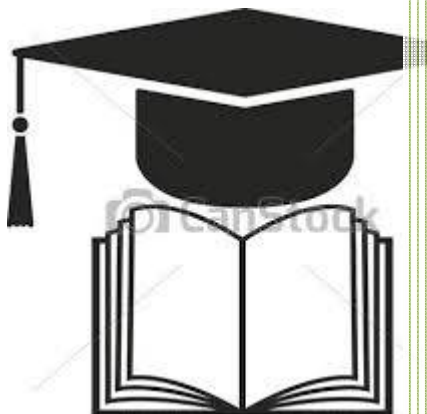


Report of 2nd Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation



7th August – 6th November, 2017



অসম ৰাজ্যিক জৈৱ-বৈচিত্ৰ্য পৰিষদ
ASSAM STATE BIO-DIVERSITY BOARD

Assam State Biodiversity Board
2nd Floor, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari
Guwahati-781037, Assam

Assam State Biodiversity Board
2nd Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation
7th August 2018- 6th November 2018

The Assam State Biodiversity Board works for promotion of conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity. The Board is implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to empower the local people to own and manage their biological resources. This is attempted by organizing people into Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) which are required to document commonly used biological resources and associated Traditional Knowledge in the form of Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). By making such Registers the people become the rightful owners of their biological resources.

After the successful completion of 1st Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation (9th January- March 2017), the Board started the 2nd Internship Programme for a duration of three months from 7th August 2018 to 6th November 2018.

The Objective of the Programme is to inculcate scientific temper amongst young talent in the State of Assam and promote them to work for conservation of biodiversity. The program aims to enhance the understanding of the Interns about the present day challenges in promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and provide them opportunity to contribute in meeting those challenges.

Post-graduates in Zoology, Botany, Animal Ecology & Wildlife Biology, Microbiology, Environmental Science, and Geography having good computer skills (Word/Excel) along with the ability to speak, read and write Assamese & English apart from the other local language, and not above the age of 30 years were encouraged to apply for the 2nd Internship Programme.

Interns of 2nd Batch:

From the 87 shortlisted applicants, 20 were selected for the 2nd Internship Programme on the basis of marks obtained in written (objective type) test and personal interview that was held on 28th July, 2017 at the Board Office in Guwahati. Out of 20, 19 Interns joined the 2nd Internship course.

The Interns worked in close association of the Board, visited field, and assisted the Board in Awareness generation programs and capacity building of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC). As a part of the Internship Programme, the Interns prepared the People's Biodiversity Register of a BMC chosen by him/herself

Course content of 2nd Internship Programme:

For capacity building and training of the Interns, the course of 2nd Internship Programme comprised of class sessions, field trip and field work.

1. ***Class sessions:*** This included theory sessions on different topics related to biodiversity conservation.

Experts/ Resource Persons were Assistant Professors from Colleges & Universities, subject matter specialists from Research Institutions & NGOs, Senior Officers of Forest Department, Director of NIRDPR, Guwahati.

The Interns had a chance to interact with eminent Scientists, Researchers, Wildlife Conservationists and Forest Officers of the State and learn from them through the lecture sessions.

Theory Classes: Each class included two theory sessions on different topics taken by the respective Experts. The theory sessions were followed by interaction with the Experts.

Total of 33 sessions covering 18 topics were incorporated in the course are given below:

- i. Overview of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and role of Interns
- ii. Introduction to BMCs/PBRs
- iii. PBR preparation and accounts maintaining.
- iv. Advance tools and techniques for field data collection.
- v. Human - Animal conflicts
- vi. Biopiracy & IPR
- vii. PRA Exercise
- viii. Role of ASTEC in Biodiversity Conservation
- ix. Primate research in NE India
- x. Urban Biodiversity
- xi. Plant Identification techniques
- xii. How to prepare projects for funding.
- xiii. Motivation for better performance: how to achieve what you want to achieve
- xiv. Vermi-technology for recycling of bio-waste.

- xv. Remote sensing & GIS Techniques.
 - xvi. Research Methodology
 - xvii. Hands-on GIS
 - xviii. Understanding Climate Change
 - xix. Biostatistics
2. **Field work:** As a part of the Internship Programme the Interns were required to Prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) of a Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) of their choice.
 3. **Field Trip:** A one-day field trip to Rajib Gandhi Orang National Park was organised on 04/11/2017.

Divisional Forests Officer of Rajib Gandhi Orang National Park interacted with the Interns and shared his experiences, and information on the history and present status of Orange National Park.

The Interns were taught about various tools, techniques and methods on field data collection with special reference to camera trapping during the field work. They also had a session on identification of birds in field.

Fellowship for the Interns:

The Interns were given two incentives, one on joining the Internship program and the other on completion of the Internship. They were also given contingency for carrying out their field work.

Valedictory Function:

- i. **Course Completion Certificate:** Out of 19 Interns, 16 successfully completed the Internship. On successful completion of the Internship course and acceptance of the PBR document, completion certificate were issued.

- ii. **Best Intern Award:**

The Interns were assessed on the following:

- i. Class attendance
- ii. Interactive skills in Classes & Field visits
- iii. Field work skills (alertness, survey & observation skills etc)
- iv. Presentation skills

- v. Their understanding of the subject covered through a written examination
- vi. Quality of the final report (PBRs & Documentary)

Ms. Barsha Sarma was awarded the Best Intern of the the 2nd batch of Internship Programme based on overall performance.



Selection test of Interns



Session by Dr. Gajen Sarma



Session by Prof. P.C. Bhattacharjee



Session by A.K. Johari, PCCF (B & CC)



Session by D.P. Bankhwal, PCCF (Wildlife)



Interns with ASBB team and Dr. S Ojah