

3. DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The work of Aaranyak has been triggered by the generous support provided by the following donor agencies and supporters. The timely support extended by these agencies and organizations have contributed execution of various conservation programmes and has further strengthened the initiatives of Aaranyak. Aaranyak would like to express its sincere sense of gratitude to the following agencies and look forward to their continued support-

◆ **THE DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (DSWF):** The DSWF has been the major supporter of Aaranyak for past 7 years. The DSWF has contributed to the rhino conservation project of Aaranyak, which covers all the rhino bearing areas of Assam. DSWF has agreed to support Aaranyak to donate more than 110 wireless walkie talkie sets and 35 base stations along with Solar panels and other accessories to Kaziranga National Park for next ten years (2003-2012). Earlier DSWF has assisted Aaranyak in donating anti-poaching equipments including wireless sets to Orang National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary. The Wildlife Crime Monitoring Center (WCMC), which was established by Aaranyak in 2002, has been made possible due to generous support provided by the DSWF.

◆ **NETHERLANDS COMMITTEE FOR IUCN (NCIUCN):** The NCIUCN has come forward to offer grants for the community based wetland conservation programme in Deepar Beel in the year 2002 for a period of 11 months. Under the Small Wetland Programme of NCIUCN, Aaranyak has made socio-economic survey and alternative livelihood training programmes for the fringe villagers of Deepar Beel, a Ramsar Site. Aaranyak is very much excited with the support and cooperation and look forward to more such programme in other field of NCIUCN and Aaranyak's interest.

◆ **US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been a major supporter of Aaranyak since 1991. The USFWS has supported four senior executives of Aaranyak to attend the International Training Programmes and exchange visit in USA, which has contributed towards building the core think tank of Aaranyak. Under the Asian Elephant Conservation Programme of USFWS, Aaranyak received timely support to initiate 'Project Harmony' in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam to initiate public awareness and networking, to reduce human-elephant conflict. Aaranyak is also coordinating USFWS funded project on Greater Adjutant Stork Rescue and Release project in collaboration with the Green Guard Nature Organization.

◆ **BRITISH COUNCIL:** The British Council, Kolkata office in the year 1991 has supported the visit of Bibhab Kumar Talukdar to attend the International Training Programme entitled "Communicating with the



Environment” at the International Centre for Conservation Education (ICCE), Cheltenham, UK. In 1992 the British Council also supported the visit of Adam Adamou of ICCE to impart training to school teachers and NGO leaders on environmental education at Guwahati, Assam, organized by Aaranyak.

◆ **THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION:** The Commonwealth Foundation has supported the visit of Secretary General of Aaranyak, Dr. Talukdar to attend the first World Conservation Congress organized by the IUCN, at Montreal, Canada from 11-23 October 1996.

◆ **CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL:** The Conservation International has supported the Primate Conservation and Research work in northeast India. During 2002-03 CI supported a primate survey in Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary. Further consultation with the officials of the CI has increased the chances of supporting other conservation initiatives of Aaranyak in other fields also.

◆ **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PRIMATOLOGY:** The American Society for Primatology has supported the Primate Conservation Programme of Aaranyak to conduct a study on the primate diversity and conservation prospects in the Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh.

◆ **PRIMATE CONSERVATION INC.:** A grant from the Primate Conservation Inc. allowed Aaranyak to conduct a rapid study on the Socioecology of the Golden Langur in Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.

◆ **BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY:** The Bombay Natural History Society is another supporter of initiatives of Aaranyak with regards to avifauna conservation and research in northeast India under the Important Bird Area Programme.

◆ **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE:** The Wildlife Conservation and Management Training Programme (WCMT) of Smithsonian Institute, USA has been a major supporter in capacity building of senior executives of Aaranyak to carry out conservation research and outreach activities through training support. In the year 1999, Aaranyak organized international wildlife conservation training in Assam in collaboration with Smithsonian Institute. Further the WCMT has supported the research work on herpetofauna in Assam during 2000-2001. In 2002 WCMT supported herpetologist of Aaranyak to visit the California Academy of Science, San Francisco, USA for capacity building and taxonomic study.

◆ **NEW YORK TURTLE AND TORTOISE SOCIETY (NYTTS):** The NYTTS has been one of the major supporters of Aaranyak’s Herpetofauna Research and Conservation Project. NYTTS supported capacity building of herpetologist of Aaranyak, M Firoz Ahmed through its Asian Scholarship Programme (ASP) in summer 2002. Mr. Ahmed, was invited to US to attend a participatory capacity building programme on turtle conservation.



Primate Conservation, Inc.





◆ **PHILADELPHIA ZOO:** The Philly Zoo Conservation Division supported Herpetologist Mr. Ahmed, the Programme Secretary of Aaranyak to visit the Natural History Museum, London to carry out a taxonomic study.

◆ **COMMUNITY CONSERVATION INC.(CCI):** The Community Conservation Inc. has been supporting the Manas Biosphere Conservation Forum (MBCF) through Aaranyak for community based conservation works in western Assam towards conservation of Golden Langur and Manas BR as a whole. The MBCF is a platform of five NGOs viz. Nature's Foster, Green Heart Nature Club, Green Forest Conservation, New Horizons (all based in western Assam) and Aaranyak, through which the CCI and Aaranyak operates its community based conservation programme on Golden Langur.

◆ **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (MOEF):** The Ministry of Environment and Forests has supported Aaranyak to initiate the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (substate) for the Karbi Anglong District in Assam under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Aaranyak also received support from the MOEF to organize the regional workshop on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan held in Guwahati in December 2000.

◆ **WILDLIFE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF INDIA (WPSI):** The Wildlife Protection Society of India has become a conservation partner of Aaranyak. WPSI has also supported Aaranyak with a Photocopier machine recently. Aaranyak collaborates with WPSI in matters related to species conservation and legal support in northeast India.

◆ **WILD AID:** The Wild Aid- Bangkok office led by Steve Galster is another strong supporter of Aaranyak especially in the wildlife crime investigations. In-kind support to this project by WILD AID Bangkok office has enabled Aaranyak to strengthen the evidence maintenance on wildlife crime in various modes. Mr. Galster, earlier worked for the Global Survival Network also donated a one-time grant to Aaranyak to strengthen the wildlife crime work in Northeast India. The Global Survival Network along with some other agencies later on formed the **WILD AID**.

◆ **ASSAM SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL (ASTEC):** Aaranyak and ASTEC have been working for conservation and awareness for last 10 years. The relationship has grown further during the last few years. During 2002-03 Aaranyak and ASTEC worked closely for the conservation of Deepar Beel wetland and other conservation awareness activities. ASTEC funded Aaranyak a conservation awareness project around Deepar Beel. There have been joint publications of booklet, poster and leaflet for awareness purposes.