

WHAT AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS MEAN FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Against the backdrop of conflicting interactions over aquatic resources, this session will explore perceptions and experiences of local communities about aquatic resources. The aim of the session is to help better understand the ecological interactions of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) with aquatic/freshwater ecosystems and other socio-cultural and economic factors and practices of local communities which will help to promote sustainable management of aquatic resources in the North East Region of India.



Monday
26 February 2024



Time
2:30-4:00 pm IST

SPEAKERS

DR MARTEMJEN JAMIR

Founder Member
Centre for Indigenous Culture and
Environmental Studies, Nagaland

MS DHRUBA DAS GUPTA

Project Director
Society for Creative Opportunities and
Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE),
Kolkata

DR RANJITA BANIA

Fisheries Biologist and
Head of Aquaculture, Wetland and
Livelihood Division, Jeeva Suraksha

MODERATOR

AJA ZINYU

Advisor, Climate Change
NERAQ, GIZ

The 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).

The series is hosted on www.atingi.org and requires a quick one-time registration.

If you have already registered, please scan the QR code to join the session directly or join via this [link](#)

OR

If you are new here, please follow these steps:

Step 1 Register for free on [Atingi](#)

Step 2 Click on the [course link](#) and join the webinar session page



ABOUT THE SESSION

Northeast India is a repository of biodiversity, ecosystems, traditions and ethnic diversity all of which are linked to livelihoods, food and nutritional security of the people. However, the aquatic biodiversity is threatened by over exploitation, spread of alien invasive species (flora and fauna), pollution of aquatic systems, degradation of habitat, habitat loss due to land use change, etc. All these are compounded by the impacts of climate change and the development trajectory in the region thus leading to vulnerability of the aquatic biodiversity and the aquatic ecosystems. For instance, while capture fishery provides a vital source of employment and livelihood for many people, it also faces poses the challenges of overfishing, bycatch, habitat destruction, and illegal fishing. Besides their livelihood, communities are also dependent on adequate and clean water in rivers regulated by dams and barrages, and hence are affected by river flows just as biodiversity.

Despite the struggle with vested interests, Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) around the world remain the true custodians of natural ecosystems. A good understanding of the interactions between IPLCs and aquatic ecosystems and the socio-cultural and economic factors around it is crucial to bolster conservation efforts in the aquatic sector. Putting people at the heart of conservation efforts will facilitate successful protection and management of resources. Therefore, it is important to know what aquatic ecosystems mean for local communities.

OUTLINE

10 mins	GIZ	Welcome & Introduction to the topic and speakers
15 mins	Dr Martemjen Jamir	The Value of a River amongst the indigenous Ao Nagas
10 mins	Aja Zinyu	Q & A and remarks
15 mins	Dr Ranjita Bania	Linkages of Local Communities with Aquatic Resources in Assam
10 mins	Aja Zinyu	Q & A and remarks
15 mins	Ms Dhruva Dasgupta	Understanding the Role of the Community in Conserving East Kolkata Wetlands
10 mins	Aja Zinyu	Q & A and remarks
5 mins	GIZ	Feedback and closing remarks

PROFILES

Dr Martemjen Jamir | Speaker

Centre for Indigenous Culture and Environmental Studies, Nagaland

Dr. Martemjen belongs to Ao Naga indigenous community. He is the author of the book "Biodiversity Conservation, Indigenous Knowledge and practices: A Naga perspective" and "Apalener" (in local Ao dialect) besides other edited books. He did his PhD from Nagaland University and political education course from Guararema, Sau Paulo, Brazil.



Ms Dhruba Das Gupta | Speaker

Project Director, Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE), Kolkata

Dhruba Das Gupta's expertise lies in working with the wetland community on action research issues, with a special emphasis on peri-urban wetlands, which are specially threatened due to their proximity to the city. She is a wetland researcher and a steward who has about 25 years of experience in working with the community of the East Kolkata Wetlands for a wide variety of issues ranging from science research and communication, ecological history, mobilisation of women for livelihood improvement, entrepreneurial initiatives, facilitating stakeholder communication and conflict management. She has two decades of experience working with, and learning from late Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, the pioneer ecologist who took the message of these remarkable wetlands to the world.



Dr Ranjita Bania | Speaker

Fisheries Biologist and Head of Aquaculture, Wetland and Livelihood Division, Jeeva Suraksha

Ranjita Bania, Fisheries Biologist and Head of Aquaculture, Wetland and Livelihood Division of Jeeva Suraksha, Assam holds her Ph D Degree from Dibrugarh University on "Hydrobiology and Fisheries of Dibru Saikhowa National Park". She completed her Masters from the department of Life Sciences of the same University. Her area of interests are river, wetland, climate change and livelihood development through aquaculture. She has worked as a consultant for various government and non government organisations, both nationally and internationally. She has authored three books, namely, "Carp Seed Production in NE India with Special reference to Assam (2014)", "Fishing gears of the Brahmaputra basin (2014)", & "Assamot Meen Palon(2016)". She is an avid development worker and has worked actively with the tea community of Assam.



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag