



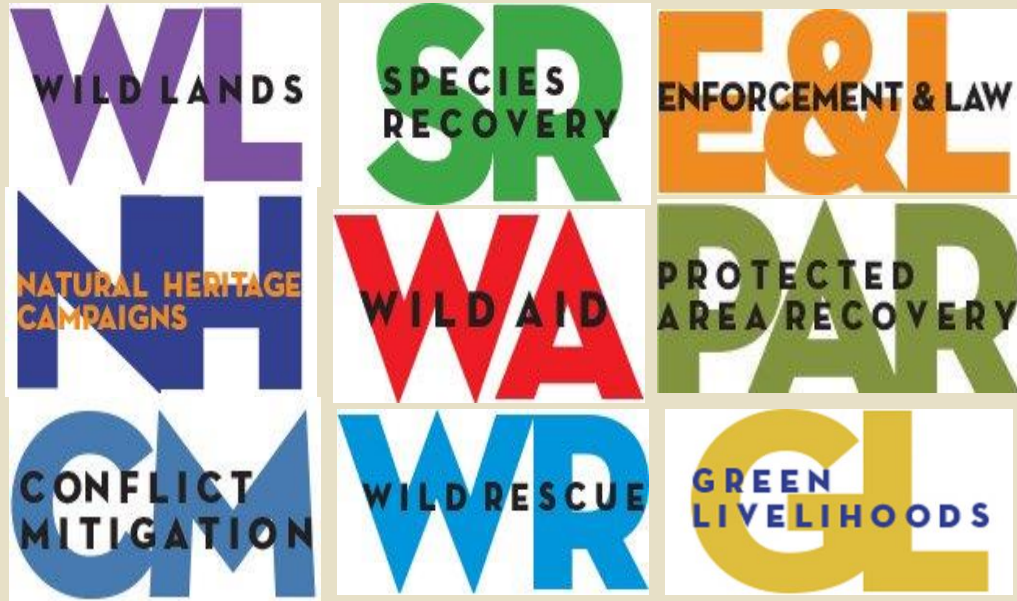
**Wildlife  
Trust  
of India**

**20** *Years*  
*In Service of Nature*

**CREATING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR  
CONSERVATION THROUGH TRADITIONAL  
HANDICRAFT & HANDLOOM LIVELIHOODS IN INDIA**

By: Indu Kumari, Sanatan Deka, Kaushik Deb, Rahul Kaul, & Vivek Menon  
Communities Conservation and Livelihoods Conference, Halifax, Canada

# Wildlife Trust of India



## ◦ **Mission**

- To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

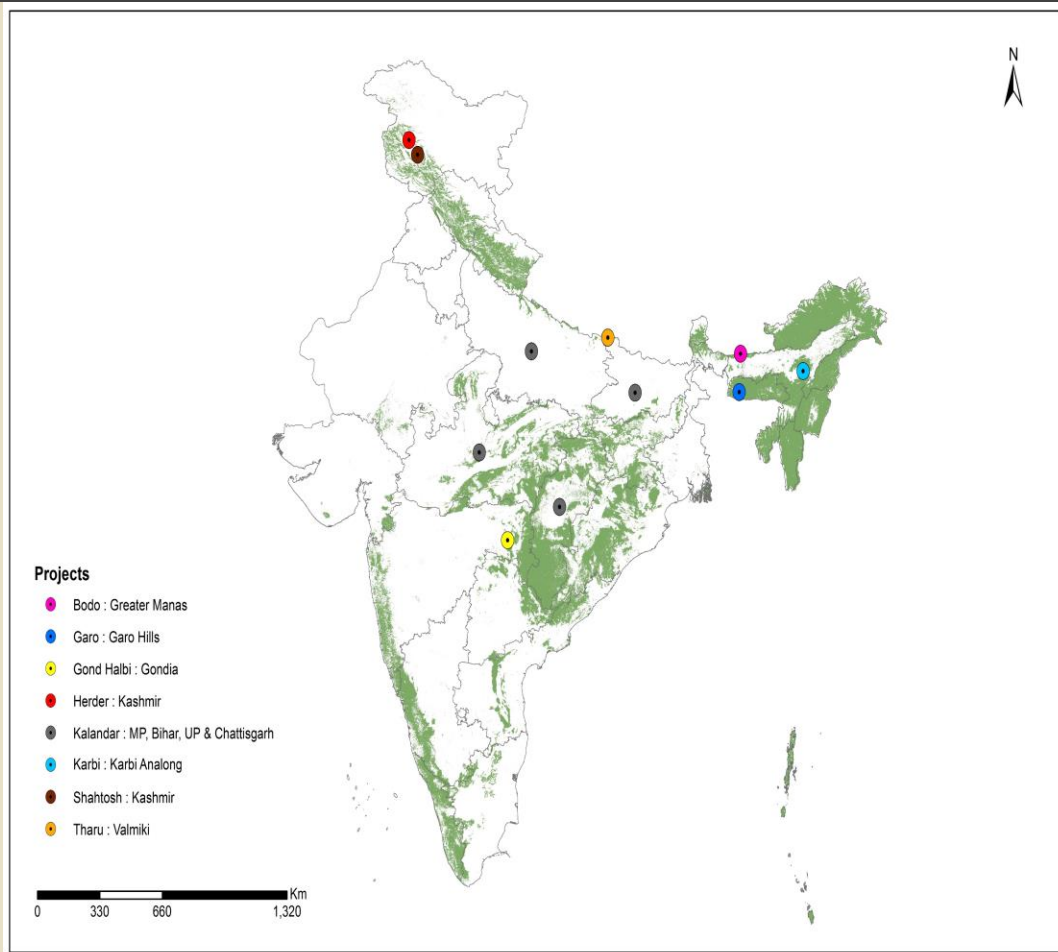


# GREEN LIVELIHOODS



# Green Livelihood Division's Goal

- Reduce the dependence of at least a dozen local communities on wildlife or their habitats through ecologically appropriate livelihoods and people's participation in conservation.



## GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF GREEN LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS

Over 12,700 individual beneficiaries.

Green Livelihood support provided to over 3,200 households.

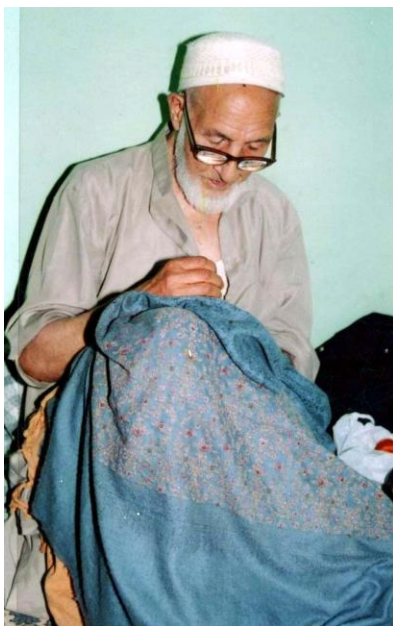
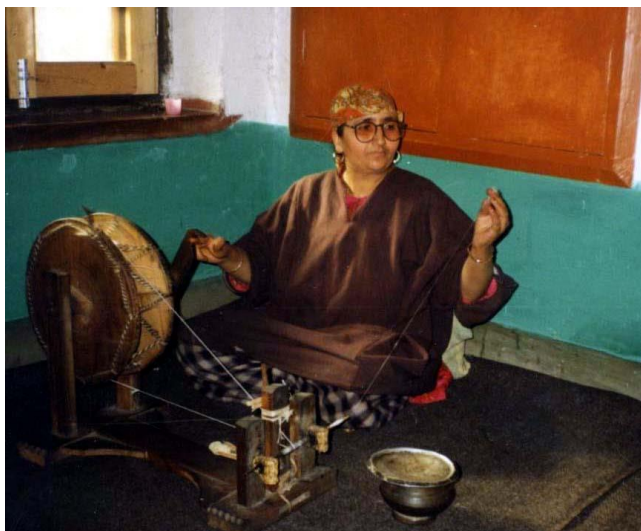
6,700 Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) installed: 9,782 tons of fuelwood saved per year.

- *8 communities being covered*



# PROJECTS FOR WILDLIFE DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES





# Shahtoosh to Pashmina Products, J&K



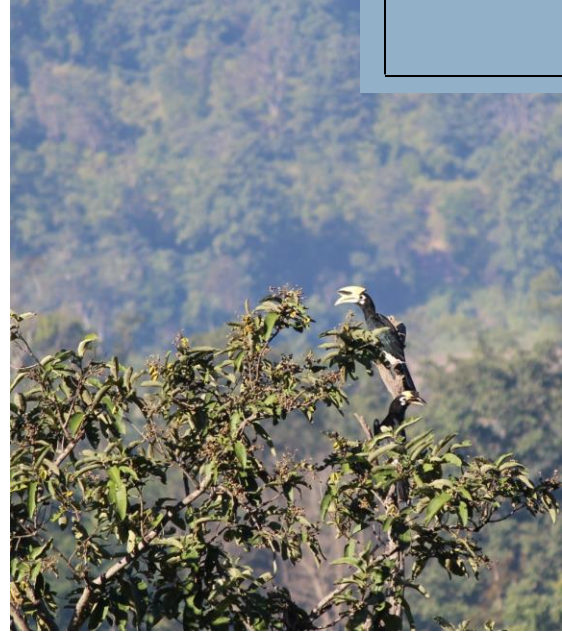


# Kalandar Alternative Livelihood

- Providing Alternative Livelihoods to Traditional Bear Dancers to end the tradition of bear dancing in the country.







# HORNBILL BEAKS (NYISHI COMMUNITIES)

Replacement of traditional Hornbill beak headgear with artificial beaks



# PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITIES LIVING AROUND PROTECTED AREAS





# Vulnerable Communities

- Very poor community
- Highly Dependent on restricted forest resources
- Take high risk for low returns
- High Vulnerable to Climate Change
- Lack of awareness
- Unskilled
- Illiterate
- Exploitation
- Lack of resources



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Indu Kumari

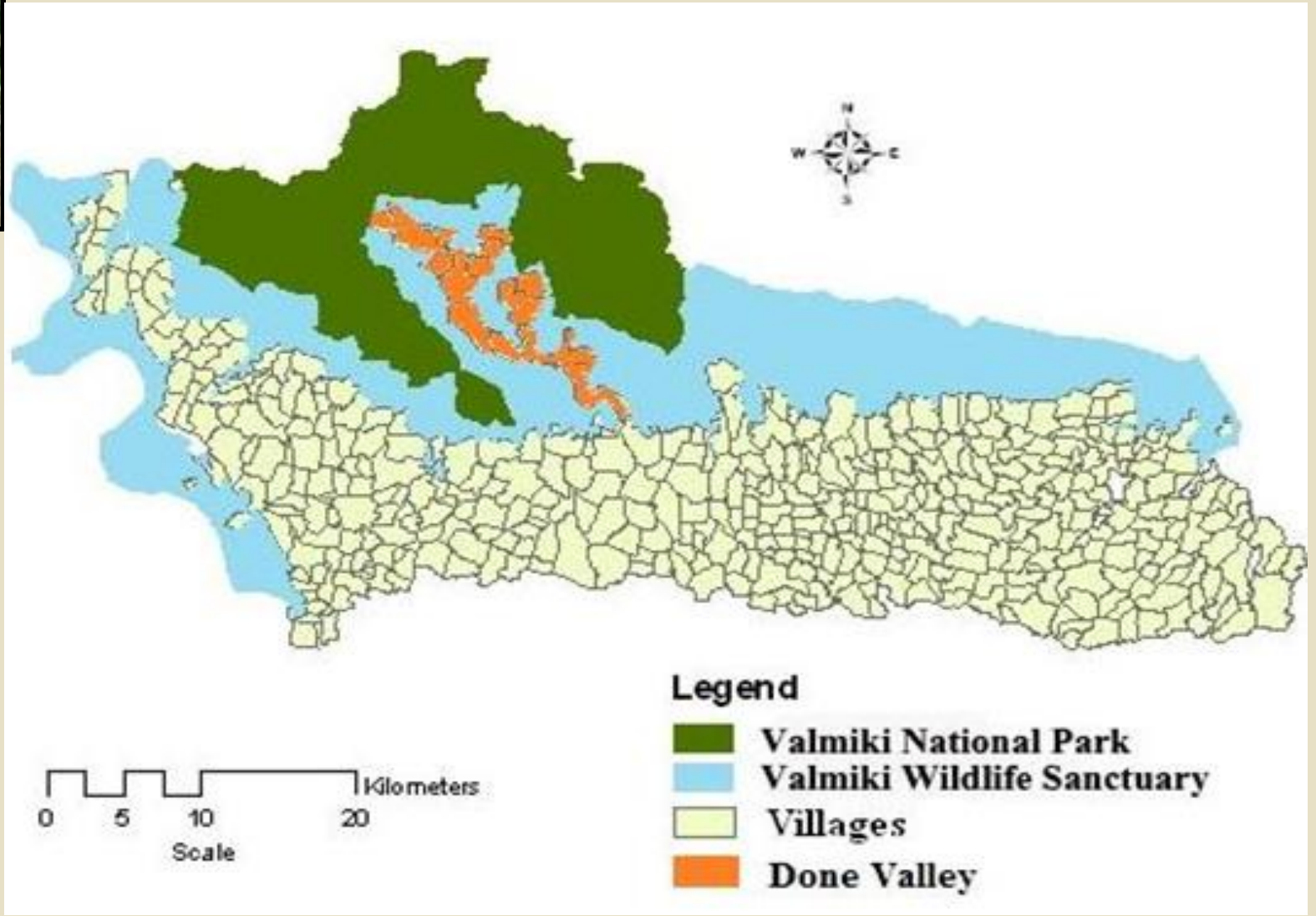
Wildlife  
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# Valmiki Tiger Reserve Bihar

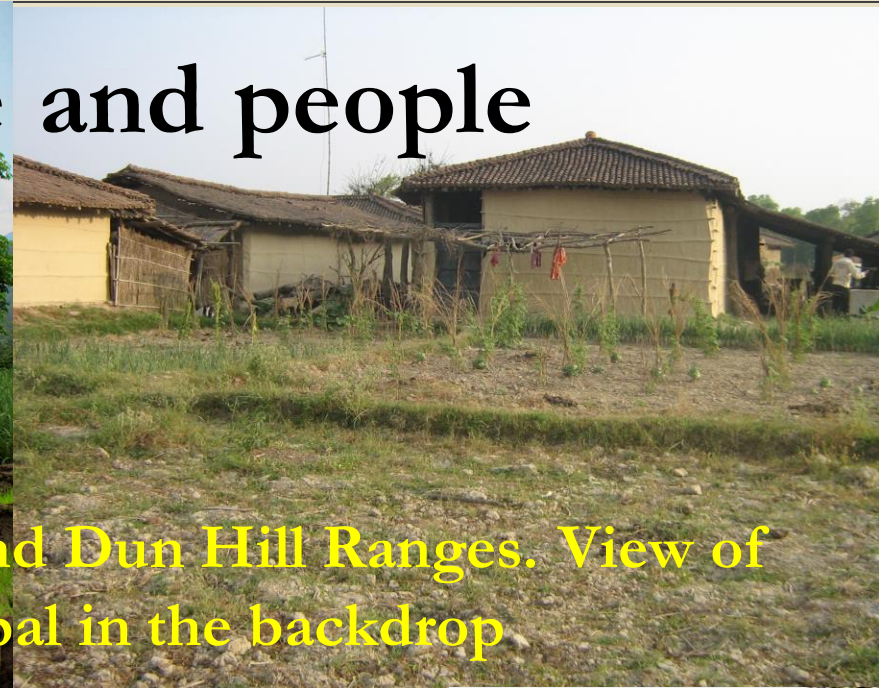


Done Valley -  
25 Villages





# Landscape and people



Valley surrounded by Someshwar and Dun Hill Ranges. View of ice-capped Dhaulagiri peaks in Nepal in the backdrop



Tharu tribe



Non-tharu tribe (*Oraon*)



Non-tribes (*Bajian*)



Bihar

## Valmiki Recovery Project: Tharu Community

**Threats:** 140 villages within a distance of 2 – 3 km from the boundary of the reserve with Forest dependency: firewood: 100%, Fodder: 68%; Grazing: 85%. The communities are socio-economically vulnerable, which increases their dependence on the tiger reserve.

**Strategy:** Reduce dependency on the forest for fuelwood and Additional income generation for vulnerable families of 25 villages, closest habitation from the core zone.



# Valmiki Recovery Project

## Tharu Community

### Achievements:

- Green Livelihood support to 693 households
  - 53 SHGs formed
  - Agriculture, horticulture and irrigation support to 693 beneficiaries
  - Training and support for moonj grass weaving to 200 women
  - 9 paravets: Livestock breed improvement centre
- Enrichment of backyard garden (Plants) of 1160 HH
- 425 households provided ICS saving 620 tonnes of fuelwood annually.







# MOONJ GRASS HANDICRAFT

Valmiki Landscape, West Champaran, Bihar

# Before training: Moonj grass handicraft products

- Quality: Lack of Finishing
- Sizes not uniform
- Product variety not available







# MOONG GRASS WEAVING TRAINING TO 200 WOMEN IN BIHAR WITH SUPPORT FROM STEP, MOWCD

Technical support by IIT Kanpur and Shristi Design Institute



# AFTER MOONJ GRASS TRAINING



# Some Products made Post-training





# Some Moonj Products made Post- training





## Intensification of interventions

- Improved Cook Stoves
- Setting up of Solar Pumps for irrigation
- Solar lighting solution
- Community Based Organizations for livelihood improvement and management of community assets
- Development of community training and production centre

## Scaling up to 25 villages



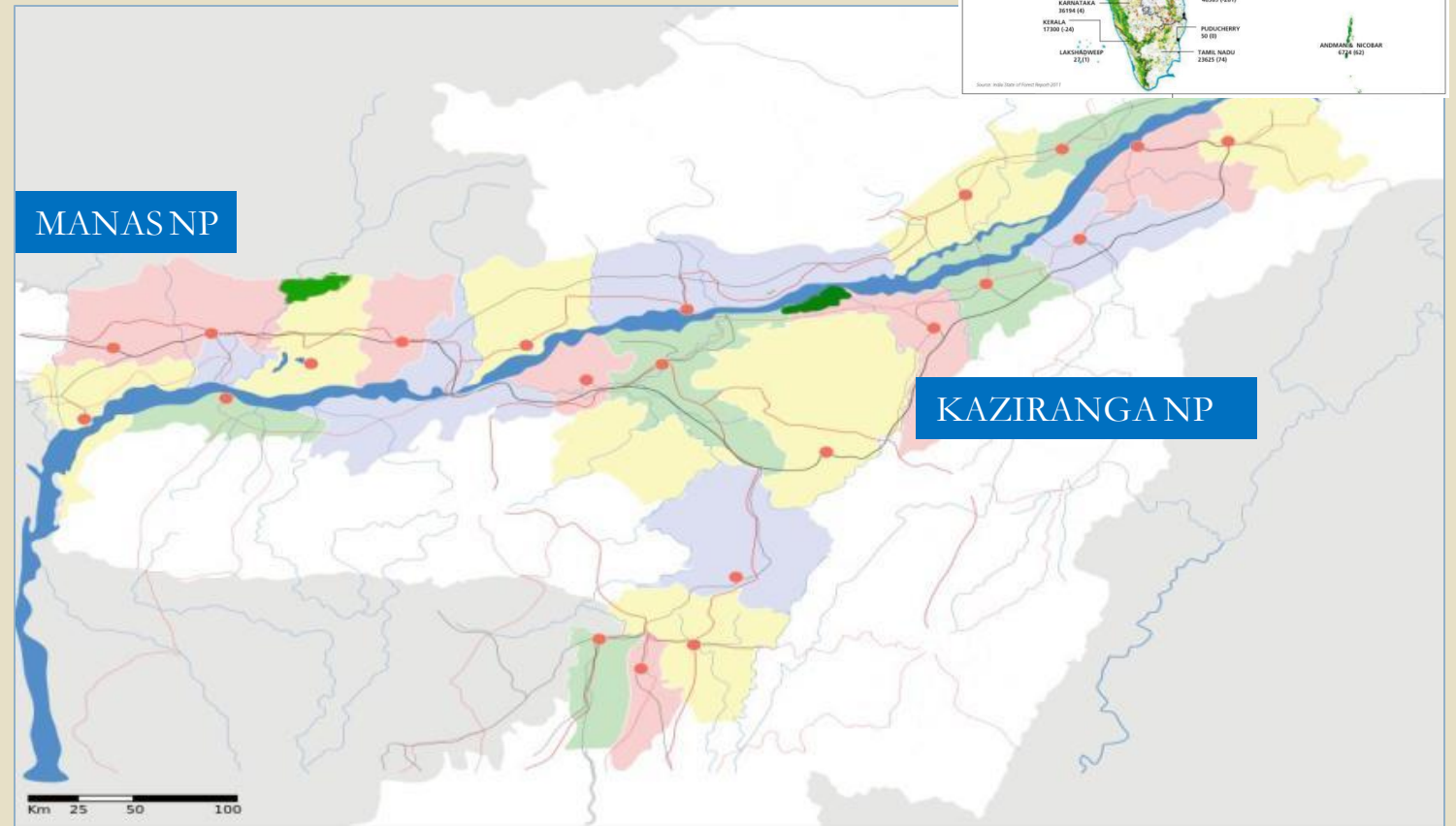
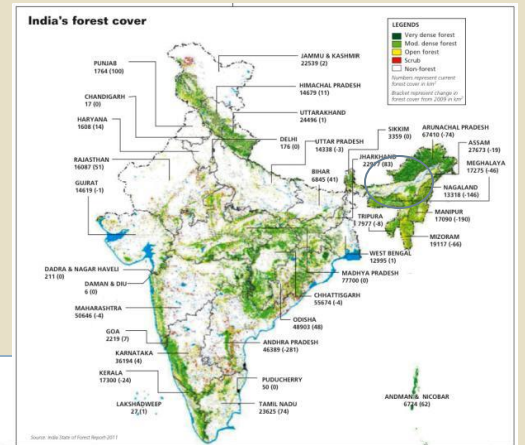


# Manas Conservation Landscape

• **World heritage site (1985)** under **criteria vii** (exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance), **Criteria xi** (significant ongoing ecological and biological process) and **criteria x.**(significant natural habitat for in situ conservation of biological diversity), **National park (1990)** A **tiger reserve (1973)** an **Elephant reserve (2003)** and a **Biosphere reserve (1989,** promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between human and the biosphere)

• **622 plant species (89 tree, 49 shrubs, 37 under shrubs, 172 herbs, 36 climbers, 15 orchids, 18 ferns and 43 grass species)**

• **At least 60 mammals** of which **22 India's most threatened** , **42 reptiles, 17 amphibians, 200 sp of butterflies, 79 spp of fish, 475 birds** of which **26 Globally threatened**





# Greater Manas Recovery

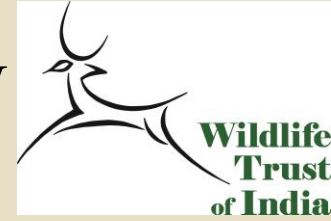
- Civil unrest in 1983 followed by armed struggle from 1989. Between 1989 till 1998, a total of 45 episodes of “armed attacks” on Manas encountered
- 13 Forest staff laid their lives, 04 seriously wounded.
- Departmental elephant “ Ramlal” shot dead and more than 100 rifles, 09 rhino horns were looted.
- All 23 anti-poaching camps and five wooden bridges destroyed
- The entire population of 80-100 Greater one horned rhino extirpated
- At least 26 Asian elephants poached recorded during the period.



**Assam**



## Greater Manas Recovery Project



**Threats:** 142 villages identified as dependent on Manas for fuel wood, NTFP and wild meat.

**Strategy:** Alternative Livelihoods; Improved Cook Stoves (ICS)

### Achievements

- Additional livelihoods to 347 families
- 62 ex-poachers adopt farming as Alternate Livelihood
- Weaving support for 200 women, agriculture for 63, 17 for livestock
- Reduction on fuel wood use by 35% of 2160 households and 60 commercial establishments







# BODO WEAVES HANDLOOM

Manas Landscape, (Kokrajhar, Chirang & Baksa Districts) Assam



# Before training & Support

- Lack of raw materials
- No equipment available for warping so threads were arranged on ground.
- Traditional looms in improper condition
- Placement of looms were in open area so no weaving in night or during rains
- No storage area available







HANDLOOM TRAINING  
WITH SUPPORT OF STEP  
SCHEME, MINISTRY OF WCD



# Motivation and SHG formation

- Motivating women for adopting Alternative Livelihood
- Make them aware about their Traditional Weaving Skill and its importance
- Formation of SHGs
- Skill Development Training and Material Support
- Exposure Visit
- Marketing training and support
- Making the community aware about their vulnerability and the importance of the rich forest and biodiversity around them





# Training of 300 women on Bodo weaves Handloom





# Establishment of Weaving Centre

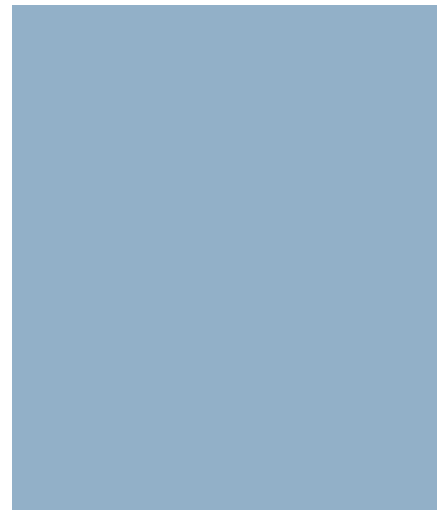






# AFTER HANDLOOM TRAINING

# Some Bodo-weave Products Post Training





## Milestone: Political will in conservation

Successfully lobbying for removal of Manas from the UNESCO , World heritage sites “in danger” list

Restocking of Swamp Deer from Kaziranga to Manas

Identifying 940 sq.km. more area for adding to Manas for creating “Greater Manas” in Assam

In August 2017, formal issuance of a Final Gazette Notification by the Government of Assam, an area of 350 sq km from the erstwhile Manas Reserve Forest was officially declared as the First Addition to Manas National Park.

On October 27 the Chirang Forest Division, with IFAW-WTI’s support, organised a formal inauguration event for the First Addition that involved the laying of a foundation stone / first boundary pillar. Signboards on the status of the new addition were also erected in the area to build mass awareness.





THANK YOU