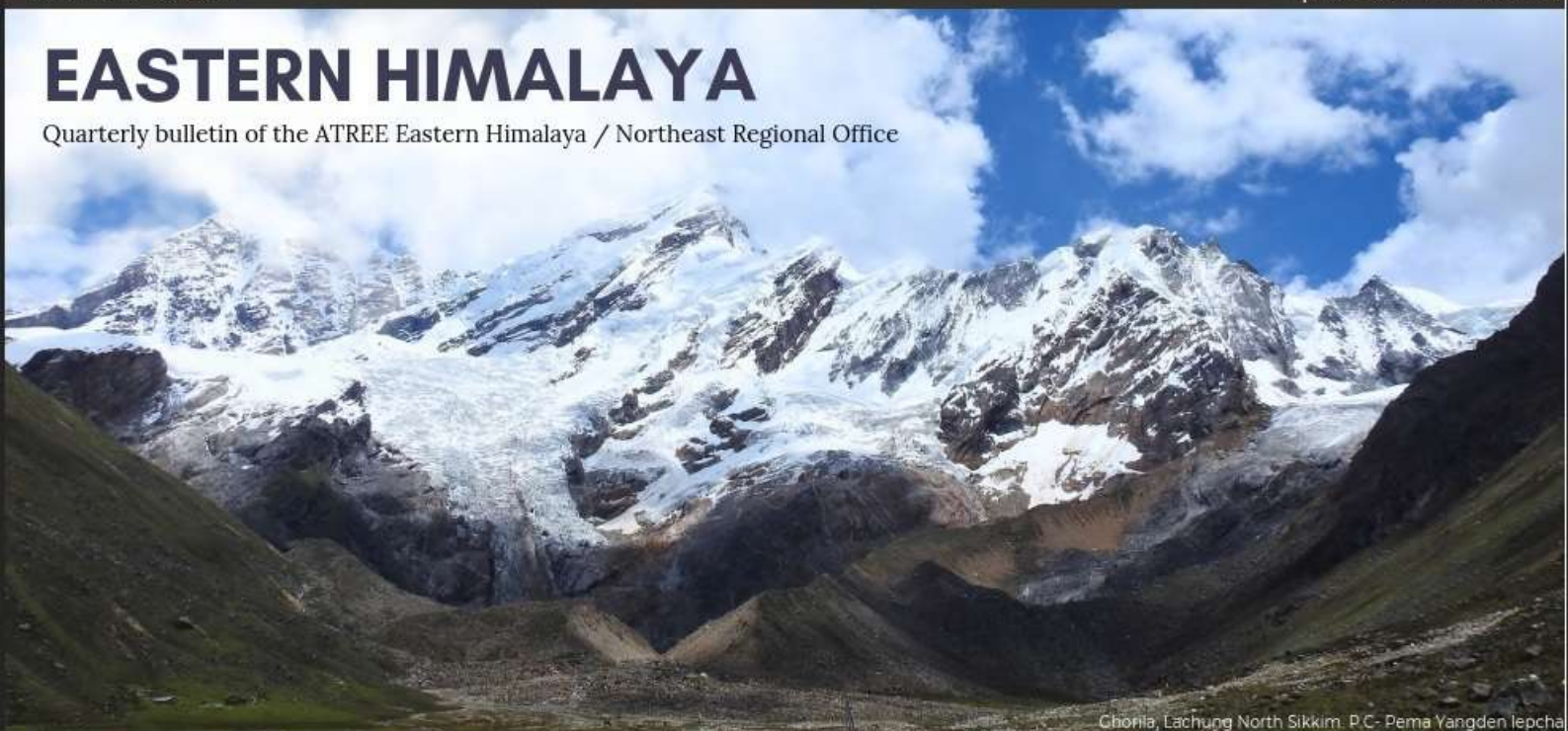


EASTERN HIMALAYA

Quarterly bulletin of the ATREE Eastern Himalaya / Northeast Regional Office



Choni, Lachung North Sikkim. P.C- Pema Yangden Iepcha

Skill developed through birding: A guide training in Ambik, Kalimpong

A two-day birding guide training was organised in Ambik Busty, Kalimpong District, to promote bird-based tourism in the Himalayan regions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Held on June 28 and 29, 2025, the training focused on building the capacity of local community members from Ambik Busty and surrounding villages. A total of 22 aspiring guides from five villages participated in the training.

Organised by ATREE and supported by the Rufford Foundation (K) through the Rufford Small Grant, the training aimed to promote bird conservation by engaging local unemployed youths and exploring alternative livelihoods through bird tourism. Participants were introduced to bird and butterfly identification, citizen science tools for biodiversity documentation, field equipment handling, key Himalayan bird groups, and guiding skills.

The technical sessions were led by experienced resource persons from Darjeeling and included a mix of classroom learning, field-based training, and hands-on practice. During field sessions, participants successfully identified and recorded 39 bird species.

The training concluded with a feedback session, where participants shared that the training helped spark a sense of responsibility towards birds and wildlife in their landscape. This was the 10th such training conducted in the landscape, and such community-based initiatives are expected to support conservation efforts in non-protected areas that serve as important biodiversity corridors and repositories.

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Participants proudly display their certificates after the successful completion of the training. P.C- Aditya Pradhan