Project Snapshot

**Name of the Project:** Management of Ecosystem of Kaziranga National Park by Creating Climate Resilient Livelihood for Vulnerable Communities through Organic farming and Pond Based Pisciculture

**Project Focus:** Conservation of Forest Ecosystems and Enhancement of Livelihoods

**Location:** Areas of Kaziranga National Park (KNP) lying in the Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam

**Project Finance:** Rs. 24.57 Crore (USD 3.69 million).

1 USD = INR 66.52

**Duration:** 3 Years (2016-2019)

**Name of Executing Entity:** Kaziranga National Park (KNP) under Department of Environment & Forests (DoEF), Government of Assam

**Project Beneficiaries:** Approximately 2,365 local community members of the Project Districts

Assam is a north eastern state of India spread over 78,438 sq. km area, has 34 districts, supports 3.12 crore (2.58 %) of India's population, and is well known for its wildlife, archaeological sites and tea plantations. Kaziranga National Park (KNP), a world heritage site spread over an area of 884.43 sq km lies partly in three districts namely Golaghat, Nagaon and Sonitpur, and form a conservation complex with the Karbi Anglong Hills in the south of the state. The hills of Karbi Anglong make the watershed for the rivers, viz., Difaloo, Mori Difaloo, Mori Dhansiri, etc. and supports the fragile ecosystem and biodiversity with lives and livelihoods of the local people. The mean temperature in the state is recorded to increase by 0.01 °C/year and annual rainfall to decrease by -2.96 mm/year.

KNP is vulnerable to climate change due to the complex geological and geomorphological dynamics of the river Brahmaputra, its flooding events, soil erosion, etc. Due to flooding events, it has lost more than 84 sq km of its prime habitat to the river Brahmaputra adversely affecting its ecosystem productivity. In order to address the above issues, the given project envisions to minimize anthropogenic influence on the vulnerable KNP ecosystem already effected by climate change through the promotion of organic farming, pond based fishery, watershed management and capacity building initiatives on the north bank and south bank of the Brahmaputra River along the KNP.
Project Approach:
The project would be implemented through demarcation of the suitable area for carrying out climate resilient activities in the Gorpal and Tewaripal areas of the North bank and Kaziranga Hukuma, Kunjuri-Gelabeel, Amguri Chang and Phulaguri Chang, and Japori Beelcarry areas of the South bank in the KNP. Benchmarking and identification of suitable technology options would be done for the organic farming, integrated crop management, pond based fishery, watershed management, agroforestry, homestead gardening, etc. Training the Trainer Program would be conducted on climate resilient farming systems through farmer field schools which would help in scaling-up of these interventions. Additional livelihood opportunities would be promoted through technology demonstration of fisheries including shrimp cultivation in rejuvenated wetlands and sustainable agricultural practices.

Project Impacts:
- 2,365 local community members would be benefited due to sustainable and climate resilient livelihoods.
- Approximately 17 ha. of land would be brought under organic farming.
- Hydrogeological Study of approximately 56.5 ha. area of the 5 Beels (Wetlands) would help in development and implementation of sustainable ecosystem management plan.
- Improved income generation opportunities from organic farming with premium price realization (about 22 - 35 %) compared to conventional cultivation.
- Promotion of fisheries (including Shrimp Cultivation) in the Northern Part of KPN.
- Promotion of livelihood diversification through processing of forest products, handicraft, etc.
- Scaling-up of climate resilient farming practices through Farmer Field Schools.
- Community based institutions like SHGs, Village federation, Producer’s Organization, etc. would be strengthened to attain economic sustainability and would be sensitized for sustainable ecosystem management.