



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	TERI
Country:	India
Reporting Quarter:	FY18 Q1 (July to September 2017)
Person submitting Report:	Pia Sethi

<Highlight 1>: Second training programme on birds and butterflies

In order to gauge progress of the participants of the training programme in bird and butterfly identification and record keeping, a refresher training programme was held with the youth of the communities between 25th -30th September, 2017. The photographs taken by the youth of the villages were correctly identified and the registers were checked and corrected. Ways to correctly label and store images for proper retrieval were explained. In addition the youth were shown how to upload images to important websites such as Butterflies of India and Moths of India. Many of the participants apart from sharing images on the What's app group are also sharing these images on facebook. We also discussed how these images captured by the local community could be utilized. All of them wanted a small booklet with information on the entire biodiversity documented with chapters for separate taxa including checklists. All the pictures in this booklet on the biodiversity of this area would be taken by the community participants themselves. We will start work on this booklet within the next month.

Three laptops were presented to each of the villages under the care of Vikya (Sukhai), Abeto (Ghukhuvi) and Bokato (Kivikhu).

The timeline for exposure visits was also discussed and has been fixed for mid-January.

<Highlight 2>: As usual seasonal bird surveys were carried out along pre-assigned routes as well as butterfly counts. The list is going up including some interesting butterflies and moths that might be new records for the area as well as a list of endemics. This includes the Naga sapphire (*Heliophorus kohimensis*) and potentially the Naga sunbeam (*Curetis naga*) (but genitalia have to be dissected to make sure). The local people (Vihoto) also took a picture of a Mandarin trinket (*Euprepiophis mandarinus* Cantor, 1842) snake, the third record from India and second from Nagaland. A new moth record for Nagaland was also found (*Comostola haunsteini*).

A squirrel was commonly sighted in jhum fields that does not match any current descriptions in books and may be a range extension from another country, an unusual morph or a new species altogether. DNA analysis will need to be done and we have started getting the required permissions for this work from the Nagaland Forest Department.

Interestingly, this squirrel was not shy and is an indication that bans on hunting are working in the area. It is also found in cultivated patches but the local people are not hunting it. The birds of the area also appear to be much less shy than before, an indicator of the success of hunting bans.

<Highlight 3>: Website to go live!

The website for the project is ready to go live and will be launched in a week's time. This website will be interactive where communities can post pictures and people can write in and enquire about the project and ecotourism.

<Highlight 4>: Bird 'specials' seen

Binanda, North-East's whiz birding guide who has tours booked till 2019 was invited to visit the area and keep an eye out for 'specials' -those birds that are likely to bring in birding ecotourists. Several interesting relatively uncommon birds were seen. At least seven individuals of Naga Wren-babbler endemic to Nagaland and Manipur (*Spelaeornis chocolatinus*) were seen, all previous photographic records are mostly from Khonoma in Nagaland. Another interesting sighting was the Hodgson's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus hodgsoni hodgsoni*) photographed in India largely from the Mishmi hills, Arunachal Pradesh. Others included Dark-rumped Swifts (*Apus acuticauda*) and the Great-eared nightjar (*Lyncornis macrotis*).

These sightings have the potential to attract birders to the area.

<Highlight 5>: HCL Grant

To continue this programme and scale it up post project funding, we are writing several proposals. We are currently amongst the top ten amongst 900 applicants from the environment category for the HCL Foundation Grant. The HCL grant evaluators paid a visit to the field site to review this project and were pleased with the results. Consequently, we were among the ten shortlisted (<http://hclgrant.hcltech.com/>).

Photos



The gaon burrah of Kivikhu mentioned an 'elephant stream' that is found in their area where an elephant molar tooth was found. This suggests that elephants were once found in this area, a little surprising given its altitude of about 1800 m. ©TERI/Pia Sethi



The Naga Sapphire (*Heliophorus kohimensis*) at Kivikhu. ©TERI/Pia Sethi



The regenerating hills are covered with this pink shrub that colonises large area (*Melastoma malabathricum*).
©TERI/Pia Sethi



Comostola haunsteini (Pic Pia Sethi)



A butterfly survey walk in progress (Kivikhu to Phek trail). ©TERI/Pia Sethi



The training session in progress. ©TERI/Pia Sethi



Prof Ranjan Das from Tinsukia college explains how tourism in their area in Assam has changed lives. ©TERI/Pia Sethi



Binanda Hathibaruah explains his inspiring transformational story from a boatman to the North-East's most sought after bird guide whose services are booked years into the future (he plans to bring birders to our project site in 2019!). ©TERI/Pia Sethi



Vikya, of Sukhai village and Vihoto (nicknamed Mr Moth) of Kivikhu explain how their documentation of biodiversity has transformed the way the villagers think about nature. ©TERI/Pia Sethi



In Kivikhu village. ©Kivikhu village



The rarely sighted Hodgson's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus hodgsoni hodgsoni*). ©TERI/Pia Sethi





Labelled areas of the CCA. ©TERI/Siddharth Edake



Pics of HCL grant representatives' visit. ©Juvi Zhimo



The Mandarin Trinket. ©Kivikhu village/ Vihoto



Possibly *Caretis naga*. ©Titli Trust/Sanjay Sondhi



The Courtesan butterfly. ©TERI/Pia Sethi