

Minutes of 26th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 18th August 2020 at Conference hall of Chief Secretary- Assam, 3rd Floor, C-Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur

The 26th meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was held on 18th August 2020 at 12.30 pm, in the Conference hall of Chief Secretary- Assam, 3rd Floor, C-Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur.

A list of the Members and invitees present in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

At the outset, the Board felicitated Mr. Kumar Sanjay Krishna, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam as the new Chairperson of the Board.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present in the meeting and requested the Member Secretary to initiate Agenda-wise discussions.

Agenda item 1: The minutes of the 25th Board meeting were confirmed.

Agenda item 2: During the 25th Board meeting, it was suggested to constitute a 'Legal Expert Committee' who will assist the Board in legal matters (NGT & other court matters) & ABS related issues. The Board noted the progress of listing of panel of experts from related background for constitution of the said Committee.

Agenda item 3: The Board was informed about the following:

i. In the matter related to the NGT order dated 09.08.2019 in the OA NO.347/2016, the formation of 2549 Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) at all local bodies by 31.01.2020, with the assistance of Panchayat & Rural Dept., GDD and UDD, Assam.


a. The present position of constitution BMC in Assam:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gaon Panchayat (GP) = | 2197 (newly constituted) |
| 2. Anchalik Panchayat (AP) = | 185 (constituted before the NGT order) |
| 3. Zila Parishad (ZP) = | 26 (newly constituted) |
| 4. Autonomous council (AC)= | 40 (constituted before the NGT order) |
| 5. Municipal Board (MB)= | 100 (newly constituted) |
| 6. Municipal Corporation (MC)= | 1 (newly constituted) |

b. The Board noted that **1067** notifications of newly formed BMCs are yet to receive from the Panchayat & Rural Department, GDD and UDD, Assam as per below:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Gaon Panchayat Level= | 1054 | BMCs notification yet to receive |
| 2. Zila Parishad= | 9 | BMCs notification yet to receive |
| 3. Municipal Board= | 4 | BMCs notification yet to receive |
| Total= | 1067 | BMCs notification yet to receive |

c. The Board noted progress on preparation of 2549 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) at all local bodies. The soft copies in respect of all Gaon Panchayat, Zilla Parisad,


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Municipal Board and Municipal Corporation were given to P & RD and MBs for adoption and printing of hard copies at their end. A copy of the PBR duly signed by respective BMC Chairman & Member Secretaries to be submitted to ASBB.

d. The Board noted that as of now, the Board had received 304 numbers of hard copies of PBR and the balance number are yet to be received:

1. Gaon Panchayat Level= 81 hard copies of PBRs received (2166 balance)
2. Anchalik Panchayat level= 122 hard copies of PBRs received (63 balance)
3. Zila Parishad= 5 hard copies of PBRs received (21 balance)
4. Autonomous council= 12 hard copies of PBRs received (28 balance)
5. Municipal Board= 84 hard copies of PBRs received (16 balance)
6. Municipal Corporation= 0 hard copies of PBRs received (1 balance)

Total= 304 hard copies received (2245 balance)

ii. The Board was informed the following NGT and court cases (apart from OA 347/16):

a. OA 472/2018, dated 11/02/2020, Rohit Chowdhury vrs Union of India & Ors. related to Deepor Beel and Boragaon solid waste dumping ground.

– The Board noted that no actionable activities for ASBB were listed in minutes of the meeting held on 22/06/2020.

b. Appeal No. 04/2020/ EZ with IA No. 34/2020/EZ, Bimal Gogoi & ANR vrs Union of India & ANR related to Biodiversity Impact Assessment study at Dibru Saikhuwa NP.

– The Board noted that no 'Biodiversity Impact Assessment' study was conducted by ASBB at Dibru Saikhuwa NP. Accordingly, an affidavit was also filed on 11/08/2020.

c. One Man Enquiry Committee.

– The Board noted that all required documents sought were submitted to the One Man Enquiry Committee.


d. NGT Order dated 24.06.2020 in the matter of O.A No. 44/2020/ EZ (Bonani Kakkar Vs Wild Life and Environment Conservation Organisation vs. Union of India Board & Ors.)

– The Board noted that all required documents sought were submitted to the NGT Expert Committee on 03/07/2020.

iii. The Board was informed about the submission of the proposal of formation of State Level Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR) Quality Evaluation Monitoring Committee with 5-7 members to the Government of Assam.

iv. The Board noted the completion of 9th and 10th Batch of Biodiversity Research Associate Program (BRAP). It was also informed that 18 Anchalik Panchayat PBRs were completed by 18 Fellows and 4 Fellows were assisted in data entry works in the test trial of 'Digital PBR Database' under the 9th Batch BRAP. Similarly, 10 Fellows were engaged under 10th batch to assist the Board in PBR preparation of newly constituted BMCs from secondary data available for compliance of the NGT order dated 09.08.2020.

v. The Board was informed about the NIO where the Board invited research proposals from Individuals/ Organization/ Institutions for conducting theme based research projects for


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small (up to 2 lakh) and medium grants (up to 5 lakh) published on 07/12/2019. Accordingly, following proposals were received:

1. Small grants (up to 2 lakh)= 6 Proposals received
2. Medium grants (up to 5 lakh) = 21 Proposals received

– The Board noted that the preliminary evaluation was completed on 10/06/2020 by the Internal Evaluation Committee and shortlisted 3 proposals for Small grants and 8 proposals for Medium grants.

– It was also informed that the final evaluation will be done by RAC in due course.

– Based on the recommendation of the RAC, one (1) grant in each category will be awarded.

vi. The Board was informed about the NIO published on 22/12/2019 for preparation of Majuli BHS Management Plan. Due to insufficient bidders the said NIO re-advertised on 16/02/2020. An Evaluation Committee was constituted and evaluated the proposals on 10/06/2020. The Committee recommended the following for assigning the task for preparation of Majuli BHS Management Plan:

– Integrated Development Organization, Bhopal

➤ The Principal Investigator of the consultant firm is a Retd. Associate professor of Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

➤ Total Cost: 3.00 lakh.

➤ Implementing Agency: Integrated Development Organization (IDO).

– The Board approved the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee to assign the task of preparation of Majuli BHS Management Plan to the Integrated Development Organization, Bhopal.


vii. The Board noted completion of the project 'Plant Diversity Assessment of Dima Hasao district' in Assam.

viii. The Board noted the completion of the Digital Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR) Database on 13/01/2020. The Board was informed that at present the database is being hosted at AMTRON mini data centre. The Board approved to pay Rs. 60,000/- to AMTRON annually to continue the hosting at AMTRON mini centre.

ix. The Board was informed that International Day for Biological Diversity, 22nd May, 2020 event was celebrated through various online competitions like essay, poster and paintings, webinar series, publishing radio jingles etc. on the theme of "Our Solutions are in Nature". The event was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

x. The Board was informed that 5 capacity building and awareness workshops for strengthening BMC members of BTC and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council were organized during November 2019 covering 5 BMCs.

xi. The Board was informed that the accounts of the Board for FY 2014-15 to 2017-18 were audited by the Accountant General (AG). The Board also noted that out of 15 nos of POS of


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the audit, so far, replies of 8 POS have been sent and the rest 7 nos of POS will be submitted soon.

xii. The re-constitution of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) on 13/08/2020 was noted by the Board. The RAC was constituted to examine the research project proposals received by the Board and make recommendations. It consist of the following members:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Expert Member- ASBB: | Chairperson |
| 2. Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam: | Member |
| 3. Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, Expert Member- ASBB: | Member |
| 4. Chief Conservator of Forests (Research and Education), Assam: | Member |
| 5. An Expert: Subject matter specialist: | Member |
| 6. Member Secretary- ASBB: | Member |
| 7. Dr. O. S. Devi, Scientific Officer- ASBB: | Member Convener |

xiii. It was informed to the Board that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) have been organizing monthly review meetings of SBBs since September 2019 and the Board has been attending the same by providing all required information related to status of BMC constitution and PBR documentation works in Assam.

xiv. The Board was informed that a proposal of Rs. 24.00 lakh was submitted to the CAMPA, Assam during June 2020 for updation of newly prepared 1st draft PBRs, which required field validation. The CAMPA, Assam later informed that the proposal will be placed in next State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) for consideration.

xv. The Board noted that the Annual Report for FY 2018-19 was under process for publication.

xvi. The Board approved the following activities to be undertaken in the APFBC phase II, subject to the sanction and release of grant :

1. Strengthening of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)
 - ✓ Awareness generation of Anchalik Panchayat BMCs.
 - ✓ Updation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and other PBR related works.
2. Development and implementation of Biodiversity Management Plans.
3. Development of Access and Benefit Sharing guidelines and its piloting.

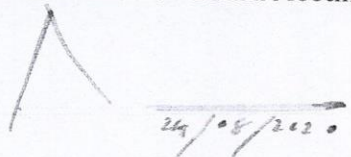
xvii. The Board noted the details of financial assistance received during October 2019 to March 2020 and April 2020 to July 2020 as below:

i. October 2019 to March 2020

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| – From National Biodiversity Authority | |
| ○ Printing disseminations | Rs. 5,00,000.00 |
| – From State | |
| ○ Arrear HRA to regular staff | Rs. 2,27,000.00 |
| ○ For works (non salary components) | Rs.52,90,000.00 |
| – From Others | |
| ○ Sale of publications | Rs. 6,040.00 |
| ○ Bank Interest | Rs.13,11,176.00 |
| ○ Wrong receipt | Rs. 2200.00 |

Total=

Rs. 73,36,416.00


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| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ii. | <u>April 2020 to July 2020</u> | |
| - | From National Biodiversity Authority | |
| | o Grant-in-aid for contractual staff | Rs.11,50,000.00 |
| - | From Others | |
| | o Sale of publications | Rs. 4,260.00 |
| | o Bank interest | Rs. 6,31,604.00 |
| Total= | | Rs. 17,85,864.00 |

Agenda item 3: The Board ratified the following:

| | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| i. | <u>Expenditure made during October 2019 to March 2020</u> | |
| - | From National Biodiversity Authority, Grant | |
| | o Awareness generation, training & capacity building workshops at KAAC | Rs.1,15,045.00 |
| | o Salary to contractual staff | Rs.6,47,491.00 |
| | o Awareness workshop at BTC & DHAC | Rs.8,65,750.00 |
| | o Constitution of BMC in BTC & DHAC | Rs.2,88,000.00 |
| | o Printing disseminations (ABS brochure & ABS booklet) | Rs. 91,170.00 |
| | o Preparation of PBR (Stipend to BRAP & internship expenses) | Rs. 9,65,288.00 |
| - | From APFBC (Support Staff) | Rs. 3,27,043.00 |
| - | From State Grants-in-aid | |
| | o Salary to regular staff | Rs.11,14,121.00 |
| | o Project- Hologapar Gibbon etc. | Rs. 1,00,000.00 |
| | o Annual Report (FY 2017-18) | Rs. 96,096.00 |
| | o Advt. /Publicity/ awareness etc. | Rs. 1,10,000.00 |
| | o Statutory Audit fee (2018-19) | Rs. 58,000.00 |
| Total= | | Rs. 47,78,004.00 |

- Liabilities
1. Fund for Assam Climate Change Management Cell (Released on 11/12/2019) Rs.70,83,580.00
 2. Forest Dept. Application fee (Balance Amount): Rs.2,24,08,633.34
(Interest accrued in Forest Dept. Recruitment fee up to 31/07/2020): Rs. 29,14,503.65
 3. Interest accrued in fund from NABARD up to 17/02/2018: Rs. 43,76,471.00
(Released to KTC Foundation on 17/02/2018)

- a. The Board noted that an amount of Rs. 29,14,503.65 has accrued as interest on the balance amount of application fees of Rs.2,24,08,633.34 up to 31/07/2020. It was further informed that the principal amount was deposited in the bank account of Assam State Biodiversity Board as application fee in 2016. The Forest Department informed that due to court case, the recruitment exercise could not be completed and thus the amount is not fully utilized.


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- b. The Forest Department was informed to take appropriate action to return back the balance amount of application fee along with the interest accrued thereon, in consultation with the Finance Department, Government of Assam.
- c. Regarding interest accrued in the fund from NABARD up to 17/02/2018, the Board directed to return back the quoted interest amount immediately, in line with the instructions received from the MoEF & CC.

ii. Expenditure made during April 2020 to July 2020

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| - From National Biodiversity Authority, Grant | | |
| o | Salary to contractual staff | Rs.3,28,608.00 |
| o | BTC awareness workshop | Rs. 60,000.00 |
| o | Preparation of PBR | Rs. 44,625.00 |
| o | Celebration of International day for Biodiversity Day 2020 | Rs. 94,840.00 |
| - From APFBC (Support Staff) | | Rs.1,65,312.00 |
| - From State Grants-in-aid | | |
| o | Salary to regular staff | Rs.4,83,591.00 |
| o | Minor repairing/newspaper, Advt. etc | Rs. 11,157.00 |
| Total | | Rs.11,88,133.00 |


- iii. The no-objection granted to 35 research proposals was ratified by the Board. The details of the Research proposals are at **Annexure-II**.

Agenda item 5: The following matters were placed before the Board for consideration/approval:

- i. The Board approved the reconstitution of 'Advisory Committee' for evaluation of applications received for access to biological resources for 'Research Purpose' with the following members:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Expert Member- ASBB | Chairperson |
| 2. Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, Expert Member- ASBB & CEO Aaranyak | Member |
| 3. Dr. Bijoy Neog, Professor, Dept of Life Sciences, Dibrugarh Univ. | Member |
| 4. Dr. Ajit Kumar Das, Dept of Ecology & En Sc. Assam Univ. | Member |
| 5. Dr. Nirmali Medhi, Retd. Prof, Dept. of Zoology, Handique Girls College | Member |
| 6. Sri Utpal Bora, IFS, CCF-HQ, O/o PCCF & HoFF | Member |
| 7. Chief Conservator of Forests, REWP, O/o PCCF & HoFF | Member |
| 8. Dr. Jaideep Baruah, Scientific Officer, ASTEC, Guwahati | Member |
| 9. Dr. Ashalata Devi, Associate Prof., Dept of Env Sc, Tezpur Univ. | Member |
| 10. Dr. Hemen Deka, Assistant Professor, Dept of Botany, GU | Member |
| 11. Dr. Narayan Sharma, Assistant Prof., Dept of Env & WL Sc., CCSU | Member |
| 12. Dr. O. S. Devi, Scientific Officer- ASBB | Member Convener |

The tenure of the Committee will be **2 years** from the date of issue of order.


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- ii. The Board approved the audited account for the FY 2018-19.
- iii. The Board approved the Action Plan for FY 2020-21.
- iv. The Board approved to explore the 'Hajong Lake' situated at Dima Hasao District for declaration of 'Biodiversity Heritage Site' for FY 2020-21. The Board also noted that it is a natural freshwater lake of about 4 hectare in size which is a prime habitat of more than 10 species of turtles and terrapins.
- v. Regarding equipment purchased by PI/ Implementing Institution under various Research Projects sanctioned by the Board, the following were informed to the Board:

| Sl.No | Name of the Project | Equipment purchased by PI/Implementing agency | Expenditure incurred | Status of Project |
|-------|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Inventory & Documentation of Insect fauna of Assam from existing entomological resources/information | Digital Camera-1 | Rs 35000.00 | Completed in 2017 |
| 2 | Study of Fish Diversity in Brahmaputra River inside Assam to identify the threatened species, evaluate & determine their present conservation status & needs | Desktop Computer-1 | Rs 80000.00 | Completed in 2018 |
| | | External Hard Disk-1 | | |
| | | Digital Camera-2 | | |
| | | GPS-1 | | |
| 3 | Documentation of commonly traded rare & endemic wild edible bioresources from local market of Assam | Digital Camera-1 | Rs 25000.00 | Completed in 2016 |
| | TOTAL | | Rs 1,40,000.00 | |

- The Board directed to pursue the matter with the Principal Investigators of the Projects and ask them to return the equipments to the Board.
- The Board also directed to add a clearcut instruction to return the equipments purchased in the agreements of similar future research projects sanctioned by the Board.

Agenda Item 6:

- i. Regarding implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism in Assam, the following were informed to the Board:
 - a. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, directed all the SBBs in the last meeting held on 30/07/2020, to start implementing the ABS Regulation 2014 at the earliest.
 - b. This would help in the receipt of the ABS amount which can be ploughed back to the Benefit claimers or the Biodiversity Management Committees to help in conservation.

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- c. This would also make the BMCs and local people financially stable to assist biodiversity conservation activities and sustainable utilization of biological resources to support their livelihood.
 - d. The NBA also directed to spread awareness generation on ABS through print media highlighting the facilitative role played by the SBB in according approvals for commercial utilization and trade of biological resources.
 - e. The States are to document the list of traders and manufactures involved in trade/commercial utilization of biological resources to ensure that the provisions of the BD Act are compiled by these entities.
- ii. The Board approved the following steps to be taken up for implementation of ABS Regulation, 2014 in Assam:
- a. Awareness generation on ABS through print/electronic media for wide outreach, highlighting the facilitative role played by the SBB in according approvals for commercial utilization and trade of biological resources.
 - b. A draft Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for commercial users of biological resources shall be prepared.
 - c. ABS application fee of Rs. 1000/- to be prescribed by 'Board' for access to biological resources for commercial utilization as per Rule 18(1) of the Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010.
 - d. The Board shall formulate and notify the guidelines and describe the benefit sharing formula, as per Rule 22 (1) of Assam Biodiversity (Amendment) Rules 2019.
 - e. The Board shall adopt the 'the ABS Regulations/Guidelines 2014 notified by National Biodiversity Authority/Govt. of India on 21.11.2014 under Section 21(4) of BD Act 2002, as followed by other SBBs.

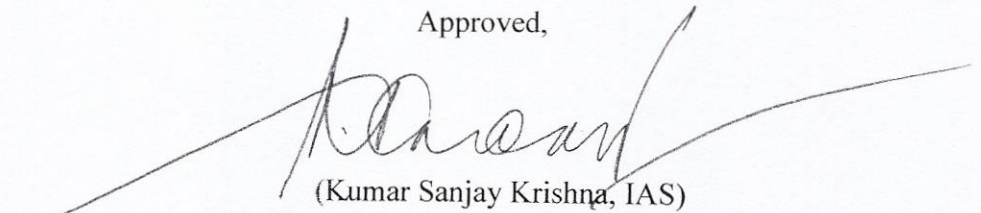
Agenda Item 7:

- i. **Sitting Fee of non- official members of the Board.**
 - a. The Board directed to revise the sitting fee of non-official members from Rs. 500/- per day (Rule 6.4 of the Assam Biodiversity Rule 2010) to Rs. 2000/- per day.
 - b. The Board also directed to accordingly pursue Amendment of the Rule 6.4 of the Assam Biodiversity Rule 2010, in this matter.

The date and venue for the next meeting to be decided in due course.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair to everyone present.

Approved,



(Kumar Sanjay Krishna, IAS)
Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam &
Chairperson-ASBB

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Members/ Invitees present in the 26th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board: 18th August 2020

| Sr. | Name | Designation | Contact No. | E-mail Id |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Official Members | | | | |
| 1 | Mr. Kumar Sanjay Krishna, IAS | Chief Secretary-Assam & Chairperson, ASBB | 0361-2261120 | cs-assam@nic.in |
| 2 | Mr. Avinash Joshi, IAS | Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Assam | 0361-2237243 | avinashp.joshi@nic.in |
| 3 | Smt. Jolly Das Brahma, ACS | Commissioner & Secy., P & RD Department, Assam | 9430112149 | jdasbrahma@gmail.com |
| 4 | Mr. N. K. Debnath, ACS | Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam | 9435070134 | dirfishassam2019@gmail.com |
| 5 | Mr. M. Medhi | Joint Secretary, P & RD Department, Assam | 9435552456 | pnrddispur@gmail.com |
| 6 | Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS | Member Secretary-ASBB | 9989522202 | kspv.pavankumar@gmail.com |
| Ex- Officio Members | | | | |
| 7 | Dr. Bijoy Neog | Expert Member- ASBB | 8638571325 | bijoyneog@dibru.ac.in |
| 8 | Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar | Expert Member- ASBB | 9435113139 | bibhab@aaranyak.org |
| Special Invitees | | | | |
| 9 | Mr. Samir K. Sinha, IAS | Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Assam | 9910035775 | principalsecretaryhealth@gmail.com |
| 10 | Mr. R. Mochahari, ACS | Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Vety. Dept.- Assam | 9435027043 | rmuchahari@gmail.com |
| Other Invitees | | | | |
| 11 | Mr. A. M. Singh, IFS | PCCF & HoFF- Assam | 9435730125 | hoff-assam@gov.in |
| 12 | Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS | PCCF (Wetlands), O/o the PCCF & HoFF- Assam | 8876565344 | ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com |

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The following 35 Research Proposals was granted no objection by the Board:

1. The Director, Haffkine Institute for Training , research & Testing, Mumbai-400012, for accessing biological resources “Snakes and snake venom for research purpose”.
2. Dr. Dipanwita Banik, Scientist, Medicinal, Aromatic and Economic Plants Division , CSIR, Jorhat-785006, Assam for the research study “Investigation of oleochemicals of under-utilized wild nutmegs native to NE India and value addition thereof”.
3. Mr. Vivek Chetry, PhD research Scholar, Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University for the research study “Diversity & ecology of Avian fauna of Barnadi WLS”.
4. Mr. Manab Jyoti Kalita, PhD research Scholar, Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University for research study “Diversity & ecology of Butterfly fauna of Barnadi WLS”.
5. Mr. Keshob Jyoti Borah, PhD research Scholar, Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University for research study “Diversity & ecology of Spider fauna of Barnadi WLS”.
6. Dr. Pankaj Chetiya, Assistant Professor, Dept of Life Science, for research study “Diversity assessment in vitro propagation and DNA Barcoding of Ferns and Fern-allies of Assam”.
7. Dr. Abhijit Das, Scientist-D, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand for research study “Bio-geography of Eastern Borderland in India: Evidence from ectotherm”.
8. Dr. A.K. Mukherjee, Professor, Department of MBBT, Tezpur University, Tezpur-784028, Assam, for research study “Proteomics and transcriptomic analysis of scorpion venom from Assam & assessment of potency of commercial scorpion anti-venom”.
9. Mr. Sanjoy Tamuli, Fisheries developement Officer, Meen Bhawan, Ghy-16, Assam, for accessing bioresources for “Experimental breeding of Chitala chitala for ex-citu conservation”.
10. Dr. A.K. Mukherjee, Professor, Department of MBBT, Tezpur University, Tezpur-784028, Assam, for research study “Assesment of efficacy, potency and quality of commercial antivenoms towards the venom of poisonous snakes from NE, India”.
11. Mr. Pranjal Baruah, PhD Research Scholar, Dept. of Life Science, Dibrugarh University for research study “Fern & fern allies of upper Brahmaputra Valley, Assam , India with special reference to morphology”.
12. Dr. Lalramliana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Pachhunga University college, Aizwal-796001, Mizoram, for research study “Molecular and morphological characterization of freshwater of the subtribe Garraina (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) of North East India”.
13. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Ghosh, PhD Research Scholar, Dept. of Zoology, Cotton University, Ghy-01, Assam, for research study “Ecosystem health of Chandubi Lake, Kamrup district, Assam, India with special reference to aquatic insect diversity”.
14. Ms. Birina Bhuyan, PhD Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, for research study “Studies on taxonomy and distribution of genus Ophiorrhiza Linn (Rubiaceae) of Assam”.
15. Ms. Oli Borah, PhD Research Scholar, Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Assam University, Silchar-788011, for research study “Study of orchid diversity in Chakrashila WLS, Assam with special reference to conservation of selected species”.
16. Dr. R. Sukumar, Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences , Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore,-560012, Karnataka, for research study “Population genetic studies of Asian

elephants through whole genome sequencing of DNA from blood samples of wild- caught captive elephants across India”.

17. Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, Associate Professor, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) , Bangalore-560065, Karnataka, for research study “Investigate the occurrence and frequency of melanistic and golden Tigers in Assam, India”.
18. Dr. S. K. Baruah, Principal Scientist & PI, AICRP (Floriculture), Horticulture Research Station, AAU, Kahikuchi, Ghy-781017, for research study “Survey, collection and evaluation of wild/native ornamentals for commercial cultivation in Assam”.
19. Ms. Pranati Gogoi, PhD Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University for research study “Floristic Diversity of Dibrugarh district, Assam”.
20. Mr. Abhishek Sarkar, Research Scholar, RFRI, Jorhat-785010, Assam, for research study “Carbon stock estimation and phyto-sociological analysis with special reference to invasive plant species of Amchung wildlife sactuary, Assam”.
21. Dr. Nikitasha Bora, M.V. Sc student, College of Veterinary sciences and A. H, central Agricultural University, Seleish, Aizwal, Mizoram, for research study “Etiopathological study of elephant calf diarrhoea and its therapeutic management”.
22. Ms. Upasana Sharma, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Impact of land use change on the distribution of forest birds in Amchung WLS, Assam”.
23. Ms. Upama Roy, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Microhabitat evaluation and vertical stratification of spider distribution assemblages in amchang WLS, Assam”.
24. Ms. Suravi dutta, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “A study on Asian elephants and analysing their seed dispersal mechanism by their dung and to use them in forest regeneration process in Bornadi WLS, Udalguri, Assam”.
25. Ms. Monalisha Borah, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Diversity of butterflies with the assemblages of fruit feeding butterflies in a fragmented landscape in Amchang WLS, Assam”.
26. Ms. Juri Rabha, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Patterns of distribution, abundance and habitat association of moths in the heterogeneous habitat of Bornadi WLS, Assam”.
27. Ms. Hemanti Swargiary, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Diversity and abundance of moth in different habitats of Amchang WLS, Assam”.
28. Mr. Deepraj Das, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Study on the diversity of mammalian species of the Amchang WLS, Assam”.
29. Ms. Bonita Choudhury, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Diversity of birds in relation to habitat heterogeneity in Bornadi WLS, Assam”.
30. Ms. Bhaiolina Boruah, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Climatic factors influencing diversity of butterflies with reference to habitat heterogeneity, larval host plant density and distribution”.
31. Mr. Asish Immanuel Baglary, M.Sc student, Dept. of Zoology (Wildlife Science), Gauhati University, Assam, for research study “Comparative studies on the habitat utilization

pattern and diet of the common leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) between north and south banks of Brahmaputra river, Assam”.

32. Mr. Saurav Kumar Boruah, Ph.D Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University, for research study “Diversity, distribution and pollination biology of genus *Gnetum* L. of Assam”.
33. Ms. Lakidakmen Kharmalki, M.Sc Student, Dept. of Zoology, Don Bosco University, Kamarkuchi, Sonapur, Tepesia, Assam-782402 for research study “A comparative study on endoparasite in wild and captive Asian Elephants in Assam”.
34. Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, IFS, The Director, Rain Forest research Institute, Deovan, Sotai, P.B. No. 136, Jorhat, Assam, for research study “Creation of North-East Indian Zingiberales Biodiversity Garden (Gene Bank) in RFRI, Assam”.
35. Ms. Himamani Kalita, Ph.D Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University, for research study “A study on fresh water algal diversity in Pobitora and Amchang Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam”



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