlife conservation and some interesting audio-visual wildlife quiz session for students to motivate them towards nature conservation for better future.

The first day program was held at Bokuli LP School, Gokhai chapori with presence of 300 participants while second day and third day programme was held at Nabajyoti LP School, Tikirai chapori and Nakkati Bohikhuwa LP School, Nakkati chapori with presence of 250 and 400 participants respectively.

The program was organized by Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park Authority with the support of Golaghat Forest Division where Mr. Pushpadhar Buragohain, Range Officer, Golaghat was also present during the programme. The team was led by Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Golaghat, Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project officer & Co-ordinator, Central Assam Zone, Aaranyak, Bhaskar Hazarika and Akibur Hussain, Volunteer, Rowel Ingti, Aaranyak and Mr Prasanta Morang and Babukanta Daw, Member of Bonkual EDC.



Island Awareness Program Phase – III

Aaranyak and Kaziranga National Park Authority organized the third phase of Island Awareness campaign from 28th January to 30th January 2019. During this phase, some major islands were covered along with some important schools and the main target group was students and parents. Different activities such as -wildlife documentary shows, Power point presentation, interaction on wildlife conservation and some interesting audio-visual wildlife quiz competitions were carried out to motivate them towards conservation of nature.

The first day program was conducted at Pandit Krishnakanta Handique LP School, Dani chapori, Dergaon with 150 participants, second day at Kacharipam

LP school, Dani chapori with 100 participants, third day programme at Brahmaputra Janajati LP & ME school, Natun chapori with 150 participants, fourth day program at Bokura LP & ME School, Bokura with 200 participants, fifth day program at Nabajyoti High School, Rowmora, Majuli with 450 participants and sixth day program at Janki-Panoi Janajati ME School, Neulgaon whether 250 people were present.

The team members were -Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Golaghat, Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project officer & Co-ordinator, Central Assam Zone, Aaranyak, Nirranjan Pegu and Akibur Hussain, Volunteer and Rowel Ingti, Aaranyak.

Celebration of "National Science Day 2019" at Kaziranga

Aaranyak celebrated the National Science Day with a group of the underprivileged indigenous Karbi kids on the fringe of Kaziranga World Heritage Site, Assam on 28 February 2019 which is celebrated to mark the discovery of Raman effect by Indian Scientist Dr. C V Raman.

The Aaranyak team celebrated it at 'The Village School' in the Hemai Lekthe village at Kohora in Karbi Anglong district on 28th February, 2019. Around 15 students from a close cluster of four villages were present at the event who took part in the fun learning activities conducted by the team. The activities included drawing/coloring different nature related objects, doing paper craft and leaf paintings for a duration of 2 hours where students were introduced to concept of geometry and extraction of dye from fallen flowers in a play way methods. The teachers of the school also participated in the event. The Village school is run by Mr. Johnson Engleng and his family from the same village to provide basic education to the underprivileged students of the villages. Dr. Jayanta Sharma, a renowned science communicator of Assam along with Dr. Kalloli Dutta, Sarlongjon Teron, Rowel Engti and Rituparna Bhattacharya of Aaranyak were present in the unique event.

Aaranyak is working with the communities and their kids in the surrounding villages of Kaziranga including few villages in nearby Karbi Anglong to promote community participation in conservation of Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape. Aaranyak promotes participatory natural resource management as means to self employment, livelihood security and nature protection to achieve Sustainable Development Goals at local level in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape.

National Science Day 2019 at Barpeta

Promoting scientific temperament has always been a priority of Aaranyak and with this objective Aaranyak has collaborated in 'Gyan Mela', a programme to celebrate the National Science day organised by SSA, Barpeta and Tapa High School at Tapa High School field, Bhawanipur, Barpeta on 28th February, 2019. The one day event, designed with various engaging programmes, was successful with active participation of teachers and students from different schools of Barpeta District, officials under SSA, Barpeta, local villagers and representatives of Aaranyak.

In the event, Mr. Jayanta Kr. Pathak from Aaranyak acted as trainer in an outstanding 'Orientation Workshop on Science Training' in presence of Mr. Pranab Jyoti Kalita, D.P.O., Teacher's Training, Barpeta, where a large numbers of teacher participated in hands on training cum strategical guidance to deal with student while teaching science. The participant teachers wanted such fruitful workshop in future. Mr. Jayanta Kr Pathak and Mr. Pranab Goswami from Aaranyak also ran an exciting open quiz show in the venue among interested gatherings. In this programme various educational materials were distributed among participating schools by Aaranyak.

On the same day, representing Aaranyak, Mr. Jayanta Kr. Pathak and Pranab Goswami also took part in a National Science Day celebration programme organized by 645 No. Dangorpar L.P School, Bhabanipur, Barpeta, at their school premises.



International Applied Environmental Education Course

A three-week long international course on applied environmental education, organised by North East's leading nature conservation and research organisation 'Aaranyak' in association with Environment Education and Conservation Global (EECG) and Satpuda Foundation (India) has been started from 28 January, 2019 at Guwahati. The inaugural event of the course, held in Indian Institute of Bank Management was attended by Aaranyak's Secretary General and CEO Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Dr. Bibhuti P. Lahkar, Manas Landscape Administrator and Head of ERCD, Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Environment and Development Professional, Dr. Firoz Ahmed, Head of TRCD and HRCD (Aaranyak) and Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, EECB Division. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar stressed on the importance of education in nature conservation. He also briefly highlighted on the genesis of Aaranyak from a nature club to become one of the premier nature conservation organisation of the region. Mr. Edward J Mccrea, President of EECG and Chief Course Instructor also shared his experiences over the years as an instructor of the course.

The course, considered one of the most important for environmental educators and conservationists aims at demonstrating how environmental social marketing techniques can be integrated with overall education and communication strategies to produce effective

and practical tools for solving environmental and conservation problems. A total of 20 participants including conservation workers, forest officials and environment educators belonging to Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and various states of India are participating in the course. The course which is being held under the leadership of international environmental education expert Edward J Mccrea and Augusto Medina will also have practical and field sessions at Manas and Kaziranga National Park. The course, which has been organised for the first time in North East India is expected to ensure enhanced learning and deeper understanding of various environmental issues and use of suitable communication-education tools among the participants and will conclude on 17th of February.

The programme is a joint effort of Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) of Aaranyak in association with the Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP). EECBD is the oldest division of Aaranyak which has been working to promote eco-literacy in north east India since the inception of Aaranyak. It may also be mentioned that MTCP is a programme led by Aaranyak and being implemented in partnership with the Forest Department BTC, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Panthera and Awely, and is actively working towards improvement of protection, conservation and community wellbeing in Manas National Park and its fringe areas.



IAEEC is under way successfully

Aaranyak in association with Environment Education and Conservation Global (EECG) and Satpuda Foundation (India) organizes a three-week long international course on applied environmental education is under way which started on 28th January, 2019 followed by a glittering inaugural session. This course, which covers two field sessions at Manas and Kaziranga National Park will end on 17th February, 2019.

A group of 20 participants from Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and various states of India are participating in the course which aims to demonstrate technique and procedure to integrate environmental social marketing strategies with overall education and communication method for developing effective and practical measures to address current environmental and conservation problems.

The whole course is run by the renowned international environmental education expert Mr Edward J McCrea, President of EECG and Mr. Augusto Medina along with some other inhouse expertise of Aaranyak like Dr. Firoz Ahmed, Head of TRCD and HRCD (Aaranyak) , Mr. Jayanta Kumar Pathak, Manager, EECB Division. Aaranyak etc.

Apart from various introspective sessions by the instructors overall education and communication methods, some thought provoking subjects and issues like History and Philosophy of Environment Education in Indian context , Unconscious biasness : should it be considered while implementing Environment Education activities , Traditional knowledge system , Bioculturalism and sustainable way of life: some example from Eastern Himalaya were analysed in these days by Guest resource persons like A.K Johari, PCCF, E&F Dept. Govt. of Assam, Dr. Simanta Kalita, Prog. Director, CEE, NE, Dr Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Environment and Development Professional.

During these days, participants are guided to prepare some individual and group works on various subjects like individual campaign proposal , open university, showcase of activities, Group communication media / IEC materials preparation, Designing EE programme/ campaign, Environmental issues: Global and Local etc. Sessions like Poster Presentation Session and Showcase of your activity help the participants to implement their day to day learning and opens for healthy interactions on various issues.



Successful Completion of "IAEEC 2019"

The three-week long "International Course on Applied Environmental Education", organised by North East's leading nature conservation and research organisation 'Aaranyak' in association with Environment Education and Conservation Global (EECG), USA and Satpuda Foundation (India) has come to an end on 17 February, 2019 with a brief graduation ceremony held in Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwahati. The graduation ceremony was attended by Dr. L.R. Bishnoy, IPS, Additional DGP of Assam Police, A.K.Johari, PCCF and Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board; Dr. Sugoto Roy, Coordinator, ITHCP, IUCN, Edward J McCrea, President, EECG and Course Instructor, Dr. Augusto Medina, Former President of National American Association of Environmental Education along with Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Secretary & CEO, Aaranyak. The course which started on 28 January, 2019 was participated by 20 participants from India, Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia belonging to various field of environmental conservation. As a part of the course, the participants also visited Manas and Kaziranga National Park of Assam and interacted with the communities of the fringe areas of the parks to identify issues related to environment and conservation. 'For a budding conservationist like me, IAEEC 2019 was really helpful in putting my thoughts and ideas in to perspective and come up with more ideas for future.' – opined Vandana Pandey from wildlife Trust of India, who has joined the course from Delhi. Sharing the same opinion, Saw Jaw Win Htoo from Karen Forest Department, Myanmar expressed that this course was an awesome experience for him and he learnt many things which he can apply in his professional field of work while working with communities and school children. The course emphasized on methods and process of developing environmental education packages for eco-educators and conservationists working in various fields. As a part of the field work, the participants also developed various media for communicating with the local communities. Expressing her satisfaction over the field exercises, Binita Pandey from Resources Himalaya Foundation, Nepal stated that – 'Exposure to field works in Manas National Park and Kaziranga National Park helped me to know the view of the communities on environmental issues'. Further they have also visited Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden for field work and interacted with staffs and officials of the zoo. The participants also got the opportunity to interact with many eminent guest instructors like writer Dr. Dinesh Ch. Goswami, Mr. Prabal Kumar Das, A.K. Johari, Mr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Mr. Prashant Mahajan and Kishor Rithe, Dr.Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, Dr Firoz Ahmed and Jayanta Kumar Pathak during the course. As a part of the course work, three of the participants, viz. Kirti Chavan from Snow Leopard Conservancy, Ladakh, Savita Dahiya from Rajasthan Forest Department and Manoshi Goswami from Aaranyak, Assam also won a project proposal grant worth INR 35000 each. The course was organised for the first time in North East India under the joint effort of Environment Education and Capacity Building Division (EECBD) and Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP) of Aaranyak. EECBD is the oldest division of organisation which has been working to promote eco-literacy in north east India since the inception of Aaranyak. It may also be mentioned that MTCP is a programme led by Aaranyak and being implemented in partnership with the Forest Department BTC, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Panthera and Awely, and is actively working towards improvement of protection, conservation and community wellbeing in Manas National Park and its fringe areas.

Celebration of World Wetland Day 2019 at Bokakhat

Aaranyak, Kaziranga National Park Authority and WWF India jointly celebrated the World Wetland Day 2019 at Diffolo Pathar High School, Bokakhat. A day long program was organized with different activities such as talks, short documentary show, presentation and open quiz competition on wildlife. Mr. Vivek Shyam, SDO civil Bokakhat, Dr. Kalyan Das, SDPO Bokakhat, Mr. Bhabananda Kalita, President, Bokakhat Press Club graced the program and motivated the people towards wetland conservation for the future.

Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Golaghat, induced the thought of wildlife conservation among the students and made the program interesting through open quiz competition. The program was winded up with a presentation on wetlands by Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project officer, Aaranyak. A total of 250 participants including teachers and students took active part in that event.

Mr. Dipak Thapa, Head master of the school, Mr. Sarkam Rongphar, WWF India, Mr. Animesh Hazorika, Aaranyak, Mr. Anil Das, Aaranyak were present during the program.

Celebration of World Wetland Day 2019 at Bongaigaon

Western Assam zone of Aaranyak has celebrated the World Wetland Day on 2nd February 2019 at Chiponchila, a remote village under the Bongaigaon district in association with Aie Valley Forest Division Bongaigaon. A series of competitions such as essay writing, drawing, open quiz and herbarium identification among the students of class I to class IX were held on the occasion. An awareness meeting cum prize distribution ceremony was held in the evening at Lokosewa Library open auditorium.

The meeting was presided over by Sri Prafulla Ray, the Head master of Chiponchila LP School. Other distinguished persons in the meeting were Sri Nirmal Choudhury, Head master of Chiponchila ME School, teacher Dilip Medhi and Ms. Dharitri Ray. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Das, Coordinator of Aaranyak west zone, Assistant Coordinator Mr. Ankur Barman, Aaranyak members Dharam Ranjan Roy, Dhanjit Ray, Hormohan Rabha, Bhaskar Das, Ratna Prabhakar Rabha, Basanta Das, Hiranya Ray, Hileus Nath, Bisakha Ray, Moromi Ray, Monalisha Ray, Gitanjali Ray, Dorothi Baruah, Kalyani Sarma were present in the programme. A total of about 150 students from Chiponchila LP School and Chiponchila ME School were participated in the event.



"Rhino Goes to School 2019" an initiative of Aaranyak

"Rhino goes to school", an awareness campaign of Aaranyak was organized on 21st January 2019 at Kanyakashram Junior college and Kaliabor higher secondary school, Kaliabor. With an aim to create awareness about rhino conservation among the students, various programmes such as presentation on rhino and its habitat, world distribution, population and lifespan, along with open interaction and wildlife quiz competition etc were conducted during the event. A total number of 100 students were present and among them 18 students were selected for a safari in Kaziranga as prize of the competitions. This programme was supported by David Shephard Wildlife Foundation.

The team members were-Mr. Swapan Nath, President, Kaziranga Journalist association, Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. project Officer, Aaranyak, Mr. Rinku Bezbaruah, Member, Aaranyak, Anil Das, Aaranyak and Akibur Hussain, volunteer.



Aaranyak Successfully Conducted "2nd Rhino Goes to School 2019"

Rhino Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak conducted another programme as a part of its ongoing awareness campaign called "Rhino Goes to School" on 11th February 2019 at Aadorso Tribal High School, Kolbari, Jorhat. The programme was supported by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation. With an aim to create awareness about rhino conservation among the students, various programs such as presentation on rhino and its habitat, world distribution, population and lifespan, along with open interaction, short wildlife documentary shows and wildlife quiz competition etc were conducted during this event.

Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Golaghat delivered an informative speech on Rhino and its habitats and Mr. Arif Hussain, Sr. Project Officer, Aaranyak interacted with the students about Biodiversity and Wildlife conservation. A total no of 300 students participated in the program. Mr. Rajib Baruah, Principal of Aadorso Tribal High School, Kolbari, Rowel Ingti, Aaranyak and Akibur Hussain, Volunteer, Aaranyak were also present during the program.

Aaranyak Successfully Conducted "3rd Rhino Goes to School 2019"

Another programme under Aaranyak's awareness campaign "Rhino Goes to School" was conducted on 20th and 21st February 2019 in collaboration with Kaziranga National Park Authority, Biswanath Wildlife Division and Upaityoka. The first day programme was held at Panpur High School, Panpur with 190 students and Sonit Konwar Gajen Baruah High School, Gameripal with 180 students. And the second day programme was held at Bhojmari High School, Bhojmari Sotia with 200 students and Sobilal Upaidhyai High School, Gorpil Sotia with 150 students. Mr. Uttam Saikia, Honorary Wildlife Warden delivered a talk on Rhino, its habitat and habits, lifecycle and world distribution through a power point presentation, Mr Mukut Das, DFO, Biswanath Wildlife Division, delivered his speech on conservation and need of awareness for rhino conservation also Mr Babuli Hazarika, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Biswanath interacted with the students.

An open quiz competition was conducted among the participants and also interacted with them about certain basic and general knowledge related to wildlife. Mr. Anil Das, Aaranyak, Akibur Hussain and Niranjana Pegu, Volunteer of Aaranyak, Principals of the above mentioned Schools, Teachers and also Managing Officials of the schools were present during the program.



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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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