

# BALIPARA FOUNDATION

Assam • India

## VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

June - July 2019



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## Conservation through social mobility

### PROJECTS

#### 1. **RURAL FUTURES:** ( <http://ulm.elephantcountry.org/> )

**Objective:** Upward Socio-Economic mobility through habitat-restoration & other ecosystem services in forest-fringe communities of the Eastern Himalayas

**Location:** This project is currently underway in the villages around the Khalingduar Reserve Forest in the Udalguri district of Assam. The aim would be to replication and upscale this model across the Indo-Bhutan transboundary conservation landscape and further across the Eastern Himalayas. We think that RuFu will serve as a blueprint for conservation efforts the world-over.

**Rationale:** A decade of experimentation in various aspects of conservation has led to the following key learnings.

#### **Activities:**

- **Community-led Habitat-Restoration** – promoting afforestation as an ecosystem-service to generate an initial economic impetus towards conservation
- **The Water 24x7 Project** – Leveraging traditional water-ways as a sustainable way of procuring water and furthering this by installing lowcost filtration systems
- **Social Mobility Assets** – Education, healthcare, housing, ... urgency decided based on human-centered surveys & experiments



Image by <https://www.ritvik-sharma.com/>

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## EASTERN HIMALAYAN BOTANIC ARK



### 2. **EASTERN HIMALAYAN BOTANIC ARK** ( <https://baliparafoundation.com/en/eastern-himalayan-botanic-ark-project> )

The Eastern Himalayan Botanical Ark is a first of its kind in the Eastern Himalayas. The Ark seeks to become the center for preservation and restoration of the biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas through education, experimentation and research.

#### **Ethnobotanical Study across 5 ethnic communities of Assam**

Ethnobotanical studies were carried out among the different tribes located in the districts of Cachar, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Tinsukia, Lakshimpur, Golaghat and Sonitpur. These studies mainly explored the different ethnobotanical plants used by the different community members, mainly focusing on the aged or elderly people, village heads, and herbal practitioners of each community. The present study not only focuses on the knowledge of elderly people, but also aims to determine the change in ethnobotanical knowledge within different age groups (age 16–30, 31–60, and 61–80) of the community from the Sonitpur district of Assam. This study also helps to understand the present ethnobotanical knowledge gap between the younger generations in comparison with the elder generation within the same community. This will create an ethnobotanical perspective on understanding and allow for the documentation of the influence of modernization, on shifts in ethnobotanical knowledge across three generations within an ethnic community in a particular region.

#### **Ex-Situ Conservation through Botanic Ark**

Objectives:

- Increasing “plant use” knowledge through Field & Lab Based Research
- Ex-situ conservation of Rare, Endangered, threatened (RET), Ethno- Botanically Important & Commercially Viable Species through a Botanic Ark & Conservation Center.
- In- situ conservation of Rare, Endangered, threatened (RET), Ethno- Botanically Important & Commercially Viable Species through Smart Afforestation Concepts.
- Public Interest and Awareness through Botanical Garden Exhibitions, Retail Distribution, Poster Displays and Information Sinages.

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## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES FOR INTERNS

- How can the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics School better leverage technology to meet its goal of Nature-Education?
- Basic Computer Lessons to 2 local school children through EHNS
- Assessment of the structural and administrative functioning of the Naturenomics School.
- 'Story board' on water scarcity in Balipara with the help of photographs
- Compile a Case Study Document of the WM Social as a social enterprise (impacts across themes)
- Basic English language course for Wild Mahseer Staff
- How can we use EHNS for educating the differently abled: a report? (There are many reports on the healing powers of Nature towards the differently abled and how nature can be used to educate them better.)
- Base line survey on the handloom and natural dye market linkage of communities associated with Balipara Foundation or other communities in the Balipara County.
- Create a social marketing structure for empowering women working on handloom and handicraft in the communities.
- An online survey understanding the market needs regarding traditional designs from Assam.

**THE ACTIVITY LIST IS SUBJECT TO CHANGES ONCE THE CURRICULUM VIATES ARE SUBMITTED. THE INTERNS SHALL ALSO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE CHANGES ONCE THE ORIENTATION ON THE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR ROLE IN BALIPARA FOUNDATION HAS BEEN SET.**

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## PRE-REQUISITES FOR INTERNSHIP BY STUDENTS OF INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

- **CURRICULUM VITAE**
- **A COVER LETTER ENTAILING THE FOLLWING:**
  - Name of the course being pursued
  - Field of interest
  - Hobbies
  - Intent behind the internship
  - Past internship experiences

The pre-requisites mentioned above are some pointers that are required to understand the nature of engagement that could possibly be planned out for the interns who wish to join Balipara Foundation in the near future.