



NATURE'S FOSTER

(Regn. No. 123 of 1994-95. Under the Indian Societies Registration Act 1860)
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SECRETARIAL REPORT PLACED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NATURE'S FOSTER HELD ON 12.06.2005 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2005

The executive committee has the pleasure in submitting the summary of activities for the session 2004-05 ending on 31.03.2005, as below.

1. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership drives were given for the new members and as a result a total 19 members has joined the organisation including student Members.. The present membership status are as follows.

1. Honorary Member : 1
2. Life Member 0
3. Member
4. Student

2. PROGRAMMES:

A. Nature Oriented Winter Camp-2005 :

A three days long Nature camp was organized on 8th, 9th and 10th January, 2005 by the organization to impart training and make the participants familiar with the art of camping, nature walk, animal and plant identification etc. along with slide shows and trekking to the Chakrashila WLS. The camp was held at "Tapoban", an environment Education s center set up by the Nature's Beckon and maintained by the community at Jornagra. A session with community was another The camp was a grand success and a total 19 participants including non-members attended the camp. Mr. Kamal Das led the camp as Camp In charge whereas Mr. Rakesh Saud was Programme In charge for the camp .

B. Manas Biosphere Celebration-2005:

A programme under the Banner of **Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum (MBCF)**, a forum of five organisations to highlight the concept of Manas Biosphere Reserve among the mass of the area was coordinated by Nature's Foster, which was held on 4th and 5th April, 2005 at Ultapani, Dist : Kokrajahr. The programme was organized in collaboration with **Bodoland Territorial Council** and **All Bodo Student Union** and supported by Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation. The programme was a grant success in the sense it has brought the people from different field in a common platform for the cause of conservation and management of Manas Biosphere reserve. A souvenir *Heritage Manas* was also published on the occasion by our organization on behalf of MBGF.

C. Habitat Survey and Golden Langur Population Estimation:

Extensive Surveys were carried out at Kakoijana R.F. , Bamuni Hill, Bamungaon Hill and Nakkati R.F. for census of Golden langur in these degraded forest habitats . The work will be continued to till December 2005 when the final estimation will be completed.

Mr. Rakesh Saud is also carrying out a total herpetofaunal study of Kakaoijana Reserve Forest and its environs.

Ms. Falguni Barman another member scholar is working on Butterfly of Kakoijana Reserve Forest .

D. CELEBRATION OF IMPORTANT DAYS AND EVENTS:**1. World Environment Day:**

Various programmes including Wild Life Quiz on Road from Dhaligaon to Bongaigaon Swahid Bedi , and wild life quiz at Railway Higher Secondary School were organised on the occasion .

2. Dr. Salim Ali Bird Count:

The organisation has participated in Dr. Salim Bird Count and visited kakoijana Reserve Forest on 12th November 2004 .

3. World Wetland day :

World Wetland Day was organised on 2nd February 2005 at NF office premise alongwith our members. On the occasion a seminar on “ the importance and conservation of Wetland” and an exhibition with the various posters from Wetlands Internationals .

4. Asian Mid Winter Waterfowl Census:

We also took part in Asian Mid winter waterfowl census in Tamranga, Doloni, Paropota, River Aie, Nayachara Beel, Bhosamari Beel, Hatimutra Beel during January 2005 and the count sheets are under compilation for sending to the BNHS for final compilation.

5. Heronary Count:

The members of Nature's Foster has also carried out a detailed survey/ count of heronry during May : June- 2004

3. WETLAND & WATERFOWL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN:

Like last year, this year also the campaign for conservation of wetlands and waterfowl of Lower Assam has been continued by our organisation. Already major wetlands of Bongaigaon and Goalpara districts have been covered under the campaign and collecting necessary information on the wetlands. Tamranga-Konora, Hatimutra, Doloni, Kumri Urapad and Dhamar have been already visited in this connection to have first hand information about their richness and threats.

4. PROJECTS

A. CONSERVATION OF GOLDEN LANGUR:

Five nos. of villages namely **Jhakuapara, Bhati Rabhapara, Thakuranipara, Siponsila and Salbari** and have been covered under Socioeconomic Survey to have first hand information about the villages, which will be the basis for planning long-term conservation programme with the involvement of villagers to ensure their participation in the Golden Langur conservation and also to provide alternative livelihood for the villager who are dependent on the Reserve Forest conservation. The activities were carried out under Conservation of Golden Langur project. Already communities from nine villages have been organised and more than 20 SHG have been formed.

About 20,000 saplings of food plants for Golden langur has been planted in and around kakoijana Reserve Forest by the different SHGs from the Villages

B. NWDPRA: (NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR RAINFED AREAS).

The NWDPRA project activities has come into a halt due to non sanction of fund from the Government. We have already withdrawn from one project called Lungai Watershed Project and but still continuing with Kolobari Thorthori Watershed Project.

5. TRAININGS & MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- A. Mr. S. N. Sen. attended the IBA book lunching programme at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok on organized by Bombay Natural history Society
- B. Mr. Rakesh Saud attended the public Hearing programme on Environmental Clearance for proposed Pipeline Expansion programme organised by Pollution Control Board, Assam at Ambedkar Hall, Bongaigaon on 11.10.2004
- C. Mr. Joydeep Chakrabarty, Arnab Bose and Raju Dastended the attended the Nature Study Camp as Resource person organized by Assam Science Society 3rd, 4th and 5th January, 2005.
- D. Sri Arnab Bose also attended a daylong workshop organized by International Crane Foundation and Aaranyak at Guwahati.
- E. Sri S. N. Sen and Sri Arnab Bose has attended the First District level Monitoring Meeting of AACP project organized by the District Agricultural Officer.

F. Mr. Ranjit Dhar , our President has attended the Elephant census programme under kachugaon Division .

G. Our members also attended a Technical seminar at Bongaigaon College on Conservation Oil and gas is the Key to prosperity and cleaner Environment at Bongaigaon College on 24.01.2005

6. RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE:

26.09.2004 : 3 Brown shrike rescued from deuripara and released .

14.04.2005 :Rescued of a black headed Gull at bengtol.

10.5.2005 : Rescued a rain Quail from mahabirsthan

21.05.2005 : Rescued a Ratsnake from Barpara , Bongaigaon.

22.05.2005 : Rescued a Whitebreasted water hen alongwith trap from a poacher .

7.PUBLICATION:

A) STORK: a quarterly newsletter is being regularly published by our organisation and will continue to publish for internal circulation covering different issues related to wildlife and environment.

B) Leaflet: A leaflet on Manas Biosphere Reserve has been published for circulation during Manas celebration.

C) A set of Six stickers has also been published as a fund raising scheme.

8. HUMAN ELEPHANT CONFLICT:

Our member Mr. Joydeep Chakrabarty has been assisting the Assam Hati project of M/s Eco System India in the elephant affected areas of Goalpara District.

9. FCRA:

Our organization has been registered under FCRA for Educational and Social .

10. NETWORKING:

I. Indian Bird Conservation Network:

We being the partner organisation of Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN), carrying out as active member of the network and taking part in avifauna conservation and their study .

II. Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum:

Two meetings of Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum was organized by Nature's Foster on 04.04.2004 and 28.01.2005 at Bongaigaon to discuss various issues of MBCF.

11. OUR GUEST OF THE YEAR

Some of the prominent wildlife activist and scientist has visited during the session 2004-05 . Some of them are

1. Dr. Rob. Horwich. Director, Community Conservation Inc.
2. Mr. Berth , Belgium .

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We would like to express our heartiest gratitude to Mr. Mohan Chandra Malakar, CCF (WL), Assam , BTC executives , , Mr. M.Kalita, D.C. Bongaigaon , Mr. G.C. Basumatary , CF, WAC, all DFOs of Bongaigaon, Barpeta , Kokrajhar and Goalpara , Field Director Manas Tiger Project , Deputy Director , MNP Mr. Mohan Chandra Brahma , Range Officer, Basbari Range, Manas N.P. , Dr. Rob. Horwich, Mr. Soumyadeep Dutta, Dr. Koushik Deuti, Dr. A., R. Rahmani, , Mr. T.N. Choudhury, Mr. Soumydeep Dutta, Director, Nature's Beckon and Members of , ABSU , AGSU , Ultapani , Aaranyak, Green Heart Nature Club, New Horizon, Green Forest Conservation, Jinjiram Valley Nature's Club, Lakhipur and the villagers from Ujan Rabhapara, Bagriguri Rabhapara, Garopara, Charakola and Jiaguri, Charipunia part I & II, Baruapara , Jornagra , Ultapani , Labanyapur , Saralpara for their helping hand, cooperation and support during the session for implementation and smooth functioning of the programmes

For and on behalf of Executive Committee

12th June 2005
Bongaigaon

(Sadashib Nath Sen)
General Secretary