

# Capacity building of Dolphin Conservation Network members in Gangetic dolphin and River Ecosystem conservation in Brahmaputra river system, Assam



Report prepared by

**Dr. Abdul Wakid, Sunny Deori, Anumitra Phukan**

**Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative, Aaranyak  
50, Samanwoy Path, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati-28  
Assam, India**



## Introduction

Dolphin Conservation Network (DCN) is one of the strongest tools developed by the Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative (GDRCI) of Aaranyak for the long term conservation of the endangered Gangetic dolphin in Brahmaputra river system through local community participation residing in and around 30 priority dolphin habitats. DCN was established in 2008 and showing encouraging results in conserving the Gangetic dolphins in Brahmaputra river system with declining of dolphin mortalities by 60% in 6 years. This is a unique approach for the conservation of this endangered species in India through local community participation. However, to make this effort more successful, there is a need to constantly develop this DCN and its operational procedures based on the threat factors for the species. The project team after a detail review of existing DCN activities and their impacts on dolphin and river ecosystem conservation find out following approaches for DCN members to make the conservation effort successful in DCN site level.

- a. Land based dolphin and habitat monitoring
- b. Monitoring of other aquatic animals available in dolphin habitats
- c. Rescue and release of accidentally caught dolphin in fishing net
- d. Introduce alternate oil to prevent dolphin oil bait fishing
- e. Sustainable fishery development to reduce fishing pressure in dolphin habitats
- f. Community engagement and awareness campaign

One training manual was developed with clear protocols for each of the abovementioned topics as guidance to the DCN members. To train DCN members on these aspects of dolphin conservation, we organized an extensive training to the selected DCN members from 30 DCN sites. Per site we invited two selected community youths to work as Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator in their concerned DCN sites. Thus total 60 DCN members were invited for this training camp.

The training was organised on 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 in Guwahati.

## Training schedule:

Table-1: Schedule of DCN training program

Date	Time	Program schedules	Conducted by
21 <sup>st</sup> of Feb. 2014	13:30 to 14:00	Training session inauguration	Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar
	14:00 to 16:00	Basics of wildlife conservation	Dr. Abdul Wakid
	16:00 to 18:00	Abundance, distribution, ecology and threats of Gangetic dolphin and its conservation in Brahmaputra river system	
22 <sup>nd</sup> of Feb. 2014  (Class room training)	9:00-11:00	Land based dolphin, habitat and other aquatic animal monitoring: field protocols and equipment handling	Dr. Abdul Wakid, Sunny Deori
	11:00-13:00	Rescuing fishing net entangled dolphins; recover dolphin carcass; sustainable fishery development	
	13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
	14:00-16:00	Rescuing fishing net entangled dolphins; Recover Dolphin carcass; Prevention of dolphin oil use	
	16:00-18:00	Awareness campaign for dolphin and river ecosystem conservation	
23 <sup>rd</sup> of Feb. 2014  (Field training)	9:00-13:00	Land based dolphin, habitat and other aquatic animal monitoring: field practice in data collection protocols, data sheet use and handling of GPS, Camera and Binocular	Dr. Abdul Wakid and Sunny Deori
	13:00 to 14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00 to 17:00	Field practice of recovering dolphin carcass, prevention of dolphin oil use, community awareness campaign	
24 <sup>th</sup> of Feb. 2014	09:00 to 13.00	Group discussion, training evaluation	
	13:00 onwards	Camp disburse	

Table-2: List of participants in the DCN training camp

River name	site no.	DCN site name	member sl. no.	Participants list	Districts
Brahmaputra	1.	Mirichapori	1.	Tsiring Tamang	Tinisukia
		Mirichapori	2.	Chanda Koirala	
	2.	Guijaan	3.	Dulal	
		Guijaan	4.	Surjya Das	
	3.	Okland	5.	Suren Urang	Dibrugarh
		Okland	6.	Rahul Singh	
	4.	Dihingmukh	7.	Teju Ram Sonowal	Sibsagar
	5.	Roha	8.	Pramud Chandra Das	Nagaon
	6.	Dhansirimukh	9.	Md. Nurjamal Hoque	Darrang
		Dhansirimukh	10.	Md. Faiuddin Ahmed	
	7.	Kuruwa	11.	Hari Bhuyan	
		Kuruwa	12.	Naba Kumar Das	
	8.	Bohori	13.	Sourav Moral	Barpeta
	9.	Pahumara	14.	Mujammel Hoque	Goalpara
Pahumara		15.	Dilbar Khan		
10.	Pancharatna	16.	Sanowar Hussain		
11.	Baghbor	17.	Surjya Mohan Das	Barpeta	
	Baghbor	18.	Arjun Das		
12.	Jogighopa	19.	Shahinur Hoque	Goalpara	
	Jogighopa	20.	Shajahan Ali		
13.	Chunari	21.	Sahibul Hussain		
14.	Dhubri	22.	Santosh Chowdhury	Dhuburi	
	Dhubri	23.	Sujay Kumar Bin		
Kulsi River	15.	Kukurmara	24.	Gopal Krishna Das	Kamrup
		Kukurmara	25.	Surath Das	
		Kukurmara	26.	Niranjan Das	
		Kukurmara	27.	Samarjit Hazarika	
16.	Somoriya	28.	Ratul Bharali		
Subansiri River	17.	Dikrongmukh	29.	Pranab Jyoti Pegu	Lakhimpur
		Dikrongmukh	30.	Hemchandra Kuli	
	18.	Khabolu	31.	Manuranjan Doley	
		Khabolu	32.	Manuranjan Pegu	

## Activities of DCN training camp



Photo-1: Dr. Bibhab Talukdar (Secretary General, Aaranyak) inaugurating the training camp



Photo-2: Dr. Abdul Wakid (Project Leader) describing the DCN members on the details of Gangetic dolphin



Photo-4: Dr. Abdul Wakid describing the training participants on different education tools for community engagement and awareness activities



Photo-5: Training in the field



Photo-6: DCN members training on GPS use

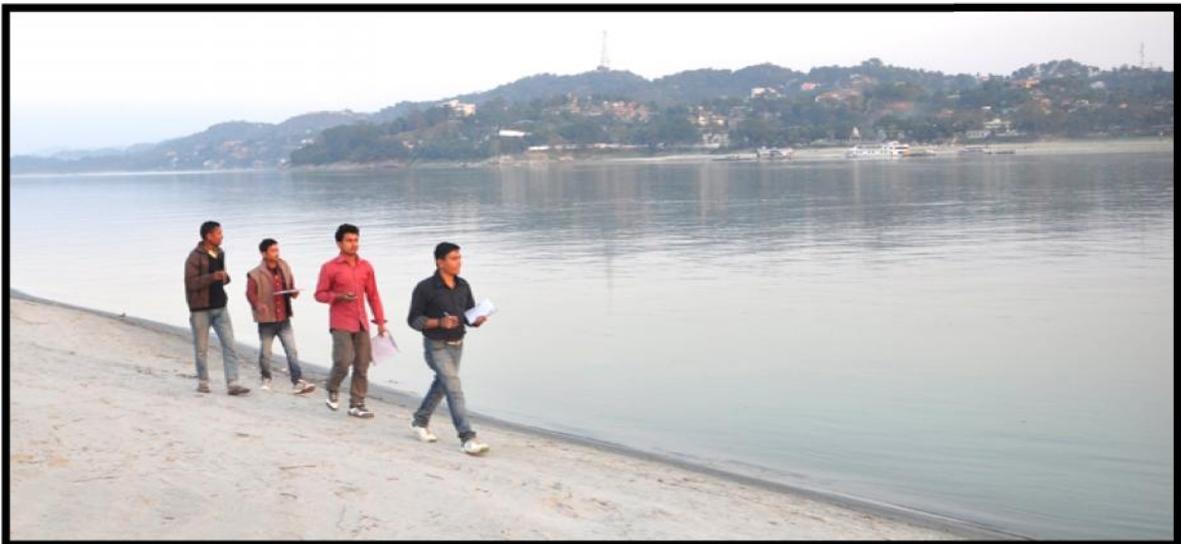


Photo-7: Land based dolphin, habitat and other aquatic animal monitoring practice by DCN members



Photo-3: DCN members during the training camp evaluation