

# INDIA

Khasi Hills

NOVEMBER 2018



In the Khasi Hills, WeForest partners with a federation of 11 indigenous governments and 75 Khasi villages to restore areas of the forest. The communities have set up nurseries to provide the seedlings and formed groups of community volunteers planting the seedlings and tending the forests.

Next to this, the project focusses on alternative livelihood activities to bring the communities away from forest harming activities such as mining, excessive grazing and vegetation clearance for agriculture. To further reduce the pressure on the forests, fuel efficient cooking sets are provided to households over the project lifetime.



## SCIENCE-BASED MEASUREMENTS AND VERIFICATION

**Forestry survey:** Expected December 2018

**Socio-economic survey:** September 2018

**Carbon measurements:** May 2018 (estimate data taken from the adjacent Plan Vivo project)



## LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

Trees funded: 2,082,500

Hectares directly restored: 2,500 ha

### **Methodologies used:**

**Assisted natural regeneration (ANR):** a method that enhances the natural regeneration processes of forest restoration, encouraging the natural establishment and subsequent growth of indigenous forest trees, while preventing any factors that might harm them.

**Enrichment planting:** planting tree seedlings to increase the density of existing tree species or to introduce specific tree species which are missing in the ecosystem or at unusually low density.



## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Over 43 tree species are planted across the ANR sites.

This diversity contributes to the restoration of the original forest diversity of this area and include the endangered tree species such as the Ilex khasain, quercus gluaca and cinnamomum camphera.

We also plant the pyrus trees to attract endangered animals, such as the civet.



## CARBON SINK

The total carbon stored is 424,750 ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. We are expecting to reach 170 per ha after 20 years of tree growth.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

98 people benefit directly from the project through an increased income.

5000 people are impacted through the activities, such as through the three training events held in the past half year.

The socio economic event had 116 participants and the forestry trainings 37.

Currently there are 64 self-help groups and 5 farmer clubs in the area.

These are voluntary associations focussing on livelihood activities (self-help groups) and agriculture (farmer clubs). The majority of the groups are only run by women, a few are mixed and a few only by men. The federation provides them with in kind donations such as chicken, piglets or seedlings. Each group has a treasurer taking care of the finances and the group members are able to take loans from the group. Annually the federation checks how good the groups are functioning and grade them. When achieving good grades, the local communities may cooperate with the government to receive additional funding once they have received good grades by the federation.

## SHORT STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Training to ensure good quality seedlings

As the project moves into new areas for ANR we need to produce really good quality tree seedlings and make sure they arrive in good condition at the community planting groups.

To ensure this, last month, 12 new Home Based Nursery (HBN) owners were trained. They included participants from the Ri Bhoi extension and from the Forestry team and Socio Economic staff from the Synjuk.

Ninestar Shadap, the headman of the Palwi village in Ri Bhoi, has been identified as a local expert in tree nursery management and silviculture. His expertise as a trainer will be used to help the new nursery owners understand the essentials of tree seedling care and the factors which determine excellent quality. This will boost the chances of a successful enrichment planting programme.



Photo: WeForest



Photo: WeForest

### Bamboo for additional income

The climatic conditions and the availability of bamboo has made bamboo crafting a main livelihood activity in the Ri-Bhoi District. The indigenous people of Meghalaya make different hand-crafts out of bamboo such as stools, bags and house decorations, which are an attraction for tourists and locals alike.

In September, a two days training with 20 participants was organized, with the objective to increase the skills of bamboo crafting to create additional livelihood opportunities.

Some participants, such as Bah Teibor, a youth volunteer of the project, participated for the second time in the training and were able to reinforce their skills.

### Partnership with United Nations FAO: Building capacity on forest-water interactions

In response to community concerns about water availability and quality, WeForest collaborated with FAO's Forest and Water Programme from 30th July to 3rd August 2018 for the 3rd and final water workshop in the series.

The main objective of the workshop was to evaluate and strengthen the capacity of the Khasi Hills technical team and Community Facilitators (CFs) in measuring key forest-water variables (rainfall and topsoil infiltration). Throughout the programme, participants valued learning about soil infiltration, site selection, links between clouds and infiltration, the role of trees in regulating water availability, GIS and the link between forest restoration and water conservation. When asked about what aspects of the programme they most enjoyed, participants highlighted the practical demonstrations and field visits.

## UPCOMING 6 MONTHS

- Monitoring the Forest Structure and Regeneration Transects on all new polygons
- Securing the 2019 Restoration Polygons in the area of Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills
- Every alternate year we are monitoring 10 plots according to Shannon Index
- Purchase of 100 bamboo stools from the communities as part of the bamboo strategy
- Adding more species to attract endangered animal species, such as the pyrus trees

### MEET MR. SANBOR KHARBTENG



The advantages of switching from fuelwood cooking to LP Gas are numerous. It eliminates the need to spend time collecting and preparing traditional biomass, it reduces cooking time, protects the forests and produces better indoor air.

Mr. Sanbor Kharbteng from the Phanniewlahneng Village has been the beneficiary of a LPG connection in the year 2016. His LPG set has reduced his use of 10kgs of fuel-wood per day to almost zero during summer. During the winter he still needs 1 kg to warm up and for the preparation of smoked meat.

WeForest is an international non-profit that specializes in mobilizing companies to restore the World's forests and embark their stakeholders into a long-term journey towards environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, we need to start decreasing our global emissions by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by the second half of this century. While reducing carbon emissions is critical, research suggests that even if carbon dioxide emissions came to a sudden halt, the carbon dioxide already in the Earth's atmosphere could continue to warm our planet for hundreds of years. The challenge is to reduce future carbon emissions and actively remove the excess carbon from our atmosphere.

Forests are known as the best technology for that: they are an amazing carbon sink.

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THANK YOU

