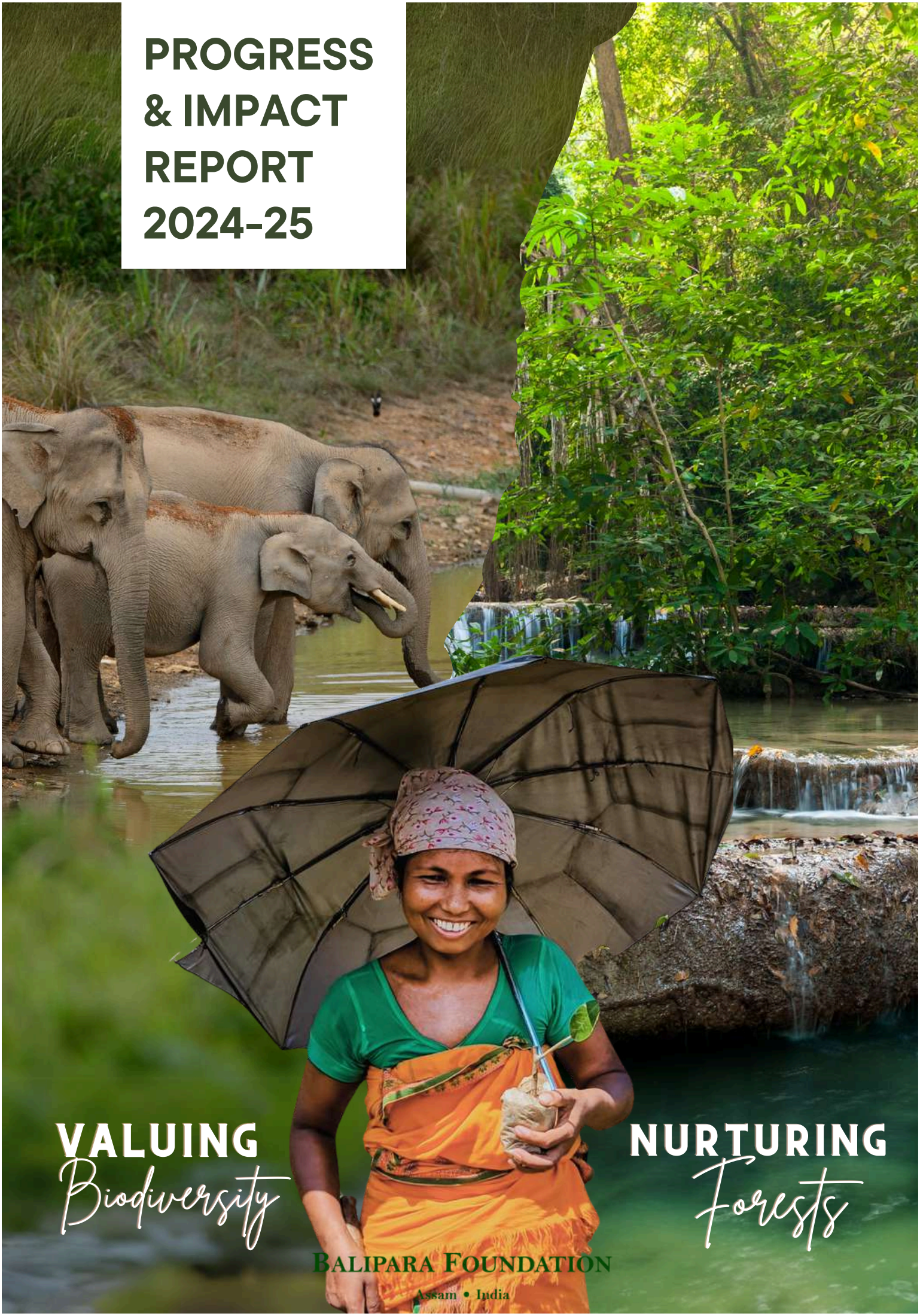
PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT 2024-25



VALUING *Biodiversity*

NURTURING *Forests*

BALIPARA FOUNDATION

Assam • India

TOWARDS A NATURENOMICS™ FUTURE

Securing the future of our planet's Third Pole—the Eastern Himalaya—depends on the vitality of its forests, the wisdom of its cultures, and the resilience of its communities. Here, ancient traditions breathe life into ecosystems, and every tree, river, and mountain carries the memory of coexistence. Protecting this region means safeguarding not just biodiversity, but a way of life where nature and people are inseparable.

VISION

Valuing Biodiversity, Nurturing Forests

MISSION

To create Biodiversity Havens in the Eastern Himalaya for a Resilient and Regenerative Future

OBJECTIVES

21 Million Trees
in 21,000 Hectares by 2028

65,000 People

INR 145 million Natural Capital

LEVERS TO A NATURENOMICS™ FUTURE

Biodiversity & Forestry

Knowledge Hub

Cultural Inheritance

FOREWORD

Where Biodiversity Begins: Seeds, Stories, and the Naturenomics™ Future

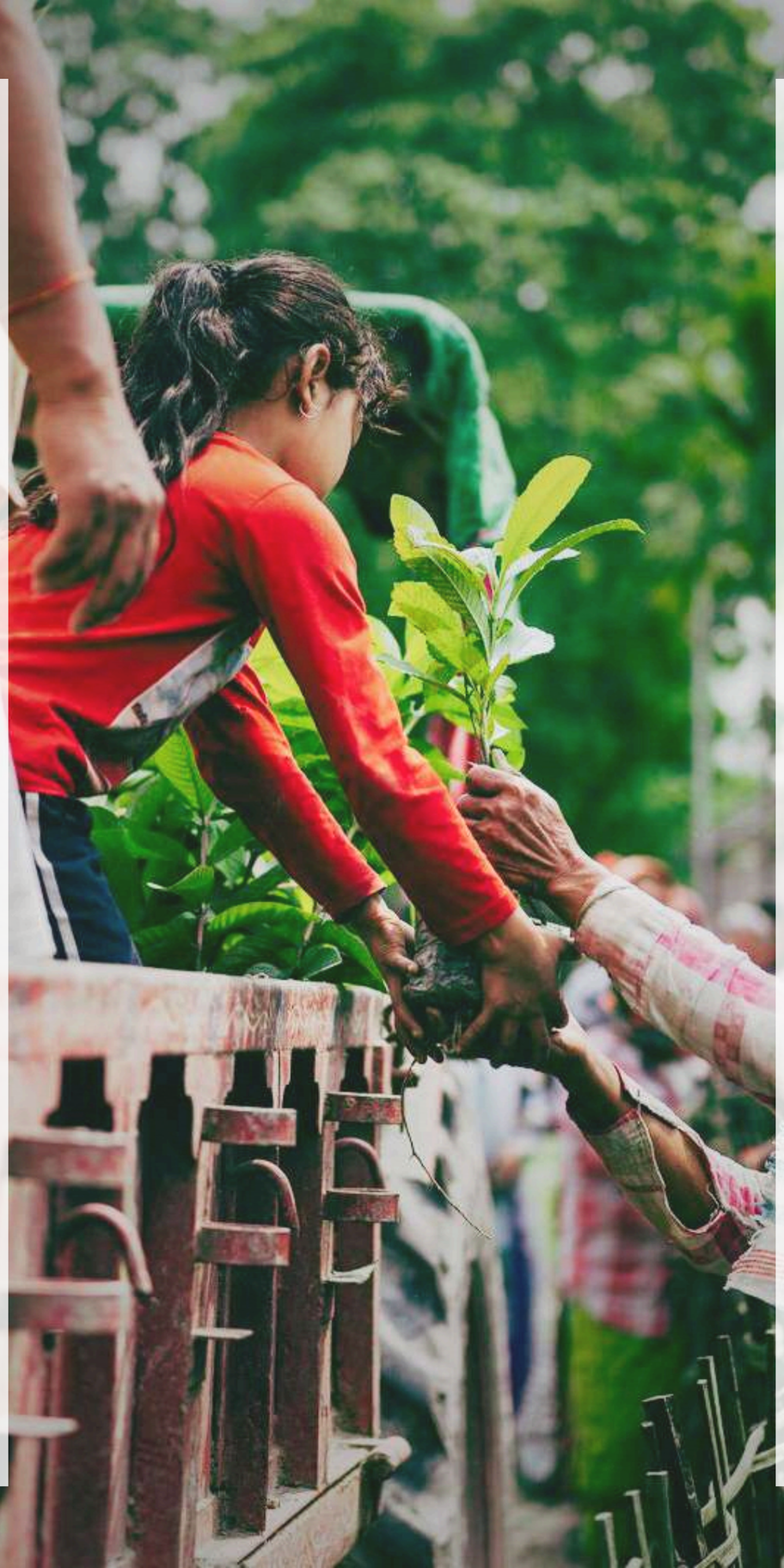
by Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Forester

The Himsagar, the vast expanse of the Eastern Himalaya, embodies more than just an ecological region; it represents the soul of South Asia's biodiversity and the gateway to our survival. Towering peaks, dense forests, and pristine rivers form the lifeblood of this region, but these systems are now under threat. This is the Third Pole, home to some of the most diverse species on Earth, and yet, we are losing it at an alarming rate. The forested hills and fertile plains of the Himsagar are integral to the future of millions of people. Without them, both the region and humanity face a bleak future.

At the Balipara Foundation, we believe deeply in the science of restoration, a science that is both ecological and cultural. Since our founding in 2007, we have worked to blend the technological tools of today with the traditional wisdom of communities to heal landscapes across the Eastern Himalayan region. Restoration for us is a holistic act: a way to repair degraded soils, revive drying springs, protect and preserve native species and reweave the broken fabric of life between species and people.

We have embraced technology not as a replacement for nature, but as an ally. Today, we use drones to map and monitor forests, and to track our reforestation initiatives. Remote sensing, GIS and data modelling help us understand soil health, carbon sequestration and biodiversity patterns. This synergy of science and technology gives us a lens of precision, allowing us to target restoration where it matters most and to measure what is often invisible.

In 2024–2025, we raised 1.76 million saplings in 11 community nurseries, with a focus on 36 native species that reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of the region. We established five community-driven seed banks, securing over 5 million seeds across 41 species, creating a genetic safety net for the forests of tomorrow. Seed banks are more than storage systems. They are a safeguard for the future, preserving biodiversity in the face of habitat loss and shifting ecological patterns.



Since 2007, we have restored and sustainably managed over 11,708 hectares of land across 16 biodiversity hotspots. 14.5 million saplings have been planted, nurtured, and monitored - of which 46% of the land is fully restored, 42% sustainably managed, and the rest propagated through community nurseries. Every hectare restored is a story of return: of the hornbill back in its nesting grounds, of mushrooms regenerating the soil, of butterflies reappearing in agroforests, and the rustle of mammals and birds finding their way back to regenerated corridors.

But perhaps our greatest lesson has been that biodiversity is not only about species; it is about relationships - between trees and people, between rivers and rituals and between forests and food. It lives in the songs of the forests, the oral stories of elders, the festivals woven into harvest cycles. At Balipara Foundation, culture has always been our understanding, a compass that guides how we engage with communities, how we learn from indigenous knowledge systems and how we reimagine restoration not as extraction, but as reciprocity. The Himsagar (Eastern Himalaya), like all living ecosystems, does not demand charity. It demands humility, science, solidarity and foresight. It asks that we restore not only land but the social contracts that bind us to nature and to each other. In every seed bank, every revived forest, every living watershed, we honour that bond. As we step into the next phase of our journey, we call on those who dream of a more resilient world to join us in action, not just in intention.

This belief in rooted futures came to life at the 12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum 2024, where the voice of the youth rang clear and strong from the river islands of Assam to the glacial frontiers of Nepal and Bhutan. These were stories of determination: of young people who want not to leave, but to stay and rebuild. Who seek, not escape, the dignity in their own landscapes. What they need is not more vision but the means to act: resources, tools, allies and most importantly, the vision and will to restore.

We believe the time for talk is over. It is time to act with courage, with clarity and in purpose, with the community.

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE

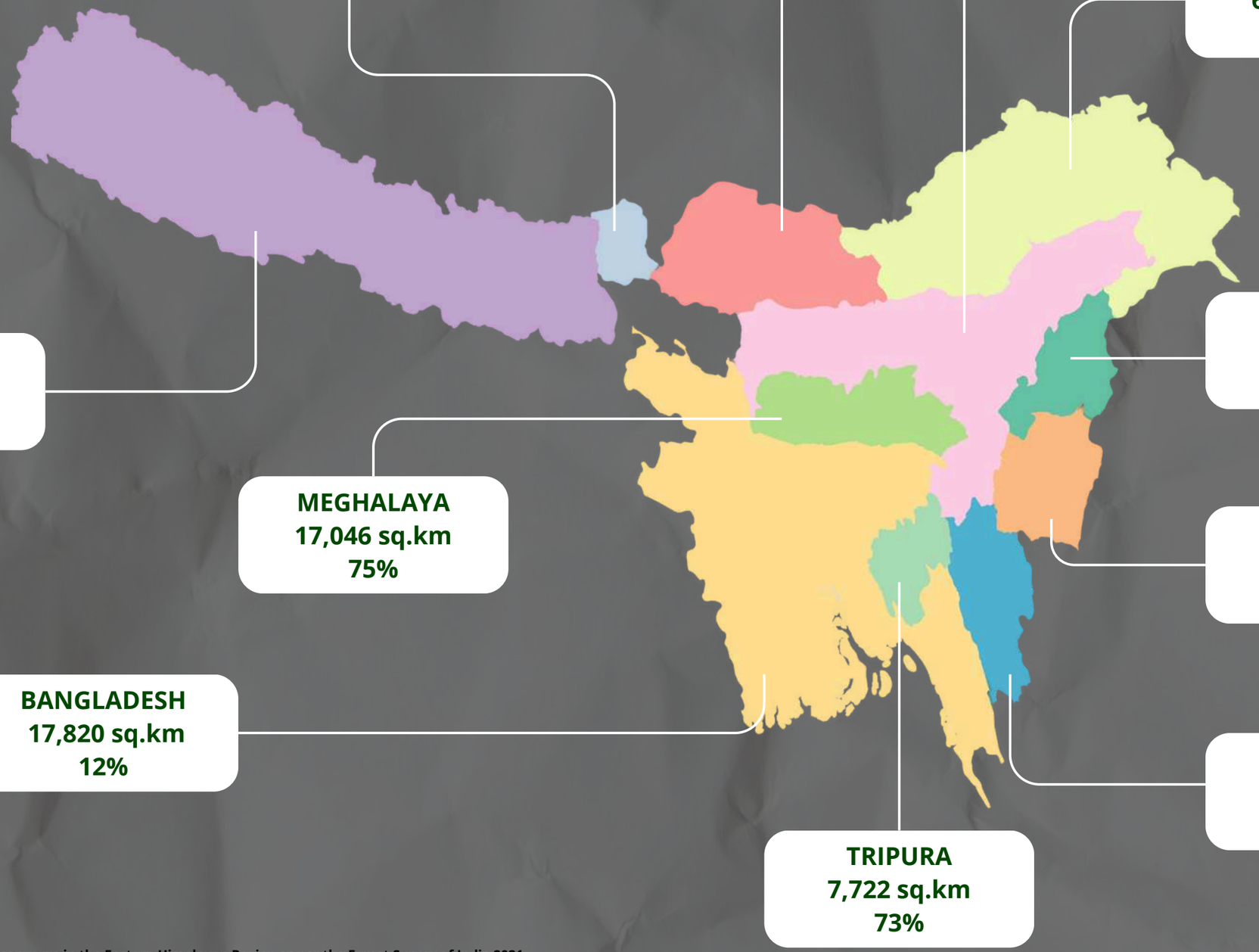
Third Pole

AND THE

Eastern Himalaya

Contents

WHERE WE WORK?



SIKKIM
3,341 sq.km
47%

BHUTAN
27,251 sq.km
70%

ASSAM
28,312 sq.km
36%

ARUNACHAL PRADESH
66,688 sq.km
79%

NAGALAND
12.251 sq.km
73%

NEPAL
52,620 sq.km
35%

MEGHALAYA
17,046 sq.km
75%

MANIPUR
16,598 sq.km
74%

BANGLADESH
17,820 sq.km
12%

MIZORAM
17,820 sq.km
84%

TRIPURA
7,722 sq.km
73%

Note: The figures mentioned are forest converge in the Eastern Himalayan Region as per the Forest Survey of India 2021

THE JOURNEY OF IMPACT:

18 YEARS OF BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

14.5 million
saplings planted, managed and propagated in nursery across 16 biodiversity hotspots

11,708 hectares
of land restored and sustainably managed

33325
project beneficiaries involved

6.72 million
saplings planted

6.17 million
saplings managed

1.7 million
saplings in nursery with 36 species

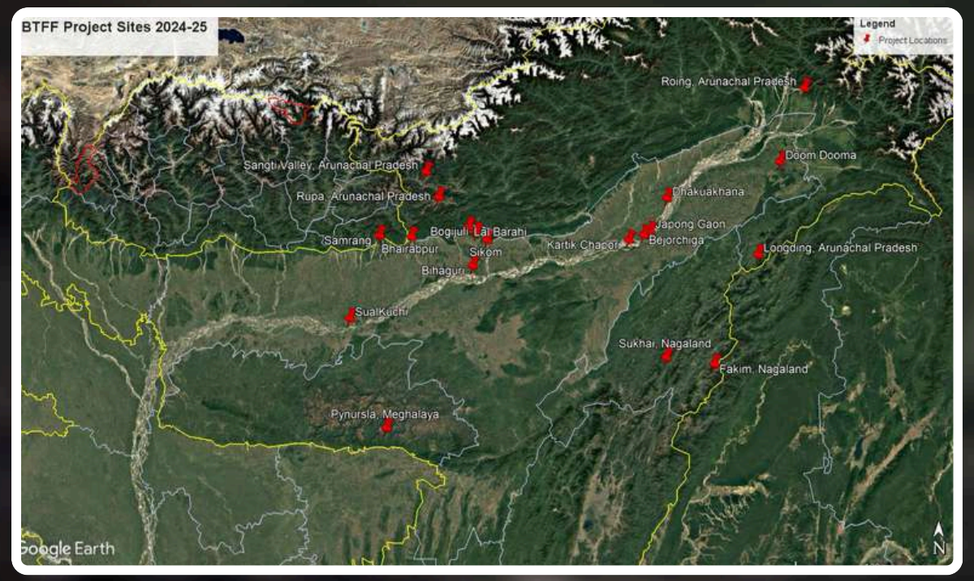
5 million
seeds in seed banks with 41 species

₹82.7 million
direct income generation

5537 hectares
covered

6171 hectares
managed

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS CREATED SO FAR

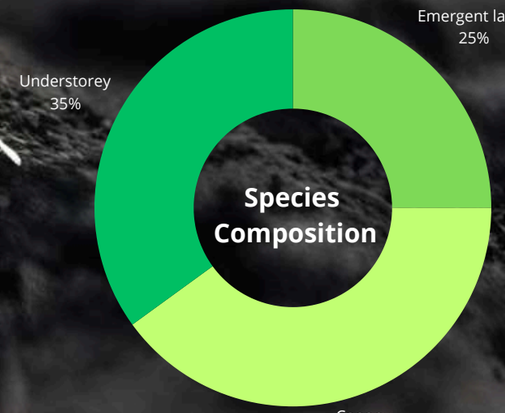


Assam
11 sites

Nagaland
2 sites

Arunachal Pradesh
4 sites

Meghalaya
1 site



Species found:

Royal Bengal Tiger, White Rumped Vulture, Jungle Cat, Hog Deer, Indian Hare, Crested Goshawk, Spotted Owlet, Golden Jackal, Asian Elephant, Asian Openbill Stork, Oriental Pied Hornbill, etc

25+ countries
Since 2013 in the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forums

169 Earth Heroes
Recognized at the Balipara Foundation Awards

2000+ hectares
Forest land restored through grant recipients

647 Species
Protected through grant recipients

1000+ Publications
Supported through grant recipients

REDEFINING CONSERVATION: CREATING LASTING IMPACTS

Climate Resilience and Adaptation
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE ISLAND OF KARTIK CHAPORI

Kartik Chapori, a small island nestled within the vast expanse of the Brahmaputra River, is home to around a thousand people from the Mising community. Part of the larger cluster of islands under Majuli, this remote village stands as a testament to resilience, where life is dictated by the river's ebb and flow.

Here, houses are built on stilts, known as chang ghor, as every monsoon, the Brahmaputra swells, bringing the river right up to their doorsteps. But beyond the seasonal floods, a more persistent challenge threatens their way of life—land erosion.

With each passing year, Kartik Chapori's landmass shrinks. Villagers watch helplessly as their fertile agricultural lands are washed away, forcing them to retreat further inland.

For them, displacement has become a recurring reality. They must dismantle and relocate their homes at a moment's notice, carrying their lives on their backs.

To support the community, Balipara Foundation has built bamboo porcupines - natural barriers that slow erosion, stabilize soil, and protect against the river's strong currents.

This year, we continue our efforts in Kartik Chapori, working alongside the community to build more bamboo porcupines and reinforce their resilience against environmental threats. With nature-based solutions and collective action, we strive to protect the land they call home and ensure that the river's course does not dictate their fate.

Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation with Technology
LIGHTING THE WAY: ANIMA BASUMATARY'S PATH TO EMPOWERMENT

In the quiet village of No.1 Maidwang Shree in Assam, Anima Basumatary, a determined mother of one, has always drawn strength from her land and traditions. Through farming, animal rearing, and weaving, she has sustained her family with an annual income of just INR 60,000—stretching every rupee to make ends meet.

But like many in her village, Anima faced a daily struggle in darkness. Without electricity, residents depended on homemade kerosene lamps, spending nearly Rs 480 per month on fuel—an unsustainable cost.

Weaving was limited to daylight hours, cooking after sunset was difficult, and her son's education suffered under dim, smoky lamps. Small solar setups were an option, but they were fragile and short-lived, especially during monsoons. Nightfall also brought fear—elephant herds raided nearby fields, making it unsafe to move around after dark.

That changed in January 2025, when a transformative solar initiative, supported by the Royal Rajasthan Foundation, BINDI International, and the Balipara Foundation, brought clean, reliable energy to Anima's home and six others. A technician installed solar panels, lights, a fan, and a portable hand lamp—illuminating her home and courtyard for the first time.

The impact was immediate and profound: Anima now saves Rs 400 monthly on kerosene, weaves into the evening—boosting her output by over 60%—and cooks and cares for livestock more easily at night. Her home feels safer, with lit surroundings deterring elephant raids, and she has gained confidence through training to independently maintain her solar setup.

Today, Anima champions solar power in her community, seeing it as a key to economic growth, safety, and dignity. Her story shows how small steps spark lasting change.

BIODIVERSITY & FORESTRY

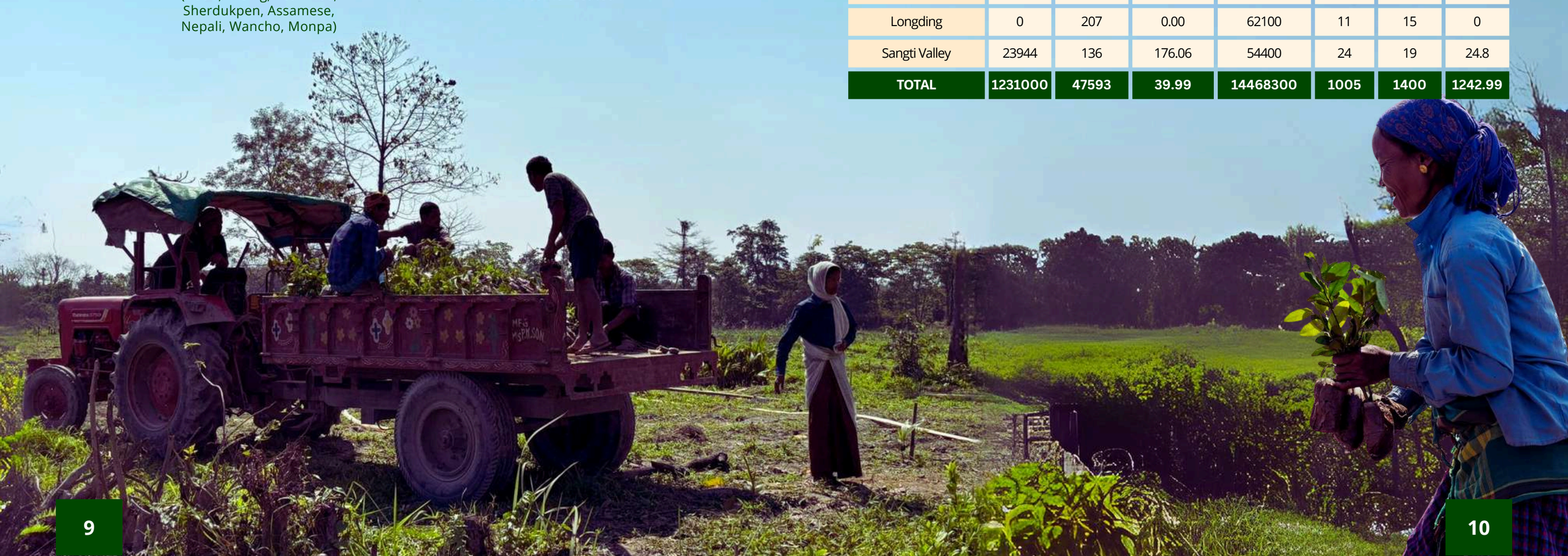
Habitat Restoration
IMPACTS
2024-25

1243
hectares
restored

1.23
million
saplings planted

8
communities
(Bodo, Mising, Tea Tribe, Sherdukpen, Assamese, Nepali, Wancho, Monpa)

₹1.44
million
incentive income created



ROOTS OF RECOVERY:
Habitat Restoration for a resilient future

Assam | Arunachal Pradesh

Area	Saplings Planted	Person's days	Productivity (Sapling planted/ Mandays)	Revenue to community (includes Incentive income only) in INR	House hold	Total people involved	Acre Covered
Balipara Reserve Forest (Lal Borahi & Bogijuli)	222412	10568	21.05	3205250	152	207	184.5
RuFu Lab (Jorhat) Kartick Chapori , Jhanjimukh (Japong & Bejorchiga)	806825	20764	38.86	6183650	459	744	874.2
Dhakuakhana	98379	4332	22.71	1311550	191	220	84
Rupa	41131	528	77.90	211200	20	16	37.6
Kamrup	10532	715	14.73	214500	16	20	10.5
Udalguri (Bhairabpur & Samrang)	9497	7859	1.21	2425100	89	107	9.39
Bihaguri	18280	2484	7.36	800550	43	52	18
Longding	0	207	0.00	62100	11	15	0
Sangti Valley	23944	136	176.06	54400	24	19	24.8
TOTAL	**1231000**	**47593**	**39.99**	**14468300**	**1005**	**1400**	**1242.99**

AGROFORESTRY
SYNERGIZING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY

Site Name	Agroforestry 2024-25 Person's days	Agroforestry Incentive income
Balipara Reserve Forest(Lal Borahi & Bogijuli)	621	182100
RuFu Lab (Jorhat)Kartick Chapori, Jhanjimukh (Japong & Bejorchiga)	3341	1064350
Dhakuakhana	14	4200
Udalguri	1154	355300
Bihaguri	698	217750
TOTAL	**5828**	**1823700**

50
hectares
restored

₹1.9
million
incentive income created

Site	Jhanjimukh Japong Gaon										
Household	15										
Harvest Species	Black Gram	Ridge Gourd	Brinjal	King Chilli	Bottle Gourd	Chilli	Potato	Bitter Gourd	Coriander	Pumpkin	Cucumber
Harvest Kgs	2088	2	333	15.5	96 units	1.5	16	63.5	210 bunches	10 units	2
Revenue	146375										
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	King Chilli / Green Chilli	Brinjal	Pumpkin	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes	
Species Number	511	339	1667	664	15	350	700	300	3196	1350	

Site	Dhakuakhana						
Household	39						
Harvest Species	Brinjal	Turmeric					
Harvest Kgs	77 Kg	565 Kg					
Revenue	20340						
Species Name	King Chilli	Brinjal	Pigeon Pea	Turmeric (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	750	810	10	623	530	1560	1163

Site	Laal Barahi and Bogijuli							
Household	35							
Harvest Species	Potato	Turmeric	Pigeon Pea	Seasame	Ginger (kgs)	Yardlong beans	Brinjal	Yam (kgs)
Harvest Kgs	3298	2367	410	550	689	394	179	1574
Revenue	401470							
Species Name	Apple Ber	Lemon	Areca Nut	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	473	672	2642	300	400	950	3787	1650

Site	Bihaguri					
Household	60					
Harvest Species	Potato	Green Pea	Coriander			
Harvest Kgs	2095	20	1200 bunches			
Revenue	46550					
Species Name	Brinjal	King Chilli	Potato (kgs)	Garlic (Kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	1500	1500	2000	5	3000	2005

Site	Kartick Chapori									
Household	22									
Harvest Species	Black Gram	Bottle Gourd	Chilli	Brinjal	Ridge Gourd	Green Pea	Mustard	Potato (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Radish
Harvest Kgs	500	390	21.5	6640	1416	630	397	5317	5016	2189
Revenue	467735									
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Brinjal	Chilli	King Chilli	Lemon	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Potato (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	5182	4500	118	28	230	4870	430	815	1500	2118	14928	4863

Site	Samrang, Udalguri										
Household	22										
Harvest Species	Potato			Coriander				Green Pea			
Harvest Kgs	3100			1200 Bunches				20 Kg			
Revenue	68400										
Species Name	Brinjal	King Chilli	Tomato	Cabbage	Green pea (in Kg)	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Potato (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	2400	1500	2400	800	25	300	500	2000	500	7100	3325

Site	Bhairabpur, Udalguri						
Household	35						
Harvest Species	Potato (Kgs)						
Harvest Kgs	2200						
Revenue	44000						
Species Name	Brinjal	King Chilli	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Potato (Kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes
Species Number	1500	1500	450	300	500	3000	1250

Site	Bezorchiga										
Household	12										
Harvest Species	Potato	Yam	Black Gram	Mustard	Papaya	Bitter Gourd	Chilli	Coriander	French Beans	Radish	Bottle Gourd
Harvest Kgs	4300	4050	1155	823	55	7	5	80	310	773	600
Revenue	413395										
Species Name	Areca Nut	Apple Ber	Lemon	Moringa	Potato (kgs)	Turmeric (Kgs)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizomes			
Species Number	1540	1530	1550	500	700	500	5120	1200			

Site	Sangti Valley				
Household	13				
Harvest Species	N/A				
Harvest Kgs	N/A				
Revenue	N/A				
Species Name	Persimmon	Orange	Pomegranate	Kiwi	Total saplings
Species Number	262	238	238	240	978

SEEDBANKS FOR PRESERVING INDIGENOUS TREE GERMPLASMS OF THE EASTERN HIMALAYA

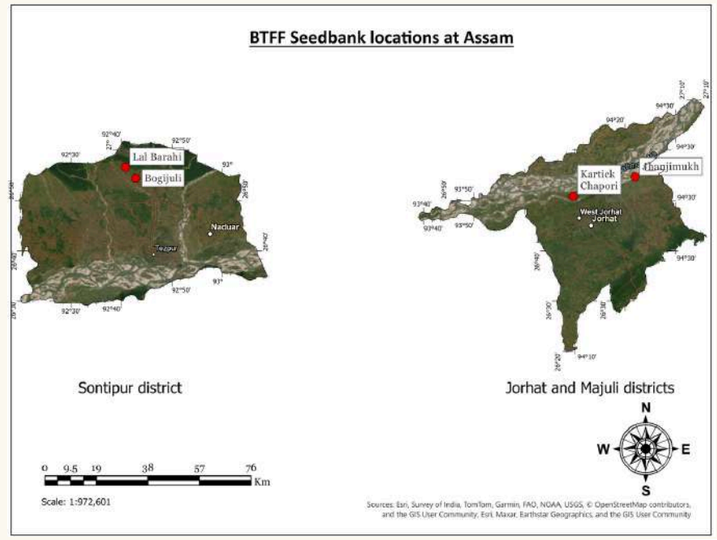
The Eastern Himalaya is home to around 7,500 species of angiosperms - trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, mostly concentrated in the Indian Himalayan and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots. These plants offer vital ecosystem services, from supporting pollinators and wildlife to maintaining nutrient cycles and watershed health.

Today, the biodiversity hotspots are facing growing threats from climate change, population pressure, land encroachment, and agricultural expansion. Safeguarding endemic angiosperm species is critical to prevent their extinction. However, preserving seeds over long periods without losing viability remains a major challenge, especially given the high costs of adhering to genebank standards. This underscores the urgent need for a decentralized, cost-effective approach to germplasm conservation.

Why Seedbanks Matter?

Seedbanks play a vital role for preserving plant genetic diversity, which is crucial for food security, environmental sustainability, and adapting to climate change. Here's why they're important:

1. **Food Security:** Seed banks store a wide range of crop varieties, including rare and traditional ones. This genetic reservoir helps scientists and farmers breed crops that are resistant to pests, diseases, and changing climate conditions.
2. **Biodiversity Conservation:** They protect the genetic material of wild plants and crops that might otherwise go extinct due to habitat loss, natural disasters, or human activity.
3. **Climate Resilience:** With a warming planet, seed banks provide options for developing drought-resistant or heat-tolerant crops, helping agriculture adapt.
4. **Cultural Heritage:** Many seeds represent cultural traditions and farming practices of indigenous and local communities, helping preserve agricultural heritage.



A Community-Based Conservation Model:
Safeguarding Indigenous Angiosperms

In the face of climate-induced environmental degradation, habitat loss, and diminishing biodiversity, seed banks have emerged as vital tools for ecological preservation. The Balipara Foundation has taken on the mission to conserve indigenous species of angiosperms through a community-based conservation model rooted in local knowledge, technological integration, and habitat restoration.

This decentralized, low-cost model centers on short-term seed preservation, continuous germination, and active reforestation. At its core, it empowers forest fringe communities to take the lead in conserving biodiversity.

- **Decentralized Seed Banks:** Constructed across operational zones such as Jorhat and Sonitpur in Assam, these seed banks are strategically located to ensure local access and ownership.
- **Technological Integration:** Tools like vacuum sealing and aseptic storage are used to enhance seed longevity and quality.
- **Community-Led Seed Collection:** Seeds of native trees, grains, shrubs, and vegetables are foraged from forests by local communities, then cleaned, dried, and prepared for storage to eliminate contamination.
- **Germination & Restoration:** Based on restoration needs, seeds are germinated following standard protocols, hardened, and then transplanted into degraded landscapes to revive ecosystems.

43
Indigenous species preserved

5
Community-based seed Banks

5 million
Seeds stored, germinated, and restored

ROOTING RESTORATION THROUGH COMMUNITY NURSERIES

At Balipara Foundation, we believe that lasting conservation is only possible when communities are at its core. Community nurseries are central to this vision—restoring forests while creating local livelihoods and building skills.

Run and managed by local people, these nurseries are established through expert training in seed germination, polypotting, and nurturing native species. This hands-on learning equips community members with practical skills and deepens their understanding of biodiversity. As they grow and maintain the saplings, they earn an income for each seedling nurtured—transforming them into both conservationists and entrepreneurs.

Community nurseries foster a strong sense of ownership, turning the journey from seed to sapling into a powerful process of stewardship. These nurseries become living classrooms—blending traditional knowledge with scientific techniques to regenerate native ecosystems.

The saplings grown here are used for plantation and reforestation. Even after Balipara Foundation transitions out of a project area, we continue to purchase saplings from these nurseries—creating a self-sustaining green economy that ensures restoration work carries on, rooted in the community.

13
Nursery sites

1.77 million
Saplings in nurseries

43
Species

COMMUNITY NURSERIES: GROWING ACROSS LANDSCAPES

Kartick Chapori	Dhakukhana
Bejor Chiga	Milanpur SHG
Bhairabpur	Sualkuchi
Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark	Laal Borahi
Baligaon	Bihaguri
Bogijuli	Jhanjimukh
Samrang	

Community nurseries have been established across existing operational sites in Assam, with new ones currently under development in emerging locations across Arunachal Pradesh.

REWILDING LANDSCAPES

Science in Conservation

The Balipara Foundation is committed to advancing research and conservation across Assam's natural landscapes, with a focus on its rich and diverse biodiversity. Through comprehensive assessments and the application of innovative methodologies, the Foundation's Science team systematically investigates the underlying dynamics of the region's varied ecosystems.

Assessing Biodiversity

Guided by experienced researchers and supported by specialized field teams, the Balipara Foundation undertakes systematic ecological assessments across targeted sites in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. These surveys encompass multiple ecological strata, including the structural complexity of arboreal communities, the diversity and distribution of avifauna, and the taxonomic richness of entomofauna, amphibians, and herpetofauna. Each investigation contributes to a deeper scientific understanding of the region's biodiversity and reinforces the Foundation's commitment to evidence-based conservation of its ecological heritage. Apart from the biodiversity assessments, the Science and research wing also studies various aspects such as floods and carbon stocks in its operational areas to achieve a holistic understanding of the region.

Giants, Predators, and Scavengers:

Unveiling Hidden Fauna in Jorhat's Fluvial Landscapes through Camera Trapping

As part of its ongoing commitment to evidence-based conservation, the Balipara Foundation has undertaken an extensive camera trapping initiative across the dynamic fluvial landforms of the Jorhat region in Assam. These riverine mosaics—formed through centuries of hydrological processes—serve as ecologically rich yet underexplored habitats. The Foundation's recent fieldwork has brought to light significant faunal presence, including one of the largest documented herds of Asiatic elephants (Elephas maximus), as well as the endangered and elusive Royal Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris tigris) and the critically endangered White-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis).

Herd of Elephants maximus documented at Jorhat region

Axis porcinus (Hog deer) observed at Jorhat region

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) documented at Jorhat region

Significance of Floodplain Habitats for *E. maximus*

Camera traps deployed across strategic transects captured photographic evidence of approximately *150* individual *E. maximus*, underscoring the importance of these floodplain environments as critical habitat and migration corridors for this keystone species.

- These findings not only reaffirm the ecological value of the region
- But also contribute vital data to inform conservation planning, particularly in light of increasing habitat fragmentation and human-elephant conflict in the Eastern Himalayan foothills.

Fluvial Forests as Extensions of Tiger Landscapes

Equally significant was the detection of *P. tigris tigris*, which reveals the potential role of these fluvial forests as extensions of larger tiger landscapes.

- The presence of this apex predator is a strong indicator of a functioning trophic web
- And suggests the availability of prey species and undisturbed cover in the region.

Evidence of Critically Endangered *Gyps bengalensis*

In a further testament to the biodiversity of these landscapes, the team recorded *Gyps bengalensis*, a species whose populations have faced catastrophic declines across South Asia.

- Its presence in the Jorhat floodplains suggests possible nesting or foraging grounds
- And reinforces the urgency of maintaining ecological integrity in these areas.

Implications for Conservation Strategy

Together, these discoveries highlight the conservation significance of Assam's riverine ecosystems and the critical need for sustained monitoring.

- By integrating species-level observations with broader habitat assessments
- The Balipara Foundation aims to develop landscape-level conservation strategies that safeguard both biodiversity and human livelihoods in this ecologically sensitive frontier.

Quantifying Green Wealth: Carbon Stock and Biodiversity Assessment at the Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark

As part of its ongoing ecological research and restoration monitoring, the Scientific Research Wing of the Balipara Foundation has conducted a comprehensive carbon stock and biodiversity assessment at the Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark (EHBA) in Assam. The EHBA is located at Balipara, which is a Town in Balipara Tehsil in Sonitpur District of Assam State, India. It is located 32 KM towards west from district headquarters Tezpur.

The study highlights the dual role of the site as a living repository of biodiversity and a critical contributor to climate regulation through carbon sequestration. Spanning an area of 8.39 hectares, the EHBA is home to 1,279 individual trees representing 80 species across 33 botanical families. Using standard allometric models for tropical forest biomass estimation, the total above- and below-ground carbon stock across the campus was calculated at 197.90 tonnes of carbon. This quantification underscores the role of small-scale, community-managed forest patches in contributing meaningfully to regional carbon sinks.

In addition to its carbon value, the high floristic diversity recorded at the site affirms EHBA's role as a microcosm of the Eastern Himalayan foothills' ecological richness.

This assessment reinforces the importance of botanical gardens and arboreta not only as educational and conservation tools, but also as measurable assets in global carbon accounting frameworks. The findings serve as a scientific baseline for long-term ecological monitoring, carbon offset initiatives, and restoration ecology research in the region.

Flood Dynamics and Sedimentation Assessment in Jorhat's South Bank Villages During the 2024 Monsoon

During the peak monsoon season of 2024, the Science and Research Wing of the Balipara Foundation undertook a focused hydrological and geomorphological assessment of flood impacts in villages situated along the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Jorhat region. The study aimed to evaluate the flood intensity, sediment deposition patterns, and community response window based on historical and real-time data.

One of the key findings of the assessment was the inability to determine the Return Interval of the 2024 flood event using available data from the Neamatighat water level gauge. Historical records do not extend beyond 2010, and the magnitude of the 2024 flood appears to exceed all recorded events within this 15-year timeframe. The Brahmaputra's water level during the peak of the flood rose to 87.47 AMSL, a height not observed in recent history for this locality.

A particularly alarming observation was the significantly reduced lag phase between the rising water levels and peak inundation. Compared to previous flood events, the shortened response time provided the village community with far less opportunity to initiate protective or evacuation measures, heightening their vulnerability.

Sedimentation emerged as a major concern in the aftermath of the flood. Extensive sediment deposition was recorded along the bankline and in adjacent low-lying agricultural and nursery areas. Deposits measuring up to 3 feet in depth were observed, indicating high sediment load during the flood crest. Furthermore, the presence of a riffle structure in the river channel appeared to channel water and sediment more directly into the village landscape, exacerbating both inundation and depositional impacts.

This assessment underscores the pressing need for more granular hydrological monitoring, improved early-warning systems, and community-based preparedness frameworks in the flood-prone zones of the Brahmaputra valley. It also highlights the importance of integrating geomorphological features such as riffles into flood-risk modelling and mitigation planning.

Leveraging Technology for Conservation

Through a blend of field innovation and geospatial-lab analytics, Balipara Foundation's Science and Research Wing is redefining habitat monitoring and biodiversity research across the Eastern Himalayan region.

Drones are widely used for surveillance, flood tracking, plantation health checks, and real-time monitoring in remote or sensitive areas—complementing ground-based assessments with critical aerial insights.

Ground truthing and spatial validation are supported through precision-grade GPS instruments, enhancing the accuracy of field observations and georeferenced ecological mapping. The Foundation's research laboratory is equipped with advanced analytical infrastructure, including a state- of-the-art nitrogen analyzer, multi-element analyzers for sodium, potassium, and lithium, a high-resolution herbarium scanner for digitizing plant specimens, and high-performance computing systems.This facility enables in-house soil and water quality assessments, which are essential for establishing

Precision-grade GPS tools support round-truthing and spatial validation, improving field accuracy and ecological mapping.

The Foundation's lab houses advanced equipment, including nitrogen and multi-element analyzers, a high-resolution herbarium scanner, and high-performance computing for in-house soil and water assessments. Night vision camera traps and telephoto imaging further enhance nocturnal wildlife and avifaunal documentation.

This integrative use of technology not only enhances the precision and scale of ecological studies but also supports the Foundation's vision of data-driven, community-inclusive conservation in one of the world's most biodiverse yet threatened regions.

Ongoing Research

The Science and Research Wing of Balipara Foundation is conducting extensive studies to understand the ecological and socio-environmental dynamics of the Eastern Himalayas. Focusing on diverse ecosystems—from riverine islands in the Brahmaputra River to upland forests and human-modified landscapes, this research aims to assess biodiversity, land use changes, geomorphological processes, and habitat regeneration. The findings will support evidence-based conservation and restoration planning for the region's long-term sustainability.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Region-Wide Ecological Studies:

- Investigating complex ecological and socio-environmental dynamics of the Eastern Himalayas.
- Focus on island ecologies within the Brahmaputra River, upland forests, and human-modified landscapes across the region.

Biodiversity Assessment:

- Documentation of seasonal fluctuations in species composition and abundance across diverse habitats, including riverine islands and montane ecosystems.
- Tracking biodiversity patterns to capture ecological variability inherent to the region.

Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) Analyses:

- Using remote sensing, geospatial tools, and participatory field surveys to assess LULC changes.
- Understanding the relationship between changing land-use practices and socio-economic realities of local communities.

Geomorphological Studies:

- Investigating erosion and accretion processes, particularly within the Brahmaputra River and other fluvial systems.
- Understanding how geomorphological forces shape habitat availability and landscape stability.

Regeneration Dynamics in Restored Habitats:

- Studying species recovery, ecological succession, and interactions in restored ecosystems.
- Focus on the kinetics of natural regeneration to inform scaling of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) efforts across degraded areas.

Long-Term Conservation and Resilience Planning:

- Evidence-based approach to ecological restoration and resilience planning for highly sensitive Eastern Himalayan ecosystems.
- Promoting sustainable conservation strategies in this ecologically and culturally rich region.

INTRODUCTION

EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUM

Since 2013, the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum has been a catalyst for transformative discussions on rewilding the Eastern Himalayas. By bringing together experts and local communities, we have successfully strategized and implemented initiatives that not only restore landscapes and conserve biodiversity but also enhance livelihoods and incomes across the region.

Our interventions include agroforestry programs, habitat restoration initiatives, and community-led conservation efforts — all designed to create sustainable economic opportunities while preserving natural ecosystems. By integrating income-generating activities with conservation, we empower local communities to thrive in harmony with nature.

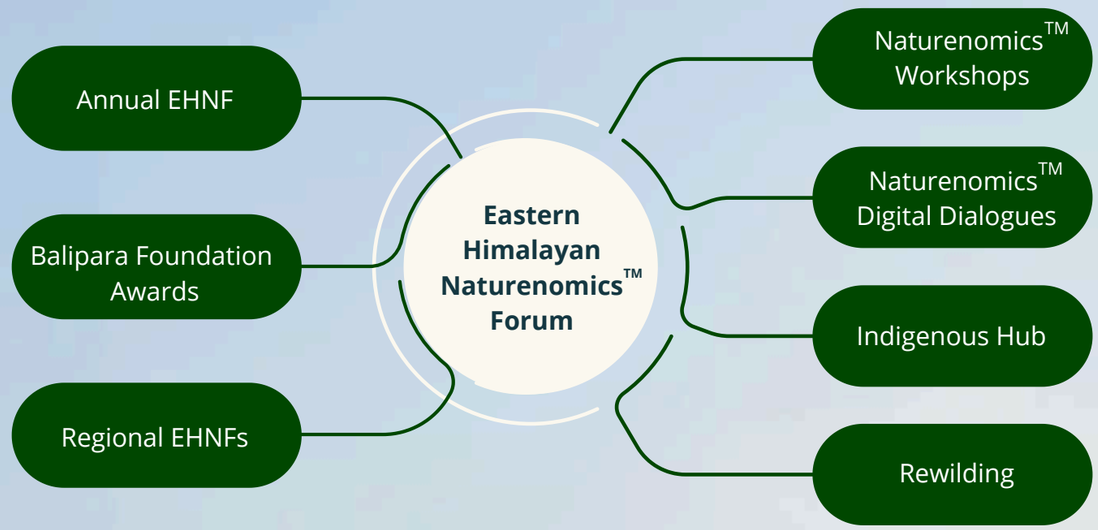
The Forum has also played a crucial role in fostering partnerships between conservation organizations, government agencies, and local businesses, supporting small-scale enterprises and eco-friendly practices. Through capacity-building workshops and training programs, we equip communities with the skills and knowledge needed to engage in sustainable livelihoods.

At its core, our mission is to not only protect the environment but also improve the well-being of those who call the Eastern Himalayas home. By driving collaborative initiatives and innovative solutions, we strive to balance conservation with economic growth, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for both people and nature.

For the Eastern Himalaya

IMPACTS

2024-25



1217
Lives Reached

200+
Species Conserved

600+
Youth Engaged

20+
Countries

56775
Natural Assets created through plantation

30+
Knowledge Partners

2000+
Participants

1300+
Publications Supported

*Directly and indirectly, via the implementation of programs and the resulting outcomes from Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forums.

ANNUAL

EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUM

26-27 NOVEMBER 2024

IMPACTS

100+ SPEAKERS

20+ COUNTRIES

100+ COMMUNITY REPS

600+ YOUTHS

1000+ PARTICIPANTS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Third Pole & Climate Resilience

- The Eastern Himalayas, part of the Third Pole, is a vital water source for over a billion people.
- Protecting the Eastern Himalaya is not just a regional necessity—it is a global priority. Its role in climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and sustaining livelihoods makes it one of the most crucial frontiers in the fight against climate change. Urgent science-driven conservation, policy intervention, and community-led resilience strategies are needed to secure the future of the Third Pole.

Biodiversity & Habitat Conservation

- Protecting keystone species is essential for ecological balance—preserving natural corridors can mitigate habitat fragmentation.
- Community-led conservation models ensure long-term biodiversity protection while enhancing local livelihoods.

Watershed Management for Livelihoods

- Upstream and downstream communities must collaborate to restore watersheds, ensuring sustainable fisheries and agriculture.
- Integrating traditional knowledge with modern conservation strategies enhances water security.

Sustainable Land Management

- Regenerative agriculture and agroforestry can restore degraded lands while ensuring food security.
- Policy frameworks must support local land stewardship to maintain ecosystem balance and combat desertification.

Decarbonization & Energy Transition

- Industries must shift towards renewable energy to align with India's Energy Transition goals.
- Decentralized renewable solutions can empower rural communities, providing energy security while reducing emissions.

Media as a Conservation Catalyst

- Storytelling can drive action—leveraging media platforms to amplify conservation challenges and solutions.
- Bridging the gap between scientists, communities, and policymakers through impactful narratives fosters awareness and engagement.

Communities as Conservation Stewards

- Shifting from a beneficiary mindset to active ownership ensures sustainable conservation efforts.
- Indigenous knowledge systems, including traditional medicine and agroforestry, are crucial for ecosystem restoration.

Human-Elephant Coexistence

- Moving from conflict mitigation to fostering harmonious human-elephant interaction through technology-driven early warning systems.
- Restoring natural migration routes and habitat connectivity is key to reducing encounters in human settlements.

In the Future

13TH
EASTERN HIMALAYAN
NATURENOMICS™ FORUM
10th & 11th December, 2025
Guwahati, Assam, India

CONVERSATIONS AT EHNF 2024

"We really have to change the paradigm with which we operate, because for too long the paradigm has been dictated by Western culture."
-**Her Royal Highness Queen Diambi Kabatusuila**

"The ecosystem was designed globally to cater to man's need, and not his greed; therein lies the problem."
- Jani Viswanath (PhD), Founder, Healing Lives, India

"Collaboration is such an important aspect in everything that we are doing - stakeholders don't seem to realise that everything is interconnected, especially biodiversity and its role on corporates." - **Abhejit Agarwal, Head-Sustainability & CSR, Axis Bank Limited, India**

"An important aspect we need to address is "decolonization" of knowledge. We need to shed off western thinking and give equal importance and respect to indigenous knowledge and intercultural knowledge generation." - **Dr. Dhrupad Choudhury, Senior Adviser, The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (TIP), Rome.**

EHNF 2024 X UNIVERSITIES

Royal Global University, Assam

https://youtu.be/NFCJ5_ot-zA

Gauhati University, Assam

https://youtu.be/M9UmcIfgr20

Cotton University, Assam

HIGHLIGHTS


RA FOUNDATION
AWARDS


12th
EASTERN HIMALAYAN
NATURENOMICS™ FORUM
BALIPARA FOUNDATION
Assam • India


BALIPARA FOUNDATION
Assam • India
12TH
EASTERN HIMALAYAN
NATURENOMICS™ FORUM
2024


Hindustan Unilever Limited

BALIPARA FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Balipara Foundation Awards 2024 recognized conservationists from 13 locations across the Eastern Himalayan region, ensuring a 50:50 gender balance. This year, the awards placed a special emphasis on riverine ecosystems, highlighting the crucial role they play in biodiversity conservation. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to an individual for his remarkable contributions in identifying and documenting fish species in Manipur, preserving invaluable aquatic biodiversity.

Beyond river conservation, the awards honored individuals working to sustain both nature and livelihoods. Beekeepers, butterfly and bird conservationists, and environmental stewards from across the region were celebrated for their efforts in fostering ecological balance while supporting local communities. Even in urban areas like Guwahati, significant progress has been made in restoring Deepor Beel, a Ramsar site vital for wetland biodiversity and migratory birds.

These awardees represent a diverse range of conservation efforts, from preserving fragile ecosystems to promoting sustainable livelihoods. Their dedication and resilience continue to safeguard the Eastern Himalaya's rich biodiversity. The Balipara Foundation Awards serve as a platform to amplify their impact, inspiring future generations to take active roles in conservation and ecological restoration.

13	10000+	750	1100+	35+
No. of case stories	**Habitats restored (No. of trees)**	**Species Preserved**	**Livelihoods Impacted**	**No. of Publications**

CHAMPIONS OF THE EASTERN HIMALAYA

Honoring Earth's Heroes at the 12th Balipara Foundation Awards 2024

Rural Futures Rewilding Award

All Loktak Lake Area Fishermen Union - Manipur

Presented by
Dr. Madhuri Nanda, Director-South Asia, Rainforest Alliance

Rural Futures Rewilding Award

Pramod Kalita - Assam

Presented by
Dr. Divya Sharma, Executive Director, Climate Group

Naturenomics™ Award

Hanna Debbarma - Tripura

Presented by
Spencer Low, Regional Sustainability Head, Google, Singapore, in the presence of Kim Sharma, EVP, Executive Vice-President, Dharma Talent Agency

Young Naturalist Award

Roshan Upadhyay - Arunachal Pradesh

Presented by
Mala Ramadorai, Hindustani classical and Carnatic vocalist

Green Journalist Award

Sonam Pintso Sherpa - Sikkim

Presented by
Jani Viswanath (Phd), Film Producer and Founder, Healing Lives

Green Guru Award

Tokiho P Awomi - Nagaland

Presented by
Ruma Devi, Indian traditional handicraft fashion designer and social worker

Food for the Future Award

Hmangaihkimi - Mizoram

Presented by
Ashish Parikh, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, Diageo

Forest Guards & Rangers Award

Chundu Dorji - Bhutan

Presented by
Kumkum Nongrum, Great Manager Institute

Forest Guards & Rangers Award

Kiba - Bhutan

Presented by
Kumkum Nongrum, Great Manager Institute

Honouring the Queen

Her Royal Highness Queen Diambi Kabatusuila, Elikia Hope Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo

Presented by
Sourav Roy, CEO, Tata Steel Foundation and Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel and Director, Tata Steel Foundation

Lifetime Service Award

Vishawanath Waikhom - Manipur

Presented by
His Excellency, Eric Garcetti, Ambassador of the United States of America to India; Radhika Barthakur, Balipara Foundation; and Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Forester, Balipara Foundation

MITIGATING SOIL EROSION THROUGH PLANTATION INITIATIVES

MANJIT PATIR

Restoring Dhakuakhana's Ecosystem

8.7	13,600	30+
Hectares restored	Total Natural Assets	Community Members Involved

With the completion of the final phase of the rewilding grant in Dhakuakhana, Manjit Patir has successfully planted over 20,000 trees, addressing soil erosion and mitigating human-wildlife interactions caused by floods. The initiative introduced over 15 diverse tree species, creating a resilient ecosystem that supports both wildlife and local communities.

Beyond ecological benefits, the project fostered community involvement, engaging over 35 members in habitat restoration efforts. Their participation not only strengthened environmental awareness but also ensured the sustainability of the initiative.

Though the grant has ended, Manjit and the community remain committed to their mission. They continue planting trees and restoring habitats, demonstrating the power of collective action in safeguarding their environment. Their efforts stand as a testament to the impact of grassroots leadership in fostering long-term ecological and community resilience.

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY IN HABITAT RESTORATION

SHIKALI & ZHIMOHOLI

Restoring Sukhai's Lost Biodiversity

10	10,000	7+
Hectares restored	Total Natural Assets	Species Restored

Sukhai, once home to vibrant bird and butterfly populations, has faced significant ecological decline due to deforestation and hunting. Over time, the forest became a source of timber rather than a thriving habitat. Determined to reverse this trend, Shikali and Zhimoholi have launched a large-scale forest regeneration initiative.

By identifying and planting income-generating and bird-friendly species like gooseberry and wild apple, they are restoring biodiversity while ensuring economic benefits for the community. Their initiative has actively engaged local members in habitat restoration, fostering a collective commitment to conservation.

The first phase of their efforts saw the planting of nearly 10,000 trees, with an impressive 75%+ survival rate—remarkable for Sukhai's dense landscape. This success reflects consistent maintenance and monitoring, ensuring the saplings adapt to their surroundings. Shikali and Zhimoholi's work is not just reviving the forest; it is rekindling hope for a balanced coexistence between people and nature.

NATURENOMICS™ DIALOGUES

24
SPEAKERS

5000+
DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS

6
COUNTRIES

The Naturenomics™ Digital Dialogues served as a vital precursor to the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, laying the foundation for broader discussions on conservation and sustainability. These dialogues brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including academicians, policymakers, and experts, fostering meaningful exchanges on nature conservation. By leveraging the digital platform, the sessions transcended geographical boundaries, connecting local and global voices and expanding the collaborative network for impactful conservation efforts.

In July and August 2024, the Naturenomics™ Dialogues hosted six insightful sessions, each exploring critical themes related to forests, technology, and youth engagement in conservation.

Dialogue Series | July–August 2024

Six focused sessions explored key themes driving conservation and sustainability:

Watershed Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalaya

Forests for Our Future – Stories from the Yesteryears and Today

Technology for Conservation

Forests for Health – Bridging Ecosystem Conservation and Public Well-being

Sustainable Livelihoods from Forest Ecosystems

Integrating Sustainable Land and Waste Management Across Diverse Ecosystems

13 NATURENOMICS™ WORKSHOPS

2024-2025

Rural Futures Mobilization and Assessment
Rupa, Arunachal Pradesh

Policies for Achieving Environmental & Socioeconomic Outcomes for Forests in the NE, Guwahati, Assam

Rural Futures Mobilization
Udalguri

Social Entrepreneurship, USTM
Meghalaya

Species Identification and Green Jobs Opportunities
TISS, Guwahati

Voices of the Community
Kartik Chapori, Assam

Wings of Unity: Protecting the Greater Adjutant Stork
Balipara, Assam

Geodiversity and Biodiversity: An Intrinsic Connection
Balipara, Assam

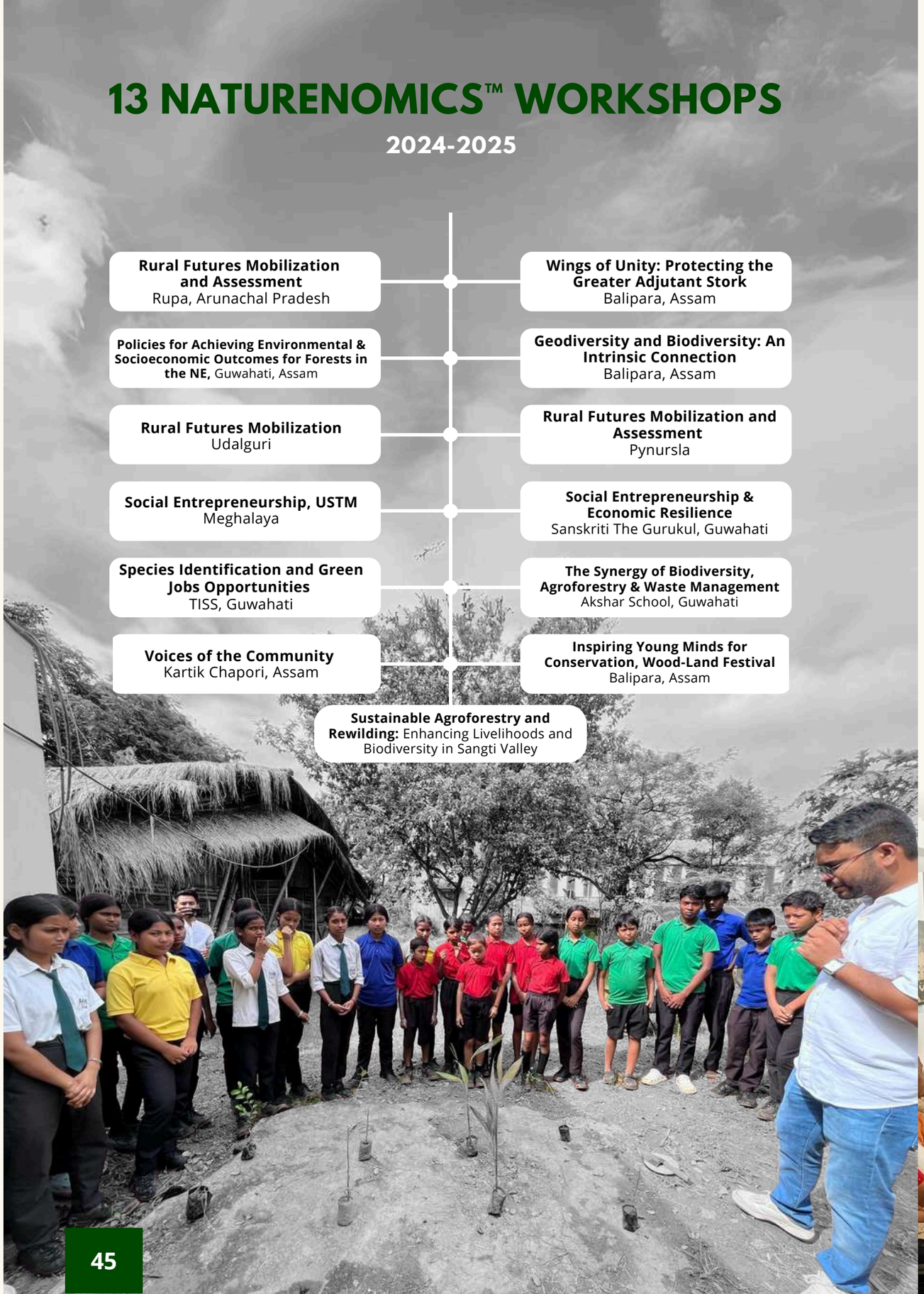
Rural Futures Mobilization and Assessment
Pynursla

Social Entrepreneurship & Economic Resilience
Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati

The Synergy of Biodiversity, Agroforestry & Waste Management
Akshar School, Guwahati

Inspiring Young Minds for Conservation, Wood-Land Festival
Balipara, Assam

Sustainable Agroforestry and Rewilding: Enhancing Livelihoods and Biodiversity in Sangti Valley



IMPACTS

1. Approximately 550+ participants.
2. Connected rural and urban youth, blending diverse expertise to drive impactful and collaborative conservation efforts.
3. Innovative perspectives on conservation emerged, deepening the understanding of nature's ecological and cultural significance.
4. Bridging grassroots wisdom with scientific advancements became a key focus, highlighting the power of integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches.
5. Strengthened global collaboration by engaging with international organizations, fostering a united vision for conservation and sustainability.
6. Expanded partnerships with universities, engaging youth in research, restoration projects, and conservation-based enterprises, ensuring long-term environmental stewardship.

REGIONAL EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUMS 2024-2025

6
FORUMS

- Biswanath, Assam
- Agartala, Tripura
- Sangti Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- Longding, Arunachal Pradesh
- Nanadisa Village, Dima Hasao
- Aizawl, Mizoram

5
CORE SITES OF RESTORATION

1
FORESTER/RANGER TRAINING

10+
PARTNERS

200+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

6
PUBLICATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY TOPICS OF THE REGIONAL EHNF 24-25

01

Safeguarding the Natural Assets: Insights from Forest Rangers and Guards in Protected Areas

02

Harnessing Bamboo and Artisanry for Sustainable Development and Women's Empowerment

03

Integrating Waste Management, Agroforestry and Habitat Restoration for Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation

04

Nature Dynamics and Rewilding Initiatives

05

The Vital Role of Habitat Restoration and Green Livelihoods in Promoting Sustainable Income

The Regional Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum is a platform to spotlight community-led conservation, share knowledge, and co-create solutions to biodiversity and livelihood challenges in the Eastern Himalayas. Rooted in the Naturenomics™ philosophy, it aims to link ecological restoration with sustainable rural development.

In 2024, regional forums were held across Tripura, Assam (Kaziranga and Dima Hasao – Nanadisa Village), Arunachal Pradesh (Sangti Valley and Longding), and Mizoram (Aizawl). Each forum addressed key regional challenges around biodiversity restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and waste management, ensuring active community participation and tangible outcomes.

In Nanadisa Village (Dima Hasao), a community-led ecological zone is being developed using indigenous species to restore degraded land and provide local youth with environmental learning spaces, especially for those with limited access to education in Haflong.

In Longding (Arunachal Pradesh), where hunting has severely affected biodiversity, the focus has shifted to habitat restoration and the creation of alternative income opportunities, reducing pressure on forest ecosystems and improving economic stability.

Across all locations, forums facilitated training, knowledge-sharing, and introduced bamboo-based livelihoods. Addressing the growing waste crisis was another critical outcome, with localized solutions co-developed by communities.

Key outcomes include:

- 10+ new partnerships formed across sectors
- 3 sustainable income avenues identified
- Targeted action plans for waste management
- These efforts underscore the forum's goal: enabling community-driven conservation and promoting nature-based livelihoods, while creating replicable models for ecological resilience in the region.

THE INDIGENOUS HUB

CULTIVATING GRASSROOTS WISDOM FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The Indigenous Hub serves as a catalyst for empowerment and collaboration, uniting the energy and wisdom of indigenous communities. Rooted in the principles of cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and community resilience, it acts as a hub for collective action and innovation.

Through diverse initiatives and partnerships, the Indigenous Hub provides a platform for indigenous youth and community members to lead impactful projects that address pressing challenges while upholding traditional knowledge and values. With a strong focus on sustainability and inclusive development, it strengthens solidarity and collective empowerment, paving the way for a more resilient and thriving future for communities and their ecosystems.

IMPACTS 2024-2025

PIGGERY
54 Piglets

FISHERY
2 Fisheries

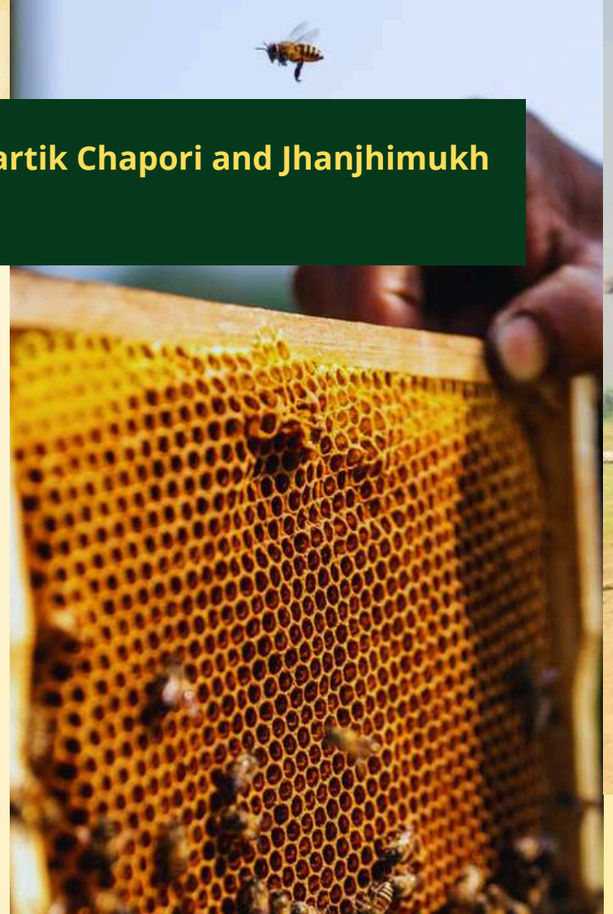
BEE KEEPING
20 Bee Boxes with colony

MUSHROOM CULTIVATION
6 Units

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM INDIGENOUS HUB INTERVENTIONS

2024-2025



Bee-Keeping Workshops in Sikom, Kartik Chapori and Jhanjhimukh

A Sustainable Livelihood Initiative

To foster sustainable livelihoods and promote conservation, bee-keeping training programs were launched in the riverine islands of Sikom, Kartik Chapori, and Jhanjhimukh. This initiative aimed to empower local communities by introducing bee-keeping as a viable income source while utilizing the region's rich biodiversity for sustainable honey production and reducing human-wildlife conflicts through the natural deterrent of bee colonies.

Under the expert guidance of master trainer Mr. Pappumoni Hazarika, participants were trained in key beekeeping techniques such as hive management, honey extraction, and the vital role of pollination. Emphasizing the use of local bee species, the program focused on enhancing ecological resilience and improving the pollination of native plants. Additionally, the training included practical sessions on sustainable hive maintenance and the opportunities for marketing honey to boost local incomes.

A key highlight was the role of bee-keeping in mitigating human-wildlife conflict, particularly with elephants. By acting as a natural barrier, bee colonies can help prevent crop raids and property damage, offering a non-violent solution for coexistence.

This initiative is expected to provide long-term economic benefits while promoting ecological balance. With sustained monitoring and support, it can serve as a model for other riverine and forest-fringe communities, integrating conservation with sustainable livelihoods.

Indigenous Chang Ghar Construction in Bogijuli

The Indigenous Hub Team spearheaded the construction of a Chang Ghar-—symbolic of Assam's rich cultural heritage-—in Bogijuli village, employing local artisans and traditional techniques to ensure authenticity and durability. The structure serves as a beacon of cultural preservation while addressing contemporary needs.

The primary objectives of erecting this Chang Ghar are to provide a centralized location for overseeing agricultural activities and safeguarding indigenous seeds through a seed bank. As these seeds face the threat of extinction, this initiative aims to preserve biodiversity and traditional farming practices for future generations.

Additionally, the Chang Ghar acts as a vital outpost for the Bogijuli Community in mitigating human-wildlife conflict. Positioned strategically, it enables villagers to monitor and deter wild elephants from encroaching onto farmlands, thereby safeguarding livelihoods and ensuring safety.

The construction of the Bogijuli Chang Ghar symbolizes more than just architectural significance; it embodies the resilience of indigenous communities, the importance of cultural heritage, and the urgency of sustainable practices. Moving forward, it stands as a testament to the harmonious coexistence of tradition and innovation, serving as a model for community-driven initiatives across the region.

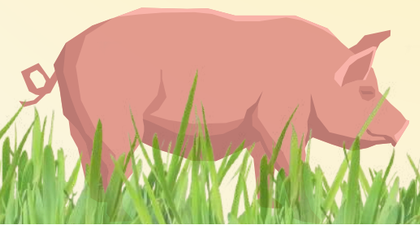
Empowering Women in Lal Borahi Through Piggery

In Lal Borahi, Sonitpur District, an empowering program was introduced to support local women in establishing sustainable livelihoods through pig rearing. This initiative provides essential resources, including 55 pigs distributed in three phases, vaccinations, feed, and comprehensive training to ensure long-term success.

A major achievement of the program was forming a partnership with Symbiotic Foods, a local organization that promotes indigenous pig-rearing practices, offering continuous support for this community-driven effort. The project began by distributing nine vaccinated pigs, each carefully selected, alongside an initial feed supply.

The training, led by Gobinda Chetry from the Livestock Research Centre, covered vital topics such as hygiene, disease prevention, feeding, and breeding. The hands-on approach allowed women to ask questions, resolve concerns, and gain the confidence needed to manage their new responsibilities effectively.

This initiative marks a crucial step in economic empowerment, fostering self-sufficiency and creating long-term growth for the women of Lal Borahi, while also contributing to the broader community's well-being.



THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S FORUM 2025

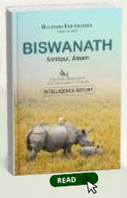
The 2nd Indigenous People's Forum was hosted at Kartik Chapori, a breathtaking river island in the heart of the Brahmaputra, Majuli district. Bringing together 50+ representatives from our restoration sites-—spanning remote corners of the region, the forum became a vibrant exchange of indigenous knowledge and deep-rooted connections to nature. The discussion this year focused on the significance of forests, rivers, and indigenous knowledge systems in sustaining the communities. It provided a platform to address pressing issues like deforestation, water contamination, and ecological imbalance, while also exploring solutions such as agroforestry, community-led conservation, and the revival of ancestral practices.

The forum boosted their confidence as several communities highlighted success stories of restoring forests, protecting rivers, and reviving traditional practices. In the end, it was more than just a forum- it was a movement, a reaffirmation of indigenous stewardship, and a collective call to action for a sustainable future.

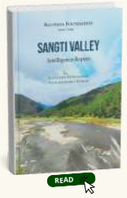
PUBLICATIONS IN THE FY 2024-25

Intelligence Reports

Longding
Arunachal Pradesh



Biswanath
Sonitpur



Sangti Valley
Arunachal Pradesh

Nanadisa
Dima Hasao

Agartala
Tripura

Aizwal
Mizoram

Books

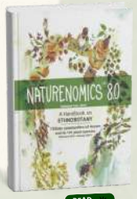
An Illustrated Guide to the Orchids of Assam

Vol 1

Vol 2

Vol 3

Vol 4



The Handbook on Ethnobotany

The Himalayan


Home › मुख्य खबरें ›
Assam Guwahati National International
The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Balipara Foundation & Gauhati University
मुख्य खबरें Assam DAILY NEWS
By NKTV Digital — Last Updated Nov 17, 2024
94


असम
Assam : गुवाहाटी में 12वें पूर्वी हिमालयन नेचरनॉमिक्स फोरम का आयोजन
SANTOSI TANDI 7 Oct 2024 6:46 PM

SIKKIM EXPRESS
12th
Balipara Foundation honours Sonam Pintso Sherpa with Green Journalist Award


Assam Guwahati National International
Queen Diambi Kabatusuila arrives in Guwahati for the Balipara Foundation's 12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum
मुख्य खबरें Daily News TOP STORIES
By NKTV Digital — On Nov 24, 2024

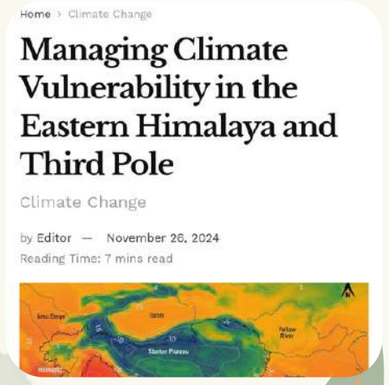

The Assam Rising
Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday
Queen Diambi Kabatusuila arrives in Guwahati for the Balipara Foundation's 12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum
Queen Diambi arrives in Guwahati
12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum


200+
MEDIA
COVERAGES
2024-25

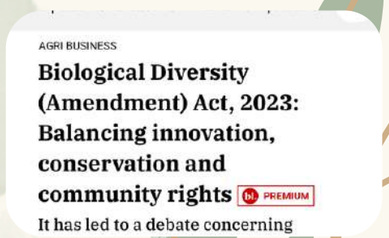

The Sentinel
of this land, for its people
NE stakeholders emphasize need for region-specific food system policies


Sustainable farming & rural livelihoods. Women-led farming cooperatives: Empowering communities through agriculture PREMIUM
They are not just agricultural collectives but a catalyst for social change and economic development
By Karishma Ahmed
Updated - March 08, 2025 at 09:00 AM


THE MEGHALAYA GUARDIAN
NORTHEAST
Charting the Future of the Third Pole & the Eastern Himalayas at the 12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum
12th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum Concluded


Home › Climate Change
Managing Climate Vulnerability in the Eastern Himalaya and Third Pole
Climate Change
by Editor — November 26, 2024
Reading Time: 7 mins read


অংশগ্রহণ কৰিব ১৫ খন দেশৰ প্ৰতিনিধিয়ে
দ্বাদশ পূব হিমালয়ান প্ৰকৃতিবিজ্ঞান মঞ্চৰ আলোচনা চক্ৰৰ আয়োজন


AGRI BUSINESS
Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023: Balancing innovation, conservation and community rights PREMIUM
It has led to a debate concerning

CULTURAL INHERITANCE

WOODLAND *Festival* 2024

A Celebration of Culture, Community, and Conservation

The Woodland Festival, held in the picturesque Sonai Pam Gaon, Sonitpur, Assam, was a vibrant celebration of the region's forest cultures. Rooted in community, it brought together local residents and youth to honor shared traditions, nature, and heritage. The festival featured a rich mix of traditional performances, music, dance, storytelling, art, sports, and local cuisine. Visitors indulged in farm-to-table meals made from locally grown and foraged ingredients, experiencing the true flavors of the forest. Rural women weavers displayed their textile work, while stalls showcased handmade pickles, forest beverages, and crafts, reflecting the region’s creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

The Balipara Foundation was proud to contribute to the festival’s mission of connecting culture with conservation by offering saplings, seeds, and fresh produce from our plantation sites, fostering a deeper bond between the community and the forests they rely on.

One of the festival’s highlights was the Naturenomics™ workshop with local school children, where they expressed their perceptions of nature through art. Their drawings, filled with mountains, rivers, trees, and birds, demonstrated a thoughtful understanding of the environment and the need for conservation. The Woodland Festival provided a meaningful space where culture, community, and conservation came together, reinforcing the importance of working collectively to preserve both our natural and cultural heritage.

PARTNERING FOR IMPACTS

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Sanctuary NATURE FOUNDATION

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NORTHEAST INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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Cotton University

EARTH ANALYTICS India

IUCN

Centre for microFinance

VIVANTA GUWAHATI

NEWS LIVE

ASSAM INVESTMENT ADVISORY SOCIETY

RED BULL

FINANCES

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

INCOME	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
Domestic Grants	948.23	761.77
FCRA Grants	-	-
Other Income	11.02	9.96
TOTAL INCOME	**959.25**	**771.73**

₹ In Lacs

EXPENDITURE	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
Programmatic Expenditure	880.89	743.58
Depreciation	2.41	2.60
Adminstrative Expenditure	46.31	23.97
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**929.61**	**770.15**

₹ In Lacs

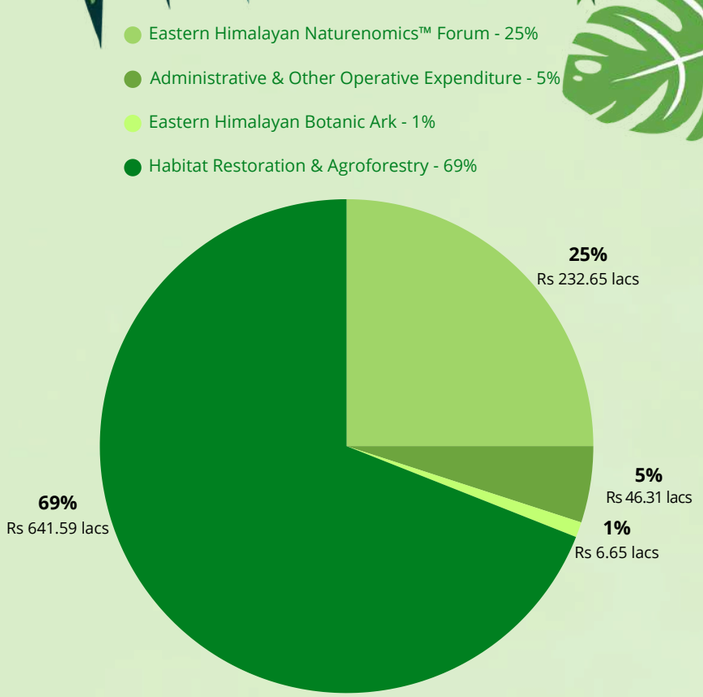
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

FUND & LIABILITIES	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
Trust Fund & Corpus	174.52	130.16
Grant Balances & Programme Fund	15.23	29.67
FCRA Fund	-	-
Non Current Liability	33.15	33.15
Current Liability & Payables	7.01	6.07
TOTAL	**229.91**	**199.05**

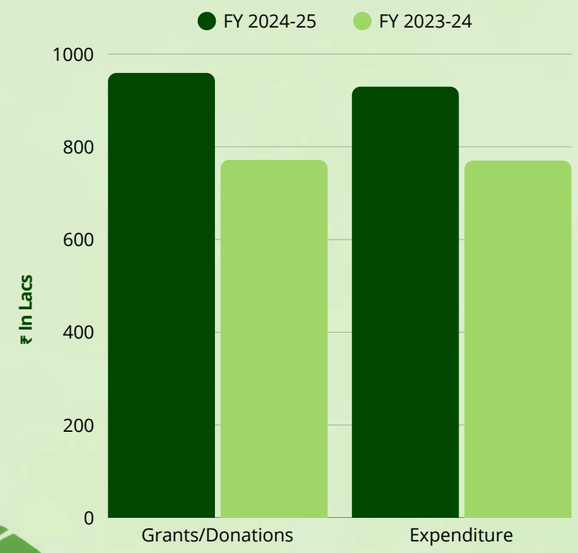
₹ In Lacs

PROPERTY & ASSETS	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
Fixed Assets	16.28	18.13
Investments	125.59	93.87
Cash & Bank in Hand	82.67	81.06
Other Current Assets	5.37	5.99
TOTAL	**229.91**	**199.05**

₹ In Lacs



Amount & % Spent in Year of Total Expenses in FY 2024-25



Grants/Donations and Expenses in 2024-25 & 2023-24

WHAT'S NEXT?

As we restore our biodiversity and forests, we also restore integrity for the cause, knowledge and hope. The next years will be about deepening this regenerative journey, where every sapling planted will be a step towards a more equitable and ecologically secure future for the Eastern Himalaya.

As we move steadily towards our vision for a regenerative Eastern Himalaya, the road ahead is both ambitious and deeply rooted in community and ecological resilience. By 2028, we aim to restore 20,908 hectares of degraded land;11,708 hectares of which have already been brought back to life through the planting of over 14.5 million saplings as of March 2025. With these efforts, we are steadily progressing toward our goal of impacting the lives of 65,000 people by 2030, through green livelihoods, skill-building and community-based ecological restoration.

In 2025 and beyond, our focus sharpens around these five key frontiers:

Science & Technology at the Grassroots: We will scale the integration of ecological data, remote sensing and community-based monitoring tools to make conservation smarter, adaptive and deeply rooted in local action.

Women and Youth at the Forefront: Building on our inclusive conservation model, we will deepen our engagements in youth-led and women-led restoration initiatives, supporting them as primary agents of change in their landscapes.

Amplifying Voices Through Advocacy: We will tell more stories - of forests, of communities, of quiet revolutions. Through strategic advocacy, we will work to influence policy, amplify community voices and make conservation a national and regional priority.

Culture as Conservation: Conservation is not just ecological, but also cultural. We will celebrate indigenous identities through design, language, and storytelling. From helping revive endangered indigenous languages to preserving traditional design, we aim to preserve the unique cultural fabric that shapes our landscapes.

TEAM BALIPARA FOUNDATION

AMBARNIL BHARDWAJ
Project Manager

ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA
Natural Capital Curator

BANKIM HAZARIKA
Operations Architect

BHADRA NAHAK
Forester

BIMAN MILI
Ranger

DEVA PRATIM DAS
Ranger

GAUTAM BARUAH
Chief Operations Architect

JOHN SONA
Natural Capital

KARISHMA AHMED
Chief Communications Architect

DR. LINA GOGOI
Ecological Researcher

NIBEDAN KURMI
Forester

NILAKANTHA DEKA
Assistant Natural Capital

NRIPEN MILI
Forester

PHULEN DAS
Forester

TEAM BALIPARA FOUNDATION

RABIJEETA LAHKAR
Operations Architect

RAJEN KURMI
Ranger

ROHIT CHAUHAN
Impact Curator

SUSIL NGATE
Forester

AWOTO L
Forester

NIKITA KUMARI VERMA
Assistant Natural Capital

JITEN DEKA
Government Liaison

TSUSEKI Y
Forester

TRECY GOMES
HR Enabler

NAYANIKA DUTTA
Communications Architect - Content and Digital Lead

DHRUBA JYOTI TALUKDAR
Operations Architect

DR. SUBHAM CHANDRA MONDAL
Ace Ecological Researcher

GAURAV BARTHAKUR
Grants & Business Head

SUNAINA BARUAH
Communications Executive

COMMUNITY LEADS 2024-25


BIRAPANA DAIMARY


PINTU PAYENG


SUBIT SAWRA


SASANKA GOGOI


GUNJAN BORAH


MRINAL SAIKIA


HOM NATH RAJBONGSHI


MIBA MIPUN MILI


ATUL KARDONG


KULDIP DAS


UTPAL BORO


ANSUMA BASUMATARY


RUDRA BAHADUR CHETRI


NAMGE KHANDU


Y. SEPANKI


PABITRA REGON


TILAK MILI


ADITYA KARDONG


DHARMEN MILI


NANDI MILI


KAMALESHWAR KUTUM


BANWANG LOSU


LALIT TAWED


BHABEN NARZARY


SANSUMA KHAKHLARY


RATNA KUMAR DAS


ZHIMOUHOLI ZHIMO


SHIKALI AWOMI


GOPAL RAI


NAREN DAS


BHUPEN PAYENG


JANGA BAHADUR GHALEY


KHAGENDRANATH PEGU


SIDHARTHA PEGU


PANSANG PAYENG

INTERNS FY 2024-25


SAMPRITI BARMAN
Intern - Rural Futures
Habitat Restoration


BAHNISIKHA DAS
Intern - Indigenous Hub


PRATIKSHYA PARASHAR
Intern - EHNF
Communications


ABHIJAY HAZARIKA
Intern - EHNF
Communications


SUNAINA BARUAH
Intern - EHNF
Communications

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