



**Nature Environment
& Wildlife Society**



Annual Report 2018-19





From the desk of Secretary

Greetings to all on behalf of NEWS team.

During last one year we have been successful in implementing some of the important biodiversity components in different Mangrove Landscapes. We could address some of the basic problems of this fragile ecosystem in order to reduce human pressure on the natural resources and reduce man-animal conflicts.

Since formation, one of our prime target was to give the organization an institutional structure. We could move one step forward by initiating a "Wildlife Management Course" jointly with Vidyasagar University. Still there is long way to go.

Another success story is formation of a Farmer Producers' Company "Badabon Harvest" involving our stakeholders in Sundarban who practise pesticide-free farming. We thank West Bengal Government for supporting us by providing us stalls in Kolkata and transport vehicle.

The Society has joined hands with Zoological Survey of India and Calcutta University in formulating a baseline data of Fishing Cat, the State Animal of West Bengal, all over the state. Thanks to The Biodiversity Board of West Bengal for funding the programme.

The contract of Consultancy with JSW steel, Dolvi, Maharashtra, for "Restoration of Mangrove" along Dharamtar Ceek, has been renewed for another two years.

I sincerely thank RBS Foundation, JSW Steel, Global Nature Fund, Germany and Livelihoods, Paris for their patronage.

I am grateful to Calcutta University, Zoological Survey of India, West Bengal Forest Department, Biodiversity Board of West Bengal and Vidyasager University for extending their hands for protection of Biodiversity and conservation of ecosystem.

Finally, I convey my hearty greetings to our spirited team members by whose tireless efforts could make the programmes of NEWS a great success.

Looking towards a greener tomorrow.



Biswajit Roy Chowdhury
Secretary



List of Governing Body Members

President	Dr. J.R.B Alfred
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Secretary	Mr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhury
Joint Secretary and Programme Director	Ms. Ajanta Dey
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From the desk of Joint Secretary

Greetings to all friends, well-wishers, patrons, advisors and partners !

An year passed that saw 'dreams come true' for NEWS.

Resilient coasts are one such dream for NEWS, and where it is a mangrove dominated landscape, the latter are the key biodiversity component around which the ecosystem services emanate. We have been successful in pursuing Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture (IMA) with the funding partners and fisher communities have willingly agreed to be part of it. But any innovation is bound to have its challenges and so does IMA. Intently, NEWS is finding ways to find solutions and go ahead with the plan.

'Badabon harvest' brand, owned by farmers' producer company of mangrove stewards, has been launched and 'no pesticide' farm produce is catered to customers in Kolkata, through 'Jaibo Haat'- organic farmers market.

The manual Honey Filtration Unit is in place in Samsernagar, North 24 parganas in Sundarban and the 'Moulis' (honey collectors) are trained for sustainable harvest of wild honey (colonies of *Apis dorsata*), organised into groups linked to 'Badabon harvest' and has received the PGS organic certification. It is bottled, packaged and in the shelves of stores.

NEWS in association with Vidyasagar University, initiated the first "Wildlife management" certificate course in the eastern India.

NEWS is working in the project on status survey of Fishing cat, the state animal for West Bengal – finding a baseline all over the state, funded by West Bengal Biodiversity Board, which NEWS has been pursuing since last ten years.

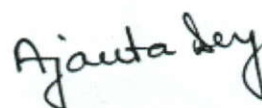
We have now friends all over South Asia, South East Asia in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Phillipines, Thailand- with sincere commitments towards mangrove conservation in a network, in partnership with Global Nature Fund, Germany.

We express our sincere gratitude to Royal bank of Scotland, Department of Environment, Department of Forests, Department of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Department of Minor Irrigation, Animal Resource Development Department, Government of West Bengal for keeping faith on us. NEWS will leave no stone unturned into achieving the desired outputs. We have also partnered with several institutions, working with various academic and scientific Institutes like Kolkata University, Vidya Sagar University, Central Institute of Fisheries Education etc.

Above all, the applause goes to NEWS team and I am really thankful to have them with us.


Another year beckons to have success stories generated, documented and disseminated to enthuse and excite others into carrying on these initiatives, for a better world, a wise planet who knows how to use their resources sustainably.

Wishes for a vibrant year ahead and a lot more of joint strides, only turning back to look at the cross- roads.



Ajanta Dey

Joint Secretary & Programme Director



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS), founded in 1991, is an N.G.O. The primary focus of the organization is to conserve wildlife, ecology, natural resources and sustainable livelihoods for an improved environment. NEWS is a name of conviction in the conservation circle through its work, passion and dedication. The organization work for a better future where scientific research, knowledge dissemination, community engagement and policy advocacy are put together to achieve sustainable development. In this fast changing world, conservation is a continuous process where new challenges emerge every day. There is no such milestone in conservation which can be achieved once and for all. However, the process must adjust to social, economic, environmental and scientific advancements. The organization believes that without community's empowerment and participation no amount of effort can sustain any threatened or vulnerable ecosystem, livelihood or natural resources.

Vision :

Ensure Sustainable and functioning ecosystems for a wise planet

Mission :

To protect and restore the ecosystems and its services, the flora-fauna and their habitat for humanity

Objectives :

- Conservation - Protection of species, habitat, ecology through research, planning and demonstrative projects.
- Evaluation - Documentation, monitoring, sustainable use of ecosystems and its services
- Resilience - Identify, explore and recommend specific actions to mitigate and adapt to risks, esp in the context of climate change
- Awareness - Inform and educate
- Stewardship - Build ownerships of local communities
- Advocacy - Address policy related issues
- Synergy - Bring stakeholders together
- Gender - Sensitisation and empowerment



Head office: 10, Chowringhee Terrace, Kolkata 700020

**Branch Offices: Sundarban – Ramganga, Kumirmari, Canning, Kakdwip
Dumurdaha-Takipara, Hooghly district, West Bengal
Katwa, Bardhaman District, West Bengal
Dangamal, Bhitarkanika-Odisha**

Committed to the vision, mission and objectives of the organization, Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS) believes that an ecosystem based landscape approach can find situation specific socio-economic and ecological solutions that are nature-based, community driven with long term protection and monitoring objectives, built from and within the system. Thus, it has developed landscape programmes in the mangrove dominated coastal landscapes; also working in the terai-dooars region, in the riverine landscapes, urban environments etc for building resilient ecosystems through conserving species, restoring habitats, implementing conservation linked livelihood models, establishing robust value chains, raising awareness, doing research and studies, influencing policy decisions and empowering communities esp women through stewardship development.



Mangrove Hue

Coastal landscape programme:

Climate change and sea level rise are denting the coastal habitats. The number and intensity of the tropical storms and cyclones are on the rise and the year witnessed major cyclone Gaja in the southern Indian coast. The need for the presence of mangroves in the transition zones from marine ecosystem to the terrestrial ecosystem is felt time and again, since Tsunami in 2004. However, degradation of these coastal bio-shields continues. NEWS has its presence in the three important mangrove dominant landscapes in India, working for restoration of habitats in Sundarban-West Bengal, Bhitarkanika-Odisha and Dolvi/Raigad-Maharashtra.



Sumatinagar, Sagar island, Sundarban

Restoring habitats:

Through large scale mangrove afforestation projects in Sundarban-West Bengal, NEWS has developed robust community-based mangrove restoration models based on scientific assessment of the physio-chemical parameters of the hydrological and soil systems for site selection, species selection, plantation, monitoring and integrating communities in it.

This year in Sundarban, West Bengal mangrove restoration work continued in Sumatinagar-Dhaspara, Hatipita, Bahirplot in Sagar block, Buraburir tot/Gobardhanpur in Patharpratima block, Lakshmipur-Madhusudanpur in Kakdwip block and Manmathanagar in Gosaba block and also in Dolvi-Raigad region of Maharashtra.



Google Earth image showing the location of the mangrove plantation at Buraburir tat.

Nurseries are maintained by women groups, plantation and monitoring is also done by them. Different species of mangroves, like *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Avicennia alba* etc are planted depending on bio-physical characteristics of the selected site. 6 nurseries are set up with the women groups and one central nursery was developed by the women group of Amlamethi village, Bali island, Gosaba block.

Protection of the mangroves by the stewards, residing close to the afforested areas, is maintained through a monthly Mangrove Watch Report (MWR). It generates data by the communities with respect to growth, canopy cover, pest attacks, grazing problem etc. This helps in adopting mitigating policies to combat threats on the mangrove forests in the Sundarban Biosphere region, close to the inhabited islands.



Visit of BSI team

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) are engaged in third party evaluation of the mangrove plantation sites to quantify the survival rate, growth index and viability of the plantation on a long term.

At **Dolvi**, Raigad district of Maharashtra NEWS is engaged in restoring mangroves. The year ended with a total number 3,06,942 mangrove saplings planted and grown, in last three years, planted by 2672 members of 192 SHGs in 7 Gram Panchayats. It is observed that around 95% saplings are surviving in good health.

Conservation linked livelihood models:

In **Bhitarakanika-Odisha**, the communities live close to the National park in the eco-sensitive zone. The project site Rajnagar block has been identified by the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) as amongst the most vulnerable blocks in India to climate induced natural disasters. Local communities are exposed to frequent impact of cyclones, saline inundation and mono-crop rainfed agriculture.

NEWS built resilience through climate smart adaptations in creating food and livelihood security in this fragile landscape and strengthening of governance and management by empowering Eco Development Committees. An evaluation by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) along with Mangroves for Future, IUCN was conducted in October,



Meeting with beneficiaries-Bhitarakanika, Odisha



Mangrove Plantation at Dolvi, Maharashtra



Mangrove Nursery, Raigad, Maharashtra

2018. At Dolvi, in the district of Raigad, Maharashtra trainings and skill development on integrated farming models with demonstration plots and handholding are done for the mangrove stewards who took active role in protecting and restoring the mangroves. A study conducted among the Self Help Group (SHG) members to evaluate the utilisation of their earnings revealed that 11% of the earnings were spent for Children education, 15% were invested for repairing of houses, 20% were invested to procure fish seed and feed, 17% of earnings from the project were spent for buying agricultural seeds, 10% for making kitchen garden, 8% for developing poultry and rest were utilised for miscellaneous household purposes.



Fish harvest in ponds, Sumatinagar, Sundarban

In **Sundarban**, focus was on developing fishery-based enterprise in the remote islands in a sustainable way. Mangroves being the nursery of fishes, finfishes, crabs etc, a significant section of the Sundarban population is dependent on riverine fish resources. The impact of climate change, increasing salinity, and pollution has reduced commercial fish catch in the rivers and small fishers venture deep inside the forest for better catch, thus increasing the risk of man-animal conflict. NEWS has brought the slogan – “CAPTURE TO CULTURE” and is encouraging various innovative climate smart family farming integrations in the agricultural practices to establish sustained sources of income in the villages, thus reducing dependence on the forest resources. Spawn rearing of Indian Major Carp (IMC) in nursery ponds for a quick return, brackish water fish rearing in suitable ponds, scientific management of ponds with water quality checks and low-cost homemade feed are



Training on pond management, Kumirmari, Sundarban

some of the initiatives undertaken. Essentially to create a value chain within the village the selection of fish farmers have been done, as per their pond area and skills such that the spawn reared to fry, and then to fingerlings and finally to grow-out ponds are in a chain, within the village.



Handholding of freshwater pisciculture, Patharpratima Block, Sundarban

NEWS partnered with Government initiatives in digging long canals to harvest rain water for agriculture and fisheries. Water Users Associations(WUA) have been instituted for community governance. Regular trainings, handholding for fish culture management are being done in Amtali Mouza, Kumirmari island of Gosaba block, Srinarayanpur, Purba Surendranagar of Patharpratima block. Orchard plantation has been done along the embankment of the canal schemes with saplings of Coconut, Betelnut, Sapota, Papaya and Drumstick plants. Use of vermicompost is encouraged for nurturing of these orchards. NEWS also facilitated demonstration centres with Skip Row method for local varieties of paddy (Dudheswar and Karpurkanti), that can sustain the climate hazards in the context of the Sundarban.



Canals excavated in Purba Surendranagar, Sundarban

Situation specific ecosystem-based climate smart integrated farming approaches, with no pesticide use, has been propagated among the mangrove stewards and marginal and small farmers, intent on reviving their soil health, adapting to the changing climatic conditions. Simple, low cost vermi composting models are designed; importance of the practice of use of local seed, seed treatment, crop diversification, crop rotation, bio-pesticides, bio-inoculants have been explained and implemented. This will encourage good agricultural practice (GAP) and will help in improving the nutritional content of the diet.



Vermicompost Model at Amtoli village, Gosaba block, Sundarban

Around 400 such farmers have started adopting such practice, and their capacities are increased through development of organisational structures at the community level, resource based termed as Badabon farmers Interest Groups (BFIG), where the 'Badabon' is the Bengali word for mangroves. Again, market oriented Badabon Farmers Producer Company Limited (BFPCL) is formed with the brand name 'Badabon Harvest', where the BFIG's are members and the former cater to the lucrative Kolkata market, only 100 kms away from the production site. A supply chain from 'Farm to fork' is being developed, where the farmers are selling at various 'Joibo haats'(organic farmers market) in and



'Joibohat' Farmers Market of Kolkata

around Kolkata. The year saw lot of brain storming in developing the brand name, logo and finally launching of the producers' company.

For empowering women and providing alternate income, NEWS has initiated the Backyard Poultry farming (BYPF) model based on the traditional chicks rearing practice of women in their backyards. It has been scientifically structured with improved breed of RIR (Rhode Island Red) bred chicks, construction of poultry houses, vaccination trainings and low-cost feed

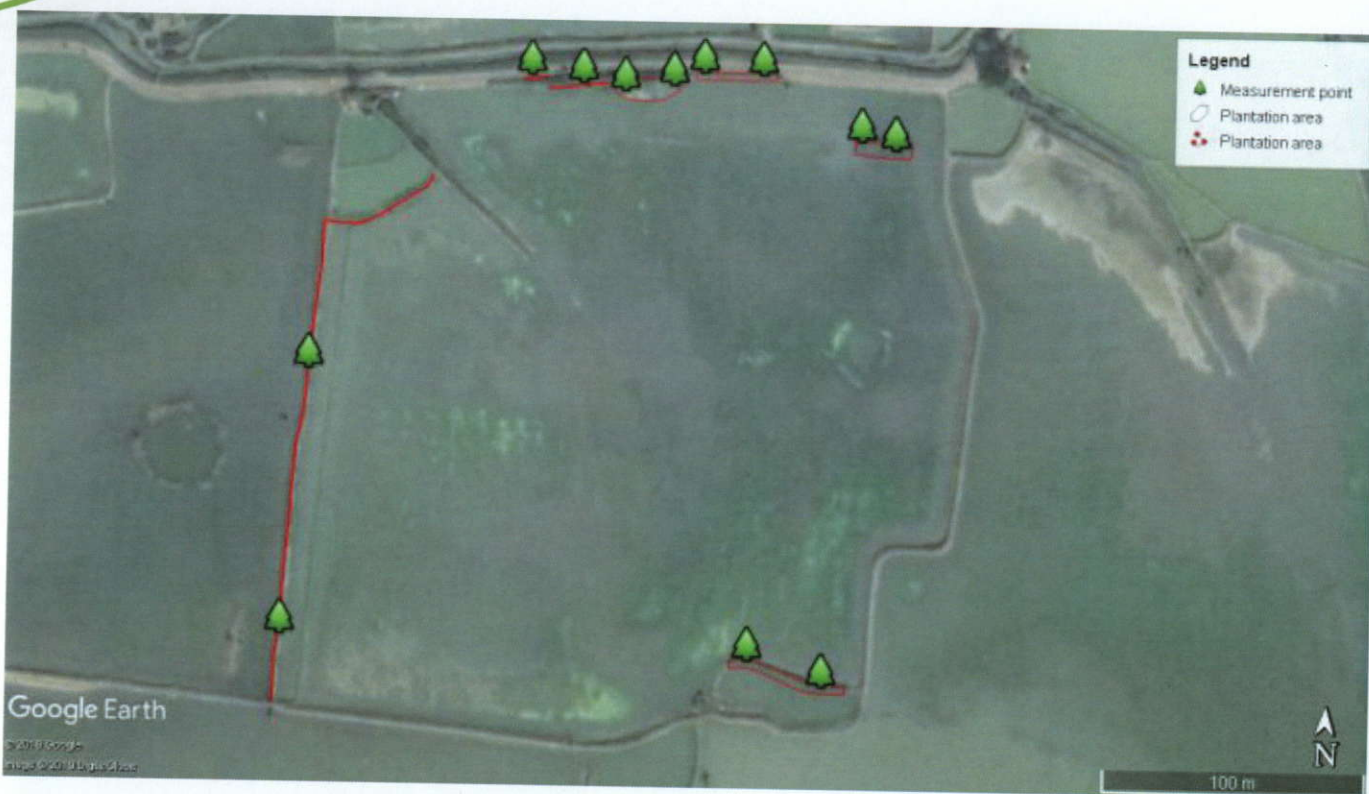


Training on Feed preparation -Backyard Poultry Farming- Kakdwip, Sundarban

management. It may be noted that these women used to venture to rivers and creeks to catch juvenile shrimps for cash income, attracting health hazards and other risks including crocodile attack. Eggs and meat, produced in the regular course, are being sold to the local market. They have also been linked with the value chain of 'Badabon harvest' for better price realisation. This conservation linked livelihood augmenting programme has come out with mention-worthy outcome in this short span attracting more women of this coastal area who are expressing their willingness to adopt this alternative livelihood practice.



Distribution of chicks, Gobardhanpur village, Sundarban



Site map showing plantation areas - Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture (IMA) - (IMA) North 24 Parganas

Encroachment on mangrove forests for shrimp cultivation is a threat all along the South Asia and South-East Asia coastal landscapes. It is a tragedy that the perpetrators for these unsustainable shrimp culture practice ignore the basic functional relationships of mangrove, shrimps and crabs. NEWS has been trying to find solutions and are indebted to ALDI SÜD, KFW, DEG and Shore to support this innovative project in Sundarban of introducing **Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture** (IMA). IMA shrimp culture models are

implemented in Madhusudanpur, Kultali block in South 24 Paraganas and Andulpota in North 24 Paraganas districts. The ponds are excavated and designed in a way to include mangroves in the dykes, in small islands within the ponds to integrate the mangrove leaf litter dynamics as feed source in a semi closed system. However, there are challenges especially to the land classification and ownership, besides other technical gaps. Demonstration plots are being instituted which can act as a model for replication.

Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture



Pre plantation situation



Plantation with the help of local community



Post plantation situation



Measuring the height of saplings



Counting leaf



Watering the saplings



Beehive-*Apis Dorsata*



Manual Honey Filtration unit- Samsernagar, South 24 Parganas

Sundarban honey is famous for its aroma and taste. A completely organic honey, the nectar is sourced from the mangrove flowers in the natural estuarine landscape during the period of February to April by the wild honeybee named *Apis dorsata*. The honey collectors, 'Moulis', venture deep inside the mangrove forest to collect the honey from the beehives of the wild rock bees. The collection is risky in a landscape where tigers dwell on the land and crocodiles in the water. It involves teamwork, high risk, manual and laborious harvesting method. Seasonal activity spanning over 2 – 3 months, there is no proper storage system for raw honey; hence the Moulis are often forced to sell at a very low market price, very low return in comparison to effort and risks. The unending debt ('Dadon') cycle with 'Mahajan' (money lenders) charging high interest rate for the debt, absence of proper filtration makes scanty prospects for the marginal 'Moulis' in the prevailing market chain.

NEWS is committed to build value chain around mangroves and thus establishing a Honey Filtration Unit (HFU) was top on the list. The 'Moulis' from Samsernagar village, under Sundarban Tiger Reserve are trained for sustainable harvest of wild honey, to control the moisture content, and then it is filtered manually this year under the guidance of Department of Food Technology and Biochemical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata maintaining the standards. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nimpith has also been consulted for their guiding advice. The honey has received PGS-organic certification, bottled, labelled and in the shelves of the stores. However the story around honey has just started and NEWS intends to bring indigenous bees in apiculture to reduce the necessity of venturing for a risky livelihood option. The main challenge is to maintain the natural quality of honey and development of proper value chain system, where the benefit can go directly to the marginal honey collectors.



Final Product of Honey

Fuel efficiency and green energy- An improved version of traditional cook stoves has been constructed in households of Sundarban which have reduced 39% fuelwood consumption. Gobar gas plant has also been constructed which has reduced fuel wood dependency.



Gobar gas plant- Manmathanagar, Sundarban

Roadside Plantation- Every year Panchayats get good funds for such plantation activity. However, the mix of species are mostly arbitrary and survival rate is not good. NEWS got engaged in roadside/village side embankment plantation to demonstrate the mix of plants that should consider various uses like fodder, fuel, wood, horticulture plants and also fig trees which attract biodiversity. In Kumirmari island under Gosaba block, one such demonstration avenue is made with 300 plants including mango (*Mangifera indica*), jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), sapota (*Manilkara zapota*), guava (*Psidium guajava*), jamrul (*Syzygium aqueum*). Two hundred plants of Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) and mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) are taken from the nursery developed by the women groups, trained by the project team.

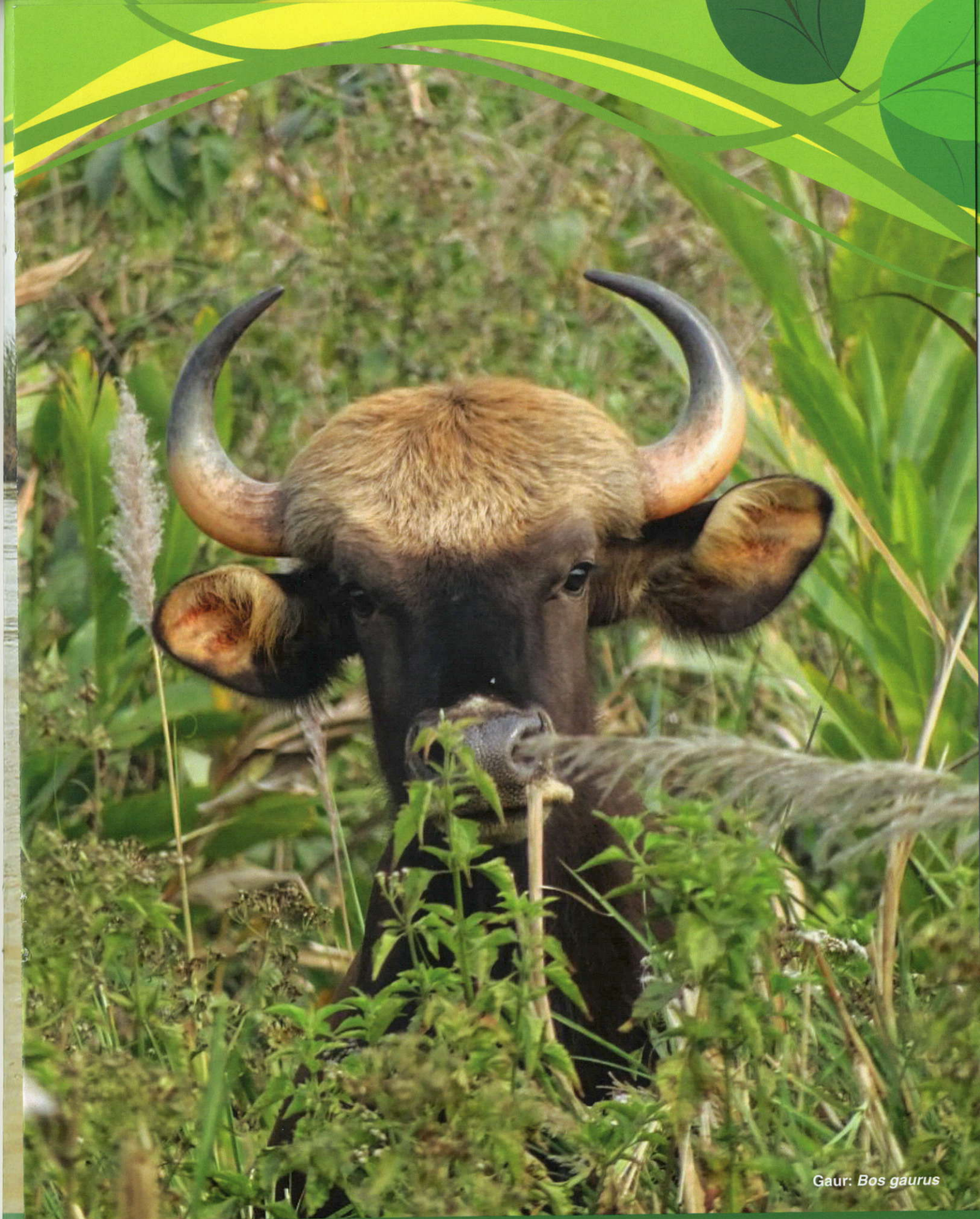


Terai-Dooars landscape:

Restoring habitats:

Terai dooars region in West Bengal, located in the Darjeeling Himalayan foothills is represented by the floodplains of River Teesta and the Himalayan foothills. It is characterised by grasslands, savannas, dense mixed wet forests, moist deciduous forests, Himalayan sub-tropical broadleaf forests, semi evergreen forests etc. Besides Teesta, the whole region is crisscrossed by several rivers like Mahananda, Jaldhaka, Raidhak, Sankosh, Torsha and their tributaries. The terai- dooars region of Bengal harbours various well-known protected areas such as Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gorumara National Park, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Buxa Tiger Reserve, and several other forests like Khairabari Reserve forest, Jayanti forest, Chilapata forest etc. The river Teesta has divided the North Bengal region into two parts: the eastern Dooars and the western Terai. NEWS has been consistently working in this region since inception.

This year, NEWS is engaged in a research project studying the impact of the habitat management practices by Forest department especially grassland restoration and canopy manipulation on herbivores in Jaldapara National Park (NP), Gorumara NP and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) of North Bengal. The impact of grassland restoration in Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP has been carried out. All the archived documents from the Forest Department has been collected and reviewed thoroughly. Vegetation analysis, soil collection and herbivore observation has been done seasonally and is continuing.



Gaur: *Bos gaurus*



Hilsa in the market: *Tenulosa ilisha*

Riverine landscapes:

Rivers are backbone of civilization, as we know that early human civilisations all developed around major rivers because rivers carry rich resources. India is blessed with numerous rivers, which accounts for its innumerable freshwater and brackish water ecosystems.

Conservation linked livelihood models:

Hilsa fish, *Tenulosa ilisha*, is dwindling in the Bengal rivers because of unsustainable harvesting. The West Bengal government announced a fishing ban in 2013 and declared five hilsa sanctuaries on the Hooghly river from Farakka to Sagar, covering a stretch of 250 km that included districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Bardhaman, Hooghly, Howrah, Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts. Other aspects of the ban include ban on catching, marketing, transportation and possessing juveniles less than 23 cm in length, ban on using monofilament gill nets having mesh size less than 90mm, ban on bottom trawling within 12 nautical miles of the continental shelf, ban on putting up bag nets, scoop nets and small meshed gill nets along the migratory route during February to April and complete ban on fishing within 5 sq. km of Farakka

barrage to protect the spawning site.

This meant the need for planning for alternative livelihood for hilsa fishermen, especially those in the riverine stretch.

Balagarh Block region falls within the geographical boundary of this Hilsa sanctuary. As a result, livelihood of approximately twelve thousand river fishers of this block has been affected. NEWS is working with Dumurdaha-Takipara Fish Cooperative Society (FCS) in Balagarh, as a pilot to augment alternative livelihood Options of Fishermen through Comprehensive Development (Integrated Farming). The existing ponds of the FCS are re-excavated and other land shaping has been done for semi-intensive farming of carps and one pond for nursery rearing and advanced fingerling raising has been earmarked. Artificial pearl culture in pond, construction of shed for installation of a small fish feed mill, animal husbandry integration through rearing of indigenous poultry birds (Vanaraja) in tunnel, establishment of vermi-compost unit in the pond bank, construction of bio-pesticide unit, aerial horticulture in the pond embankments has been done. Induced breeding of Magur (*Clarias magur*) was performed



Vermicompost pit : Takipara, Dumurdaha

during July, 2018 using low cost portable infrastructural facility and technology transferred to the community. Resultant hatchlings were reared for one month in aquariums to produce fry, which were released in a pond for grow-out culture. To support free movement of small vehicles inside the complex, a road has also been constructed on the pond embankments. Trainings and continuous handholding is being imparted, which is key to support FCS in this endeavor.

The entire approach is situation specific and ecosystem based looking at integration of a basket of livelihoods to mitigate the conflict between livelihood and conservation and find the scope for alternate livelihood options for river fishers.



Training of farmers on Artificial pearl culture in freshwater ponds; Balasore, Odisha



Implementation at Balagarh, Hooghly, West Bengal



Awareness programme on Snakes : Kumirmari Sundarban

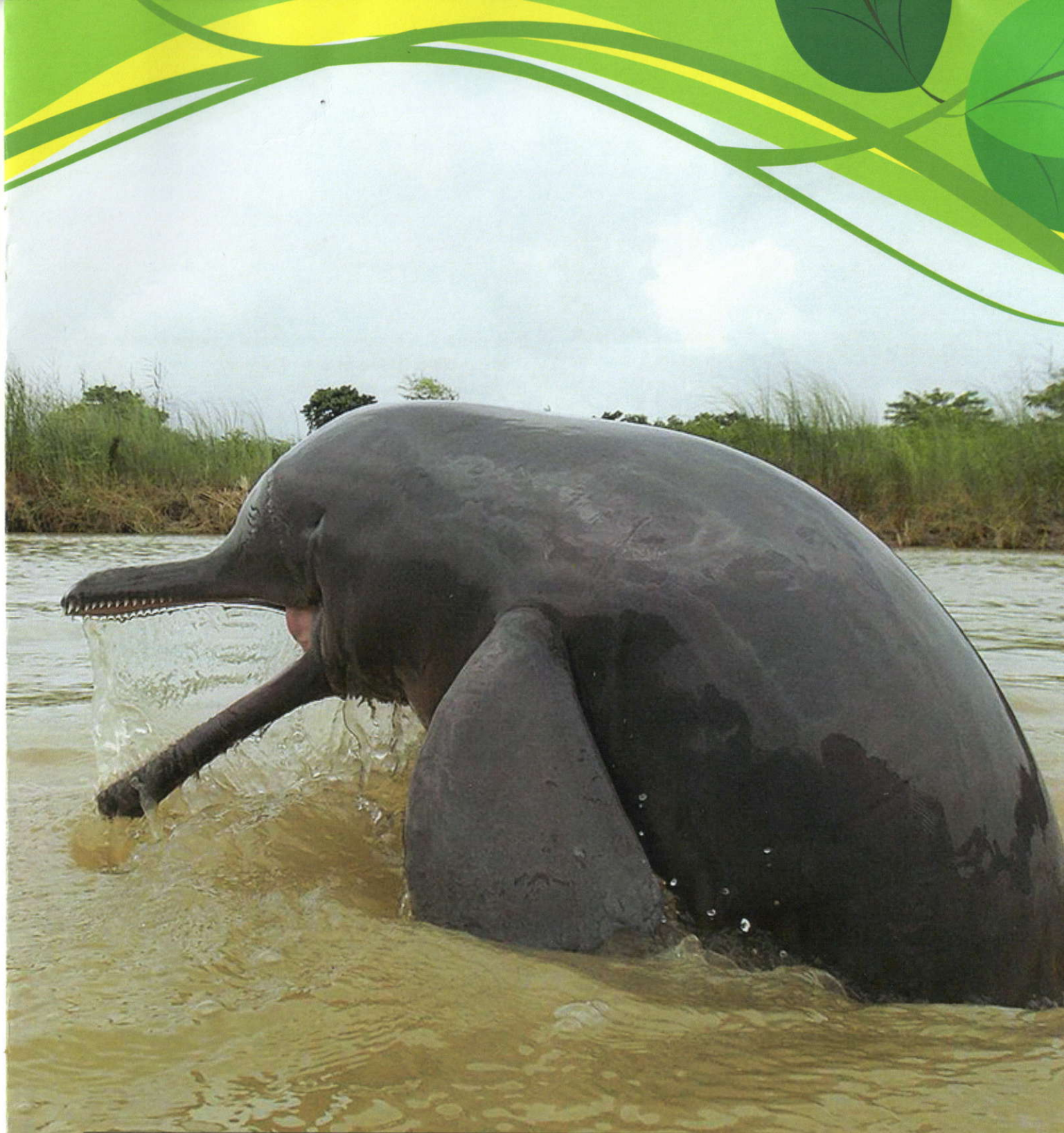
Conserving species:

Snakes: NEWS team is relentlessly working to protect the snakes in the wild. The floodplains of River Bhagirathi-Hooghly are shelters to various type of snakes like Russell's viper, Indian cobra which often visit the houses of the rural Bengal esp the paddy containers in search of rodents and snake killing becomes a regular phenomenon. The team raises awareness on the habits of the species, its importance in the ecosystem and need for maintaining cleanliness to avoid them at houses. The team is engaged in rescuing snakes and then releasing into the wild in close association with the Forest Department.

Similar campaigns are organised in Kumirmari village, Sundarban where deaths due to snake bites are common mainly from the common krait. The do's and don'ts after a snake bite, and also precautions, cleanliness to avoid snake bites are preached in village gatherings.



Snake rescue by NEWS Team at Katwa, Burdwan, West Bengal



Dolphins: A team- 'Dolphin mitra' is working in the Katwa region to raise awareness on saving dolphins. It happens that the dolphins get entangled in the fishers' net and then eventually dies. Continuous patrolling is made esp during the monsoon time at the confluence of the River Ajoy and Bhagirathi-Hooghly river. Also, an island named Nayachar, near Purbasthali confluence, is being manned by NEWS to protect the nesting site of the birds and also their roosting site during migratory season. Thousands of pratincole, ruddy shelduck, osprey, Honey buzzard are seen. The team works hand in hand with Katwa range office, Forest Department.



Urban environments

NEWS believes that biodiversity renders an array of ecosystem services for urban communities, beyond aesthetics, without which urban life cannot sustain. Trees and foliage contribute to the reduction of ambient temperatures, thus ameliorating climate. Large trees and shrubs reduce wind velocity and reduce evaporation of soil moisture. Plants are also useful in architecture, erosion control, watershed protection, wastewater management, noise abatement and air pollution control. Many reasons for protecting biodiversity in urban areas are often highly utilitarian.

But the implementation of conservation programs in urban areas is among the most difficult problems faced by conservation practitioners. The main problem is destruction of natural habitats and their conversion to other uses as cities sprawl outward. It is very unique to note in spite of such developmental aggression, various species find their way and adapt to the changed surroundings; but some polluting human habits, lack of cleanliness bring problem to urban life and texture, with man-animal conflict in the rise.

NEWS is engaged in a most challenging project of rehabilitation of Jackals from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata. It started in 2017 and this year innovative solutions are taken up. Different methods like trapping through cage by baiting regularly, deployment of trapping camera to identify the corridors, closing up the periphery to secure the boundary, regular cleaning of debris, specially designed cages (as they seem to be very clever and can easily identify that these baits are actually cages meant for trapping and after the first trap, the pack avoid it; hence continuous innovations in the trap system had to be invented) were all tried and yielded result but not enough to contain these prolific breeders. This year saw the engagement of the specialized team "The Narikurevar Tribe", who are brought from Tamilnadu in order to trap jackals and trace

their dens. The trapped jackals were handed over to the Wildlife Wing, Department of Forests, Govt of West Bengal for release into the wild.

Sustainable lifestyles – Sustainable production need complementary back up with sustainable consumption. The agricultural products sourced from the mangrove stewards of Sundarban are being catered to the Kolkata residents through 'Jaibo Haats' (Organic farmers market), where the farmers directly come and sell. Agri-Marketing Department of Government of West Bengal provided a vehicle for carrying 'no pesticide' produces from Sundarban mangrove stewards to Kolkata. Local rice brand organic 'dudheswar' rice, pulses, vegetables, eggs, fish and chicken, turmeric powder, chilli powder, puffed rice etc are marketed under the brand "Badabon harvest".

Wetland habitats: conserving species

Fishing cat is the State animal of West Bengal. However, the distribution of this state animal throughout the state has not been studied. NEWS is working jointly with University of Calcutta and Zoological Survey of India for status survey of the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) Bennet, 1833 (Carnivora: Felidae) with special reference to their distribution and abundance in the wetland habitat in West Bengal. This year focus is on data capture through survey, camera trap, information from Sate Forest Department for capture, rescue, poaching and road kill of Fishing cat. Simultaneous surveys are going on both in North and South Bengal. Camera trapping has been deployed in preferred habitat locations in Nadia, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Purba Burdwan, Murshidabad, Purba Midnapur, Purulia, Bankura, Howrah and Hugli. The implementation of the activities is done with help of local communities. The communities are also being aware and trained for the sign survey, deployment of trapping



Fishing cat recorded in Camera trap

cameras and identification of the preferred habitat by the fishing cat. Awareness campaigns have been organised among the students of local colleges and schools.

Evaluation Studies:

NEWS is engaged to evaluate 20 Forest Development Agencies (FDA) of 19 Forest Divisions throughout West Bengal, which are funded through the scheme National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for the Work Programme of 2012-2013 & 2013-2014. The final report has been prepared.

Awareness & Capacity building:

Mangroves: For long term protection (LTP) of mangroves, village committees are being constituted to ensure protection from the village side, fishermen networks are formed to ensure protection from the river side and Eco club activities in the schools are strengthened to raise awareness on the issue. Various activities including exposure visits to forests are organised for the school children.



International Mangrove Action Day -Dolvi Maharashtra

International Mangrove Action Day Celebration:

At Dolvi, Maharashtra NEWS celebrated the day by showcasing a film on 'Dolvi' in the presence of eminent personalities, like Panchayat Sabhadhipati, Pradhans, Members, School Head Master, Forest Department Officials, Commissioner of Municipality Vice President of NEWS-Dr. H. S. Debnath and Secretary of NEWS Mr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhury.



International Mangrove Action Day - Gandhinagar, Gujrat

On the same day, Ms. Ajanta Dey, Joint Secretary of NEWS delivered a lecture about the present status and future perspective of Mangroves in India at the National Workshop on Mangrove Conservation, India, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

KINSHIP WITH NATURE



It is the 'Rakhi' festival. Sisters tie coloured strings on their brothers hand for their safety and good health. Later it took a wider frame, where brotherhood became the context and communal harmony, friendship were also observed. On this auspicious day, the communities in Sundarban took part in Rakhi festival by tying rakhi strings around the mangrove trees. They spontaneously responded to our call and came in large numbers to spread the word for conservation of mangroves by establishing brotherhood with the mangroves.

Rakhi Festival celebration:

The festival of Rakhi is bonding between brothers and sisters, where sister tie strings on their brother's hand for their safety and good health. NEWS celebrate this festival to also celebrate a strong bonding with nature. Nature gives back the way we shower our love to her and the community in Sundarban, along with NEWS, has made a strong bonding with nature on this auspicious day by tying a string around the Mangrove trees to show their solidarity with nature.



Mangrove bonding Rakhi Festival- Sagar Island, Sundarban

In West Bengal, NEWS organized special programmes in various regions of South 24 Parganas, on the 26th &

27th of July 2018, bringing together policy makers, village and panchayat administrative personnel, school children, women's groups and villagers of the region. Sri Bankim Hazra, Honourable Member of Legislative Assembly and Chairman-Sundarban development Board gave an informative talk to an audience of over 250 in Sagar block. Mangrove plantation on river banks and nursery formation also marked the occasion.

On Plastic pollution :

Every year, we throw away enough plastic to circle the Earth four times. Much of that waste doesn't make it into a landfill and there also the chemical structure of most plastics renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation and as a result they are slow to degrade but instead end up in our oceans, where it's responsible for killing one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals every year. In islands of Sundarban, many things are coming from outside in plastics and in absence of proper awareness for waste recycling or management, it is necessary to stop indiscriminate use of plastic. Campaigns are taken up in the remote island villages of Sundarban to address the problem.



Campaign on plastic pollution – Kumirmari, Sundarban

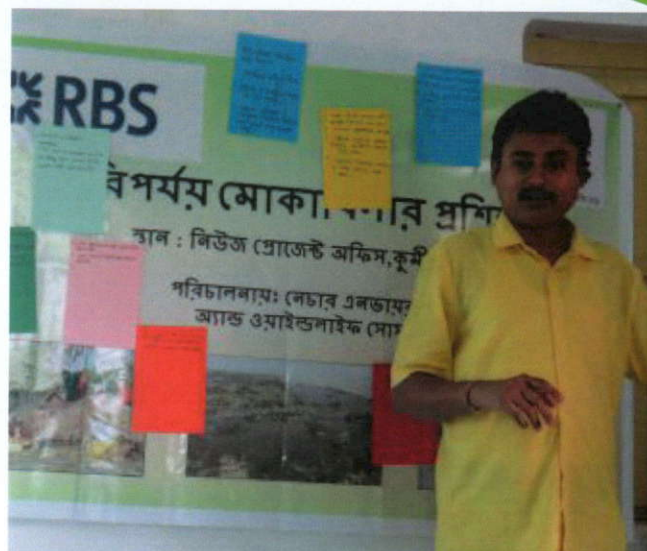
Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean: Science and solution – a roundtable discussion was organised by NEWS in association with Department of Environment, Govt of West Bengal and American Center, Kolkata, key speaker being Professor Jenna Jambeck. She is a National Geographic Explorer, an Associate Professor in the College of Engineering, and Director of the Center for Circular Materials Management in the New Materials Institute at the University of Georgia (UGA). Senior Government officials interacted on possible ways of mitigation in the urban context of Kolkata.

On Rainwater Harvesting:

One rooftop rainwater harvesting structure has been introduced in Bali Nimna Buniyadi Bidyalaya, Bali island, Gosaba block in Sundarban where 150 students are receiving water regularly at their toilets maintaining their health and hygiene from this intervention. It was often noticed that in Sundarban schools, the use of toilets in schools are infrequent due to unavailability of water. The main source being ground water, it is usually conserved for drinking purpose and kitchen use. Thus the rooftop rainwater harvesting provided an amicable solution. The students are made aware for the need to conserve water.

On Sustainable lifestyles:

A model for building citizens with sustainable lifestyles by harvesting rain water, using green energy, maintaining nutritional kitchen garden to supply to mid-day meals and adopting scientific action research has been initiated in Amrita Nagar High School, Amtoli GP in a remote village in Sundarban.



Training on Disaster Preparedness, Sundarban

On Disaster preparedness:

NEWS has organized trainings on Disaster preparedness in Sundarban for disaster Risk Reduction. Village youths were trained to form a task force. As the 3 main reasons of disaster are HAZARD, VULNERABILITY, and INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY, it is very important to build the capacity of communities & individuals in order to minimize the loss or damage. An Assessment of Risks/Hazards for the village with respect to disasters is also a mandate, to have better preparedness.

Trainings & Exposure visit for communities:

Stewards are continuously trained through training workshops, exposure visits on agricultural practices, fishery management, artificial pearl culture etc and follow up of the trainings are maintained through handholding. The farmers maintain their Farmers Diary, for each of the activities to document the processes, inputs and harvest.

EVENTS :



Barsha Utsab, Bali Island, Sundarban

Barsha Utsab' (Monsoon Festival):

Southern Gangetic Bengal is blessed with an annual rainfall, varying between 1800mm to 2100 mm. It is necessary to celebrate the monsoon that brings water to our life. On 5th September 2018 'Barsha Utsab' has been celebrated at Bali Nimna Buniyadi Vidyalaya at Gosaba Block. This was the inaugural program for a rooftop rainwater harvesting unit which has been recently set up in Bali Nimna Buniyadi School by Nature Environment and Wildlife Society, under a project funded by Global Nature Fund. Mr. Subrata Mondal, the Pradhan of Bali I Gram Panchayat presided the program and Mr. Ranjit Hauli, Bon o Bhumi Karmadaksha was the Chief Guest in the program. More than 250 students, guardians, local communities, local distinguished people participated in the Program. The necessity for groundwater conservation and rain water harvesting was highlighted.

International Conference on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (ICCCBSA-2018)

Field Biologist of NEWS, Ms. Ranjana Saha participated in a poster presentation at the International Conference on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (ICCCBSA-2018), held on 13-16th Dec, 2018 at Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat, Assam on



NEWS at technical session, Jorhat, Assam

"A population estimation of the leopard cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* using camera traps in Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal, India" in Biodiversity Conservation Technical Season.

United India Insurance Company Ltd supports the mangrove stewards of Sundarban for sustainable enterprise development

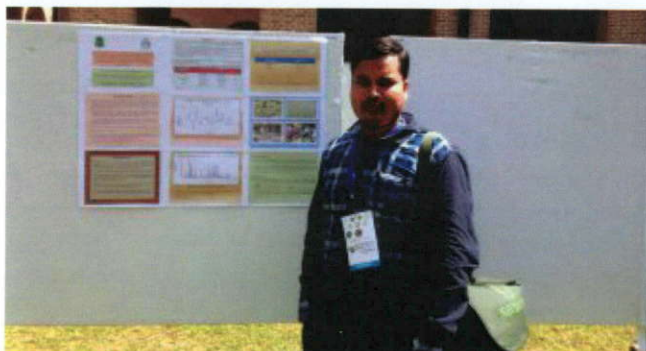
A profound difference, to overcome a major challenge in the supply-chain faced by the Badabon Harvest Farmer Producer Company Limited (BFPCL), is what the United Insurance Company has made. NEWS had appealed to Department of Agriculture, West Bengal and through the CSR initiative of United Insurance Company, a TATA ACE mini truck was donated to the BFPCL on the 12th of December 2018.



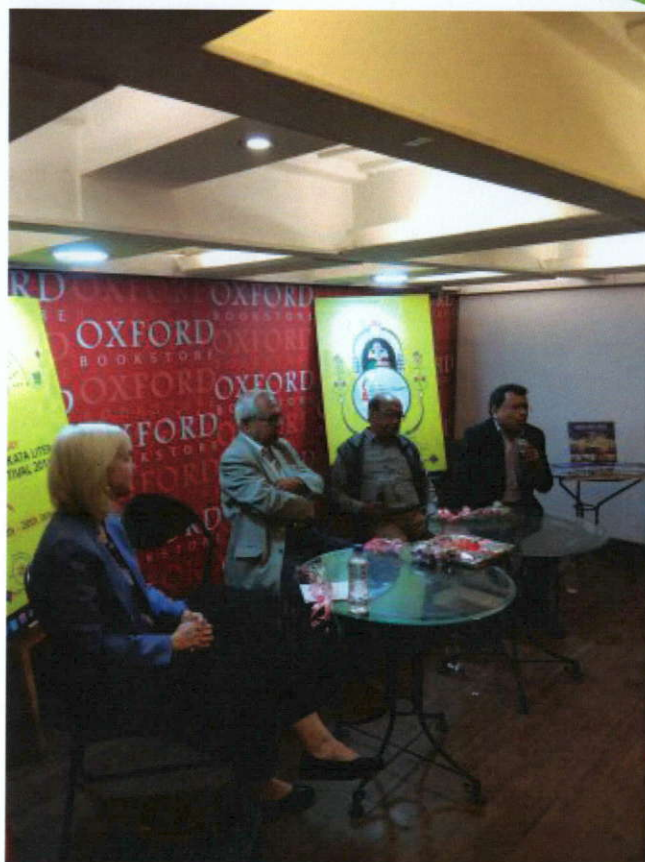
Deputy General Manager, Sri Debashish Purkait of United India Insurance Company Ltd. is handing over the key to the Vice Chairman Sri Chandan Maity and Chairman of BFPCL Sri Muktoram Sardar in presence of officials from the Department of Agriculture and NEWS.

Celebrating International Biodiversity week in East Kolkata Wetlands on 29.05.2018

Students and Teachers from Shri Shikshayatan School, Calcutta International School, researchers from Zoological Survey of India participated in a 'walk n talk' session studying the uniqueness of this Ramsar site in contributing to the natural recharging of waste waters of Kolkata municipality. The participants also studied the flora, fauna in 4no. 'bhery' (fisheries) area and took water quality measurements.



International Biodiversity Congress, 2018 at FRI, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - NEWS' participation



Book Launch-Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata

Launch of book

A book titled "North East India Bio-resources, People and Culture", capturing the untold abundant and diverse resources of the North East of India, was launched on 20th December, 2018 at the 'Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2019', in the august presence of Ms. Patti Hoffman, Consul General of the United States of America for Kolkata Consular District. Along with the authors Mr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhury, Secretary of 'NEWS' and Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, eminent personalities graced the occasion at the Oxford Book Store.

International Kolkata Book Fair-2019

NEWS participated at Central Park Mela Ground Saltlake, from 31st January to 11th February 2019.



GNF -Project Team meeting- Pakhiralay, Sundarban

Project Team Meeting -February 2019

Representatives from Global Nature Fund-Germany, CReNIEO-Chennai, Nagenahiru Foundation and Emace Foundation from Sri Lanka and NEWS team participated in a meeting for the project "Rehabilitation and protection of tropical Mangrove ecosystems as a contribution to climate and coastal protection, to the conservation of biodiversity as well as the natural livelihoods in India and Sri Lanka" in Sundarban in February 2019.



First Certificate Course from Vidyasagar University in Eastern India, by collaboration with 'NEWS' for Wildlife Management, started on Monday, 18th Feb 2019 at B. N. Sasmal Hall, Vidyasagar Campus, Midnapore, West Bengal.



Wildlife Management Course:

First Certificate course on Wildlife Management from Centre For Continuing And Adult Education of Vidyasagar University in Eastern India has been organised in collaboration with 'NEWS' from 18th to 24th February, 2019.

Training Workshop cum exposure visit on Artificial pearl culture in Balasore, Odisha :

Hands on training cum exposure visit has been arranged where 15 beneficiaries from the Dumurdaha-Takipara FCS are capacitated by 3 days residential training programme at Balasore in two batches.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**To the Members of Nature Environment & Wildlife Society****Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements****Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Nature Environment & Wildlife Society**, a Registered Society under West Bengal Societies Registration Act 1961 ("the Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019, and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipt & Payment Account for the year ended on that date, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India,

- (a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2019.
- (b) in the case of Income & Expenditure Account, of the deficit of the Society for the year ended on that date.
- (c) in the case of Receipts and Payments Account, of the Receipts and Payments for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained, is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management of the Society is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs, results of operations and cash flows of the Society in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



KGRS & CO

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Society's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



KGRS & CO

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

- a) We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Society so far as it appears from our examination of those books.
- c) The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account.

For KGRS & CO
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. 310014 E


K. Dutta
Partner
Membership No. F 053790



Place: Kolkata

Date: 27 JUN 2019

**Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2019**

(In Rupees)

Particulars	Schedule	As at 31st March 2019
SOURCES OF FUND		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	2	1,507,283
Current Liabilities		
Liability for expenses		662,844
Unutilised Grant		16,655,957
Total		18,826,084
APPLICATION OF FUND		
Fixed Assets	3	389,932
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Loans & Advances	4	3,902,868
Grant receivable	5	1,699,052
Cash and Bank Balances	6	12,216,182
TDS Receivable		618,050
Total		18,826,084
Significant Accounting Policies	1	

In terms of our report of even date
For KGRS & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 310014E


(K Dutta)
Partner
Membership No.53790



For and on behalf of the Society

 Ajanta Ray



Place : Kolkata
Date : 27 JUN 2019

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March, 2019

(In Rupees)

Particulars	Schedule	2018-19
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grant Income	7	2,48,34,285
Other Income	8	54,19,691
Total		3,02,53,975
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Project Personnel Cost		1,28,38,327
Plantation Expenses		1,97,772
Travel & Transport		51,74,055
Campaigns & Awareness programme expenses (including workshop expenses)		69,49,654
Communication Expenses		1,28,263
Office Expenses		19,41,784
Depreciation on fixed assets		3,12,718
Audit fees		29,500
Other Project Costs		30,41,884
Total		3,06,13,957
Excess of income over expenditure		(3,59,982)
Significant Accounting Policies	1	

In terms of our report of even date
For KGRS & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 310014E

(K Dutta)
Partner
Membership No.53790



For and on behalf of the Society

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Ajanta Roy

Place : Kolkata

Date : 27 JUN 2019

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March, 2019

(In Rupees)

Particulars	Schedule	2018-19
Receipts		
Balances at the beginning of the year		
Cash		1,35,072
Bank		1,43,01,931
Liability for expenses		(5,59,847)
Grant Received	7	2,63,62,076
Other Income	8	54,19,691
Total		4,56,58,922
Payments		
Project Personnel Cost		1,28,38,327
Plantation Expenses		1,97,772
Travel & Transport		51,74,055
Campaigns & Awareness programme expenses (including workshop expenses)		69,49,654
Communication Expenses		1,28,263
Office Expenses		19,41,784
Audit Fees		29,500
Other Project Costs		30,41,884
Purchase of fixed assets		85,962
Project/Staff advances		37,18,384
Balances at the closing		
Cash		3,705
Bank		1,22,12,477
Liability for expenses		(6,62,846)
Total		4,56,58,922
Significant Accounting Policies	1	

In terms of our report of even date

For KGRS & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN : 310014E

K Dutta
(K Dutta)
Partner
Membership No.53790



For and on behalf of the Society

Ajanta Ray
Ajanta Ray

Place : Kolkata
Date : 27 JUN 2019

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Schedules forming part of the financial statements

Schedule 1: Significant Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Financial Statements are prepared on accrual basis under the historical cost convention.

b) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. The cost of an asset comprised its purchase price and may cost directly attributable for bringing the asset to its working condition and location for its intended use.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation on Fixed Assets is provided on Written down Value Method at the rates specified in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Depreciation of assets acquired during the year is provided on proportionate basis.

d) Revenue Recognition

Grants in aid is recognised in the Income & Expenditure Account to the extent utilised for the purpose of the project. The unutilised balance of Grants in aid, if any is carried forward in the Balance Sheet.

Membership Fees and subscription have been recognized in the financial statements only at the stage it attains reasonable assurance, on the basis of all available evidence, that the membership fees will be received.

In terms of our report of even date

For KGRS & Co

Chartered Accountants

ERN : 310014E

(K. Dutta)

Partner

Membership No. 5379



Place : Kolkata

Date : 27 JUN 2019

For and on behalf of the Society



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Schedules forming part of the financial statements

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society, a society registered with the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961 was established in 1991 to promote awareness among people about conservation of nature, environment and wildlife.

All amounts in Rs unless otherwise specified

Particulars	As at 31st March 2019
Schedule 2: General Fund	
Opening balance	18,67,265
Add: Excess/(Deficit) in Income & Expenditure Account	(3,59,982)
Closing Balance	15,07,283

Schedule 3: Fixed Assets

Name of the Asset	Written Down Value as on 1 st April 2018	Additions during the year	Sales during the year	Depreciation for the year	Written Down Value as on 31st March 2019
Plant & Machinery	4,19,248			62,887	3,56,361
Computer	69,076	81,222		27,631	1,22,668
Books & Periodicals	8,445			845	7,601
Furniture & Fixture	1,19,918	4,740		2,21,356	(96,696)
Total	6,16,688	85,962		3,12,718	3,89,932

Schedule 4: Loans & Advances

Particulars	As at 31st March 2019
Project advances	38,41,007
Security Deposit	61,862
Total	39,02,869

Schedule 5: Grant Receivable

Particulars	As at 31st March 2019
Grant receivable	16,99,052
Total	16,99,052

Schedule 6: Cash & Bank Balances

Particulars	As at 31st March 2019
Cash in hand	3,705
Balances held with Banks	74,47,447
Total	74,51,152

Schedule 7: Grant Income

Particulars	2018-2019
Project- Livelihoods	31,05,156
Project- Amber River Coke	16,48,291
Project - Institute of Bio Resource	2,00,000
Project - American Embassy	41,880
Project - Global Nature Fund (GNF)	65,42,926
Project - RBS Foundation India	40,00,000
Project - Aldi Sud /KFW-DEG	91,28,531
Other Projects	16,95,292
	2,63,62,076
Less Unutilised grant	(18,73,070)
Add: Grant receivable	(34,00,862)
Total	2,48,34,285



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society
Schedules forming part of the financial statements

Note 8: Other Income

(In Rupees)

Particulars	2018-2019
Interest from Bank	4,96,984
Donation Received	9,25,817
Reimbursement of Project Expenses	39,06,767
Miscellaneous receipts	90,123
Total	54,19,691



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A. Ray



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Thank you

We are thankful to our financial partners, who help us to realise our vision and mission. We believe it is a co-creation, where we walk together; the journey is exciting but not always smooth and have always found you to be supportive, considering the challenging situations of our project sites.

NEWS expresses sincere gratitude to Livelihoods-Paris and Royal Bank of Scotland Foundation for continued support to our projects and programmes. We are grateful to ALDI SÜD, KFW, DEG, Shore and blue sensus for supporting innovative projects where synergies between biodiversity and business are realised. We feel privileged to work with International NGO's like Global Nature Fund, Germany and Mangroves for future-IUCN. We are proud to be associated with the brand of Daimler and Mercedes Benz, India. We have learnt a lot in our engagement with BOPinc, Netherlands.

We appreciate the support from Japan International Cooperation Authority (JICA) and Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal to continue with our work on wildlife conservation. We sincerely thank West Bengal Biodiversity Board and Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal for considering us a partner in the Fishing cat project. West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) and World Bank has been generous to support in our conservation mission in Hooghly and South 24 parganas district and we remain faithful to the objectives of the projects. We thank the Department of Agriculture for finding ways for our mangrove stewards to connect them to the Kolkata market.

We convey our deepest thankfulness to Ministry of Environment, forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

It has been an enlightening experience working with Airports Authority of India, and we convey our sincerest gratefulness.

NEWS is proud of its close association with US Consulate-Kolkata, American Center and Consulates of France and Germany. NEWS has always received encouragement from the premier institutions of India – Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India. It has been a rewarding experience working with Kolkata University, Jadavpur University, Vidyasagar University and NEWS got enriched through these collaborations. NEWS has been enlightened in its association with Central Institute of Fisheries Education-Kolkata, KVK-Nimpith, West Bengal University of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Sciences in doing extension works.

We are also blessed to get advice and support from Administrative officials, Elected representatives, Scientists, Doctors, Teachers, Students, Entrepreneurs, volunteers, interns and from all sections of the society in our work.

We seek to receive your continued patronage and guidance.

Phone : +91 33 22234148
E-mail : contact@naturewildlife.org
Website : www.naturewildlife.org