

**Botanical Excursion to Dibru Saikhowa National Park
From 09.02.2019 to 11.02.2019**

In 2019 Department of Botany of our college organized study tour for the UG students to Dibru Saikhowa National Park, Assam under guidance of departmental faculties Dr. R. Sarmah and Mr Apurba Saikia.

The sprawling Dibru Saikhowa National Park, spread over an area of 650sq km, is located close to the eastern border of Assam, straddling both the districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. An identified Important Bird Area (IBA), it is most famous for the rare white-winged wood ducks as well as feral horses.

In 1997, Dibru Saikhowa National Park became the ninth biosphere reserve out of the total 18 identified till date in India. Earlier known as Dibru Reserve Forest and Saikhowa Reserve Forest, this protected area was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1986, and a national park in 1999. The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra river, Lohit river and Arunachal Hills in the north and Dibru river, Debang river, Dibru and Patkai hills in the south.

The natural vegetation of the region comprises tropical moist deciduous forests, tropical semi-green forests, Salix swamp forests, moist evergreen forests, grasslands.

Endemic Flora of the park : Rauwolfia (Sarpagandhi), Benteak, Livistona (orchid)

Endemic Fauna of the park : White winged wood duck, Hollock-gibbon, Wild buffalo.

There are two species of monitor lizards, eight species of turtles and eight species of snakes in the park and Dibru saikhowa biosphere reserve. The turtles such as Malayan box turtle, Asian leaf turtle, spotted pond turtle, brown roofed turtle, Assam roofed turtle, Indian tent turtle, Indian soft-shell turtle and narrow headed soft-shell turtle, besides 62 species of fish have been recorded.

The forest type of Dibru-Saikhowa comprises of semi-evergreen forests, deciduous forests, littoral and swamp forests and patches of wet evergreen forests. Famed for Feral horses, a total 36 species of mammals and above 400 species of birds have so far been recorded from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

Fauna : 36 species of mammals have so far been recorded – Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Jungle Cat, Bears, Small Indian Civet, Squirrels, Gangetic Dolphin, Slow Loris, Assamese Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Capped Langur, Hoolock Gibbon, Wild Pigs, Sambar, Barking Deer, Water Buffalo, Feral Horses etc.

Avifauna : It is an identified Important Bird Area (IBA) having more than 382 species of Birds, some of which are Greater Adjutant Stork, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Greater Crested Grebe, Large Cormorant, Open bill Stork, Black necked Stork, Large Whistling Teal, Grey leg Goose, Grey-headed Fishing Eagle, Griffon Vulture, Osprey, Crested Serpent Eagle, Spot Billed Pelican, White Winged Wood Duck, Baer's Pochard, Greater Spotted Eagle, Pale Capped Pigeon, Great

Pied Hornbill, Marsh Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Black Breasted Parrot bill, etc. The Park is renowned for natural regeneration of Salix trees.



Photograph: Showing the activities during field trip