

Photo: S.A.Hussein

REPORT ON CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR PREPARATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIER FOR INSCRIPTION OF KEIBUL LAMJAO CONSERVATION AREA AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

December 19-22, 2015 / Imphal



Forest Department
Government of Manipur



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Centre



UNESCO Category 1 Centre
South-South Strategic Management and
Training for Asia and the Pacific Region



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

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Background:

The state of Manipur has often been termed as the jewel of northeast India. Within this state, there exists a rich tradition of cultural and natural heritage that has co evolved over centuries and is still living. The Manipur Forest Department recently expressed the sentiments of the local people of Manipur by formally requesting the UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India to take up the process of nomination of Keibul Lamjao National Park along with its surrounding areas as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Keibul Lamjao represents an extraordinary story of natural antiquity, diversity, beauty and human attachment. It is proposed to inscribe Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area (KLCA) comprising of a core area of Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) (40 sq km) and a buffer of Loktak Lake (140 sq km) and Pumlun pat (43 sq. km) as a UNESCO (Mixed category) World Heritage Site. The property area along with buffer area is located in the southern part of Bishnupur district and eastern part of Thoubal district of Manipur, India. The Loktak Lake is a RAMSAR site and also the largest freshwater lake in northeast India. It has a unique ecosystem called '*Phumdi*' (a Manipuri word meaning floating mats of soil and vegetation). The largest area of the *Phumdi* in the Loktak lake is in the Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is home to the Manipur brow-antlered deer (*Rucervus eldi eldi*) also popularly known as the *Sangai*. The habitat exclusively consists of floating meadows and an elevated strip of hard ground that dissects the park into northern and southern zones.

With this background, the first stakeholder consultation workshop and on-site assessment was undertaken between 19-22nd December, 2015 at Manipur. The details of the consultations and field visit are narrated in the following pages.

Day One, 19th December, 2015: Meeting with Manipur Forest Department and Market Survey

It was the first official visit of the UNESCO C2C team to Manipur at the request of the Manipur Forest Department which has shown much interest in inscribing Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area as a World Heritage Site. It was observed that the people of Manipur have a strong affinity to Sangai (Manipur brow-antlered deer) and the Loktak lake which is the main harbinger of livelihood support for the people in Manipur valley. The Ema Keithel (Mother's market) is a unique concept as it is an all-women's market in which local agricultural and handloom products are sold. The presence of a large variety of local vegetables and fish indicated the strong dependence of people on Loktak lake for their livelihood. The use of 'Sangai' term for naming shops, transport services, hotels, etc. was also very conspicuous. It was suggested that several dance forms and cultural practises among the Meitei community of Manipur were intrinsically associated with Sangai and Loktak Lake.

Day Two: 20th December, 2015: Stakeholder Consultation at Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur

A stakeholder consultation was held on-site at Keibul Lamjao National Park on 20 December, 2015 for the purpose of nomination of the Park as a World Heritage Site. The participants at the workshop comprised of general population from villages near the Park, local NGOs, school teachers, local government members, media representatives among others. The programme was organised by the Forest Department of Manipur and the UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Summary of Discussion

Mr. Arun R.S., IFS and Park Director, Keibul Lamjao National Park welcomed all the participants at the stakeholder consultation and facilitated the introductions along with Mr Salam Prasanta Singh, Journalist. Dr. Sonali Ghosh from UNESCO C2C explained to the audience the purpose of this interaction for nomination of Keibul Lamjao as a World Heritage Site. In particular, she mentioned about the benefits of World Heritage status to Keibul Lamjao like enhanced tourism, pride of ownership, provision of emergency fund, projects for community livelihood, etc. On the other hand, there are also challenges of increased monitoring, protection requirements, etc.

Mr. Bobby James, independent researcher from Kumbhi, provided a historical perspective based on Sangai and Meitei mythology. He pointed out how the Meitei value ecosystem and their ancient King's son is regarded a Sangai incarnate.

Mr. Binoy Singh, School Headmaster, emphasised on the Manipuri people's old association with Sangai. He mentioned that while the people resort to natural resource extraction like grass, fish, etc., no harm is ever done to the Sangai which is seen as protected by the Devi (Goddess). However, he added that he fears that a World Heritage Site boundary may impact and restrict the local population.

Mr. Oinam Shyamo Meitei, local NGO YGC Chingmei member, said he supported World Heritage Site status for Keibul Lamjao and suggested that more such consultation workshop should be undertaken. He put forth the requirement for an exclusive DCF Office in Keibul Lamjao National Park which would be desirable both for the forest authorities and for the local people.

Dr. S. A. Hussain, Scientist WII, shared his knowledge of Keibul Lamjao and the Sangai, based on his decade long experience of research and working on this site. He mentioned three aspects of importance, viz. status of Sangai population, habitat and ecology of Sangai, and people-park relationship. He described about the evolution of Sangai from Sambar in Java, its subsequent migration through Southeast Asia and finally settling in Manipur valley. Hence, Sangai in Keibul Lamjao is the last original sub-species remaining in the Indian sub-continent. If this population is wiped out, the evolutionary process will also stop. He also

described about the unique floating vegetation and the population dependent on it and the need for conserving it.

Mr. L .Joykumar, IFS DFO (T), Imphal and Mr Salam Prashanta Singh, Journalist translated and explained the talks by WII Scientists in the local language for the audience.

Mr. Sanjit Singh, President SECO, highlighted the uniqueness of Keibul Lamjao as the only floating National Park in the world. He mentioned about the Ithai Barrage and its adverse impact on the phumdi vegetation of Keibul Lamjao. He requested for measures to restore and revive the phumdi ecology.

Mr. Tongbram Budhi Singh underlined the fact that Sangai was ubiquitous in all aspects of Manipuri life, viz. Sangai hotel, Sangai travels, Sangai photographs, Sangai festival, State animal, etc. Hence, Sangai holds special association with the people of Keibul Lamjao and Manipur.

Mr. P. N. Prasad, IFS PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Manipur, explained about the process and procedures of World Heritage Site, also specifically highlighting the benefits from such a status.

Mr. R. B. Lal, IFS (retd), former PCCF Manipur, spoke about the uniqueness of Keibul Lamjao National Park and recommended that it should be nominated as a World Heritage Site in the 'mixed category' since it has both cultural and natural values. He reminded the audience that nomination process is a long drawn one and evaluation is stringent.

Mr. N. Dinesh Sanga, Zila Parishad member, queried about the requirements for World Heritage nomination.

Conclusion

The stakeholders in general were supportive of World Heritage Site status for Keibul Lamjao National Park and proud of their cultural association with the Sangai. However, they also sought clarification on whether such a status would entail any additional restrictions on their access to the park. Among their requests were closer engagement between the forest department and the local people, support for enhancing their livelihood opportunities and more consultations on the World Heritage Site nomination.

Day Three, 21st December, 2015: Stakeholder Consultation on Nomination of Keibul Lamjao National Park as World Heritage Site at Forest Head Office, Sanjenthong, Imphal, Manipur

A stakeholder consultation was held at Forest Head Office, Sanjenthong in Imphal on 21 December, 2015 for the purpose of nomination of the Park as a World Heritage Site. The participants at the workshop comprised of officers from Government line departments (Water Resources, Tourism, Forest), NGOs, Manipur University, Agriculture University, Loktak Development Authority, print and TV media representatives among others. The programme was organised by the Forest Department of Manipur and the UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The members present on the dais included:

Mr. Shambhu Singh, IAS Principle Secretary, Forests, Govt of Manipur

Mr. Bala Prasad, IFS PCCF& HOFF, Forest Department, Govt of Manipur

Mr. P. N. Prasad, IFS PCCF (WL) & CWLWL, Forest Department, Govt of Manipur

Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director Wildlife Institute of India & UNESCO c2c

Mr. S. Singsit, IFS (retd) Former PCCF, Govt of Manipur

Dr. R. B. Lal, IFS (retd) Former PCCF, Govt of Manipur

Presentations

Dr. V.B.Mathur ,Director Wildlife Institute of India gave a presentation on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the various Criteria under which a site could be inscribed. He emphasised on the benefits for nominating KLCA and also gave a detailed description on the time line and the process involved.

Shri P.N. Prasad, PCCF (wildlife) then gave an overview of Keibul Lamjao National Park, its management and conservation challenges for the benefit of the audience.

Dr Kh. Shanmugou, Chairman State Environment Impact Assessment, Manipur and IUSC SSC expert on Sangai then gave a presentation that was drawn from his years of rich experience of studying Sangai in its natural habitat and also gave his views on ways to conserve and protect the endemic deer. He also supported the idea of world heritage and gave his suggestions to further improve the description of Criteria suggested.

Dr Sonali Ghosh, Scientist at UNESCO c2c gave a presentation on the KLCA nomination form (also known as Annex 2A) as per the Operational Guidelines and requested for suggestions to further improve the current description.

Summary of Discussions

Dr. S. S. Singh from the Loktak Development Authority was of the view that NHPC Dam (Loktak Multipurpose Project) had adversely affected the Loktak Lake, which is a complex

ecosystem. Loktak Lake has also been placed on the Montreux Record which needs to be removed. (The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List). Dr. Singh informed that the LDA had approached the Planning Commission which provided funds for upkeep of the lake and removal of Phumdis.

Dr. Asha Gupta, Professor, Manipur University informed about an earlier conference under INTACH which had discussed about World Heritage criteria for Keibul Lamjao. She mentioned that the Park is under stress after the construction of the Ithai barrage (Loktak Multipurpose Project) in 1984 and suggested that hydrological intervention should be taken in a timely manner. Money can also be raised from UNESCO for strengthening the World Heritage Site. Proper demarcation of the area boundary is important.

Mr. Keshav Singh, Ex-Director, Department of Fisheries reiterated that the commission of the dam did affect fish species in Loktak lake. He believed that conservation in Keibul Lamjao National Park has a positive ecosystem effect on fisheries in Loktak.

Dr. L. B. Meitei, Directorate of Environment, queried whether there will be mitigation measures for the problems of the local population around Keibul Lamjao National Park. He suggested that the issues of the local population must be settled for their support. Dr. Meitei also mentioned that the buffer area of Pumlun Pat in the southeast of the Park is a suitable habitat and must be included as part of World Heritage property.

Dr. Ranadhir Singh, HoD, Central University Manipur, spoke about sustainability on the management of Sangai as a critically endangered species. Major health issues were vulnerability to disease (HS, BQ, FMD) and in-breeding among the Sangai population.

Ms. Daisy Angom, Doctorate from Manipur University, commented on the vegetation structure of Keibul Lamjao National Park, mentioning about the changing species composition, increasing biomass and habitat stress observed in the park. She recommended immediate hydrological intervention with opening of the water channels, prohibiting water sports complex in Loktak lake and initiating active local community engagement.

Dr L.B.Meitei shared his experience on the Loktak Multipurpose Hydropower Project. He asserted that the dam was not the only reason for problems of Loktak. The dam was constructed in 1983, much before the current environment considerations had arisen. However, it was admitted that absence of a fish channel in the dam was a drawback.

Mr. Bala Prasad, PCCF & HOFF, Manipur Forest Department referred to preparation of Management Plan for the Keibul Lamjao National Park. He was of the view that the proposed World Heritage property should include only the National Park and the Loktak lake area may be considered subsequently.

Mr. P. N. Prasad, CWLW, Manipur Forest Department mentioned that thinning of phumdis was not due to maintenance of higher water level but due to deterioration of water quality and water stagnation in the National Park. Hence, he suggested that the water channels need to be activated for circulation and a water treatment plant is required.

Mr. Shambhu Singh, Principal Secretary, Manipur lauded the World Heritage Site initiative for Keibul Lamjao National Park and offered commitment from the administration to support the effort. He suggested that a coordinated role is required between the stakeholders for its success.

Dr. R. B. Lal, former PCCF Manipur and former Director, IIFM Bhopal, who chaired the discussion session presented clarifications for various issues raised by the participants during the discussion.

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Mr. Arun R. S., IFS on behalf of the Forest Department, Manipur.

Day Four, 22nd December, 2015: Site visit to southern part of Keibul Lamjao and Pumlén Pat RF area

Field visit to southern part of Keibul Lamjao and adjoining areas was undertaken in the morning. Here the Phumdi thickness was found to be much higher as compared to the northern part and ways to manage these areas were discussed. A detailed methodology to estimate Sangai population in Phumdi areas was elaborated by Dr. Hussein and small hillocks within the Park area that may act as hard ground refugia were also visited. The RF area of Pumlén Pat which is adjacent to the National Park was also visited and it was discussed that with suitable management interventions the area could also be expanded to serve as an ideal habitat for the Sangai.

CONCLUSION

Both the consultation workshops witnessed active participation by the multiple stakeholders. Major issues emerging from the discussions included the need for constructive engagement with the Loktak Multipurpose Project Authorities and Loktak Development Authority, appropriate hydrological intervention in Loktak, sustainable management of the Sangai and its habitat, proper demarcation of the proposed World Heritage property boundary of Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area, delineation of buffer areas, active engagement with the local community and preparation of Management Plan for the National Park.

Two main suggestions emerged from the site visit and consultations that helped us in further improving the Annex 2A for nomination of the site. This was to redraw the boundary of the proposed World Heritage Site (limited to the Keibul Lamjao National Park) and include parts of Loktak Lake and Pumlén Pat as buffer for strengthening the integrity and management and protection values associated with the site. It also emerged from the discussions that Sangai, unique floating vegetation (Phumdi) of Loktak Lake and the socio-cultural traditions of the people of Manipur that were associated with Sangai and Phumdi were the main USP of the site and the SOUVs must be developed around that.

It is also pertinent to mention that Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change also visited Manipur and Keibul Lamjao National Park on 9th January, 2016 and reiterated the Centre's support to declare Keibul Lamjao National Park as a World Heritage Site.

The proposed timeline for the next course of action in the coming year was also suggested as follows:

1	Submission of revised Nomination Form (Annex 2A) by Govt of Manipur to MoEFCC	January, 2016
2	Sangai Census	March 2016
3	Field Data collection, documentation and stakeholder consultations for preparation of the Nomination Dossier	March 2016 - Feb 2017

Annexure 1: Consultation workshop programme schedule

**UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia
and the Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun**

&

Manipur Forest Department (Wildlife Division), Govt. Of Manipur

Consultation Workshop for Stakeholders

21st December, 2015

Venue: Conference Hall, Forest complex, Sanjenthong Imphal

PROGRAMME

Time	Event
09:15 – 09:45 hrs	Registration
9.45-10.00 hrs	Welcome and felicitations
10.00- 10.15 hrs	Address and presentation by Manipur Forest Department
10.15-10.30 hrs	Introductory remarks and presentation by Dr. Vinod B. Mathur Director, Wildlife Institute of India
10.30- 10.45	Opening Remarks by other dignitaries
10.45-11.00 hrs	Address by Chief Guest
11.00 – 11.15 hrs	Tea Break
11.30 – 13.30 hrs	Technical Session on Stakeholder Consultation Chair: Shri R.B.Lal, IFS (retd) (a) Presentation on the Process of Nomination for Keibul Lamjao Conservation area- by Dr Sonali Ghosh, UNESCO C2C on World Natural Heritage Site Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region. (b) Discussion with stakeholders (for example; Local communities (EDC/VSS/PRI); NGOs; Loktak Development Authority; Govt. Depts. ;Forest Department ; Media etc.) (c) Concluding Remarks by Dr. V.B.Mathur (d) Vote of Thanks
13.30 – 14.30 hrs	Lunch and Departure

DAY 1: 19th December, 2015

Visit to Ima Keithal, Imphal



DAY 2: 20th December, 2015

Visit to northern part of Keibul Lamjao National Park



DAY 2: 20th December, 2015

Consultative Stakeholder Workshop at Keibul Lamjao National Park



DAY 2: 20th December, 2015

Visit to Thanga Village and Sendra Park



DAY 3: 21st December, 2015

Visit to Haingan Reserve Forest (Proposed site for Sangai reintroduction)



DAY 3: 21st December, 2015

Consultative Stakeholder Workshop at Forest Head Office, Sanjenthong, Imphal

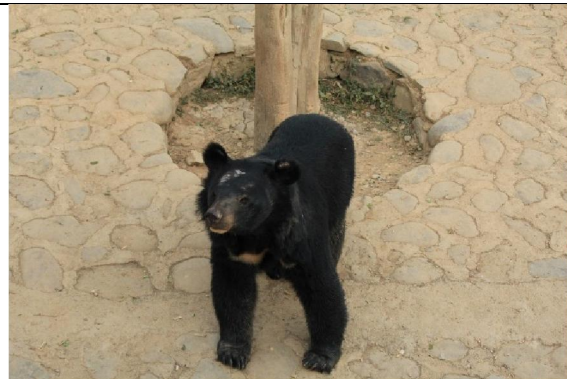


DAY 3: 21st December, 2015

Visit to second home to Sangai



Visit to Manipur Zoological Garden, Imphal



DAY 4: 21st December, 2015

Visit to Pumlen Pat (Proposed site for Sangai reintroduction)



Annexure 3: List of Participants for Stakeholder Consultation at Keibul Lamjao National Park

SL NO.	NAME / <i>အမည်</i>	ADDRESS / <i>လိပ်စာ</i>	ORGANIZATION / <i>အဖွဲ့အစည်း</i>	PHONE NO. / <i>ဖုန်းနံပါတ်</i>
1	Ninglojam Jibral &	Chingmei Keenya Baza	Y. G. C. Chingmei (Young Guidance Club)	9856769483
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6	S. Sanjit Felix	Nongmai Khay (NONGMAIKHONG)	President SECO Social & Environment club	8555219392
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12	TONGBRAM BUDHI SINGH	KHORDAK AWANG LEIKAI	President Sangai Protection Forum	9856182956

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14	Binot BINOT LOITONGBAM	LUNINGO NAOKHONG	Soci Society FOR NEW KUMBI / Member	9612383187
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	Name	Address	Organization	Phone
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	Name	Address	Organization	Phone
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42	O. Deben Singh O. DEBEN SINGH	— do —	— do —	961571520
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63	Pooja Farooq	Dehradun	UNESCO C2C W.1.1.	
64	R.B. LAL	INDORE	Ex-PCCF MANIPUR & FORMER DIRECTOR, IIFM Bhopal.	
65				

Annexure 4: List of participants for Stakeholder Consultation at Imphal

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR ONE DAY CONSULTATIVE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR PREPARATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIER FOR INSCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION AREA AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE HELD ON 21.12.2015.

VENUE: FOREST HEAD OFFICE, SANJENTHONG, IMPHAL, MANIPUR

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14.	Dr. Daisy Chynn.	Manipur Univ.	daisyangem74@ gmail.com	9402038607
15.	Dr. M. G. Khan.	Directorate of Environment	labibullah_mohd@ yahoo.co.in	9436009615
16.	D. J. N. Anand, IAS	IASD, FE 2 & Adl P cell		94362-3688

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20	Dr. S. A. Hussain	Student - G, WZI	hussain@vii.gov.in	9412075660
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27	K. Vijayaraj Singh	Principal, Kumbi College	vijayaraj@yahoo.co.in	8014366498
28	K. Saratkumar Singh	Shree Karam Leaker	saratkumar @gmail.com	96121522
29	Dr. Lekho Puri IFS	Forest Dept.	puriima063@gmail.com	9436280801
30	Dr. Th. Ramesh Singh	Associate professor H.O.D, Ami-5 CAU, Imphal	rdthiyam @ yahoo.co.in	985614461
31	Th. Ramesh Singh	Assistant Professor		9856179
>		(Imphal)		

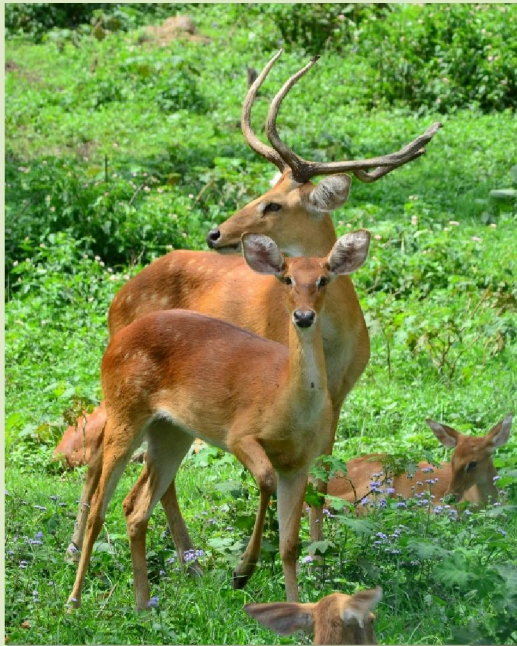
SL.No.	Name & Designation	Address	E-mail address	Mobile Contact no
32	ARUNA	Sangai Express		986200328
33	M. Suresh	ISTV		038524450
34	G. Jayanti	ISTV		-do-
35	Akshay Kh.	H/Lampao		97744928
36	Prasanna Salan A. Member, Indian Bird Conservation Net.	Kebul Langao		8974053671
37	S. Somavendra	Impact TV		98566275
38	Dr. L. Bijan Mishra	Directorate of Environment	drbijanlaishram @gmail.com	986213555
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46	Niraj Khatu	Technical Officer, UNESCO CEC	nirajkhatu@wii.gov.in	9435048834.
47	Pooja Farooq	World Heritage Dept., UNESCO CEC	pooja@wii.gov.in	7830522726

Annexure 4: Posters presented to Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honblé Minister, Environment & Forests and Climate Change, Govt of India

CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN FOR Manipur's Brow-antlered Deer or Sangai

An Initiative of MoEF&CC, Wildlife Institute of India and Manipur Forest Department



Sangai or Manipur's Dancing Deer

INTRODUCTION

The Manipur's Brow-antlered deer or Sangai (*Rucervus eldii eldii*) is one of the most endangered species of deer. Once distributed throughout Manipur, it now occurs as a small wild population restricted to the marshy wetlands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park in the southern fringe of Loktak Lake. This medium-sized, slender bodied and elegant deer has been specially adapted to survive in the "Phumdi" habitat. It has divided hooves that can spread out which help them to balance while walking on the thin layer of floating vegetations. Stags are larger and heavier than the females and have an impressive bow shaped antlers. There are <250 individuals in the wild making it vulnerable to extinction. It is listed as Endangered in IUCN Red List and Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.



Keibul Lamjao National Park

THREATS

- Single, isolated and small population
- Highly inbred and low genetic diversity
- Highly specialized and restricted habitat
- High anthropogenic pressure on its habitat
- Thinning of Phumdi due to change of water regime
- Lack of space and connectivity for recolonisation

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Strengthening of existing population in KLNK
- Establishment of second population in the wild
- Improve habitat condition and protection measures
- Enhance community participation in conservation
- Promoting awareness and capacity building
- Conduct applied research and monitoring

ACTION OUTPUTS

- Demographically and genetically secured Sangai population
- Demographically and genetically viable second population of Sangai
- Alternative livelihood options for dependant local communities
- Collection of brochures, pamphlets and posters to sensitize on the conservation issues of Sangai



Flora

Acknowledgement: Ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.




Proposed Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area as UNESCO World Heritage Site




Criteria for nomination

Criteria (v): An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, landscape, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it becomes vulnerable under the impact of irreversible changes.

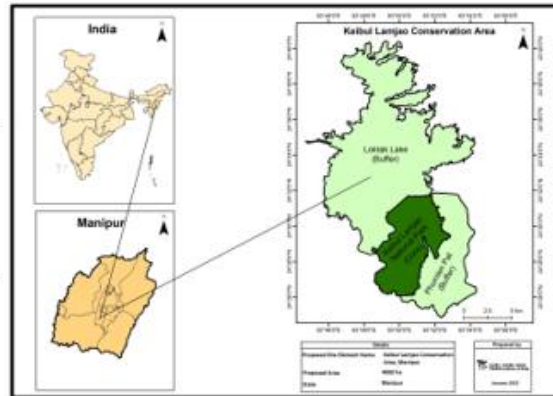


Criteria (vii): Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.



- ❖ Only floating National Park in the world.
- ❖ Unique ecosystem of 'Phumdi'.
- ❖ Home to last viable population of Sangai (*Rucervus eldii eldii*).
- ❖ Largest natural freshwater lake in NE India.
- ❖ An Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and a RAMSAR site.
- ❖ Culture and community intrinsically associated with Sangai and Keibul Lamjao.

Conservation significance of KLCA



Criteria for nomination

Criteria (ix): Representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.



Criteria (x): Represents the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



http://www.telegraphindia.com/1151223/jsp/northeast/story_59882.jsp#.Vnoqj0p97IU

Manipur in mixed-site tag race

Our Special Correspondent



Loktak lake in Manipur

Guwahati, Dec. 22: The Centre wants to promote Keibul Lamjao conservation area in Manipur as a "mixed site" under Unesco.

A mixed site contains elements of both natural and cultural significance. There are no mixed sites from India in the Unesco list at present. However, there is a chance that Khangchendzonga National Park of Sikkim, which has been nominated as a mixed site, might get the tag in 2017.

Official sources said a meeting was held at Imphal yesterday by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (an autonomous institution under ministry of forest, environment and climate change) with local communities and forest department officials to garner support from all the stakeholders. If it happens, this would be the first site from Manipur to be included in the World Heritage List of mixed site. The 223 square km Keibul Lamjao conservation area comprises a core area of Keibul Lamjao National Park and Loktak lake.

The submission made to Unesco by the Manipur forest department for inclusion in its tentative list stated that the area was of superlative natural beauty and provides some of the most spectacular scenery on earth and is culturally associated with indigenous people.

The area comprises a unique ecosystem, which is rich in biodiversity. Nearly 185 plant species have been recorded in the area. Globally threatened species were recorded including black-necked stork, Oriental darter and ferruginous duck.

The department said the area was substantially intact and of sufficient size for the conservation of its biodiversity and other natural resources. "It fully represents the unique natural features of the national park and the lake. The property forms a large area for in-situ conservation of rare and endangered species while sustaining the evolutionary biological processes," it said.

The Loktak lake has a unique ecosystem called *phumdi* (a Manipuri word meaning floating mats of soil and vegetation). The largest area of the phumdi in the lake is in the Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is home to the sangai.

Minister bats for sangai

- Centre to support move for World Heritage Site tag Our Special Correspondent



Prakash Javadekar (right) on a boat at Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur on Saturday. **Telegraph picture**

Imphal, Jan. 9: Union minister of state (independent charge) for environment, forests and climate change Prakash Javadekar today proposed a comprehensive national project for protection of sangai, the most-threatened deer species. The minister, who arrived here yesterday, visited Keibul Lamjao National Park in Bishnupur district today. Javadekar also said his ministry would fully support the state government's proposal for getting World Heritage Site tag for Keibul Lamjao. He asked the park authorities to prepare a comprehensive national project for protection of sangai and the sanctuary and submit it to the Centre for consideration. "Make a proposal for a comprehensive national project for protection of sangai and Keibul Lamjao National Park," he said, adding, "The Centre will also support the state government's move for getting a World Heritage Site tag for the park." The minister toured the interiors of the park on a boat with state BJP leaders, officials of his ministry and those of the state forest department to see the condition of the sanctuary.

The BJP leaders said when Javadekar reached Pabot Ching, a small hillock in the middle of the park, he saw magnificent deer grazing from the top of the hillock. "The Union minister expressed his desire to take up the project (for protection of sangai and the park) in the form of a partnership among the Centre, state park authorities and the villagers living around the park," BJP general secretary M. Ashnikumar Singh said. Keibul Lamjao is the world's only floating wildlife sanctuary and the only natural habitat of the sangai. The last census, carried out in 2013, put the sangai population inside the park at 204. A British environmentalist had rediscovered the deer species in 1971 after it was declared extinct in 1951. The government declared it the state animal in 1972.

Javadekar also met members of the fishing community of Loktak lake and villagers around the park. He expressed happiness over the role of the local inhabitants in conserving the deer and in protecting the park. "The role of the local inhabitants in conserving Loktak lake, the park and the sangai is very important. Without their partnership, the conservation work will be impossible," the minister told a group of villagers and fishermen at Thanga, a nearby village. Javadekar was of the opinion that Loktak lake could be a destination for eco-tourism. He said it was very important to find an alternative livelihood for the fishing community. "The Centre will consider finding an alternative livelihood for the fishermen by a joint venture of the ministry of forests, DoNER, tourism, culture and rural development," Singh quoted the minister as saying. Javadekar left Imphal for New Delhi later in the afternoon.

Media coverage – Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: December 22, 2015, Tuesday Vol. XVII/100

Newspaper: The Sangai Express

Page no.: 3

Workshop on Keibul Lamjao held

By Our Staff Reporter

IMPHAL, Dec 21: A two-day 'Consultative stakeholder workshop for preparation of nomination dossier for inscription of Keibul Lamjao Conservation area as UNESCO World Heritage Site' began today at the conference hall of Forest complex located at Sanjenthong under the aegis of Manipur Forest Department (Wild Life Division), Government of Manipur and UNESCO Category 2 Centre for 'World heritage management and training for Asia and the Pacific region', Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Speaking at the occasion Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Director Dr Binod B Mathur stressed the need to



preserve sites of cultural and natural importance. The consultation workshop is being held to discuss the feasibility of inscribing Keibul Lamjao National park which is the only home to Sangai (Brow Antlered Deer) as World heritage Site.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator, Forest, PN

Prasad; Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, Director and former PCCF, Government of Manipur, RB Lal; Principal Secretary, Government of Manipur, Shambhu Singh and former director WII, former Chairman MPSC Dr Seboi Singh also attended the opening day of the consultation workshop.

Media coverage - Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: December 22, 2015, Tuesday

Newspaper: The People's Chronicle

Page no.: 3

A sister publication of 'Poknapham'

The People's Chronicle



A state forest department official presents a memento to a guest during a function

A woman advocates for the 18th foundation day of NEROCA

NEROCA face SSU in C

WEATHER FORECAST

	Max	Min	Rainfall	Wind	Gust
Sunshine	21°C	2°C	0 mm	8 km/h	10 km/h

regd. No. MANENG/2012/45461 Volume IV, Issue 105 www.thepeopleschronicle.in

Meet seeks for UNESCO tag to Keibul Lamjao

STAFF REPORTER

IMPHAL: Even though dignitaries at a consultative workshop on Keibul Lamjao national park and protection of the endangered Sangai deer aired varied views, they were unanimous that the only floating park in the world merits inclusion in UNESCO's world natural heritage site.

Among others, former principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) Dr S Singit highlighted that in spite of Keibul Lamjao accorded status of a national wildlife sanctuary the only natural habitat of the rare brow-antlered deer needs more extensive and effective preservation policies.

In addition to relentless efforts by the Governments of India and Manipur in protecting the endangered deer species the cause would be helpful in case a global organisation like the UNESCO is involved in the campaign, he maintained. Other speakers too supported

Singit's views and called for relevant official process to ensure inclusion of Keibul Lamjao as a natural heritage site with the assertion that the floating park fulfils all the criteria for UNESCO patronage.

The workshop held Monday at the Sanjenthong conference hall of state forest department was a joint initiative of UNESCO Category-II Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Wildlife Area & Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun) and Manipur Forest Department (Wildlife Division).

While principal secretary (forest & environment) Shambu was the chief guest, the consultative workshop was also attended by director of the Dehradun Institute Dr BV Mathew, former PCCF Dr RV Lal, PCCF Dr Bala Prasad, chief wildlife warden PN Prasad, stakeholders as well as representatives of NGOs, elected members of local bodies and villagers.

Media coverage - Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: 21st December, 2015, Monday, Vol. XVII/99

Newspaper: সত্যজিৎ এক্সপ্ৰেছ

Page no.: 8

কৈবুল লমজাওবু ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট ওইনবা হোৎনগদৌৰি

ঐখোয়গী পাউমীদগী



মোহিৱাং, দিসেম্বৰ ২০ঃ কৈবুল লমজাও নেগনেল পাৰ্কপ ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট ওইনবা মতাংদা উসি কৈবুল লমজাওদা অহানবা তাম্বলী ওইনা টেক্‌হাভাভাশিং শৰুক যাদুনা কলটেসন ৱাৰ্কসোপ অমা পাউথেক্ৰে।

ৱাৰ্কসোপ অদু য়েনেস্তো কেটাগোৱি-২ সেটৰ ওন ৱাৰ্ল্ড নেচনেল হেৰিটেজ মেনেজমেণ্ট এণ্ড ট্ৰেনিং ফোৱ এশিয়া এণ্ড পেসিফিক ৰিজন, ৱাইল্ডলাইফ ইন্সটিটিউট, ধেৱাদননা অমসং মণিপুৰ গৰণ-মেণ্টৰী ফোৱেট দিপাৰ্টমেণ্ট (ৱাইল্ড-লাইফ ডিবিজন) অনিনা শিন্দুনা পাউথোকপনি।

ৱাৰ্কসোপ অদনা ৱাইল্ড লাইফ ইন্সটিটিউট ওক ইন্দিয়াগী সেনিয়ৰ

সাইন্টিষ্ট দাষ্টৰ সোনালি ঘোস, সেনিয়ৰ সাইন্টিষ্ট দাষ্টৰ এসএছসেন, মণিপুৰ গৰণমেণ্টৰী এডিসনেল প্ৰিন্সিপাল কণ্ঠাৰেটৰ পিএল প্ৰসাদ, ফোৱেট কণ্ঠাৰেটৰ এল লুখোই, ফোৱেট কণ্ঠাৰেটৰ শ্যাম সিংহ, থাল জিলা পৰিষদকী মেম্বৰ এন দিনেস, দিএফও এল জয়কুমার, দিসিএফ পাৰ্ক এণ্ড সেঞ্চুঅৰি) অৰুণ আৱএসনা দাইজ মেম্বৰ ওইনা শৰুক য়াখি।

কলটেসন ৱাৰ্কসোপ অদনা মীয়াৱা হংলকপা ৱাছংগী পাউথুম পীৱদনা দাষ্টৰ সোনালি ঘোসনা হায়, ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট ওইনবা মতাংদা হৌজিক লৌজৰিবা নেগনেল পাৰ্ক অসিগী এৱিয়াদা অহোংবা লৈৱোই, পাৰ্ক অসিগী অকোইবদা

লৌৱিবা মীয়াৱাদা কৰিমতা শোকেই। কৈবুল লমজাও নেগনেল পাৰ্ক ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট ওইনবা মালেমগী টুৱিজমগী মেণ্টা ৱাওদনা টুৱিট লাকপগী চাং ৱায়া হেদং-হনগনি। মৱম অসিগী পাৰ্ক অসিব ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট অমা ওলকপদা মফম অসিগী অকোইবদা লৌৱিবা মীয়াৱা নুংবাংবা পোকপীগনু হায়না মহাকু ফোউদোকখি।

কৈবুল লমজাও নেগনেল পাৰ্ক অসিব য়েনেস্তো ৱাৰ্ল্ড হেৰিটেজ সাইট অমা ওম্বগী মতাংদা মণিপুৰগী ফোৱেট দিপাৰ্টমেণ্টনা মীয়াৱা পী-নিংবা সজেসন, আইদিয়া অমদি কমপ্ৰেটনটিংবা পীনিংবা লৌৱবসু ফোৱেট দিপাৰ্টমেণ্টকী খুংবা শিমবীয় হায়খি।

Media coverage - Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: 21st December, 2015, Monday. (Lgd. 28436/75; MNP No. 66)

Newspaper: পোকাফাম (www.poknapham.in)

Page no.: 1 (Capule news)

কৈবল লমজাও বার্ড
হেরিতেজ সাহিত
ওইহম্বা খমত্রে
ইম্ফল, দিসেম্বর ২০ঃ কৈবল
লমজাওবু মুনেফোগী মনুং
চলহল্লাগা বার্ড হেরিতেজ সাহিত
অমা ওইহম্বা খম-নৈনবগী
থৌরম অমা ওসি কৈবল লমজাও
নেসনেল পার্কতা পাওখোকত্রে।
জেক্বেহাওত্রে, মুবশিং
অমসুং কৈবল লমজাওগী
অকোয়বনা লৈরিবা মীওইশিং
মাওনা খম-নৈনশিবা অদুদা চিফ
বাইল্ড লাইফ বার্ডেন মণিপুর, পি
এন প্রসাদ; বাইল্ড লাইফ
ইনজিত্রুত ওব ইন্দিয়াগী সাহিত্ত
দাঃ এস এ ছসেন; মুনেফোগী
দাঃ সোনালা যোস, কঞ্জাবেত্তর
ওব কোবেত্ত বাইল্ড লাইফ দাঃ
এল লুশেই; দিপুতি কঞ্জাবেত্তর
ওব কোবেত্ত সেন্তর এল
জয়কুমার অমসুং থাঙ্গ জিলা
পারিষদকী মেম্বর এন দিনেশনা
শরুক যাদুনা হীরম অসিগী
মাতাওদা খম-নৈনশি।

Media coverage – Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: December 21, 2015, Monday, Vol: XVII/99

Newspaper: The Sangai Express

Page no.: 9.

DISTRICT DIGEST

Workshop organised

A one day workshop was organised by the UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Forest Department (Wildlife Division), Government of Manipur at Keibul Lamjao National Park today, reports our correspondent.

The workshop was organised to discuss possible steps to inscribe Keibul Lamjao National Park under UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

The programme was graced by Dr Sonali Ghosh, IFS Scientist, UNESCO Category 2 Centre, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, PN Prasad, Additional PCCF, Manipur, Dr SA Hussain, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, L Lukhoi Singh, Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Government of Manipur, Shyam Singh, Conservator of Forest/Northern, Government of Manipur, N Dinesh Singh, member of 9-Thanga Zilla Parishad, L Joykumar Singh, DFO/Central Forest Division and Arun RS, DCF, Park & Sanctuary as presidium members.

During the programme, Dr Sonali Ghosh urged the people to submit suggestions or ideas regarding inclusion of Keibul Lamjao National Park on the list of UNESCO World Heritage.

Media coverage - Manipur Workshop, Dec '15

Date: December 21, 2015 (Monday) (Volume IV, Issue 104)

Newspaper: The People's Chronicle

Page no.: 3

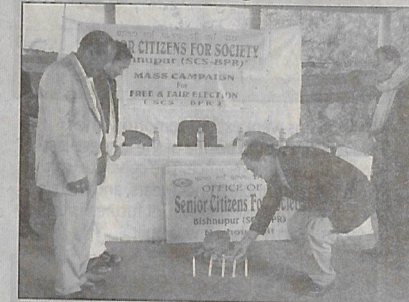
Discussion for inclusion of Keibul Lamjao National Park in World Heritage Site held

CORRESPONDENT

BISHNUPUR: With the main objective of launching a mass campaign for free and fair election in Bishnupur district, a unit of Senior Citizens for Society has been opened at Nachou community hall on Sunday.

The opening function of Senior Citizens for Society unit was attended by Nachou Zilla Parishad member Th Dilip as chief guest, Senior Citizens for Society, Bishnupur branch president L Pholamni as president and Thinungei GP pradhan O Joychandra as guest of honour.

Former minister and coordinator of the society Dr M Nara and secretary of the society advocate Khaidem Mani spoke as



Ex-minister M Nara lights up the inaugural lamp of the function

resource persons at the opening function of the unit.

Meanwhile, a discussion for inclusion of Keibul Lamjao national park in the World Heritage site of

the UNESCO was held at the park on Sunday. The discussion was participated by stakeholders, representatives of various clubs and organisations of Kaibul Lamjao national park area.