



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 ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

The executive committee has the pleasure in submitting the summary of activities for the session 2009-10 ended on 31.03.2010, as below.

1. PROGRAMMES:

A. CELEBRATION OF IMPORTANT DAYS AND EVENTS:

World Environment Day:

World Environment day was celebrated on 5th June, 2009 at Chiponsila High School Chiponsila . The programme was conducted by our resource persons Mr. Lakhan Nath Mr. Arnab Bose ..

Asian Mid Winter Waterfowl Census-2010:

Traditionally, this year also we have participated in Asian Mid winter waterfowl census in River Aie, Doloni, Urpada and Bhosamari Beel covering the districts of Bongaigaon and Goalpara during January 2010 with the participation of our members. A team of members comprising Mr. A Bose and Mr. Ghosh visited Doloni on 07.02.2010 as a part of the programme .

B. OTHERS :

Agriculture / Veterinary Training Camp:

A veterinary and Agriculture related awareness programme was organized to get maximum economic benefit out of poultry and agriculture on a proper scientific method . Representatives from different villages surrounding Kakoijana Reserve Forest. attended the programme . Dr. Sunil Paul agricultural Scientist from , KVK, Chirang and Dr Gautam Sarma a veterinary and members from Natures Foster attended the programme on 09.02.2010 at Chiponsila

Exhibition:

An exhibition on Wildlife and environment were conducted at Sidalsati were organized on 28.01.2009..

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

i) **Slide Presentation on Kakoijana Reserve Forest** was organized at Girls College, Nagaon

ii) **Slide Presentation on Butterfly was conducted at Bajali College, Pathsala** by the Secretary , project Mr.A Bose on 21.10.2009.

ii) **Slide and Wildlife Film Presentation was conducted at Khorapara , Kakoijana** on the occasion of Localpuja by the Mr.A Bose and Mr. B.C. Roy on 13.02.2010.

Birdwatching Camp at Urpad Beel :

A Birdwatching camp was organized for members and students at Urpad Beel to impart training on bird identification followed by slide presentation alongwith field trip to urpad lake, Goalpara.on 23rd and 24th .January ,.2010.

2. PROJECTS**I. Conservation Golden Langur :**

The activities under the project are continuing for conservation of Golden langur in Kakoijana Reserve Forest and it's surrounding through people's participation. The capacity building and empowerment of the federation is going on to handle the future management of the biodiversity of the locality. We had also series of meeting, discussion with the Federation, Forest department officials to ensure total conservation of Golden langur's habitat at Kakoijana reserve forest.. Pateswari-Golden Langur Green Conservation has been renamed as Green conservation and is under the process of registration under S. R. Act . However The villagers under Chiponsila G.P have not joined the The Green Federation and formed another forum namely "Prakrity Prahari " with similar objectives and already registrated under S. R.Act .

Federation, formed last year has been gaining its momentum and initiated strong steps to prevent commercial firewood collection. Frequently the Federation along with the Nature's Foster and Forest Department officials carrying out patrolling surrounding the Reserve Forest to complete check even on traditional hunting and tree felling. As a result gradual increase in forest as well as animals along with Golden Langurs has documented.

Our organization has also been trying to generate local resources from the area and local youths were given training time to time..

II. White Bellied Heron Research and Conservation Initiative

White Bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*), a globally threatened and critically endangered species (population less than 100 individuals) is distributed only in North-East India, Eastern Himalayan foothills in Bhutan, Bangladesh and North Myanmar. Their population is declining alarmingly due to various anthropogenic causes. In 2007 Nature's Foster has started systematic studies on the distribution and status of this heron in Assam. Our primary focus was to know the distribution of the species in Assam and to conduct awareness campaigns in different areas to save the remaining population in India. After wrapping up of the Survey under RSPB funding a small grant was sanctioned by CEPF for "Rapid Surveys in Known and Probable Sites to Confirm the Distribution of White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) in Assam." In under implementation and two new sites have been identified .

III. Increasing Protection of Manas Biosphere Reserve:

After completion of the first phase of the project the extension for another year was sought which was happily sanctioned by the funder USFWS. The second phase under funding from through community conservation in under implementation and will continue till March - 2011.

We are still acting as coordinator for the project titled: Increasing Protection of Manas Biosphere Reserve by Community Conservation Inc. under which about 100 Volunteers will be supported for protection of Manas Biosphere Reserve based at Kochugaon, Ultapani, Kuklung , Koilamoila and Subankhata, which have been included under the extension project .

IV. Rapid Grant on Gharial Conservation

Although the project has successfully been completed but still we are pursuing regular monitoring and networking for its conservation as Gharials are frequent in the tributaries of River Brahmaputra under the districts of Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Dhubri and Barpeta.

V. Vulture Conservation Programme

Nature's Foster has taken initiative for the conservation of Vulture in Western Assam. There are few sites like Tulungia, Hadlapara, Kalyanpur, Medhipara, Lakhipur, Bilasipara etc. where network has been developed to monitor the Bird regularly. Nature's Foster also trying to develop a networking group including Veterinary Doctor, Teacher, Social Worker, students, Forest Officials, NGOs to launch a concerted effort for the Vulture Conservation.

A team of members attended Abhayapuri to document tragic incident of vulture death by a train while those vultures were eating carcass on the railway track. People of the surrounding areas were discussed and discouraged to throw carcass on the railway track

VI. National Watershed Development Project for Rain fed Areas (NWDPR) Kolobari-Thorthori (Extension)

The project was considered for funding under extension by the State Government with funding from Govt., of India. The activities conceived in the action plan of 2009-10 has been fully implemented as under our guidance as project Implementing agency (PIA) through Community based organisations KOLOBARI THORTHORI WATERSHED Project as per NWDPR guideline.

VII. Sacred Forest Conservation Programme

Recently Nature's Foster has initiated the conservation of Sacred Forests of Bongaigaon district. As these areas harbour diverse indigenous plant species and act as refuge for wild animals, so under this programme both floral and faunal diversity of the areas will be surveyed.

VIII. FUTURE PROJECTS :

Some of the project applied for funding in future as follows :

Sl.No.	Project Title	Funder
1.	Maintaining Continuity of Community Protection for the Manas Biosphere Reserve and the Ripu Chirang Elephant Reserve	U S Fish & Wildlife Service
2.	Survey of Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle (<i>Chitra indica</i>) in the Wetlands of West Assam.	People's Trust for Endangered Species
3.	Rapid status survey and preparation of checklist of Orchids in Chirang Reserve Forest, Assam, India.	San Diego County Orchid Society

3. TRAININGS / MEETINGS / PROGRAMMES ATTENDED:**i) Exposure Visit**

An Exposure Visit for members of green Conservation federation , Kakoijana RF was organized to Kachugaon, Phibsu, Ultapani on 16-17.01.2010 to give them types of conservation activities going on at Kachugaon, Ultapani and show them natural forests of Phibsu. The team was accompanied by our president Mr. Raju Das, Secretary Mr. A Bose, Mr. B.C. Roy and Mr. Sanjib Roy.

Training :

1. A training programme was organized at our office premise for the volunteers who takes part in the Golden Langur home range study . The training was conducted by our member Mr. A Bose and Mr. Bhuban Ch. Roy on 08.04.2009. and . 03.03.2010.
2. A training programme on Fund Raising organized by International Rhino Foundation at Kaziranga from 15th to 17th February ,2010 was attended by Mr. Arnab Bose .
3. Another training programme on Fund Raising organized by International Rhino Foundation at Kaziranga from 18th to 20th February ,2010 was attended by our President Mr. Raju Das .

Meetings / Discussions :

1. A discussion cum meeting with Dr. Ashish Kothary of Kalpavrisk , Pune was held at Ujan Rabhapara , Kakoijana was held on 11.05.2009 along with the executives and members of Pateswari Golden Langur Green conservation Federation followed by a field trip to Kakoiana Reserve Forest .
2. A discussion cum meeting with Dr. Asad R Rahmani , Director , Bombay Natural History Society was held by our member Mr. Raju Das ,Mr. Arnab Bose at Birjhora Mahavidyalaya , Bongaigaon regarding possible collaborative work or vulture collaboration on 23.06.2009..
3. A victory celebration meeting was organized by the community of Chiponsila against court's decision in favour of the volunteers who were accused by the police against a complain lodged by the illegal wood cutters. was attended by Mr. Arnab Bose . Dr. Robert Horwich on 24.10.2009
4. A meeting namely "Strategic Planning Workshop on Mitigation of Human Elephant Conflict" was attended by Mr. A. Bose and Mr. Raju Das organized at IIBM, Guwahati on 8th & 9th December , 2009 by Assam Hathi Project .

5. A discussion cum meeting with Dr. Anowaruddin Choudhury , Joint Secretary , Tourism , Govt. of Assam was organized to update him about our activities followed by field trip to Kakoiana Reserve Forest , Kachugaon and Phibshu accompanied by our member Mr. A Bose , Mr. B.C. Roy and Joydeep Chakrabarty on 01.01.2010 & 02.01.2010 respectively

RESCUE OF WILDLIFE:

Under the Secretary, Wildlife Protection volunteers of Nature's Foster was found very much active in rescuing live animals from human habitation and handed over to the DFO, Aie Valley Division for safe release to its natural habitat. The details of rescue and rehabilitation are shown in the rescue report as annexure-I

i. NETWORKING:

1. There are altogether 18 Protection Volunteer Groups in BTC area have been actively carrying out their conservation activity in their respective areas. Nature's Foster felt the necessity to bring them in a common platform with the objectives to share and mitigate problems, share the strength and weakness, act as a pressure group, proper networking etc. Ultimately our organization achieves success to bring the Groups stretching from Raimona to Subankhata in a common Platform named as Manas Biosphers Protection Federation.
- 2.
3. Natures Foster has also joined the core group of Elephant Conservation Alliance in Assam to take care of community motivation part alongwith the other NGOs like Aranyak , Ecosystem India etc.

4. MEMBERSHIP:

A total of four new members have joined the organisation during the session.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We would like to express our heartiest gratitude to the BTC executives, The Deputy Commissioners of Bongaigaon, Mr. G.C. Basumatary, CF, WAC, (CHD , Forest and Tourism, BTAD) all DFOs of Bongaigaon, Barpeta , Kokrajhar and Goalpara , Field Director Manas Tiger Project , Deputy Director , MNP , Range Officer, Basbari Range, Manas N.P. , Dr. Rob. Horwich, Dr. Hilloljyoti Singha Mr. T.N. Choudhury, Wildlife Trust of India , Aaranyak, Green Heart Nature Club, Primate Research Centre, Crocodile Bank, New Horizon (Koilamoila), Raigajli Social Welfare and Eco-Tourism Society (Kuklung), Green Forest Conservation (Kochugaon), Biodiversity Conservation Society (Ultapani), Swmkwr Mithinga Onsai Afat(Bansbari), Panbari Manas National Park Protection and Eco-tourism Society (Panbari), Manas Bhuyanpara Conservation and Eco-tourism Society (Rupahi), Green Leaves (Khoraghat), Manas Souchi Khongkhar Eco-tourism Society (Subankhata), Manas Agrang Society (Simlibari), The Ant (Roumari), Jinjiram Valley Nature's Club, Lakhipur, and the villagers from all villages surrounding Kakojana RF , 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

26th September 2010

Bongaigaon

(S. N. Sen)

General Secretary

ANNEXURE-1**WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION DURING THE SESSION 2009-10**

01.04.2009.	Bongaigaon	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue of Cobra
07.04.2009.	Jhakuapara KRF	A Bose, Kartik Urang	Confiscation of Deer meat
20/04.2009.	Bhakarivita	A Bose	Rescue of a Barn Owl
21.04.2009.	Civil Hospital	A Bose	Rescue & release of White-lipped Pit Viper
06.05.2009.	Paulpara, Bongaigaon	A Bose, Bhaskar Mukherjee and party	Confiscation of snake & snake charmer
19.05.2009.	Charakola	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue & release of Python
19.10.2009.	North Bongaigaon	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue & Release of Rat Snake
1.11.2009.	Nigamghola	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue & Release of Banded Krait
05.11.2009.	Borobazar, Bongaigaon	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue & release of a Cobra
14.12.2009.	North Bongaigaon	A Bose, B C Ray	Rescue & release of a Keelback Snake