

BALIPARA FOUNDATION

Assam • India

Ushering in the Ecological Revolution

Naturenomics™ Digital Dialogues: 5th – 13th June 2020

ABOUT THE SERIES

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has clearly exposed the damage that ecological degradation will wreak in the future – not just future virulent pandemics, but droughts, water & food insecurity and the increasing desertification of once fertile soil. What used to be once in a lifetime disaster, is looking to soon become a once-a-year event.

The first edition of the Naturenomics™ Dialogues, **Ushering in the Ecological Revolution**, explored how we can rethink our use of natural capital, to start a revolution to put ecology back in economy – the Naturenomics™ vision.

Joined by over 30 diverse experts, the dialogues extended across 7 sessions exploring a natural capital recovery in the Eastern Himalayas and India.

The series brought together eminent speakers such as Dr. Vandana Shiva (Navdanya), Amb. Shyam Saran (Center for Policy Research), Amb. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta, Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Dasho Paljor Dorji (Govt. of Bhutan), Dr. Ashok Khosla (Development Alternatives) and S. Ramadorai (ex-TCS).

Through hour long deliberations broadcasted to a live audience on both Zoom & Facebook, our eminent speakers explored the following themes:

1. Transforming Business & Policy
2. Rural Resilience
3. Redefining Growth
4. Women's Voices
5. Restoring & Managing Habitats


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A New Era: Blueprint for the Naturenomics™ Revolution, pt. 1

His Excellency, Ambassador
Chandrashekhar Dasgupta

In Conversation with

- Vandana Shiva, Environmental Activist
- Shyam Saran: Member, Centre for Policy Research
- Ranjit Barthakur: Founder, Balipara Foundation
- Dasho Paljor Dorji: Ex Chief Justice, Government of Bhutan

HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19: The Naturenomics™
Civilization Solution

1. A full organic transition for biodiversity economies
2. Integrated policies of well-being
3. Community-driven solutions for resilient future



Ecology & Economy

1. Despite the segregation, economy derives from ecology
2. Natural assets are a currency in themselves
3. Natural assets must define wealth over monetary valuations

Environment Strategy &
Planning

1. Bigger, better, brighter, faster business policies have degraded natural assets
2. Environmental policies must be updated to respond to current contextual needs

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

An integrated
biodiversity, health &
climate policyNatural asset measures
integrated in growth &
wealth measurementsBiodiversity economies
through organic & protection
of common community lands
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A New Era: Blueprint for the Naturenomics™ Revolution, pt. 2**His Excellency, Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya***In Conversation with*

- Dr T. P. Singh, Deputy Regional Director, IUCN Asia
- Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group
- Nababrata Bhattacharjee, Chairman, Environmental Appraisal Committee, Meghalaya

HIGHLIGHTS**Natural Asset Management by Businesses**

1. Nature must be put before economy – harness natural assets through investment
2. Nature-based solutions are the key for the future
3. An agriscaping model of business particularly in eco-sensitive zones

**The Future of Business & Development**

1. Business policies must center the biosphere components of the SDGs
2. Business models for green infrastructure
3. Business growth through value chains producing sustainable livelihoods

**COVID-19: Opportunity for Change**

1. Business opportunity to shift to a clean "live, work & play" structure
2. Harness symbiotic nature-people relationships
3. From deforestation to environmental responsibility

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE**Full transition to green buildings & architecture especially in the Eastern Himalayas****Incorporate forest resource management & landscape restoration in business policies****Transition from CSR focus to environmental social responsibility focus**
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Technology & Innovation for Managing Habitats

Dr. Kamal Bawa, Founder, ATREE
In Conversation with

- Dr. Anish Andheria, President, Wildlife Conservation Trust.
- S. Ramadorai, Chairman, TISS Governing Council
- Dr. Bremley Lyngdoh, Founder, Worldview Impact Foundation
- Dr. Irina Fedorenko, Business Development, Earthbanc

HIGHLIGHTS

Technology for Wildlife Conservation

1. Space to soil, soil to space digital conservation models
2. Comprehensive, real-time monitoring & trend analysis
3. Data analysis to analyze degradation patterns & plan restoration and climate change mitigation



The Role of AI

1. Central in developing comprehensive matrices & indices for biodiversity
2. Tracking wildlife movement to minimize conflict
3. Data analysis for changing conservation behaviour among communities



Empowering Community-driven Conservation

1. Connect conscious investors with communities for habitat restoration & restorative agriculture
2. Community ownership over technology for mapping, restoration & natural asset management

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Train & equip forest-fringe communities with technology for collaborative conservation



Green digital banking for the Eastern Himalayas' natural assets



Collaborate with communities to generate better, comprehensive data sets for analysis



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Putting Women Front & Centre: Women For Forests

**Dr. Diana Owen, Director-General,
Royal Over-Seas League**

In Conversation with

- Karuna Singh, Country Director, Earth Day Network – India
- Trisha Ghose, Project Director, The Habitats Trust
- Tamara Law Goswami, Sustainability Consultant

HIGHLIGHTS**Traditional Knowledge Systems**

1. Indigenous women are living repositories of traditional ecological knowledge
2. Critical for natural resource conservation
3. Conservation models must consider this knowledge

**Fostering Leadership**

1. Financial & economic independence is the key to creating women leaders
2. Women mentorship for training next-gen leaders
3. Educate men about gender equality & the need for women leaders

**Capacity Building**

1. Sensitize indigenous women about the value of their traditional knowledge
2. Formation of Self-Help Groups to enhance voices
3. Platforms for showcasing their work
4. Mitigate gendered barriers in programme design

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Develop a regional network of women for sharing best practices



Document women's knowledge & incorporate in conservation programme design



Involve men in the push for bringing women into decision-making spheres



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Women's Livelihoods: Securing Resilient Incomes through Natural Capital

Rhea Hussain, Custodian – Rural Futures, Balipara Foundation

In Conversation with

- Hasina Kharbhih, Founder & Chairperson, Impulse Network
- Jacob Nina, Executive Trustee & CEO, Axis Bank Foundation
- Julie Stein, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Wildlife Friendly Network

HIGHLIGHTS

Indigenous Skills in Livelihoods Enhancement

1. Women have developed rich skills for sustainable survival & food security in the Eastern Himalayas
2. Assess, document and revive traditional skills
3. Encourage youth to learn these skills



Enhancing Markets

1. Profit-sharing collaborations with designers to enhance skills & designs for external markets
2. Develop local markets through local consumption
3. Authentic stories to market to aspirational consumers



Inclusive Policies

1. Invest in creating multiple streams of incomes for women
2. Incentivize entrepreneurship through ownership
3. Empower women smallholders through stronger land rights

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Consortium funding to invest deeply in rural women's livelihoods



Including indigenous skills in government policy design



Empower women to manage financial responsibilities to nurture entrepreneurship



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Designing Interdependence: Integrating People, Ecology & Economy**Dr. Ashok Khosla, Founder,
Development Alternatives Group***In Conversation with*

- Dr. Sarala Khaling, Regional Director – Eastern Himalayas, ATREE
- Shankar Venkateswaran, Head of ESG Engagement, ECube Investment Advisors Ltd.

HIGHLIGHT THEMES**Rethinking Economics**

1. GDP fails to account for factors in human well-being
2. Ecological indicators remain poorly integrated in measures
3. Ecosystems services measures can be integrated to reflect actual development

**Conservation & Development**

1. Landscapes intertwined with culture in the North East
2. Incentivize communities engaged in conservation or ecologically restorative activity
3. Restructure tourism & other businesses to center sustainability

**Sustainable Business**

1. Regulations made for corporate benefits clash with SDGs
2. Investors & consumers must push businesses to move to sustainable practices
3. Business value models must move to a total measure of profit, not just financial

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Integrate natural asset indicators with economic & social indicators for a holistic indice



Business responsibility index to assess business conduct on environment & ecology



Award and support indigenous communities working on carbon sinks through traditional methods



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Redefining Rural Futures: Building Local Natural Capital Economies



Dr. Anish Andheria, President, Wildlife Conservation Trust

In Conversation with

- **Saurav Malhotra**, Co-Founder & Designer – Rural Futures, Balipara Foundation
- **Rita Banerji**, Founder, Green Hub
- **Pradeep Banerjee**, Independent Advisor, Hindustan Unilever Ltd.

HIGHLIGHTS



Responsible & Sustainable Business

1. Businesses must move to a 4g model of growth which is responsible, sustainable & profitable
2. Expand businesses without damaging environment
3. Empower smallholders through better value chains



Rural Growth & Inclusivity

1. Ecologically restorative livelihoods are possible
2. Localisation through agroforestry to increase self-reliance
3. Devolve power to communities to manage natural assets
4. Businesses & communities partner for conservation



Youth: Natural Capital of the Future

1. Youth have the strongest investment in the future
2. Biodiversity documentation as an alternate livelihood – there is a future in conservation
3. Visual documentation is a robust way of connecting youth with natural capital

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Connect rural communities to urban markets through sustainable business supply chains



Connected localization to minimize dependency through agroforestry



Invest in turning conservation into a viable economic opportunity for rural & indigenous youth



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Ushering in the Ecological Revolution – Outreach

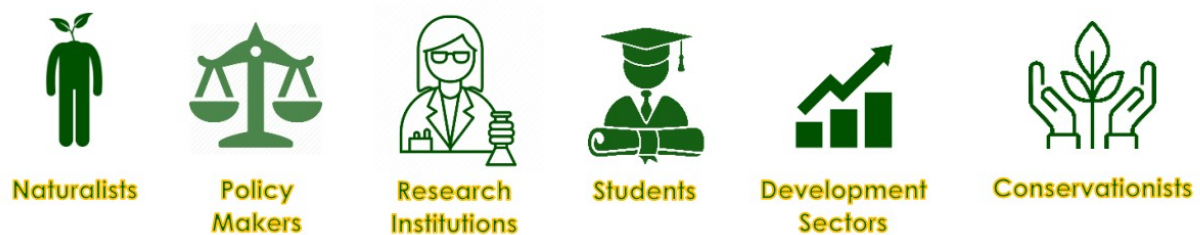
Communications through the **Naturenomics™ Dialogues: Ushering in the Ecological Revolution** focused on bringing together network of different communities and partners and encouraging a critical debate on the opportunity to transition to a green economy in India and the Eastern Himalayas.

Embracing the new normal and the acceleration towards the digital have given us the opportunity to nurture, grow and engage with our key audiences by rightly putting forward our objectives through the principles of Naturenomics™ and Rural Futures in a more connected way, the beginning of which is the first series of the Naturenomics™ Dialogues.

THE OBJECTIVE



THE AUDIENCE



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THE REACH

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A NEW ERA: BLUEPRINT FOR THE NATURENOMICS™ REVOLUTION PART 1

Moderator
Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta

SPEAKERS
Shyam Saran, Ranjit Barhokur, Gresha Rajar Dora, Vandana Shiva

5th June, 2020 | 5 – 6 PM

Reach-65,520

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A NEW ERA: BLUEPRINT FOR THE NATURENOMICS™ REVOLUTION PART 2

Moderator
Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya

SPEAKERS
Nabendra Bhattacharyya, T. R. Singh, Anirban Ghosh

5th June, 2020 | 7.30 – 8.30 PM

Reach-59,365

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TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR MANAGING HABITATS

Moderator
Kamal Bora

SPEAKERS
Anish Andheria, Bramley Lyngdoh, Irina Fedorenko, S. Ramadani

9th June, 2020 | 6.30 – 7.30 PM

Reach-24,584

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PUTTING WOMEN FRONT AND CENTRE – WOMEN FOR FORESTS

Moderator
Diane Owen

SPEAKERS
Taraana Lata Goswami, Trisha Ghose, Karuna Singh

10th June, 2020 | 6.30 – 7.30 PM

Reach-47,953

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WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS – SECURING RESILIENT INCOMES THROUGH NATURAL CAPITAL

Moderator
Rhaas Hussain

SPEAKERS
Hasina Kharbhih, Julie Stein, Jacqui Niman

11th June, 2020 | 6.30 – 7.30 PM

Reach-22,581

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DESIGNING INTERDEPENDENCE - REINTEGRATING PEOPLE, ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY

Moderator
Ashok Khosla

SPEAKERS
Saroja Khaling, Sourav Roy, Shankar Venkateswaran

12th June, 2020 | 6.30 – 7.30 PM

Reach-17,515

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REDEFINING RURAL FUTURES - BUILDING LOCAL NATURAL CAPITAL ECONOMIES

Moderator
Anish Andheria

SPEAKERS
Sourav Mahanta, Pradeep Barman, Ritu Banerjee

13th June, 2020 | 6.30 – 7.30 PM

Reach-17,898



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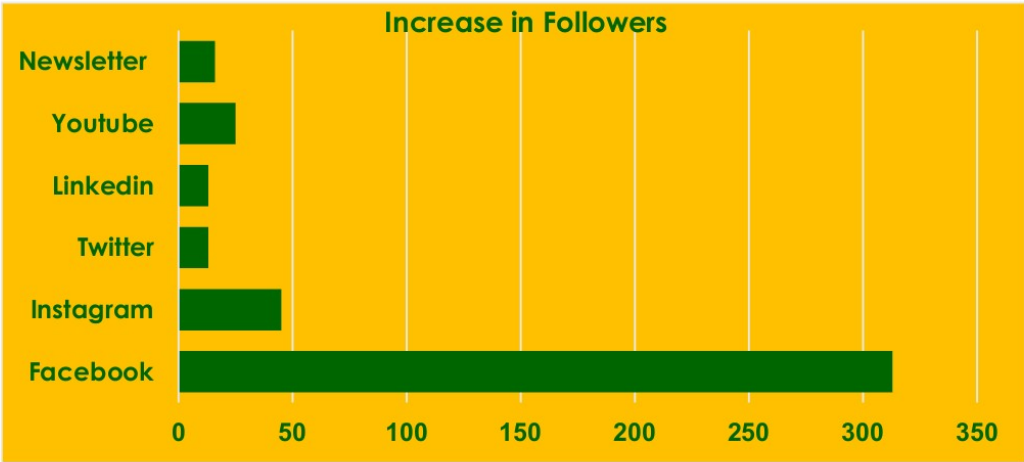
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THE COUNTRIES



OUR FOLLOWERS





177
Connections



1295
Followers



1932
Followers



23,355
Followers



270
Subscribers



1126
Subscribers



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ENGAGEMENT POSTS



Announcements



Speaker Introductions



Countdowns



Session Briefs

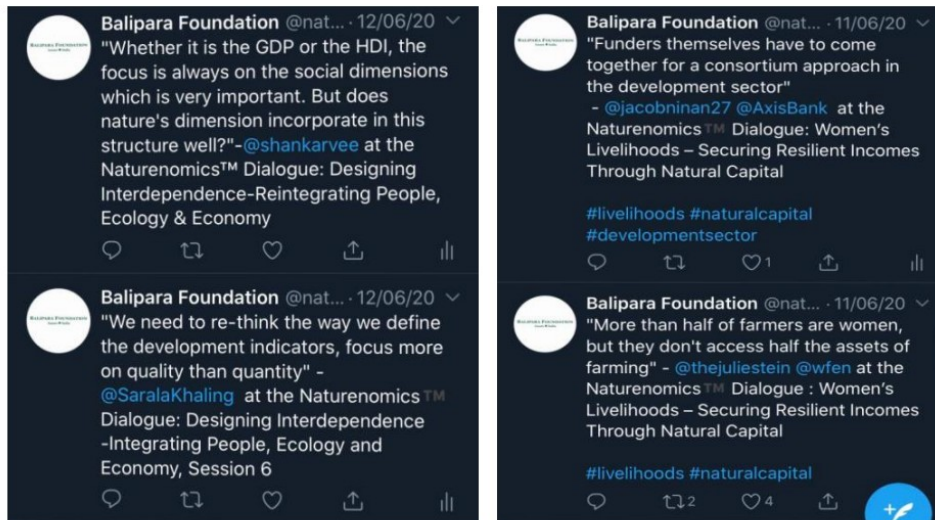


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ENGAGEMENT POSTS



Live Tweets



Speaker Quotes



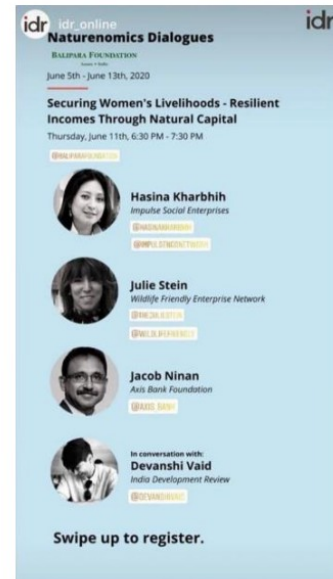
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PARTNER ENGAGEMENT



Watch the @naturenomics™ Dialogue on Woman's Livelihoods: Securing Resilient Incomes Through Natural Capital – Session 5 on Sustainable Natural Capital based practices create healthy ecosystems for a Climate-Resilient Future.

YouTube



Tweet your reply


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MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



Articles and media mentions:

1. <https://unitreedtimes.com/news/first-digital-offshoot-of-naturenomics-forum-concludes-successfully/>
2. <https://www.eastmojo.com/assam/2020/06/15/balipara-foundation-completes-maiden-naturenomics-dialogues>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/215998652254571/posts/855096651678098/>
4. https://youtu.be/VZHb_C3jAhU



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ABOUT THE NATURENOMICS™ DIALOGUES

The Naturenomics™ Dialogues is a digital offshoot of the the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum. It aims to bring together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to debate pressing issues and opportunities for action in ecology, economy & community-centred conservation with a focus on the Eastern Himalayan region – India's North East, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and China.

The Naturenomics™ Dialogues is part of a broader initiative to pivot our flagship forum, the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, to meet the challenges of the “new normal” through digitization.

The Naturenomics™ Dialogues will return next month, to explore new themes and questions, some raised over these sessions, for creating Rural Futures in the Eastern Himalayas.

ABOUT THE EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUM

The Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum is a global, interdisciplinary platform that brings together businesses, communities, the development sector, conservationists and academics to foster knowledge sharing, and generate grassroots actionable solutions to create Rural Futures across the Eastern Himalayas.

First instituted in 2013, the Forum has evolved and branched out into regional forums, the first of which was held in Sikkim in 2019, followed by a forum in Bhutan in 2020. Over the next few years, the Forum aims to expand its reach into all states & countries of the Eastern Himalayas.



100+ Earth Heroes
200+ Projects
Through the Social
Recognition Awards



2000+
Participants



20+
Countries



100+
Discussion
Topics


**EASTERN HIMALAYAN
NATURENOMICS™ FORUM**
— 3rd & 4th November, 2020 —
Guwahati, Assam, India



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