

Annual Report 2023-24

Nature Bodies Foundation – 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh India

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1. Chaibasa Forest Division Training program

Date: 23/12/2023 to 31/12/2023

Chaibasa is a town and a municipality in West Singhbhum district in the state of Jharkhand, India. Chaibasa is the district headquarters of West Singhbhum district. It is also the headquarter of Singhbhum Kolhan division headed by the Divisional commissioner.

Chaibasa is located at 22.57°N 85.82°E.[2] It has an average elevation of 222 meters. It is located 140 km south of state capital Ranchi, 25 km from Chakradharpur, and 65 km from Jamshedpur.

The Nature Bodies Foundation did a training program with Forest department. The foundation gave training of various activities to the forest guards. The activities included, Watershed management System, Soakpit making, rain garden development, Human elephant conflict management, Human bear conflict management, Preparation of biodiversity resister and micro plan, eco club formation for protection and conservation of forest. It was a one-week training program.









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2. World Wet Land Day celebration

Celebrated annually on 2 February, World Wetlands Day aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet. The Day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

World Wetland Day 2024 focused on the theme of ‘Wetlands and Human Wellbeing’. The theme recognizes wetlands as critical to people and nature, underscoring the intrinsic value of wetland ecosystems and their benefits and services, including contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

Wetlands are ecosystems where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. They are very crucial for humans as well as planet Earth. World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2 every year to raise global awareness about the importance of wetlands, not only for people but the planet Earth as well. The day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971.

This is the first year when the World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the UN General Assembly on August 30, 2021.

What are wetlands?

The UN defines wetlands as ecosystems where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life.

It can be both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and saltpans. Though they cover only around 6 per cent of the Earth’s land surface, 40 per cent of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands provide essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification.

Dangers faced by wetlands.

These wetlands, despite being critical for human survival, are disappearing three times faster than forests and are Earth’s most threatened ecosystem. According to the UN, 35 per cent of the world’s wetlands have been lost in the last 50 years.

Human activities such as drainage, pollution, overfishing and overexploitation of resources pose a major danger to wetlands. They also face extinction by invasive species and climate change.

About Kopra Wetland

Wetlands are an important habitat for all kinds of dependent water birds. They are vital habitats for resident as well as migratory birds for foraging, roosting and breeding activities. Kopra wetland is an important and suitable bird habitat for both resident and migratory birds in Chhattisgarh. This wetland fulfills the need of water for the surrounding agricultural land and it also acts as a site for food as well as a roosting ground to many resident and migratory bird species. Every year a huge number of birds including Waterfowl, waders and Terrestrial Birds migrate to this wetland between the months of October to March. A study was carried out to estimate the avifaunal diversity during three consecutive winter seasons from 2016 to 2018 and estimated 133 avifauna species belonging to 18 orders and 47 families. Out of 133 avifauna 80 resident and 53 migratory species were recorded, including four Near Threatened species which are Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and one Vulnerable (VU) Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) and one Endangered (EN) Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*).

Students of Eco club Bharat Mata EM School had celebrated World wetlands day at kopra reservoir Belmundi Chhattisgarh. This program was celebrated under the leadership of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board Raipur. Every student took wetland pledge. Our team took the initiative of spreading awareness for conservation of wetlands. This wetland is habitat for various local aquatic animals and for the migratory birds too. It also helps in increasing the richness of regional biodiversity. The members of them along with the local people took pledge together for conserving this wet lands. Through our this initiative we can achieve the objective of LIFE CAMPAIGN and UN sustainable goals.

This year's theme was Wetlands and human wellbeing. Bird Experts give the brief knowledge about the importance of wetlands and migratory birds. During the bird watching they explained the different aspect of their conservation. With the help of bird song and dance drama they gave the message of importance of wetlands to the local community. Students also conducted rally in the village to give the message of save bird Biodiversity and wetlands.

TOTAL NO OF STUDENTS PRESENT IN THE CAMPAIGN :118

COMMUNITY PEOPLE: 10

IMAGES OF THE EVENT WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2024.





3. Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Campaign

BY: NATURE BODIES FOUNDATION, BILASPUR C.G

About Saranda Forest Division

The vicinity, the beautiful cliff and undulating terrain under the feet, the shroud of emerald greens, the eyes reflecting the glittering sunshine of the rising sun, the ears filled with the humming of birds and gurgling of water racing in meandering live streams, the nose breathing fresh cool air, the energy of nature at its work, where darkness rules in the middle of the day, where the power of logic vanishes to differentiate between reality and imagination, when you lost in infinite in adoring the beauty of nature then you must be in the kingdom of Sal Forest in Saranda.

Terrain & Geomorphology

Terrain is undulating with lofty peaks between 200 meters and 900 meters. The highest point in this hill range was 927 meters in a series of charming gentle undulations which is now the seat of two massive Iron Ore projects, namely Kiriburu project and Meghahatuburu project.

Landscape Integrity

The area is a part of Chhotanagpur bio-geographic zone and the landscape merges with forests of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The continuity in forests makes it vast, harbouring a rich plant and animal wealth including a number of endemics and endangered ones. The area is also important in terms of elephant movement providing habitat to the Central Indian elephant population moving between Odisha, part of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Livelihood

The forests of Saranda supports a large number of people especially those from the Ho, Munda, Uraon, Santhal and some primitive tribes community. Almost every households depend upon forests in collecting forest products like honey, mushroom, Mahua flower and seeds, Sal leaves, Ciyal leaves, Medicinal plants, Forest Wood, Firewood , Poles, Thatching Grass, Kusum and Palas (for Lac production), Green Manure, Tooth Brush, Tamarind and various fruits etc. The number of streams leading to rivers also is the life line of the people in the villages supporting their agricultural activities. The conservation of this area will secure the livelihood of the people.

Cultural And Aesthetic Value

Nearly 80% of the human population of this region belongs to tribal communities of Ho, Munda, Uraon and some primitive tribes. All these tribes have lived with forests for centuries. The rituals, festivals, and their culture is always forest based. They worship trees like Sal and Karam and protect varieties of wildlife as custom. Each and every tribal village has a sacred grove (SARNA) of about 2-5 acres of forests. The region is scenically important locations in the hills and valleys. The Saranda, which is known as land of seven hundred hills is aesthetically important and could be a major source of livelihood through eco-tourism.

Hydrological Value

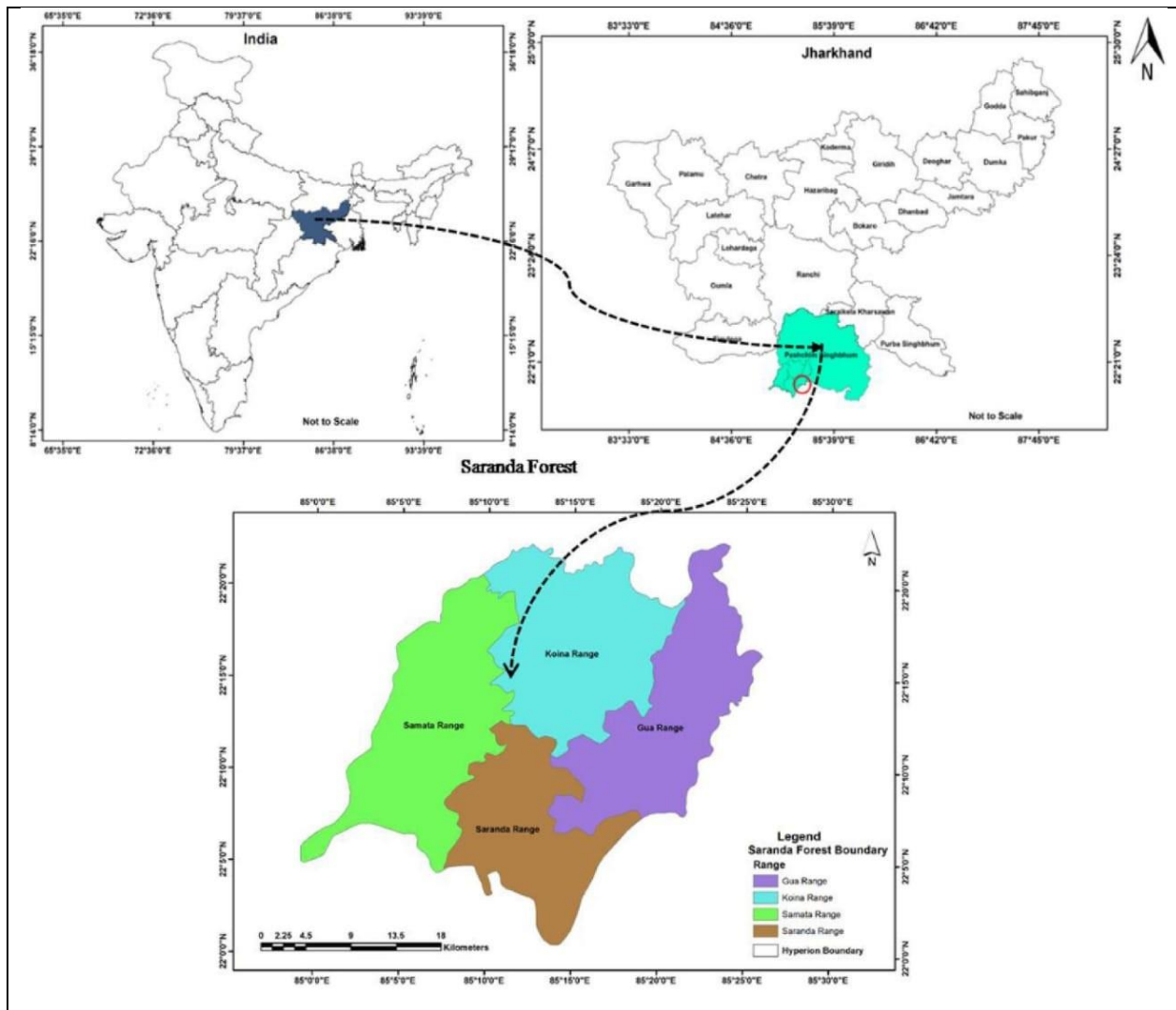
Drainages system comprising the bulk of the area of this division drains northward into south Koel. The chief rivers from east to west are the Karo, Koina, Lailor, Tentri, Samta, Kalia and Pitidiri. Karo being the largest and perennial drains only a small area in Ghatkuri Block, as it passes through only the fringe of this division. The Koina is by far the most important river of this division. It originates in the extreme south above Bhangaon village on the Bonal border. It flows for about fifty miles through the forests of this division and falls into south Koel at Mohanpur. 304.80 Sq.km of reserved forests lies in this catchment area. Millions of people in the villages within and down streams spread in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and districts of Odisha are benefitted from the rivers originating from the area.

Biological Richness

Saranda Forests represents a unique habitat for orchids including all the 11 species of Dendrobium genus. The Tholkobad at a height of 550 m in the heart of the forest represents a very special habitat for orchids including all the 11 species of Dendrobiums. It is the home for the last remnant population of Bulbophyllum, an

epiphytic orchid represented by a single species, *Bulbophyllum crassipes*. *Pecteilistriflora*, which is recorded from the area is found only at two places in India, one being Saranda forests and the other is in the Western Himalaya in Tons Valley, Uttarkhand. *Bulbophyllum crassipes* and the *Pecteilistriflora* (literature base) are the two species reported to occur only in Kiriburu cluster as their distribution is restricted only to the Saranda forest.

The Ligarda swamp area of the Tholkobad area is well known due to the exclusive flora. This swamp was with unique vegetation dominated by the members of the family Zingiberaceae such as *Hedychium coronarium* and other families of sedges and grasses. The swamp was deep enough to engulf huge wild Elephants and was surrounded by dense Sal forests. Rajhans mentions about the distribution of *Licuala peltata*, *Calamus Viminal's* the common palms in small swamp area. The species of wild banana *Musa ornate* and *Musa sapientum* with *Eugenia operculata*, *Lasia heterophylla*, *Amomum dealbatum*, *Zingiberaroseum*, *Curculigorecurvata*, *Carexphaota* species and many Aroids species were reported to be common. The interesting Ferns (Pteridophyta) *Gleichenia linearis* and *Lycopodium cernuum* were also seen in this area. *Piper* species was recorded only from this area. A few of the elsewhere less abundant species observed in this area include *Ziziphus rugosa*, *Costusspeciosus*, *Hedychium coronarium*, *Bulbophyllum crassipes* and *Ophioglossum* species. *Alstoniascholaris* and *Artoarpuslagucha*. The forest of Saranda is also the home to several species of animals (28 species of mammals, 60 species of birds, 20 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians and 63 species of butterflies).







SOBI



Our Campaign Is Basically to Aware Them About The Importance Of Forest Conservation.







4. EARTH HOUR 23rd MARCH 2024

About Earth Hour

Born in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has grown to become the world's largest grassroots environmental movement, inspiring individuals, communities, businesses and organizations in more than 190 countries and territories to take actions for our planet.

Earth Hour 2024 aims to create the Biggest Hour for Earth with its call-to-action “Give an hour for Earth”. It encourages participants from all walks of life, around the world, to share their commitment to the planet by dedicating one hour to fun, and planet-supportive, activities. From learning about nature by watching documentaries to embracing eco-friendly practices and sustainable diets, there is something for everyone. This serves as a rallying cry for the unprecedented collective action needed to address pressing environmental challenges.

World Earth Hour Day, observed annually on the last Saturday of March, stands as a global symbol of unity and commitment towards protecting our planet. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) initiative that started as “Lights Off” in Sydney in March of 2007, has gradually evolved into a global movement for the environment, inspiring collective action and raising awareness about the importance of conservation efforts on a global scale.

Theme of Earth Hour 2024:

The theme for the 18th edition of Earth Hour — Uniting for Our One Shared Home — underscores the interconnectedness of all the people on the planet and the collective duty to safeguard our natural environment. The theme this year reflects the pressing need for harmony between humanity and nature, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices. The goal is to foster a global community that prioritizes the well-being of the planet in every decision and action taken.

Timing of Earth Hour 2024

The event encourages people worldwide to turn off their lights for 60 minutes. This year, it is scheduled to begin at 8.30 pm [IST](#). Many Indian celebrities, government officials, and influencers also urge as many people to participate in the global environmental conservation movement. WWF India’s Goodwill Ambassador for Earth Hour 2024, celebrity chef Ranvier Brar, also calls out people to join him in making this one hour the biggest hour for the planet’s future.

India has been an active participant in Earth Hour, where every year cities across the country join the cause by turning off lights at public places, government buildings, and iconic landmarks. Last year, notable structures like Rashtrapati Bhavan, Akshardham Temple, Howrah Bridge, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Terminus observed the hour of darkness. In 2023, India demonstrated its commitment to environmental conservation as more than 150 significant landmarks, monuments, government buildings, educational institutions, and corporate offices participated in Earth Hour, turning off their lights for an hour. According to a PTI report, Delhi alone saved 279 MW of electricity during Earth Hour last year.

In Bilaspur Chhattisgarh Nature Bodies Foundation also celebrated Earth Hour and give the message of to “Switch off to Coal & Switch on to Solar”

