

**BALIPARA FOUNDATION**

Assam • India

# PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT

2025-26

**VALUING  
BIODIVERSITY**

**NURTURING  
FORESTS**

*Where*  
**BIODIVERSITY,  
FORESTS, AND  
COMMUNITIES**  
*flourish together*

In the Eastern Himalaya, one of the world's richest ecological landscapes, the future lies in the delicate balance between biodiversity, forests, and communities. Here, restoration is not just about regenerating trees, but about reviving entire ecosystems where diverse species thrive, forests regain their strength, and communities are empowered as custodians of the land. It is within this interconnected system that resilience is built and sustained, shaping a future where nature and people flourish together.

# TOWARDS A NATURENOMICS™ FUTURE

## VISION

Valuing Biodiversity, Nurturing Forests

## MISSION

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

## OBJECTIVES



100 Million Natural Assets in 23,300 Hectares by 2029



65,000 People



INR 145 million Natural Capital

## LEVERS TO A NATURENOMICS™ FUTURE



Biodiversity and Forestry



Knowledge Hub



Cultural Inheritance



# FOREWORD

## Where Biodiversity Tells the Story of Our Future

**Ranjit Barthakur**  
*Founder Forester,*  
*Balipara Foundation*

Biodiversity is the foundation of life and the architecture of our future. It is not confined to forests or species alone; it is a continuous value chain that begins with a seed, is nurtured by communities, and evolves into ecosystems that sustain economies, cultures, and civilizations. When this chain is intact, landscapes thrive. When it is broken, systems collapse.

Today, the greatest challenge before us is not simply the loss of biodiversity, it is the breakdown of this value chain.

In the Eastern Himalaya - the Himsagar this reality is both urgent and defining. This region, one of the richest ecological systems on Earth, is also one of the most vulnerable. Its forests regulate water systems across South Asia, its biodiversity supports millions of livelihoods, and its cultures hold generations of ecological knowledge. Yet, increasing ecological stress is weakening the very systems that sustain it.

And yet, there is a counter current of resilience.

Across the region, communities are restoring what has been degraded. Young people are choosing to rebuild within their landscapes. Forests, when given the opportunity, are regenerating.

At the Balipara Foundation, our journey since 2007 has been anchored in a clear belief: restoration is not a project, it is a process of rebuilding this value chain of biodiversity. It is about reconnecting seeds to soil, communities to forests, and ecology to economy.

This year's Progress and Impact Report reflects that commitment in action.

In 2025-2026, we strengthened biodiversity restoration at every stage of the value chain. Over 45 million seeds were conserved and activated through community-led seed banks, securing the genetic foundation of future forests. These efforts were carried forward through 1.7 million saplings raised in community nurseries, rooted in local knowledge and ecological relevance.

From this foundation, 8.2 million saplings were planted across landscapes, while 6.1 million saplings continue to be nurtured under sustainable management. Today, 46% of our landscapes stand restored, and 42% are under sustained management marking a transition from fragmented restoration to a systems-led approach.

But the significance of this work lies beyond numbers.

It is reflected in the return of ecological balance and in the revival of soil systems, the reappearance of biodiversity, and the strengthening of livelihoods connected to nature. It is seen in communities reclaiming their role as custodians, and in the restoration of relationships that define resilience.

What is increasingly evident across our landscapes is that science, research, and sustained field-based experimentation are accelerating this return. Long-term monitoring of restoration sites, combined with ecological research, has enabled us to understand species survival rates, soil regeneration patterns, and biodiversity return with far greater depth. The reappearance of indicator species, improved canopy density, enhanced soil microbiology, and the stabilisation of water systems are not incidental outcomes, they are measurable proof of healthy ecological restoration. These outcomes demonstrate that when restoration is rooted in the right species mix, informed by local ecology, and supported by continuous research and adaptive management, degraded landscapes can transition back into functioning ecosystems. This is not recovery by chance; it is restoration by design.

Technology has further strengthened our ability to measure and scale this impact with precision. Through GIS, remote sensing, and data modelling, we are able to track patterns, monitor change, and identify priority interventions across landscapes. Yet, it is the wisdom embedded within communities. Their understanding of ecosystems, seasons, and species that continues to guide us. This integration defines Naturenomics™: a framework where ecology, economy, and culture function as one.

This vision found strong expression at the 13th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, where a new generation articulated a clear and grounded commitment to restoration. Their message was not one of departure, but of return to landscapes, to identity, and to purpose.

The Forum also marked a significant deepening of our engagement with academia. Through collaborations with four universities (IIT Guwahati, Gauhati University, Cotton University, Royal Global University), we brought together research, field practice, and youth leadership into a shared platform for action. These partnerships are not limited to dialogue, they are actively contributing to ecological monitoring, data-driven research, and on-ground restoration efforts, creating a bridge between knowledge and implementation.

The outcomes of this convergence are already visible. Youth-led collectives are emerging as powerful drivers of change, translating learning into action across landscapes. Initiatives such as Clean Brahmaputra, Green Brahmaputra reflect this shift where young people are leading efforts in river conservation, biodiversity awareness, and community mobilisation. From seed conservation and restoration activities to local stewardship, these movements are building a new ecology of leadership.

This is the future of restoration where science, community, and youth converge to create systems that are not only resilient, but self-sustaining.

As we look ahead, one truth stands clear: biodiversity is not a sectoral concern, it is the basis of all development.

The Himsagar calls for responsibility, for systems thinking, and for collective action. It calls on us to restore not only landscapes, but the value chain that sustains life itself. This Progress & Impact Report is a reflection of progress but more importantly, it is a call to act with urgency, clarity, and conviction, to ensure that biodiversity continues to shape a future where both people and nature thrive.



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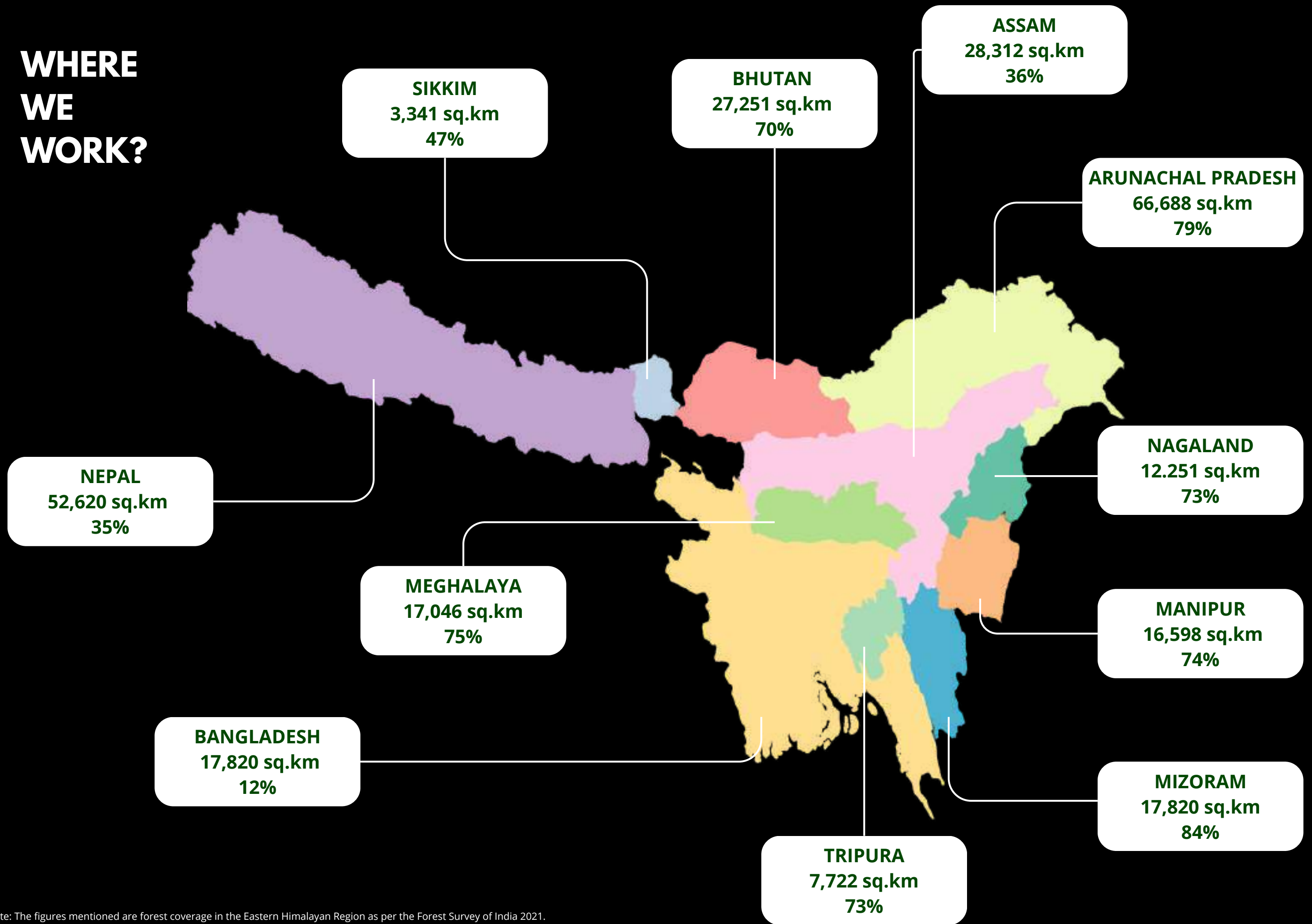
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# WHERE WE WORK?



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



# Case Story:

## Anjali Koch's Journey Towards Sustainable Livelihood

In the quiet village of North Dharikati, Anjali Koch has been steadily building a livelihood rooted in determination and care. Alongside running a small sewing shop, Anjali had always nurtured a personal interest in pig rearing, starting with just a couple of pigs on her own.

Her journey took a significant turn with the support of the Balipara Foundation. Through their intervention, Anjali received piglets, essential resources, and hands-on training in piggery management. She learned how to care for the animals, identify early signs of illness, and administer basic treatments, skills that strengthened her confidence as a livestock farmer.

Today, Anjali manages a piggery in her village that houses seven pigs : one male and six females which is currently the full capacity of her setup. Her daily routine reflects discipline and commitment: cleaning the piggery every morning and feeding the pigs three times a day at 8 AM, 1 PM, and in the evening around 5:30 to 6 PM.

With proper care, piglets can be sold within 45 to 60 days, fetching a price between ₹3,500 to ₹4,000 each. Preventive measures, such as timely deworming, have ensured that her pigs remain healthy, with no major disease outbreaks so far.

Looking ahead, Anjali envisions expanding her piggery into a larger and more sustainable enterprise. She is eager to scale up breeding and increase her stock, but recognizes that continued support especially in the form of piglets, feed, and technical guidance will be crucial. Maintaining a strong relationship with the Balipara Foundation remains central to her future plans.

Anjali's story is one of resilience and growth, an inspiring example of how targeted support and local initiative can come together to build sustainable livelihoods in rural communities.



# Women Leading Change

**Seeds of Enterprise:**  
**Women of Ghurmura Step Forward as Community Entrepreneurs**

**Location:** Ghurmura (Ganeshbari), Sadiya Sub Division, Tinsukia District, Assam

**Population:** 338 (Census 2011)

Ghurmura is a remote river island village with limited connectivity and market access, restricting livelihood opportunities, especially for women beyond traditional agriculture.

In 2025, Balipara Foundation introduced mushroom cultivation under the Indigenous Hub initiative as a low-cost, home-based enterprise. A training workshop in October 2025 equipped community members with skills in cultivation, hygiene, and market linkages.

## Women-Led Enterprise

Following the training, 10 women, led by Gitanjali Lalung, initiated collective mushroom farming. Starting with 17 oyster mushroom cylinders, they scaled up to 70 cylinders by January 2026, demonstrating strong adoption and growth.



The initiative has created an additional source of income, strengthened women's role in household decision-making, and encouraged entrepreneurship. The group shows strong potential to scale production and strengthen market linkages, positioning this as a replicable model for women-led rural enterprises.

### Impact at a Glance

Women engaged	Initial mushroom cylinders
<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>
Monthly harvest (kg)	Current mushroom cylinders
<b>30</b>	<b>70</b>
Selling price (per kg)	Monthly income generated
<b>₹250</b>	<b>₹7,500</b>





**BIODIVERSITY &  
FORESTRY**

# Ecological Restoration IMPACTS

2025-26

Rooted at the intersection of conservation and community development, this initiative restores degraded landscapes through habitat restoration and agroforestry while strengthening sustainable livelihoods. By reviving native ecosystems and integrating tree-based farming systems, it seeks to build a resilient model where ecological health and economic wellbeing grow in tandem.

## Habitat Restoration for A Resilient and Climate Secure Future

Site Name	Plantation	Area Covered ( in Hectares)	Productivity	Work Created for Days	Incentive Income	Beneficiary Involved
Bihaguri	107614	94.4	31.64187004	3401	1096950	77
Dhakuakhana	-		-	920	276000	81
Dholla	94466	90	28.60006055	3303	1001550	156
Guijaan	0		-	48	14400	4
Jhanjimukh	379968	328.9	52.11466191	7291	2226750	540
Kamrup	20191	14	19.15654649	1054	316200	53
Kartick Chapori	108072	97.1	44.40098603	2434	633950	209
Lal Borahi	0		-	2039	611700	22
Longding	15481	15	35.50688073	436	133800	138
Sadiya	43786	50	34.02175602	1287	390750	78
Sangti Valley	29898	28	64.15879828	466	233000	30
Udalguri	404031	411.14	28.21839642	14318	4437250	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>1203507</b>	<b>1128.54</b>	<b>37.53555072</b>	<b>36997</b>	<b>11372300</b>	<b>1582</b>



# AGROFORESTRY

Site Name	Work Created for Days	Incentive Income
Bihaguri	297	90900
Bogijuli	278	83750
Dhakuakhana	0	0
Dholla	190	57450
Guijaan	0	0
Jhanjimukh	336	104500
Kamrup	0	0
Kartick Chapori	1668	534550
Lal Borahi	591	177300
Longding	180	56000
Majuli	1367	418600
Sadiya	0	0
Sangti Valley	<b>33</b>	<b>15900</b>
Udalguri	<b>1120</b>	<b>333600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6060</b>	<b>1872550</b>



Site	Jhanjimukh , 3.96 Hectares								
Household	22								
Harvest Species	King Chilli	Bottle Gourd	Mustard	Other Harvest ( Radish,Chinese Mellow, Papaya etc.)					
Harvest Kgs	662	1000 Units	224	597					
Revenue ( in INR)	INR 1.98 Lacs								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Lemon	Guava	Amlokhi	Turmeric (kgs)	Others ( Potato, Yam, Ginger, vegetables Seeds)	Total saplings	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	1490	1750	1560	50	50	1500	1077	4900	2577

Site	Sonitpur ( Bogijuli, Lal Barhi and Maldang)- 12.48 Hectares								
Household	34								
Harvest Species	Yam	Ginger	King Chilli	Lady Finger	Sponge Gourd				
Harvest Kgs	220	80	13	10	6				
Revenue ( in INR)	18950								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Lemon	Moringa, Papaya and other saplings	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Black Gram/ Sesame /vegetable seeds	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	2020	1603	2077	3742	523	500	12	9442	1035

Site	Udalguri ( Samrang and Bhairabpur)- 8.14 Hectares								
Household	62								
Harvest Species	Ground Nut								
Harvest Kgs	150								
Revenue ( in INR)	18000								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Amlokhi	Others( Lemon, Guava, Moringa, Tamarind)	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Other seeds ( Pea Nut, Radish, mustard )	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	1951	2825	1596	7144	250	500	22.75	13516	772.75

Site	Majuli-9.73 Hectares								
Household	12								
Harvest Species	N/A								
Harvest Kgs	N/A								
Revenue ( in INR)	N/A								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Lemon	Mango	Moringa	Black Gram	Radish (Kg)	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	836	1200	325	1067	612	30	2	4040	32

Site	Bihaguri- 3.66 Hectares								
Household	7								
Harvest Species	Coriander								
Harvest Kgs	400 bunches								
Revenue ( in INR)	3000								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Lemon	Others ( Moringa, Guava, Mulberry)	Potato ( Kgs)	Yam ( Kgs)	Other (Ginger Pea,beans etc.)	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	520	440	210	340	400	500	127.15	1510	1027.15

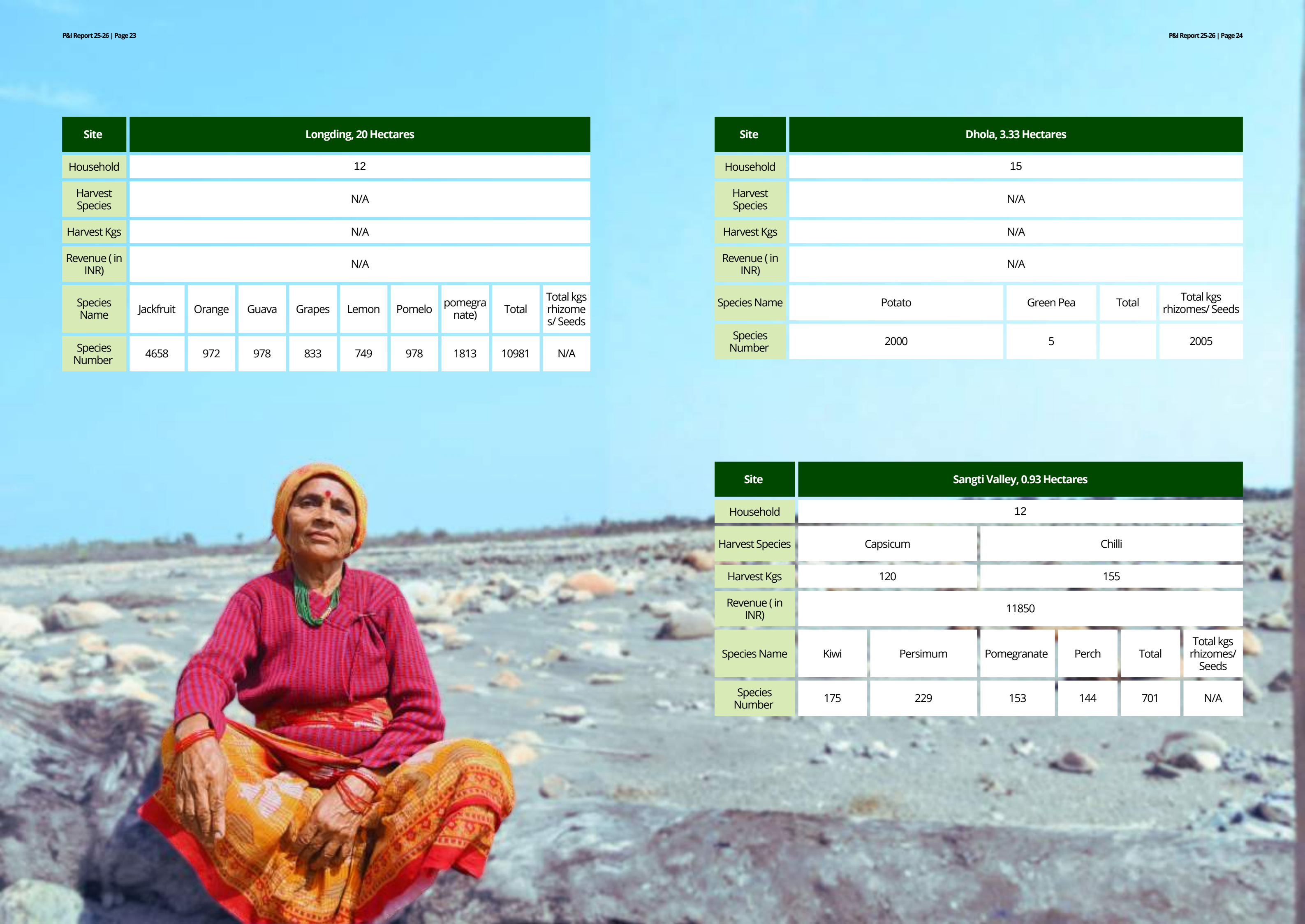
Site	Kartick Chapori-27.9 Hectares								
Household	55								
Harvest Species	Radish	Mustard	Squash	Yam	Bottle gourd				
Harvest Kgs	800	14160	15	260	30 Units				
Revenue ( in INR)	104685								
Species Name	Apple Ber	Areca Nut	Lemon	Moringa	Ginger (kgs)	Turmeric (kgs)	Yam (kgs)	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	465	484	433	403	N/A	N/A	N/A	1785	0



Site	Longding, 20 Hectares								
Household	12								
Harvest Species	N/A								
Harvest Kgs	N/A								
Revenue ( in INR)	N/A								
Species Name	Jackfruit	Orange	Guava	Grapes	Lemon	Pomelo	pomegrate)	Total	Total kgs rhizome s/ Seeds
Species Number	4658	972	978	833	749	978	1813	10981	N/A

Site	Dhola, 3.33 Hectares			
Household	15			
Harvest Species	N/A			
Harvest Kgs	N/A			
Revenue ( in INR)	N/A			
Species Name	Potato	Green Pea	Total	Total kgs rhizomes/ Seeds
Species Number	2000	5		2005

Site	Sangti Valley, 0.93 Hectares					
Household	12					
Harvest Species	Capsicum			Chilli		
Harvest Kgs	120			155		
Revenue ( in INR)	11850					
Species Name	Kiwi	Persimum	Pomegranate	Perch	Total	Total kgs rhizomes/ Seeds
Species Number	175	229	153	144	701	N/A





**REDEFINING CONSERVATION:**  
*Creating Lasting Impacts*



Common Sailer

*The Research and Development (R&D) Wing conducts detailed ecological assessments across the region, studying forest composition, bird diversity, and lesser-known taxa such as insects, amphibians, and reptiles.*

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE FIELD

Integrating technology into conservation, the use of advanced geospatial tools such as GIS, ArcGIS, QGIS, and Google Earth Engine to map erosion-accretion patterns along the Brahmaputra River. Time-series land use and land cover analysis helps track landscape changes, while watershed mapping supports water conservation and ecosystem restoration planning.



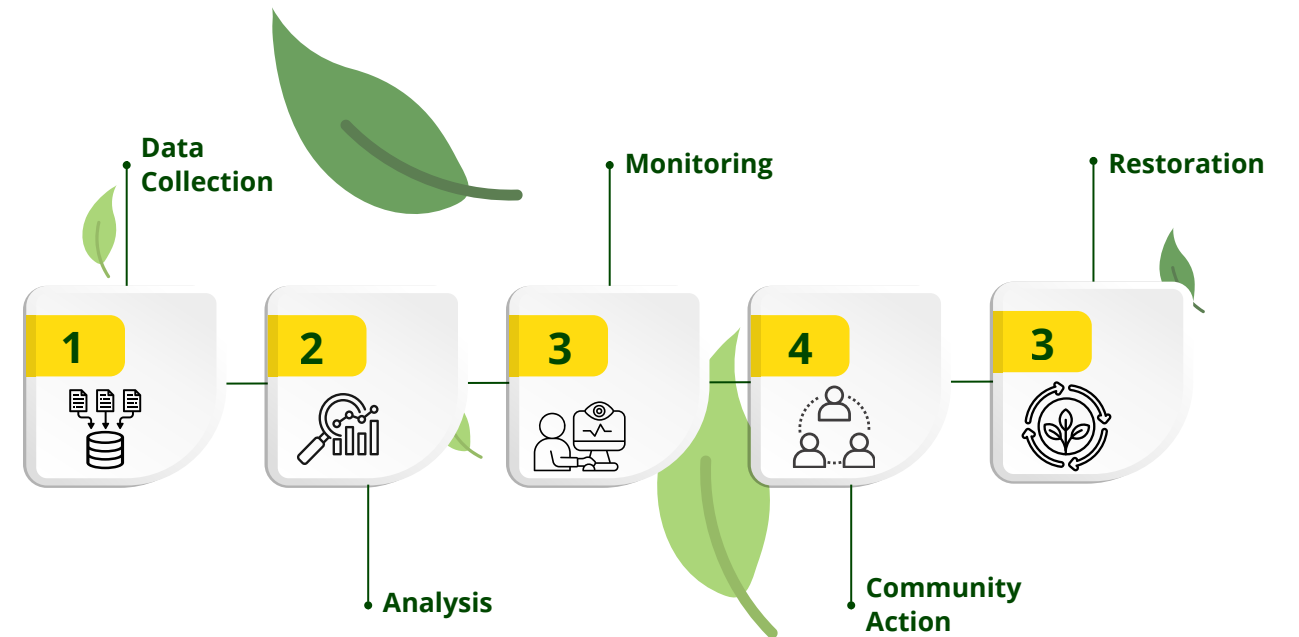
The Balipara Foundation works to understand and protect the rich biodiversity of the Eastern Himalaya through science-driven conservation. Its R&D Wing conducts detailed ecological assessments across the region, studying forest composition, bird diversity, and lesser-known taxa such as insects, amphibians, and reptiles. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to safeguarding the region's natural heritage.



Field-based technologies to strengthen biodiversity monitoring. Camera traps capture data on elusive species without disturbance, while GPS tools aid in plantation mapping, navigation, and monitoring restoration success. Drone technology enables real-time tracking of wildlife movement, especially in human-elephant conflict zones, allowing timely mitigation. In remote areas, two-way radios ensure reliable communication for field teams.

Scientific research is further supported by the Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark (EHBA), where laboratory tools such as nitrogen analyzers assess soil and water health. Automated weather stations across project sites record key climatic data, supporting long-term ecological research and climate-resilient planning.

All data is managed through a cloud-based biodiversity database, ensuring secure storage, accessibility, and collaboration. By combining advanced technology with grassroots action, the Balipara Foundation is building a scalable, data-driven model for conservation in one of the world's most sensitive ecosystems.



**“Integration of empirical science, technology, and community participation”**



Cinnamon Bittern

## Scientific Interventions of Ecological Restoration in the Eastern Himalayas

Balipara Foundation integrates empirical science, technology, and community participation to advance ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation across the Eastern Himalaya. The R&D team is focusing on three verticals:

- biodiversity monitoring (beyond protected areas)
- technological interventions for biodiversity conservation and landscape monitoring
- nurturing future guardians of nature



Common Crane

## Biodiversity Monitoring Beyond Protected Areas

**Valleys | Foothills | Mountains**

The Eastern Himalayas are globally recognized as a biodiversity hotspot, hosting a remarkable diversity of flora, fauna, and microorganisms across valleys, foothills, and mountainous landscapes. While many ecologically rich areas are safeguarded under protected area networks, a significant portion of biodiversity exists beyond these boundaries. These unprotected regions are increasingly threatened by unregulated infrastructure development, habitat degradation, and limited ecological awareness. Addressing this gap requires systematic biodiversity documentation, effective habitat management, and community-driven restoration initiatives.

In response to this urgent need, the Balipara Foundation has been actively involved in documenting biodiversity in collaboration with local communities across the restoration sites. The initiative aims at the long-term conservation of rare, threatened, and endangered species through targeted habitat management and restoration across diverse landscapes of the eastern Himalaya. Recognising that species composition varies with altitude, the Foundation’s monitoring efforts cover valleys, foothills, and mountain ecosystems to comprehensively capture these ecological transitions.



Ibisbill

### Avifaunal diversity across project sites

Landscape	SR	Family	Genus	Migratory	Residential	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR
Valleys	131	53	34	43%	57%	19	8	3	0	1
Foothills	74	33	51	14%	86%	71	3	0	0	0
Mountain	46	29	39	11%	89%	44	2	0	0	0



Indian Thick Knee



Rudy's Shelduck

### Mammal diversity across project sites

Landscape	SR	Family	Genus	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	Landscape	SR
Valleys	10	8	9	3	0	2	4	0	Valleys	10
Foothills	7	4	4	2	0	2	3	0	Foothills	7
Mountain	8	4	4	4	7	0	1	0	Mountain	8



Water Buffalo



Arunachal Macaque

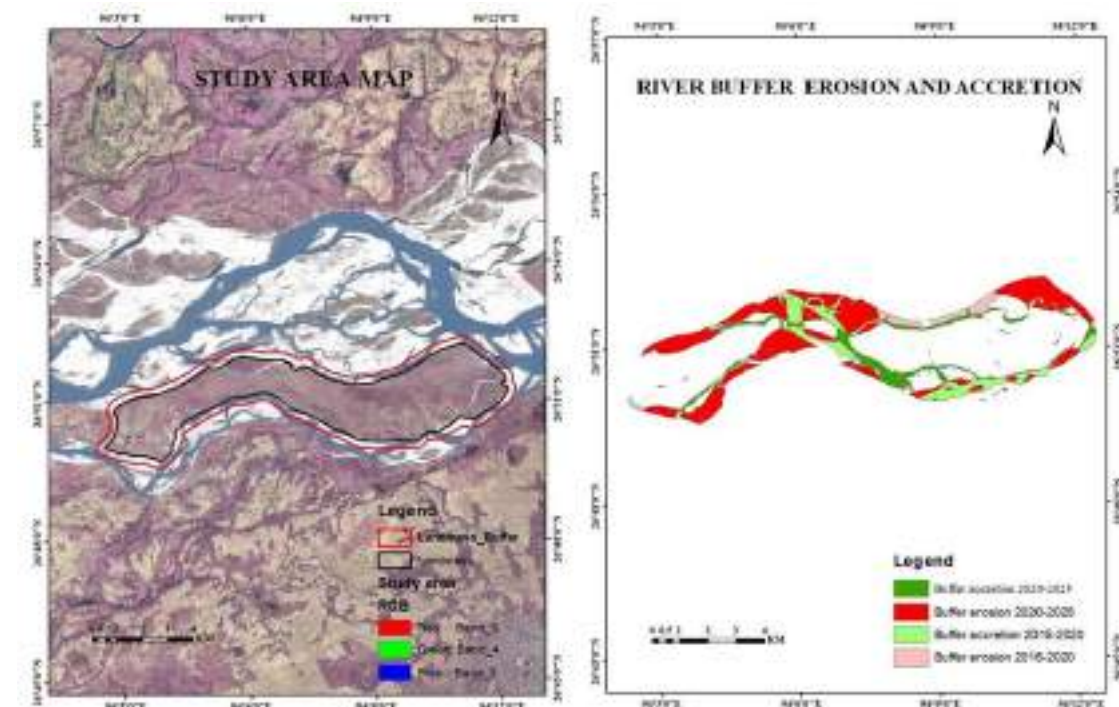


# Technological Interventions for Biodiversity Conservation and Landscape Monitoring

**Monitoring of River Island using Remotely Sensed Satellite data, GIS analysis:**  
*A Case Study of Kartik Chapori, Jorhat District*

Across the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River, landscapes are continually reshaped by the forces of erosion and deposition. These natural processes, while vital to river dynamics, increasingly threaten ecosystems and human settlements due to heightened environmental pressures. Recent research and geospatial analysis reveal a notable shift in landscape stability over the past decade. Between 2015 and 2020, land formation was dominant, characterised by high deposition and minimal erosion, indicating relatively stable riverbanks. However, this trend sharply reversed after 2020. Erosion rates surged, while deposition declined, signalling growing instability and accelerated land loss. This transition is also reflected in overall changes in landmass. The study area saw a significant reduction in land between 2015 and 2020, with only partial recovery by 2025. Despite some gains from sediment deposition, the total landmass remains lower than at initial levels, highlighting a net loss and increasing the vulnerability of riverine landscapes.

In response to these emerging challenges, the Balipara Foundation has incorporated remote sensing and GIS-based monitoring into its conservation strategy. By mapping erosion hotspots and tracking landscape changes over time, the Foundation can identify vulnerable zones and prioritise restoration efforts. These scientific insights are further enhanced through community participation, ensuring that local knowledge and lived experiences guide on-ground interventions. Beyond data, the impact lies in action. The integration of technology with community-led conservation efforts is helping build resilience in fragile ecosystems—protecting biodiversity, stabilising habitats, and supporting livelihoods dependent on these dynamic landscapes. As river systems continue to evolve under the pressures of climate change and human activity, such science-driven, community-centred approaches are essential. They not only deepen our understanding of changing landscapes but also enable timely and effective conservation responses, ensuring that both nature and communities can adapt and thrive.



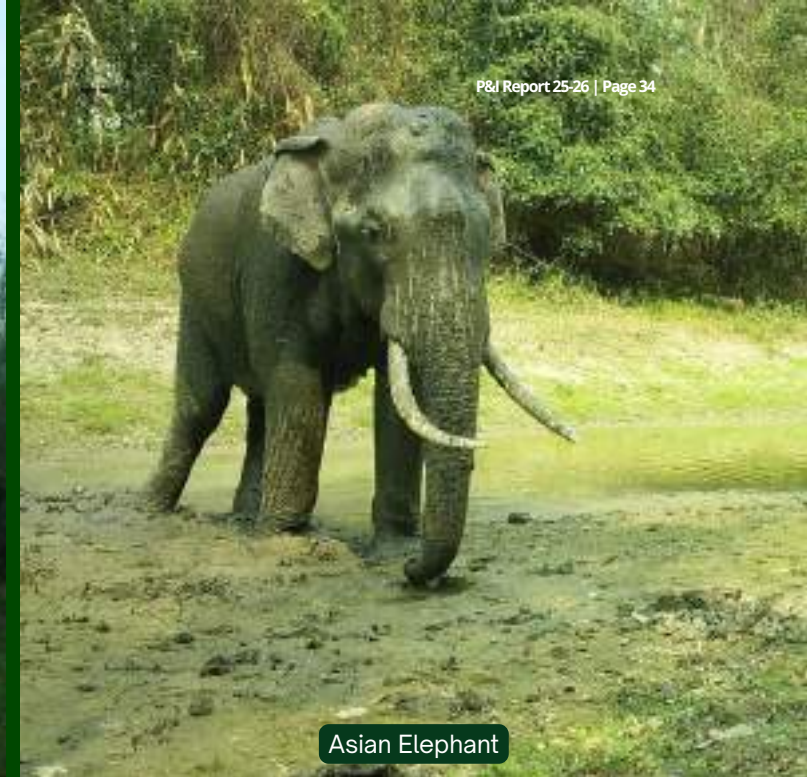


### Eyes in the Wild: *Rewilding River Islands*

On the shifting islands of the Brahmaputra River, wildlife often goes unnoticed. These fragile sandbars, constantly reshaped by floods, were once thought to be unsuitable for wildlife. But camera traps have revealed a different story. Using motion-sensitive cameras, the Balipara Foundation has been quietly monitoring these river islands—and the results are remarkable. Images captured show the presence of iconic and endangered species like the Bengal Tiger and Asian Elephant, alongside the Indian Rhinoceros and Asiatic Water Buffalo. Even elusive animals such as the Indian Leopard, civets, and the Jungle Cat have been recorded. These findings highlight that river islands are not empty landscapes but vital habitats and movement corridors for wildlife. Despite constant environmental change, these areas support a surprising diversity of species. Beyond data collection, camera trapping has also engaged local communities in conservation. People living on these islands are now actively involved in monitoring and protecting wildlife. This initiative shows that rewilding is not always about restoring lost nature, it is about recognising and protecting the life that already exists, even in the most unexpected places.



Himalayan Griffon Vultures



Asian Elephant



Golden Jackal



Hog deer



Jungle Cat



Arunachal Macaque

## STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

*Workshops, Capacity Building & Collaborative Action (2025-2026)*

Balipara Foundation continues to work closely with government departments, academic institutions, and local communities to drive conservation through capacity building, knowledge exchange, and field-based action across the Eastern Himalaya.



## VULTURE CONSERVATION & HABITAT RESTORATION

*In collaboration with Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Assam and Assam Forest School*

- Plantation drive at Rani Range, Kamrup (M), marking International Vulture Awareness Day (6 Sept 2025)
- 100 Simalu & native saplings planted to support vulture nesting habitats
- 100 saplings distributed to local communities
- Strong participation from the Bikrampur village community

**Focus: Habitat restoration + community stewardship**



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: VULTURE REINTRODUCTION

*In collaboration with Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre and College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati*

- Brought together veterinary experts, forest officers, and researchers
- Focus on coordinated action for vulture recovery
- Key discussions on:
  - NSAID regulation
  - Release protocols & telemetry tracking
  - Rescue and rehabilitation experiences

**Focus: Science-led conservation + inter-agency coordination**



## Growing Future Guardians of Nature

In the landscapes of the Eastern Himalayas, conservation is not only about protecting forests and wildlife, it is about empowering people. Balipara Foundation believes that lasting conservation begins by equipping young minds, local communities, and frontline staff with the knowledge and skills to lead. Over the past year, this vision has translated into meaningful action. Through the LEAF Internship Programme, more than 60 students from universities and colleges stepped beyond classrooms into real-world ecosystems, gaining hands-on experience in biodiversity monitoring and conservation practices. This learning journey was further strengthened through the Naturenomics Research Conclave, where over 400 students came together to present their research, participate in more than 30 workshops, and engage directly with subject experts—bridging the gap between academic learning and field realities.

At the community level, more than 50 youths from forest-fringe areas were trained in wildlife monitoring, biodiversity documentation, eco-tourism opportunities, and nature-based approaches to climate change adaptation. These efforts are enabling communities to actively participate in and benefit from conservation.

Simultaneously, over 50 frontline forest staff from Assam and Nagaland were trained in GPS and GIS technologies, enhancing their capacity to monitor landscapes and protect biodiversity more effectively.

Together, these initiatives are creating a strong network of informed and skilled conservation practitioners—laying the foundation for long-term protection of the Eastern Himalayas through knowledge, collaboration, and community-driven action.



# NATURENOMICS™ WORKSHOP: FIELD TO MAP

## ASSAM

*In collaboration with Assam Forest School*



- Training for forest frontline staff across Assam
- Hands-on learning in:
  - GPS-based data collection
  - Geo-mapping & visualisation (Google Earth)
  - Strengthened field monitoring and decision-making capacity

## NAGALAND

*In collaboration with State Environment and Forestry Training Institute*



- Extension of geospatial training to Nagaland
- Focus on practical mapping skills for forest landscapes
- Enabled cross-state knowledge sharing

**Focus: Technology for conservation**



## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS & BIODIVERSITY

*In collaboration with Aquaculture and Biodiversity Centre, Gauhati University*

- Workshop on indigenous fish species & integrated farming systems
- Promoted sustainable aquaculture practices
- Linked biodiversity conservation with community livelihoods

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



100+ saplings planted for habitat restoration



100+ community members engaged



Multiple state departments & institutions partnered



Frontline forest staff trained across Assam & Nagaland



Students engaged in field-based ecological research

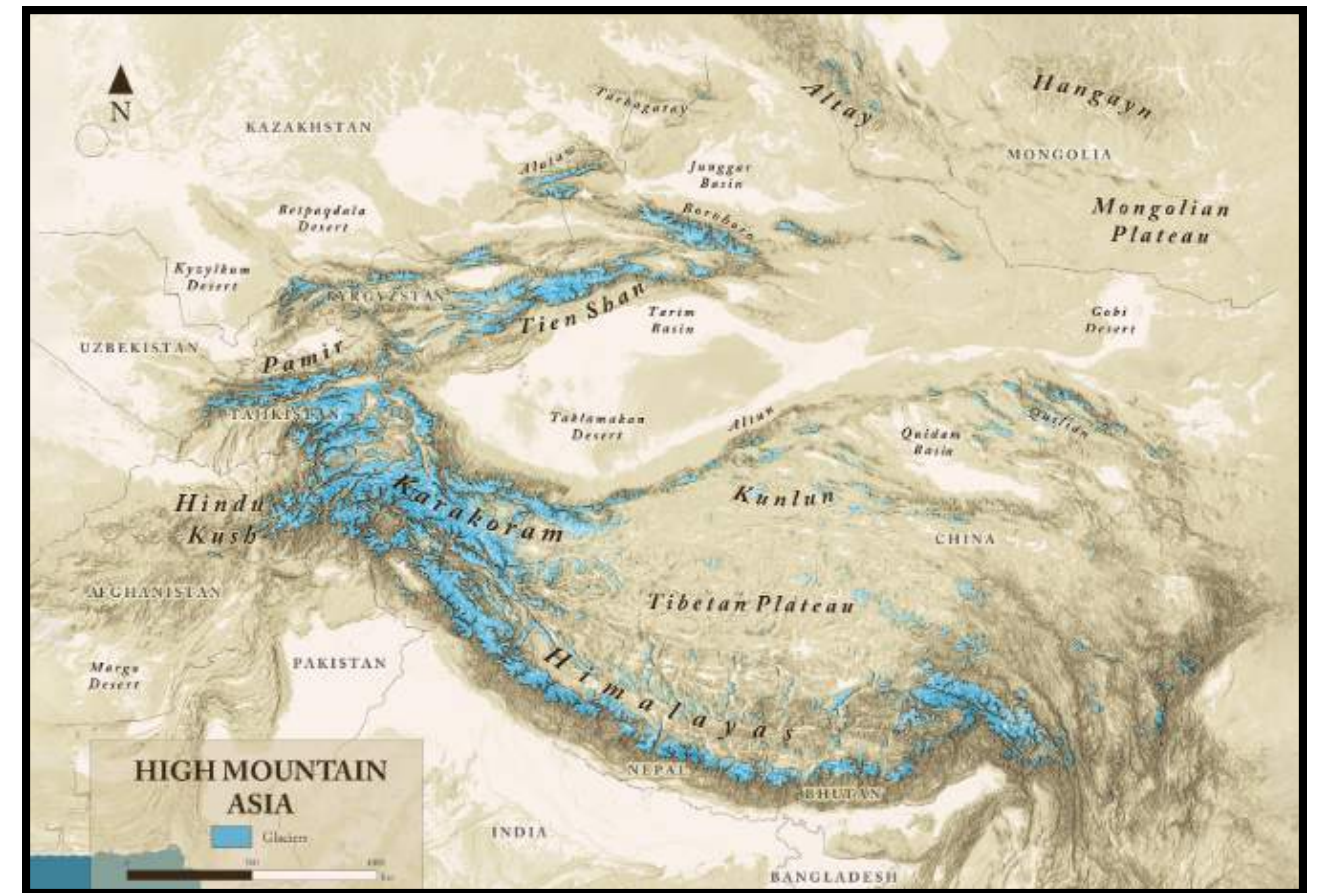


### *Towards Collaborative Conservation*


These initiatives highlight the power of partnership-driven action—bringing together science, communities, and governance to build resilient ecosystems and regenerative futures in the Eastern Himalaya.

**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**EASTERN HIMALAYAN**  
**NATURENOMICS™ FORUM**  
**2025**  
 10th & 11th December  
 Guwahati, Assam


**A PLATFORM FOR FORESTS AND PEOPLE :  
 EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS FORUMS**



**THE THIRD POLE AS A LIVING SYSTEM**

  
**Land Systems**  
 (Forests, Agriculture, Biodiversity)

  
**Water Systems**  
 (Rivers, Wetlands, Groundwater, Glacial flows)

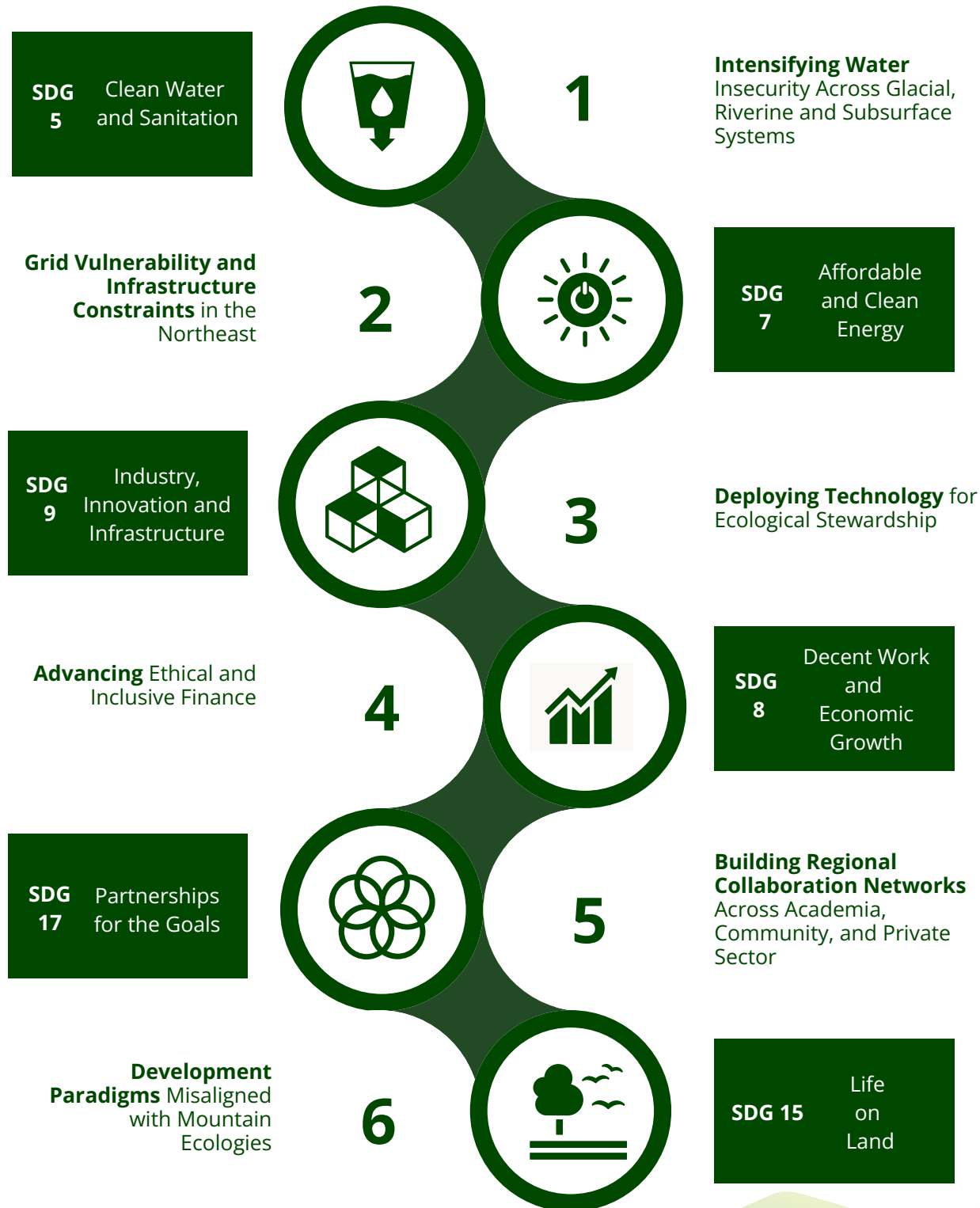
  
**Energy Transitions**  
 (Renewable Systems, Decentralised Grids)

  
**Sustainable and Regenerative Economies**

**THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE DEPENDS ON  
 ALIGNING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY**

# INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE, WATER, ENERGY, FORESTS & REGENERATIVE ECONOMY PRIORITIES

# WAY FORWARD: OUTCOMES AT EHNF 2025



### Royal Global University

- **Youth-led regional platform** for collaborative conservation, leadership and long-term ecological action in the Eastern Himalaya
- **Green economy framework** enabling climate-resilient and regenerative investments



### Cotton University

- **Book launch** advancing orchid conservation and biodiversity awareness
- **Collaboration with Bano Haralu and Naga weavers** for heritage-based sustainable livelihoods
- **Capacity building for Nagaland forest frontline staff** through training and knowledge exchange
- **BNHS partnership for vulture conservation** through research, monitoring and policy support



### Gauhati University

- **Launch of the Asian Elephant Secretariat** as a multi-stakeholder platform for coordinated science, policy and community-led elephant conservation
- **Launch of The Himalayan magazine** as a knowledge platform connecting academia, policy and practice on the future of the Eastern Himalaya
- **Strengthening Research and Collaboration** for Ecological Development



### IIT Guwahati

- **Integrated Renewable Energy Solutions** for Rural India: From Farmer to Agripreneur
- **Introduction of Solar-Powered Cooking and Drying Solutions** for Forest Fringe Communities
- **Launch of the Clean Brahmaputra, Great Brahmaputra** initiative as a multi-stakeholder platform for long-term river sustainability and basin-scale ecological action.



# PHASED GOALS & MILESTONES

**SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES (1-3 YEARS)**  
**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY, AND LEGITIMACY**

- Launch incubation centres and youth fellowships
- Start watershed & restoration pilots with partnerships
- Create small-scale ethical financing windows

**MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES (5-10 YEARS)**  
**INSTITUTIONALISING INTEGRATION AND SCALING**

- Institutionalise sustainability education & natural capital accounting
- Scale regenerative value chains and regional green branding
- Expand decentralised renewable energy systems

**LONG-TERM VISION (2035 AND BEYOND)**  
**SECURING BIOCULTURAL FUTURES**

- Regenerative, natural-capital-driven Eastern Himalaya
- Scale regenerative value chains and regional green branding
- Expand decentralised renewable energy systems











# NATURENOMICS™ RESEARCH CONCLAVE 2025

14-15 November 2025  
In collaboration with 

## PARTICIPATION & REACH



## KEY THEMATIC AREAS

-  Forest Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation
-  Species Ecology and Human-Wildlife Conflict
-  Conservation Communication
-  Gender and Climate Change
-  Sustainable Futures in Land, Energy and Water
-  Eco-entrepreneurship
-  Traditional Knowledge, Endangered Languages
-  Environmental Laws and Policies

## CONVERSATIONS AT EHNF 2025

*"Energy should be viewed as a complete transition value chain. It is not only an input to supply (downstream), but also integral to both the supply-side and demand-side ecosystems, together forming the interface of energy markets. We must see things from a systematic point of view."* - **Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief - Sustainability & CSR, Tata Power**



*"Success of India will be success of the world. Partnership between India and Norway is practical and effective in terms of sustaining mountains and ecosystems."* - **Her Excellency May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India**

*"If the aquifers go away, it will have an impact on life and livelihoods. The aquifers are a dependable buffer to fight climate change. Our interconnectedness is a scientific reality. We need regional and hydrological cooperation."* - **His Excellency Kesang Wangdi, Former Ambassador and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation**



*"To revive communities in the Eastern Himalaya, we must focus on four key pillars : restoring degraded land, preserving biodiversity, empowering local communities, and strengthening monitoring systems."*

**-Sunil D'Souza, CEO, Tata Consumer Products Limited**



*"From a corporate lens, environmental stewardship was once viewed through compliance or philanthropy. But today the understanding has matured. We now recognise this region as an ecological treasure and system deeply connected to water security, agriculture and economic resilience across the sub-continent."*

**-D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President Corporate Services, Tata Steel India and Director, Tata Steel Foundation India**



*"It is mostly possible that most of the planetary conversations are just repair conversations as it is a complex system and is only going to work when we exclude all hierarchies that exist in the society."*

**- Sourav Roy, CEO, Tata Steel Foundation**



## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT THE BALIPARA FOUNDATION AWARDS 2025

*Photography by Dr. KK Dwivedi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Hon'ble CM of Assam and Dr. Ramakant Panda, Asian Heart Hospital*



# BALIPARA FOUNDATION AWARDS



**13**  
Years



**184**  
Recipients



**1500+**  
Hectares Habitat  
Restored



**1000+**  
Species  
Preserved



**1100+**  
Livelihoods  
Impacted



**1000+**  
Publications

## RECIPIENTS OF THE

## 13<sup>TH</sup> BALIPARA FOUNDATION AWARDS





**MIKE PANDEY**

Naturenomics™ Honour for Environmental Storytelling  
Presented by Dr. Sunayana Sarkar, Assistant Professor, NMIMS University



**BIJIYASHANTI TONGBRAM, MANIPUR**

Young Naturalist Award  
Presented by Deepa Subramaniam, Co-Founder, Woody Grass



**NGAWANG CHOIZOM, BHUTAN**

Forest Ranger and Guards Award  
Presented by Smt. Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, Chairperson and Managing Director, Pride East Entertainment



**JAUBARI RESTORATION COMMITTEE, NEPAL**

Rewilding Award  
Presented by Babita Baruah, CEO, VML India



**NYUKMADUNG VILLAGE, ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

Naturenomics™ Award  
Presented by Sourav Roy, CEO, Tata Steel Foundation



**NUMALIGARH REFINERY LIMITED**

Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Special Recognition for Innovation in Bamboo Bioethanol  
Presented by Shri Harmeet Singh, Director General of Police, Assam



**SONAM WANGCHUK LEPCHA, SIKKIM**

Young Naturalist Award  
Presented by Bambi Kevichusa, Eco-fashion Designer, Entrepreneur and Cultural Ambassador



**KUKI BASTI AND CHANGLONG PARA, TRIPURA**

Food for the Future Award  
Presented by Bittu Sahgal, Founder, Sanctuary Nature Foundation



**ZORAM ENTU PAWL, MIZORAM**

Indian Eastern Himalayan Grant  
Presented by Rituraj Phukan, Founder, Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum



**YIMKONGANGBA, NAGALAND**

Green Journalist Award  
Presented by Dr. Rathin Barman, Director & Chief Strategy and Liaison (North-East), Wildlife Trust of India



**SOHANUR RAHMAN, BANGLADESH**

Green Journalist Award



**DR KUSHAL KONWAR SARMA, ASSAM**

Lifetime Service Award  
Presented by Smt. Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change



**LOKHIMONI DUTTA, JITAMONI KAKOTI, POMPY BORA & PRIYANKA PEGU KING COBRA CAMP, ASSAM**

Forest Ranger and Guards Award  
Presented by Aimee Baruah, Indian Actress, Director and Producer



**HUKAI H ZHIMO, NAGALAND**

Forest Ranger and Guards Award  
Presented by Richard Milburn, King's College, London, United Kingdom



**DR. BIBHAB KUMAR TALUKDAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AARANYAK**

Presented by Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies Honouring 35 Years of Aaranyak



**BETSIDA MARAK MEGHALAYA**

Green Guru Award  
Presented by His Excellency Kesang Wangdi, Deputy Minister of Privy Council, and Hon'ble Chairperson of Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation



**CHANAKYA CHAUDHURY**

Certificate of Honour and Gratitude For Selfless Dedication to the Eastern Himalaya  
Presented by Sanjukta Parashar, IPS IGP, CID-1, Assam



**NATURENOMICS™ RESEARCH CONCLAVE WINNERS (RESEARCH PITCH AND POSTER PRESENTATION)**

Presented by Prof. Dr. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University



# Naturenomics™ Digital Dialogues 2025

A Podcast Series Amplifying Grassroots  
Conservation Voices

- 4 Episodes
- 11 Speakers
- Grassroots & Expert Voices
- Stories from the Eastern Himalaya



The Naturenomics™ Digital Dialogues 2025 marked an important evolution in the platform's outreach and storytelling approach. Serving as a component under the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, the 2025 edition transitioned from a webinar-based format to a podcast series, enabling deeper engagement with conservation stories from the ground.



## Key Episodes

**1** Sustaining Lives and Landscapes: Forest-Based Livelihoods from the Eastern Himalaya

**2** Echoes of the Forests: Conservation Narratives from Assam

**4** Walking with the Asian Elephant

**3** Wetland Witnesses: The Story of Deepor Beel



By amplifying real stories from the ground, the dialogues strengthened the link between local experiences and broader conservation discourse.

## Voices from the Ground

The series featured 11 speakers, bringing together:

- Grassroots conservation practitioners
- Community leaders and livelihood innovators
- Conservation researchers and subject experts



## Impact

The Naturenomics™ Digital Dialogues 2025 strengthened digital storytelling as a tool for conservation advocacy. By highlighting lived experiences from forests, wetlands, and community landscapes, the series underscored the importance of sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, and human-wildlife coexistence.

The dialogues also contributed to shaping discussions for the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, reinforcing the role of community knowledge, cross-sector collaboration, and innovative communication platforms in advancing conservation in the Eastern Himalaya.

The Naturenomics™ Workshop served as a dynamic platform for community engagement, fostering the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and regional perspectives essential for effective conservation efforts. Attended by community members, students, youth from schools and universities, conservation experts, and other key stakeholders, these workshops became focal points for highlighting local experiences and collective wisdom.

A key strength of the workshop was its role in bridging the gap between communities and experts, enabling direct interaction, dialogue, and knowledge exchange. By fostering these connections, the workshops facilitated two-way learning, where communities could



access expert insights, and experts could gain valuable on-ground perspectives.

Through collaborative discussions, the workshops not only facilitated the sharing of traditional ecological knowledge but also played a pivotal role in shaping bottom-up conservation strategies. By integrating community-driven insights, they enabled the co-creation of sustainable solutions, ensuring that conservation programs were both culturally relevant and impactful. Naturenomics™ workshops reinforced the power of grassroots initiatives, emphasizing the importance of open communication and participatory governance in building a resilient and sustainable future.

# NATURENOMICS™ WORKSHOP



# Naturenomics™ Workshops 2025-2026

*13 Workshops*



## 5 Key Themes

1. Conservation & Ecological Restoration
2. Technology & Capacity Building
3. Community Livelihoods & Eco-Tourism
4. Culture, Crafts & Nature-Based Enterprises
5. Knowledge, Youth & Academic Engagement



## Impacts

- Approximately 600+ participants.
- Connected rural and urban youth, blending diverse expertise to drive impactful and collaborative conservation efforts.
- Innovative perspectives on conservation emerged, deepening the understanding of nature's ecological and cultural significance.
- Bridging grassroots wisdom with scientific advancements became a key focus, highlighting the power of integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches.
- Strengthened global collaboration by engaging with international organizations, fostering a united vision for conservation and sustainability.
- Expanded partnerships with universities, engaging youth in research, restoration projects, and conservation-based enterprises, ensuring long-term environmental stewardship.
- The GIS and GPS training workshops strengthened the integration of science and conservation by equipping participants with practical tools for spatial data collection, mapping, and analysis. These sessions enabled forest frontline staff and young practitioners to better understand landscapes, monitor biodiversity, and make informed decisions grounded in real-time data.
- By bridging technological expertise with on-ground conservation needs, the workshops enhanced the capacity to translate scientific insights into actionable strategies, supporting more efficient and evidence-based ecosystem management.








Bura Gaon No.2, Assam, India  
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Lat: 26.838902° Long: 92.80976°  
05/11/2025 08:56 AM GMT +05:30

# REGIONAL EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUMS 2025-26

The Regional Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum serves as a platform to document impactful conservation efforts, showcase successful habitat restoration initiatives, and amplify the voices of community champions. By identifying the most pressing challenges faced by local communities and exploring viable solutions, the forum lays the foundation for meaningful discussions and action. Through this process, it drives long-term change by empowering rural communities in the Eastern Himalayas, setting a global precedent for sustainable development. By addressing social, economic, and conservation challenges, the forum contributes to the larger vision of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration, fostering resilient and thriving ecosystems alongside sustainable livelihoods.

In 2025-26, we conducted regional forums across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal ensuring tangible outcomes. These forums focused on biodiversity restoration, sustainable livelihoods and agriculture.

## Impacts

-  **5 core sites of restoration**
-  **1 forester/ranger training programme**
-  **10+ partners**
-  **200+ community partners**
-  **6 publications**

## 6 forums

01



**Panbu, West Bengal**

*Nature, Climate and Water in Harmony: Rethinking Rural Tourism*

02



**Suwalkuchi, Assam**

*Reviving Indigenous Threads Through Forests and Innovation*

03



**Sadiya, Assam**

*Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity Documentation*

04



**Zemithang, Arunachal Pradesh**

*Community Voices for Conservation: Collaborative Action for Ecological and Cultural Resilience*

05



**Aizawl, Mizoram**

*Exploring Pathways for Healthy Landscapes Through Community Practice.*

06



**Nyukmadung, Arunachal Pradesh**

*From Forest Wisdom to Community Prosperity: A People Led Forum For Sustainable Forest Use and Climate Resilience in The Eastern Himalayas*

## CULTIVATING GRASSROOTS' WISDOM

# *The Indigenous Hub*

The Indigenous Hub of the Balipara Foundation is a dedicated platform for the recognition, preservation, and promotion of indigenous knowledge systems across the Eastern Himalaya. Serving as a catalyst for empowerment and collaboration, it brings together the knowledge, practices, and leadership of indigenous communities, rooted in cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.

Through diverse initiatives, partnerships, and community-led engagements, the Hub facilitates intergenerational knowledge transfer and enables indigenous youth and community members to lead impactful, locally grounded solutions. With a strong focus on sustainability and inclusive development, it strengthens collective action while ensuring that indigenous knowledge continues to inform climate action, biodiversity conservation, and nature-positive pathways in the region.





## DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH PIGGERY

### *A Case from Lal Borahi*

Sansuma Khakhlary (37), a small-scale farmer from Lal Borahi village, lives with a family of three and has traditionally depended on rice cultivation and areca nut production for sustenance. While these activities met basic household needs, the income remained seasonal and limited, offering little financial security or opportunity for savings.

In October 2025, Balipara Foundation introduced piggery as a supplementary livelihood option under its Indigenous Hub intervention to help diversify and strengthen the family's income. As part of this initiative, Sansuma was provided with 2 piglets along with basic guidance on pig rearing. The family took an active interest in the activity, investing time and care into managing the livestock.

With proper feeding and care, the pigs grew healthy and matured over time. In a significant milestone, one of the pigs gave birth to 12 piglets, marking the success of the first cycle of the intervention. The family sold most of the piglets in the local market, generating a substantial additional income. These earnings were used to meet daily household expenses and improve overall financial stability.

Sansuma retained 2 piglets to continue and expand the piggery activity, demonstrating both foresight and a growing confidence in livestock-based livelihoods. Today, the household benefits from a more diversified and reliable income source, reducing its dependence on seasonal agriculture.

This intervention highlights how a relatively small, well-supported initiative can create meaningful and lasting impact. By introducing piggery as an alternative livelihood, Sansuma Khakhlary's family was enabled to move towards greater economic resilience and long-term sustainability.



## Empowered Women, Expanding Impact: *A Cross-Community Livelihood Model*

Following the success of the piggery intervention in Lal Borahi, Sansuma Khakhlary's journey has evolved from individual livelihood enhancement to community-wide impact. What began as a small intervention has now become a replicable model, extending its benefits to the Nameri Indigenous Hub through cross-community knowledge exchange and women-led enterprise.

In the initial phase at Nameri, 9 women were supported with piglets and initial feed to establish small-scale piggery units. The piglets were sourced directly from the Lal Borahi Indigenous Hub, ensuring the transfer of healthy livestock while reinforcing a peer-to-peer, community-driven model of exchange.

Drawing from his own experience, Sansuma stepped into the role of a mentor and led a hands-on training session for the Nameri community. He shared practical knowledge on pig rearing, feed management, and animal health, enabling the women to confidently adopt and sustain the practice within their own local contexts.

Beyond income generation, the intervention has positioned women as primary stakeholders in livelihood development. Equipped with resources, skills, and ongoing support, these women are strengthening household incomes and building financial independence, while continuing to uphold traditional knowledge systems.

From a single success story to a growing network of empowered communities, this model of inter-hub collaboration highlights a powerful shift. By placing local champions like Sansuma as community leaders and prioritising women-led participation, the programme demonstrates how livelihood interventions can scale sustainably, strengthening both economic resilience and collective capacity across communities.

# CULTURAL INHERITANCE

*“Culture is not merely what we inherit - it is who we are.”*

In the Eastern Himalaya, it lives in forests, rivers, languages, rituals, and everyday practices. Here, ecology and identity are inseparable; landscapes are living repositories of memory and meaning.

At Balipara Foundation, we believe conservation is incomplete without culture at its core. The resilience of forests depends on the resilience of the communities and knowledge systems that have sustained them for generations.

Our Cultural Inheritance Vertical strengthens this connection - preserving, revitalising, and celebrating the diverse cultural identities of the region, while ensuring communities remain custodians of their own stories.



LANGUAGE REVITALISATION

# WANCHO

BETWEEN RIVERS AND HILLS:  
REVIVING THE WANCHO LANGUAGE

## WHO ARE THE WANCHO COMMUNITY?

The Wancho, an indigenous community of around 65,000 people in the Patkai hills of Longding District, Arunachal Pradesh, share close cultural ties with the Nocte and Konyak Nagas. Their culture is expressed through distinctive tattoo traditions, ornaments, agriculture-based livelihoods, and the vibrant Oriah festival, marked by dances, rituals, and communal feasts. While historical practices such as headhunting have ceased, the Wancho continue to sustain their identity through festivals, oral traditions, and customary practices.

This documentation initiative seeks to preserve their language, traditions, and oral histories, creating a lasting record of festivals, craftsmanship, and everyday life to strengthen cultural continuity, support education, and safeguard their heritage amid rapid change.

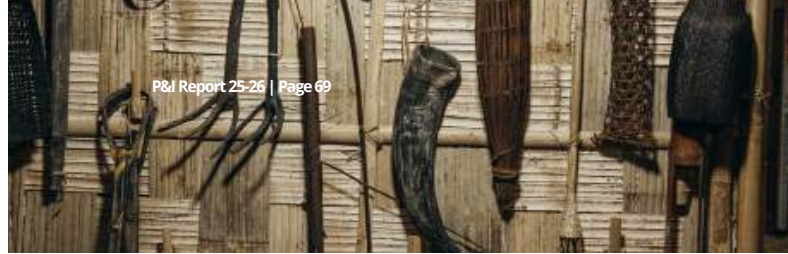
## COMMON WANCHO PHRASES

Roman Wancho	Wancho Script	English
Kem na Wancho	ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ ᠮᠠᠨᠠ	We are Wancho
Mai mai thangja?	ᠮᠠᠢ ᠮᠠᠢ ᠲᠤᠬᠠᠵᠤ?	How are you?
Phuhsum Nyemphoi	ᠮᠠᠮᠠᠰᠤᠮᠤ ᠨᠤᠶᠤᠮᠤᠯᠠᠨᠤ	Bless you
Joh jo	ᠵᠠᠵᠠ	Goodbye

## COMMON WANCHO PROVERBS

Roman Wancho	Wancho Script	English
Okha halap panchong ka pap	ᠠᠵᠤ ᠬᠠᠯᠠᠫᠤ ᠫᠠᠮᠠᠨᠠᠵᠤ ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	Chase for something and you might end up with that
Montaan ma sah jiju ma nyah	ᠮᠣᠨᠲᠤᠨ ᠮᠠ ᠰᠠᠬᠤ ᠵᠢᠵᠤ ᠮᠠ ᠨᠢᠶᠠᠬᠤ	Hard working people always get their reward
Ma e sah pu kah ma khan, mih a kauh pu dingto dan	ᠮᠠ ᠡ ᠰᠠᠬᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠬᠠ ᠮᠠ ᠬᠠᠨ, ᠮᠢᠬᠤ ᠠ ᠬᠠᠸᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠳᠢᠩᠲᠤ ᠳᠠᠨ	What's shared shines more than what's kept
Banpa pai ba sah chikkuh phe to	ᠪᠠᠨᠫᠠ ᠫᠠᠢ ᠪᠠ ᠰᠠᠬᠤ ᠴᠢᠻᠻᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠫᠤ ᠲᠤ	Guests are welcome with utmost respect
Mainusa tok ma gā khunyek nusa mong ma gā	ᠮᠠᠨᠢᠰᠤ ᠲᠣᠻ ᠮᠠ ᠭᠠ ᠬᠤᠨᠢᠶᠢᠴᠤ ᠨᠤᠰᠤ ᠮᠣᠩ ᠮᠠ ᠭᠠ	Animals are more predictable than humans
Kah kō manboi po kō boi	ᠬᠠ ᠬᠤ ᠮᠠᠨᠪᠤᠢ ᠫᠤ ᠪᠤᠢ	History never perishes like wooden logs





Cultural Heritage Documentation

# MUSEUM OF LONGDING

Preserving Forest Wisdom and Strengthening Cultural Continuity



Under the Cultural Inheritance vertical, the Museum of Longding in Arunachal Pradesh has been developed as a living knowledge centre to preserve, document, and transmit the forest-based cultural heritage of the Wancho community.

Rooted in the community's deep relationship with forests and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), the initiative responds to the urgent need to safeguard indigenous knowledge systems that are increasingly at risk from socio-economic change and ecological pressures.

The museum captures and showcases traditional practices of sustainable resource use, where bamboo, palm leaves, and forest herbs are transformed into everyday objects such as utensils, textiles, and natural repellents, demonstrating a model of ecological balance embedded within cultural identity. Through curated exhibits, oral histories, and material artefacts, it creates a structured platform for documenting ethnobotanical knowledge, traditional crafts, and the cultural narratives associated with them.



## Purpose

The initiative aims to ensure intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge while positioning indigenous practices as viable pathways for sustainable development. It focuses on:

- Preserving and documenting NTFP-based knowledge systems and material culture
- Enabling digital archiving and research for long-term accessibility
- Strengthening community capacities through workshops and training, particularly for youth and women
- Highlighting the community's ethos of living in harmony with nature, showcasing indigenous practices that avoid forest destruction and promote biodiversity resilience



## Impacts

- **Cultural Preservation:** Systematic documentation and exhibition of Wancho traditions have strengthened the protection of intangible heritage, including language, craft practices, and ecological knowledge.
- **Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer:** Training programs and community engagement have enabled the transmission of traditional skills and forest wisdom to younger generations, reinforcing cultural continuity.
- **Community Empowerment:** By recognising and institutionalising local knowledge, the museum has enhanced community ownership, pride, and participation in conservation and cultural initiatives.
- **Biodiversity Awareness and Stewardship:** By foregrounding sustainable NTFP use, the initiative has reinforced community-led conservation practices that support biodiversity resilience.
- **Education and Outreach:** Engagement with students, researchers, and visitors has increased awareness of indigenous ecological practices, creating broader support for conservation-linked cultural systems.



# Documenting Indigenous Designs and Symbolism

## Weaving Nature into Cultural Memory



Across communities, textile designs are deeply rooted in nature, drawing inspiration from forests, rivers, wildlife, agricultural cycles, and cosmological beliefs. Each motif carries layered meanings, signifying identity, status, ecological knowledge, and spiritual connections to the land. Going beyond recording just patterns, this documentation captures the stories, techniques, and cultural contexts that give these designs their significance. By engaging directly with artisans and knowledge holders, the initiative is creating a repository of visual and oral knowledge that preserves both craft and meaning.



Under the Cultural Inheritance vertical, two pilot workshops—Threads of Majuli and From Forest to Fabric—created critical platforms for intergenerational and cross-community exchange of indigenous weaving traditions. Bringing together women weavers from Majuli, Kartik Chapori, and the Dimasa community of Manglumukh, these initiatives enabled the transfer of traditional knowledge, skills, and innovations across geographies and generations.



The workshops facilitated peer-to-peer learning on weaving techniques, natural dyeing practices, and the integration of modern tools, while also exposing participants to enterprise models. Elder artisans played a key role in transmitting traditional ecological knowledge to younger women, helping revive practices that are increasingly at risk of being lost.

## Cultural Exchange Workshops: Strengthening Intergenerational Knowledge and Women-Led Livelihoods



### Impacts

- **Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer:** Revived and strengthened traditional practices by enabling direct learning between elder artisans and younger weavers.
- **Cross-Community Learning:** Fostered exchange of skills, techniques, and innovations across weaving communities, enhancing collective knowledge systems.
- **Women-Led Livelihoods:** Strengthened pathways for sustainable, home-based enterprises through exposure to production, design, and market linkages.
- **Cultural Continuity:** Reinforced the role of weaving as a marker of identity, resilience, and community cohesion.

# FINANCE

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

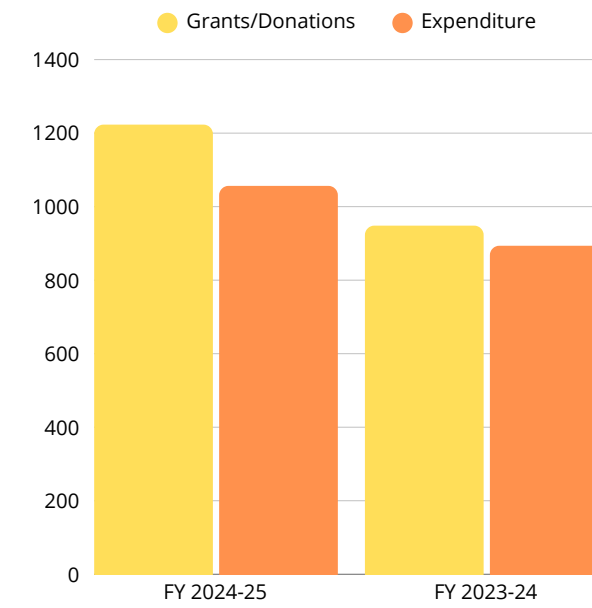
INCOME	FY 2025-26	FY 2024-25
Domestic Grants	1161.35	915.35
FCRA Grants	46.54	-
Other Income	15.47	33.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1223.36</b>	<b>948.35</b>

₹ In Lacs

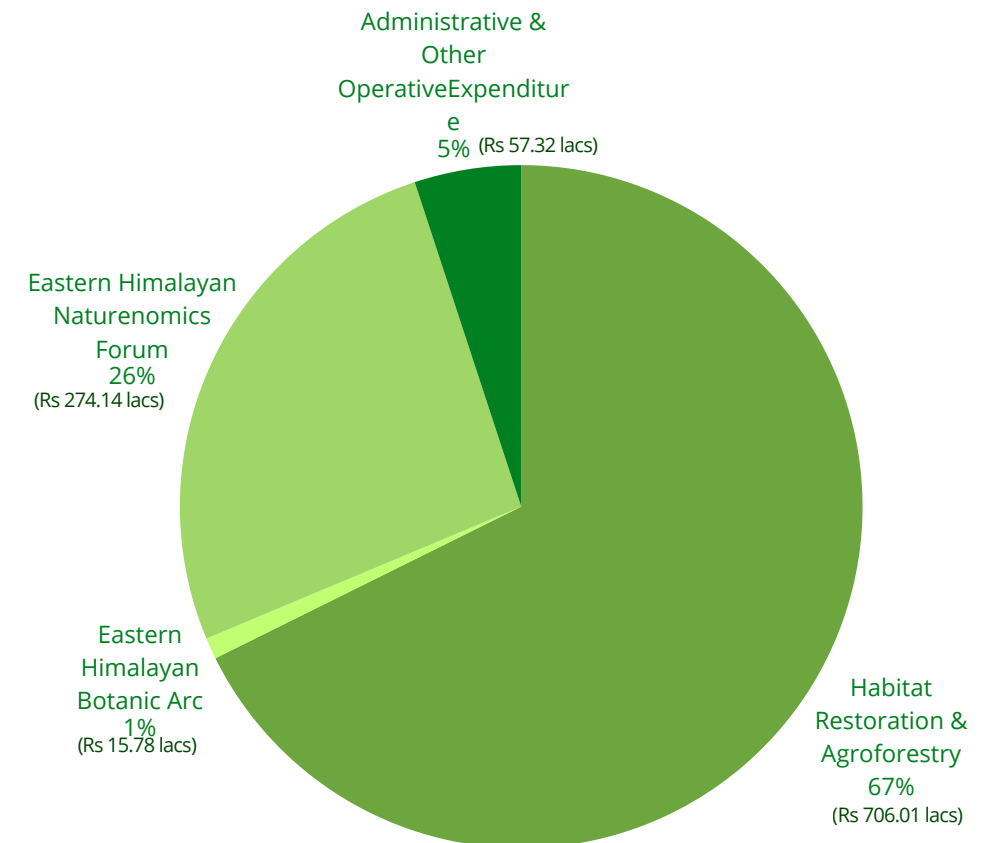
EXPENDITURE	FY 2025-26	FY 2024-25
Programmatic Expenditure	995.93	844.89
Depreciation	3.25	2.41
Administrative Expenditure	57.32	46.31
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1056.5</b>	<b>893.61</b>

₹ In Lacs

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



## Amount & % Spent in Year of Total Expenses in FY 2025-26



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

FUND & LIABILITIES	FY 2025-26	FY 2024-25	PROPERTY & ASSETS	FY 2025-26	FY 2024-25
Trust Fund & Corpus	225.70	187.26	Fixed Assets	21.68	16.28
Grant Balances & Programme Fund	124.45	15.35	Investments	188.59	135.94
FCRA Programme Fund	49.66	(3.25)	Cash & Bank in Hand	222.5	78.36
Non Current Liability	33.15	33.15	Other Current Assets	6.12	2.9
Current Liability & Payables	5.93	0.97			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>438.89</b>	<b>233.48</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>438.89</b>	<b>233.48</b>

₹ In Lacs

₹ In Lacs

# PARTNERING FOR IMPACTS


# WHAT'S NEXT?

*A Vision for 100 Million Natural Assets by 2029*

As we step into the next phase of our journey, our ambition becomes more defined: to restore, regenerate, and steward 100 million natural assets by 2029 from trees and forests to rivers, soils, and biodiversity-rich landscapes across the Eastern Himalaya. The focus now shifts from scale alone to depth, quality, and permanence ensuring that every natural asset restored continues to thrive, delivering ecological and community value over time.

With strong foundations in place, the coming years will centre on five key priorities:

- **Deepening landscape restoration:**

We will move beyond plantation targets to improve survival rates, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen ecological corridors for long-term landscape connectivity.

- **Science and technology at the forefront:**

We will scale the use of ecological data, remote sensing, and community-led monitoring systems to make restoration more precise, adaptive, and locally actionable.

- **Women and youth as leaders of change:**

Building on our inclusive approach, we will further enable women- and youth-led restoration initiatives, strengthening their role as stewards of their landscapes and drivers of green livelihoods.

- **Strengthening community stewardship:**

Through capacity building and local governance, communities will take greater ownership of restoration efforts, ensuring sustainability and shared value.

- **Knowledge, learning, and replication:**

Our focus will expand toward building robust knowledge systems, documenting learnings, refining models, and enabling replication across similar geographies within the Eastern Himalaya and beyond.

The road ahead calls for continuity and care. As we move forward, our commitment remains rooted in the belief that restoration is an ongoing relationship between people and nature, one that must be nurtured for generations to come.



# TEAM BALIPARA FOUNDATION



**ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA**  
Head - Finance & Compliance



**DR. BIDYUT SARANIA**  
Programme Lead



**BANKIM HAZARIKA**  
Operations Architect



**BHADRA NAHAK**  
Forester



**NRIPEN MILI**  
Ranger



**BIMAN MILI**  
Operations Architect



**DEVA PRATIM DAS**  
Operations Architect



**GAUTAM BARUAH**  
Chief Operations Architect



**JOHN SONA**  
Field Accounts Coordinator



**PHULEN DAS**  
Ranger



**KARISHMA AHMED**  
Chief Communications Architect



**DR. LINA GOGOI**  
Ecological Researcher



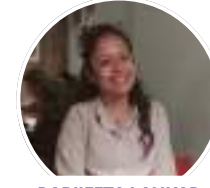
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Forester



**NILAKANTHA DEKA**  
Accounts Executive



**GAURAV BARTHAKUR**  
Partnership and Grants Head



**RABIJEETA LAHKAR**  
Impact & Strategy Lead - Forestry



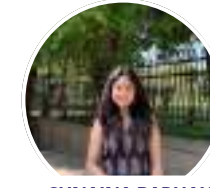
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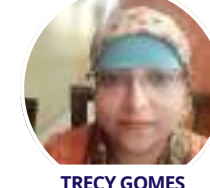
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**HIMANGSHU PAYENG**  
Intern - Communications



**GAURAV TAKULDAR**  
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Trainee - R&D



**BANASHREE KAKATI**  
Trainee - R&D



**BISHAL MILI**  
Trainee - Operations



**ATUL KARDONG**  
Trainee - Operations



**MONTUMONI BORAH**  
Trainee - Operations



**BISWAJIT PAYENG**  
Trainee - Operations



**PONGSA WANGSA**  
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