



FROM ROOTS TO RESILIENCE

ANNUAL REPORT (2024-25)



**NATURE ENVIRONMENT
& WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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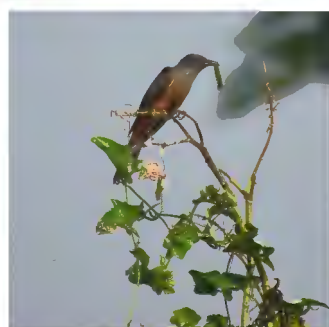
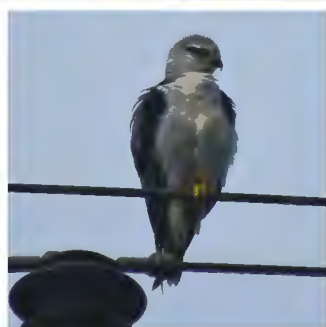
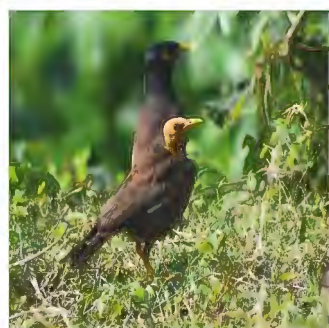
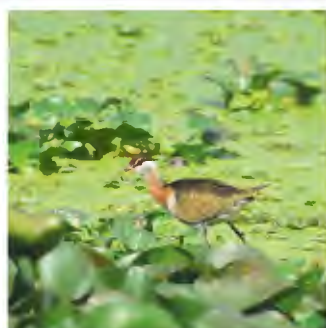
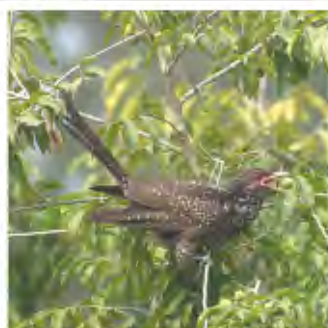


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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- 1) **ADB** – Asian Development Bank
- 2) **BFIG** – Badabon Farmers Interest Group
- 3) **BMUV** – Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz
- 4) **BMZ** – Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
- 5) **CAMPA** – Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
- 6) **CIBA** – Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture
- 7) **CIFE** – Central Institute of Fisheries Education
- 8) **CLM** – Climate Literacy Module
- 9) **CRB** – Centre for Responsible Business
- 10) **CRP** – Coastal Resilience Program
- 11) **CSO** – Civil Society Organisation
- 12) **EKWMA** – East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority
- 13) **FCS** – Farmer Consumer Society
- 14) **FFEM** – Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
- 15) **FPC** – Forest Protection Committee
- 16) **FPG** – Farmer Producer Group
- 17) **GEF** – Global Environment Facility
- 18) **GMA** – Global Mangrove Alliance
- 19) **GNF** – Global Nature Fund
- 20) **GPS** – Global Positioning System
- 21) **ICAR** – Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- 22) **IKI** – International Climate Initiative
- 23) **IMCRC** – International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference
- 24) **INC** – India National Committee
- 25) **IFS** – Integrated Farming System
- 26) **IPPN** – India Public Policy Network
- 27) **IUCN** – International Union for Conservation of Nature

- 28) **IUCN-CRF** – International Union for Conservation of Nature - Regional Conservation Forum
- 29) **JFMC** – Joint Forest Management Committee
- 30) **KWS** – Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary
- 31) **LLBCP** – Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project
- 32) **MEAL** – Monitoring Evaluation Accountability & Learning
- 33) **MIS** – Management Information System
- 34) **NCIS** – Nature Conservancy India Solutions
- 35) **NDC** – Nationally Determined Contribution
- 36) **NTFP** – Non-Timber Forest Product
- 37) **NWA** – Nature and Wildlife Association
- 38) **PRA** – Participatory Rural Appraisal
- 39) **RRA** – Rapid Rural Appraisal
- 40) **SAIME** – Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystem
- 41) **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goal
- 42) **SFARM** – Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Resource Management
- 43) **SHG** – Self Help Group
- 44) **SMFG** – Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group
- 45) **SOP** – Standard Operating Procedure
- 46) **SSB** – Sashastra Seema Bal
- 47) **TdH** – Terre des Hommes
- 48) **TERI** – The Energy and Resources Institute
- 49) **TMILL** – TM International Logistics Limited
- 50) **TNC** – The Nature Conservancy
- 51) **VCS** – Verified Carbon Standard
- 52) **VTR** – Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- 53) **WBADMI** – West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation
- 54) **WDS** – Water Detention Structure
- 55) **WRIDD** – Water Resource Investigation & Development Department
- 56) **WUA** – Water User Association
- 57) **ZSI** – Zoological Survey of India

List of Advisors of Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS)

SL. NO.	NAME
1 .	Ms. Soma Bose
2.	Dr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury (Retd. IAS)
3.	Dr. Jose T. Mathew (Retd. IFS)
4.	Dr. Mukesh Thakur
5.	Dr. Pradeep Vyas (Retd. IFS)
6.	Prof. Prasanta Kumar Biswas
7.	Prof. Arunashish Goswami
8.	Prof. Kathiresan
9.	Prof. Punyasloke Bhadury
10.	Prof. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay
11.	Dr. Dipankar Saha



LIST OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

SL. NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1 .	Dr. J.R.B Alfred	President
2 .	Mr. Biswajit Rai Chaudhuri	Secretary
3 .	Ms. Ajanta Dey	Joint Secretary
4 .	Mr. Subhasis Basu	Treasurer
5 .	Dr. Twisha Lahiri	Member
6 .	Ms. Raka Kar	Member
7 .	Mr. Abdul Kader Kagalwala	Member
8 .	Mr. Shiladitya Chaudhury	Member
9 .	Mr. Shubhendu Banerjee	Member
10.	Dr. Shabnam Agarwal	Member



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

In 2024–2025, Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS) continued its steadfast commitment to ecological restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and community-based conservation across India. Key initiatives included wetland and mangrove restoration in coastal Tamil Nadu and the Sundarbans, supported by Axis Bank Foundation, CRISIL Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy.

Community-driven models such as SAIME and eco-tourism in the Sundarbans flourished with support from GNF, Tdh, and BMZ, while Deepor Beel in Assam saw continued nature-based restoration. Women's empowerment, renewable energy, and sustainable livelihoods were prioritized through partnerships with Foundation Chanel, Petronet LNG, and others. In East Kolkata, NEWS advanced wetland restoration, citizen science, and fisher community engagement with EKWMA and TM International Logistics. WBADMIP projects continued in Hooghly, Kurseong, and South Bengal.

NEWS conducted independent monitoring of WBCAMPA projects and assessed NTFP sustainability with the West Bengal Forest Department.

Human-elephant conflict mitigation expanded in North Bengal and the Indo–Nepal border through training and multi-agency collaboration.

NEWS also participated in environmental celebrations and public engagement, including the Kolkata Book Fair.

We thank our government and academic partners for their unwavering support and celebrate our collective achievements marked by learning, collaboration, and resilience. Together, we look forward to deepening our impact and expanding our vision for a sustainable future.


Dr. J. R. B. Alfred
President
Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS)

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



Greetings from Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS)

The past year was one of grounded action, shared learning, and deepening partnerships. Since 1991, NEWS has remained committed to restoring ecosystems, conserving wildlife, and supporting sustainable livelihoods and natural resource management.

With support from Axis Bank Foundation, CRISIL Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Livelihoods Fund, we advanced mangrove and wetland conservation in Tamil Nadu and the Sundarban, restoring degraded habitats and building climate resilience. Support from Global Nature Fund, Terre des Hommes, and BMZ enabled us to scale community-led climate resilience initiatives, including the SAIME model – integrating mangrove restoration with sustainable aquaculture. In partnership with Tdh, we also supported community-based ecotourism in the Sundarban and continued restoring Assam's Deepor Beel Ramsar site.

With Fondation Chanel, SPMG India Credit, and Petronet LNG Limited, we supported women's leadership and livelihoods through mangrove restoration, renewable energy access, and alternative income generation. The FFEM-supported *Badabon Harvest* platform helped build market linkages for sustainable produce. We conducted third-party monitoring of WBCAMPA projects and, in collaboration with the West Bengal Forest Department, assessed Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) collection practices to promote sustainable use and fair community remuneration.

In urban wetlands, our work with East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) promoted citizen science and waterbird surveys, while restoration efforts with TM International Logistics Ltd. strengthened traditional fishing communities. Under WBADMIP, we continued our work across Hooghly, Kurseong, Darjeeling, and South 24 Parganas. In North Bengal and the Indo-Nepal border region, we intensified efforts to mitigate human–elephant conflict through training, field inspections, and multi-stakeholder coordination.

We are grateful to our partners across government and academia, including the Departments of Forests, Fisheries, Environment, Panchayat & Rural Development, and Agriculture, as well as institutions like ZSI, BSI, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University, SEACOM Skills University, and IISER Kolkata. As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our roots in conservation and expanding our impact through collaboration.

Biswajit Roy Choudhury

Secretary

Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS)

MESSAGE FROM THE JOINT SECRETARY



Who endures has the ability to transform...

The past year was momentous — not just in milestones, but in the deep introspection and co-creation that shaped the future of NEWS. Across the organisation — from supervisors and field teams to the leadership, Advisory Board, and Governing Body — everyone came together in a spirited process to revisit our vision, mission, and program goals. This collective effort resulted in aligned MEAL structures, capacity-building priorities, and a strategic roadmap that reflects the passion of a vibrant, innovative team committed to nature and biodiversity conservation through community stewardship. I am proud to be part of this journey.

Our heartfelt thanks to Fondation Chanel for supporting this transformational phase, and to EcoNiche for guiding us through reflective conversations, deep-dive visioning exercises, and the co-creation of strategy documents that will shape our work from 2025 to 2030. We are now eagerly working on finalising our MIS and impact matrix to operationalise this vision.

We are deeply grateful to Axis Bank Foundation, Global Nature Fund, and SMFG for continuing to co-create with us, building on trusted partnerships over the years. This year, we extended our reach to Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and renewed our partnership with WBADMIP. A technical partnership with the Irrigation & Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal has enabled us to establish a silt trapping unit in a vulnerable coastal landscape in the Sundarban. We also continue our work with the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority to protect avian populations in urban wetlands.

With support from FFEM and our long-standing partner Livelihoods Fund (France), our 'Badabon Harvest' initiative continues to strengthen the mangrove value chain in the Sundarban — integrating ecological, economic, and social outcomes through community stewardship.

We are excited to announce new partnerships with TMILL, Petronet LNG Limited, and the esteemed international organisation The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Our collaborations within civil society networks — Living Lakes, IUCN, GMA, and GEF — are essential to our collective conservation efforts. Government-recognised models such as SAIME, Green Brigades, Gaja Mitra, and Arunir Dol (Embankment Protection Committee) continue to inspire replication and scaling by development agencies and conservation partners. We remain committed to innovating new, community-led nature-based solutions.

We deeply value our long-standing relationship with the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, and new partnerships with the Forest Departments of Bihar and Assam, and Green India Mission, Government of Tamil Nadu.

We are honoured to be considered a trusted partner by the Office of the Hon'ble Consul General of France, and are grateful for the continued support of the German Embassy, the U.S. Consulate, and the Netherlands Consulate in Kolkata in championing biodiversity conservation in Eastern India.

Our collaborations with ICAR-CIBA, IISER-Kalyani, CRB, Co-Future (Singapore), Seacom Skills University, and Jadavpur University continue to strengthen the scientific foundations of our work. We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to mentors and supporters — Mr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Dr. Mukesh Thakur, Dr. Abhishek Bhattacharyya, Dr. Dipankar Saha, Dr. Prasanta Kr Biswas, and Dr. G. N. Chattopadhyaya — whose guidance has inspired us to navigate complex challenges with conviction.

Finally, I thank our team, our stewards, and every individual working toward a thriving planet, rich in species, ecosystems, and shared purpose. Thank you for allowing us to be part of this incredible journey.

I look forward to the coming days with aspirations for vibrant partnerships in walking the miles together.

Ajanta Dey

Ajanta Dey
Joint Secretary & Programme Director
Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS)





Green Brigade in Action

DRIVING IMPACTS THROUGH OUR PROJECTS

Since 1991, NEWS has been a driving force for hands-on conservation across India. We believe that healthy ecosystems are the foundation of clean air, food and water, stable climates and thriving communities and business.

OUR VISION

Ensure a sustainable and functioning ecosystem for a wise planet.

OUR MISSION

To protect and restore ecosystems and their services, the flora-fauna and their habitats for humanity.

Every day, our scientists, conservation practitioners, volunteers and community partners join forces to protect wildlife, restore degraded habitats, sustainably manage natural resources, and strengthen livelihood security. Whether it's the restoration of mangroves in the Indian Sundarban and coastal Tamil Nadu, training youth to monitor waterbirds in the East Kolkata Wetlands, reducing human-wildlife conflicts in the Terai Arc Landscape, or helping coastal communities establish nature-based livelihoods, we blend scientific evidence and traditional knowledge with real-world action.

Guided by a diverse Governing Body, versatile Advisory Board and backed by international accreditations (INC-IUCN, GEF, GMA, Living Lakes Network), NEWS fuels India's conservation goals – from national biodiversity targets to the United Nation (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. At our core, we know lasting change comes from engaged partnerships and collaborations. By weaving traditional knowledge into landscape-level projects and advocating for smart policies, NEWS turns passion into impact – today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

At NEWS, our interventions are strategically structured around the following interdependent pillars:

- 1) **ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT:** Healthy ecosystems are nature's life-support systems – filtering water, stabilizing climate and nurturing biodiversity. In 2024-25, NEWS undertook critical restoration work across diverse landscapes, from reviving urban wetlands and rejuvenating freshwater springs, to regenerating mangrove forests. These efforts were rooted in deep collaboration with local communities, who embraced ecological restoration as both, a source of livelihood and a commitment to intergenerational stewardship.
- 2) **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:** Each species holds a vital place in the web of life. In 2024 – 2025, our conservation strategy combined habitat preservation, science-based conflict mitigation, and inclusive citizen engagement. By integrating community participation and conservation science, we worked to ensure that India's wildlife not only survives, but flourishes, in shared landscapes, particularly outside of the protected area regime.
- 3) **SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** Forests rivers and farmlands are essential to rural livelihoods and cultural identity. Through the promotion of sustainable aquaculture cooperatives, community-managed enterprises for non-timber forest products, and climate-resilient irrigation systems, NEWS supported communities in transitioning from resource dependency to long-term stewardship – balancing ecological renewal with economic resilience.

Across every project, we amplify our impact through the following cross-cutting drivers:

- A. **GENDER EMPOWERMENT:** We design every project – whether restoring mangroves or monitoring elephants – to elevate women as decision-makers and custodians of their local ecosystems. From training women's self-help groups in mangrove recovery to helping female fishers lead sustainable aquaculture cooperatives, gender empowerment isn't an add-on; we believe it is the engine of lasting change.
- B. **TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION:** From low-cost bioremediation in rivers, to training communities in digital ecosystem health monitoring, we harness cutting-edge tools to bridge data and action. Our Mangrove Watch app, drone-assisted survival assessments and community smartphone networks mean every hectare and every individual voice are visible. GIS mapping and remote sensing techniques were widely deployed across field sites to track vegetation cover, soil salinity and hydrological changes. Through inclusive innovation and use of technology, we are making conservation smarter, faster, and more participatory.

Together, these focus areas form the foundation of our efforts to safeguard ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and build resilient, self-reliant communities.

We work closely with stakeholders, including policy makers, to mainstream the sustainable development agenda, and biodiversity conservation goals, advocating for inclusive, community-centric policy integration at local, state and national levels.

CONNECTING PROJECTS & CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

PROJECTS	ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	GENDER EMPOWERMENT	TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Mangrove afforestation – Tamil Nadu (Axis Bank Limited)					
Restoring ecosystems in coastal regions at Buraburir tat, Sundarban, through Mangrove afforestation (Axis Bank Limited)					
Restoration and protection of wetland habitats and ecological landscapes in the Sundarban(Axis Bank Limited)					
Building capacities to sustain the mangrove stewardship of women in the Indian Sundarban to adapt to climate change (Fondation Chanel)					
Climate resilient communities in Sundarban are economically, ecologically, and politically strengthened and are committed to address the consequences of climate change (tdh Germany)					
Third party monitoring of WB CAMPA works for the financial year 2022-2023 (West Bengal CAMPA, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of WB)					
Restoring ecosystems in coastal regions of the Sundarban through mangrove plantation (CRISIL Foundation)					
Asian waterbird Census at East Kolkata Wetlands (EKWMA)					
Re-instituting effective value chains to sustain mangrove stewardship in Indian Sundarban by building capacity of Badabon Farmers Producer Company Limited (FFEM)					
Building a multi-country, civil society partnership to increase the					

PROJECTS	ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	GENDER EMPOWERMENT	TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
resilience of coastal populations in South Asia (BMZ-CRP) (GNF)					
Stepping up and disseminating low-cost approaches to mitigating human-elephant conflicts in the border areas between India and Nepal in KWS, UP and VTR, Bihar (GNF)					
IKI-LLBCP in Deepor Beel, Guwahati, Assam (BMUV, IKI, GNF)					
Sundarban Project (Livelihoods Funds)					
Securing a sustainable future for elephants in some protected areas of North Bengal (NWA)					
Solar Electrification of the Seed Storage Facility at Amlamethi, Sundarban (Petronet LNG Limited)					
Survey of NTFPs in North Bengal and South Bengal, estimation of wild harvest and trade and assessment of impact on the forest health and development of trade linkage during 2023-2024 (Silviculture (South) Division, Directorate of Forests, Govt. WB)					
Mangrove restoration and long-term protection through value chain development for local communities in the Sundarban (SMFG)					
Restoration of the East Kolkata Wetlands Ramsar Site through community stewardship (TM International Logistics Ltd.)					
Ecological restoration of mangroves, linking it with sustainable livelihoods for a thriving coastal community in the Sundarban (TNC)					
Consultancy services for strengthening, handholding & nurturing of community governed organisations, in Integrated Farming System (IFS) activities,					

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PROJECTS	ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	GENDER EMPOWERMENT	TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
water efficient farming practices, collective actions among farmers, water management, etc. in the districts of Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, Purba Bardhaman and Nadia; from Katwa to Hooghly Ghat in the context of Hilsa conservation under WBADMIP-II (Govt. WB & World Bank)					
Consulting services in Kultali, Gosaba, Patharpratima, Basanti, Mathurapur-I, Mathurapur-II, Joynagar-II blocks of South 24 Parganas district under WBADMIP-II. (Govt. WB & World Bank)					
Consulting services for spring rejuvenation in Darjeeling District under West Bengal accelerated development of minor irrigation project (WRIDD, Govt. WB, World Bank)					
Consulting services for providing support services in agriculture, horticulture & fisheries activities, supporting and promoting water efficient farming practices in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal (WRIDD, Govt. WB, World Bank)					
Mainstreaming Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) (GNF)					



Gaj Mitras are an integral part of community-based rapid response teams to address negative interactions between humans and elephants

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Healthy ecosystems are the lifeblood of our planet. Every river, forest and wetland – alive with plants, animals and microscopic communities – works in concert to moderate our climate, purify our air and water, nurture biodiversity and underpin countless livelihoods. Yet today, this delicate web is fraying under pressures from deforestation, soil erosion, pollution, climate change and unchecked resource use.

When forests vanish or rivers silt up, entire communities lose their safety nets, wildlife vanishes and the promise of sustainable development slips away. That's why NEWS tackles conservation at the landscape scale, through ecosystem-based approaches and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) – restoring mangrove coastlines, reviving polluted wetlands, rewilding riverbanks and championing sustainable aquaculture. We fuse cutting-edge science with centuries-old ecological wisdom to build solutions hand-in-hand with the people who rely on these land- and seascapes – especially women, youth and marginalized groups whose voices have too often been sidelined.

In a world of accelerating change, we adapt our strategies to align with international commitments – from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the SDGs to India's National Biodiversity Targets and NDCs. Our nature-based solutions deliver multiple wins: healthier fish stocks, stronger shorelines, cleaner water and more climate-resilient livelihoods.

Behind every tree we plant and every shoreline we fortify are partnerships with governments, communities and funders. By weaving robust monitoring and digital tools – drones, smartphone apps and real-time dashboards – into our work, we turn data into action and ensure every success is measured, shared and amplified. At NEWS, ecological sustainability isn't just a goal – it's a shared journey we all must travel together.



Women-led mangrove restoration in the Sundarban, West Bengal and coastal Tamil Nadu.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Sundarban Stewardship Project (with Livelihoods Fund):** Across Basanti, Canning-I, Gosaba, Hingalganj, Sandeshkhali Jaynagar-II, Kakdwip, Kultali, Mathurapur-II, Namkhana, Patharpratima and Sagar Blocks) in the Sundarban, Mangrove Action Day and Raksha Bandhan celebrations reached 2,029 participants in 40 villages, gathering local communities, to exchange knowledge on mangrove ecosystem management and nature-based livelihoods. We built the capacity of stewards from 66 BFIGs (Badabon Farmers Interest Groups) who are now playing an active role in protecting and monitoring mangroves, and supporting Above-Ground Biomass carbon measurements (Verra VCS 4.7), embedding climate-smart monitoring into everyday forest management. At the same time, the BFPCL (Badabon Forest Producers Company Limited) saw a 50% increase in annual sales, demonstrating how stewardship and sustainable livelihoods go hand-in-hand.

12 Blocks
2,029 participants
66 certified BFIGs

As part of our carbon assessment initiative, 40 sites were systematically surveyed to estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction potential through above-ground biomass measurements. A total of 246 sampling points were assessed, and 75 carbon monitoring points were established. Based on field observations, 2 additional points were added, and 7 points were remeasured to minimise error and ensure data accuracy. In total, 2,789 trees were measured, capturing key parameters

such as species, diameter at breast height (DBH), and height. These measurements were used to estimate above-ground biomass and calculate GHG reductions using standard carbon accounting methodologies.



World Mangrove Day and Raksha Bandhan celebrations were held across the Sundarban, West Bengal. Additionally, mangrove app training and post-plantation survival monitoring were also conducted.

- Mangrove restoration and long-term protection through value chain development for local communities in the Sundarban (with SMFG):** In Paschim Shripatinagar village of Pathar Pratima Block in the Sundarban, replantation of 2,400 nursery-raised was monitored daily by 15 women co-actors. Backyard poultry units yielded 17,776 eggs – 8,941 for local consumption – and 390.5 kg of chicken for self-consumption. This generated ₹231,497 in income for 12% of the 60 women carrying out the livelihood. This project showcases how female-led value chains can reinforce both ecosystem health and food security.

2 hectares
2,400 mangrove saplings
₹231,497 in addl. income

- **Restoring ecosystems in coastal regions of the Sundarban through mangrove plantation (with CRISIL Foundation):** We planted 72,000 mangrove

saplings in Bejpukur Basundhara village in Kakdwip

82,800 mangrove saplings

Block (Sundarban) – supplemented by 10,800 gap plantings – and conducted trainings with 12 women

12 members of SHG

from the local SHG (self-help group) to embed digital monitoring in mangrove plantation management. International Mangrove Action Day and Raksha Bandhan celebrations engaged 46 residents in collective mangrove restoration efforts.

- **Restoration and protection of wetland habitats and ecological landscapes in the Sundarban (with Axis Bank Limited):** NEWS teamed up with IISER Kolkata and Seacom Skills University to

**1.3 hectares of wetland
119 hectares of mangrove
1.5 km of the Noai Canal**

map habitat health across 1.3 ha of wetlands in Sahapur village (Amdanga Block, North 24 Parganas) and 119 ha of mangrove forest in Lakshimpur and Buraburir tat villages (Sagar and Patharpratima Blocks, South 24 Parganas), Sundarban. Together we launched a 1.5 km microbiome-assisted bioremediation of the Noai Canal.

We convened 45 stakeholder meetings to mobilise communities and stakeholder for the conservation of species and critical habitats in the fragmented forest patches around Noai canal and targeted areas in the Sundarban.



Backyard poultry units yielded 17,776 eggs and 390.5kg of chicken in Pathar Pathima village.

- **Building capacities for augmenting livelihoods to sustain the mangrove stewardship of women in the Indian Sundarban to adapt to climate change (with Fondation Chanel):** From April 2024 to March 2025, we partnered with 33 women's and

farmer groups, delivering 57 workshops on

33 women & farmer groups

entitlements, bookkeeping, conflict resolution and livelihood related SOPs on key commodities. Emerging

57 workshops

leaders were selected through focus-group discussions and trained across four quarterly cohorts. We co-developed income-augmentation plans and held regular meetings with block and district

officials to align women-led enterprises with government schemes. Finally, all groups were graded, using Kobo-tool surveys, against baseline criteria, and our evaluation tools were finalized to ensure ongoing monitoring and improvement. Simultaneously, in this period, we led a series of workshops and online sessions to redefine our MEAL framework – engaging project teams, zone managers and leadership in hands-on design sprints and accountability training. Parallel orientations introduced all NEWS personnel to core MEAL principles and reporting standards, while we automated key MIS and HR processes to embed real-time monitoring and streamline organizational workflows.

- **Ecological restoration of mangroves, linking it with sustainable livelihoods for a thriving coastal community in the Sundarban (with TNC):** At Lakshmipur, Goranbose and Dighirpar villages in Kakdwip Block, Sundarban, baseline hydrology, sediment and vegetation assessments were conducted to set the stage for restoring 100 ha of shoreline mangroves. Community consultations secured local buy-in for large-scale ecological rehabilitation and ecosystem health management.

- **Mainstreaming Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) (with GNF):** We expanded from 30 ha to 50 ha of farm area, bringing 23 smallholder farmers into the model to

20 hectares
23 farmers
23,000 mangrove saplings

integrate mangrove restoration with brackish-water aquaculture, and formally registering the first Fish Producers' Group under the West Bengal Fisheries Department. We raised 23,000 mangrove saplings in a new women-led central nursery and installed bee boxes to diversify incomes. Field visits by multidisciplinary

experts (from CRB, GNF, youth networks and the French Consul General) and nine high-level workshops and conference presentations (including IUCN RCF, SFARM and the 1st IMCRC in Abu Dhabi) showcased SAIME as a biodiversity-friendly, climate-adaptive livelihood model. Farmers received eight tailored trainings – from post-harvest management and shrimp insurance (ICAR-CIFE/CIBA) to mangrove nursery development and sustainable pond preparation – that built both technical skills and institutional governance. Regular SAIME Steering-Committee meetings and participatory water-quality and growth monitoring underpinned adaptive management, while internal group grading and MIS reporting ensured accountability. Our collaborative efforts culminated in prestigious recognition: the **Chaital Farmers' Group won ICAR-CIFE's National Fish Farmers' Day award** and participated in the 3rd Shrimp Farmers' Conclave. By weaving together hands-on capacity building, research partnerships and market linkages, SAIME has demonstrated how ecosystem restoration and aquaculture can flourish side by side – delivering both ecological resilience and improved rural livelihoods.

- **Mangrove afforestation – Tamil Nadu (with Axis Bank Limited):** Along approximately 85 hectares of the Mayiladuthurai coastline, 386,677 mangrove saplings were planted. Around 400 local participants, including school students, took part in hands-on workshops, gaining practical knowledge in water resource management, mangrove nursery practices, apiculture, and vermicomposting, to support ecological restoration and sustainable livelihoods. Regular engagement with local colleges, consistent coordination with Panchayats, and alignment with the Tamil Nadu Green Mission have helped foster multi-stakeholder integration and strengthen collaborative ecosystem stewardship.

85 hectares
386,677 mangrove saplings
400 participants



We doubled down on our species conservation efforts over the last year, working with elephants, fishing cats and otters amongst others.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Wildlife conservation is about more than protecting individual animals – it's about preserving the intricate web of life that keeps our planet in balance. From tigers roaming our forests to pollinators flitting through meadows, every creature plays a role in pollination, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling and the regulation of food chains.

In India – home to one of the world's richest tapestries of life – our national parks, sanctuaries and biosphere reserves shelter iconic species like the Bengal tiger, Asian elephant and Indian rhinoceros, alongside thousands of lesser-known but equally vital plants and animals. Yet as forests give way to farms and cities sprawl into wildlands, these treasures face growing threats.

In 2024–25, NEWS doubled down on habitat restoration – rewilding grasslands in the Terai, reconnecting elephant corridors and thinning invasive plants to revive native undergrowth. Our teams deployed camera traps and community-led patrols to track populations of elephants and lesser-spotted species, generating real-time data that guides both policy and practice. At the same time, we partnered with villages on conflict-mitigation measures – building watchtowers, training rapid-response teams and developing early-warning apps – to help people and wildlife share the same landscapes safely. By integrating scientific monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge and grassroots participation into every initiative, we move beyond preventing extinctions toward reviving the vibrant, interdependent web of life that sustains biodiversity and human communities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Asian waterbird Census at East Kolkata Wetlands (with EKWMA):** 33 volunteer Wetland Mitras learned to identify and survey 78 waterbird species across 38 km² in the East Kolkata Wetlands. Their bi-annual bird meets, joined by over 250 students, fishers and corporate volunteers, have created a living archive of wetland health – informing management

37 km² covered
>280 persons involved
78 bird species surveyed

decisions and reinforcing stewardship through citizen science. The East Kolkata Wetlands span roughly 125 one-square-kilometre grids. This year, we randomly selected 38 grids (30 %) for standardized bird monitoring. At each site, field teams conducted two 10-minute point counts in each season – pre-monsoon (March–June), monsoon (July–October) and winter (November – February). Since the last post-monsoon survey, we’ve maintained a seasonal repository of observations. To date, our 76 point counts across 38 locations have documented 78 bird species.



- Stepping up and disseminating low-cost approaches to mitigating human-elephant conflicts in the border areas between India and Nepal (with GNF):** Amid the rolling grasslands of the TAL (Terai Arc Landscape), spread across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, NEWS helped form two Elephant Protection Groups of 101 local members, erecting watchtowers and community toilets to reduce the negative interactions between human and wildlife. Training for Indian Forestry Services (IFS) officers and SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal, India’s Central Armed Police Force) personnel in elephant and snake identification, alongside support for Quick

2 Elephant protection groups 101 people involved

Response Teams, has strengthened frontline defences for people and wildlife. NEWS hosted an outreach program at Valmiki Tiger Reserve, educating staff, villagers and partners on vultures' ecosystem role, threats they face and vulture-safe practices to support their conservation.



Gaj Mitras monitoring elephant movement and issuing timely warnings.

- Securing a sustainable future for elephants in some protected areas of North Bengal (with NWA):** Using GPS-tracked elephant locations, we produced detailed movement maps for herds inside and around Baikunthapur and Kurseong Forest Divisions. We documented seasonal distributions of elephants within Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary via watchtower and anti-poaching camp records. We carried out pre- and post-monsoon assessments of grassland and natural glade vegetation composition and biomass across Mahananda, Kurseong and Baikunthapur, collecting elephant dung samples at each site to support dietary and health analyses. At Baikunthapur Forest Division, we also

Elephant movement mapping
3 Vegetation assessment sites
Invasive grass management trials

established an experimental plot targeting Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), applying controlled burns and targeted weed management, to pilot and evaluate these as restoration interventions.

- **Biodiversity assessment for dolphin conservation (Bhoipur Forest Division, Government of Bihar):** A rapid scientific assessment was conducted along a 60 km stretch of the Ganga River in

48 Gangetic river dolphins
4 freshwater turtle species
23 bird species

the Bhoipur forest division of Bihar. NEWS documented the presence of 48 Gangetic river dolphins, including 6 calves, indicating active breeding and a viable population in the Bhoipur Forest Division. The multi-taxa biodiversity assessment survey also recorded 40 native fish

species, 23 bird species and several reptiles, including 4 freshwater turtle species, offering valuable insights into the ecological integrity of the region. In collaboration with IISER Kolkata, the team extensively monitored water quality, identifying pollution hotspots (including 4 major untreated sewage drains in Buxar) and informing possible conservation and pollution mitigation strategies. Additionally land-use change analyses between 2008 and 2023 revealed a 118 km² increase in built-up area and a 562 km² reduction in range lands, underscoring the growing threat of habitat fragmentation and the pressing need for sustainable land-use planning the riverine landscape.

- **Faunal diversity and community dependency on the mangrove forest in Lakshmipur village , South 24 Parganas (with Fondation Chanel):** Structured bird diversity analyses were done using point count methodologies, through boat-based surveys and walking along pre-define trails. photographic documentation of birds and other wildlife were carried out in the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons. Structured questionnaires were used to understand the livelihood practices of local residents and their dependencies on the Lakshmipur village, adjacent mangrove habitat. 95 bird species were signed and recorded along with 6 species of molluscs, 11 reptile species and 9 mammal species. The restoration of the mangrove ecosystem has led to an increase in crab availability, contributing to higher incomes for local fishing communities by enhancing access to sustainable livelihoods.

95 bird species
6 mollusc species
11 reptile species
9 mammal species

- **Restoration and protection of wetland habitats and ecological landscapes in the Sundarban (with Axis Bank Limited):** Effective species and habitat conservation requires a structured documentation process and clear research priorities. In the Sahapur–Amdanga block of North 24 Parganas, NEWS has developed monitoring protocols for threatened species such as the Fishing Cat (listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species) and Golden Monitor Lizard (listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species). Both species inhabit fragmented forest patches outside designated protected areas. Similar studies, focusing on the Fishing Cat, Golden Monitor Lizard, and otters,, have been conducted in the mangrove forest patches near Lakshmipur and Buraburir Tat villages in South 24 Parganas. We have identified and mapped key occurrence sites to guide strategic camera-trap placement and have developed a non-invasive methodology for studying both the species and their habitats, which has been approved by the Forest Department.

SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



By harnessing nature's bounty without eroding its future potential, Sustainable Natural Resource Management (SNRM) ensures that forests, rivers and fields continue to provide food, income and ecosystem services for generations to come. In 2024–25, NEWS partnered with communities to transform resource dependence into resource stewardship – linking enterprise, technology and traditional knowledge in ways that uplift livelihoods and safeguard our landscapes.

Across West Bengal's forests, we helped design a community-driven model for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) – surveying species density, mapping trade routes and co-creating sustainable business plans with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). In the Sundarban, our Badabon value-chain revival boosted farmers' annual sales by over 100%, grew women's leadership in cooperatives from 10% to 40% and forged new market linkages that reward ecological harvests.

Along the Hooghly River, 13 clusters of Fishers' Cooperative Societies (FCS) and Water Users' Associations (WUAs) piloted integrated aquaculture–agriculture systems, merging fish ponds with crop cycles for year-round income and healthier waterways. In the Darjeeling hills, eight spring-fed micro-watersheds were mapped and rejuvenated, with 36,000 strawberry, mushroom and vermicompost units distributed to diversify hill farmers' portfolios. We electrified a seed storage unit in Amlamethi, Gosaba Block (Sundarban) with a women-led "Green Brigade" operating solar PV–powered ventilation, preserving local seed varieties while cutting carbon emissions. Each initiative embodies our SNRM ethos: co-creating regenerative enterprises that respect ecological limits, channel community knowledge and turn today's harvest into tomorrow's heritage.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Building a multi-country, civil society partnership to increase the resilience of coastal populations in South Asia (BMZ-CRP) (with GNF):** We convened a national forum and 3 regional events, aimed at policy and advocacy, showcasing sustainable aquaculture and biodiversity models; trained 99 community stewards on our Mangrove Watch app; established a 20-variety seed bank, soil-testing kits and organic farming support; and delivered 8 two-day trainings on fish health and post-harvest handling. We launched a community-run fish-feed mill – boosting family incomes by 25% – registered the first Fish Producers' Group (FPG), installed rainwater harvesting for mill operations, and piloted bioinoculant labs and integrated farming systems on demonstration

4 policy-level events

99 community stewards

Family income risen by >25%

farms. By preserving 17 indigenous paddy varieties and engaging stakeholders in World Bank and Asia Development Bank (ADB) delta plans, we embedded mangrove restoration as a nature-based climate solution, diversifying incomes and strengthening coastal resilience.



17 indigenous paddy varieties are being grown with female farmers in West Bengal

- **Living lakes biodiversity and climate project (with BMUV, IKI, GNF):**

NEWS is strengthening wetland-linked livelihoods and conservation through 19 capacity-building modules, covering cooperative formation, biodiversity-friendly farming, handloom weaving, food preservation, backyard poultry, and eco-tourism.

We also facilitated knowledge exchanges by hosting German delegates, leading a Ramsar site tour in Srinagar, and convening multi-stakeholder workshops on integrated wetland management. To boost eco-tourism, we equipped 6 homestays with toilets, and water tanks in Satargao village near the wetland.

On the ecological front, our 500-meter microbiome-assisted bioremediation pilot in the Pamohi River reduced *E. coli* from 10^7 to 10^2 /ml, showing promise for replication.

We also mentored 3 Young Lake Managers—two engaged in a 5-days hands-on environmental stewardship and discussions in St. Lucia, South Africa, one of them earned a Japanese government scholarship. These initiatives demonstrate how capacity-building, innovation, and youth leadership can drive wetland resilience and community prosperity.

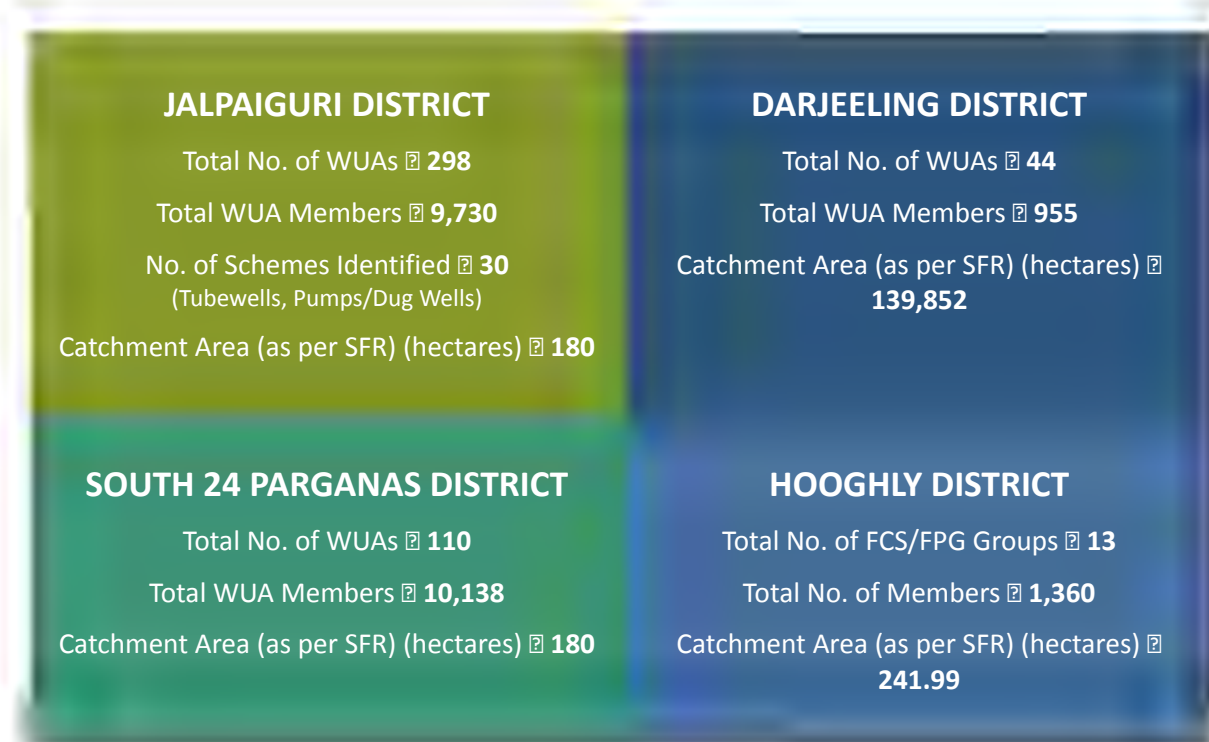
By automating MIS, engaging government and CSO partners, and embedding SDG targets into local planning, we laid the foundation for sustainable, community-led wetland stewardship that combines ecological restoration with resilient livelihoods.

19 capacity building modules
500 meters Pamohi river
bioremediation

- **Consultancy services for strengthening, handholding & nurturing of community governed organisations, in Integrated Farming System (IFS) activities, water efficient farming practices, collective actions among farmers, water management, etc. in the districts of Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, Purba Bardhaman and Nadia; from Katwa to Hooghly Ghat in the context of Hilsa conservation under WBADMIP-II (with Govt. of West Bengal & World Bank):** Along 73 FCS and WUA sites on the Hooghly River, NEWS identified 13 high-potential clusters and piloted integrated aquaculture–farming systems. Capacity-building workshops transformed WUAs into self-governing stewards of sustainable fish and crop production by equipping them with skills.

- **Consulting services for providing support services in agriculture, horticulture & fisheries activities, supporting and promoting water efficient farming practices in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal (with WRIDD, Govt. WB, World Bank):** Under the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project ((WBADMIP) in Jalpaiguri district, 298 Water User Associations (WUAs) have been formed, engaging a total of 9,730 members. 30 minor irrigation schemes – including tubewells and pump dug wells – have been identified, covering a catchment area of 180 hectares as per the SFR (Stream Flow Requirement). As part of convergence efforts with the ADA Department, 450 soil tests were conducted in Mal and Kranti blocks to assess soil health and guide crop planning. In addition, maize and jute seeds were distributed across 195 bighas in Matiali and Maynaguri blocks. To promote farm mechanization, 16 Seed Drill and Nail Weeder machines were also distributed through coordination with the ADA office.
- **West Bengal accelerated development of minor irrigation project (with WRIDD, Govt. of West Bengal, World Bank):** In the jhora-fed micro-watersheds of Darjeeling, the WBADMIP brought together community stewardship, ecological restoration, and climate-resilient agriculture. Through participatory mapping and spring rejuvenation activities, NEWS facilitated the formation of eight Water Users' Associations (WUAs), placing local communities at the centre of water governance. To enhance adaptive capacity and diversify livelihoods in these fragile hill ecosystems, targeted training was provided on water-use planning, mandarin orange cultivation and floriculture. These efforts were complemented by the distribution of 36,000 strawberry saplings and vermiculture units, aimed at improving both farm incomes and soil health.
- **Consulting services in Kultali, Gosaba, Patharpratima, Basanti, Mathurapur-I, Mathurapur-II, Joynagar-II blocks of South 24 Parganas district under WBADMIP-II. (with Govt. of West Bengal & World Bank):** Across 8 micro-watersheds, we registered new WUAs, conducted PRAs/RRAs, and trained members in solar-pump maintenance, crop planning and scampi (Giant freshwater Prawn) husbandry. Integration of MIS data helps track water use and productivity in real time.

Collective Impact of the WBADMI Projects



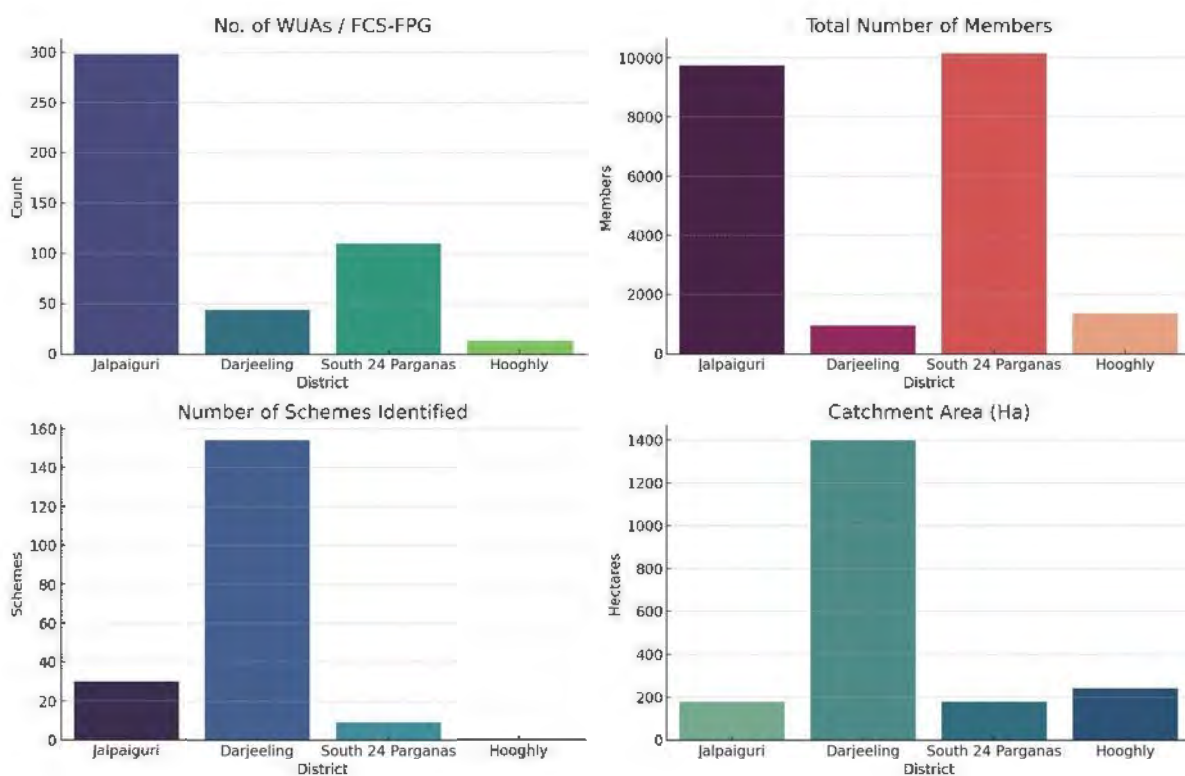


Figure 1. Collective Impact of the WBADMI projects across Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, South 24 Parganas and Hooghly Districts, West Bengal.

- Re-instituting effective value chains to sustain mangrove stewardship in Indian Sundarban by building capacity of Badabon Farmers Producer Company Limited (FFEM):** We launched the Badabon Harvest e-commerce site (www.badabonharvest.in) with integrated payments, listed products on Amazon and staged weekly pop-ups in Kolkata and Sealdah Station, driving annual sales from ₹2.4 million to ₹4.3 million (a 105.8% increase). We forged partnerships with 5+ cafés and retailers in Delhi–Kolkata, Biswa Bangla Marketing Corporation and local eco-tourism outfits; expanded our shareholder base from 208 to 338 and raised women’s board representation from 10% to 40%. Through 57 workshops and trainings – on branding, digital marketing, government entitlements, governance, leadership and women-led value addition (pickle-making) – we equipped the Board of Directors (BOD), marketing team and 5 women’s groups with the skills to sustain growth. We also convened ecotourism seminars in Kolkata and New Delhi’s Sustainability Standards Conference, launched QR-code tracking for traceability, and developed promotional materials and research reports to inform ongoing strategy. This integrated approach blended capacity building, market linkage and policy influence to demonstrate a nature-positive, community-driven model for climate-resilient livelihoods. Badabon is “mangrove” in Bengali.

105.8% increase in sales
130 added to shareholder base
30% increase in women on Board
57 workshops
- Solar Electrification of the Seed Storage Facility at Amlamethi, Sundarban (Petronet LNG Limited):** We solar-electrified the Amlamethi seed-storage facility in the Sundarban, installing a 1.1 kW rooftop PV system and 4 BLDC fans to ensure steady ventilation and protect seed viability during humid months. After a detailed site feasibility study (roof orientation, load analysis, structural checks), we mobilized a 15-member “Green Brigade” of local women –training them in hands-on O&M through on-site demos and an orientation workshop. Regular meetings with the Panchayat secured community ownership, a formal handover ceremony distributed



long-term maintenance roles, and a user-friendly Bengali manual institutionalized cleaning and troubleshooting routines. Throughout, we documented temperature and lighting improvements, achieving 100 % system uptime, strengthened women's leadership in climate-adaptation efforts, and laid the groundwork for resilient, community-driven seed conservation.

- **Survey of NTFPs in North Bengal and South Bengal, estimation of wild harvest and trade and assessment of impact on the forest health and development of trade linkage during 2023-2024 (with Silviculture (South) Division, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of West Bengal):** In multiple forest divisions across West Bengal, systematic sampling and trade-volume assessments for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) have laid the groundwork for a community-driven NTFP business model. Interviews with JFMC and FPC members ensured local ownership of sustainable harvesting and marketing strategies.

20 bigha restored
800 kg fingerlings

- **Restoration of the East Kolkata Wetlands Ramsar Site through community stewardship (TM International Logistics Ltd.):** We restored 20 bigha of East Kolkata Wetlands by excavating ponds to a 5–6 ft depth – removing an extra 2.5 ft and widening embankments from 4 ft to 12 ft using the soil to reinforce barriers and repair collapsed sections. We released 800 kg of Indian Major Carp fingerlings to boost local fish stocks and hosted a community nature walk to foster stewardship. These efforts improved aquaculture productivity and economic returns for fishermen, stabilized pond structures against erosion, and deepened community ownership of wetland habitats – critical for sustaining livelihoods and Fishing Cat conservation.

- **Third party monitoring of WB CAMPA works for the financial year 2022-2023 (West Bengal CAMPA, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of West Bengal):** Our third-party surveys spanned 52 forest divisions and 3 administrative circles, verifying survival rates and documenting non-plantation activities. In addition to verifying plantation survival rates, the evaluation covered a diverse range of non-plantation activities—including the construction and renovation of staff quarters, beat and range offices, development of earthen dams and morrum roads, procurement of fire-fighting equipment, hiring of vehicles and personnel, provisioning of food and medicine for rescued wildlife, and supply of cartridges, searchlights, and essential office equipment. The final reports serve as an important accountability tool and offer strategic insights for improving the quality and impact of future afforestation and forest management investments in West Bengal. The final evaluation

52 forest divisions
3 administrative circles

reports for FY 2022–23 ensure accountability and guide future afforestation investments by the Government of West Bengal.

- **Climate resilient communities in Sundarban are economically, ecologically, and politically strengthened and are committed to address the consequences of climate change (with terre de hommes, tdh Germany):** NEWS empowered communities by strengthening self-help groups and youth clubs – over 60% of which reported improved awareness of climate resilience and rights – and facilitating access to government schemes for nearly 250 members. Livelihood diversification initiatives such as paddy–fish systems and backyard poultry benefitted over 200 households. Child-led eco clubs mobilized more than

200 households
500 community members
1,000 children

1,000 students to lead plastic reduction and water conservation campaigns. Through the IKU-funded *Empowered* initiative, over 500 women and youth were trained in disaster preparedness, health, and sustainable enterprise development. Together, they planted nearly 10,000 mangrove seedlings to support coastal biodiversity. Conservation and risk reduction education reached 460 school children, while the construction of low-cost, flood-resilient infrastructure – including raised platforms and toilets – now provides greater safety for vulnerable communities.





Clockwise from top left: Besitar WUA meeting; Strawberry harvesting; Strawberry harvesting; Laliguar WUA mixing farmyard manure for seed harvesting

STORIES OF CHANGE

Across the mist-shrouded hills and tidal wetlands of West Bengal, a quiet revolution has taken root – one powered not by grand machines, but by the ingenuity, courage and collaboration of local communities. In four very different corners of our landscape, Water Users' Associations (WUAs) have transformed themselves into engines of change, weaving simple technologies, diverse livelihoods and inclusive leadership to reclaim their futures.

In the Darjeeling hills, the Besitar WUA broke free from the limits of single-crop seasons by installing gravity-fed sprinklers and embracing mixed farming. Where water once trickled sporadically, now every terrace teems with rice, vegetables and fish ponds – boosting cropping intensity from 100% to 135% and generating ₹35,000 a year in collective revenue. Nearby in Laliguras, a humble bamboo polyhouse became a green crucible for women entrepreneurs, who turned 1,400 broccoli and cabbage seedlings into ₹22,487 in sales – proof that protected nurseries and peer-to-peer workshops can spark rural enterprise.

Downstream in Purba Chenga, the Yamuna WUA used raised irrigation channels and polyhouse nurseries to tame saline soils and protracted dry spells. Their fields now flourish year-round, with 145% cropping intensity and nearly ₹30,000 in surpluses, giving farmers the confidence to experiment with black pepper and organic manures. And on the slopes of Sittong, the Toryok Agro WUA crafted a climate-smart seed factory under insect-netting, turning 3,000 seedlings into ₹35,687 of income while reinforcing social bonds through joint inspections and training sessions.

What binds these stories is a shared tapestry of impact: locally governed institutions that steer their own destinies; affordable, context-appropriate technologies that multiply yields; diversified, resilient livelihoods that withstand monsoons and market shifts; women stepping into leadership roles that reshape family and village life; and capacity-building that empowers every member to be a force for sustainable development.

Together, these four case studies illuminate how NEWS's approach – grounded in community, innovation and inclusivity – can transform marginal landscapes into beacons of hope, where people and nature thrive in harmony.



Capacity building activities, and mushroom farming (bottom right corner) for Bara Chenga Yamuna and Toryok Agro WUAs



“Winging On,” NEWS’s youth-led bird conservation poster from the Sundarban, was selected as a winner in IUCN Asia’s “Capture Youth Voices” competition and showcased at the 8th Asia Regional Conservation Forum.



A 5-Part Documentary Series by Reel Nomads, in collaboration with Nature Environment and Wildlife Society

A short documentary series created by Reel Nomads in partnership with NEWS, journeys into the heart of the Sundarban, where communities live at the frontline of climate change. With intimate storytelling, the series reveals the courage, wisdom, and deep resilience of those rooted in this fragile ecosystem – where tradition and innovation quietly converge in powerful ways. The full series is available on *WaterBear Network*, a free interactive streaming platform dedicated to storytelling that drives environmental and humanitarian impact.

Episode 1 – WIND: In the winds of change, women rise with the mangroves.

As cyclones tear through the Sundarban with growing force, they fail to break the spirit of the women who call it home. Episode 1 explores the growing bond between women and mangroves – a story of strength, sisterhood, and ecological restoration.

Episode 2 – FIRE: When forests and people collide, can bees show us the way forward?

Rising human-wildlife conflict is making forest-dependent livelihoods increasingly risky. Yet, amid this tension, native beekeeping is offering hope. Episode 2 reveals how the smallest of creatures are helping restore balance between nature and livelihoods.

Episode 3 – WATER: The tides still rise and fall, but so do we.

In the Sundarban, tides shape daily life. Episode 3 follows the youth as they reimagine their relationship with water and their place in a changing delta. With awareness and action, they begin to build a more resilient future.

Episode 4 – EARTH: We call her mother—and she remembers.

The soil of the Sundarban holds stories of floods, cyclones, and survival. Episode 4 honours farmers who draw on ancestral wisdom to resist industrial pressures, reviving earth-friendly farming and sowing seeds of hope.

Episode 5 – SPACE: When homes wash away, what remains?

As climate impacts intensify, traditional livelihoods are under threat. In the final episode, themes of migration, motherhood, and memory emerge. With men migrating for work, women become anchors of strength, navigating climate loss with quiet resilience.

KNOWLEDGE & LEADERSHIP

Beyond our hands-on projects, NEWS has emerged as a vital knowledge hub – bridging the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world conservation. Through expert lectures in national and international forums and training institutes, peer-reviewing pivotal studies for international journals, and publishing breakthrough findings on ecosystem dynamics and restoration techniques, we're not just doing the work in the field – we're shaping the policies, standards and scientific dialogue that guide conservation across India and beyond.



EXPERT TALKS & CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2024, NEWS's in-house experts were regularly invited to share their insights at premier institutions, speaking on “Standardization for Environment and Ecology” at the Bureau of Indian Standards in August, and distilling the “Basics of Environment and Sustainable Development” for trainees at Kolkata’s Regional Capacity Building and Knowledge Institute, under the Controller and Auditor General of India (CAG). These sessions helped bridge science and practice, equipping government and community stakeholders with the tools to design better standards and programmes for ecological stewardship.

ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

In 2024-25, NEWS strengthened its reputation as a knowledge-driven organisation through diverse academic and practitioner-oriented publications. Our team contributed to a full-length research article in the *Biological Forum* (February 2025), which examined fish diversity in Deepor Beel, a Ramsar site in Assam. The study recorded 45 fish species with higher post-monsoon diversity and highlighted alarming declines in fish abundance due to pollution, invasive species, and habitat degradation—underscoring the urgent need for wetland restoration and sustainable management. We also co-authored a study published in *The Malaysian Forester* (2024), analysing post-fire impacts on species richness and composition in tropical Sal forests of Bankura, West Bengal. The research

revealed the dominance of invasive species in fire-affected zones and stressed the need for ecological restoration strategies in recurrently burned landscapes.

The global relevance of our work was underscored by the inclusion of our findings in the State of the World's Mangroves 2024 report by the Global Mangrove Alliance. This report featured our insights on sustainable aquaculture in mangrove ecosystems, with a focus on community-based initiatives in West Bengal.



Our internal case study publication on the SAIME initiative offered a deep dive into how integrated aquaculture models are restoring degraded ecosystems and enhancing rural incomes. Meanwhile, at the 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum, we showcased a scientific poster on biodiversity-friendly aquaculture's role in building climate resilience in the Sundarban.

At the World Congress on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Development, our work on the carbon sequestration potential of mangrove vegetation was presented through the *Book of Abstracts*, reaffirming our commitment to nature-based climate solutions.

Together these publications not only disseminate NEWS’s ground-level learnings but also advocate for scalable science-backed solutions to today’s most urgent ecological challenges.

Publication Name	Type of Publication	Name of Forum/Journal	Authors	Date of Publication
<u>A study on the present status of fish population, abundance and anthropogenic stresses affecting the ichthyofaunal diversity in Deepor Beel, Assam India</u>	Research Paper	Biological Forum	Bedabati Kalita, Arijit Chakraborty, Ajanta Dey	7 th February
Impact of Mangrove Vegetation on Sequestration of Blue-Stock Carbon in Coastal Soils	Book of Abstracts	Book of Abstracts of World Congress on Advances in Plant Science and Plant Biology	G.N. Chattopadhyay, Santanu Patra, Pradipto Sow, Ajanta Dey, Nimai Bera, Sabyasachi Chakrabarty (NEWS)	31 st March – 1 st April
<u>Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME)</u>	Report of Global Mangrove Alliance	The State of the Worlds Mangroves (2024)	Ajanta Dey, Nimai Bera, Sabyasachi Chakraborty, Milon Sinha	26 th July
<u>Postfire assessment of plant diversity in tropical Sal forests in eastern India</u>	Full Research Article	Malaysian Forester	Saikat Manna, Ranjana Saha, Biswajit Roy Chowdhury, JRB Alfred	June
<u>SAIME case study</u>	Case Study	NEWS publication	NEWS	30 th August
Biodiversity-friendly aquaculture to build resilient ecosystem and bring transformative changes in aquaculture practice in Indian Sundarbans – A Case Study	Poster	8 th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum	Milon Sinha	2 nd – 6 th September

PEER REVIEW & SCHOLARLY SERVICE

Beyond generating original research, NEWS served as a partner to international journals by reviewing cutting-edge studies. We evaluated manuscripts on seedling diversity in Borneo’s Kerangas forests for the *Asia Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry*, and assessed work on wildfire impacts in Ghana’s savannahs for the *International Journal of Environment and Climate Change*. Through this peer-review service, NEWS helps ensure that published science meets the highest standards of accuracy and relevance.

The table below captures the different workshops and events conducted in 2024 – 2025; a detailed timeline of our events, workshops, and trainings, is given in Annex 1.

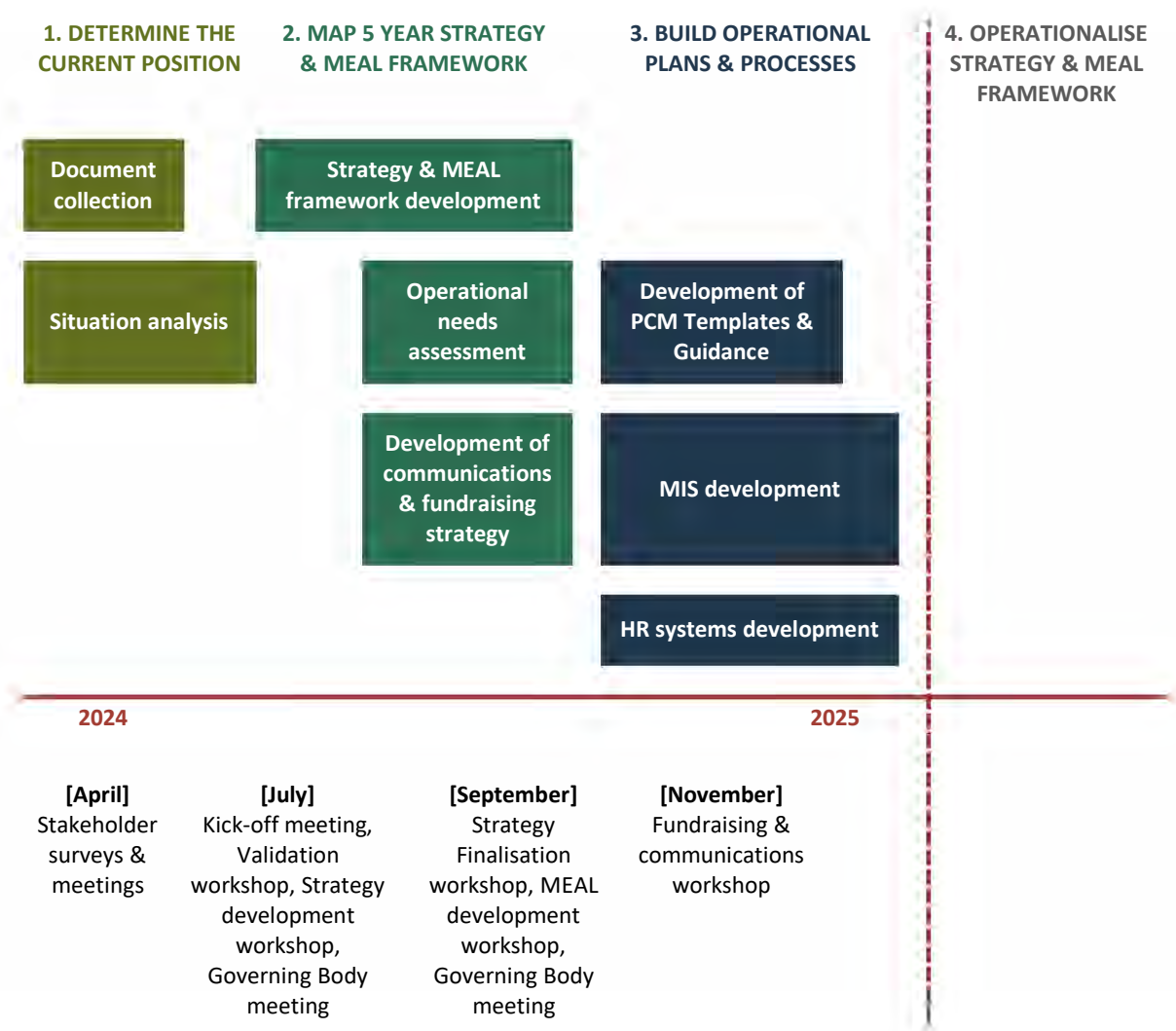
Theme	Conference	Event	Visit	Workshop	Total
Aquaculture		5	2	11	18
Biodiversity	3	2		2	7
Climate	1			4	5
Coastal	6				6
Ecotourism		2		4	6
Environment		20		1	21
Financial Literacy				4	4
Livelihoods				18	18
Mangroves	7	5	1	10	23
Others	1	6	1	9	17
Strategy/MEAL				12	12
Wetlands		10	2	6	18
Wildlife		14		6	20
Gender				3	
Grand Total	18	64	6	90	178

A NEW STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR NEWS

We've been working in conservation for over three decades. Over the years we've built deep, lasting relationships with communities, government agencies and partner organizations. Our track record speaks for itself: we've driven real impact on the ground while earning trust and credibility across the sector.

But the world around us is changing. New conservation challenges are emerging, technologies are evolving rapidly, and our stakeholders expect ever more strategic, data-driven approaches. To keep pace, we knew we had to refresh our strategy and strengthen our capacity – without disrupting the programs and partnerships we've spent years nurturing.

That's why we launched a five-year transformational strategy initiative. Our goal was clear: craft a bold, forward-looking roadmap supported by a monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) framework and implementation plan, and management information system (MIS), all the while continuing our day-to-day work. We invited proposals from external consultants, and, with the endorsement of our funding partner, the Chanel Foundation – we chose [EcoNiche](#), a conservation consultancy. Below is the schematic framework that we followed in 2024-2025, for our organizational and programmatic transformation:



At the heart of our five-year strategy lies a tool we use in every conservation plan: the Theory of Change cycle – it’s the engine by which we translate our vision and mission into real-world impact. We started by defining long-term goals that embody our mission. From there, we worked backwards to identify the intermediate outcomes and preconditions required to achieve those goals. Along the way, we assigned clear, measurable results and articulate the assumptions that link each step. This iterative process keeps us honest – ensuring that every activity, partnership and investment directly contributes to the change we want to see on the ground.

Since we rolled out our new strategic framework, everyone at NEWS has more clarity of purpose and a shared sense of direction. Our refreshed vision and mission now guides every decision, and we’re aligning individual development plans and performance goals with our organizational objectives.

In the coming year (FY 2025 – 26) we will focus on:

- Rolling out our strategy, MEAL framework and MIS across all project teams to ensure we measure what matters and learn as we go.
- Piloting our new HR systems and processes to support staff growth, streamline workflows and embed our strategic goals into everyday operations.



STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK (2025 – 2030)

VISION	We imagine a world where people value and care for nature to thrive across generations.			
MISSION	Our mission is to co-create evidence-based models and strategies through partnerships and stewardship to conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage natural resources for a transformative change that ensures functional ecosystems and resilient communities in India.			
PROGRAM GOALS (PG)	1. CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY We safeguard vital ecosystems and species to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and support human well-being.	2. SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT We promote the sustainable management of soil, water, and biodiversity to support ecosystem health, livelihoods, and socio-economic well-being.	3. TRANSLATING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION We strengthen conservation policy and practice by leveraging knowledge and partnerships to accelerate impact.	4. ORGANIZATION HEALTH We foster an inclusive, equitable, culturally aware organization that attracts and empowers outstanding individuals from diverse backgrounds while ensuring financial and operational resilience.
PROGRAM RESULTS (PR)	1.1 Strengthened ecosystem services, including enhanced carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, through the restoration and sustainable management of coastal wetlands. 1.2 Reduced negative human-wildlife interactions across NEWS project landscapes.	2.1 Freshwater resources restored through nature-based solutions, institutionalized community-led governance, and inclusive conservation decision-making. 2.2 Improved soil productivity and biodiversity in agricultural lands across India. 2.3 Strengthened sustainable, nature-based economic opportunities for communities in NEWS project geographies.	3.1 Knowledge is accessible and utilized to inform decision-makers in developing effective conservation and natural resource management strategies across NEWS project landscapes.	4.1 Enhanced talent management and staff retention. 4.2 Strengthened financial resilience with a secured and diversified funding base. 4.3 Increased brand visibility and strengthened communications. 4.4 Improved program management effectiveness. 4.5 Optimized data management and decision-making across all levels.

ANNEX 1. EVENTS, SKILLS-TRAININGS & CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS



- **27 Mar 2025:** German Ambassador Visit, Deepor Beel (Assam): H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann toured NEWS's river bioremediation under the IKI-LLBCP project.
- **26 Mar 2025:** Collaborative Workshop, Kolkata: "Towards a Sustainable Sundarban" with Axis Bank on mangrove restoration and biodiversity.
- **25 Mar 2025:** Group Dynamics Training, Azara Community Hall (Assam): One-day workshop on SHG bookkeeping and financial literacy under IKI-LLBCP.

- **18 Mar 2025:** Global Recycling Day, Maghuapara LP School (Assam): Upcycling session with Grades 1–5 on “Reuse, Reduce, Recycle.”
- **11 Mar 2025:** Wetland Restoration Launch, Tardaha (East Kolkata Wetlands): Pond excavation kickoff with birdwatching and LED lamp distribution.
- **8 Mar 2025:** International Women’s Day, Multiple Sites (Kolkata, Sundarban, Tamil Nadu, Assam): Storytelling, community meetings and recognition of women conservation leaders.
- **6 Mar 2025:** Climate Adaptation Workshop, New Delhi: IKI-LLBCP panel on resilience at ITC Maurya.
- **5 Mar 2025:** World Sustainable Development Summit, New Delhi: NEWS delegation at TERI’s flagship event on sustainable partnerships.
- **3 Mar 2025:** World Wildlife Day Rally & Cleanup, Noai Khal (Sahapur, WB): Awareness drive with Axis Bank partnership.
- **3 Mar 2025:** World Wildlife Day Screening, Parijat Academy (Assam): Wildlife documentaries and Q&A for Grades 4–5 under IKI-LLBCP.
- **28 Feb 2025:** Asian Waterbird Census, East Kolkata Wetlands (WB): Citizen-science bird count with 50 volunteers.
- **14 – 15 Feb 2025:** Coastal & Marine Habitat Symposium, Kochi (Kerala): NEWS insight on mangrove restoration at WTI event.
- **6 Feb 2025:** Climate Investment Panel, Biswa Bangla Mela (Kolkata): Multi-stakeholder discussion at Bengal Global Business Summit.
- **5 Feb 2025:** World Wetlands Day, Chinnagudi (Tamil Nadu): School sit-and-draw, sapling planting and prizes with Axis Bank.
- **4 Feb 2025:** World Wetlands Day, Pratapnagar Giridhari HS (Kolkata): Quiz, eco-club launch and awareness with EKW-AWC.
- **2 Feb 2025:** World Wetlands Day (SAIME & Axis Bank & IKI-LLBCP), Multiple Sites: Rallies, cleanups, awareness and shrimp stocking across Sundarban, Kolkata and Assam.
- **2 Feb 2025:** Kolkata Book Fair Quiz & Writing (Kolkata): Open quiz and quote challenge on wetlands at NEWS stall.
- **1 Feb 2025:** World Disability Day Commemoration (Bolpur and Birbhum West Bengal): NEWS and Nopany Institute of Healthcare Studies, with support from Dr. Shabnam Agarwal, organised a free Physiotherapy and Mobility Aids Camp.
- **30 Jan 2025:** SAIME Stakeholder Visit, Chaital (Sundarban): Government and World Bank delegation toured sustainable aquaculture sites.
- **27 Jan 2025:** Plastics Waste Workshop, Guwahati: IKI-LLBCP forum on zero-waste strategies at The Ornate Hotel.



Clockwise (from top left): Human-Elephant Conflict Training at Amba Village, UP; Mangrove & Blue Carbon Workshop at Jamespur, Sundarban (NCIS consultative sessions on restoration best practices); Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Workshop; Knowledge exchange on Integrated Wetland Management Planning under IKILLBCP.

- **21 Jan 2025:** Youth Documentary Workshop, Gosaba (Sundarban): Wildlife filmmaker session with Eco-Clubs.
- **6 Jan 2025:** Biodiversity Session, Katarniaghat (UP): Eco-club youth and forest staff trained on butterflies and ecosystems under HEC.
- **4 Jan 2025:** Human-Elephant Conflict Training, Amba Village (UP): Gajamitras and forest staff trained on identification and mitigation.
- **4 Jan 2025:** 1st Bi-Annual Bird Meet, East Kolkata Wetlands (Kolkata): Guided birdwatching and citizen-science launch with EKWMA.
- **26 – 27Dec2024:** SHG Financial Literacy Training, DeeporBeel (Assam): Two-day bookkeeping and SWOT workshop under IKI-LLBCP.
- **23 Dec 2024:** Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Workshop (Salt Lake, Kolkata): Hosted a workshop on 'Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities,' bringing together policymakers, experts, CSOs, and youth to share insights on ecotourism, climate literacy, and community leadership.
- **17 – 23 Dec 2024:** Young Lake Manager Exchange, Sri Lanka: Field visits to wetlands and beekeeping with EMACE Foundation.

- **17 Dec 2024:** Wildlife Products Workshop, Valmiki Tiger Reserve (UP): SSB training on anti-trafficking laws and species identification.
- **10 – 12 Dec 2024:** Mangrove & Blue Carbon Workshop, Jamespur (Sundarban): NCIS consultative sessions on restoration best practices.
- **10 – 12 Dec 2024:** Mangrove Conference, Abu Dhabi: NEWS presentations on stewardship and climate-adaptive aquaculture models.
- **6 – 8 Dec 2024:** IPPN Conference, IIT Bombay (Mumbai): Panel on coastal resilience and livelihoods featuring SAIME.
- **27 – 29 Nov 2024:** Fundraising Communications Workshop, Novotel (Kolkata): Strategy-building for MEAL-aligned fundraising with EcoNiche.
- **23 Nov 2024:** Coastal Communities Workshop, Salt Lake (Kolkata): Ecotourism, youth leadership and climate literacy under TDH.
- **13 – 15 Nov 2024:** India & Sustainability Standards, New Delhi: Session on mangrove synergies and film series launch at ISS in partnership with Centre for Responsible Business (CRB).
- **11 – 13 Nov 2024:** South Asia Youth Summit, Kolkata: Cross-border youth forum on biodiversity, rights and field visit to SAIME.



The South Asia Youth Summit 2024, organized by Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS) in partnership with Terre des Hommes; and a Strategy-Building Workshop on Communication for Fundraising.

- **5 – 7 Nov 2024:** Wetland Management Exchange, Srinagar (J&K): Assam DFOs toured Wular and Hokersar sites under IKI-LLBCP.
- **5 – 7 Nov 2024:** Handloom Weaving Training, Keotpara (Assam): SHG capacity building in traditional weaving under IKI-LLBCP.
- **23 Oct 2024:** Bird Watching Camp, Sundarbans (WB): Youth eco-club immersion in avian diversity at Poilagheri under TdH.
- **18 – 19 Oct 2024:** Climate Literacy (Energy), Sagar Island (WB): Eco-club workshop on energy sources and conservation under TDH.



Clockwise (from top left): IUCN 8th Regional Conservation Forum, Bangkok; Piloting native lemon species plantation as a bio-fence under HEC at Katarniaghat; Situation Analysis Validation Workshop on MEAL by EcoNiche; Eco-club youths exploring biodiversity and birdlife at Kakraha Nature's Trail (HEC).

- **2 – 8 Oct 2024:** National Wildlife Week, Sundarbans (WB): Drawing, photography and videography contest on mudflat fauna.
- **27 Sep 2024:** Ecotourism Webinar (Online): World Tourism Day panel across South Asia on “Invest in Nature.”
- **17 – 21 Sep 2024:** MEAL Framework Workshop, Kolkata: Finalization and familiarization with program teams and governance bodies.
- **17 Sep 2024:** Waste Management Workshop, Sagar Island (WB): Youth CLM on the four R's under TDH.
- **9 Sep 2024:** Multi-Stakeholder Forum (Online): GNF, NEWS, and Ujaylo Nepal hosted an online exchange on ‘Safe and Sustainable Practices,’ uniting 60+ experts and practitioners to share strategies, technologies, and community-led solutions for mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict in South Asia."
- **8 Sep 2024:** Energy CLM Session, Kumirmari (WB): Eco-club training on renewable and non-renewable energy sources under TdH.
- **7 – 13 Sep 2024:** Sustainability Leadership Journey, St Lucia (South Africa): IKI Young Lake Managers conference.

- **5 Sep 2024:** Biodiversity-friendly Farming, Azara (Assam): Farmer training in Panchagavya and soil health under IKI-LLBCP.
- **3 – 5 September 2024:** IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (Bangkok): NEWS participated in the 8th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Bangkok (3–5 Sept 2024), presenting its SAIME initiative on sustainable aquaculture and winning recognition for its youth-led bird conservation poster ‘Winging On’.
- **3 – 5 September 2024:** Training Workshop (Assam): From 3–5 Sept 2024, NEWS’s Ajanta Dey and Dr. Mayur Bawri joined a training on Integrated Wetlands Management in Guwahati, under the NERAQ initiative with GIZ, WISA, and the State Wetland Authority Assam, to strengthen capacities for Ramsar Site IMPs.
- **30 Aug 2024:** Katarniaghat Birdwalk (Katarniaghat, UP): 25 eco-club youths surveyed 27 waterbird species on the Kakraha Nature Trail under HEC (GNF).
- **29 Aug 2024:** SAIME Site Visit (Chital, Sundarbans): Undergraduate students from Kishore Bharati Nivedita College toured mangrove–aquaculture farms.
- **30 Aug 2024:** Snake Safety Training (Nishangarah SSB Camp, UP): SSB officers learned to identify venomous vs. non-venomous snakes and manage snakebites.



Clockwise (from top left): CLM session on Disaster Management at Sagar (TDH Project); Sustainability Leadership Journey in St. Lucia, South Africa (IKI Young Lake Manager Conference); Community engagement; Capacity building of local guides in communication skills, video photography, and storytelling under IKILLBCP.

- **29 Aug 2024:** Elephant Bio-Fence Pilot (Amba Village, UP): Planted ~300 native lemon trees around farms to deter elephants and provide alternate income.
- **28 Aug 2024:** Global Environmental Crisis Lecture (Kolkata): Mid-career IA&AD officers learned about climate change, habitat loss and nature-based solutions.
- **27 – 29 Aug 2024:** Youth Ecological Strategy Workshop (Baranti, Purulia): 34 participants revamped the YES Network’s five-year action plan.
- **23 – 24 Aug 2024:** Fishing Cat Awareness (Sagar Island, WB): 65 eco-club members learned about the species’ ecology and threats.
- **19 Aug 2024:** Raksha Bandhan Mangrove Rakhis (39 sites, Sundarban): 3,306 participants tied “rakhis” to mangroves to symbolize protection.
- **19 Aug 2024:** Sundarban Online “Environmental Consciousness” Session: Senior audit officers discussed Sundarban-specific challenges and solutions.
- **18 Aug 2024:** Horseshoe Crab Tagging (Khandia Muhana, Odisha): NEWS joined ZSI in the first-ever tagging to study migration and breeding patterns.
- **17 – 18 Aug 2024:** Mangrove CLM Workshop (Hingalganj, WB): 94 youths explored mangrove types, ecosystem services and created awareness charts.
- **15 Aug 2024:** Deepor Beel Nature’s Trail (Garbhanga Forest, Assam): 29 youths trained in bird identification and ecotourism storytelling.
- **12 Aug 2024:** World Elephant Day (Katarniaghat, UP & Valmiki TR, Bihar): School students and officials joined awareness activities, quizzes and tree-planting.
- **12 Aug 2024:** Deepor Beel School Program (Guwahati, Assam): Maghuapara students watched an Assamese elephant documentary and drew posters.
- **6 – 10 Aug 2024:** SWOT Livelihood Workshop (Sundarban, WB): Experts and farmers co-created a roadmap for women’s income-generation models.
- **8 Aug 2024:** NEWS Internship Launch (Kolkata): 50 EIILM students began gender-analysis fieldwork in the Sundarban.
- **6 – 8 Aug 2024:** Coastal Resilience Forum (Chennai): NEWS led sessions on climate-adaptive aquaculture at a transnational civil-society partnership meeting.
- **5 – 9 Aug 2024:** Shrimp Insurance Training (Kolkata & Chennai): SAIME farmers learned risk management and visited ICAR-CIBA research facilities.
- **1 – 3 Aug 2024:** Focus Group Discussions for Gender Analysis in the Sundarban, Choto Rakkhaskhali, Gplot Gobardhanpur, Kankandighi, and Raydighi, South 24 Parganas.
- **2 Aug 2024:** Youth SAIME Exposure (Chaital, Sundarban): 22 West Bengal Youth Network members toured mangrove–aquaculture integration sites.

- **30 Jul – 31 Jul 2024:** Backyard Poultry Training (Guwahati, Assam): 40 women learned poultry farming techniques under the Living Lakes project.
- **29 Jul 2024:** Global Mangrove Alliance Feature (Online): NEWS's Green Brigade and SAIME case stories published in the State of the World's Mangroves report.



- **29 Jul 2024:** Global Tiger Day (Alipore Zoo & Sajnekhali, WB): Students and officials celebrated with quizzes, performances and award-ceremonies.
- **26 Jul 2024:** World Mangrove Day (39 sites, Sundarban & TN): Community members planted saplings and took part in rallies and drawing contests.
- **26 Jul 2024:** School Mangrove Workshop (Thennampattinam, TN): Students learned about mangrove ecology and competed in a drawing contest.
- **24 Jul – 26 Jul 2024:** Focus Group Discussions for Gender Analysis in the Sundarban, Hingalganj, Kumirmari & Chotomolakhali, South 24 Parganas.
- **23 Jul 2024:** Environmental Youth Meeting (Kultoli, Sundarban): 30 youths identified local issues and planned water-conservation campaigns.
- **20 – 21 Jul 2024:** “Badabon Porichiti” CLM (Kumirmari, Sundarban): 93 eco-club youths studied mangrove characteristics and ecosystem roles.
- **20 Jul 2024:** Disaster Management CLM (Sagar, Sundarban): 30 eco-club members learned preparedness steps and created community awareness charts.
- **18 – 19 Jul 2024:** Strategy Re-definition Workshops (Kolkata): News teams collaborated with EcoNiche to refine vision, mission and strategic priorities.
- **15 – 20 Jul 2024:** Situation Analysis Workshops (Kolkata): MEAL framework and SWOC assessment validated and shaped the five-year strategy.

- **11 – 13 Jul 2024:** Shrimp Diversification (Chaital & Madhabpur, Sundarban): 300,000 native shrimp post-larvae distributed to SAIME farmers.
- **10 Jul – 30 Aug 2024:** Internships (West Bengal): 49 interns from EILM Kolkata completed their internship with NEWS, contributing to gender analysis through field studies with 115 women from 23 groups in the Sundarban.
- **11 Jul 2024:** World Population Day Webinar (Kolkata): NEWS's Ajanta Dey lectured on sustainable development and population dynamics.
- **10 Jul 2024:** SAIME Award (Kolkata): Chaital Badabon Matsya Chash Samity honored by ICAR-CIFE for climate-adaptive mangrove aquaculture.
- **10 Jul 2024:** Fish Farmer's Day (8 WUAs, Sundarban): 98 kg of fingerlings stocked across eight Water User Associations under WBADMIP.
- **10 Jul 2024:** Fish Feed Mill Event (Sagar Islands, Sundarban): 38 FIG members discussed species selection, polyculture and branding at Sumatinagar mill.
- **9 – 12 Jul 2024:** Handicrafts Workshop (Kumirmari, Sundarban): 15 women trained in water-hyacinth and bamboo crafts for eco-tourism souvenirs.
- **9 – 11 Jul 2024:** Guide Training (Guwahati, Assam): 30 youths learned storytelling, photography and bird-identification for ecotourism.
- **9 Jul 2024:** Focus Group Discussions for Gender Analysis in the Sundarban, Purandar and Murokhali, Basanti, South 24 Parganas
- **8 Jul 2024:** Mangrove Afforestation (Mayiladuthurai, TN): Communities planted ~130,000 saplings with training in nursery management and monitoring.
- **7 Jul 2024:** Energy CLM (Kumirmari, Sundarban): 27 eco-club members explored energy sources and conservation through interactive games.
- **6 Jul – 8 Jul 2024:** Handicraft SHG Training (Guwahati, Assam): Women's groups mastered bamboo and water-hyacinth crafts for livelihoods.
- **6 Jul 2024:** Biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices (Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu): Empowering communities through income-generation activities like vermicomposting, which has already produced 2,770 kg and earned ₹38,240 by June 2024.
- **2 – 5 Jul 2024:** Capacity Building of Women SHGs (Guwahati, Assam): one-day training (2–5 July) at Azara Boys Club, Keotpara, equipping women's groups of Deepor Beel with bamboo and water hyacinth handicraft skills to promote eco-friendly livelihoods.
- **1 Jul – 6 Jul 2024:** Van Mahotsav Planting (Katarniaghat, UP): 20 students and Gajamitras planted citrus saplings at Sharda Sahayak Inter College.
- **29 Jun 2024:** Energy CLM (Kumirmari, Sundarban): 25 eco-club members learned energy forms and pledged conservation.



Clockwise (from top left): Capacity building of women SHGs on handicrafts at Deepor Beel (IKILLBCP); Paribesh Mela; a CLM energy awareness session with youth and children in Kumirmari; International Day of the Tropics 2024 in Tamil Nadu with Axis Bank Ltd..

- **29 Jun 2024:** Tropics Day Rally (Vanagiri, TN): School students walked to mangrove site and unveiled a new awareness signboard.
- **26 Jun 2024:** Responsible Tourism Showcase (Kolkata): Tour operators previewed Raimangal Eco-Resort and Sundarban farm-stay offerings.
- **26 Jun 2024:** Lake Voices Feature (Deepor Beel, Assam): Young Lake Manager Pragyan Gautam shared insights on wetland research and restoration.
- **20–21 Jun 2024:** Milkfish Pilot (Chaital, Sundarban): 7,000 milkfish seeds distributed to 26 SAIME farmers for ecosystem-based aquaculture test.
- **15–16 Jun 2024:** Paribesh Mela (Sagar Island, Sundarban): Two-day fair on World Environment Day with eco-club exhibits and dignitary talks.
- **14 Jun 2024:** Pickle Preservation Training (Kolkata): Women learned advanced food-safety and labelling for value-addition under Chanel project.
- **7 Jun – 8 Jun 2024:** Safe Food Festival (New Town, Kolkata): Farmers, experts and NGOs showcased biodiversity-friendly produce and practices.

- **5 Jun 2024:** Tree Planting (Balagarh, Hooghly): FCS members planted 250 saplings under WBADMIP to mark World Environment Day.
- **5 Jun 2024:** ZSI World Environment Day (Kolkata): NEWS delivered lead lecture on land restoration and drought resilience at ZSI HQ.
- **5 Jun 2024:** School Planting (Guwahati, Assam): Deepor Beel students and women's groups planted mango and litchi saplings on World Environment Day.
- **30 May 2024:** Financial Management Training (Sundarban): Bookkeeping sessions for 136 Sundarbans stewards across Bidya-Raimangal, Sagar, Matla and Saptamukhani-Thakuran zones, boosting financial transparency and group sustainability
- **23 May 2024:** World Turtle Day (Online, Kolkata): Youth eco-club event led by Dr. Swati Das to explore turtle ecology, threats and "Turtle Warrior" pledges for local conservation
- **22 May 2024:** International Day for Biological Diversity (Sundarban): Eco-club panel in Kumirmari, Hingalgañj & Sagar discussed biodiversity loss, water crises and plastic pollution—24 members pledged rainwater harvesting and indigenous seed use
- **22 May 2024:** Biodiversity Awareness (Maghuwapara Primary School, Deepor Beel, Assam): Interactive session with 20 students and 3 teachers on food chains, local/migratory birds and native plants to spark environmental stewardship.



- **18–19 May 2024:** Mangrove CLM Workshop (Sagar, Sundarban): Two-day Climate Literacy Module "Badabon Porichiti" for 54 youth, covering mangrove ecosystem services, coastal protection and a hands-on field quiz
- **13 May 2024:** ICAR-CSSRI Expert Visit (Chaital, Sundarban): Soil-salinity scientists toured SAIME mangrove-aquaculture farms and discussed ecosystem-based, climate-adaptive practices with farmers
- **29 Apr – 1 May 2024:** Post-Harvest Management Training at ICAR CIFE, Kolkata: Three-day hands-on programme on shrimp and fish preservation, processing techniques, and value-addition

- **28 Apr 2024:** Disaster Management CLM Session in Hingalganj (North 24 Parganas, WB): Youth climate-literacy workshop on preparing for and responding to natural disasters.
- **27 Apr – 4 May 2024:** German delegates visit (Deepor Beel, Assam): a German delegation visited NEWS's IKI-Living Lakes Project at Deepor Beel, Assam, engaging with communities, exploring bioremediation efforts, and experiencing local conservation and livelihood initiatives.
- **22 – 23 Apr 2024:** Expert visit (Karaikal, Puducherry and Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu) Prof. K. Kathiresan, a leading mangrove ecologist, visited NEWS's restoration sites in Karaikal and Mayiladuthurai, offering key recommendations and praising the team's efforts toward coastal sustainability.
- **22 Apr 2024:** Earth Day 2024 (Sundarban): NEWS and Terre des hommes marked Earth Day across Kumirmari, Hingalganj, and Sagar Islands, where 88 eco-club youth showcased posters and eco-friendly alternatives to plastics under the theme 'Planet vs Plastic.
- **22 Apr 2024:** Earth Day 2024 at Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan M. E. School, Chakardo (Guwahati, Assam): Interactive "Planet vs Plastics" quiz and sessions with 88 eco-club students.
- **22 Apr 2024:** Earth Day 2024 at Sharda Sahayak Inter College, Girjapuri (Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, UP): Awareness activities and drawing contests with 31 school students and forest officials.
- **11 Apr 2024:** Awareness-building events (Sagar, Kumirmari and Hingalganj CDBs): NEWS marked World Migratory Bird Day by engaging 90 Sundarban youth in awareness sessions on bird migration, insect-bird interdependence, and community-led conservation actions under the tdh Project.
- **6 Apr 2024:** Collaborative Event (Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Valmiki Tiger Reserve): Formed five new Elephant Protection Groups (Gajamitras) along the Indo-Nepal border, engaging 105 community members in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Valmiki Tiger Reserve to mitigate human-elephant conflict.
- **4 – 9 Apr 2024:** "Inheritance" Photo Exhibition at Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata: Six-day showcase of environmental photography, highlighted by interactions with photographers and guests
- **4 – 5 Apr 2024:** Sustainable Wild Honey Harvesting in the Sundarban: Training on eco-friendly techniques for local "Moulis" to protect bee colonies and ensure future harvests.
- **4 Apr 2024:** Capacity building (Karaikal, Puducherry): Through the ONGC-supported Mangrove Afforestation and Olive Ridley Turtle Protection Project in Karaikal, Puducherry, local women were trained in community-based mangrove monitoring through theory, demonstrations, and field exercises.
- **3 – 5 Apr 2024:** Capacity-building of women SHGs (Guwahati, Assam): under the IKI-Living Lakes Project, 25 women from Deepor Beel's fishing community were trained in cultural handloom weaving at Keotpara, Guwahati, creating avenues for empowerment and alternative livelihoods.
- **1 Apr 2024:** Ambassador visit (Sundarban): Women-led Water Users Association of Kumirmari, hosted H.E. Ms. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Netherlands, who lauded the community's pond-based aquaculture, vermicomposting, and nature-based sustainability efforts.

- **March – April 2024:** Capacity-building Workshop: NEWS trained 136 participants from steward groups across the Indian Sundarban in bookkeeping and financial management, fostering inclusive growth, transparency, and economic empowerment.



Clockwise (from top left): Inheritance photo exhibition at the Academy of Fine Arts; Ms. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, visiting the WBADMI Project; and visit of German delegates to Deepor Beel, Assam (IKILLBCP).

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पांच-पांच के अलग-अलग ग्रुप में टीप शिफ्ट बाइज काम करेगे। प्रत्येक गर्मीज अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार टाईफ को आदान प्रदान कर सकता है। रिफ्लेक्शन गर्मीजनों को दिया गया है इससे रात्रि पेट्रोलिंग को दौरान वन विभाग, एएसएलबी की टीम उन्हें पहचान सकेगी। साथ ही टी शर्ट व खास तकनीक से बनी सीटी भी दी है, जिसको बजाने पर गर्मीज ग्रामीणों को यह सूचित करेगा कि कोई न कोई जानवर गांव में प्रवेश कर चुका है। सीटी से तीन अलग-अलग प्रकार से आवाज निकाली जायेगी, जिससे लीन को लोकेशन का पता चल सकेगा। अभिप्रेत न बताया कि अगली बार गर्मीजों की सफाया हेतु ऐमिगल डेरैनेट से, उनके गांव की सुरक्षा के लिए मवान, सोलर लाइट, सामुदायिक शौचालय उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। इस दौरान बायोफ्लैजिड सॉल्यूशंस, कम्पनिटी एडुकेटर कैशियन कोनराव, कम्पनिटी वरकर तथा फौजदर असिस्टेंट अलग-अलग, ग्राम प्रभुषण बसंतलाल आर्टि पौडर तक

WARRIORS WHO BUILD NATURAL BARRIERS

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी



कतर्नियाघाट में नेपाल सीमा पर बसे बर्दिया गांव
में विचरण करता हाथी। स्रोत- प्रत्यक्षीय प्रेमी।

यह संस्था हाथी व मानव द्वंद को कम करने के लिए रमपुरवा, कारीकोट, हरैया, आजमगढ़पुरवा आदि गांवों में गोप्टी के जरिए लोगों को जागरूक कर रही है। संस्था के प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर अभिषेक की अगुवाई में ग्रामीणों को जागरूक किया जा रहा है। जंगल पर ग्रामीणों को निर्भरता कम करने के लिए रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने की कवायद हो रही है।

निगरानी के साथ
हाथियों को भगाने
के होंगे उपाय

हाथियों से निपटने के लिए गांधर में मुर्छी मिर्च मिलकर (चिली डोंग के) कंडे बनाए जाएँ। दुर्घट जलाकर उसकी मुर्छी से हाथियों को भुगाने में मदद मिलेगा। वन्य जोंकों से बचाव के लिए खेतों में रोशनी के लिए सोलर लाइट प्रोशन सेसर लाइट लगाने पर ध्यान हो रहा है। वन्य जोंकों से प्रभावित गाँवों में समुदायिक शौचालय, हाथियों को निगरानी के लिए वाच डायल लगाने पर विचार किया जा रहा है। जंगल पर निरर्पता का करने के लिए ग्रामजनों को हाइड्रोजन चूल्हा बनाना सिखाया जाता है।

ANTONY FERNANDO @ Karaiika

AMID the formidable memories of loss and devastation that the 2004 tsunami wreaked, floats the tide of hope that international organizations have been riding to aid the affected areas for the last two decades. Restoration efforts continue in Ka-raika, one of the worst-affected regions, with the Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS) as one of the small cogs in the wheel. Ka-raika is a coastal village, where people's means primarily depend on agriculture and fishing. Apart from washing away livelihoods of the locals, the tsunami also laid bare the district's shoddy defences against natural calamities. As per the Puducherry government, at least 492 people died, over 17,000 were displaced, and thousands rendered homeless. Around 2,000 acres of crops were also affected.

The UT government, like its Tamil Nadu counterpart, realised the need for a protective shield for the coastal villages. Planting mangrove forests along coastal villages is one of the solutions. This is where NEWS comes in. Founded in 1991, NEWS is based in Kolkata, and engaged in conservation of endangered species and protecting the coast. The non-profit organisation set up its branch in Karaikal in 2022, and has been running the show with a team of three.

Neenu Purushothaman, Project Manager at NEWS (Karaikal), tells *TNIE*, "Mangroves provide habitat and nursery grounds for marine life. They also serve as natural buffers against coastal erosion and storm surges, protecting coastal

communities and infrastructure. However, they face numerous threats like deforestation, pollution, and climate change-induced habitat loss." With encouragement from the Pudukcherry Forest and Wildlife Department and support from ONGC's Cauvery Asset, NEWS is now planting mangrove trees and building a community that safeguard these natural barriers.

"We have planted around 27,000 saplings and sowed 12,000 seedlings of mangroves at Karukalacherry village in the district in the past two years. We are also working towards conserving them," Neenu Purushothaman adds. Despite being low on manpower, NEWS went on, consolidating students and locals into a large pool of volunteers.

The planting of mangrove saplings, for instance, were taken up by students of Arignar Anna Government Arts College and Avvaiyar Government College for Women after the NEWS sensitised them about the significance of mangroves.

The volunteers crossed the bogs and waded through the marshes to plant the saplings in the first plantation drive in January 2023. Similarly, local fisherfolk women from the self-help groups Llanthendral and Vanmazhai were also roped in to help with planting saplings and seedlings.

Earlier, local fishers were not aware of mangroves. Viewing them as any other weed, they would simply uproot those, which would mostly be newly-planted ones. This would result in a setback. The NEWS then explained the significance of mangroves in the district. The result? The fishers carried the

saplings in FRP mechanised boats across the Mullaiyar channel, and planted along stretches.

In 2023, plants from the nurseries were transplanted. But that was only the beginning of their struggles.

Over the next few months, thousands of the saplings were left displaced or wasted due to natural causes such as upstream river surges, and human intervention such as indiscriminate inland fishing. Invasive plants also hindered the distribution of nutrition. The situation was exacerbated by rampant waste disposal in waterbodies.

The team was left distraught over the next few months. The authorities became doubtful about the scope of the initiative. "But, we did not give up. We removed the waste plants and re-planted seedlings. They also increased awareness levels among locals," said Abhishek, another NEWS team member.

After months of combined herculean efforts and starting from scratch by NEWS and its student volunteers, the mangrove trees stand six-foot tall, while some others are four feet. Encouraged by the progress, NEWS is planning to plant more mangrove tree saplings in the coming year.

"Our parts are full. We are hopeful that the trees will stand strong and protect our village against disastrous natural calamities in future," said M Malliga, from 'Ilandhendral' SHG in Karukalacherri District Forest Officer N Viji said the Puducherry government understands the importance of mangroves. "We have earlier planted some mangroves as part of government schemes. We also support organisations like NEWS to expand afforestation."

(Edited by Shritla Ganguly)

पृथ्वी दिवस पर हुए विविध कार्यक्रम

बच्चों ने कला के जरिए पृथ्वी के महत्व को किया प्रदर्शित



हराडच (एसएनबी)। पृथ्वी दिवस पर शारदा सहायक रियोजना इण्टर कालेज गिरजापुरी में संस्था न्यूज के नेतृत्व में कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में स्कूली बच्चों चित्रकला के जरिए पृथ्वी के महत्व को अपनी कला के लिए उकेरा। संस्था के प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर अभिषेक ने छात्रों को पृथ्वी के महत्व के बारे जानकारी देते हुए ग्लोबल वार्मिंग की जह से पृथ्वी पर आने वाले खतरों के बारे में बताया। उन्होंने ग्ल में पाये जाने वन्य जीवों के बारे में भी जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि हम सभी को जंगल में रहने वाले वन्य जीवों के संरक्षण व पहचान के बारे में जानकारी रखनी चाहिए। उन्होंने बताया कि संस्था हाथी मानव संघर्ष की रोकने पर भी काम कर रही है।

संस्था के बॉयोलाॅजिस्ट सितांश दास और कम्प्युनिटी एज्केटर कैशपियन कोन वार ने भी विचार प्रस्तुत किये। वन क्षेत्राधिकारी रामकुमार ने छात्रों को पृथ्वी दिवस के महत्व एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण के बारे में बताया। चित्रकला प्रतियोगिता में नैनसी मदेशिया ने प्रथम, देव चंस्प सेन ने द्वितीय व तृतीय स्थान प्रिया मदेशिया ने प्राप्त किया। इस दौरान न्यूज के कम्प्युनिटी वर्कर तथा फील्ड असिस्टेंट राजा हसन, देहात के राधनरायन कुमार, कॉलेज के प्राचार्य अनिल वर्मा, पनीत गुप्ता, प्रतिभा रंजन, सुनील सिंह, कालीचरण, अनुमम श्रीवास्तव, नदीम अहमद, मोहम्मद आजाद आदि तथा छात्र-छात्राएँ मौजूद रही।

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Members of NEWS
near the mangrove
forest they built

[illegible]

வெப்ப மண்டல தின விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி, பயிற்சி முகாம் தஞ்சை

தினகதிர்



ஓவியப்போட்டி மற்றும் விழிப்புணர்வுநிகழ்ச்சிக்கு பள்ளி தலைமையாசிரியர் சித்ரா தலைமைவகித்தார். நியூஸ் அமைப்பின் திட்ட மேலாளர் முது முனைவர்.காளிதாசன் அலையாத்தி காடுகளின் பாதுகாப்பின் முக்கியத்துவம் மற்றும் அலையாத்தி காடுகள் சந்திக்கும் ஆபத்துகள் நிகழ்ச்சியில் பள்ளி ஆசிரியர்கள், அலுவலர்கள், சின்னங்குடி மீனவ பஞ்சாயத்து தலைவர்கள், சமூக ஆர்வலர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டு சிறப்பித்தனர்.தொடர்ந்து மஞ்சளாற்று பகுதியில் சதுப்புநிலமரக்கன்றுகளை பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் நட்டு வைத்து விழிப்புணர்வு முழக்கங்களை முழங்கினர்.

शुरू कर दिया है पहले प्रयोग के तौर पर गेरुआ नदी के कछार पर स्थित थारू किसान राममिलन के खेत को चुना गया है। और वृहत्स्पतिवार वन संस्था न्यूज ने वन क्षेत्राधिकारी कर्तनियाघाट रामकुमार, एसएसबी के डिप्टी कमांडेंट में घानाथा राजूत एवं कर्तनियाघाट ईको क्लब के बच्चों की उपस्थिति में 250 पेड़ जमबीरी नीम्बू के खेत के तीनों छोर पर लगाए गए। 24 घंटे गजमित्रों की टीम पर इन पेड़ों की देखरेख एवं सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी होगी साथ ही पेड़ों की घुस्रा की जिम्मेदारी कर्तनियाघाट ईको क्लब के बच्चों ने भी ली है। इस दौरान डिप्टी कमांडेंट ने न्यूज के प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर अभिषेक एवं बायोलाजिस्ट सितारगुप्ता द्वारा प्रयोग किए गये इस अनूठे पहल की तारीफ की। और

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AUDIT REPORT (2024-25)

SDRK & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

4, Ripon Street, 2nd Floor,
Kolkata - 700 016
West Bengal, India

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (the "Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2025, and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2025, and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.

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 entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management of the Society is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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 entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity'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 Company 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.

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decision of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality



qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit and evaluating the result 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.

For SDRK & Associates

Chartered Accountants

(Firm's Registration No:330278E)



Souvik Das

(Partner)

Membership No: 055369

UDIN: 25055369BNIOKA2934



Kolkata

Dated: 11th August 2025

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
1	Owners' Funds			
	Reserves and surplus	4	83,28,041	39,76,765
			83,28,041	39,76,765
2	Non-current liabilities			
3	Current liabilities			
(a)	Unutilised grant	5	10,88,21,672	5,89,09,400
(b)	Capital Grant		-	4,38,117
(c)	Other current liabilities	6	49,43,069	36,51,741
			11,37,64,741	6,29,99,258
	Total		12,20,92,782	6,69,76,023
II	ASSETS			
1	Non-current assets			
	Property, Plant and Equipment	7	3,11,225	7,54,032
	Other non-current assets			
			3,11,225	7,54,032
2	Current assets			
(a)	Trade receivables - Grant	8	51,24,934	17,72,011
(b)	Cash and bank balances	9	10,65,97,056	4,89,69,284
(c)	Short Term Loans and Advances	10	1,00,59,567	1,54,80,696
			12,17,81,557	6,62,21,991
	Total		12,20,92,782	6,69,76,023
	Summary of significant accounting policies	3		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

In terms of our report of even date
For S D R K & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 330278E

Souvik Das

Souvik Das
(Partner)
Membership No. 55369
UDIN: 25055369BNIOKA2934
Place : Kolkata
Date : 11 August 2025



For and on behalf of the Society

President
NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Biswajit Rai Chaudhuri
Secretary
Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Ajanta Dey

Ajanta Dey
Joint Secretary & Programme Director
NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY
www.naturewildlife.org

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended, 31st March, 2025

Note - 1 Entity Information

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

Note - 2 Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in India (Indian GAAP) on accrual basis under historical cost convention.

A summary of significant accounting policies, which have been consistently applied, is set out below:

Note - 3 Significant Accounting Policies

i. Revenue Recognition:

Income from Grants-in-aid and donations are recorded in the Statement of Income & Expenditure on the basis of certainty of income received. Grants-in-aid received from specific projects are recognised 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 recognised in the financial statements at the stage when it is reasonably measurable and certain that the ultimate will be made.

Interest income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the applicable interest rate.

ii. Retirement and Other Employee Benefits:

a. Short-term employee benefits

All short-term employee benefits such as salaries, wages, ex-gratia etc. which fall within 12 months of the period in which the employee renders related services which entitles them to avail such benefits are recognized on an undiscounted basis and charged to the Statement of Income & Expenditure.

b. Defined contribution plan

Contribution towards Provident Fund and Employee State Insurance with respect to employees paid/ payable during the year to the respective Authorities are considered as Defined Contribution Plans and are charged to the Statement of Income & Expenditure.

c. Defined benefit plan

The cost of providing Gratuity benefits to all its eligible employees are determined on actual basis at each balance sheet date, provided and charged to the Statement of Income & Expenditure.

iii. Foreign Currency Transactions

Transactions in foreign currency are accounted for at the exchange rate prevailing on the transaction date. Gains/ losses, if any, arising on settlement as also on translation of monetary items are recognized in the Statement of Income & Expenditure.

iv. Property Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost of acquisition less accumulated depreciation. Cost is inclusive of inward freight, duties and taxes and incidental expenses related to acquisition. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the Statement of Income & Expenditure.

v. Depreciation on Property Plant and Equipment

Depreciation on Property Plant and Equipment is provided when the assets are ready for their intended use on written down value method at the rates specified in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

vi. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions are recognized when the entity has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Contingent liabilities are not recognised but disclosed in the notes. Contingent assets are neither recognised nor disclosed in the financial statements.



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

		31 March 2025	31 March 2024
4	Reserves and surplus		
(a)	Opening Balance	39,76,765	38,21,661
(b)	Add: Excess in Statement of Income & Expenditure	43,51,276	1,55,104
	Total	83,28,041	39,76,765
5	Unutilised Grant		
(a)	GNF Coastal	18,94,571	23,24,639
(b)	GNF HEC	9,94,716	-
(c)	IKI	48,16,884	26,90,539
(d)	NWA	72,53,367	63,26,131
(e)	GNF MSP	59,12,443	16,86,265
(f)	Chanel	4,85,61,501	2,33,17,010
(g)	Livelihood FFEM	5,44,685	8,48,828
(h)	OTP	1,14,414	2,00,204
	Foreign Currency Projects	7,00,92,581	3,73,93,616
(i)	CSR Projects	3,87,29,091	1,15,36,599
(j)	Others	-	99,79,185
		10,88,21,672	5,89,09,400
6	Other Current Liabilities		
(a)	Creditor for Expenses	3,25,483	5,40,368
(b)	Duties & Taxes	10,37,507	7,96,947
(c)	Personnel Cost Payable	33,90,311	23,14,426
(d)	Provision for Expenses	1,89,768	-
		49,43,069	36,51,741



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 2025

7 Property, Plant and Equipment

(Amount in Rs.)

Particulars /Assets	Plant and Equipment- Others	Plant and Equipment- Computer	Furniture & Fixtures	Books and Periodicals	Total
At 1 April 2023	2,14,646	1,04,313	73,768	4,986	3,97,713
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Deductions/Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/Adjustments	32,197	41,725	7,377	499	81,798
At 31 March 2024	1,82,449	62,588	66,391	4,487	3,15,915
Additions	-	68,500	-	-	68,500
Deductions/Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	1,82,449	1,31,088	66,391	4,487	3,84,415
Depreciation/Adjustments	27,367	38,735	6,639	449	73,190
At 31 March 2025	1,55,082	92,353	59,752	4,038	3,11,225
Rate of Depreciation	15.00%	40.00%	10.00%	10.00%	

Foreign Currency Grant Assets

Particulars	Plant and Equipment- Others	Plant and Equipment- Computer	Furniture & Fixtures	Books and Periodicals	Total
Gross Block					
At 1 April 2023	1,09,740	2,75,900	46,377		4,32,017
Additions	6,100				
Deductions/Adjustments					
At 1 April 2024	1,15,840	2,75,900	46,377		4,38,117
Additions					
Deductions/Adjustments (Refer Note)	-1,15,840	-2,75,900	-46,377		-
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total 31 March 2024	2,98,289	3,38,488	1,12,768	4,487	7,54,032
Grand Total 31 March 2025	1,55,082	92,353	59,752	4,038	3,11,225

Note : Assets built/purchased under the Project Title " Climate resilient communities in Sundarbans are economically, ecologically and politically strengthened and committed to counteracting the consequences of climate change" financed by Economic Cooperation (BMZ), Federal Republic of Germany through Terre des hommes (TDH) shown above have been transferred to Kumirmari Ecotourism Private Limited during the year as per the agreement between TDH and NEWS. The said amount has been adjusted with the Capital Grant which was created for such purpose.



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

		31 March 2025	31 March 2024
8	Trade receivables- Grant		
	Outstanding for a period less than 6 months from the date they are due for receipt		
	Unsecured Considered good	51,24,934	17,72,011
	Total	51,24,934	17,72,011
9	Cash and Bank Balances	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	<u>Cash and cash equivalents</u>		
(a)	On current accounts	9,52,10,615	3,72,01,150
(b)	Savings Account	35,47,804	88,59,054
(c)	Fixed Deposits	78,13,463	28,70,280
(d)	Cash on hand	25,174	38,800
	Total Cash and bank balances	10,65,97,056	4,89,69,284
10	Short Term Loans and Advances	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(a)	Interest accrued but not due on deposits	4,34,052	4,88,770
(b)	Advance to Staff	13,01,634	16,29,909
(c)	Advance to Others	34,13,449	87,83,799
(d)	Security Deposit	7,79,282	6,76,349
(e)	Advance recoverable From Badabon	27,28,445	17,43,683
(f)	TDS Receivable	14,02,705	21,58,186
	Total	1,00,59,567	1,54,80,696



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	Income from Grant and Donation	11	13,71,40,770	7,82,16,743
II	Other Income	12	18,92,570	5,80,576
III	Total Income (I+II)		13,90,33,340	7,87,97,319
IV	Expenses:			
(a)	Personnel Cost	13	5,80,28,755	3,16,13,145
(b)	Nursery and Plantation Expenses		1,00,37,760	82,16,760
(c)	Protection of Ecological Landscape		30,32,594	4,15,486
(d)	Programme Monitoring & Assessment Expenses		77,56,013	14,88,279
(e)	Poultry/Fishery etc. & Integrated Farming		24,37,758	11,15,198
(f)	Promotion of Nature Tourism		6,71,086	-
(g)	Travel & Conveyance		1,16,27,535	73,67,322
(h)	Food & Accommodation		10,65,717	2,86,016
(i)	Equipment		1,04,05,830	46,49,797
(j)	Training and Workshop		1,07,40,957	1,13,14,265
(k)	Awareness & Communication Expenses		11,73,462	17,09,358
(l)	Rent		19,60,033	10,11,162
(m)	Depreciation	14	73,190	81,798
(n)	Other Expenses	15	1,56,71,374	93,73,629
	Total expenses		13,46,82,064	7,86,42,215
V	Excess of Income and Expenditure for the year before Exceptional and Extraordinary items (III- IV)		43,51,276	1,55,104
VI	Exceptional items		-	-
VII	Excess of Income and Expenditure for the year before extraordinary items (V-VI)		43,51,276	1,55,104
VIII	Extraordinary Items		-	-
IX	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (VII-VIII)		43,51,276	1,55,104
	Summary of significant accounting policies	3		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

In terms of our report of even date
For S D R K & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 330278E

Souvik Das

Souvik Das
(Partner)
Membership No. 55369
UDIN: 25055369BNIOKA2934
Place : Kolkata
Date : 11 August 2025



For and on behalf of the Society

President
NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Secretary
Biswajit Rai Chaudhuri
Secretary
Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Ajanta Dey
Ajanta Dey
Joint Secretary & Programme Director
NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY
www.naturewildlife.org

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
11 Income from Grant and Donation		
Project - GNF MSP	1,46,35,130	76,05,444
Project - TDH Germany	95,28,004	1,55,35,773
Project - NWA	77,48,755	61,92,370
Project - IKI	91,82,326	85,40,855
Project - BMZ Coastal	26,69,405	44,01,653
Project - LV Sunderban	40,99,954	
Project - GNF HEC	55,25,822	21,48,395
Project - Chanel	5,85,72,902	3,59,50,384
Project - Livelihood FFEM	11,02,485	10,97,086
Project - Cocopeat		31,309
Project - Goods Carbon	46,340	
Project - LV Study	2,14,200	6,29,909
A. Foreign Currency Funding	11,33,25,323	8,21,33,178
Reimbursement of Project Expenses	1,13,84,117	45,79,957
Grants for CSR Projects	5,36,66,347	2,21,76,068
Other Domestic Projects	24,36,829	9,64,473
Donations	28,88,755	
B. Other Funding	7,03,76,048	2,77,20,498
Total Receipts	18,37,01,371	10,98,53,676
Add : Change in Unutilised Grant	-4,99,12,272	-3,27,30,281
Add : Change in Grant Receivable	33,51,671	10,93,348
	13,71,40,770	7,82,16,743
12 Other income	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(a) Interest income	5,85,696	4,03,109
(b) Membership Fees	38,000	34,000
(c) Miscellaneous Income	12,68,874	1,43,467
Total other income	18,92,570	5,80,576
13 Personnel Cost	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(a) Salaries, wages and other benefits	5,45,24,178	3,05,71,635
(b) Contribution to provident and others	35,04,577	10,41,510
Total Personnel Cost	5,80,28,755	3,16,13,145
14 Depreciation	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
On tangible assets (Refer note 7)	73,190	81,798
Total Depreciation	73,190	81,798
15 Other Expenses	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(a) Bank Charges	45,202	-
(b) Office Expenses	82,72,428	80,65,204
(c) Printing and Stationery	1,70,930	-
(d) Professional/Consultancy /Retainership Fees	2,61,206	20,000
(e) Renovation & Maintenance	15,60,622	-
(f) Recruitment Fee	41,088	-
(g) Audit fees	94,400	47,200
(h) Internet expenses	4,719	-
(i) Donation & Subscription	1,00,000	-
(j) Miscellaneous expenses	51,20,779	12,41,225
Total	1,56,71,374	93,73,629



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society

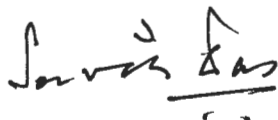
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

16 Contingent Liability

The Society does not have any other liability (other than those which has been recognised and provided for in the books of accounts) which is contingent in nature as on 31 March 2025

17 Previous year's figures have been rearranged/regrouped wherever necessary

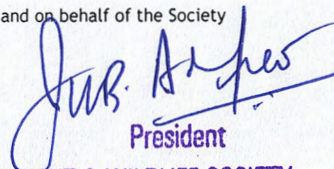
In terms of our report of even date
For S D R K & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 330278E



Souvik Das
(Partner)
Membership No. 55369
UDIN : 25055369BNIOKA2934
Place : Kolkata
Date : 11 August 2025

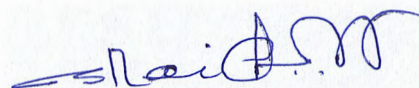


For and on behalf of the Society



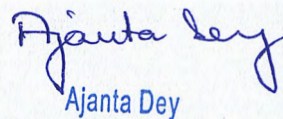
President

NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Biswajit Rai Chaudhuri
Secretary

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society



Ajanta Dey

Joint Secretary & Programme Director
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NATURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS)

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Nature Environment &
Wildlife Society (NEWS)



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