

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Freshwater biodiversity, from fish to frogs and microbes to macrophytes, provides a multitude of services to people and other life forms. It is valuable for many reasons, not the least of which is that humans depend on it. However, these services are under a growing threat as climate change and human-induced pressure threaten freshwater biodiversity on numerous fronts and hence, deserve to be a greater conservation priority. Initiatives by various organisations including government departments, non-governmental as well as traditional and scientific institutions- all have direct or indirect implications for biodiversity conservation.

Since biodiversity conservation and protection are cross-sectoral and impacted at various levels – government-led policies to ground implemented projects/schemes, flow of information horizontally as well as vertically is imperative for ensuring an enabling environment for all. In the Northeastern region of India, there is a felt need to bring the freshwater biodiversity fraternity into a knowledge exchange platform for discussion and deliberation on various aspects of sustainable management of aquatic resources. Inputs from research and academia, with current and up-to-date information on freshwater ecosystems and their services will aid in the development of strategies for the aquatic biodiversity sector,

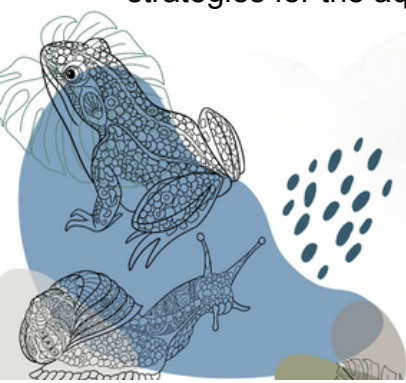
provision of field evidence to backstop policies as well as enhance field level implementation for achieving better results. The experiences gained can also provide inputs toward the formulation and revision of policies and regulations. Given the importance of freshwater biodiversity to our very existence, there is a need for increased efforts for it to be climate resilient, protected, and/or sustainably managed (e.g. sustainable fisheries and tourism management). This will ensure that the services of the affected ecosystems are maintained and the livelihoods of the population dependent on them are secured.

With this aim, a Knowledge Exchange Series on Aquatic Resources Management is initiated by the Indo-German Project 'Protection and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources in the North-Eastern Himalayan Region of India' (NERAQ). We sincerely envisage that this aquatic biodiversity conservation community will continue to exchange information, ground experiences, traditional wisdom as well as research findings even after the exit of the NERAQ project.

About the Series

The Knowledge Exchange Series on Aquatic Resources Management is aimed to give broad overviews and the latest updates on technical advancements on the subject, share information, learning, and perspectives on areas and topics of interest relevant to the Northeast region. Eminent speakers will be invited for the sessions on their subjects of expertise.

Participants will learn and exchange with these experienced resource persons on different topics around the freshwater resources sector, emerging



technologies, methods, issues, challenges, and more. These sessions will also touch upon intersections such as traditional knowledge, art, culture, etc., and their possible enhancement through the integration with the science around the subject. Discussions during this series can pave the way for potential proposals, student exchange, publications, joint projects, etc. for the participants.

The series will be conducted virtually on www.atingi.org with sessions taking place monthly. The series will have sessions on different topics across the three sectors- policy, practice and research. Although we have thought of some initial topics to be covered, inputs from you on relevant topics shall not only enhance the exchange but also cover topics that we have not thought of and might be of great relevance to you. Some of these deal with fish stock assessment and management challenges, fish ecology, community-based conservation, bridging the research-implementation gap, vulnerability assessments, ecological requirements of fish, sustainable wetland management etc.

The sessions are for practitioners, professionals, researchers, students, faculty, government employees, or anyone else interested in aquatic resources of the Northeast region of India.

Attending any session requires a one-time registration on Atingi, which is always free.

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About the Project

The project 'Protection and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources in the North-Eastern Himalayan Region of India' (NERAQ) is an Indo-German bilateral cooperation project being funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUV), under the International Climate Initiative (IKI). It is being implemented in four states of the North Eastern Himalayan Region viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) at the Union level.

The objective of the project is to protect and sustainably manage aquatic resources which are the basis of life for millions of people dependent on riparian riverine ecosystems. The project pursues to build the capacities of relevant stakeholders for participatory development of protection and sustainable use concepts to be promoted for aquatic resources in selected sections of the rivers/wetlands in four north-eastern states. The developed concepts are then validated in selected pilot projects with the main aim of replication by the respective state governments and possible inclusion in policy for sustainable, climate-resilient management of the aquatic resources. Relevant actors are the affected Indian administrative and research institutions as well as local user groups.

About Atingi

Atingi is a free digital learning platform commissioned and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in 2019.

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