

Project Update: December 2017

Research Output:

A study on Hornbill species was conducted, besides the study of IBA trigger species, on the topic "Status, distribution and threats to conservation of Hornbills in Manipur" was carried out and successfully defended as a dissertation for my MSc course at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. This was done keeping in mind the time duration given to complete my dissertation work i.e. before June 2017. The result of this research was conveniently used as material for the awareness campaign.

Awareness campaigns:

Our team decided on a theme of "SAFE HORNBILL, SAVE FOREST, Let's preserve our heritage" for our awareness campaign as this give us an edge over other topics. Hornbills have cultural significance to the local people in the study area and generally assumed as a bird that identifies the tribal groups living there. We teamed up with Delhi Paite Indongta, a philanthropic organisation based in Delhi comprised of Officers from Churachandpur, Manipur with keen interest in conservation of forest and wildlife. This is to ensure continuity even after the end of the project.

Our team managed to persuade the villagers of Kaihlam to refrain from cutting down a nest tree of an Oriental pied hornbill, which they intend to keep the young ones as a pet. We conducted awareness campaigns among students in Churachandpur district at 11 schools and distributed bookmarks containing pictures of birds and animals and information on their status, threats and protection, in both the town and villages. At the end of each campaign we distribute a questionnaire containing both closed as well as open-ended questions which will help us understand them better in terms of their exposure to wildlife, conservation and how they perceive conservation activities. We received a total of 588 (281 Boys; 307 girls) questionnaire forms.

1. St. Paul's Institute, New Lamka.
2. Ebenezar Academy, New Lamka.
3. Foundation School, Pearson.
4. V.K. Tawna, New Lamka.
5. SSPP Residential School, Ngathal.
6. Rayburn School, New Lamka.
7. Grace English School, Mualnuam Village.
8. Convention English School, Kaihlam Village.
9. J.B. School, Pamzal Village.
10. Convention English School, Bukpi Village.
11. Bukpi Government High School, Bukpi Village.

We also talked to Village Councils at Kaihlam and also conducted public meeting at Mualnuam on what could be the best practices for the conservation of hornbills and wildlife in general. We also distributed calendars (showing pictures of rare birds found in Churachandpur and a fictional story about the need for conservation) in the villages of Mualnuam, Umtal, Sinzang, Kaihlam, Pamzal, Sainoujang and Bukpi.

I also receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Forest Department, Government of Manipur for our contribution towards the Protection and Conservation of Wildlife at the Wildlife Week, 2017 celebration held at Imphal, Manipur.

Awareness Campaign



Left: Bukpi Government High School. Right: Grace English School.



Left: Rayburn School. Right: Siamsinpawlpi School.



Left: St. Paul's Institute. Right: VK Tawna School.



Left: Group photo with Rayburn High School. Right: Group photo with village elders.



Left: Interaction with Mualnuam villagers. Right: Team members.



Left: Poster on Hornbills presented at Wildlife Week, 2017. Right: Wildlife Week, 2017.