





CREATING IMPACT SINCE 2013

Social Impact:

- Action-driven, multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue between 2800+ participants from 20+ countries
- · Rural Futures framework launched for social and economic mobility for Eastern Himalayan communities
- Occupancy Modelling in the Kaziranga Karbi Anglong conducted in partnership with WTI
- Balipara Foundation Award Winners creating impact through unique education models
- Balipara Foundation Award Winners have published 17+ books, 500+ scientific articles
- Welfare programmes for Mahouts in Assam announced by WWF India in partnership with Balipara Foundation

Economic Impact:

- **Elephant Country brand** launched to support the creation of projects, products & services benefiting Asian Elephants and their habitats
- Elephant Country: Asian Elephant Secretariat, a technology platorm, launched for Asian Elephant conservaation
- Elephant Friendly[™] Certification launched by Lisa Mills and the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network to encourage and empower an interdependence between economies and environment
- Balipara Foundation Award Winners have established numerous **opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, skill development and successful eco tourism models**

Environmental Impact

- Over 1500+ ha of forest saved, 15+ National Parks established by Balipara Foundation Award Winners
- Elephant Radio Collaring on the Indo-Bhutan Border launched with the Government of Bhutan, in 2014
- Elephant Country: Udalguri Landscape Mission launched to restore prime Asian Elephant habitats
- First **Eastern Himalayan Biological Inventories** launched in partnership with ATREE, Balipara Foundation, KTK-BELT, National Biodiversity Centre, Bhutan

KEY OUTCOMES



Elephant Country Brand



Eastern Himalayan Biological Inventories



Elephant Friendly[™] Certification



Rural Futures (RuFu) Framework

DIRECT IMPACT ON 15 OF 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

































COMMUNITY CONSERVATION & BOTANY: PROMISES WE MADE

Ranjit Barthakur, Balipara Foundation, India

Keeping with tradition, Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Trustee, Balipara Foundation, launched the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum 2017 by setting the theme for deliberations along with a candid assessment of the progress on the resolutions of 2016. He began by stating that the most significant achievement from last year's discussions has been the evolution of the framework of *Rural Futures*. He spoke about how two side have emerged to the human being through evolution - the economic side and the ecological side. Our economic side has prospered aided by the democratization of information and technological advances, our ecological side however has suffered. In building our brain trust we have put the building of our natural trust, our Natural Capital Bank on the back burner. He spoke about the importance of promoting the concept of Naturenomics™ to create a framework for living which gives back to its ecosystem, but also assessing from time to time whether what we are doing is really Naturenomics™ or if we are veering away from nature purely into economics. In keeping with tradition, he also rated Balipara Foundation's progress on the Resolutions of last year. While Balipara Foundation received a score of only 42/100 by his metrics, he mentioned the importance of introspection and an increased focus on new avenues like *Rural Futures* (RuFu) to address the resolutions with greater impact. "It is easy to be poor when you are rich but it is impossible to be rich in when you are poor? Are all solutions retro-fit in a village?"

He concluded by stating that there are many new developments in technology and economics, stating that there is a clear need to evolve how we fund conservation and development, and we need to come up with more local innovations to address these issues. He also stated the key role that committed long term support from partners will play as Balipara Foundation and others tackle in order to create a more interdependent model between humans, economics and nature. One of the key efforts that Balipara Foundation will make is in developing alternative methods of funding large scale conservation projects such as Rural Futures through the exploration of Rural Futures Impact Bonds.

RURAL FUTURES FOR CATALYZING CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Saurav Malhotra, Balipara Foundation, India

Saurav Malhotra began his presentation recounting the programme history of Balipara Foundation over the past decade. He mentioned that in taking this journey the Balipara Foundation succeeded in a few and failed in the execution of many, the most important outcomes were the learnings from each of these projects. Over the years these learnings precipitated into the launch of *Rural Futures*. He introduced the concept of *Human Centered Design* which forms the foundation of *Rural Futures*. He added that that major problems can be understood if we live among the communities facing the issue to understand and experience their problems hence allowing us to create successful *human centered* solutions. *Rural Futures*, is a framework being created by the Balipara Foundation which seeks to create a holistic approach to conservation. Through his experience in living with the Bodo communities in the Udalguri district Saurav learned about the various aspects of rural living which along with the learnings from Balipara Foundation's past efforts now form the basis of the *Rural Futures* framework.





Robin Eastment

(I-r) Shankar Venkateswaran, Dr. Peter Mor mer

RURAL FUTURES: INTEGRATING CONSERVATION & LIVELIHOODS

Chairs:

Dr. Jianchu Xu, Kunming Instute of Botany, China

Dr. Sarala Khaling, ATREE, India

Speed Talks:

Tshering Dorji Bhu a, ATREE, India Robin Eastment, Balipara Founda on, India Passang Lepcha, ATREE, India Jigme Dorji, Royal Manas Na onal Park, Bhutan

In Conversa on With:

Sco McMahan, Atlanta Botanical Garden, USA

Belinda Wright, Wildlife Protec on Society of India, India

Dr. Sarmistha Das, Tezpur University, India Dr. Peter E Mor mer, Kunming Instute of Botany, China

Shankar Venkateswaran, India Dhurba Das, MASK, India

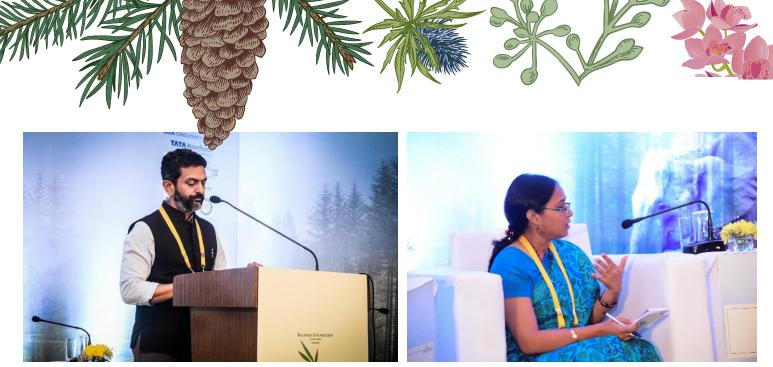
Mansi Parikh, Balipara Founda on, India

This session chaired by Prof. Jianchu Xu and Dr. Sarala Khaling began with a series of speed talks presen ng possible solu ons like dimate smart villages (Passang Lepcha), crea ng nature-based livelihood opportuni es for social mobility (Robin Eastment), dimate smart agriculture (Tshering Dorji Bhu a), and crop insurance schemes and development of elephant friendly villages (Jigme Dorji).

The panel discussions which followed examined the various challenges and successes in combining conserva on and livelihoods. There was a general consensus among par cipants that any livelihood interven ons need to be localized to the communi es they seek to serve. Belinda Wright started the session with her talk on how to be involved with the community through PRA tools where engagement with the community becomes the most important part in predicing and planning *Rural Futures*. Dhruba Das and Dr. Sarmistha Das spoke about their experiences in working with, and studying communities where governments have a empted and failed at creating conservation on programmes due to the lack of localisation of these programmes.

Dr. Peter E. Mor mer reinforced their views by a ng the Forest Farms in the West Yunnan province of China, where the auc on price of the harvest is based on the health of the forest areas where the mushrooms are harvested. Sco MacMahan and Mansi Parikh spoke of the importance of helping communi es taste success through small wins therefore ge ng more buy-in from the communi es, laying the ground work for long-term success.

Shankar Venkateswaran suggested that corporates also have a crucial role to play in these interven ons through by promo ng skill volunteering opportuni es of their employees in helping marry conserva on and livelihoods through business skills and access to markets. He rightly remarked, "There are two worlds which should live together, but are living aparti.e. conserva on and livelihood."



Dr. Anish Andheria Rachna Yadav

RURAL FUTURES: FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Chairs:

Dr. Anish Andheria, President WCT, India

Speed Talks:

Lailani Douad, Nature and Wildlife Association, France Annesha Choudhury, ATREE, India Urbashi Pradhan, ATREE, India

Rangku Sangma, Garo Hills Autonomous

District Council, India

In Conversation With:

Dr. Varun Goswami, WCS, India **Dr. Kovu Furusawa**. Kokugakuin Univ

Dr. Koyu Furusawa, Kokugakuin University, Japan

P. R. Marak, IFS, Govt. Of Meghalaya, India Dr. Satyendra Singh, Kaziranga National park, India

Dr. Koji Suga, Kokugakuin University, Japan **Rohini Ballave Saikia**, IFS, Kaziranga National Park, India

Dr. Uma Shankar, NEHU, India **Sangay Dorjee**, Samdrupjongkhar, Forest Division, Bhutan **Rachna Yadav**, India **Dr. Anish Andheria**, chair of the *Forests & People* session set the context citing the importance of forests in conservation of species. He remarked how changing land use has limited or restricted the movement of animals creating obstacles in the conservation of these species. Most importantly, he urged patience in conservation stating that we will have invest not just our money but our time as well.

The speed talks for the session provided insights into the necessity for electric lights in preventing man-elephant conflict (Lailani Fouad), the importance of forest rights for forest dwelling communities (Annesha Choudhary), the importance of protecting forests for future generations (Urbashi Pradhan), the issues facing protection of forest lands by rangers (Rangku Sangma).

The panel discussion which followed began with **Dr. Varun Goswami** reiterated the importance of creating community managed habitats stating that community forests could play a secondary role in the conservation of the wildlife. **Prof. Koyu Furusawa** urged a reanalysis of development, to grant legality to extraction of forest products, thereby empowering the local people.

On large mammals, **Dr. Uma Shankar** suggested that we revisit our current forest classification system and urged an emphasis on education, interaction and awareness over environmental assessments. **Rachna Yadav** urged participants to look beyond the famous landscapes like Kaziranga and emphasised the importance of community participation in projects, for long-term success. **N. K. Vasu,** spoke about the importance of understanding the needs of conservation locally. **Prof. Koji Suga** shared his perspective on how certain religions could play a major role in conservation.

A question posed to the panel on their opinion on the debate between Industrial vs. Ecological corridors. Ranjit Barthakur, Founder, Balipara Foundation addressed that question by suggesting that we should instead use the term "Investment Corridors" where the investments should be made for social, economic & environmental impact.



(I-r) Alka Upadhyay, Shankar Venkateswaran

Bruce Rich

RURAL FUTURES: NATURAL ASSETS & CAPITAL

Chairs:

Bruce Rich, Environmental Law Institute, USA

Shankar Venkateswaran, India

Speed Talks:

Dr Nilanjan Ghosh, WWF, India

In Conversation With:

Bittu Sahgal, Sanctuary Asia, India

Dr. Koyu Furusawa, Kokugakuin University, Japan

Dr. N. M. Ishwar, IUCN, India

Dr. Narayan Sharma, Cotton State

University, India

Alka Upadhyay, Tata Sustainability Group,

Arpit Bhutani, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, India

Bruce Rich set the theme of the session observing that Natural Capital valuation has been employed through history, starting from the times of Kautilya and Ashoka. He mentioned that such discussions yield more results when focusing on the practical applications as opposed to the theoretical frameworks.

This was the perfect lead into **Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh's** talk on how we should look at ecosystems services in a changing world. He observed that poor populations gain much more from ecosystems services than they do from their own incomes, and therefore benefit in keeping these services running. He concluded that we need to assess ecosystems services, understand the tradeoffs and create a framework for impact assessment, while understanding the implications on sustainability, reversing investments by studying the payoffs across alternate scenarios.

Bruce Rich & **Shankar Venkateswaran** kicked off the panel discussion with incisive questions on, the importance of cooperation between governments and NGOs and to what extent NGOs should integrate livelihoods and conservation. **Bittu Sahgal** observed that there is virtually no cooperation between governments and NGOs, emphasizing the adverse impact conflicting actions of agencies with conflicting agendas, working in the same landscape have on the protection of Natural Capital.

Dr. N. M. Ishwar underscored the need for greater cooperation between governments and NGOs and the promotion of success stories, to motivate conservation and emphasized that studies in natural capital valuation must focus on enabling policy makers in taking the right decisions. **Alka Upadhyay** stated that Natural Capital valuation is subjective, and Tata Group companies are assessing social costs of doing business against the business cost of damage vs. the business cost of avoidance.

Arpit Bhutani observed that we need to develop a new economic system where the systems are designed to be regenerative so that there is no need for extra effort in conservation.



Arpit Bhutani

CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA

Arpit Bhutani, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, India

Arpit Bhutani introduced the *Ellen Macarthur Founda on*, a think tank with the sole purpose of accelerang the transion and transforma on to a circular economy globally. He defined the *Circular Economy* as an economic system which eliminates the concept of waste and polluon providing a model for the future in which waste simply does not exist.

In December 2016, the Ellen Macarthur Founda on released a report tled Circular Economy in India – Rethinking growth for long term prosperity focusing on three areas: food and agriculture, ci es and construc on, and mobility and vehicle manufacturing. The findings provide quan fied data on how Circular Economies can help India and Indian ins tu ons make profits out of being circular as opposed to the Take, Make Dispose model. Combining Circular Economy principles with technology and digital transforma on, India has the opportunity to achieve high levels of growth and development towards a resource e coverstem gaining value for business environment and the popula on.

Another report en tled the *NewPlas & Economy*, unveiled at the World Economic Forum in 2017, has three main ambions, 1) e ec ve a er-use plas & economy, 2) dras creduc on in leakage of plas & into natural systems and externaliones, and 3) decouple plas & from fossil feedstocks. Instead of cridicing the use of plas & but is in fact one of the first to provide a concrete set of aconomic forum in 2017, has three main ambions, 1) e ec ve a er-use plas & economy, 2) dras creduc on in leakage of plas & into natural systems and external ions, and 3) decouple plas & from fossil feedstocks. Instead of cridicing the use of plas & but is in fact one of the first to provide a concrete set of aconomic forum in 2017, has three main ambions, 1) e ec ve a er-use plas & economy, 2) dras & economy,

He concluded staining that to encourage finding of solu ons, in May 2017, the *Ellen Macarthur Founda on* along with the European Commission announced a USD 2 million innova on prize to iden fy design in plas ics to make them as circular as possible. In October ideas which were awarded the prize were able to create about 70% circularity with their solu ons.



Priyanka Bista

RURAL FUTURES: ECO ARCHITECTURE

Priyanka Bista, Co-Founder/Design Director KTK-BELT, Nepal

Priyanka Bista stated that our dated no on of what is rural needs upda ng. The enormous biodiversity of Nepal faces direct threats from urbaniza on resul ng in complex socio-economis changes like increased de-agrarianiza on, increasing human density, declining rural livelihoods and growing out-migra on of the youth. *KTK-BELT*'s outdoor educa on ini a ve was developed to address the need to link field-based educa onal opportuni es to exis ng curriculum in public schools, through the Ver cal University, anchored in 6 campuses along the learning grounds ranging from Yangshila (67m above MSL) to Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586m above MSL).

The 6 campuses represent 5 di erent dima c zones of the Eastern region of Nepal. The Koshi-Tappu campus will func on as a bird and aqua c research centre, equipped with an observatory, classrooms, research labs, etc. The Yangshila VDC, will be a Biodiversity Research hub, developed to include seed banks, libraries, research sta on, herbarium, etc.

Next, is Kurule-Tenupa, a region once home to 150 natural springs which dried up between 2010 and 2015, causing the loss of 25 species of fish which were the mainstay of the local fisherfolk. This campus is envisioned as a water harves and complex for water storage in the dry seasons. The fourth campus, at Khandbari will focus on capacity building and training of youth in alterna velivelihood strategies. Next, in Thudam, a region facing increased temperature changes and urbaniza on, leading to complex land-use changes, the campus is imagined as a mobile structure that can be carried on the back of yaks, in recognion of the yak herders present in the region.

The final campus is at the base of Mt. Kanchenjunga, the 'roof of the world' facing imminent threat from mel ngglaciers due to dimate change. This campus will focus on the research of dima coondi ons on glaciers, housing a dimate monitoring sta on along with research residencies, greenhouse and classrooms. With these campuses and the Ver cal University, KTK-BELT envisions, hopes and dreams that they can serve the local students, community and farmers—the real stewards of rural futures of the region.





(I-r) Dr. Sunita Pradha, Bittu Sahgal, Devraj Barooah

(I-r) Belinda Wright, Oken Tayeng

RURAL FUTURES: CONSERVATION & NATURE TOURISM OR CONSERVATION TOURISM?

Chairs:

Bittu Sahgal, Sanctuary Asia, India **Dr. Sunita Pradhan**, ATREE, India

Speed Talks:

Harry Hakuei Kosato, La Ditta, Japan Tenzing Bodosa, India

In Conversation With:

Belinda Wright, Wildlife Protection Society of India, India

Oken Tayeng, Aborcountry Travels & expeditions, India

Devraj Barooah, Chalo Hoppo, India **Merwyn Coutinho**, Ride to Light, India

Chairing the session **Bittu Sahgal** started by observing that tourism in the modern age is adversely affecting the biodiversity in the regions tourists frequent. He largely focused on the point that "Community must be the primary beneficiary of biodiversity". **Dr. Sunita Pradhan** added that, tourism should be built as an alternative source of livelihood to the community. With conservation initiatives and dynamic approach tourism can cope with the market demand.

The speed talks began with **Harry Hakuei Kosato** posited that India, with its rapidly growing population, should emulate Japan's focus on eco tourism in the 1990s to reduce deforestation and promote their culture. **Tenzing Bodosa** outlined his journey in making his farm an organic, safe haven for Asian Elephants which led to it being declared the first Elephant Friendly™ Tea Plantation. He spoke about how creating a haven for biodiversity is not only in the best interest of business productivity but can also open avenues for tourism and other livelihoods.

Oken Tayeng shared his experience of conducting botany tours in the Eastern Himalayas. He observed that local communities are the real guardians of natural assets. He proposed that instead of enforcing certain ideals of biodiversity protection or tourism on these communities we should create livelihoods that are year-round rather than seasonal, to promote biodiversity conservation. Devraj Barooah cited his experience in building Chalo Hoppo to promote 'experience tourism' in the North East, in a way, that people can visit and learn about the unexplored parts and cultures of the region by living with the locals. He remarked that "We should look at (exploring) nature without exploiting it".

Belinda Wright pointed out that focusing investments to promote responsible tourism will benefit local communities who are the experts of their regions, along with investors and tourists. **Merwyn Coutinho** elaborated on his journey from corporate to travel and adventure and how he used his passion for travel and adventure to fund his social enterprise for electrifying villages.







Nimesh Ved

(I-r) Prof. Koyu Furusawa, Dr. B. K. Konwar, Dr. Koji Suga, Chador Wagmo

RURAL FUTURES: EDUCATION

Chairs:

Dr. Dhruba Saikia, TIFR, India **Nimesh Ved**, Krishnamurti Foundation, India

Speed Talks:

Wangchu Bhutia, KTK-BELT, Nepal

In Conversation With:

Etsushi Tsuru, Asahi Shimbun, Japan Chador Wangmo, Bhutan Institute of Himalayan Studies, Bhutan Dr. Koyu Furusawa, Kokugakuin University, Japan

Biswajit De, Maria's Public School, India **Dr. Koji Suga**, Kokugakuin University, Japan **Dr. B. K. Konwar**, Tezpur University, India

Session chair, **Dr. Dhruba Saikia** set the context of the session by remarking that education has uses beyond social justice, distributive justice and equality, and stating the need to "reimagine education" **Nimesh Ved**, opened up the discussion by posing some important questions. "Can we give more value to multiple knowledge system?", "Can we have a knowledge system which is not alienating?" and "Can we be more serious about the environment?".

Wangchu Bhutia in his speed talk, said that the primary goal of outdoor education is to provide children with regular and repeated access to natural spaces for emergent and inquiry based learning. He shared his experience with *KTK-BELT*, and how they immerse them in diverse learning activities helping students gain an understanding of biodiversity and its deeper value.

The panel discussion began with **Etsushi Tsuru**, sharing his experience as a journalist and how environmental issues are an integral part of social and political issues. He explained how traditional media can be a facilitator of social progress by helping students employ critical thinking and cultivating their imagination. **Chador Wagmo** spoke about how nature inculcated into the education system in Bhutan. This is then fortified by celebrating various nature oriented festivals and the formation of social and environmental clubs.

Biswajit De shared how Maria Foundation School bridges the gap between these systems by first empowering their students who then teach the same curriculum in village schools. This facilitates language exchange between the city schools and the village school. They have implemented this method in 50 village school located in Assam and Meghalaya.

Prof. Koyu Furusawa said that the seed of the human value system needs to be revitalized through the adoption of more environmental friendly approaches to business. **Dr. B. K. Konwar** stated that the formal education system is inadequate to address the needs, he encouraged forming a meta system which combines the efforts of governments and NGOs to close the gaps. **Prof. Koji Suga** highlighted that there is a difference in context of nature education in India and Japan which shouldn't be overlooked.



Prokash Dutta Prabir Banerjea

RURAL FUTURES: GREEN ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Chairs:

Prokash Dutta, CESIPL, India **Prabir Banerjea**, Balipara Foundation, India

Speed Talks:

Wangchu Bhutia, KTK-BELT, Nepal

In Conversation With:

Shankar Venkateswaran, Rural Livelihoods Expert, India

Dhiraj Kakati, APPL Foundation, India **Dr. B. K. Konwar**, Tezpur University, India

Prokash Dutta and **Prabir Banerjea** opened the session by giving a brief introductory discussion on green energy and how it can be classified under renewable energy.

Shankar Venkateswaran started the discussion stating that the technology is available but we have not capitalised on how to utilise it; he stressed on solar energy in North East India, pointing to storage issues of energy and that the price of the solar panel and construction which make it prohibitive. He concluded saying that we need to understand which energy production system is best suited for the area and it needs further research.

Prokash Dutta reinforced Shankar's observations stating that the main problem of energy access is ensuring that the energy is efficient without compromising its effectiveness. He questioned whether there is a possibility that the academia can team up with the tea-estates to formulate green energy?

Dhiraj Kakati spoke about the rural context, questioning whether green energy is an option? and what the alternatives are? He also cited the failure of biomass gas fire or gobar gas, although successful in some areas but it has failed in the majority of the areas. He added to this by highlighting the work that Prokash has been doing through CESIPL in trying to generate electricity from biogas while using the byproduct to create a range of fertilisers which can benefit the local communities.

Dr. Konwar, spoke about eco-petroleum and the importance of micro energy. Citing his negative experiences with large scale renewable energy generation in Nagaland, he stated that due to the prohibitive costs and failure of technology, renewable energy may be more effectively generated at a smaller scale.



Dr. Indira Khurana

(I-r) Dr. Shrinivas Badiger, Rituraj Phukan

RURAL FUTURES: WATER ACCESS

Chairs:

Dr. Shrinivas Badiger, ATREE, India **Rituraj Phukan**, Walk for Water, India

Speed Talks:

Rinan Shah, ATREE, India Francis Darlong, TISS, India

In Conversation With:

Dr. Indira Khurana, Water Expert & Author, India

Prokash Dutta, CESIPL, India **Sarat Chandra Das**, Grameen Development & Finance Pvt. Ltd. Session chair **Dr. Shrinivas Badiger** began the session by pointing out that traditional water systems remain the mainstay of agriculture. He stressed the importance of finding a balance between human, technology and ecology to conserve water. Session co-chair, **Rituraj Phukan** added to Dr. Badiger's sharing his work through Walk for Water in bringing water to rural areas through Water ATMs.

Rinan Shah presented the Effects of the State Entities on the Manifestation of the Domestic Water Scarcity. She spoke about the drivers of the water scarcity and how the water supply needs to be synchronized with the water provided by the government and the daily uses of the water. Francis Darlong, presented the highlights of the survey he conducted on natural springs on Darjeeling. Almost all the springs were managed by the 'Samaj', or the 'community' and the communities' most dependent on these springs were poor, migrant workers, and labourers. He concluded by emphasising the need for the restoration of dry springs so that more water is available to marginalised communities.

The panel discussion began with **Dr. Indira Khurana** commenting, "There is always a symbiotic relation between biodiversity and water. Biodiversity conservation can't be possible without water conservation and vice versa." Celebrating people's relation with biology can be encouraged by focusing on local solutions using traditional water systems. She also stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between ground and surface water.

Prokash Dutta said that the basic problem of water in rural areas is, distribution of water. He emphasised the benefits of using technology to capture atmospheric humidity to turn into usable water. When questioned on the issue of water security and challenges of access to clean water for marginalized communities, **Sarat Chandra Das**, shared his experience working in 30 Assam villages, where his organization has created water access with contribution from the community. This model has proved successful thus far in all but one village, where the water dried up.







Dr. Purnananda Khaund

RURAL FUTURES: HEALTHCARE

Speakers:

Dr. Vikram Jit Singh Chatwal, Mediassist, India

Dr. Purnananda Khaund, APPL, India Sentila Yanger, Tribal Weaves, India

A series of standalone talks on healthcare yielded conflicting results by showcasing the perspectives of three distinct stakeholders in the field of rural medicine. Dr. Vikram Jit Singh Chatwal spoke about the need for "universal healthcare". Using the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan-Adhaar-Mobile) framework because it promotes social inclusion, he said we can disrupt how people access healthcare. 15 years ago, Telemedicine was being hailed as the next big revolution in healthcare, however it failed to live up to its hype. He concluded by saying that we will all have apply new thinking to change healthcare access, which allows people to use mobile phones for their own help.

Drawing from his experience as a doctor in tea estates Dr. Purnananda **Khaund** spoke about his success with Telemedicine introducing Telemedicine in 2015, APPL tea Estates. To overcome the challenges that they have to face in primary healthcare, such few service providers, doctors/nurses, poor communication, connectivity, etc. By introducing Telemedicine they have created a connection between primary care (e.HC) and secondary care (e.Hub). He concluded by highlighting the future benefits, such as strengthening primary healthcare, reducing delay in receiving 'patient specialist' care, reduce patients outside referral various hassles, early diagnosis, faster recovery, and reduction on treatment costs.

Sentila Yanger put healthcare in the perspective of rural areas in North East India. In the context of rural healthcare, the most important concern is the affordability and availability. The non-existent services of doctors in the rural area is also due to the fact that young doctors do not wish to go back to rural areas upon graduation. There is also a large gap in the reproductive healthcare where women face disadvantages of getting back to responsibilities such as agriculture, water gathering and caring for the family. She concluded that if rural communities meet with a serious accident/injury, they will have to travel long distances through a broken road network and suffer if they get help in time at all. The question to think about is what could be the best solution to address the concerns of these communities?



Robbie Hart Dr. Kushal Baruah

RURAL FUTURES: CLIMATE CHANGE

Speakers:

Robbie Hart, Missouri Botanical Gardens, USA

Manish Kumar, ATREE, India Shweta Basnet, ATREE, India Dr. Kushal Baruah, Tezpur University, India Kamal N. Pandya, Globally Managed Services, India This session was a series of speed talks starting with **Robbie Hart** shared that on resurveying his data from the GLORIA project he has found that although there are more plants in alpine regions they are relatively lower elevation plants, and that alpine areas are becoming similar to sub-alpine areas. He mentions that as temperature increases precipitation increase and hence variability increase retreating glaciers and leading to glacial lake formation.

Manish Kumar shared his findings about the changing rainfall in the Sikkim Himalayas where temperature increases have been increasing the water scarcity in the region. He summarized that annual rainfall has decreased whereas the number of rainy days have increased.

Dr. Kushal Baruah spoke about greenhouse gases, along with fossil fuels and widespread deforestation, being the key drivers for climate change in the North Eastern region. Biomass burning in North East India is also an issue which contributes to climate change. He concluded by suggesting that there should be an intense coordinated research effort to study these changes.

Shweta Basnet started her presentation by explaining phenology. Her research is conducted in areas with harsh conditions and short flowering window and her presentation she posed 3 questions, specifically in the context of rhododendrons, "How does phenology respond to climate change? How do climate variables respond to rhododendron phenology? What are the abiotic factors and phylogenic factors which affect the rhododendron budding peak?" She concluded her presentation stating that the abiotic factors alone can predict a phenological event, and the sensitivity of budding and fruiting agents can be affected by climate change.

Kamal Pandya addressed the relationship between climate change and mining. Human intervention and environmental degradation are relevant to each other and if we follow all the laws, mining cannot have a negative footprint on water bodies and other environmental assets. The problem he said is not in the laws that govern mining, but in the implementation and enforcement of these laws.



Khun Sivaporn Dardarananda

REINTRODUCTION OF ELEPHANTS

Khun Sivaporn Dardarananda, Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, Thailand

Khun Sivaporn Dardarananda shared his experience at the *Elephant Reintroduction Foundation*, in Thailand, which has been buying captive elephants and releasing them into the forest for 15 years. He continued, stating that "reintroduction" is probably not the right word for what they do, given that most of their elephants have been born in captivity, in cities, villages and elephant camps. The over 100 elephants released have lived healthily in the forest, mated and produced 19 babies. They have helped to regenerate the forest demonstrating their true purpose. While 39 elephants have died, mainly from old age, and 19 babies the Foundation will achieve population sustainability in a few years.

To increase the biodiversity in the sanctuary, they have introduced wild boar, Eld's deer, barking deer and Asiatic brown bear, along with birds like wild fowl, hornbills, etc. Water reservoirs are built to provide water for the animals. The sanctuary also allows the Foundation to study the behaviour and social habits of the elephants and also study the elephants and how they impact the biodiversity in the habitat.

The Elephant Reintroduction Foundation has veterinarians and field staff to monitor the health of the herd. The local community is also involved by inviting the local villagers to join in the religious ceremonies when any elephants die, allowing them to treat the animals with respect. The Foundation also works with veterinarian schools in the country. The Foundation along with the Forest Department is building The Elephant and Wildlife Knowledge Center at Sublangka to make it a knowledge centre for students and villagers to learn about elephants.

He concluded by emphasizing that Human Elephant conflict is probably the biggest issue we face as the elephant tries to build the forest outward and the human population tries to invade the forest. With pressing issues such as climate change corporations and countries are taking steps to address the damage. He expressed hope that with understanding and due regard to all life on this earth and through human intelligence and ingenuity we will be able to achieve the long-term survival of the species.



Privanka Yoshikawa

Dr. K. K. Sharma

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION & ELEPHANTS

Priyanka Yoshikawa, Miss World Japan 2016

Elephant Country Brand Ambassador, Miss World Japan 2016, Priyanka Yoshikawa started with a quote form Jungle Book, "The elephants created this jungle. Where they made furrows with their tusks the rivers ran. Where they blew their trunks, the leaves fell. They made all that belongs the mountains, the trees, the birds in the trees. But they did not make you" – Bagheera. To her this iconic movie weaves a deligh ully immersive experience of the rela onship between humans and animals, driving home that Elephants are the primary custodians of the forests con nued existence, along with the local communi es engaged in lookinga erit.

In Japanese culture, forests are considered therapeu c. The prac ce of forest bathing or 'Shirin-Yoku' allowing people to connect with nature, it is a long-standing tradi on of living harmoniously with Nature, one that recharges and rejuvenates. She said that the reason she is supporing the cause of Community Conserva on and Asian Elephant Conserva on through Elephant Country, is to connect with Nature and Elephants, visit the rich green plantaions and forests of Assam where Elephants roam wild and free, thriving alongside the Humans and where she can directly involve myself, and learn from people who work dosely with Elephants. Through this partnership she hopes to bring together her Indian and Japanese cultures and inculcate an appreciaion of Nature and Natural Heritage in the people of her generaion. She concluded saying that the intrinsic coexistence of humanity and wildlife engaged in an integraive bond, with an inclusive approach and empowering aspiraion, is an emulaive and encouraging model which can pave a path of building a deeper connect between the two countries.

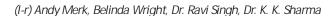
ASIAN ELEPHANTS IN CAPTIVITY

Dr. K. K. Sharma, Assam Agricultural University, India

The theme of Dr. K. K. Sharma's presenta on was Cap ve Asian Elephant: Past, Present & Future. He began by sta ng that of the 13 countries which form Asian Elephant ranges, India has the highest popula on of elephants (22,000 – 27,000). He traced the history of the Asian Elephant in Indian culture from being revered in the pre-Indus valley civiliza on to their evolu on as beasts of burden in the during the Bri sh rule in India. A er 1996 Indian government once the Indian government banned logging Indian elephant owners started selling the elephants illegally to other countries.

Elephants also teach us how to use the Ayurvedic principles, when they are sick they eat specific plants and vegeta on to cure their sicknesses. Their lifestyle also teaches the importance of orderly social behaviour. The most important aspect of Asian Elephants he talked about was "that Elephants may promise an answer to cancer". Dr. Sharma concluded by emphasising the role of Cap ve Elephants as goodwill ambassadors of the species, allowing people to interact with them and learn more about their conserva on.







(I-r) Belinda Wright, Dr. Ravi Singh, Sandeep Tiwari

TRUMPETING THE WILD

Chairs:
Dr. Ravi Singh, WWF, India
Belinda Wright, Wildlife Protec on Society
of India, India

Speed Talks: Sandeep Tiwari, Wildlife Trust of India, India

In Conversa on With:

Dr. K. K. Sharma, Assam Agricultural
University, India
Andy Merk, Nature & Wildlide Associa on,
France
Dr. Varun Goswami, WCS, India

Session co-chair Belinda Wright, spoke about her *Wildlife Protec on Society of India's* e orts in working with communi es to mi gate Human Elephant Conflict using methods like flashing lights, and tradi onal methods like n drums with strings, bamboo clappers, etc. in Orissa. Dr. Ravi Singh set the agenda for the discussion, urging the panellists to focus on execu ons to elevate the session from being just another discussion at a conference to ac on on ground. He concluded with a plea to all those present to help be er the lives of the mahouts who look a er the cap ve elephants of the region.

Dr. Sandeep Tiwari gave a speed talk on the updated publica on *Right to Passage*, which documents the Asian Elephant migra on corridors in India. He emphasised that the fragmented landscape makes it dicult to monitor, and that about 10% of the land reduc on for elephants has led to a 70% increase in human elephant conflict. To improve awareness of these issues, the Gaj Yatra has been launched by the environment ministry to sensi ze people about elephant corridors.

Dr. Varun Goswami began the panel discussion by sta ng that for be er elephant conserva on we need to promote co-existence, "If we think about be er future, we need to think about Co-existence". WCS came up with interven on to avoid conflict during migra on season by rou ng elephants to migrate through tea planta ons instead of human habita on, avoiding crop damage and conflict. Andy Merk focused on reducing aggressive reac on to elephants. He emphasized the need to protect restore habitats and also spoke about restric ng elephants from ge ng their basic necessi es i.e. foodwater and security won't solve the problems of conflict with humans.

Dr. K.K. Sharma shared his experience in working on elephant rescues, he men oned that the way we react to elephants in emergency situa ons is key. He also iden fied the areas which need a en on such as medical facili es, provide food, birth control, community elephant reserves etc. Belinda Wright concluded the discussion by stangthat Balipara Founda on should capture the discussions from the 4 Asian Elephant conferences in a white paper to be shared amongstall a endees.



Mansi Parikh

EVEN ELEPHANTS HAVE A SECRETARIAT

Mansi Parikh, Balipara Foundation, India

Mansi Parikh gave an update on the progress of the Elephant Country: Asian Elephant Secretariat. Elephant Country is a unifying brand which seeks to become the rallying cry of all those concerned with the well-being of Asian Elephants and their ecosystems. By crea ng a unified brand it seeks to amplify the eleonts of all those working in or supporting Asian Elephant conservation to raise greater awareness of the plight of these pachyderms and their habitats along with the situation of the human communities residing within these habitats. Elephant Country is defined as all countries which comprise of natural Asian Elephant ranges and others which work towards conservation of Asian Elephants and their habitats.

Elephant Country: Asian Elephant Secretariat, an online pla orm for collabora on on Asian elephant conserva on, was born from the resolu ons of the Asian Elephants in the Wild 2015 Conference, a pre-cursor to the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum. The challenges iden fied as the basis of this pla orm were 1) Fragmented e orts, Mul ple organiza ons, Duplica on of E orts 2) Lack of opportuni es for cross-func onal collabora on 3) Increasing Illegal Animal Trade especially in South East Asia 4) Lack of Adequate data about popula ons, illegal trades or state of ecosystems.

Since then, much progress has been made in realizing the idea. At the Eastern Himalayan NaturenomicsTM Forum 2016, *Balipara Founda on* unveiled the first itera on of the pla orm hosted at www.elephantcountry.org. The pla orm, currently in the "working prototype" phase, is divided into two main sec ons, the "Library" which provides visitors with verifiable informa on on Asian Elephantsalong with a repository of Asian Elephant Conserva on projects globally, and the "Secretariat" which allows di erent conserva on stakeholders to interact and share data and seek help on their e orts. Many partners such as Sanctuary Asia, Wildlife Trust of India, WWF India, etc. have already contributed content to the library sec on of the pla orm. There is also a working helpline number which can be used by organisa ons to address various conserva on needs and issues that may arise for the communi es and field teams in Elephant Country. Some features planned for future itera ons include, sourcing of funds and volunteers, real me data sharing, etc.

The the team is working to scale its features and is seeking to build partnerships with technology companies, conserva on organisa ons and investors to scale up to its poten al. Laying out the various challenges they face up ahead, Mansi concluded that the ull mate goals was to create an unparalleled user experience which will aid mull ple stakeholders in Asian Elephant conserva on, globally.







(I-r) Prerna Singh Bindra, Kar k N. Shukul

LEGALISM IN SHAPING POLICIES

Chairs: Dr. Ravi Singh, WWF, India Dr. Anish Andheria, WCT, India

In Conversa on With: Bruce Rich, Environmental Law Inst ute, USA Prashant Choudhury, Lawyer, India Kar k N. Shukul, Lawyer, India

Prerna Singh Bindra, Author, India

Rohit Chaudhury, Lawyer, India

Dr. Anish Andheria lead the discussion with the session co-chair Dr. Ravi Singh by giving an overview of the importance of the crime department when it comes to conserva on. Dr. Andheria iden fied the need for fast track courts, provision of interna onal trea es and acts in which the role of CITES can be included within Indian provisions as key measures and highlighted the need to revive the wildlife boards which have been diluted due to lack of cross border implementa on.

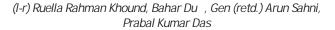
Bruce Rich called the Right to Informa on (RTI) and Na onal Green Tribunal (NGT), 'path breaking' environment legisla ons but stated his concern that Na onal Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries aren't under the purview of NGT. Rohit Choudhary explained how the current government has overlooked the environmental laws for the sake of making improvements in business, with an adverse impact on the environment. Prerna Singh Bindra said that environmental laws in India have rich diversity, but in the field implementa on, the steps taken are very slow. She also spoke about how, the social and cultural issues have to change their contextual frame of laws in the country.

Harish Choudhary spoke about how the na onal and state wildlife boards are the ones who should be ac ve and taking the ini a ve. Prashant Choudhury suggested having a 'wildlife friendly' fast-track court around all wildlife sanctuaries. Sta ng that the convic on rate for poachers is very poor, he proposed crea on of a registry of poachers in India allowing the law to track them. Kar k Shukul said that while the exis ng laws are sound, there's an exis ng problem of the implementa on of these laws, which aren't being enforced. He assumes that this is due to the lack of training.

Dr. Ravi Singh by sta ng that our laws need to reflect the current situa on in India as well as issues like dimate change into account and summarized the session in the following points:

- We need to create green benches at High Court level
- Provisions for CITES, etc. should be included in our laws
- Wildlife boards of the states and na onal need to be strengthened
- Domes c & Interna onal Transboundary issues need to be
- How can we integrate the acts to protect our wildlife corridors?
- We should ensure changes without dilu on







Ganga Limbu

STORYTELLERS ON THE FRONTLINE

Chairs: Bahar Du , Journalist, India Gen. (Retd.) Arun Sahni, India

Speed Talks: Ganga Limbu, KTK-BELT, Nepal

In Conversa on With:

Prerna Singh Bindra, Author, India Nimesh Ved, Krishnamur Founda on, India Samrat Choudhury, Journalist, India Naresh Mitra, Times of India, India Prabal Kumar Das, Assam Tribune, India Ruella Rahman Khound, Documentary Filmmaker, India Amit Patro, Sikkim Express, India The session began with a speed talk Ganga Limbu's, shared how she, the daughter of a landless farmer, at KTK BELT's Ver cal University, interacted with local farmers and captured local knowledge. In the process, she learned cinematography and use of filmmaking so wares.

Lt. General Arun Sahni spoke about how the prevalence of Social Media has changed how people interface with knowledge and that we need to start looking at technology to ensure dissemina on. He also commented on the need for bo om-up engagement. Bahar Du commented on the need to assess what qualifies as knowledge, and whether the role of communi es is recognized. She ques oned the impact of posi ve storytelling on policy, highligh ng the media's tendency to ignore issues like habitat degrada on and fragmenta on in favour of individual incidents like poaching and overkill.

Nimesh Ved responded to Bahar's point by sta ng that an e ec ve way to approach this is by weaving the stories into larger narra ves. Amit Patro, stated that media needs to strike a balance between developmental requirements of humans and advoca ngenvironmental protec on.

Answering Bahar's ques on Ruella Rahman Khound said that she believes that there has been greater focus on the North East in mainstream media but there is no cohesive pla orm for mentorship. Naresh Mitra added that there is a percep ble change in environmental narra ves, from focus on big infrastructure projects to poli cs and other aspects of environmental issues. Samrat Choudhury shared that as an editor he realizes that there are layers that a ect coverage decisions and the focus is always on the lowest common denominator. Prerna Singh Bindra expressed her concern that we are pung environmental issues 'in a box' without context, whereas environmental issues actually have consequences in Health, Economy, Polics, etc.

Prabal Kumar Das brought in the important perspec ve of cultural context. Journalists' perspec ves may result in many things get lost in transla on. An important point highlighted by the audience was the need to empower people to tell their own stories rather than journalists telling it for them to bring focus to serious conserva on issues.





Sco MacMahan

(I-r) Robbie Hart, Dr. Kamal Bawa, Dr. Sunayana Sarkar

EASTERN HIMALAYAN BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVATION PROGRAMMES

Chairs:
Prof. Jianchu Xu, Kunming Instute of Botany, China
Dr. Rinzi Lamba, ATREE, India

In Conversa on With: Dr. Kamal Bawa, ATREE, India Sco MacMahan, Atlanta Botanic Garden, USA

Dr. Donglin Zhang, University of Georgia, USA

Dr. Sunayana Sarkar, NMIMS, India Haokholet Kipgen, FEEDS, India Robbie Hart, Missouri Botanical Garden, USA The discussion began with Dr. Kamal Bawa who spoke about 3 major scales at which to tackle dimate change. 1) Measure dimate changes and how it impacts an area 2) Adapt and migate the elects of dimate change 3) Figure out how to strengthen society's response to these changes. He stated the need for an interdisciplinary approach, and proposed the idea of integrated knowledge system which consists of people from various disciplines. Dr. Bawa concluded that, "We all are becoming storytellers, especially in the age of Facebook and Twill er, we need more biocultural stories from the region".

Prof. Jianchu Xu briefly introduced the topic of biocultural diversity and its importance. Dr. Rinzi Lama then began the panel discussion by se ng the agenda of the session, stang that biocultural approach to conserva on has moved from people being treated as a threat to exploring more integrated approaches. She also men oned that the panel will focus on the integra on of the discipline of Botany to the knowledge system of our community.

Robbie Hart started the discussion by sta ng the importance of acknowledging di erent stakeholders as the necessary first step towards building shared goals. in order to conserve local biodiversity. Sco Macmahan agreed with Robbie's point sharing the *Atlanta Botanic Garden's* method of 'conserva on through propaga on' through an example of New Caledonia, where the government has joined hands with private nurseries to save the conifer species in the region from ex nc on. Donglin Zhang suggested propaga ng Eastern Himalayan plants locally, not just for conserva on, but also for economic benefit of local communi es. Haikholet Kipgen opined that a "Mixture of Indigenous people and science is a correct way for protec ngbiodiversity and culture of the Manipur".

Dr. Sunayna Sarkar added her perspec ve as a geologist to the discussion by sugges ng that if we take the geological aspects of the region into considera on, challenges faced by conserva on could be be er understood. Prof. Xu, concluded with the observa on that nowpeople not only care about conserva on of natural assets but also assess who benefits from them in the global market. He expressed hope that we there will be more diversity, be er economic status and more social responsibility in the coming decade.



Amit Kujur

(I-r) Mainu Marak, Dr. Gita Du a

COMMUNITIES SPEAK - VOICES OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE LAND

Chairs: Dr. Gita Du a, Balipara Founda on, India

In Conversa on With: Amit Kujur, K-EDC, India Parmeshwar Rabha, K-EDC, India Suresh Pait, India Ganga Prasad Sharma, India Mainu Marak, MASK, India Dr. Gita Du a modera ng an important conversa on with members of the local communi es, the session recognized the experiences and e orts of communi es who have found successful solu ons to dealing water, educa on, health and erosion issues in their villages.

Ganga Prasad Sarma of the Nepali community in the Udalguri District, Assam described how his community has realized that to solve problems like Human Elephant Conflict, they have to recognise the root cause of the problem, which is deple ng green cover. Also hailing from the Udalguri district, Amit Kujur focused on how the shi in people's mindset has led to issues such as water scarcity, deforesta on, etc. Through Balipara Founda on's Udalguri Landscape Mission they have formed an Eco Development Commi ee and undertaken a oresta on programmes while educa ng communi es on how to work together to conserve and develop the environment.

Mainu Marak described educa ngand organizing women in her village about issues like soil erosion which resul ng in flooding has resulted not only in restric ng deforesta on but ac ve par cipa on in a oresta on programmes. Parmeshwar Rabha took the lead on crea ngawareness about the animals in his village. He would purchase exo canimals such as turtles, snakes, etc. sold at local markets he would and release them. Over me the community began to support him leading to a decrease in the sale of these captured animals.

Suresh Pait spoke about how he worked with government authori es to convert conserva on into a driver for tourism. He encouraged villagers to train as guides, cooks, shopkeepers, etc. and to stop illegal ac vity in the forest. Classrooms were built to educate villagers, helping them achieve 100% literacy. They created village homestays for direct tourism income and also help local organisa ons in plan ng and iden fying trees, plants, animals, etc. He concluded that the local people have their own knowledge of conserva on, which is equal to the knowledge of any scien st.

This session established that if conserva onists can work with the people from the regions they serve they can derive greater understanding by combining the indigenous knowledge with domain exper se.



His Excellency, President of the Central Tibetan Administra on, Dr. Lobsang Sangay

5[™] RABINDRANATH BARTHAKUR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Preserving Tibet - The Water Tower Of Asia His Excellency, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, President of the Central Tibetan Administration

His Excellency President of Central Tibetan Administra on, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, delivered the 5th Rabindranath Barthakur Memorial Lecture, 2017. In honour of Shri Rabindranath Barthakur and spoke about preserving & conserving the Eastern Himalayasand the Tibetan plateau, which is the Water Tower of Asia. He drewour a en on to the changing context of the new global world that we are entering into – one that is balanced with democra za on, technological advancements and development and at the same me conflicted because of wars, extremism, intolerance and violence. He highlighted the accelera ngrate at which we are developing and the human popula on visa vis the decline of our natural resources that may lead to wars in the future due to lack of the most important natural resource - water, causing global crisis. And for this reason, he urges to preserve Tibet – the water tower of Asia, which sustains 1.4 billion people who depend & survive on the 10 major rivers of Asia that flowfrom Tibet. He states that to understand global warming and dimate change, we need to understand the fragile Tibetan plateau, the mel ngglaciers and the deple ng flora and fauna that impacts not just Tibet but the ecosystem of the whole world. He also emphasized on the Tibetan value, rooted in Buddhism, to share their natural resources with the rest of the world and to live in harmony with nature. Which makes it essen all for the world to respect the fragile nature of Himalaya and the importance of the Tibetan plateau.



The Annual Balipara Founda on Award: Presented to a government or non-government organiza on, whose contribu on to the protec on of wild nature has gone beyond the call of duty and which has displayed demonstrable success in the arena of nature conserva on

The Balipara Founda on Naturenomics $^{\text{TM}}$ Award: Presented to a green entrepreneur whose financial and ecological success has proven to be sustainable in wealth forma on through the securi za on of natural assets such as food, water, energy and environment.

The Balipara Founda on Green Journalist Award: Presented to the green journalist for their outstanding coverage of community conserva on in and around the ecologically fragile wilderness.

The Balipara Founda on Eastern - Himalayan Conserva on Award: Presented to an individual, community or organiza on that has significantly and successfully worked to protect the wildlife or wildernesses of the Eastern Himalaya upon which millions of people depend for their sustenance.

The Balipara Founda on Green Guru Award: Presented to a 'green teacher' whose purpose in life is to inspire young people to respect, learn about and protect nature. The individual should have leadership quali es, including missionary zeal, passion and dedica on so that others may seek to emulate his or her example.

The Balipara Founda on Young Naturalist Award: Presented to a young boy / girl (age 15 to 25) whose life has been dedicated to the protec on of nature. These individuals are agents of change and thought leaders of tomorrow and may be students, researchers, employees, or villagers.

The Balipara Founda on Food for the Future Award: Presented to a visionary individual, who might be a scien st, NGO, villager or entrepreneur who has made a significant contribu on to the promo on of organic food, or has demonstrated alterna ve farming methods that increase yields using ecological principles that have brought about replicable change.

The Balipara Founda on Nature Conservancy Award: Presented to a community or organiza on, government or nongovernmental that has restored a parcel of non-forest land or deforested land to biodiversity-rich forest for posterity.

The Balipara Founda on Life me Service Award: Presented to an individual whose life has been devoted to the ecological welfare of the people of the Eastern Himalayas and whose philosophy and purpose have been guided by the need to protect, restore and care of nature. We are in search of a true hero; an Indian woman or man who is an inspira on to all.

Forest Rangers & Guards Awards: Presented to forest sta of Forest Departments for their exemplary service towards the protec on of Fauna and Flora in Na onal parks and reserve forest of the Eastern Himalayas.





The Annual Balipara Foundation Award was presented to Dr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung (r), Bhutan for Ecological Restoration in the region. The Award was presented by renowned TV Journalist Bahar Dutt (l)



The Naturenomics[™] Award was presented to Sagir Ahmed (r) for his sustainable use of waste coconut shells in Assam. The Award was presented by Naoko Ghosh (I), Yoga & Forest Walk Expert



The **Green Journalist Award** waspresented to **Amit Patro** (r) from Sikkim for raising awareness on socio-economic empowerment of the society & environment in Sikkim. The Award was presented by **Priyanka Bista** (I), Design Director & Co-Founder of the KTK-BELT Project



The Eastern Himalayan Conservation Award was presented to Joint Forest Management Committee of Bhairabkhunda for their a orestation work in Udalguri increasing forest cover. The Award was presented by Krishan Aggarwal (I), GM, Vivanta by Taj, Guwahati



The **Green Guru Award** was presented to **Dr. Sourabh Deb** of Tripura University for inspiring a new generation of environmental stewards through education The Award was presented by **Elsa Hart**, an American Novelist and Climate Change Research Specialist in China & Nepal



The Young Naturalist Award went to Hiskiya Sangma for leveraging technology & storytelling to raise awareness on wildlife conservation & environmental stewards. The Award was presented by Khun Rochana Dardaranada, Thailand's first speech pathologist





The Food for the Future Award was conferred to Krishna Bodo (r) of Omita Gaon (Assam's papaya village) for inspiring Community based farming. The Award was presented by renowned botanist Scott McMahan (l) of the Atlanta Botanical Garden



The Nature Conservancy Award went to Bhutan Glory Eco Club (Tsuseki & Limthure) for shifting the mindset of Naga youth from a hunting culture to preserving our natural heritage through education. The Award was presented by Sarala Khailing, (I) Regional Director at ATREE



The Rangers & Guards of the Eastern Himalayas Award went to Forest Ranger Khagen Bhuyan (I), Assam for his contribution towards synergizing community and wildlife conservation. The Award was presented by author Prerna Singh Bindra (r)



The Rangers & Guards of the Eastern Himalayas Award went to Forest Ranger Chakrapani Rai (r), Assam for his resolve to wipe out poachers from the region in order to protect the Natural Heritage. The Award was presented by Gen (Rtd.) Arun Sahni (I)



The Rangers & Guards of the Eastern Himalayas Award went to Forest Guard Zakhuma Don, Mizoram for his relentless anti-poaching patrols and leveraging technology to create a rich repository of audiovisual natural history. The Award was presented by S.K. Dutta



The Rangers & Guards of the Eastern Himalayas Award went to Forest Guard Jampel Lhendup (r), Bhutan for e ectively using Technology to deepen Conservation Impacts. The Award was presented by Arita Kashyap (I), Eco-Fashion Designer, India





The Rangers & Guards of the Eastern Himalayas Award went to Forest Guard Santiram Chetri (r), Assam for his beyond the call of duty service, protecting Kaziranga National Park. The Award was presented by Robbie Hart, Assistant Curator, Missouri Botanical Garden



Special Recognition was conferred on Mainu Marak (r) from Sonitpur, Assam for socio-economic upliftment of rural women in her village. The Award was presented by Dr. Peter Mortimer (I), Soil Ecology Specialist, Kunming Institute of Botany



Special Recognition was conferred on Assam Bengal Navigation, Jahnabi Phookan (r) & Ashish Phookan for pioneering long-distance river cruises in India. The Award was presented by Prof. Koyu Furusawa (I), Kokugakuin University, Japan



The Lifetime Service Award was conferred on Haokholet Kipgen (r), Manipur, for sustainable development through Foundation for Environment & Economic Development Services. The Award was presented by His Excellency, Dr. Lobsang Sangay (I), President of Central Tibetan Administration



Global Legends in Asian Elephant Conservation, Khun Sivaporn Dardarananda, Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, Thailand, Ms. Priyakna Yoshikawa, Miss World Japan 2016 & Brand Ambassador - Elephant Country and Parbati Barua, Queen of Elephants, Assam were honoured





172
Tweets

69,700
Tweet Impressions

25 - 34Top Age Group

51
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t₃ Retweets

308 ♥Likes

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Engagement

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KEY INFLUENCERS

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- ÿ 3 Press Conferences Pre, During & Post event
- ÿ 62 Ar des in leading publica ons Covered by leading in English, Assamese and Tibetan Media
- Ÿ Coverage in 5 Languages English, Hindi, Assamese, Japanese, French
- Ÿ 4 Prime Time Television Interviews



Foundation Khun Sivaporn Dardarananda and elephant

expert from Assam, Kushal

Konwar Sarma.





bility of connecting more ele-

phant corridors, understand conservation and focus on pro-

viding innovative solutions.





ミス・ワールド2016日本代表 PRIYANKA YOSHIKAWA Eco-Elephant Tourismと象保護活動で最も権威のある Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics(TM)Forumへの参加 が決定



株式会社LA DITTA(ラ・ディック)(東京都港区、シンガボール/代表取締役小里 搏 第)に所属する、ミス・ワールド2016日本代表PRIYANKA YOSHIKAWAK 2017年 11月2日、3日にインドのアッサムで開催される「東ヒマラヤ Naturenomicsフォー











