Five days, five themes, one Eastern Himalaya

14TH EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUM 2026
30th October - 3rd November
Guwahati, Assam

The Future of the Third Pole and the Himsagar. Hosted by Balipara Foundation across five Guwahati campuses, with talks, policy roundtables, poster pitches and exhibits daily.

200+	15+	3,000	500+
Speakers	Countries	Participants	Participants each day

What each day delivered

DAY 1

Communities, Culture and Indigenous Futures

30 Oct

TISS Guwahati | 50+ speakers | 100+ community participants

Grassroots voices met global leaders, including Eric Garcetti and Subramanian Ramadorai. Culture, crafts and indigenous food systems were framed as economic assets, and communities as knowledge partners.

Tamkai Kam book launch · Film screenings · Heritage performances

DAY 2

Forests and Biodiversity

31 Oct

Cotton University | 40+ speakers | 100+ community participants

Conservation was called an urgent necessity that must be community-led. Speakers backed People's Biodiversity Registers and closer links between researchers, foresters and practitioners.

Satoyama concept · Rewilding stories · Biodiversity registers

DAY 3

Water and Energy

1 Nov

IIT Guwahati | 50+ speakers | 300+ youth

Water, energy and ecology must be planned together. Hydropower needs to respect the region's geological fragility and seismic risk, supported by river basin management and decentralised renewables.

River basin approach · Science-led decisions · Decentralised energy

DAY 4

Sustainable Land Futures

2 Nov

Gauhati University | 45+ speakers | 200+ youth

Regenerative landscapes, community-led land governance and wetland conservation took centre stage, alongside agroforestry, circular-economy ideas and data-driven land-use planning.

Wetlands · Agroforestry · Climate-resilient planning

DAY 5

Green Tech, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

3 Nov

Royal Global University | 40+ speakers | 200+ youth

Investment should be judged by lasting local impact such as enterprises, supply chains and skills, not money announced. Forest economies, technology and cross-sector partnerships were the route to scale.

Kaziranga book launch · Sustainable mobility · Musical conversation

Five ideas that ran through every day

Communities at the centre
Conservation and development work when local people lead.

Indigenous knowledge
A living resource for the future, not only a record of the past.

Nature and livelihoods
Conservation has to create real economic opportunity.

Science meets policy
Data and research should shape decisions on the ground.

Partnerships
Cross-sector collaboration turns ideas into action.

BALIPARA FOUNDATION
Assam • India



THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE AND THE HIMSAGAR (Eastern ~~Himalaya~~)

DAY 1 | 30TH OCTOBER | TISS GUWAHATI

COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, AND INDIGENOUS FUTURES

Today's forum at a glance:

50+
Speakers

100+
Community Participation

500+
Participants



EHNF 2026 Impacts :

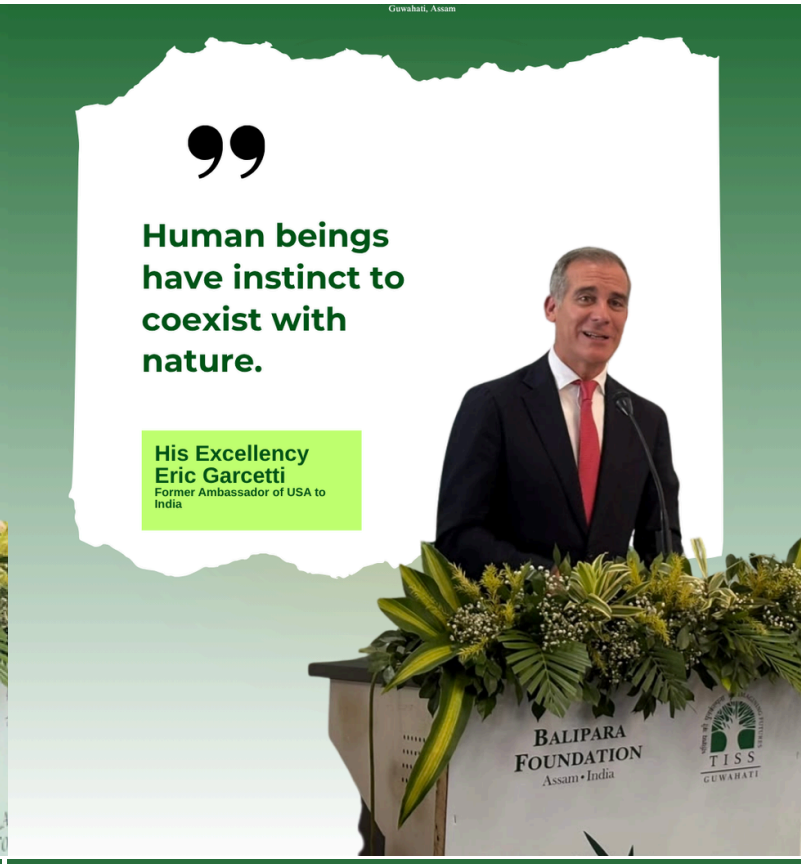
200+
Speakers

15+
Countries

3000
Participants

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS









OUTCOMES

Local to Global Connect: Bridged grassroots community voices with global expertise, creating opportunities for meaningful exchange with leaders such as His Excellency Eric Garcetti.

Farm-to-Table Sustainability: Demonstrated how indigenous food systems, local produce and sustainable practices can create opportunities for green entrepreneurship and livelihoods.

Youth as Change Agents: Highlighted how the right capacity building, skills and mentorship can empower community youth to become entrepreneurs, conservation leaders and local changemakers.

Culture as an Economic Asset: Showcased how traditional crafts, indigenous knowledge and cultural practices can be preserved while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Communities as Knowledge Partners: Reinforced the importance of recognising local communities not merely as beneficiaries, but as custodians of knowledge and active partners in conservation.

Connecting Heritage with the Future: Explored how indigenous practices and traditional wisdom can inform contemporary approaches to sustainability, resilience and development.

Building Collaborative Networks: Strengthened connections between communities, institutions, practitioners and organisations to foster long-term partnerships across the Eastern Himalayas.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE



SPEAKER GALLERY



















ECHOES OF HERITAGE











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PITCH YOUR IDEA







BOOK LAUNCH:
Tamkai Kam: The House of Stories



FILM SCREENING:
The Khamyang Story and *Daughters of the Polo God*



NATURENOMICS™ WORKSHOPS

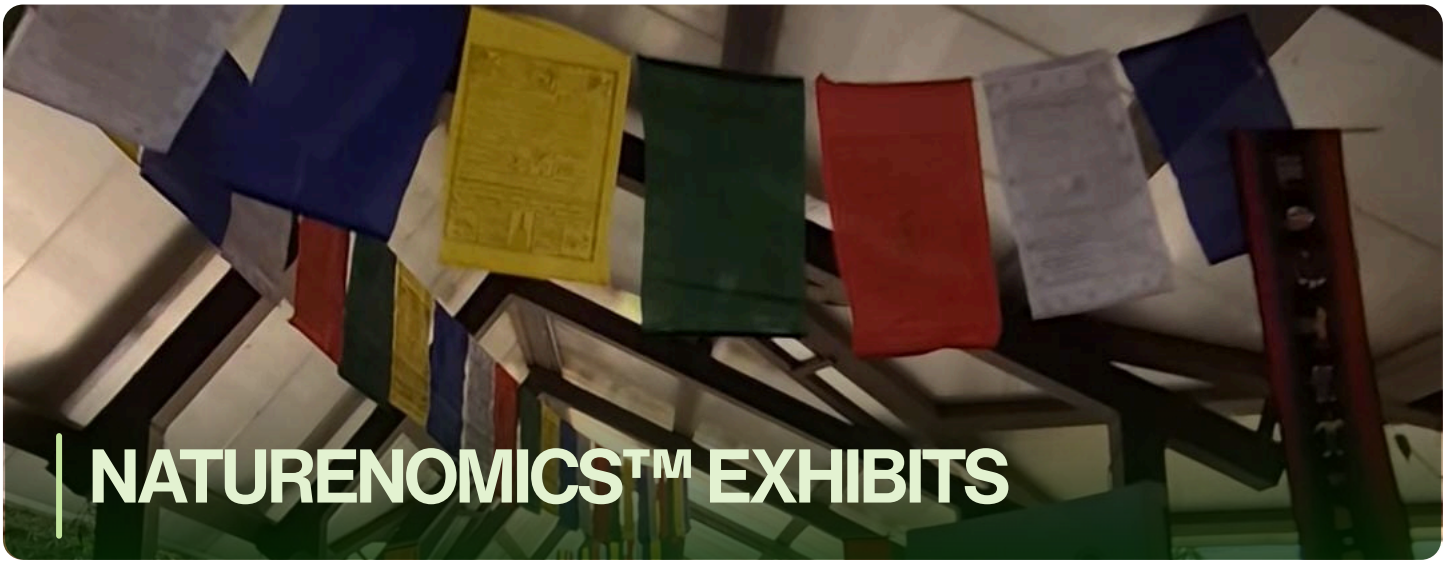










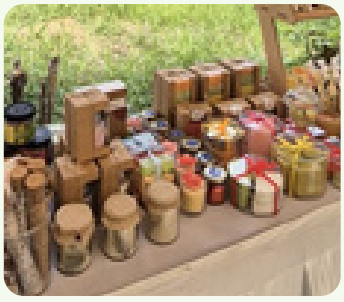


NATURENOMICS™ EXHIBITS

















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> The future of the Eastern Himalaya lies in the strength of its communities, the richness of its cultures, the wisdom of its Indigenous peoples, and the power of innovation to shape a sustainable tomorrow.



THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE AND THE HIMSAGAR (Eastern Himalaya)

DAY 2 | 31ST OCTOBER | COTTON UNIVERSITY

FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Today's forum at a glance:

40+
Speakers

100+
Community Participation

500+
Participants





EHNF 2026 Impacts :

200+
Speakers

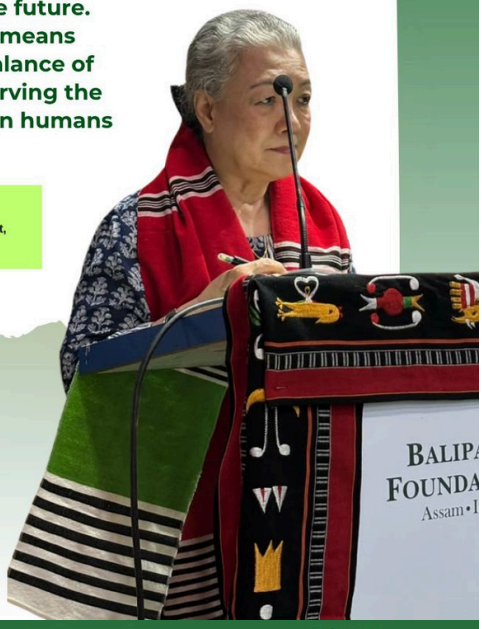
15+
Countries

3000
Participants

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

> Elephants do not simply share our forests; they are an integral part of the ecosystem and our collective future. Protecting them means protecting the balance of nature and preserving the harmony between humans and wildlife.

Dr. Khyne U Mar
Veterinarian and Conservationist, Myanmar



> If we want to work at the grassroots level, we must ensure that our people are properly trained.

Dimpi Bora
Conservator of Forests (Research and Education Circle)



> Local Values must be appreciated which are denied under the name of modernization.

Prof. Kazuya Ishii
,Kagawa University, Japan



> We need to focus on the ways of strengthening biodiversity management and focus on creating biodiversity registers.

Leena Nandan
Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India



SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"The frontline forest staff deserve great appreciation,despite living away from their families, they contribute immensely to preserving forest biodiversity.

Pranjal Talukdar
Range Officer, Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary



"The choices that people make everyday changes the system very fast.
It is very important to take communities into planning and fill the gap.

Neha Singh
Founder, FORREST



"We are inspired by the Japanese concept of Satoyama - a word that reflects the relationship between nature and human beings. Sato means village, while Yama means mountain. It represents the relationship between people and nature, where human development and ecological well-being evolve together.

Prof. Toru Terao
Kagawa University, Japan



"North-East is full of Biodiversity, we should explore it rather than destroying it.

Prof. Ramesh Chandra Deka
Vice Chancellor, Cotton University



OUTCOMES

- **Bridging the Community Gap**: Emphasised the need to bring communities into the centre of conservation efforts and bridge the gap between institutional approaches and grassroots realities.

- **Conservation as an Emergency**: Reinforced that conservation is no longer a luxury but an urgent necessity, demanding radical collaboration across governments, institutions, communities and civil society.

- **Strengthening Biodiversity Documentation**: Highlighted the importance of creating and updating People's Biodiversity Registers to document local biodiversity, traditional knowledge and community-held ecological wisdom.

- **Community-led Conservation**: Recognised that lasting conservation outcomes are possible only when local communities are active participants and decision-makers.

- **Collaborative Action for Biodiversity**: Called for stronger partnerships between researchers, universities, foresters and practitioners to translate knowledge into meaningful conservation action.



SPEAKER GALLERY



CONSERVATION



RESTORATION



REGENERATION



REWILDING

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE









WHERE CONVERSATIONS MEET CULTURE



FILM SCREENING

Spirited Away: In Search of the Deo Haanh



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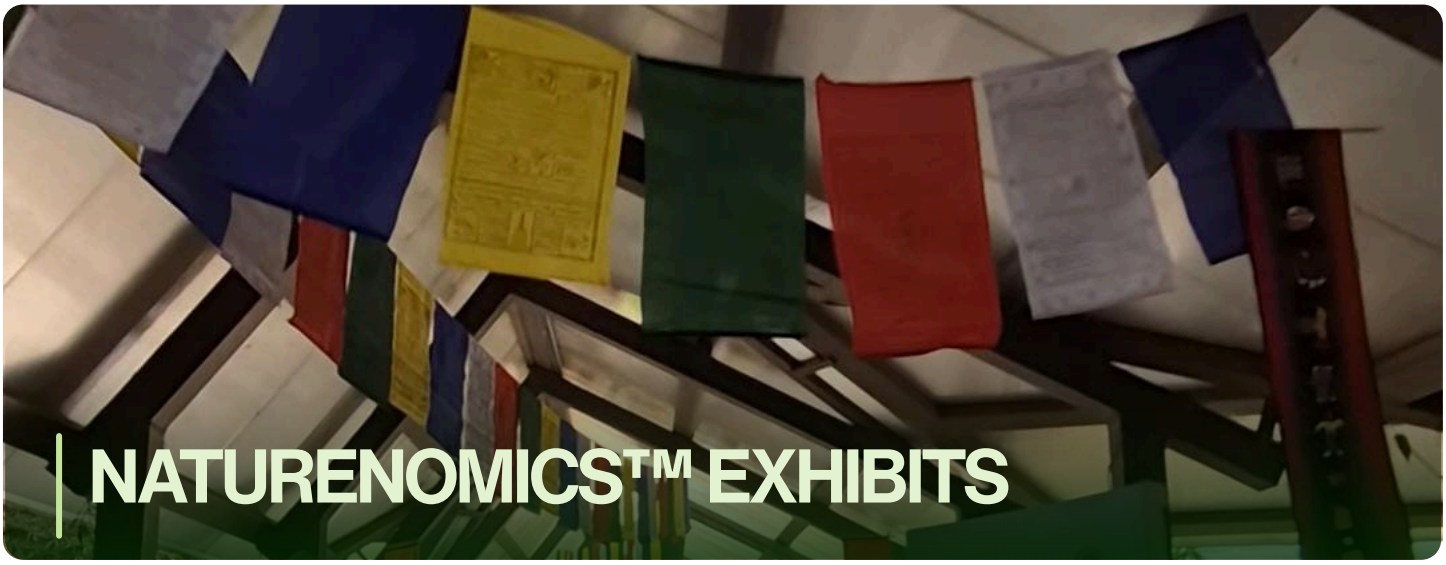

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The forests of the Eastern Himalaya are more than landscapes; they are living legacies of biodiversity, sustaining life, nurturing communities and safeguarding the future of our planet.



THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE AND THE HIMSAGAR (Eastern Himalaya)

DAY 3 | 1ST NOVEMBER | IIT GUWAHATI

WATER AND ENERGY

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Today's forum at a glance:

50+
Speakers

300+
Youth

500+
Participants



EHNF 2026 Impacts :

200+
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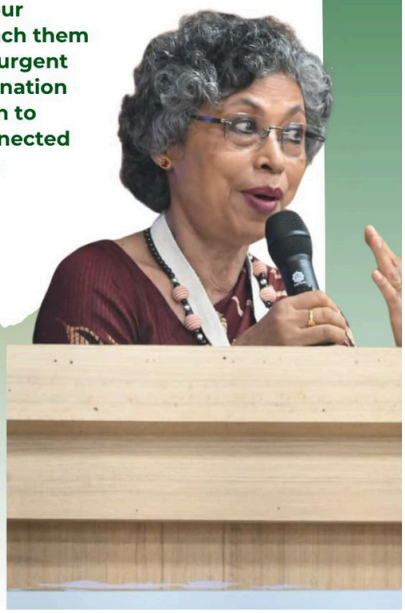
3000
Participants

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

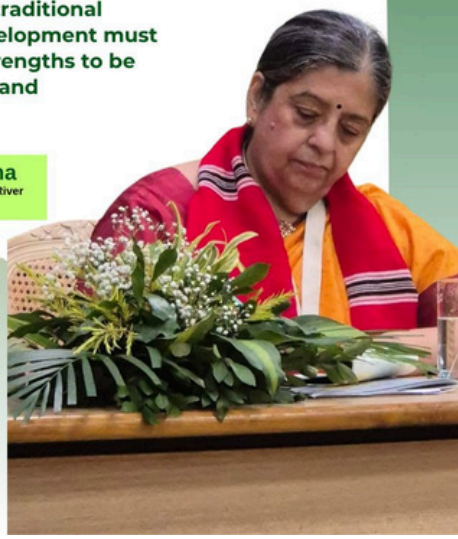
Energy, water and ecology are deeply interconnected. We cannot look at energy and water in isolation, yet our ministries often approach them separately. There is an urgent need for greater coordination and closer collaboration to address these interconnected challenges collectively.

Prof. Joyashree Roy
Distinguished Professor and Director, SMARTs Center, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand



We have moved from water scarcity to water bankruptcy. Even as our rivers and groundwater dry up, the Eastern Himalayas remain rich in biodiversity and traditional wisdom. Our development must build on these strengths to be truly sustainable and regenerative.

Dr. Indira Khurana
Chairperson, India Himalayan River Basin Council (IHRBC)



One needs to bring in the convergence of government policies, technology, public health, communities, finances and economics all together to come in if we are looking at a conservation plan at a river basin approach

Dr. Ashwini Keskar
Co-Founder and Executive Director - Blue Pulse Foundation



Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, and advanced manufacturing will not just shape the future of technology; they will redefine the way we live, work, innovate, and build the next generation of economies.

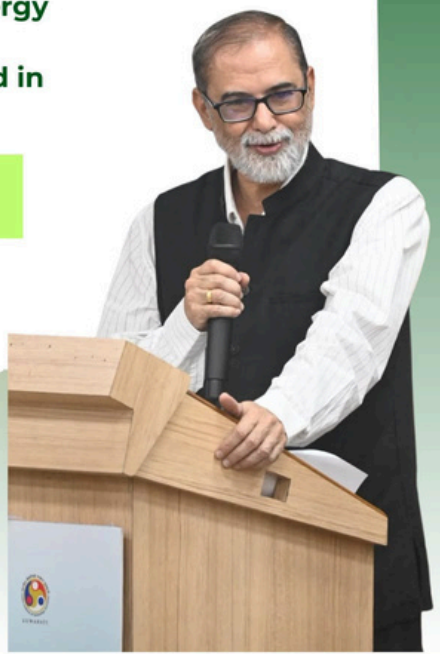
Jishnu Barua
Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)



SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"Water and energy are intricately interconnected in life."

Prof. Devendra Jalihal
Director, IIT Guwahati



"Water is becoming one of our most precious assets. We are continuously reducing freshwater consumption, with over 650 litres of water recycled annually."

Tim McIntosh
Corporate VP & TSAT Business Head, Tata Electronics



"Disaster resilience begins with understanding water. Extreme rainfall, changing precipitation patterns and rising soil moisture can trigger landslides and slope failures. By combining scientific understanding, slope monitoring and community-based early warning systems, we can move from disaster response to disaster preparedness and build a more resilient society."

Prof. Hemanta Hazarika
Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University, Japan



"Energy storage is essential to the renewable energy transition, but its expansion must go hand in hand with stringent safety standards, skilled workforce development and robust regulatory frameworks."

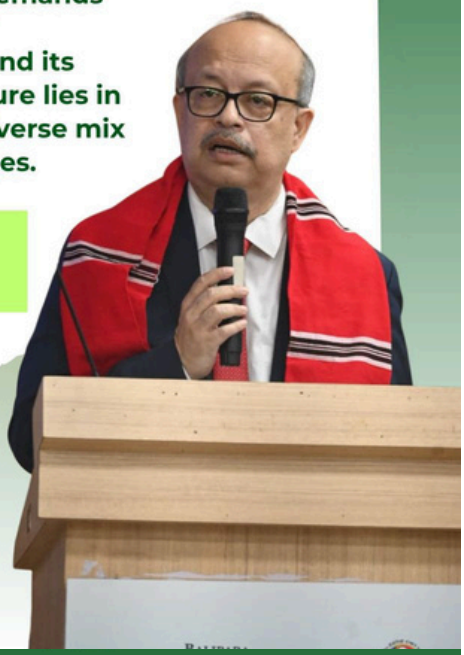
Netra Walawalkar
Vice President, Net Zero Energy Transition Association (NETRA)



SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"India's journey towards development demands greater energy consumption, and its sustainable future lies in harnessing a diverse mix of energy sources."

Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan
Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)



"Development planning must work with rivers, not against them. By combining watershed-level understanding, land suitability mapping and community-led decision-making, we can identify where to build, what to protect and how to balance economic growth with ecological resilience."

Neha Lal
Senior Program Manager, WRI



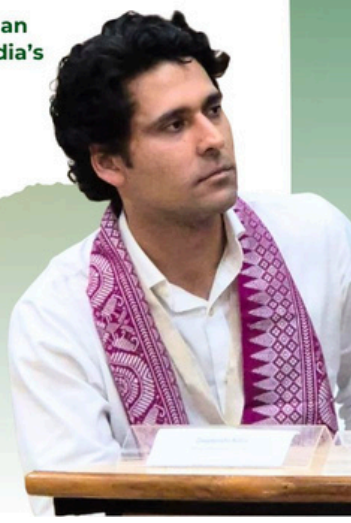
"From traditional Ikra houses to today's tea gardens, the Northeast has always lived alongside biomass. Building on this heritage can make biochar a solution rooted in the region's own culture and landscape."

Dr. Sunayana Sarkar
Assistant Professor, Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering, NMIMS University



"Nearly 20% of India's GDP is linked to the Himalayan water systems, highlighting that the prosperity of the nation is deeply intertwined with the health of its mountains. Protecting Himalayan rivers is not merely an environmental priority; it is an economic imperative for India's future."

Deeptanshu Kotru
Manager (Himalaya Lead), SYSTEMIQ



OUTCOMES

1. **Ecologically sensitive energy planning**: Energy infrastructure, particularly hydropower projects, must account for the Eastern Himalayas' geological fragility, seismic vulnerability and biodiversity.

2. **Integrated river basin management**: Water systems must be understood through upstream and downstream linkages, considering river dynamics, sediment flows and cumulative environmental impacts.

3. **Science-led decision-making**: Strengthen collaboration between scientific institutions, policymakers and industry to ensure that energy development is informed by robust geological, hydrological and environmental assessments.

4. **Diversifying energy pathways**: Explore decentralised renewable energy and context-specific energy solutions to reduce dependence on large-scale infrastructure.

5. **Water-energy integration**: Develop interconnected policy frameworks that recognise the relationship between water security, energy generation and climate resilience.

6. **Community-centred development**: Ensure that infrastructure and resource management decisions account for local livelihoods, community perspectives and long-term ecological costs.

7. **Strengthening regional collaboration**: Encourage interdisciplinary research and institutional partnerships to translate scientific knowledge into actionable policies for the Eastern Himalayan region.

SPEAKER GALLERY



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE



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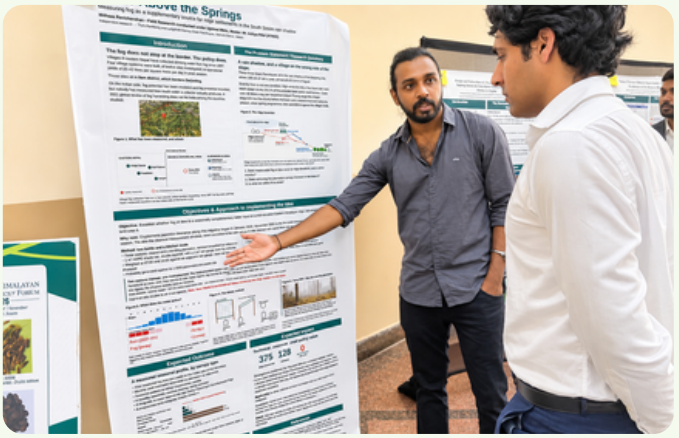
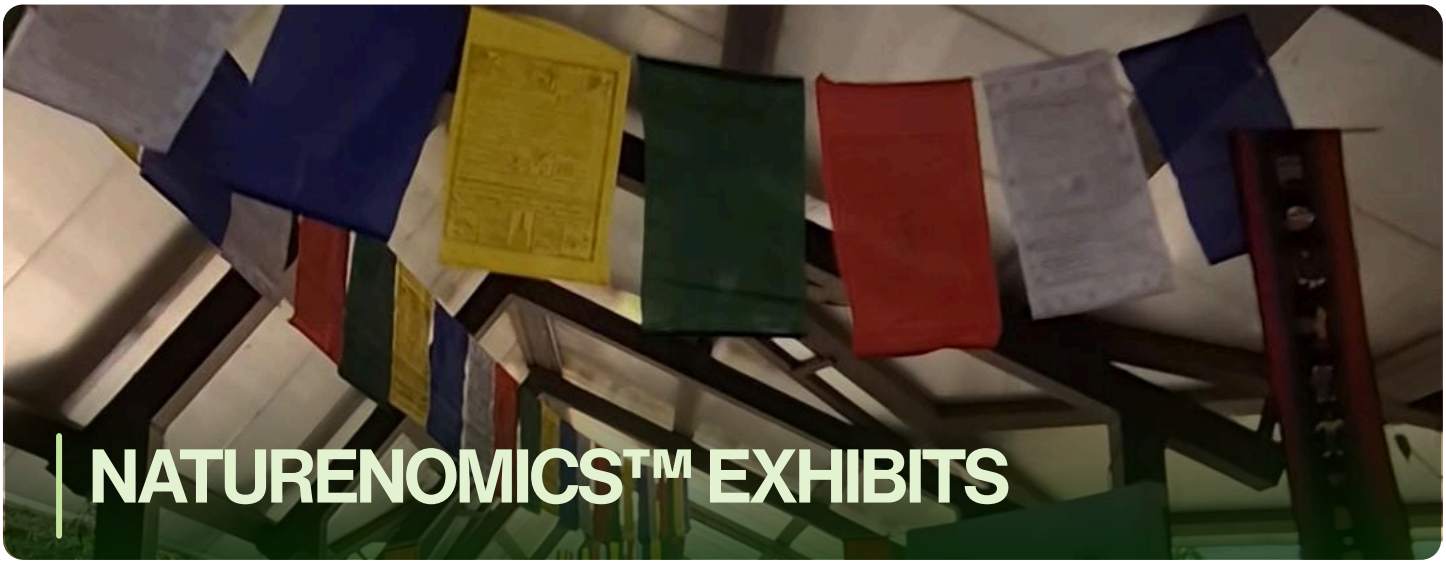




MEDIA INTERACTION





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> The future of energy is intrinsically linked to the future of water. Sustainable development demands that we look at both through a unified lens.



THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE AND THE HIMSAGAR (Eastern Himalaya)

DAY 4 | 2ND NOVEMBER | GAUHATI UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE LAND FUTURES

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Today's forum at a glance:

45+
Speakers

200+
Youth

500+
Participants



EHNF 2026 Impacts :

200+
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15+
Countries

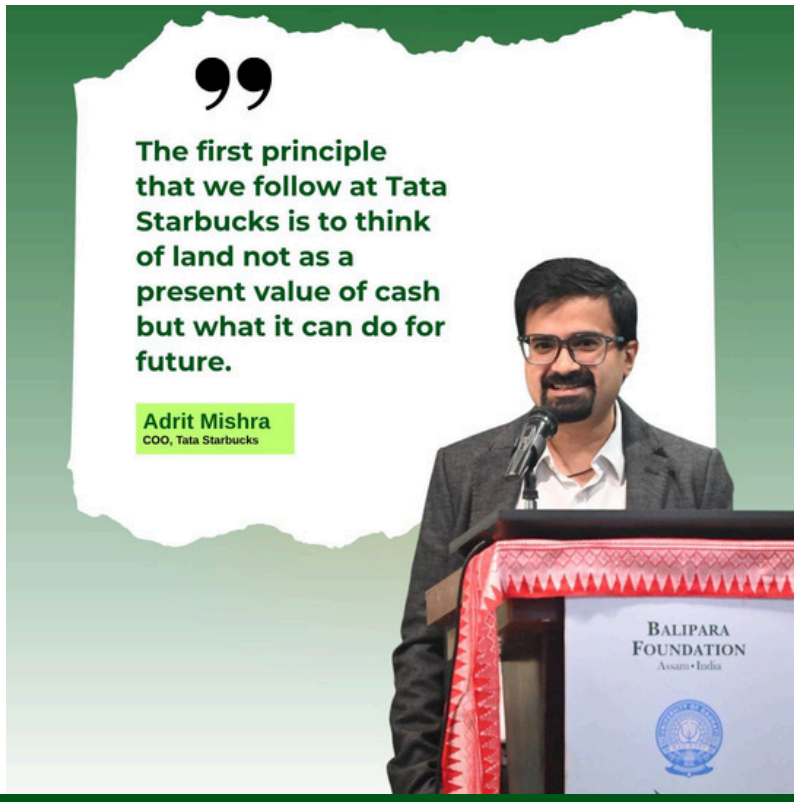
3000
Participants

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS









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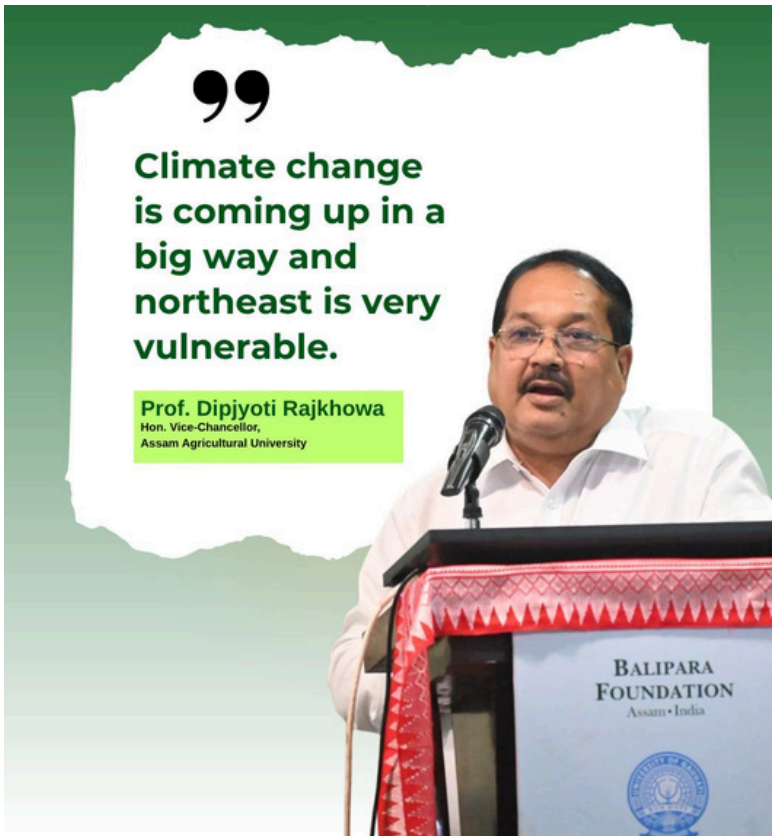
14TH EASTERN HIMALAYAN NATURENOMICS™ FORUM
2026
30th October - 3rd November
Guwahati, Assam

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS









SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"By embracing the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, we can build a circular economy where ecological health strengthens agricultural productivity, business opportunities and human well-being.

Rajeev KG
Senior General Manager(Diversification), Tea Coffee Limited



"Land degradation is not merely the loss of soil; it is the gradual loss of the natural resources, water systems and livelihoods that communities depend upon. When wetlands disappear, floodwater patterns change and fisheries decline, the greatest burden falls on marginalised communities.

Prof. Mitul Baruah
HOD, Dept of Environmental Studies, Ashoka University



"Agroforestry combines trees with agricultural crops and, in some systems, livestock.
It provides multiple benefits to farmers and ecosystems. The Northeast region has considerable scope for agroforestry because of its diverse vegetation, traditional agricultural practices and indigenous knowledge.

Dr. Anchal Dass
Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, ICAR - Indian Agricultural Research Institute



"Not all landscape change is environmentally damaging, but not all environmental change can be excused as natural change."

Indranil Gupta
Founder-Director, BrandNEW Associates



OUTCOMES

1.**Regenerative Landscapes**: Emphasised the need for landscape-level restoration, soil health and ecological resilience.

2.**Community-led Land Governance**: Recognised the importance of placing local communities, traditional knowledge and customary practices at the centre of land management.

3. **Wetland Conservation**: Highlighted wetlands as critical ecological assets supporting biodiversity, water security and community livelihoods.

4. **Science-led Planning**: Identified the role of technology, research and data-driven approaches in strengthening land-use planning and governance.

5. **Climate-resilient Development**: Stressed the importance of integrating ecological considerations into urban planning, agriculture and infrastructure development.

6. **Collaborative Action**: Reinforced the need for stronger partnerships among communities, institutions, policymakers and the private sector.

SPEAKER GALLERY





















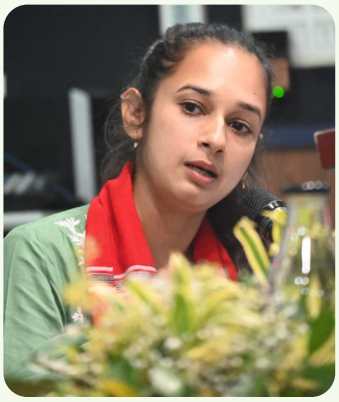
















STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE



MEDIA INTERACTION



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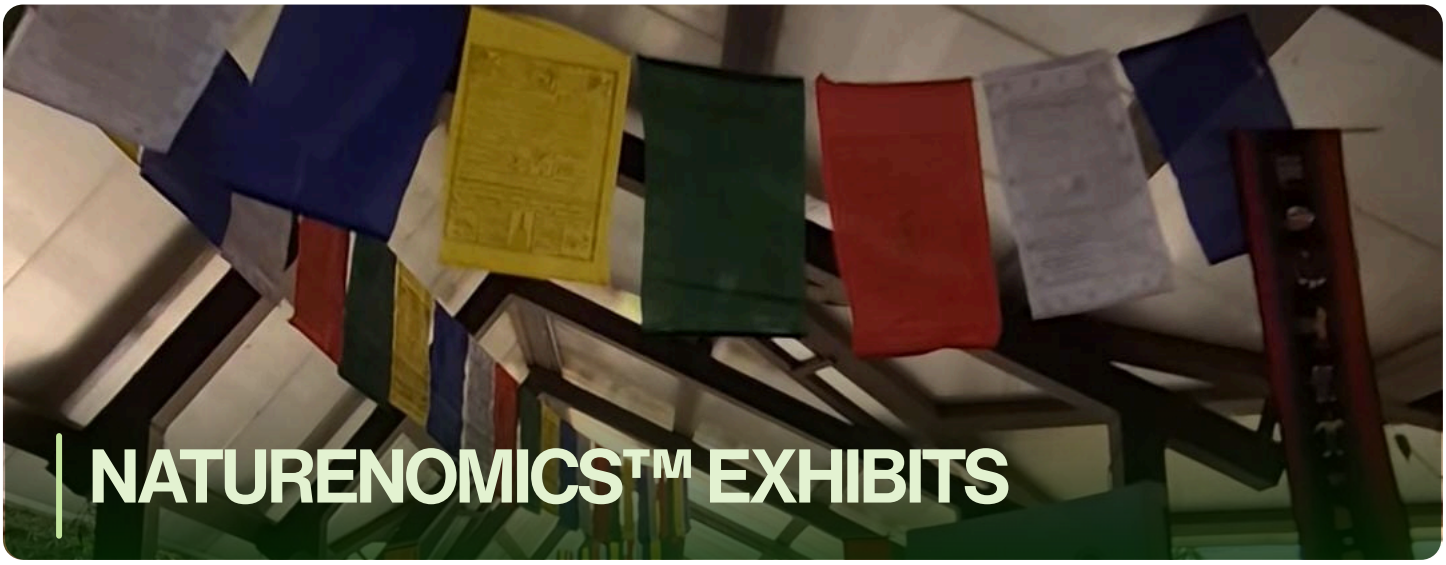

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> Sustainable land futures depend on balancing ecological restoration, responsible land use, and community livelihoods through an integrated approach.



THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD POLE AND THE HIMSAGAR (Eastern Himalaya)

DAY 5 I 3RD NOVEMBER I
ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

GREEN TECH, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

▸ IMPACT SNAPSHOT

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40+
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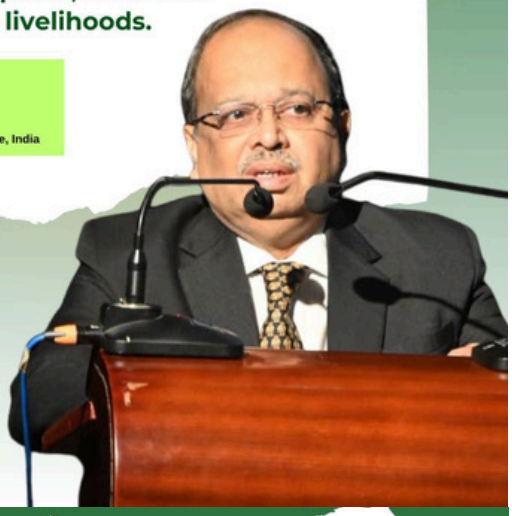
SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"The success of an investment should not be judged only by the amount of money announced, but by what it leaves behind local enterprises, reliable suppliers, skills and sustainable livelihoods.

Dr. Pisupati Balakrishna
Head, United Nations Environment Programme, India



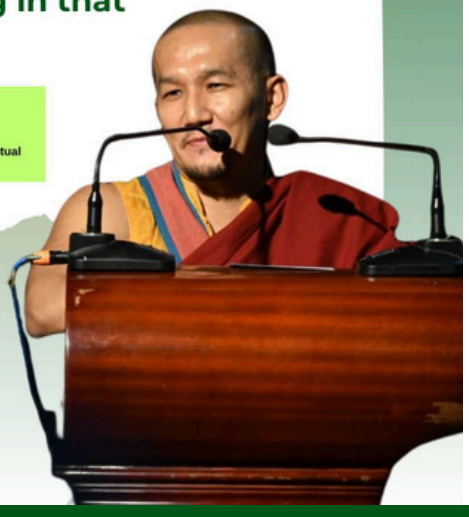
"Forests should persist, the degraded lands should be restored, and the community should work toward sustainable goals, but not at the cost of the forest.

Dr Priyasha Saikia
Director of Assam Forest School



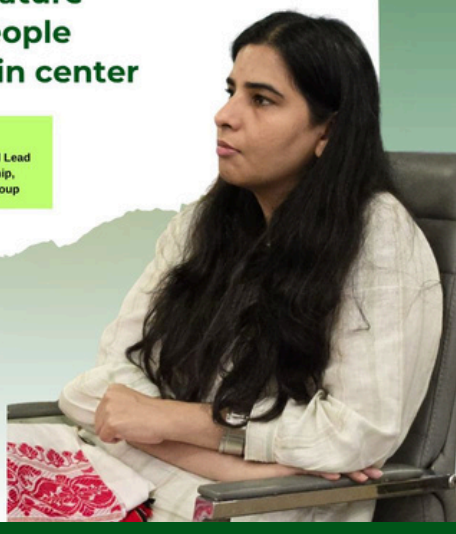
"Earth is a living thing. It has to inhale and exhale, and we are intervening in that process.

His Eminence Palga Rinpoche
Motivational Speaker and Spiritual Guru, Ladakh



"Natural ecosystem comes first in any kind of business idea, the nature and the people should be in center

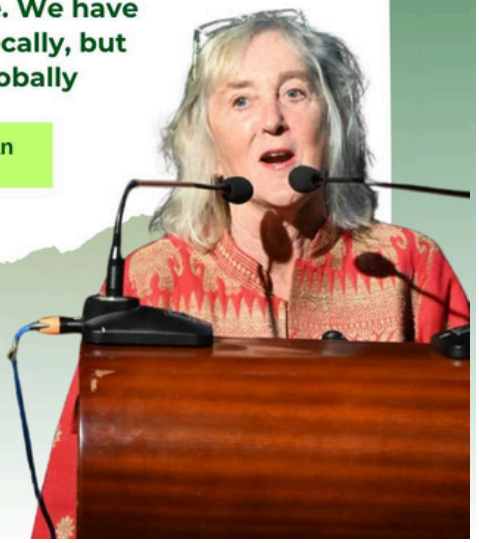
Kanika Verma
Executive Vice President and Lead - Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Development Alternatives Group



SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

"Think local about your research and your canopies, but maybe act global at some point in time. We have to operate locally, but also think globally

Dr. Meg Lowman
CEO, TREE Foundation



"Knowing how to train and solve problems is important, but the real challenge is understanding the complexities of wildlife and the issues surrounding them. Every challenge demands a different perspective, innovative thinking and solutions that go beyond conventional approaches.

Heidi Riddle
Chair of the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AESG)



"Forests have always fascinated us, but the real challenge lies in making forest services inclusive, progressive and people-oriented.

Dr.Sonali Ghosh
APCCF and Council Head Forest, Bodoland Territorial Councit and Manas Tiger Resere



"Scaling enterprises contains elements of telling a story, having like minded people for further development, keeping the environment and people in the heart of it, not to push it

Rohit Anand
Founder, WondrBridge

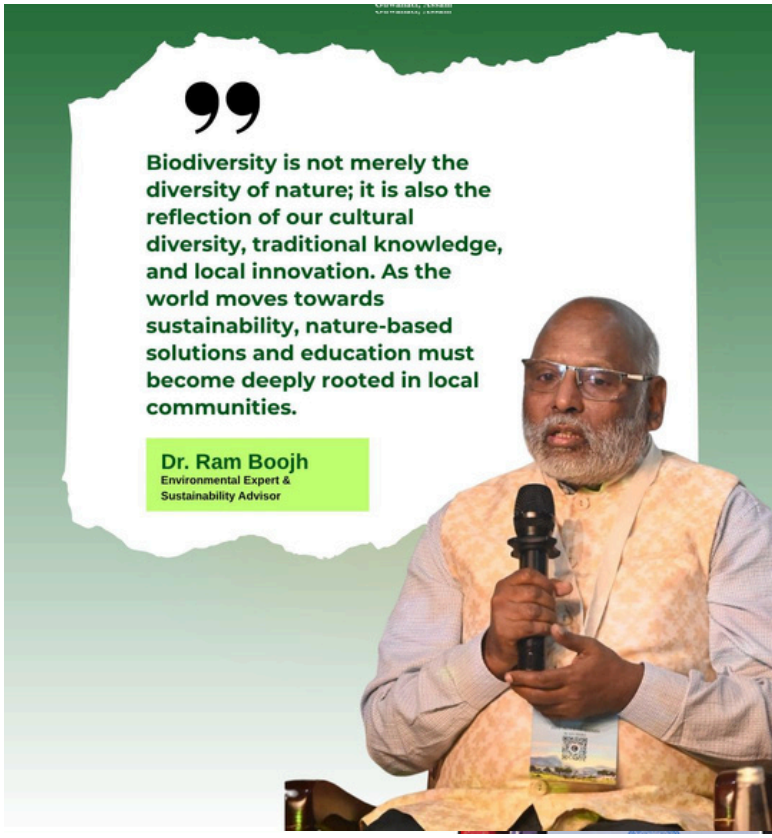


SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS









OUTCOMES

1. **Moving beyond financial investments**: The success of investments must be measured by their lasting impact on local enterprises, reliable supply chains, skill development and sustainable livelihoods, rather than financial commitments alone.
2. **Strengthening local entrepreneurship**: Green entrepreneurship must create viable economic opportunities for local communities, enabling them to become active participants in the region's sustainable development.
3. **Connecting conservation with economic opportunity**: Biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration must be integrated with livelihood generation and sustainable business models.
4. **Scaling climate-smart forest economies**: There is a need to strengthen forest-based value chains and promote sustainable utilisation of forest resources while ensuring ecological integrity and community participation.
5. **Leveraging innovation and technology**: Emerging technologies and innovative approaches can help address environmental challenges, improve resource efficiency and create new opportunities for green enterprises.
6. **Building cross-sectoral partnerships**: Collaboration between development institutions, conservation organisations, academia, businesses and communities is essential to translate ideas and innovations into actionable solutions.
7. **Investing in skills and local capacities**: Building knowledge, technical skills and entrepreneurial capacities among local communities and young people is critical to ensuring that green economic transitions are inclusive and sustainable.

SPEAKER GALLERY





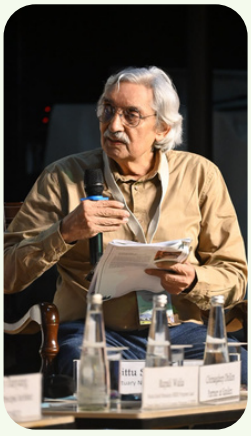





















STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE







Learning from Naturenomics™

PITCH YOUR IDEA





BOOK LAUNCH

The Sanctuary Guide to Kaziranga & Wetland Birds of Kaziranga



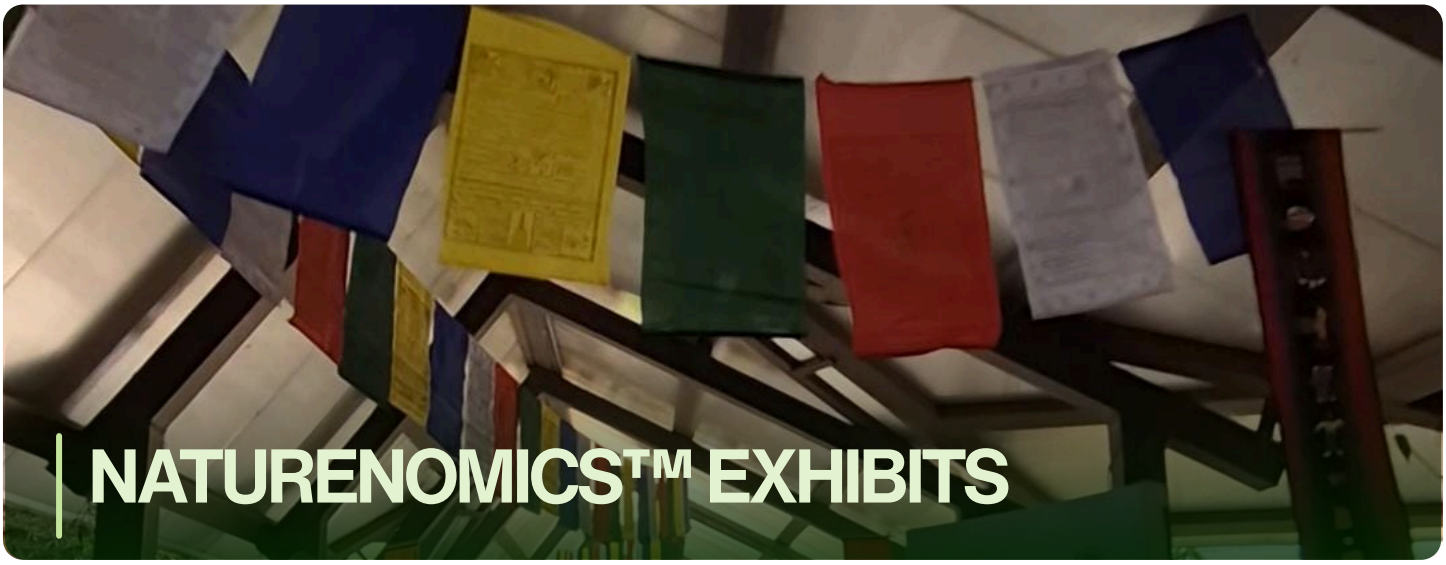
Showcasing the Future of Sustainable Mobility



MUSICAL CONVERSATION







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