



## Pact signed to strengthen community-based conservation efforts



By The Meghalayan Express | November 29, 2024

**Shillong, Nov 29:** A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), North East Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS) and The Nature Conservancy Centre (TNCC) to support activities related to conservation, restoration and improved management of natural resources and associated knowledge by communities.

The pact aims to build biodiversity management committees in preparing People's Biodiversity Registers and capacity building of communities for the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act (2002).

A customised training manual for the needs of Meghalaya in preparing the People's Biodiversity Registers was also launched through the shared commitment of MBB, NESFAS and TNCC to preserve its natural heritage.

NESFAS executive director Pius Ranee during the opening speech highlighted the significance of preserving indigenous knowledge and biodiversity. "Our partnership with Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, TNCC and its parent organisation has been instrumental in upgrading People's Biodiversity Registers. So far, we have completed the upgradation of 71, and anticipate reaching close to 300 by 2026. The process involves more than documentation; it is holistic and includes capacity building of communities, identification of nature-based solutions, and planning for landscape-level conservation among many others. We are grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration with MBB and TNCC as we strive to scale these initiatives further across Meghalaya", he stated.

Dr Sushil Saigal, executive director, TNCC, provided further background on the ongoing project. He noted that TNCC is "a hands-on organisation led by science. We collaborate with governments and communities to implement nature-based solutions that benefit both nature and people. By partnering with NESFAS, we hope to support the already strong linkages between people and nature in the state of Meghalaya. This is a long-term commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development."

R Nainamalai, member secretary of MBB, addressed the gathering by stating the importance of People's Biodiversity Registers in conserving biodiversity. "NESFAS and TNCC's people-centric approach to conservation is impressive. Tools like the training module developed by NESFAS are crucial for effective conservation", he stated. He appreciated the ongoing efforts by NESFAS for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Dr Sushil Saigal, executive director, TNCC, provided further background on the ongoing project. He noted that TNCC is "a hands-on organisation led by science. We collaborate with governments and communities to implement nature-based solutions that benefit both nature and people. By partnering with NESFAS, we hope to support the already strong linkages between people and nature in the state of Meghalaya. This is a long-term commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development."

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Meanwhile, founding chairperson of NESFAS, Phrang Roy reflected on lessons learned from the past and urged the people to shift their focus to nature-based solutions. "Climate change and income inequality require immediate attention in light of the present-day challenges. To address them, understanding indigenous knowledge and applying community-based approaches is crucial. Empowering local communities and supporting initiatives such as the People's Biodiversity Registers will help us protect biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for us. It is also essential to prioritise capacity building and knowledge strengthening to further nourish these initiatives," he said

He concluded his speech with a call-to-action wherein he spoke about creating a world where humans and nature coexist harmoniously.

A Farmers' Market was also set up for local farming communities to showcase their products and hence empower them. A plethora of fresh farm produce and other goodies was displayed for the attendees to interact and purchase directly from the farmers where people thronged the vibrant stalls to experience vibrant indigenous flavours.

MEGHALAYA

## Tripartite MoU aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts

By: By Our Reporter | Date: November 29, 2024

SHILLONG, Nov 28: A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), North East Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS), and The Nature Conservancy Centre (TNCC) to strengthen community-based conservation efforts in Meghalaya.

The MoU aims to enhance biodiversity conservation through joint initiatives. These include supporting Biodiversity Management Committees in preparing People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), building community capacity for implementing the Biological Diversity Act (2002), and promoting conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources and traditional knowledge.

On the occasion, a training manual tailored for Meghalaya's unique needs was launched to guide the preparation of PBRs. This manual is a collaborative effort by MBB, NESFAS, and TNCC to preserve the region's natural heritage.

Founding chairperson of NESFAS, Phrang Roy, reflected on past lessons and emphasised the importance of shifting towards nature-based solutions. "Climate change and income inequality demand immediate attention. Indigenous knowledge and community-based approaches are crucial to addressing these challenges. Empowering local communities and initiatives like the PBRs will protect biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future. Capacity building and knowledge-sharing must remain priorities," he said. He concluded with a call to action for creating a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

Executive Director of TNCC, Dr Sushil Saigal, elaborated on the ongoing project, describing TNCC as "a hands-on organisation driven by science." He added, "We collaborate with governments and communities to implement nature-based solutions that benefit both people and the environment. Through our partnership with NESFAS, we aim to strengthen the deep connections between people and nature in Meghalaya."

Following the formal gathering, a Farmers' Market was held, providing a platform for local farmers to showcase and sell their produce. A wide range of fresh farm products and local delicacies were on display, allowing attendees to purchase directly from farmers and experience the vibrant flavours of Meghalaya.



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## Tripartite MoU was signed between MBB and NES for Agroecology Support

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Shillong, Nov 28: A significant step towards strengthening community-based conservation efforts in Meghalaya was taken via the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), North East Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS) and The Nature Conservancy Centre (TNCC).

The MoU involves joint efforts to support Biodiversity Management Committees in preparing People's Biodiversity Registers; capacity building of communities for the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act (2002); and activities related to conservation, restoration and improved management of natural resources and associated knowledge by communities.

A training manual (customised for the needs of Meghalaya) for the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers was also launched on this day. The manual is an outcome of the shared commitment of MBB, NESFAS and TNCC to preserve our natural heritage.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests including Mr. R. Nainamalai, IFS (Member Secretary, MBB); Ms. Stevia Kharmalki (AO, MBB); Dr. Sushil Saigal (Executive Director, TNCC); Dr. Aditya Gangadharan (Programme Lead-Lands, TNCC); Bah Phrang Roy (Founding Chairperson, NESFAS); and Bah Pius Ranee (Executive Director, NESFAS) along with the staff of NESFAS.

The programme commenced with an opening address by Pius Ranee, who highlighted the significance of preserving indigenous knowledge and biodiversity. "Our partnership with Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, TNCC and its parent organisation has been instrumental in upgrading People's Biodiversity Registers.

So far, we have completed the upgradation of 71, and anticipate reaching close to 300 by 2026. The process involves more than documentation; it is holistic and includes capacity building of communities, identification of nature-based solutions, and planning for landscape-level conservation among many others.

We are grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration with MBB and TNCC as we strive to scale these initiatives further across Meghalaya", he stated.

Gratia Dkhar, Programme Coordinator, NESFAS shared a presentation with an enlightening overview of the "Upgradation of People's Biodiversity Registers", to emphasize the importance of this initiative in documenting and preserving our rich biodiversity.

Dr Sushil Saigal provided further background on the ongoing project. He noted that TNCC is "a hands-on organisation led by science. We collaborate with governments and communities to implement nature-based solutions that benefit both nature and people. By partnering with NESFAS, we hope to support the already strong linkages between people and nature in the state of Meghalaya. This is a long-term commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development."

Mr. R. Nainamalai, IFS, addressed the gathering by stating the importance of People's Biodiversity Registers in conserving biodiversity. "NESFAS and TNCC's people-centric approach to conservation is impressive. Tools like the training module developed by NESFAS are crucial for effective conservation", he stated. He appreciated the ongoing efforts by NESFAS for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Bah Phrang Roy reflected on lessons learned from the past and urged the people to shift their focus to nature-based solutions. "Climate change and income inequality require immediate attention in light of the present-day challenges. To address them, understanding indigenous knowledge and applying community-based approaches is crucial.

Empowering local communities and supporting initiatives such as the People's Biodiversity Registers will help us protect biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for us. It is also essential to prioritise capacity building and knowledge strengthening to further nourish these initiatives." He concluded his speech with a call-to-action wherein he spoke about creating a world where humans and nature coexist harmoniously.

As the programme concluded, Janak P Singh, Senior Associate, NESFAS, proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to all the attendees and said that this partnership will help achieve the desired outcomes.

The formal gathering was followed by a Farmers' Market, which aims to provide a platform for local farming communities to showcase their products and hence empower them.

A plethora of fresh farm produce and other goodies was displayed for the attendees to interact and purchase directly from the farmers. People thronged the vibrant stalls to experience vibrant indigenous flavours, taking small steps that make a big difference.



## Meghalaya strengthens biodiversity conservation with tripartite MoU



Syllad | The Rising Meghalaya

November 29, 2024



A significant step towards strengthening community-based conservation efforts in Meghalaya was taken with the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), North East Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS), and The Nature Conservancy Centre (TNCC) on November 28. The MoU involves collaborative efforts to support Biodiversity Management Committees in preparing People's Biodiversity Registers, building community capacity for implementing the Biological Diversity Act (2002), and engaging in conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources and associated knowledge.

A training manual tailored for Meghalaya's needs, designed to guide the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers, was also launched during the event. This manual reflects the shared commitment of MBB, NESFAS, and TNCC to preserve natural heritage.

The event saw the participation of distinguished guests, including R. Nainamalai, IFS (Member Secretary, MBB); Stevia Kharmalki (AO, MBB); Dr. Sushil Saigal (Executive Director, TNCC); Dr. Aditya Gangadharan (Programme Lead-Lands, TNCC); Phrang Roy (Founding Chairperson, NESFAS); and Pius Ranee (Executive Director, NESFAS), along with NESFAS staff.

Pius Ranee delivered the opening address, underscoring the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and biodiversity. He noted, "Our partnership with MBB, TNCC, and its parent organisation has been instrumental in upgrading People's Biodiversity Registers. So far, we've upgraded 71 registers and aim to reach nearly 300 by 2026. This process is holistic, including capacity building, identifying nature-based solutions, and landscape-level conservation. We are grateful for the support and collaboration as we scale these initiatives across Meghalaya."

Gratia Dkhar, Programme Coordinator, NESFAS, presented an overview of the "Upgradation of People's Biodiversity Registers," highlighting its role in documenting and preserving biodiversity.

Dr. Sushil Saigal elaborated on TNCC's involvement, stating, "TNCC is a hands-on organisation driven by science. We collaborate with governments and communities to implement nature-based solutions that benefit both people and nature. Partnering with NESFAS allows us to support Meghalaya's strong people-nature linkages, contributing to long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable development."

R. Nainamalai emphasized the importance of People's Biodiversity Registers for conservation efforts, commending NESFAS and TNCC for their people-centric approach. He highlighted the value of tools like the training module developed by NESFAS.



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Phrang Roy reflected on lessons from the past, stressing the urgency of addressing climate change and income inequality. "Understanding indigenous knowledge and applying community-based approaches are critical to tackling these challenges. Empowering local communities and strengthening initiatives like the People's Biodiversity Registers are vital for biodiversity conservation and a sustainable future," he stated, concluding with a call to create harmony between humans and nature.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Janak P. Singh, Senior Associate, NESFAS, who expressed gratitude to attendees and reiterated the significance of this partnership.

A Farmers' Market followed the formal programme, providing a platform for local farmers to showcase their products. Vibrant stalls displayed fresh farm produce and indigenous goods, allowing attendees to connect directly with farmers and embrace sustainable practices.