

Teachers Training Workshop of Lower Dibang Valley Cluster, Assam-Arunachal Pradesh landscape

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As part of the Conservation of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon in Assam-Arunachal Pradesh landscape through education-awareness & community conservation practices (CHGAAP) project, an initiative to protect and conserve the Eastern Hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*), a two day teachers training cum awareness workshop was organized by ENVIRON in partnership with Aitijya, SSA, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Environment and Forest, Govt. of AP & KICES (Kera - A Initiative for Cultural and Ecological Security) a local Roing based NGO at Mishmi Hill Camp, Lower Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh.



The young and passionate Team ENVIRON

The training programme was organized on 15 and 16th September, 2016 with the support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The formal inauguration meeting was attended by Ego Doye, DDSE (LDV District), Obang Langkam, BEO, Roing, Jibi Pulu (President KICES) and Mite Lingi, Vice-Chairman, KICES). Ego Doye spoke about the ecological importance of conserving Hoolock gibbon and emphasized on the vital role that can be played by the teachers in this regard. He said that the teachers are the future builders of the nation; they are the best carriers of conservation message to students, in particular and the society as a whole. He also lauded the efforts of ENVIRON in this regard. A total of 32 teachers participated in the training programme, which included both government and private schools of Lower Dibang Valley district.

Langkam talked briefly on the traditional beliefs and taboos that the Idu-Mishmi and Adi tribes possess regarding Hoolock gibbon. Jibi Pulu as a local partner/organizer of the event formally welcomed all the participants to the programme.



Education and outreach session

Lingi of KICES in his speech praised ENVIRON and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the specially tailored training targeting the teacher community, as they can play a crucial role to achieve long term conservation of Gibbon and its habitat.

The two day training programme involved three technical sessions viz., (i) Education and outreach programme: Concept and implementation (ii) Developing education material/effective means of awareness and (iii) Best practices of training. These technical sessions were interspersed with energizers, various team building and interactive activities and brief presentations.

Kuladip Sarma, Principal Investigator of the CHGAAP Project started the technical programme with a brief presentation on the introduction of the Eastern Hoolock gibbon which included its ecological and conservation importance. The first technical session on the 'Education and outreach programme: Concept and implementation' was conducted by Mr. Kamal



Presentation on Hoolock Gibbon

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Certificate received with Hooleck posture

Narjinary, followed by the second session on 'Developing education material/effective means of awareness' which was conducted jointly by Narjinary and Sarma. The first day of the programme was concluded with 'day recap' segment conducted by Shah Nawaz and Sarma.

The second day of the training programme began with an interactive session and a team building activity conducted by the volunteers Shah Nawaz, Neeharika and Dipika. It was then followed by an extensive presentation on 'Primate Distribution and Conservation Importance' by Bidyut Sarania who has been working on Primates in Arunachal Pradesh as part of his Doctoral research. The presentation brought to light all the nine species of primates present in Arunachal Pradesh. In this session, teachers were also involved in an environmental game where they formed groups to name and identify different primate species of the region, followed by a talk by Sarma on the project activities carried out as part of the CHGAAP project along with its aims and importance. Post-lunch presentation was conducted by Anjan Sangma on the handling and rescue of wildlife species. He primarily stressed on

the dos and don'ts during an animal/wildlife encounter. The final technical session was conducted by Sarma on the best practices of training students and raising awareness among young minds. It included the distribution of various training manuals among the teacher participants and explanation of various methods of training for school students.

Participating teachers ponder actively in this session by coming up with innovative ideas, which can be used to spread the message of conservation among students. These ideas/various techniques were finally handed to the organizing team. In his concluding remarks, Sarma reiterated that this was only the first section of the CHGAAP activities and that this training session would be followed up by school visits later on which would include conducting follow up assessment activities among students to assess whether the conservation message delivered through this teachers training programme actually reached the young minds or not.

An interactive part of the last technical session was that the teachers were provided with map of the Lower Dibang Valley and were advised to identify their school locations in the maps. After this, the teachers were divided into four groups based on their locations of their school. This grouping exercise will act to the benefit of the CHGAAP project during the follow up on the schools.

The two-day programme was successfully concluded with a brief valedictory function and Sarma in his concluding remarks thanked all the teachers on behalf of ENVIRON for their active involvement. He also praised the generous support extended by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Education Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh along with all the collaborating agencies.



Workshop participants