



BALIPARA FOUNDATION

Assam • India

Naturenomics™ Dialogues 2.0

Rewilding the Future

REPORT

16th June – 7th July | 2021

Rewilding the Future

Naturenomics™ Dialogues vol. 2 : 16th June – 7th July 2021

ABOUT THE SERIES

Green is in. As the world gears up to set key climate goals at COP26 in Glasgow this year, countries and corporations are racing to institute new policies to limit carbon emissions and invest in sustainable business models and practices. Countries like China and the US have outlined ambitious programmes to ramp up government spending to aid a complete renewable energy transition while creating jobs for their economies and strengthening their GDP.

For climate vulnerable regions like the Eastern Himalayas, even a 1.5 C rise will transform its climate, impacting everything from its water sources, to the crops that can be grown, its biodiversity and by extension, the lives of the 246 million people living there. Climate resilience is poor: people lack access to resources that could help them weather these changes. For a primarily agrarian community, swift action is not a choice, it is a necessity, beginning with its rich natural assets.

The Eastern Himalayan region suffers from the historical problem of being natural capital rich, but money poor. As the world sets goals for the future of climate and biodiversity, the Eastern Himalayan region must seize this opportunity to take the lead on a new future for people and biodiversity.

Last year, at the 8th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, the Balipara Foundation held multiple conversations on the theme of **Ecology is Economy**. Building on these conversations and the key outcomes from this forum, this series of the Naturenomics™ Dialogues will explore and debate the theme of **Rewilding the Future**: moving beyond rewilding as a means of restoring the complexity of our natural ecosystems, to restoring the interdependence between our natural, social and economic systems by building a new, natural capital economy participatorily led and stewarded by indigenous and rural communities. This is the first step on the path to equitable climate resilience for people and biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas.

Through this series, we explore the role that our rich forests can play in our wellbeing and resilience, in mitigating climate threats and its social repercussions, how to create an equitable ecological budget and how a rewilding economy could help communities achieve greater agency over setting their own development and wellbeing priorities beyond the limitations of the GDP. These key themes will serve as an introduction to the critical themes and conversations of the 9th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, as we continue to explore the idea of **Ecology is Economy** and shape the future of the Eastern Himalayas, its people, biodiversity and economy.

Forests for All: Intersectional Climate and Environmental Resilience

16th June 2021



In Conversation with:

- **Hasina Kharbhih**, Managing Director of Impulse NGO
- **Prakash Das**, Co-Founder Xomonnoy, LGBTQIA+ led collective
- **Pratik Pormey**, LGBTQIA+ Social Activist

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Climate Change and Impact risks on Communities(LGBTQI+, Indigenous Women)

1. Queer community are more vulnerable to climate risks because of less advocating rights & low economic mobility.
2. The practices of indigenous customary laws are relevant in context to forest, women, property rights & land rights.
3. Climate impacts have forced indigenous communities to migrate for economic stability and hence gets exposed to violence and trafficking.



Sustainable Traditions of Indigenous Community in a Climate Changing Scenario

1. Indigenous community live an eco-friendly, minimalistic and self dependent life. They are known to the farmers, fishermen, architects, weavers etc.
2. The traditional architecture of indigenous communities have been designed to counteract climate driven disasters like flood, earthquake.
3. Over time, the values, morals and demography of Indigenous people are changing due to lack of economic opportunities.



Sustainable Market to Rewild Economy around Forest & Equitable resilience to climate change

1. Fast fashion and rainbow capitalism hardly benefits the queer community, while causes a larger ecological damage by unsustainable practices.
2. In the fight for rights and generation equality we are using market forces to establish our identity, be it queer or indigenous communities.
3. Restoring the ancestral traditional skills of indigenous women by providing them choices of economic, which makes them less vulnerable to climate impacts.

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Policies to secure customary & land rights of indigenous people under special clauses



Integrate movements for indigenous, women's and LGBTQ rights with the movement for climate resilience



Availing economic choices & end to end market to indigenous people with traditional skills

Forest for Health: Linking Forests & Zoonotic diseases

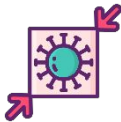
23rd June 2021



In Conversation with:

- **Dr Sunita Pradhan**, Conservation Biologist, ATREE Eastern Himalayan Office
- **Dr Sonali Ghosh**, Deputy Inspector General of Forest-Central Zoo Authority
- **Dr Parag Deka**, Wildlife Veterinarian, Project Director of Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme, Assam

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Zoonotic diseases emergence, risk & management in the Eastern Himalayas

1. Not only human-wildlife intervene, but zoonotic diseases are also linked to domestic animals along with gamete of other factors involved in a shared environment.
2. Agricultural expansion is a single big contributor to loss of habitats, agricultural intensification, intensive livestock operations and other agrarian dynamics shares a greater role in facilitating of disease emergence and amplification.
3. Ecosystem based Disaster Reduction approach by keeping forest ecosystems intact can help mitigate zoonotic disasters in the region.



Research, conservation strategies & challenges in outbreak of zoonotic diseases

1. Need to be aware about emerging diseases, identifying entry points, conduct a disease risk management strategy.
2. Habitats plays a major role in regulation of diseases but with increased incursions this regulatory mechanisms is disturbed influencing host, vector and pathogens abundance and distribution.
3. Eastern Himalayas is a risk landscape to zoonotic diseases. Assam particularly reported highest number of infectious diseases, followed by North Bengal.



One Health Approach- Cross Sectoral engagement for human wellbeing

1. Need based approach to study and understand forest & wildlife health. Standardized full -proof sample collection method for wild animals needs to be developed.
2. Fringe communities need to be educated on maintaining health of immediate habitats as well full proof sample collection method from wild.
3. Create a safe zone or barrier for wild animals and domesticated animals : Rein vaccination of animals in radius around protected areas.

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Documentation of traditional knowledge & practices for healthy effective ecosystem management



Educate and involve indigenous people for effective assessments of forest & wildlife health



Rewilding of fragmented habitats for developing healthy ecosystems

Rewilding the Ecological Budget 30th June 2021



In Conversation with:

- **Sourav Roy**, Chief- Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Steel
- **Oliver Miltenberger**, Principal Consultant, The Conservation Exchange
- **Shalini Goyal Bhalla**, Managing Director, International Council for Circular Economy

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Ecological budgeting to value natural capital & driving Naturenomics™

1. More focus needs in planning CSR programs: needs more investment of time, defining objectives, finding and validating data on ground.
2. Due to involvement of multiple stakeholders, the prime objectives of CSR program subsides in due course of implementation.
3. A mental social movement has to happen in terms of valuing natural ecosystems.



Democratized ecological budgeting for businesses & equitable benefits to communities

1. Important to understand for whom is the Ecological Budget in terms of how shared it is, how much investment the budget is going into.
2. Effective resource allocation needs to be done in terms of educating communities and setting right principles for eco-budgeting starting from the grassroots.
3. Evidence based policy development with Involvement of indigenous communities as active stakeholders in planning and implementation process of ecological budget is critical for achieving desired result.



Rewilding traditional finance mechanisms- building resilient ecosystems & communities

1. Scale up carbon unit market to help mitigate Climate Change. Explore bonding mechanism for wildlife & biodiversity conservation.
2. Formulate a platform or emersion program for facilitators, policy makers and corporates within grassroots to understand community context in ecological budget.
3. Transparent data sharing and analytics, monitoring and evaluation with stakeholders. Midcourse correction of project during implementation.

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Collaborative effort & unified approach to centralisation of natural resources



Economic benefit directly driven to indigenous communities



Ecological budgeting in continuum of evidence, measurement & valuation

Rewilding Wellbeing & Equity 7th July 2021



In Conversation with:

- Keynote speaker: **Saber Hossain Chowdhury**, Chairman to Parliamentary Standing Committee for Environment Bangladesh
- **Pem Lama**, Director to Bhutan Ecological Society.
- **Diana Friedrich**, Programme Manager, Patagonia Azul Programme, Rewilding Argentina
- **Helena Norberg Hodge**, Founder & Director to Local Futures & the International Alliance for Localization

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Indicators & alternative definitions to Progress & Wellbeing

1. Development measurement indexes like GNH is multidimensional and is holistic. There are many aspects to well being and progress and GDP is a limited approach to measure.
2. Indicators for well being and progress should act as a screening tool for policies and projects implemented in context of environment, health, education and the role of women.
3. There is no one big solution for one big problem, because ecology is diversified across the globe. Solution to emerging ecological crisis like climate change should be local and driven from the indigenous perspectives.



Essentials of economic localization: decentralizing the forces of global economic change

1. The path of rewilding is a part of localization, rebuilding of the community fabric where human beings connect with each other and to the natural ecosystems.
2. Economic localization is a structured/pragmatic economic way of re-establishing interdependence with nature, to critically move away from a centralized top-down approach.
3. The deeper dialogue of human with nature gave birth to global cultural and linguistic diversity. The homogenization of one consumer culture is provoking humans of feeling inadequate.



Indigenous communities' role towards rewilding a more holistic economic and social wellbeing

1. Indigenous communities with their traditional skill sets at the localized context should be moulded in the rewilding process. Check dilution of indigenous knowledge with emerging of innovative concepts.
2. Building on foundations of local food to create community-based energy, bi-local alliances, support local businesses and enable local finance.
3. A paradigm shift from global to local; international collaborations supporting economic localization to deregulate global monopolies in a counter productive way.

CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Building alternate, sustainable local economies incorporating indigenous practices & leadership



Support & learn from local players, rather than global players: rebuilding localized food economy worldwide



Transboundary coordination and collaboration for social wellbeing and living within planetary boundaries

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COMMUNICATIONS

Naturenomics Dialogues 2.0
Forests for All: Intersectional Climate & Environmental Resilience
16th June 2021
Time: 4 pm - 5 pm

Speakers



Hasina Kharbhih Prakash Das Pratik Permey

Reach : 115K

Naturenomics Dialogues 2.0
Forests for Health
23rd June 2021
Time: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm IST

Speakers



Dr. Sonali Ghosh Dr. Sunita Pradhan Dr. Parag Jyoti Deka

Reach : 164K

Naturenomics Dialogues 2.0
Rewilding the Ecological Budget
30th June 2021
Time: 7 pm - 8 pm IST

Speakers



Sourav Roy Oliver Miltenberger Shalini Goyal Bhalla

Reach - 193K

Naturenomics Dialogues 2.0
Rewilding Wellbeing & Equity
7th July 2021
Time: 3:45 to 5:00 pm IST

Speakers



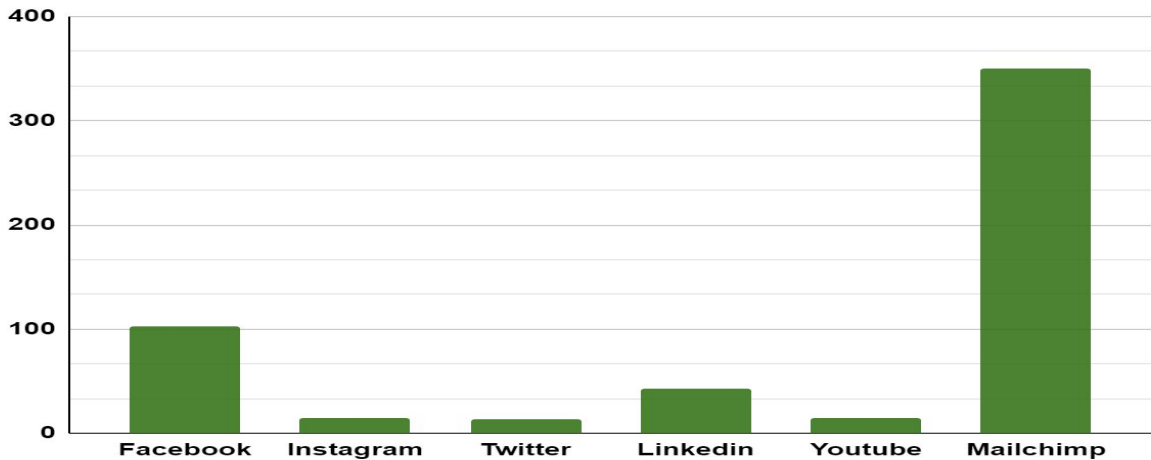
Saber Hossain Chowdhury (Keynote Speaker) Diana Friedrich Helena Norberg-Hodge Pem Lama

Reach - 20K

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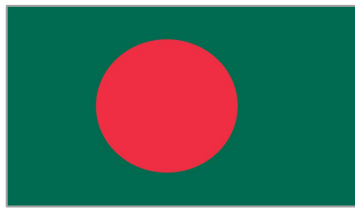
NEW USERS ACQUIRED THROUGH NATURENOMICS™ DIALOGUES



Participating Countries



Bhutan



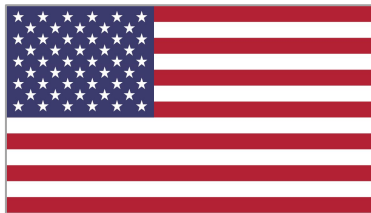
Bangladesh



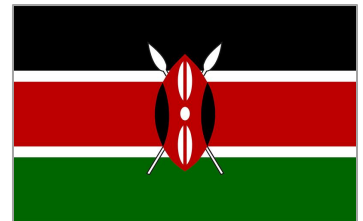
Argentina



Australia



United States



Kenya

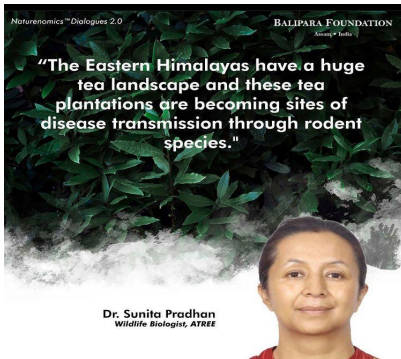


India

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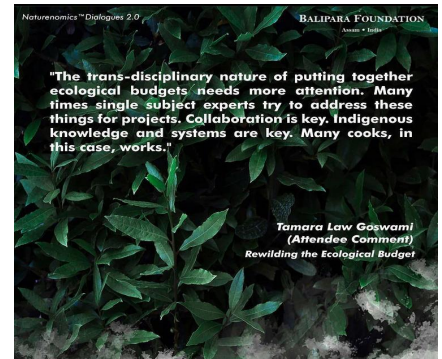
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS



Live Speakers
Quotes



Live Session Posts

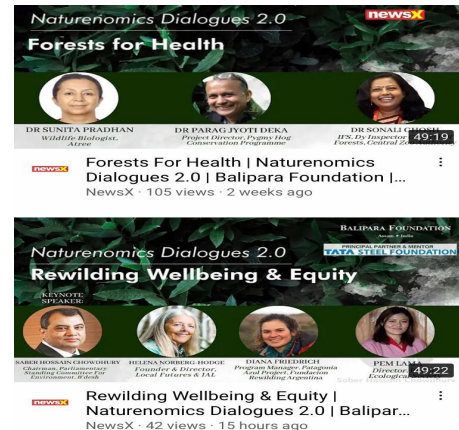


Attendee
Comments

NEWSX POSTS TELECAST



NewsX promotional
creatives

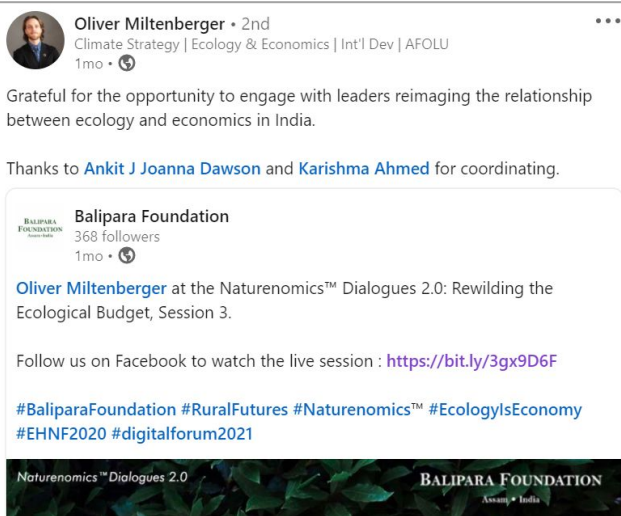


Session videos on
NewsX Channel

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PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS



Oliver Miltenberger • 2nd
Climate Strategy | Ecology & Economics | Int'l Dev | AFOLU
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Grateful for the opportunity to engage with leaders reimagining the relationship between ecology and economics in India.

Thanks to [Ankit J Joanna Dawson](#) and [Karishma Ahmed](#) for coordinating.

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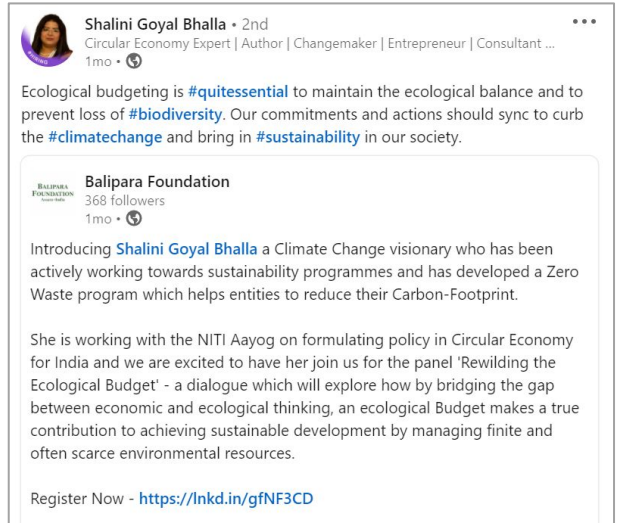
[Oliver Miltenberger](#) at the Naturenomics™ Dialogues 2.0: Rewilding the Ecological Budget, Session 3.

Follow us on Facebook to watch the live session : <https://bit.ly/3gx9D6F>

[#BaliparaFoundation](#) [#RuralFutures](#) [#Naturenomics™](#) [#EcologyIsEconomy](#) [#EHN2020](#) [#digitalforum2021](#)

Naturenomics™ Dialogues 2.0 BALIPARA FOUNDATION Assam • India

Speaker
Engagement



Shalini Goyal Bhalla • 2nd
Circular Economy Expert | Author | Changemaker | Entrepreneur | Consultant ...
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Ecological budgeting is [#quitesential](#) to maintain the ecological balance and to prevent loss of [#biodiversity](#). Our commitments and actions should sync to curb the [#climatechange](#) and bring in [#sustainability](#) in our society.

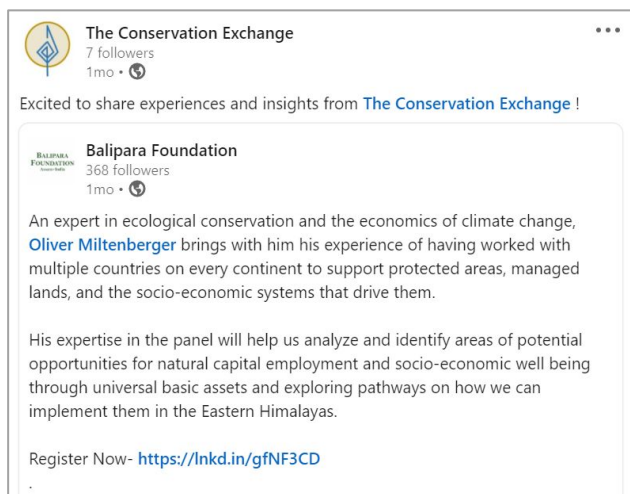
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Introducing [Shalini Goyal Bhalla](#) a Climate Change visionary who has been actively working towards sustainability programmes and has developed a Zero Waste program which helps entities to reduce their Carbon-Footprint.

She is working with the NITI Aayog on formulating policy in Circular Economy for India and we are excited to have her join us for the panel 'Rewilding the Ecological Budget' - a dialogue which will explore how by bridging the gap between economic and ecological thinking, an ecological Budget makes a true contribution to achieving sustainable development by managing finite and often scarce environmental resources.

Register Now - <https://lnkd.in/g/fNF3CD>

Speaker
Engagement



The Conservation Exchange
7 followers
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Excited to share experiences and insights from [The Conservation Exchange](#) !

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An expert in ecological conservation and the economics of climate change, [Oliver Miltenberger](#) brings with him his experience of having worked with multiple countries on every continent to support protected areas, managed lands, and the socio-economic systems that drive them.

His expertise in the panel will help us analyze and identify areas of potential opportunities for natural capital employment and socio-economic well being through universal basic assets and exploring pathways on how we can implement them in the Eastern Himalayas.

Register Now- <https://lnkd.in/g/fNF3CD>

Partner Organisation
Engagement



impulsenetwork

Naturenomics™ Dialogues 2.0

Forests for All: Intersectional Climate & Environmental Resilience

Date: 16th June
Time: 4 pm - 5 pm

Hasina Kharbhih
Founder & Chairperson
Impulse NGO Network

Link in Bio

REGISTER NOW

Partner Organisation
Engagement

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 NorthEast, 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. Since 2020, the Forum has focused on the theme of **Ecology is Economy** for the region's future.

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. The Forum held 12 digital editions of the regional forums in 2020 across all the states and countries of the Eastern Himalayas, and in 2021, held physical forums in Bangladesh and Manipur.



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



2000+
Participants



23+
Countries



100+
Discussion
Topics