

Acknowledgement

Our team is extremely grateful to **Shri PP Varma IAS (Retd.)** formerly Chief Secretary Govt of Assam, **Kumar Sanjay Krishna IAS**, then Principal Secretary, Government of Assam (presently Addl. Secretary Government of India) and **Shri Shyam Jagannathan IAS** then Secretary Government of Assam (presently Finance Commissioner Govt. of Assam) for their constant guidance and suggestions during the implementation process and for their active participation in some of our programmes and activities.

We are also grateful to **Prof. Alastair Driver**, an expert on Environmental Protection based in UK, who happened to visit KNP and also took part in a programme organised by us. His encouraging words and a few suggestions received have been incorporated below-

***Alastair James Driver** [FCIEEM](#) is an English [ecologist](#) and [conservationist](#). He is an [Honorary Professor](#) of Applied [Environmental Management](#) at the [University of Exeter](#) and was the National Conservation Manager for the [Environment Agency](#) from 2002 to 2016. In January 2017 Driver was **appointed as Director - England and Wales for [Rewilding Britain](#)**. He is the creator and voluntary warden of [Ali's Pond Local Nature Reserve](#) in [Sonning](#), Berks, which carries his name. (from WIKIPEDIA)

Re: Fwd: Kaziranga initiative

From: Alastair Driver <Ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com>

Sent: Tue, 08 Apr 2014 03:29:53

To: manijyoti baruah <manijyoti@rediffmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Kaziranga initiative

Dear Mani,

Sincere apologies for the long delay in responding - I have only just caught up from all the extra governmental briefing etc that I had to do for the 2 months of flooding we had in Jan and Feb - in addition to my normal day job as National Conservation Manager. It has been a crazy time, but in the end we survived the worst winter rainfall on record in Southern Britain and the highest tidal surges, without a single directly related fatality. Over 1.4 million properties were successfully protected from flooding and only 7000 flooded so all the effort was worth it. Now we are assessing the environmental damage as things get back to normal. Certainly around the east coast, many freshwater sites are now permanently saline, but inland I am hoping that everything will recover even though the period of inundation was much longer than normal.

I have had a look through the slides you sent me, but I am unable to convert the document into an editable format so will just provide brief comments here and await your study report in due course. These brief comments are as follows:

- 1. I think you should add the increasing conflict between farmers and wild elephants (eg as we witnessed in the rice fields) as a key threat. The more that communities come into conflict with wildlife and see it impacting their livelihoods, the more they will take a stronger position against biodiversity conservation.*
- 2. Raising awareness of the economic value of sustainable eco-tourism should be the prime objective when educating and engaging with local communities. There is great scope for increased direct engagement of villagers in this eco-tourism and there is also scope for greater engagement of the hotels and resorts. For example training up local villagers in bird identification using English and Latin names would be a huge advantage. Bird watching and photography is a growing area for eco-tourism but it is only as good as the guides who lead the walks and safaris. We were lucky to meet one or two who were good, but for example when I wanted to go out with the bird guide in my resort he was already booked up for a week and there was no-one else of his calibre available. Westerners will pay good money for such expertise and if it becomes known that the resorts in this area all have excellent birding expertise then people will come to the area from the west bringing much needed income to the local economy.*
- 3. As I mentioned at the time, it is also worth considering zonation for different types of tourists - for the keen eco-tourists like ourselves it would be good to have parts of the ranges where they pay more to be allowed exclusive access. This would mean that they have more chance of seeing wildlife (eg tigers and unusual birds), than they*

I have had a look through the slides you sent me, but I am unable to convert the document into an editable format so will just provide brief comments here and await your study report in due course. These brief comments are as follows:

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3. As I mentioned at the time, it is also worth considering zonation for different types of tourists - for the keen eco-tourists like ourselves it would be good to have parts of the ranges where they pay more to be allowed exclusive access. This would mean that they have more chance of seeing wildlife (eg tigers and unusual birds), than they would if they were with the noisy hordes of mobile-phone clutching day-trippers from Guwhati - as we experienced on our last evening in Kaziranga ! These less choosy visitors could be kept to other areas where they could easily see Rhino, Elephant and Water Buffalo. This would bring more money in to the area and would ensure that those who pay more, get a more rewarding experience - and hopefully recommend it to their friends and/or come back again.

4. If you haven't already, it would be worth making contact with the Peace Institute and WWF India as I know they have been working with local communities on the Yamuna River, to help train them up and equip them to adopt alternative livelihoods on (using the funding we provided after the Thames won the International River prize in 2010). In so doing, they are protecting the Gharial, Ganges River Dolphin, turtles and fisheries from over-exploitation and damage to riparian breeding habitats.

Finally I should say that I think what you are trying to do is admirable and I would be happy to assist you in future if for example Commonwealth Secretariat funds can be found to cover the costs. See the following link for further info: <http://thecommonwealth.org/organisation/commonwealth-secretariat>

Irrespective of funding however I would be happy to comment on future documents if you are able to send them to me as eg Word documents.

Best wishes to you and yours

Alastair Driver

Regards

Alastair Driver

On Fri, Feb 28, 2014 at 10:35 AM, Driver, Alastair <alastair.driver@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

My sincere gratitude to **Prof. Yoshio Kawamura Sansai**, formerly a **Professor** of Ryokoku University KYOTO, and Professor Emeritus of Agricultural & Rural Development Economics for his teachings during my stint at JICA Osaka (IBARAKI) attending the **'Area Focused Training Course in Enhancement of Local Government Administration and Public Services (Participatory Local Development)'**, organised by JICA under the International Cooperation Programme of Government of Japan. The tools used for analysis in our study and other learning experiences at JICA OSAKA have impacted our research study.

Prof. Nakamura Hishashi's teachings with case studies at Ryokoku University Kyoto on a different approach to economic issues in relation to developing countries of South East Asia helped in understanding socio economic problems during our study.

Extracts from mails received from Kawamura Sansai is reproduced below-

Re: Women Empowerment Programme - Pilot Project taken up under JICA Training Programme (J-0-9-0-4-0-4-8)

From: <kawamura@econ.ryukoku.ac.jp> *replied on Tue, 22 May 2012 14:35:02* [Add to address book](#)
To: You & 2 others | [See Details](#)

Dear Mani-san

It was very nice and glad to have a message from you. I am very happy to know that you have made strong and continuous commitment to your local people realizing marvelous outputs to improve your people's life. I am proud of you honestly speaking.

Of course, if you have an opportunity that your government will send you here for the second phase of the project, you are more than welcome. I will provide possible information related with organic farming as well as training programs. I will do my best for you in such a case.

By the way, I officially retired from professorship of Ryukoku University at the end of March but the university offered me Senior Fellow position (Research & Outreach). Thus since April 1st, I am holding a new office at the campus and working almost as usual. My position and address with phone number are as follows:

*Yoshio Kawamura, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow (Research and Outreach)
Professor Emeritus of Agricultural/Rural Development Economics
(office)
Outreach Fellow Office
Shikokan 3F, Ryukoku University
Fukakusa, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto, 612-8577, Japan
TEL: 81-75-645-5613
FAX: 81-75-645-5614 E-mail: yoshiokawamura@ad.ryukoku.ac.jp*

My private address is as follows:

*3-12 Tanamori-cho, Uzumasa, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto, 616-8141, Japan
TEL/FAX: 81-75-865-3611 E-mail: yoshiokawamura@hotmail.com*

Let keep in touch.

Best regards,

Yoshio Kawamura

My admiration and love for Father Johnson Parackal Executive Director of Don Bosco institute for his inspiring words and for all support to us in implementing the capacity building cum placement programme under state government's Employment Generation Mission) through DBI's Golaghat District centre 'Don Bosco Tech'. EGM engages reputed NGOs in implementation of its programmes.

From: Parackal Johnson <jparackalsdb@gmail.com> replied on Mon, 29 Feb 2016 19:47:13 Add to address bookTo: You | See Details

Dear Manijyoti,

It was wonderful meeting you....,, and also sharing some of our thoughts and ideas on how we can empower the economically weak and underprivileged youth of our state. My deepest appreciation and congratulations to you for the enthusiasm, passion and commitment you radiate in working for the upliftment of the downtrodden and doing some good to the poor. We need more committed individuals like you to transform our society and bring development.

Thank you for sharing the vision document SDGs Assam-2030 with me, it was very kind and thoughtful of you. Let us explore ways how we can do something jointly.

You are most welcome to dbi anytime. Please keep in touch.

Kind regards,

Fr. Johnson