



ESTD 1965

DIGBOI COLLEGE



COLLEGE BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY (CBP)

Approved by the Governing Body, Digboi College w. e. f. 01/01/2016

1.0 Introduction:

A Biodiversity policy encourages the preservation, maintenance and wise use of biologically varied ecosystems and habitats in a sustainable manner. The vast and diverse surroundings of Digboi College with rich biodiversity include woods, landscaped gardens, fruit orchard and a Botanical Garden. These are valuable assets that provide unique social, environmental, aesthetic, educational, and recreational benefits to the whole academic community associated with it.

2.0 CONTEXT OF COLLEGE BIODIVERSITY POLICY (CBP)

Digboi College has an eco-friendly campus which is favoured by the topography, adequate rainfall and climatic conditions resulting in high species diversity in the campus. The College is situated at the belt of Indo-Burma Hotspot, Tinsukia, Assam. The college is bestowed with a naturally green campus with a huge diversity of flora and fauna. Digboi College is situated atop a hillock, just a few meters south of Digboi-Duliajan road. It has a sprawling campus of 25.85 acres of land endowed with exotic beauty of hills and lush green forests.

The college campus has been naturally gifted with a rich bio-diversity, as it is included under the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot of North East India. The College boundary has touched the Upper Dihing Elephant Reserve of Assam. The rain forest belt provides a lush green campus with full canopy. More than 80% area of the campus is green having different species including trees, shrubs, and herbs. The College has established the "Fruit Orchard" and "Butterfly Garden" which encompasses the rich floral diversity of the campus comprising ethno medicinally important plant and medicinal plants.

The different species of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals contributed to the diversity of fauna in the campus and plays an important role in the ecosystem. The college faunal diversity is prosperous with nearly 33 species of odonates, 258 species of Butterflies, 13 species of Amphibians, 13 species of lizards, 34 species of snakes, 198 species of birds and 30 species of mammals. The institution tries its best to maintain the safe habitat of the wildlife. An educational institution having such diversity in wildlife is rare in our country; surrounded by dense forests and safe passage for wild animals. The rich diversity of wild animals and birds wandering in the campus of Digboi College is unparalleled. Further, there are several rare species of wildlife.

Although, the college has a green campus with flora and fauna diversity, however there is a scope for further expansion in various fields. For continuous improvement and management, proper strategies are to be taken in future and implementation of the action plans is needed. More installation of solar panels and lights, less use of lights by constructing well lighted rooms, introduction of e-office and e- programme practices, total restriction of automobiles inside the campus with construction of parking area outside the campus are some measures to develop more an eco-friendly environment. The ravishing beauty of the college campus and availability of various bird species of aesthetical importance attracts many tourists to the college including the foreigners.

Keeping this in mind, Digboi College adopts the “College Biodiversity Policy” in order to develop a broad-based scheme for the sake of preservation, sustenance and upgradation of the rich biodiversity of the College.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF COLLEGE BIODIVERSITY POLICY (CBP)

The CBP of Digboi College aims at conservation of biodiversity of the College with a view to protect, uplift and scientific management of biodiversity. The policy urges that it is the responsibility of the College to make sustainable contribution to the biodiversity not only in the College, but also in the adjoining areas. It aims to:

- Preserve and improve existing important habitats as much as possible.
- Introduce student, faculty, and other interest groups to record and map ecosystems and species.
- Review and monitor the habitats and species that are documented yearly.
- Identify and execute specialized methods of protection for threatened species.
- Recycle biodegradable waste wherever feasible.
- Collaborate with new and current partners to preserve and increase biodiversity at the College and, if feasible, in the surrounding community.



4.0 Responsibility:

- Primary responsibility: College Authority with support from IQAC.
- Working responsibility: Life Sciences Departments- Botany and Zoology.

5.0 PRACTICE:

- The college will increase its woodland by planting tree species native to the region.
- Develop and maintain the fruit orchard especially designed for wildlife.
- Engage employees, students, and others with biodiversity concerns.
- Work with schools in the area to promote biodiversity education through student and teacher exchange programmes.
- Introduce research activities to identify solutions to environmental issues concerning the environment.
- Generate community participation through various socio-cultural events with an aim to reduce their direct dependencies on the forest.

6.0 SCOPE OF COLLEGE BIODIVERSITY POLICY (CBP)

The CBP admits that it is the responsibility of the College to make a sustainable contribution to preservation and sustenance of biodiversity in the College and in its adjoining areas. Accordingly, the College covers a wide range of areas concerned with its endeavor for contributing towards preservation and sustenance of the biodiversity therein. The policy covers the following areas –

6.01 Biodiversity management: Although, the college has a green campus with flora and fauna diversity, however there is a scope for further expansion in various fields. For continuous improvement and management, proper strategies are to be taken in future at the time of implementation of the action plans. The policy advocates installation of solar panels and lights, less use of lights by constructing well lighted rooms, introduction of e-office and e-programme practices, and total restriction of automobiles inside the campus with construction of parking area outside the campus to develop more eco-friendly environment.

6.02 Afforestation and reforestation: The CBP advocates the process of planting trees in bare land and replanting trees in the presence of other trees. Thus, the College needs to conserve the environment by planting trees where there were no trees and thereby preventing soil erosion and encouraging rainfall formation.



6.03 Treatment and rehabilitation of wildlife: The CBP advocates systematic efforts for treatment and rehabilitation of wild animals. The College recognizes the significance of capturing and treatment of an injured or sick animal in the wild. The endangered species should be recognized and the rehabilitation of wildlife casualties will have to be minimized. Accordingly, the policy advocates that it is the moral responsibility of the College fraternity to treat all patients, of whatever species, humanely, with respect and with welfare as the primary consideration. Besides, it urges to provide 24-hour emergency coverage, at least with immediate first aid and pain relief.

6.4. Biodiversity awareness drives: The CBP urges to ensure participation of the stakeholders in biodiversity conservation drive by increasing their knowledge of environmental issues, increasing awareness of the impacts of biodiversity loss, and increasing support for government policies and actions that conserve the valuable ecosystems. In this connection, the policy advocates that the stakeholders of Digboi College to be transformed into educators and role models. The College needs to organize different types of awareness programmes for creating awareness on biodiversity amidst the people.

6.5. Recycling and waste management: The policy advocates mechanism for waste management in the college which has great bearings on biodiversity. Accordingly, the policy intends to go for mechanisms for solid waste management, plastic waste management, recycling of solid wastes, disposal of sanitary napkins and diapers etc.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dip Saikia".

Dr. Dip Saikia
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