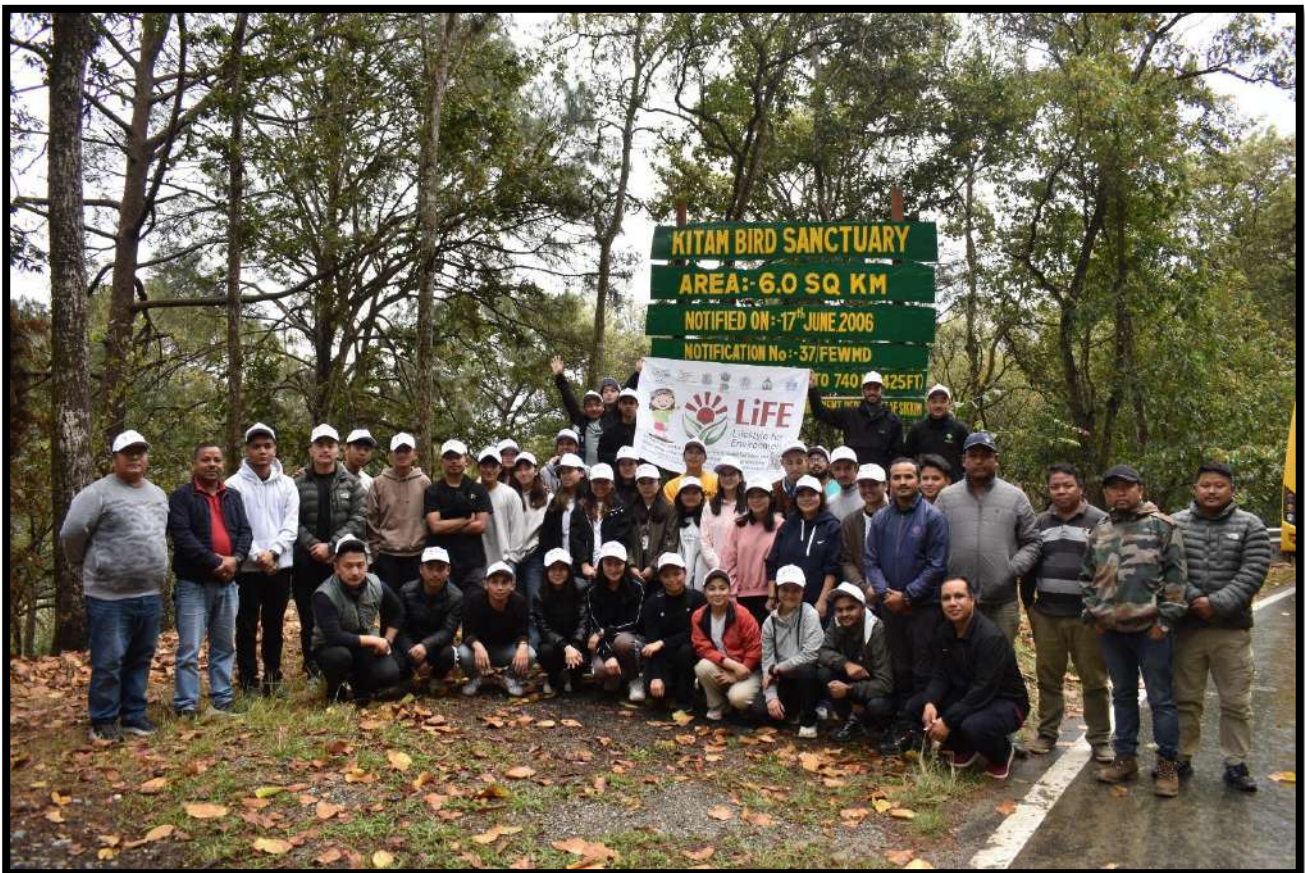




Report on
Nature Camp Programme



Funded and Supported by:
ENVIS, Forest Department, Government of Sikkim

Prepared by
Eco-Club, NBBGC, Tadong

2023

Eco-Club, NBBGC visit Kitam Bird Sanctuary as Nature Camping Programme

Summary

40 students and 5 faculty members from the Department of Botany, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College visited Kitam Bird Sanctuary as part of a one-day "Nature Camp" programme organised by the Eco Club NBBGC. Because of its rich biodiversity, the Kitam Bird Sanctuary was chosen as a nature camp location. The programme was initiative and fully funded by ENVIS, Forest Department, Government of Sikkim. The students were also given nature camping kits provided by ENVIS by the Principal, who expressed his best wishes to the students and congratulated them on their selection for the camp.

The participants assembled in the field as soon as they arrived at Kitam Bird Sanctuary. The introductory session was the fun based and knowledge based ice breaking session where in all the students, teachers and the resource persons got to know each other. The students were taken for a nature walk in the forest trail.

An activity "Photo Scavenger Hunt" was conducted in order to expand their observation skills and to make them feel the variety and variability of life around. They were asked to take note of their observations along with the photographs of various biological diversity and characteristics such as – different plant groups, phyllotaxy, flowering plants and inflorescence, leaf characteristics, direct and indirect sightings of wild animals, birds and insects, anthropogenic disturbances, water bodies, etc. Two experts, Mr. Prem Chettri and Mr. Prakash Chettri, guided the students for identification and interpretation of their observations. The students were very inquisitive and had a good interaction with resource persons. The students were also taught bird watching techniques and given information about the variety of birds found there in the sanctuary.

Further, to acknowledge the impact of human on ecosystem, an activity "Ecological Musical Chair" was played with the recitation of the poem (adapted from Peace corp. Jamaica) with modification for the local condition. In the game all the participants were portrayed as different species in an ecosystem. Game started with presence of all the species in an ecosystem which were lost one after another with the invasion of human until all the species were exploited and lost leaving behind only the humans in deplorable condition.

The students were encouraged to collect the plastic wastes found along the trail. So it was a win-win situation in which the students learned concepts practically while also carrying out a cleanliness

drive on the sidelines. Together with learning about the local flora and fauna, these nature camp helps students to build soft skills like patience, teamwork, and communication.

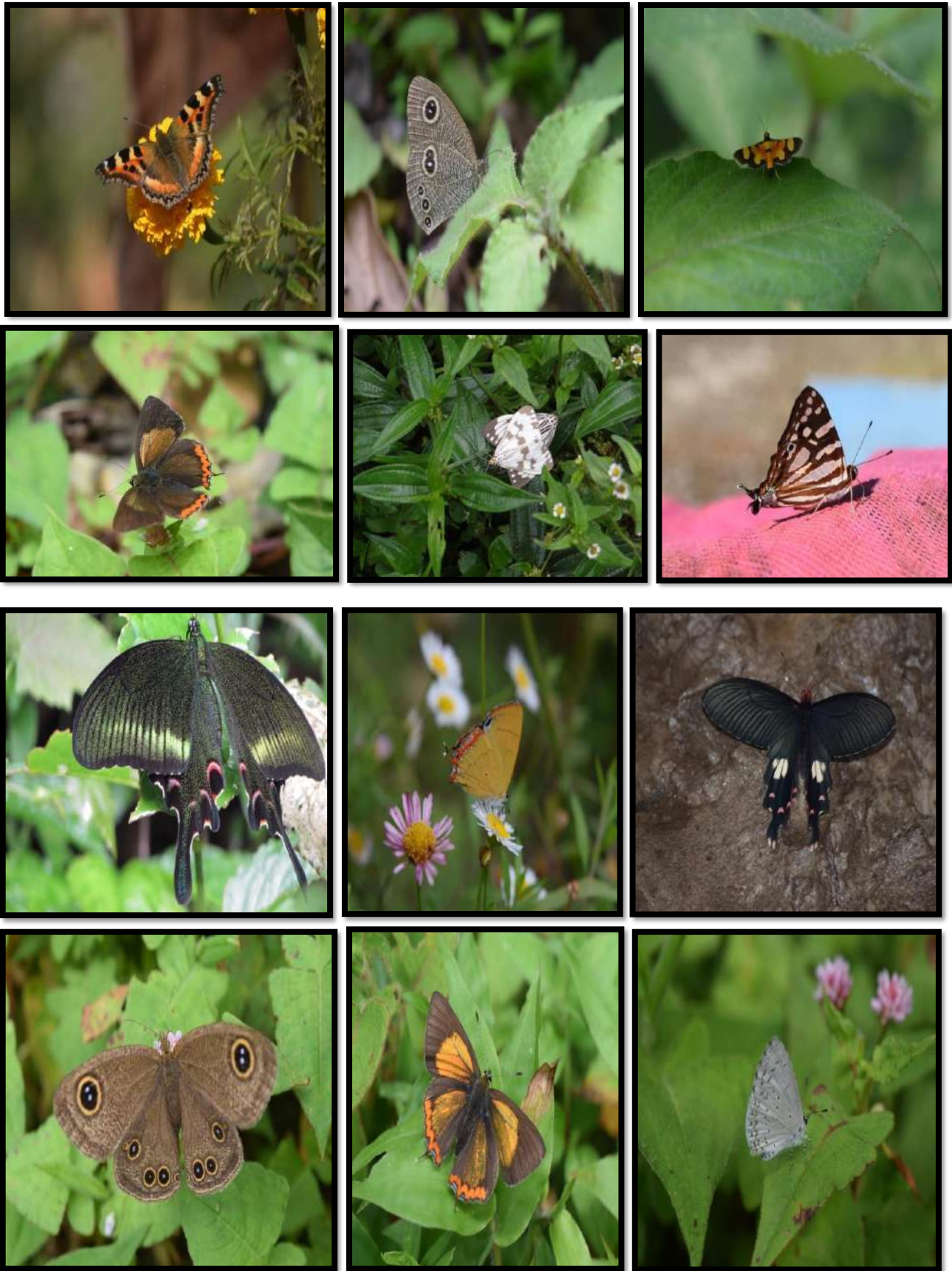
Lastly, students and teachers, Eco-Club NBBGC were grateful towards ENVIS, Forest Department, Government of Sikkim for organising such an insightful camp for students.

Table. List of plants species observed during the nature camp programme at Kitam Bird Sanctuary.

SI No.	Scientific Name	Family
<u>TREES</u>		
1	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Dipterocarpaceae
2	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	Pinaceae
3	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	Arecaceae
4	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Lamiaceae
5	<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>	Combretaceae
6	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	Anacardiaceae
7	<i>Treva nudiflora</i>	Euphorbiaceae
8	<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	Phyllanthaceae
9	<i>Duabanga grandiflora</i>	Lythraceae
10	<i>Macaranga sp</i>	Euphorbiaceae
11	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
12	<i>Rhus chinensis</i>	Anacardiaceae
13	<i>Canarium strictum</i>	Burseraceae
14	<i>Phyllanthus embelica</i>	Phyllanthaceae
15	<i>Pterospermum acerifolium</i>	Sterculiaceae
16	<i>Schima wallichii</i>	Theaceae
<u>HERBS AND SHRUBS</u>		
1	<i>Ototropis conferta</i>	Fabaceae
2	<i>Colebrookea oppositifolia</i>	Lamiaceae
3	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Lythraceae
4	<i>Desmodium velutinum</i>	Fabaceae
5	<i>Capillipedium assimile</i>	Poaceae
6	<i>Rubia sp.</i>	Rubiaceae
7	<i>Cymbidium aloefolium</i>	Orchidaceae
8	<i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i>	Lamiaceae
9	<i>Flemingia sp</i>	Fabaceae
10	<i>Benkara fasciculata</i>	Rubiaceae
11	<i>Randia sp</i>	Rubiaceae
12	<i>Hedychium sp</i>	Zingiberaceae
<u>LIANAS</u>		
1	<i>Bahunia vahlii</i>	Fabaceae
2	<i>Spatholobus parviflorus</i>	Fabaceae
3	<i>Mucuna sp</i>	Fabaceae

Table. List of Birds and butterflies species observed during the nature camp programme at Kitam Bird Sanctuary.

SI No.	Scientific Name	Family
<u>Birds</u>		
1	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Phasianidae
2	<i>Dicrurus macrocecrus</i>	Dicruridae
3	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	Pycnonotidae
4	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	Phasianidae
5	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Muscicapidae
6	<i>Parus monticolous</i>	Paridae
7	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>	Cisticolidae
8	<i>Yuhina sp</i>	Zosteropidae
9	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	Phylloscopidae
10	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>	Phasianidae
<u>Butterflies</u>		
1	<i>Choaspes benjaminii</i>	Hesperiidae
2	<i>Cirrochro aoris</i>	Nymphalidae
3	<i>Elymnias patna</i>	Nymphalidae
4	<i>Eurema blanda</i>	Pieridae
5	<i>Euripus nyctelius</i>	Poaceae
6	<i>Heliophorus epicles</i>	Lycaenidae
7	<i>Nacaduba pactolus</i>	Lycaenidae
8	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	Pieridae
9	<i>Prosotas nora</i>	Lycaenidae
10	<i>Zemeros flegyas</i>	Riodinidae



Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 1: Different species of butterflies found in Kitam Bird Sanctuary



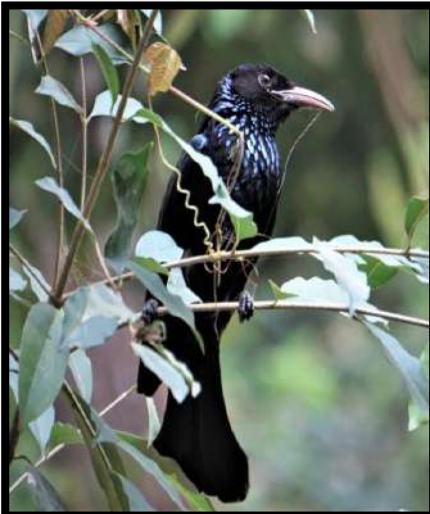
Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 2: Different species of insects found in Kitam Bird Sanctuary



Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 3: Different birds species found in Kitam Bird Sanctuary



Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 4: Different birds species found in Kitam Bird Sanctuary



Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 5: Different activities in field at Kitam Bird Sanctuary



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On 22nd march Department of Botany "Nature Camp" Programme under the banner of Eco Club NBBGC.

Tadong College Eco-Club visits Kitam Bird Sanctuary

SALINI CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

Forty students and five faculty members of the Department of Botany, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, visited Kitam Bird Sanctuary today as part of the Eco Club's "Nature Camp" programme. The visit was initiated and sponsored by ENVIS, Forest Department. The students were also provided with nature camping kits by the Principal.

The trip was led by Dr Nima Tshering Lepcha, Convener, Eco-Club, NBBGC. Two experts, Prakash Chettri (Taxonomist) and Prem Chettri (Ornithologist) were invited as resource persons.

Several activities were carried out to ensure that students got a practical idea of the concepts. For instance, to improve their observation skills, students were asked to record the plant diversity in the park. The students also picked up litter they came across in the park.

The students were also introduced to bird-watching techniques and briefed about birds found in the park.

Photos courtesy: Students and faculties of NBBGC, Tadong.

Photo Plate 6.i. Interacting with local people and forester ii. Collecting plastic waste found in trail. iii. Highlighted programme in social media and daily news latter

KITAM BIRD SANCTUARY



The Kitam Bird Sanctuary is located along the southern boundary of Sikkim state at $88^{\circ} 20' 27''$ and $88^{\circ} 22' - 27^{\circ} 07''$ and 320-875 m amsl, within the tropical ecoregion. The total area is 6 km² and the total perimeter is 10 km. The sanctuary was established in 2005 for protection of wildlife and its environment. The area was a reserved forest before being declared a sanctuary. It indicates a unique association of forests dominated by *Shorea robusta* (Chir Pine) which are typical in the Rangit valley in this region.

Biodiversity is the greatest treasure we have. Its diminishment is to be prevented at all cost.

-Thomas Eisner.