

# Initial Environmental Examination

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Project Number: 56283-001  
July 2023

## India: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam

(PGP/Guwahati West Subproject, Palasbari-Gumi Kamrup District)

Prepared by the Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam for the Asian Development Bank.

## CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(As of 22 May 2023)

Currency unit - Indian rupee (₹)

1.00 = \$0.012

\$1.00 = 82.59

## ABBREVIATIONS

AADB	-	Assam Agroforestry Development Board
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AIFRERMIP	-	Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risks Management Investment Program
AIWTDS	-	Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society
ASDMA	-	Assam State Disaster Management Authority
CbFRM	-	Community-based flood/disaster risk management
DMO	-	Disaster Management Organization
EARF	-	Environmental Assessment and Review Framework
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIRR	-	Economic Internal Rate of Return
EMoP	-	Environmental Monitoring Plan
EMP	-	Environmental Management Plan
FREMAA	-	Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam
FRERM	-	Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management
IEE	-	Initial Environmental Examination
IUCN	-	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWAI	-	Inland Water Transport Authority
MFF	-	Multitranchise financing facility
MOEF&CC	-	Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change
NGO	-	Non-Government Organization
PISC	-	Project Implementation Support Consultant
PIU	-	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	-	Project Management Unit
PPTA	-	Project Preparatory Technical Assistance
PCB	-	Pollution Control Board
WRD	-	Water Resources Department

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

dB	-	decibel
ha	-	hectare
km <sup>2</sup>	-	square kilometer
km	-	kilometer
m	-	meter
mm	-	millimeter
m <sup>3</sup> /s	-	cubic meter per second
l	-	liter

## GLOSSARY

Porcupine	Tetrahedron-shaped concrete frames commonly made of six concrete members, each 3 meters long connected with bolts, which are placed in an arrayed manner in the riverbed to retard river water flow and induce sedimentation.
Revetment	A riverbank protection structure constructed on the bottom or banks of a river by placing a layer of material, such as rock, stones, concrete blocks, or mattresses including sand-filled geo-textile containers.
Spur	A river training structure built from the bank of a river in a direction transverse to the current, by placing a large quantity of rocks, stones, or concrete blocks (or earth armored with these heavy materials).

## NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of India ends on 31 March. FY before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, e.g., FY2023 ends on 31 March 2023.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. The proposed Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFRERMP) in Assam will build on the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP) to increase the reliability and effectiveness of flood and riverbank erosion risk management (FRERM) systems in flood-prone areas.<sup>1</sup> It will focus on the climate-resilient, holistic, integrated, systematic, and reach-wise approach to managing riverbank erosion and the attendant flood risk of the Brahmaputra River in the selected five selected project districts in Assam.

B. Climate impacts are projected to worsen the floods and riverbank erosion while Assam already suffers from recurrent flooding and continual riverbank erosion from the Brahmaputra River.<sup>2</sup> These are critical development inhibitors of the state as natural hazards and remoteness have led to long-term slower development than the national average, while population growth and density are similar. Therefore, Assam continues to face high poverty, and its socio-economic development has stalled.

C. To continue the outcome of AIFRERMIP, the project will focus on (i) applying and demonstrating a comprehensive integrated risk-informed approach to build climate and disaster resilience; (ii) transferring knowledge and advanced technologies and practices for holistic natural resources management, asset management, and co-benefits optimization; and (iii) enhancing women's climate and disaster resilience and empowerment. Also, the project will leverage benefits from and collaborate with a World Bank investment aiming at improving integrated water resources management along selected tributaries of the Brahmaputra River system in Assam.<sup>3</sup>

D. The project is aligned with the following impact: make Assam a disaster resilient state (encompassing substantial and inclusive disaster risk reduction; reduction in loss of lives and livelihoods; increased protection of property and assets; and enhanced capacity to cope with disasters).<sup>4</sup> The project will have the following outcome: climate resilient flood and riverbank erosion mitigation systems in the Brahmaputra River enhanced.

E. The project will combine structural and non-structural measures in four high-priority flood- and erosion prone areas to contribute to the broader stabilization of the river. The four high-priority subprojects characterized by a high risk of riverbank erosion, and valuable assets under threat, are: Dibrugarh (Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts), Morigaon, PGP/Guwahati West Palasbari-Gumi (Kamrup rural District), and Goalpara. The project CRBIFRERMP aims at delivering on following outputs:

- (i) Output 1: Climate resilient flood and riverbank erosion risk mitigation measures

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2010. [Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Multitranchise Financing Facility - India: Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program](#). Manila.

<sup>2</sup> Since the Great Assam Earthquake in 1950, the river has widened from about 6 kilometers (km) to 9 km along its 650 km course in Assam eroding about 5.5% of Assam cultivable area destroying roads, homesteads, crops, and flood defences. Since 1954, around 427,000 hectares (ha) of land (equivalent to about 7% of Assam area) have been eroded at an average annual erosion rate of 8,000 ha. Between 2000 and 2018, 93 locations eroded along the main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam causing damages to a total length of more than 400 km. Also, 40% of Assam area is prone to flooding by the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, which is 9.4% of the national flood prone area.

<sup>3</sup> The World Bank-financed [Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program \(AIRBMP\) \(\\$108 million loan\) approval is anticipated in early 2023. It is the first phase of a \\$500 million multiphase programmatic approach](#).

<sup>4</sup> Assam State Disaster Management Authority. 2022. [Assam State Disaster Management Plan 2022 Vol. I. \(p. 14\)](#).

implemented and maintained in subproject areas.

- (ii) Output 2: Knowledge-based FRERM planning strengthened
- (iii) Output 3: Vulnerable people's livelihoods and resilience improved.

F. Among the non-structural measures Nature-based solutions (NbS) e.g., bioengineering techniques such as the planting of reeds will be pilot tested to be applied to embankment slopes to reduce maintenance requirements from the risk of rain cuts and to provide local stakeholders with income generating activities opportunities through Assam Agroforestry Development Board (AADB). AADB will establish a PIU which will be responsible for implementing the nature-based solutions.

G. This proposed PGP/Guwahati West Palasbari-Gumi subproject IEE focuses on continuation of flood protection works along the Brahmaputra River in Palasbari and Gumi areas. The subproject will involve construction of bank revetment and apron works with geo-bag for a total length of 11.54 km, adaption works for 8.75 km and 8 numbers of screen over 3 layers of pre-stressed concrete (PSC) porcupine is proposed at the end of Lotodia N.C reach covering 2.7 km. Further, installation of 4 numbers of pump sets including construction of pumphouse and staff quarter at Kalbhog sluice gate at Palasbari (earlier constructed under Tranche 2 of ADB project AIFRERMIP) is also proposed to pump excess water of Kalbhog channel during floods. The PGP/Guwahati West subproject is divided in to two reaches – Palasbari Reach and Gumi Reach. There are four project components under Palasbari reach: (i) bank protection works at Dakhala (Kalipatara) area for a reach of 0.8 km; (ii) bank protection works at Guimara for a reach of 0.2 km; (iii) bank protection works at Simina area for a reach of 0.64 km; and (iv) bank protection works in between Makadhuj spur and land spur no 1 at Futuri for a reach of 1.45 km. There are four components under Gumi reach: (i) bank protection works at Gumi area for a reach of 0.85 km; (ii) bank protection works at Borakhat area over a reach length of 3.9 km; (iii) bank protection works at Panikhaity area over a reach length of 1.1 km; and (iv) bank protection works at Lotordia N.C area for a reach length of 2.6 km.

H. As per the Government of India (GOI) environmental impact assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, this subproject does not require Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) from Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) or State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). However if new quarries (for sand and aggregates) will be opened, the subproject should obtain Prior EC and various government permissions including requirement from Pollution Control Board Assam (PCBA). In view of SPS 2009, the categorization of the project was determined using ADB rapid environmental assessment (REA) checklist. Through this checklist, the environmental categorization of CRBIFRERMIP was determined by its most environmentally sensitive component that includes direct, indirect, cumulative, and induced impacts in the area of influence. The potential negative impacts were identified in relation to pre-construction, construction and operation phases through due diligence and environmental requirements of SPS 2009. Palasbari-Gumi Subproject was assessed according to its components, location, scale, and sensitivity and the magnitude of its potential environmental impacts and documented in this IEE.

I. Environmental assessment has been conducted for Palasbari-Gumi Subproject based on detailed project report (DPR) made available by Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) and Water Resources Department (WRD) and the data provided by LEA Associates South Asian Pvt Ltd (LASA). LASA has been appointed by FREMAA for data collection, and their scope included (i) environmental quality monitoring for air, water, noise and soil; (ii) wildlife and habitat surveys; (iii) physical and socio-economic data including geographical information system (GIS) mapping for land use; (iv) environmental risks identification and analysis; and (v) public consultations. Based on the environmental assessments of the subproject (i.e. risk rating approach), the potential environmental impacts are not adverse, site-specific and few of them are irreversible. In most cases, mitigation measures are designed which are commonly used at construction sites and known to civil works contractors.

J. PGP/Guwahati West Palasbari-Gumi subproject located in Kamrup District, is classified as **Environmental Category B** as per the SPS 2009 as no significant impacts are envisaged. Accordingly, this Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) assesses the environmental impacts and provides mitigation and monitoring measures to ensure that there are no significant impacts as a result of the project.

K. There are no notified protected areas within 10 km of the project intervention areas. Negative impacts are not anticipated on protected area Deepor Beel<sup>5</sup> a designated Ramsar Site and endangered species such as the river dolphin an endangered species along the Palasbari subproject area. The Deepor Beel is situated at an aerial distance of approximately 11.5 kilometers from nearest subproject site Dakhala Kalitarapa, while the dolphins can be seen in the Brahmaputra River, particularly at the confluence of tributaries and in deep channels. Kulshi River is an important dolphin habitat which is outside of the actual project implementation area. The confluence of Kuls River with Brahmaputra River at Nagarbera of Kamrup District is at an aerial distance of approximately 20 km from Lotordia subproject site. Dolphin and other endangered species found in the Brahmaputra River and other nearby areas are not exclusive to the project site. Based on biodiversity report prepared by LASA, Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been reported from consultee within 100m - 1 km from the riverbanks, but primarily in the main channels of the Brahmaputra River.

L. The area of analysis (i.e., 1 km) for critical habitat assessment has been taken up for all subprojects. In addition to the protected areas and IBA, considering International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 6 thresholds, it is determined presence of Ganges River Dolphin (an IUCN endangered species) may trigger critical habitat. The primary surveys were carried out summer period (March – April 2023), and couldn't sight any Ganges River Dolphin in the subproject areas. The presence of this species was noted through secondary data sources (i.e. consultations with locals and fishermen). The secondary data doesn't conclusively establish the presence of  $\geq 0.5\%$  of the global population AND  $\geq 5$  reproductive units of the Dolphins in the subproject areas (Criteria 1a and 1c for critical habitat, IFC). The project is in a highly modified area, where anthropogenic activities are found around the riverbanks such as fishing, agriculture, tea gardens and settlements. There may be potential impact to Ganges River Dolphins due to transport of materials for the works through barges. However, construction works will be done during dry season when dolphins are in the deep channels and not nearby river banks. On the other hand, subproject is critical habitat due to fishing activities of local people - areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities. The Dibrugarh subproject also triggers possible critical habitat due to proximity to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. ADB SPS, 2009 requires no net loss of biodiversity for a critical habitat area. The project will demonstrate measures on the lesser impacts to biodiversity through Nature-based solutions (NbS) such as bioengineering techniques of planting reeds along embankment slopes. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was prepared to provide actions in managing risks against wildlife in the area. It is also proposed that PISC shall be conducting a detailed biodiversity and ecology survey and assessment for the entire project area (encompassing the four subproject areas) during the project implementation period. The data collected from the surveys will further bolster the population census data of the Ganges River Dolphin. The PISC and PMU shall subsequently include the results and any revisions of the BAP to update IEE and submitted to ADB for necessary actions for disclosure.

M. However, no damage to the habitat of these species is anticipated at this stage. There are no other environmental sensitive resources found in the project area which are likely to be affected by the project. Efforts shall also be made by the contractors to ensure that construction waste does not end up in the water and channels are not obstructed. The geo-bags and other material used by the WRD as emergency flood protection measures needs to be properly disposed. All works along

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<sup>5</sup> <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/1207>

the river areas are minor and involve mostly earth works by local workers. Construction camps will be located outside of the villages and destruction of the existing vegetation will be minimum. Furthermore, care will be taken for construction not to obstruct the breeding period (April - August) in the fish breeding sites.

N. During the construction phase, a number of trees along the embankment are likely to be cut. If the compensatory afforestation at the rate of 1:10 (10 trees to be planted against each tree cut) are implemented effectively and survival rates are monitored, the result will be positive. The cost of compensatory afforestation is part of EMP. Project activities are likely to induce other environmental impacts during construction, but these will be temporary and reversible. Implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures in Chapter 6 (Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures) including the environmental management plan and monitoring plan will minimize temporary impacts.

O. The land acquisition and resettlement impact are likely triggered in both the anti-erosion works and flood protection works involving both legal title holders and squatters. The Resettlement Plan (RP) being prepared parallelly for the subproject shall cover the details of the households likely to be affected and compensation to the affected persons as applicable per ADB SPS, national and state laws.

P. The stakeholders were involved in developing the IEE through discussions on-site and a public consultation workshop at village level, after which views expressed were incorporated into the IEE and in the planning and development of the project. Apart from on-site public consultations, secondary stakeholder<sup>6</sup> meetings were held. The IEE will be made available at public locations and will be disclosed to a wider audience via the ADB and FREMAA websites. The consultation process will be continued and expanded during project implementation to ensure that stakeholders are fully engaged in the project and have the opportunity to participate in its development and implementation. A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is described within the IEE to ensure any public grievances are addressed quickly.

Q. The institutional arrangement for implementing EMP has been established: the Project Management Unit (PMU) will take an overall responsibility to implement the EMP and to address other environmental issues associated with the project, if any. The PMU is supported by an environment specialist to ensure compliance with environmental safeguards. The PMU will be assisted by the WRD and AADB as project implementation units (PIUs). WRD's PIU will be supported by two Environment Officers for implementing the environmental safeguard requirements. The monitoring system has also been developed. The contractor will appoint an Environment, Health and Safety officer/focal person and will be required to submit a report on the implementation of the EMP on monthly basis while the PIU will also routinely carry out field monitoring. The PMU will be assisted also by the project implementation support consultant's team with an environmental specialist as member of the team. Annual reports on monitoring the implementation of the EMP and monitoring environmental quality will be submitted to ADB.

R. The proposed subproject will have net benefits in terms of soil erosion and preventing progression of land loss. It is estimated that 75,558.4 ha. as well as approx. 5,00,000 numbers of population will be benefited from the subproject interventions. The project is likely to bring positive impact to wetlands, pond fisheries and agricultural productivity due to protection from flood and reduced sedimentation. The introduction of NbS (pilot) shall be beneficial in strengthening the flood

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<sup>6</sup> Including various departments of Guwahati University, community in general, forest & wildlife department, fisheries and agriculture department, PCBA, Agriculture and Fisheries departments, Brahmaputra Board, Assam Inland Waterways Transport Development Society (AIWTDS), Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS), various NGOs and CBOs, and the executing and implementing agencies (FREMAA, WRD, AADB,) etc.

protection works and embankment besides rejuvenating some wetlands along the Brahmaputra basis.

S. The project activities shall have an incremental impact on the local socio-economics by; (a) reducing impact of annual floods, (b) increase source of livelihood in agriculture, fisheries, etc. thus aiding poverty reduction, (c) creating employment opportunities in this project and else, d. women involvement and empowerment, and (e) reducing the negative impacts of climate change. The project shall have overall positive impact on the life of the inhabitants in the subproject area.

T. Overall, there are no significant negative environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed project that cannot be mitigated to negligible or acceptable levels. There is full local community acceptance of the project. All required mitigation measures and monitoring are documented in the EMP. The observations and conclusions from the IEE, the project appears to be acceptable for implementation, as designed according to Gol and ADB environmental and technical standards and policy requirements.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Project Background

1. The livelihoods of people in the state of Assam are affected by water-related disasters including floods and riverbank erosion especially due to the vast flat floodplain of the Brahmaputra River - one of the world's largest rivers. Climate change impacts exacerbate these disasters and are projected to worsen the floods and riverbank erosion while Assam already suffers from recurrent flooding and continual riverbank erosion from the Brahmaputra River. These are critical development inhibitors of the state as natural hazards and remoteness have led to long-term slower development than the national average, while population growth and density are similar. Therefore, Assam continues to face high poverty, and its socioeconomic development has been hindered.

2. Riverbank erosion is one of the most prominent causes of disasters in Assam due to highly dynamic morphology of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. Since the Great Assam Earthquake in 1950, the river has widened from about 6 kilometers (km) to 9 km along its 650 km course in Assam eroding about 5.5% of Assam cultivable area destroying roads, homesteads, crops, and flood embankments. Since 1954, around 427,000 hectares (ha) of land (equivalent to about 7% of Assam area) have been eroded at an average annual erosion rate of 8,000 ha. Between 2000 and 2018, 93 locations eroded along the main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam causing damages to a total length of more than 400 km. Riverbank erosion disproportionately affects the poor, who face significant social hardships, such as loss of homesteads, lands, and crops, and are often displaced to fringe lands or urban slums. Disaster risks increase as the population grows, and the high population density of the state hinders people moving away from disaster-prone areas.

3. Erosion damage also extends to public infrastructure, including roads and flood embankments, and the high occurrence of riverbank erosion hinders construction and rehabilitation of flood embankments. About 40% of the state (ie: about 9.4% of the national flood prone area) is inundated on average annually during the monsoon by the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, resulting in damages and loss of assets and crops. The threat of recurrent floods and riverbank erosion also discourages investment and leads to lower economic growth in the riparian areas. Effective flood and riverbank erosion risk management is therefore essential for economic growth, livelihood improvement, and poverty reduction in these locations. With a growing population as well as the expansion of settlements within the floodplain, future development will need to be carefully managed to protect the population from water-induced disasters. In addition, most of the length of the existing embankments system cannot be relied upon for protection from floods; during severe flood events, embankments are often overtopped or even breach which often leads to disaster. Furthermore, the growing population demands more reliable protection from riverbank erosion and flooding to safeguard their increasing assets and to sustain economic development.

4. Securing the livelihoods of the population living on floodplain needs to be addressed through public sector interventions aiming at: (i) mitigating the economic losses and social displacement caused by riverbank erosion, (ii) reducing the economic losses resulting from flooding, and (iii) providing a secure environment to facilitate an increase in agricultural and industrial production and to enhance related economic activities.

5. The multitranche financing facility (MFF) between the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP) was approved by ADB in 2010. The facility increased the reliability and effectiveness of flood and riverbank erosion risk management systems in priority reaches along three subprojects of the Brahmaputra River through structural and nonstructural interventions, policy strengthening, and institutional and knowledge bases. The second and final tranche of the MFF was physically completed on 18 October 2020. Over the past 20 years, ADB



has supported development and innovation of a cost-effective systematic river stabilization approach introduced in Assam in 2010 via AIFRERMIP, providing a first opportunity to increase the state's disaster resilience and paving the way for replicability.

6. Under the AIFRERMIP, the currently named Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) was established by the state government as the project's executing agency to demonstrate holistic and sustainable FRERM in partnership with ADB. The investment has demonstrably strengthened FREMAA through capacity building.

7. Following the request of the State Government of Assam for a follow-on project, in early 2022, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Government of India (GoI) posted to ADB a follow-on investment for external assistance of \$400 million under which urban, suburban, and productive rural and other strategic sites have been prioritized for protection by improving key flood and riverbank erosion risk management (FRERM) infrastructure, such as flood embankments, riverbank protection, and flood management structures, and by enhancing or introducing a range of nonstructural protective measures to development capacity at state and local communities level. The title of this new investment is Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFRERMIP) in Assam.

8. The CRBIFRERMIP proposed to be financed by ADB will focus on the main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam and follow a climate resilient, holistic, integrated, systematic, and reach-wise approach to managing riverbank erosion and the attendant flood risk, while the World Bank-financed Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) focuses on river basins of selected tributaries of the Brahmaputra River in Assam.

9. The project will combine structural and nonstructural measures in four high-priority flood- and erosion prone areas to contribute to the broader stabilization of the river. The four high-priority subprojects characterized by a high risk of riverbank erosion, and valuable assets under threat, are: Dibrugarh, Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West, Morigaon, and Goalpara. See map in Figure 1.

- (i) **Output 1: Climate resilient flood and riverbank erosion risk mitigation measures implemented and maintained in subproject areas.** The project will combine structural and nonstructural measures in four subproject areas to stabilize their river reaches by applying an integrated river stabilization approach that was developed and refined under the earlier ADB-financed Jamuna–Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project (JMREMP), AIFRERMIP, and the ongoing Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (FRERMIP) in Bangladesh.<sup>7</sup> Specifically, this output will include: (i) constructing about 60 km of riverbank erosion protection and 14 km of adaptation/emergency works to stabilize the river and improve the river's navigability; (ii) placing about 32 km (194 screens) of pro-siltation measures such as porcupines to induce sediment deposition thereby reclaiming riverine land; and (iii) constructing/rehabilitating/widening about 4 km of climate resilient flood embankments including regulators, fish passes and drainage structures in critical areas to maintain river-floodplain interconnectivity to enhance biodiversity.<sup>8</sup> See Appendix 1 and 2 for details of the scope of works. As learned from prior investments, construction contracts will include provisions for five years of monitoring, adaptive maintenance, and emergency works from construction completion, to improve

<sup>7</sup> ADB. 2014. [\*Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Multitranches Financing Facility to Bangladesh: Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program\*](#). Manila. Innovative features developed under JMREMP, AIFRERMIP, and FRERMIP, include sustainable low-cost sand-filled geotextile bag revetments placed underwater in combination with nature-based solutions will be expanded under the project.

<sup>8</sup> The new or rehabilitated embankments will be designed to accommodate: (i) multipurpose use, (ii) a 100-year flood return period water level, including sufficient base width and freeboard for climate impacts related increases in water levels.

sustainability. Nature-based solutions, such as reed plantations that promote sediment deposition and reduce rain cuts on slopes, will be pilot tested.

- (ii) **Output 2: Knowledge-based FRERM planning strengthened.** This output will further develop key agencies' knowledge bases by improving various decision support tools initiated under AIFRERMIP and will strengthen the state's institutional capacity to deliver FRERM, thereby promoting disaster resilience of the state and affected communities. Specifically, Output 2 will: (i) strengthen flood forecasting and early warning systems in close collaboration with others; (ii) undertake flood mapping to identify people and infrastructure at risk of flooding and facilitate better land use planning and management on risk-sensitive land; (iii) improve erosion prediction and embankment breach models to prioritize maintenance; (iv) enhance asset management systems and conduct life-cycle reliability analyses to improve budget and maintenance decisions; (v) gather data through topographic and bathymetric surveys, flow and sediment measurements, and asset condition surveys; and (vii) strengthen existing guidelines for flood and riverbank protection design to address climate impacts and resilience, update river stabilization principles, and document the effectiveness of nature-based solutions. These outputs will also contribute to an update of the 2020 Flood and Erosion Management Plan.
- (iii) **Output 3: Vulnerable people's livelihoods and resilience improved.** This output will directly improve the livelihoods and disaster resilience of poor and destitute people living on the flood embankments and *charlands* within the project areas and who are routinely severely affected by floods and riverbank erosion. It will specifically target women. Interventions will: (i) establish modern weaving centers, provide sewing machines, and train female headed households and female self-help groups to spin, weave, and market silk; (ii) increase vegetable production by providing climate resilient seeds, promoting improved agricultural practices, and extending marketing support; (iii) provide vocational training for unemployed youth; (iv) raise awareness on flood and riverbank erosion; and (v) strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response (through also provision of equipment at district/regional level). Support for subsistence and small farmers will include: (i) assistance creating agriculture and fisheries businesses; (ii) identifying alternative income opportunities associated with the nature-based solutions in Output 1;<sup>9</sup> and (iii) improving rural markets. Further, the graduation approach will be piloted to complement the various state-led initiatives that strengthen beneficiaries' wellbeing by providing livelihood assistance through agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industries, and vocational training activities.<sup>10</sup> Beneficiaries will be producer collectives registered as Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) in the vicinity of the Brahmaputra River.

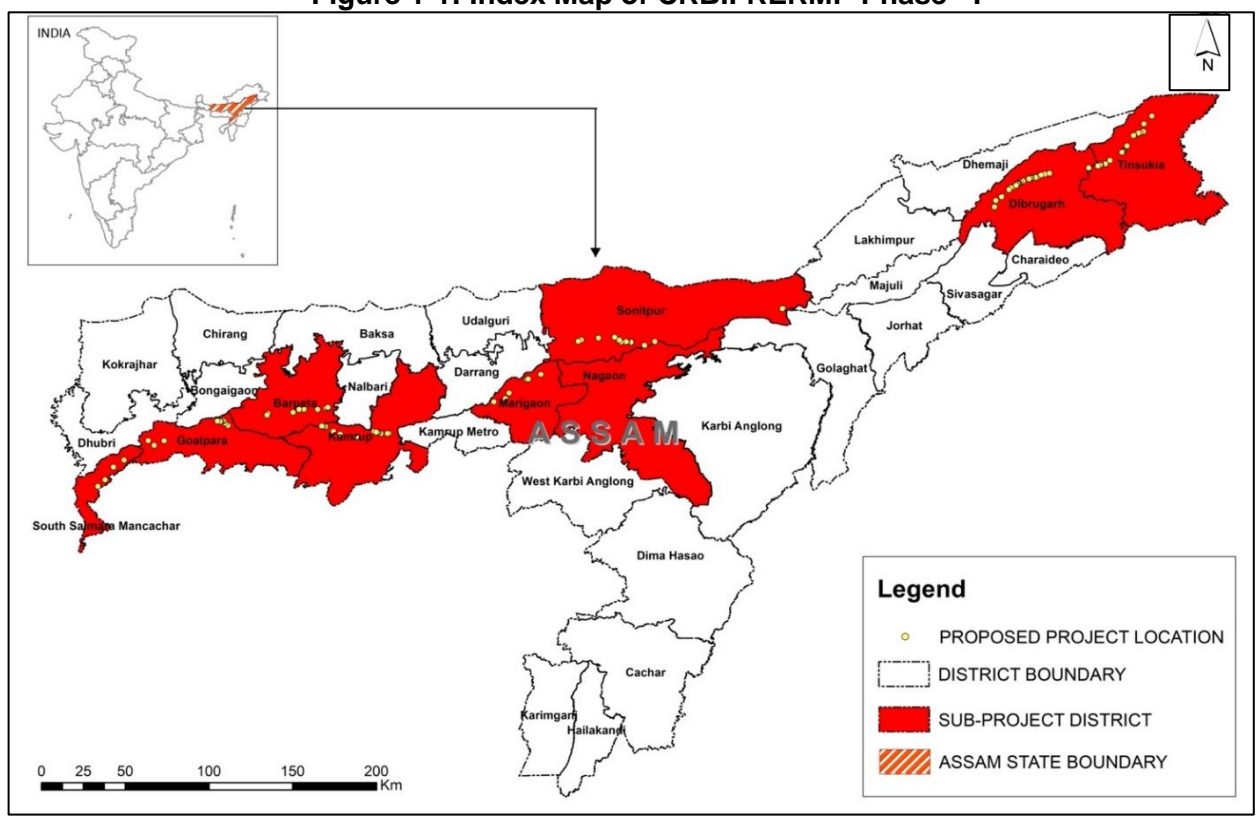
## B. Subproject Locations and Components

10. Under CRBIFRERMIP four high-priority subprojects characterized by a high risk of riverbank erosion, and valuable assets under threat have been selected. The location of the subproject locations are (i) Dibrugarh, (ii) Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West, (iii) Morigaon, and (iv) Goalpara are shown in Figure 1. This report covers the IEE of subproject in Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West covering Palasbari and Gumi reaches.

<sup>9</sup> New livelihood opportunities will arise from nature-based solutions along embankment slopes and reed plantations on charlands as well as from the revival of *beels* resulting in new fishing opportunities.

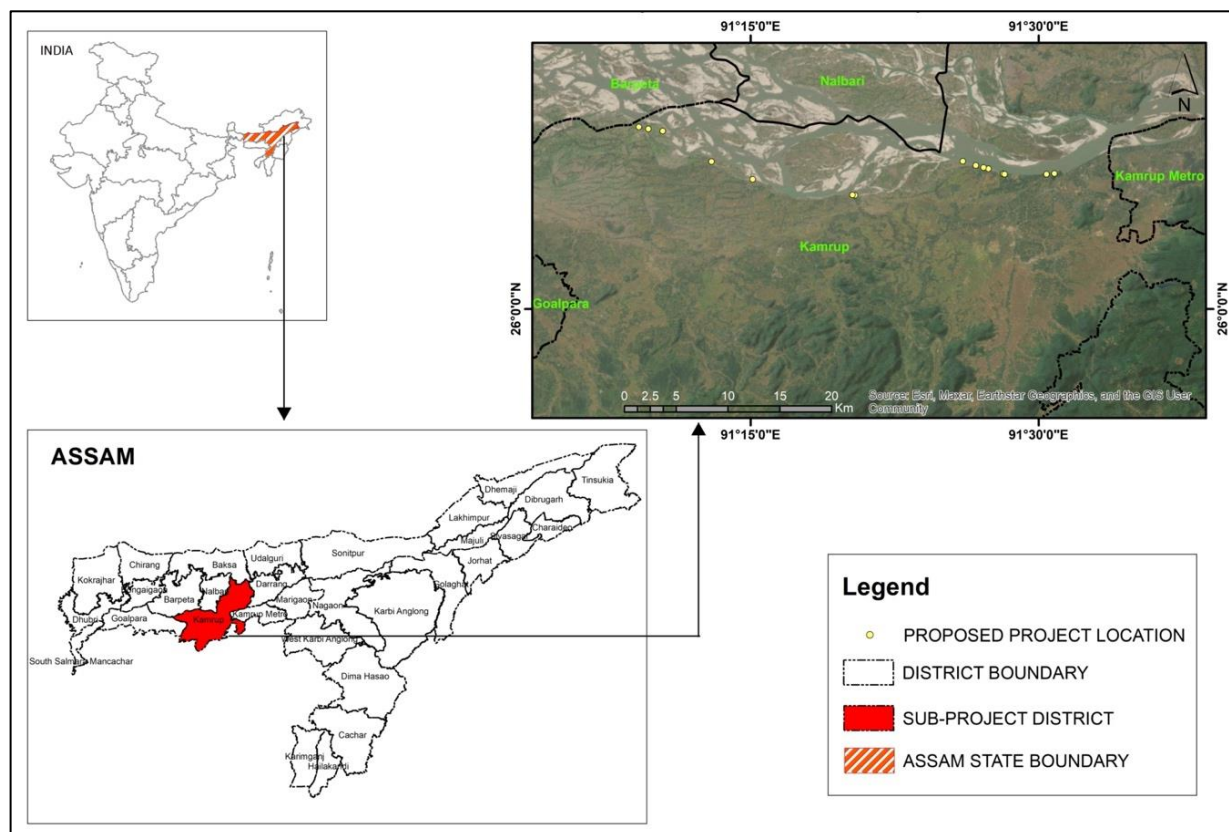
<sup>10</sup> The graduation approach combines cash transfers with an asset transfer, financial inclusion, tailored skills training, livelihood development, social inclusion, and life-skills coaching and psychosocial support. Cash transfers will be made to FPCs, not individuals.

Figure 1-1: Index Map of CRBIFRERMP Phase - I



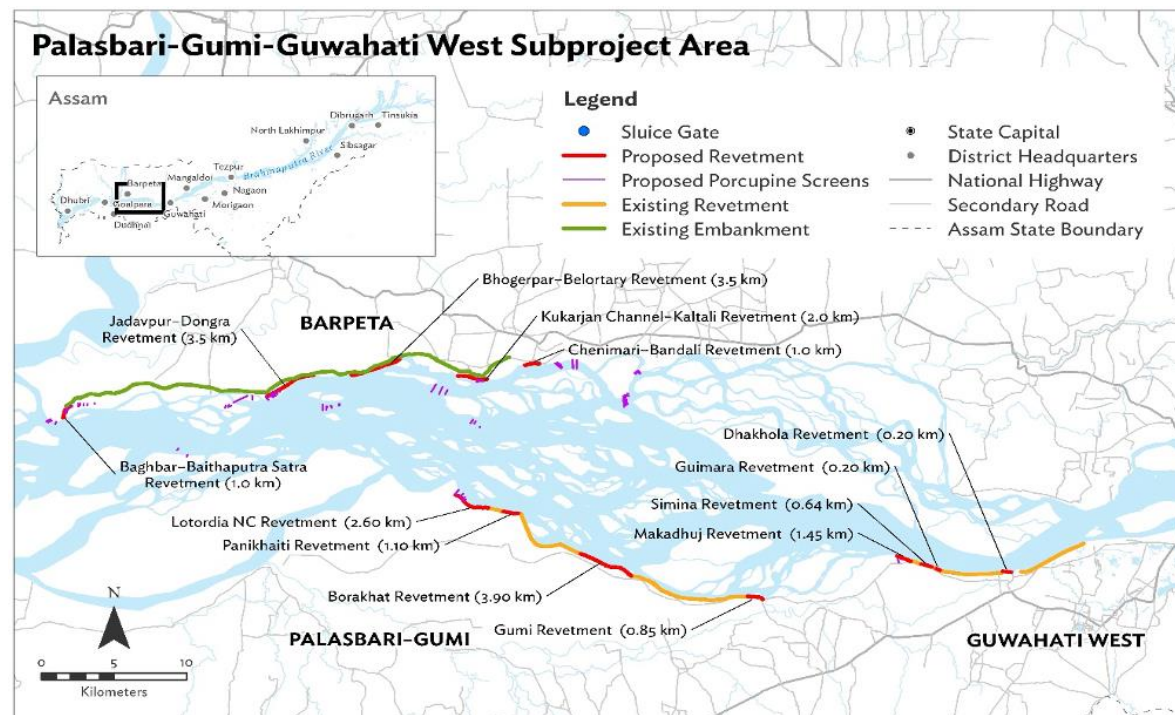
Source: FREMAA and WRD

**Figure 1-2: Index Map of PGP/Guwahati West Subproject (Kamrup District)**



Source: FREMAA and WRD

**Figure 1-3: Location Map of PGP/Guwahati West Subproject**



Source: ADB, WRD & FREMAA

11. The proposed subproject is located downstream of the narrowest point of Brahmaputra River within the State of Assam, which is controlled by the two successive nodal points at Pandu and Soalkuchi. Sediment deposition in the Palasbari reach has resulted in the river widening and lateral erosion of the river banks for many decades. The project will involve construction of bank revetment and apron works with geo-bag for a total length of 11.54 km, adaption works for 8.75 km and 8 numbers of screen over 3 layers of Pre-Stressed Concrete porcupine is proposed at the end of Lotodia N.C reach covering 2.7 km. Further, installation of 4 numbers of pump sets including construction of pumphouse and staff quarter at Kalbhog sluice gate at Palasbari (earlier constructed under Tranche 2 of ADB project AIFRERMIP) is also proposed to pump excess water of Kalbhog channel during floods. Due to this, the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Borjhar along a vast area may be saved from flood inundations. The subproject location and alignment are shown in Figures 1-2 and 1-3.

12. The PGP/Guwahati West subproject is divided in to two reaches – Palasbari reach and Gumi reach. There are four project components under Palasbari reach: (i) bank protection works at Dakhala (Kalipatara) area for a reach of 0.8 km; (ii) bank protection works at Guimara for a reach of 0.2 km; (iii) bank protection works at Simina area for a reach of 0.64 km; and (iv) bank protection works in between Makadhuj spur and land spur no 1 at Futuri for a reach of 1.45 km.

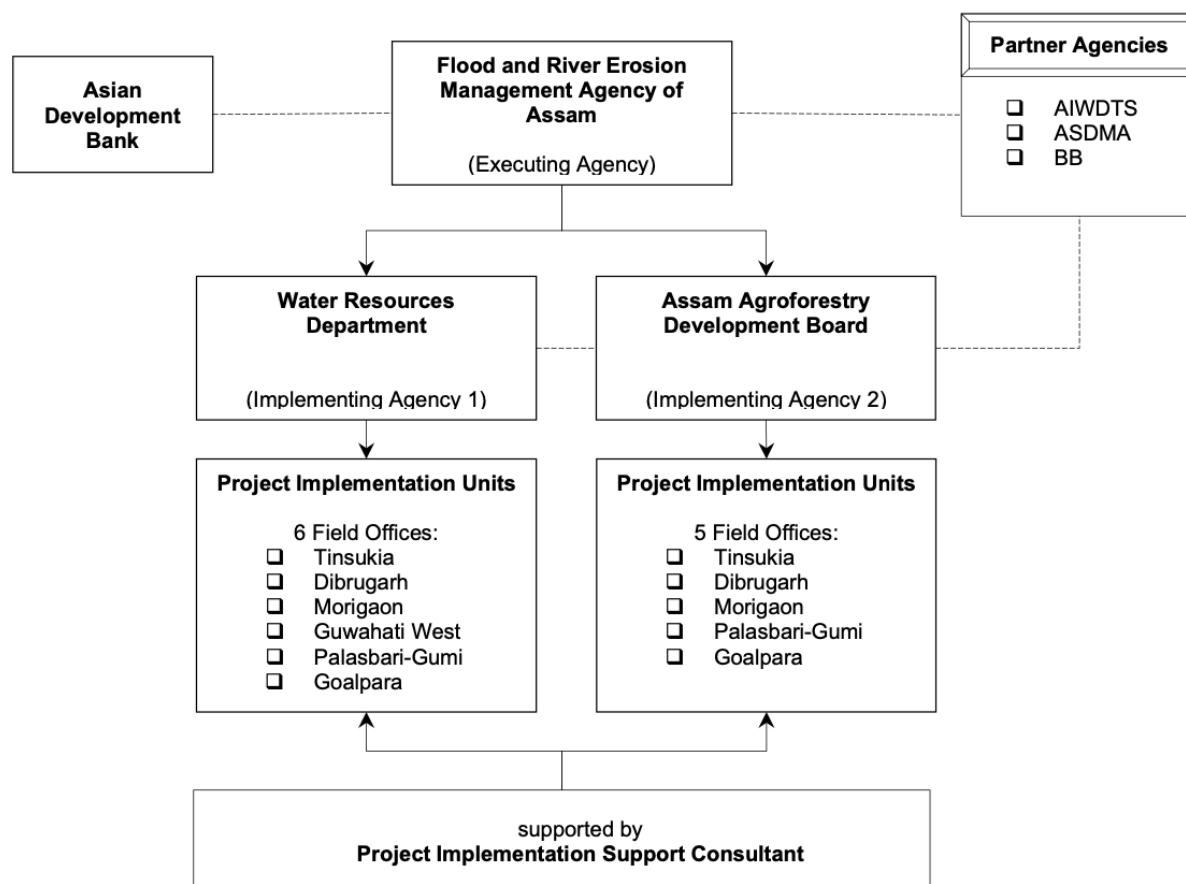
13. There are four components under Gumi reach: (i) bank protection works at Gumi area for a reach of 0.85 km; (ii) bank protection works at Borakhat area over a reach length of 3.9 km; (iii) bank protection works at Panikhaity area over a reach length of 1.1 km; and (iv) bank protection works at Lotordia N.C area for a reach length of 2.6 km.

14. This IEE report is prepared to identify any potential impacts and outcome is preparation of an environmental management plan (EMP) to avoid and minimize the impacts.

### **C. Executing and implementing agencies.**

15. The project CRBIFRERMIP shall be executed by the State of Assam acting through FREMAA as executing agency and acting as PMU. FREMAA, the executing agency, will oversee, monitor progress, lead the land acquisition process, ensure full compliance with environmental and social safeguards, and report the progress. WRD - PIU will be the key implementing agency of the project and will be responsible for the works (preparation of bidding documents, procurement, implementation, supervision). AADB will be an implementing agency of the project and will be responsible for the nature-based solutions with the support of FREMAA for the procurement. A PISC shall support and provide assistance to PMU/PIU in execution and implementation of the project. The organizational structure of FREMAA is indicated in the Figure 1-4.

**Figure 1-4: Organizational Structure for CRBIFRERMP**



Source: ADB

#### **D. Purpose of this IEE Report**

16. ADB requires the consideration of environmental issues in all aspects of the Bank's operations, and the requirements for environmental assessment are described in ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement (2009). Accordingly, this initial environmental examination (IEE) has been conducted to assess the environmental impacts and provide mitigation and monitoring measures to ensure that impacts will be addressed because of the subprojects.

17. The categorization of the project was determined by using ADB rapid environmental Assessment (REA) checklist (Appendix 3). Due diligence and environmental assessment of the subproject utilized different information such as: (a) environmental quality monitoring for air, water, noise and soil; (b) wildlife and habitat surveys; (c) physical and socio-economic data including geographical information system (GIS) mapping for land use; and (d) public consultations. The potential negative impacts were identified in relation to pre-construction, construction and operation of the infrastructures through environmental risks identification and analysis (see Appendix 13). Results of the assessment show that the subproject is unlikely to cause significant adverse impacts. Thus, this IEE has been prepared in accordance with ADB SPS requirements for environment Category B.

18. This IEE is prepared for selected subproject area at Pulasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West subproject located in Kamrup District. The project will combine structural and nonstructural measures in four high-priority flood and erosion prone areas to contribute to the broader stabilization

of the river. This IEE is based on the detailed project report prepared by the FREMAA and WRD. The IEE is based mainly on field reconnaissance surveys, field monitoring (environmental) survey and secondary sources of information. Stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the IEE.

19. The implementation of the subprojects will be governed by Gol and the state of Assam, and other applicable environmental acts, rules, regulations, and standards. Environmental safeguards requirements will be followed in accordance with the ADB SPS, 2009. During the design, construction, and operation, the project will apply pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with ADB SPS, 2009 and international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards.

20. FREMAA either directly or through its consultant's shall update the IEE report if there are changes in the designs, components, interventions or project area in the future to adequately reflect the changes.

## **E. Report Structure**

21. The report has been structured in compliance with ADB SPS, 2009 and contains the following ten (10) sections including the executive summary at the beginning of the report:

### Executive Summary

- I. Introduction
- II. Description of the Project
- III. Analysis of Alternative
- IV. Policy, Legal, and Administrative Framework
- V. Description of the Environment
- VI. Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- VII. Public Consultation and Information Disclosure
- VIII. Grievance Redress Mechanism
- IX. Environmental Management Plan
- X. Conclusion and Recommendations

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBPROJECT

### A. Project Area

22. The project area Palasbari and Gumi falls in Kamrup District of Assam. The subproject sites are situated between Palasbari to Lotordia N.C area on the south bank of the mighty Brahmaputra River. This is under Palasbari Revenue Circle, Goroimari Revenue Circle and Chamaria Revenue Circles in Kamrup District, Assam. The subproject area can be accessed through road and are located at a distance of 25 km from Guwahati - the capital city of Assam. Location of the project sites is between 26°07'03.1"N, 91°30'49.7"E and 26°09'59.59"N, 91°07'48.01"E and at an elevation of about 50 meters from the mean sea level.

23. The subproject area covers very thickly populated villages of Kalitapara, Guimara Simina, Makadhuj, Futuri, Gumi, Borkhat, Panikhaity, Lotordia N.C. etc areas. The total benefited area will be about 75,558.4 hectares and a population of 5,00,000. The location of the project area is given in Figure 2-1.

### B. Existing situation

24. After great earthquake of 1950, silt load of Brahmaputra River rapidly increased, and deposition of silt along plains where velocity is reduced. The maximum silt load of Brahmaputra is 700 million tons/day during peak discharge. Thus, the river underwent geo-morphological changes since 1950's great earthquake and gradually developed braiding nature dividing into many small channels on deposition of huge sediment on its bed in the plain region. Thus, creating bank erosion on one side and formation of chars become a continuous phenomenon. Due to braided nature, oblique channel gets developed between the sand chars which changes their magnitude and orientation after each flood. These oblique channels are found to be primarily responsible for bank erosion.

25. Due to abrupt change of river configuration, the flow of Brahmaputra River loses its dynamic equilibrium and ultimately unloads its slit and sediment forming numerous sand chars. Due to formation of these sand chars, the flow pattern of the river becomes oblique specially during draw down stage of river and attach to its bank causing erosion. The Brahmaputra River has shifted over time towards the south bank, in the past decade it had formed a more established channel. Most part of the banks here are clayey with slow erosion rates, however, in places the existing embankment has been repeatedly undercut, resulting in a long history of embankment failure and consequent retirement.

26. In the last 20 years the river not only eroded Makdhuj village but also engulfed a huge area of the villages like Dhakala, Guimara and Futuri areas. Although protection measures are taken up to save Palasbari township under AIFRERMIP (Tranche I and II) ADB project, the problem of the villages at Dakhala (Kalitapara) area and upstream and downstream of the Makadhuj area and Faturi Spur No. 1 remains same. As such the margin of the B/dyke constructed earlier has been reducing day by day causing panic to the entire locality. At present a minimum offset of about 65m to 70m is only available to hit the embankment at Makadhuj area between ch. 9th km to ch. 10th km of B/dyke from Palasbari to Gumi by the bank erosion of mighty Brahmaputra River.

27. During the flood of 2021 and 2022, it has been observed that the channel width of Brahmaputra River from Guimara to Futuri areas has been reduced from 2km earlier into 700m to 1000m. Due to this constriction of flow owing to the formation of a huge sandbar on the opposite side, the Guimara Spur, Makadhuj Spur, Land Spur no 1, downstream of Simina Spur, and areas between Makadhuj Spur and Land Spur No 1 at Futuri have been severely affected, where prominent damages have been witnessed. The apron of the Guimara spur, nose along with apron



of Makadhuj spur, apron and shank of Land spur No 1 has been severely damaged during the flood of 2021 to 2022. The unprotected portion of D/S of Simina spur and D/S of Makadhuj spur has been severely affected by the erosion.

28. WRD normally maintains a minimum margin (distance) of 500m from the embankment to the bankline of the river. However, from Gumi to Nagarbera (downstream to Gumi), severe bank erosion is continuously observed at Gumi, Borakhat, Panikhaity and Lotordia areas of the B/dyke in between Ch. 21.40 km to Ch 45.38 km, where there is decreasing minimum margin to 225m only at Ch 35.1 km. The continuous effect of erosion is creating threat to protection works undertaken in ADB project AIFRERMIP (Tranches I and II). About 0.85 km of area at Gumi, 3.9 km at Borakhaat, 1.1 km at Panikhaity and 2.6 km at Lotoraidia of Tranches I and II under AIFRERMIP work are left out/damaged due to impact of erosion. Under this proposed ADB subproject about 8.75 km of adaption work is proposed.

### C. Proposed Project and its Rational

29. The proposed subproject is vital for Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport which is situated at Borjhar, Guwahati, Assam. The National Highway-17 also connects Guwahati City with Goalpara, Dhubri a town on the southern bank of Brahmaputra River. Further, there are a lot of industrial setups in and around Palasbari to Gumi areas such as Sun Pharma, Ajanta Pharma, Ink factory etc. There are also upcoming industries, which are going to be established in near future.

30. As per recommendations of the master plan prepared by the Brahmaputra Board, this project is prepared for the benefit of nearby habitants incorporating anti-erosion works, strengthening of spur, launching of P.S.C. porcupines and construction of pumphouse which include installation of 4 numbers of pump sets including construction of pumphouse and a staff quarter at Kalbhog sluice gate at Palasbari.

31. **Climate change and its impact:** Climate change has emerged as the most pressing challenge of the 21st century. Assam is extremely vulnerable to climate change due to both geographic proximity to the delta region and poor socio-economic conditions. The state is characterized by high rainfall and a subtropical climate. It gets annual floods and frequent droughts, both of whose severity has risen due to adverse climatic conditions. There is a high degree of certainty that average air temperature will increase global temperature, however impacts on specific features of the environment is uncertain. Anthropogenic warming of the earth is expected to have significant impacts on the riverine processes of the Brahmaputra. The changes are expected to increase the risk of flooding and riverbank erosion. Looking forward, heavy precipitation events are projected to increase (along with temperatures) through the 21st century, to a level from 50 percent to as much as three times the historical average. During 2022 June, Assam has recorded an excess rainfall of 109 percent. As per the meteorological department, the state has witnessed 528.5 millimeters of actual rainfall against the normal 252.8 millimeters.

32. The projected increased duration and/or intensity of monsoon rainfall will result in increased internal drainage requirements and higher peak flows of the Brahmaputra (Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam, 2015, Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change 2015-2020). Higher peak flows will result in higher water levels, deeper scour and higher flow velocities. Flood and erosion risk mitigation structure designs must account for these potential changes to provide security to the people of Assam.

33. The locations where the works were undertaken in previous ADB project AIFRERMIP and the spots where the works are proposed to be carried out under this subproject are indicated in the Figure 2-1.

**Figure 2-1: Works undertaken in previous project and proposed works**



Source: WRD

## D. Proposed Subproject Components

### a. Structural Measures and Civil works

34. To protect the community from land erosion of Brahmaputra Riverbank revetment is necessary. Erosion protection works is proposed by construction of bank revetment and apron with geo-bag size 1.03m x 0.70m (geo-bag type A) with toe key size 3 m x 0.9m and 1.5m x 1m (geo-bag type C) for a total length of 11.54 km. For protection works, type A geo-bags are proposed to be used. At the spur, type-C geo-bags will be utilized. While for recoument of spurs, boulder work is adopted. At the downstream portion of Lotordia N.C reach, P.S.C porcupine 8 screens in 3 layers covering 2.70 km will be launched.

35. Additionally, construction of pump house is also proposed at Kalbhog sluice gate in Palasbari, which includes installation of 4 numbers of pump sets, construction of pump house and staff quarter. **Table 2-1** shows the details and locations of various components of the proposed work.

**Table 2-1: Details and locations of various components of the subproject**

Sl. No.	Infrastructure Component	Component details and location
1	Revetment	<p><b>Palasbari:</b>            At Kalitapara (Dhakhala) – 0.8 km            At Guimara (rehabilitation of spur) – 0.2 km            At Simina – 0.64 km            At Futuri (Makadhuj) – 1.45 km  <b>Total: 3.09 km</b></p> <p><b>Guwahati-West Gumi:</b>            At Gumi – 0.85 km            At Borakhat – 3.9 km</p>

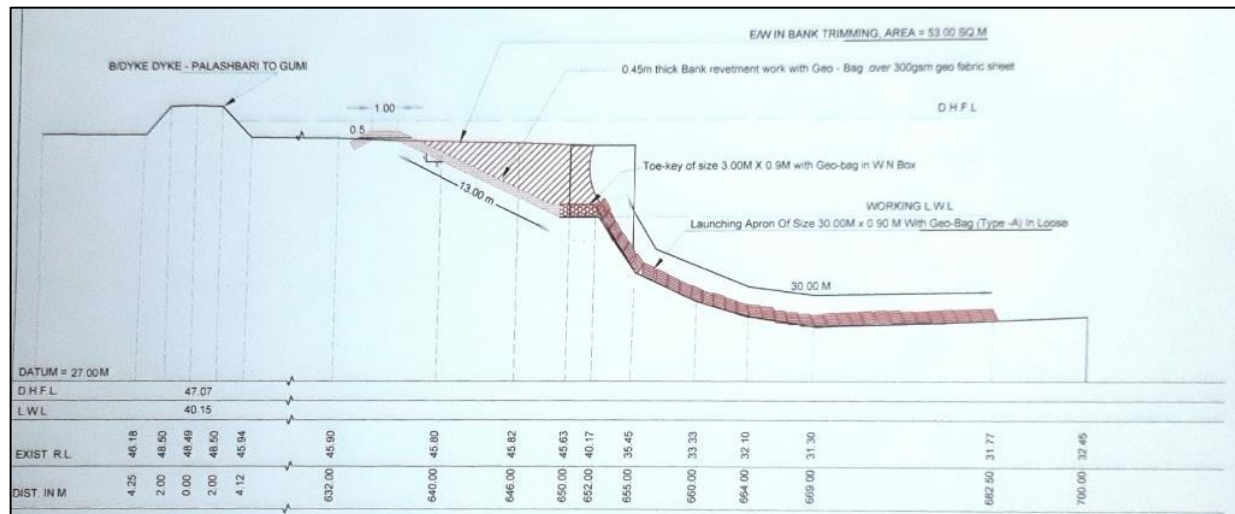
Sl. No.	Infrastructure Component	Component details and location
		At Panikhaiti – 1.1 km At Lotordia NC area – 2.6 km <b>Total: 8.45 km</b>
2	Adaption works	<b>Palasbari:</b> 3.5 km (in 3 locations) <b>Total: 3.5 km</b> <b>Guwahati West Gumi: 3 locations:</b> 2 km Baghmara 1 km Achalpara 2 km Panikhaity <b>Total: 5 km</b>
3	Emergency works	<b>0.25 km</b>
4	Porcupine	<b>Guwahati-West Gumi:</b> 8 screens in 3 layers covering 2.70 km from Ch. 40800 M to Ch. 43500 M.
5	Other works	Construction of pumphouse at Palashbari

Source: FREMAA and WRD

36. The protection works include:

- (i) 4 layers of sand filled geo-bags, within an apron for a width of 30 m; (in spur of Apron at Makadhuj Futuri land spur No 1 and at Gumaira)
- (ii) 6 layers of A-Type geo-bags in apron
- (iii) 3 m wide 0.9 m thick toe key made of geo-bags Type-A in wire netting box; and
- (iv) 3 layers of A-Type geo bags in slope pitching.

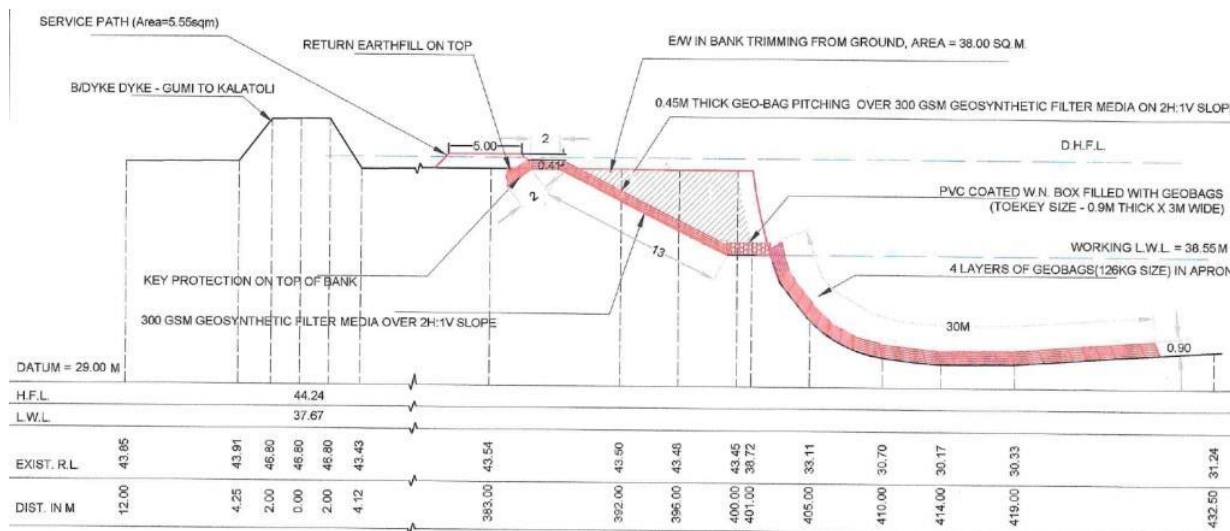
Figure 2-2: TCS of AE works at Simina Area



Scale 1:300

Source: WRD

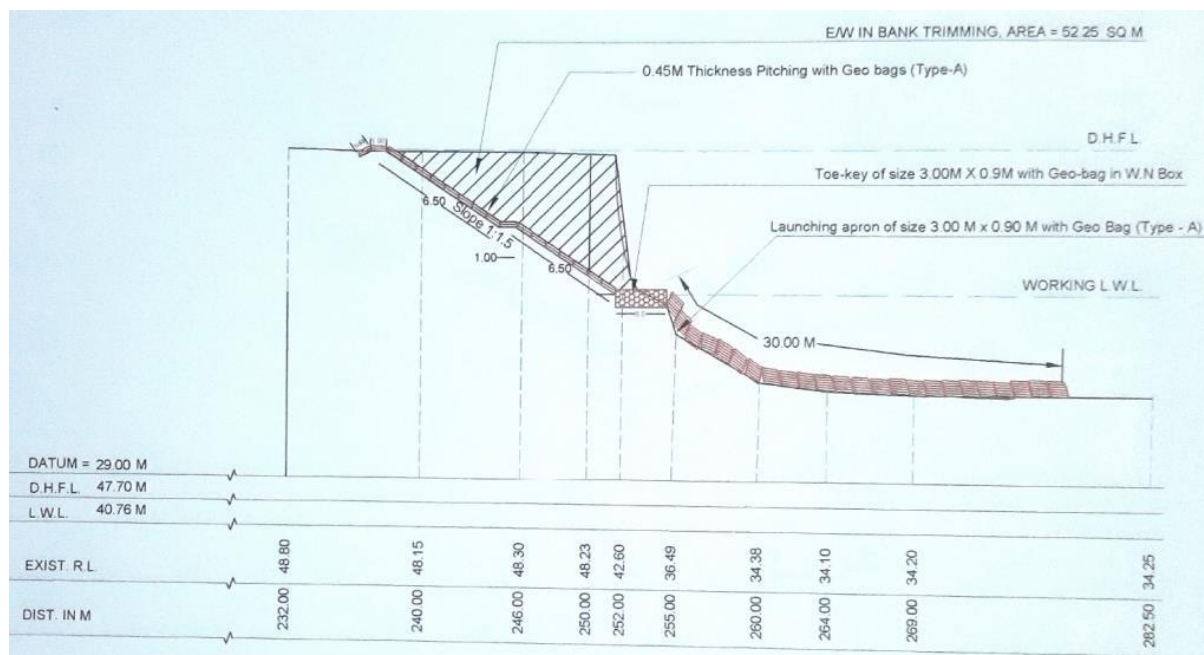
**Figure 2-3: TCS of AE works at Borakhat Area**



Scale 1:300

Source: WRD

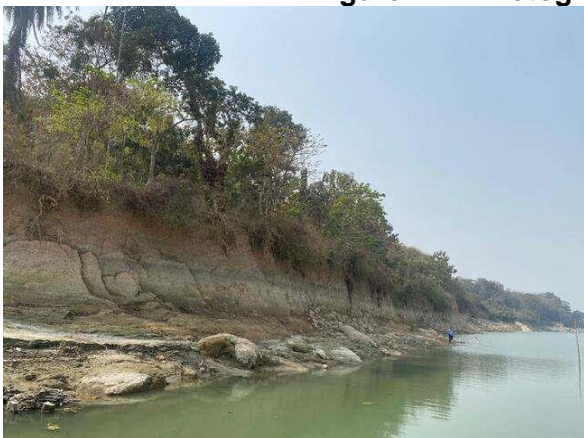
**Figure 2-4: Representative TCS of Kalitapara Area**



Scale 1:300

Source: WRD

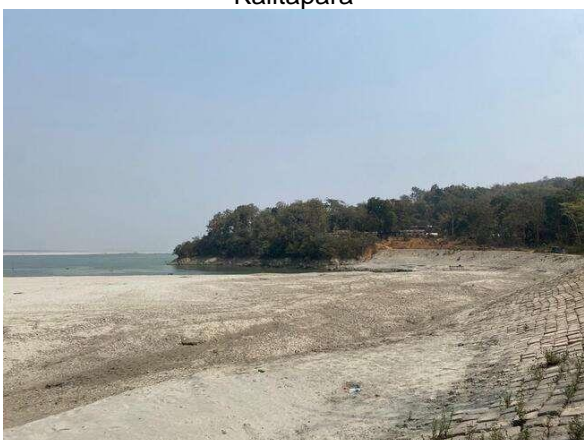
**Figure 2-1: Photographs of Project Area**



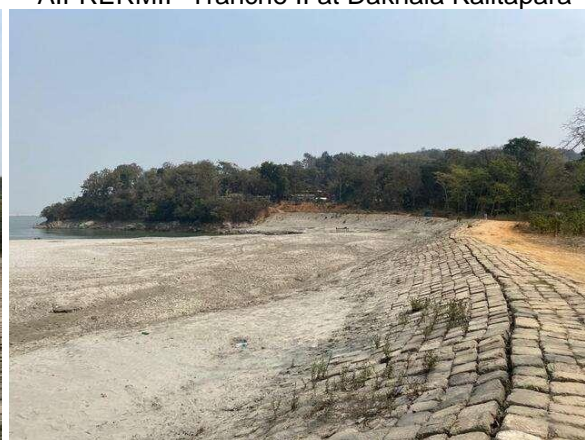
Proposed site for AE & FP work at Dakhala Kalitapara



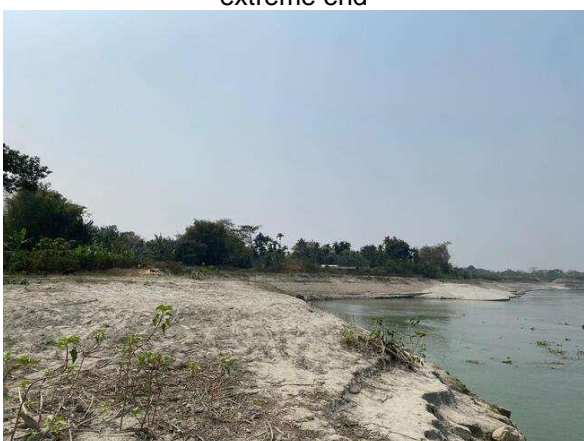
Upstream/downstream AE & FP work under AIFRERMIP Tranche II at Dakhala Kalitapara



Proposed site for AE & FP work at Gumaira on extreme end



Downstream AE & FB work done under AIFRERMIP Tranche II at Gumaira



Proposed site for AE & FP work at Simina



View of existing spur at Simina



Proposed site for AE & FB work Makadhuj Spur to Faturi. No 1



View of proposed site Makadhuj Spur to Faturi. No 1



AE & FP works under progress by WRD in upstream of proposed site at Gumi



View of proposed site at Gumi



Proposed site at Borakhat



Proposed site at Borakhat



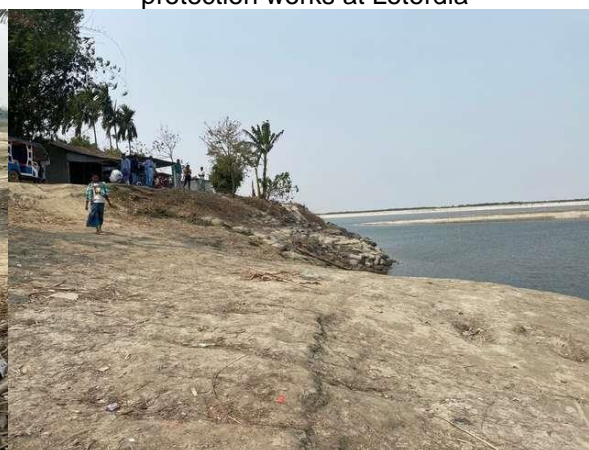
Upstream/downstream AE & FB work done by WRD/Assam Government at Lotordia



Proposed site for anti-erosion and flood protection works at Lotordia



Ferry ghat near proposed site at Panikhaity



Proposed site for anti-erosion and flood protection work at Panikhaity



Sluice gate installed under AIFRERMIP Tranche II Kalbhog channel at Palasbari



Proposed site for construction of Pumphouse Kalbhog channel at Palasbari



Temporary anti-erosion & flood protection works in progress by WRD/Assam Govt at Makardhuj

Temporary anti-erosion flood protection works by WRD/ Assam Govt at Makardhuj

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

### **b. Non-Structural Measures**

37. **Nature-based solutions:** Nature-based solutions (NbS) e.g., bioengineering techniques such as the planting of reeds will be pilot tested to be applied to embankment slopes to reduce maintenance requirements from the risk of rain cuts and to provide local stakeholders with income generating activities opportunities. Assam Agroforestry Development Board (AADB), has been created in June 2022 by the government of Assam as an unlisted public company classified as state government company under the Forest Department. It is mandated to increase the people's livelihood options through various agroforestry models and to support nature conservation. AADB will establish a PIU which will be responsible for implementing the nature-based solutions. AADB will develop, implement, improve, guide, and supervise pilot nature-based solutions including relevant research and dissemination of research results. The pilots will provide employment opportunities for riverine rural poor and as the pilots can be upscaled to broader implementation, more employment opportunities will be created in the next phases. The purposes of the AADB pilots are to prevent erosion of the slopes of embankments, to plan and promote wetland revival and biodiversity, and to promote siltation on possibly reclaimed land. Presently for the pilot project, AADB shall focus on providing NbS for embankments and riverbanks and Wetland conservation. The exact locations of these pilot areas shall be identified based on surveys and studies, later. FREMAA shall assist AADB for procurement of all goods and services.

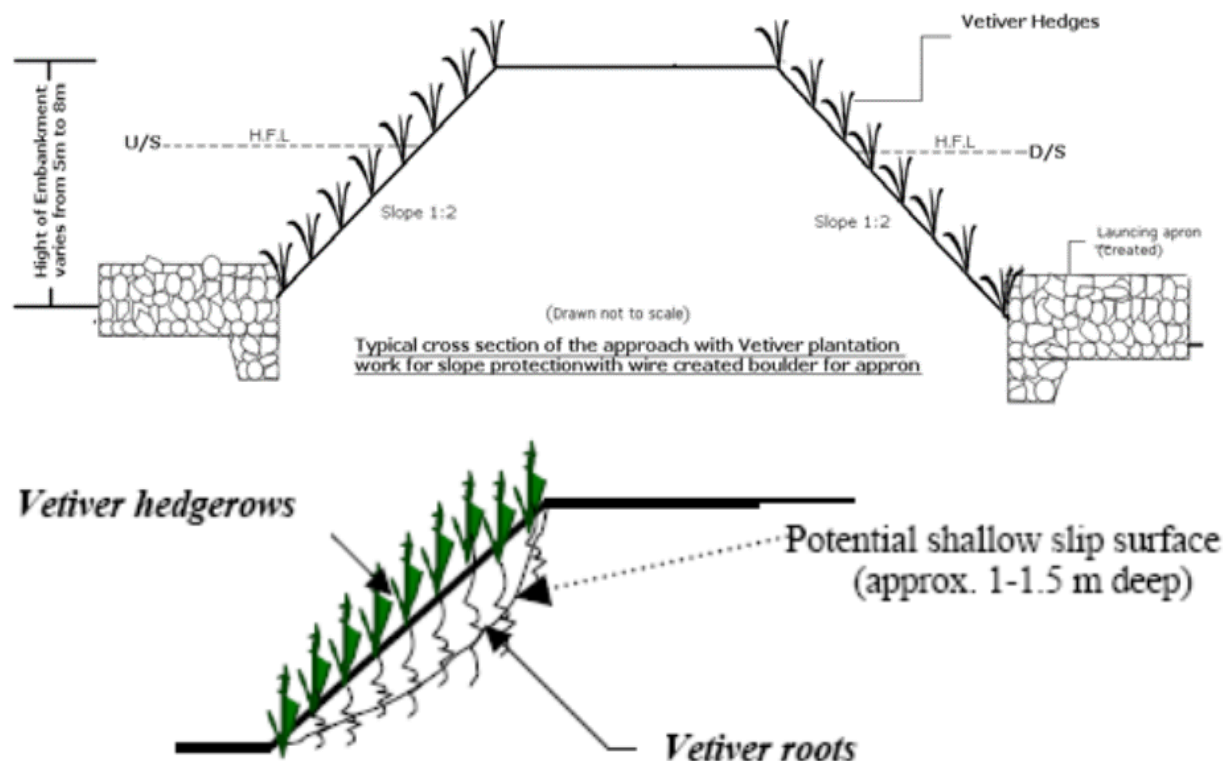
38. For the NbS for embankments and riverbanks, the slopes shall be stabilized by using vetiver, khas and other deep-rooted grasses in different type of embankments. For this aspect AADB has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad (nominated Centre of Excellence by Govt. of India) shall provide the technical knowledge. AADB shall also plan and execute business models for sustainable harvesting of these grasses through local communities as part of livelihood improvements for people vulnerable to flooding & riverbank erosion. The grass species shall be supplied by 5 existing/rehabilitated forest nurseries (1 in each of the 5 districts covering the 4 subprojects) and managed by AADB. Locals (to be selected by AADB with criteria including such as DAGs, women, most severely affected by erosion and flooding, etc.) shall be employed through existing Forest Committees (legal entities) at local level) following the Joint Forest Management model for planting and maintaining the grasses.

39. AADB also plans to undertake wetland conservation (for watershed conservation and livelihood support). Identification of suitable vegetation for selected wetland conservation shall be done by AADB wherein multiple-use of wetlands shall be promoted, invasive species like water hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*) etc. shall be removed and the dried-up water hyacinth plant be used



for preparation of papers etc. AADB shall provide the technological support including trainings to the local communities for preparation of paper besides help in planning and execute business models for the same. These rejuvenated wetlands shall be helpful in for flood water storage within dedicated land-use zones.

**Figure 2-6: TCS of with Vetiver plantation for protection slope**



Source: AADB

40. **Strengthening of Knowledge-based FRERM:** The project will strengthen the state's institutional capacity to deliver Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management (FRERM), thereby promoting disaster resilience of the state and affected communities. This will: (i) strengthen flood forecasting and early warning systems in close collaboration with others; (ii) undertake flood mapping to identify people and infrastructure at risk of flooding and facilitate better land use planning and management on risk-sensitive land; (iii) improve erosion prediction and embankment breach models to prioritize maintenance; (iv) enhance asset management systems and conduct life-cycle reliability analyses to improve budget and maintenance decisions; (v) gather data through topographic and bathymetric surveys, flow and sediment measurements, and asset condition surveys; and (vii) strengthen existing guidelines for flood and riverbank protection design to address climate impacts and resilience, update river stabilization principles, and document the effectiveness of nature-based solutions.

41. **Improving vulnerable people's livelihoods and resilience:** The project will improve the livelihoods and disaster resilience of poor and destitute people living on the flood embankments and char lands within the project areas and who are vulnerable and affected by floods and riverbank erosion. The intervention will specifically target women. Interventions will: (i) establish modern weaving centers, provide sewing machines, and train female headed households and female self-help groups to spin, weave, and market silk; (ii) increase vegetable production by providing climate resilient seeds, promoting improved agricultural practices, and extending marketing support; (iii) provide vocational training for unemployed youth; (iv) raise awareness on flood and riverbank

erosion; and (v) strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response (through provision of equipment at district/regional level). Support for subsistence and small farmers will include: (i) assistance creating agriculture and fisheries businesses; (ii) identifying alternative income opportunities associated with the nature-based solutions in Output 1<sup>11</sup> and (iii) improving roadside markets. Further, the graduation approach will be piloted to complement the various state-led initiatives that strengthen beneficiaries' wellbeing by providing livelihood assistance through agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industries, and vocational training activities.<sup>12</sup> Beneficiaries will be producer collectives registered as Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) in the vicinity of the Brahmaputra River.

## E. Construction Material for Bank Protection

42. Flood management and river training works, in the form of embankment, bank revetment, spurs, RCC porcupines, sluices etc., will manage and control floodings, improve drainage system and check bank erosion. Construction of these works makes use of different kind of materials depending on the nature of problem and the structure provided. Different construction materials have their own uniqueness and are used according to the site conditions, availability, transportability, cost effectiveness, low maintenance cost etc.

43. Materials like boulders, timber are in use since ages, but due to their increased usage in other sectors leading to reduced supply and environment un- friendliness, their use now-a-days is decreasing. High wear and tear of timber structures in underwater and near water situation make it less suitable for its use in anti-erosion measures.

44. Now-a-day's use of new innovative materials like geo-textile in the form of bags, tubes, sand filled mattress, neo-web, submerged wanes, and reinforced concrete (RCC) porcupines are being popular in construction of revetments, spurs, groynes, embankments, etc. These materials are used due to their unique characteristics like durability, resistance to chemical waste, environment-friendly nature, and easiness in installation. Different construction materials to be used for structural measures of flood management under this project are described below.

45. **Geo-bags:** Use of inert or natural material is proposed. Geo-textile bags filled with sand shall be the preferred option. The sand should be coarse sand and free from organic material. Loamy and clayey type soil should be avoided. It is very stable material and used worldwide. The engineered bags life is much beyond 30 years, the economic life of the Project. Use of geotextile is considered beneficial even from aquatic fauna aspect.

46. Geo-textile bags are made of woven or nonwoven geo- textile fabrics which are specially designed for good soil tightness and high seam efficiency. Geo-textile bags range in volume from 0.05 m<sup>3</sup> to around 5 m<sup>3</sup>, and are pillow shaped, box shaped or mattress shaped depending on the required application. Geo-textile bags have also been used as revetment and breakwaters to build structural erosion protection measures. The project proposes to use the geo-bag size 1.03m x 0.70m (geo-bag type A) with toe key size 3m x 0.9m and 1.5m x 1m (geo-bag Type C). A sample of use geo-textile bags in the field is shown in the Figure 2-7.

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<sup>11</sup> New livelihood opportunities will arise from nature-based solutions along embankment slopes and reed plantations on charlands as well as from the revival of *beels* resulting in new fishing opportunities.

<sup>12</sup> The graduation approach combines cash transfers with an asset transfer, financial inclusion, tailored skills training, livelihood development, social inclusion, and life-skills coaching and psychosocial support. Cash transfers will be made to FPCs, not individuals.

**Figure 2-7: Use of Geo textile bags for Anti erosion works<sup>13</sup>**



**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

47. **Reinforced cement concrete porcupine:** RCC is mainly used for construction of the PSC porcupine screens due to ease of construction, cast in-situ nature, longer durability, and low cost. The use of RCC is replacing the timber in construction of porcupine screens.

48. River training is an art to protect the bank from erosion, changing the course, flood, and sediment control and navigation etc. Protection to the riverbanks is normally achieved by construction of stone revetments, impermeable spurs etc. The cost of these traditional methods is

<sup>13</sup> Existing works by WRD in Dibrugarh subproject area and in Chunari to Jaleswar area of the Goalpara subproject.

very high, due to which the bank protection is generally restricted to the important areas such as urban areas, important roads, railway lines, agricultural lands, etc. Construction of permeable structure is cheap and simple alternative method which can help not only to protect the bank but also to induce siltation along the bank and help to divert the river channel away.

49. Only a dampening action on the velocity of flow is achieved by a permeable structure, distinguished from the deflecting or repelling action of an impermeable structure. It is a well-known fact that the sediment transport capacity of a flow is highly sensitive to the flow velocity. Therefore, the dampening of velocity could result in deposition of courser particles in the downstream of the structure. So, the permeable structures can be called as sedimenting structure.

50. It is a structure made up of small units placed in suitable arrangements. These units are called as elements. Permeable structures are usually cheaper than the impermeable ones. The basic principle behind the permeable structure is to reduce the velocity by providing partial obstruction to the flow and thereby induce deposition of the sediment. The elements used in the PSC porcupine screens/spurs are as under:

- a. **Members:** The porcupines are made of RCC members/elements. These members are casted in-situ at the site or location near the site. Generally, six members are used to construct one porcupine. The size of one member is kept as 3m $\times$ 0.1m $\times$ 0.1m or 2m $\times$ 0.1m $\times$ 0.1m. These members are joined with the help of Nails.
- b. **Nails:** Standard commercially available nails of length 100 mm to 150 mm are used to join the porcupine members. Double nailing at critical joints may be provided.
- c. **Galvanized iron (GI) Wire:** 4 to 5 strands of 4 mm GI wire should be used for inter-connecting the porcupines and may be anchored with the ground. Alternatively, 12 mm 3-4 strands wire ropes should be used for the interconnecting the porcupines.

51. It is proposed that 8 screens of PSC porcupines in 3 layers covering 2.70 km will be launched for providing the riverbank protection at the downstream portion of Lotordia N.C reach. A sample of a Porcupine screens used in the project area is shown in the Figure 2-8.

**Figure 2-8: Presence of old Porcupine screens in Project Area<sup>14</sup>**

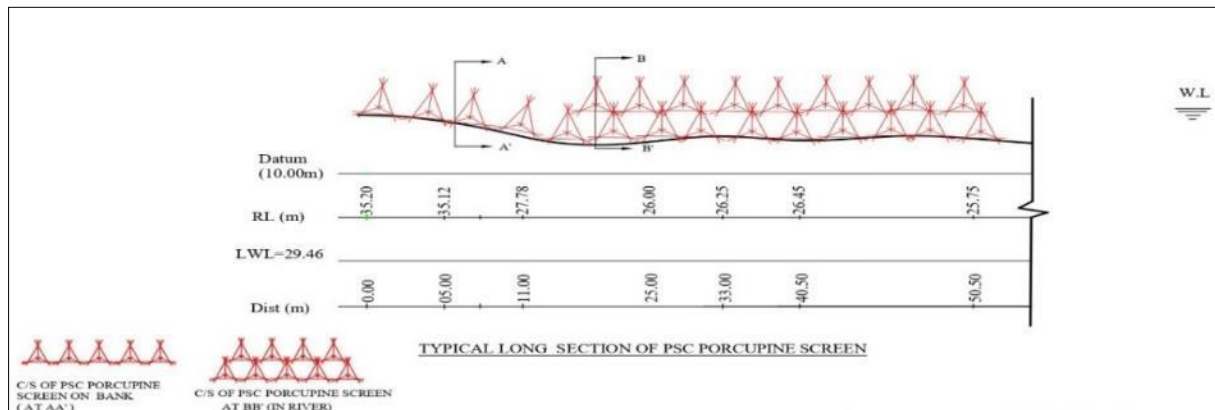


<sup>14</sup> Existing works by WRD in Dibrugarh subproject area (Tinsukia District) and in Baladmari char to Pahartali & Chunari to Jaleswar areas of Goalpara subproject area.



Source: ADB TA Consultant

Figure 2-9: Typical Long section & Cross section of Porcupine Screens



Source: WRD

52. **Concrete blocks:** Concrete is a composite material made from the combination of aggregate including sand, stones and a binder such as cement. Cement Concrete (CC) blocks are sometimes used in place of boulders for construction of bank revetment or slope protection of the embankment. The CC blocks may be cast in-situ and execution of works using the CC blocks is faster than the boulder works. In this project the CC Block is proposed to be provided only in apron of sluice in Dibrugarh. Figure 2-10 depicts the use of Cement Concrete blocks.

**Figure 2-10: Use of Cement Concrete blocks<sup>15</sup>**



**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

53. **Adaptation and Emergency works:** Flood adaptation includes a set of actions to strengthen existing ecological or socioeconomic systems against the likely adverse effects. In order to ensure sustainability, revetments constructed under AIFRERMIP will be strengthened through adaptation works that include placement of additional geo bags on the lowest slopes of the riverbank where the riverbed is substantially lower than anticipated in the original design.

54. The purpose is to increase the technical sustainability of riverbank protection works through the provision of adaptation works which will support riverbank protection to accommodate deeper scour depths following riverbed erosion, and emergency works (ie: stockpiling of geo bags and small contracts to fill and place these geo bags during emergency events). Under this subproject adaptation/emergency contingency works for 8.75 km are proposed.

55. **Pump House:** Installation of four pump sets including construction of pumphouse and staff quarter is proposed at Kalbhog sluice gate (which was constructed earlier under ADB project AIFRERMIP Tranche-II). The component of pumphouse is purposed with the purpose to pump out the excess water of Kalbhog channel during floods in order to save the Lokariya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Borjhar along with vast area from flood inundation.

56. **Other construction requirements:** The proposed project work aims at protecting the community from land erosion of Brahmaputra River by way of executing anti-erosion and flood protection works. The sites for bank revetment work align along with the riverbank and the selected reaches are actively erosion prone. It is necessarily to execute the apron work in the dry season. As such, a period of 6 years including the O&M period has been considered for the implementation which includes 2 years for construction & six months for pre-construction period.

57. The proposed construction activity under this project is simple involving anti-erosion works and flood protection works by way of construction of bank revetment and apron using geo-bags of different sizes. The geo bags are required to be filled by sand which will be quarried by the

<sup>15</sup> Cement Concrete blocks used for AE & FP work under AIFRERMIP Tranche II at Gumaira.

contractor. Quarrying permits must be acquired by the contractors prior to start mining sands to fill the geo bags. For both anti-erosion work and flood protection works soil compaction and slope stabilization will involve earth work. Substantial quantity of the earth will be required for construction of 1:2 to 1:3 which is designed for 100-year flood return period. It is proposed that the demand for earth will be fulfilled by excavating borrow pits in the vicinity of the river embankment.

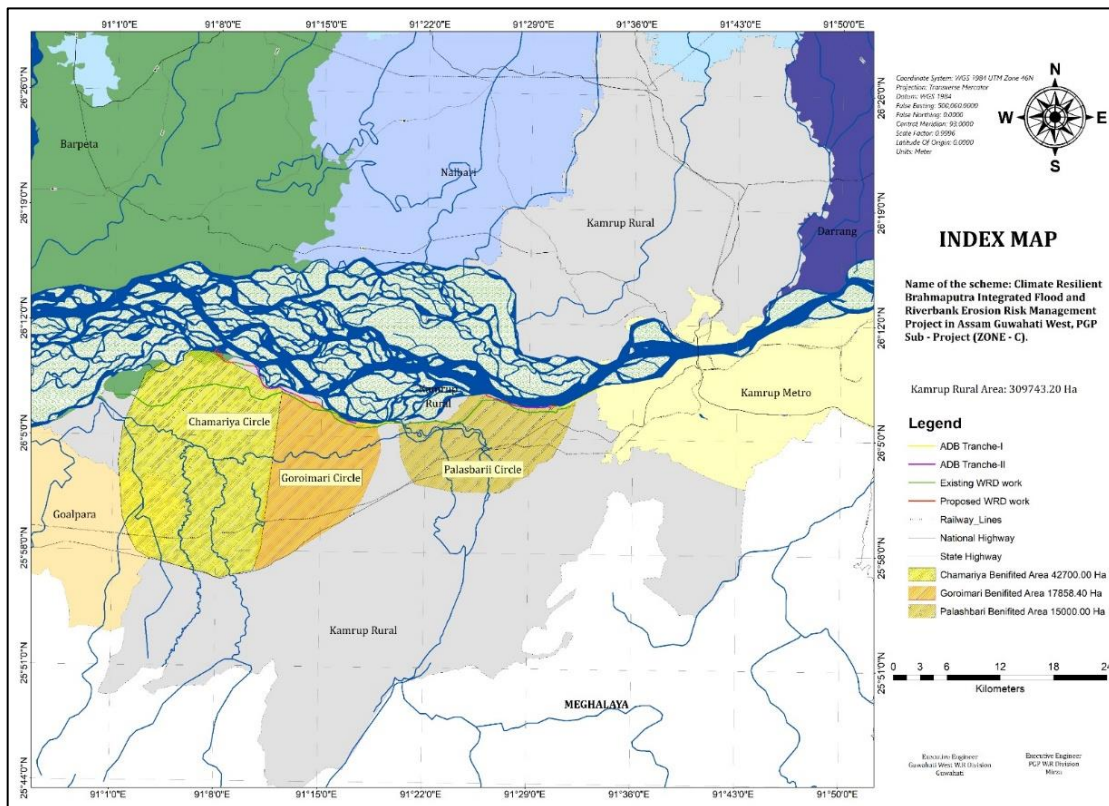
58. Since all the work sites are located along the Brahmaputra River the construction material and equipment will be transported both through the road and river. The Contractor will employ barges for placing geo-bags under the water. The contractor is expected to transport the material by road up to a certain point from where the material will be transported by river.

**F. Project Benefits**

59. After implementation of the project, large area will be protected for erosion and floods and will give benefit to the people for cultivation etc. Many school buildings, Government institutions, rural hospitals, public utility buildings, industrial setups will be safe from the grip of erosion of Brahmaputra River. Hence, it will be great help for maintaining socio-economic development of the people for a vast area. Furthermore, the most important communication to the local people will also be in future after implementation of the project.

60. The proposed project will not only protect a vast area comprising of thickly populated areas of Palasbari, Mirza, Bijoyagar, Bhagawatipara, Gumi, Tapapathar, Jorsimula, Achalpaara, Boraakhat, Panikhaity, Lotordia N.C. etc., besides several small villages but also several industrial setups in the Palasbari area. Approximately 75,558.4 hectares of valuable land as well as 5,00,000 numbers of population will be benefited from the project. The area has a rich cultural heritage and existing industrial and upcoming industries with vast economic prospect in near future.

**Figure 2-11: Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West subproject - Benefited area**



Source: WRD

**G. Implementation Schedule and Project Cost**

61. The project is planned to be implemented over a period of six years (up to March 2030) including operation and maintenance (O&M). This implementation period includes 2 years as construction period & six months of pre-construction period. The total estimated cost of the subproject for structural works is estimated as USD 34.4 million.



### III. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

#### A. Introduction

62. The analysis of alternative is an effective tool to examine the number of options (locational & technological) and establishing most environmentally favorable alternative which cause minimum environmental loss to the natural and social environment. However, since the subproject is site specific, i.e., aims to sustain the functions of the existing flood embankment systems protecting a large number of people and landmass from frequent devastating flooding and riverbank erosion of the Brahmaputra River, the scope for assessing alternatives to the project is limited. The Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West subproject is divided into two reaches Palasbari and Gumi. Under Palasbari reach there are four project components: (i) bank protection works at Kalitapara (Dhakhala) for a reach of 0.80 km (ii) Rehabilitation work of spur at Guimara (rehabilitation of spur) – 0.2 km, (iii) bank protection work at Simina for a reach length of 0.64 km and (iv) bank protection work at Futuri (Makadhuj) for a reach length of 1.45 km. Under Gumi reach there are three components. (i) bank protection works at Gumi for a reach length of 0.85 km, (ii) bank projection work at Borakhat for a reach length of 3.90 km, (iii) bank protection works at Panikhaiti for a reach length of 1.1 km and (iv) bank protection works at Lotordia NC area for a reach length of 2.6 km. Beside this there is a proposal of launching of 8 Porcupine screens in 3 layers covering 2.7 km and construction of pumphouse on Kalbogh channel at Palashbari.

#### B. Without Project Option

63. **Physical Environment.** In the 'without project' scenario, loss of precious land will continue due to riverbank erosion. Average erosion 17 m/year. Siltation of land due to flood will result to reduced productivity or loss of single crop. No effect on ambient air and noise quality is anticipated. The sedimentation level in wetlands and riverbank may continue to increase due to erosion or flood.

64. **Biological Environment.** In the 'without project' scenario, the present species composition of the vegetation, fisheries and wildlife is expected to remain unchanged. In normal conditions (no flood scenario), no change is anticipated in fish productivity of wetlands, pond fisheries, or productivity of agricultural land. However, loss of vegetation or loss of agricultural productivity, loss of pond fisheries productivity would be high during floods.

65. **Socio-economic Environment.** Without the project, large number of populations will remain vulnerable to flood effect. Even the current rate of erosion to the tune of about 90.1 ha every year is a big loss of agricultural land and settlement areas. Flood also causes many linked socio-economic and health problems.

#### C. With Project Option

66. **Physical Environment.** In the 'with project' scenario, no change is expected in air, soil, and water conditions. The air pollution and noise levels are likely to increase during construction phase but will be confined within the close vicinity of construction sites and will be temporary in nature. The bank protection measures will prevent erosion loss of the productive land and prevent increase of sedimentation load to river.

67. **Biological Environment.** In the 'with project' scenario, there is likelihood of improved fish productivity from wetland and pond fisheries. No significant impact is expected in terms of increase in sedimentation level or fish productivity during construction stage. With the implementation of mitigation measures the overall impact of the project is likely to be nil or positive on the biological environment except in terms of loss of trees which will be minimized and regenerate over a period of time due to proposed tree plantation program as compensatory plantation. The project entails

cutting of trees in in the subproject area due to some anti-erosion work and flood protection works & other project activities. The number of trees to be felled is yet to be determined as of the time of preparation of the IEE. The number will be finalized at the pre-construction stage and disclose the actual number of trees in monitoring reports.

68. Trees play an important role in the environment as oxygen purification, checking soil erosion, habitat of numerous different faunas etc. The bamboo and Simul trees are found in maximum quantity in all the subproject areas. The maturity period of bamboo is about 3 years and Simul is about 10 years, which means most of the trees are fast growing. The economic benefit has been worked out based on direct sale value of a matured tree. The average value of a Simul tree is INR 2,500/tree and that of bamboo is INR 4,000/bunch.

69. **Mitigation Cost:** With regards to mitigation measures, it is planned to plant ten times the tree cut. Since the number of trees to be impacted is yet to be finalized, the total trees to be planted shall be updated at the pre-construction period and shall be disclosed in monitoring reports. Trees shall be maintained for 5 years, and the cost of maintenance shall be part of the mitigation cost.

70. **Socio-economic Environment.** The 'with project' scenario is also likely to bring stability to the economy of the area. About 75% of Assam's farm families live in the Brahmaputra valley, where 90% of the net cropped area is at risk of flooding. Flooding causes agriculture losses and deposits sand on fertile fields. Reduced productivity disproportionately affects small farmers, especially female headed farms. Outmigration of men causes women additional burdens in household responsibilities, farm production, and financial obligations. Women have limited access to flood warnings, and little representation on decision-making bodies that would better help with flood response. With the implementation of the project, conservation of large area from erosion shall be done, which means increased agricultural produce. AADB shall also be running pilot nature-based solutions to prevent erosion of the slopes of embankments, to plan and promote wetland revival and biodiversity, and to promote siltation on possibly reclaimed land. It is expected that these pilots will provide employment opportunities for riverine rural poor and as the pilots can be upscaled to broader implementation, more employment opportunities will be created in the next phases.

71. Farmers thus will be able to plant three crops, instead of two crops in a year. Wetlands and pond fisheries productivity will improve due to reduce siltation load and improved fishery practices. The project will also provide better commuting opportunities to fishermen and people of the area through the paved road on the embankment, which means reduced commuting time to reach the markets. The flood protected environment may also promote agro-based industries in the area. The post-project scenario will enhance overall economy of the area. A major output of the project is to improve the livelihood of the vulnerable people and resilience. Various interventions including training and supports are proposed which shall improve the socio-economic environment of the project area. As per socioeconomic study, based on land use record of State Government of Assam, majority of the land in the subproject benefit area is agriculture which is about 62%.<sup>16</sup> The major crops grown are rice, maize, vegetables, mustard, tea and other Rabi & Kharif crops, with rice crop accounting for 66%. The crop farmers will considerably benefit post project implementation and these benefits can further improve with improved cropping pattern and use of climate resilient and high yielding variety (HYV) seeds. With availability of land, even non-polluting industries as agro-based and cottage industries by female self-help groups shall also be promoted in the area.

#### **D. 'Repeated Embankment Retirement' Option**

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<sup>16</sup> ADB. India: Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program Project 2, Initial Environmental Examination Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District). May 2018. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/ind-38412-033-iee-0>

72. **Physical Environment.** This option involves the retirement of flood embankments in response to the riverbank erosion process, with the acquisition of land and compensation to the affected people. In this scenario, loss of land will continue due to riverbank erosion. There is also a possibility of frequent flood inundation in the subproject area, unless the retired embankment can be constructed before the existing embankment is breached due to the riverbank erosion.

73. **Biological Environment.** In this option, the eroded land will turn into a river channel turning into an aquatic environment. The environment of floodplain and wetlands during the monsoon season will depend on the timing of constructing the retired embankment against the breach of existing embankment due to erosion. For other seasons, no change is anticipated in fish productivity of wetlands, or productivity of agricultural land.

74. **Socio-economic Environment.** Since this option involves continuous river erosion, there will also be displacement of people associated with eroded land lost due to river erosion, of which agriculture productivity will be lost. The similar economic benefits may be delivered in case of timely construction of retired embankment prior to the breach of existing embankment due to river erosion. However, there is a risk of failure given the lengthy procedures for land acquisition and opposition from the concerned population in the subproject areas (when compared with the 'with-project' option), in which case there will be repeated flood damages, affecting the confidence of local population on the reliability and effectiveness of FRERM systems leading to much less positive socio-economic impacts as compared with the 'with-project' option.

75. **Conclusion.** "Without" subprojects would yield the project area to be continuously under the threat of floods and effects of soil erosion that puts the socio-economic conditions and life of the general public at an increasing risk and could potentially worsen the living environment. This 'no project' scenario would impede further social and economic development of the project area and the defer commitments to improve the proportion of the population with better life.

76. The Repeated Embankment Retirement option involves loss of land due to erosion and needs substantial provisions for land acquisition. In this scenario, the threat of floods also continues to remain there. As such this "Repeated Embankment Retirement option" is also not feasible.

77. Given the large-scale benefits to the population and environment, 'With Project' alternative is considered appropriate.

## IV. POLICY, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

### A. ADB's Environmental Safeguard Policy and Requirement

78. ADB SPS requires that during the design, construction, and operation of the project necessary compliance to all applicable laws and international conventions/treaties along with pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with international good practice, are ensured.

79. Screening and Categorization with that of ADB SPS 2009. ADB uses a classification system to reflect the significance of a project's potential environmental impacts. A project's category is determined by the category of its most environmentally sensitive component, including direct, indirect, cumulative, and induced impacts in the project's area of influence. Each proposed project is scrutinized as to its type, location, scale, and sensitivity and the magnitude of its potential environmental impacts. Projects are assigned to one of the following four categories:

(i) **Category A.** A proposed project is classified as category A if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are irreversible, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required.

(ii) **Category B.** A proposed project is classified as category B if its potential adverse environmental impacts are less adverse than those of category A projects. These impacts are site-specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for Category A projects. An initial environmental examination (IEE) is required.

(iii) **Category C.** A proposed project is classified as category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. No environmental assessment is required although environmental implications need to be reviewed.

(iv) **Category FI.** A proposed project is classified as category FI if it involves investment of ADB funds to or through a FI.

80. The environmental impacts of the PGP/Guwahati West Palasbari-Gumi subproject have been identified and assessed as part of the planning and design process. An environmental assessment using ADB's Rapid Environmental Assessment Checklists (Appendix 3) were conducted, and results of the assessments shows that the subproject is unlikely to cause significant adverse impacts. Thus, this IEE has been prepared in accordance with ADB SPS's requirements for environment Category B projects.

81. **Environmental Management Plan.** An EMP which addresses the potential impacts and risks identified by the environmental assessment shall be prepared. The level of detail and complexity of the EMP and the priority of the identified measures and actions will be commensurate with the Project's impact and risks. The EMP shall include the proposed mitigation measures, environmental monitoring and reporting requirements, emergency response procedures, related institutional or organizational arrangements, capacity development and training measures, implementation schedule, cost estimates, and performance indicators.

82. **Public Disclosure.** The IEE will be put in an accessible place (e.g., local government offices, libraries, community centers, etc.), and a summary translated into local language for the project affected people and other stakeholders. The following safeguard documents will be put up in ADB's website so that the affected people, other stakeholders, and the public can provide meaningful inputs into the project design and implementation:

(i) Final or updated IEE upon receipt; and

(ii) Environmental monitoring reports submitted by the Project Management Unit (PMU) during project implementation upon receipt.

83. **Consultation and Participation.** ADB SPS requires FREMAA to conduct meaningful consultation<sup>17</sup> with affected people and other concerned stakeholders, including civil society, and facilitate their informed participation. The consultation process and its results are to be documented and reflected in the environmental assessment report.

84. **Grievance Redress Mechanism.** ADB SPS requires FREMAA to establish a mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of affected people's concerns, complaints, and grievances about the subproject's performance. The grievance mechanism shall be scaled to the risks and adverse impacts of the subproject.

85. **Monitoring and Reporting.** FREMAA shall monitor measure and document the implementation progress of the EMP. If necessary, the FREMAA shall identify the necessary corrective actions, and reflect them in a corrective action plan. FREMAA shall prepare and submit to ADB annual environmental monitoring reports that describe progress with implementation of the EMP and compliance issues and corrective actions, if any. For subprojects likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts during operation, reporting will continue at the minimum on an annual basis until ADB issues a project completion report.

86. **Unanticipated Environmental Impacts.** Where unanticipated environmental impacts become apparent during subproject implementation, ADB SPS requires the FREMAA to update the environmental assessment and EMP or prepare a new environmental assessment and EMP to assess the potential impacts, evaluate the alternatives, and outline mitigation measures and resources to address those impacts.

87. **Occupational Health and Safety.** ADB SPS requires the FREMAA to ensure that workers<sup>18</sup> are provided with a safe and healthy working environment, considering risks inherent to the sector and specific classes of hazards in the subproject work areas, including physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards. FREMAA shall take steps to prevent accidents, injury, and disease arising from, associated with, or occurring during the course of work, including: (i) identifying and minimizing, so far as reasonably practicable, the causes of potential hazards to workers; (ii) providing preventive and protective measures, including modification, substitution, or elimination of hazardous conditions or substances; (iii) providing appropriate equipment to minimize risks and requiring and enforcing its use; (iv) training workers and providing them with appropriate incentives to use and comply with health and safety procedures and protective equipment; (v) documenting and reporting occupational accidents, diseases, and incidents; and (vi) having emergency prevention, preparedness, and response arrangements in place.

88. **Community Health and Safety.** ADB SPS requires identification and assessment of risks to, and potential impacts on, the safety of affected communities during the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the subproject, and shall establish preventive measures and plans to address them in a manner commensurate with the identified risks and impacts. FREMAA shall ensure to apply preventive and protective measures for both occupational and community health and safety consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally

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<sup>17</sup> Per ADB SPS, 2009, meaningful consultation means a process that (i) begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle; (ii) provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily accessible to affected people; (iii) is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion; (iv) is gender inclusive and responsive, and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and (v) enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision making, such as project design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

<sup>18</sup> Including non-employee workers engaged by the borrower/client through contractors or other intermediaries to work on project sites or perform work directly related to the project's core functions.

recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines. PMU shall also adhere to necessary protocols in response to infectious diseases such as the corona virus disease (COVID-19) consistent with the guidelines of relevant government healthcare agencies and the World Health Organization.

89. PMU shall ensure to apply preventive and protective measures consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

90. **Physical Cultural Resources.** PMU and PIUs are responsible for siting and designing the subproject to avoid significant damage to physical cultural resources. ADB SPS requires that such resources likely to be affected by the subproject are identified, and qualified and experienced experts assess the subproject's potential impacts on these resources using field-based surveys as an integral part of the environmental assessment process. When the proposed location of a subproject component is in areas where physical cultural resources are expected to be found as determined during the environmental assessment process, chance finds procedures shall be included in the EMP.

91. **Pollution Prevention and Control Technologies.** During the design, construction, and operation of the project, PMU, shall apply pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines<sup>19</sup>. These standards contain performance levels and measures that are normally acceptable and applicable to the project infrastructures. When the government's regulations differ from these levels and measures, the project shall achieve whichever is more stringent. If less stringent levels or measures are appropriate in view of specific project circumstances, PMU, will provide full and detailed justification for any proposed alternatives that are consistent with the requirements presented in ADB SPS.

92. **Bidding and Contract Documents.** This IEE report, which contains the EMP, shall be included in bidding and contract documents and verified by PMU. The PMU shall also ensure that bidding and contract documents include specific provisions requiring contractors to (i) comply with all other conditions required by ADB, and including (i) proposed sites/locations for construction work camps, storage areas, hauling roads, lay down areas, disposal areas for solid and hazardous wastes; (ii) specific mitigation measures following the approved EMP; (iii) monitoring program as per EMP; and (iv) budget for EMP implementation, among others as may be required. A copy of the EMP will be always kept on site during the construction period. Non-compliance with, or any deviation from, the conditions set out in the EMP constitutes a failure in compliance and shall require corrective actions.

93. **Conditions for Award of Contract and Commencement of Work.** PMU shall not award any works contract under the subproject until (i) relevant provisions from the EMP are incorporated into the works contract; (ii) PMU has obtained ADB's clearance of final IEE report; and (iii) other necessary permits from relevant government agencies have been obtained.

## **B. Regulatory Requirements of the Government of India and Assam State**

94. The implementation of the subprojects will be governed by Government of India and State Government of Assam and other applicable environmental acts, rules, regulations, and standards. These regulations impose restrictions on the activities to minimize or mitigate likely impacts on the environment. It is the responsibility of the project executing and implementing agencies to ensure

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<sup>19</sup> World Bank Group. 2007. Environmental, Health, and Safety General Guidelines. Washington, D.C.; <https://www.ifc.org-ehs-guidelines>

subprojects are consistent with the legal framework, whether applicable international, national, state or municipal or local. Key standards include those related to drinking water quality, air quality, effluent discharge, and protected areas. Compliance is required in all stages of the subprojects including design, construction, and operation and maintenance.

95. **Environmental assessment.** The Government of India EIA Notification of 2006 (replacing the EIA Notification of 1994) sets out the requirement for Environmental Assessment in India. This states that Environmental Clearance (EC) is required for specified activities/projects, and this must be obtained before any construction work or land preparation (except land acquisition) may commence. Projects are categorized as A or B depending on the scale of the project and the nature of its impacts.

96. None of the components of this subproject falls under the ambit of the EIA Notification 2006, and therefore EIA Study or environmental clearance (EC) is not required for the subproject. However, mining of sand/river silt for use in filling geo-bags and aggregates for use in cement concrete structures are under the ambit of EIA notification and shall require prior EC from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA)

97. The Government of India has framed various laws and regulation for protection and conservation of natural environment. These legislations with applicability to this project are summarized below in Table 4-1.

98. The national and international environmental standards and guidelines are provided in Appendix 4.

99. As the project does not require forest land diversion and the project is not falling within any protected areas (National Parks, Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuaries) or defined Eco Sensitive Zone area, thus no clearance is required from Forest Department of Assam and from National Wildlife Board, MoEF&CC, Government of India.

**Table 4-1: Key Environmental Legislations at a Glance**

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
<b>Environmental Protection Legislations</b>					
National Environment Policy (NEP), 2006	NEP is a comprehensive guiding document in India for all environmental conservation programs and legislations by Central, State and Local Government. The dominant theme of this policy is to promote betterment of livelihoods without compromising or degrading the environmental resources. The policy also advocates collaboration method of different stakeholders to harness potential resources and strengthen environmental management.	Applicable for all the projects which have environmental impacts associated with its development and operation	No permit required. Permits are required as per various laws and rules framed under the act	MoEF&CC	-
The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and The Environmental (Protection) Rules, 1987 & its amendments	All construction activities must comply with the legislation issued under this act and rules, the EIA process and implementation of the EMP will enable this. Construction activities must also comply with the environmental quality standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umbrella act under which environmental rules, notifications, schedules and standards applicable to the proposed project are issued</li> <li>• Ecological Sensitive Zones are notified under the act</li> </ul>	No specific permits but all environmental clearances, NOCs and permits are referred to the act	MoEF&CC, Assam Forest Dept, CPCB and Pollution control Board, Assam (PCBA)	-



Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
EIA Notification 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2006 and amendment till date	Requires prior environmental clearance (EC) for new, modernization and expansion projects listed in schedule 1 of EIA Notification, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered Not Applicable (EIA Notification 2006 does not classify for embankment construction &amp; anti erosion activities)</li> <li>• Applicable for mining of sand/river silt for use in filling geo-bags and aggregates for use in cement concrete structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No prior EC required for embankment construction &amp; anti erosion activities</li> <li>• Prior EC required for mining of sand/river silt for use in filling geo-bags and aggregates for use in cement concrete structures</li> </ul>	MoEF&CC/SEIAA	Contractor (obtaining for mining of sand/river silt) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, 1987 The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1982	Act to prevent and control Air pollution	Applicable. The applicability is due to emission from operation of construction equipment like batching plants, DG sets.	Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO) to be obtained and maintained for setting up each facility, batching plant, DG set as prior to its establishment & operation from PCBA. Conditions to be complied	PCBA	Contractor (obtaining CTE and CTO) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Water Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,1988 The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975 The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)	Acts to prevent and control water pollution.	Applicable. It is applicable for the project's having potential to generate effluent during any stage of the project. Effluents are expected to be generated during construction stage from construction camps.	CTE & CTO for disposal of sewage and construction of septic tank/soak pit prior to start of establishment & operation from PCBA. Conditions to be complied	PCBA	Contractor (obtaining CTE and CTO) and FREMAA (monitoring)

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
Cess Act, 1977 & amendment in 2003					
Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control Act) 2000 and 2010 as amended	Ambient Noise standards for different areas and zones	Applicable due to generation of noise during construction	No separate permits issued under this act. Permissions are covered for DG sets under CTE/CTO	PCBA	Contractor (obtaining CTE and CTO) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016	Protection to public against improper handling storage and disposal of hazardous waste. The rules prescribe the management requirement of hazardous wastes from its generation to final disposal.	Applicable. Project may generate hazardous wastes (like waste oil) during construction	Authorization for storage and handling of hazardous waste	PCBA	Contractor (obtaining permits from PCBA) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989	Usage and storage of hazardous material	Applicable only for storage of highly inflammable liquids and gases like HSD/LPG. Compliance to the rules should be ensured	No specific permit is required, however Precautions defined under the material safety datasheets should be followed for use of hazardous substances listed under the schedules attached to this notification if any proposed to be used. Safety requirements should have to be complied if storage quantity exceeds the regulated threshold limit	Chief Controller of Explosives	Contractor (compiling with precautions and safety requirements) and FREMAA (monitoring)

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016	To manage the construction and demolition waste	Applicable Applies to all those wastes resulting from Construction repair & demolition of any civil structure of individual or organization who generates construction and demolition waste such as building material, rubble, debris. Segregation, management and disposal of wastes to be as per rules.	Approval required from local authorities, if waste generation is >20 tons in a day or 300 tons per project in month	Local Authorities	Contractor (obtaining approvals) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Plastic waste Management Rules, 2016	To manage the plastic waste generated	Applicable. Plastic waste is unlikely to be generated in small quantities. Wastes will be generated from packaging materials during construction. Wastes to be segregated and disposed as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.	No authorization to be obtained. Waste management and minimization to be done. Fee to be paid to local bodies, if applicable	Local bodies	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001	To regulate the disposal and recycling of lead acid batteries	Applicable Applicable for disposal of used lead acid battery if likely to be used in any equipment during construction stage.	No specific registration required. Compulsion to buy and sale through registered vendor only.	PCBA	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
<b>Forest Conservation and Wildlife Protection Legislation</b>					
Indian Forest Act, 1927 The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments The Forest (conservation) Rules, 1981 and amendments	To protect forest by restricting conversion of forested areas into non-forested areas and deforestation	Not fully applicable. No forest land is being diverted. However large no. of tree cutting is envisaged for which NOC from forest department should be obtained prior to tree cutting as per applicable rules of the state. Compensatory plantation should be carried out as per state forest policy.	Forest Clearance/Permission for tree cutting.	Assam Forest Department and MoEF&CC	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, 1993 Biological Diversity Act, 2002	To protect wildlife through notifying National Parks (NP) and Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) and notified ESZ or in its absence 10 km buffer areas around the Protected Areas (PAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No diversion of NP and WLS area. Wildlife clearance is thus not applicable</li> <li>No presence of NP and WLS within 10 km radius of the sub-project area and hence not applicable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOC for construction within notified ESZ/10 km in absence of notified ESZ</li> </ul>	Chief Wildlife Warden, State Board of Wildlife and National Board of Wildlife	FREMAA
<b>Safety and Other Related Legislations</b>					
Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996	Requirement of preparation of on-site and off-site Disaster Management Plans for accident-prone areas.	Not Applicable. The project does not involve handling of any hazardous chemical during both construction and operation, phase which may lead to continuous, intermittent or repeated exposure to death, or injury.	No permits issued under this act	Central, State & District Crisis Group (headed by the Deputy Commissioner)	Not Applicable
Public Liability and Insurance Act 1991	Protection from liability arising due to accidents from handling of hazardous chemicals.	Not Applicable. The project does not involve storage of any chemicals (i.e., HSD) beyond the threshold limit during construction and	No permits issued under this act. Owner of project should take out insurance policies providing for contracts of insurance so as he is insured against liability to give relief, before handling any such hazardous material	Labor Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner (DC)	Not applicable
Explosive Act 1884 & Explosive Rules, 2008	Safe transportation, storage and use of explosive material	Not Applicable No explosive (as described in act & rules) is proposed to be used in the construction and operation stage of the project.	Permission for storage and usage of explosive	Chief Controller of Explosives	Not applicable

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
The Petroleum Act, 1934 The Petroleum Rules 2002	Use and storage of Petroleum products	Applicable as storage of HSD/LPG or any other petroleum product may be required for the project purpose	License to store petroleum beyond prescribed quantity.	Chief Controller of Explosives/DC	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988 and amendments Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and amendments	To minimize the road accidents, penalizing the guilty, provision of compensation to victim and family and check vehicular air and noise pollution.	Applicable, for all the contractor's vehicles at site during construction & operation phase	Driving Licenses and Pollution under control certificates are issued under this Act	Motor Vehicle Department (Licensing authority, registration authority & State Transport Authorities)	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
The Gas Cylinder Rules 2004	To regulate the storage of gas/possession of gas cylinder more than the exempted quantity	Applicable if contractor store more than the exempted quantity of gas cylinder.	License to store gas cylinder more than the regulated quantity	Chief Controller of explosives	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. Heritage Conservation and Preservation Act, 2010 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Framing of Heritage	Areas within 100 meters (m) of the "protected monument/area" are designated as "prohibited area" and beyond that up to 200 m as "regulated area" respectively. No "construction" is permitted in the "prohibited area" and any construction activity in the "regulated area" requires prior permission of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).	Applicable only if any intervention is planned within 100 m of archaeological protected sites falling along the ROW. No archaeological sites are within the 100m of the project components	No objection certificate	Archaeological Survey of India, Indian Heritage Society and Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Directorate of Archaeology, Assam	Not applicable

Name	Key Requirement	Applicability	Type of permit and stage of applicability	Administrative Authority	Responsibility
Bye laws and Other Functions of Competent Authority) Rules, 2011 National Monument Authority Rules, 2011					
Guidelines for evaluation of proposals/requests for ground water abstraction for drinking and domestic purposes in Notified areas and Industry/Infrastructure project proposals in non-notified areas, 2012	To regulate extraction of ground water for drinking and domestic purpose	Applicable if ground water is extracted for meeting drinking/ domestic water needs of contractor workers	No objection certificate	Central ground Water Authority/Board	Contractor (obtaining) and FREMAA (monitoring)
<b>Other Regulations</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workmen's Compensation Act 1923</li> <li>• Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970</li> <li>• Minimum Wages Act, 1948</li> <li>• Payment of Wages Act, 1936</li> <li>• Equal Remuneration Act, 1979</li> <li>• Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986</li> <li>• Inter-State Migrant Workmen's (regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979</li> <li>• The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Cess Act of 1996</li> <li>• The Factories Act, 1948</li> <li>• Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996</li> </ul>					

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

**Table 4-2: International Conventions and Treaties**

Law	Description	Requirement	Relevance to the project
Ramsar Convention, 1971	The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. India is one of the signatories to the treaty. The Ramsar convention made it mandatory for the signatory countries to include wetland conservation in their national land use plans.	There is one Ramsar site (Deepor Beel) in Assam which is approximately 11.5 km from the one of the project sites Dakala Kalitapara Palasbari in Kamrup District. Not applicable.	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973	India is a signatory of this convention which aims to control international commercial trade in endangered species	Reported presence of IUCN Red listed species like River Dolphins and other species in the subproject area. Contractor to create awareness amongst workers to desist from illegal wildlife activities including poaching, hunting & fishing by workers	Yes
Montreal Protocol 1992	India is a signatory of this convention which aims to reduction in the consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), while recognizing differences in a nation's responsibilities. Ozone depleting substances are divided in two groups Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Hydro chlorofluorocarbon carbons (HCFCs)	Not applicable in this project as no ODS are involved in construction works.	No
Basel Convention on Trans- boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, 1989	India is a signatory of this convention which aims to reduce trans-boundary movement and creation of hazardous wastes	Contractor to follow the provisions of Hazardous Waste Rules 2016 for storage, handling, transport, and disposal of any hazardous waste emerged during construction works	Yes
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), 1979 (Bonn convention)	CMS, also known as Bonn convention, was adopted in 1979 and entered into force on 1 November 1983, which recognizes that states must be the protectors of migratory species that live within or pass through their national jurisdictions, and aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their ranges. Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Annexure 8 of the Convention. CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these species, conserving, or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.	Reported presence of IUCN Red listed species like River Dolphins that migrate all along the Brahmaputra River and migratory avian species in the Central Asian Flyway in the subproject area. Contractor to create awareness amongst workers to desist from illegal wildlife activities including poaching, hunting & fishing by workers	Yes

Law	Description	Requirement	Relevance to the project
Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio De Janeiro, 1992)	The UN Convention on Biological Diversity which India ratified in 2019 deals with biodiversity conservation and sustainable usage, habitat preservation, and protection of indigenous people's rights, and intellectual property.	No direct relevance to the project though seeks to avoid or minimize the loss of any flora and fauna.	Yes

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant



## V. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### A. Introduction

100. This section presents a brief description of the existing environment around the subproject area, including its physical resources, ecological resources, socioeconomic development and social and cultural resources. Broad aspects of various environmental parameters such as physical, biological, and socio-cultural and economic development parameters that are likely to be affected by the proposed subproject have also been discussed. For completing the baseline description, emphasis was given to data collection on the physical environment, biological environment, and socio-economic environment of the study area. These data are considered to be of prime importance considering the nature and location of the proposed subproject focused on the Palasbari and Gumi Reach in Kamrup District of Assam.

### B. Geographical location

101. The subproject PGP/Guwahati West Palasbari-Gumi subproject area falls in Kamrup District of Assam. The subproject sites are situated between Palasbari to Lotordia N.C area on the south bank of the mighty Brahmaputra River. This is under Palasbari Revenue Circle, Goroimari Revenue Circle and Chamaria revenue circles in Kamrup District. The subproject area can be accessed through road and is at a distance of 25 km from Guwahati - the capital city of Assam. Location of the project sites is between 26°07'03.1"N, 91°30'49.7"E and 26°09'59.59"N, 91°07'48.01"E and at an elevation of about 50 meters from the mean sea level.

102. Eight subproject sites have been identified between Palasbari and Lotardia N.C area for anti-erosion and flood protections work. The eight selected sites under the subproject are located at (i) Dakhala (Kalitapara) area 26°07'03.1"N, 91°30'49.7"E to 26°07'01.08"N, 91°30'24.82"E, (ii) Guimara 26°07'02.3"N, 91°28'09.7"E to 26°07'01.9"N, 91°28'13.8"E, (iii) Simina area 26°07'17.9"N, 91°27'23.6"E to 26°07'21.5"N, 91°27'08.4"E, (iv) between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 at Futuri 26°07'41.6"N, 91°26'03.3"E to 26°07'28.5"N, 91°26'43.8"E, (v) Gumi area 26°5'55.4"N, 91°20'26.1"E to 26°5'56.5"N, 91°20'18.7"E, (vi) Borakhat area 26°6'45.31"N, 91°15'6.97"E to 26°07'40.31"N, 91°12'57.75"E, (vii) Panikhaity area 26°9'15.87"N, 91°10'25.72"E to 26°9'22.19"N, 91°9'40.51"E, and (viii) Lotordia N.C. area 26°9'28.28"N, 91°9'10.73"E to 26°9'59.59"N, 91°7'48.01"E. The selected sites where the works are proposed to be carried out under this subproject are indicated in the Figure 5-1.

**Figure 5-1: Proposed work sites under Palasbari Gumi reaches**



Source: WRD

### C. Project Area of Influence

103. For baseline establishment a project influence area (PAI or study area) has been determined for the site; the subsequent sections provide an understanding of the PAI in relation to each environmental parameter and reasons for its selection.

- **Project Footprint/Direct Impact Area:** The project footprint is the area that may reasonably be expected to be directly physically disturbed by activities or infrastructure during construction. This area includes the area where project interventions are proposed
- **Project Area of Influence:** The effects of physical activities or infrastructure during different phases on a particular environmental resource or sensitive receptor will have spatial and temporal dimensions. Some activities will impact resources or receptors in a larger radius than others whilst some resources or receptors will be more sensitive to impacts; this has been considered in defining the PAI in relation to each environmental parameter. The PAI has been divided into core and buffer zones:
  - **Core Zone:** the core zone is defined as the radius extending from the project footprint area (direct impact area) which will be subject to the most impacts or the greatest magnitude of change during construction & operation period; and
  - **Buffer Zone:** the buffer zone is the remaining part of the PAI which may be subject to impacts but fewer in number or of lesser magnitude than the core zone

**Table 5-1: Project Area of Influence (PAI)**

Environment Parameter	Core	Buffer	Remarks
Biological	1 km	5 km (50km)	PAI of 5 km radius was considered for undertaking the biological data collection. Surveys provide an understanding of the project site, its immediate surroundings (core zone) and wider setting (buffer zone). For primary biological survey, both floral and faunal surveys were conducted through transects in the project footprint and within 1 km radius. For running an IBAT report a 50km buffer was used to pick up on any wide-ranging species and nearest protected/key biodiversity areas. The IBAT report is appended in Appendix 6.
Physical	500m	5 km	PAI of 5 km radius was considered for undertaking physical environment data collection. For most parameters 500m radius was considered as core zone for mapping of sensitive receptors during the field surveys and for undertaking baseline monitoring. The spatial extents are representative of the extents of likely adverse impacts associated with the noise assessment, as dictated by initial model runs.
Socio-economic	500 m	5 km	PAI of 5 km radius is considered for socio-economic context, with a core zone of 500m radius for mapping of individual sensitive receptors and consultations during field surveys.

IBAT = Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, PAI = Project Area of Influence

Source: ADB TA Consultant

## D. Physical Environmental Setting

### 1. Land Use and Agricultural Practices

104. The land characteristic of the district is mostly flat plain except a few forested hills with elevation between 40 to 50 meters. The district also includes a large number of riverine tracts and sandy river island in the Brahmaputra River. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the district. The area of the government waste land is very large. However, with the inflow of Immigrants a large area of the virgin soil has been upturned. A large area of waste land such as char area has been taken up for habitation and also for agriculture.

105. The following table 5-2 indicates the pattern of land use under various classification of land in Kamrup District

**Table 5-2: Land use Pattern in Kamrup District, 2010-2011**

Land put to different uses	Area in hectares
Total Geographical Area	308,684
Forest area	70,885
Land not available for cultivation	31,671
Land put to non-agriculture uses	21,661
Barren and un-cultural land	10,010
Other non-cultivated land excluding fallow land	27,742
Permanent pastures and other grazing land	12,305
Land under misc., trees , groves etc. not included in net area	12,212
Cultivable waste land	3,225
Fallow other than current fallow	582
Current fallow	550
Net area sown	177,254
Area sown more than once	3,761

Source: Statistical Handbook 2012

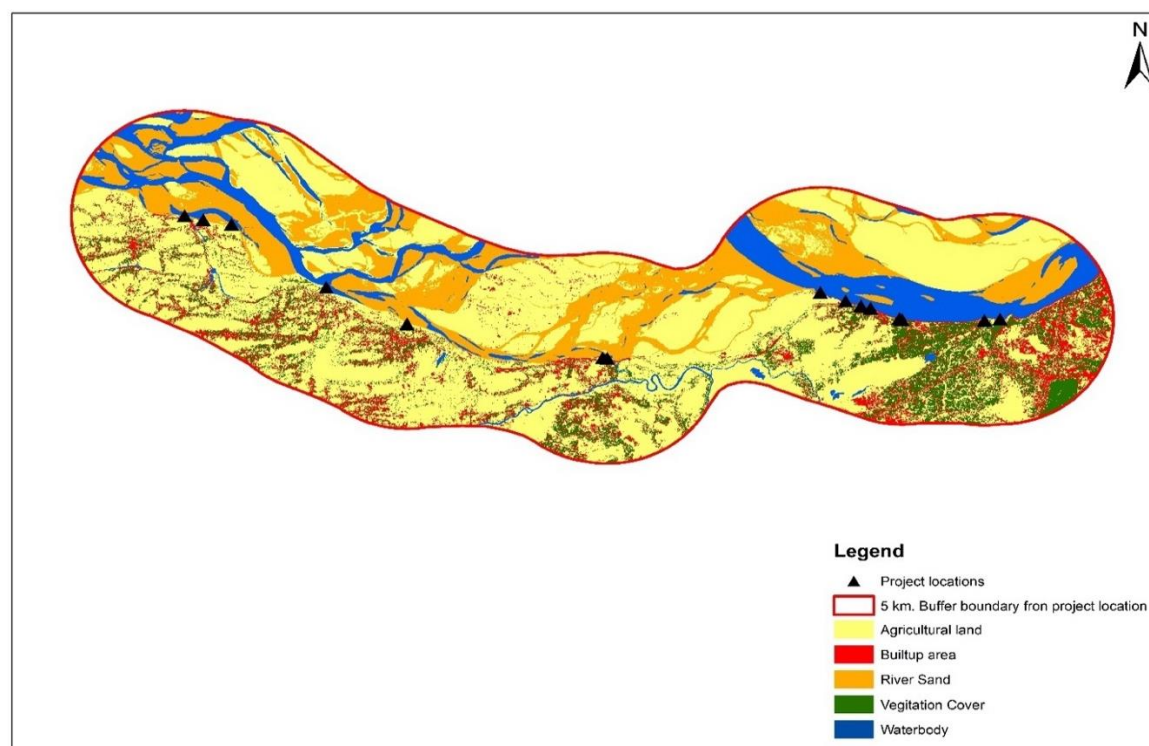
106. Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. (LASA) has been appointed by FREEMA for data collection for environmental assessment and their scope included (a) environmental quality monitoring for air, water, noise, soil, (b) wildlife and habitat survey, (c) physical and socio-economic data including GIS mapping for land use, (d) environmental risks identification and analysis & (e) public consultations. Lea Associates has done the LULC study in April 2023 by utilizing recent (January, February, April 2023) satellite images, the project area's present land use pattern is examined at two different scales while taking the nature and potential impact of the project aspects into consideration. On a larger scale, a 5 km buffer was selected surrounding the project locations, and the land use pattern within the zone is identified using GIS and satellite images. Land use pattern within 1 km buffer from the project locations also studied. The land use pattern of the project locations of Kamrup District within the 5km & 1km buffer from the project location are presented in Figure 5-2 and 5-3 and the area covered by different land use within 5 km & 1 km buffer from project locations is presented in Tables 5-3 and 5-4.

**Table 5-3: Land use area within 5 km Buffer Zone on either side of the Project locations of Kamrup District.**

Land use	Area in Hectare	%
Water body	4540.30	10.39
River sand	8540.82	19.56
Agriculture land	23356.8	53.49
Buildup area	3455.78	7.91
Vegetation cover	3769.48	8.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>43663.25</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: LASA, April 2023

**Figure 5-2: Land use map of the 5 km Buffer Zone on either side of the Project locations of Kamrup District. (Jan, 2023)**



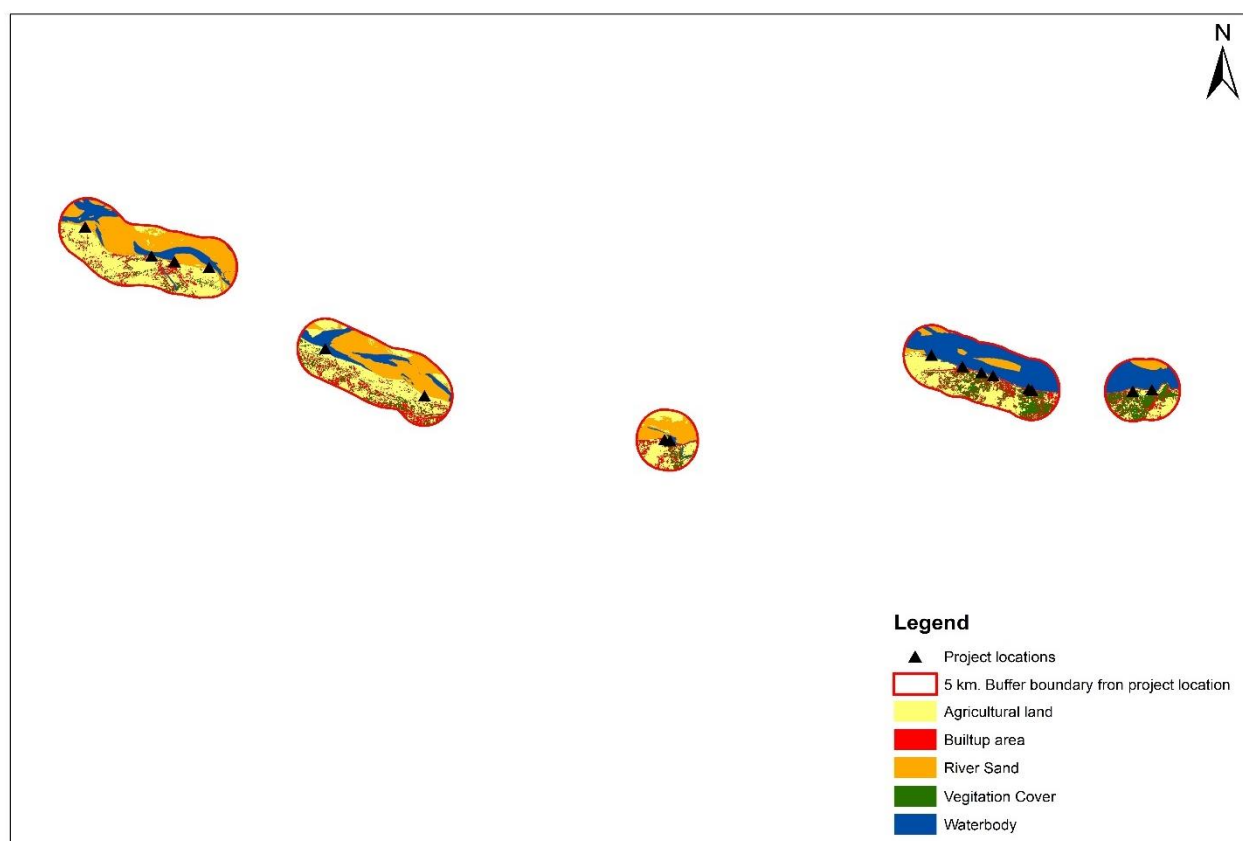
Source: LASA, April 2023

**Table 5-4: Land use area within 1 km Buffer Zone on either side of the Project locations of Kamrup District**

Land use	Area in Hectare	%
Water body	1110.39	23.52
River sand	1172.79	24.84
Agriculture land	1540.75	32.63
Buildup area	469.80	9.95
Vegetation cover	427.11	9.047
Total	4720.867202	100

Source: Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. (LASA), 2023

**Figure 5-3: Land use map of the 1 km Buffer Zone on either side of the Project locations of Kamrup District. (Jan, 2023)**



Source: LASA, April 2023

107. The total study area within 5 km radius were 43663.25 ha, the agriculture land use dominates with 23356.85 ha (53.49%), followed by river sand cover 8540.82 ha (19.56%), water body 4540.30 ha (10.39%), vegetation cover 3769.48 ha (8.63%) and buildup area 3455.78 ha (7.91%).

108. The total land cover within the 1 km buffer from the project locations in Kamrup is 4720.86 ha, out of which 1540.75 ha (32.63%) is under agriculture, followed 1172.79 ha (24.84%) under river sand, 1110.39 ha (23.52%) under water, buildup area 469380 (9.95%) and vegetation cover is 727.11(9.04%).

## 2. Physiography, Topography, Drainage, and Soils

109. Physiographically, the district can be divided into three units i.e., the hilly region in the south, the alluvial plain in the central and western part and the swampy areas along Brahmaputra plains. The distinguishable geomorphic units are- a) Flood plain of Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. b) Younger alluvial plain which occupies major part of the area, having slightly higher elevation than flood plain. c) older alluvium/valley fill, gently sloping plain, having higher elevation than the younger alluvial plain. d) Piedmont, gently sloping plain along the foothills. e) Inselberg occurs as very small isolated hills. f) Denudational hills considering of granite, gneissic rocks. The different rock formation occurring in the district has been subjected to various soil forming processes through agents of weathering and transportation during different geological ages. Soils comprising various proportions of sand, silt, clay and organic material in the district are grouped into three broad categories – i) newer alluvial soil, ii) valley fill/older alluvial soil and iii) soils over forest and hilly terrain.

110. **Drainage** The district occupies part of the basin formed by mighty Brahmaputra River passing through the central part with a westerly course. The perennial tributaries like Puthimari, Digaru, Kulsi, Singra etc. drain the district and join the Brahmaputra River. The immediate hinterland of the Palasbari reach is consisting of largely of the middle plain zone characterized by beels, wetlands and hills. Drainage is often poor. To the west of Dakhala Hill, the main drainage system of the hinterland is the Kulsi-Deosila River, which has a combined catchment area of 3,770 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) and forms a complex system of interconnecting anabranches, distributaries, flood runners and beels. The Deosila River, which rises on the Meghalaya Massif, appears to be the dominant river of this system. Originally, the Kulsi River formed the downstream reach of this system, flowing into the Brahmaputra to the west of Nagarbera Hill (Figure 5-4). However, riverbank erosion from the Brahmaputra has truncated the mouth of the Kulsi River into two separate channels, one of which now flows into the Brahmaputra to the north of Nagarbera Hill, the other joining the Jaljali River to flow into the Brahmaputra to the south of Nagarbera Hill. A number of northerly flowing tributaries cross NH-37 to join the Kulsi-Deosila system. Over time, riverbank erosion from the Brahmaputra caused the Khulsi River to form two flood runners that delivered Brahmaputra floodwaters into the hinterland and across to the Jaljali River. The Brahmaputra embankments now prevent this behavior. Drainage congestion problems exist over much of the lower area of the Khulsi-Deosila System, especially where the various rivers and drainage channels come together to form the Jaljali River

111. To the east of Dakhala Hill, the main drainage system of the hinterland is the Khanajan River, which is an outlet channel of Deepor Beel that joins the Brahmaputra close to the village of Majirgaon, together with its anabranches, and tributaries. There is a sluice gate in the outlet channel of the Khanajan River that is used to regulate water levels in Deepor Beel. However, this sluice gate is only operational when the Brahmaputra is not in flood<sup>20</sup> To the west of the Khanajan River, a drainage channel referred to as Kalbhog channel flows to the Brahmaputra close to the town of Palasbari via a sluice gated outlet (constructed under ADB financed AIFRERMIP) in the Brahmaputra embankment. Another sluice gate at Nahirais functional and is used for irrigation during the rainy season. Major Beels in the hinterland are located along both drainage systems.

112. **Topography** The topography of the project area is characterized by flat tract that forms a part of the active floodplain including the chars (sandbars) within the bank lines of the Brahmaputra River. The valley as a whole slope gently from the northeast at an average gradient of 13 cm/km. The gradient is about 17cm/km in its upper reach which reduces to 10 cm/ km near Guwahati. The monotony of the floodplain lying at an average elevation ranging from 50 m to 120 m above MSL is broken at places by protruding arms of isolated hillocks of Archaean origin. The Dakhala Hill

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<sup>20</sup> When the Brahmaputra River is in flood, water levels in the Brahmaputra are typically much higher than in Deepor Beel, causing flooding around the beel.

(elevation 138 m) and the Nagarbera Hill (167 m) are two such prominent hillocks located within this project area. Both these hillocks, made up of granite and gneisses, are northerly outcrops of the Meghalaya plateau. The western part of the project area from Dakhala to Nagarbera presents a relatively low-lying tract due to their peculiar structural position in relation to the geology and tectonics of the highlands to the south<sup>21</sup>. The floodplain belt in this stretch is marked by large number of degraded wetlands, abandoned river channels, waterlogged and drainage congested areas. The relief map based on analysis of satellite data showing topography of the subproject area is presented in Figure 5-4.

**Figure 5-4: Topography and Land use of the subproject area**



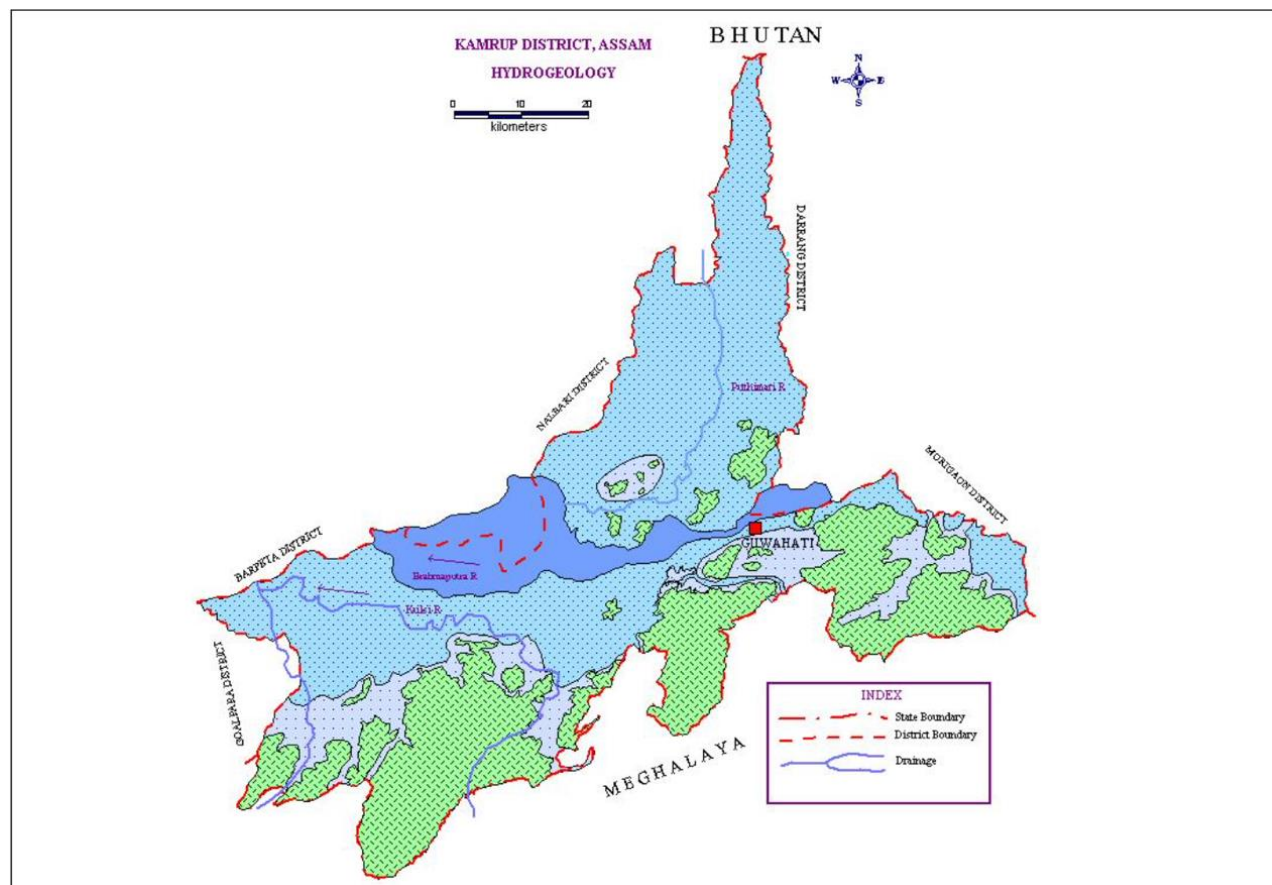
**Source:** ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District). May 2018 [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en\\_6.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en_6.pdf)

113. **Hydrogeology** The area consists of two broad hydrogeological units – 1) Pre-Cambrian consolidated rocks and 2) Quaternary alluvium consisting of unconsolidated sediments (Plate-2). Pre-Cambrian consolidated rocks are confined to hilly areas and inselbergs, where ground water occurs in shallow weathered zone and this can be developed through open wells. The joints and fractures developed due to tectonic activities form potential water bearing zones and suitable for development through construction of bore wells. In the alluvial plain, groundwater occurs in regionally extensive aquifers down to the depth of 305 m. It has a very good yield prospect. The aquifers are consisting of sands of various grades with gravel and are suitable for construction of both shallow and deep tube wells. Groundwater occurs under unconfined to semiconfined condition occupying an area of about 200 sq. km. in and around Haihata – Dumunichowki which is under artesian condition. In other parts also, the water level rests at shallow depth and in major part, it

<sup>21</sup> Goswami, D. C. and Das, P. J., 2002: Hydrological Impact of Earthquakes on the Brahmaputra River Regime in Assam: A case study in exploring some evidences, Proc. 18th National Convention of Civil Engineers, Nov. 9-10, 2002, pp. 40 - 48.

rests between 2 – 5 m bgl during pre-monsoon period. The study of long-term water level trend shows no significant change in rise/fall in water level in the last 10 years.

**Figure 5-5: Hydrogeology of the subproject district**



**Source:** Ground Water Information Booklet Kamrup and Kamrup Metro District, Assam Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources. 2013 [https://cgwb.gov.in/District\\_Profile/Assam/Kamrup.pdf](https://cgwb.gov.in/District_Profile/Assam/Kamrup.pdf)

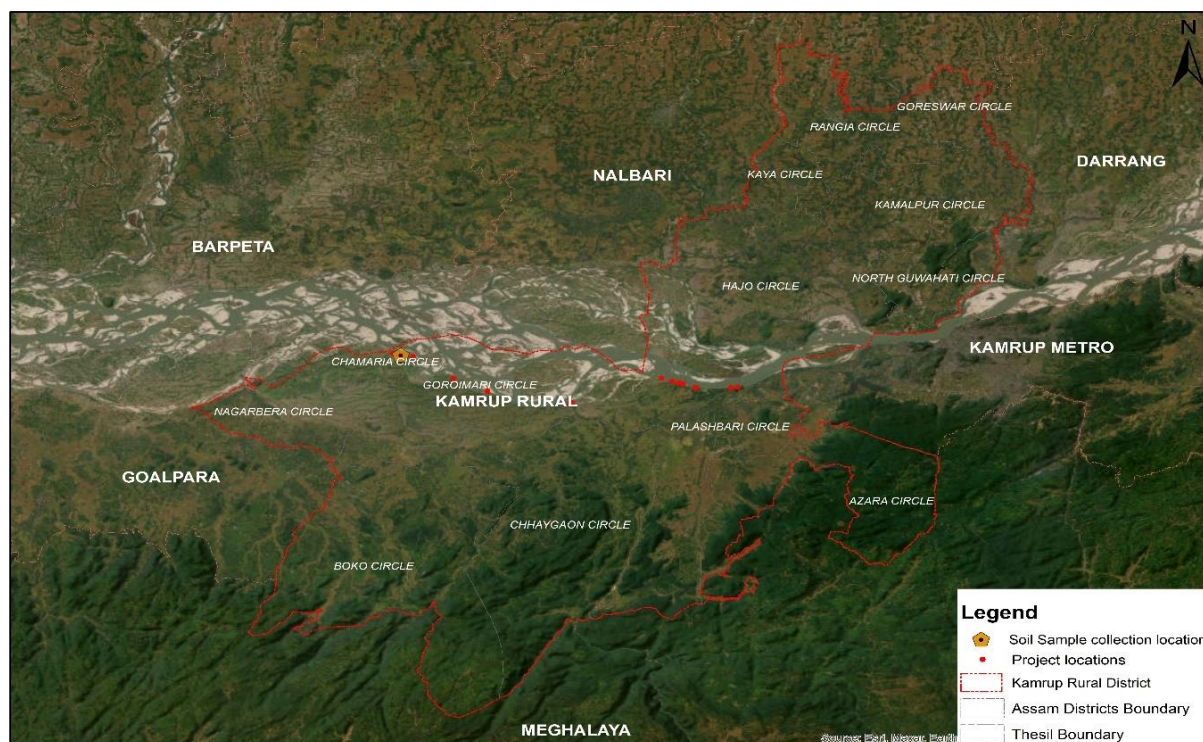
114. **Soil** The subproject area is almost entirely made up of alluvial soils formed on recent river deposits called new alluvium, which are also termed as Fluvisols or Fluvents. These are mostly composed of sandy to silty loams and are neutral to slightly acidic in reaction. In limited upland areas within the valley and in the foothill region, there are few isolated pockets of deeply weathered Pleistocene deposits of older alluvium. A study of the lithological of the quaternary sediments of the Brahmaputra valley extending down to more than 100 m reveals repeated sequence of clay, pebbles, and boulders.<sup>22</sup> In the hill areas, especially to the south of the Brahmaputra River, laterites and red loams are found. In the Palasbari Reach, besides the new alluvium, there are red ferruginous soils in the upland areas close to the southern hills and marshy soils in the perennially water-logged areas.

115. The soil quality of the project area was sampled and analyzed at village Panikhaity 26° 9'21.87"N 91° 9'39.87"E on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. The sampling location is shown in Figure 5-6 and the soil quality results at selected location are given in Table 5-5.

<sup>22</sup> GSI. 1977. Contributions of geomorphology and geohydrology of the Brahmaputra Valley. Miscellaneous Pub. 32.



Figure 5-6: Soil Sampling Locations within Subproject area



Source: LASA, 2023

Table 5-5: Soil Test Report within Subproject

S. No.	Parameters	Units	Indian Standard	EU Standard 2002	Monitoring Result
<b>Sampling location: Panikhaity Kamrup 26°9'21.87"N 91°9'39.87"E</b>					
<b>A</b>	<b>Physical Characteristics</b>				
1.	Colour				<b>Greyish Brown</b>
2.	Textural class				Sandy Loam
3.	Bulk Density	gm/cm <sup>3</sup>			1.14
4.	Water Holding Capacity	%			28.2
<b>Particle Size Distribution</b>					
7.	Sand	%			61.2
8.	Silt	%			22.3
9.	Clay	%			16.5
<b>B</b>	<b>Chemical Characteristics</b>				
10.	pH (1:2 Suspension)	-			6.05
11.	Electrical Conductivity	µmhos/cm			324.6
12.	Organic Matter	%W/W			2.38
13.	Exchangeable Calcium	mg/kg			1834.0
14.	Exchangeable Magnesium	mg/kg			438.6

S. No.	Parameters	Units	Indian Standard	EU Standard 2002	Monitoring Result
15	Copper	mg/kg	135-270	140	15.4
16	Nickel	mg/kg	75- 150	75	11.8
17	Chromium	mg/kg		150	24.1
18	Iron	mg/kg		300	124.0
19	Lead	mg/kg			1.8
20.	Sulphate	mg/kg			4.7
<b>C</b>	<b>Available Nutrients</b>				
21	Nitrogen (as N)	Kg/Ha			184.3
22	Phosphorous	Kg/Ha			82.1
23	Exchangeable Potassium	Kg/Ha			56.6

**Source:** LASA, 2023

116. To generate baseline for soil, sampling was carried out at Panikhaity 26°9'21.87"N 91°9'39.87"E in Kamrup subproject area. The sample is collected from the agricultural area adjacent to riverbanks. Based on result and comparison with Indian Standard and EU 2002, it can be concluded that soil is deficient in micronutrient (Heavy metals) and can be concluded that the soil test quality shall not have any implication on project components. The monitoring reports and the sampling pictures are placed at Appendix 8

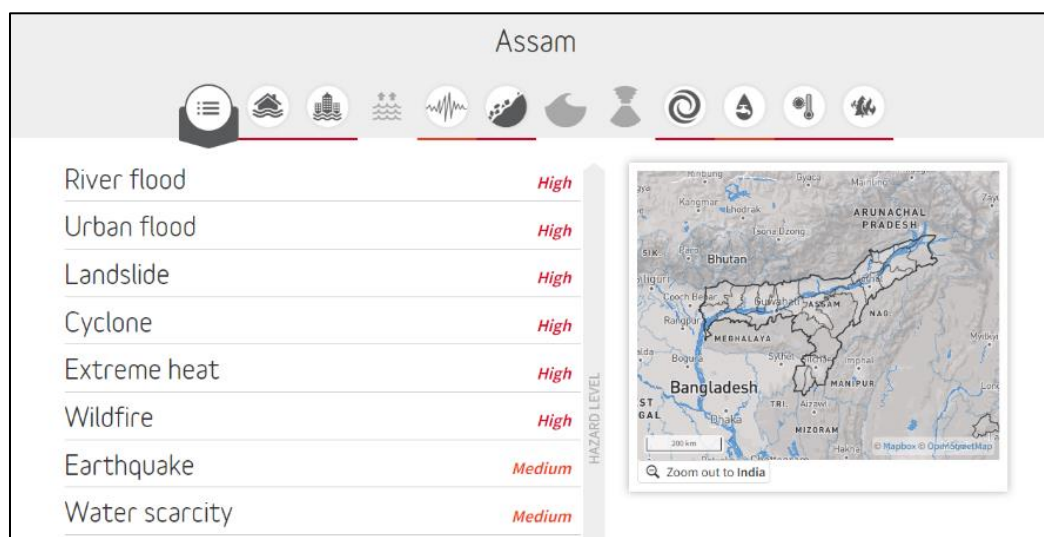
117. **Soil Erosion:** Riverbank erosion in the valley during times of major flooding is a regular annual feature. Due to the variable depth of coarse sand that has been deposited on the surface as a result of over bank flooding caused by embankment breaches, the fertile cultivable land is no longer suitable for crop production. Records from the Assam Government Revenue Dept. show that in 1994, soil erosion in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley and North Bank Plain zone affected 6116 hectares of land.

118. Assam's highly productive and fertile soils are currently facing with the major issue of soil erosion. The most frequent sort of soil erosion in the entire state occurs when there is heavy precipitation and a humid climate. During the flood season, topsoil erosion is a serious issue in the plain. Nearly 3.2 million hectares of land in the state's plain districts are thought to be susceptible to topsoil erosion of varying intensity. Another form of soil degradation, known as terrain deformation by mass movement, is mostly confined to the Karbi Anglong and N.C. hill areas.

119. A total of around 1.53 million hectares are covered with hills. The state's rivers' bank erosion is a significant sort of soil erosion that has recently taken on alarming proportions. It has been observed that in some locations, rivers are eroding a few km of bank alongside villages, productive agricultural regions, and roadways. The world's largest river island, Majuli, is presently severely eroding and practically in danger of being lost. Depending on how severe the state's floods are, the amount of damage caused by bank erosion fluctuates from year to year.

120. **Hazard Profile** As per data generated from Think hazard<sup>23</sup> the likelihood of different natural hazards in the state of Assam is depicted in the Figure 5-7. The likelihood of natural hazards in the state of Assam is high for floods, cyclones, extreme heat, and landslides.

<sup>23</sup> Think Hazard. 2020. <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/1487-india-assam/EQ>

**Figure 5-7: Likelihood of Different Natural Hazards in Assam**

Source: ThinkHazard! <https://thinkhazard.org/en/>

121. In recent past there has been an increase in the number of natural disasters. The growing incidents of natural disasters are highly correlated to the increasing vulnerability of households and communities in developing countries. Floods and Earthquakes are the two major hazards which pose a serious threat to the state of Assam and subproject district. Kamrup rural have also been ravaged by catastrophic events in the past and has worst experience in terms of loss of life and property.

122. **Floods and Flooding Behavior** Assam possesses a high risk of flooding due to a number of factors, including its location in an area with heavy rainfall and its proximity to the Himalayas, which makes it vulnerable to flash floods, landslides, and other floods in addition to river overflows. Deforestation in river catchments and subsequent soil erosion may also cause sedimentation in rivers, reducing the ability of the land to absorb rainwater and causing additional runoff and flooding. The risk of flooding in Assam is increasing due to climate change, which is one of the factors causing more extreme weather events, including as flooding and periods of excessive rainfall.

123. Assam is prone to floods due to rise in river water levels in Brahmaputra Rivers and its tributaries. It appears that, the Assam state is vulnerable to flood during the monsoon season more than twice every year. The monsoon season, which normally lasts from June to September, is when rain falls most frequently. During this time, the state frequently experiences floods. The list of recent flood events from 1998 and the duration of floods which were mapped by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space, and Government of India using satellite data is listed in Table 5-6.

**Table 5-6: Major Flood Events in Assam state**

Sl. No	Year	Description of the flood event	Districts Affected
1	1998	Floods occurred in Assam during June	6
2	2003	Floods have affected in two spells during 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	21
3	2004	Floods occurred in 4 spells during 20-21 <sup>st</sup> April, 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun- 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul, 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul-5 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 10-13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9
4	2005	Floods occurred in during 20-21 <sup>st</sup> April, 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun- 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul, 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul-5 <sup>th</sup> August, 10-13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20
5	2006	Floods occurred in 3 spells during 2 <sup>nd</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Jun, 26 <sup>th</sup> June, 26 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> July	24

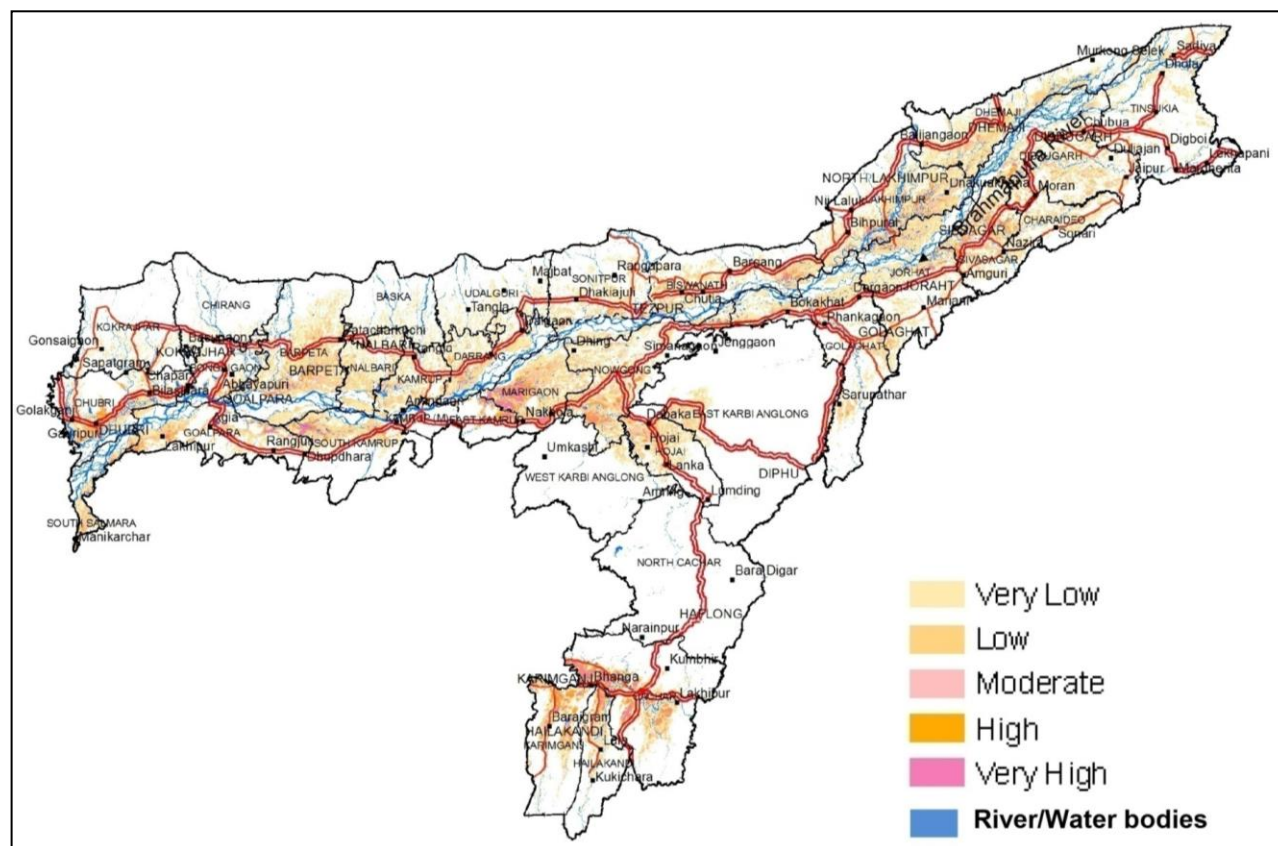
Sl. No	Year	Description of the flood event	Districts Affected
6	2007	Floods occurred in 2 spells during 21-26 <sup>th</sup> Jun, 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul- 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21
7	2008	Floods occurred in 2 spells during 9-23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug -14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	21
8	2009	Floods occurred during 1 <sup>st</sup> Jul - 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug. In addition, Matmora embankment breach in Lakhimpur district	21
9	2010	Floods occurred during on 19 <sup>th</sup> Jun - 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul, 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	24
10	2011	Floods occurred during on 29 <sup>th</sup> Jun - 18 <sup>th</sup> August	16
11	2012	Floods occurred during on 6 <sup>th</sup> Jun - 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28
12	2013	Floods occurred during 1-10 <sup>th</sup> Jul, 9-14 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 9-12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	27
13	2014	Floods occurred during 16 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	27
14	2016	Floods occurred during 24-26 <sup>th</sup> April, 5-29 <sup>th</sup> July	20
15	2017	Floods occurred during 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	36
16	2018	Floods occurred during 8 <sup>th</sup> Jun - 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	37
17	2019	Floods occurred during 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	34
18	2021	Floods occurred during 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun - 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2021	33
19	2022	Floods occurred during 18 <sup>th</sup> May - 26 <sup>th</sup> May and 16 <sup>th</sup> June - 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	35

**Source:** Flood Affected Area Atlas of India (1998-2022) - Satellite based Study, NRSC & ISRO in association with NDMA, Gol, March 2023 <sup>24</sup>

124. The cumulative flood impacted region map of Assam State has been generated using multi-date satellite derived spatial flood inundation maps between 1998 and 2002 by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space, Government of India, in Association with National Disaster Management Authority Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Cumulative flood affected area is estimated as 24.64 lakh ha affecting 35 districts of the State. Figure 5-8 depict a map of the flood hazard and the table 5-7 provides the details of the flood affected areas in the 5 sub-project districts.

<sup>24</sup> <https://ndem.nrsc.gov.in/documents/downloads/Flood%20Affected%20Area%20%20Atlas%20of%20India%20-Satellite%20based%20study.pdf>

**Figure 5-8: Flood affected area in Assam State**



**Source:** Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas for Assam State (1998-2015) – A Geospatial Approach, September 2016.

**Table 5-7: Project Districts Wise Flood Affected Areas of Assam**

Sl. No.	District	Flood Affected Area (Ha)
1	Kamrup Rural	132885
2	Dibrugarh	132438
3	Morigaon	104622
4	Goalpara	76700
5	Tinsukia	74530
<b>Total in 5 subproject districts</b>		<b>521175</b>
<b>Total in Assam</b>		<b>2,464,958</b>

**Source:** Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas for Assam State (1998-2015) – A Geospatial Approach, September 16.

125. **Flood hazards zones during 1998-2015** A geospatial approach to study the Flood hazard of the state of Assam was conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organization and Dept of Space, Govt. of India in association with Assam State Disaster Management Authority of Assam to categories the frequently flood affected areas in the state. In this approach, 18 years (1998-2015) of satellite data from Indian and foreign satellites was used in identifying the flood hazard zones and the flood hazard is categorized into 5 classes, i.e., very high, high, moderate, low and very low based on the frequency of inundation. Further, a flood hazard ranking index, which represents the worst flood affected districts in Assam, is calculated based on the hazard severity, percentage of flood inundation area and intra-annual flood wave index. The atlas is ground verified by the Government of Assam. It is observed that out of 34 districts in Assam,

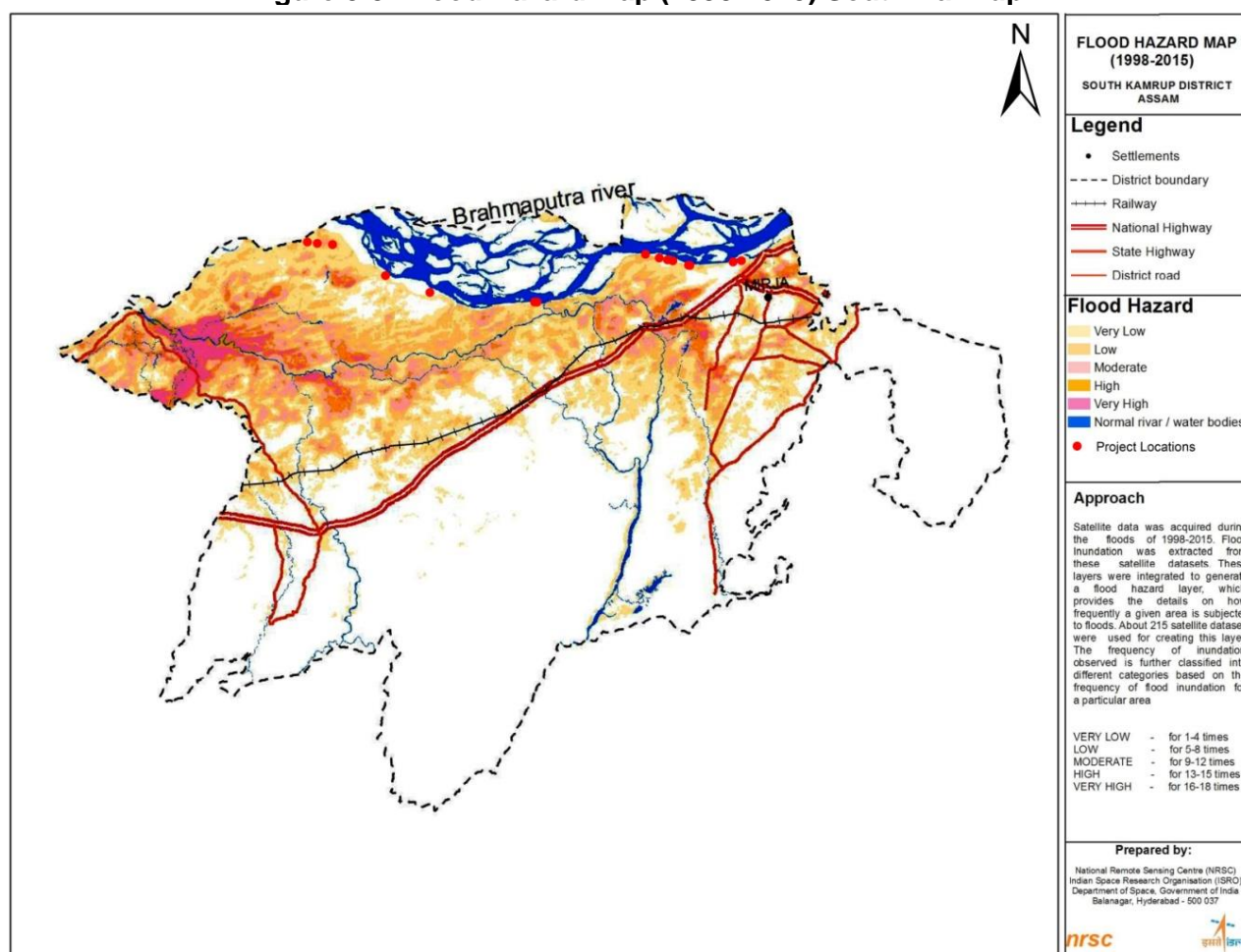
17 districts are worst flood affected and about 2.2 million hectares in Assam is affected by floods at least once during last 18 years. The flood hazard statistics of Kamrup South the subproject area is presented in the Table 5-8.

**Table 5-8: Flood Hazards Statistics South Kamrup**

Hazard Code	Severity	Flood Hazard	Area (hectares)
1		Very Low	34647
2		Low	18726
3		Moderate	9319
4		High	4002
5		Very High	3179

**Source:** Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas for Assam State (1998-2015) – A Geospatial Approach, September 2016.

**Figure 5-9: Flood Hazard Map (1998-2015) South Kamrup**

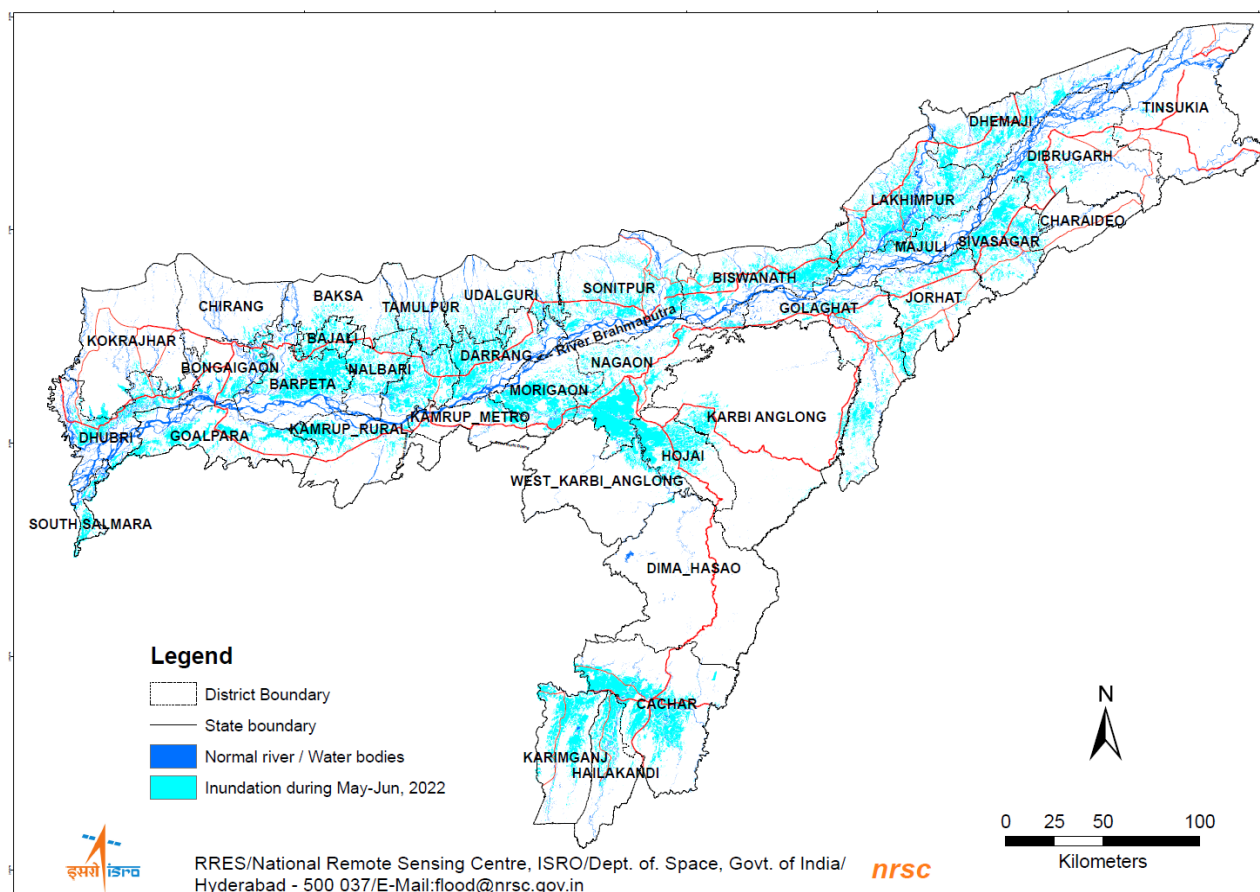


**Source:** Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas for Assam State (1998-2015) – A Geospatial Approach, September 16.

126. **Flood inundation areas of Assam 2022** Satellite based analysis has been carried out continuously by NRSC during May-June 2022 and flood inundation occurring in larger areas were mapped and monitored across Assam state. It is observed that the total area under flood inundation is observed to be ~ 10.37 Lakh Ha. District wise area Inundated area during first wave of floods pre-monsoon in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May 2022 and the second wave of floods started during 16-28th June

2022 which has affected 34 districts in Assam state presented in below in Table 5-9 spread over 35 districts as shown Figure 5-10.

**Figure 5-10: Flood Inundated areas in Assam State during May-June 2022**



**Source:** Satellite based Analysis - Flood Mapping & Monitoring in Assam State, Disaster Management Support Group, National remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Dept. of Space, Govt. of India Balanagar, Hyderabad-37 Telangana State, India, August 2022

**Table 5-9: Area of Project Districts Affected During the Flood Inundation in May-June 2022**

SI. No.	District	Area Inundated (ha)
1	Kamrup rural	61074
2	Morigaon	48224
3	Goalpara	35742
4	Dibrugarh	17866
5	Tinsukia	1218
<b>Total in Assam</b>		<b>10,37,985</b>

**Source:** Satellite based Analysis - Flood Mapping & Monitoring in Assam State, Disaster Management Support Group, National remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Dept. of Space, Govt. of India Balanagar, Hyderabad-37 Telangana State, India, August 2022

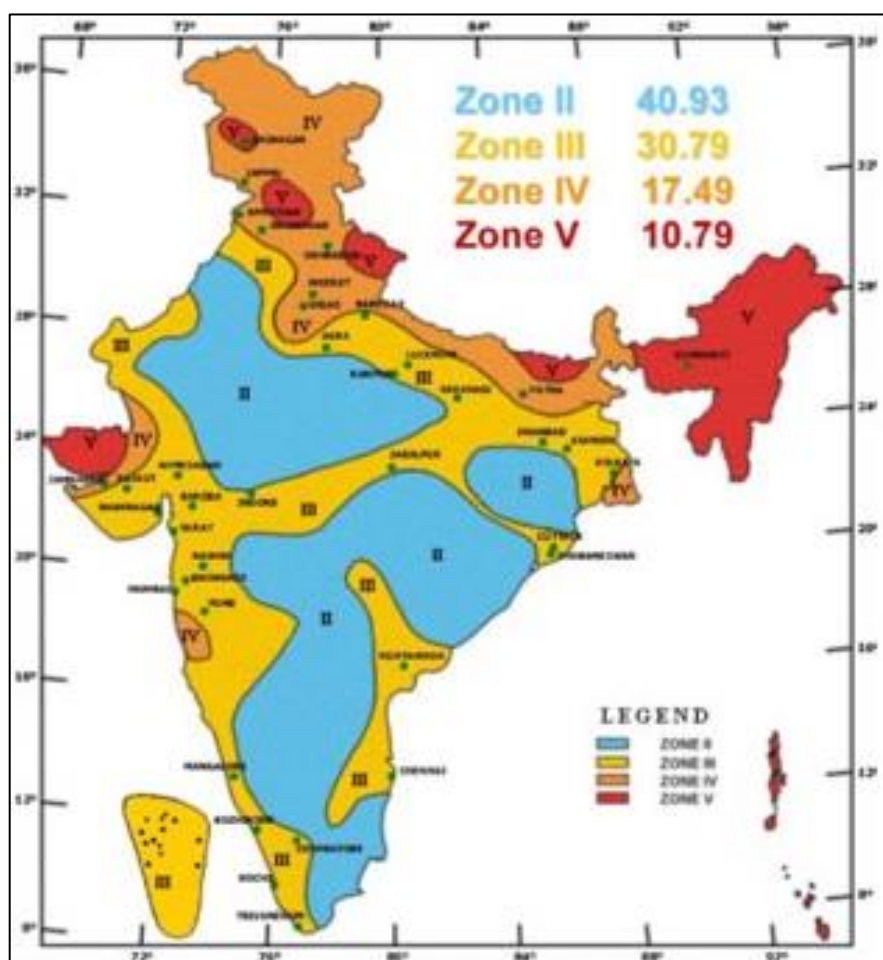
127. **Seismic Hazard:** High seismic activity is a feature of northeast India and the areas surrounding it. The eastern Himalayas, the Indo-Myanmar arc, the Mishmi Massif, the Shillong Plateau and surrounding areas, the Tripura folded belt, the Assam intermountain depression, and

the northern part of the Bengal basin are all included in this region, which spans the northern portion of the Assam-Arakan geological province.

128. Even though the majority of northeast India is susceptible to earthquakes, their magnitudes typically range from 5 to 8 or higher. Low-magnitude earthquakes with a Richter scale value of less than 5 are widely distributed in the area. However, the majority of earthquakes with a magnitude of greater than 5 have been recorded in West Tripura, Central Manipur, and the lower Brahmaputra Valley. Earthquakes measuring between 5 and 6 on the Richter scale have primarily been felt in Assam's northern, western, southern, and eastern rims. The Brahmaputra Valley, northern Manipur, eastern Nagaland, and east-central Mizoram saw the majority of the earthquakes, which typically had Richter scale magnitudes between 6 and 7, on a regular basis. The areas with the highest densities of powerful earthquakes, with magnitudes ranging from 7 to 8, have been found to be south-eastern Manipur, and central and lower Brahmaputra Valley. Only the easternmost region has had earthquakes with a maximum magnitude of above 8.0.

129. According to Figure 5-11 seismic hazard zonation map of India, the entire northeast of the country is located in zone V, the most vulnerable area in the nation. Recent research has shown that adjacent locations are affected differently by earthquake shaking. The conditions at the site are closely related to the shaking's intensity. **Error! Reference source not found.** 5-12 represents the seismo-tectonic setup of Assam and indicates the location of historical earthquakes within the region.

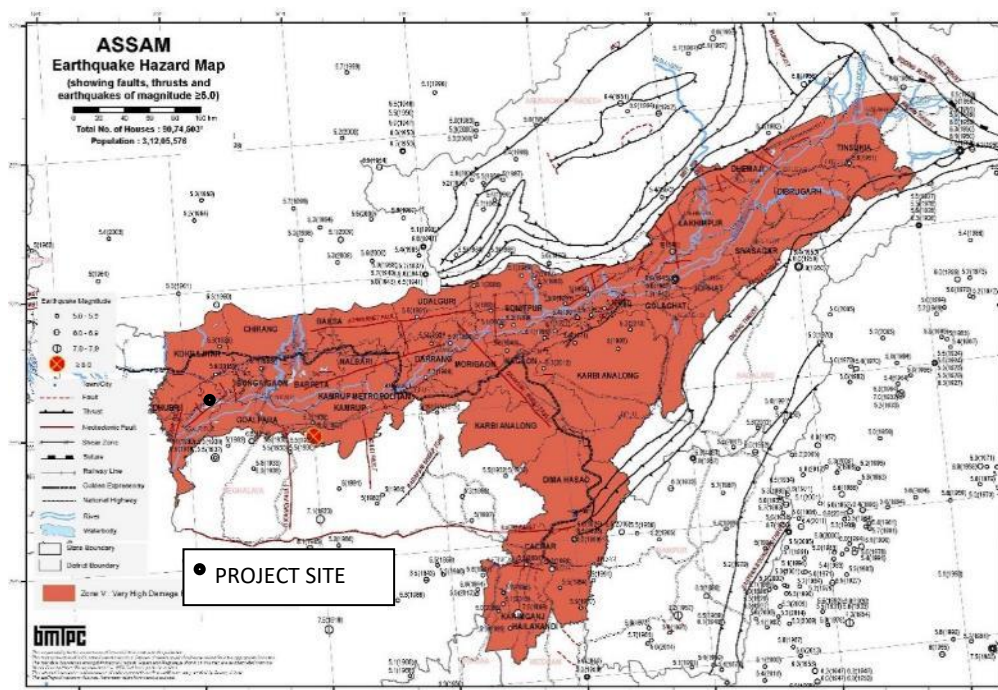
**Figure 5-11: Seismic Zonation Map of India - 2002**



**Source:** National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). [https://nidm.gov.in/safety\\_earthquake.asp](https://nidm.gov.in/safety_earthquake.asp)



**Figure 5-12: Earthquake Hazard Map of Assam**



**Source:** <https://www.bmtpc.org/DataFiles/CMS/file/VAI2019/eq-assam.html>

130. According to Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (GSHAP) data, the state of Assam falls in a region of moderate to high seismic hazard. As per the 2002 Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) map, Assam also falls in Zones II, III and 5 (Zone I is low Risk and Zone V is high Risk). Historically, parts of this state have experienced seismic activity in the M6, which means Strong as per US Geological Survey.

131. As per the data from Think hazard, the earthquake hazard in Assam & Goalpara is classified as medium according to the information that is currently available. This means that there is a 10% chance of potentially-damaging earthquake in Assam in the next 50 years.

132. Even though the majority of northeast India is susceptible to earthquakes, their magnitudes typically range from 5 to 8 or higher. Low-magnitude earthquakes with a Richter scale value of less than 5 are widely distributed in the area. However, the majority of earthquakes with a magnitude of greater than 5 have been recorded in the lower Brahmaputra Valley. Earthquakes measuring between 5 and 6 on the Richter scale have primarily been felt in Assam's northern, western, southern, and eastern rims. The Brahmaputra Valley saw the majority of the earthquakes, which typically had Richter scale magnitudes between 6 and 7, on a regular basis. The areas with the highest densities of powerful earthquakes, with magnitudes ranging from 7 to 8, have been found to be central and lower Brahmaputra Valley.

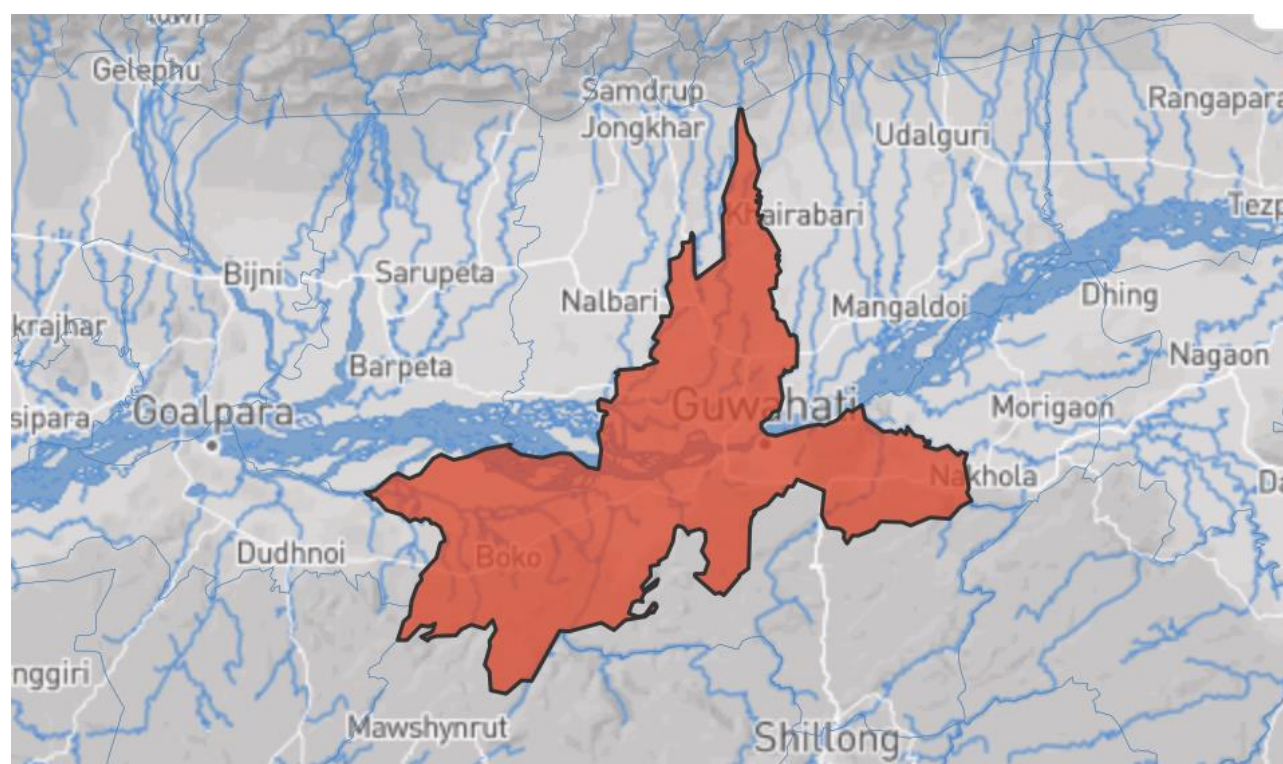
**Table 5-10: Major Earthquakes in Assam**

Place	Year	Magnitude
Cachar,	Assam January 10, 1869	Mw > 7.0
Shillong plateau	June 12, 1897	Mw 8.1 - 8.7
Sibsagar	August 31, 1906	Ms 7.0
Srimangal	July 08, 1918	Ms 7.6
SW Assam	September 9, 1923	Ms 7.1
Dhubri	July 2, 1930	Ms 7.1

Place	Year	Magnitude
Assam	January 27, 1931	Ms 7.6
N-E Assam	October 23, 1943	Ms 7.2
Upper Assam	July 29, 1949	Ms 7.6
Upper Assam	August 15, 1950	Mw 8.6-8.7

**Source:** Seismic Microzonation Atlas of Guwahati Region, Department of Science & Technology Government of India, 2007 [https://asdma.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/Seismic\\_Microzonation.pdf](https://asdma.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/Seismic_Microzonation.pdf)

**Figure 5-13: Seismic Hazard in Kamrup**



**Source:** ThinkHazard! <https://thinkhazard.org/en/>

### 3. Climate

133. The climate of Kamrup District does not differ from that of the other districts of Assam. Its principal characteristics are a cold and foggy winter, a moderately hot spring and a temperately hot but humid summer. In March and April, the weather begins to grow a little warmer. During the height of the rains, the climate is decidedly oppressive. The air is absolutely saturated with moisture and the damp heat is very trying indeed. Climatically from February to May, the weather is dry and moisture less and the heat is gentle; from June to October, there is enough rain and moisture and the heat is very unbearable and from November to January, the climate is cold and foggy. During the latter part of December and early part of January, the Brahmaputra fog can be very cold while in March, the wild wind carrying the Brahmaputra sand can be seen everywhere.

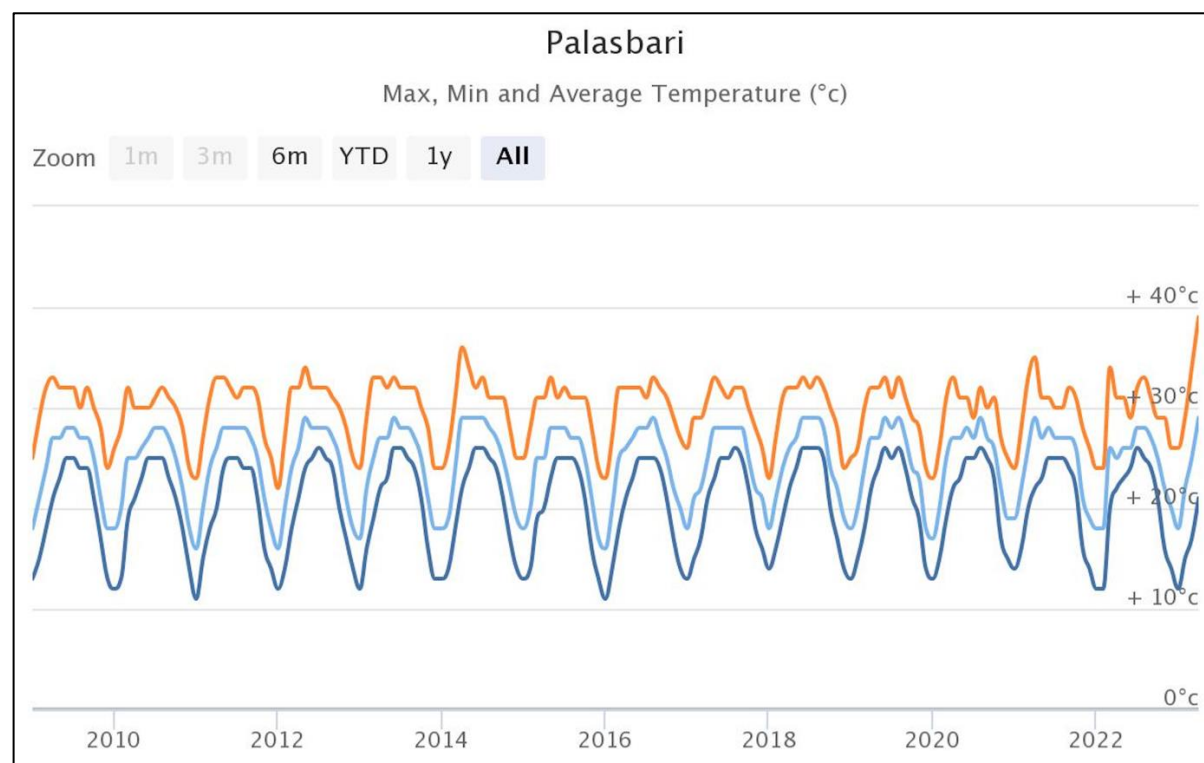
**Table 5-11: Summary of Long-Term Meteorological Data 1991 – 2021**

Parameters	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp °C	17.6 °C	20.2 °C	23.9 °C	25.1 °C	26.1 °C	27.3 °C	27.5 °C	27.7 °C	27 °C	25.3 °C	22 °C	18.9 °C
Min. Temp °C	12.3 °C	14.5°C	18.2 °C	20.9°C	22.9 °C	24.9 °C	25.4 °C	25.3°C	24.4 °C	21.8 °C	17.5 °C	13.8 °C
Max. Temp °C	22.9 °C	25.8°C	29.6 °C	29.7 °C	29.9°C	30.4 °C	30.5 °C	30.8 °C	30.3 °C	28.9 °C	26.6 °C	23.9 °C
Precipitation/Rainfall mm (in)	13 (0)	26 (1)	68 (2)	179 (7)	323 (12)	551 (21)	690 (27)	618 (24)	398 (15)	141 (5)	21 (0)	10 (0)
Humidity (%)	73%	65%	57%	73%	83%	87%	89%	88%	87%	83%	76%	74%
Rainy days	2	4	7	14	20	21	21	21	19	11	3	1

**Source:** <https://en.climate-data.org/asia/india/assam/guwahati-4864/>

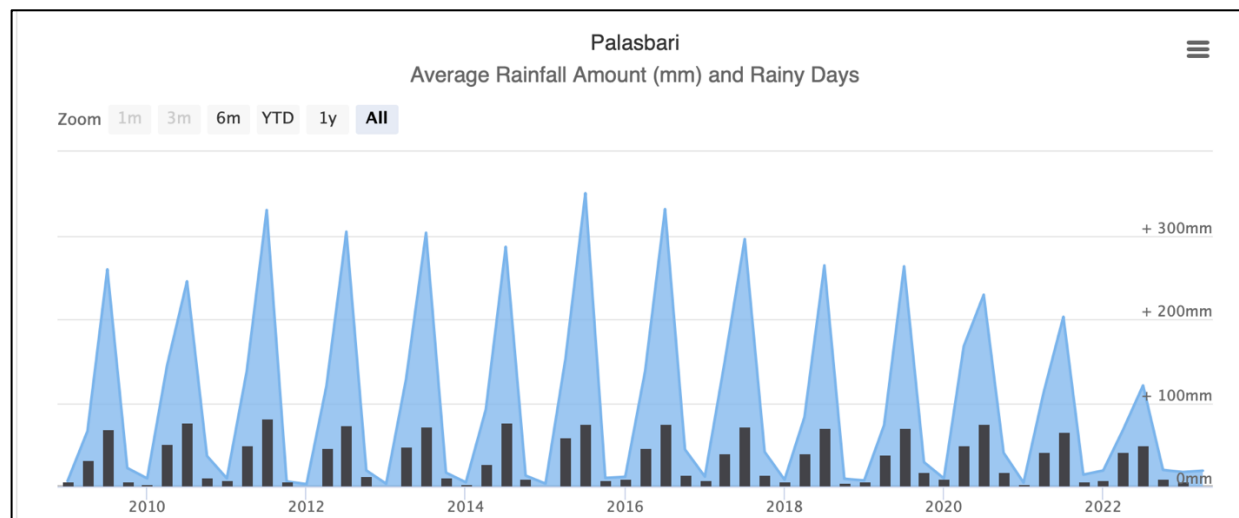
134. **Temperature** From the end of February, the mercury level gradually goes up and in July, August, and September the temperature reaches the maximum point. During these months, the mean maximum temperature does not generally come down below 31 degrees centigrade and even sometimes it goes to above 40 degrees centigrade. These months are treated as hottest months for the district in each year.

135. Average temperature ranges from 12 to 38°C during the year. In winter, temperature ranges from 15 to 25°C during day and 8 to 15°C during night. The summer temperature ranges from 25 to 38°C during day and 15 to 25°C during night. Average annual rainfall of the district is 1752 mm. The annual normal rainfall of the district is 2125.4 mm with 96.5 rainy days.



**Source:** <https://www.worldweatheronline.com/palasbari-weather-averages/assam/in.aspx>

136. **Rainfall** Most of the rainfall occurs in Kamrup District during the monsoon, i.e. from June to October each year, while during the other months of the year some rainfall also occurs due to the north western winds. The monsoon brings with it a big amount of humidity which makes the climate very oppressive although the real temperature may not be so high. As per Statistical Handbook, 2012 the average monthly rainfall was highest in the month of July with 373.4 m.m. The lowest rainfall recorded was 0.3m.m. in October.



Source: <https://www.worldweatheronline.com/palasbari-weather-averages/assam/in.aspx>

#### 4. Water Environment

137. The State of Assam in general and the Brahmaputra Valley in particular, is endowed with vast water resources potential. The Brahmaputra River and the 33 major tributaries joining it in Assam including the main trans-Himalayan tributaries of Subansiri, Jia Bharali, and Manas carry about 30% of the country's total water resources potential. Surface water bodies covering about 8,251 km<sup>2</sup> account for 10.5% of the total geographical area of the State. Of these, the river systems including waterlogged areas occupy 6,503 km<sup>2</sup>. The annual surface water availability is over 53 million ha/m. Besides, there are 3,513 wetlands in the Brahmaputra valley covering 1012.3 km areas in Assam. Groundwater is also plentifully available at shallow depth in the valley and the utilizable ground water resources estimated at over 2 million ha/m.

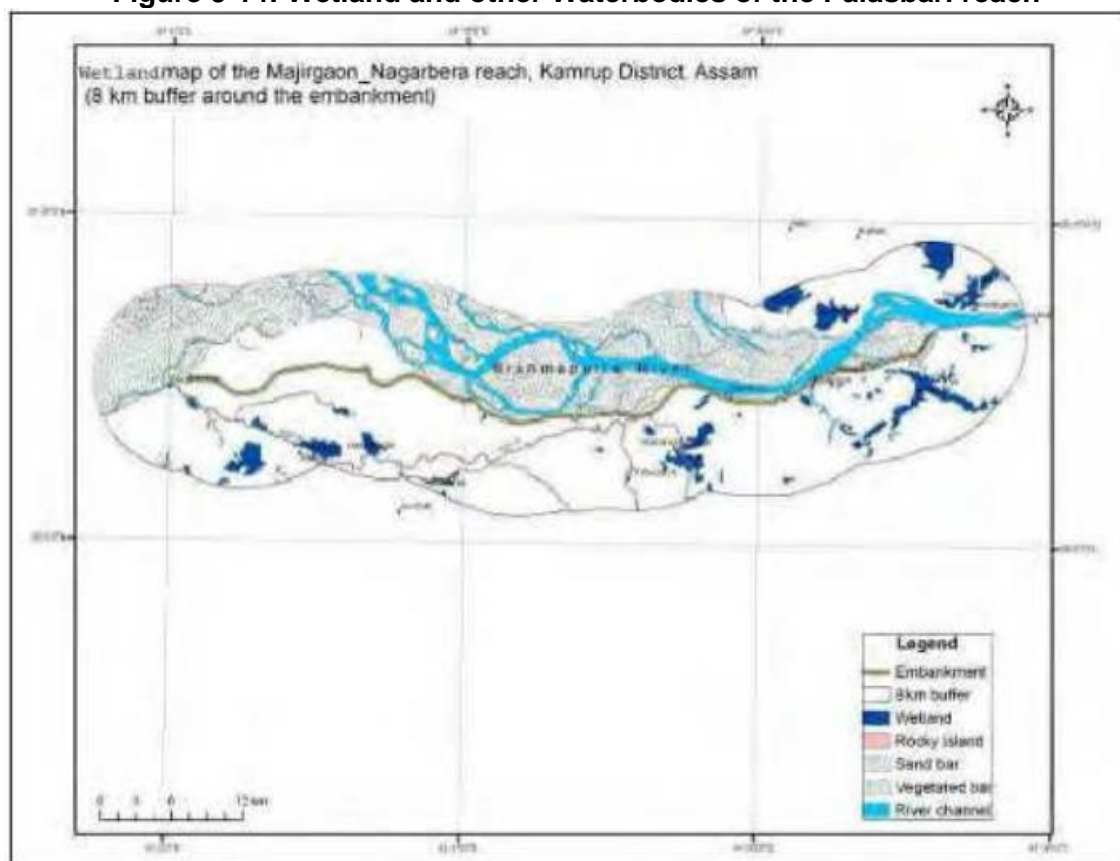
138. **Surface water** In the Palasbari reach, the Kulsi River, a major south bank tributary of the Brahmaputra originating in the Meghalaya plateau to the south, drains a large area running westward parallel close to the Brahmaputra River and eventually joining it through Jaljali River near Nagarbera Hill. The important subtributaries originating in the Meghalaya Hills that join the Kulsi River in the plains are the Boko River, the Singra River, the Kharkhari River and the Deosila River. The drainage map of the reach showing major tributary rivers and wetlands is presented in Figure 5-14.

139. The Kulsi River has a basin area of 750 km<sup>2</sup> with a maximum discharge of 191 cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) and a minimum of 7.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The annual rainfall in the basin is about 167.2 cm. The river has suffered truncation of its course and diversion at several places since 1974 forcing it to take the present course, out falling into the Brahmaputra near Nagarbera.

140. Close to the starting point of the Palasbari reach, the Khanajan River, which is an outlet channel of the Deepor Beel<sup>25</sup> - a wetland of national and international significance, designated as a Ramsar site, meets the Brahmaputra River.

141. To the west of Khanajan, a small channel called Kalbhog flows across the embankment and joins the Brahmaputra River near Palasbari. A sluice gate at Palasbari discharges the landslide water and carries Brahmaputra water to the agricultural fields during the monsoon season. The local people consider water for irrigation along with the advantage derived for fishing during the flood season a great boon. Another sluice gate at Nahira is also functional and used for irrigation during the rainy season. Truncation and diversion of the Kushi near the embankment has created several wetlands like the Kalidas beel, Alikash beel, along with extensive drainage congestion in the downstream areas. The distribution of major wetlands and other water bodies in Palasbari reach are shown in Figure 5-14.

**Figure 5-14: Wetland and other Waterbodies of the Palasbari reach**



**Source:** ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District) May 2018 [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en\\_6.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en_6.pdf)

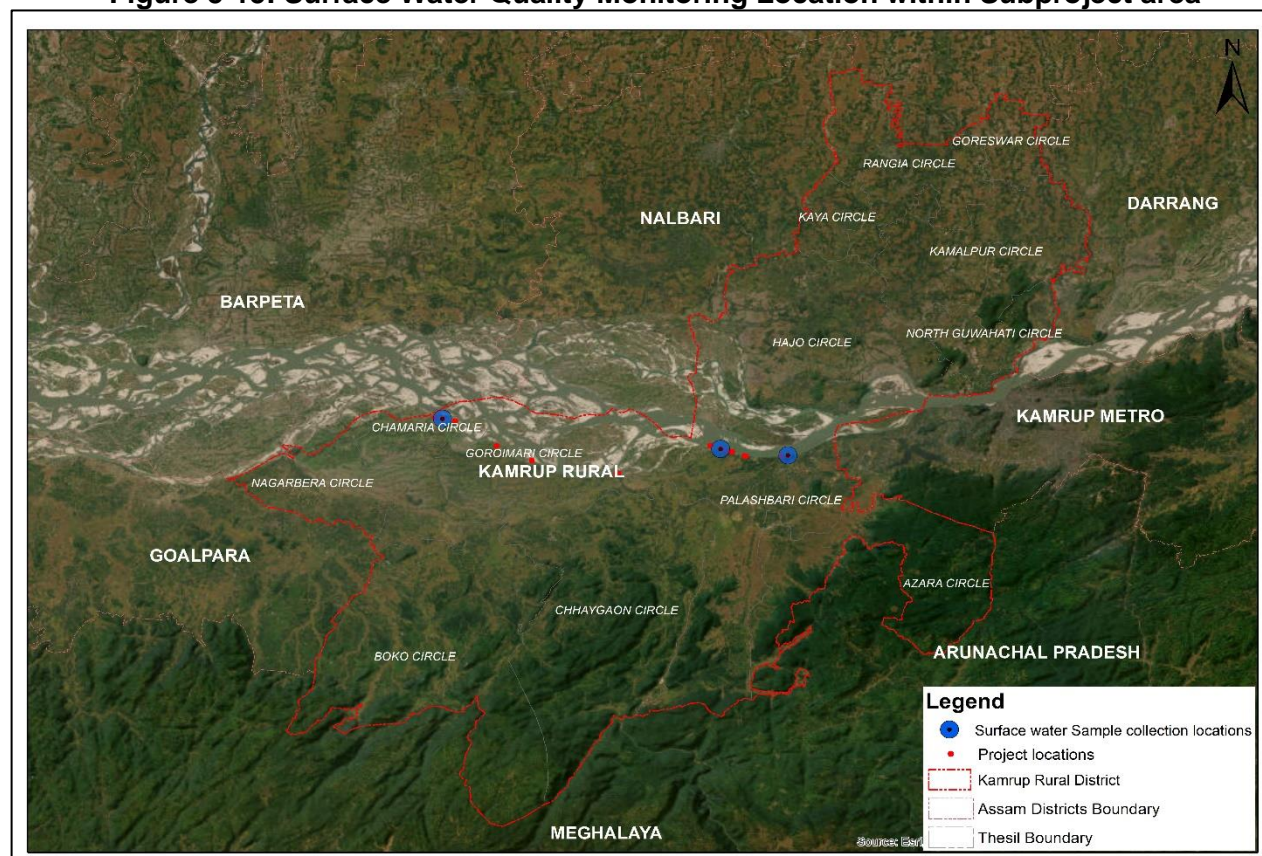
142. Water quality monitoring and analysis in regard to physico-chemical as well as biological parameters was carried out on samples collected from three locations in the project area as per Table 5-12. The locations of the sampling points are shown in Figure 5-15. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 5-13, which and these are compared with the water quality criteria of designated best use given by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

<sup>25</sup> <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/1207>

**Table 5-12: Surface Water Sampling Locations**

Sl. No	Name of Division	LAC	Village Name	Date of Monitoring	Geographical Coordinate	Subproject
1.	Kamrup	Palashbari	Dakhala	24-03-23	26° 7'2.02"N; 91°30'48.95"E	Riverbank Protection
2.	Kamrup	Boko	Panikhaity	23-03-23	26° 9'21.87"N; 91° 9'39.87"E	Riverbank Protection
3.	PGP	Palashbari	Simina	28-03-23	26° 7'24.12"N; 91°26'40.20"E	Riverbank Protection

Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

**Figure 5-15: Surface Water Quality Monitoring Location within Subproject area**

Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

**Table 5-13: Surface Water Quality Result – Subproject Area**

Sl. No	Parameters	Unit	IS: 2296 - 1992(Class C) – CPCB Tolerance Limit	WHO Standard	Test Report		
					Kamrup		
					Dakhala	Panikhaity	Simina
1	pH	-	6.5 -8.5	6-9	7.45	7.25	7.15
2	Temperature	°C	-		27.30	28.1	27.2
3	D.O	mg/l	Minimum -4		7.60	8.10	7.90
4	BOD	mg/l	30	30	3.20	3.0	3.10
5	Color	Hazen	300		5	5	5

Sl. No	Parameters	Unit	IS: 2296 - 1992(Class C) – CPCB Tolerance Limit	WHO Standard	Test Report		
					Kamrup		
					Dakhala	Panikhaity	Simina
6	Odour	-	-		Agreeable	Agreeable	Agreeable
7	TDS	mg/l	1500		316.2	272.8	318.4
8	TSS	mg/l	-	50	34.0	28.0	24.0
9	TKN	mg/l			2.7	2.3	3.1
10	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	mg/l			0.41	0.41	0.42
11	Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/l	50		4.1	3.4	2.4
12	Free Ammonia	mg/l			<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
13	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	600		14.8	14.8	14.1
14	Sulphates (as SO <sub>4</sub> )	mg/l	400		16.2	13.2	12.5
15	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1.5		0.36	0.41	0.41
16	Oil & Grease	mg/l	0.1		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
17	Phenolic Compound (as C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH)	mg/l	0.005		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
18	Arsenic	mg/l	0.2		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
19	Mercury ( as Hg)	mg/l	-		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
20	Lead ( as Pb)	mg/l	0.1		0.03	0.04	0.03
21	Cadmium ( as Cd)	mg/l	0.01		0.002	0.003	0.005
22	Chromium (as Cr+6)	mg/l	0.05		0.05	0.03	0.02
23	Copper ( as Cu)	mg/l	1.5		0.23	0.12	0.27
24	Zinc ( as Zn)	mg/l	15		0.16	0.27	0.32
25	Selenium (as Se)	mg/l	-		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
26	Anionic detergents (as MBAS)	mg/l	1.0		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
27	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	50		0.28	0.32	0.51
28	Sulphide(as H <sub>2</sub> S)	mg/l	-		0.25	0.21	0.36
29	Phosphate (as PO <sub>4</sub> )	mg/l	-		6.40	7.10	6.80
30	Cyanide (as CN)	mg/l	0.05		<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
31	Manganese (as Mn)	mg/l			0.02	0.03	0.07
32	COD	mg/l	-	125	21.6	17.4	21.2
33	Total Coliform	MPN/100ml	500		450	630	560

**Source:** Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. (LASA), 2023

143. Based on the test report it can be concluded that all the 34 parameters against which surface water is analyzed, only one parameter exceed the CPCB limits (Total Coliform) for Panikhaity and Simina locations. This increase in Total Coliform number in Brahmaputra River is mainly due to discharge of untreated sewerage water through network of drains, streams, nala, etc. from towns and cities. The monitoring reports and the sampling pictures are placed at Appendix 8.

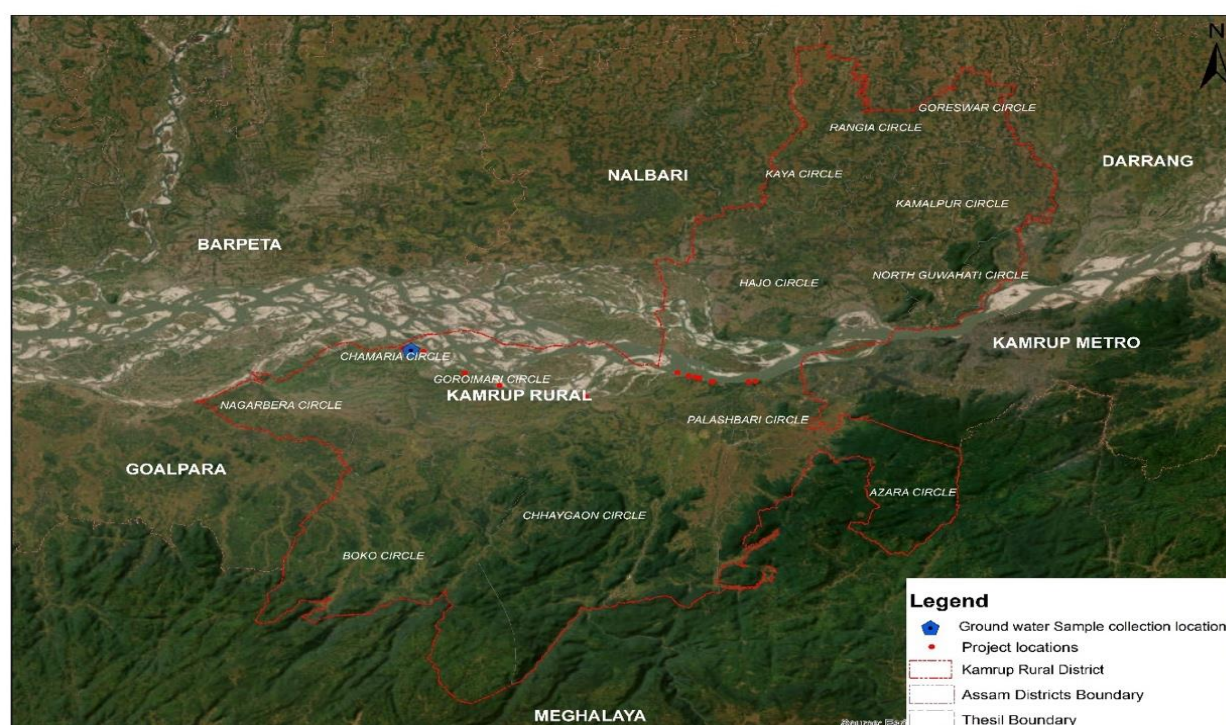
144. **Ground Water.** The entire Brahmaputra Valley especially its floodplain zone underlain by unconsolidated alluvial materials is a vast reservoir of groundwater. The dynamic resource of

groundwater in the Brahmaputra valley is estimated to be of the order of 2.79 million ha m. In the floodplain zone the depth of water is shallow, normally within 5 m below ground level. During the post monsoon period, in almost the entire flood plain area of the Brahmaputra Valley, the water table lies within 2 m below the ground surface, caused mainly by the impact of monsoon rains and recharge to the groundwater aquifers. This situation leads to water logging in large areas of the floodplain.

145. Study by Central Ground Water Board shows that the annual dynamic ground water resources as on 2009 are estimated to be 1847.29 MCM while the net annual ground water draft is 715.97 MCM. The stage of ground water development is 43%. The projected demand for domestic and industrial uses up to 2025 is estimated to be about 105.16 MCM. The district is still under 'Safe' category and sufficient resources are still available for future development.

146. Groundwater quality of sample taken from tubewell located at Panikhaity  $26^{\circ} 9'21.87''N$   $91^{\circ} 9'39.87''E$  near settlement/ghat on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 in Kamrup subproject area. The sample location is indicated in the Figure 5-16 Based on the ground water test report and its comparison with the WHO and IS:10500(2012) standards, it can be concluded all monitored parameters are within the permissible limits. The ground water is fit for drinking. The results of the groundwater quality are presented in Table 5-14

**Figure 5-16: Ground Water Quality Monitoring Locations within Subproject Area**



Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

**Table 5-14: Ground Water Quality Result – Panikhyti Kamrup**

Sl. No	Parameters	Unit	Limit (IS-10500:2012)		WHO Drinking Water Standard	Test Result
			Desirable Limit	Permissible Limit		
1	Color	Hazen	5	15	5	<5
2	Odour	-	Agreeable	Agreeable	Un Objectionable	Agreeable



Sl. No	Parameters	Unit	Limit (IS-10500:2012)		WHO Drinking Water Standard	Test Result
			Desirable Limit	Permissible Limit		
3	Taste	-	Agreeable	Agreeable		Agreeable
4	Turbidity	NTU	1	5	1.5	<1
5	pH	-	6.5-8.5	No Relaxation	8.2-8.8	7.2
6	Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/l	200	600		116.4
7	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	1.0	No Relaxation		0.51
8	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	250	1000		31.3
9	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1	1.5	0.5	0.41
10	TDS	mg/l	500	2000		332.2
11	Calcium(as Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	mg/l	75	200		34.2
12	Magnesium (as Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	mg/l	30	100		11.8
13	Sulphate (as SO <sub>4</sub> )	mg/l	200	400	0 Max	14.2
14	Nitrate(as NO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/l	45	No Relaxation	3	10.7
15	Total Chromium (as Cr)	mg/l	0.05	No Relaxation	0.05	<0.01
16	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	mg/l	200	600		158.2
17	Aluminum (as Al)	mg/l	0.03	0.2		<0.01
18	Total Arsenic(as As)	mg/l	0.01	No Relaxation	0.01	<0.01
19	Copper ( as Cu)	mg/l	0.05	1.5	2	<0.05
20	Manganese ( as Mn)	mg/l	0.1	0.3	0.4	<0.01
21	Zinc ( as Zn)	mg/l	5	15		0.21
22	Ammonia (as NH <sub>3</sub> -N)	mg/l	0.5	No Relaxation		<0.1
23	Anionic Detergents(as MBAS)	mg/l	0.2	1		<0.1
24	Boron(as B)	mg/l	0.5	1	0.5	<0.5(BDL)
25	Mineral Oil	mg/l	0.5	No Relaxation		<0.1
26	Phenolic Compound ( as C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH)	mg/l	0.001	0.002		<0.001
27	Cadmium ( as Cd)	mg/l	0.003	No Relaxation	0.003	<0.002
28	Cyanide( as CN)	mg/l	0.05	No Relaxation		<0.1
29	Lead	mg/l	0.01	No Relaxation	0.01	<0.01
30	Mercury( as Hg)	mg/l	0.001	No Relaxation	0.006	<0.001
31	Nickel (as Ni)	mg/l	0.02	No Relaxation	0.07	<0.02
32	Residual Free Chlorine	mg/l	0.2	1.0	0.5-1.5	<0.2

Sl. No	Parameters	Unit	Limit (IS-10500:2012)		WHO Drinking Water Standard	Test Result
			Desirable Limit	Permissible Limit		
33	Molybdenum (Mo)	mg/l	<0.05	0.07		No Relaxation
34	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons	mg/l	<0.0001	0.0001		No Relaxation
35	Poly chlorinated biphenyl	mg/l	<0.0001	0.0005		No Relaxation
36	Total Coli form	MPN/100ml	Shall not be detectable in any 100 ml of sample		Absent	<1
37	<i>E. Coli</i>	<i>E. coli</i> /100ml	Shall not be detectable in any 100 ml of sample		Absent	Absent

**Source:** LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

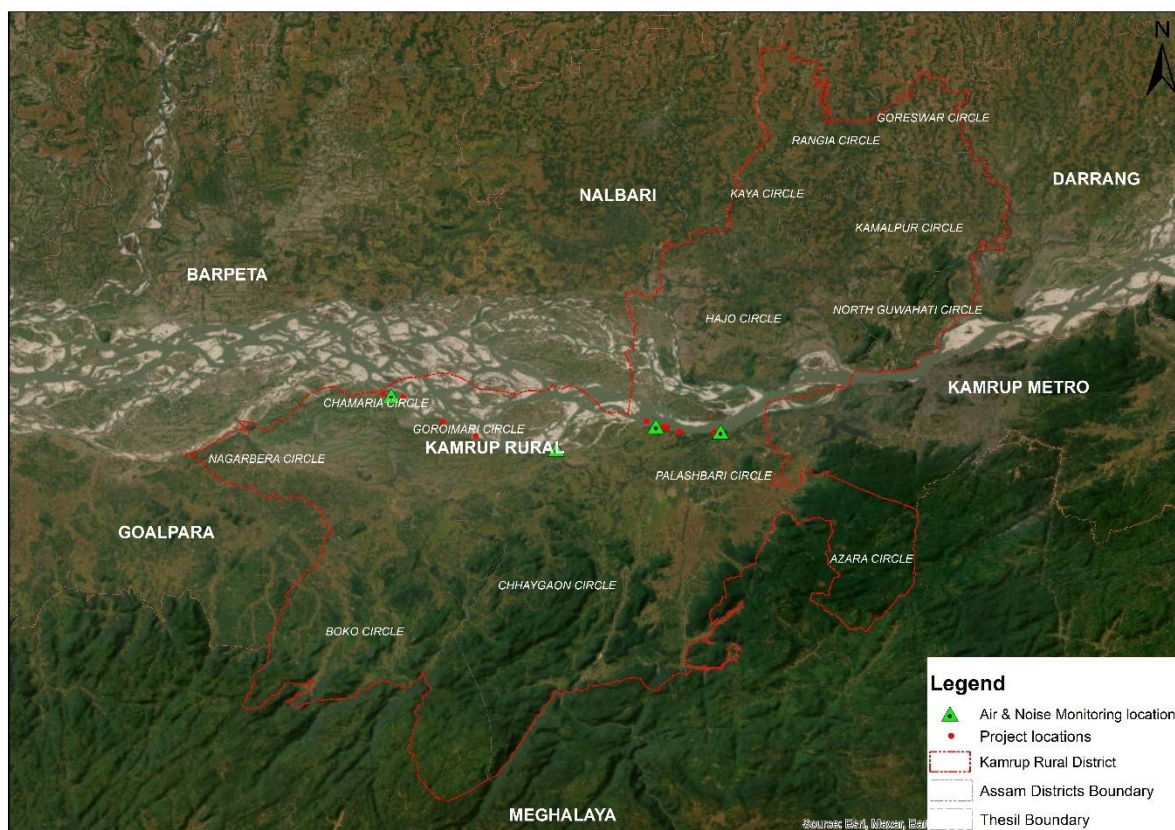
147. Based on the ground water test report and its comparison with the WHO and IS:10500(2012) standards, it can be concluded all monitored parameters are within the permissible limits. The ground water is fit for drinking. The monitoring reports and the sampling pictures are placed at Appendix 8

## 5. Air Quality

148. The subproject area being rural in character with limited economic development and infrastructure, the ambient air environment is relatively undisturbed. However, in order to scientifically establish the baseline air quality status as required in this assessment and in view of its future relevance, ambient air quality was monitored at four locations in the field as indicated in Figure 5-17. The monitoring locations were finalized based on available sensitive receptors, land-use patterns and competitive users. To carry out measurement of ambient air pollution, CPCB Guidelines – Guideline for the Measurement of Ambient Air Pollutants were referred. The monitoring locations were finalized based on Guidelines for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring issued by CPCB.

149. The results of ambient air quality monitoring in the reach are presented in Table 5-15. The ambient air quality results have also been compared with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and WHO Ambient Air Quality Guidelines for Residential and Rural Areas in India. The average time for monitoring for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> is 24 hours and for CO is 1 hour.

**Figure 5-17: Ambient Air & Noise Level Monitoring Locations within Subproject Area**



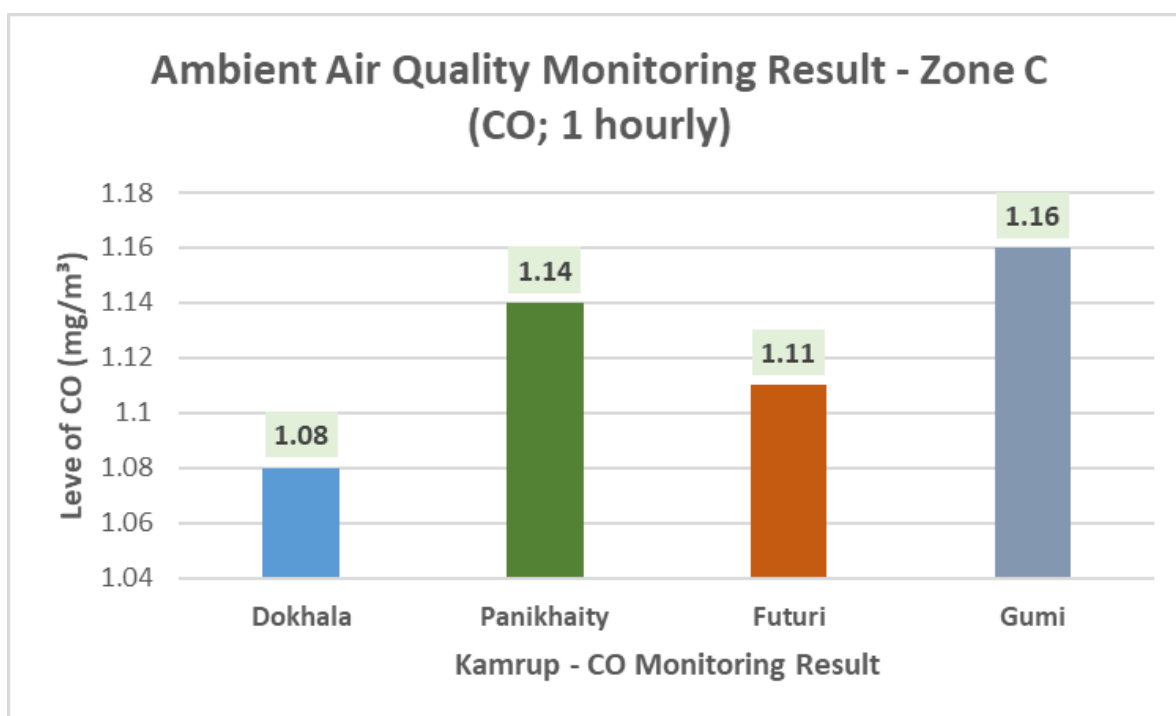
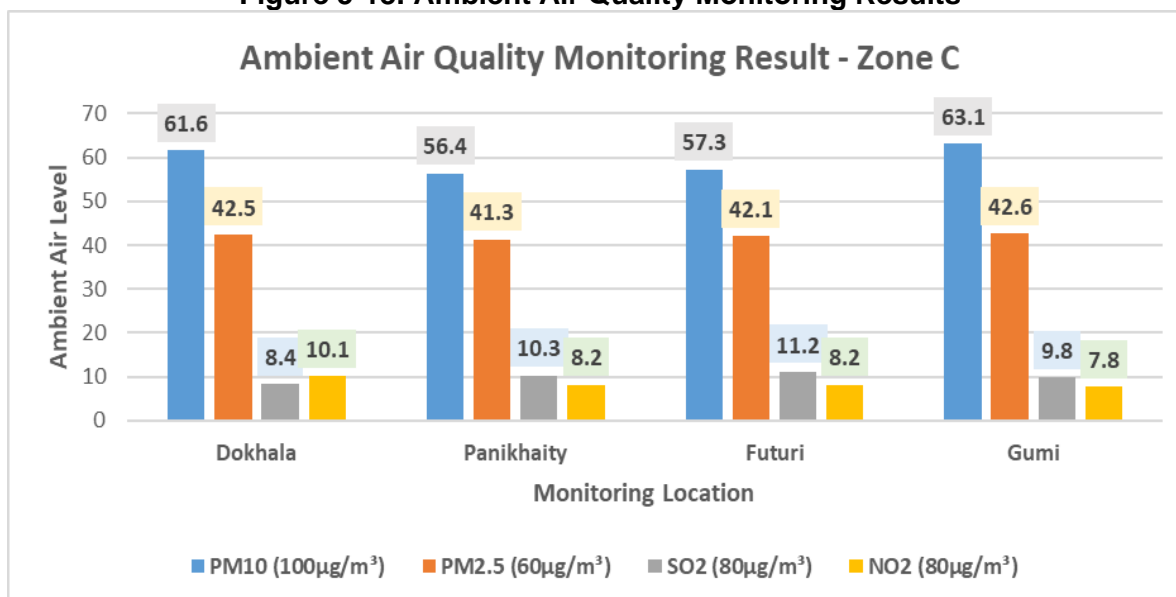
Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

**Table 5-15: Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations and Result**

Date of Monitoring	Village Name	Geographical Coordinate	Sensitive Receptors	Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Parameters				
				PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	CO	NO <sub>2</sub>
24-03-23	Dokhala	26° 7'2.02"N 91°30'48.95"E	Green cover area	61.6	42.5	8.4	1.08	10.1
23-03-23	Panikhaity	26° 9'21.87"N 91° 9'39.87"E	Settlement/ghat	56.4	41.3	10.3	1.14	8.2
28-03-23	Futuri	26° 7'24.12"N 91°26'40.20"E	Settlement Area/Futuri Mokadhos L.P School	57.3	42.1	11.2	1.11	8.2
29-03-23	Gumi	26° 5'55.60"N 91°20'15.76"E	Settlement Area/School	63.1	42.6	9.8	1.16	7.8
<b>National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Industrial, Residential, Rural &amp; other Areas</b>				<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>4 (1 hourly)</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>WHO Ambient Air Quality Guidelines (interim target 1)</b>				<b>150</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200 Guidelines</b>

Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

**Figure 5-18: Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Results**



150. **Source:** LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023Based on monitored data reflected in the table above the monitoring result for Particulate Matter of size 10µ (PM<sub>10</sub>) level at all monitored locations in the subproject are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (100 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and it is also established that maximum value of SO<sub>2</sub> level is 11.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in subproject Zone C at Location PGP; Futuri while as the monitored CO minimum value reported is 1.08mg/m<sup>3</sup> at Kamrup Village Dokhala. Furthermore, from the monitored result it can also be concluded that NO<sub>2</sub> minimum value of 7.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is reported at subproject Zone C location Guwahati west; Gumi Village. The monitoring reports and the sampling pictures are placed at Appendix 8

## 6. Noise Environment

151. Ambient noise levels along the subproject area have been monitored at Dokhala, Panikhaity, Faturi, and Gumi during day and nighttime as per the directives issued by CPCB- Protocol for Ambient Level Noise Monitoring. Monitoring was carried out continuously for 24h hrs. Day time monitoring duration is from 6:00 A.M to 10 :00 P.M. Night Time noise monitoring duration start from 10:00 P.M to 6:00 A.M.

152. In the absence of any major source of noise pollution in the immediate vicinity of the impact corridor, the noise levels observed were well within the standards for residential areas. The sampling location for noise level monitoring is indicated in the Figure 5-19. The ambient noise levels during day and nighttime are presented in Table 5-16.

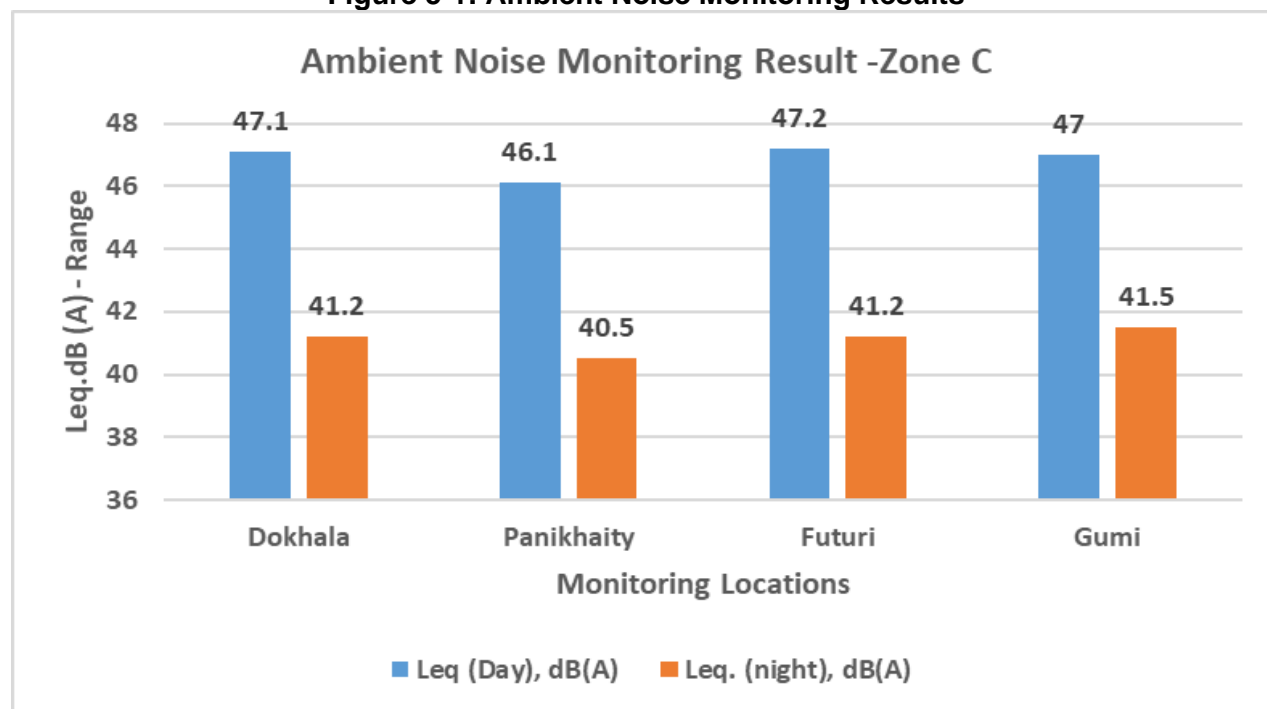
**Table 5-16: Ambient Noise Monitoring Location & Result**

Date of Monitoring	Village Name	Geographical Coordinate	Sensitive Receptors	Noise Monitoring Result	
				Leq (Day), dB(A)	Leq. (night), dB(A)
24-03-23	Dokhala	26°7'2.02"N 91°30'48.95"E	Green cover area	47.1	41.2
23-04-23	Panikhaity	26° 9'21.87"N 91°9'39.87"E	Settlement/g hat	46.1	40.5
28-03-23	Faturi	26°7'24.12"N 91°26'40.20"E	Settlement Area/Faturi Mokadhos L.P School	47.2	41.2
29-03-23	Gumi	26° 5'55.60"N 91°20'15.76"E	Settlement Area/School	47.0	41.5
<b>National Standards (CPCB) <sup>26</sup></b>			Silent Area	55	45
			Residential Area	65	45
			Commercial area	75	70
			Industrial Area		
<b>World Bank - Noise Level Guidelines <sup>27</sup></b> (Day time (07:00 – 22:00 ); Nighttime (22:00 – 07:00))			Residential; institutional; educational	55	45
			Industrial; commercial	70	70

**Source:** LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

<sup>26</sup> Gazette of India, vide S.O. 123(E), dated 14.2.2000 and subsequently amended by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 vide S.O. 1046(E), dated 22.11.2000 and by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 vide S.O. 1088(E), dated 11.10.2002, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

<sup>27</sup> Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines GENERAL EHS GUIDELINES: ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE MANAGEMENT – World Bank Group

**Figure 5-1: Ambient Noise Monitoring Results**

**Max Leq.dB (A) – 47.2; Min Leq. dB(A) – 40.5**

Source: LASA Primary Survey Report, 2023

153. Based on the Figure 5-19 it is clear that the background ambient noise level fall in the range residential area Category of CPCB and from the results it can be concluded that background noise level within respective category of CPCB is within the permissible limit for day and nighttime. The monitoring reports and the sampling pictures are placed at Appendix 8.

## 7. Key Physical Aspects

154. Summary of the key physical aspects in the PAI are given in Table 5-17.

**Table 5-17: Summary of Key Physical Environmental setting in PAI**

Particulars	Key Features in PAI
Elevation and Topography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general elevation of the project sites is around 50 m above mean sea level (AMSL). The project area is characterized by undulating plain.</li> </ul>
Land Use and Land Cover – Study Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physiography is characterized primarily by plains</li> <li>LU is predominantly agrarian</li> </ul>
Microclimatic condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The climate in the district is moderate during the winter and in summer, it is hot.</li> <li>The maximum temperature is 40 degree Celsius during July and August, a minimum temperature falls up to 12 degrees Celsius in the month of January</li> <li>Monsoon rain normally begins from the early part of the month of June and heavy rain occurs in the district till the month of September. Annual normal rainfall of the district is 2125.4 mm with 96.5 rainy days</li> </ul>
Geological and Climatic Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seismic hazards: Zone-V and Very High Damage Risk Zone</li> </ul>

Particulars	Key Features in PAI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface Water Flooding – High Medium Risk</li> <li>• Landslides – Low Risk area</li> <li>• Storms and cyclones–High Risk area</li> </ul>
General environmental conditions – soils, air quality, noise, water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parameters are within CPCB standards in general</li> </ul>

Source: ADB TA Consultant

## E. Biological Setting

### 1. Protected Areas (PA)

155. The State of Assam is a constituent unit of the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Region; one of the two biodiversity “Hot Spots” in the country. The climatic condition and wide variety in physical features witnessed in Assam have resulted in a diversity of ecological habitats such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, which harbour and sustain wide ranging floral and faunal species placing.

156. The State of Assam has 5 National Parks (NP), 17 Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) and 1 Ramsar wetland site which is also a WLS. There is 21 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the state<sup>28, 29</sup>. The details are as follows:

**Table 5-18: Summary of Protected Areas in Assam**

Sl. No.	Name	National Status <sup>30, 31</sup>	IUCN Protected Area Level/Ramsar Criteria	IBA Criteria <sup>32, 33</sup>	KBA	Critical Habitat as a PA
1	Dibru-Saikhowa NP	NP	Not categorized yet but considered as Category II as per IUCN criteria	A1, A2	e	Supports CR/EN species
2	Kaziranga NP	NP	Category II (NP) & X (World Heritage Site) as per IUCN criteria <sup>34</sup>	A1, A2, A4i, A4iii	Yes	Fulfils IUCN category II PA criterion

<sup>28</sup> Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. KBAs comprise an “umbrella” set of internationally recognized priority sites for biodiversity that includes Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites. IBAs are priority sites for bird conservation because they regularly hold significant populations of one or more globally or regionally threatened, endemic or congregatory bird species, or highly representative bird assemblages.

<sup>29</sup> WII ENVIS, Govt. of India. 2017. [http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/Key\\_Biodiversity\\_Areas\\_8647.aspx](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/Key_Biodiversity_Areas_8647.aspx)

<sup>30</sup> WII ENVIS, Govt. of India. 2023. [http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/wls\\_8230.aspx](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/wls_8230.aspx)

<sup>31</sup> Assam State Biodiversity Board, Govt. of Assam. <https://asbb.assam.gov.in/information-services/protected-area-network>

<sup>32</sup> BirdLife International (2022) Country profile: India (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/india>)

<sup>33</sup> Rahmani, A.R., Islam, M.Z. and Kasambe, R.M. (2016) Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in India: Priority Sites for Conservation (Revised and updated). Bombay Natural History Society, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and BirdLife International (U.K.). Pp. 1992 + xii

<sup>34</sup> IUCN. 1990. IUCN Directory of South Asian Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K. xxiv + 294pp. [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/8084/IUCN\\_directory\\_South\\_Asian\\_Protected\\_Areas.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/8084/IUCN_directory_South_Asian_Protected_Areas.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y)

Sl. No.	Name	National Status <sup>30, 31</sup>	IUCN Protected Area Level/Ramsar Criteria	IBA Criteria <sup>32, 33</sup>	KBA	Critical Habitat as a PA
3	Manas NP	NP	Category IV (habitat or species management area) as per IUCN	A1, A2	Yes	Supports CR/EN species
4	Nameri NP	NP	Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A2	Yes	Supports CR/EN & endemic species
5	Orang NP	NP	Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A4ii	Yes	Supports CR/EN and migratory species
6	Amchang WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	Supports CR/EN species
7	Barail WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A2, A3	Yes, as part of Barail Range	Supports CR/EN & endemic species
8	Barnadi WLS	WLS	Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
9	Bherjan-Borajan-Podumoni WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
10	Burachapori WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A2	Yes	-
11	Chakrashila WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A4i, A4iii	Yes	-
12	Deepor Beel	Ramsar Site	Ramsar Site per criterion 1, 2, 4, 7 & 8. Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A4iii	Yes	Ramsar site it is a wetland that provides key ecosystem services/fish breeding ground
13	East Karbi Anglong WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
14	Garampani WLS	WLS	Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
15	Hollongapar-Gibbon WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	Supports CR/EN & endemic species

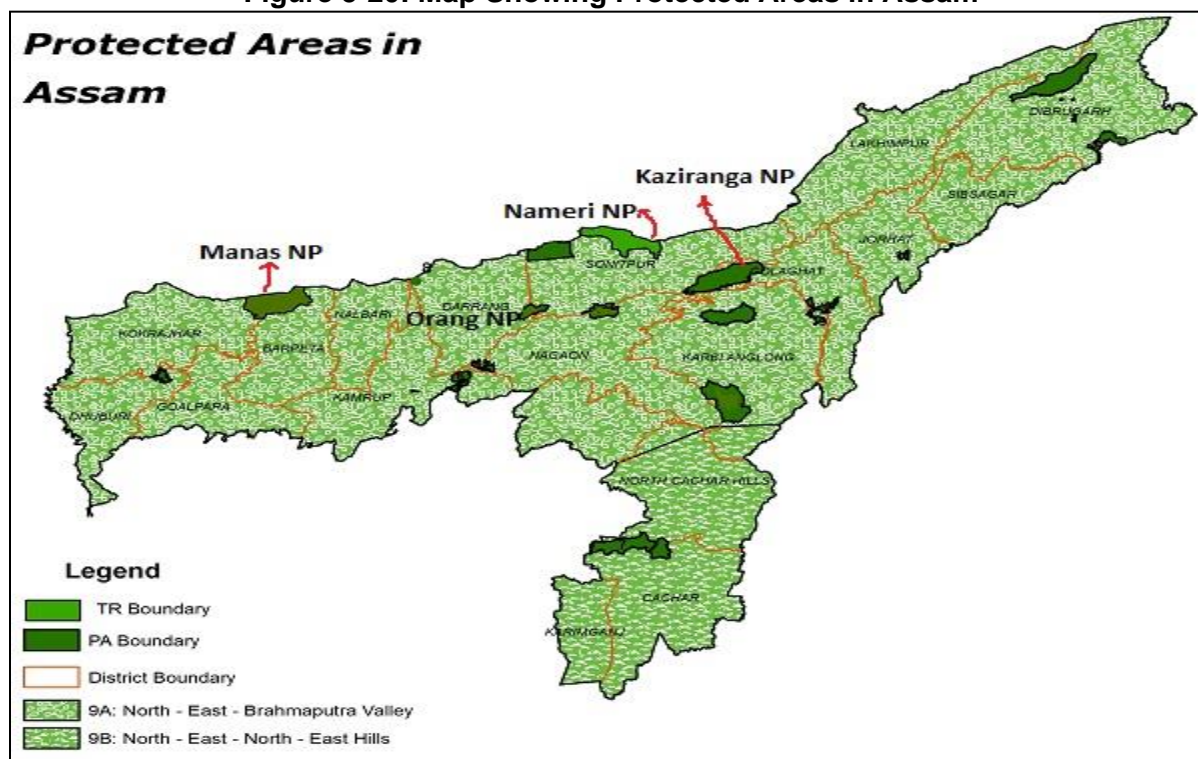


Sl. No.	Name	National Status <sup>30, 31</sup>	IUCN Protected Area Level/Ramsar Criteria	IBA Criteria <sup>32, 33</sup>	KBA	Critical Habitat as a PA
16	Laokhowa WLS	WLS	Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A2	Yes	Supports CR/EN & endemic species
17	Marat Longri WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
18	Nambor Doigrung WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
19	Nambor WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	-
20	Pabitora WLS	WLS	Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A2, A4iii	Yes	Supports CR/EN & migratory species
21	Pani-Dihing WLS	WLS	Not categorized yet but considered as Category IV as per IUCN	A1, A4iii	Yes	-
22	Sonai-Rupai WLS	WLS	Category IV as per IUCN	A1	Yes	Supports CR/EN species

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, IBA = important bird area, KBA = Key Biodiversity Areas, IUCN = International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

Figure 5-20: Map Showing Protected Areas in Assam



Source: Wildlife Institute of India.

[http://wiienviis.nic.in/WriteReadData/UserFiles/image/PAs\\_Map\\_Database/images/assam\\_enviis1.jpg](http://wiienviis.nic.in/WriteReadData/UserFiles/image/PAs_Map_Database/images/assam_enviis1.jpg)

## 2. Areas of Eco-sensitivity/Protected Area/Restricted Area in the Project Area

157. There are no notified protected areas within 10km of the project intervention areas. The Assam Plains is reported to be an Endemic Bird Area (EBA)<sup>35</sup> as per Birdlife International. A part of the subproject area falls under the EBA.

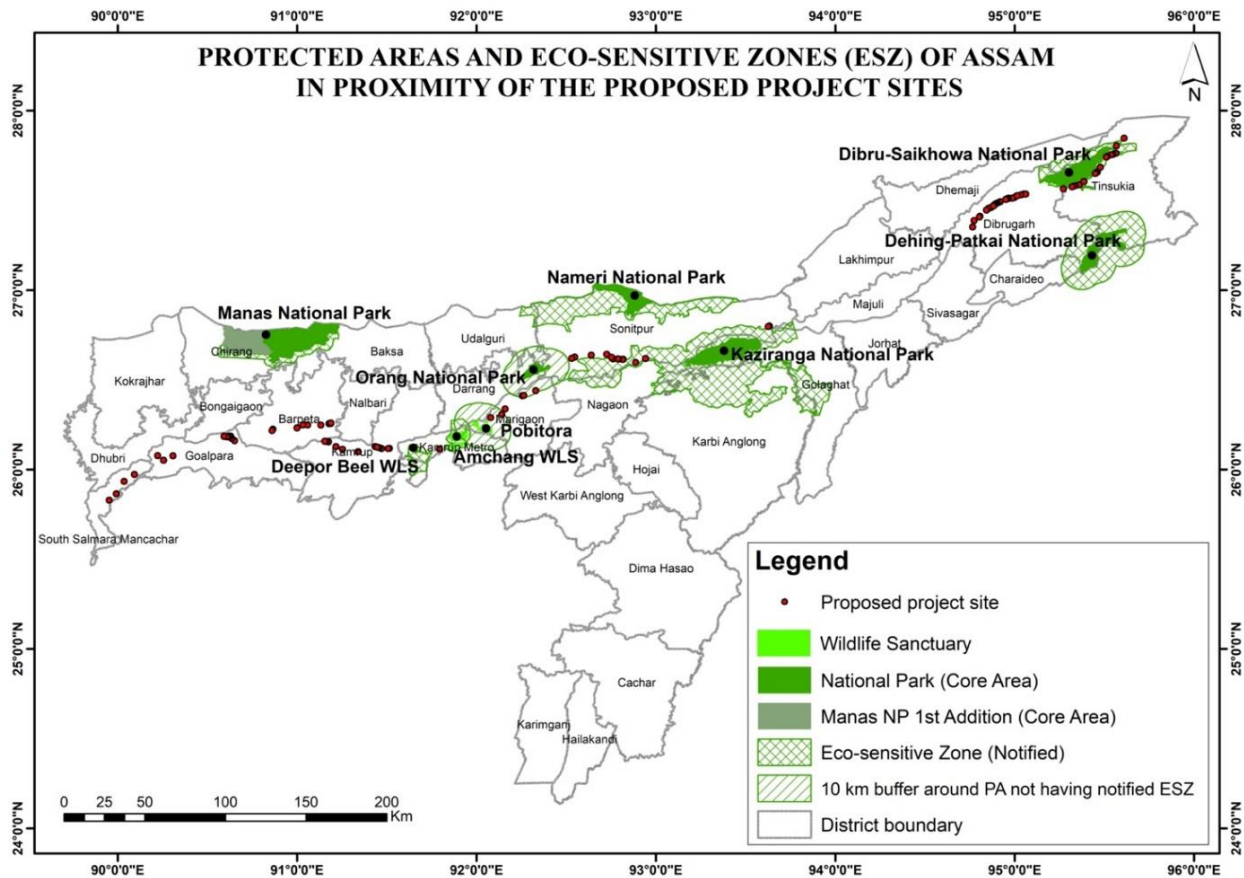
Table 5-19: Protected Areas and KBAs within the Project Area

Name	PA (Name & Distance - within)			KBA (Name & Distance - within)		
	1 km	5 Km	10 km	1 km	5 Km	>10 km
Kamrup	-	-	-	-	-	Deepor Beel Bird Sanctuary is at an aerial distance of approx. 11.5 kilometers from nearest subproject site Dakhala Kalitarapa.

Source: IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

<sup>35</sup> BirdLife International (2023) Endemic Bird Areas factsheet: Assam plains. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/eba/search> on 24/05/2023. BirdLife Data Zone

**Figure 5-21: Map Showing Protected Areas & ESZs in Proximity to Project Sites**

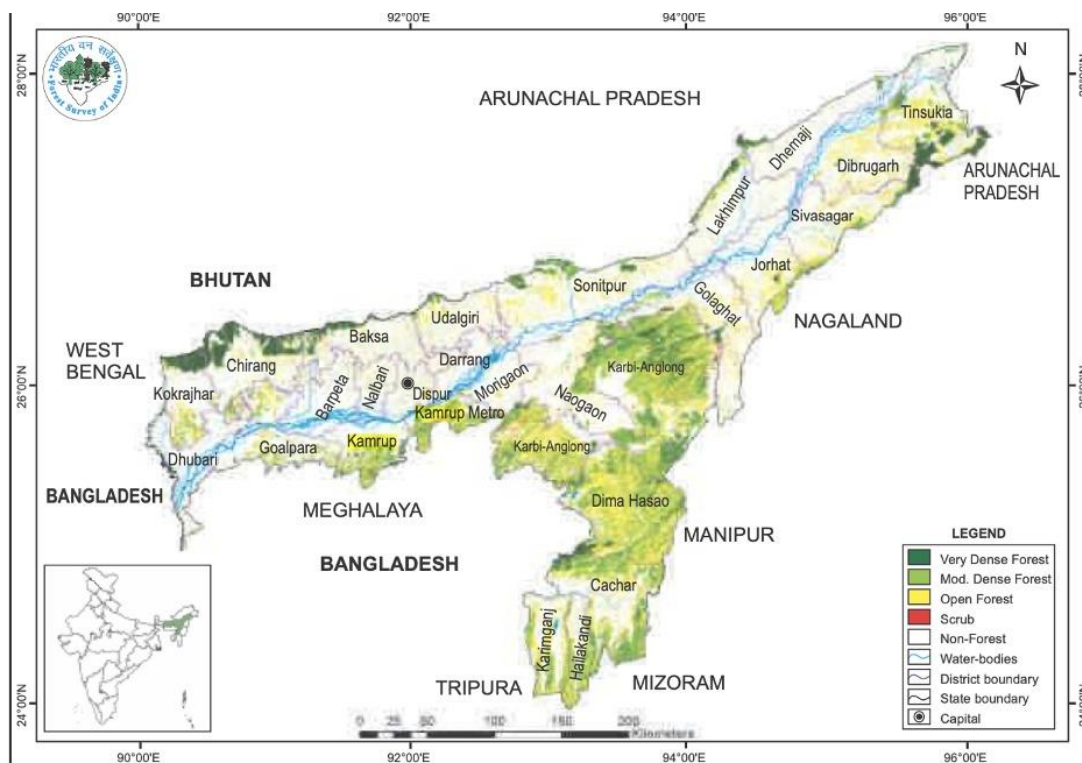


Source: Chief Wildlife Warden Assam through WRD

### 3. Forests

158. The total Recorded Forest Area (RFA) in the State is 26,836 sq km. which is 34.21 % of the total geographical area of the State. Out of the total RFA, 17,864 sq. km is Reserve Forest and 8,972 sq. km is unclassed forests. The Forest Cover of the State is 28,311.51 sq. km. which is 36.09 % of total geographical Area excluding the 227.94 sq. km. of Scrub Forest Area. The Very Dense Forest Area is 3016.67 sq. km., Moderate Dense Forest is 9991.02 sq. km. and Open Forest is 15,303.82 sq. km.

Figure 5-22: Forest Cover Map of Assam



Source: <http://fsi.nic.in/isfr19/vol2/isfr-2019-vol-ii-assam.pdf> and India State of Forest Report, 2021,

159. The forest in Assam can be described into following types/sub-types<sup>36</sup>:-

- Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests
- Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests
- Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests
- Sub-tropical Broadleaf Hill Forests.
- Sub-tropical Pine Forests
- Littoral and Swamp Forests
- Grassland and Savannahs

Table 5-20: Statement of Forest Land in Project Districts

District/State	Geographical Area km <sup>2</sup>	Forest Area	
		Total km <sup>2</sup>	% Total Forest Area in State
Dibrugarh	3381	758.52	22.43
Goalpara	1824	404.61	22.18
Kamrup	3105	966.70	31.13
Morigaon	1551	176.41	11.37
Tinsukia	3790	1583.38	41.78
<b>Assam</b>	<b>78,438</b>	<b>38,311.51</b>	<b>36.09</b>

Source: India State of Forest Report, 2021, Forest Survey of India

<sup>36</sup> <https://environmentandforest.assam.gov.in/information-services/biodiversity-of-assam-0>

160. As per Champion and Seth categorization, the project area falls in Moist Deciduous Forest type. In these forest Sal grows in association with Lagerstroemia species (Jarul, Ajar), Schima Wallichii (Ghugra), Stereospermum personatum (Paruli), Adina cordifolia (Haldu), Artocarpus species (Sam), Ficus species (Bor, Dimoru, Dhupbor, Bot, Athabor, tengabor, Lotadioru, Khongaldimoru), Bischofia javanica (Uriam), Gmelina arborea (Gomari), Michelia champaca (*Teeta champa*), Terminalia species (Hilikha, Bhomora, Bohera). Toona ciliate (Poma) etc.

#### 4. Wetlands

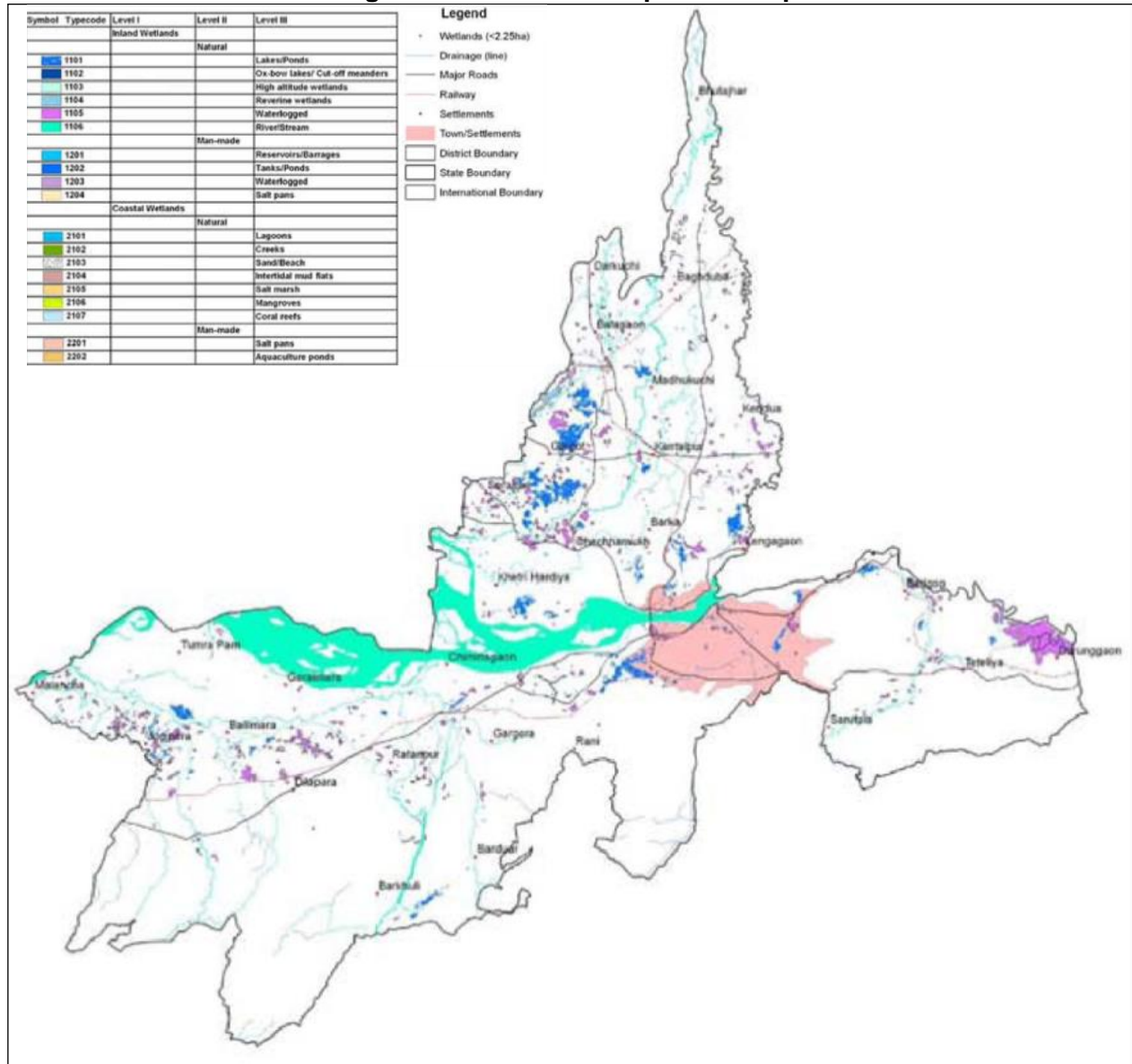
161. In Assam, approximately 7% of total land surface is covered by wetlands, but in Goalpara district the percentage is remarkably high. In Kamrup rural District 5.71% of land surface is covered by wetlands. Therefore wetland plays a pivotal role in the land use planning and economy of the district. Total wetland area in the district is 43655 ha that includes 228 small wetlands (<2.25 ha). river/stream occupies 68.29% of wetlands. The other major wetland type is Lake/pond (14.25%) and Waterlogged (15.51%). There are 74 lake/pond (locally called as Beels) with 6220 ha area. The other wetland types are: Ox-bow lakes (0.62%) and Riverine (0.71%).

**Table 5-21: Area Estimates of Wetlands in Kamrup**

Wetland Category	No. of Wetlands	Total Wetland Area (Ha.)	Percentage of wetland area	Open Water (Ha.)	
				Post-monsoon Area	Pre-monsoon Area
<b>Inland Wetlands - Natural</b>					
Lakes/Ponds	74	6220	14.25	4082	1369
Ox-bow lakes/Cut-off meanders	36	271	0.62	209	114
High altitude wetlands	-	-	-	-	-
Riverine wetlands	11	310	0.71	225	56
Waterlogged	441	6769	15.51	6036	2361
River/Stream	41	29813	68.29	14512	14512
<b>Inland Wetlands -Man-made</b>					
Reservoirs/Barrages	-	-	-	-	-
Tanks/Ponds	11	44	0.10	42	31
Waterlogged	-	-	-	-	-
Total - Inland	614	43427	68.39	25106	18443
Sub-Total	340	33070	99.55	20348	20065
Wetlands (<2.25 ha), mainly Tanks	228	228	0.52	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>43655</b>	<b>68.92</b>	<b>25106</b>	<b>18443</b>

**Source:** National Wetland Atlas: Assam, SAC/RESA/AFEG/NWIA/ATLAS/18/2010, Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad, India, 174p.

Figure 5-23: Wetland Map of Kamrup

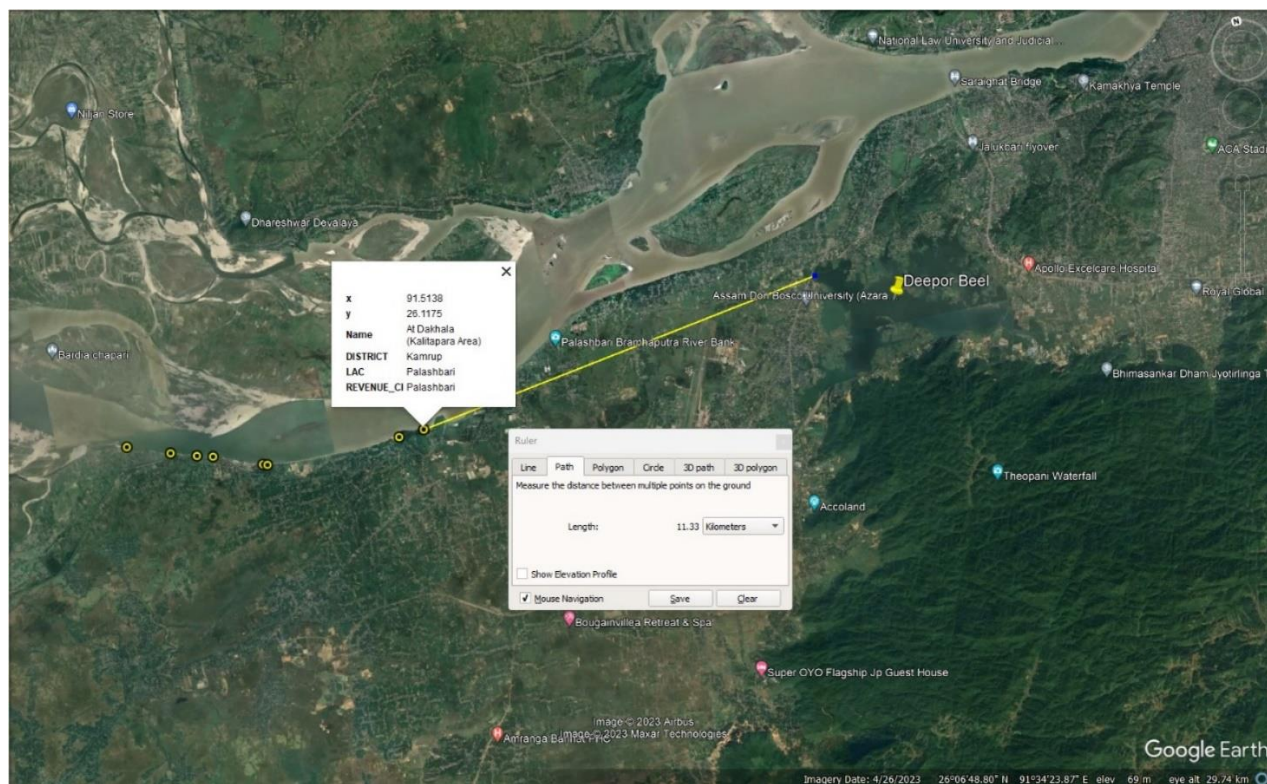


Source: National Wetland Atlas: Assam, SAC/RESA/AFEG/NWIA/ATLAS/18/2010, Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad, India, 174p.

5. Wetlands around Project Sites

162. There are very few perennial wetlands available near the subproject area. The existing wetlands are Deepor Beel, Mora Kulsi, Jahirpur, Alikash, and Bejisuti- Kalidas Beels. The Deepor Beel is a designated Ramsar site and is situated at an aerial distance of approximately 11.5 kilometers from nearest subproject site Dakhala Kalitarapa as indicated in the Figure 5-24. A sluice gate was installed on Kalbhog channel at Palasbari embankment connecting Deepor Beel with Brahmaputra under previous ADB financed project AIFRERMIP which has helped in resolving drainage problem and resultant inundation during heavy rainfall in the subproject area. The construction of pumphouse and installation of the pumps proposed under this subproject will further enhance the capacity to dispose the excess water.

**Figure 5-24: Location of Deepor Beel with respect to nearest subproject site**



Source: WRD

## 6. Ecology in Project Area

163. The Brahmaputra River has structured the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem of the floodplain zones. People living in the floodplain of the river depend on the ecological supports of the Brahmaputra River and its monsoon flood. Almost every year, river water inundates the entire low-lying areas of the floodplains and thus rejuvenates the land with natural fertilizer and biodiversity components.

164. Favourable geographical location, diversified topography and ideal climatic conditions have made Assam very rich in biodiversity. The vegetation of Assam is primarily of tropical type covering areas of evergreen, semi-evergreen, grasslands, deciduous forests, grasslands and riverside forests. Some important tree species found in Assam are Hooong (*Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*), Gurjan (*Dipterocarpus tubinatus*), Mekai (*Shorea assamica*), Kurta (*Palaquium polyanthum*), Nahar (*Mesua ferrea*), Sia-nahar (*Keyea assamica*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*) etc.

165. The river has created large numbers of wetlands in the floodplain within a range of 10 km distance from the major river system. These wetlands have supported numerous aquatic biodiversity resources including ecologically and commercially important butterflies, moths, fishes, amphibian, reptiles, mammals, birds and economically important aquatic plants, ornamental plants, medicinal plants etc.<sup>37</sup> and created life support systems of the traditional peoples living in the floodplains. The major human dependable biodiversity resources, which have regularly been supported the human

<sup>37</sup> Saikia, P. K. and P. C. Bhattacharjee 1995. Status, and decline of water birds in Brahmaputra Valley, Assam, India. Pp. 20-27, in Verghese, A. S., Sridharand, A. Chakravarty, K. [ED.]. Proceedings: Published by Zafar Futhehaly, Bird Conservation Strategies for the Nineties & Beyond. OSI, OSI Liaison Officer, No. 10. Vishnuchittam, Sirur Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020, India., Mani, M. S. 1986. Butterflies of the Himalaya. Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi. & Mani, M. S. 1974. Ecology and Biogeography in India. Dr. W. Junk B.V. Publishers

livelihood management of the rural folks are supported by the river created wetland ecosystems. These wetlands were formed due to continuous interaction of land and water, so without water sources, no wetland ecosystem would exist in the floodplain zones.

166. Evergreen and semi evergreen forests are found in the subproject district which consists of several types of trees. These are mainly Sal, Kydia, Udal, Sioa, Bombax, Bahera. The common herbs and shrubs are *ageratum conyzoides*. Species of *Circuma*, *Cardx beacrispa* etc. are found here.

## 7. Methodology of Baseline Data Collection

167. LASA was appointed by FREEMA to conduct biodiversity assessment and collect primary ecology data. The surveys were carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Palasbari subproject area and in Gumi subproject area respectively. The biodiversity assessment report and the primary ecological data collected by LASA is appended in Appendix 7. The study area was 1 km from the project interventions, dividing the study into three zones; Core (project interventions works), Inner Buffer Zone (500 meters from the core) & Outer Buffer Zone (500 meters to 1 km area). Methods adopted for Survey and data collection included:

1. Walk Through methods for both floral & faunal surveys
2. Transect line methods for both floral & faunal surveys
3. Spot methods for avifauna
4. Call detection methods for avifauna
5. Pug mark of animals on sandy riverbeds for fauna
6. Quadrant analysis – for floral species reporting and identification, trees quadrant size (10m X 10m); shrubs and herbs (1m x 1m) were selected
7. Fishing point – Bamboo Net Traditional Fishing Net (Veshal) Point. Daily fishing point in project villages

To record the species distribution a total of 10 transect lines were laid. The walk-through locations were same, it is recording species sighted beyond transect lines. The location of Spot methods was same as proposed for 15 Quadrants, out of these 15 selected locations species of avifauna are reported in 9 locations (spots).

168. Secondary data like Forest Working plan for respective forest divisions, publications, similar reports etc. were also used to compile and conform the data.

## 8. Terrestrial Flora

169. The vegetation compositions along the Palasbari and Gumi reach comprises of *Ajar-Lagerstroemia flosrganae*, *Ahot Goch -Ficus religiosa*, *Bor Goch-Ficus bengalensis*, *Tamarix dioica*, *Orozyllum indicum*, *Atlas-Annona squamosa*, *Buwal-Cordia dichotoma*, *Bogori- Zizyphus mauriciana*, *Bhimkol-Musa balbasiana*, *Bholuka Banh-Bambusa balcooa*, *Bijuli Banh- Bambusa pallida*, *Dewa Cham-Artocarpus lacusha*, *Satiana or Devil tree-Alstonia scholaris*, *Dimoru-Ficus glomarata*, *Khohota Dimoru-Ficus lipidosa*, *Gamari-Gmelina arborea*, *Helos- Antidesma ghaesembilla*, *Jati Banh-Bambusa tulda* (trees were categorized based on height; e.g. >15 feet), *Jamuk-Syzygium fruiticosum*, *Khokon-Duabhangia grandifolia*, *Katia Khongal Dimoru-Ficus tinctoria*, *Kathal-Artocarpus heterophylus*, *Karas-Pungamia pinnata*, *Krishnasura- Delonix regia*, *Kadam-Anthocephalus cadamba*, *Kolajamun-Syzygium cumini*, *Moder-Erythrina indica*, *Mokal banh-Bambusa pallida*, *Bauhinia spp*, *Mango-Mengifera indica*, *Narikol-Cocos nucifera*, *Owtenga-Dillenia indica*, *Palas-Butea monosperma*, *Poma-Toona cialita*, *Cascabela thevetia*, *Pakori-Ficus rumphii*, *Purakol-Musa spp*, *Simul-Bombax ceiba*, *Siris-Albizzia lebbek*, *Sisso-Delbergia sisso*, *Sonaru-Cassia fistula*, *Segun-Tectona grandis*, *Suwalu-Litsea monopetala*, *Soom-Persea bombiciana*, *Silikha-Terminalia chebula*, *Tamul-Areca catechus*, *Tora Goch-Alpinia allughas*, *Tambul- Areca catechu*, *Velew -Trtramelos nudiflora* etc.



170. The other important terrestrial plants included. Viz, Jati Bet- *Calamus erectus*, Dubari Ban, (*Cynodon dactylon*), Locosa Ganh (*Hemarthia compressa*), Birina (*Vetiveria zizanioides*), Ekora- (*Saccharum ravanae*), Khagori (*Phragmites karka*), Ulukher (*Imperata cylindrica*), Hankher (*Pollinia ciliate*), Kahua (*Saccharum spontaneum*) and Borota Kher (*Saccharum elephantinus*) etc. Other important plant species of the area have been eliminated due to regular flood and changing scenario of soil characteristics. The major climber species comprises *Stephania harnondifolia* (Tubuki lata), *Zanthoxylum hamiltonianum* (Tej-muri), *Cuscuta reflexa* (Akashi Lata), *Illegeria khasiana* (Kerkeri lata), *Dioscorea hamilttoni* (Bonoria alu), *Smilax macrophylla* (Tikoni boral), *Calamus erectus* (Jati bet), *C. gracilis* (Wahing bet), *C. latifolius* (Motha bet), *Pinaga gracitis* (Raidang Bet), *Pothos cathcartii* (Hati-poita) and *P. scandens* (Kawri Lata) etc.

171. The vegetables/pulses /jutes etc. available in the project sites are Paleng, Mithi, Dhania, Lai Sak, Khesari, Podina, Potatoo, Bhendi, Bengena, Bilahi, Jolokia, Phulkabi (*Brassica oleraceavar*), Morapat (*Corchorus capsularis*), Amita (*Carica papaya*), Ghehu (*Triticum aestivum*) and Rice etc.

172. Species of trees reported in the Buffer zone i.e one km radius excluding the core zone (25 to 30 meters work) are mostly planted and few naturally growing. These trees are reported in the orchards, on agriculture furrow, bunds, etc. About 35 species of trees are reported from the study area. The species of trees reported during survey adopting transect and walk through were Banyan trees (*Ficus benghalensis*), siris (*Albizia lebbek*), Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Jack fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Sissu (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Sum (*Sterculia urens*), Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*) Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamb (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), Guava (*Psidium guajava*), Gulmohar (*Delonix regia*), drum stick (*Moringa oleifera*), Alstonia scholaris, Spondias Mangifera, Bauhanian purpurea, Cassia fistula, Erythrina variegata, jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), lemon (*Citrus limon*), Jack Fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Gulmohar (*Delonix regia*), Papaya (*Carica papaya*), Cassia sophera, pongamia pinnata, Tad (Borassus flabellifer), Dipterocarpus tubinatus, Palaquium polyanthum, Bambusa balcooa, Bambusa tulda, Malocanna hamiltonii, Dendrocalamus giganteus, Bail (*Aegle marmelos*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Bakain (*Melia azedarach*), Plectomia assamica, Plectomia bractealis, Cassia sophera, etc. The trees species reported are common type reported all over the state.

173. The species of shrubs and grasses reported Castor (*Ricinus communis*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), *Datura stramonium*, *Datura innoxia*, *Datura metel*, Apple of sodom (*Calotropis procera*), bair (*Ziziphus nummularia*), etc.

174. The climber's species reported long the trench and buffer zone are *Stephania harnondifolia* (Tubuki lata), *Zanthoxylum hamiltonianum* (Tej-muri), *Cuscuta reflexa* (Akashi Lata), *Illegeria khasiana* (Kerkeri lata), *Dioscorea hamilttoni* (Bonoria alu), *Smilax macrophylla* (Tikoni boral), *Calamus erectus* (Jati bet), *C. gracilis* (Wahing bet), *C. latifolius* (Motha bet), etc.

175. Trees species falling within the trench work i.e within 25 to 30m earmarked for bank protection work witness sparse distribution of trees. This was due to annual flooding of the area resulting in loss of young sampling of trees and secondly due to high cutting which washed of trees during flooding by Brahmaputra water.

176. **Canopy Cover (Core Zone)** Quadrant analysis was adopted to record the species and their distribution in impact zone. Based on Quadrant Analysis Methods, the dominant Trees reported within the protection work (25 to 30 meters) and within embankment zone were Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Jack fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamb (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), Albizza Sp., Drum Stick (*Moringa oleifera*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Papaya (*Carica papaya*), Bair (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), etc. Among species reported highest population density

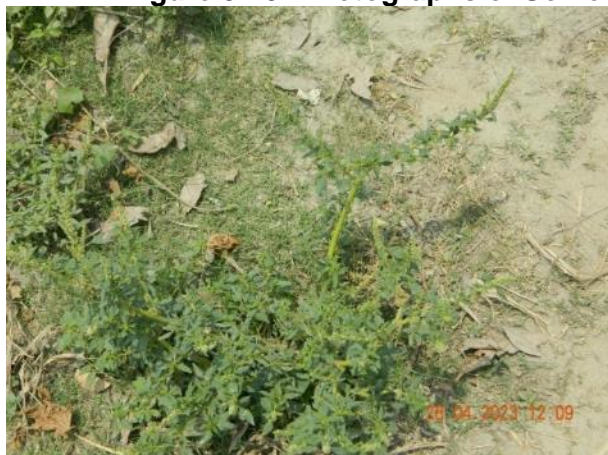
reported is 0.43/m<sup>2</sup> for Banana, followed by 0.3/m<sup>2</sup> betel nut and 0.13/m<sup>2</sup> Semal. The species of bamboo reported in the core zone are *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Malocanna hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, etc. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) which are not naturally, but planted by the locals as timber trees are Reported as Endangered (EN) by IUCN Red Data Book category. Based on IBAT report, and located within Inner Buffer zone (Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis), this tree species as ecological importance and needs conservations.

177. **Ground Cover** The ground cover flora within the core area are shrubs, herbs and grasses. The dominant species of shrubs reported are lantana (*Lantana camara*), Jhar Bair (*Ziziphus nummularis*), castor (*Ricinus communis*), *Calotropis procera*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, *Datura metel*, *Datura innoxia*, *Solanum torvum*, *Solanum indicum*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Rumex dentatus*, *Clerodendrum infortunatum* etc. The species of herbs reported within the core zone are *Amaranthus spinosa*, *Dentella repens*, *Eclipta prostrata*, *Mimosa pudica*, *Bar manjuri*, *Sida cordiflora*, *Solanum torvum*, *Xanthium indicum*, *Ranunculus cantoniensis*, *Beris ammannioides*, *Hypericum japonicum*, *hydrocera trifloral*, *Aeschynomere aspera*, *Aeschynomere india*, *Ludwigia prostrata*, *Dichrocephala integrifolia* *Enhydra fluctuans*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Alpinia purpurata*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Xanthium strumarium*, *Helotropium indicum*, *Lucas aspera*, *Fern sp.*, etc. The species of grasses reported covering the ground are mainly weeds, they are *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Cyperus cephalotes*, *Cyperus difformis*, *Cyperus diffuses*, *Cyperus haspana*, *Brachiaria mutica*, *Echinochloa stagnina*, *Eragrostia atrovirens*, *Paspalum scropiclatum*, *Phragmites karkar*, *Saecirolepis interrupta*, *Chrysopogon zizanioides* etc. The tall grasses reported within the core zone in fragmented cluster were *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Malocanna baccifera*, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Plectomia assamica* and *Plectomia bractealis* etc.

178. **Agrarian Habitat** The project construction zone is mostly dominated by agricultural land. About 70 to 75 % of project area is under agriculture practices. During primary survey growth of vegetables followed by maize was commonly observed during survey. Based on primary survey and interaction with farmers, one crop is harvested annually. The common vegetable reported in core zone are potato, sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflowers, brinjal, tomatoes, mustards, spinaches, Dhania, Gourd, better Gourd, mustard, etc. Under crop, maize are common cash crops.

179. **Invasive & Congregatory Plant Species** The non-native species (invasive species) reported from the study area are *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Mimosa*, *Mikania*, *lantana (Lantana camara)*, *Mimosa invisa*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Datura metel*, *Dysophylla auricularia* etc. The dominant species reported is Lantana and congress grass. They are cosmopolitan in distribution. These species are reported in core zone in scrub land, orchids in the study area. In the marshy area and water ponds dominant invasive hydrophytes reported are *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Echinochloa colona*, *Echinochloa crusgavonis*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Salvinia molesta*, *Lemna minor*, etc are infesting all the water bodies. These are dominant species reported in all water bodies in project area. All the above species reported have congregatory nature of growth. Cover whole of the surface in patched. Most commonly reported area are wetland and river bank where project has been proposed.

Figure 5-25: Photographs of Some Floral Species in the sub-Project Area



*Amaranthus spinosa*



*Colocasia esculenta*



*Clerodendrum infortunatum*



*Fern sp.*



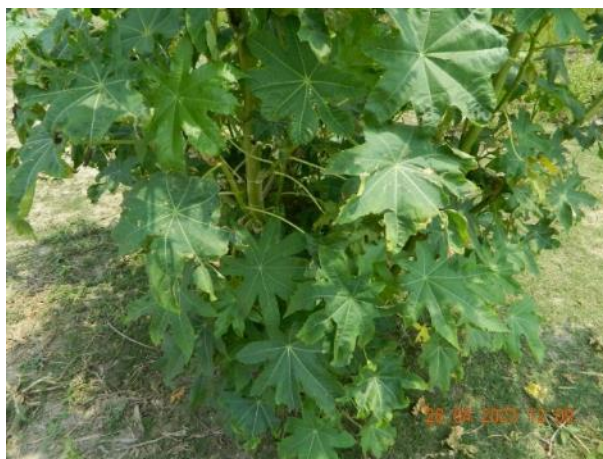
*Datura metel*



*Helotropium indicum*



*Gmelia arborea*



*Ricinus communis*



*Ipomoea carnea* along with *Xanthium strumarium*



*Mikania micrantha*



*Lucas aspera*

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

180. **Aquatic Flora.** Brahmaputra River is famous for its riparian habitat which keeps on changing due to high current in water and annual flooding during monsoon. There exists no well-established riparian habitat. This is due to large portion of the bank are cut annually. During primary survey, the locals fears that the existing portion where we are doing survey may not exists due to cutting and erosions of banks. Walk through and transect methods were adopted to record

the hydrophytes reported within the core zone. The sandbars formed in the Brahmaputra bank were also surveyed to study the establishment of grass land and for herbaceous habitats. The species reported during survey were elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), *Phragmites karkar*, *Ipomoea aquatica*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Colocasia alocasia*, etc.

181. **Sandbars & Sandy Riverbeds Vegetative Cover** The floristic survey on the sandbars within Brahmaputra Riverbank has been carried out. This was done to establish the growth of grasses, which can be habitat for migratory water fowls during winter seasons. During primary survey, it was noted that the surface is barren, without growth of grasses. At few locations growth of vegetable like gourd, brinjal, Muz, mustards and fruits like water melons and musk melons are noted. Grasses like *Ipomoea carnea* (Behaya), *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Congress grass), *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eriachne aristidea*, *Aristida purpurea*, *indicus Panicum*,  *khasianum Munro*, *Aristida fusca* *Isachne albeus*, *Panicum brevifolium*, etc. are noticed. No tall grasses which can be habitats for aquatic avifauna are reported.

## 9. Terrestrial & Aquatic Fauna

182. **Butterflies** Assam has rich floral diversity. This results in large varieties of butterflies. Large number of butterflies were reported during primary survey within the core zone and from buffer zone. Spot methods, walk through and transect methods were adopted to record the butterflies in study. About 15 species of butterflies were reported. Nine species of butterfly are reported from core zone and 14 species are reported in buffer zone. The most commonly reported butterfly area small grass yellow, common grass yellow and lemon pansy. Table below gives the list of butterflies reported in study area.

**Table 5-221: List of Butterflies Reported During Primary Survey in the subproject area**

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Red Data Book	IWPA -1972
1	Lime blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i>	LC	-
2	Lesser glass blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i>	LC	-
3	Lemon pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	LC	-
4	Grey pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	LC	-
5	Common emigrant	<i>Catopsilia Pomona</i>		-
6	Common grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	LC	-
7	Common Brush Brown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	LC	Schedule I
8	Common tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>		Schedule I
9	Plain tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	LC	Schedule I
10	Common sergeant	<i>Athyma perius</i>	LC	
11	Lime butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	DD	-
12	Indian cabbage white	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	DD	Schedule I
13	Small grass yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	LC	-
14	Lesser gull	<i>Cepora nadina</i>	DD	-
15	Small grass yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	LC	-

**Source:** LASA Biodiversity Assessment & Ecology Survey Report, 2023

183. **Amphibians** The species of amphibian reported from the study area are *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Polypedates teraiensis*, *Philautu ssp.*, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*, *Hylarana nigrovittata*, etc. None of the Amphibian species reported falls under IUCN RET list.

184. **Reptilian Species** Reptilian species like lizards and snakes are reported in agricultural field. During flooding, they enter the settlement areas and houses. Snake bite is uncommon. The reptilian

species reported are common Indian skink, house gecko, garden lizard, rat snake, cobra, common krait, etc. These reptilian species fall under Schedule -IV as per IWPA -1972.

185. Based on IBAT report for Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis i.e fresh water (Brahmaputra River) and Terrestrial habitat we can assume that species like Black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*), Assam Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*), Three-striped Roofed Turtle (*Batagur dhongoka*) all listed under CR Category. Other like Indian Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), *Varanus flavescens*, under Vulnerable (VU) Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

186. **Fishes** About 11 species reported from the study area in Brahmaputra River and from marshy area are *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus tengra*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa punctata*, etc. Species of fishes reported based on secondary source were *Mystus bleeker*, *Wallago attu*, *Channa blecheri*. These are sold in local markets. Fish like *Wallago attu* has been listed under vulnerable Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

187. *Bagarius bagarius* and *Amblyceps arunchalensis* (both EN) may be expected in the study area based on IBAT report and the Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis done by LASA, however, no presence of the two species were reported during the study conducted by LASA

188. **Avifauna** Assam is one of the “endemic bird areas” in the world. With 950 bird species the State is home to 53.5% of the bird species found in the Indian Sub-Continent, 17 species of birds are endemic to Assam. 45 species of birds from Assam are listed in the Indian Red Data Book. To establish the presence of birds in study area. Various survey methods like spot count, walk through, transect, call detection methods were adopted.

189. The total population avifauna reported are 270 in number within 1 km radius buffer. Based on the log book, it has been reported that 77 numbers of birds are recorded in transect methods, 36 number of birds by walk through method and 157 numbers by spot methods.

190. Based on primary survey and secondary source in the project area about 27 bird species are reported from the study area. One specie (*Pied Kingfisher*) is reported to be vulnerable (VU) and remaining 26 species falls under Least Concern (LC) as per IUCN Red Data Book – 2022-2. Off the total 27 species of birds reported, 1 species (*Corvus splendens*) fall under Schedule -V and the remaining 26 species are listed under Schedule -IV as per the schedule to the Wildlife (Protection), Act – 1972. Table 5-23 provides details of avifauna reported from the study area.

**Table 5-23: List of Avifauna Reported in Goroimari, Chamaria and Palasbari subproject areas**

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	IUCN Red list	WPA-72
1	Red Jungle flow	Gallus gallus	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
2	Woodpecker	Chrysocolaptes lucidus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
3	Blue Throated Barbet	Megalaima asiatica	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
4	Common Hoopoe	Upupa epops	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
5	India roller	Coracus benghalensis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
6	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
7	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	Noise	VC	Sch- IV
8	Green bee eater	Merops orientalis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
9	Indian cuckoo	Cuculus Micropterus	Noise	LC	Sch-IV
10	Rose Ringed parakeet	Psittacula krameria	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
11	House swift	Apus nipalensis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	IUCN Red list	WPA-72
12	Spotted dove	Spilopelia chinensis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
13	Eurasian collared dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
14	Common moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
15	Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
16	Red wattled lapwing	Vanellus indicus	Noise	LC	Sch- IV
17	Pariah kite	Milvus migrans	Noise	LC	Sch-IV
18	Darter	Anhinga melanogaster	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
19	House crow	Corvus splendens	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
20	Black drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
21	Common woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
22	Indian pied Myna	Gracupica contra	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
23	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
24	Red vented bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
25	Plain prinia	Prinia inornata	Sighted	LC	Sch- IV
26	Reed warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV
27	House sparrow	Passer domesticus	Sighted	LC	Sch-IV

LC – Least Concern; VU – vulnerable, NT- Near Threatened; WPA – Wildlife (Protection), Act – 1972

**Source:** LASA Biodiversity Assessment & Ecology Survey Report, 2023

191. IBAT Proximity Report interpretation for subproject area and Assessment for Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis for distribution of Avifauna, it can be concluded that floral profile within 1 km radius can be suitable habitat for presence of Manipur Brush Quail (*Perdica manipurensis*) Great Adjacent (*Leptoptilos dubius*), Awamp grass babbler (*Laticilla cinerascens*), Common Pochard (*Aythya farina*) – VU and Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*). All listed under Vulnerable Category as per IUCN red data book. These species may be present in study area but were not reported during primary survey.

192. **Terrestrial Mammals.** As per the primary surveys conducted by LASA, the project area does not harbor rich mammalian habitat. The project sites within 1 km study area have agrarian habitats. No forest, National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary are reported. Based on interaction with farmers and locals, the species reported in the study area are Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indica*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bangalensis*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), etc. All the species reported from the study area are Least Concern as per IUCN Red Data Book

193. *Rusa unicolour* (Sambar) has been listed at VU under IUCN and reported in IBAT report for subproject area. The surrounding habitat within one km is suitable habitat for presence of this species (Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis). Though their presence is not reported by farmers in project influence area. Domesticated animals like cow, sheep, goat, dog, ox, buffaloes etc., are also reported in the study area.

194. **Aquatic Mammals.** Brahmaputra River is famous for aquatic mammalian species i.e fresh water dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*). It is reported all over Brahmaputra River where depth of water and counter current for fish hunting exist. Dolphins fall under Schedule -I as per IWPA-1972. It is categorized as Endangered (EN) as per IUCN Red Data Book.

195. Based on IBAT report – Proximity Report, Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) and Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) has been reported within 1 km radius. The project is on

Brahmaputra River bank which is Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis for presence of Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).

196. Distribution of Dolphins in project area is highlighted in Table 5-24. The finding is mainly based on the secondary survey. Interaction with locals and fisherman.

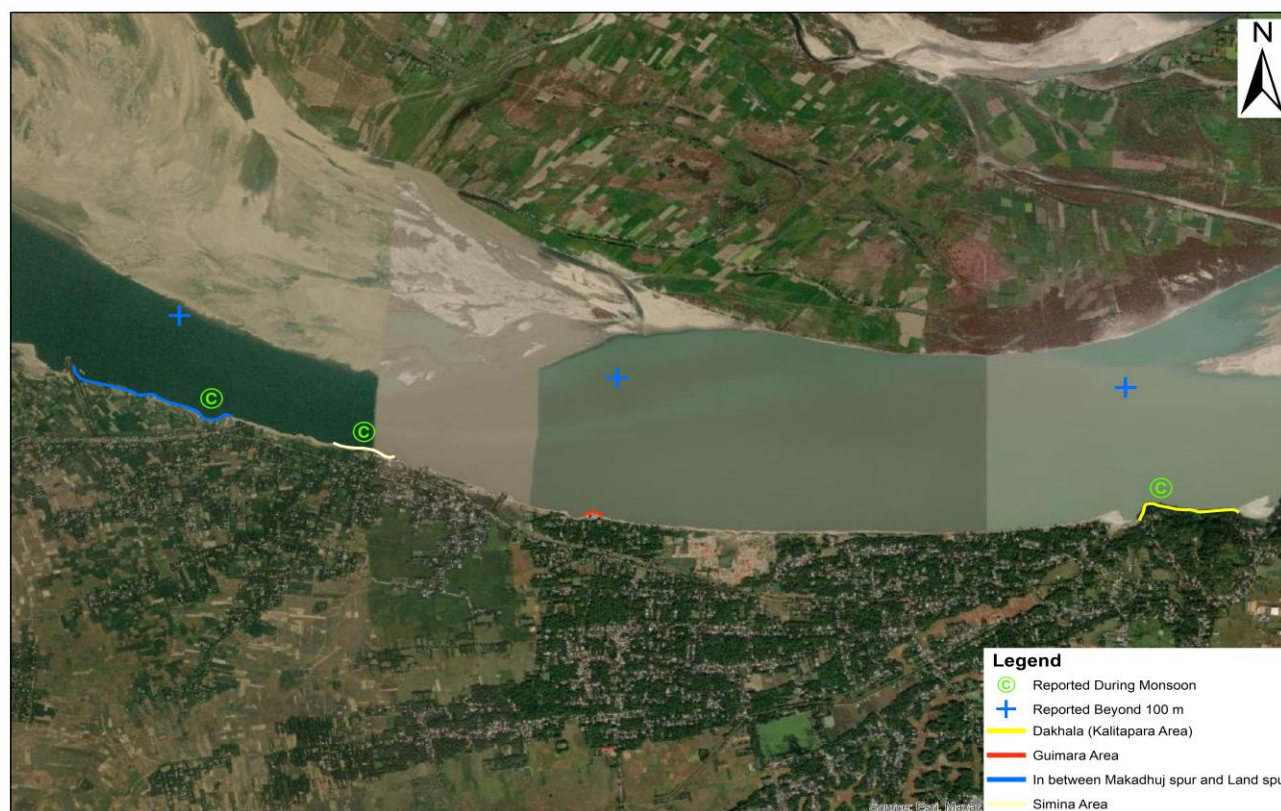
**Table 5-24: Distribution of Dolphins in Study Area**

Sl. No.	Project	LAC	Dolphins Distribution	
			Within 100m	Beyond 100m to 1 km
1	Gumi	Goroimari	-	+
2	Borakhat	Goroimari	-	-
3	Panikhaity	Chamaria	-	+
4	Lotordia NC	Chamaria	⊙	+
5	Dakhala	Palashbari	⊙	+
6	Guimara	Palashbari	-	+
7	Simina	Palashbari	⊙	+
8	Makadhu spur	Palashbari	⊙	+

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ⊙ Reported during monsoon

Source: LASA Biodiversity Assessment & Ecology Survey Report, 2023

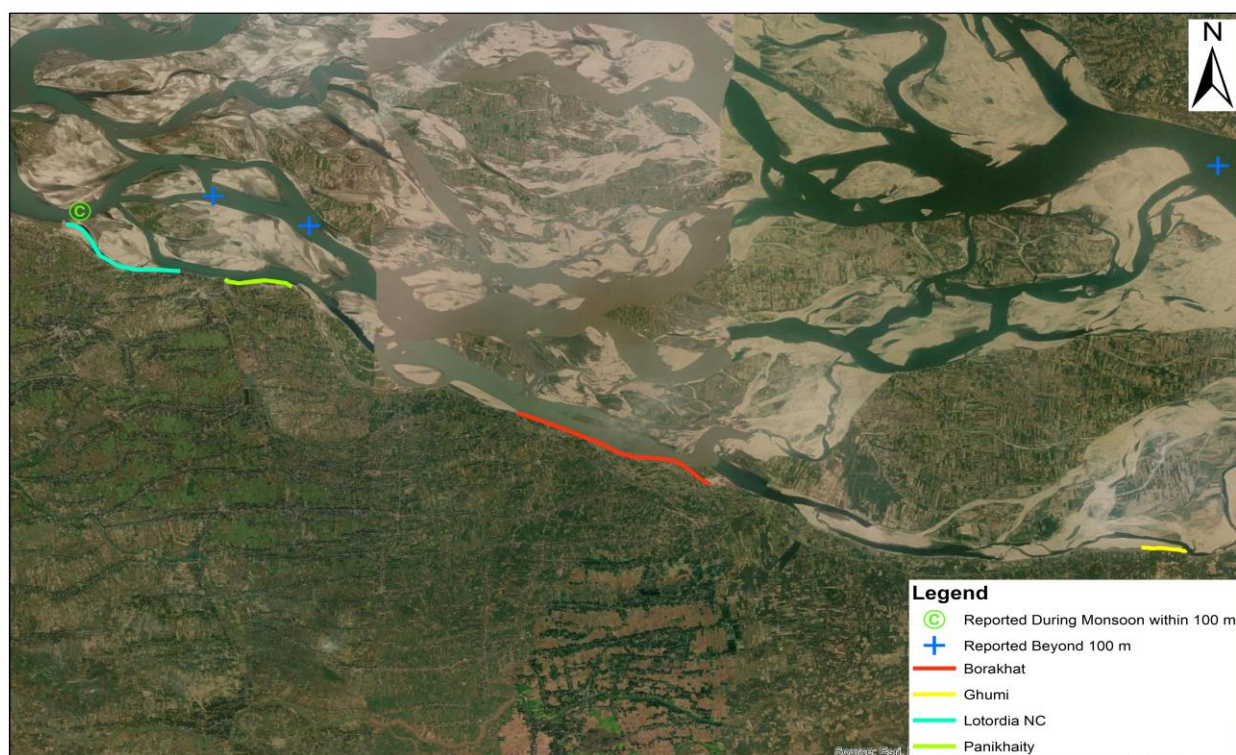
**Figure 5-26: Map depicting Dolphins Presence within study area (Palasbari)**



Source: LASA July 2023



**Figure 5-27: Map depicting Dolphins Presence within study area (Gumi)**



**Source:** LASA July, 2023

197. The Kulsi River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River in the Indian state of Assam. The confluence of the Kulsi River with Brahmaputra River is at Nagarbera of Kamrup District. Nagarbera confluence is at an approximate aerial distance of approximately 20 kms from Lotordia subproject reach.

198. Under Sir Peter Scott Fund of IUCN altogether 71 km of the Kulsi River was surveyed from Ghoramara to Nagarbera where the river discharges into the Brahmaputra River. Confluence of Khulsi at Nagarbera is at a distance of approximately 20kms from Lotordia subproject site. A best estimate of 29 dolphins was recorded as detailed in the Table 5-25.

**Table 5-25: Dolphins Population sighted in the Khulsi river near Project Area**

Area	Location	Best estimate
Ghoramara to Jarabari	N26000/, E91025/-N26005/, E91023/	16
Jarabari to Sampupara	N26005/, E91023/-N26004/, E91014/	4
Sampupara to Ghooramara-2	N26004/, E91014/-N26004/, E91005/	7
Ghooramara to Nagarbera	N26004/, E91005/-N26007/, E91000/	2

**Source:** Wakid, A. & Braulik, G. (2009): Protection of endangered Gangetic dolphin in Brahmaputra River, Assam, India. Final report to IUCN-Sir Peter Scott Fund. Pp 44.

199. Based on Assam Inland Water Transport Project, Dolphin Study Report (AIWTPDS) 2019. The Dolphins population around the subproject area based on AIWTDs report is given in Table 5-26.

**Table 5-26: Dolphins Population sighted in the Dry Season near Project Area**

Sl. No.	Location Name	No. of Dolphins Sighted
1	Lachit Ghat to Umananda (near Umananda ghat)	4
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>4</b>

Source: AIWTPS, 2019 Report

**Table 5-27: Abundance of Dolphin in Brahmaputra mainstream in Subproject Area**

Sl. No.	Distribution	Length (km)	Best estimate
1	Guwahati to Jugighopa	131	36
<b>Total</b>		<b>131</b>	<b>36</b>

Source: Wakid, A. & Braulik, G. (2009): Protection of endangered Gangetic dolphin in Brahmaputra River, Assam, India. Final report to IUCN-Sir Peter Scott Fund. Pp 44.

### 10. Migratory Route of Fauna

200. There is no mammalian wildlife migratory route in the subproject area. The entire Assam falls under Central Asian Flyway & East Asian – Australian flyways. Thus, there are many migratory bird species that migrates through the project areas.

**Figure 5-28: Asian Migratory Bird Flyways**

Source: Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Asian%E2%80%93Australasian\\_Flyway#/media/File:Central\\_Asian\\_Flyway\\_Map.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Asian%E2%80%93Australasian_Flyway#/media/File:Central_Asian_Flyway_Map.png) Central Asian Flyway Map - East Asian–Australasian Flyway - Wikipedia

201. The migratory fish species like Hilsa and Anguilla, which have been encountered show anadromous and catadromous migratory behavior, respectively, migrating through the main channel of the river to the deeper zones of the river<sup>38</sup>. Therefore, the proposed project interventions will not

<sup>38</sup> ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject— Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District). May 2018

have adverse effects on the migratory route. Other fish species like *Crossocheilius* sp. and *Tor* sp. show only local migration from upper to lower reaches of the river.

### 11. River Dolphin and its Behavior Patterns

202. Gangetic river Dolphins<sup>39</sup> prefers deep waters, in and around the confluence of two or more rivers.<sup>40</sup> River dolphins are reported within 200m – 3 km in the Palasbari-Gumi stretch of the subproject area (i.e., Gumi, Borakhat, Panikhaity, Lotorda NC, Dakhala, Guimara, Simina and Makhaduj spur) as per the report of LASA. Thus, these species shall not be impacted as there are no confluences of rivers in the subproject area and the works are within 30m from the bank. These works furthermore shall be taken up in the dry season.

203. However, river Dolphins have developed a unique side swimming behavior which is an adaptation to help them navigate through shallow waters<sup>41</sup>, thus, it may be likely that the Dolphins can occasionally venture within 30 m of the riverbanks. No impacts are envisaged, if the river Dolphins enter the secondary channels close to the riverbanks during construction stage. The impacts that are probable are accidental hitting of Dolphins by the barges carrying materials for the subproject and the Dolphins being stuck in the shallow waters. However, the Dolphins have capacity of echolocation as validated by Herald, E. S., et al and hence the probability of the Dolphins getting accidentally hit by the barges is unlikely. Similarly, the probability of Dolphins getting stuck in the shallow water near the banks is also less.

### 12. IBAT Screening Assessment

204. As per information made available from IBAT<sup>42</sup>, there are 119 IUCN red listed species within 50 km radius of the project area. These includes 17 CR (2 floral, 1 insect, 7 avian, 6 reptilian and 1 mammalian species), 40 EN (3 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 4 Pisces, 8 avian and 15 mammalian species) and 62 VU species (5 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 6 Pisces, 22 avian and 19 mammalian species).

**Table 5-28: Summary of Endangered Species Report in Study Area from IBAT Report**

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Reported Area	Habitat	Location
1	Ganges river dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	EN	Outer Buffer	Aquatic	Gumi
				Inner Buffer Zone		Palashbari
2	Smooth Indian Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>	VU	Outer Buffer	Terrestrial Aquatic	Palashbari
3	Devil Catfish	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i>	VU			

<sup>39</sup> The Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), an extremely docile and graceful creature is an endemic species of the Ganges, Meghna, and Brahmaputra River systems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Commonly known as 'Shihu' in Assam, the Gangetic Dolphins are among the four freshwater Dolphins found in the world - the others are Irrawaddy dolphin in the Irrawaddy, Mekong & Mahakam Rivers in Myanmar, Cambodia; and Indonesia respectively, the Bhulan of the Indus in India & Pakistan and Boto of the river Amazon (2 genus) in Latin America. The Baiji has been declared as functionally extinct. The presence of river dolphin in a river system signifies a healthy ecosystem. Since the river dolphin is at the apex of the aquatic food chain, its presence in adequate numbers symbolizes greater bio diversity in the river system. IUCN declared river dolphins as endangered in 1996, following which the Ganges River dolphin has been included in the Schedule - I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

<sup>40</sup> Assam Inland Water Transport Project, Dolphin Study Report 2019

<sup>41</sup> Herald, E. S., Brownell, J. R. L., Frye, F. L., Morris, E. J., Evans, W., E., & Scott, A. B. (1969). Blind river Dolphin: first side-swimming cetacean. Science, 166, 1408-1410.

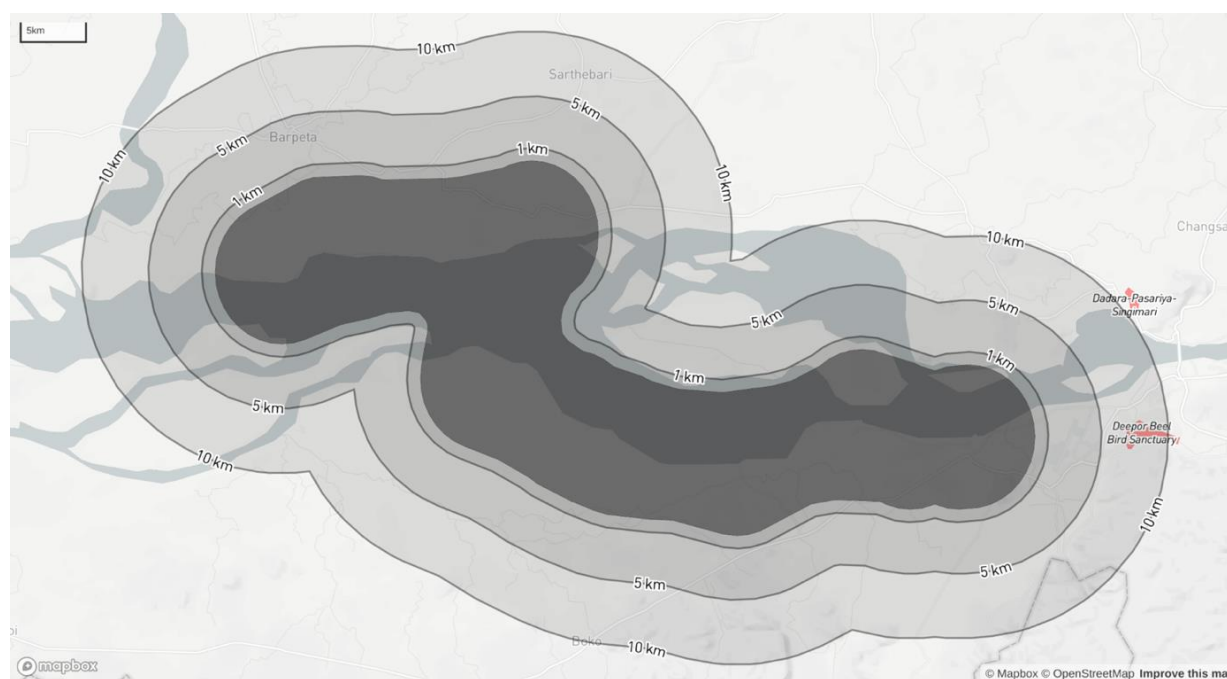
<sup>42</sup> IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Reported Area	Habitat	Location
4		<i>Amblyceps arunchalensis</i>	EN	Outer Buffer	Aquatic	Gumi
5				Inner Buffer		Palashbari
6	Boal	<i>Wallago attu</i>	VU	Inner and Outer Buffer	Aquatic	Gumi & Palashbari
7	Manipur Brush Quail	<i>Perdicula manipurensis</i>	EN	Inner and Outer Buffer	Terrestrial	Gumi & Palashbari
8	Great Adjacents	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	EN	Outer Buffer	Terrestrial Fresh water	Palashbari
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	VU	Outer Buffer	Fresh Water	Gumi
10	Samba	<i>Rusa unicolour</i>	VU	Outer Buffer	Terrestrial	Palashbari

**Note:** Buffer Zone / Area: Boundary of Right of Way of Project up to 1 km; Inner Buffer Zone / Area: Boundary of Right of Way of Project up to 500m; Outer Buffer Zone / Area: Area between 500m to 1 km

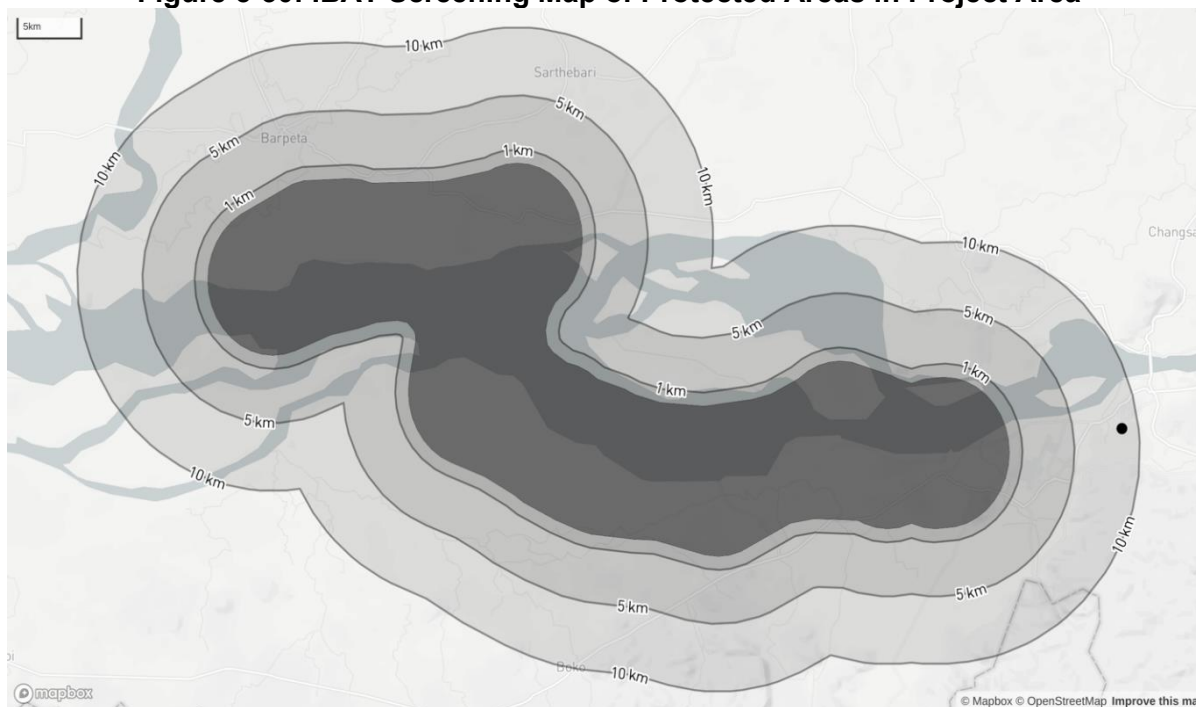
**Source:** LASA Biodiversity Assessment & Ecology Survey Report, 2023 & IBAT Proximity Report

**Figure 5-29: IBAT Screening Map of Key Biodiversity Areas in Project Area**



**Source:** IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

**Figure 5-30: IBAT Screening Map of Protected Areas in Project Area**



**Source:** IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

### 13. Critical Habitat (CH) Assessment

**205.** The area of analysis (i.e., 1 km) for critical habitat assessment has been taken up for all subprojects. In addition to the protected areas and IBA, considering International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 6 thresholds, it is determined presence of Ganges River Dolphin (an IUCN endangered species) may trigger critical habitat. The primary surveys were carried out summer period (March – April 2023), and couldn't sight any Ganges River Dolphin in the subproject areas. The presence of this species was noted through secondary data sources (i.e. consultations with locals and fishermen). The secondary data doesn't conclusively establish the presence of  $\geq 0.5\%$  of the global population AND  $\geq 5$  reproductive units of the Dolphins in the subproject areas (Criteria 1a and 1c for critical habitat, IFC). The project is in a highly modified area, where anthropogenic activities are found around the riverbanks such as fishing, agriculture, tea gardens and settlements. There may be potential impact to Ganges River Dolphins due to transport of materials for the works through barges. However, construction works will be done during dry season when dolphins are in the deep channels and not nearby river banks. On the other hand, subproject is critical habitat due to fishing activities of local people - areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities. The Dibrugarh subproject also triggers possible critical habitat due to proximity to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. ADB SPS, 2009 requires no net loss of biodiversity for a critical habitat area. The project will demonstrate measures on the lesser impacts to biodiversity through Nature-based solutions (NbS) such as bioengineering techniques of planting reeds along embankment slopes. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was prepared to provide actions in managing risks against wildlife in the area (see BAP in CH Assessment/Appendix 15). It is also proposed that PISC shall be conducting a detailed biodiversity and ecology survey and assessment for the entire project area (encompassing the four subproject areas) during the project implementation period. The data collected from the surveys will further bolster the population census data of the Ganges River Dolphin. The PISC and PMU shall

subsequently include the results and any revisions of the BAP to update IEE and submitted to ADB for necessary actions for disclosure.

**Table 5-29: Summary of Species Assessment to trigger Critical Habitat in Subproject Area**

Sl. No.	Species	Assessment	Remarks
1	<i>Platanista gangetica</i> (Ganges River Dolphin) - EN	Possible to trigger CH, however no enough data to prove Criterion 1a (Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed EN or CR species ( $\geq 0.5\%$ of the global population AND $\geq 5$ reproductive units GN16 of a CR or EN species) and 1c (areas containing important concentrations of a nationally or regionally listed EN or CR species)	Direct reporting by consultees within 100m - 1km from the project intervention areas and data from Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society

CH = critical habitat, CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, NE = not evaluated, PAI = project area of influence, VU = vulnerable, WLS = wildlife sanctuary

Source: ADB TA Consultant

**Table 5-30: Critical Habitat Assessment Summary**

Critical Habitat Trigger	Thresholds Adopted	Trigger Present	Applicable Subproject
Areas with high biodiversity value, including habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species	<p>a. Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed EN or CR species (<math>\geq 0.5\%</math> of the global population AND <math>\geq 5</math> reproductive units).</p> <p>b. Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed Vulnerable (VU) species, the loss of which would result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR and meet the thresholds in (a).</p> <p>c. As appropriate, areas containing important concentrations of a nationally or regionally listed EN or CR species</p>	<p>(a) There are presence in the AOA. Possible critical habitat for 1 species (Ganges River Dolphin - EN).</p> <p>(b) No</p> <p>(c) No</p>	<p>(a) All subprojects</p> <p>(b) None</p> <p>(c) None</p>
Areas having special significance for endemic or restricted-range species	Areas that regularly hold $\geq 10\%$ of the global population size AND $\geq 10$ reproductive units of a species.	No	None
Sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species	(a) Areas known to sustain, on a cyclical or otherwise regular basis, $\geq 1$ percent of the global population of a migratory or congregatory species at any point of the species' lifecycle.	(a) No sufficient data hence inconclusive	(a) None
Areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregatory species	(b) Areas that predictably support $\geq 10$ percent of the global population of a species during	(b) No sufficient data hence inconclusive	(b) None

Critical Habitat Trigger	Thresholds Adopted	Trigger Present	Applicable Subproject
	periods of environmental stress.		
Areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services		No	None
Areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities		Yes, due to fishing activities for local people	All Subprojects
Areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection.	Such as areas that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union classification, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world natural heritage sites.	Possible critical habitat due to proximity to Dibru-Saikhowa National park	Dibrugarh only

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, IUCN = International Union for Conservation of Nature, PAI = project area of influence, VU = vulnerable

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

206. Out of the CR, EN & VU floral species, none was found to trigger CHA at present, based on the report of LASA and other secondary sources. Critical habitat is likely for Ganges River Dolphin (EN) and possible critical habitats due to Black Softshell Turtle (CR); *Magnolia pealiana* and *Bagarius bagarius* (EN); and Swamp grass babbler, and Greater and Lesser Adjutants (VU) and Swamp grass babbler VU.

#### 14. Key Biological Aspects

207. Summary of the key biological aspects in the PAI are given in Table 5-31.

**Table 5-31: Summary of Biological Setting of the PAI**

Particular	Key Features in PAI
Habitat type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modified/natural degraded habitat</li> </ul>
Protected Areas in 10 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No PAs within 10 km of the project area</li> </ul>
Key biodiversity area and IBA in 10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No PA &amp; IBA</li> <li>2 KBAs – (Tamaranga - Dalani - Bhairab Complex &amp; Urpod Beel) within 5 km radius from subproject)</li> </ul>
Forest land	None within forest area
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No wetland in PAI</li> <li>Significant Wetland Depor Beel a Ramsite site is approximately 11.5 km from PAI</li> </ul>
Surface water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other than the Brahmaputra River, there are some ponds within PAI of subproject.</li> <li>Nagarbera confluence of Kulsi River is at an approximate aerial distance of approximately 20 kms from Lotordia subproject reach</li> </ul>

Particular	Key Features in PAI
Trees to be lost	Yet to be finalized as of the time of preparation of the IEE. Shall be finalized during pre-construction stage and IEE shall be accordingly updated
Critical habitat	The subproject is critical habitat due to having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities, particularly due to fishing activities in the target sites.  See Appendix 15 for CH Assessment

AOA = area of analysis, ESZ = ecologically sensitive zone, IBA = important bird area, KBA = Key Biodiversity Areas, NP = National Park, PAI = project area of influence, WLS = wildlife sanctuary

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

## F. Socio-Economic Settings

208. Palasbari subproject area lies in Kamrup District. It is located in the southwest part of Assam state with 14 revenue circles and 17 blocks. There are 1393 villages in the district. The Palasbari reach falls in 6 Revenue Circles as per the land records, namely, Goroimari, Chaygaon, Chamaria, Nagarberra, Boko, and Palasbari. These circles consist of a total of 332 villages along the reach in the core and buffer zones.

### 1. Recent History

209. Kamrup named after Kamarupa, a name by which Assam was previously known in ancient times. The district was originally comprised with parts of present Kamrup (M), Barpeta, Nalbari and Baksa District which got subsequently bifurcated into different independent districts. The district is now a small area in the western part of Assam, with a distinctive native Kamrupi culture and dialect. The distinctive dialect etc. are however, shared with the present administrative districts of Nalbari and Barpeta, these districts being part of an un-divided Kamrup before the 1980s. Assam has been referred to as Kamrup in many of the ancient Indian literature. It was also known as Pragjyotishpur due to the astrology (Jyotish Shashtra) practices that prevailed in this part of the country during that time. However, "Kamrup" became a more predominant name in the later part of the history. Today Kamrup is an administrative district of Assam with its headquarters located at Amingaon. The greater parts of the district consist of wide plains, through the lower portion of which the Brahmaputra River flow a steady course from east to west. The district is bounded by Udalguri and Baska District in the north, Meghalaya state in the south, Darrang District and Kamrup Metropolitan District in the east and Goalpara, Barpeta and Nalbari District in the west.

### 2. Administrative Set Up

210. Kamrup is an administrative district in the state of Assam. The present Kamrup District with its headquarter at Amrngaon has proved to be an exemplary and model civil district. It came into being on 31st day of March 2023 with great promises with alacritous drive to go ahead. The district covers an area of 2740 sq.km. The population of the district as per census report of 2011 is 1517542. Kamrup District has 1027 villages, administered under revenue circles and blocks.

### 3. Demography

211. Kamrup is an administrative district in the Indian state of Assam. The present Kamrup District with its headquarter at Amingaon has proved to be an exemplary and model civil district. As per the 2011 census data, Kamrup District, located in the north-eastern state of Assam in India, has a population of approximately 15.17 lakhs. Out of total population, 50% of population lives in urban area and 60% lives in rural area. The district has a male population of 7.78 lakhs and a female population of 7.39 lakhs. The sex-ratio of Kamrup District is around 949 compared to 958 which is average of Assam state. The population density in Kamrup District is relatively higher compared to



the state of Assam, with about 489 persons per square kilometer. There is total 9 villages identified for the study. The demographic details of the 9 selected villages are provided in the table below:

**Table 5-32: Demographic details of the 9 selected villages**

Sl. No.	Villages	Geographical Area	Households	Total Population	Male Population	Female Population	Sex Ratio
1	HahuaPathar	126	57	292	144	148	1027
2	Asolpara	205.86	375	1872	933	939	1006
3	Khalihamari	170.70	60	351	189	162	857
4	Borakhat	321.63	394	2176	1119	1057	944
5	Panikhaity	65.98	405	2418	1218	1200	985
6	Lotordia NC	59.32	149	867	460	407	884
7	Dakhala	309.44	851	4049	2096	1953	931
8	Chapathuri	303.11	79	394	218	176	807
9	SulikataPathar	184.37	654	3171	1633	1538	941
<b>Total</b>		<b>1746.41</b>	<b>3024</b>	<b>15590</b>	<b>8010</b>	<b>7580</b>	<b>931</b>

Source: Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. (LASA), 2023

#### 4. Indigenous Peoples/scheduled Tribe in Assam

212. The proposed project area Kamrup District does not entirely fall under the Autonomous District Council Area.<sup>43</sup> While Kamrup District does have tribal communities residing within its boundaries, it is not designated as an autonomous district council area itself. The areas falling under the autonomous district council in Assam include Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills (Dima Hasao), Bodoland Territorial Region, and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council. However, Kamrup District have specific areas or villages where certain provisions or powers of the Autonomous District Councils apply, depending on the tribal population residing in those areas. The extent and nature of the council's influence within Kamrup District would be based on the specific laws and regulations governing the functioning of the ADCs in Assam.

213. As far as the Scheduled Tribe concerned the population is about 182038 which is about 12% of the total population. The total population of schedule caste persons in the Kamrup District are 107827 which is about 7.11% of the total population.

**Table 5-33: Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) Population**

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Population	ST Population	% of ST Population	SC Population	% of SC Population
1	Kamrup	1517542	182038	12	107827	7.11
2	Assam	31205576	3884371	12.44	2231321	7.15
3	India	1210854977	104545716	8.63	201378372	16.63

Source: Census of India Report 2011

#### 5. Language and Literacy

214. The primary language spoken in Kamrup Districts, as well as the entire state of Assam, is Assamese. Assamese is an Indo-Aryan language and serves as the official language of Assam. It is widely spoken by the majority of the population and used in government, education, and day-to-day communication. In addition to Assamese, people in Kamrup District may also speak other

<sup>43</sup> Autonomous District Councils are autonomous bodies constituted under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the constitution which within the administrative boundaries of the state with powers to make laws, rules and regulations in certain areas and powers to levy taxes.

languages like Hindi, Bengali, Bodo, Nepali, Garo, Rabha, and English etc. As per Census Report of 2011, Kamrup District has a literacy rate of 75.55% out of which 81.30% are male and 69.47% are female.

## **6. Transportation and connectivity**

215. The district is well-connected by road, rail, and waterways, which facilitate smooth movement of goods and people within and outside the district. The National Highways 27 and 37 pass through Kamrup District of length 148.26, connecting it to major cities in Assam and neighboring states. The district also has a good network of 52 state highways, 230 major district roads and 3152 rural roads<sup>44</sup>, which provide accessibility to remote areas. The district is served by railway stations such as Guwahati, Kamakhya and Azara, which connect it to major cities in India. Moreover, the mighty Brahmaputra River flows through Kamrup District, providing waterway connectivity to other parts of Assam. Additionally, the district is well-served by public transportation including buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws, which cater to the local transportation needs. Guwahati also has an international airport, the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, connecting it to various domestic and international destinations.

## **7. Income generation**

216. Income generation in Kamrup District, Assam is primarily based on agriculture, allied activities, and small-scale industries. Agriculture is a major source of livelihood for the rural population in the district, with crops such as rice, tea, jute, mustard, and vegetables being grown. The district is also known for its traditional handloom and handicrafts, which provide employment and income to many local artisans. Additionally, there are small-scale industries such as food processing, paper mills and garment manufacturing that contribute to the income generation in the district. The district is also witnessing the growth of the service sector, including tourism, trade, and transportation, which are providing employment opportunities and contributing to the local economy.

217. The district is strategically located and serves as a major industrial hub in Assam. The manufacturing sector in Kamrup District includes industries such as tea processing, food processing, cement, paper, pharmaceuticals and plastic products. The entire area along the subproject area does not have any major industry. People are mainly dependent on fishing and agricultural activities for their livelihood. A few small scale/household industries are present in the area, which are mainly focused on manufacturing of Gunny Bags, Jute Products, Bricks, Pat Muga, and production of Species and Mustard Oil. Timber furniture was popular activity.

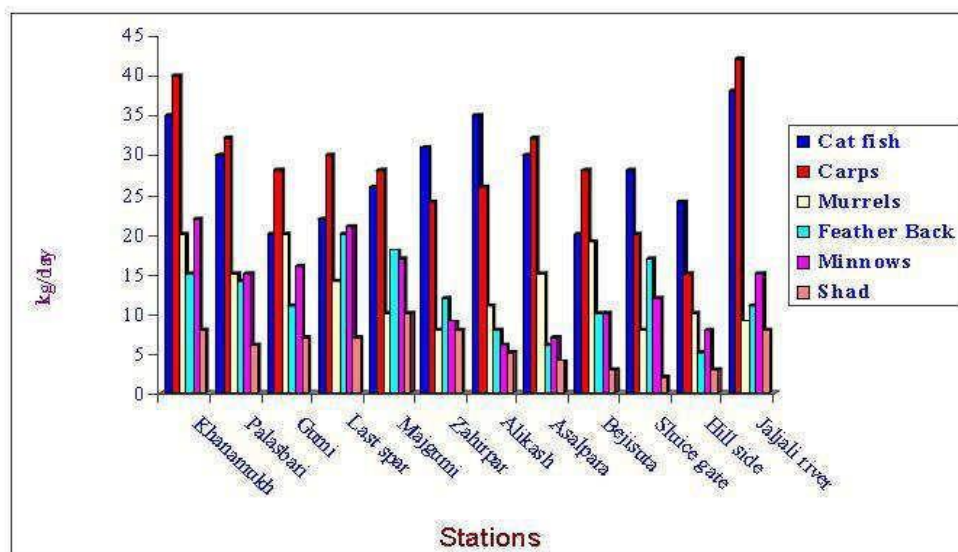
## **8. Peoples Dependence on Aquatic Fauna**

218. Almost 55% people are dependent on fishing in the surrounding areas of Gumi, Majgumi, Alikah, and Bejikhuta. There are several beels used for fishery activity. Most of the households maintain their own fish ponds and almost one third of the households are involved in fishery activity. Besides fishing most people depend on the Brahmaputra River for bathing and irrigation in paddy field.

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<sup>44</sup>Source: *The Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2020-21*

**Figure 5-31: Dependency on Aquatic Fauna**



**Source:** ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District) May 2018 [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en\\_6.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en_6.pdf)

## 9. Manufacturing Industries

219. Kamrup Rural district has a diverse industrial profile, with a significant presence of MSMEs engaged in agro-based industries, engineering, and handicrafts. The district's strong presence in the food processing industry further adds to its economic significance. The district has a total of 28 units under Industrial Areas, providing ample opportunities for industrial growth and development. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector in Kamrup Rural is flourishing, with a total of 2535 Micro, 487 Small, and 60 Medium enterprises operating in the district across various sectors. People are mainly dependent on fishing and agricultural activities for their livelihood. A few small scale/household industries are present in the area, which are mainly focused on manufacturing of Gunny Bags, Jute Products, Bricks, Pat Muga, and production of Species and Mustard Oil.

## 10. Water Supply

220. Water supply in Kamrup District, Assam is a critical aspect of the region's infrastructure. Main source of drinking water in the entire subproject area is groundwater. The district receives water supply from various sources, including the Brahmaputra River, deep tube wells, and hand pumps. As per the Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2021, 8,270 households are with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) connection. Whereas, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 37,798 houses have Functional Tap Connection inside their household. Efforts are being made by the government and relevant authorities to improve the water supply infrastructure, ensure safe drinking water for all, and promote sustainable water management practices in Kamrup District.

## 11. Sanitation Facilities

221. Proper sanitation facilities (for example, toilets and latrines) promote health because they allow people to dispose of their waste appropriately, preventing contamination of their environment and reducing risk to themselves and their neighbours. As per the Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2021, there are 550 household toilets in Kamrup and only 13 public toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) but when compared to Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) there are 241 household toilets and 06 community/public toilets.

## 12. Electrification

222. Kamrup District is connected to the state power grid, which ensures a reliable supply of electricity to various towns and villages. As per the Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014 out of 311,114 households Kamrup District has 40.1% households with access to electricity. Here, mostly power is available only for domestic usage but as per statistical handbook 2021, the district has 78 installed Solar PV Pump set and also has 7 Rooftop Rural PHCs PV station with total Plant Capacity of 35 kW.

## 13. Irrigation

223. Kamrup District receives heavy rainfall during the monsoon season. The wettest months of the year are May, June and July and more than 60% of the total annual rainfall is measured in these three months. The agriculturists depend mainly on rainwater for their cultivation. Agriculture suffers loss in the year of heavy rains due to flood and fails in the year of drought. In time of drought cultivators are compelled to irrigate their agricultural fields by digging canals from various streams and rivers. Indigenous way of irrigation is still prevailing in the district. The channels, ponds are erected to water the agricultural fields. Some minor irrigation projects are installed in the district by constructing bunds across the streams and rivulets, drainage channels and silt channels to obtain silt deposits in low lying areas. Lift irrigation with electric pump has also been used in some parts of the district.

224. In the district, wells, ponds and tube wells are the main sources of irrigation. Tube wells and wells are confined to the plain areas of the district. Under various plans and programmes, the State Government has taken up various small and medium irrigation schemes in the district.

## 14. Health Facilities

225. The district has a number of government and private hospitals, health centers, and dispensaries that provide medical services to the local population. As per Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2021, Kamrup has 1 civil hospital, 1 Sub Divisional Civil Hospital (SDCH), 2 First Referral Units (FRU), 63 Primary Health Centre (PHC), 13 Community Health Centres (CHC), 02 State Dispensaries and 279 Sub-centres. Additionally, 05 Poly Clinic/Nursing Homes and 17 Diagnostic Centres exist in the district. Skin diseases were reported as major concern as it stricken almost every household member in all villages. In case of illness, most of the households consult faith healer available in the village. Some households consult Ayurvedic doctor in the village in nearby places.

## 15. Education Status

226. According to the 2011 census, the education status in Kamrup District of Assam is relatively better compared to the state average. The district has an average literacy rate of 75.5% with males having a higher literacy rate of 81.3% compared to females at 69.47% which is higher than the overall literacy rate of Assam at 72.2%. The education facilities in the region are distributed mainly in the form of Primary, Middle, Secondary and Senior Secondary schools mainly. There are 1,727 lower primary schools, 215 upper primary and 285 high and higher secondary schools which are either Govt. /Prov<sup>45</sup>. However; there are still pockets of low literacy rates in certain areas of Kamrup District, particularly among females and in rural regions.

## 16. Common Property Resources

227. In Kamrup District, common property resources include forests, rivers, wetlands, grazing lands, and water bodies. These resources are vital for meeting the needs of local communities, providing them with food, fuel, fodder, and raw materials for handicrafts and other livelihood activities. However, there are challenges such as deforestation, pollution, encroachment and

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<sup>45</sup>Source: *Economic Survey of Assam, 2022 - 23*

overexploitation of these resources, which threaten their sustainability. Efforts are being made by the government, civil society organizations, and local communities to protect and sustainably manage these valuable common property resources in Kamrup District.

### 17. Intangible Culture

228. The intangible culture of Kamrup District is rich and diverse, encompassing a wide range of traditional knowledge, practices, and expressions that are passed down through generations. This includes indigenous languages, folk songs, dance forms, festivals, oral traditions, handicrafts, cuisine, traditional sports, and other intangible cultural heritage elements. The district is home to various ethnic communities such as Bodo, Rabha, Tiwa, Mishing, Karbi and others, each with its unique intangible cultural practices that contribute to the cultural fabric of the region.

### 18. Key Socioeconomic Aspects

229. Summary of the key physical aspects in the PAI are given in Table 5-33.

**Table 5-34: Key Socio-economic Features in PAI**

Particulars	Key Features in PAI
Indigenous People	Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Kamrup District: 12.00%.
Economic Landownership and individual properties	A total of 170 private properties including residential, commercial and other properties are present in the subproject intervention area that shall be impacted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential structures:125</li> <li>• Commercial structures: 8</li> <li>• Residential + Commercial structure: 0</li> <li>• Other Private structures: 37</li> </ul>
Nearest Habitation	Guwahati, Kamalpur, Bhakatpara, Na-Satra, Birjhar, and Hajo
Road Access	NH 27, NH 37, NH 17, and NH 52
Human use of surface and groundwater	Main source of drinking water in the entire subproject area is groundwater. The people of the subproject area living in the villages and close to the river mostly use river as their source of drinking water. Some of the villages have hand-pump/tube wells from which they collect water for drinking
Educational facilities	<b>Kamrup:</b> Literacy rate 75.5% (Lower primary schools -1,727, Upper primary 215 and High and higher secondary schools: 285)
Health facilities	<b>Kamrup:</b> 1 civil hospital, 1 Sub Divisional Civil Hospital (SDCH), 2 First Referral Units (FRU), 63 Primary Health Centre (PHC), 13 Community Health Centres (CHC), 02 State Dispensaries and 279 Subcentres and 05 Poly Clinic/Nursing Homes and 17 Diagnostic Centres

**Source:** Project Census Survey, 2023 and ADB TA Consultant

### 19. Physical Cultural Resource

230. Kamrup District is known for its rich and diverse physical cultural resources that reflect the region's unique cultural heritage. These resources include ancient temples, monuments, archaeological sites, traditional arts and crafts, folk music and dance forms, and other cultural landmarks. This district has a long history of cultural heritage, with influences from various ethnic groups and communities that have inhabited the region for centuries. The district is home to renowned cultural sites such as the Kamakhya Temple, Umananda Temple and Hajo Pilgrimage Center.

## VI. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### A. Introduction

231. Potential environmental impacts of the proposed infrastructure components are presented in this section. Mitigation measures to minimize/mitigate negative impacts, if any, are recommended along with the agency responsible for implementation. Monitoring actions to be conducted during the implementation phase is also recommended to reduce the impact.

232. Screening of potential environmental impacts are categorized into four categories considering subproject phases: location impacts and design impacts (pre-construction phase), construction phase impacts and operations and maintenance phase impacts and mitigation is devised for any negative impacts.

- (i) **Pre-Construction impacts** include impacts which are anticipated during construction works but planning is required for proposed mitigation measures before start of construction works i.e. during SIP period such as taking consents from various departments, planning for construction and workers camps, deployment of safety officer, arrangement of required barricades and caution boards etc.

- A. **Location impacts** include impacts associated with site selection and include loss of on-site biophysical array and encroachment either directly or indirectly on adjacent environments. It also includes impacts on people who will lose their livelihood or any other structures by the development of that site.

- B. **Design impacts** arise from investment program design, including technology used, scale of operation/throughput, waste production, discharge specifications, pollution sources and ancillary services

- (ii) **Construction impacts** include impacts caused by site clearing, earthworks, machinery, vehicles and workers. Construction site impacts include erosion, dust, noise, traffic congestion and waste production.

- (iii) **Operation and maintenance (O&M)** impacts include impacts arising from the operation and maintenance activities of the infrastructure facility. These include routine management of operational waste streams, and occupational health and safety issues.

233. Screening of environmental impacts has been based on the impact magnitude (i.e., negligible/moderate/severe – in the order of increasing degree) and impact duration (i.e., temporary/permanent).

234. This section of the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject IEE reviews possible project-related impacts, in order to identify issues requiring further attention and screen out issues of no relevance. ADB SPS (2009) require that impacts and risks will be analyzed during pre-construction, construction, and operational stages in the context of the project's area of influence.

235. The ADB Rapid Environmental Assessment Checklists have been used to screen the project for environmental impacts and to determine the scope of the IEE. An environmental and social risk analysis of the subproject was also conducted by LASA, to determine the impacts and its significance in the subproject interventions.

236. In the case of this PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject (i) most of the individual elements involve straight forward construction and operation, so impacts are mainly localized and not greatly significant; (ii) most of the predicted impacts are associated with the construction process, and are produced because that process is invasive, involving excavation and earth movements; and (iii) being mostly located in an rural area and not falling in any environmentally

sensitive zones except in some Forest land will not cause direct impact on biodiversity values. The project properties are held by the local government and access to the project location is through public rights-of-way and existing village roads hence, land acquisition and encroachment on private property will be avoided. However, NOC is required for some identified location from concerned authority.

### **1. Pre-Construction Impacts**

237. The proposed project activities involve construction of apron, bank protection/anti-erosion & at 8 locations for a total length of 11.54 km, adaptation works/Emergency contingency works for total of 8.75 km and launching of porcupine screens along the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River. P.S.C porcupine 8 screens in 3 layers covering 2.7 km will be launched. Additionally, construction of pumphouse is also proposed at Kalbhog sluice gate in Palasbari, which includes installation of 4 numbers of pump sets, construction of pumphouse and staff quarter.

#### **(i) Protected Areas**

238. There are no notified ESZ or protected areas or protected area where ESZ not yet notified within 10 km of the project interventions in the subproject area. Thus, no impacts on the protected areas are foreseen.

#### **(ii) Impact Due to Location – Adjacent to the River**

239. No impact during the design and preconstruction period is envisaged

#### **(iii) Environmental, Social and Culturally Sensitive Resources**

240. There are presence of schools and religious properties near the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject locations. Kamrup District is known for its rich and diverse physical cultural resources that reflect the region's unique cultural heritage. These resources include ancient temples, monuments, archaeological sites, traditional arts and crafts, folk music and dance forms, and other cultural landmarks. This district has a long history of cultural heritage, with influences from various ethnic groups and communities that have inhabited the region for centuries. The district is home to renowned cultural sites such as the Kamakhya Temple, Umananda Temple and Hajo Pilgrimage Center.

241. There are no archaeological monuments within 100m from the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject intervention locations. However, no impacts from the implementation of the project are envisaged during the design and preconstruction period and thus mitigation measures are not required. However, delay in the implementation may aggravate the erosion scenario and many properties may be adversely impacted.

#### **(iv) Tree Cutting at Selected Project Sites**

242. The project involves cutting of trees in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area due to antierosion works and other project activities. The number of trees to be felled is yet to be determined as of the time of preparation of the IEE. The number will be finalized at the pre-construction stage and shall be disclosed in the monitoring reports. Trees shall be felled once the necessary permissions for felling are obtained. Compensatory plantation shall be done on 1:10 basis i.e., 10 trees plantation against each tree cut as per the state government's policy <sup>46</sup>.

<sup>46</sup> Government of Assam, Guidelines for Compensatory Afforestation, 2000. Guwahati. [https://forest.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/swf\\_utility\\_folder/departments/pccf\\_lipl\\_in\\_oid\\_4/menu/information\\_and\\_services/hand\\_book\\_vol-i\\_compendium.pdf](https://forest.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/swf_utility_folder/departments/pccf_lipl_in_oid_4/menu/information_and_services/hand_book_vol-i_compendium.pdf)

**(v) Site selection of construction work camps, stockpile areas, storage areas, and disposal areas**

243. The contractors appointed for the proposed works under PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject shall identify locations for worker's camps including labor camps, areas for stockpiling and storage of construction materials. In case these locations are established in a private land, necessary paper works including change of land use from the revenue department, lease agreements etc., CTE & CTOs, drinking water permissions etc. shall be obtained before the start of actual works.

244. The contractors shall also identify disposal areas for solid wastes generated in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject. For works in and around the town area of Palasbari, the contractor can tie up with the local municipal authorities for collection & disposal of municipal and domestic solid wastes generated in the project. Most of the reaches where flood protection and anti-erosion works shall take place are in largely rural areas, the contractor can either tie up with the nearest municipal authorities and in case of none, identify suitable land and obtain necessary permissions from the panchayat and district administrations for use of disposal area. The contractor shall be required to maintain all necessary records for disposal of wastes

**(vi) Site selection of sources of materials**

245. The materials required for the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject are:

- Type-A geo-bags which shall be procured by WRD and supplied to the contractor from its nearest storage facility
- PVC coated wire netting
- Porcupines to be procured by WRD and supplied to the contractor
- River sand for filling the geo-bags and if technically permitted by Engineer<sup>47</sup> for embankment works – necessary permissions including mining permissions and prior EC from SEIAA to be obtained
- Broken stone bed media/stone aggregates to be procured from approved sources and copies of EC, mining permissions and Crusher's CTO to be obtained from the approved sources mandatorily. In case, the contractor wishes to operate his own crusher/aggregate mine, he shall obtain all necessary permissions and clearances (i.e., EC, mining permissions and Crusher's CTE & CTO) before start of works
- Cement Concrete blocks -
  - Cement: Contractor to procure cement bags from WRD/FREMAA/Engineer approved sources & maintain necessary documents
  - Aggregates: Contractor to refer to para above
- Earthworks - borrow earth areas to be identified by the contractor and necessary permissions obtained. He shall also follow the guidelines provided under borrow areas below
- Flyash for use in embankment in lieu of borrow earth if technically permitted by Engineer and if there are sufficient available fly ash at a nearby NTPC operated thermal power station in the district.
- Water – The contractor shall obtain permissions from the relevant authorities for use of ground and/or surface/river water for construction works. Since the river water has high sediments, the water quality to be tested as per guidelines of the Engineer to ensure that it

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<sup>47</sup> Engineer is the designated authority as per the Works contract between FREMAA/WRD and the contractor, who shall decide and approve all technical, financial, legal and safeguard documents, issues and changes.



can be utilized for concrete mixing. For earth works, river water can be used post obtaining permissions from relevant authority.

- Steel for all proposed works in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject shall be procured from Engineer approved sources. In case sluice gate shutters and allied parts and equipment are procured in whole then the same to be also obtained from Engineer approved source
- Barges (for placing geo-bags underwater) to be procured by WRD. The modality of the use of barges in executing works under PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject by the contractor shall be spelled out in the works contract for the specific work.
- Equipment and machineries for nature-based solutions activities (pulp making machines, grass cutters, handloom, fence, etc.) to be procured by FREMAA and used by AADB
- Livelihood supplies (500 kg seeds, 50 sewing machines, 40 handlooms for the 8 weaving centers) to be procured by FREMAA/WRD and used by AADB and other agencies for the CRBIFRWRMP.

#### **(vii) Borrow Area Location and Rehabilitation**

246. Substantial quantity of the earth will be required for construction of the river embankment of about 1.8m above the High Flood Level (HFL) with a top width of minimum 10m (Crest width of 3m and 7m passage for vehicle) and a side slope of 1:2 which is designed for 100-year flood return period in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. It is proposed that the demand for earth will be fulfilled by excavating borrow pits in the vicinity of the river embankment. During preconstruction period, the contractor has to identify the borrow area locations and obtain necessary permissions and clearances from various authorities. No major impacts are anticipated during the pre-construction period.

247. The borrow pits in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area shall be on river side since borrow pits on the riverside shall get silted up in the course of time whereas on the countryside remain a permanent disfiguration. Further the borrow pits next to embankment on the countryside can be a cause of inducing seepage to the foundations. Borrow pits on the country side away from embankment shall be preferable even at the expense of comparatively long hauls, if required and approved by the Engineer. If sourcing earth from countryside is unavoidable, the preference to be given for the following options:

- Waste land or excavating or enlarging existing lank or any humps above general ground level
- Earth from retired embankment.
- Land which farmers wants to either convert into a fishpond or lowering the agriculture field level to increase its water retention capacity
- No land acquisition shall be made for borrow areas
- Exploring the option of using fly ash in lieu of borrow earth if technically permitted by Engineer and if easily and sufficiently available
- Combination of soil and sand in embankment construction wherein sand is used as a filter in between soil
- Exploring the suitability of using dredge material from the channels where sluice gates are proposed to increase their water carrying capacity
- Exploring the option of using combination of soil and sand in embankment construction wherein sand is used as a filter in between soil
- Exploring technical feasibility of using soil from sandbars existing away from the bank

- Follow the WRD guidelines Appendix 5 for locating borrow pits close to the embankment if at all it is to be located next to embankment. All efforts shall be made that no tree loss takes place due to borrowing. The trucks shall be covered while transporting the earth.
- Prior environmental clearance shall be obtained from SEIAA for borrow areas

248. The Indian Road Congress (IRC):10-1961 guideline may also be referred for selection of borrow pits. In all cases good engineering and construction practices shall be followed. The WRD Guidelines with respect to borrow area location are as below:

- For high embankments no excavation shall be done within 45 m of the river side toe of the embankment. From 45m to 60m the borrow pits must not be more than 1.8 m deep and from 60m to 90m not more than 2.4m deep and beyond 90m they can be of 3m depth
- If earth is to be taken from landside of the embankment, no borrow pits shall be excavated within 24m of the land-side toe of the embankment. The depth of excavation in 24m to 36m distance shall not be more than 0.6 m
- The borrow pits shall be staggered and on undisturbed ground 6 m wide left at regular intervals to prevent the velocity of flow through the riverside borrow pits. The staggering will also help in inducing silting and filling up of these borrow pits.
- On the countryside the water-logged areas (bandhis) shall be cut and interconnected to permit ordinary drainage. These shall be connected to the nearest drainage channel so as to carry away the drainage water
- The borrow areas selected for taking earth shall be cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and vegetation mounds
- No borrow pits shall be made on roads, village tracks, graveyards, canals or embankments

249. The Indian Road Congress (IRC):10-1961 guidelines for selection of borrow pits and amount that can be borrowed is summarized below:

- Borrow areas shall not be located on cultivable lands. However, if it becomes necessary to borrow earth from temporarily acquired cultivated lands, their depth shall not exceed 45cm. The topsoil to a depth of 15cm shall be stripped and set aside for its later use for the purpose of turfing on slopes of the embankments. Thereafter, soil may be dug out to a further depth not exceeding 30cm and used in forming the embankment
- Borrow pit shall be selected from wasteland
- Priority shall be given to the borrowing from humps above the general ground level within the road land
- Priority shall be given to the borrowing by excavating/enlarging existing tanks
- Borrowing shall be from land acquired temporarily and located at least 500m away from the road
- Borrowing shall be from mounds resulting from the digging of well and lowering of agricultural fields in vicinity of the road
- In case of settlements, borrow pits shall not be selected within a distance 800m from towns or villages. If unavoidable, earth excavation shall not exceed 30cm in depth
- The haulage distance from site shall ideally not be too far

250. The construction contractor shall submit the borrow area identification details along with borrow area rehabilitation plan in advance during the pre-construction period to the Engineer for approval.

## 2. Construction and Operation Phase's Impacts

### (i) Land Use Change due to Project Activities and Borrow Area

251. **Impacts.** The unplanned selection of borrow areas/no rehabilitation of borrow areas may lead to loss of productive use of the land. The transportation of borrow earth PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject may also cause air pollution, if transported in uncovered trucks. Due to such construction activities along the river bank, the land use of about 100 m buffer (30m for embankment plus borrow areas towards country side) around the embankment is likely to be affected or changed.

252. The access to the embankment construction site in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area is mostly through the single lane semi-urban/rural roads (paved and unpaved both). These roads would require strengthening to sustain the heavy trucking load. In addition, it is recommended that a minimum of 1-2 construction camp (even though local laborers shall be preferred and utilized, a construction camp along with labour camp is envisaged for the 2.075 km stretch, is likely to be located, close to the embankment. This will also temporarily change the land use of the area; however, the impact would be temporary and reversible.

253. Due to the proposed interventions in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area, most of the agricultural land and homestead around the embankment site and construction camp areas may be affected adversely. Loss of topsoil is one of the most potential impacts with respect to borrowing of earth from countryside of the embankment. Besides this compaction of soil along the haulage route may also take place, if proper mitigation measures are not employed.

254. During operation phase encroachment on embankment for habitation and cultivation purpose may affect embankment stability in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. Rain cuts also destabilizes embankments, if regular maintenance is not undertaken. The Villagers also cut the embankment to create approach to river side for their movement for toileting, cattle grazing, and farming. Borrow areas, if not rehabilitated may have landscape and accidental hazards.

255. **Mitigation Measures.** Diversion of land for PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject purposes is minimized to 40m which includes a 2:1 slope on the river side and a 3:1 slope on the countryside to reduce the impact zone around the embankment which covers productive land used for cultivation. Adjacent cultivable lands shall not be occupied for storage and/or handling of construction materials. Construction camps in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area shall preferably be located on uncultivated area. All requisite facilities (drinking water supply, sanitation, domestic solid waste collection & disposal, fuel supply) shall be provided at these camps. The land used for construction camp shall be made reusable/cultivable after closure of construction camp. No construction debris shall be deposited on agricultural land. Loss of crops for construction camp area shall be compensated to the landowners.

256. Provision shall be made in the embankment design for providing access to the riverbank. The construction contractor shall ensure rehabilitation of borrow area before handing over the project. The WRD/FREMAA shall ensure that regular maintenance is undertaken for the embankment. All squatters and encroachers in the existing embankments shall be removed with the help of district administration.

### (ii) Borrow Area Rehabilitation

257. **Impacts & Mitigation Measures.** For PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject soil material from borrow pits shall be required for the slope stabilization for undertaking anti-erosion and flood protection works. The Borrow pits shall be rehabilitated after borrowing. The WRD guidelines for rehabilitation of the pits shall be strictly followed. The construction contractor shall submit the borrow area rehabilitation plan for each borrow area in advance in consultation with the community during the pre-construction period along with the borrow area identification details to the

Engineer for approval. He shall prepare the rehabilitation plans for the borrow areas as per the EMP and the direction and guidance of the environmental specialist of the Engineer.

258. The borrow areas in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area shall be restored to a safe and secure area usable to the public enabling safe access and entry to the restored site. Some indicative rehabilitation measures could be community water storage facility, pisciculture ponds, recreational spots, landscape enhancement, use as waste disposal area (with proper mitigation measures) and rehabilitation by re-vegetation of the borrow area. Where re-vegetation is done, it should be ensured that:

- Vegetative cover is established on all affected land
- Topsoil is placed, seeded and mulched within 30 days of final grading if it is within a current growing season or within 30 days of the start of the next growing season.
- Vegetative materials to be used are grasses, legumes, herbaceous or woody plants or a mixture thereof
- Plant material must be planted during the first growing season following the reclamation phase
- Selection and use of vegetative cover should take into account soil and site characteristics such as drainage, pH, nutrient availability and climate to ensure permanent growth. Choice of plant species for the planting program shall be made in consultation with ecological consultant and local forest department
- The planning of trees and shrubs results in a permanent stand or regeneration and succession rate, sufficient to assure a 75% survival rate
- The planning results in 90% ground coverage
- The site should be inspected when the planting is completed and again at one year to ensure compliance with the reclamation plan

**(iii) Land use Change due to construction material sourcing (Quarrying)**

259. **Impacts.** A significant amount of construction material would be required for the execution of this subproject located in Kamrup Rural District. Illegal quarrying may lead to land use change, unstable rock formation, air and noise pollutions. The environmental aspects and control of pollution due to quarrying operation of these approved quarries are controlled and monitored by SPCB. Thus, adverse impacts as a result of quarrying operations are not envisaged in the proposed project.

260. **Mitigation Measures.** Air and noise emissions from quarry shall be well within the prescribed limits. Setting up of stone crushers, if required, shall be done only after obtaining consent from State Pollution Control Board and taking adequate measures for air pollution control. Where materials are obtained from 3rd party vendors, contractors to submit all necessary documents including permission, EC documents, CTO, etc. to the Engineer before obtaining source approvals. If new quarries and stone crushers are to be set up for the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject, the contractor shall obtain the necessary Prior EC from SEIAA/MoEF&CC and the CTO from the PCBA and taking adequate measures for air pollution control. While finalizing the site, proper land use assessment shall be done. The land to be earmarked for dumping construction waste if any shall be free from any social or Resettlement and Rehabilitation (RandR) issue.

**(iv) Soil Environment**

**Soil Erosion**

261. **Impacts.** Soil erosion potential of an area depends on its topography, geological structure, rainfall, soil type and land use/land cover. In the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is mostly flat plain except a few forested hills

with elevation between 40 to 50 meters. The PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area also includes a large number of riverine tracts and sandy river island in the Brahmaputra River. Possibility of occurrence of gully and rill erosion is expected in the uncovered side slopes of freshly cut or deposited areas.

262. **Mitigation Measures.** Following mitigation measures can prevent the soil erosion:

- Construction shall be scheduled such that large areas of soil particularly at borrow areas near the embankment are not laid bare during the monsoon.
- Exposed surface shall be resurfaced and stabilized as soon as possible. This shall also be covered by straw or mulch to avoid soil loss in the intervening period. Ground disturbances shall be phased so that it is limited to workable size
- Stabilizations of soil around approach roads/slopes shall be done by turfing and tree plantation in ROW
- Various soil conservation measures shall be undertaken by AADB later on to prevent erosion.
- Soil erosion shall be visually checked on potential erosion zones during construction phase. In case soils erosion is found, suitable measures shall be taken to control the same

#### Operation Phase

263. **Impacts.** Due to bank erosion, the bankline at various sections throughout the reach has shifted very fast. In the last 20 years the river not only eroded Makadhuj village but has engulfed a huge area of the villages like Dhakala, Gumaira and Faturi areas. A total of 4185 ha land was eroded between year 1972 to 2021 in the project district. Despite the protection measures taken as part of ADB project AIFRERMIP Tranche I and Tranche II, the problem of erosion persists in some patches like Dakala (Kalitapara) and upstream and downstream of the Makadhuj and Faturi Spur No1.

264. The proposed PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject will have net benefits in terms of soil erosion and preventing progression of land loss. It is estimated that 75,558.4 ha of land shall be benefited from the subproject intervention. Soil erosion may still occur during the operation phase and early detection and remedial measures shall need to be taken for safety.

265. **Mitigation Measures.** Periodic checking shall be carried out to assess the effectiveness of stabilization measures. A detailed study to assess the location, reasons of soil erosion along the work sites during third year of the operation phase shall be undertaken. Suitable strengthening measures shall be implemented to prevent reoccurrence of soil erosion at existing erosion prone locations and prevent erosion at newer locations in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area.

#### (v) **Soil Compaction and Contamination**

##### Construction Phase

266. **Impacts.** Soil around construction site, haulage road, construction camp, and workshop, will get compacted due to transportation of man, machine and materials. Considering about 37.14% & 43.18% of land in the 1km of the project interventions is used for agricultural purposes in the subproject area, and implementation period is for 6 years, the agricultural yield will be reduced substantially due to soil compaction. Soil may also get contaminated around construction site, machine maintenance area, fueling station, construction camp, hot mix plant site, and haulage road.

267. **Mitigation Measures.** The movement of construction vehicles, machinery and equipment shall be restricted to the sites and pre-defined haulage road in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. Adequate provision for approach roads capable of handling movement and haulage of heavy vehicles and machineries shall be made to avoid damage to existing village roads, crop lands and settlement areas. The non-usable, non-saleable, non-hazardous construction waste shall

be disposed off in the properly delineated places. Usable or saleable waste shall not be disposed of to landfill.

268. All efforts shall be made to prevent soil contaminations. Following measures shall be taken to prevent the same:

- The construction vehicle shall be fueled or repaired/serviced at the designated place with proper arrangement of waste collection and disposal. The arrangement shall include cemented floor with dyke around for fuel storage and filling as well repairing of construction equipment. To avoid the soil contamination at the wash down and re-fueling areas, "oil interceptors" shall be provided.
- The demolition waste if any shall also be used to the extent feasible for construction.
- Oil and grease spill and oil-soaked materials shall be sold off to Pollution Control Board Assam (PCB)/MoEF&CC authorized vendors.
- Oil spill kits should be available at the site to minimize the damage to soil quality in case of spillage
- Fuel and waste oil should be stored in isolated locations on paved areas only to minimize the soil contamination. These areas should be provided with the garland drains provided with the oil interceptors

#### Operation Phase

269. **Impacts.** During the operation phase, contamination of soil in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area is not likely to happen other than due to accidental spillage from vehicle movement.

270. **Mitigation Measures.** Depending on the nature and magnitude of spill, appropriate land remediation measures shall be employed by the concerned authorities.

#### (vi) External Impacts on Flood and Drainage

#### Operation Phase

271. **Impacts.** The proposed structural flood protection works consist of anti-erosion works, launching porcupine screens, some adaptation works and also providing pumphouse. The proposed works will essentially confirm existing flooding behavior and provide better protection from mainstream flooding to flood-liable areas. The proposed anti-erosion, pro-siltation works, and flood protection works will not significantly change flood behavior, gross cross-section-wide sediment behavior of river morphology, however, the adverse impacts of the floods will be addressed considerably. The proposed bank protection measures will stabilize the banks and have no discernable effect on flood behavior. It is also to be noted that the proposed works include construction of 3 gated drainage sluices to mitigate drainage congestion within the protected areas.

272. **Mitigation Measures.** Under the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject, it is proposed to develop and use a numerical hydraulic model to investigate flooding and drainage behavior, both within and outside the protected areas, associated with mainstream, tributary and local flooding. PIU and PISC will carryout numerical hydraulic modelling during the construction and operation stages. This model will be used to ensure that there is adequate freeboard against embankment overtopping and that adequate provision has been made for sluice gates to facilitate drainage from the protected areas. Natural drainage systems shall be left undisturbed to the greatest extent possible; the flooding behavior of beels and wetlands will be assessed and where possible improved and/or preserved.

#### (vii) Changes in Water Levels

#### Operation Phase

273. **Impacts.** The conveyance capacity of the Brahmaputra River opposite the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area is enormous - and will remain unchanged by the proposed works on the southern bank. Accordingly, the proposed works will have no discernable effect on river water levels. Changes in channel conveyance brought about by the natural processes of riverbank erosion, accretion and channel avulsion will play a much greater role in any future change in water levels. An improved embankment network will reduce the risk of sudden devastating flooding in the subproject Kamrup Rural District and as such provide more predictable and stable water levels on the flood plains (especially from temporary local inundation during the flood season).

274. **Mitigation Measures.** Changes in cross-section will be monitored at regular intervals to detect any changes and initiate corrective measures. The project concept allows later rectification within the concept of adaptive approach. To this end, the project has substantial contingencies. Under the Project, the numerical hydraulic model of the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area will be used to identify low lying areas with a potential risk of deep inundation when major floods occur.

#### (viii) Effect on Flow Velocity/Discharge Intensities

##### Operation Phase

275. **Impacts.** The proposed interventions in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject are not expected to have any significant effect on the overall velocity profile of the river as the works are limited to the bank or near shore areas of the river and a combination of largely passive river training and flow regulating measures will be taken up to provide an optimum flow velocity in the section. Recognizing instability and unpredictability of the Brahmaputra River, clearly two different scales need to be distinguished for studying effects of flow velocity and discharge changes: (i) the total river cross section, many kilometers in width, and (ii) the cross section of the near bank channel, typically below one kilometer in width. Limited interventions along the bank do not change the cross section average flow velocities in alluvial rivers. Areas of faster flow are compensated through areas of slower flow and lower discharges, which on average even out. The average flow velocity and discharge is affected by different river stages with increasing discharges resulting in increasing flow velocities. The lack of systematic measurements limits the present ability of quantifying this satisfactorily.

276. The magnitude and variation of discharge in the Brahmaputra River undergoes drastic changes on seasonal as well as annual basis due to the unique hydro-meteorological and geophysical characteristics of its basin. The potential increase of these natural perturbations in the river hydrograph in the wake of unfolding climate change scenario appears to be more significant compared to any minor change that may be introduced as a result of the proposed activities on or near the riverbank. The river being very wide with appreciable channel roughness due the presence of multitudes of sandbars and bed forms, transmission of any minor disturbance in the flow close to the bank to areas midstream or across the channel to the other bank appears quite unlikely. Only major proactive river training interventions like spurs protruding into the river may have direct impact on the flow pattern and channel configuration affecting it significantly.

277. **Mitigation Measures.** Flow velocity changes along the bank line will be systematically monitored as part of the near-bank surveys. This includes establishing systematic records of discharges and flow velocities during the hydrological cycle. It is expected that this monitoring will contribute to a better understanding and a gradual optimization of the layout of structural flood and erosion countermeasures. Open revetments, such as multi-layers of sand filled Type A geo-bags and CC blocks placed on geotextile filters shall be used. Impermeable bituminous or interlocked revetments are not preferred and used as they have impact on the natural environment by interrupting exchange between flowing water and ground water.

#### (ix) Impacts of Development Works in Upstream Catchments

278. **Impacts.** A large number of hydroelectric projects are under various stages of implementation in the upstream parts of the Brahmaputra basin in India (Table 6.1). It is likely that these projects will have impacts on flood behavior in the subproject areas. The upstream dams, albeit mostly run-of-the-river schemes, would reduce flood peaks while acting as sediment traps that will lessen the outflow of sediments (until these reservoirs are filled up over the years). Likewise, improved watershed management pursued in upstream catchment will contribute to reduction of flood peaks and sediment transport over the long term. Any effect of this reduction in sediment inflows on the Brahmaputra mainstream channel cross sections and flood behaviors is difficult to predict, but any effects are likely to lead to a reduction in flood levels and aggradation, since reduced sediment loads supports a more stable channel pattern with deeper channels characterized by higher conveyance. The project i.e., CRBIFRERMP ADB loan shall further develop key agencies' knowledge base by improving various decision support tools initiated under AIFRERMIP and will strengthen the state's institutional capacity to deliver FRERM, thereby promoting disaster resilience of the state and affected communities.

**Table 6-1: Hydroelectric projects upstream of the Brahmaputra basin in India**

Sl. No.	Name	Location	District	Capacity (MW)	Status
1	Dibang Multipurpose Project	Dibang River	Lower Dibang Valley	2,880	Pre-construction
282	Etalin HEP	Dibang River	Dibang Valley	3,097	
3	Upper Siang HEP	Siang River	Upper Siang	10,000	Under construction
4	Kameng HEP	Kameng River	West Kameng	600	
5	Ranganadi HEP	Ranganadi River	Papum Pare and Lower Subansiri	405	Commissioned
6	Pare HEP	Dikrong River	Papum Pare	110	
7	Subansiri Lower HEP	Subansiri River	Lower Subansiri Lakhimpur	2,000	Under construction
8	Karbi Langpi HEP	Langpi River	Karbi Anglong	180	
9	Kopili HEP	Kopili River	Dima Hasao	275	

HEP: Hydroelectric Project

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

279. **Mitigation Measures.** Systematic monitoring and analysis of hydrological and geomorphological parameters will help identify any measures that may have to be considered to adapt to any unexpected changes over the longer term. The project will also promote holistic catchment management through statewide planning and coordinated implementation.

**(x) Impact on Silt Deposition and Bed Level Change**

Operation Phase

280. **Impacts.** The Brahmaputra River carries the second highest sediment load of all major rivers in the world. The high amount of sediment is largely mobilized during the high flood season flows and often leads to dramatic changes of the platform (river appearance on maps). While the riverbed is largely formed by the coarser sediments especially sand and more upstream gravel, the floodplains are built from finer silts and clay. The latter constitute the wash load in the river, which means they are transported within the channels to the sea without settlement. Only after inundation



and in areas without noticeable flow do the finer sediments settle. Part of this settlement has been cut-off through the construction of embankments in many places since minimum 25 years. It is noted that the inhibited deposition of the fertile finer clay and silt requires the use of alternative fertilizing methods to maintain overall soil fertility.

281. Problematic at this moment are breaches in the existing embankments in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area, which result in high velocities in the breach area allowing the flowing water to transport coarser, infertile sand through the breached section. This sand gets deposited downstream where the area widens, and the flow velocities drop. The resulting sand carpets are disastrous for the overwhelmingly small and marginal farmers as they render the fertile floodplain land unusable and can only be removed at great cost.

282. **Mitigation Measures.** The bank stabilization and retirement of the embankment system in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area will reduce the risk of embankment breaches with associated deposition of infertile land in the breach. This will help in supporting agriculture and livelihood of the dominant small and marginal farmers. The dynamic pattern of silt deposition in the river and areas adjacent to the bank, especially in the vicinity of antierosion and river training works, will be monitored at regular intervals to contribute to the knowledge base and understanding of the Brahmaputra morphology, and initiate necessary corrective measures if required.

#### (xi) Effect on Subproject Drainage System

##### Operation Phase

283. **Impacts.** The existing embankment system in the Kamrup Rural District along the Brahmaputra River acts as a barrier for the drainage of accumulating countryside water into the Brahmaputra during the monsoon season. The proposed works will have no additional adverse impacts on drainage. In fact, the installation of sluice gate on Kalbogh channel at Palasbari under previous ADB project AIFRERMIP has helped in resolving drainage problem and resultant inundation during heavy rainfall in the subproject area. The construction of pumphouse and installation of the pumps under this subproject will further enhance the capacity to dispose the excess water.

284. **Mitigation Measures.** Under this PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject, construction of a pumphouse in addition to the existing sluice gate (constructed under previous ADB project) on Kalbhog channel at Palasbari will solve the drainage problem during heavy rains. Besides the numerical hydraulic model will be used to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the existing natural drainage system to identify drainage behavior and problems, key drainage channels/systems and drainage congestion areas by the PIU and PISC during the construction and operation stages. This model will be used to investigate the optimum location, size and method of operation of the sluice gates. The cost-effectiveness of various remedial measures will be assessed with the object of improving drainage conditions. As part of this investigation, the preservation and/or improvement of the environmental flooding regime of wetlands and beels will be investigated.

#### (xii) Effect on Wetlands/Beels within the Subproject

##### Operation Phase

285. **Impacts.** Deepor Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River along the Palasbari reach. A sluice gate has been provided under previous ADB project AIFRERMIP at the mouth where it meets the embankment at Kalbhog in Palasbari. During heavy rains during monsoon water gets accumulated in the catchment of the sluice gate. The embankment does not impede the functioning of the beel, as it is not impeding the connection between the beel and the Brahmaputra River. The other wetlands located in the study area are fed by Kulsi River and will not be affected by the proposed project activities.

286. With the flood protection measures in place, farmers may use more fertilizers and grow more crops in the fields. The fertilizers and pesticides could reach the wetland as the land slopes towards the latter. This increases the tendency of eutrophication in the wetlands. The flood water is essential to the wetlands for flushing the pollutants in the wetlands.

287. **Mitigation Measures.** A pumphouse to flush out excess water particularly during heavy rains and monsoon is being constructed under this subproject at Kalbhog Palasbari. The proposed pumphouse will also facilitate flushing the pollutants during the heavy rains. Since, various terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species depend on the wetlands, due care shall be taken to ensure that no direct or indirect impact like siltation or flow of waste/debris is caused to any wetland located in the close vicinity of project construction activities.

### (xiii) Water Quality

#### Construction Phase

288. **Impacts.** The major source of surface water pollution during project construction phase in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area will be sewage and wastewater generated from labor camps as well as workshop areas. The project implementation period is estimated for a period of 6 years. The contractor is expected to hire the local unskilled and semiskilled laborers, while the bulk of the skilled labourers are expected to be migrant. For the outside labourers the contractor will establish a labour camp and it is expected that 100 – 200 laborers shall stay in each construction/labor camps. Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) recommends a maximum of 135 LPD (0.135 KLPD)<sup>48</sup> of water for domestic use. It can be safely assumed that about 80% of the water supplied will be generated as sewage. Thus, total quantum of sewage generated is expected to be of the order of 108 LPD (0.108 KLPD). However, it may pollute land and other nearby water bodies if discharged untreated, especially during the low flow season.

289. As per the primary monitoring data conducted by FREMAA no arsenic and fluoride pollution is noticed either in river water or ground water in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. Hence no impact of arsenic is anticipated.

290. As significant quantity of groundwater is not likely to be extracted as part of this project, any appreciable quantitative impact on ground water because of the construction activities is also ruled out. In addition to that ground water is easily available in 5 m BGL even during the lean periods. Impact on ground water quality is not likely due to the project activities as the wastewater generated from the project will be trapped for treatment before it will discharge/percolate from the project sites.

291. **Mitigation Measures.** Septic tanks shall be provided in each camp to treat the domestic sewage. Provision of mobile toilets also shall be considered with the provision of channeling the sewage to septic tank in a closed loop system. Discharge of untreated domestic sewage to the Brahmaputra River or to any natural waters will not be permitted. No debris shall be dumped in the water bodies like Deepir Beel and Brahmaputra River.

#### Operation Phase

292. **Impacts.** No impact is anticipated due to the project in this phase.

<sup>48</sup> Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO). 1999. Manual on Water Supply and Treatment. [https://cpheeo.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/3\\_40.pdf](https://cpheeo.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/3_40.pdf)

#### (xiv) Climate

##### Construction Phase

293. **Impacts.** Short term impact in terms of minor increase in temperature may happen in the immediate vicinity of the embankment due to cutting of trees located within the project intervention zone in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. However, most of these trees and grasses belong to fast-growing species like Simul, Bamboo (grasses) and the like.

294. The impact of climate change screening is based on the geographic data set, compiled from the latest scientific information on current geological, climate and related hazards together with projected changes for the future where available. These data are combined with the project's sensitivities to hazard variables, returning information on the current and potential future risks is medium. High flood is expected in future.

295. **Mitigation Measures.** The maximum possible efforts must be made for minimizing cutting of the trees while designing. The project will adopt a policy of compensatory tree plantation of planting 10 trees against each tree cut this is over and above compensatory plantation as per the state government policy.<sup>49</sup> Special design consideration were made keeping water level rise due to climate change.

##### Operation Phase

296. **Impacts.** No direct impact is anticipated on the climate of the study area due to the proposed PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject. However, changes in the catchments area of the river and extreme events due to possible climate change (global warming) can have indirect impacts on project and project area. With respect to the proposed project, climate change can play a major role due to its implications on water resources, water availability, and inland/freshwater wetlands.

297. During the AIFRERMIP tranche 2, India's Initial National Communication (Natcom 1) Project's data was studied to understand the climate change impacts on water resources of the entire country. It was found during the study that climate change impacts for inland wetlands depends on a number of variables which includes temperature increase, evaporation rate, precipitation changes in the catchment area etc. and is a very complex issue. It was established that an increase in temperature shall alter the thermal cycles of lakes, oxygen solubility and other compounds, and thus affect the ecosystem and thus an increased evaporation of water and reduced inflow from rainfall could damage the wetlands.

298. General Circulation Model (GCM) projections (by HadCM2) for India indicate an increase in precipitation by up to 30% for the north-eastern region in addition to a relatively moderate increase in temperature of about 2°C by the period 2041-2060. This could increase the incidence of flooding in the Brahmaputra basin. Since, there are divergent views on the above findings; these cannot be taken into consideration for any design change at this stage till more specific and dependable information related to climate change effect on river hydrology in this region is available.

299. **Mitigation Measures.** The likely impact framework shown above is generalized. However, more information needs to be collected based on newer studies and monitoring data. The flood pattern needs to be closely analyzed during proposed life span and take appropriate timely protective measures in case the flood levels increase due to climatic changes.

#### (xv) Air Quality

300. **Impacts.** The ambient air quality of the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area is good and the levels of PM2.5, PM10, CO, SO2 and NO2 are under the limits as per National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for air pollutants as per Table 6-1. While various construction

<sup>49</sup> The rate of compensatory afforestation as per Assam Govt guidelines is 1:3.

activities will increase the ambient air quality, but the level is likely to remain within the prescribed standards.

301. During the construction phase, there will be two main sources of air emissions, i.e., mobile sources and stationary sources. Mobile sources are mostly vehicles involved in construction activities, whereas emissions from stationary sources include construction equipment & machinery, batching plants, diesel generator sets, excavation/grading activities etc. In addition to these, fugitive emissions will also form a major proportion of air pollution in the form of particulate matter from storage and handling of construction material.

302. Fugitive dust sources associated with construction phase include vehicular traffic generating fugitive dust on paved and unpaved roads and aggregate handling.

303. The emission of particulate matter during the construction phase will be generated from the activities like clearing and grubbing, earthworks, movement of stone aggregates, road dust emissions etc. In addition to that emissions from various construction machinery fueled by diesel and from mobile source will be in the form of PM<sub>10</sub>, VOC, CO, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>. The emissions from stationary and mobile diesel engines with respect to their working/movement are presented in Table below:

**Table 6-2: Exhaust Emissions for Stationary and Mobile Machinery**

Source	PM <sub>10</sub>	VOC	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
Diesel Exhaust emissions (idle)	0.043 g/min	0.208 g/min	1.57 g/min	0.917 g/min	18.8 g/l
Diesel Exhaust emissions (idle)	0.4 g/mile	3.18 g/mile	18.82 g/mile	8.5 g/mile	18.8 g/l

**Source:** ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District). May 2018 [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en\\_6.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en_6.pdf)

304. **Mitigation Measures.** Batching plants shall be located away from the populated areas of PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area and be fitted with the air pollution control devices, the emission shall meet Pollution Control Board standards. Further, the batching plants must be sited at least 1 km in the downwind direction from the nearest human settlement.

305. It shall be ensured that the dust emissions from the crusher and vibrating screen of the stone quarries, if new ones are opened and operated for the project, do not exceed the standards. For procurement of the material from the market/third parties the contractors shall ensure that the material is procured from the legal complaint sources. The compliance certificates (i.e., valid CTO of crusher, EC of mines etc.) of the approved third parties shall be submitted to the Engineer by the contractor before commencing the procurement of material.

306. Vehicles delivering loose and fine materials like sand and fine aggregates shall be covered to reduce spills on existing road. Water may be sprayed on earthworks, on a regular basis. During and after compaction of the sub-grade, water will be sprayed at regular intervals to prevent dust generation.

307. The following mitigation measures will also be taken to mitigate the dust entrainment and fugitive emissions from the various sources in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area:

- Covering of loads in trucks, and the paving of access areas are examples of preventive measures. Mitigation measures including sprinkling of the on the dust prone work areas and construction yard with water is recommended at regular interval to arrest dust
- Redistribution of loose material onto the travel lanes will produce a short-term increase in the emissions. In general, preventive controls are usually more cost effective than mitigation controls
- Regular maintenance of machinery and equipment will be carried out

- Ambient air quality monitoring shall be carried out during construction & the first 3 years of operation phase as per the Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) through National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited/MoEF&CC recognized laboratories and the test reports shared with the Engineer and reported in the periodic Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR). If monitored parameters are above the prescribed limits, suitable control measures must be taken
- Care shall be taken to keep all material storages adequately covered and contained so that they are not exposed to situations, where winds on site could lead to dust/particulate emissions
- Fabrics and plastics for covering piles of soils and debris is an effective means to reduce fugitive dust from the material stores/warehouses
- Spills of dirt or dusty materials shall be cleaned up promptly so that the spilled materials do not become a source of fugitive emission
- All slopes and embankments will be turfed as per best engineering practices to help minimize the dust generation during operation. Plantation along the embankment shall be maintained. AADB shall pilot the NbS on the selected embankments under this project and the model will be replicated at a later date
- Speed restrictions shall be maintained for the construction vehicles while travelling on unpaved roads. The contractor shall also maintain the access roads regularly by way of (a) paving or (b) adding gravel or slag to a dirt road

#### Operation Phase

308. **Impacts.** The prime source for air pollution during operation phase will be the vehicular movement on the road around the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area, which will be used for transportation by general public as well as for maintenance of the embankment. However, during the operation phase, the roads and embankments will be strengthened and will be covered with turf and construction of paved roads by PWD will reduce the fugitive emissions. Due to all these developments, impact on air quality during operation phase will be beneficial.

309. **Mitigation Measures.** Plantation along the alignment, roads and embankment and turfing on the embankment slopes should be maintained, and their survival rates should be monitored. In addition to that regular maintenance of the road on the top of existing embankments as well as connecting roads shall be done for reducing fugitive emissions.

#### (xvi) Noise

#### Design and Construction Phase

310. **Impacts.** During construction phase, noise will be generated from various activities such as clearing and grubbing, excavation, earthworks, borrow works, etc. The general noise levels during construction phase such as due to working of heavy earth moving equipment and machineries installation may sometimes go up to 100 dB(A) or more at the work sites. As per the proposed plan and given the nature of the work, manual labor is likely to be preferred with limited use of machinery.

311. Considering expected noise levels during construction phase, it has been assumed that all these equipment generate noise from a common point. As per studies conducted for AIFRERMIP Tranche II, an increase in noise levels due to operation of various construction equipment is expected to increase the noise level from 100.3 dB (A) at a distance of 1 m to 52.4 dB (A) at a distance of 250 m from the sources. The increase in noise levels due to operation of various equipment is presented in table below.

**Table 6-3: Increase in Noise Levels due to Operation of various Construction Equipment**

Distance (m)	Ambient Noise Levels dB (A)	Increase in Noise Level dB (A)	Increase in Ambient Noise Level dB (A)
1	51.0	100.3	49.3
10		80.3	29.3
50		66.3	15.3
100		60.3	9.3
150		56.8	5.8
200		54.3	3.3
250		52.4	1.4

**Source:** ADB. India: AIFRERMIP Project 2, IEE Report (Palasbari Subproject - Palasbari and Gumi Reach, Kamrup District). May 2018. [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en\\_6.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/38412/38412-033-iee-en_6.pdf)

312. In addition to the above, there will be significant increase in vehicular movement for transportation of construction material. At present, vehicular movement near the project site the order of 5 to 10 vehicles/hour. During construction phase, the increase in vehicular movement is expected to increase up to a maximum of 40 to 50 trucks/hour. However, some movement of the construction materials is proposed to take place through the river using barges which shall be procured by WRD.

313. During construction phase, thus an increase in noise level is expected. However, the increase in noise levels will be localized, temporary in nature and mostly will be during daytime only.

314. **Mitigation Measures.** Following noise control measures shall be adopted, and included in the civil work contracts:

- Site Controls: Stationary equipment shall be placed along uninhabited stretches meeting the National Noise Quality standard, particularly for residential areas (Category C) and silence zones (Category D: hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places, etc.). In case the noise levels are not meeting the norms, the Engineer shall guide the contractor to adopt & establish the required measures as per the norms and as stipulated in the EMP; (i) maintain the required distance of least 150m (Category C) and 250m (Category D), (ii) to make use of appropriate temporary noise barriers especially near noise sensitive receptors identified near the construction zone
- Construction activities shall be prohibited between 9.00 pm and 6.00 am near residential areas throughout the subproject stretch
- Appropriate PPE devices like ear plugs or earmuffs will be provided to the workers operating in the vicinity of high noise generating machines
- Construction equipment and machinery shall be fitted with silencers and regularly maintained
- Regular noise monitoring measurements shall be carried out as per the EMoP during the construction period and 1st year of the operation phase
- Use of manual labor wherever feasible over machines shall be encouraged.

#### Operation Phase

315. **Impacts.** The prime source of noise pollution during operation phase will be the vehicular movement. However, as the roads will be paved and will provide smooth traffic movement, the impact due to vehicular movement will be less significant.

316. **Mitigation Measures.** Adequate signage shall be provided restricting the use of pressure horn particularly in near noise sensitive locations e.g., schools, hospitals and populated areas. Noise

measurements shall be carried out along the road to ensure the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Tree barriers between the road and village, semi urban and urban area shall be developed in a layered manner as suggested under air environment mitigation measures.

#### (xvii) Terrestrial Ecology

##### ➤ Disturbance to Vegetation

#### Design and Construction Phase

317. **Impacts.** There would be no major impact on terrestrial flora except cutting of trees during project intervention in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. There is no diversion of forest land or presence of any PA in the subproject project area. The natural terrestrial ecosystem has already been damaged by the heavy floods and erosions in the past in this area. The present vegetation is primarily planted by the locals and can be easily compensated by afforestation program. It is expected that with the compensatory plantation of 1:10 and prevention of further destruction of vegetation from erosion due to the project interventions, the proposed project shall help to improve the terrestrial biodiversity of the area.

318. The major species that are likely to be affected in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area are Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamb (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), ziziphus *mauritiana*, Mango (*Mangifera indica*), various species of bamboo (*Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Melocanna hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*) *Plectomia assamica*, *Plectomia bractealis*, *Cassia sophera* etc.

319. **Mitigation Measures.** Efforts shall be made to minimize the tree loss. Provision shall be made for planting trees in a ratio of 1:10 per tree cut. Plantation program shall run parallel to the construction activity. Indigenous and existing vegetation like those impacted including various species of Bamboo, Jackfruit, Ficus, Mango and Semal shall be preferred. Afforestation shall be undertaken with community participation.

#### Operation Phase

320. **Impacts.** No direct impact is anticipated during operation stage except accidental damages or absence of tree management.

321. **Mitigation Measures.** Arrangement shall be made for effective tree management to ensure survivability of the tree plantation. AADB along with the social forestry wing of the Forest Department may be involved in this program. A tree survivability audit shall also be conducted at least once in a year to assess the effectiveness of the program.

#### (xviii) Habitat Fragmentation and Destruction

#### Construction & Operation Phase

322. **Impacts & Mitigation Measures.** No habitat fragmentation and destruction are envisaged due to the project activities in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. The operation of sluice gates and construction of Pumphouse at Kalbhog does not fragment the aquatic habitat as normal flow of the water in the channels shall not be obstructed and the purpose of the sluice gate is to drain the rainwater from the countryside during monsoon. Thus, no measures are proposed.

### (xix) Animal Distribution/Migratory Route

#### Construction Phase

323. **Impacts.** There is no migratory route of terrestrial mammalian wildlife species in the project stretch and thus no impacts are envisaged. Winter migratory birds are reported at Deepor Beel within the vicinity of the subproject area. Winter migratory birds may also use the riverine charland/islands/sand bars. River Dolphins and other aquatic animals use the river for movement from one stretch to other. The river Dolphins are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River and the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works shall be limited within 30m of the riverbanks. However, river dolphins have developed a unique side swimming behavior which is an adaptation to help them navigate through shallow waters, thus, it may be likely that these Dolphins can occasionally venture within 30m of the riverbanks<sup>50</sup> during the lean season, and thus get impacted by the construction works. No impacts are envisaged, even if the river Dolphins enter the secondary channels close to the riverbanks. The only impacts that are probable are that of accidental hitting by the barges that shall carry materials for the project and being stuck in the shallow waters. However, the Dolphins have capacity of echolocation as validated by Herald, E. S., et al (the same paper referred in the footnote) and hence the probability of the Dolphins getting accidentally hit by the barges is very low. Similarly, the probability of getting stuck in the shallow water near the banks is also less. No or minimal impacts on the movement and migration routes of the aquatic animals and avifauna are envisaged.

324. **Mitigation Measures.** In case of accidental trappings of the river Dolphins due to construction works in the shallow water, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions. Poaching, hunting and fishing by the construction workers shall be strictly prohibited and workshops for the laborers shall be conducted by the contractor. All care shall be taken to ensure that construction waste does not find its way to water and pollute it. Care shall also be taken to ensure that channels are not permanently obstructed during the construction period in any way outside the work zone. If river dolphins are sighted in the secondary channels near to the riverbanks, during the construction period, works shall be temporarily suspended till the dolphins move out into the main channel. The sightings of the Dolphins shall be recorded and the wildlife department shall also be intimated.

#### Operation Phase

325. **Impacts.** No impact is anticipated during operation stage with regards to animal distribution and migration.

### (xx) Endangered Species

#### Design and Construction Phase

326. **Impacts.** No negative impact is anticipated on any endangered species as the works shall be restricted on the riverbanks since these are not found in this area currently.

327. As per information made available from IBAT<sup>51</sup>, there are 119 IUCN red listed species within 50 km radius of the project area. These includes 17 CR (2 floral, 1 insect, 7 avian, 6 reptilian and 1 mammalian species), 40 EN (3 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 4 Pisces, 8 avian and 15 mammalian species) and 62 VU species (5 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 6 Pisces, 22 avian and 19 mammalian species).

<sup>50</sup> Herald, E. S., Brownell, J. R. L., Frye, F. L., Morris, E. J., Evans, W., E., & Scott, A. B. (1969). Blind river dolphin: first side-swimming cetacean. *Science*, 166, 1408-1410.

<sup>51</sup> IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)



328. **Mitigation Measures.** In case of accidental trappings due to construction works or sightings of the endangered species, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions. Poaching, hunting and fishing by the construction workers shall be strictly prohibited and awareness workshops for the laborers shall be conducted by the contractor. All care shall be taken to ensure that construction waste does not find its way to water and pollute it. Care shall also be taken to ensure that channels are not permanently obstructed during the construction period in any way outside the work zone.

(xxi) **Aquatic Ecology**

➤ **Effect on Fishing Activities/productivity**

Design and Construction Phase

329. **Impacts.** There are no major fish landing sites in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area hence fishing activities and productivity will not be disturbed during the project implementation period. Locals were found to be fishing on the bank of the river with bamboo poles and nets and also using boats to lay nets across the smaller channels. Temporary flushing of the fish species towards the deeper part of the river may happen during the anti-erosion and flood protection works. The construction work will not affect the fish activity in the river as they move with the river current. The construction activity may increase the turbidity on the bank temporarily, however the impact is temporary and reversible.

330. **Mitigation Measures.** Adequate provision shall be made in the design to ensure access to the temporary ghats. Adequate requisite facilities shall be restored or maintained for undisturbed movement of the fisherman. During the construction, the contractors must provide a clear signage to guide which areas that fishing boat should not pass by or make a temporary landing.

Operation Phase

(i) **Impacts.** No impact is anticipated during operation stage with regards to fish activities.

(xxii) **Effect on Riverine Dolphins**

Construction Phase

331. **Impacts.** The primary studies conducted at the eight identified reaches for anti-erosion and flood protection works under the proposed PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject have noted from the local fishermen that the river dolphins are reported within 1 km at four reaches out of eight during monsoon. The dolphin sightings at 200m of the riverbank at Gumaira reach, 640 m at Simina reach, 800 m at Dakhala reach and 850 at Gumi reach. At the remaining four reaches the Painikhaity, Makdhuj Spur, Lotordia NC and Borakhat the dolphin sighting reported by the fishermen is 1100 m, 1450 m, 2600 mt and 3900 m respectively are thus found in the main and deep-water channel of the Brahmaputra River. A technical study report for IUCN estimated 35 dolphins at the best in between Guwahati to Bangladesh Border stretch of the Brahmaputra River (where the subproject district of Kamrup rural is located).<sup>52</sup> The river Dolphins are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River and the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works shall be limited within 30m of the river banks, no or minimal impacts on the movement and migration routes of the aquatic animals and avifauna are envisaged. However, River Dolphins have developed a unique side swimming behavior which is an adaptation to help them navigate through shallow waters, thus, it may be likely that these Dolphins can occasionally venture within 30m of the riverbanks during the lean season, and thus get impacted by the construction works. No impacts are envisaged, even if the river Dolphins enter the secondary channels close to the riverbanks. The

<sup>52</sup> Wakid, A. & Braulik, G. (2009): Protection of endangered Gangetic dolphin in Brahmaputra River, Assam, India. Final report to IUCN-Sir Peter Scott Fund. Pp 44.

only impacts that are probable are that of accidental hitting by the barges that shall carry materials for the project and being stuck in the shallow waters. However, the Dolphins have capacity of echolocation as validated by Herald, E. S., et al (the same paper referred in the footnote) and hence the probability of the Dolphins getting accidentally hit by the barges is very low. Similarly, the probability of getting stuck in the shallow water near the banks is also less.

332. **Mitigation Measures.** Works shall be limited to 30m from the riverbanks into the low flow level (LFL) of the river channels. The reported sightings of the dolphin are at a distance and away from the riverbanks mainly in the main channel of Brahmaputra River. In case, River Dolphins are sighted in the secondary channels near to the riverbanks, during the construction period, works shall be temporarily suspended till the dolphins move out into the main channel. No works are to be done during the monsoon season. In case of accidental trappings of the Dolphins due to construction works, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions. The sightings of the Dolphins shall be recorded and the wildlife department shall also be intimated.

### (xxiii) Migratory Routes

#### Design and Construction Phase

333. **Impacts.** There is no migratory route of fishes in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area, which can be affected due to the proposed project. The migratory fish species like Hilsa (anadromous)<sup>53</sup> and Anguilla (catadromous)<sup>54</sup> migrate through the main channel of the river i.e., through the deeper zones of the river. Therefore, project will not have any impact on the migratory route of these fishes. Other fish species like *Crossocheilus spp.*, *Tor spp.* also show only local migration from upper to lower reaches of the river, but these also normally migrate in the deeper zone of the river. The construction works involved in the project will not have any effect on the migratory routes.

### (xxiv) Effect on Spawning and Breeding Grounds

#### Design and Construction Phase

334. **Impacts.** Studies conducted during the AIFRERMIP project have observed that all fish species do not breed in same place. Breeding grounds varies from fish to fish as well as location. It has been reported in the AIFRERMIP project IEE reports that most of the riverine smaller fish species, prefer the shallow courses of river for breeding and spawning. Some fish species like *Channa spp.*, *Labeo spp.* and major carps prefer wetlands and beel for breeding. Fish spawning seasons also vary from fish to fish. However, most normal seasons for almost 80% of fish species starts from April and ends in August (i.e., during pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons).

335. Increase in siltation due to construction activity in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area particularly during the breeding season, may disturb the breeding activities. However, anti-erosion works shall primarily be executed in the riverbed and LFL area during the winter season.

336. **Mitigation Measures.** The construction of the anti-erosion works in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area shall primarily be executed in the riverbed and LFL area during the winter season. The construction activity in the riverbed shall be prohibited during the breeding period of April to August. All care shall be taken to ensure that construction waste does not find its way to water in these area and cause pollution.

#### Operation Phase

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<sup>53</sup> Migration of fish from sea to fresh water for breeding.

<sup>54</sup> Fish that lives in fresh water and breeds in sea.

337. **Impacts.** No impact is anticipated during operation stage with regards to fish activities.

**(xxv) Effect on Pond Fisheries**

Design and Construction Phase

338. **Impacts.** No pond fisheries activities were found along the proposed project intervention area. However, pond fisheries are found in the study areas Kamrup Rural District. The current productivity of these places is low. Once flood scenario is stabilized, siltation problems will be minimized, and the fish productivity of these areas will be improved.

339. **Mitigation Measures.** The fish productivity can be improved substantially with use of better fish culture and increasing the capacity of fishponds as well institutional strengthening support. Fish productivity audit may also be undertaken to assess the effect of institutional support.

**(xxvi) Socio Economic**

Construction & Operation Phases

340. **Impacts & Mitigation.** A large number of households are affected by flood and erosion. The proposed project will bring relief to the entire population in this PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area. The project will also provide employment to a large number of people during the construction period and thus will boost the local economy as small businessmen and entrepreneurs will provide the daily needs of the workers and officers of the proposed subproject.

341. With the stabilization of the area and prevention of land loss due to erosion every year, land availability for multiple crops will increase bringing positive impact on the local economy. Since the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject interventions shall have a positive impact on the socio economics of the area, no mitigation measures are warranted.

**(xxvii) Land Acquisition and Resettlement**

Design, Construction & Operation Phases

342. **Impacts.** The land acquisition and resettlement impacts are likely triggered in both the anti-erosion works, and flood protection works, involving both legal title holders and squatters.

343. **Mitigation Measures.** The Resettlement Plan (RP) being prepared parallelly for the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject shall cover the details of the households likely to be affected and compensation to the affected persons as applicable per ADB SPS, national and state laws.

**(xxviii) Social conflict**

Construction Phases

344. **Impacts.** Most of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers will be from the local areas with some skilled migrant workers for which contractor may establish a labor camp. They may conflict in culture and lifestyle and compete with local laborers over some job opportunities and may also create potential health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

345. **Mitigation Measures.** Early consultations will be made by the contractor with the local communities of the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area to determine the appropriate location of work camp sites. The contractor shall ensure that all migrant laborers are housed in the labor camps. Preference shall be given to locals for employment as unskilled and semi-skilled workers. All migrant workers will undergo workshop/briefings to sensitize them on local culture and lifestyle awareness. Appropriate measures for addressing potential health issues such as HIV/AIDS shall be taken as stipulated in the EMP.

### (xxix) Establishment and Operation of Construction Camps and Workers Facilities

346. **Impacts.** It is likely that the contractor may employ some skilled workers from outside subproject area, and therefore may provide temporary workers accommodation during the construction phase. Proper provision and maintenance of facilities is necessary for proper living conditions and avoid health, environment, and safety issues. Workers camps may also pose adverse impacts on surrounding communities. Operation of construction camps can cause temporary air and noise pollution from machine operation, water pollution from storage and use of fuels, oils, solvents, and lubricants. Potential impacts are negative but short-term and reversible by mitigation measures.

347. **Mitigation Measures.** Ensure conditions of livability at work camps established for the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area are maintained at the highest standards possible at all times; living quarters and construction camps shall be provided with standard materials (as far as possible to use portable ready to fit- in reusable cabins with proper ventilation); thatched huts, and facilities constructed with materials like GI sheets, tarpaulins, etc., shall not be used as accommodation for workers; accommodation shall meet the IFC standards for workers accommodation<sup>55</sup> which include: provision of safe housing, availability of electricity, plumbing, water and sanitation, adequate fire protection and dormitory/room facilities; accommodation shall be in the range from 10 to 12.5 cubic meters (volume) or 4 to 5.5 square meters (surface) per worker, a minimum ceiling height of 2.10 meters; a reasonable number of workers are allowed to share the same room – (standards range from 2 to 8 workers); workers with accompanying families shall be provided with a proper and safe accommodation. Prohibit employees from poaching wildlife and cutting of trees for firewood.

### (xxx) Establishments

#### Design and Construction Phase

168. **Impacts.** As per the primary census survey there are not any built common property resources (CRP) reported to be affected in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area and only land is affected. The RP prepared for the subproject shall cover the details of the properties likely to be affected and compensation to the affected properties as applicable per ADB SPS, national and state laws.

348. **Mitigation Measures.** In case during the construction stage any impact on any CRP is established efforts shall be made to prevent any relocation or demolition of these establishments, unless absolutely required. Where required, the social infrastructure shall be rehabilitated taking account of social and cultural values in consultation with the local community and district/local administrations. Temporary noise barriers will be installed close to school and place of worship during the construction stage.

### (xxxi) Archaeological Sites to be impacted.

349. **Impacts.** There is no ASI protected archaeological sites located within 500m of the proposed subproject reaches in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area and thus there shall be no impact due to the proposed project interventions.

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<sup>55</sup>[https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/publications/publications\\_gpn\\_workersaccommodation](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/publications/publications_gpn_workersaccommodation)

350. Any chance findings shall be immediately reported to the PIU, PMU and district administrations and necessary measures directed by the Engineer shall be implemented. A chance find protocol shall be prepared (sample is provided in Appendix 12).

**(xxxii) Places of Pilgrimage and Tourism to be impacted.**

351. There is no pilgrimage or tourist spot along the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject intervention area. In fact, with the strengthening of flood protection and anti-erosion works and improvement of roads and embankment will have positive impact on the accessibility of the villages along the reach.

**(xxxiii) Water Supply and Sanitation**

Construction & Operation Phase

352. **Impacts.** Residents of the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area are dependent on ground water for meeting their drinking water supply. The quality of ground water in the project reach was found fit for drinking purposes. They do though use the river water for other domestic purposes including washing and bathing. The proposed sub-project activities are not likely to affect the water supply of the area.

353. Sanitation facilities are poor in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area especially in the rural areas. People residing near the embankments usually go to the riverbank for their daily needs. Drinking water and sanitation becomes one of the major problems during floods. Another problem in the anti-erosion and flood protection works is that it complicates the draining of runoff water from the countryside to the riverside. Several points along the existing embankment in Palasbari subproject area also used as unauthorized disposal site for plastics, bottles, and other municipal solid wastes. The need for disposal sites should be considered in the design of the embankment. The geo-bags and other material used by the WRD as emergency flood protection measures needs to be properly disposal.

354. **Mitigation Measures.** Awareness should be created among the residents about the upkeep of the anti-erosion and flood protection works and embankment. Garbage generated during construction and especially at construction camps shall be collected at designated locations. The contractor may tie up with the local municipal authorities for disposal of the municipal wastes. Incineration of wastes shall be prohibited. Construction labor camps shall have toilets along with septic tanks. The proper disposal of the geo-bags and other material used earlier by WRD as temporary anti-erosion and flood protection measures shall be ensured contractor as stipulated in the EMP. During operation phases, encroachment and squatters shall be prevented by WRD with active assistance of the district administration.

**(xxxiv) Accidents and Safety**

Design and Construction Phase

355. **Impacts.** The risks associated with the proposed PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject are minimal. However, roads being narrow near the subproject interventions, efforts shall be made that no hazardous traffic conditions are created due to construction vehicle movement. Locals may out of curiosity crowd around the construction camp and zones and get hurt.

356. **Mitigation Measures.** The construction zones and the camps in the PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area shall be barricaded and proper fences provided. Drivers shall be provided adequate trainings to drive in narrow roads. Adequate lighting and signage (including road signages) to be provided at the construction sites to aware the locals of the dangers. All signage shall be in multiple language (Assamese, Hindi/Bengali besides English, if Engineer desires). Speed limits shall be prescribed for construction vehicular movement on the access road to avert the accidents.

357. The workers shall be provided with necessary personal protective equipment, life jackets etc., and a firstaid unit including adequate supply of dressing materials, transport means, nursing staff and an attending doctor, shall be available at each construction site. Regular health checkup camps to be organized at a frequency defined in EMP. Mandatory health checkups of laborers to be done during joining and periodically during the construction phase.

#### Operation Phase

358. **Impacts.** Due to improved road condition and development of road on the new embankment constructed under ADB project AIFRERMIP in subproject area, drivers may have tendency to drive fast on embankment road resulting in accidents.

359. **Mitigation Measures.** Speed limits shall be prescribed for vehicular movement on the embankment road to avert the accidents. Adequate signage and light reflectors shall be placed along the roadside.

#### **(xxxv) Navigation**

##### Design and Construction Phase

360. **Impacts.** This river section under PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area is navigated by people for moving from one place to another located at riverbank and moving to char lands for fishing & farming. They use small motorboats and fish landing sites or ghats for these movements. These landing sites/ghats could be temporarily disturbed due to project activities. However, there will not be any impact on the general navigability of the river due to the project since subproject activities are limited to riverbank and beyond.

361. **Mitigation Measures.** During construction phase, contractors shall provide alternate landing sites (ghats) with berthing facilities, access, and other common infrastructure, as part of the tender documents. In places the riverbank protection will provide steps to facilitate landing of local boats in support of trade and river crossings in PGP/Guwahati Palasbari-Gumi subproject area.

#### **(xxxvi) Occupational Health and Safety Plan due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

362. **Impacts.** Though the effect of COVID-19 pandemic has subsided in the India but the threat remains that the COVID-19 outbreak may reoccur. In case of recurrence of the COVID-19 outbreak the local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of virus exposure.

363. **Mitigation Measures.** Project shall also adhere to necessary protocols in response to infectious diseases such as the corona virus disease (COVID-19) consistent with the guidelines of relevant government healthcare agencies and the World Health Organization. Ensure that the subproject related staff at all levels are appropriately vaccinated. Ensure project staff, consultants, contractors, and workers have in their mobile devices the Aarogya Setu App, which is a mobile application developed and recommended by the Government of India to proactively reach out to and inform the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19. In case of the recurrent outbreak of the pandemic mandatory isolation of the personnel or workers, either asymptomatic or showing symptoms, who have had direct contact with anyone tested positive for COVID-19. The isolation procedures issued by the government shall be followed along with proper disposal of used PPE following guidelines and procedures issued by the government.

#### **B. Summary of Impacts**

364. Almost all the impacts are occurred during the construction period and the physical intervention associated with the civil works are not significant, therefore, the environmental impacts are temporary and reversible. With implementation of proposed mitigation measures, most of the impacts will be minimized, and no residual and cumulative impact is expected.

## VII. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

### A. Overview

365. The active participation of stakeholders including local community, NGOs/CBOs, and the media in all stages of project preparation and implementation is essential for successful implementation of the project. It will ensure that the subprojects are designed, constructed, and operated with utmost consideration to local needs, ensures community acceptance, and will bring maximum benefits to the people. Public consultation and information disclosure are a must as per the ADB policy.

366. Most of the main stakeholders have already been identified and their representatives consulted during preparation of this IEE, and any others that are identified during project implementation will be brought into the process in the future. Primary stakeholders in the subproject are residents, farmers, shopkeepers, and businesspeople who reside and work nearby embankments of Brahmaputra River, particularly where anti-erosion and river protection works are proposed under this subproject. The secondary stakeholders are the government and utility agencies responsible for provision of services in project area, PCBA, Forest and Wildlife Department, Agriculture and Fisheries departments, Brahmaputra Board, Assam Inland Waterways Transport Development Society (AIWTDS), Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS) etc., NGOs and CBOs working in the area (i.e. BOSCO Reach Out (Don Bosco), TERI-NERC, Aide et Action and Gramya Unnayan Sanstha). Both primary and secondary stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of this IEE.<sup>56</sup>

367. Public consultation meetings were held at few of the project intervention locations that are proposed under this subproject. Consultations with the inhabitants of the subproject area were carried out through February 2023 to April 2023 at Dakhala (Fishermen) Palashbari), Gumi (Tribal Women), Borakhat (fishermen), Makadhuj (Guimara), Kamrup Rural, exclusively with local women group, Panikhyti Chamaria areas of proposed subproject locations. Stakeholder's consultations were also held on in between February - April 2023 with the Forest & Wildlife department, Pollution Control Board Assam, Agriculture & Fisheries department, Botany and Zoology departments of Guwahati University, Chief Wildlife Warden and Member Secretary of Assam Biodiversity Board.

### B. Public Consultation

368. The public consultation and disclosure program are a continuous process throughout the project implementation, including project planning, design and construction.

#### 1. Consultation during Project Preparation

369. Institutional consultations were conducted with the relevant governmental departments such as, Forest and Wildlife Department, Guwahati University, Brahmaputra Board, AIWTDS, ARIAS, APART and APFBCS. The subproject proposals are formulated in consultation with WRD, FREMAA and AADB officials, concerned district administration, and local administrative bodies to suit their requirements.

370. **Focus-group discussions** with affected persons and other stakeholders were conducted to learn their views and concerns over the proposed subproject. A socio-economic household survey has been conducted in the subproject area, covering sample households, to understand the

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<sup>56</sup> Including various departments of Guwahati University, community in general, forest & wildlife department, fisheries and agriculture department, PCBA, the executing and implementing agencies (FREMAA, WRD, AADB.).

household characteristics, health status, and the infrastructure service levels and their demand. General public who are the people residing along the target subproject activity areas were consulted during visits. Formal panchayat-level consultation meetings were conducted in April 2023 in the subproject areas. Besides, several other meetings also conducted at village-level with communities. The details of consultation are provided in Appendix 9. Main issues discussed are:

- (i) Brief introduction about the Project components;
- (ii) Benefits of Project for the economic and social upliftment of Community;
- (iii) Labour availability in the Project area or requirement of outside labour involvement;
- (iv) Possible environmental Impacts due to the project activity;
- (v) Local disturbances due to Project Construction Work;
- (vi) Necessity of tree felling etc. at project sites;
- (vii) Challenges during flooding season if any;
- (viii) Climatic Conditions;
- (ix) Movement of wild animals & elephant corridor;
- (x) Forest and sensitive area nearby the project site;
- (xi) Dolphin habitat;
- (xii) Fish caught in there net.
- (xiii) Pollution level during construction period specially dust and noise pollution;
- (xiv) Health and Hygiene;
- (xv) Safety of residents during construction phase;
- (xvi) Solid waste disposal system; and
- (xvii) Requirement of enhancement of other facilities and discussion about ghat.

371. In line with the ADB's requirements, consultations were conducted with key stakeholders and community people pertaining to environmental and social considerations. These consultations helped in identifying felt needs/concerns and apprehensions of the communities related to the subproject and their priorities. Consultations were held with stakeholders including temporarily affected persons, farmers, beneficiaries/local people, poorest of poor households (non-titleholders on government land), gram panchayat pradhans, panchayat members/public representatives, FREMAA, WRD engineers and field staff.

372. Public consultation meetings were held at some of the subproject component locations and the Table 7-1 provides a summary of the locations, and participants in the consultation meetings. A total of 106 participants were present in the consultation meetings out of which 59.43 % were female participants. Summary of Stakeholder consultation are provided in Appendix 9.

373. Consultations were also held with various institutional stakeholders at their offices. Table 7-2 provides the details of the consultations, the issues and the suggestions provided by the stakeholders. Since the consultations are an ongoing procedure, the column related to issues, suggestions and request shall be updated on the progress of various requests and suggestions that may be received through official channels.

**Table 7-1: Summary of Public Consultation Held for Sub-project**

Sl. No.	Date	Location	Total number of participants	Total number of female participants
1	17.02.2023 and 18.02.2023	Dakhala (Fishermen) – Palashbari. Gumi (Tribal Women) Borakhat (Fishermen)	12	5



Sl. No.	Date	Location	Total number of participants	Total number of female participants
2	09.04.2023	Makhadhuj Village (Guimara), Kamrup Rural	23	22
3	09.04.2023	Panikhyti (Chamaria), Kamrup Rural	18	0
4	11.04.2023	Asolpara	10	10
5	12.04.2023	Borakhat	13	13
6	10.04.2023	Asolpara	10	10
7	12.04.2023	Borakhat	10	3
8	11.04.2023	Hahua Pathar	10	-

Source: LASA, 2023

**Table 7-2: Consultations held with Institutional Stakeholders**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date	Issues, Suggestions and Requests
1	Ms Dimpi Bora IFS	Division Forest Officer (IFS) Kamrup (West), Division	17th February, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was apprised about the project locations and its intervention</li> <li>Was intimated absence of notified animal corridor in the proposed project locations</li> <li>Suggested to prepare a mining plan for use of the river sand for the purpose of riverbank protection work. Was intimated that the same shall be undertaken by the contractor</li> <li>Advised that the embankment be properly compacted as had experienced earlier embankments were damaged due to rain cuts resulting from improper compactions</li> </ul>
2	Mr. Biren Baishya	GIS Expert, Assam State Disaster Management Authority	24th April, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apprised the project, project locations and interventions proposed</li> <li>Advised, to follow the Flood Hazards Atlas for Assam State (1998-2015), A geospatial Approach. This is the latest published study and the next study on Assam flood is under process and will be published in 2024</li> </ul>
3	Mr Sandeep Kumar, IFS	Chief Wildlife Warden and Member Secretary, Assam Biodiversity Board	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chief Wildlife Warden was apprised about the project interventions in the subproject districts, and the warden welcomed the project</li> <li>FREMAA requested to share kmz/kml files of all notified protected areas (PAs) in the project districts</li> <li>FREMAA requested to share the flora and fauna in the project districts especially outside the PAs and preferably along the Brahmaputra River</li> <li>The Chief Wildlife Warden requested for an official letter for flora and fauna data to initiate sharing of information. Also requested to apprise the procedure for obtaining necessary permissions for works</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date	Issues, Suggestions and Requests
				<p>if project sites are within 10km of PA (where ESZ are notified)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FREMAA requested for suggestions, if any for conservations of IUCN Red listed species (CR, EN &amp; VU) and scheduled species. Warden will revert, and on learning about the project interventions, was optimistic that no negative impacts are envisaged on biodiversity</li> </ul>
4	Dr. Niraj Agarwal,	Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Guwahati University	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The professor apprised about the project interventions in the subproject districts and welcomed the project</li> <li>• The professor suggested a consultancy cell run by the Geology department of the university who undertakes EIA and associated studies, where FREMAA may utilize their services. FREMAA intimated that environmental study and reports are prepared with ADB's assistance and the services may be procured in future, if required</li> <li>• The assistant professor may share all relevant information and studies that have been done in the project areas</li> </ul>
4	Dr. Kuldeep Sarma	Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Guwahati University	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Assistant Professor was apprised about the project interventions in the subproject districts and welcomed the project</li> <li>• He was happy to note that ecology especially aquatic ecology was considered for the study report as this is the most ignored section in IEE/EIA studies</li> <li>• He was interested in learning how various primary data are collected at field, and how these shall be analysed. There was an interest from the professor to know how the department can be involved with the project. However, there is an apprehension with the available studies and reports as these may be away from the reaches of proposed interventions</li> <li>• The Assistant Professor promised to share all relevant information and studies done in the project districts in the last 5 years</li> <li>• There shall not be any major negative impacts on the fauna (aquatic, riparian and terrestrial) due to the project interventions according to the professor</li> </ul>
5	Mr. M D Adhikary	Sr. Env. Scientist, Head, Water Section, Pollution Control Board Assam	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sr. Env. Scientist was briefed about the project in details including project locations and interventions</li> <li>• He apprised that the water quality of the Brahmaputra River is satisfactory</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date	Issues, Suggestions and Requests
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He intimated that PCBA monitors the quality of the river every month at 11 different locations starting from upstream at Dibrugrah to downstream at Dhubri</li> <li>• Since April 2023, PCBA has added 2 more locations at upstream (Dholasodia at Tinsukia district) and downstream (Morinoi, Goalpara district) to monitor the water quality</li> <li>• Also intimated that turbidity had increased in the Brahmaputra River till Tinsukia section. However, the river water quality is normal.</li> </ul>
6	Mr. Tarun Hararika	Deputy Director of Agriculture (B/A), Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, Directorate of Agriculture	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deputy director was briefed about the project</li> <li>• He welcomed the project's interventions in protecting land from erosion and advised to meet the concerned district officers of the department, as they have all the data of loss due to the flood in the respective districts</li> </ul>
7	Mr. Ajim Ahmed	Pest Surveillance Officer, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, Directorate of Agriculture	06 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The officer was apprised and briefed about the project</li> <li>• He welcomed the project and stated that the project will help them to planning for agriculture activities as it will stop the erosion problem</li> <li>• He intimated that flood helps the farmer both positively and negatively, flood damage the agriculture during flood season, but the alluvial deposition in the agricultural field of act as a natural fertilizer and increase the agricultural production in next upcoming seasons or in dry season</li> <li>• He expressed concern as the riverbank protection work, may act as an artificial barer for alluvial deposition for the agricultural land and deprive from naturally fertilized form of flood alluvial deposition</li> <li>• Mr. Ahmed was apprised about the various interventions. The anti-erosion works shall be helpful in preventing erosion of the river banks and loss of land and this shall be below the HFL and thus not disturb alluvial deposition from floods. New embankment constructed under ADB project AIFRERMIP works shall be in general an extension of existing embankments in order to protect settlements from flooding. Sluice gates shall be provided at locations to regulate water flow. Moreover, since the embankments are near settlement areas, the impacts on the agricultural fields are minimal</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date	Issues, Suggestions and Requests
8	Mr. Apurba Kumar Das	Joint Director of Fisheries, FFDA, Directorate of Fisheries	06 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Das was briefed about the project</li> <li>Mr. Das intimated that the department coordinates the various activities of fisheries in the state. The department is responsible for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in the state</li> <li>He also intimated that fishing in the Brahmaputra River is regulated by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district</li> <li>He expressed apprehension that the riverbank protection work might affect some habitat of fauna and the breeding habitat of some species during the construction period</li> <li>He was apprised that the interventions are noninvasive and impacts shall be temporary. The anti-erosion works shall be done in the river bed during the winter season when the water levels near the banks are low. No works are proposed during the breeding season during pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons</li> </ul>

**Source:** FREMAA, WRD, LASA & ADB TA Consultant

374. The consultations primarily highlighted the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection interventions, perceived negative impacts and mitigation measures, and public participation during implementation. Community members largely spoke about the inconveniences faced during rainy season and flood situations. The people expressed concerns about the erosion of riverbank, and its threat to agriculture land and local people.

375. The participants conveyed their support for the project that benefits the community with improved flood protection measures thus reducing the land erosion. The use of the ghat was discussed with the local residents – It was learned that the ghat near the Panikhity market is not a government operated, local people use the ghats for transportation to the north bank of the river for carry goods and public. The consulted people also expressed concern about frequent friction between the geobags and boats may affect the life of geobags. It was suggested that it would be helpful if stair like structure provided with the river protection work near the ghat area for the local public to access the ghats. This will also save the geobags from wear and tear.

376. Local people of living near to the river banks confirmed that no dolphins are reported near the proposed sites. The people informed that the dolphins are available in the main channel of Brahmaputra River.

377. It has been observed that people's acceptance on the subproject, as they are facing severe problem of erosion and flood risk. People are very much willing to extend cooperation as the project will provide proper anti-erosion and flood protection functions. There are no negative impacts perceived by the community, however, project team FREMAA explained likely issues during construction and proposed EMP to manage the negative impacts. Increasing traffic and disturbance to agricultural vehicle movement during the work were raised during the meetings, and FREMAA informed about proper measures to be taken for movement of construction vehicles. Prior information to people will be provided if necessary. FREMAA informed no road closures anticipated

due to this work. The people expressed satisfaction towards the project due to expected creation of job opportunities. The mitigation measures are included in the EMP.

## **2. Consultation during construction**

378. Prior to start of construction, FREMAA and WRD with the assistance of Project Implementation Support Consultant (PISC) will conduct information dissemination sessions at various places and solicit the help of the local community, leaders/prominent for the project work. At each neighborhood level, focus group meetings will be conducted to discuss and plan construction work with local communities to reduce disturbance and other impacts.

379. A constant communication will be established with the affected communities to redress the environmental issues likely to surface during construction phases and regarding the grievance redress mechanism. FREMAA/WRD and PISC will organize public meetings and will appraise the communities about the progress on the implementation of EMP. Meeting will also be organized at the potential hotspots/sensitive locations before and during the construction.

## **C. Information Disclosed**

380. Executive summary of the IEE will be translated in local language-Assamese and made available at the offices of FREMAA/WRD, PIUs, Village Panchayat offices, and displayed on their notice boards. Hard copies of the IEE will be accessible to citizens to disclose the document and at the same time creating wider public awareness. Electronic version of the IEE in English and Executive Summary in Assamese will be placed in the official website of the FREMAA/PMU after approval of the IEE by the Government and ADB. Stakeholders will also be made aware of grievance register and redress mechanism.

381. Public information campaigns to explain the project details to a wider population will be conducted. Public disclosure meetings will be conducted at key project stages to inform the public of progress and future. Prior to start of construction, the PMU/PIU will issue Notification on the start date of implementation in local newspapers. A board showing the details of the project will be displayed at the construction site for the information of general public.

382. Local communities will be continuously consulted regarding location of construction camps, access and hauling routes and other likely disturbances during construction. The road closure together with the proposed detours will be communicated via advertising, pamphlets, radio broadcasts, road signage, etc.

383. Project related information shall be disclosed through public consultation and making relevant documents available in public locations. PMU and PIUs shall provide relevant safeguards information in a timely manner, in an accessible place and in a form and languages understandable to affected person and other stakeholders. For illiterate people, other suitable communication methods will be used.

384. At minimum, the following documents shall be made available at the offices of project agencies – FREMAA, WRD, PMU, PIU and block level offices for public reference, and shall also be uploaded on respective websites.

1. Executive summary of the IEE (in Assamese);
2. Draft IEE Report (in English);
3. Final IEE Report (in English);
4. Updated/amended IEE, whenever updated/amended (in English);
5. Corrective action plans prepared during project implementation (English);
6. Annual Environmental Monitoring Reports (English).

385. A concise executive summary of project (in Assamese) and final IEE report, providing all necessary details of proposals, implementation arrangements, subproject locations, environmental impacts and mitigation and monitoring measures, and grievance redress mechanism, shall be made available to the stakeholders at consultation meetings. This should also provide contact information of project agency. This summary shall also be displayed at the notice boards of PMU, PIU and other public places. During project implementation, relevant information about any major changes to project scope will be shared with beneficiaries, affected persons, vulnerable groups, and other stakeholders. The above documents shall be submitted to ADB for disclosure on ADB website.

#### **D. Adaptive Mechanism**

386. In case of recurrence of COVID-19 pandemic adaptive mechanisms will be used to address limitations on environmental safeguard activities and consultations due to any government restrictions and COVID-19 risks. Surveys and data collection will be conducted through online platforms, brochures, questionnaires, and other forms of media as applicable to provide information and receive feedback from the people, beneficiaries, government agencies and other stakeholders.

## VIII. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

### A. Need for Project Specific GRM

387. A project-specific grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be established to receive, evaluate and facilitate the resolution of displaced people's concerns, complaints and grievances about the social and environmental performance at the level of the Project. The GRM will aim to provide a time-bound and transparent mechanism to voice and resolve social and environmental concerns linked to the project. The project-specific GRM is not intended to bypass the government's own redress process, rather it is intended to address displaced people's concerns and complaints promptly, making it readily accessible to all segments of the displaced people and is scaled to the risks and impacts of the project. The complainant may access the formal legal system at any time.

388. During plan preparation, information regarding GRM will be disclosed as part of the public consultation process. Grievances related to the implementation of the project will be acknowledged, evaluated, and responded to the complainant with corrective action proposed. The outcome shall also form part of the annual monitoring report that will be submitted to ADB.

389. The GRM will work within existing legal and cultural frameworks, providing an additional opportunity to resolve grievances at the local and sub-project level. The key objectives of the GRM are:

- Educate stakeholders on the GRM
- Receive and record the grievances
- Resolve and close the grievances
- Escalate unsolved grievances to concerned authority
- Notify/update the stakeholders of the solutions

390. The types of grievances the stakeholders may file for all the project components include, but are not limited to:

- Non-payment, or inadequate compensation and/or due R&R assistances;
- Wrong measurement of land parcel
- Construction related impacts – damages to structures; dust damaging crops/trees
- Health and safety risks;
- Negative impacts on the environment;
- Negative impacts on communities
- Physical harm and nuisance from construction or operational activities;
- Impacts arising from migrant labor on local communities
- Exclusion from beneficiary lists
- Lack of information and opportunities for participation

391. Presently, FREMAA and WRD are also addressing grievances raised through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which is an online portal implemented by the Govt. of India and hosted by National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Chief Minister of Assam can be contacted for any help at phone numbers 0361-2262222/2237043, Fax Number 0361-2262069 and email [cm@assam.gov.in](mailto:cm@assam.gov.in).

392. In the previous ADB (Tranche-II) Project, Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) was established at three levels, one at the project (Division/PIU) level, another at the district level, and the third at Executing Agency (PMU) level, to receive, evaluate and facilitate the resolution of

affected person concerns, complaints, and grievances. The same three tire GRM process will be adopted under this Project.

393. The GRM system and the committees to be formed at various levels would be intended to address stakeholders' grievances and dissatisfaction about actual or perceived impacts and to find a satisfactory solution. The GRM will function throughout the project cycle for use by stakeholders to address concerns and complaints promptly and transparently. The Project specific GRM is not binding and the affected persons can approach the Judiciary any time if they wish to do so. Taking grievances to Judiciary will be avoided as far possible and the resettlement plan-implementing agency will make utmost efforts and reconciliation at the level of GRC.

#### **B. Division/PIU Level GRC**

394. The concerned Project Implementation Unit (PIU)/Water Resources Division (WRD) will nominate 1 (one) official to oversee the implementation of RP and to provide response to the grievances raised by the community and affected persons. The GRC at Division/PIU Level will be constituted with the following members:

**Table 8-1: GRC Members at Division/PIU Level**

Sl. No.	Members	Designation
1.	Executive Engineer (WRD) – concerned Division	Chairperson
2.	Assistant Executive Engineer (WRD) – concerned Division	Member-Secretary
3.	Nominated official from RP implementing NGO	Member
4.	Gaon Bura (Village Head) of the concerned village	Member
5.	Two Community Members (Female)	Members

**Source:** FREEMA

#### **C. District Level GRC**

395. The second level GRC will be constituted at each Project District headed by the Deputy Commissioner. The GRC at district level will be constituted with the following members:

**Table 8-2: GRC Members at District Level**

Sl. No.	Members	Designation
1.	Deputy Commissioner of the District or his representative	Chairperson
2.	Additional Deputy Commissioner (LA)	Member-Secretary
3.	Revenue Circle Officer(s) – concerned Revenue Circles	Member
4.	Executive Engineer (WRD) – concerned Division	Member
5.	Nominated official from RP implementing NGO	Member
6.	Members of the Panchayat/ULB	Member
7.	One Representative of the Affected Person	Members

**Source:** FREEMA

396. There shall be not more than 7 (seven) members in the committee. There shall be minimum one-third women representation in the committee.

#### **D. PMU Level GRC**

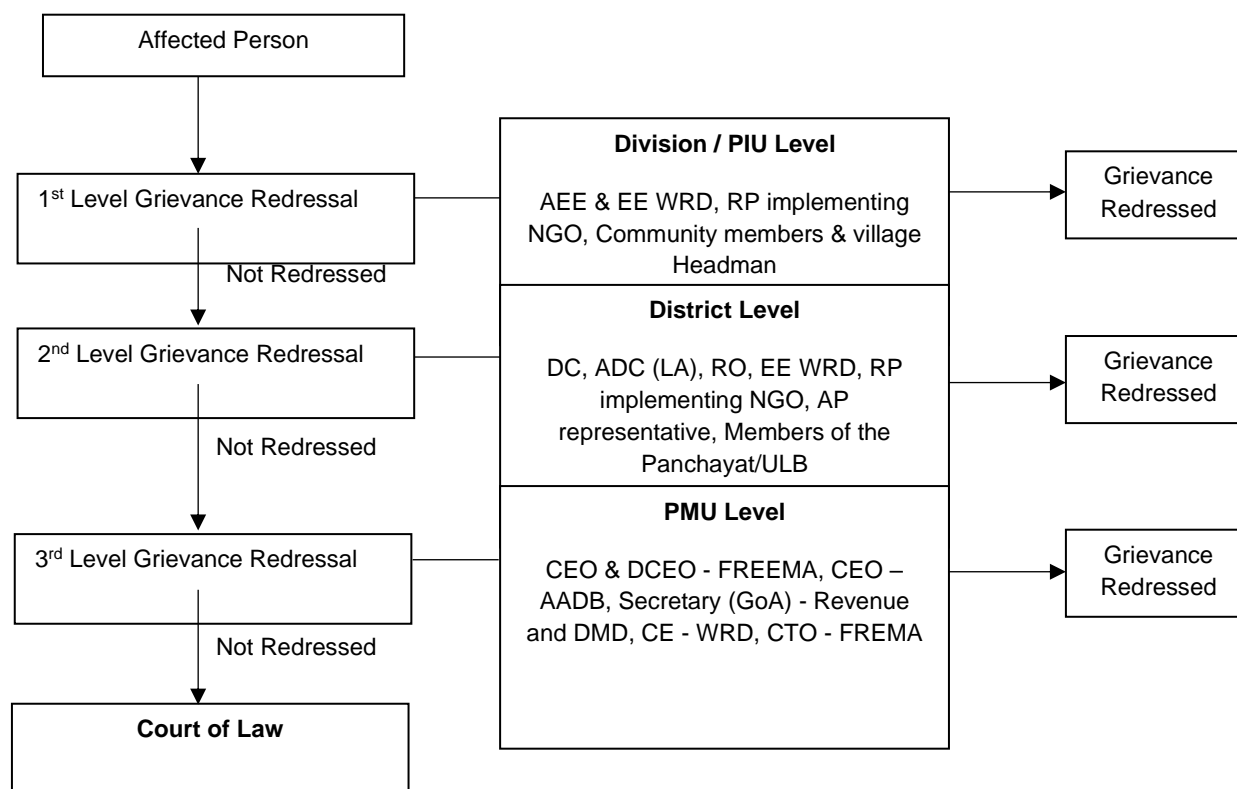
397. The PMU level GRC will function as an appellate authority and ensure that the stakeholders have access to legitimate, reliable, transparent, and efficient institutional mechanisms that are responsive to their complaints. The unresolved grievances accelerated to the PMU level GRC including grievances received through the previously mentioned platforms such as CPGRAMS are forwarded to WRD, which will in turn be placed before the PMU level committee for redressal.



**Table 8-3: GRC Members at PMU Level**

Sl. No.	Members	Designation
1.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FREMAA	Chairperson
2.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) AADB	Member
3.	Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue and Disaster Management Department	Member
4.	Chief Engineer, WRD	Member
5.	Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DyCEO), FREMAA	Member-Secretary
6.	Chief Technical Officer (CTO)	Member

Source: FREEMA

**Figure 8-1: Grievance Redress Process**

Source: FREEMA

### E. Key Elements of GRM under the project

398. The project GRM has the following key elements and procedures for satisfactory functioning:

399. **Flexible Grievance Registration Process:** The grievances can be registered by person, phone, text message, mail, email, via website, verbal, etc. Prior to registering the complaint/query, a procedural step will be in place to assess its eligibility and check that issues raised in the complaint fall within the scope that the GRM is mandated to address. Queries or complaints may be received in a variety of forms ranging from verbal communications to formal and written complaints; also, directly from APs or via third parties. Whatever the source and the form in which the query or complaint is received, it will be accepted by the focal points and registered in a grievance register and online portal. It is also to be mentioned that uniformity will be maintained in the complaint registration systems across different sections and agencies of the project.

400. **Log of Grievances and Database:** A Grievance Register will be maintained in which all grievances are recorded and digitized and maintained as a database at the PIU level by the designated official to document the grievance as per the prescribed format attached including details of the date and type of grievance received, the date of personal hearing provided to the complainant, the date when grievance was redressed or if not redressed date of forwarding the grievance to GRC. Provision will be made to record and maintain grievances received directly on-site and incorporated in the Grievance Register. This register will be placed at the Executive Engineer's office of the concerned division. This will serve as the First Level of Grievance resolution.

401. **Redressal Durations and Disclosed Procedures:** The GRM procedures will be publicly advertised and popularized for use by the stakeholders. The GRM will also set out the length of time users can expect to wait for acknowledgement, response, and resolution of their grievances. The GRM system will be popularized among the communities through IEC campaigns, IEC material, wall writings, etc. In addition to this, the length of time the complaints can expect to wait for acknowledgement, response, and resolution of different types of grievances. The response time prescribed for the GRC would be three weeks at each level. Since the entire resettlement component of the project has to be completed before the construction starts for the whole project, the GRC will meet at least once a month, or as needed, to resolve the grievances. Sixty percent attendance of the committee members at all three levels will constitute the quorum for the meeting. However, in case of divisional and district level GRC, participation of community members and representative of APs and RP implementing agency will be mandatory. The PIU will also ensure installation of Display Boards at site with GRM information with support from the civil works contractors/implementing support NGO and in consultation with project Management Unit (PMU), FREMAA. The GRC will meet once in a month.

402. **Transparency and Good Governance:** The GRM procedures, governing structure and decision-making process will be popularized among the communities through IEC materials and campaigns. For transparency and good governance, community members are selected as members of the GRC at field level, Grievances that cannot be resolved at the PIU/PMU level and in cases where the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, will be referred to the district level GRC. Consultative meetings along with distribution of leaflets with the community and APs will also be conducted to educate them on the GRM and its escalation matrix for resolving grievances to encourage them to use and access it in case of need. The PMU and PIU and adhere to the principle of confidentiality while informing the same to the district level GRC (if required) as the case may be. The designated official at the PIU will also be responsible to ensure that a mechanism is put in place to address grievances of labors and staff deployed at project sites by the Contractors.

403. **Escalation:** The project GRM provides for escalation at different levels, so that the unresolved grievances might be redressed at higher levels of GRM. Mediation is also encouraged as an option when the users are not satisfied with the grievance redressal.

404. Further, for land related grievances, the GRC will provide an opportunity to have their grievances redressed prior to approaching the State level LARR Authority, constituted by Government of Assam in accordance with Section 51(1) of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013. Decision of the District Level GRC will be final, unless an appeal is preferred with the PMU level. If the committee is unable to arrive at a decision through consensus, the matter will be referred to the appellate authority with a note on opinion of the committee members. Other than disputes relating to ownership rights and apportionment issues, on which the LARR Authority has jurisdiction, GRC will review grievances involving eligibility, valuation, all resettlement and rehabilitation benefits, relocation, and payment of assistances.

405. People who are, or may in the future be, adversely affected by the project may submit complaints to ADB's Accountability Mechanism. The Accountability Mechanism provides an independent forum and process whereby people adversely affected by ADB-assisted projects can

voice, and seek a resolution of their problems, as well as report alleged violations of ADB's operational policies and procedures. Before submitting a complaint to the Accountability Mechanism, affected people should make a good faith effort to solve their problems by working with the concerned ADB operations department. Only after doing that, and if they are still dissatisfied, should they approach the Accountability Mechanism.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>57</sup>For further information see: <http://www.adb.org/Accountability-Mechanism/default.asp>.

## IX. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### C. EMP & EMoP

406. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been developed to provide mitigation measures to reduce all negative impacts to acceptable level and monitoring the same. This is presented in the Tables 9-1, which shows the potential environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures and responsible agencies for implementation and monitoring.

407. The purpose of the environmental management plan (EMP) is to ensure that the activities are undertaken in a responsible, non-detrimental manner with the objectives of: (i) providing a proactive, feasible, and practical working tool to enable the measurement and monitoring of environmental performance on-site; (ii) guiding and controlling the implementation of findings and recommendations of the environmental assessment conducted for the project; (iii) detailing specific actions deemed necessary to assist in mitigating the environmental impact of the project; and (iv) ensuring that safety recommendations are complied with.

408. A copy of the EMP must be kept at work sites at all times. This EMP will be included in the bid documents and will be further reviewed and updated during implementation. The EMP will be made binding on all contractors operating on the site and will be included in the contractual clauses. Non-compliance with, or any deviation from, the conditions set out in this document constitutes a failure in compliance.

409. For civil works, the contractor will be required to (i) establish an operational system for managing environmental impacts (ii) carry out all of the monitoring and mitigation measures set forth in the EMP; and (iii) implement any corrective or preventative actions set out in safeguards monitoring reports that the employer will prepare from time to time to monitor implementation of this IEE and EMP. The contractor shall allocate budget for compliance with these EMP measures, requirements and actions.

410. The following tables 9-1 show the potential environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures and responsible agencies for implementation and monitoring during pre-construction, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance phases.

**Table 9-1: Stage Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
<b>Pre-Construction Phase</b>					
-	Protected areas	Project interventions in the sub project area not within notified ESZ/or within 10 km of protected areas, where ESZ not notified of the project Thus, no impacts on the protected areas are foreseen.	-	-	PMU-FREMAA
-	Location impacts (adjacent to the Brahmaputra River)	No impact during the design and preconstruction period is envisaged	-	-	-
-	Environmental, social and culturally sensitive resources	No impacts during the design and preconstruction envisaged	-	-	-
Preparatory works	Tree cutting at all work sites	The number of trees to be felled is yet to be determined as of the time of preparation of this IEE. The annual environmental monitoring reports shall disclose the number of trees to be cut when finalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize removal of trees by adopting to site condition and with appropriate layout design of various components or select any other site without trees for construction/labor camps</li> <li>Obtain prior permission for tree cutting at construction sites or at any other site that may require tree cutting during detailed design from forest department and district administration.</li> <li>Plant and maintain 10 trees/seedlings for each</li> </ul>	PIU/Contractor	PIU, PMU and Project Implementation Support Consultant (PISC)

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			tree that is removed		
Preparatory works	Consents, permits, clearances, NOCs, etc.	Failure to obtain necessary consents, permits, NOCs, etc. can result to design revisions and/or stoppage of works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain all necessary consents (including CTE and CTO for construction plants), permits, clearance, and NOCs prior to award of civil works. Following consents are required-               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tree cutting permissions from local authorities</li> <li>2. Storage, handling and transport of hazardous materials if any from PCB Assam</li> <li>3. Opening of new sand mining, quarries, borrow areas from Department of mines and Geology, SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC</li> <li>4. Traffic diversion/road cutting from local authorities and police department</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Ensure that all necessary approvals for construction from various authorities are obtained by contractor before start of construction.</li> <li>• Submit all copies of the various consents, permissions, clearances and NOCs to the Engineer and submit regular reports on compliance all obtained</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>consents, permits, clearance, NOCs, etc. as required by the authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in detailed design drawings and documents all conditions and provisions if necessary.</li> <li>• Obtain all necessary approvals from the Engineer including but not limited to setting up of labor camps, construction methodologies, and construction schedule before the start of construction</li> </ul>		
Clearing and grubbing, site preparation	Disposal of solid waste and site preparation	Removal of solid waste and other nuisance materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the project sites are cleared of solid waste or other nuisance materials</li> <li>• Dispose solid waste from existing sites and materials into designated locations (dumping in vacant lot is not allowed).</li> <li>• Garbage generated during construction and especially at construction camps shall be collected and disposed at designated locations. The contractor may tie up with the local municipal authorities for disposal of the municipal wastes.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incineration of wastes shall be prohibited.</li> <li>• Construction labor camps shall have toilets along with septic tanks, and garbage bins for segregation of wastes.</li> <li>• The proper disposal of the geo-bags and other material used earlier by WRD as temporary anti-erosion and flood protection measures shall be ensured by the contractor.</li> </ul>		
Sourcing of materials	Extraction of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraction of materials can disrupt natural land contours and vegetation resulting in accelerated erosion, disturbance in natural drainage patterns, ponding and water logging, and water pollution.</li> <li>• Illegal quarrying may lead to land use change, unstable rock formation, air and noise pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain materials from aggregate and sand quarries/crusher sites which has necessary permissions from the Department of Mines and Geology, Prior EC from SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC and CTO from PCBA.</li> <li>• If other sites are necessary, contractor to verify the suitability of all material sources and to obtain the approval of Engineer.</li> <li>• If additional quarries will be required after construction is started, contractor to obtain necessary approvals from Engineer.</li> </ul>	Contractor to prepare and submit list of approved quarry sites and sources of materials for the approval of Engineer	PIU, PMU and PISC



Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregates required for construction shall be procured from quarries/crushers which has obtained EC and CTO from SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC and approved by PCBA</li> <li>• Where materials are obtained from 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors, contractors to submit all necessary documents including permission, EC documents, and CTE and CTO to the Engineer before obtaining source approvals</li> <li>• Borrow earth areas to be identified by the contractor and necessary permissions obtained from Engineer</li> <li>• Fly ash for use in filling purpose in lieu of borrow earth if technically permitted by Engineer</li> <li>• Permissions from the relevant authorities for use of ground and/or surface/river water for construction works. Since the river water has high sediments, the water quality to be tested as per guidelines of the Engineer</li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			to ensure that it can be utilized for concrete mixing. For earth works, river water can be used post obtaining permissions from relevant authority.		
<b>Construction and Operation Phases</b>					
Borrow pit excavations	Change in land use and borrow area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse effect on agricultural land and homestead around the site and construction camp areas</li> <li>• Unplanned selection of borrow areas/no rehabilitation of borrow areas may lead to loss of productive use of the land.</li> <li>• Transportation of borrow earth may also cause air pollution.</li> <li>• Restricted access to the construction site.</li> <li>• Encroachment on embankment for habitation and cultivation</li> <li>• Cutting of embankment to create approach to river side</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid adjacent cultivable lands for storage and/or handling of construction materials.</li> <li>• Ensure construction camps is preferably be located on uncultivated area.</li> <li>• Provision of all requisite facilities (drinking water supply, sanitation, domestic solid waste collection and disposal, fuel supply) at the camps.</li> <li>• Provision shall be made in the design for providing access to riverbank close to the habitats</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC
Borrow pit excavations	Borrow area location and rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of agricultural land and homestead plantation due to borrowing earth from countryside of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borrow pits shall be preferred on river side to embankment as these can get silted in the course of time or earth from retired</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		embankment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent disfiguration of land</li> <li>• Seepage to the foundations of embankment</li> <li>• Non- rehabilitation of borrow areas</li> </ul>	embankment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference shall be given to utilization of waste lands</li> <li>• Use of dredge material from river if technically permitted by the Engineer</li> <li>• Using fly ash in lieu of borrow earth if technically permitted by Engineer</li> <li>• Use the combination of soil and sand in construction</li> <li>• Follow the WRD guidelines for locating borrow pits close to the embankment</li> <li>• Contractor shall ensure rehabilitation of borrow areas in line with WRD guidelines before handling over the subproject</li> </ul>		
Quarrying and mining	Land use change due to construction material sourcing (quarrying)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal quarrying for fulfilling the requirement of significant amount of construction material may lead to land use change, unstable rock formation, air and noise pollutions.</li> <li>• Quarrying operations, if not regulated may lead to adverse impact on ambient environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregates required for construction shall be procured from quarries and crushers which have obtained Prior EC from SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC and CTO from PCBA</li> <li>• Where materials are obtained from 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors, contractors to submit all necessary documents including permission, EC documents, CTO, etc. to the Engineer before</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>obtaining source approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If new quarries and stone crushers are to be set up for the project, the contractor shall obtain the necessary prior EC from SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC and the CTO from the PCBA and taking adequate measures for air pollution control</li> <li>While finalizing the site, proper land use assessment shall be done. The land to be earmarked for dumping construction waste if any shall be free from any social or R and R issue.</li> </ul>		
Earthworks and borrow areas	Soil environment	<p><u>Construction phase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil erosion potential of an area depends on its topography, geological structure, rainfall, soil type and land use/land cover.</li> <li>The topography of the terrain in subproject area covering the alluvial plain is nearly flat with a gentle gradient towards southwest.</li> <li>The soils in the subproject area are easily eroded during</li> </ul>	<p><u>Construction phase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction shall be scheduled such that large areas of soil particularly at borrow areas near the embankment are not laid bare during the monsoon. The construction methodology and schedule shall be approved by the Engineer before start of work.</li> <li>Exposed surface shall be resurfaced and stabilized as soon as possible and covered by straw or mulch</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and Defect Liability Period (DLP). PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p>heavy rainfall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of occurrence of gully and rill erosion is expected in the uncovered side slopes of embankments and other freshly cut or deposited areas.</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likelihood of soil erosion during the operation phase resulting in shifting of bank line</li> </ul>	<p>to avoid soil loss in the intervening period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground disturbances shall be phased so that it is limited to workable size.</li> <li>• Stabilizations of soil around approach roads/slopes shall be done by turfing and tree plantation in ROW</li> <li>• The design shall incorporate adequate engineering measures so that the construction could withstand the severe earthquakes</li> <li>• Various soil conservation measures shall be undertaken by AADB later on to prevent erosion.</li> <li>• Soil erosion shall be visually checked on potential erosion zones during construction phase. In case soils erosion is found, suitable measures shall be taken to control the same</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic checking shall be carried out to assess the effectiveness of stabilization measures. A detailed study to assess</li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			the location, reasons of soil erosion along the anti-erosion and flood protection works during third year of the operation phase shall be undertaken. Suitable strengthening measures shall be implemented to prevent reoccurrence of soil erosion at existing erosion prone locations and prevent erosion at newer locations.		
Earthworks and activities in construction camps	Soil compaction and contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil around construction site, haulage road, construction camp, and workshop, will get compacted due to transportation of man, machine and materials.</li> <li>• The agricultural yield will be reduced substantially due to soil compaction.</li> <li>• Soil may also get contaminated around construction site, machine maintenance area, fueling station, construction camp, hot mix plant site, if any and haulage road.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Construction phase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricting movement of construction vehicles, machinery and equipment to the site and pre-defined haulage road.</li> <li>• Adequate provision for approach roads capable of handling movement and haulage of heavy vehicles and machineries shall be made to avoid damage to existing village roads, crop lands and settlement areas.</li> <li>• The non-usable, non-saleable, non-hazardous construction waste shall be disposed off in the properly designated places. Usable</li> </ul>	<p>Contractor during implementation and DLP.</p> <p>PIU and PISC during operation period</p>	<p>PIU, PMU and PISC during construction</p> <p>PMU during operation</p>

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>or saleable waste shall not be disposed of to landfill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following efforts to prevent soil contamination shall be made:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The construction vehicle shall be fueled or repaired/serviced at designated places with proper arrangement of waste collection and disposal. The arrangement shall include cemented floor with dyke around for fuel storage and filling as well repairing of construction equipment. To avoid the soil contamination at the wash down and re-fueling areas, "oil interceptors" shall be provided.</li> <li>ii) The demolition waste if any shall also be used to the extent feasible for construction.</li> <li>iii) Oil and grease spill and oil-soaked materials shall be sold off to Pollution Control Board Assam (PCB)/MoEF&amp;CC authorized vendors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>iii) Oil spill kits should be available at the site to minimize the damage to soil quality in case of spillage</p> <p>iv) Fuel and waste oil should be stored in isolated locations on paved areas only to minimize the soil contamination. These areas should be provided with the garland drains provided with the oil interceptors</p> <p><u>Operation Phase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depending on the nature and magnitude of spill, appropriate land remediation measures shall be employed by the WRD and District Administration.</li> </ul>		
Subproject operations	External impacts on flood and drainage during operation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed anti-erosion, pro-siltation works, and flood protection works will not significantly change flood behavior, gross cross-section-wide sediment behavior of river morphology, however, the adverse impacts of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerical hydraulic model to investigate flooding and drainage behavior, both within and outside subproject areas, associated with mainstream, tributary and local flooding will be developed to ensure that there is adequate freeboard against embankment overtopping</li> </ul>	PIU/WRD and PISC	PMU



Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		the floods will be addressed considerably.	and that adequate provision has been made for sluice gates to facilitate drainage from the protected areas.		
Subproject operations	Changes in water levels during operation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed works will have no discernable effect on river water levels. Changes in channel conveyance brought about by the natural processes of riverbank erosion, accretion and channel avulsion will play a much greater role in any future change in water levels</li> <li>• An improved embankment network will reduce the risk of sudden devastating flooding and as such provide more predictable and stable water levels on the flood plains (especially from temporary local inundation during the flood season)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in cross-section will be monitored at regular intervals to detect any changes and initiate corrective measures.</li> <li>• Numerical hydraulic model of the subproject area will be used to identify low lying areas with a potential risk of deep inundation when major floods occur.</li> </ul>	PIU/WRD and PISC	PMU
Subproject operations	Effect on flow velocity/discharge intensities during operation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only major proactive river training interventions like spurs protruding into the river may have direct impact on the flow pattern and channel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flow velocity changes along the bank line will be systematically monitored as part of the near-bank surveys including establishing systematic</li> </ul>	PIU/WRD and PISC	PMU

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		configuration affecting it significantly	records of discharges and flow velocities during the hydrological cycle. It is expected that this monitoring will contribute to a better understanding and a gradual optimization of the layout of structural flood and erosion countermeasures.		
Subproject operations	Impact on silt deposition and bed level change during operation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high amount of sediment in Brahmaputra River is due to the high flood season flows and often leading to changes of the river appearance. The deposition increases the siltation in the floodplains and creates sand bars/chars in the river.</li> <li>• The transported silt gets deposited downstream where the area widens, and the flow velocities drop. The resulting sand carpets are disastrous for the overwhelmingly small and marginal farmers as they render the fertile floodplain land unusable and can only be removed at great cost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dynamic pattern of silt deposition in the river and areas adjacent to the bank, especially in the vicinity of anti-erosion and river training works, will be monitored at regular intervals to contribute to the knowledge base and understanding of the Brahmaputra morphology, and initiate necessary corrective measures if required.</li> </ul>	PIU/WRD and PISC	PMU
Anti-erosion	Effect on subproject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the project,</li> </ul>	Contractor during	PIU, PMU and

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
(AE) works	drainage system during construction and operation phase	embankment system near Palasbari acts as a barrier for the drainage of accumulating countryside water into the Brahmaputra River during the monsoon season leading to flooding in the countryside.	<p>construction of pump house is proposed at Kalbhog sluice gate in Palasbari to ease the flood in countryside of embankment during heavy rainfall and discharge the rainwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerical hydraulic model will be used to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the existing natural drainage system to identify drainage behavior and problems, key drainage channels/systems and drainage congestion areas. This model will be used to investigate the optimum location, size and method of operation of the sluice gates. Cost-effectiveness of various remedial measures will be assessed with the objective of improving drainage conditions. As part of this investigation, the preservation and/or improvement of the environmental flooding regime of wetlands and beels will be investigated.</li> <li>The construction related impacts are temporary and</li> </ul>	<p>construction phase</p> <p>PIU and PMU during operation</p>	PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			reversible which will be addressed by following best practices and implementation of EMP.		
Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Water quality	<u>Construction phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The major source of surface water pollution during project construction phase will be sewage and wastewater generated from labor camps as well as workshop areas.</li> <li>It is expected that 100 – 200 laborers shall stay in each construction/labor camps. Total quantum of sewage generated is expected to be of the order of 108 LPD (0.108 KLPD). However, it may pollute land and other nearby water bodies if discharged untreated, especially during the low flow season.</li> </ul>	<u>Construction phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Septic tanks shall be provided in each camp to treat the domestic sewage generated from the camps.</li> <li>Provision of mobile toilets also shall be considered with the provision of channeling the sewage to septic tank in a closed loop system.</li> <li>Discharge of untreated domestic sewage to the Brahmaputra River or to any natural waters will not be permitted.</li> <li>No debris shall be dumped in the water bodies.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC
Felling of trees	Micro-Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short term impact in terms of minor increase in temperature may happen in the immediate vicinity of the embankment due to cutting of trees located within the project</li> </ul>	<u>Construction Phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum possible efforts must be made for minimizing cutting of the trees while designing the embankment. The project will adopt a policy of compensatory tree</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP.  PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC during construction and PMU during operation

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		intervention zone.	<p>plantation of planting 10 trees against each tree cut this is over and above compensatory plantation as per the state government policy <sup>58</sup>.</p> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The flood pattern needs to be closely analyzed from hydrological engineering perspective during proposed life span of the embankment and take appropriate timely protective measures in case the flood levels increase due to climatic changes.</li> </ul>		
Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various construction activities will increase the ambient air quality, but the level is likely to remain within the prescribed standards.</li> <li>Mobile sources of pollution are mostly vehicles involved in construction activities, whereas emissions from stationary sources include construction equipment and machinery, batching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Batching plants shall be located away from the populated areas and be fitted with the air pollution control devices, the emission shall meet Pollution Control Board standards. Further, the batching plants must be sited at least 1 km in the downwind direction from the nearest human settlement.</li> <li>It shall be ensured that the dust emissions from the</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP.  PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC

<sup>58</sup> The rate of compensatory afforestation as per Assam Govt guidelines is 1:3.

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p>plants, diesel generator sets, excavation/grading activities etc. In addition to these, fugitive emissions will also form a major proportion of air pollution in the form of particulate matter from storage and handling of construction material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fugitive dust sources associated with construction phase include vehicular traffic generating fugitive dust on paved and unpaved roads and aggregate handling.</li> <li>• The emission of particulate matter during the construction phase will be generated from the activities like clearing and grubbing, earthworks, movement of stone aggregates, road dust emissions etc. In addition to that emissions from various construction machinery fueled by diesel and from mobile source will be in the form of PM<sub>10</sub>, VOC, CO, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.</li> </ul>	<p>crusher and vibrating screen of the stone quarries, if new ones are opened and operated for the project, do not exceed the standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For procurement of the material from the market/third parties the contractors shall ensure that the material is procured from the legal complaint sources. The compliance certificates (valid CTO of crusher, EC of mines etc.) the approved third parties shall be submitted to the Engineer by the contractor before commencing the procurement of material.</li> <li>• Vehicles delivering loose and fine materials like sand and fine aggregates shall be covered to reduce spills on existing road. Water may be sprayed on earthworks, on a regular basis. During and after compaction of the sub-grade, water will be sprayed at regular intervals to prevent dust generation.</li> </ul> <p>The following mitigation</p>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prime source for air pollution during operation phase will be the vehicular movement on the road on top of the embankment, which will be used for transportation by general public as well as for maintenance of the embankment. However, during the operation phase, the embankment will be strengthened and will be covered with turf and construction of paved roads by PWD will reduce the fugitive emissions. Due to all these developments, impact on air quality during operation phase will be beneficial.</li> </ul>	<p>measures will also be taken to mitigate the dust entrainment and fugitive emissions from the various sources in the subproject area:</p> <p>(i) Covering of loads in trucks, and the paving of access areas are examples of preventive measures. Mitigation measures including sprinkling of the on the dust prone work areas and construction yard with water is recommended at regular interval to arrest dust</p> <p>(ii) Regular maintenance of machinery and equipment will be carried out</p> <p>(iii) Ambient air quality monitoring shall be carried out during construction and the first year of operation phase as per the Annual Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) through National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited/MoEF&amp;CC recognized laboratories and the test reports shared</p>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>with the Engineer and reported in the periodic Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR). If monitored parameters are above the prescribed limits, suitable control measures must be taken</p> <p>(iv) Care shall be taken to keep all material storages adequately covered and contained so that they are not exposed to situations, where winds on site could lead to dust/particulate emissions</p> <p>(v) Fabrics and plastics for covering piles of soils and debris is an effective means to reduce fugitive dust from the material stores/warehouses</p> <p>(vi) Spills of dirt or dusty materials shall be cleaned up promptly so that the spilled materials do not become a source of fugitive emission</p> <p>(vii) All slopes and embankments will be turfed as per best engineering practices to help minimize the dust generation during operation. Plantation along the embankment shall be</p>		



Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>maintained. AADB shall pilot the NbS on the selected embankments under this project and the model will be replicated at a later date</p> <p>(viii) Speed restrictions shall be maintained for the construction vehicles while travelling on unpaved roads. The contractor shall also maintain the access roads regularly by way of (a) paving or (b) adding gravel or slag to a dirt road</p> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plantation along the embankment and turfing on the embankment slopes should be maintained, and their survival rates should be monitored. In addition to that regular maintenance of the road on the top of embankment as well as connecting roads shall be done for reducing fugitive emissions.</li> </ul>		
Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Noise levels	<p><u>Design and Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise will be generated from various activities such as clearing and grubbing, excavation,</li> </ul>	<p>Following noise control measures shall be adopted, and included in the civil work contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site Controls: Stationary equipment shall be placed</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP. PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p>earthworks, borrow works, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During construction phase, the increase in vehicular movement due to movement of construction vehicles is expected to increase multifold as major activities are in the vicinity of the subproject area.</li> <li>• During construction phase, thus an increase in noise level is expected. However, the increase in noise levels will be localized, temporary in nature and mostly will be during daytime only.</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prime source of noise pollution during operation phase will be the vehicular movement. However, as the roads will be paved and will provide smooth traffic movement, the impact due to vehicular movement will be less significant.</li> </ul>	<p>along uninhabited stretches meeting the National Noise Quality standard, particularly for residential areas (Category C) and silence zones (Category D: hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places, etc.). In case the noise levels are not meeting the norms, the Engineer shall guide the contractor to adopt and establish the required measures as per the norms and as stipulated in the EMP; (i) maintain the required distance of least 150m (Category C) and 250m (Category D), (ii) to make use of appropriate temporary noise barriers especially near noise sensitive receptors identified near the construction zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction activities shall be prohibited between 9.00 pm and 6.00 am near residential areas throughout the subproject stretch</li> <li>• Appropriate PPE devices like ear plugs or earmuffs</li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>will be provided to the workers operating in the vicinity of high noise generating machines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction equipment and machinery shall be fitted with silencers and regularly maintained</li> <li>• Regular noise monitoring measurements shall be carried out as per the EMoP during the construction period and 1<sup>st</sup> year of the operation period</li> <li>• Use of manual labor where ever feasible over machines shall be encouraged</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate signage shall be provided restricting the use of pressure horn particularly in near noise sensitive locations e.g., schools, hospitals and populated areas. Noise measurements shall be carried out along the road to ensure the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Tree barriers between the road and village, semi</li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>urban and urban area shall be developed in a layered manner as suggested under air environment mitigation measures.</p>		
<p>Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps</p>	<p>Terrestrial ecology</p>	<p><u>Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There would be no major impact on terrestrial flora except cutting of trees during project intervention in the subproject area</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No direct impact is anticipated during operation stage except accidental damages or absence of tree management.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efforts shall be made to minimize the tree loss.</li> <li>Provision shall be made for planting trees in a ratio of 1:10 per tree cut. Plantation program shall run parallel to the construction activity. Indigenous and existing vegetation like those impacted including various species of Bamboo, Jackfruit, Ficus, Mango and Semal shall be preferred.</li> <li>Afforestation shall be undertaken with community participation. Prevention of further destruction of vegetation from erosion due to the project interventions, the proposed project shall help to improve the terrestrial biodiversity of the area</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrangement shall be</li> </ul>	<p>Contractor during implementation and DLP.</p> <p>PIU and PISC during operation period</p>	<p>PIU, PMU and PISC</p>

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			made for effective tree management to ensure survivability of the tree plantation. AADB along with the social forestry wing of the Forest Department may be involved in this program. A tree survivability audit shall also be conducted at least once in a year to assess the effectiveness of the program.		
Construction of AE works	Animal distribution/migratory route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter migratory birds are reported at Deepor beel in Palasbari. Winter migratory birds may also use the riverine charland/islands/sand bars.</li> <li>• River Dolphins and other aquatic animals use the river for movement from one stretch to other. The river Dolphins are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River and the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works shall be limited within 30m of the riverbanks, no or minimal impacts on the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case of accidental trappings due to construction works or sightings of the endangered species, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions.</li> <li>• Poaching, hunting and fishing by the construction workers shall be strictly prohibited and workshops for the laborers shall be conducted by the contractor.</li> <li>• All care shall be taken to ensure that construction waste does not find its way to water and pollute it.</li> <li>• Care shall also be taken to ensure that channels are</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		movement and migration routes of the aquatic animals and avifauna are envisaged.	not permanently obstructed during the construction period in any way outside the work zone		
Construction of AE works	Endangered species	<p><u>Design and Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IBAT<sup>59</sup> there are 119 IUCN red listed species within 50 km radius of the project area. These includes 17 CR (2 floral, 1 insect, 7 avian, 6 reptilian and 1 mammalian species), 40 EN (3 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 4 Pisces, 8 avian and 15 mammalian species) and 62 VU species (5 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 6 Pisces, 22 avian and 19 mammalian species). However, no negative impact is anticipated on any endangered species as the works shall be restricted on the riverbanks since these are not found in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In case of accidental trappings due to construction works or sightings of the endangered species, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions.</li> <li>Poaching, hunting and fishing by the construction workers shall be strictly prohibited and workshops for the laborers shall be conducted by the contractor.</li> <li>All care shall be taken to ensure that construction waste does not find its way to water and pollute it. Care shall also be taken to ensure that channels are not permanently obstructed during the construction period in any way outside the work zone.</li> <li>Biodiversity and ecology assessment including surveys/census of IUCN</li> </ul>	<p>Contractor during implementation and DLP.</p> <p>PIU and PISC to conduct biodiversity and ecology assessment including survey/census of IUCN Red listed species</p>	PIU, PMU and PISC

<sup>59</sup> IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42026 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		this area currently.	<p>Red listed species shall be carried out during the 1<sup>st</sup> monsoon season in the construction period for the entire project area (all the 4 subprojects) by specialized Ecologists appointed by PISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A second biodiversity and ecology assessment including surveys/census of IUCN Red listed species shall be carried out during the winter season in the operation period for the entire project area (all the 4 subprojects) by specialized Ecologists appointed by PISC/FREEMA</li> </ul>		
Construction of AE works	Aquatic Ecology	<p><u>Design and Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary impact on fishing by local resident during construction phase on the bank of the river with conventional methods anticipated.</li> <li>• Temporary flushing of the fish species towards the deeper part of the river may happen during the anti-erosion and flood protection works.</li> <li>• The construction activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate provision shall be made in the design to ensure access to the temporary ghats.</li> <li>• Adequate requisite facilities shall be restored or maintained for undisturbed movement of the fisherman.</li> <li>• During the construction, the contractors must provide a clear signage to guide which areas that fishing boat should not pass by or make a</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		may increase the turbidity on the bank temporarily, however the impact is temporary and reversible.	temporary landing.		
Construction of AE works	Effect on Riverine Dolphins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal impacts on the movement and migration routes of the are envisaged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works shall be limited to 30m from the riverbanks into the LFL of the river channels. The reported sightings of the dolphin are at a distance and away from the riverbanks mainly in the main channel of Brahmaputra River.</li> <li>No works are to be done during the monsoon season.</li> <li>In case of accidental trappings due to construction works, the wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC
Construction of AE works	Effect on spawning and breeding grounds	<u>Design and Construction Phase</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in siltation due to construction activity in the subproject area particularly during the breeding season, may disturb the breeding activities. However, anti-erosion works shall primarily be executed in the riverbed and LFL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction of the anti-erosion works shall primarily be executed in the riverbed and LFL area during the winter season. The construction activity in the riverbed shall be prohibited during the breeding period of April to August.</li> <li>All care shall be taken to ensure that construction</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP. PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC



Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		area during the winter season	waste does not find its way to water in these area and cause pollution		
Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Social conflict	<u>Construction Phases</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict in culture and lifestyle and competition with local laborers over some job opportunities may take place besides triggering potential health issues such as HIV/AIDS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early consultations will be made by the contractor with the local communities to determine the appropriate location of work camp sites.</li> <li>The contractor shall ensure that all migrant laborers are housed in the labor camps. Preference shall be given to locals for employment as unskilled and semi-skilled workers.</li> <li>All migrant workers will undergo workshop/briefings to sensitize them on local culture and lifestyle awareness.</li> <li>Appropriate measures for addressing potential health issues such as HIV/AIDS shall be taken like awareness and training, HIV testing, if required.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC
Activities within construction camps	Establishment and operation of construction camps and workers facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper provision and maintenance of facilities is necessary for proper living conditions and avoid health, environment and safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure conditions of livability at work camps are maintained at the highest standards possible at all times</li> <li>Living quarters and</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p>issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation of construction camps can cause temporary air and noise pollution from machine operation, water pollution from storage and use of fuels, oils, solvents, and lubricants. Potential impacts are negative but short-term and reversible by mitigation measures.</li> </ul>	<p>construction camps shall be provided with standard materials (as far as possible to use portable ready to fit- in reusable cabins with proper ventilation); thatched huts, and facilities constructed with materials like GI sheets, tarpaulins, etc., shall not be used as accommodation for workers; accommodation shall meet the IFC standards for workers accommodation<sup>60</sup> which include: provision of safe housing, availability of electricity, plumbing, water and sanitation, adequate fire protection and dormitory/room facilities; accommodation shall be in the range from 10 to 12.5 cubic meters (volume) or 4 to 5.5 square meters (surface) per worker, a minimum ceiling height of 2.10 meters; a reasonable number of workers are allowed to share the same</p>		

<sup>60</sup> [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/publications/publications\\_gpn\\_workersaccommodation](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/publications/publications_gpn_workersaccommodation)

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>room – (standards range from 2 to 8 workers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper beds with mosquito nets, potable drinking water, separate toilets for men and women connected to the septic tanks and soak pits, separate kitchen and dining facilities, Condom boxes/vending machines to be mandatorily provided in the labor camps. Laborers shall not be sleeping on the ground. Spraying of insecticides, carbolic acids etc. shall be done regularly (at least once a week). First aid boxes as per Factory Act and first aiders to be provided in the construction sites and labor camps</li> <li>• Prohibit employees from poaching wildlife and cutting of trees for firewood;</li> </ul>		
Construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Nearby establishments (educational and/or religious) and households	<p><u>Construction Phases</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the primary census survey there are not any built common property resources (CPR) reported to be affected under the subproject and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case during the construction stage any impact on any CRP is established efforts shall be made to prevent any relocation or demolition of these establishments, unless absolutely required.</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP.	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p>only land is affected. However, during construction phase minor impact on CRP located on transit route of construction vehicles or establishment of construction camps etc. may be anticipated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise and emissions generating from the construction activity may adversely impact the establishments in the vicinity, however, the impact is temporary and reversible.</li> </ul>	<p>Where required, the social infrastructure shall be rehabilitated taking account of social and cultural values in consultation with the local community and district/local administrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary noise barriers will be installed close to school and place of worship during the construction stage. Temporary noise barriers will be installed close to school and place of worship during the construction stage.</li> </ul>		
Clearing and Grubbing, site preparation, construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Accident and safety	<p><u>Design and Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads in subproject area being narrow may lead to hazardous traffic conditions due to movement of construction vehicles.</li> <li>The execution of work on the river front and use of barges may lead to safety and accident risks.</li> <li>Locals may out of curiosity crowd around the construction camp and zones and get hurt.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Design and Construction Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drivers shall be provided adequate trainings to drive in narrow roads.</li> <li>Proper river safety gears shall be provided to the personnel working on the river front.</li> <li>The construction zones and the camps shall be barricaded, and proper fences provided.</li> <li>Adequate lighting and signage (including road signages) to be provided at the construction sites to</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP.  PIU and PISC during operation period	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		<p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to improved road condition on the existing embankment in Palasbari, drivers may have tendency to drive fast on embankment road resulting in accidents.</li> </ul>	<p>aware the locals of the dangers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All signage shall be in multiple language (Assamese, Hindi/Bengali besides English, if Engineer desires).</li> <li>• Speed limits shall be prescribed for construction vehicular movement on the access road to avert the accidents.</li> <li>• The workers shall be provided with necessary personal protective equipment and a first aid unit including adequate supply of dressing materials, transport means, nursing staff and an attending doctor, shall be available at each construction site.</li> <li>• Regular health checkup camps to be organized at a frequency defined in EMP.</li> <li>• Mandatory health checkups of laborers to be done during joining and periodically during the construction phase.</li> </ul> <p><u>Operation Phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed limits shall be prescribed for vehicular</li> </ul>		

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			movement on the existing embankment road to avert the accidents. Adequate signage and light reflectors shall be placed along the roadside.		
Construction of AE works	Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People use small motorboats/country boats for navigations between fish landing sites or ghats for movements between 2 banks/chars. These landing sites/ghats could be temporarily disturbed due to project activities. However, there will not be any impact on the general navigability of the river due to the project since project activities are limited to riverbank and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During construction phase, contractors will provide alternate landing sites (ghats) with berthing facilities, access, and other common infrastructure, as part of the tender documents</li> <li>• In places the riverbank protection will provide steps to facilitate landing of local boats in support of trade and river crossings</li> </ul>	Contractor	PIU, PMU and PISC
Clearing and Grubbing, site preparation, construction of AE works and activities within construction camps	Occupational Health and Safety Plan. Due to COVID 19 Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though the effect of COVID-19 pandemic has subsided in India, but the threat remains as the pandemic like situation occurs in some countries globally. In case of recurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic in India the local community members involved in project activities may be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case of recurrence of pandemic ensure that the project related staff at all levels are appropriately vaccinated.</li> <li>• Ensure project staff, consultants, contractors, and workers have in their mobile devices the Aarogya Setu App, which is a mobile application developed and</li> </ul>	Contractor during implementation and DLP.	PIU, PMU and PISC

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
		at a heightened risk of virus exposure.	<p>recommended by the government of India to proactively reach out to and inform the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure mandatory isolation of the personnel or workers, either asymptomatic or showing symptoms, who have had direct contact with anyone tested positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>• The isolation procedures issued by the government shall be followed along with proper disposal of used PPE following guidelines and procedures issued by the government.</li> </ul>		

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

**Table 9-2: Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP)**

Environmental Component	Project stage	Parameter	Standards	Location	Duration/Frequency	Implementation	Supervision
Air Quality	Construction Phase	PM <sub>2.5</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , CO, Pb	National Ambient Air Quality Standards and CPCB guidelines for collection of samples and testing	At 4 locations within 100m of hot mix plant, construction camp, crusher and near sensitive locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Continuous 24-hourly, twice a week for two weeks.	Contractor through NABL accredited/MoEF &CC approved Environmental Laboratories	PMU, PIU and PISC
	Operation Phase				At 4 locations near sensitive locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer		
Surface Water Quality inclusive of sampling for fisheries	Construction Stage	pH, BOD, COD, TDS, TSS, DO, Oil and grease and other physio-chemical and biological parameters	Grab sample collected from source and analyzed as per standard methods for examination of water and wastewater and CPCB Water Quality Criteria	At 4 locations including Brahmaputra River, wetlands/ponds at locations identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Twice a year during pre-monsoon (between March - May) and post monsoon seasons (between October – December) every year during construction period	Contractor through NABL accredited/MoEF &CC approved Environmental Laboratories	PMU, PIU and PISC
	Operation Phase				Only once either during pre-		



Environmental Component	Project stage	Parameter	Standards	Location	Duration/ Frequency	Implementation	Supervision
					monsoon (between March - May) or post monsoon seasons (between October – December) in the first year of operation period/DLP		
Ground and surface water and Drinking Water Quality	Construction Stage	pH, BOD, TDS, DO, FI, Cl, As, Cd, MG, Mn, total coliform and other physio-chemical and biological parameters	Grab sample collected from source and analyzed as per standard methods for examination of water and IS 10500:1991	At 4 locations including construction and labor camp sites and other locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Twice a year during pre-monsoon (between March - May) and post monsoon seasons (October – December) every year during construction period	Contractor through NABL accredited/MoEF &CC approved Environmental Laboratories	PMU, PIU and PISC
	Operation Phase			At 4 locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Only once either during pre-monsoon (between March - May) or post monsoon seasons (between October – December) in the first year of operation period/DLP		
Noise	Construction Phase	Noise levels in dB (A) for day, night, L <sub>10</sub> , L <sub>90</sub> ,	As per National Standards for Noise and	At 4 locations including construction sites, equipment	One day hourly measurements for continuous	Contractor through NABL accredited/	PMU, PIU and PISC

Environmental Component	Project stage	Parameter	Standards	Location	Duration/Frequency	Implementation	Supervision
		Lmax, Lmin	CPCB guidelines for collection of samples and testing	yards and other noise sensitive locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	24 hours.	MoEF&CC approved Environmental Laboratories	
	Twice a year for every year (i.e., summer and winter seasons) during construction period						
	Operation Phase			At 4 noise sensitive locations/settlements identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Only once either during summer (between March - May) or winter seasons (between December - February) in the first year of operation period/DLP		
Soil quality	Construction Phase	Monitoring of NPK and heavy metals, grease and other baseline parameters	ICAR Criteria of Soil Quality	At 2 locations including agricultural fields identified by the contractor and approved by the Engineer	Twice a year during pre-monsoon (between March - May) and post monsoon seasons (between October – December) every year during construction period	Contractor through NABL accredited/MoE F&CC approved Environmental Laboratories	PMU, PIU and PISC
	Operation Phase				Once either during pre-monsoon (between March - May) or post monsoon		

Environmental Component	Project stage	Parameter	Standards	Location	Duration/ Frequency	Implementation	Supervision
					seasons (between October – December) in the first year of operation period/DLP		
Terrestrial and aquatic ecology	Pre-Construction Phase	Census and Habitat Study	Wildlife Institute of India guidelines and Good Industry Practices	All throughout the project area (encompassing the four subproject areas)	One season during pre-construction phase (in the 1 <sup>st</sup> monsoon season of construction period) One season during the winter season in the operation period	PISC	PMU
Drainage Congestion	Construction Phase	Visual check	WRD guidelines	Project benefit area	Every year after first rains during construction period	PIU/WRD	PMU
	Operation Phase				Once after first rains during operation period		
River hydrology, morphology and sediment transport	All phases	Scientific techniques applicable to the monitoring of these components	Central Water Commission (CWC) and other scientific bodies' guidelines and standards	Entire subproject area at locations identified by the PIU/WRD as per CWC guidelines	Regular	PIU/WRD	PMU
Hydrology	All phases	Water level, discharge, river cross sections	Central Water Commission (CWC)	Entire subproject area at locations identified by the PIU/WRD as per CWC guidelines	As per CWC guidelines	PIU/WRD	PMU PMU
Morphology	All phases	Bank line profiles,					

Environmental Component	Project stage	Parameter	Standards	Location	Duration/ Frequency	Implementation	Supervision
		sediment transport, velocity, float tracking etc.					
Tree Plantation	Construction period	Survival rate of trees, success of re-vegetation (The number of trees surviving during each visit shall be compared with the number of saplings planted. The survival rate should be at-least 75% below which re-plantation to be done)	Forest department, GoA guidelines and standards	Entire subproject area and areas where compensatory plantations have been done	Thrice a year during pre-monsoon, post monsoon and winter seasons	Contractor and Forest dept.	PMU, PIU and PISC
	Operation Phase				Every year for 3 years during operation period	PIU and Forest dept.	PMU and PISC

FREMAA- Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam, CWC- Central Water Commission, dbA- Decibel, IS- Indian Standard, PCBA- Pollution Control Board Assam, WRD- Water Resource Department, Govt. of Assam.

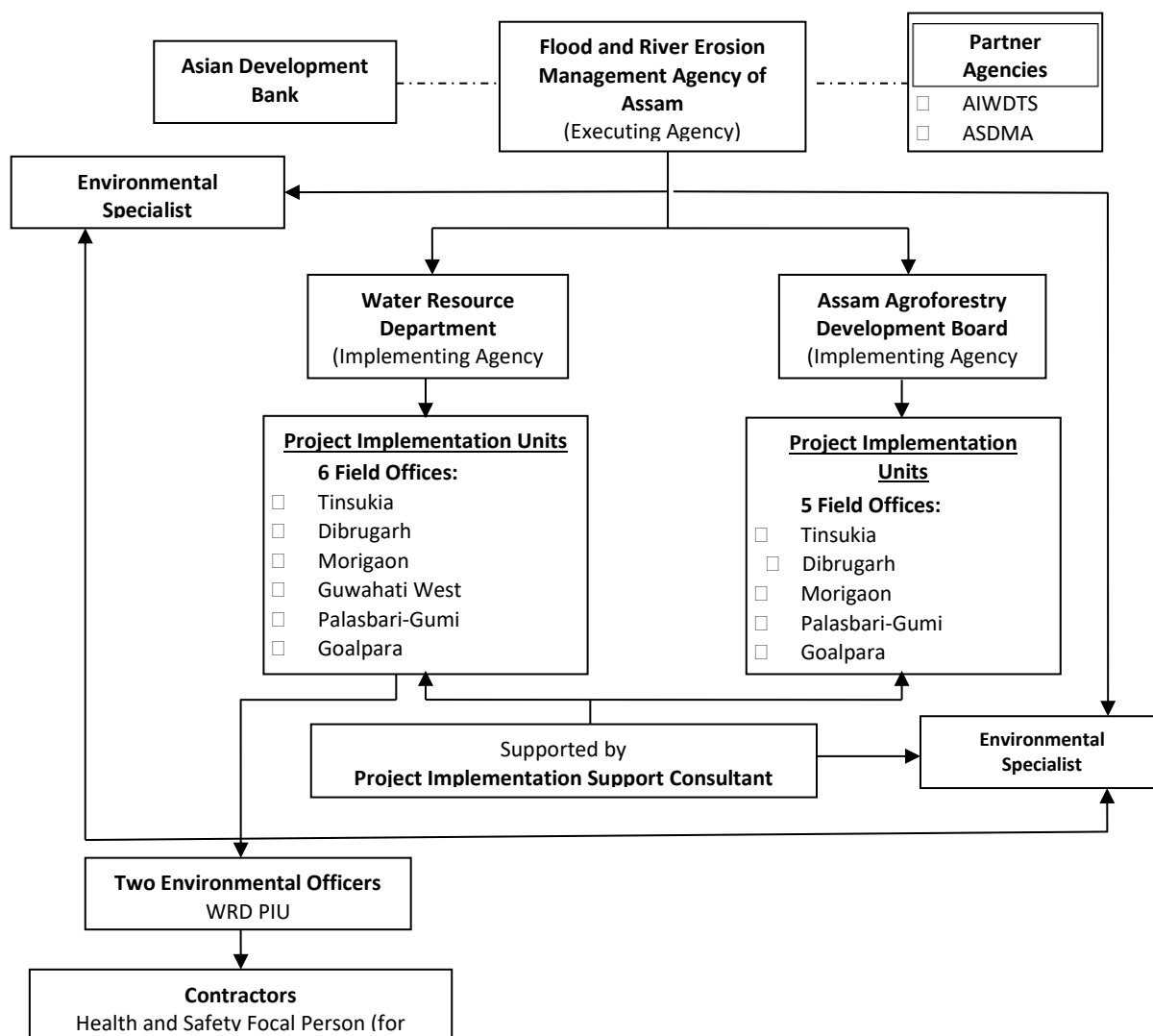
**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

#### D. Implementation Arrangement and Responsibilities of EMP implementation:

411. All the policy decisions, including incorporation of the EMP requirements in compliance to loan covenants shall be the responsibility of the recommended FREMAA as the executing authority which is registered under the Societies Act. The FREMAA is completed execution of ADB project AIFRERMIP and is currently executing World Bank project Assam Integrated River Bank Management Program (AIRBMP).

412. The project management unit (PMU) FREMAA will have responsibility to implement overall EMP. The PMU is responsible for the full compliance of the project with the loan agreement, ADB's SPS, and all applicable laws and rules of the government. The PMU is supported by an environment specialist to ensure compliance with environmental safeguards. The PMU will be assisted by WRD and AADB as PIUs. WRD PIU will be supported by two Environment Officers for implementing the environmental safeguard requirements. There will be 6 PIUs at WRD for execution of anti-erosion and flood protection works and 5 PIUs at AADB for implementing nature-based solutions. The Organizational Structure for implementation of environmental safeguard requirements is indicated in **Figure 9-1**.

**Figure 9-1: Organizational Structure for Environmental Safeguards**



Source: WRD and FREMAA

413. The **PMU** will:

- (i) comply with the government policies, standards, and other environment-related statutory requirements of the project;
- (ii) review and approve the construction EMP(s) prepared by the contractor(s) with the support of PISC and PIUs;
- (iii) be responsible for application of key documents and forwarding to government agencies for the processing of clearances and permits including, but not limited to: environmental clearance certificate, forest clearance, tree cutting permit, and other relevant permits and license, prior to awarding any works contracts to any contractor;
- (iv) ensure the preparation, review, and submission of EMRs (as stated on the loan agreement) for disclosure on the ADB and FREMAA websites;
- (v) conduct training and workshops on environmental management, and site induction of all staff and workers involved in the project implementation. The staff and workers will include all engineers, and field supervisors and laborers of contractors;
- (vi) guided by the IEEs submitted to ADB, implement effective environmental monitoring during pre-construction, construction, and operation phases. This includes, but is not limited to, inspections, review of monitoring forms prepared by the contractors, and documentation of the issues received through GRM;
- (vii) take proactive and timely measures to address any environment safeguards related challenges at the national, state or district levels such as (a) delays in processing of clearances during pre-construction stage and (b) significant grievances during construction and operation stages);
- (viii) review and approve, for submission to ADB, annual EMRs prepared by the PIUs and PISC;
- (ix) lead in complying with disclosure of annual EMRs;
- (x) review and approve corrective action plans (CAPs) for environment safeguard noncompliance.
- (xi) inform ADB on any unanticipated environmental impact/s occurred during project implementation phase; and
- (xii) ensure GRM, as envisaged in the IEEs and in this PAM, is in place and fully operational from the onset of project implementation.

414. As **PIU**, the WRD will:

- (i) ensure that the project, and all contractors obtain permits, licenses, etc. for activities such as the operation of asphalt plants, quarries, borrow areas etc. before the implementation of the respective construction activity;
- (ii) carry out regular field verification and review environmental compliances by the contractor during project implementation, in coordination with the PISC and the contractor's environmental focal person;
- (iii) with PMU's support through environment specialist and field supervisors, provide and record environmental observations during any site visits that may include, but not limited to, excessive dust, loud noises, improper disposal of wastes, chemical/oil spills, camp hygiene, health, and safety, and improper borrow area management; and
- (iv) in case of potential risks and hazards to health, environmental quality, and properties that may result from poor EMP implementation, immediately instruct the contractor to cease the construction activities that pose risk and conduct immediate containment and mitigation activities.

415. If there are any unanticipated environment impacts during project implementation, the PMU, with support from the PISC, will update the IEE/s and EMP/s. Both documents will be reviewed by ADB and disclosed on ADB's website.

416. **Contractor:** The contractor is the principal agent to implement the EMP and environmental quality monitoring during the pre- and construction, and operation stages. Specifically, the contractor will:

- (i) appoint the contractor's environment, health and safety focal person and attend the site induction workshop to be organized by the PMU and WRD;
- (ii) obtain necessary environmental license(s), permits etc. from relevant agencies as specified in the IEE and this PAM for the ancillary facilities such as quarries, tree cutting, etc. prior to commencement of works;
- (iii) as part of detailed survey, collect the baseline data on environmental quality of the construction sites before the start of physical works and continue collection of information (e.g., air quality, noise level, and water quality) during civil works as per the initial EMP;
- (iv) revise and finalize the construction EMP and environmental quality monitoring plan;
- (v) implement and document all mitigation measures in the EMP and environmental quality monitoring plan;
- (vi) ensure that all workers, site agents, including site supervisors and management, participate in all environmental safeguard related training sessions;
- (vii) ensure compliance with environmental statutory requirements and contractual obligations;
- (viii) participate in resolving issues as a member of the GRM;
- (ix) respond promptly to grievances raised by the local community or any stakeholder and implement environmental corrective actions or additional environmental mitigation measures as necessary and inform WRD; and
- (x) based on the results of EMP monitoring, cooperate with WRD to implement environmental corrective actions and corrective action plans, as necessary.

417. If there are any environment safeguard non-compliance during project implementation, the PMU will prepare necessary Corrective Action Plans (CAP), and reflect them in the periodic annual Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMRs). ADB will monitor WRD performance on the CAP.

418. ADB is responsible for the following:

- (i) review EMRs, and disclose the final reports and on ADB's website;
- (ii) explain policy requirements and safeguard covenants in the loan and project agreements to PMU and PIUs;
- (iii) monitor implementation of the EMP through due diligence missions;
- (iv) assist PMU and PIUs, if required, in carrying out its responsibilities and in building capacity for safeguard compliance;
- (v) monitor overall compliance of the subprojects to this PAM; and
- (vi) if necessary, provide further guidance to PMU and PIUs on the format, content, and scope of the periodic monitoring reports for submission to ADB.

419. The environmental management plan and resettlement plan will be updated from time to time during project implementation, upon availability of detailed engineering design, and to reflect adaptive management of project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to project performance, ensuring that standards originally planned are not lowered.

420. **Capacity Building and Training:** Executing and implementing agencies need to have a sustained capacity to manage and monitor environmental safeguards. Although specialist

consultants support will be available to PMU and PIUs, it is necessary to mainstream safeguards in day-to-day working. Therefore, PMU and PIUs require capacity building measures for (i) a better understanding of the project-related environmental issues; and (ii) to strengthen their role in preparation of IEE, implementation of mitigation measures, and subsequent monitoring. Trainings and awareness workshops are included in the project with the primary focus of enabling the PMU and PIU staff to understand impact assessments and carry out environmental monitoring and implement EMPs. After participating in such activities, the participants will be able to review environmental assessments, conduct monitoring of EMPs, understand government and ADB requirements for environmental assessment, management, and monitoring (short- and long-term), and incorporate environmental features into future project designs, specifications, and tender documents and carry out necessary checks and balances during project implementation.

421. The PISC will facilitate the implementation of capacity building program for the PMU, PIU, and contractors, with specific topics on environmental safeguards such as but not limited to the list below. The contractors will be responsible for conducting site-specific/work-specific orientation on environmental safeguards for their workers prior to deployment to work sites. Typical modules would be as follows: (i) sensitization; (ii) introduction to environment and environmental considerations in water supply projects; (iii) review of IEEs and integration into the project detailed design; (iv) improved coordination within nodal departments; (v) monitoring and reporting system; and (vi) project GRM. Specific modules customized for the available skill set will be devised after assessing the capabilities of the target participants and the requirements of the project. The proposed training program along with the frequency of sessions, is presented in Table 9-3.

**Table 9-3: Capacity Building Program on EMP Implementation**

Description	Target Participants and Venue	Estimate (INR)	Cost and Source of Funds
<p><b>1. Introduction and Sensitization to Environmental Issues (1 day)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADB Safeguards Policy Statement</li> <li>• Sub-project selection criteria, categorization etc.,</li> <li>• Government of India and Government of Assam applicable environmental safeguard laws, regulations and policies including but not limited to core labor standards, OEHS, Covid -19, safety etc.</li> <li>• IEE preparation and EMP formulation</li> <li>• Incorporation of EMP into the project design and contracts</li> <li>• Monitoring, reporting and corrective action planning</li> </ul>	<p>Participants: All staff and consultants involved in the project</p> <p>Venue: PMU, FREMAA</p>	<p>200,000 (Lump sum)</p>	<p>PMU cost</p>
<p><b>2. Implementing EMP (1/2 day - once at the beginning and at a frequency of once in six months during implementation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site-specific mitigation &amp; monitoring measures</li> <li>• Roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Public relations, Consultations &amp; Grievance redress</li> <li>• Monitoring and corrective action planning</li> </ul>	<p>Participants: All staff and consultants involved in the sub-project. All contractors immediately after mobilization of the contractor</p> <p>Venue: PIUs</p>	<p>200,000 (Lump sum)</p>	<p>PMU cost</p>



Description	Target Participants and Venue	Estimate (INR)	Cost and Source of Funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting and disclosure</li> <li>• Construction site standard operating procedures (SOP)</li> <li>• Chance findings (archeological) protocol</li> <li>• Traffic management plan</li> <li>• Waste management plan</li> <li>• Site clean-up &amp; restoration</li> </ul>			
<p><b>3. Contractors Orientation to Workers (1/2 day)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, health and safety in project construction (OEHS, Covid-19 safety, core labor laws, spoils management, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>Participants: Once before the start of work, and thereafter regular briefing every month once. Daily briefing on safety prior to start of work to all workers (including unskilled laborers)</p>	<p>100,000 (Lump sum)</p>	<p>Contractor's cost</p>

**Source:** ADB TA Consultant

#### 422. Summary of Capacity Building cost for EMP Implementation

- Contractor Cost - INR 100,000.00
- PMU Cost - INR 400,000.00
- **Total - INR 500,000.00**

423. **Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMRs).** The EMRs will be submitted annually to document the progress on the EMP implementation. The PMU and PIUs will be supported by the PISC to monitor EMP implementation (pre- construction, construction and and postconstruction) and implementation of nature-based solutions. An outline of the EMR is in Appendix 10. This outline is a template but additions, such as additional text, tables, charts, figures, may be made to ensure appropriate documentation of (i) project implementation progress, (ii) compliance with safeguard measures and their progress, and (iii) necessary corrective actions. The annual EMRs will be due for submission to ADB within one month following the end of the EMR period. The submission of EMRs to ADB will continue until the project completion report is issued by ADB.

424. The EMRs will be disclosed on the ADB's and FREMAA's websites after review and acceptance by ADB.

#### **EMP Implementation Cost**

425. Most of the mitigation measures require the contractors to adopt good site practice, which should be part of their normal procedures already, so there are unlikely to be major costs associated with compliance. There are some of the provisions in bid documents like compliance of the requirements of health and safety during construction works as per applicable labor laws, labor insurance, equipment fitness, provision of labor welfare facilities, healthcare facilities etc. which are unanimously bound to contractor bidding for the project therefore it is understood that costs for such requirements are bound to contractor and no need to consider as cost of EMP implementation. Regardless of this, any costs of mitigation by the construction contractors or consultants are included in the budgets for the civil works and do not need to be estimated separately here. Mitigation that is the responsibility of PMU/PIU will be provided as part of their management of the project, Cost for the capacity building program is included as part of the project. Cost of environmental management is given in Table 9-4.

Table 9-4: EMP Cost

Sl. No.	Particulars	Stages	Unit	Total Number	Rate (INR)	Cost (INR)	Costs Covered By
<b>A.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>						
1	Provision for tree cutting and compensatory plantation (1:10) measures, monitoring and maintenance	Pre-Construction and Construction	Per tree	7,000	4,000	2,80,00,000	Civil works contract
2	Obtaining and submission of copies (to PMU) all consents, permits, clearances, no objection clearances or NOCs, tree cutting permissions, and other relevant permits from various authorities before the start of construction	Pre-Construction and Construction	Lump sum	-	-	5,00,000	Civil works contract
3	Disposal of existing old geo-bags and other materials used as temporary anti-erosion and flood protection measures, and disposal of all solid wastes during construction to designated locations and/or use of local municipal services	Pre-Construction and Construction	Lump sum	-	-	30,00,000	Civil works contract
4	Provision of all requisite facilities (i.e., drinking water supply, sanitation, domestic solid waste collection and disposal, fuel supply etc.) at construction camps. Ensuring rehabilitation of borrow areas and other impacted lands in line with WRD guidelines, and decommissioning of construction camp before handing over the subproject.	Construction and Operation	Lump sum	-	-	30,00,000	Civil works contract
5	Traffic management at work sites (i.e., pavement markings, channelizing devices, arrow panels and warning lights) along with construction and/or strengthening of landing ghats for barges	Construction	Lump sum	-	-	30,00,000	Civil works contract
6	Water sprinkling for dust	Construction	Lump	-	-	30,00,000	Civil

Sl. No.	Particulars	Stages	Unit	Total Number	Rate (INR)	Cost (INR)	Costs Covered By
	suppression, barricading, temporary noise barriers, and provision of personal protective equipment (such as boots, life-saving-jackets, etc.)		sum				works contract
7	Implementation of biodiversity action plan and other biodiversity conservation and mitigation measures	Construction and Operation	Lump sum	-	-	1,00,00,000	Civil works contract
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>						<b>5,05,00,000</b>	
<b>B. Monitoring Measures</b>							
1	Air quality monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	80	10,000	8,00,000	Civil works contract
2	Noise levels monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	20	6,000	1,20,000	Civil works contract
3	Surface water monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	20	15,000	3,00,000	Civil works contract
4	Drinking water monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	20	15,000	3,00,000	Civil works contract
5	Groundwater monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	20	15,000	3,00,000	Civil works contract
6	Soil monitoring	Construction and Operation	Per sample	12	10,000	1,20,000	Civil works contract
<b>Subtotal (B)</b>						<b>19,40,000</b>	
<b>C. Capacity Building</b>							
1	Training on EMP Implementation, COVID-19 protocols and other health and safety topics	Pre-construction and Construction	Lump sum	-	-	10,00,000	Civil works contract
2	Preparation of plans and protocols (i.e., traffic management plan, waste or spoil management plan, chance find protocol, and other relevant activities)	Pre-construction and Construction	Lump sum	-	-	5,00,000	Civil works contract
<b>Subtotal (C)</b>						<b>15,00,000</b>	
<b>Total (A+B+C)</b>						<b>5,39,40,000</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous, provisional sum and contingency @ 5% of the subtotal</b>						<b>26,97,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>						<b>5,66,37,000</b>	

Source: ADB TA Consultant

## X. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

426. The conclusions are based on Environmental Assessment carried out for the Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West subproject in Kamrup District, which is one of the four subprojects identified under proposed ADB CRBFRRMP. The identification and selection of subprojects is based on the vulnerability of the area to flood and erosion of the Brahmaputra River in Assam. The subproject is needed to safeguard the people, property and environment from frequent and devastating floods of the Brahmaputra River.

427. The Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West subproject was considered as environmental category B under ADB SPS 2009 and the findings of the IEE study support this categorization as no significant impact are anticipated to be generated from the subproject.

428. The Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West is divided into two reaches Palasbari and Gumi. Under Palasbari reach there are four project components: (i) bank protection works at Kalitapara (Dhakhala) for a reach of 0.8 km (ii) Rehabilitation work of spur at Guimara (rehabilitation of spur) – 0.2 km, (iii) bank protection work at Simina for a reach length of 0.64 km and (iv) bank protection work at Futuri (Makadhuj) for a reach length of 1.45 km. Under Gumi reach there are three components. (i) bank protection works at Gumi for a reach length of 0.85 km, (ii) bank projection work at Borakhat for a reach length of 3.9 km, (iii) bank protection works at Panikhaiti for a reach length of 1.1 km and (iv) bank protection works at Lotordia NC area for a reach length of 2.6 km. Beside this there is a proposal of launching of 8 Porcupine screens and construction of pump house at Palashbari.

429. Nature-based solutions (NbS) e.g., bioengineering techniques such as the planting of reeds will be pilot tested to be applied to embankment slopes to reduce maintenance requirements from the risk of rain cuts and to provide local stakeholders with income generating activities opportunities. AADB will establish a PIU which will be responsible for implementing the nature-based solutions under the proposed ADB project CRBFRRMP. AADB will develop, implement, improve, guide, and supervise pilot nature-based solutions including relevant research and dissemination of research results. The pilots will provide employment opportunities for riverine rural poor and as the pilots can be upscaled to broader implementation, more employment opportunities will be created in the next phases. The purposes of the AADB pilots are to prevent erosion of the slopes of embankments, to plan and promote wetland revival and biodiversity, and to promote siltation on possibly reclaimed land. Presently for the pilot project, AADB shall focus on providing NbS for embankments and riverbanks and Wetland conservation. AADB shall be identifying the final locations for NbS pilots along with FREEMA and WRD based on land availability (government owned land), proximity to existing forest nurseries, budget finalization and approvals etc. Once these pilot plots are identified, this IEE shall be updated accordingly. FREEMA shall assist AADB for procurement of all goods and services.

430. All potential impacts associated with proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works were identified in relation to pre-construction, construction, and operation phases. Planning principles and design considerations have been reviewed and incorporated into the site planning and design process wherever possible.

431. Construction activities will be confined to the selected sites along the banks of Brahmaputra River spread over eight reaches of Palasbari and Gumi area of Kamrup District, and the interference with the general public and community around is minimal. There will be temporary negative impacts, arising mainly from construction dust and noise, hauling of construction material, waste and equipment on local roads (traffic, dust, safety etc.), mining of construction material, occupational health and safety aspects. During the construction phase impacts will arise from the dust and noise, increase in traffic by the construction vehicles, and from the need to dispose of large quantities of waste soil and also the disposal of geo-bags used earlier for temporary flood protection works by

WRD. The social impacts (access disruptions) due to construction activities are negligible as most of the works are confined to the inhabited riverbanks. As per the primary census survey there are not any built common property resources (CRP) reported to be affected under the sub-project and only land is affected. A RP for the subproject areas has been prepared and shall be part of the bidding document which shall address the social concerns. General temporary reversible impacts around inhabited subproject area due to setting up of the construction camp by the contractor are expected, and there are well developed methods of mitigation that are suggested in the EMP. Other specific measures include safe handling of wastes, minimize tree cutting and vegetation removal at various sites.

432. The subproject area is primarily a rural area and no subproject component is located in protected or sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife sanctuaries, wetlands or archeologically protected areas.

433. As per information made available from IBAT<sup>61</sup>, there are 119 IUCN red listed species within 50 km radius of the project area. These includes 17 CR (2 floral, 1 insect, 7 avian, 6 reptilian and 1 mammalian species), 40 EN (3 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 4 Pisces, 8 avian and 15 mammalian species) and 62 VU species (5 floral, 1 Arthropoda, 9 reptilian, 6 Pisces, 22 avian and 19 mammalian species).

434. Dolphin and other endangered species and other nearby areas are recorded in the Brahmaputra River by government reports and studies, however not exclusive to the project site and no findings during surveys. No damage to the habitat of these species is anticipated. There are no other environmental sensitive resources found in the project area which is likely to be affected by the project. Biodiversity and ecology assessment including census of IUCN Red listed species (or surveys) shall be carried out during the 1<sup>st</sup> monsoon season of the construction period for the entire project area under CRBFRERMP (all the 4 subprojects) by specialized expert/s appointed by PISC. The methodology shall, but not limited to, include belt and transect walks, point counts, and quadrat methods as per approved standard methodologies. PISC shall obtain necessary permissions from the forest and wildlife departments before start of the assessment surveys. The assessments shall be undertaken within a 1km radius of the proposed interventions in the subproject including at but not limited to riverine chars, bank lines, beels having direct connection with the Brahmaputra River in the subproject area and at other locations identified by the Engineer. In case of any affected species in the project areas (i.e., 4 subprojects) findings that requires mitigation measures, BAP will be implemented, and the IEE shall be updated by PISC & FREEMA and submitted to ADB for necessary actions.

435. A second biodiversity and ecology assessments including census of IUCN Red listed species shall be carried out during the winter season in the operation period for the entire project area (all the 4 subprojects) by specialized expert/s appointed by PISC/FREEMA adopting similar methodologies and at similar locations where surveys were carried out during construction period to ascertain the benefits of the BAP and necessary course corrections. The assessment report and the status of the monitoring shall be part of the environmental monitoring reporting.

436. The project entails various impacts on the environmental setting of the area. While some are negative, there are many bearing benefits, these include the following:

- (i) The Brahmaputra River carries more water per unit area of basin than any other river in the world, The area experiences heavy rainfall during monsoon with annual rainfall of the order of 170 to 220 cm. The proposed project, through strengthening the

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<sup>61</sup> IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under license 5840-42040 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

reliability of the existing embankments and riverbank protection works will prevent people from the impacts of devastating floods

- (ii) The selected Palasbari and Gumi reach is prone to extreme hazards of bank erosion, and embankment breaches. This results in loss of productive agriculture land, infrastructure and damage to environment. The proposed project will result in protecting loss of precious agriculture productivity.
- (iii) The project area does not fall in or pass through any protected area (reserved forests, wildlife sanctuaries, national park) or ecologically sensitive areas.
- (iv) The afforestation will not only help in compensating losses of trees but also increase tree cover in the long run due to the compensatory afforestation at the rate of 1:10 as per the state government policy.
- (v) There are large number of wetlands, beels and other water bodies (fishponds) in the study area, however these are not likely to be affected by the project intervention. The proposed project is likely to enhance the fish productivity in these water bodies due to protection from flooding and siltation under this project.
- (vi) The people are largely poor in the area, many of them depend on fisheries, agricultural activities and forest resources. The area is vulnerable to the floods and erosion and the subproject is aimed at strengthening the flood protection measures in the area and addressing the soil erosion problem. The economic gain is expected to be high.

437. Provided that the recommended mitigation measures are implemented, no impact is anticipated on endangered species like River Dolphin due to project activities. Some of the trees along the embankment are likely to be cut. But, if the proposed compensatory afforestation plans are effectively implemented, and survival rate is monitored and sustained, the positive benefits are likely to be accrued. The project is likely to bring positive impact to wetlands around the subproject area, pond fisheries and agricultural productivity due to protection from flood and reduced sedimentation. Project activities are likely to generate some adverse environmental impacts during construction. However, these will be temporary. Implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures will minimize the adverse impacts. Moreover, the impacts shall be monitored continually by implementing and updating the EMP and EMoP.

438. The project is welcomed by all the stakeholders. Stakeholders were involved in developing the IEE through face-to-face discussions, on site meetings, and village level consultation workshops, which was conducted for larger public participation in the project. Views expressed by the stakeholders were incorporated into the IEE and the planning and development of the project. The IEE will be made available at public locations and will be disclosed to a wider audience via the PMU and ADB websites. The consultation process will be continued during project implementation to ensure that stakeholders are engaged in the project and have the opportunity to participate in its development and implementation. The project's grievance redress mechanism will provide the citizens with a platform for redress their grievances, and describes the informal and formal channels, time frame, and mechanisms for resolving complaints about environmental performance.

439. There is a possibility that the subproject area may be affected by the impacts of climate change and other external events including major earthquakes and upstream development works such as hydropower development. While the impacts of these events may well extend beyond the economic life of the subproject investments (of 30 years), available study indicates the possible climate change impact of increased precipitation by up to 30% in the north-eastern region by 2040-60, although diverse anticipation still coexists. A large-scale earthquake (and landslides) may exacerbate the sediment loads of the Brahmaputra, whereas the hydropower dams upstream may reduce the sediment inflow. On these accounts, the systematic monitoring of the river dynamics to be strengthened under the project will facilitate the identification and implementation of necessary

measures to adapt to any emerging changes in the construction and post-construction phase of the subproject.

440. The project involves strip acquisition of land for strengthening the existing embankments and associated structural relocation. The concerned land acquisition and resettlement cases will be addressed following the Government of India's and Government of Assam's laws and regulations, and ADB's Involuntary Resettlement Policy, which has been stipulated in the resettlement framework, based on which resettlement plans are being parallelly prepared and implemented to address all the cases. Extensive public consultation has been carried out, consistent with state guidelines. For affected people, support will be provided to improve, or at least restore, the pre-intervention income and livelihoods standards, and productive capacity. In addition, the subproject will provide construction labor opportunities and community development assistance to nearby communities and to landowners whose land will be acquired, or structures be affected, including non-title holders.

441. Though the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has subsided with a sustained vaccination campaign and following of appropriate behavior. The recurrence of pandemic like situation cannot be ruled out. In case of recurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic in India the local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of virus exposure. Project shall also adhere to necessary protocols in response to infectious diseases such as the corona virus disease (COVID-19) consistent with the guidelines of relevant government healthcare agencies and the World Health Organization.

442. The IEE and EMP will be included in the bid and contract documents to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in this document. The EMP will assist the PMU, PIU, PISC, and contractors in mitigating the environmental impacts, and guide them in the environmentally sound execution of the proposed project. The EMP will also ensure efficient lines of communication between PIU, PMU, PISC, and contractor. The EMP shall be made binding on all contractors operating on the site and will be included in the contractual clauses. Non-compliance with, or any deviation from, the conditions set out in this document shall constitute a failure in compliance. Copy of the EMP will be kept on site during the construction period at all times.

443. The sub-project will benefit the general public by contributing to the long-term improvement of anti-erosion, flood protection, and community livability in the project coverage area. The potential adverse environmental impacts are mainly related to the construction period, which can be minimized by the mitigation measures and environmentally sound engineering and construction practices. Therefore, as per ADB SPS, the project is classified as environmental Category B and does not require further environmental impact assessment. However, to conform with government guidelines all necessary permissions and NOCs are to be obtained from the concerned departments prior to start of construction.

444. This IEE shall be updated by PMU to reflect any changes in design, locations, interventions, amendments etc. and will be reviewed and approved by ADB. Where unanticipated environmental impacts become apparent during subproject implementation, this IEE will be updated and its EMP, or prepare a new environmental assessment and EMP to assess the potential impacts, evaluate the alternatives, and outline mitigation measures and resources to address those impacts.

### Appendix 1: Summary of Flood and Riverbank Erosion Assets to be constructed.

Type of Work	Dibrugarh (Including Tinsukia district)	Morigaon	PGP/Guwahati West	Goalpara	Total Project
New Embankment (km)	1.20	0.00	0.00	2.08	<b>3.28</b>
Upgrading Embankment (km)	0.00	1.15	0.00	0.00	<b>1.15</b>
Riverbank Revetment (km)	21.26	15.65	11.54	11.35	<b>59.80</b>
Adaptation Works/Emergency contingency (km)	4.65	0.25	8.75	0.25	<b>13.90</b>
Porcupine screen (no.)	173	7	8	6	<b>194</b>
Porcupine screen (km)	24.1	1.0	2.7	4.5	<b>32.3</b>
Regulator (no.)	1	0	0	3	<b>4</b>
Fish pass (no.)	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Other works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revival of Majjan beel with nature-based solutions</li> </ul>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pumphouse at Palasbari</li> <li>• Hostel for trainees next to Assam Water Center in Guwahati</li> </ul>	-	<b>As listed</b>



## Appendix 2: Details of Scope of Works

Subproject	New Embankments (km)		Upgrading Embankments (km)		Riverbank Revetments (km)		Adaption Works/Emergency contingency (km)		Porcupine screen (no.)	Porcupine screen (km)	Regulator (no.)		Fish pass (no.)	Other works
Dibrugarh (including Tinsukia district)	Close gap in embankment at Majjan Beel	1.20	0		Nagaghuli to Kachari Line	0.90	Kasuoni	1.00	173	24.1	RCC triple shutter sluice gate in Majjan Beel embankment	1	1	Revive of Majjan beel with nature based solutions
					Filunuguri to 7400 ft Spur	1.70	Mothola	2.40						
					DTP Dyke (Dibrugarh Town Area)	3.93	DTP dyke	1.00						
					DTP Dyke (Amoraguri)	0.27	Emergency	0.25						
					Mohanaghat	0.78								
					Nagakhelia	0.60								
					Chaulkhowa at Di/S of Bogibeel Bridge	3.69								
					Milanpur to Hatighuli	1.50								
					Phellai to Naokota	2.00								
					Gariating Gaon	0.40								
					Simaluguri Satra	0.40								
					Bahjan to Notun Gaon	2.10								
					upstream Guijan	0.30								
					Rungagorah to Dinjan	2.70								
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21.26</b>		<b>4.65</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>					
Morigaon	0	Shifting/widening existing embankment at Kup-timari		0.70	Mikirgaon-Kathani-Tengaguri area	7.50	Emergency	0.25	7	1.0	0	0		
			Kuptimari-Balidunga area	1.90										
			Upstream of Panchali spur	0.25										
		Chutlagaon spur re-couplement	0.45	Downstream of Panchali spur to Barallimari	2.00									
				Gagalimari-Garubandha area	4.00									
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.15</b>		<b>15.65</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>					

Subproject	New Embankments (km)		Upgrading Embankments (km)	Riverbank Revetments (km)		Adaption Works/Emergency contingency (km)		Porcupine screen (no.)	Porcupine screen (km)	Regulator (no.)		Fish pass (no.)	Other works
PGP/Guwahati West	0		0	Kalitapara	0.80	Palashbari	3.50	8	2.7	0		0	Pump house at Palishbari  Hostel for trainees next to Assam Water Center in Guwahati
				Futuri	1.45	Guwahati West	5.00						
				Simina	0.64								
				Guimara	0.20								
				Gumi	0.85	Emergency	0.25						
				Borakhat	3.90								
				Panikhaity	1.10								
				Lotordia	2.60								
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>11.54</b>		<b>8.75</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	
Goalpara	Embankment Goalpara town	2.08	0	Goalpara Town Two stretches, 2.35 km - Baladmari 3.00 km - Goalpara (geobags with PCC blocks)	5.35	Emergency	0.25	6	4.50	Goalpara town (1 shutter sluice and 4 shutters sluice)	2	0	
				Chinair to Jaleswar	6.00					Chunari (4 shutters)	1	0	
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>2.08</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>11.35</b>		<b>0.25</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>3.28</b>		<b>1.15</b>	<b>59.80</b>		<b>13.90</b>		<b>194</b>	<b>32.30</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>As above</b>


## Appendix 3: Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) Checklist




Asian Development Bank

Memorandum  
 South Asia Department  
 Environment, Natural  
 Resources and Agriculture  
 Division

2 December 2022

To: Bruno Carrasco  8-Dec-22  
 Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, SDCC

Through: Bruce Dunn  8-Dec-22  
 Director, SDSS

Mio Oka (e-signed 2 December 2022)  
 Director, SAER

From: Olivier Drieu (e-signed 2 December 2022)  
 Senior Water Resources Specialist, SAER

Subject: **56283-001 India: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam — Request for Approval of Environment Categorization**

Attached for your review and approval:

1. Environment (B)
2. REA Checklist
3. Climate Screening Checklist
4. COVID-19 Checklist for Environment

cc: B. Angeles, SAER; O. Joyce, SAER

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## ENVIRONMENT CATEGORIZATION

Date: 2 December 2022

<b>A. Instructions</b>	
<p>(i) The project team completes and submits the form to the Safeguards Division (SDSS) for endorsement by SDSS Director, and for approval by the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO). OM F1/OP on <i>Safeguard Review Procedures</i> (paras. 4–7) provides the requirements on environment categorization.</p> <p>(ii) The classification of a project is a continuing process. If there is a change in the project components or/and site that may result in category change, the Sector Division submits a new form and requests for recategorization, and endorsement by SDSS Director and by the CCO. The old form is attached for reference.</p> <p>(iii) In addition, the project team may propose in the comments section that the project is highly complex and sensitive (HCS), for approval by the CCO. HCS projects are a subset of Category A projects that ADB deems to be highly risky or contentious or involve serious and multidimensional and generally interrelated potential social and/or environmental impacts.</p>	
<b>B. Project Data</b>	
Country/Project No./Project Title	: IND: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam
Department/ Division	: South Asia / Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Processing Stage	: Project Concept Paper
Modality	:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Loan	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Loan
<input type="checkbox"/> Sector Loan	<input type="checkbox"/> MFF
<input type="checkbox"/> Results-based lending <sup>1</sup>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Intermediary	<input type="checkbox"/> General Corporate Finance
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant
<input type="checkbox"/> Other financing modalities	
<b>C. ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY</b> [PLEASE TICK ONE CATEGORY BASED ON THE SET OF CRITERIA IN <a href="#">OMF1</a> (PARAS. 6–7)]	
[ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] NEW [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] RECATEGORIZATION — PREVIOUS CATEGORY [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Category A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category B
<input type="checkbox"/> Category C	<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY FI
<b>D. Basis for Categorization/ Recategorization</b> (please, attach supporting documents):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REA Checklist	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project and/or Site Description	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<b>E. Comments</b>	
<p>Project team comments:</p> <p>The project aims to reduce economic vulnerability and social disruption induced by flood and riverbank erosion flood prone areas along the main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam. It will (i) stabilize identified critical locations within four river reaches by providing integrated climate resilient riverbank erosion and flood protection infrastructure to ultimately recover lost floodplain and charland and enhance navigation; (ii) strengthen institutional capacity; and (iii) support improved livelihoods of the most vulnerable riparian population and increase their resilience to shocks through inclusive economic empowerment.</p> <p>The project is categorized as “B”. Subproject areas are in rural parts of Assam. No key biodiversity areas or national protected areas nearby the subprojects. None of the project components will have significant adverse environmental impacts because environmental risks are mostly temporary on air, water, soil and noise during construction periods. Mitigation measures will be</p>	<p>SDSS Comments:</p> <p>Based on the information provided during the categorization process the Category B for Environment can be confirmed. However, given the sensitivity of the Brahmaputra River which supports significant biodiversity interest and is itself a Key Biodiversity Area in a number of locations – further Critical Habitat Assessment needs to be done to establish whether CH is triggered for the areas where the works will be and to confirm that works must be done in a sensitive way to maintain water quality and flow.</p> <p>Given the size of the river in the relevant locations it seems unlikely that project risks will be significant. However detailed information in the EMP will be needed to ensure that project activities do not impact on the river.</p>

<sup>1</sup> For Results-Based Lending (RBL) modality, please refer to the [Staff Instruction on Business Processes for RBL for Programs](#) issued on 17 March 2021. The [supplemental checklist](#) needs to be submitted to SDSS for confirmation of eligible activities under the RBL program by the CCO.

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### Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) Checklist

**Instructions:**

(i) The project team completes this checklist to support the environmental classification of a project. It is to be attached to the environmental categorization form and submitted to the Environment and Safeguards Division (SDS), for endorsement by Director, SDS and for approval by the Chief Compliance Officer.

(ii) This checklist focuses on environmental issues and concerns. To ensure that social dimensions are adequately considered, refer also to ADB's (a) checklists on involuntary resettlement and Indigenous Peoples; (b) poverty reduction handbook; (c) staff guide to consultation and participation; and (d) gender checklists.

(iii) Answer the questions assuming the "without mitigation" case. The purpose is to identify potential impacts. Use the "remarks" section to discuss any anticipated mitigation measures.

**Country/Project Title:** India: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam

**Sector Division:** SAER/SARD

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<b>A. Project Siting</b> Is the Project area adjacent to or within any of the following environmentally sensitive areas?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural heritage site</li> </ul>	✓		There is no cultural heritage site in the subproject areas. All the project related activities will be confined within 20-30m of right of way (RoW). However, there are temples, mosque (i.e. Namghar) in nearby villages with human settlements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legally protected Area (core zone or buffer zone)</li> </ul>		✓	<p>Subproject areas do not fall into any core zone or buffer zone of legally protected area.</p> <p>In Morigaon subproject area, Orang National Park is located on the other side (ie: north bank) of the Brahmaputra River at an aerial distance of approximately 10 km. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located approximately 4 km from the end point of the reach downstream towards countryside. Moreover, the subproject area and the wildlife sanctuary are separated by human settlements, state highways and other human activities. Since the project related activities will be within the RoW at the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River, these areas will not have any impact that could potentially be caused by project activities.</p> <p>For the Dibrugarh subproject, the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is more than 15 km upstream of the location of the proposed anti-</p>

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Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
			erosion measures. The other proposed measures are located downstream of these anti-erosion measures. Thus, all the proposed works do not fall into any core zone nor buffer zone of the legally protected area.
▪ Wetland	✓		The subproject areas do not fall under any perennial wetlands. However, there are many wetlands and waterbodies nearby subproject areas, which become active during the rainy season.
▪ Mangrove		✓	Subprojects are not located along any coastal zones. Hence no such sensitive ecosystems exist nearby.
▪ Estuarine		✓	
▪ Special area for protecting biodiversity		✓	Target sites are not adjacent to or within any special area for biodiversity protection.  At Palasbari-Gumi-Guwahati West subproject, vegetation cover exists along the highland of the Dakhala area which is a reserve forest. However, the project related activities for riverbank protection works will be limited to adjacent land along the riverbanks. Hence, no project impacts on the reserve forest are anticipated.  Please see remarks above for the legally protected areas related to Dibrugarh and Morigaon subprojects.
<b>B. Potential Environmental Impacts</b> Will the Project cause...			
▪ impairment of historical/cultural areas; disfiguration of landscape or potential loss/damage to physical cultural resources?		✓	There are neither historical sites nor cultural areas in any of the four subproject areas.
▪ disturbance to precious ecology (e.g. sensitive or protected areas)?		✓	The project activities in the subproject areas will not cause disturbance to precious ecology such as sensitive or protected areas.
▪ alteration of surface water hydrology of waterways resulting in increased sediment in streams affected by increased soil erosion at construction site?		✓	The project activities in the subproject areas will not cause alteration of surface water hydrology of waterways by increased soil erosion at construction sites. Overall, the project activities, including launching of geotextiles bags, etc., will mitigate riverbank erosion and enhance land reclamation in the vicinity of the subproject sites.
▪ deterioration of surface water quality due to silt runoff and sanitary wastes from worker-based camps and chemicals used in construction?	✓		Worker-based camps will be established away from the main channel towards countryside. These camps will generate minimal sanitary waste. Potential contamination of water induced by camp operations is expected, however these impacts are of local and temporary nature (i.e., during the construction periods only). Chemicals will not be used during the construction activities.
▪ increased air pollution due to project construction and operation?	✓		During the construction periods, increase of the air pollution may result due to construction activities such as movements of vehicles, potential use of generators in workers camps, etc..
▪ noise and vibration due to project construction or operation?	✓		The project activities are expected to increase noise and vibration levels

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Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
			associated with use of construction machineries (geotextile bags stitching machines, use of generators in workers camps) and use of vehicles.
▪ involuntary resettlement of people? (physical displacement and/or economic displacement)	✓		The project activities will be focused on the existing underwater and immediate vicinity of above water bank of the Brahmaputra River. Hence, physical displacement and resettlement of people living on some of the embankments targeted under the project will be needed for their rehabilitation. Details will be confirmed after the Poverty and Social Impact Assessment studies during the project preparation stage.
▪ disproportionate impacts on the poor, women and children, Indigenous Peoples or other vulnerable groups?		✓	Disproportionate impacts on the poor, women, children, indigenous peoples or other vulnerable groups are not anticipated due to the project activities. The project includes an output to specifically address people living on the embankments or chars in the subproject areas who are poor and destitute and negatively affected by river erosion or floods, especially women in these locations. After completion of the works in the subproject areas, there will be growth in economic activities in the area benefitting all riparian population.
▪ poor sanitation and solid waste disposal in construction camps and work sites, and possible transmission of communicable diseases (such as STI's and HIV/AIDS) from workers to local populations?	✓		Establishment of construction camps will temporarily add to the population in the subproject areas and likely to have poor sanitation and solid waste disposal in the camps and work sites, where transmission of communicable diseases from workers to local populations are possible.  As the workers are expected to be from the same or adjacent districts within the state which will maintain cultural balance among the workers and local populations.
▪ creation of temporary breeding habitats for diseases such as those transmitted by mosquitoes and rodents?	✓		The project activities will not directly create any breeding habitats for diseases such as those transmitted by the mosquitoes and rodents. However, improper disposal of domestic solid waste generated by workers camps can provide suitable conditions for rodents and mosquitoes.
▪ social conflicts if workers from other regions or countries are hired?		✓	Workers will be recruited by the contractors from the same or adjacent districts.
▪ large population influx during project construction and operation that causes increased burden on social infrastructure and services (such as water supply and sanitation systems)?		✓	Large population of workers is not expected considering the limited scope of works. Most of the labors will be hired locally and a few some may be from the nearby districts.
▪ risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during project construction and operation?	✓		There are risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical hazards during construction.
▪ risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of materials such as explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation?		✓	No explosive will be used for any of the works. Fueling of vehicles used for the project purpose will be undertaken in the public gasoline stations.

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Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
▪ community safety risks due to both accidental and natural causes, especially where the structural elements or components of the project are accessible to members of the affected community or where their failure could result in injury to the community throughout project construction, operation and decommissioning?	✓		During the construction phase, health and safety risk of nearby communities may have increase due to the operations of vehicles and machines.
▪ generation of solid waste and/or hazardous waste?	✓		Worker camps and storage facilities will only generate solid waste.
▪ use of chemicals?		✓	Chemicals will not be used for any of the project activities.
▪ generation of wastewater during construction or operation?	✓		During construction periods, worker camps will generate some wastewater.

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### A Checklist for Preliminary Climate Risk Screening

**Country/Project Title: India: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam**

**Sector : Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture**

**Subsector: Rural flood protection; Rural water policy, institutional and capacity development**

**Division/Department: SAER, SARD**

Screening Questions		Score	Remarks <sup>1</sup>
<b>Location and Design of project</b>	Is siting and/or routing of the project (or its components) likely to be affected by climate conditions including extreme weather related events such as floods, droughts, storms, landslides?	0	Not likely. There is no alternative options for the subproject sites.
	Would the project design (e.g. the clearance for bridges) need to consider any hydro-meteorological parameters (e.g., sea-level, peak river flow, reliable water level, peak wind speed etc)?	2	Trends of increased 24-hour rainfall events and number of rainy days (ie: rainfall greater than 2.4 mm in 24 hours) have been observed and projected in Assam that could result in increases of river discharges and riverbank erosion rates associated with highly turbulent flows reaching the deeper levels of the river. The crest levels of the flood embankment to be built/rehabilitated will be derived from peak flood water levels and peak wind generated wave heights. Both of these may increase in the future. Additionally, with climate-induced increased discharges, current loading may increase. The design of the underwater and riverbank protection works will include parameters such as high flood levels and river flow velocity.
<b>Materials and Maintenance</b>	Would weather, current and likely future climate conditions (e.g. prevailing humidity level, temperature contrast between hot summer days and cold winter days, exposure to wind and humidity hydro-meteorological parameters likely affect the selection of	1	Increase in flood water levels and more intense rainfall in the project area beyond the anticipated and designed levels will require higher embankments to provide the same level of protection. Also, increased river discharges and flow velocities induced by

<sup>1</sup> If possible, provide details on the sensitivity of project components to climate conditions, such as how climate parameters are considered in design standards for infrastructure components, how changes in key climate parameters and sea level might affect the siting/routing of project, the selection of construction material and/or scheduling, performances and/or the maintenance cost/scheduling of project outputs.

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	project inputs over the life of project outputs (e.g. construction material)?		climate change may result in increased scouring, hence in increased scour protection elements along the riverbanks.
	Would weather, current and likely future climate conditions, and related extreme events likely affect the maintenance (scheduling and cost) of project output(s)?	2	The predicted increase in peak levels and volume of floods due to climate change will require more frequent monitoring, repair and maintenance activities by Water Resources Department and communities, as well as appropriate operation and maintenance budgets.
<b>Performance of project outputs</b>	Would weather/climate conditions, and related extreme events likely affect the performance (e.g. annual power production) of project output(s) (e.g. hydro-power generation facilities) throughout their design life time?	2	The predicted increase in peak levels and volume of floods due to climate change over the 30 years design life span of the assets poses threat to the communities behind the flood embankments. Activities under the project will include riverbank protection and flood embankments works as well as community-based flood risk management capacity building to increase resilience to flood and erosion and enable the communities to adapt to and be better prepared against the challenges of extreme flood events.

Options for answers and corresponding score are provided below:

Response	Score
Not Likely	0
Likely	1
Very Likely	2

Responses when added that provide a score of 0 will be considered low risk project. If adding all responses will result to a score of 1-4 and that no score of 2 was given to any single response, the project will be assigned a medium risk category. A total score of 5 or more (which include providing a score of 1 in all responses) or a 2 in any single response, will be categorized as high risk project.

**Result of Initial Screening (Low, Medium, High): High**

**Other Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

(e-signed 2 December 2022)

**Prepared by:** Olivier Drieu

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### INDIA: CLIMATE RESILIENT BRAHMAPUTRA INTEGRATED FLOOD AND RIVERBANK EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN ASSAM

#### Rationale

Combining structural and nonstructural measures, the project will be implemented in four high-priority flood- and erosion-prone subproject areas selected to contribute to the broader stabilization of the Brahmaputra River in Assam.<sup>1</sup> The project will (i) stabilize identified critical locations within the four river reaches by providing integrated climate resilient riverbank erosion and flood protection infrastructure to ultimately recover lost floodplain and charland and enhance navigation<sup>2</sup>; (ii) strengthen the institutional capacity for climate and disaster resilient FRERM supported by an enhanced knowledge base to inform risk-based decisions related to disaster prevention and asset maintenance; and (iii) support improved livelihoods of the most vulnerable riparian population and increase their resilience to shocks through inclusive economic empowerment.

The project will focus on priority river reaches of the Brahmaputra Main Stem (Figure 1), and will include a full range of structural and nonstructural measures in each reach.

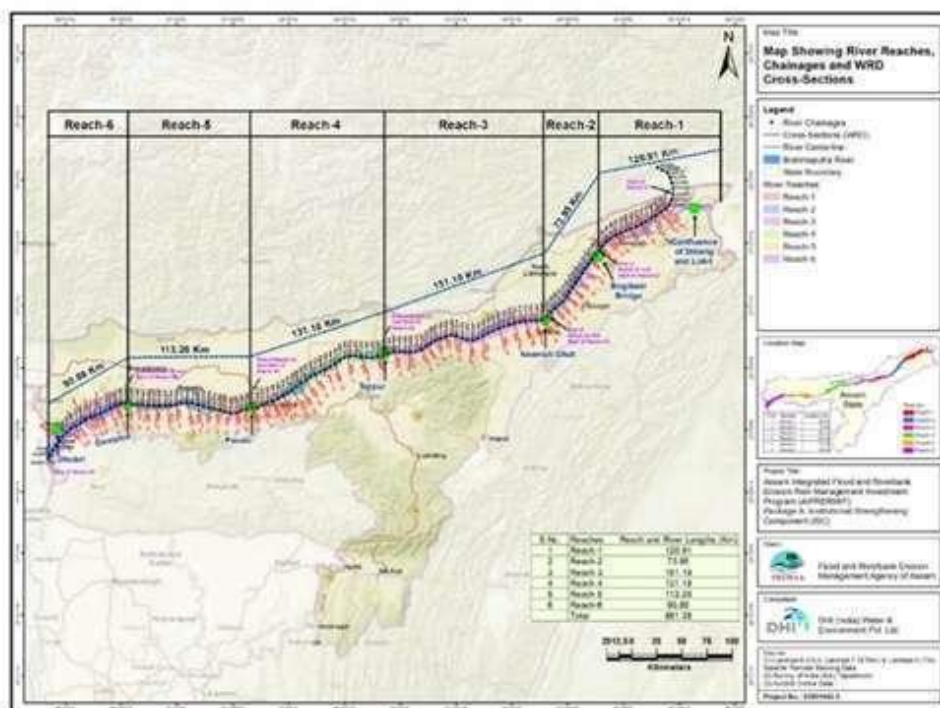


Figure 1. Map of the Reaches of the Brahmaputra Main Stem in Assam

#### Structural Measures

**Riverbank protection.** To cope with riverbank erosion on the Brahmaputra Main Stem, the project will dominantly follow the ADB-financed Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP)<sup>3</sup> approach of building long-guiding geotextile sand-filled bags (geo-

<sup>1</sup> The four high-priority subprojects are Dibrugarh, Morigaon, Palasbari-Gumi-Guwahati West, and Goalpara.

<sup>2</sup> An accretion in a river, the chars are valuable to the economy as additional cultivable areas.

<sup>3</sup> The multitranche financing facility (MFF) to India for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program was approved by ADB in 2010 to increase the reliability and effectiveness of flood

bags) revetments in an adaptive way. These combine the stabilization of riverbanks at erosion locations and guide the river over some length, hence contributing to larger river stabilization. Also, activities will include provisions for adaptation of existing Water Resources Department (WRD) and AIFRERMIP works in the selected reaches to accelerate the stabilization process of longer river reaches.

*Flood embankments.* The project will aim at providing riverbank protection first, and then building/rehabilitating climate-resilient modern multi-purpose flood protection embankments, including systematic geotechnical engineering to reduce future risk of breaches. Multi-purpose embankments are primarily characterized by separating the flood protection function (through a separate crest at the river side) and the transport function (through a road on a lower lying land-sided shoulder). The embankment design will be based on morphological river modelling accounting for a range of possible river morphologies which could result in different flood water levels for the same return periods.

*Land reclamation via channel closures.* Land reclamation benefits are important aspects to enhance socio-economic development, especially in the Dibrugarh and Palasbari-Gumi reaches. It will be investigated further whether reclamation could also be feasible in other reaches. Land reclamation will involve channel closures through dredging ('sand overloading') and pro-siltation measures ('porcupines') but also bioengineering measures to trap fine sediments during the flood season. The closed channels might be equipped with upstream intakes for a defined water flow to be used for example for wetland conservation/restoration, dry season irrigation purposes, and local drainage.

*Ancillary structures.* Embankments will be provided with openings ('sluice gates') to enable water to flow onto and from the floodplain. Sluice gates will be provided with fish passes, where required, to enable interconnectivity of floodplain and river and enhance biodiversity.

#### Nonstructural Measures of the Project

*Flood forecasting and early warning.* In continuation of AIFRERMIP, State Government of Assam water level forecasting and warning measures will be continued and expanded along the Brahmaputra Main Stem. These measures will be developed in parallel to a World Bank project. The measures to be developed by the project can be integrated later into a comprehensive system for the Brahmaputra floodplain.

*Flood mapping.* This includes covering the flood and erosion risk, but also providing information, such as inundation (extents, depth, duration), vulnerability to flooding of the affected population and of assets (including critical assets) in urbanized areas (for example Gumi and Dibrugarh). Flood hazard assessment for rural areas will enable to assess the potential of flooding (depth and duration) during different embankment breach scenarios and for different combinations of high river flood levels and rainfall events.

*Surveys and river monitoring.* The project will establish baseline information through systematic surveys of all river channel in one reach during successive flood seasons<sup>1</sup> and high-resolution topographic surveys providing the baseline digital elevation models or DEM for accurate flood hazard and flood risk assessment. The baseline surveys will also improve the accuracy of the flood forecasting and warning models for the Brahmaputra Main Stem.

*Capacity building.* The project will support WRD in expanding the capacity of a specialized design wing, including preparation of a guideline for river and flood management measures in Assam. This guideline is expected to accelerate the planning process for riverbank protection in the future and assist the transition from piecemeal work to holistic integrated systematic river stabilization measures.

*Erosion prediction model.* The model developed under AIFRERMIP will be expanded to incorporate other reaches of the Brahmaputra Main Stem. It is anticipated to conduct annual erosion prediction for the

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and riverbank erosion risk management systems in flood-prone areas in Assam, through structural and nonstructural interventions, policy strengthening, and institutional and knowledge bases. The second and final tranche of the MFF was physically completed on 18 October 2020.

<sup>1</sup> The survey will include bathymetric surveys, water levels, and water and sediment discharge surveys

Brahmaputra Main Stem and to combine the results with inundation maps as a planning tool for the districts and potential emergency works as well as future State Government investments.

*Asset management system.* The system developed under AIFRERMIP will be expanded to cover the selected river reaches of the Brahmaputra Main Stem. An operation and maintenance module comparing the actual condition of the assets with their design status will enable to derive annually a risk-based prioritized maintenance program and identify rivers sections that require major strengthening or adaptation works.

*Community-based flood risk management (CbFRM) and flood shelters.* Drawing on the experience and lessons learned under AIFRERMIP, activities will focus on disaster preparedness of riparian communities as well as population located behind flood embankments (which can breach). In areas not embanked, the construction of flood shelters and disaster-resilient access to them will be investigated further for possible incorporation in the project design.

### Proposed Subproject Areas

#### (i) Morigaon Subproject

The proposed subproject area is in Morigaon District of Assam, which is southern bank of Brahmaputra River. The proposed antierosion activities for a length of 37.44km will include mainly launching of geo-bags for riverbank protection works.

The proposed project area does not fall under any eco-sensitive zone. Orang National Park is in the other side of the Brahmaputra at Odalguri district with aerial distance of more than 10km. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located approximately 4km downstream towards the countryside from the end point of the project locations. There is no animal corridor near the project area.

Pokoriya River flows from the southern side of subproject site. The river confluences with the Brahmaputra River approximately 1km downstream from the end point of the subproject's reach.

Rainy season is from the month of June to October. November to May is the active working season for construction.

Table 1. Geocoordinates<sup>1</sup> and length of the subproject.

Name of Division	Name location/Village	geocoordinates		Reach Length (m)
		From	To	
Morigaon	Chutiagaon	26°26'21.04"N	26°16'35.96"N	37,440
	Teteligurin(Near Kasasila)	92°20'0.44"E	92° 3'17.85"E	

<sup>1</sup> The details are yet to be endorsed by the WRD.



Figure 2. Map (Google Earth) of the subproject site showing the starting and end points at Morigaon Subproject.

### (ii) Palasbari-Gumi Subproject

With 4 reaches for antierosion works, the Palasbari-Gumi (PGP) proposed subproject area is located at Kamrup District as well. The target reaches under the subproject are approximately 25km from Guwahati. The proposed activities will have a length of 3.09km and include launching of geo-bags as river bank protection works. Vegetation cover exists along the Dakhala reaches which is a highland area in the bank of Brahmaputra River. Rests of the three reaches are located mainly in the sandbar of the Brahmaputra with very minimal vegetation. Human settlements are adjacent in the subproject area towards southern direction. The proposed project site does not fall under any eco-sensitive zone. There is no dedicated animal corridor near the project area.

Table 2. Geocoordinates and length of the subproject area

Name of Division	Name location/Village	Co-ordinate		Reach Length (m)
		From	To	
PGP	Dakhala (Kalitapara)	26°7'3.10"N	26°7'1.08"N	800.00
		91°30'49.7"E	91°30'24.82"E	
	Guimara	26°7'2.3"N	26°7'1.9"N	200.00
		91°28'9.7"E	91°28'13.8"E	
	Simina	26°7'17.9"N	26°7'21.5"N	640.00
		91°27'23.6"E	91°27'8.4"E	
	Makadhuj to Futuri	26°7'41.6"N	26°7'28.5"N	1450.00
		91°26'3.3"E	91°26'43.8"E	





Figure 3. Location map of: (a) Dakhala Reach, (b) Guimara Reach and (c) Simina and Makadhuj-Futuri Reaches.

### (iii) Guwahati West Subproject

With 4 reaches for proposed antierosion works, the subproject area is located at Kamrup District of Assam. In the southern bank of Brahmaputra River, target reaches Guwahati West subproject are located approximately 40km from Guwahati.

For a length of 8.45km, proposed activities will include mainly launching of geo-bags for river bank protection works. All 4 reaches are located mainly in the sandbar of the Brahmaputra River with very minimal vegetation. Human settlements are adjacent to these locations, and towards the southern direction. The proposed subproject area have no eco-sensitive zone nor animal corridor nearby.

Table 3. Geocoordinates and length of the subproject area

Name of Division	Name location/Village	geocoordinates		Reach Length (m)
		From	To	
Guwahati West	Gumi	26° 5'55.4"N	26° 5'56.5"N	850
		91°20'26.1"E	91°20'18.7"E	
	Borakhat & Achalpara	26° 6'45.31"N	26° 7'40.31"N	3900
		91°15'6.97"E	91°12'57.75"E	
	Panikhaity	26° 9'15.87"N	26° 9'22.19"N	1100
		91°10'25.72"E	91° 9'40.51"E	
	Lotordia NC	26° 9'28.28"N	26° 9'59.59"N	2600
		91° 9'10.73"E	91° 7'48.01"E	

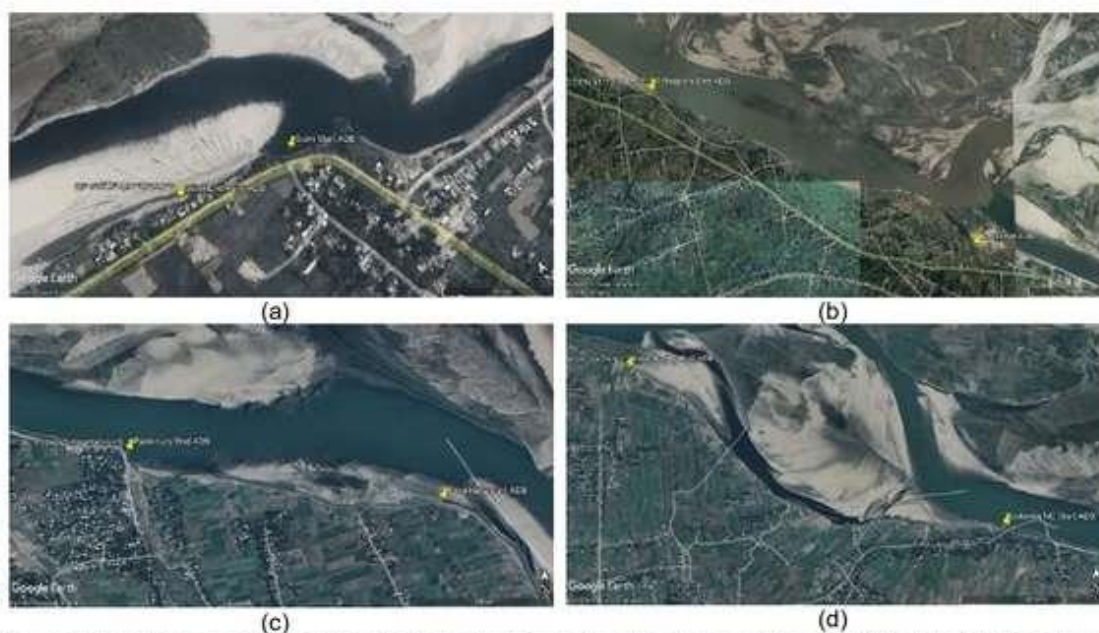


Figure 4. Location maps of: (a) Gumi Reach, (b) Borkhat and Achalpara Reach, (c) Panikhaity Reach and (d) Lotordia NC Reach



#### (iv) Dibrugarh Subproject

For the Dibrugarh Subproject, there are 7 reaches for antierosion works and 1 reach for earthworks with triple shutter reinforced concrete (RCC) sluice gate. The proposed reaches under the are located approximately 25km from Guwahati. The proposed antierosion activities (i.e. 14.88km) will include launching of geo-bags and geo mattress for riverbank protection works. The reach for earthworks (with three shutter RCC sluice gate) will cover 1200m of embankments.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is 15km upstream of antierosion of Reach-1. The rest of reaches are downstream of the Reach-1, thus, all the reaches under the subprojects does not fall into any core zone of buffer zone of legally protected area. The proposed project site does not fall under any eco-sensitive zone.

Table 4. Geocoordinates and length of the subproject area

Name of Division	Name location/Village	Co-ordinate		Reach Length (m)	Remarks
		From	To		
Dibrugarh (Guijan to Mohanghat)	Reach-1	27°31'33.01"N	27°30'54.34"N	3500	Geo-bags
		95° 0'41.88"E	94°58'43.77"E		
	Reach-2	27°30'54.34"N	27°30'43.54"N	1500	Geo-bags
		94°58'43.74"E	94°57'55.00"E		
	Reach-3	27°30'24.30"N	27°29'32.91"N	3925	Geo Mattress
		94°57'7.84"E	94°55'6.32"E		
	Reach-4	27°28'48.73"N	27°28'42.67"N	265	Geo Mattress
		94°53'34.94"E	94°53'28.25"E		
	Reach-5	27°28'28.43"N	27°28'10.00"N	785	Geo-bags
		94°53'8.96"E	94°52'50.44"E		
	Reach-6	27°27'47.68"N	27°27'37.74"N	600	Geo-bags
		94°52'17.05"E	94°51'58.89"E		
	Reach-7	27°23'14.86"N	27°21'9.07"N	4300	Geo-bags
		94°46'21.85"E	94°45'48.73"E		
Reach-1	27°30'37.60"N	27°30'26.04"N	1200	Earth Work with Triple Shutter RCC Sluice	
	94°57'51.68"E	94°57'12.67"E			



(a)



(b)

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Figure 5. Location maps of: (a) Reaches 1 and 2, and Earthworks in Reach-1, (b) Reach-3, (c) Reach-4, (d) Reach-5, (e) Reach-6, and (f) Reach-7



Figure 6. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Dibrugarh Subproject reaches

**Risk Screening for Environmental Safeguards Assessment  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- This risk screening form must be submitted for projects under preparation and with Management Review Meeting (MRM) or Staff Review Meeting (SRM) planned on or after 1 July 2021.
- If the environment categorization form of the project has already been approved by the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), project teams must submit only this risk screening form. Project teams do not need to resubmit the environment safeguard categorization forms.
- For projects that have not submitted the environment categorization forms to SDCC, project teams must complete this risk screening form and submit it together with the Environment categorization form.

<b>PROJECT DATA</b>	
<b>Country/Project Title:</b>	IND: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Flood And Erosion Risk Management Project
<b>Sector Division:</b>	South Asia Department (SARD) / Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (SAER)
	(e-signed 2 December 2022) Olivier Drieu Senior Water Resources Specialist SARD/SAER 2 December 2022
	(e-signed 2 December 2022) <b>Brando M. Angeles</b> Associate Environment Officer SARD/SAER 2 December 2022
<b>Endorsed by:</b>	(e-signed 2 December 2022) <b>Mio Oka</b> Director SARD/SAER 2 December 2022

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Table 1: Project COVID-19 Risk Screening for Environmental Safeguards Assessments

Risk screening questions	Yes	No	Not sure	Remarks
1. Will project preparation be affected by the inability of experts/consultants, to visit the project site because of the pandemic?		✓		Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) staff and its environment specialist (consultant) have no concern on visiting the subproject sites, perform environmental risks screening and collect relevant information for categorizing the project.
2. Is the project likely to face challenges in achieving meaningful consultations because of the pandemic? If yes, please clarify the types of consultations to be affected and at what stages of environmental safeguards planning and implementation.  <i>Examples: Project consultants are unable to travel to the project site and meet with project stakeholders. Face to face consultations with project affected people cannot be organized due to travel restrictions or social distancing requirements.</i>		✓		There is no perceived issue on achieving meaningful consultations in the near future.
3. Is the project likely to face challenges in preparing safeguards assessments/planning instruments and/or implementing environmental safeguards plans because of the pandemic? Please be as specific as you can in the remarks section.  <i>Example: Collection of environmental baseline data is not possible as consultants are unable to travel and conduct field studies.</i>		✓		Currently, there are no concerns for preparing safeguards assessment. FREMAA and their experts can perform due diligence and environmental assessments during project processing phase.

**Note.**

- If the answer is "no" to all three questions, project teams may continue preparing the project following standard methods of due diligence.
- If the answer is "yes" or "not sure" to any of the questions above, the project teams must follow Figure 2 of the [Guidance Note on Safeguards Compliance during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) during further steps of project preparation.
- For further detailed guidance, please refer to the [Guidance Note on Safeguards Compliance during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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<p><b><u>Additional comments from the Project Team (if any)</u></b></p> <p>Currently, there are no perceived challenges on achieving the requirements of ADB SPS 2009. In case of any challenges to achieve SPS 2009 in the near future, FREMAA will utilize adaptive mechanisms to perform public consultations, collection of environmental baseline information, and environmental risks analysis of the project.</p>
<p><b><u>SDSS Comments</u></b></p> <p>No issues identified.</p>  <p>Duncan Lang Senior Environment Specialist Date: 8 December 2022</p>
<p><b><u>Endorsed by:</u></b></p>  <p>Bruce Dunn Director, SDSS Date: 8 December 2022</p>

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**Additional comments from the Project Team (if any)**

Currently, there are no perceived challenges on achieving the requirements of ADB SPS 2009. In case of any challenges to achieve SPS 2009 in the near future, FREMAA will utilize adaptive mechanisms to perform public consultations, collection of environmental baseline information, and environmental risks analysis of the project.

**SDSS Comments**

No issues identified.



Duncan Lang  
Senior Environment Specialist  
Date: 8 December 2022

**Endorsed by:**

Bruce Dunn  
Director, SDSS  
Date: 8 December 2022

## Appendix 4: National and International Environmental Quality Standards and Guidelines

### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

#### National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutants	Time-weighted average	Concentration in Ambient Air		Methods of Measurement
		Industrial, Residential, Rural and Other Areas	Ecologically Sensitive Areas (notified by Central Government)	
Particulate Matter (size less than 10 µm) or PM10 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	60	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravimetric</li> <li>Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalances (TOEM)</li> <li>Beta attenuation</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	100	100	
Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5µm) or PM2.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravimetric</li> <li>TOEM</li> <li>Beta attenuation</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	60	60	
Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	50	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved West and Gaeke</li> <li>Ultraviolet fluorescence</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	80	80	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	40	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modified Jacob and Hochheiser (Na-Arsenite)</li> <li>Chemiluminescence</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	80	80	
Carbon Monoxide (CO) (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	8 hours**	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Dispersive Infra-Red (NDIR) spectroscopy</li> </ul>
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	8 hours**	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UV photometric</li> <li>Chemiluminescence</li> <li>Chemical Method</li> </ul>
	1 hour**	180	180	
Lead (Pb) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	0.5	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry/ Inductively Coupled Plasma (AAS/ICP) method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper</li> <li>Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence (ED-XRF) using Teflon filter</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	1	1	
	1 hour**	4	4	
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemiluminescence</li> <li>Indophenol Blue Method</li> </ul>
	24 hours**	400	400	
Benzene (C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gas chromatography based continuous analyzer</li> <li>Adsorption and Desorption followed by Gas Chromatography (GC) analysis</li> </ul>
Benzo(a) Pyrene Particulate	Annual*	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solvent Extraction followed by High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)/GC analysis</li> </ul>

Pollutants	Time-weighted average	Concentration in Ambient Air		Methods of Measurement
		Industrial, Residential, Rural and Other Areas	Ecologically Sensitive Areas (notified by Central Government)	
Phase only ng/m <sup>3</sup>				
As ng/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AAS/ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper</li> </ul>
Ni ng/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual*	20	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AAS/ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper</li> </ul>

\* Annual Arithmetic mean of minimum 104 measurements in a year taken twice a week, 24 hourly at uniform interval.; ng: nano gram

\*\* 24 hourly or 8 hourly or 1 hourly monitored values, as applicable, shall be compiled with 98% of the time in a year. 2% of the time, they may exceed the limits but not on two consecutive days of monitoring.

**Note:** Whenever and wherever monitoring results on two consecutive days of monitoring exceed the limits specified above for the respective category, it shall be considered adequate reason to institute regular or monitoring and further investigation.

**Source:** MoEF&CC Notification dated 16 November 2009

#### Emission Standards for Diesel Engines ≤ 800 kW for DG sets (2014)

Power Category	Emission limits (g/kW-hr)			Smoke Limit (Light absorption coefficient, m-1)
	CO	NOx + HC	PM	
P ≤ 19 kW	≤ 3.5	≤ 7.5	≤ 0.3	0.7
More than 19 kW up to 75 kW	≤ 3.5	≤ 4.7	≤ 0.3	0.7
More than 75 kW up to 800 kW	≤ 3.5	≤ 4.0	≤ 0.2	0.7

#### Notes:

1. The abbreviations used in the Table shall mean as under: NOx – Oxides of Nitrogen; HC – Hydrocarbon; CO – Carbon Monoxide; and PM – Particulate Matter.

2. Smoke shall not exceed above value throughout the operating load points of the test cycle.

3. The testing shall be done as per D2 – 5 mode cycle of ISO: 8178- Part 4.

4. The above-mentioned emission limits shall be applicable for Type Approval and Conformity of Production (COP) carried out by authorised agencies.

5. Every manufacturer, importer or, assembler (hereinafter referred to as manufacturer) of the diesel engine (hereinafter referred to as 'engine') for genset application manufactured or imported into India or, diesel genset (hereinafter referred to as 'product'), assembled or imported into India shall obtain Type Approval and comply with COP of their product(s) for the emission limits which shall be valid for the next COP year or, the date of implementation of the revised norms specified above, whichever earlier. Explanation — The term 'COP year' means the period from 1 April to 31 March.

6. Stack height (in metres), for genset shall be governed as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines

**Source:** MoEF&CC Notification dated 11th December 2013, g/kW-hr: gram per kilowatt hour



## Noise Standards

### National Ambient Noise Quality Standards

Category of Area/Zone	Limits in dB(A) Leq	
	Day Time	Night-time
Industrial area	75	70
Commercial area	65	55
Residential area	55	45
Silence Zone	50	40

**Note:** (1) Day time shall mean from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. (2) Nighttime shall mean from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. (3) Silence zone is an area comprising not less than 100 metres around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority (4) Mixed categories of areas may be declared as one of the four above mentioned categories by the competent authority.

**Source:** Gazette of India, vide S.O. 123(E), dated 14.2.2000 and subsequently amended by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 vide S.O. 1046(E), dated 22.11.2000 and by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 vide S.O. 1088(E), dated 11.10.2002, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

### National Occupational Noise

Occupational permissible exposure limit is permitted to 90 dB(A) for 8 hours/day and shall not be exposed to a noise level exceeding 115 dB(A) at any time. The permissible levels for noise exposure for work zone areas have been prescribed under the Model Rules of the Factories Act, 1948:

Peak sound pressure level in dB	Permitted number of impulses or impacts/day
140	100
135	315
130	1000
125	3160
120	10000

**Notes:** No exposure in excess of 140 dB peak sound pressure level is permitted. For any peak sound pressure level falling in between any figure and the next higher or lower figure as indicated in column 1, the permitted number of impulses or impacts per day is to be determined by extrapolation on a proportionate basis.

**Source:** [https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/moef\\_gov\\_in\\_citizen\\_specinfo\\_noise\\_html.pdf](https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/moef_gov_in_citizen_specinfo_noise_html.pdf)

Total time of exposure to sound pressure level (continuous or a number in dB(A) of short-term exposures) per day, in hours	Sound pressure level in dB(A)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1.5	102
1	105
0.5	107
0.25	110

**Notes:** No exposure in excess of 115 dB(A) is to be permitted. For any period of exposure falling in between any figure and the next higher or lower figure as indicated in column 1, the permissible sound pressure level is to be determined by extrapolation on a proportionate basis.

**Source:** [https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/moef\\_gov\\_in\\_citizen\\_specinfo\\_noise\\_html.pdf](https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/moef_gov_in_citizen_specinfo_noise_html.pdf)

### National Ambient Noise Quality Standards for DG sets

Category	Limits in dB(A) Leq
Diesel generator sets (up to 1000 KVA) manufactured on or after the 1 January 2005 at 1 meter from the enclosure surface	75

**Source:** Noise Limit for Generator Sets run with Diesel were notified by Environment (Protection) second Amendment Rules vide GSR 371(E), dated 17 May 2002 at serial no.94 and its amendments vide GSR No 520(E) dated 1 July 2003; GSR 448(E), dated 12 July 2004; GSR 315(E) dated 16 May 2005; GSR 464(E) dated 7 August 2006; GSR 566(E) dated 29 August 2007 and GSR 752(E) dated 24 October 2008; G.S.R. 215 (E), dated 15 March, 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

### Water Quality Standards

#### Surface Water Quality Standard

Sl. No.	Designated Best Use	Class of Water	Criteria
1	Drinking Water source (with conventional treatment)	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Coliform MPN/100 ml shall be 50 or less</li> <li>pH between 6.5 to 8.5</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen 6 mg/l or more</li> <li>Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD) 5 days 20°C 2 mg/l or less</li> </ul>
2	Outdoor bathing (organised)	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Coliform MPN/100 ml shall be 500 or less</li> <li>pH between 6.5 to 8.5</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen 5 mg/l or more</li> <li>Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD) 5 days 20°C 3 mg/l or less</li> </ul>
3	Drinking Water source (without conventional treatment)	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Coliform MPN/100 ml shall be 5000 or less</li> <li>pH between 6 to 9</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen 4 mg/l or more</li> <li>Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD) 5 days 20°C 3 mg/l or less</li> </ul>
4	Propagation of Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pH between 6.5 to 8.5 for fisheries</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen 4 mg/l or more</li> <li>Free Ammonia (as N) 1.2 mg/l or less</li> </ul>
5	Irrigation, Industrial Cooling, Controlled Waste	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pH between 6.0 to 8.5</li> <li>Electrical Conductivity at 25°C <math>\mu</math>hos/cm Max. 2250</li> <li>Sodium absorption rations Max. 26</li> <li>Boron, Max.2 mg/l</li> </ul>

**Source:** CPCB (1999). Bio mapping of rivers, Parivesh New Letter, 5 (iv), Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, PP.20.

**General Standards for Discharge Of Environmental Pollutants: Effluents<sup>62</sup>**

Sl. No.	Parameter	Inland surface water	Public sewers	Land for irrigation	Marine/coastal areas
1	Colour and odour	All efforts should be made to remove colour and unpleasant odour as far as practicable		All efforts should be made to remove colour and unpleasant odour as far as practicable	All efforts should be made to remove colour and unpleasant odour as far as practicable
2	Suspended solids mg/l, max.	100	600	200	(a) For process wastewater (b) For cooling water effluent 10 per cent above total suspended matter of influent.
3	Particle size of suspended solids	Shall pass 850 micron IS Sieve	-	-	(a) Floatable solids, solids max. 3 mm (b) Settleable solids, max 856 microns
4	pH value	5.5 to 9.0	5.5 to 9.0	5.5 to 9.0	5.5 to 9.0
5	Temperature	shall not exceed 5oC above the receiving water temperature	-	-	shall not exceed 5oC above the receiving water temperature
6	Oil and grease, mg/l max,	10	20	10	20
7	Total residual chlorine, mg/l max	1.0	-	-	1.0
8	Ammoniacal nitrogen (as N),mg/l, max.	50	50	-	50
9	Total kjeldahl nitrogen (as N) ;mg/l, max. mg/l, max.	100	-	-	100
10	Free ammonia (as NH <sub>3</sub> ), mg/l, max.	5.0	-	-	5.0
11	Biochemical oxygen demand (3 days at 27oC), mg/l, max.	30	350	100	100
12	Chemical oxygen demand, mg/l, max.	250	-	-	250
13	Arsenic(as As).	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
14	Mercury (As Hg), mg/l, max.	0.01	0.01	-	0.01

<sup>62</sup> These standards shall be applicable for industries, operations or processes other than those industries, operations or process for which standards have been specified in Schedule of the Environment Protection Rules, 1989.

Sl. No.	Parameter	Inland surface water	Public sewers	Land for irrigation	Marine/coastal areas
15	Lead (as Pb) mg/l, max	0.1	1.0	-	2.0
16	Cadmium (as Cd) mg/l, max	2.0	1.0	-	2.0
17	Hexavalent chromium (as Cr + 6),mg/l, max.	0.1	2.0	-	1.0
18	Total chromium (as Cr) mg/l, max.	2.0	2.0	-	2.0
19	Copper (as Cu) mg/l, max.	3.0	3.0	-	3.0
20	Zinc (as Zn) mg/l, max.	5.0	15	-	15
21	Selenium (as Se)	0.05	0.05	-	0.05
22	Nickel (as Ni) mg/l, max.	3.0	3.0	-	5.0
23	Cyanide (as CN) mg/l, max.	0.2	2.0	0.2	0.2
24	Fluoride (as F) mg/l, max.	2.0	15	-	15
25	Dissolved phosphates (as P),mg/l, max.	5.0	-	-	-
26	Sulphide (as S) mg/l, max.	2.0	-	-	5.0
27	Phenolic compounds (as C6H5OH)mg/l, max.	1.0	5.0	-	5.0
28	Radioactive materials: (a) Alpha emitters micro curie mg/l, max.	10-7	10-7	10-8	10-7
	(b) Beta emitters micro curie mg/l	10-6	10-6	10-7	10-6
29	Bio-assay test	90% survival of fish after 96 hours in 100% effluent	90% survival of fish after 96 hours in 100% effluent	90% survival of fish after 96 hours in 100% effluent	90% survival of fish after 96 hours in 100% effluent
30	Manganese	2 mg/l	2 mg/l	-	2 mg/l
31	Iron (as Fe)	3mg/l	3mg/l	-	3mg/l
32	Vanadium (as V)	0.2mg/l	0.2mg/l	-	0.2mg/l
33	Nitrate Nitrogen	10 mg/l	-	-	20 mg/l

**Notes:**

Annexure 1: the state boards shall follow the following guidelines in enforcing the standards specified under Schedule IV:

The wastewater and gases are to be treated with the best available technology (BAT) in order to achieve the prescribed standards.

The industries need to be encouraged for recycling and reuse of waste materials as far as practicable in order to minimize the discharge of wastes into the environment.

The industries are to be encouraged for recovery of biogas, energy and reusable materials.

While permitting the discharge of effluents and emissions into the environment, State Boards have to take into account the assimilative capacities of the receiving bodies, especially water bodies so that quality of the intended use of the receiving waters is not affected. Where such quality is likely to be affected, discharges should not be allowed into water bodies.

The central and state boards shall put emphasis on the implementation of clean technologies by the industries in order to increase fuel efficiency and reduce the generation of environmental pollutants.

All efforts should be made to remove color and unpleasant odour as far as practicable.

The standards mentioned in this Schedule shall also apply to all other effluents discharged such as mining, and mineral processing activities and sewage.

The limit given for the total concentration of mercury in the final effluent of caustic soda industry, is for the combined effluent from (a) cell house; (b) brine plant; (c) chlorine handling; (d) hydrogen handling; and (e) hydrochloric acid plant.

All effluents discharged including from the industries such as cotton textile, composite woollen mills, synthetic rubber, small pulp & paper, natural rubber, petrochemicals, tanneries, paint, dyes, slaughterhouses, food & fruit processing and dairy industries into surface waters shall conform to the BOD limit specified above, namely, 30 mg/l. For discharge of an effluent having a BOD more than 30 mg/l, the standards shall conform to those given above for other receiving bodies, namely, sewers, coastal waters and land for irrigation.

Bioassay shall be made compulsory for all the industries, where toxic and nonbiodegradable chemicals are involved.

In case of fertilizer industry, the limits in respect of chromium and fluoride shall be complied with at the outlet of chromium and fluoride removal units respectively.

In case of pesticides.

- a. The limits should be complied with at the end of the treatment plant before dilution.
- b. Bio-assay test should be carried out with the available species of fish in the receiving water, the COD limits to be specified in the consent conditions should be correlated with the BOD limits.
- c. In case metabolites and isomers of the pesticides in the given list are found in significant concentrations, standards should be prescribed for these also in the same concentration as the individual pesticides.
- d. Industries are required to analyze pesticides in wastewater by advanced analytical methods such as GLC/HPLC.

The chemical oxygen demand (COD) concentration in a treated effluent, if observed to be persistently greater than 250 mg/l before disposal to any receiving body (public sewer, land for irrigation, inland surface water and marine coastal areas), such industrial units are required to identify chemicals causing the same. In case these are found to be toxic as defined in the Schedule-I of the Hazardous Rules, 1989, the state boards in such cases shall direct the industries to install tertiary treatment stipulating time limit.

Standards specified in Part A of Schedule VI for discharge of effluents into the public sewer shall be applicable only if such sewer leads to a secondary treatment including biological treatment system otherwise the discharge into sewers shall be treated as discharge into inland surface waters.

**Source:** GSR 801 (E), EPA, 1986, dated 31 December 1993

**Drinking Water Specifications: IS 10500:2012**

Sl. No.	Substance/ Characteristics	Requirement (acceptable limit)	Undesirable effect outside the desirable limit	Permissible limit in the absence of alternate source	Methods of Test (ref. To IS)	Remarks
<b>Essential Characteristics</b>						
1	Colour, Hazen Units, Max.	5	Above 5, consumer acceptance decreases	15	IS 3025 (Part 4)	Extended to 15 only if toxic substances, in absence of alternate sources.
2	Odour	Agreeable	-	Agreeable	IS 3025 (Part 5)	A test cold and when heated. Test at several dilution
3	Taste	Agreeable	-	Agreeable	IS 3025 (Part 7 & 8)	Test to be conducted only after safety has been established
4	Turbidity NTU, Max.	1	Above 5, consumer acceptance decreases	5	3025 (Part 10): 1984	
5	pH value	6.5 to 8.5	Beyond this range the water will not affect the mucous membrane and /or water supply system	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 11)	
6	Total hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) mg/l, Max.	300	Encrustation in water supply structures an adverse effect on domestic use	600	IS 3025 (Part 21)	
7	Iron (as Fe) mg /l Max.	0.3	Beyond this limit taste/appearance are affected has adverse effect on domestic uses and water supply structures and promotes iron bacteria	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 53)	Total concentration of manganese (as Mn) and iron (as Fe) shall not exceed 0.3 mg/l
8	Chlorides (as Cl) mg/1 Max.	250	Beyond this limit, taste corrosion and palatability are affected	1000	IS 3025 (Part 32)	

Sl. No.	Substance/ Characteristics	Requirement (acceptable limit)	Undesirable effect outside the desirable limit	Permissible limit in the absence of alternate source	Methods of Test (ref. To IS)	Remarks
9	Residual, free chloride, mg/1 Min.	0.2		1	IS 3025 (Part 26)	To be applicable only when water is chlorinated. Tested at consumer end. When protection against viral infection is required, it should be Min. 0.5 mg/1
<b>Desirable characteristics</b>						
1	Dissolved solids mg/1 Max.	500	Beyond the palatability decreases and may cause gastrointestinal irritation	2000	IS 3025 (Part 16)	
2	Calcium (as Ca) mg/1 Max.	75	Encrustation in water supply structure and adverse effects on domestic use	200	IS 3025 (Part 40)	
3	Magnesium (as Mg) mg/1, Max.	30	Encrustation in water supply structure and adverse effects on domestic use	100	IS 3025 (Part 46)	
4	Copper (as Cu) mg/1 Max.	0.05	Beyond taste, discoloration of pipes, fitting and utensils will be caused beyond this	1.5	IS 3025 (Part 42)	
5	Manganese (as Mn) mg/1, Max.	0.1	Beyond this limit taste/appearance are affected, has adverse effect on domestic uses and water supply structures.	0.3	IS 3025 (Part 59)	
6	Sulphate (as SO <sub>4</sub> ), mg/1, Max.	200	Beyond this causes gastro-intestinal irritation when magnesium or	400	IS 3025 (Part 24)	May be extended up to 400 provided (as Mg) does

Sl. No.	Substance/ Characteristics	Requirement (acceptable limit)	Undesirable effect outside the desirable limit	Permissible limit in the absence of alternate source	Methods of Test (ref. To IS)	Remarks
			sodium are present			not exceed 30
7	Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ) mg/l, Max.	45	Beyond this methaemoglobin emia take place	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 34)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
8	Fluoride (as F) mg/1, Max.	1.0	Fluoride may be kept as low as possible. High fluoride may cause fluorosis	1.5	IS 3025 (Part 60)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
9	Phenolic compounds (as C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH) mg/1, Max.	0.001	Beyond this it may cause objectionable taste and odour	0.002	IS 3025 (Part 43)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
10	Mercury (as Hg) mg/1, Max.	0.001	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 48)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
11	Cadmium (as cd), mg/1, Max.	0.003	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 41)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
12	Selenium, (as Se). mg/l, Max.	0.01	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 56)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
13	Arsenic (As) mg/1, Max.	0.01	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	0.05	IS 3025 (Part 37)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
14	Cyanide (as CN) mg/1, Max.	0.05	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 27)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
15	Lead (as Pb), mg/1, Max.	0.01	Beyond this the water becomes toxic	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 47)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
16	Zinc (as Zn) mg/1, Max.	5	Beyond this limit it can cause astringent taste and an opalescence taste and an opalescence in water	15	IS 3025 (Part 49)	To be tested when pollution is suspected



Sl. No.	Substance/ Characteristics	Requirement (acceptable limit)	Undesirable effect outside the desirable limit	Permissible limit in the absence of alternate source	Methods of Test (ref. To IS)	Remarks
17	Anionic detergents (as MBAS) mg/1, Max.	0.2	Beyond this it can cause a light froth in water	1	Annex K of IS 13428	To be tested when pollution is suspected
18	Chromium (as Cr6+) mg/1, Max.	0.05	May be carcinogenic above this limit	No relaxation	IS 3025 (Part 52)	To be tested when pollution is suspected
19	Poly nuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (as PAH) mg/1, Max.	0.0001	May be carcinogenic above this limit	No relaxation	APHA 6440	-
20	Mineral oil mg/1, Max.	0.5	Beyond this limit undesirable taste and odour after chlorination take place.	0.03	IS 3025 (Part 39)	-
21	Pesticides mg/1, Max.	-	Toxic	-	-	-
22	Radioactive material	-	-	-	IS 14194	-
23	Alpha emitters bq/1, Max.	0.1	-	No Relaxation	-	-
24	Beta emitter pci/1, Max.	1.0	-	No Relaxation	-	-
25	Total alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), mg/l, max	200	Beyond this limit taste becomes unpleasant	600	IS 3025 (Part 23)	-
26	Aluminium (as Al) mg/1, Max.	0.03	Cumulate effect is reported to cause dementia	0.2	IS 3025 (Part 55)	-
27	Boron mg/1, Max.	0.5	-	1.0	IS 3025 (Part 57)	-

**Source:** Indian Standard Drinking Water Specification – IS 10500:2012

INTERNATIONAL (WB/IFC- EHS GUIDELINE) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS<sup>63</sup>

## WHO Ambient Air Quality Guidelines

	Averaging Period	Guideline value in mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Sulfur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	24-hour	125 (Interim target-1) 50 (Interim target-2)
	10 minutes	20 (guideline) 500 (guideline)
Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	1-year	40 (guideline)
	1-hour	200 (guideline)
Particulate Matter PM <sub>10</sub>	1-year	70 (Interim target-1) 50 (Interim target-2) 30 (Interim target-3) 20 (guideline)
	24-hour	150 (Interim target-1) 100 (Interim target-2) 75 (Interim target-3) 50 (guideline)
Particulate Matter PM <sub>2.5</sub>	1-year	35 (Interim target-1) 25 (Interim target-2) 15 (Interim target-3) 10 (guideline)
	24-hour	75 (Interim target-1) 50 (Interim target-2) 37.5 (Interim target-3) 25 (guideline)
Ozone	8-hour daily maximum	160 (Interim target-1) 100 (guideline)

**Source:** [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines)

## Ambient Noise Level Guidelines

Receptor	One Hour LAeq (dBA)	
	Daytime 07:00 - 22:00	Nighttime 22:00 - 07:00
Residential; institutional; educational <sup>64</sup>	55	45
Industrial; commercial	70	70

**Source:** Guidelines for Community Noise, World Health Organization (WHO), 1999.

<sup>63</sup> [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines)

<sup>64</sup> For acceptable indoor noise levels for residential, institutional, and educational settings refer to WHO (1999).

### Noise Limits for Various Working Environments

Location/activity	Equivalent level LAeq,8h	Maximum LAmax, fast
Heavy Industry (no demand for oral communication)	85 dB(A)	110 dB(A)
Light industry (decreasing demand for oral communication)	50-65 dB(A)	110 dB(A)
Open offices, control rooms, service counters or similar	45-50 dB(A)	-
Individual offices (no disturbing noise)	40-45 dB(A)	-
Classrooms, lecture halls	35-40 dB(A)	-
Hospitals	30-35 dB(A)	40 dB(A)

**Source:** Guidelines for Community Noise, World Health Organization (WHO), 1999

### Water Quality

Indicative Values for Treated Sanitary Sewage Discharges

Pollutants	Units	Guideline Value
pH	pH	6 – 9
BOD mg/l 30	mg/l	30
COD mg/l 125	mg/l	125
Total nitrogen mg/l 10	mg/l	10
Total phosphorus mg/l 2	mg/l	2
Oil and grease	mg/l	10
Total suspended solids	mg/l	50
Total coliform bacteria	MPN /100 ml	400

MPN = Most Probable Number

**Source:** <https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/3d9a54ae-c44c-488d-9851-afeb368cb9f9/1-3%2BWastewater%2Band%2BAmbient%2BWater%2BQuality.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=Is4Xbfn>

## **Appendix 5. WRD Guidelines for Locating, Operating, And Rehabilitating Borrow Pits Near the Embankment**

Follow the WRD guidelines for locating borrow pits near the embankment. All efforts shall be made to avoid or minimize tree loss due to borrowing. The trucks shall be covered while transporting the earth.

While borrowing the earth top soil shall be preserved. The borrow pits shall be rehabilitated after borrowing the earth. The WRD guidelines for rehabilitation of the pits shall be strictly followed. The Indian Road Congress (IRC):10-1961 guideline will govern the selection of borrow pits. In all cases good engineering and construction practices shall be followed. The construction contractor shall submit in advance the borrow area identification details along with borrow area rehabilitation plan.

WRD Guidelines with respect to borrow area location and rehabilitation:

- (i) For high embankments no excavation shall be done within 45 m of the riverside toe of the embankment. From 45 m to 60 m the borrow pits must not be more than 1.8 m deep and from 60 m to 90 m not more than 2.4 m deep and beyond 90 m they can be of 3 m depth.
- (ii) If earth is to be taken from land-side of the embankment, no borrow pits shall be excavated within 24 m of the land-side toe of the embankment. The depth of excavation in 24 m to 36 m shall not be more than 0.6 m. For low embankments the borrow pits on the riverside and on the land-side shall not be located at less than 24 m from the toe.
- (iii) For low embankments the borrow pits on the river-side and on the land-side shall not be located at less than 24 m from the toe.
- (iv) The borrow pits shall be staggered and on undisturbed ground 6 m wide left at regular intervals to prevent the velocity of flow through the river-side borrow pits. The staggering will also help in inducing silting and filling up of these borrow pits.
- (v) On the country-side the waterlogged areas (bandhis) shall be cut and interconnected to permit ordinary drainage. These shall be connected to the nearest drainage channel so as to carry away the drainage water.
- (vi) The borrow areas selected for taking earth shall be cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass and vegetation mounds.
- (vii) No borrow pits shall be made on roads, village tracks, graveyards, canals or embankments.

## Appendix 6: IBAT Analysis



### Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool PROXIMITY REPORT BIJOYNAGAR- BARPETA (CD)

**Country:** India

**Location:** [ 26.2, 91.3 ]

**Date of analysis:** 14 April 2023 (GMT)

**Size of site:** 793 km<sup>2</sup>

**Buffers applied:** 1 km | 5 km | 10 km

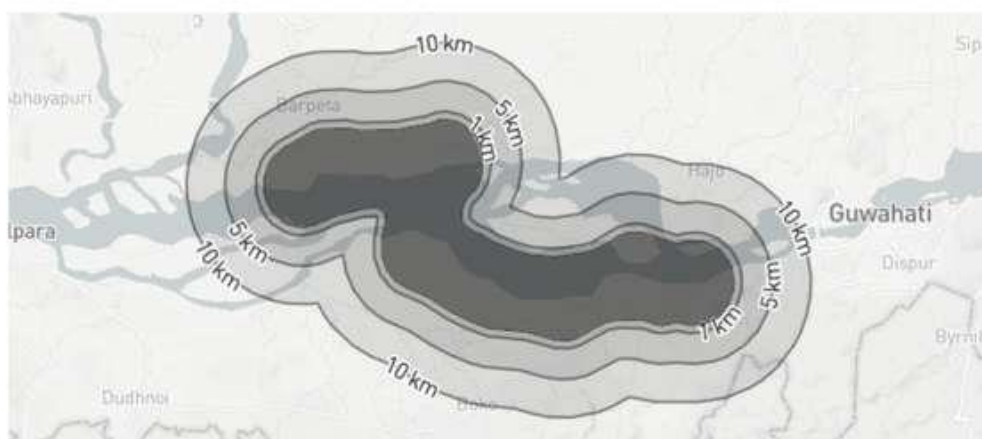
**IUCN Red List Biomes:** Freshwater, Terrestrial

**Generated by:** Arijit Choudhury

**Organisation:** ADB

#### Overlaps with:

Protected Areas	1
Key Biodiversity Areas	1
IUCN Red List	119



Displaying project location and buffers: 1 km, 5 km, 10 km



UN WOMEN WCMC



## About this report

This report presents the results of [5840-42042] proximity analysis to identify the biodiversity features and species which are located within the following buffers: 1 km, 5 km, 10 km.

This report is one part of a package generated by IBAT on 14 April 2023 (GMT) that includes full list of all species, protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas in CSV format, maps showing the area of interest in relation to these features, and a 'How to read IBAT reports' document.

WARNING: IBAT aims to provide the most up-to-date and accurate information available at the time of analysis. There is however a possibility of incomplete, incorrect or out-of-date information. All findings in this report must be supported by further desktop review, consultation with experts and/or on-the-ground field assessment. Please consult IBAT for any additional disclaimers or recommendations applicable to the information used to generate this report.

Please note, sensitive species data are currently not included in IBAT reports in line with the [Sensitive Data Access Restrictions Policy for the IUCN Red List](#). This relates to sensitive Threatened species and KBAs triggered by sensitive species.

## Data used to generate this report

- UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2023. Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)[On-line]. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net) - April 2023.
- BirdLife International (on behalf of the KBA Partnership), 2023. Key Biodiversity Areas - April 2023.
- IUCN, 2022. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - December 2022.
- IUCN. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019-3. (2019). <https://www.iucnredlist.org>
- IUCN. Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2). (2019)
- Strassburg, B.B.N., Iribarren, A., Beyer, H.L. et al. Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration. Nature 586, 724–729 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2784-9>





### Protected Areas

The following protected areas are found within 1 km, 5 km, 10 km of the area of interest.  
For further details please refer to the associated csv file in the report folder.

Area name	Within buffer of
Deepor Beel	10 km

### Key Biodiversity Areas

The following key biodiversity areas are found within 1 km, 5 km, 10 km of the area of interest.  
For further details please refer to the associated csv file in the report folder.

Area name	Distance
Deepor Beel Bird Sanctuary	10 km

### IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

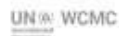
The following threatened species are potentially found within 50km of the area of interest.

For the full IUCN Red List please refer to the associated csv in the report folder.

Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Nilssonina nigricans</i>	Black Softshell Turtle	REPTILIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>	Gharial	REPTILIA	CR	Increasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Pangshura sylhetensis</i>	Assam Roofed Turtle	REPTILIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Batagur dhongoka</i>	Three-striped Roofed Turtle	REPTILIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater



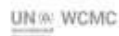
Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Baer's Pochard	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Freshwater
<i>Ardea insignis</i>	White-bellied Heron	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Yellow-breasted Bunting	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Haematopinus oliveri</i>	Pygmy Hog Sucking Louse	INSECTA	CR	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>	Elongated Tortoise	REPTILIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Manis pentadactyla</i>	Chinese Pangolin	MAMMALIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Manouria emys</i>	Asian Giant Tortoise	REPTILIA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>	Agarwood	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	Bengal Florican	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-rumped Vulture	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Red-headed Vulture	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Vulture	AVES	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>	Indian Nard	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	CR	Decreasing	Terrestrial





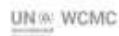


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
Bubalus arnee	Wild Water Buffalo	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Cuora amboinensis	Southeast Asian Box Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Geoclemys hamiltonii	Spotted Pond Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Hardella thurjii	Crowned River Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Morenia petersi	Indian Eyed Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Schistura sijuensis		ACTINOPTERYGII	EN	Unknown	Freshwater
Nilssonina gangetica	Indian Softshell Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Nilssonina hurum	Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Platanista gangetica	Ganges River Dolphin	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Freshwater
Axis porcinus	Hog Deer	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Cuora mouhotii	Keeled Box Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Pillaia indica		ACTINOPTERYGII	EN	Unknown	Freshwater
Amblyceps arunchalensis		ACTINOPTERYGII	EN	Unknown	Freshwater



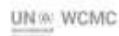


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
Arachnochium kulsienne		MALACOSTRACA	EN	Unknown	Freshwater
Perdicula manipurensis	Manipur Bush-quail	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Rynchops albigollis	Indian Skimmer	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Sterna acuticauda	Black-bellied Tern	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Haliaeetus leucoryphus	Pallas's Fish-eagle	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Leptoptilos dubius	Greater Adjutant	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Laticilla cinerascens	Swamp Grass-babbler	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
Tor putitora		ACTINOPTERYGII	EN	Decreasing	Freshwater
Caprolagus hispidus	Hispid Hare	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Cuon alpinus	Dhole	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Elephas maximus	Asian Elephant	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Hadromys humei	Hume's Rat	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Manis crassicaudata	Indian Pangolin	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Melanochelys tricarinata	Tricarinate Hill Turtle	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial



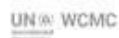


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Tiger	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Porcula salvania</i>	Pygmy Hog	MAMMALIA	EN	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Trachypithecus geei</i>	Gee's Golden Langur	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Varanus flavescens</i>	Yellow Monitor	REPTILIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i>	Bengal Slow Loris	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i> ssp. <i>tenebricus</i>	Tenebrous Capped Langur	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Hoolock hoolock</i>	Western Hoolock Gibbon	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Trillium tschonoskii</i>	Tschonoski's Wakerobin	LILIOPSIDA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	Finn's Weaver	AVES	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Teak	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Impatiens cothurnoides</i>	The Garo Balsam	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i> ssp. <i>pileatus</i>	Blond-bellied Langur	MAMMALIA	EN	Decreasing	Terrestrial



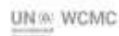


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Rucervus duvauceli</i>	Barasingha	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	Mugger	REPTILIA	VU	Stable	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>	Smooth-coated Otter	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>	Fishing Cat	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Greater One-horned Rhino	MAMMALIA	VU	Increasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	Asian Small-clawed Otter	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Pangshura tecta</i>	Indian Roofed Turtle	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Liotelphusa quadrata</i>		MALACOSTRACA	VU	Unknown	Freshwater
<i>Physoschistura elongata</i>		ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Unknown	Freshwater
<i>Wallago attu</i>		ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Decreasing	Freshwater
<i>Devario assamensis</i>		ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Unknown	Freshwater
<i>Schistura reticulofasciata</i>		ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Unknown	Freshwater
<i>Ortygornis gularis</i>	Swamp Francolin	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater



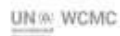


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	Black-capped Kingfisher	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Grus antigone</i>	Sarus Crane	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	Wood Snipe	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	River Tern	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Clanga clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Lesser Adjutant	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Marine, Freshwater
<i>Schoenicola striatus</i>	Bristled Grassbird	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Chrysomma altirostre</i>	Jerdon's Babbler	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	Black-breasted Parrotbill	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater
<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	Indian Flapshell Turtle	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial, Freshwater



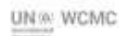


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
Xenochrophis cerasogaster	Painted Keelback	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Freshwater
Schizothorax plagiostomus	Snow Trout	ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Decreasing	Freshwater
Bagarius bagarius		ACTINOPTERYGII	VU	Decreasing	Freshwater
Bos gaurus	Gaur	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Helarctos malayanus	Sun Bear	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Macaca arctoides	Stump-tailed Macaque	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Melursus ursinus	Sloth Bear	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Neofelis nebulosa	Clouded Leopard	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Panthera pardus	Leopard	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Trachypithecus pileatus	Capped Langur	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Ursus thibetanus	Asiatic Black Bear	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Macaca leonina	Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Arctictis binturong	Binturong	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
Rusa unicolor	Sambar	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial



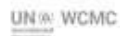


Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Oligodon erythrorhachis</i>	Namsang Kukri Snake	REPTILIA	VU	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	King Cobra	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Elaphe taeniura</i>	Cave Racer	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Python bivittatus</i>	Burmese Python	REPTILIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Cnemaspis assamensis</i>	Assamese Day Gecko	REPTILIA	VU	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	Great Slaty Woodpecker	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Great Hornbill	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	Rufous-necked Hornbill	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	Wreathed Hornbill	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Apus acuticauda</i>	Dark-rumped Swift	AVES	VU	Stable	Terrestrial
<i>Turdus feae</i>	Grey-sided Thrush	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Saxicola insignis</i>	White-throated Bushchat	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Sitta formosa</i>	Beautiful Nuthatch	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial





Species Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	IUCN Category	Population Trend	Biome
<i>Argya longirostris</i>	Slender-billed Babbler	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Clanga hastata</i>	Indian Spotted Eagle	AVES	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Arctonyx collaris</i>	Greater Hog Badger	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Oryza malampuzhaensis</i>		LILIOPSIDA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Litsea nitida</i>		MAGNOLIOPSIDA	VU	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Litsea panamanja</i>		MAGNOLIOPSIDA	VU	Unknown	Terrestrial
<i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>	Mainland Serow	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Hoolock hoolock</i> ssp. <i>hoolock</i>	Western Hoolock Gibbon	MAMMALIA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	Love Apple	LILIOPSIDA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial
<i>Fritillaria cirrhosa</i>	Yellow Himalayan Fritillary	LILIOPSIDA	VU	Decreasing	Terrestrial







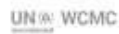
### Recommended citation

IBAT Proximity Report. Generated under licence 5840-42042 from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool on 14 April 2023 (GMT). [www.ibat-alliance.org](http://www.ibat-alliance.org)

### How to use this report

This report provides an indication of the potential biodiversity-related features - protected areas, key biodiversity areas and species - close to the specified location. It provides an early indication of potential biodiversity concerns, and can provide valuable guidance in making decisions. For example, this information can be helpful when assessing the potential environmental risk and impact of a site, categorising investments/projects, preparing the terms of reference for an impact assessment, focusing attention on key species of conservation concern and sites of known conservation value, and reviewing the results of an impact assessment.

The report does not provide details of potential indirect, downstream or cumulative impacts. Furthermore, the report should be regarded as a "first-step", providing a set of conservation values sourced from global data sets, and is not a substitute for further investigation and due diligence, especially concerning national and/or local conservation priorities.



## Appendix 7: Biodiversity Survey Report by LASA

6<sup>th</sup> Febuary 2023 to at Palasbari subproject area, and 17<sup>th</sup> Febuary 2023 in Gumi subproject area

### FLORAL SURVEY

As per Champion and Seth categorization, the project area falls in Moist Deciduous Forest type. In these forest Sal grows in association with Lagerstroemia species(Jarul, Ajar), Schima Wallichii(Ghugra), Stereospermum personatum (Paruli), Adina cordifolia (Haldu), Artocarpus species (Sam), Ficus species(Bor, Dimoru, Dhupbor, Bot, Athabor, tengabor, Lotadioru, Khongaldimoru), Bischofia javanica (Uriam), Gmelina arborea (Gomari), Michelia champaca(Teeta champa), Terminalia species (Hilikha, Bhomora, Bohera). Toona ciliate (Poma) etc.

### METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

To collected floral distribution in the project area, whole river bank protection work stretch in Sub project (Zone -C) was split into three sections considering the revenue circle. There are three revenue circle i.e Goroimari, Chamaria and Palashbari. The total length of bank protection work is 11.540 km length. The length of trench varies between 200m to 3900m. There are total eight trench work.

The project site for data collection has been divided into sub zone. The details are as follows:

**Core Zone:** protection, embankment work area (Right of Way) of the project.

**Inner Buffer Zone:** Boundary of Right of Way of Project up to 500 meters of study area

**Outer Buffer Zone:** area delgated between 500 meters to 1000 meters (1 km area).

**Site selection:** 100% of sites given in the list were visited. Out of total length of bank protection work, about 100 % of total length for project having small length which varies between 265m to 1 km were visited on foot. For bigger of length which were more than 1 km the whole project were divided into segments. The visit include start point upto 500 meters walk followed by 1 km no survey, then again visit of 1 km and 500 meters end point. In-between two survey length 1 km stretch avoided. In short one km survey and one km no survey methods adopted. This selection of stretch is based on random survey methods. In projects where landuse is agriculture, The length of transect and walk through survey methods are increased from 500 meters to 1 km. This is adopted so as to record maximum species diversity.

Other work like PSC Procupine, adaption work, etc whole of sites were visited.



Team during flora & Faunal survey at Gumi – 850 meters bank protection work.

## Methods adopted for Survey and data collection

- Walk Through methods
- Transect line methods
- Spot methods
- Call detection methods
- Pug mark of animals on sandy river beds
- Quadrant analysis
- Fishing point – Bamboo Net Traditional Fishing Net (Veshal) Point

### Methodology adopted for Terrestrial Survey:

**Transect Methods:** Path along which one counts and records occurrences of the objects of study. Transect can be for whole project stretch to part of project stretch randomly selected. It was adopted where growth of flora is spaced a part. only to record distribution of flora in study area. In other word In line transect sampling, a series of lines is distributed according to some design (usually a systematic grid of parallel lines and an observer travel along each line, searching for animals or plant clusters)<sup>65</sup>.

**Quadrant Methods:** A quadrat is a frame, traditionally square, used in ecology, geography and biology to isolate a standard unit of area for study of the distribution of an item over a large area. In other words, it is, a series of squares (quadrats) of a set size are placed in a habitat of interest and the species within those quadrats are identified and recorded<sup>66</sup>. Different Quadrant size has been adopted. Trees Quadrant size (10m X 10m); shrubs and herbs (1m x 1m). This sample size is adopted where population distribution per area is high.

Transect and quadrant methods were adopted to record the floral profile within 1 km radius (direct impact zone and buffer Zone). The project sites harbours human induced agrarian habitat. During survey the direct impact zone harbours vegetable farming followed by maize cultivation. On the bunds of farm and in small patched plantation and growth of Banana, Mango, beetle nut, coconut, drum stick trees, etc was noticed. The ground cover mostly comprises of grasses which grows post harvesting in agriculture field.

On the scrub and non-agriculture patched (less than 10%) of total project length. Growth of shrubs followed by tress are noted. The shrubs growth reported along the reach are castor (*Ricinus communis*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), *Datura stramonium*,



Quadrant (Q3) Study Location ( 26.121301°; 91.455863°).

<sup>65</sup> [https://www.math.montana.edu/grad\\_students/writing-projects/2019/Owusu2019.pdf](https://www.math.montana.edu/grad_students/writing-projects/2019/Owusu2019.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.coml.org/investigating/home.html>

*Datura innoxia*, *Datura metel*, Apple of sodom (*Calotropis procera*), bair (*Ziziphus nummularia*), etc.

The climber's species reported long the trench and buffer zone are *Stephania harnondifolia* (Tubuki lata), *Zanthoxylum hamiltonianum* (Tej-muri), *Cuscuta reflexa* (Akashi Lata), *Illegeriakhasiana* (Kerkeri lata), *Dioscorea hamilttoni* (Bonoria alu), *Smilax macrophylla* (Tikoni boral), *Calamus erectus* (Jati bet), *C. gracilis* (Wahing bet), *C. latifolius* (Motha bet),

*Pinaga gracitis* (Raidang Bet), *Pothos cathcartii* (Hati-poita) and *P. scandens* (Kawri Lata) etc.

The herbs and grasses reported along the trenches are *Ipomoea carnea* (Behaya), *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Congress grass), *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eriachne aristidea*, *Aristida purpurea*, *Saccharum spontaneum*, *Tripidium bengalense*, *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa cacharensis*, *Bambusa polymorpha*, *Arundinella bengalensis* (Spreng.), *Bambusa cacharensis* *Cyrtococcum patens* var. *latifolium* Isachne, *Melocalamus indicus* *Panicum khasianum* Munro, etc.



Growth of Grasses along the Protection Work

### Buffer Area Floral Assessment

About 10 transect were laid to capture floral species diversity in study area. **Table 1.00** gives the locations of transect study. The locations of Transect line on Google Earth Image for survey of Flora and Fauna are given in **Figure 1.00 and Figure 2.00**. The length of transect varies between 500 meters to 1000 meters. The selection of length depending upon length of protection work and also habitat through which it passes. For agriculture land-use the length has been kept 1000meters, where the length of protection work exceed 2500meters and above. The length has been kept 1000 meters to record large number of tree species distribution in agriculture field. The population density of trees in study area is very less. In transect the tree reported within 10 meters on both sides were recorded.

In walk through methods – Sample path which is taken for transect, trees species which can be recorded through eyes are listed. It recorded trees species over wide range.

Species of trees reported in the Buffer zone i.e one km radius excluding the core zone (25 to 30meters work) are mostly planted and few naturally growing. These trees are reported in the orchards, on agriculture furrow, bunds, etc. About 35 species of trees are reported from the study area. The species of trees reported during survey adopting transect and walk through were Banyan trees (*Ficus benghalensis*), siris (*Albizia lebbek*), Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Jack fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Sissu (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Sum (*Sterculia urens*), Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*) Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamba (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), Guava (*Psidium guajava*),

Gulmohar (*Delonix regia*), drum stick (*Moringa oleifera*), *Alstonia scholaris*, *Spondias Mangifera*, *Bauhania purpurea*, *Cassia fistula*, *Erythrina variegata*, jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), lemon (*Citrus limon*), Jack Fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Gulmohar (*Delonix regia*), Papaya (*Carica papaya*), *Cassia sophera*, *pongamia pinnata*, Tad (*Borassus flabellifer*), *Dipterocarpus tubinatus*, *Palaquium polyanthum*, *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Malocanna hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, Bail (*Aegle marmelos*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Bakain (*Melia azedarach*), *Plectomia assamica*, *Plectomia bractealis*, *Cassia sophera*, etc. The trees species reported are common type reported all over the state.

Among species recorded, Teak (*Tectona grandis*) which are not naturally, but planted by the locals as timber trees are Reported as Endangered (EN) by IUCN Red Data Book category. Based on IBAT report, and located within Inner Buffer zone (Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis), this tree species as ecological importance and needs conservations.

**Table 1.00: Gives Locations of Transect Methods adopted for Flora and Fauna Study**

S.No	Project Name	Length to Protection Work (m)	Transect Code	Geographical Coordinate				Length of Transect (m)	Remarks
				Start Point		End Point			
				Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude		
1.	Dakhala – Kalitapara Area	800	T1	26.117303°	91.513668°	26.117683°	91.508927°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
2.	At Guimara	200	T2	26.116844°	91.470942°	26.116991°	91.469212°	180	Agriculture Land Dominant
3.	At Simina	640	T3	26.121063°	91.456845°	26.122290°	91.451975°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
4.	Makadhuj spur to 1 Fururi	1450	T4	26.126466°	91.437839°	26.124921°	91.442330°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
5.	Guwahati West (Gumi)	850	T5	26.098754°	91.339872°	26.098867°	91.334792°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
6.	Guwahati West Borakhat	3900	T6	26.115424°	91.248126°	26.117794°	91.238850°	1000	Agriculture Land Dominant
7.			T7	26.119428°	91.233966°	26.123785°	91.225315°	1000	Agriculture Land Dominant
8.	Panikhaity	1100	T8	26.154949°	91.165873°	26.153932°	91.170867°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
9.	Lotordia NC	2600	T9	26.157503°	91.151082°	26.157912°	91.146023°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant
10.			T10	26.160219°	91.137806°	26.163362°	91.134564°	500	Agriculture Land Dominant

Figure 1.00: Transect Locations for Study of Floral and Faunal Profile of the Study Area



Figure 2.00: Transect Locations for Study of Floral and Faunal Profile of the Study Area





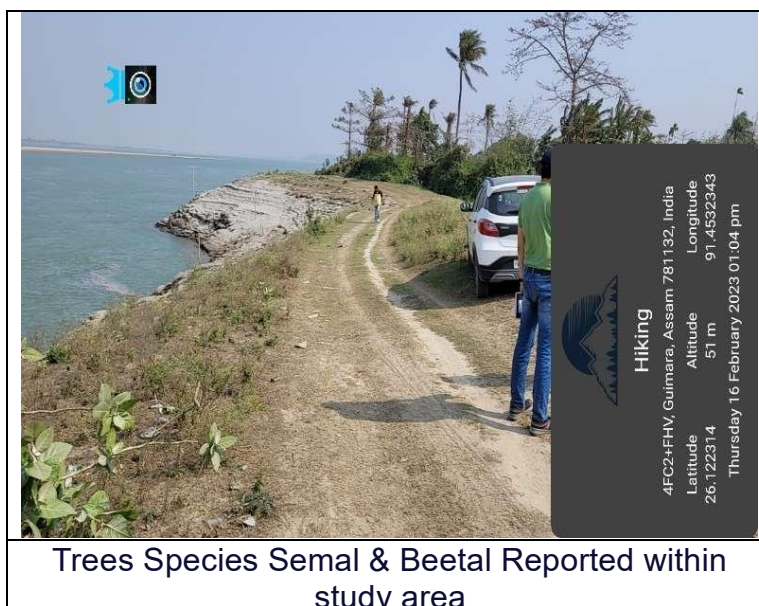
## SPECIES OF FLORA REPORTED WITHIN CORE AREA

Trees species falling within the trench work i.e within 25 to 30m earmarked for Bank protection work witness sparse distribution of trees. This was due to annual flooding of the area resulting in loss of young sampling of trees and secondly due to high cutting which washed of trees during flooding by Brahmaputra water.

### Canopy Cover

Quadrant analysis was adopted to record the species and their distribution in impact zone. The location of Quadrant laid are given in **Table 2.00**. The number of species reported in

each quadrant are given in **Table 3.00**. The google image showing Quadrant location within project area is given in **Figure 3.00** and **Figure 4.00**. Based on Quadrant Analysis Methods, the dominant Trees reported within the protection work (25 to 30 meters) and within embankment zone were Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Jack fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Date (*Phonix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamb



(*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), Albizza Sp., Drum Stick (*Moringa oleifera*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Papaya (*Carica papaya*), Bair (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), etc. Among species reported highest population density reported is 0.43/m<sup>2</sup> for Banana, followed by 0.3/m<sup>2</sup> betel nut and 0.13/m<sup>2</sup> Semal.

The speceis of bamboo reported in the core zone are *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Malocanna hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, etc.

Teak (*Tectona grandis*) which are not naturally, but planted by the locals as timber trees are Reported as Endangered (EN) by IUCN Red Data Book category. Based on IBAT report, and located within Inner Buffer zone (Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis), this tree species as ecological importance and needs conservations.

## Ground Cover

The ground cover flora within the core area are shrubs, herbs and grasses. The dominant species of shrubs reported are lantana (*Lantana camara*), Jhar Bair (*Ziziphus nummularis*), castor (*Ricinus communis*), *Calotropis procera*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, *Datura (Datura metel)*, *Datura innoxia*, *Cassia sophera*, *Solanum torvum*, *Solanum indicum*, etc.



Ground cover vegetation in project area (Herbs & Shrubs)

The species of herbs reported within the core zone are *Dentella repens*, *Eclipta prostrata*, *Mimosa pudica*, *Bar manmuni*, *Sida cordiflora*, *Solanum torvum*, *Xanthium indicum*, *Ranunculus cantoniensis*, *Beria ammanniodes*, *Hypericum japonicum*, *hydrocera trifloral*, *Aeschynomere aspera*, *Aeschynomere india*, *Ludwigia prostrata*, *Dichrocephala integrifolia*, *Enhydra fluctuans*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Alpinia purpurata*, *Amaranthus viridis*, etc.

The species of grasses reported covering the ground are mainly weeds, they are *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Cyperus cephalotes*, *Cyprus difformis*, *Cyprus diffuses*, *Cyprus haspana*, *Brachiaria mutica*, *Echinochloa stagnina*, *Eragrostia atrovirens*, *Paspalum scropiclatum*, *Phragmites karkar*, *Saaciolepis interrupta*, etc.

The tall grasses reported within the core zone in fragmented cluster form, covering the ground were *Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Malocanna bacciferra*, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Plectomia assamica* and *Plectomia bractealis* etc.



Species of grasses reported in core zone

### ***Agrarian Habitat***

The project construction zone is mostly dominated by agricultural land. About 70 to 75 % of project area is under agriculture practices. During primary survey growth of vegetables followed by maize was commonly observed during survey. Based on primary survey and interaction with farmers, one crop are harvested annuals. The common vegetable reported in core zone are potato, sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflowers, brinjal, tomatoes, mustards, spinaches, Dhania, Gourd, better Gourd, mustard, etc. Under crop, maize are common cash crops.



Vegetable cultivation at Panikhathi project site. (26.154502°, 91.167626°)

### **Invasive & Congregatory Plant Species:**

*The non-native species (Invasive species) reported from the study area are Parthenium hysterophorus, Mimosa, Mikania, lantana (Lantana camara), Mimosa invisa, Mikania micrantha, Chromolaena odorata, Ipomoea carnea, Calotropis gigantea, Datura metel, Dysophylla auricularia etc. The dominant species reported is Lantana and congress grass. They are cosmopolitan in distribution. These species are reported in core zone in scrub land, orchids in the study area.*

*In the marshy area and water ponds dominant invasive hydrophytes reported are Eichhornia crassipes, Echinochloa colona, Echinochloa crusgavonis, Ipomoea carnea, Pistia stratiotes, Salvinia molesta, Lemna minor, etc are*



Extensive growth of Invasive species at Makadhuj spur land Spur No1 Futuri ( 26.124290°, 91.446663°)

infesting all the water bodies. These are dominant species reported in all water bodies in project area.

All the above species reported have congregatory nature of growth. Cover whole of the surface in patched. Most commonly reported area are wetland and river bank where project has been proposed.

### Aquatic Flora

Brahmaputra river is famous for its riparian habitat. Which keeps on changing due to high current in water and annual flooding during monsoon. There exists no well-established riparian habitat. This is due to large portion of the bank are cut annually. During primary survey, the locals fears that the existing portion where we are doing survey may not exist due to cutting and erosions of banks. Walk through and transect methods were adopted to record the hydrophytes reported within the core zone. The sandbars formed in the Brahmaputra bank were also surveyed to study the establishment of grass land and for herbaceous habitats. The species reported during survey were elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), *Phragmites karkar*, *Ipomoea aquatica*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Colocasia alocasia*, etc.

### Sandbars & Sandy River beds vegetative Cover

The floristic survey on the sandbars within Brahmaputra River Bank has been carried out. This was done to establish the growth of grasses, which can be habitat for migratory water fowls during winter seasons. During primary survey, it was noted that the surface is barren, without growth of grasses. At few locations growth of vegetable like gourd, brinjal, Miazee, mustards and fruits like water melons and musk melons are noted. Grasses like *Ipomoea carnea* (Behaya), *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Congress grass), *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eriachne aristidea*, *Aristida purpurea*, *indicus Panicum*,  *khasianum Munro*, *Aristida fusca*, *Isachne albeus*, *Panicum brevifolium*, etc. are noticed. No tall grasses which can be habitats for aquatic avifauna are reported.



Sand Bars at Borakhat (Guwahati West) under Cultivation

Bar Sand Bar/Char Land at Lotordia ( 26.158798°, 91.147288°)

**Table 2.00: Geographical Coordinate of Quadrants Laid for Assessment of Floral Distribution in Project Area**

S.No	Project Name	Length to Protection Work (m)	Quadrant Code	Geographical Coordinate		Remarks
1.	Dakhala – Kalitapara Area	800	Q1	26.117650°	91.513330°	Canopy Cover Area
2.	At Guimara	200	Q2	26.117046°	91.470336°	Scrub Land
3.	At Simina	640	Q3	26.121301°	91.455863°	Agricultural Land
4.	Makadhuji Spur Land	1450	Q4	26.124137°	91.446215°	Agriculture Land
5.	Spur No1 Futuri		Q5	26.127087°	91.435609°	Agriculture Habitat
6.	Guwahati West (Gumi	850	Q6	26.098815°	91.339961°	Orchids
7.	)		Q7	26.099091°	91.333528°	Agriculture Habitat
8.	Guwahati West	3900	Q8	26.117378°	91.244427°	Agricultural
9.	(Borakhat)		Q9	26.119309°	91.234198°	Agricultural
10.			Q10	26.124061°	91.162910°	Agricultural
11.	Panikhaity	1100	Q11	26.155047°	91.168308°	Agricultural
12.	Lotordia	2600	Q12	26.157613°	91.151178°	Orchids
13.			Q13	26.157982°	91.145371°	Agricultural
14.			Q14	26.159922°	91.138573°	Agricultural
15.			Q15	26.163540°	91.134692°	Agricultural Habitat

**Table 3.00: Identification of Existing Plant Species Using Quadrant Analysis Methods**

-	Name of species	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Total No of Ind.	Total No. Of Quadr. Of Occur.	Total No of Quadr. Stdy.	Frequency (%)	Density/(m <sup>2</sup> )	Abundance
	Semal Bombax ceiba),	1	3	1	3	1	-	-	2		-	-	1	-	1	-	13	8	15	53	0.13	1.6
	Teak ( <i>Tectona grandis</i> ),	2		-	1	-	1	-	-		-	1	-	-	1	-	6	5	15	33	0.06	1.2
	Jack fruit ( <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> )	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1		-	1	1	-	-	-	5	5	15	33	0.05	1
	Betel nut <i>Areca catechu</i> ),	-	2	2	3	3	-	-	-		-	7	8	-	5	-	30	7	15	47	0.3	4.28
	Date ( <i>Phonix sylvestris</i> ),	-		1	1	1	-	-	-		-		-	-	1	-	4	4	15	27	0.04	1
	Banana ( <i>Musa sp.</i> )	-	--	-	5	-	7	-	24		-		4	-	3	-	43	5	15	33	0.43	8.6
	Coconut <i>Cocos nucifera</i> ),	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	1	1	15	6	0.01	1
	Peepal ( <i>Ficus religiosa</i> )	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	1	1	15	6	0.01	1
	Cluster Fig ( <i>Ficus glomerata</i> ),	1	1	-		-	1	-	-		-		-	-	1	-	4	4	15	27	0.04	1
	Kadamb ( <i>Anthocephalus cadamba</i> )	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-		-		1	-	-	-	3	3	15	20	0.03	1
	Arjun , <i>terminalia arjuna</i> )	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	3	3	15	20	0.03	1

-	Name of species	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Total No of Ind.	Total No. Of Qudrt. Of Occur.	Total No of Qudt. Stdy.	Frequency (%)	Density/(m <sup>2</sup> )	Abundance
	<i>Albizza Sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	-	-	-	1	1	15	6	0.01	1
	<i>Drum Stick ( Moringa oleifera)</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	15	20	0.03	1
	<i>Sissoo (Dalbergia sissoo)</i>	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1	1	15	6	0.01	1
	<i>Papaya ( Carica papaya)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	2	15	13	0.02	1
	Bair ( <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> )	-	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-		1	-	1	-	9	7	15	47	0.09	1.28

Figure 3.00: Google Image Showing Quadrant Location Along Proposed Protection Work – Kamrup





Figure 4.00: Google Image Showing Quadrant Location Along Proposed Protection Work – Kamrup



## TERRESTRIAL FAUNAL STUDY:

The project area does not harbour rich mammalian habits. This is mainly due to human induced agrarian habitat. No forest, Wildlife National Park, Sanctuary or protected area are reported within 1 km radius. Based on interaction with farmers and locals, the species reported in the study area are Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indica*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bangalensis*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), etc. All the species reported from the study area are categorized as Least Concern as per IUCN Red Data Book.

Rusa unicolour (Sambar) has been listed at VU under IUCN and reported in IBAT report for project area. The surrounding habitat within one km is suitable habitat for presence of this species (Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis). Though their presence are not reported by farmers in project influence area.

Domesticated animals like cow, sheep, goat, dogs, ox, buffaloes, etc are also reported in the study area.

## AVIFAUNA DIVERSITY

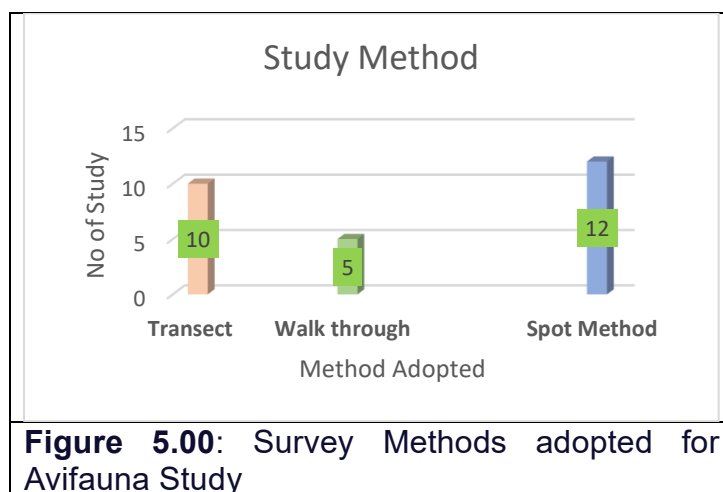
Assam is one of the “endemic bird areas” in the world. With 950 bird species the State is home to 53.5% of the bird species found in the Indian Sub-Continent, 17 species of birds are endemic to Assam. 45 species of birds from Assam are listed in the Indian Red Data Book. To establish the presence of birds in study area. Various survey methods like spot count, walk through, transect, call detection methods were adopted.

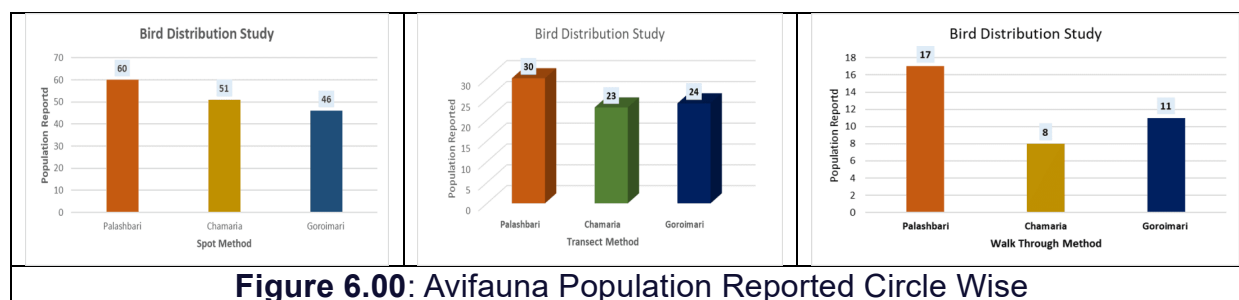
Based on primary survey in the project area i.e **Sub Project Zone -C (Goroimari, Chamaria and Palashbari)**, about 27 bird’s species are reported.

To record the species distribution 10 transect survey method, 5 walk through survey methods and 12 spot methods were adopted. The details are discussed in **Figure 1.00**

The total population avifauna reported are 270 in number within 1 km radius buffer. The details avifauna population reported circle wise are discussed in **Figure 5.00**

Based on the log book, it has been reported that 77 numbers of birds are recorded in transect methods, 36 number of birds by walk through method and 157 numbers by spot methods. Details of the birds reported during survey is discussed in **Table 4:00**.





**Figure 6.00: Avifauna Population Reported Circle Wise**

Based on the survey i.e., primary and secondary source about 27 species of birds are reported. One species (Pied Kingfisher) are reported to be vulnerable (VU) and remaining 26 species falls under Least Concern (LC) as per IUCN Red Data Book – 2022-2. Off the total 27 species of birds reported, 1 species (*Corvus splendens*) fall under Schedule -V and the remaining 26 species are listed under Schedule -IV as per the schedule to the Wildlife (Protection), Act – 1972.

Based on the Habitat, five species of birds reported are aquatic avifauna i.e Common Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Common moorhen, Common sandpiper and Darter. They dwell near water bodies and in marshy area. Their breeding and feed habitat are aquatic habits.

The remaining 22 species of birds reported are terrestrial and their habitat varies from agricultural land, orchids, settlement, etc.

Based on IBAT Proximity Report (Assessment for Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis) for distribution of Avifauna. It can be concluded that floral profile within 1 km radius can be suitable habitat for presence of Manipur Brush Quail (*Perdica manipurensis*) Great Adjacents (*Leptoptilos dubius*), Awamp grass babbler (*Laticilla cinerascens*), Common Pochard (*Aythya farina*) – VU and Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*). All listed under Vulnerable Category as per IUCN red data book. This species may be present in study area. But were not reported during primary survey.

#### **Glimpses of Birds Reported - Sub Project Zone -C (Goroimari, Chamaria and Palashbari)**



## Butterflies:

Assam state has rich floral diversity. This result in large varieties of bufferflies. Large number of bufferflies were reported during primary survey of the core zone and buffer zone. Spot methods, walk through and transect methods were adopted to record the butterflies in study. About 15 species off butterflies were reported. Nine species of buffer fly are reported from core zone and 14 species are reported in buffer zone. The most commonly reported butterfly area small grass yellow, common grass yellow and lemon pansy. **Table 5:00** below gives the list of butterflies reported in study area



Butterfly reported in core zone

**Table 5:00 List of butterflies reported during primary survey in subproject Zone -C**

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List	WLPA=72	Study area	
					Core Zone	Buffer Zone
1.	Lime blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i>	LC	-	+	+
2.	Lesser glass blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i>	LC	-	-	+
3.	Lemon pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	LC	-	+	+
4.	Grey pansy	<i>Junonia atlites</i>	LC	-	+	-
5.	Common emigrant	<i>Catopsilia Pomona</i>		-	+	+
6.	common grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	LC	-	+	+
7.	Common Brush Brown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	LC	Sch-I	-	+
8.	Common tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>		Sch-I	+	+
9.	Plain tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	LC	Sch-I	-	+
10.	Common sergeant	<i>Athyma perius</i>	LC	-	+	+
11.	Lime butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	DD	-	-	+
12.	Indian cabbage white	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	DD	Sch-1	-	+
13.	Small grass yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	LC	-	+	+
14.	Lesser gull	<i>Cepora nadina</i>	DD	-	-	+
15.	Common grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	LC	-	+	+

Source: Sighted During Primary Survey.; **Symbol + Present; - Absent**

**Table 4. 00 : List of Avifauna Reported in Sub Zone -C (Goroimari, Chamaria and Palashbari)**

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	Study Method	Palashbari	chamaria	Goroimari	Study area	Habitat	IUCN Red list – 2022-2	WPA-72
1.	Red Jungle flow	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Sighted	Transect Methods	3	-	-	Settlements	Habitation	LC	Sch-IV
2.	Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Sighted	Walk Through Method	1	-	1	Impact Zone	Riparian	LC	Sch-IV
3.	Blue Throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Sighted	Transect Method	2	-	-	Buffer Zone	Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
4.	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Sighted	Spot Method	2	2	-	Inner Buffer Zone	Riparian	LC	Sch-IV
5.	India roller	<i>Coracus benghalensis</i>	Sighted	Spot Method	-	1	-	Buffer Zone	Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
6.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Sighted	Walk Through	1	-	-	Inner Buffer Zone	Marshy Area	LC	Sch-IV
7.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Noise	Transect Method	1	1	-	Core Zone	Riparian	VU	Sch-IV
8.	Green bee eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Sighted	Walk through method	3	1	1	Inner Buffer Zone	Marshy Area	LC	Sch-IV
9.	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus Micropterus</i>	Noise	Transect	2	-	-	Inner buffer	Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
10	Rose Ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameria</i>	Sighted	Spot method	3	2	3	Buffer Zone	Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
11	House swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	Sighted	Spot Methods	8	5	7	Core & Inner buffer zone	water bodies	LC	Sch-IV

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	Study Method	Palashbari	chamaria	Goroimari	Study area	Habitat	IUCN Red list – 2022-2	WPA-72
12	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	Sighted	Transect	6	4	9	Inner & Outer buffer zone	Farm land & Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
13	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Sighted	Spot method	4	-	2	cosmopolitan	-	LC	Sch-IV
14	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Sighted	Spot method	2	1	1	Inner & outer buffer zone	Marshy	LC	Sch-IV
15	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Sighted	Walk through method	10	6	8	Inner & outer buffer zone	Riparian	LC	Sch-IV
16	Red wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Noise	Spot method	1	1	-		agriculture	LC	Sch-IV
17	Pariah kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Noise	transect	1	-	-	Outer buffer	orchids	LC	Sch-IV
18	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Sighted	Transect	6	1	1	Outer buffer	Marshy	LC	Sch-IV
19	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Sighted	Spot & transect	12	10	5	Cosmopolitan	All	LC	Sch-V
20	Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Sighted	Walk through	2	1	1	Inner & outer	Agriculture	LC	Sch-IV
21	Common woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Sighted	Spot method	1	1	2	Riparian	Agriculture	LC	Sch-IV
22	Indian pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Sighted	Transect method	8	10	7	Cosmopolitan	Riparian, orchid, agricultural	LC	Sch-IV
23	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Sighted	Spot method	6	10	6	Cosmopolitan	-	LC	Sch-IV

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	Study Method	Palashbari	chamaria	Goroimari	Study area	Habitat	IUCN Red list – 2022-2	WPA-72
24	Red vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Sighted	Spot method	8	6	12	Inner & outer Buffer	Riparian, orchid, agricultural	LC	Sch-IV
25	Plain prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Sighted	Transect	1	3	5	Inner & Outer	Agriculture	LC	Sch-IV
26	Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Sighted	Transect	-	4	2	Outer Buffer	Agriculture	LC	Sch-IV
27	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Sighted	Spot & Transect	13	12	8	Inner & Outer Buffer	Settlemt & Orchids	LC	Sch-IV
				Total Population	107	82	81				

Source: LC – Least Concern; VU – vulnerable, NT- Near Threatened; WPA – Wildlife (Protection), Act – 1972.

### Reptilian Species:

Reptilian species like lizards and snakes are reported in agricultural field. During flooding, they enter the settlements area and houses. Snake bite is uncommon. The reptilian species reported are common Indian skink, house gecko, garden lizard, rat snake, cobra, common krait, etc. These reptilian species fall under Schedule -IV as per IWPA -1972.

Based on IBAT report for Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis i.e fresh water (Brahmaputra River) and Terrestrial habitat we can assume that species like Black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*), Assam Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*), Three-striped Roofed Turtle (*Batagur dhongoka*) all listed under CR Category. Other like Indian Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), *Varanus flavescens*, under Vulnerable (VU) Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

### Fishes:

To record distribution of fish species in 1 km study area. All fishing points near settlements which were surveyed. About 6 fishing points were visited. The details of the location are given in **Table 6.00**. About 11 species of fishes were reported from the study area in Brahmaputra River. Based on primary survey, the species reported were *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus tengra*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa punctata*, etc. Species of fishes reported based on secondary source were *Mystus bleekeri*, *Wallago attu*, *Channa bleekeri*. These are sold in local markets. Fish like *Wallago attu* has been listed under vulnerable Category of IUCN Red Data Book. The species of fish reported from fishing points during primary survey are given in **Table 7.00**

Based on IBAT report and its Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis (Aquatic Habitat). It can be expected that species of fishes which may be reported in study area are i.e *Bagarius bagarius*, and *Amblyceps arunchalensis* in Brahmaputra River. These are listed as Endangered Category under IUCN Red Data Book.

**Table 6: Location of Village Fishing Point with their Coordinate**

S.No	Name of Location	Location Code	Geographical Coordinate		Aquatic Habitat
			Latitude	Longitude	
1.	Dakhala - Kalitapara Area	DK	26.118023°	91.513099°	Riverine
2.	Makadhuj spur land Spur No1 Futuri	MF	26.129584°	91.432729°	
3.	Guwahati West 2	GW	26.115109°	91.253967°	
4.			26.123251°	91.228793°	
5.	Boko - Chamari BPW (Panikhaity)	BP	26.156811°	91.159087°	
6.	Lotordia NC	Lo	26.158112°	91.153091°	



**Table 7.00: Fishes Species Reported During Primary Survey**

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Locations				
			DK	MF	GW	BP	Lo
1.	Mrigal	<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	-	+	+	+	+
2.	Bata	<i>Cirrhinus reba</i>	+	-	+	+	-
3.	Bhagan	<i>Labeo bata</i>	-	+	+	+	+
4.	Kaliara	<i>Labeo calbasu</i>	-	+	+	-	-
5.	Rohu	<i>Labeo rohita</i>	-	+	+	+	+
6.	Tengra	<i>Mystus. tengra</i>	+	+	+	-	+
7.	Haal	<i>Channa marulius</i>	+	+	+	-	-
8.	Goroi	<i>Channa. punctata</i>	+	+	+	+	+

### Photographs – Village Fishing Points

	
Bamboo made fish Trap – at project Dakhala - Kalitapara Area (26.118023°; 91.513099°)	Bamboo made fish trap - Makadhuji spur land Spur No1 Futuri (26.129584°; 91.432729°)

### Amphibians:

The species of amphibian reported from the study area are *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Polypedates teraiensis*, *Philautu ssp.*, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*, *Hylarana nigrovittata*, etc. None of the Amphibian species reported falls under IUCN RET list.

### AQUATIC FAUNA:

#### Aquatic Mammalian Species:

Brahmaputra River is famous for aquatic mammalian species i.e fresh water dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*). It is reported all over Brahmaputra River where depth of water and counter current for fish hunting exist. Dolphins fall under Schedule -I as per IWPA-1972. It is categorized as Endangered (EN) as per IUCN Red Data Book.

Based on IBAT report – Proximity Report, Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) and Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) has been reported within 1 km radius. The project is on Brahmaputra River bank which is Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis for presence of Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).

During aquatic mammalian survey along the river bed specially where bank protection are proposed. Consultation with locals and fishermen were undertaken. During primary survey, the river course are far from the bank. River bed are dried and exposed. At few sites, water course in form of small channels with depth less than meter were noticed. Not suitable for dolphin's habitat. Locals also conform that during monsoon dolphins are noticed towards the main flow of the river, they don't approach the river banks. Eight sites in sub project (Zone -C) has been identified under bank protection work. Dolphin's distribution in project influence area (1km radius) is discussed in **Table 8:00**.

**Table 8:00: Dolphin's distribution in project influence area (1km radius)**

S.No	Name of Project		Stretch (m)	Dolphins Distribution	
				Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
1.	Gumi	Goroimari	850	-	+
2.	Borakhat	Goroimari	3900	-	-
3.	Panikhaity	Chamaria	1100	-	+
4.	Lotordia NC	Chamaria	2600	©	+
5.	Dakhala	Palashbari	800	©	+
6.	Guimara	Palashbari	200	-	+
7.	Simina	Palashbari	640	©	+
8.	Makadhu spur	Palashbari	1450	©	+

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ©Reported during monsoon

**Protected Area:**

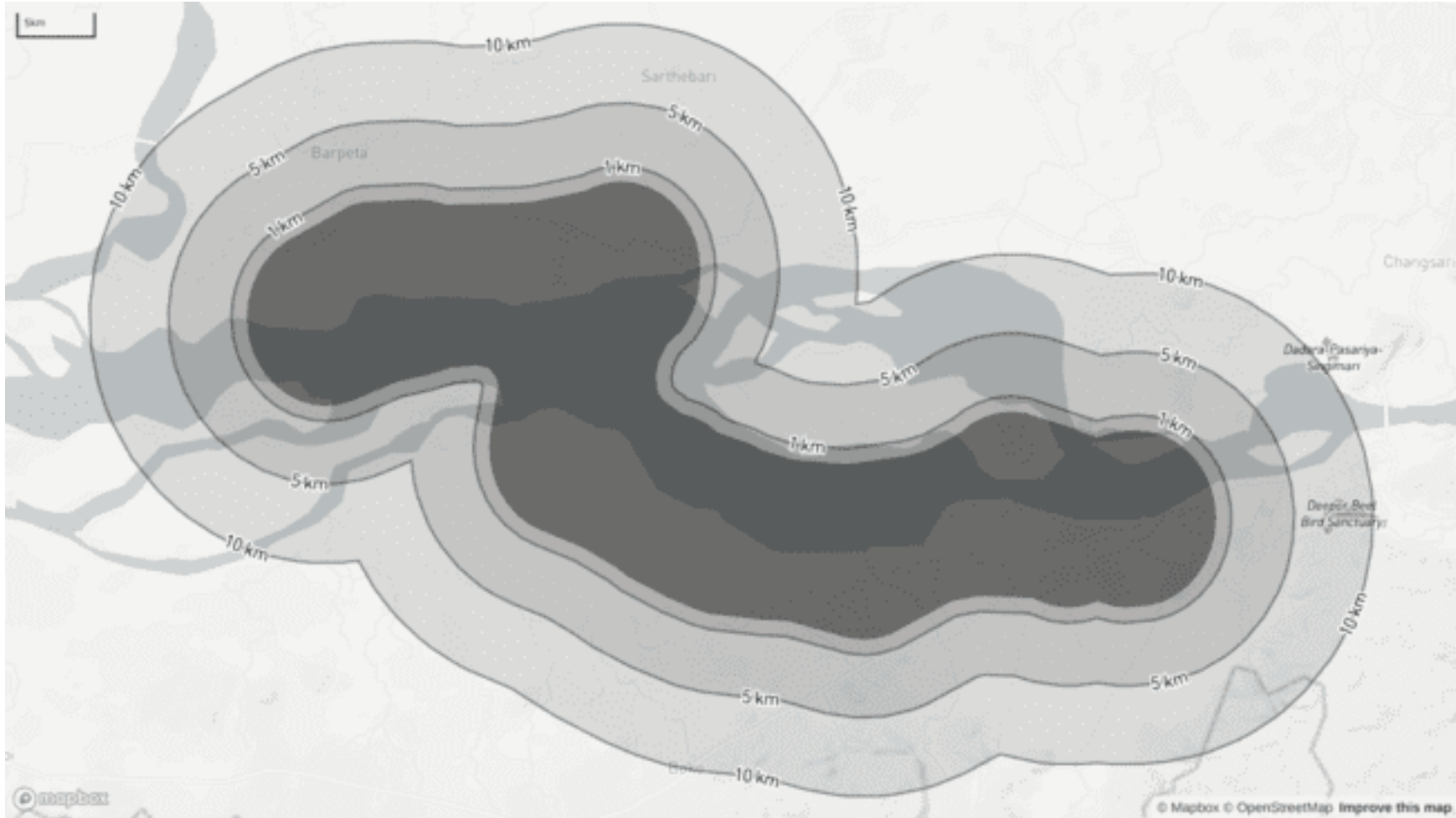
*Ecologically Sensitive Area: No Ecologically Sensitive Area declared under Environmental (Protection), Act -1986 is located within 1 km study zone.*

*Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park: As per interaction with Forest Office Kamrup, no wildlife protected area is located within 1 km radius which are declared protected under the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972.*

*Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, Proximity Report Bijoyagar- Barpeta (Cd) Map for Project area within 1 km study zone does not harbour notified wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. Refer **Figure 7.00***

*No notified forest land is affected due to proposed project.*

Figure 7.00: IBAT Maps Showing Location of Protected Area within 1 km radius for Proposed work



## Appendix 8: Environmental Monitoring Records

### Photographs

#### Photographs of Ambient Noise Monitoring Result



PGP, Kamrup, Zone-C



Guwahati West, Zone -C

#### Photographs of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Result



PGP Simina Village; Zone -C



Panikhati Village; Kamrup; Zone-C

**Photographs of surface water samplings**



Futuri; PGP Kamrup



Panikhaity Village; Kamrup



Surface water samplings Dokhala Village, Kamrup



Ground water samplings Village Panikhaity; Kamrup Zone -C

**Photographs of Soil samplings:**





Panikhaity, Kamrup Zone -C


## LABORATORY NABL CERTIFICATE

 	<b>National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories</b> <hr/> <b>CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION</b>
<b>SHRI OM TESTING &amp; RESEARCH LABORATORY</b> has been assessed and accredited in accordance with the standard <b>ISO/IEC 17025:2017</b> <b>"General Requirements for the Competence of Testing &amp; Calibration Laboratories"</b> for its facilities at <b>PLOT NO. 296, GHARI CHAUKHANDI, SECTOR 121, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA</b> in the field of <b>TESTING</b>	
Certificate Number: <b>TC-6376</b> Issue Date: <b>09/06/2022</b>	Valid Until: <b>08/06/2024</b>
This certificate remains valid for the Scope of Accreditation as specified in the annexure subject to continued satisfactory compliance to the above standard & the relevant requirements of NABL. (To see the scope of accreditation of this laboratory, you may also visit NABL website <a href="http://www.nabl-india.org">www.nabl-india.org</a> )	
Name of Legal Entity : <b>SHRI OM TESTING &amp; RESEARCH LABORATORY</b> <b>Signed for and on behalf of NABL</b>	
	 <b>N. Venkateswaran</b> Chief Executive Officer

## Ambient Noise Monitoring Reports


 <b>SHRI OM TESTING &amp; RESEARCH LABORATORY</b> Plot No. 296, 1st FNG Road, Sector-121, Ghari Chaukhandi, Noida - 201301 Mob. : 9821154906, 8076937396, 9971980045, 9990834633 E-mail : shriomlab@gmail.com, Web. : www.shriomlab.com, www.shriomlab.in				
N.A.B.L. Accredited, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001 Certified Laboratory.				
TEST REPORT				
Issued To:	LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.	Report /Sample No:	ENVN2023040408	
		Measurement Started:	28.03.2023	
		Test Started:	08.04.2023	
		Test Completed:	12.04.2023	
Project	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM			
<b>Ambient Noise Quality</b> SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION Sampling Details: Type of Monitoring : Ambient Noise Quality Location of Sampling Point : Vill- Futuri, Div-PGP Measurement Started on : (28.03.2023) Measurement Completed on : (29.03.2023) Environmental Conditions : Clear Sunny				
<b>Ambient Noise Monitoring Result at Project Site</b>				
S.No	Date	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Day*) dB (A)	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Night**) dB (A)	Test Method
1	28.03.2023	47.2	41.2	IS 9989 : 1981 (RA 2008)
Limit for Residential Zone As Per the NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULES, 2000		55	50	
Note: *Day time means from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. ** Night time means from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.		For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  <b>ISHWAR BHARDWAJ</b> Technical Manager Authorised Signatory (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)		
**End of Report**				
STR/LAB/058		Rev.00		
Note: 1.The results indicated only refer to the tested samples and listed parameters and do not endorse any product. The customer asked for the above tests only. 2.This certificate shall not be reproduced wholly or in part without prior written consent of the laboratory. 3.This certificate shall not be used in any advertising media or as evidence in the court of Law without prior written consent of the laboratory. 4.The samples received shall be destroyed after 30 days from the date of issue of the certificate unless specified otherwise and sample for				

## Ambient Noise monitoring Village Gumi Kamrup

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Plot No. 296, 1st FNG Road, Sector-121, Ghari Chaukhandi, Noida - 201301 Mob. : 9821154908, 8078937396, 9071880045, 9990934633 E-mail. : shriomlab@gmail.com, Web. : www.shriomlab.com, www.shriomlab.in				
<b>N.A.B.L. Accredited. ISO 9001. ISO 14001 &amp; ISO 45001 Certified Laboratory.</b>				
TEST REPORT				
Issued To:	LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.	Report /Sample No:	ENVN2023040409	
		Measurement Started :	29.03.2023	
		Test Started:	08.04.2023	
		Test Completed :	12.04.2023	
Project	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM			
Ambient Noise Quality				
<b>SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION</b>				
<u>Sampling Details:</u>				
Type of Monitoring	: Ambient Noise Quality			
Location of Sampling Point	: Vill- Gumi, Div-Guwahati			
Measurement Started on	: (29.03.2023)			
Measurement Completed on	: (30.03.2023)			
Environmental Conditions	: Clear Sunny			
Ambient Noise Monitoring Result at Project Site				
S.No	Date	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Day*) dB (A)	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Night**) dB (A)	Test Method
1	29.03.2023	47.0	41.5	IS 9989 : 1981 (RA 2008)
Limit for Residential Zone As Per the NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULES, 2000		55	50	
Note: * Day time means from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. ** Night time means from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.				
<b>**End of Report**</b>				
For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  <b>ISHWAR BHARDWAJ</b> Technical Manager Authorised Signatory (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)				
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## Ambient Noise monitoring Village Panikhaity Kamrup



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### TEST REPORT

---

<b>Issued To:</b>	LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.	<b>Report /Sample No:</b>	ENVN2023040301
		<b>Measurement Started:</b>	23.03.2023
		<b>Test Started:</b>	03.04.2023
		<b>Test Completed:</b>	08.04.2023
<b>Project</b>	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERP) in state of ASSAM		

**SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION**

Sampling Details:

Type of Monitoring : Ambient Noise Quality


Location of Sampling Point : Vill- Panikhaity, Div-Kamrup

Measurement Started on : (23.03.2023)

Measurement Completed on : (24.03.2023)

Environmental Conditions : Clear Sunny

**Ambient Noise Quality**



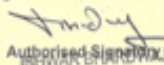
**Ambient Noise Monitoring Result at Project Site**

S.No	Date	Equiyalent Noise Level, Leq (Day*) dB (A)	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Night**) dB (A)	Test Method
1	23.03.2023	46.1	40.5	IS 9989 : 1981 (RA 2008)
Limit for Residential Zone As Per the NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULES, 2000		55	50	

Note: \* Day time means from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.  
 \*\* Night time means from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.

**\*\*End of Report\*\***

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory




Authorized Signatory  
(Name, Designation & Signature)

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## Ambient Noise monitoring Village Dokhala Kamrup



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### TEST REPORT

---

Issued To: LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.	Report /Sample No: ENVN2023040302	Measurement Started : 24.03.2023
	Test Started:	03.04.2023
	Test Completed :	08.04.2023
Project Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERP) in state of ASSAM		

Ambient Noise Quality

**SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION**  
Sampling Details:  
 Type of Monitoring : Ambient Noise Quality  
 Location of Sampling Point : Vill- Dokhala, Div-Kamrup  
 Measurement Started on : (24.03.2023)  
 Measurement Completed on : (25.03.2023)  
 Environmental Conditions : Clear Sunny

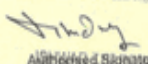
Ambient Noise Monitoring Result at Project Site

S.No	Date	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Day*) dB (A)	Equivalent Noise Level, Leq (Night**) dB (A)	Test Method
1	24.03.2023	47.1	41.2	IS 9989 : 1981 (RA 2008)
Limit for Residential Zone As Per the NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULES, 2000		55	50	

Note: \*Day time means from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.  
 \*\* Night time means from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.

\*\*End of Report\*\*

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory



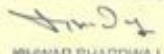
**Authorized Signatory**  
 Technical Manager  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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**Ambient Air Quality Reports**  
**Ambient Air Quality Village Panikhaity - Kamrup**

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<b>N.A.B.L. Accredited, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 &amp; ISO 45001 Certified Laboratory.</b>					
TEST REPORT					
Issued To :	M/s LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd,	Report /Sample No :	ENVA2023040301		
Project:	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM	Date Of Monitoring :	23.03.2023		
		Date of Issue :	03.04.2023		
Nature of the Sample	Ambient Air Quality	Test Started On :	03.04.2023		
Customer Ref. No	NS	Test Completed on :	08.04.2023		
<b>Monitoring Details:</b>					
Monitoring Location	Vill-Panikhaity, Div-Kamrup				
Monitoring Done by	Monitoring Boy				
Weather Condition	Clear Sky				
Monitoring Period	23/03/2023 to 24/03/2023				
Ambient Air Quality Reports					
S.No	Parameters	Unit	Project site	Requirement permissible limits as per NAAQS/CPCB	Test Method
1	Particulate Matter, PM 10	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	56.4	100	IS:5182 (P-23) : 2006
2	Particulate Matter, PM 2.5	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	41.3	60	SOP1/STRL/Ambient Air/Gravimetric Method
3	Sulphur Dioxide ( as SO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	10.3	80	IS:5182 (P-2) : 2006
4	Carbon Monoxide (as CO)	mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.14	04(1hourly)	IS:5182 (P-10) : 199,RA-2003
5	Oxide of Nitrogen ( as NO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	8.2	80	IS:5182 (P-6) : 2006
<b>**End of Report**</b>					
For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  <b>ISHWAR BHARDWAJ</b> Technical Manager Authorised Signatory (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)					
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Rev:06					
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## Ambient Air Quality Village Dokhala - Kamrup



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### TEST REPORT

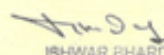
Issued To :	M/s LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd,	Report /Sample No :	ENVA2023040302
Project:	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM	Date Of Monitoring :	24.03.2023
		Date of Issue :	03.04.2023
Nature of the Sample :	Ambient Air Quality	Test Started On :	03.04.2023
Customer Ref. No :	NS	Test Completed on :	08.04.2023

Monitoring Details:  
 Monitoring Location : Vill-Dokhala, Div-Kamrup  
 Monitoring Done by : Monitoring Boy  
 Weather Condition : Clear Sky  
 Monitoring Period : 24/03/2023 to 25/03/2023

#### Ambient Air Quality Reports

S.No	Parameters	Unit	Project site	Requirement permissible limits as per NAAQS/CPCB	Test Method
1	Particulate Matter, PM 10	µg/m3	61.6	100	IS-5182 (P-23) : 2006
2	Particulate Matter, PM 2.5	µg/m3	42.6	60	SOP1/STRL/Ambient Air/Gravimetric Method
3	Sulphur Dioxide ( as SO2)	µg/m3	8.4	80	IS-5182 (P-2) : 2006
4	Carbon Monoxide (as CO)	mg/m3	1.08	04(1hourly)	IS-5182 (P-10) : 199,RA-2003
5	Oxide of Nitrogen ( as NO2)	µg/m3	10.1	80	IS-5182 (P-6) : 2006

\*\*End of Report\*\*


  
**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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## Ambient Air Quality Village Futuri - Kamrup



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### TEST REPORT

Issued To :	M/s LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd,	Report /Sample No :	ENVA2023040308
Project:	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM	Date Of Monitoring :	28.03.2023
		Date of Issue :	03.04.2023
Nature of the Sample	: Ambient Air Quality	Test Started On :	03.04.2023
Customer Ref. No	: NS	Test Completed on :	08.04.2023

Monitoring Details:

Monitoring Location : Villi-Futuri, Div-PGP

Monitoring Done by : Monitoring Boy

Weather Condition : Clear Sky

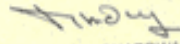
Monitoring Period : 28/03/2023 to 29/03/2023

#### Ambient Air Quality Reports

S.No	Parameters	Unit	Project site	Requirement permissible limits as per NAAQS/CPCB	Test Method
1	Particulate Matter, PM 10	µg/m3	57.3	100	IS-5182 (P-23) : 2006
2	Particulate Matter, PM 2.5	µg/m3	42.1	60	SOP1/STRL/Ambient Air/Gravimetric Method
3	Sulphur Dioxide ( as SO2)	µg/m3	11.2	80	IS-5182 (P-2) : 2006
4	Carbon Monoxide (as CO)	mg/m3	1.11	04(1hourly)	IS-5182 (P-10) : 199,RA-2003
5	Oxide of Nitrogen ( as NO2)	µg/m3	8.2	80	IS-5182 (P-6) : 2006

\*\*End of Report\*\*

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory



**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory


(Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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## Ambient Air Quality Village Gumi - Kamrup



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---

#### TEST REPORT

---

Issued To :	M/s LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd,	Report /Sample No :	ENVA2023040309
Project:	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM	Date Of Monitoring :	29.03.2023
		Date of Issue :	03.04.2023
Nature of the Sample :	Ambient Air Quality	Test Started On :	03.04.2023
Customer Ref. No :	NS	Test Completed on :	08.04.2023

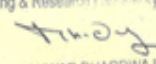
**Monitoring Details:**  
 Monitoring Location : Vill-Gumi, Div-Guwahati West  
 Monitoring Done by : Monitoring Boy  
 Weather Condition : Clear Sky  
 Monitoring Period : 29/03/2023 to 30/03/2023

#### Ambient Air Quality Reports

S.No	Parameters *	Unit	Project site	Requirement permissible limits as per NAAQS/CPCB	Test Method
1	Particulate Matter, PM 10	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	63.1	100	IS-5182 (P-23) : 2006
2	Particulate Matter, PM 2.5	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	42.6	60	SOP1/STRL/Ambient Air/Gravimetric Method
3	Sulphur Dioxide ( as SO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	9.8	80	IS-5182 (P-2) : 2006
4	Carbon Monoxide (as CO)	mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.16	04(1hourly)	IS-5182 (P-10) : 199,RA-2003
5	Oxide of Nitrogen ( as NO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	7.8	80	IS-5182 (P-6) : 2006

\*\*End of Report\*\*

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory




**ASHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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## Surface Water Reports Surface Water Test Report – Kamrup



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---

#### TEST REPORT

Issued To: LEA Associates South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.,      Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040601  
 Date of Sampling : 23.03.2023  
 Date of Issue in lab : 06.04.2023

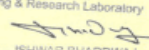
Project Name: Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM  
 Nature of Sample : Surface Water      Test Started : 06.04.2023  
 Customer Ref. No.: NS      Test Completed : 12.04.2023

**SAMPLING DETAILS:**

Sampling location : Villi-Panikhalty, Div-Kamrup  
 Sampling Done by : Lab Boy  
 Weather Condition : Clear Sky  
 Sample Packing & Marking : Plastic Bottle & Glass Bottle, PD/SW-1  
 Sampling Protocol : IS: 3025(P-1)-1987, Ref: 2003& IS: 1622-1981 (Ref: 2003)  
 Sample Quantity : 5 L/500 ml

S. No.	Parameters	Unit	Test Report		Test method
			IS: 2296 -1992(Class C)	Results	
1	pH	-	6.5-8.5	7.45	IS: 3025(P-11)1983, I.A. 2002
2	Temperature	°C	-	27.30	APHA 23rd Edn.2017-2550 B
3	D.O	mg/l	Minimum-4	7.60	IS 3025(Part-38): 2006.
4	BOD	mg/l	30	3.20	IS 3025(Part-44):1993, I.A. 2009
5	Color	Hazen	300	5	IS: 3025 (P-4) 1983, I.A. 2017
6	Odour	-	-	Agreeable	IS: 3025(P1-5)
7	TDS	mg/l	1500	316.2	IS 3025(Part-16): 1984, I.A. 2006
8	TSS	mg/l	-	34.0	IS 3025(Part-17)
9	TKN	mg/l	-	2.7	IS: 3025(P1-34)1988, I.A. 2003
10	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	6.41	IS: 3025(P1-34)1988, I.A. 2003
11	Nitrate (as NO3)	mg/l	50	4.1	IS: 3025(P1-34)1988, I.A. 2003
12	Free Ammonia	mg/l	-	<0.1	IS: 3025(P1-34)1988, I.A. 2003
13	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	600	14.8	IS 3025(Part-32): 1988
14	Sulphates (as SO4)	mg/l	400	16.2	IS 3025(Part-24):1986, I.A. 2003
15	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1.5	0.36	APHA 21st Ed., 4500F(10)
16	Oil & Grease	mg/l	0.1	<0.1	IS 3025(Part-39):1991, I.A. 2009
17	Phenolic Compound (as C6H5OH)	mg/l	0.005	<0.001	SS30-B, C&E, APHA 23rd 2017

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory




ISHWAR BHARDWAJ  
 Authorised Signatory  
 Technical Manager  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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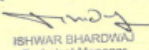
#### TEST REPORT

Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040601

18	Arsenic	mg/l	0.2	<0.1	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
19	Mercury (as Hg)	mg/l	-	<0.001	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
20	Lead (as Pb)	mg/l	0.1	0.03	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
21	Cadmium (as Cd)	mg/l	0.01	0.002	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
22	Chromium (as Cr+6)	mg/l	0.05	0.05	IS 3025(Part-52): 200
23	Copper (as Cu)	mg/l	1.5	0.23	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
24	Zinc (as Zn)	mg/l	15	0.16	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
25	Selenium (as Se)	mg/l	-	<0.1	IS: 3025 (P- 56)
26	Anionic detergents (as MBAS)	mg/l	1.0	<0.1	Annexure K OF IS 13420
27	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	50	0.28	3500-Fe- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017
28	Sulphide(as H <sub>2</sub> S)	mg/l	0.25	0.25	IS-3025 (P-29)
29	Phosphate (as PO4)	mg/l	-	6.48	APHA 22nd Edn.2012-4500-P C
30	Cyanide (as CN)	mg/l	0.05	<0.1	4500-CN-B,C & E, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
31	Manganese (as Mn)	mg/l	0.02	0.02	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
32	COD	mg/l	-	21.4	IS 3025(Part-58): 2006
Microbiological Parameters					
33	Total Coli form	MPN/100ml	5000	450	IS : 1622-1981

\*\*End of Report\*\*

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory



ISHWAR BHARDWAJ  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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### TEST REPORT

Issued To: LEA Associates South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.,  
 Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040602  
 Date of Sampling : 24.03.2023  
 Date of Issue in lab : 06.04.2023

Project Name: Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERP)" in state of ASSAM

Nature of Sample : Surface Water  
 Customer Ref. No.: NS  
 Test Started : 06.04.2023  
 Test Completed : 12.04.2023

#### SAMPLING DETAILS:

Sampling Location : Vill-Dokhala, Div-Kamrup  
 Sampling Done by : Lab Boy  
 Weather Condition : Clear Sky  
 Sample Packing & Marking : Plastic Bottle & Glass Bottle, PD/SW-2  
 Sampling Protocol : IS: 3025(P-1)-1987, Reaf. 2003R IS: 1622-1981 (Reaf. 2003)  
 Sample Quantity : 5 L+500 ml

S. No.	Parameters	Unit	IS: 2296-1992(Class C)		Results	Test method
			Tolerance Limit			
1	pH	-	6.5-8.5		7.25	IS: 3025(Pt-11)1983, I.A. 2002
2	Temperature	° C			28.1	APHA 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edn.2017.2550 B
3	D.O	mg/l	Minimum +4		8.10	IS 3025(Part-38): 2006
4	BOD	mg/l	30		3.0	IS 3025(Part-40):1993, I.A. 2009
5	Color	Hazen	300		5	IS: 3025 (Pt-4) 1985, I.A.2017
6	Odour	-			Agreeable	IS: 3025(Pt-5)
7	TDS	mg/l	1500		272.8	IS 3025(Part-16): 1984, I.A. 2006
8	TSS	mg/l	-		28.0	IS 3025(Part-17)
9	TKN	mg/l			2.3	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, I.A. 2003
10	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l			0.41	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, I.A. 2003
11	Nitrate (as NO3)	mg/l	50		3.4	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, I.A. 2003
12	Free Ammonia	mg/l			-0.1	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, I.A. 2003
13	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	600		14.8	IS 3025(Part-32): 1988
14	Sulphates (as SO4)	mg/l	400		13.2	IS 3025(Part-24):1986, I.A. 2003
15	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1.5		0.41	APHA 21 <sup>st</sup> Ed. 4500(F10)
16	Oil & Grease	mg/l	0.1		-0.1	IS 3025(Pt-39)1991, I.A. 2009

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  
  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)  
 Ishwar Bhardwaj  
 Technical Manager

STR/LAB/QF/058

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### TEST REPORT

Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040602

17	Phenolic Compound (as COH500H)	mg/l	0.005	<-0.001	5330-B, CRI,APHA 23rd 2017
18	Arsenic	mg/l	0.2	<-0.1	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
19	Mercury (as Hg)	mg/l	-	<-0.001	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
20	Lead (as Pb)	mg/l	0.1	0.01	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
21	Cadmium (as Cd)	mg/l	0.01	0.003	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
22	Chromium (as Cr+6)	mg/l	0.05	0.03	IS 3025(Part-52): 200
23	Copper (as Cu)	mg/l	1.5	0.12	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
24	Zinc (as Zn)	mg/l	15	0.27	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
25	Selenium (as Se)	mg/l	-	<0.1	IS: 3025 (P- 56)
26	Anionic detergents (as MBAS)	mg/l	1.0	<0.1	Annexure K of IS 13428
27	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	90	0.32	3500-Fe- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017
28	Sulphide(as H <sub>2</sub> S)	mg/l	-	0.21	IS-3025 (P-29)
29	Phosphate (as PO4)	mg/l	-	7.10	APHA 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edn.2012-4500-P C
30	Cyanide (as CN)	mg/l	0.05	<-0.1	4500-CN-B,C & E, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
31	Manganese (as Mn)	mg/l	-	0.03	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
32	COD	mg/l	-	17.4	IS 3025(Part-58): 2006

#### Microbiological Parameters

33	Total Coll form	MPN/100ml	5000	630	IS : 1622-1981
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\*\*End of Report\*\*

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory


ISHWAR BHARDWAJ  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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### TEST REPORT

Issued To: LEA Associates South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.,      Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040606  
 Date of Sampling: 28.03.2023  
 Date of Issue in lab: 06.04.2023

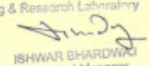
Project Name: Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP) in state of ASSAM  
 Nature of Sample: Surface Water      Test Started: 06.04.2023  
 Customer Ref. No.: NS      Test Completed: 12.04.2023

**SAMPLING DETAILS:**

Sampling Location: Vill-Futuri, Div-PGP(Kamrup) Sampling Done by: Lab Boy Weather Condition: Clear Sky Sample Packing & Marking: Plastic Bottle & Glass Bottle, PD/SW-6 Sampling Protocol: IS: 3025(P-1)-1987, Reeff: 2003B IS: 1622-1981 (Reaff.2003) Sample Quantity: 5 Lx500 ml	
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S. No.	Parameters	Unit	IS: 2298-1992(Class C)	Results	Test method
<b>Test Report</b>					
Tolerance Limit					
1	pH	-	6.5-8.5	7.15	IS: 3025(P-11)1983, RA: 2002
2	Temperature	° C	-	27.2	APHA 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edn.2017-2550 B
3	D.O	mg/l	Minimum-4	7.90	IS 3025(Part-38): 2006.
4	BOD	mg/l	30	3.10	IS 3025(Part-44):1993, RA: 2009
5	Color	Hazen	300	5	IS: 3025 (Pt-4) 1983, RA 2017
6	Odour	-	Agresable	-	IS: 3025(P6-5)
7	TDS	mg/l	1500	318.4	IS 3025(Part-30): 1984, RA 2006
8	TSS	mg/l	-	24.8	IS 3025(Part-17)
9	TKN	mg/l	-	3.1	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, RA: 2063
10	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	0.42	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, RA: 2063
11	Nitrate (as NO3)	mg/l	50	2.4	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, RA: 2063
12	Free Ammonia	mg/l	-	<0.1	IS: 3025(Pt-34)1988, RA: 2063
13	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	600	14.1	IS 3025(Part-32): 1988
14	Sulphates (as SO4)	mg/l	400	12.5	IS 3025(Part-24):1996, RA 2063
15	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1.5	0.41	APHA 21 <sup>st</sup> Ed. 4598B(10)
16	Oil & Grease	mg/l	0.1	<0.1	IS 3025(Part-39):1991, RA 2009

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory




**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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### TEST REPORT

Report/Sample No.: ENVSW2023040606


17	Phenolic Compound (as C6H5OH)	mg/l	0.005	<0.001	5530-B, CREA PHA 23rd 2017
18	Arsenic	mg/l	0.2	<0.1	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
19	Mercury (as Hg)	mg/l	-	<0.001	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
20	Lead (as Pb)	mg/l	0.1	0.03	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
21	Cadmium (as Cd)	mg/l	0.01	0.005	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
22	Chromium (as Cr+6)	mg/l	0.05	0.02	IS 3025(Part-52): 200
23	Copper ( as Cu)	mg/l	1.5	0.27	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
24	Zinc ( as Zn)	mg/l	15	0.32	1110- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017 (AAS)
25	Selenium (as Se)	mg/l	-	<0.1	IS: 3025 (P- 56)
26	Anionic detergents (as MBAS)	mg/l	1.0	<0.1	Annexure K Of IS 13428
27	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	90	0.51	3500-Fe- B, APHA 23rd Ed. 2017
28	Sulphide(as H <sub>2</sub> S)	mg/l	-	0.36	IS-3025 (P-29)
29	Phosphate (as PO4)	mg/l	-	6.80	APHA 22 <sup>nd</sup> Edn.2012-4500-P C
30	Cyanide (as CN)	mg/l	0.05	<0.1	4500-CN-B,C & E, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
31	Manganese (as Mn)	mg/l	-	0.07	3110- B, APHA 23rd Ed.2017
32	COD	mg/l	-	21.2	IS 3025(Part-58): 2006

Microbiological Parameters

33.	Total Coli form	MPN/100ml	5000	500	IS : 1622-1981
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**\*\*End of Report\*\***

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory



**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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## Ground Water Reports Kamrup – Ground Water Result



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#### TEST REPORT

Issued To: LEA Associates South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.,      Report/Sample No. : ENVV2023040301  
 Date of Sampling : 23.03.2023  
 Date of Issued in lab : 03.04.2023

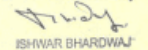
Project Name: Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERP)in state of ASSAM

Nature of Sample : Ground Water      Test Started : 04.04.2023  
 Customer Ref No.: NS      Test Completed : 10.04.2023

**SAMPLING DETAILS:**  
 Sampling Location : Vill- Panikhaity, Div- Kamrup  
 Sampling Done by : Lab Boy  
 Weather Condition : Clear Sky  
 Sample Packing & Marking : Plastic Bottle & Glass Bottle, PD/GW-1  
 Sampling Protocol : IS: 3025(P-1) & IS: 1622-1981 (Reaff.2003)  
 Sample Quantity : 2 L+500 ml

S. No.	Parameters	Unit	Limit (IS-10500:2012)		Results-GW1	Test method
			Desirable Limit	Permissible Limit		
1	Color	Hazen	5	15	<5	IS: 3025(Pt-4)
2	Odour	-	Agreeable	Agreeable	Agreeable	IS: 3025(Pt-5)
3	Taste	-	Agreeable	Agreeable	Agreeable	IS: 3025(Pt-8)
4	Turbidity	NTU	1	5	<1	IS 3025(Part-10)
5	pH	-	6.5-8.5	No Relaxation	7.2	IS: 3025(Pt-11)
6	Total Hardness (as CaCO3)	mg/l	200	600	116.4	IS 3025(Part-21)
7	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	1.0	No Relaxation	0.51	3500-Fe- B, APHA 23nd Ed.2017
8	Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/l	250	1000	31.3	IS 3025(Part-32)
9	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1	1.5	0.41	4500-F (D),APHA 23rd Ed2017
10	TDS	mg/l	500	2000	332.2	IS 3025(Part-16)
11	Calcium(as Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	mg/l	75	200	34.2	IS 3025(Part-40)
12	Magnesium (as Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	mg/l	30	100	11.8	3500-Mg B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
13	Sulphate (as SO4)	mg/l	200	400	14.2	IS 3025(Part-24)
14	Nitrate(as NO3)	mg/l	45	No Relaxation	10.7	IS: 3025(Pt-34)

Page (01 Of 02)  
For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory

  
**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

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#### TEST REPORT

Report/Sample No. : ENVV2023040301


15	Total Chromium (as Cr)	mg/l	0.05	No Relaxation	<0.01	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed.2017
16	Alkalinity as CaCO3	mg/l	200	600	158.2	IS 3025(Part-23)
17	Aluminum (as Al)	mg/l	0.03	0.2	<0.01	IS 3025(Part-55)
18	Total Arsenic(as As)	mg/l	0.01	No Relaxation	<0.01	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
19	Copper (as Cu)	mg/l	0.05	1.5	<0.05	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
20	Manganese ( as Mn)	mg/l	0.1	0.3	<0.01	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
21	Zinc ( as Zn)	mg/l	5	15	0.21	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
22	Ammonia (as NH3-N)	mg/l	0.5	No Relaxation	<0.1	4500-NH <sub>3</sub> -B & C, APHA 23rd Ed2017
23	Anionic Detergents(as MBAS)	mg/l	0.2	1	<0.1	Annexure K of IS-1342B.
24	Boron(as B)	mg/l	0.5	1	<0.5(BDL)	IS: 3025(Pt-57)
25	Mineral Oil	mg/l	0.5	No Relaxation	<0.1	IS 3025(Part-39)
26	Phenolic Compound ( as C6H5OH)	mg/l	0.001	0.002	<0.001	IS 3025(Part-44)
27	Cadmium ( as Cd)	mg/l	0.003	No Relaxation	<0.002	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
28	Cyanide( as CN)	mg/l	0.05	No Relaxation	<0.1	4500- CN- B, C & E, APHA 23nd Ed2017
29	Lead	mg/l	0.01	No Relaxation	<0.01	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
30	Mercury( as Hg)	mg/l	0.001	No Relaxation	<0.001	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed.2017
31	Nickel (as Ni)	mg/l	0.02	No Relaxation	<0.02	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed.2017
32	Residual Free Chlorine	mg/l	0.2	1.0	<0.2	4500-Cl-B, APHA 23nd Ed2017
33	Molybdenum (Mo)	mg/l	<0.05	0.07	No Relaxation	3110- B, APHA 23nd Ed.2017
34	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydro Carbons	mg/l	<0.0001	0.0001	No Relaxation	APHA 6440.23nd Ed.2017
35	Poly chlorinated biphenyl	mg/l	<0.0001	0.0005	No Relaxation	APHA 6430.23nd Ed.2017
Microbiological Parameters						
36	Total Coli form	MPN/100ml	Shall not be detectable in any 100 ml of sample		<1	IS : 1622-1981
37	E.Coli	E.coli/100ml	Shall not be detectable in any 100 ml of sample		Absent	IS : 1622-1981

\*\*End of Report\*\*      Page (02 Of 02)  
For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory

  
**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

STR/LAB/QF/058      Rev.00  
 Note: 1.The results indicated only refer to the tested samples and listed parameters and do not endorse any product. The customer asked for the above tests only.  
 2.This certificate shall not be reproduced wholly or in part without prior written consent of the laboratory.  
 3.This certificate shall not be used in any advertising media or as evidence in the court of law without prior written consent of the laboratory.

### Soil Testing Results Kamrup



## SHRI OM TESTING & RESEARCH LABORATORY

Plot No. 296, 1st FNG Road, Sector-121, Ghari Chaukhandi, Noida - 201301  
 Mob. : 9821154906, 8076937396, 9971980045, 9990934633  
 E-mail. : shriomlab@gmail.com, Web. : www.shriomlab.com, www.shriomlab.in

**N.A.B.L. Accredited, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001 Certified Laboratory.**

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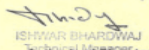
### TEST REPORT

Issued To	LEA Associate South Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd.	Report No	ENVS2023040301
		Date Of Sampling	23.03.2023
		Date of Issue in lab	03.04.2023
Project Name	Environmental Baseline data collection for "Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and River bank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFERMP)in state of ASSAM	Test Started On	03.04.2023
Nature of the Sample	Soil	Testing Completed on	10.04.2023

**Sampling Details:**  
 Sampling Method : SOP/SOIL/001  
 Type of Sample : Soil  
 Location of Sampling Point : VILL-Panikhalty, Div- Kamrup  
 Environmental Conditions : Normal  
 Average Temperature Degree Celsius : 27.6  
 Sampling Done by : Lab Boy

#### TEST REPORT


S. No.	Parameters	Units	Results	Test Method
Physical Characteristics				
1.	Colour		Greyish Brown	STRL/STP/SOIL/01
2.	Textural class		Sandy Loam	IS27720 (P-4), 1985 (Reaff: 2015)
3.	Bulk Density	gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.14	IS 14765: 2000, RA 2010
4.	Water Holding Capacity	%	28.2	STRL/STP/SOIL/01
Particle Size Distribution				
7.	Sand	%	61.2	IS27720 (P-4), 1985 (Reaff: 2015)
8.	Silt	%	22.3	IS27720 (P-4), 1985 (Reaff: 2015)
9.	Clay	%	16.5	IS27720 (P-4), 1985 (Reaff: 2015)

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  
  
**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

---

STRL/LAB/QF/058 Rev.:00

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 3.This certificate shall not be used in any advertising media or as evidence in the court of Law without prior written consent of the laboratory  
 4.The samples received shall be destroyed after 30 days from the date of issue of the certificate unless specified otherwise and sample for biological testing will be destroyed after 7 days of testing.



## SHRI OM TESTING & RESEARCH LABORATORY

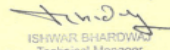
Plot No. 296, 1st FNG Road, Sector-121, Ghari Chaukhandi, Noida - 201301  
 Mob. : 9821154906, 8076937396, 9971980045, 9990934633  
 E-mail. : shriomlab@gmail.com, Web. : www.shriomlab.com, www.shriomlab.in

**N.A.B.L. Accredited, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001 Certified Laboratory.**

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### TEST REPORT

Report No - ENVS2023040301			
10.	pH (1:2 Suspension)	6.05	IS: 2720 (part-26),1987 (Reaff:2011)
11.	Electrical Conductivity (1:2)	324.6	IS: 14767(2000), RA 2016
12.	Organic Matter	2.38	STRL/STP/SOIL/01
13.	Exchangeable Calcium	1834.0	IS 2720 (Part 24): 1976, RA 2010
14.	Exchangeable Magnesium	438.6	IS 2720 (Part 24): 1976, RA 2010
15.	Copper	15.4	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
16.	Nickel	11.8	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
17.	Chromium	24.1	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
18.	Iron	124.0	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
19.	Lead	1.8	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
20.	Sulphate	4.7	IS 2720(Part-27): 1977,
Available Nutrients (Kg/Ha)			
21.	Nitrogen (as N)	184.3	IS:10158:1982, RA 2009
22.	Phosphorous	82.1	IS:10158:1982, RA 2009
23.	Exchangeable Potassium	56.6	STRL/STP/SOIL/01

For Shri Om Testing & Research Laboratory  
  
**ISHWAR BHARDWAJ**  
 Technical Manager  
 Authorised Signatory  
 (Name, Designation & Signature with Seal)

---

STRL/LAB/QF/058 Rev.:00

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 3.This certificate shall not be used in any advertising media or as evidence in the court of Law without prior written consent of the laboratory  
 4.The samples received shall be destroyed after 30 days from the date of issue of the certificate unless specified otherwise and sample for biological testing will be destroyed after 7 days of testing.

### Appendix 9: Summary of Stakeholder Consultations including Attendance Sheets

Sl. No.	PGP/Guwahati West, Subproject (Zone -C)	Date	Place	Group Type	No of People	Gender		Topic of Discussion	Outcome
						Female	Male		
		09 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	Makhadhuj Village (Guimara), Kamrup Rural	Local Women Group	23	22	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brief introduction about the Project.</li> <li>○ Possible environmental Impact due to the project</li> <li>○ Flood</li> <li>○ Challenges during flooding season</li> <li>○ Movement of Wild Animal &amp; elephant corridor</li> <li>○ Dolphin Habitat</li> <li>○ Fish Caught in their net</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They welcome the project. They express that the work is necessary. It should be done urgently. They concern about that if the river protection is not done in recent years their house will be directly affected by erosion. They also said that their agriculture land has been already eroded by the river.</li> <li>○ Discussion about the structure of the river protection work, they have suggested that if stair like structure is provided in the riverbank protection work it will be helpful for them as some women use the river water for their daily life activities.</li> <li>○ The women of the village are mainly engaged in weaving and daily wage labor as they do not have agricultural land.</li> <li>○ During flooding season women have to face many difficulties- they have to move to temporary camp, access to safe drinking water, sanitation become difficult, property get damaged.</li> <li>○ According to the participants there is no wild animal movement in the area.</li> <li>○ No Dolphins are noticed. Except monsoon season. Only shallow streams are noticed during visit. During Lean period i.e October to February water flow is only</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PGP/Guwahati West, Subproject (Zone -C	Date	Place	Group Type	No of People	Female	Male	Topic of Discussion	Outcome
									noticed in main river course which is far away from river protection work.
		09 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	Panikhyti (Chamaria), Kamrup Rural	Local Men group	18	-	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brief introduction about the Project.</li> <li>○ Possible environmental Impact due to the project</li> <li>○ Discussion about ghat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They welcome the project. They express that the work is necessary. It should be done urgently.</li> <li>○ They express that there will be no significant affect because of the project. They concern about that if the work delayed they might have loose more land to the Brahmaputra River.</li> <li>○ Discussing about the ghat with the locals- The ghat near the Panikhyti market is not a government operated ghat, Local people use the ghats for transportation to the north bank of the river for carry goods and public.</li> <li>○ They concern about frequent friction between the geobags and boats may affect the life span of geobag.</li> <li>○ They suggested that if stair like structure provided with the river protection work near the ghat area will be helpful for the local public to access the ghats.</li> <li>○ According to the participants there is no wild animal movement in the area.</li> <li>○ No Dolphins are noticed. Except monsoon season. Only shallow streams are noticed during visit. During Lean period i.e October to February water flow is only noticed in main river course</li> </ul>

SI. No.	PGP/Guwahati West, Subproject (Zone -C	Date	Place	Group Type	No of People	Female	Male	Topic of Discussion	Outcome
									which is far away from river protection work
		17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	Consultation at: 1. Dakhala (Fishermen) – Palashbari 2. Gumi (Tribal Women) – Kamrup West 3. Borakhat (Fishermen)	Tribal Women & Fisher men	12	7	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brief introduction about the Project.</li> <li>○ Possible environmental Impact due to the project</li> <li>○ Wild Animal Movement</li> <li>○ Type of fishes caught</li> <li>○ Dolphins' habitat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They welcome the project. Cutting and bank erosion is common and pose threat to locals.</li> <li>○ Asking for reason in delay of work. They were expected that work will be completed before monsoon.</li> <li>○ No Dolphins reported. The depth of water level very less and even no water at bank protection work. Dolphins only reported in main course which is far away and only during monsoon season.</li> <li>○ No movement of wild animals reported.</li> <li>○ Fishes caught in net are common type i.e IMC,</li> </ul>
		11 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Asolpara	Adultwomen	10	10	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brief introduction about the Project.</li> <li>○ Possible environmental Impact due to the project</li> <li>○ Flood Challenges during flooding season</li> <li>○ Movement of Wild Animal &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ During flooding season women have to face many difficulties- they have to move to temporary camp, access to safe drinking water, sanitation become difficult, property get damaged.</li> <li>○ According to the participants there is no wild animal movement in the area.</li> <li>○ No Dolphins are noticed. Except monsoon season.</li> <li>○ During Lean period i.e October to February water flow is only noticed in main river course</li> </ul>
		12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Borakhat		13	13			
		10 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Asolpara	Adult women.	10	3			

SI. No.	PGP/Guwahati West, Subproject (Zone -C	Date	Place	Group Type	No of People	Female	Male	Topic of Discussion	Outcome
		12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Borakhat	Local community	10	3		elephant corridor ○ Dolphin Habitat ○ Fish Caught in their net	which is far away from river protection work. ○ Stairs structure if provided will be helpful for them as some women use the river water for their daily life activities. ○ The women of the village are mainly engaged in weaving and daily wage labor as they do not have agricultural land.
		11 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Hahua Pathar	Young people, male	10		10		

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHOTOGRAPHS



**Public Consultation at Makhadhuj Village (Guimara), Kamrup Rural**



**Public Consultation at Pnikhyti (Guimara), Kamrup Rural**





**Photo: Consultation with Fisher Man at Dakhala, Palashbari**



**Consultation with tribal women at Gumi, Kamrup – Showing animals photo**



**Consulation with Local Fisher Man – Borakhat Village**



**Consulation with adult women, Village Asolpara**



**Consulation with Adult women, Village Borakhat**



**Consulation with Village Asolpara, Local Community**



**Consulation with local community Village Borakhat**



**Consulation with at Hahua Pathar with Young People, male**

## INSTITUTIONAL CONSULTATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Consultation with Mr. Biren Baishya, GIS Expert, Assam State Disaster Management Authority.



Consultation with Dr. Kuladip Sarma (assistant professor) Department of Zoology, Gauhati University.



Consultation with Dr. Niraj Agarwala (Assistant Professor) Department of Botany Gauhati University



Consultation with Sri Sandeep Kumar, IFS (Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Biodiversity), Assam)



Consultation with Sri Jitendra Kumar, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Goalpara Division



Consultation with Division Forest Officer (IFS) Kamrup (West), Division



M. D Adhikary, Sr. Env. Scientist, Head Water Section, Pollution Control Board Assam.



Shri Ajim Ahmed, Pest Surveillance Officer, Department Of Agriculture & Horticulture,  
Directorate Of Agriculture, Government Of Assam





Shri Apurba Kumar Das, Joint Director of Fisheries, FFDA, Directorate of Fisheries,



**ATTENDANCE SHEETS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION PGP/GUWAHATI WEST SUBPROJECT**  
 (Attendance sheets are intentionally blurred to hide personal details )



**Place: Makadhuj, Kamrup Rural District      Date:09-04-2023**

PROJECT TITLE: GUWAHATI WEST SUBPROJECT  
 CONSULTATION REPORT: ATTENDANCE SHEET  
 FOR: GUWAHATI WEST SUBPROJECT

ATTENDANCE SHEET

At: Makadhuj      Date: 09/04/2023

No.	Name	Phone No.	Signature
1	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
2	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
3	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
4	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
5	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
6	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
7	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
8	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
9	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
10	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
11	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
12	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
13	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
14	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]
15	[Blurred Name]	[Blurred Phone No.]	[Blurred Signature]



Place: Panikhyti, Kamrup Rural District

Date:09-04-2023

১৯৭৯ সালৰ পৰা ২০২৩ সাললৈকেৰে পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰা গাঁৱৰ নাম আৰু প্ৰকাৰ  
 (১৯৭৯-২০২৩)  
 ১৯৭৯ সালৰ পৰা ২০২৩ সাললৈকেৰে পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰা গাঁৱৰ নাম আৰু প্ৰকাৰ

ক্র.সং.	গাঁৱৰ নাম	প্ৰকাৰ	প্ৰতিবেদন
১	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
২	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৩	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৪	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৫	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৬	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৭	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৮	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
৯	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১০	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১১	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১২	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৩	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৪	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৫	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৬	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৭	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৮	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
১৯	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	
২০	গাৱঁড়ী গাঁৱ	গাৱঁড়ী	




**Guwahati Asolpara (Adult Women)**

Logo  
 Title: Guwahati Asolpara (Adult Women)  
 Date: 12/12/2020

S.No.	Name	Contact No.
1	Radhika Das	98302275
2	Radhika Das	98302275
3	Radhika Das	98302275
4	Radhika Das	98302275
5	Radhika Das	
6	Radhika Das	
7	Radhika Das	98302275
8	Radhika Das	
9	Radhika Das	
10	Radhika Das	

Footer: Logo and text at the bottom of the page.

Borakhat (Adult Women)

**Borakhat (Adult Women)**

Date: 12/12/2013

No.	Name	Phone No.
1	Dyala Ayman	88-88-8888
2	Amira Ayman	88-88-8888
3	Amala Ayman	
4	Hala Ayman	
5	Mervana Ayman	
6	Mervana Ayman	
7	Salma Ayman	
8	Amira Ayman	88-88-8888
9	Amira Ayman	
10	Amira Ayman	
11	Najwa Ayman	88-88-8888
12	Amira Ayman	

Date: 12/12/2013

### Asolpara (Local Community)

The image shows a document page with a table. The page has a header with a logo and title, a table with multiple rows and columns, and a footer. The image is heavily distorted with a blue and black pattern overlay.

Sl. No.	Name of the Person	Address
1	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
2	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
3	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
4	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
5	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
6	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
7	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
8	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
9	Mr. [Name]	[Address]
10	Mr. [Name]	[Address]

Borakhat (Local Community)

The image shows a document with a table. The table has several columns and rows. A horizontal orange bar highlights one of the rows. There are large black redaction bars at the top and bottom of the page. The text in the table is mostly illegible due to redaction and low image quality.



Hahua Pathar (Young People, male)

The image shows a document with a header section containing a logo on the left and a large blacked-out redacted area on the right. Below the header is a table with multiple rows and columns. One row is highlighted in red. The text is illegible due to the poor quality of the scan.

## Appendix 10: EMR Template

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Overall project description and objectives
- Environmental category as per ADB Safeguard Policy Statement, 2009
- Environmental category of each subproject as per national laws and regulations
- Project Safeguards Team

Name	Designation / Office	Email Address	Contact Number
1. PMU			
2. PIUs			
3. Consultants			

- Overall project and sub-project progress and status
- Description of subprojects (package-wise) and status of implementation (preliminary, detailed design, on-going construction, completed, and/or O&M stage)

Package Number	Components/ List of Works	Status of Implementation (Preliminary Design / Detailed Design / On-going Construction/Completed / O&M) <sup>a</sup>	Contract Status (specify if under bidding or contract awarded)	If On-going Construction	
				%Physical Progress	Expected Completion Date

a- If on-going construction, include %physical progress and expected date of completion.

### II. COMPLIANCE STATUS WITH NATIONAL, STATE OR LOCAL STATUTORY ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Package No.	Subproject Name	Environmental Requirements <sup>a</sup>	Status of Compliance <sup>b</sup>	Validity if obtained <sup>c</sup>	Action Required	Specific Conditions that will require environmental monitoring as per Environment Clearance, Consent / Permit to Established <sup>d</sup>

- a- All statutory clearance/s, no-objection certificates, permit/s, etc. should be obtained prior to award of contract/s. Attach as appendix all clearance obtained during the reporting period.
- b- Specify status of compliance (e.g. nvironmental clearance? Permit/consent to establish? Forest clearance? etc.)
- c- Specify if obtained, submitted and awaiting approval, application not yet submitted.
- d- Example: Environmental Clearance requires ambient air quality monitoring, Forest Clearance/Tree-cutting Permit requires 2 trees for every tree, etc.

### III. COMPLIANCE STATUS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LOAN COVENANTS

No. (List schedule and paragraph number of Loan Agreement)	Covenant	Status of Compliance	Action Required

### IV. COMPLIANCE STATUS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (REFER TO EMP TABLES IN APPROVED IEE/s)

- Confirm if IEE/s require contractors to submit site-specific EMP/construction EMPs. If not, describe the methodology of monitoring each package under implementation.
- Identify the role/s of Safeguards Team including schedule of on-site verification of reports submitted by consultants and contractors.
- For each package, provide name/s and contact details of contractor/s' nodal person/s for environmental safeguards.
- Include as appendix all supporting documents including **signed** monthly environmental site inspection reports prepared by consultants and/or contractors.
- With reference to approved EMP/site-specific EMP/construction EMP, complete the table below

#### Package-wise Implementation Status

Package Number	Component	Design Status (Preliminary Design Stage/ Detailed Design Completed)	Final IEE based on Detailed Design				Site-specific EMP (or Construction EMP) Approved by Project Director? (Yes/No)	Remarks
			Not yet due (detailed design not yet completed)	Submitted to ADB (Provide Date of Submission)	Disclose d on project website (Provide Link)	Final IEE provided to Contractor/ s (Yes/No)		

- Provide the monitoring results as per the parameters outlined in the approved EMP (or site- specific EMP/construction EMP when applicable).
- In addition to the table on EMP implementation, the main text of the report should discuss in details the following items (but not limited to):
  - a. Confirm if any dust was noted to escape the site boundaries and identify dust suppression techniques followed for site/s.
  - b. Identify muddy water was escaping site boundaries or muddy tracks were seen on adjacent roads.
  - c. Identify type of erosion and sediment control measures installed on site/s, condition of erosion and sediment control measures including if these were intact following heavy rain;
  - d. Identify designated areas for concrete works, chemical storage, construction materials, and refuelling. Attach photographs of each area.
  - e. Confirm spill kits on site and site procedure for handling emergencies.
  - f. Identify any chemical stored on site and provide information on storage condition. Attach photograph.
  - g. Describe management of stockpiles (construction materials, excavated soils, spoils, etc.).

Provide photographs.

- h. Describe management of solid and liquid wastes on-site (quantity generated, transport, storage and disposal). Provide photographs.
- i. Provide information on barricades, signages, and on-site boards. Provide photographs.
- j. Provide information on checking if there are any activities being under taken out of working hours and how that is being managed.

#### Overall Compliance with CEMP/EMP

No.	Sub-Project Name	EMP/ CEMP Part of Contract Documents (Y/N)	CEMP/ EMP Being Implemented (Y/N)	Status of Implementation (Excellent/ Satisfactory/ Partially Satisfactory/ Below Satisfactory)	Action Proposed and Additional Measures Required

#### V. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF THE PROJECT

- Brief description on the approach and methodology used for environmental monitoring of each subproject

#### VI. MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON PROJECT SURROUNDINGS (ambient air, water quality and noise levels)

- Brief discussion on the basis for monitoring
- Indicate type and location of environmental parameters to be monitored
- Indicate the method of monitoring and equipment to be used
- Provide monitoring results and an analysis of results in relation to baseline data and statutory requirements

*As a minimum the results should be presented as per the tables below.*

#### Air Quality Results

Site No.	Date of Testing	Site Location	Parameters (Government Standards)		
			PM10 µg/m <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub> µg/m <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub> µg/m <sub>3</sub>

#### Water Quality Results

Site No.	Date of Sampling	Site Location	Parameters (Government Standards)					
			pH	Conductivity µS/cm	BOD mg/L	TSS mg/L	TN mg/L	TP mg/L

**Noise Quality Results**

Site No.	Date of Testing	Site Location	LA <sub>eq</sub> (dBA) (Government Standard)	
			Day Time	Night Time

\*Note: add more tables to show results of other monitoring activities.

**Summary of Environmental Monitoring Activities (for the Reporting Period)<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Impacts (List from IEE)</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures (List from IEE)</b>	<b>Parameters Monitored (As a minimum those identified in the IEE should be monitored)</b>	<b>Method of Monitoring</b>	<b>Location of Monitoring</b>	<b>Date of Monitoring Conducted</b>	<b>Name of Person Who Conducted the Monitoring</b>
<b>Design Phase</b>						
<b>Pre-Construction Phase</b>						
<b>Construction Phase</b>						
<b>Operational Phase</b>						

<sup>a</sup> Attach Laboratory Results and Sampling Map/Locations

## **VII. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM**

Provide information on establishment of grievance redress mechanism and capacity of grievance redress committee to address project-related issues/complaints. Include as appendix Notification of the GRM (town-wise if applicable).

Complaints Received during the Reporting Period. Provide information on number, nature, and resolution of complaints received during reporting period. Attach records as per GRM in the approved IEE. Identify safeguards team member/s involved in the GRM process. Attach minutes of meetings (ensure English translation is provided).

## **VIII. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

- Summary of follow up time-bound actions to be taken within a set timeframe.

## **APPENDIXES**

- Photos
- Summary of consultations
- Copies of environmental clearances and permits
- Sample of environmental site inspection report
- Other

## Appendix 11: Contractor's Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report Format

Project Name:

EPC Contract Agreement No:

{Project Name, Contract Package / Lot}

Reporting Period {Month Year}

Submission Date: {Day Month Year}

Executing Agency:

Submitted by: Contractor's Name

Red text serves as guide for report preparation, please delete it when the report is finalized}



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**LIST OF FIGURES**

**LIST OF TABLES**

**LIST OF ANNEXURES**

**ABBREVIATIONS****Abbreviations****Full Form****Abbreviations****Full Form**

## 1. Introduction

{Please provide a brief in 2-3 paragraphs.}

{Succinctly convey the details of the contract package, details of construction camps and other temporary facilities}

{Highlight any unanticipated impacts in relation to change in the project scope, locations or alignments of components no matter how minor the contractor considers they may be, construction methods, and/or implementation schedule during the reporting period, if none confirm this.}

{Describe the implementation stage reached (design, pre-construction, construction, commissioning) and the % progress, main project activities and milestones achieved during the reporting period. Report on updates to IEE/EMP that were required during the reporting period, status of delivery of documents, permissions received, required amendments, consultation and disclosure undertaken etc.}

{Include table and/or organogram of environmental safeguards staffing at contractors/subcontractors and relationships between subcontractors, etc. Highlight any changes in the project organization and environmental safeguards staffing during the reporting period, if none confirm this}

**Table 0-1: Details of Contract**

Sl. No.	Contract	Details of Work	District	Contract Amount	Appointed Date	Expected Date of Completion
1						

Source: Contract Agreement

**Figure 0-1: Location Map**

**Table 0-2: Proposed Interventions / Summary of Construction Work Package X**

Particulars	Details	Progress Status
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

Source:

## 2. Project Progress

The contract for was signed on xxx & the xx% physical progress achieved. Details of current progress of works are presented in table below:

**Table 0-3: Progress of Work Up to Month Year**

Sl. No.	Description	Contract Package xxxx
1	<b>Financial progress</b>	
a	Mobilization Advance	Rs. xxx Crores up to date payment Certified
b	Mobilization Advance Recovery	Up to date recovered till end of xxx is xxx, as it is a stage

Sl. No.	Description	Contract Package xxxx
		payment of xx%
c	Stage Payment	Up to date Amount certified up to xxx is Rs. xxx Crores out of xxx Crores (xxx %)
<b>2</b>	<b>Pre-Construction Activities</b>	
a	Tree Cutting (if required)	
b	Electric Pole Erection / Shifting (if involved)	
c	Applicable Insurances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted by as per provision of contract</li> <li>Employee Compensation Insurance valid till xxx</li> <li>Contractor's All Risk Insurance Policy (CAR) valid till xxx</li> <li>Professional Indemnity Insurance policy valid till xxx</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Design Review</b>	
a	Plan & Profile drawings for xxx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted by vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Finalized for: xxx</li> <li>Approved vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> </ul>
b	Plan & Profile drawings for xxx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted by vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Finalized for: xxx</li> <li>Approved vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> </ul>
c	Plan & Profile drawings for xxx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted by vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Finalized for: xxx</li> <li>Approved vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>EMP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site specific EMP submitted vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Approved vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>QAP &amp; Work Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QAP submitted by vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Reviewed and approved vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Plant Status</b>	
a	xxx Plant (Hot mix, batching, crusher etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intimation of plant submitted vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Installation and calibration completed and production started on xxx</li> </ul>
b	xxx Plant (Hot mix, batching, crusher etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intimation of plant submitted vide letter no. xxx dated xxx</li> <li>Installation and calibration completed and production started on xxx</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>Civil work</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Survey Work</b>	
a	NGL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xxx % completed</li> </ul>
b	OGL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xxx % completed</li> </ul>
c	TBM Fixing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xxx % completed</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Milestone I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone date is to be achieved on xxx</li> <li>xxx Works xxx% Completed</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Milestone II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone date is to be achieved on xxx</li> <li>xxx Works xxx % Completed</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Milestone III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone date is to be achieved on xxx</li> <li>xxx % Completed</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<b>Milestone IV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone date is to be achieved on xxx</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>Milestone xxx</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone date is to be achieved on xxx</li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	<b>Physical Progress (%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xxx %</li> </ul>

Source:

### 3. Site Visits & Review Meetings by Client

{Please provide a brief in one – two paragraphs}

### 4. EHS Setup / Organization Chart

{Please provide a brief in one – two paragraphs}

**Figure 0-2: Organization Chart of EHS Team**

**Table 0-4: Environmental, Health & Safety Staff**

Name	Designation	Location	Mobile	Email addresses	Mobilization Date	Demobilization Date	Total Days Absent in last month	Total present (Months)

### 5. Compliance on Environment, Health & Safety Safeguards

#### 5.1 Camp Details

{xxx camps, xxx separate labor / operator's camps besides xxx temporary labor camps for the project have been established. The details of the plants in the camps are given below:}

**Table 0-5: Details of Camps Established as on Month & Year**

Sl. No.	Camp No.	Camp Location	Plants	Unit	Capacity	Clearance	Remarks
1							
2							

Source:

**Table 0-6: Details of Labor Camps Established as on Month Year**

Sl. No.	Camp No.	Camp Location	Occupant (No.)	Grade	Facilities
1					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets: XX No.</li> <li>Lodging: XX No.</li> <li>Kitchen XX No.</li> </ul>
2					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets: XX No.</li> <li>Lodging: XX No.</li> <li>Kitchen XX No.</li> </ul>
3					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets: XX No.</li> <li>Lodging: XX No.</li> <li>Kitchen XX No.</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Camp No.	Camp Location	Occupant (No.)	Grade	Facilities
4					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets: XX No.</li> <li>• Lodging: XX No.</li> <li>• Kitchen XX No.</li> </ul>
5					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets: XX No.</li> <li>• Lodging: XX No.</li> <li>• Kitchen XX No.</li> </ul>

Source:

## 5.2 Compliance to Environmental Management Plan

{With reference to the EMP of the project, include a table following sample table below with the compliance status during the reporting period, with sufficient details (evidence) to show how compliance was achieved, or corrective action to be taken if there was non-compliance including timeline and budget}

{Flag if previous environmental monitoring report(s) included corrective action plan, if it did details of that corrective action plan should be incorporated into the EMP table and compliance status reported}

{Provide explanations of any instances where performance standards were temporarily exceeded during the reporting period, along with details of any response taken to rectify the exceedance once identified, even if at the end of the reporting period the project is deemed as being compliant}

{Copies of clearances, CEMP, construction method statements, and other documentation produced in accordance with EMP during the reporting period should be included as an appendix}

**Table 0-7: Status of EMP as of Month Year**

Item #	Requirement	Prior Corrective Action  Compliance Status  {complied; partially complied; not complied; still ongoing or n/a at current stage of the project}	Remarks {provide sufficient details (evidence) to show how compliance was achieved; or explain the corrective action to be taken if there was noncompliance including timeline and budget}

## 5.3 Status of National / State/ Local Statutory Environmental Requirements

{Status of compliance and further action to ensure ongoing compliance; if there is partial or no compliance recommendations for corrective action are required. Provide explanations of any instances where the requirements of regulations or agreements were breached along with details of responses taken to rectify the breach once identified. Include all the applicable National Regulations and International Agreements following the sample table below attaching copy of the consents/license in the period they were obtained}

**Table 0-8: Status of Legal Compliance as of Month Year**

Sl. No.	Activities	Statutory Authority	Status (Yes, No or Partial only)		Expiry Date	Remarks
			Applied	Obtained		
1	Camp Layout Plan	Engineer			-	
2	NOC letter	District Commissioner			-	
3	Storage, Handling, and Transport of Hazardous Materials	State Pollution Control Board				Consent No. xxx dated xxx
4	Labor License	Labor Commissioner				Consent No. xxx dated xxx
5	Withdrawal of Ground Water for Construction	Ground Water Board				Consent No. xxx dated xxx
6	Registration of Vehicles & PUC	Motor Vehicle Department				-
7	Debris Disposal Sites	Gram Panchayat				Consent No. xxx dated xxx
8	Any other clearances / permits / NOCs					

Source: EPC Contractor

#### 5.4 Spoil Disposal Sites & Utilization of Construction Wastes

{Please provide a brief in 2-3 paragraphs. Provide not more than 4 photographs showing before & after scenario}

**Figure 0-3: Some Photographs of Spoil Disposal Sites**

#### 5.5 Environmental Supervision and Monitoring Results

{With reference to the contract budget earmarked for EMP (if any) summarize details of budget allocated and the current spend profile}

**Table 0-9: Status of Budget allocated for EMP and spent as of Month Year**

Activity	Allocated Budget (INR)	Budget Spent (INR)	% Spent	Remarks
<b>Total</b>				

#### 5.6 Environmental Pollution Monitoring

{Please provide a brief in one – two paragraphs. Provide not more than 1 photograph at each site for each activity}

{Environmental monitoring results – summarize in a table the reporting period's quantitative monitoring activities and data obtained in accordance with the Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) of the project. Provide explanations of any instances where performance standards were exceeded along with details of responses taken to rectify the exceedance once identified. Attach survey reports}

Typically, this section will include the results of:

- Flora and fauna surveys
- Air quality surveys
- Noise and vibration surveys
- Water quality surveys

{Indicate monitoring locations using a map or plan with grid coordinates, dates, times, duration of samples as applicable, weather conditions as applicable, parameters measured, equipment used, standards, tests, and limits used etc.}

{Corrective actions with timeline and budget are required to ensure any exceedances will be prevented in the future}

{Calibration and QA certifications of monitoring equipment and laboratories analyzing samples should be included as an appendix}

**Figure 0-4: Photographs Environmental Monitoring**

**Table 0-10: Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Results**

Name of sampling site	Geo-Coordinates	Parameters					
		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	Lead
Location xx							
Location xx							
Location xx							
Location xx							
Stack emission of DG Location xx (xx KVA)							
Stack emission of DG Location xx (xx KVA)							
National Ambient Air Quality Standards <sup>67</sup>		100	60	80	80	4	1
Emission Limits for Diesel generator set up to 800 kW <sup>68</sup>		0.2		-	4	3.5	-

Source:

**Table 0-11: Ambient Noise Quality Monitoring Results**

Name of sampling site	Geo Coordinates	Parameters		National Standards		Remarks
		Leq (Day)	Leq (Night)	Day time	Night time	
Location xx						
Location xx						
Location xx						
Location xx						
DG at Location xx						

<sup>67</sup> National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Notification dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009

<sup>68</sup> Environment (Protection) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2013 dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013, G.S.R. 771(E)



Name of sampling site	Geo Coordinates	Parameters		National Standards		Remarks
		Leq (Day)	Leq (Night)	Day time	Night time	
DG at Location xx						

Source:

**Table 0-12: Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Results**

Parameters	Location					National Standards (IS 10500:2012)	
	Location xx	Location xx	Location xx	Location xx	Location xx	Acceptable Limit	Permissible Limit
Color						5 max.	15 max.
Odor						Agreeable	Agreeable
Turbidity						1 max.	5 max.
pH						6.5 – 8.5	No Relaxation
Total Dissolved Solids						500 max.	2000 max.
Total Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )						200 max.	600 max.
Total Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )						200 max.	600 max.
Chloride (Cl)						250 max.	1000 max.
Fluoride (F)						1.0 max.	1.5 max.
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )						200 max.	400 max.
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )						45 max.	No Relaxation
Iron (Fe)						0.3 max.	No Relaxation
Lead (Pb)						0.01 max.	No Relaxation
Zinc (Zn)						5 max.	15 max.
Total Chromium (Cr)						0.05 max.	No Relaxation
Copper (Cu)						0.05 max.	1.5 max.
Calcium (Ca)						75 max.	200 max.
Magnesium (Mg)						30 max.	100 max.
Manganese (Mn)						0.1 max.	0.3 max.
Total Arsenic (As)						0.01 max.	0.05 max.
Total Coliform						Should be absent	No Relaxation
E. Coli						Should be absent	No Relaxation

Source:

## 5.7 Supply & Status of PPE

The details of the PPEs are given in table below:

**Table 0-13: Status of PPEs on Month Year**

SI. No	PPE	Opening Stock	Distributed	Closing Stock	Ordered
	Helmets – Laborers (Yellow)				
	Helmets – Supervisors (color)				
	Helmets – Engineers (color)				
	Helmets – EHS (Green)				
	Helmets – Visitors (color)				
	Helmets – Others (color)				
	Gloves				
	Masks				
	Goggles				
	Safety Shoes				
	Gum boots				
	Safety Tackles				
	Safety Jacket – Laborers (color)				
	Safety Jacket - Engineers (color)				
	Safety Jacket – Others (color)				
	Others, please specify				

Source:

## 5.8 Medical Facilities

Please provide details of the medical facilities including first aid and hospitals in one – two paragraphs.

**Table 0-14: Details of First Aid / Medical Room on Month Year**

SI. No	Camp	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )	No. of First Aider	No. of Beds	Capacity to Treat (No. of Laborers that can be treated)	Compliant with Labor laws
						Yes/No

**Table 0-15: Details of First Aider as on Month Year**

SI. No	Camp	Name	Qualification	Years of Experience	Deployment Date	Employment Status

**Table 0-16: Details of Hospitals & Doctors tied up with as on Month Year**

SI. No	Name	Location	Distance from Site	MoU Number	Date of MoU	Facilities offered	Expiry Date

**Table 0-17: Details of First Aid Boxes in Project Site as on Month Year**

SI. No	Location	Size of Box	Date of last Inspection	Inspected by (Name & Designation)	Status of Inspection

Sl. No	Location	Size of Box	Date of last Inspection	Inspected by (Name & Designation)	Status of Inspection

**Table 0-18: Details of Ambulances in Project Site as on Month Year**

Sl. No	Location	Vehicle Type	Vehicle Number	Date of last Inspection	Inspected by (Name & Designation)	Status of Inspection	Fitness Certificate Status

**Figure 0-5: Photographs of Medical Facilities in camp sites**

Not more than 6 photographs

**Figure 0-6: Photographs of Ambulances in Camp Sites**

Not more than 4 photographs

## 5.9 EHS Trainings

Please provide a table/para showing the details of the trainings that are to be conducted as per EPC contract. Details shall include name of training and frequency. The list of attendees to be provided in the annex.

The following programs were conducted during the reporting period:

**Table 0-19: Training Programs Conducted during Reporting Period**

Sl. No	Date	Program Name	Type of Program	Location	No. of Attendees	Faculty/Trainer

**Figure 0-7: Some Photographs of EHS Training Programs**

## 5.10 AIDS & COVID 19 Awareness Camps

The following programs on COVID, 19 HIV/AIDS were conducted during the reporting period:

**Table 0-20: AIDS & COVID 19 Awareness Programs Conducted during Reporting Period**

Sl. No	Date	Program Name	Type of Program	Location	No. of Attendees	Faculty/Trainer

**Figure 0-8: Some Photographs of Awareness Programs**

## 5.11 COVID 19 Response & Mitigation (if Relevant during reporting period)

Single Paragraph on steps taken, Any Cases of COVID amongst workers etc.

## 6. Compliance on Labor

The details on the compliance of labor are given in sections below

### 6.1 Labor Details

**Table 0-21: Labor Details as on Month Year**

Sl. No	Type	Number			Camp Location	Employment Type		
		Local	Outsider	Total		Casual	Outsourced	Permanent
	Unskilled							
	Semi-skilled							
	Skilled							
	<b>Total</b>							

## 6.2 Accident Record

{If there was any near-miss or accident, illness, or other occupational or community health and safety related incident during the reporting period (or a previously reported incident with ongoing rectification) report following the sample table below. Include as appendices work safety checklists, incident reports, and other relevant supporting documents. If no incidents, please confirm}

- Total Man hours preceding month: **xx**
- Total Man hours in reporting month: **xx**
- Total Man hours in project till the end of present month: **xx**
- Total Safe Man hours preceding month: **xx**
- Total Safe Man hours in reporting month: **xx**
- Total Safe Man hours in project till the end of present month: **xx**
- No. of accidents in reporting month: **xx**
- Total Accidents in project: **xx**
- No. of incidents in reporting month: **xx**
- Total Accidents in project: **xx**
- Total near misses in reporting month: **xx**
- Total near misses in Project: **xx**
- Any other points: **xx**

**Table 0-22: Safety Details on Month Year**

Frequency Rate	Severity Rate	Risk Index	Risk Index Factor	Accident Rate	Incident Potential Rate	Frequency of First Aid Case

**Table 0-23: Accident Details as on Month Year**

First Aid Cases	Accidents	Fatality	Incidents	Near Miss	Dangerous Occurrences	Unsafe Acts Observed	Compliance %	Man-hours worked	Man-day lost	Safe Man hours

**Table 0-24: Safety Details on Month Year**

Frequency Rate	Severity Rate	Risk Index	Risk Index Factor	Accident Rate	Incident Potential Rate	Frequency of First Aid Case

Table 0-25: Accident Details as on **Month Year**

First Aid Cases	Accidents	Fatality	Incidents	Near Miss	Dangerous Occurrences	Unsafe Acts Observed	Compliance %	Man-hours worked	Man-day lost	Safe Man hours

## 7. Meaningful Consultation

{Meaningful consultation – report on any ongoing consultation undertaken, and main issues raised by consultees; detailed consultation records should be included as an appendix. If no ongoing consultation, please confirm}

Table 0-26: Consultations in **Month Year**

Date	Format/Venue	Participants (Occupation, M/F)	Main Issues Raised

## 8. Grievance Redressal

{If there was any grievance or complaint, regardless informal or minor, during the reporting period (or previously reported complaint with ongoing rectification) provide the corrective action taken following the sample table below. Detailed grievance records and response reports should be included as an appendix}

{A paragraph on:

- Procedure for redressal
- No. of grievances received and type
- Status of grievances}

Table 0-27: Grievances details as on **Month Year**

Grievances Received		Grievances Status of last Month		Total till Date Grievances Status	
Last Month	Total till Date	Open	Closed	Open	Closed

Table 0-28: Status of Grievances on **Month Year**

Complainant/s or Affected Persons	Location/s and Date/s of Complaint	Description of Grievance/Complaint	Timeline*	Time-bound Corrective Action

\* To be solved within 2 weeks

## 9. Follow up Actions & Conclusions

{Summarize the contract's environmental performance during the reporting period based on the previous sections and, if any non-compliance identified, provide detailed recommendations including responsibilities, timeliness and budget for the preparation and completion of corrective action}

{If non-compliance is major or not readily addressed then a separate corrective action plan may need to be prepared. For minor and readily addressed non-compliances the corrective action plan can be incorporated into this final section of the environmental monitoring report following the sample table below}

Table 0-29: Follow up actions as on **Month Year**

Non-compliance	Corrective Action to be Taken	Responsibility	Timeline	Budget

## APPENDICES

**Photographs** {Include relevant photographs of the project site and project area of influence taken during the reporting period to provide evidence of compliance and/or non-compliance. For each photo, provide a caption with description of what it illustrates, accurate location, and date taken}

### Supporting Documents {E.g.,

- Maps and plans
- Checklists and reports
- Permits/Clearances/NOCs obtained in Last Month and documentation
- Training records
- Detailed monitoring data, laboratory results etc.
- Calibration and QA certificates
- Consultation records
- Meeting agendas and attendance records
- Grievance records
- Environment, health and safety reports

EHS Correspondences in Last Month

## **Appendix 12: Sample Chance find Protocol.**

### **Introduction**

There are possibility of any chance finds (artefacts) recovery during excavations. Contractors working must take additional care not to destroy or damage historic features during excavations. There may be many buried historic features in heritage towns such as – idols, toys, wells, ancient drains, remains of buildings, other walls, grain pits, etc. Every care must be made not to destroy these during excavations.

Excavator drivers need to be instructed to be aware of hitting buried features and that they must be investigated before continuing work. When features are encountered during mechanical excavation, work should stop and the PIU/Consultants engineers must be informed immediately so that they can be inspected at the first opportunity.

When historic features such as walls, brick constructions and other features are encountered during excavation the excavation must be stopped immediately and the PIU/Consultants must be informed immediately.

**Contractors' instruction:** As soon as contractor recovers any chance find during any excavation works for pipe laying, they should immediately inform PIU/Consultant present in town about the chance find recovery. Immediately stop the excavation activity near point of recovery. After PIU/consultants engineers come at site, contractor should follow cleaning and photography in supervision of PIU/Consultant engineers.

**Cleaning** - When a feature/chance find is discovered it must be defined by careful cleaning. Roots must be removed and dirt must be carefully cleaned away. The section or trench base should also be cleaned back for a little distance around the feature.

**Record photography** – When the feature is clean good photography should be taken – vertical and face-on shots and a few general shots of the feature, also showing its position in relation to surrounding features, buildings, etc. The photographed should be catalogued (date, location, direction of shot)

**Drawn record** - When features/chance finds are revealed a drawn record should also be made.

- a. General location record – measuring its position and orientation within the protected site / in relation to surrounding structures
- b. Record drawings – detail drawings made in plan and section/profile. The extent (edges) of the feature should be drawn and the level of the existing ground surface and the top and base of the feature should be recorded. These levels should be marked on the drawings. The drawings should include detail of the construction of the feature. Perspective sketches could also be made if necessary. Explanatory notes can also be put on the drawings.

**Reporting finds** - When finds are made these should be reported to PIU/Consultants. Photographs and record drawings should be sent.

**Discovery of historic objects** - When clearance and excavation takes place artifacts and historic objects are sometimes found. These should be recovered and kept in a safe place. The

place of discovery should be recorded and each find given a number and tag tied to the find with the same number on it. A list of the finds should be kept (with the find No. And place of discovery and date of discovery recorded).

***PIU/Consultants responsibility-*** PIU/Consultants should inform in written to the State Archaeological Department at the earliest with photographs and request to Archaeology Department to visit the site and hand over the chance finds to them.



## Appendix 13: Environment and Social Risk Analysis

### 1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK ANALYSIS

1. The process of environmental and social Impact Assessment was accomplished through the review of available documents viz. Detailed Project Reports (DPR), literatures available related project site, site selections etc. Detailed Site visits and field surveys were carried out engaging key experts. The expert during visit interacted with key stakeholders and consultations with host communities.

2. The finding of site was used to identify and assess the anticipated environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed project ,

3. Environmental risk is a function 1- Magnitude of potential consequences (i.e. levels of magnitudes) and likelihood of these consequences to occur (i.e. levels of probability of occurrence). To quantify the environmental risks, the formula is:

#### Likelihood x Consequence

4. First, ratings has been assigned for different levels of likelihood and consequence to determine the level of environmental risks. Each risk has been given as ratings for likelihood and consequence. Examples of ratings are presented below, however they can be modified by the executive agency as appropriate.

*Table 1-1: Likelihood or level of probability*

Likelihood		Rating
Likely	Potential to occur more than twice during construction and/or operations	3
Unlikely	May occur once or twice during construction and/or operations	2
Rare	Highly unlikely to occur during construction and/or operations	1

Table 1-2: Consequence or level of magnitude

Consequences	Consequence or levels of magnitude Consequence	Rating
Major	Significant damage or impact on the natural environment or communities.	3
Moderate	Limited adverse impact on natural environment or communities	2
Minor	No or minimal adverse impact on natural environment or communities.	1

5. When all environmental risks are assigned with likelihood and consequence ratings, then the formula is to be applied and results stated. The E&S ratings show the quantifiable environmental risks. These

risks are then to be classified based on the levels of risk. The table below shows the categories of environmental risk based on the formula above.

Table 1-3: Quantifiable Environmental risk matrix

Likelihood	Likely	3	3	6	9
	Unlikely	2	2	4	6
	Rare	1	1	2	3
Higher 6 and above			1	2	3
Medium 3-5			Minor	Moderate	major
Low 0-2			consequences		

6. Definition of Environmental Risk level pertains to High, medium and moderate has been presented below,

Table 1-4: Definition of Environmental Risk level

High	<p>Significant damage or impact on natural environment or communities For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Major loss of soil, water resources &amp; water quality due to storm water runoff</li> <li>✓ Significant pollution of soil &amp; water resources including major contamination from hazardous materials</li> <li>✓ Significant effects on eco systems with isolated deaths of non-vulnerable fauna</li> <li>✓ Major nuisance or annoyance to communities</li> <li>✓ Major damage to archaeological or historical sites.</li> </ul>
Medium	<p>Limited adverse impact on the natural environment or communities. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Localized short-term notice able changes in storm water quality</li> <li>✓ Localized &amp; contained pollution of soil resources Short-term minor changes in ecosystem (no death of fauna)</li> <li>✓ Isolated or partial damage to archaeological or historical sites</li> </ul>
Low	<p>No or minimal adverse impact on natural environment or communities. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No measurable or noticeable change in storm water runoff and quality remains within tolerable limits</li> <li>✓ Undetectable effects on soil resources from material storage Minimal effects on modified habitat</li> <li>✓ No or only isolated few complaints from the community</li> <li>✓ No or minimal damage to archaeological or historical site</li> </ul>

7. Based on the above criteria, the level of risk and their respective rating has been estimated. The level of risk on ambient air, water, soil, noise and land is anticipated as minor to moderate level and specific and confined during construction stage. The risk would mainly due to construction stage, though the construction activity area majorly manual in nature. The embankment protection at reach is stacking of sand bags/ geo bags with no machinery interference. Excavator/ Digger machines shall be used for the preparation of site (bank labelling and slope ) would be major construction equipment in the project. The carriage of material is majorly through boat/ local vendors, vehicles. Based on the Table 1-5 criteria following table shows the analysis of level of environmental risk and rating.

Table 1-5: Computation of Environmental risk

Environmental Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
<b>Air &amp; Noise Environment</b>			
Increase of dust generation at construction sites	1	1	2
Disruption of livelihood activities along affected reaches	2	2	4
Effect on Air quality due to construction and operation phases- emission	1	2	2
Effect on Noise& vibrations during construction activity	1	2	2
<b>Impact on land</b>			
Acquisition of private land on some patches	2	2	4
Land Use Change due to Project Activities and, material Sourcing	1	1	2
Borrow Areas	1	1	2
Soil Compaction and Contamination	2	2	4
Wastes from construction activity	2	2	4
<b>Impact on Water</b>			
Effects on River Morphology - Upstream and Downstream Effect	1	1	2
Impact on Silt Deposition and Bed Level Change	2	2	4
Impact on surface/ river water quality	1	1	2
Effect on Drainage System	2	1	2
Effect on Wetlands/ Beels	2	1	2

Environmental Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Accidental spillage of fuel and hazardous chemicals	2	1	2
<b>Ecology &amp; biodiversity</b>			
Damage on wildlife habitats due to removal of natural riverbanks	1	1	2
Effect on ecology and habitat on long run	1	1	2
Effect on Dolphins population and feeding Habitat	1	1	2
Effect on fishing activity /productivity	1	1	2
Effect of tree felling falling within 30 meter RoW	2	2	4
<b>Community /occupational health and safety</b>			
Occupational health and hazard to worker/ Labour camp	2	2	4
Impact on flood and local community	1	1	1
Socio Economic impact / sourcing of labour- construction & operation stage	2	1	2
Socio Economic impact on livelihood and agriculture on flood plains in long run	2	1	2

### 1.1 Impact during Design Stage/Construction stage & operation stages

Type of activity involve are anti erosion measure for 8 reach with provision of 30 of apron with 6 layer geo bag (type -A), 3.00m x0.90 m size of toe-key made of geo bag (Type-A) in WIN Cage, 0.45 m thick pitching of Geo bag over 300 gsm fabric sheet. 1.5 m x 1.00 m size of geo bag Type- C apron for spur. Installation of pump set including construction of pump house and staff quarter at Kalbhog Sluice gate. P.C.S. Porcupine Screen: 8 nos. of screen over 3 layers from Ch. 40800M to Ch. 43500 M. Also adaptation work for 3.5 km (Dakhala, Simina and Makadhuj) and 5 km (Gumi, Borakhat, Panikhaity and Lotoriadia) is considered for the existing work with provision of 4 layer of geo bag (Type-A) for 20 m Width of apron and Recoupment and loss dumping of Boulder of spur. These activities will involve procurement of sand bags, geo bags, carriage of material like porcupine, PVC coated cage, and silt. Majorly the stacking of geo bags and porcupines and wire net shall be done by manual labours no equipment, machinery will be involved in the project activity. Thus contamination due to carriage of material, leakage of chemical, exposure to machineries is insignificant in the project area.

The analysis of impact has been focused on

- Core Zone: protection, embankment work area (Right of Way) of the project.
- Inner Buffer Zone: Boundary of Right of Way of Project up to 500 meters of study area
- Outer Buffer Zone: area delineated between 500 meters to 1000 meters (1 km area).

8. The risk associated to the project interventions has been analysed based on the following stage of the project activity:

- ▶ During Designing & During the construction phase which would be temporary and short term;
- ▶ During the operation phase which would have long term effects

### 1.1.1 Impact on Land

9. The project activity involves apron work at Kamrup (11,540 m). The major land use of the project site is agriculture, riverine flood plains. The extent of project' ROW is 30m. The change in land use is assessed as under medium impact category. The changes in the land would be temporary and confined to the project site and its inner 500 m buffer zones. The effective mitigation measures throughout the construction and operation phase will significantly reduce the negative impact.

- **Temporary Change in land use:** Based on satellite imagery and GIS interpretations/ land use analysis of the project, The project area has 32% land use under agriculture land, 24% sandbed , 23% Water body , followed by Build-up area and Vegetation cover within 1 km buffer from the project sites (Refer- Land use technical note, Table: 8 Land use area within 1 km Buffer Zone on either side of the Project locations of Kamrup District.). Based on land used patten, total area within 1 km radius is (4720.867Ha). Total area required for project implementation is 34.62 Ha. Which is 0.733% (less than 1%) of total 1 km radius geographical area. Total area eroded since 1972 were 8495 Ha<sup>69</sup> at the rate of 167 Ha per year. Based on DPR study the total area benefitted during project life would be 75,558.40Ha.
- **The unintended selection of borrow areas** and no rehabilitation/ closing of borrow areas may lead to loss of productive use of the land in the project vicinity. No embankment work proposed. Hence opening of borrow area not anticipated.
- **Loss of topsoil:** Top 25 cm soil of proposed ROW in protection work will be impacted. These top soils are rich productive soil and need preservation.
- **Soil erosion** potential of an area depends on its topography, geological structure, rainfall, soil type, and land use/ land cover. In the project reach, the topography of the terrain comprises of alluvial floodplain. There is a general lowering of the gradient of the area from southeast to the northwest. From the highlands in the south-eastern side covering foothills of the Due to the relatively steeper slopes and friable rocks structure, the soils in the upland areas are easily erodible and during heavy rainfall, the rivers in the valley part of the basin show more of a depositional character due to their greatly reduced slope, transport of higher sediment load from upstream areas and congestion of drainage. During construction stage, soil cutting, embankment protection work will create soil

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<sup>69</sup> DPR, Kamrup.

erosion if the compaction not done properly. The agricultural activity along the river bank and encroachment also causes soil erosion.



**Figure 1: Embankment erosion and soil runoff at Palasbari reach**

- **Disruption in the access to the embankment** construction site is mostly through the single lane rural roads (paved and unpaved both). These roads would require strengthening to sustain the heavy trucking load. Carriage of material may disrupt the existing condition of the roads
- **Location of Construction Camp:** Rest area and site store for storage of construction material will be developed by the contractor. This will be temporarily erected and will exist during construction phase only (30 months).
- **Contamination of soil:** Soil around river protection work site and haulage road may be compacted and contaminated due to transportation of material machine and vehicle. Since major land in the closed vicinity of river riverbank protection work is under agricultural land use the contamination may negatively impact the agriculture, soil fertility. Contamination of soil may occur due to unregulated/managed waste from construction site. Haulage of material, waste from labour camp/construction camp etc.
- **Location of the project:** The project location at Kamrup district does not have any natural protected areas. Deepor Beel is located about 10 km from the Project Location at Dokhola. Barduar RF is located about 12 km from the project sites of Kamrup.
- **Disposal of Excavated Material during construction:** Bank trimming operations will generate overburden (60% of trimmed River Bank earth). This would be a huge amount. Site should be identified prior to start of trimming operation.
- **Impact on River Bed due to Sand Extraction:** The sand extracted from the river bed for Geo bags filling need to have approval from regional office of mines. The WRD should get mining plan prepared and get it approved through RQPs and mining office. The extraction of sand should not be

near to river bank. This would lead to damage to bank by cutting of underline sand. No excess sand should be extracted. The extent of extraction should be as per the approved mining plan.

- **Tree Felling:** The tree falling within 25 meter of bank protection work may involve cutting and removal. Before start of felling, tree numeration with species name, girth size should be prepared. Approval needs to be taken from regulatory agency. Young trees can be replanted at identified site. Compensatory plantation in ratio of 1:10 needs to be carried out. Plantation should be species wise. For an individual species cut, ten time the same species need to be planted.
- **Ground Clearance:** project would involve clearance of ground covers, which are mostly shrubs, followed by herbs and grasses. The shrubs reported are invasive weeds like lantana (dominant species). Ground clearance would lead to expose of underneath soil to rain and winds. This would result in water pollution during rains and high winds. The planning should be in manner that working zone should be cleared of bushes and shrubs.
- Geo bags application completely cover the benthic zone of the river bank slope that might impact on benthic habitats. However, based on earlier research the anticipated impacts on benthic zone are local, short term, and reversible. The high siltation rate over geo-bag within a year restores the benthic habitat. During installation, the fish habitat might be disturbed and some damage to benthonic and planktonic community. In addition, the covering of river bed with geo-bag in limnetic zone may have some effects on small fish species by limiting their feeding opportunity. Study on work of similar nature found that the regeneration of algae and benthos community over the geo-bags were found, that indicates the restoration of food sources for fish. The covering of the river bed (limonitic zone) by geo bag may affect the bottom fishes. After placing of geo-bags, the fishes those live in holes may migrate.
- During post construction phase, encroachment near embankment for habitation, cultivation, cattle grazing, etc may affect embankment stability. Since the villagers residing along the river bank are majorly flood impacted victims, after flood protection work, their activity may get boost and gradually if proper maintenance or awareness drive with local villagers were not taken, will result in degradation of embankments.
- Due to such construction activities along the river bank, the land use of about 50 m buffer around the embankment is likely to be affected or changed. As per the satellite imagery and GIS interpretations, of 1 km radius from the project sites, generally major land use in within 1 km buffer from the project sites are Agricultural land (32 %).
- Due to the proposed interventions, most of the agricultural and built-up land around the riverbank site and construction camp areas may be affected adversely.

## Operation Phase

10. During post construction phase, fresh encroachment near the fresh constructed revetment for habitation, cultivation, cattle grazing purpose may affect revetment stability. Since the villagers residing along the river bank are majorly flood impacted victims, after flood protection work, their day to day activity

may get boost and gradually if proper maintenance not taken or awareness of villagers not taken seriously, these activity may degrade the quality of embankments.

11. Additional to this, Borrow pits if not rehabilitated properly may create an unsafe landscape in the project influence area of 1 km; this may have landscape and accidental hazards. Also, if the borrow areas are not rehabilitated as per the intended end use of the owner, some social impacts e.g. loss of income may occur.

12. **Reduction in soil erosion:** In post construction phase the application of geo bag will induce flood protection work. This would reduce cutting of river bank, soil runoff and erosion alongside the river bank. This will stabilize the river side area and indirectly elevate the socio economic productivity of the region.

13. The proposed project will have net benefits in terms of soil erosion and preventing progression of land loss. Soil erosion may still occur during the operation phase and early detection and remedial measures shall need to be taken for safety of the embankment and roads.

### 1.1.2 Impact on Water environment

#### During Construction stage:

**Regulatory Approvals:** The extraction of ground water for construction work needs approval for from SGWB/CGWB. Water Quality of Brahmaputra River has been assessed. This water can be used for construction purpose, if meets with water quality requirement for construction.

The other source can be ground water, augmented with tankers supply. All the bank protection work will be carried out during lean period. Hence chance of surface water quality deterioration is minimum.

**Alteration of surface water quality:** The project's construction is anticipated to take 30 Months to complete. The majority of the workers would be locals or from the immediate area. About 50 fifty unskilled and semi-skilled labours will be engaged (day labour). No labour camps. The contractor will provide drinking water and 15 LPCD for flushing (MoEF construction manual). No labour should be allowed to do open defecate on river. This would result in increase in total coliform and faecal coliform in river water. There should be provision of mobile toilets at all construction site. Make shift rest area should be provided at each bank protection and embankment area. No material storage camps labours camps, borrow earth be allowed within 500 meters from river bed and 1 km from the forest and Eco-sensitive Zone. If labour camp is required for skilled labours rented houses can be used. There should be provision of septic tanks and soke pits in all labour camps. There should be 1 toilet among 15 female and 1 toilet for 10 males. If construction camps is provided for skilled labour, 1 individual would require 6m<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, labours camps should be designed accordingly.

Surface Water pollution is expected if not managed properly during bank protection and adoption work. During trimming work, care should be taken that, soil does not reach the flowing water. if required, temporary cofferdam should be installed and undertaken soil work. The extraction of sand from river bed for geo-bag filling should be from sand bars where there is no water flow. If not taken care suspended silt in water flow will increase. Monsoon season should be avoided. The boat which are driven by diesel engine should be not spill fuel in water. The old engines in boats, where water from the river are taken in the diesel engine for cooling were common source of river water pollution. There should be checking



mechanism adopted by FREEMA, in selecting boats for bank protection work. The old boat should be avoided. Over loading on boats should be avoided

14. **Alteration of Ground water Quality:** The proposed project is bank protection work. The quantity of ground water requirement would be very less (only of drinking water supply and flushing) at work site and at labour camps for skilled labours. Mostly local labour will be engaged. Drinking water will be provided at work station in from of water tankers. Therefore anticipated impact on ground water is not anticipated.

15. **Location of Construction camp:** negative impact can be anticipated, if the location of proposed construction camp is not selected appropriately. Appropriate buffer from nearest water body, fishing pond, beels need to be kept etc. The buffer area of the site i.e. 500 either side has lot of small ponds, beels etc.

16. **Water pollution due to construction activity:** Construction activity will involve cutting, erosion; earth filling, and embankment protection and thus soil runoff, silt, sedimentation loading in the river is expected. The project activity would be semi mechanized, no use of DG is anticipated and similarly other machineries. In compaction / earth filling will use mechanical digger and excavator which may cause leakage of some oil if not properly managed in the parking areas.

During dumping of geo bag, turbidity of water increases and that might affect the habitat quality. Geo-bag using technology has some impacts on aquatic flora like floating and submergible plants due to covering the limonitic zone. Dumped Geo bags completely cover the benthic zone of the river bank slope that might impact on benthic habitats. However, it has been come out from the study that the impacts on benthic zone are local, short term, and reversible. During dumping, the fish habitat might be disturbed and some damage of benthonic and planktonic community. In addition, the covering of river bed with geo-bag in limnetic zone may have some effects on some small fish species by limiting their feeding opportunity. Study on work of similar nature found that the regeneration of algae and benthos community over the dumped geo-bags were found, that indicates the restoration of food sources for fish. The covering of the river bed of the limonitic zone by geo bag may affect the bottom fishes. After placing of geo-bags, the fishes those live in holes may migrate from protective areas.<sup>70</sup>

### **Operation Phase:**

17. **Impact on rive morphology:** Since the proposed flood protection measures along the Brahmaputra are mostly focused on strengthening existing embankments. The current bank line will be confirmed and stabilised by the proposed bank protection measures, while the pro-siltation actions will have no appreciable impact on overall bed levels. In conclusion, it is anticipated that the proposed improvements won't have any negative consequences on the river's dynamic shape.

18. The revetments and anti-erosion methods that are suggested minimise the sediment. This results from flow concentration and/or a decrease in the entrainment of silt from eroding banks. It is generally accepted that excessive sediment transport plays a significant role in the Brahmaputra instability. Compared

<sup>70</sup> Md. Sarfaraz Wahed, Md. Shibly Sadik and Syeda Mohsina Muhit, Environmental Impacts of Using Sand Filled Geo-Bag Technology Under Water in River Erosion Protection Of Major Rivers In Bangladesh, International Conference on Environmental Technology and Construction Engineering for Sustainable Development ICETCESD-2011, March 10-12, 2011, SUST, Sylhet, Bangladesh.

to spurs, which actively divert the currents and so minimise detrimental effects, both measures further reduce turbulence and the influence of currents. Without impacting the opposing bank or the upstream region, the lower sediment entrainment along the protected reach tends to encourage more pronounced and stable channels. The project places aims to prevent downstream riverbank erosion.

19. **External Impacts on Flood and Drainage:** The envisaged river protection work will largely confirm the current flooding patterns and improve protection from widespread flooding for flood-prone communities behind embankments. The proposed anti-erosion and pro-siltation measures won't have a substantial impact on river morphology, flood behaviour, or general cross-sectional sediment behaviour. All the work is anticipated 30 meters from existing river bank. Hence no change in river cross section. The total flow area for the river would remain same after protection work. ,

20. **Changes in Water Levels:** The conveyance capacity of the Brahmaputra opposite the project reaches at various locations of the district Kamrup, reach is massive - and will remain unchanged by the proposed works on the southern bank. Accordingly, the proposed works will have no noticeable effect on river water levels. The risk of abrupt, catastrophic flooding will be reduced by an enhanced embankment network. This would result in more predictable and stable water levels on the flood plains (particularly from temporary local inundation throughout the flood season)..

**Impact on Silt Deposition and Bed Level Change:** the Brahmaputra River carries the second-highest amount of silt in the world. The significant sediment content is predominantly mobilised during the heavy flood season flows, which frequently results in dramatic changes to the platform (river appearance on maps). While the finer silts and clay make up the floodplains, the coarser sediments, such as sand and more upstream gravel, generally create the riverbed. They are transported through the channels to the sea without being settled and make up the wash load in the river. The finer sediments don't settle until after flooding and in places where there is no discernible flow. Embankments protection work will not have impact on silt deposition and bed level changes work in long run. .

**Effect on Subproject Drainage System:** The embankment acts as a barrier for the drainage of accumulating countryside water into the Brahmaputra during the wet season. The proposed works will have no additional adverse impacts on drainage.

21. **Impact on Wetlands/ Beels within the Subproject:** Deepar Beel has a direct link to the River Brahmaputra near the Palasbari Reach. However, it is located about 3 km away from the Khanajan mouth. This is out flow channel for this wetland. Riverbank protection work would not interfere with the beel's operation because no blockage observed in its connection to the Khanajan River. With the flood protection measures in place, farmers may use more fertilizers and grow more crops in the fields.

### 1.1.3 Impact on climate:

**The planned project is not expected to have a direct effect on the climate of the region.** Climate change can have a significant impact on the planned project because of what it means for inland/freshwater wetlands, water supplies, and water availability. India's Initial National Communication (Natcom 1) Project investigated the effects of climate change on the nation's water supplies. The study found that the effects of climate change on inland wetlands would be complicated

and dependent on a number of factors, such as temperature rise, rate of evaporation, changes in catchment precipitation, changes in nutrient cycling, and responses of various aquatic species. Despite the fact that tropical lakes are less susceptible to the effects of climate changes. Marshes and swamps with shallow water would be significantly more sensitive to rising temperatures and less precipitation. The Brahmaputra basin may experience more flooding as a result of this. Since there are conflicting opinions regarding the aforementioned findings, they cannot currently be taken into account for any design changes until more detailed and reliable information regarding the impact of climate change on river hydrology in this area is available.

#### 1.1.4 Air & Noise environment

22. The ambient air quality of the project area is good. This is based on primary air quality monitoring. The level of PM 10, PM2.5, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, is much lower at the locations monitored (at Dokhola, Panikhyti, Futuri and Gumi of Kamrup District) than the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for rural areas (Refer Environmental Monitoring data report). The monitoring result for Particulate Matter of size 10 $\mu$  (PM10) level at all the project areas are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (100  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>). The riverbank protection work likely not has any affect on the air quality of the area, and the level is likely to remain within the prescribed standards.

23. There will be two main types of air emissions throughout the project construction phase i.e. mobile sources and stationary sources. Construction-related vehicle emissions and fugitive dust come from mobile sources like haulage of construction material on paved /unpaved roads. whereas stationary sources include excavation and grading equipment, and other equipment if in use. In addition to this, dust emissions from the storage and handling of trimming earth sand materials will account for a sizable share of air pollution in the form of particulate matter. The emission of particulate matter during the construction phase will be generated from the activities like receipt, transfer and screening of aggregate, crushing activity, dust emissions from roads.

24. The impact would be localized and site specific. During construction phase moderate impact will be envisaged. It would be for shorted duration. No cumulative impact has been envisaged due to current project activity.

#### **Noise**

25. As per baseline monitoring record of the project locations, it is perceived that ambient noise level of the project region well below the permissible limit and mostly addressing the Noise level standard of residential area. During construction phase, noise will be generated from various activities such as site clearing, excavation, erection, finishing etc. The general noise levels during construction phase such as due to working of heavy earth moving equipment and machineries installation may sometimes go up to 100 dB(A) or more at the work sites. As per the proposed plan, manual labor is likely to be preferred with limited use of machinery. Only excavator / grader will be used which will have some noise level (at 85 dBA).

26. Equipment Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 ft from Source -Concrete Mixer 85, Generator 81, Grader 85, Impact Wrench 85, Jack Hammer 88, Loader 85, Paver 89, Truck 88<sup>71</sup>.

27. The primary impact of noise level would be mainly on workers operating high noise generating machines, if appropriate control measures are not adopted. Schools and educational institutes, temples may suffer temporarily due to the elevated noise levels. Increase of noise level at night may produce disturbances, causing sleeplessness in people in the vicinity of the site in case construction activity is extended into the night hours. However, these impacts are of temporary in nature, lasting only during the construction period. The sensitive receptors identified at project locations are

Table 1-6: Sensitive receptors pertains to Noise

Name of project area	No of sensitive location within 1000 m vicinity
Kamrup	24

#### Operation stage:

28. During operation stage, no noise generating activity will persist. All the operational centrifugal pump will be in closed room and would be thickly padded.

#### 1.1.5 Biological environment

29. **Impact on vegetation, tree:** Since there are no protected forests, reserved forests, sanctuaries, National Park etc. within study area. The only anticipated impact is tree felling involve. Prior to tree felling, numeration with girth size and species listing should be carried out. Permission need to be obtained prior to start of tree felling. there would be no significant effects on the terrestrial flora other than tree cutting during project involvement.

30. Assuming site situation and major land use which is under Agricultural covers approximately 150-200 trees will be impacted under the project. The verification of the tree impact is under process with executing agency.

31. **Habitat Fragmentation:** Not anticipated in proposed project. The project area is dominated by agriculture land followed by riverine habitat.

32. **Animal Distribution/Migratory Route:** Dolphin is sensitive to polluted water and any obstruction of the channels at this stage may disturb the breeding activities (June to August). No breeding habitat of dolphins have been reported. Based on survey during lean period the river main course are far apart. No impact on it's migratory route.

Table 1-7: Dolphin's distribution in project influence area (1km radius)

S.No			Stretch (m)	Dolphins Distribution
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<sup>71</sup> FTA Noise, <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1805/ML18059A141.pdf>

	Name of Project			Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
1.	Gumi	Goroimari	850	-	+
2.	Borakhat	Goroimari	3900	-	-
3.	Panikhaity	Chamaria	1100	-	+
4.	Lotordia NC	Chamaria	2600	©	+
5.	Dakhala	Palashbari	800	©	+
6.	Guimara	Palashbari	200	-	+
7.	Simina	Palashbari	640	©	+
8.	Makadhu spur	Palashbari	1450	©	+

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ©Reported during monsoon

33. **Endangered Species:** No impact is anticipated on any endangered species since these are not found in this project site area currently. As per baseline information, the protected area near the project reach has lot of endangered species. Gangetic dolphin which is categorised as endangered species have reached this area. The project reach are vulnerable flood zones, so consistent washing during monsoon may already disrupted the reach and river. The embankment protection work may give certain ground and stabilisation of terrestrial habitat of that region.

34. **Aquatic Ecology: Effect on Fishing Activities/productivity:** The reach contains numbers of sporadic small fish landing spots. During the construction of the bank line protection measures, fish species may momentarily flush to the deeper portion of the river. Fish activity in the river won't be impacted by the construction because they flow with the current. The turbidity on the bank may briefly increase due to the construction activity.

35. Brahmaputra river is famous for its riparian habitat. Which keeps on changing due to high current in water and annual flooding during monsoon. There exists no well-established riparian habitat. This is due to large portion of the bank are cut and eroded annually.

36. **Migratory Routes:** In Brahmaputra, the migratory fish species like Hilsa (*Tenulosa ilisha*<sup>72</sup>) and Anguilla<sup>73</sup> (eel fish) migrate through the main channel of the river i.e. through the deeper zones of the river to sea. Therefore, project will not have any impact on the migratory route of these fishes. Other fish species like *Crossocheilus*, Tor also show only local migration from upper to lower reaches of the river, but these

<sup>72</sup> Migratory Behavior of Hilsa, *Tenulosa ilisha* in the Tributaries of Brahmaputra River System, Assam, India, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Educational Research

<sup>73</sup> Breeds in sea. After the larva stages the adult fishes migrates to the freshwater bodies and spend their life in paddyfields, lakes and lagoons.

also migrate in the deeper zone of the river. The construction of the embankment protection measures are along the shallow banks. During lean period no water is available.

37. **Impact on Spawning and Breeding Grounds:** There are few fish breeding areas and spawning grounds along the entire stretch of each subproject zone has been reported. All fish species do not appear to breed in the same location. Breeding grounds differ by geography and fish kind. Most riverine fish species, including Baralius, Salmostoma, Danio, Gara, and others, have been found to prefer the shallow parts of rivers for breeding and spawning. For reproducing, Channa, Labeo, and similar fish prefer beel to other fish species like minnows. Seasons during which fish spawn also differ from fish to fish. But for over 80% of fish species, the typical season runs from April through August

38. **Operation Phase**

39. No direct impact is anticipated during operation stage except accidental damages or absence of tree management.

## 1.1.6 Socio Economic

### 1.1.6.1 Social Conflict

#### Design and Construction Phase

##### Impacts

40. A number of reasons might cause social conflict during the planning and implementation stages of riverbank protection work. Some of the most common causes of conflict are:

41. Stakeholders may feel excluded or neglected if they are not kept informed of project intentions and progress. This might result in animosity and mistrust, which can lead to conflict. Concerns about the project's impact on the environment and its residents may cause conflict between various interest groups. The project may necessitate the purchase of land or the utilisation of already existent government land. Conflicts between landowners, contractor, and other parties with stake in the property may result as a result. Projects may be delayed or scaled back due to funding issues. This can cause frustration and conflict between stakeholders who have different priorities for the project. Construction work can be hazardous and safety concerns can lead to tension among employees, project managers, and local residents.

42. During the construction phase of the project, there will be establishment of construction camps that will add to the population of the project locations. Migrant workers will have the potential impacts of conflicting culture and lifestyle competes with local labourers over job opportunities, and potential health issues such as HIV/AIDS. This shall also exert pressure on the natural resources in the project area. However, this will only be a temporary phase lasting only during the construction period.

### 1.1.6.2 Establishments

#### Design and Construction Phase

#### Impacts

43. 50-100 numbers of houses and establishments are located close to the proposed riverbank protection and embankment work, which will be affected and need to be shift during construction phase.( Survey pertains to Actual No. of affected HH is under process with Executive agency)

44. During construction phase, some of the common factors that can lead to establishment's loss: (i) Construction activities may obstruct or restrict access to a business, education, health facility resulting in a decline in customer numbers, affect the education and health of the locality. (ii) Construction activities can generate considerable amounts of noise and dust, which can be unpleasant for nearby educational, health and businesses establishment. Customers may be less likely to visit a business that is affected by noise and dust. (iii) Construction work could lead to changes in traffic patterns, which may impact the movement of the local community and local businesses. This may result in revenue loss for businesses. (iv) Construction activities can cause unintentional harm to surrounding structures, including businesses. This damage could require repairs, leading to a decline of income for the business as a whole. (v) In some cases, construction activities may require the temporary closure of a educational and business for a period of time. This can lead to a significant loss of revenue and affect the education of the students.

45. Various Educational, business structure is located near to the riverbank protection and embankment work.

46. Panikhyti market is located near to the subproject location Panikhyti at Kamrup District likely to be affected during construction phase.

47. In Kamrup subproject about 15 to 20 number of household will be affected from the riverbank protection work (Survey pertains to Actual No. of affected HH is under process with Executive agency).

### 1.1.6.3 Archaeological Sites to be Impacted

No sites identified under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites And Remains Act, 1958 listed at national level and state level are located within 1 km study area. Bagheswari Peeth, Mirza, Kamrup is 5 km from Dokhola locations. The list of Protected Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts is presented in table below

**Table 1-8 : List of Notified Archaeological Monuments Present in Kamrup District**

Sl. No.	Name	Distance from project location
1.	Ambari Archaeological Site, Ambari, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
2.	Umananda Temple, Umananda, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site

Sl. No.	Name	Distance from project location
3.	Chatrakar Temple, Uzan Bazar, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
4.	Manikarneswar Temple Archaeological Site, North Guwahati, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
5.	Kanai Borosibowa Rock Inscription, North Guwahati, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
6.	Asvakranta Temple Archaeological Site, North Guwahati, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
7.	Dirghesvari Devalaya, North Guwahati, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
8.	Chilating Rock Inscription, Gauripur, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
9.	Rudreswar Temple, North Guwahati, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
10.	Chandrasekhar Temple, Umananda, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
11.	Hara-Gauri Temple, Umananda, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
12.	Na-Math, Kamakhya, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
13.	Umachal Rock Inscription, Nilachal hill, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
14.	Persian Rock Inscription, Kamakhya, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
15.	Pingaleswar Archaeological Site, Karara, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
16.	Chandar Merghar Archaeological Site, Chhaygaon, Kamrup	8.5 km In from Makadhuj spur
17.	Siddheswar Temple Archaeological Site, Sualkuchi, Kamrup	7 km from Dokhola
18.	Madan Kamdev Archaeological Site, Baihata Chariali, Kamrup	Beyond 10 km from Project site
19.	Karbi Memorial, Dakhinbam, Sonapur, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
20.	Vasistha Temple, Guwahati, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
21.	Bhairabeswari temple, Rangia, Kamrup District:	Beyond 10 km from Project site
22.	Nazirakhat Archaeological Site, Sonapur, Kamrup (M)	Beyond 10 km from Project site
23.	Bagheswari Peeth, Mirza, Kamrup	5 km from Dokhola
24.	Kajalichaki Archaeological Site, Chandrapur, Kamrup (M) <sup>74</sup>	Beyond 10 km from Project site

#### 1.1.6.4 Places of common and cultural property resources and Tourism to be impacted

48. Places of common cultural property and tourism may be impacted in a number of ways throughout the planning and construction phases of the projects. The following are few typical impacts:

<sup>74</sup> <https://archaeology.assam.gov.in/information-services/detail/list-of-protected-archaeological-sites-and-monuments>



49. Access to tourist and cultural properties: No cultural properties or tourist spots located within the proposed bank protection identified area. There are few schools and temples located within 1 km radius, the list of which are given in table below:

50. Table 1-9: Name of Establishments, common and cultural property resources within 1 km buffer from the project locations.

Sl. No.	Name of Establishments, Pilgrimage	Establishment Type	Distance from project location
1.	1206 no moricha kandi lp school	Educational	300 m from Lotordia NC RoW
2.	Eusuf mandal memorial me madrassa	Educational	500 m from Lotordia NC RoW
3.	Panikhaity Market	Commercial	20 m Panikhaity RoW
4.	Baghmara l p school	Educational	700 m from Borakhat RoW
5.	Sire sadullaha sishu niketon	Educational	1 km from Borakhat RoW
6.	Girls mem - elementary school	Educational	650 m from Borakhat RoW
7.	Majortop h.s. School	Educational	700 m from Borakhat RoW
8.	Futuri 1 no. Chowk nowapara masjid	Religious	550 m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
9.	Faturi l.p school – simina river side rd jalnamdani	Educational	450m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
10.	Faturi l.p school - guimara, assam 781132	Educational	270 m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
11.	Futuri mazpara masjid	Religious	900 m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
12.	Futuri dangor jama masjid	Religious	750 m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
13.	Lakhirtary l.p. School	Educational	550 m from in between Makadhuj spur and Land spur No-1 Futuri RoW
14.	Simina jama masjid	Religious	300 m from Simina area RoW
15.	Simina L.P. School	Educational	150 m from At Simina area RoW
16.	Nahira-guimara anchalik high School		550 m from Guimara RoW
17.	Godhapara sani mandir	Religious	650 m from Guimara RoW
18.	Kalitapara buragohai mandir	Religious	200 m from At Dakhala (Kalitapara Area) RoW
19.	Dakhala colony L.P. school - school	Educational	300 m from Dakhala (Kalitapara Area) RoW

Sl. No.	Name of Establishments, Pilgrimage	Establishment Type	Distance from project location
20.	613no solmari L.P. scool dakhala	Educational	300 m from Dakhala (Kalitapara Area) RoW
21.	Dakhala M.V. School	Educational	600 m from from Dakhala (Kalitapara Area) RoW

### 1.1.6.5 Water Supply and Sanitation

## Design and Construction Phase

### Impacts

51. In Kamrup district out of the total 4,432 rural habitation, 3,520 habitation area fully covered with Drinking Water Supply and 723 habitations are partially covered.<sup>75</sup> Under jal jeevan Mission- Har Ghar Jal 1,83,980 (50.37 %) household connected with tap water out of 3,65,239 HH in rural Kamrup.<sup>76</sup> Chemical analysis of ground water samples from Kamrup district reveal that ground water is fresh, potable and suitable for both domestic and irrigation purposes<sup>77</sup>.

52. Apart from the water supply from government department riverine population also of Kamrup district rely on ground water for their drinking water supply. In the riverbank areas local resident use the water of Brahmaputra for daily life activity like- Washing and cleaning of cloths, bathing etc. The project's activities are unlikely to have an impact on the area's water supply, but during construction phase people may have some difficulties to access the river water. In rural areas, sanitation facilities are insufficient. Residents go to the riverbank for their daily needs. Many places along the bank have been damaged to create access to the river. Drinking water and sanitation becomes one of the major problems during floods.

53. Construction activities may damage or interfere with water supply systems, causing a disruption in the delivery of clean water to homes and businesses. This can result in inconvenience, health risks, and a decrease in the quality of life for residents.

54. Construction activities can lead to soil erosion, sedimentation, and pollution of water sources. This can result in contamination of drinking water sources, causing health risks and a decrease in the quality of life for residents.

55. Construction activities may damage or interfere with sanitation systems, like blockage of drainage facilities. This can result in a disruption of waste removal services, causing health risks and a decrease in the quality of life for residents.

<sup>75</sup> Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government Of Assam

<sup>76</sup> <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMvillage.aspx>

<sup>77</sup> Ground Water Information Booklet of Kamrup & Kamrup Metro District, Assam, Central Ground Water Board North Eastern Region Ministry of Water Resources Guwahati September 2013

### 1.1.6.6 Accidents and Safety

#### Design and Construction Phase

##### Impacts

56. The worker working during the construction phase would be subjected to injuries and health hazard if precaution at work place is not taken. Riverbank protection work can involve various safety issues, both for the workers carrying out the work and for the general public. Here are some potential safety issues to consider.

57. Slips, trips, and falls: Workers may be at risk of slips, trips, and falls, particularly when working on sloping riverbanks, elevated work platforms.

58. Machinery accidents: Riverbank protection work often involves the use of heavy machinery, such as excavators, which can pose a risk of accidents if not operated safely.

59. Workers and members of the public may be at risk of drowning if they fall into the river during the construction phase.

60. Construction vehicles and equipment may cause traffic congestion and accidents if not properly managed, particularly if the riverbank is located close to a road or other busy area.

### 1.1.6.7 Navigation

#### Design and Construction Phase

##### Impacts

61. Navigation can be impacted during the construction phase of the project. Here are some of the potential impacts:

62. Restricted access: During the construction phase, access to the river may be restricted, making it difficult or impossible for boats to navigate through the area.

63. Increased sedimentation: Construction activities can cause sediment to be stirred up and deposited in the river, potentially affecting the depth and width of the channel.

64. Hazardous conditions: During construction, hazardous conditions may be present in the river, such as debris or submerged equipment, which can pose a risk to navigation.

65. People use this river section as a means of transportation to travel from one riverbank location to another and to char land areas for agriculture and fishing. For these movements, they use small motorboats, temporary fish landings, or boat ghats. There are small ghat at some of the identified protection sites, which are use by the local people for transportation of goods and people from one place to another, which may be affected during the construction phase.

**Conclusion:**

66. In view of above, it is culminated that the project interventions such as rehabilitation of embankment, flood protection measure on reach etc. may cause minor to moderate impact during construction phase only and which will be confined to the particular project locations. All the identified environment and social risk are temporary in nature. No permanent impact is anticipated by the project.

67. In fact the project will cause positive benefit on the locals of the project region in terms of flood protection measure stabilization on their day to day activity. Uplifting of their socio economics situations will give very positive impact on the long time.

68. Based on the rating analysis criteria done for the project location, it is considered that the majorly the project activities are of minor in nature. Those components having moderate impact can be mitigated through effective environment plan. A good design of embankment measure, Geo bags measure in rehabilitation of existing eroded embankment has considered high flood level; low flood level of the project area, the river bed level will definitely create positive interventions in terms of flood protection.

69. During community consultation and the Focus group discussion, it was notice that project due to recurrent flooding in that project region has devastated lot of economic property and their reducing socio economics conditions. The current project will definitely increase the productivity of the region the and reduce the Havoc of flood. It is expected that 5,00,000 people will be benefited in long run.

70. Due to the project, no negative cumulative impact as such has been observed. The major E&S impact are temporary in nature and persists during construction phase only. Cumulative positive impact can be considered like social upbringing and stabilization of the locality, improvement of ecological habitations of that region.

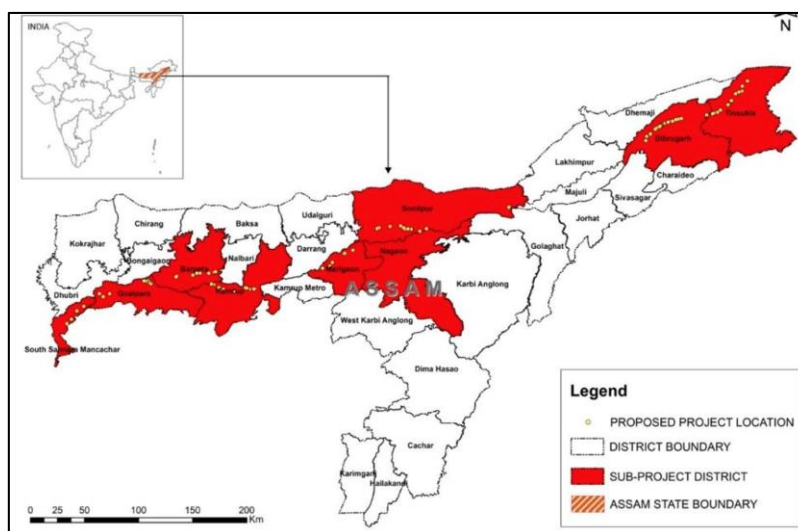
71. Using of locally available construction material like locally made Geo bags will also increase the overall sustainability of the project, the project activity will majorly involve manual method of stacking Geo bags, stitching and establishing erosion protection measures.

## Appendix 2: Cumulative Impacts of the Project & Mitigation Measures

### Scope of Works

1. All the project components are along banks of the Brahmaputra River. The works are spread across 5 districts – Goalpara (Goalpara Subproject), Kamrup Rural (Palasbari–Gumi (PGP)/Guwahati West Subproject), Morigaon (Morigaon Subproject), Dibrugarh and Tinsukia (Dibrugarh Subproject). Goalpara Subproject is located at the western-most among the target areas, while Dibrugarh Subproject is at the extreme eastern part. PGP and Morigaon is in the middle. See below map to see locations. There is around 500 kilometers distance between the Goalpara and Dibrugarh subprojects, where proposed structural flood protection measures will be implemented at strategic sites and local levels.

**Figure 1. Locations of the subprojects along the Brahmaputra River**



2. The proposed activities in Goalpara involve construction of apron, bank protection/anti-erosion (AE) and embankment works in between Baladmari Char to Pahartali area (2.35 km), Goalpara town protection tie bund/spur to Natunbasti (3 km), end of Goalpara town protection tie bund to Hurkakuchl near Karbala area (2.8 km) and Chunari to Jaleswar area (6 km), construction of 3 new sluice gates and launching of porcupine screens at 6 locations for a length of 4.5 km.

3. In PGP/Guwahati West, there will be construction of apron, bank protection/AE at 8 locations for a total length of 11.54 km, adaptation works/emergency contingency works for total of 8.75 km and launching of 8 porcupine screens in 3 layers covering 2.7 km. Additionally, construction of pumphouse is also proposed at Kalbhog sluice gate in Palasbari, which includes installation of 4 numbers of pump sets, construction of pumphouse and staff quarter.

4. Construction activities in Morigaon subproject will include construction of apron, bank protection/AE works in between Mikirgaon - Kathani - Tengaguri area (7.5 km), Kupatimari - Balidunga area (1.9 km), Upstream of Panchali Spur (0.25 km), Down stream of Panchali Spur to Baralimari (2 km) and Gagolmari - Garubandha (4 km), embankment upgrading works, and launching of 7 porcupine screens in 3 layers for 1 km.

5. For Dibrugarh Subproject, activities involve construction of apron, bank protection/AE for a total length of 26.26 km, adaptation works/emergency contingency works for total of 4.65 km is proposed to be undertaken at 4 locations and launching of 173 porcupine screens in 3 layers in 7 locations. Additionally, construction of 1.2 km (new) close gap in embankment at Maijan Beel in Dibrugarh is also proposed besides A RCC triple shutter sluice gate in Maijan Beel embankment with regulator and fish pass. Adaption works of 4.65 km at 3 locations of Dibrugarh with geo-bags

is also proposed.

### **Protected Areas**

6. There are no notified eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) or protected areas (PA) in the Goalpara and PGP subproject areas. Thus, no concerns with the protected areas are foreseen.

7. In Morigaon subproject, the nearest PA is Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) which is around 3.22 km from the subproject intervention areas. The subproject sites are also 12.83 km from the ESZ of Amchang WLS and within 5-10 km of Orang NP, which is on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River. The ESZ of Pobitora WLS and Orang NP are yet to be notified and thus a 10 km radius from the boundary of the PAs shall be taken as ESZ.

8. In Dibrugarh subproject, There are 2 notified protected areas (Dibru - Saikhowa NP within 1 km of the project intervention areas and Bherjan – Borajan - Podumoni WLS within 5 km of the project intervention areas. The ESZ of Dibru - Saikhowa NP has been notified and all the proposed bank protection sites are adjacent to or within the notified area of the ESZ. The ESZ of Bherjan - Borajan - Podumoni WLS is yet to be notified and thus a 10km radius from the boundary of the WLS shall be taken as ESZ.

### **Cumulative Impacts during Construction and Operation Phases**

#### **Soil Environment**

9. Soil erosion potential of an area depends on its topography, geological structure, rainfall, soil type and land use/land cover. In Goalpara subproject reach, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is nearly flat with a gentle gradient towards south-west. There is a presence of occasional hillocks like near the Goalpara town where the AE stretch of Baladmari ends. The soils in the subproject area are easily eroded during heavy rainfall.

10. In PGP subproject area, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is mostly flat plain except a few forested hills with elevation between 40 to 50 meters. The area also includes a large number of riverine tracts and sandy river island in the Brahmaputra River.

11. In Morigaon subproject reach, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is nearly flat with a gentle gradient. The soils in the subproject area are easily eroded during heavy rainfall.

12. In Dibrugarh subproject area, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is mostly flat plain except a few forested hills with elevation between 40 to 50 meters. The area also includes a large number of riverine tracts and sandy river island in the Brahmaputra River.

13. Possibility of occurrence of gully and rill erosion is expected in the uncovered side slopes of embankments and other freshly cut or deposited areas in all the 4 subprojects.

14. During operation phase, all the 4 subprojects will have net benefits in terms of reducing soil erosion and preventing progression of land loss. It is estimated that 10,300 Ha. of land shall benefit in Goalpara, while in PGP 75,558.4 ha of land shall be benefited from the subproject interventions. In Morigaon subproject, It is estimated that 40,178 Ha of land shall be benefited while approximately, 26819 hectares and 40000 hectares of valuable land in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts respectively will be benefited in Dibrugarh subproject

#### **External Impacts on Flood and Drainage**

15. The proposed anti-erosion, pro-siltation works, and flood protection works will not

significantly change flood behavior, gross cross-section-wide sediment behavior of river morphology, however, the adverse impacts of the floods will be addressed considerably at the local level. In Goalpara Subproject, the new embankment shall have a length of 2.075 km and is an extension of the existing embankment near the Goalpara town. The embankment varies from a distance of 600m to 1km from the river front and shall protect the Goalpara Town that gets inundated and eroded during the monsoon season. In Morigaon Subproject, the upgradation of the embankment for a length of 1.15km shall protect the project area from getting inundated and eroded during the monsoon season. In Dibrugarh Subproject, the new embankment near Maijan Beel in Dibrugarh shall have a length of 1.2km and is an extension of the existing embankment near the Dibrugarh Town. The proposed bank protection measures will stabilize the banks and no discernible change in downstream flood levels is envisaged due to the embankments in the subprojects. Sluice gate with regulator and fish passes in Maijan Beel embankment and in Goalpara shall help to mitigate drainage congestion within the proposed flood protected areas.

### **Changes in Water Levels**

16. The conveyance capacity of the Brahmaputra River at all subproject areas is enormous, and will remain unchanged by the proposed works. Accordingly, the proposed works will have no discernible effect on river water levels. Changes in channel conveyance brought about by the natural processes of riverbank erosion, accretion and channel avulsion will play a much greater role in any future change in water levels. An improved embankment network will reduce the risk of sudden devastating flooding and as such provide more predictable and stable water levels on the flood plains, especially from temporary local inundation during the flood season.

17. During operations, changes in cross-section will be monitored at regular intervals to detect any changes and initiate corrective measures. The project concept allows later rectification within the concept of adaptive approach. To this end, the project has substantial contingencies. Under the project, the numerical hydraulic model of the subproject area will be used to identify low lying areas with a potential risk of deep inundation when major floods occur.

### **Effect on Flow Velocity/Discharge Intensities**

18. The proposed interventions are not expected to have any significant effect on the overall velocity profile of the river. Works are limited to the bank or near shore areas of the river and a combination of largely passive river training and flow regulating measures will be taken up to provide an optimum flow velocity in the section. Recognizing instability and unpredictability of the Brahmaputra River, clearly two different scales need to be distinguished for studying effects of flow velocity and discharge changes: (i) the total river cross section, many kilometers in width, and (ii) the cross section of the near bank channel, typically below one kilometer in width.

19. Limited interventions along the bank do not change the cross section average flow velocities in alluvial rivers. Areas of faster flow are compensated through areas of slower flow and lower discharges, which on average even out. The average flow velocity and discharge is affected by different river stages with increasing discharges resulting in increasing flow velocities. The lack of systematic measurements limits the present ability of quantifying this satisfactorily.

20. The magnitude and variation of discharge in the Brahmaputra River undergoes drastic changes on seasonal as well as annual basis due to the unique hydro-meteorological and geophysical characteristics of its basin. The potential increase of these natural perturbations in the river hydrograph in the wake of unfolding climate change scenario appears to be more significant compared to any minor change that may be introduced as a result of the proposed activities on or near the riverbank. The river being very wide with appreciable channel roughness due the presence

of multitudes of sandbars and bed forms, transmission of any minor disturbance in the flow close to the bank to areas midstream or across the channel to the other bank appears quite unlikely. Only major proactive river training interventions like spurs protruding into the river may have direct impact on the flow pattern and channel configuration affecting it significantly.

21. Flow velocity changes along the bankline will be systematically monitored as part of the near-bank surveys. This includes establishing systematic records of discharges and flow velocities during the hydrological cycle. It is expected that this monitoring will contribute to a better understanding and a gradual optimization of the layout of structural flood and erosion countermeasures.

### **Impact on Silt Deposition and Bed Level Change**

22. The Brahmaputra River carries the second highest sediment load of all major rivers in the world. The high amount of sediment is largely mobilized during the high flood season flows and often leads to dramatic changes of the platform (river appearance on maps). While the riverbed is largely formed by the coarser sediments especially sand and more upstream gravel, the floodplains are built from finer silts and clay. The latter constitute the wash load in the river, which means they are transported within the channels to the sea without settlement. Only after inundation and in areas without noticeable flow do the finer sediments settle.

23. Problematic at this moment are breaches in the embankments, which result in high velocities in the breach area allowing the flowing water to transport coarser, infertile sand through the breached section. This sand gets deposited downstream where the area widens, and the flow velocities drop. The resulting sand carpets are disastrous for the overwhelmingly small and marginal farmers as they render the fertile floodplain land unusable and can only be removed at great cost

24. The bank stabilization and retirement of the embankment system in the subproject area will reduce the risk of embankment breaches with associated deposition of infertile land in the breach. This will help in supporting agriculture and livelihood of the dominant small and marginal farmers.

### **Effect on Project Drainage System**

25. The proposed works will have no additional adverse impacts on drainage. In fact, the installation of sluice gate on Kalbogh channel at Palasbari under previous ADB project AIFRERMIP has helped in resolving drainage problem and resultant inundation during heavy rainfall in the subproject area. The construction of pumphouse and installation of the pumps under this subproject will further enhance the capacity to dispose the excess water.

### **Effect on Wetlands/Beels within the Project**

26. In Goalpara subproject, Hasila Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River and a sluice gate shall be provided at the mouth where it meets the proposed embankment. In PGP, Deepor Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River and a sluice gate has been provided under previous ADB project AIFRERMIP at the mouth where it meets the embankment at Kalbhog in Palasbari. There is no wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River along the Morigaon Subproject area. In Dibrugarh subproject, Maijan Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River along the Dibrugarh reach. A RCC triple shuttle sluice gate with regulator and fish passes is proposed to be provided under the project at the mouth where it meets the proposed embankment at Maijaan in Dibrugarh. The proposed embankments will not impede the functioning of the beels, as it is not impeding the connection between the beels and the Brahmaputra River. The other wetlands in the subproject areas are Urpada Beel (Goalpara subproject), Sonai beel which is a cluster



of natural lakes namely Nandini, Mer, Sonai, Raumari, Dobarani, and Patiabandha beel (Morigaon subproject) and Maguri-Motapung Beel (Dibrugarh subproject). These are quite far away from the project interventions and are connected to the Brahmaputra River either upstream or downstream of the project interventions and shall thus not be affected by the proposed project activities.

### **Water Quality**

27. The major source of surface water pollution during project construction phase will be sewage and wastewater generated from labor camps as well as workshop areas. The project implementation period is estimated for a period of 6 years. The contractor will establish a labor camp and it is expected that 100 – 200 laborers shall stay in each construction/labor camps. It can be safely assumed that about 80% of the water supplied will be generated as sewage. Labour camps may pollute land and other nearby water bodies if discharged untreated, especially during the low flow season. Impact on ground water quality is not likely due to the project activities as the wastewater generated from the project will be trapped for treatment before it will discharge/ percolate from the project sites.

### **Animal Distribution/Migratory Route**

28. Winter migratory birds are reported at Urpada beel (also a KBA is within 10km of Goalpara town) in Goalpara subproject, while these are reported at Deepor Beel (PGP subproject) and at Maijan Beel in Dibrugarh District which is within the vicinity of the subproject area. Winter migratory birds are also reported in Maguri-Motapung Beel in Tinsukia District but the beel is at sufficient distance from the proposed subproject area. Winter migratory birds may also use the riverine charland/islands/sand bars and some impacts may be envisaged like poaching by construction laborers.

29. Ganges River Dolphins and other aquatic animals use the river for movement from one stretch to other. The Ganges River Dolphins is reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River. No impacts are envisaged, even if the Ganges River Dolphins enter the secondary channels close to the riverbanks. The only impacts that are probable are that of accidental hitting by the barges that shall carry materials for the project and dolphins being stuck in the shallow waters. No or minimal impacts on the movement and migration routes of the aquatic animals and avifauna are envisaged.

### **Effect on Fishing Activities/Productivity**

30. There are no major fish landing sites in the project areas hence fishing activities and productivity will not be disturbed during the project implementation period. The construction work will not affect the fish activity in the river as they move with the river current. The construction activity may increase the turbidity on the bank temporarily, however the impact is temporary and site-specific.

### **Project Benefits**

31. After implementation of the project, large areas in all the 4 subprojects will be protected and will give benefit to the people for cultivation etc. Many school buildings, government institutions, rural hospitals, public utility buildings, industrial setups will be safe from the grip of erosion of Brahmaputra River. Hence, it will be great help for maintaining socio-economic development of the

people for a vast area. Furthermore, the most important communication to the local people will also be in future after implementation of the project.

32. All the project areas are thickly populated and the proposed project will have net benefits in terms of soil erosion and preventing progression of land loss. Besides, a number of government and private buildings, educational institutions, public utilities, vast agricultural land etc. in the vulnerable section are also to be benefited from the implementation of this project.

33. It is estimated that 10,300 Ha. as well as approx. 3,00,000 numbers of population will be benefited from the subproject interventions in Goalpara subproject area. A vast area comprising of thickly populated, Goalpara Town, Baladmari Pt-I, Pt-II, Pt-III, Pt-IV, Goaltuli, Bhati Para, Natunbasti and Karbala areas under the Goalpara Township reach and Chunari, Sonalurtol, Baniapara, Modhupur, Natin Thonga, Takimari, Pub-Kathuri, Pachim-Kathuri, Chilarvita, Tarangapur, Tulsibari, Moamari, Jaleswar Beel, Jaleswar Bazar and Satvendi villages under Chunari to Jaleswar reach shall be protected from the annual erosion caused by the Brahmaputra River.

34. In PGP subproject, a vast area comprising of thickly populated areas of Palasbari, Mirza, Bijoyagar, Bhagawatipara, Gumi, Tapapathar, Jorsimula, Achalpaara, Boraakhat, Panikhaity, Lotordia N.C. etc., besides several small villages but also several industrial setups in the Palasbari area shall be protected. Approximately 75,558.4 hectares of valuable land as well as 5,00,000 numbers of population will be benefited from the project, as per estimates of WRD.

35. The proposed project interventions in Morigaon subproject will also protect a vast area comprising of thickly populated settlements of Pambori, Kathani, Bagalipara, Mohmari Pathar, Tengaguri Kachari Gaon, Borhollow kanda, 2 No Borkur, Balidunga, Kupatimari, Bhuragaon Rev.Town, Dighaliati, Baramari Pam, Baramari Gaon, Pabakhati, Garubandha etc. Approximately 40,178 Ha of valuable land as well as 2,00,000 numbers of population will be benefited from the project.

36. In Dibrugarh subproject area, approximately, 26819 hectares and 40000 hectares of valuable land in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia respectively will be benefited from this project. The project will benefit a population of 1800000 in Dibrugarh and 300000 in Tinsukia between Nagaghuli to Chaulkhowa and Tinsukia between Milanpur to Dinjan areas.

37. The project is likely to bring positive impact to wetlands, pond fisheries and agricultural productivity due to protection from flood and reduced sedimentation. The introduction of NbS (as pilot) shall be beneficial in strengthening the flood protection works and embankment besides rejuvenating some wetlands along the Brahmaputra basis.

38. The project activities shall have an incremental impact on the local socio-economics by: (a) reducing impact of annual floods, (b) increase source of livelihood in agriculture, fisheries, etc. thus aiding poverty reduction, (c) creating employment opportunities in this project and else, (d) women involvement and empowerment and (e) reducing the negative impacts of climate change. The project shall have overall positive impact on the life of the inhabitants in the subproject area.

## Appendix 15. Critical Habitat Assessment

### INDIA: CLIMATE RESILIENT BRAHMAPUTRA INTEGRATED FLOOD AND RIVERBANK EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN ASSAM

#### I. Introduction

Critical habitat assessment (CHA) was carried out as part the initial environmental examination of the India: Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project (CRBIFRERMP) in Assam. Critical habitat refers to areas of high biodiversity value in which development would be particularly sensitive and require special attention. The purpose of a critical habitat assessment is to identify areas of high biodiversity value that meet certain criteria set in ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) 2009. Critical habitat and underlying criteria and corresponding thresholds are suggested by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in its Performance Standard 6 (PS6) on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Resources (IFC, 2012a/2019)<sup>78</sup>.

Critical habitat is fundamentally based on the following six criteria:

- a. habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species
- b. areas having special significance for endemic or restricted-range species
- c. sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species and areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregatory species
- d. areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services
- e. areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities
- f. areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection, such as areas that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union classification, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world natural heritage sites.

#### Objectives of CHA

This report specifically prepared to fulfil the following objectives:

- Identify wildlife species potentially triggering the definition of CH
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed project activities on critical habitats and/or priority species
- To prepare biodiversity action plan to ensure that the proposed project achieve a no net loss in biodiversity.

In accordance with the environment safeguard requirement of ADB SPS 2009, the project should

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<sup>78</sup> [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/performance-standards/ps6](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/performance-standards/ps6)

be able to demonstrate that no project activity will be implemented in areas of critical habitat unless the following requirements are met:

- There are no measurable adverse impacts, or likelihood of such, on the critical habitat which could impair its high biodiversity value or the ability to function.
- The project is not anticipated to lead to a reduction in the population of any recognized endangered or critically endangered species or a loss in area of the habitat concerned such that the persistence of a viable and representative host ecosystem be compromised.
- Any lesser impacts are mitigated<sup>79</sup>.

### **Steps taken for the CHA**

Considering proposed project components and to fulfil the compliance to ADB SPS 2009 requirement, following steps were adopted for the preparation of CHA of CRBIFRERMP:

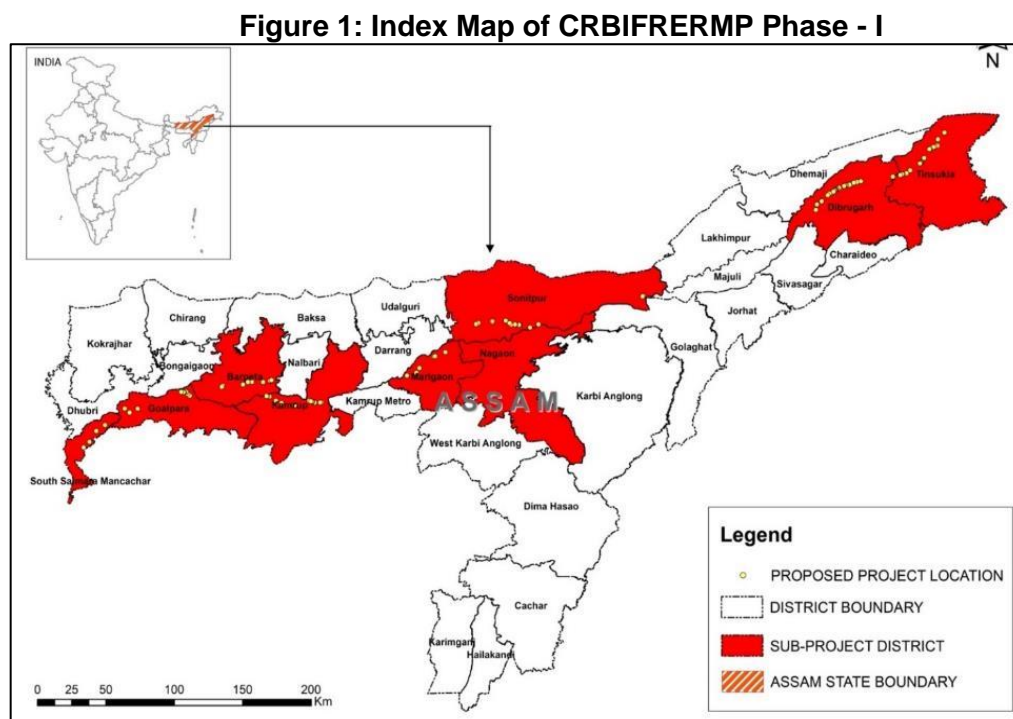
1. Understanding of subproject and scope of works
2. Identification of critical species and habitats
3. Critical habitat assessment
4. Impact assessment
5. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

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<sup>79</sup> Mitigation measures will be designed to achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity. These may include a combination of actions, such as post-project restoration of habitats, offset of losses through the creation or effective conservation of ecologically comparable areas that are managed for biodiversity while respecting the ongoing use of such biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples or traditional communities, and compensation to direct users of biodiversity.

## II. Scope of CRBIFRERMP

Under CRBIFRERMP four high-priority subprojects characterized by a high risk of riverbank erosion, and valuable assets under threat have been selected. The location of the subproject locations are (i) Dibrugarh, (ii) Morigaon, (iii) Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West, and (iv) Goalpara are shown in Figure 1.



Source: FREMAA

### Dibrugarh Subproject

The proposed Dibrugarh subproject is partly located in Dibrugarh District and partly in Tinsukia District. The subproject areas of Dibrugarh are located from Nagaghuli to Chaulkhowa on the south bank of Brahmaputra (see Appendix 1a). The subproject covers Dibrugarh Town area and its adjoining areas up to Oakland at upstream to Bogibeel areas at downstream. The areas of Tinsukia proposed under this subproject are located in the district of Tinsukia on the south bank of Brahmaputra. The project covers South Bank of Brahmaputra from Saikhowaghat - Milanpur area at upstream to Dinjan army camp areas at downstream.

Project involves; (i) construction of bank revetment and apron works with geo-bag for a total length of 21.26 km of which 11.86 km is in Dibrugarh and 9.4 km is in Tinsukia, (ii) adaption works for 4.65 km in Dibrugarh, (iii) pro-siltation measures by providing 173 numbers of P.S.C porcupine screen over 3 layers are proposed of which 72 screens at 5 locations in Dibrugarh and 101 screens at 2 locations in Tinsukia. Further, construction of a 1.2 km (new) close gap in embankment is proposed at Majjan Beel in Dibrugarh which includes a RCC triple shutter sluice

gate with fish passes. The project also proposes revival of Maijan beel with nature-based solutions (NbS).

### **Morigaon Subproject**

The subproject area falls in Morigaon District of Assam. The subproject sites are situated between Mikirgaon in Laharighat revenue circle and Garubandha area in Mayong revenue circle. The subproject sites are under Laharighat, Bhuragaon and Mayong Revenue Circles respectively in Morigaon District of Assam. It covers thickly populated settlements of Pambori, Kathani, Bagalipara, Mohmari Pathar, Tengaguri Kachari Gaon, Borhollow kanda, 2 No Borkur, Balidunga, Kupatimari, Bhuragaon Rev.Town, Dighaliati, Baramari Pam, Baramari Gaon, Pabakhati, Garubandha etc. See Appendix 1b for reference.

There are four project components under the subproject: (i) construction of riverbank revetment and apron works with geo-bags at 5 locations for a total of 15.65 km (Mikirgaon - Kathani - Tengaguri area for 7.5 km, Kupatimari - Balidunga area for 1.9 km, Upstream of Panchali Spur for 0.25 km, Down stream of Panchali Spur to Baralimari for 2 km and Gagolmari to Garubandha for 4 km), (ii) upgrading embankment works for 1.15 km (iii) adaption works/emergency contingency for 0.25 km and (iv) 7 porcupine screens over 3 layers of pre-stressed concrete covering 1 km.

### **Palasbari-Gumi/Guwahati West Subproject**

Subproject area in Kamrup District of Assam. The subproject sites are situated between Palasbari to Lotordia N.C area on the south bank of the mighty Brahmaputra River. This is under Palasbari Revenue Circle, Goroimari Revenue Circle and Chamaria Revenue Circles in Kamrup District, Assam. The subproject area covers very thickly populated villages of Kalitapara, Guimara Simina, Makadhuj, Futuri, Gumi, Borkhat, Panikhaity, Lotordia N.C. etc areas.

This subproject is continuation of flood protection works along the Brahmaputra River in Palasbari and Gumi areas. There are four project components under Palasbari reach: (i) bank protection works at Dakhala (Kalipatara) area for a reach of 0.8 km; (ii) bank protection works at Guimara for a reach of 0.2 km; (iii) bank protection works at Simina area for a reach of 0.64 km; and (iv) bank protection works in between Makadhuj spur and land spur no 1 at Futuri for a reach of 1.45 km. There are four components under Gumi reach: (i) bank protection works at Gumi area for a reach of 0.85 km; (ii) bank protection works at Borakhat area over a reach length of 3.9 km; (iii) bank protection works at Panikhaity area over a reach length of 1.1 km; and (iv) bank protection works at Lotordia N.C area for a reach length of 2.6 km. (Appendix 1c)

### **Goalpara Subproject**

The project area falls in Goalpara District of Assam. The subproject sites are situated between Baladmari Char to Pahartali area, Goalpara Town protection tie bund/spur Natunbasti near and Chunari to Jaleswar area. The first two locations are in the vicinity of Goalpara Town, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River under Matia, Balijana & Lakhipur Revenue Circles respectively in Goalpara District of Assam.

There are four project components under the subproject: (i) new embankment from end of Goalpara town protection tie bund to Hurkakuchi near Karbala area for 2.08 km (ii) construction of riverbank revetment works and apron works with geo-bags at 3 locations for a total of 11.35 km (Baladmari char to Pahartali area for 2.35 km, Goalpara town protection tie bund – Notunbasti for 3 km & Chunari to Jaleswar area for 6 km) (iii) adaption works/emergency contingency for 0.25 km and (iv) 6 porcupine screens over 3 layers of pre-stressed concrete covering 4.5 km.

**Figure 2: Use of Geo textile bags for anti-erosion works**



Source: ADB TA Consultant

**Figure 3: Presence of old Porcupine screens in Project Area<sup>80</sup>**



## Project Benefits

After implementation of the project, large area will be protected for erosion and floods and will give benefit to the people for cultivation etc. Many school buildings, Government institutions, rural hospitals, public utility buildings, industrial setups will be safe from the grip of erosion of Brahmaputra River. Hence, it will be great help for maintaining socio-economic development of

<sup>80</sup> Existing works by WRD in Dibrugarh subproject area (Tinsukia District) and in Baladmari char to Pahartali & Chunari to Jaleswar areas of Goalpara subproject area

the people for a vast area. Furthermore, the most important communication to the local people will also be in future after implementation of the project. Summary of the scope of works under the project is shown in Appendix 2.

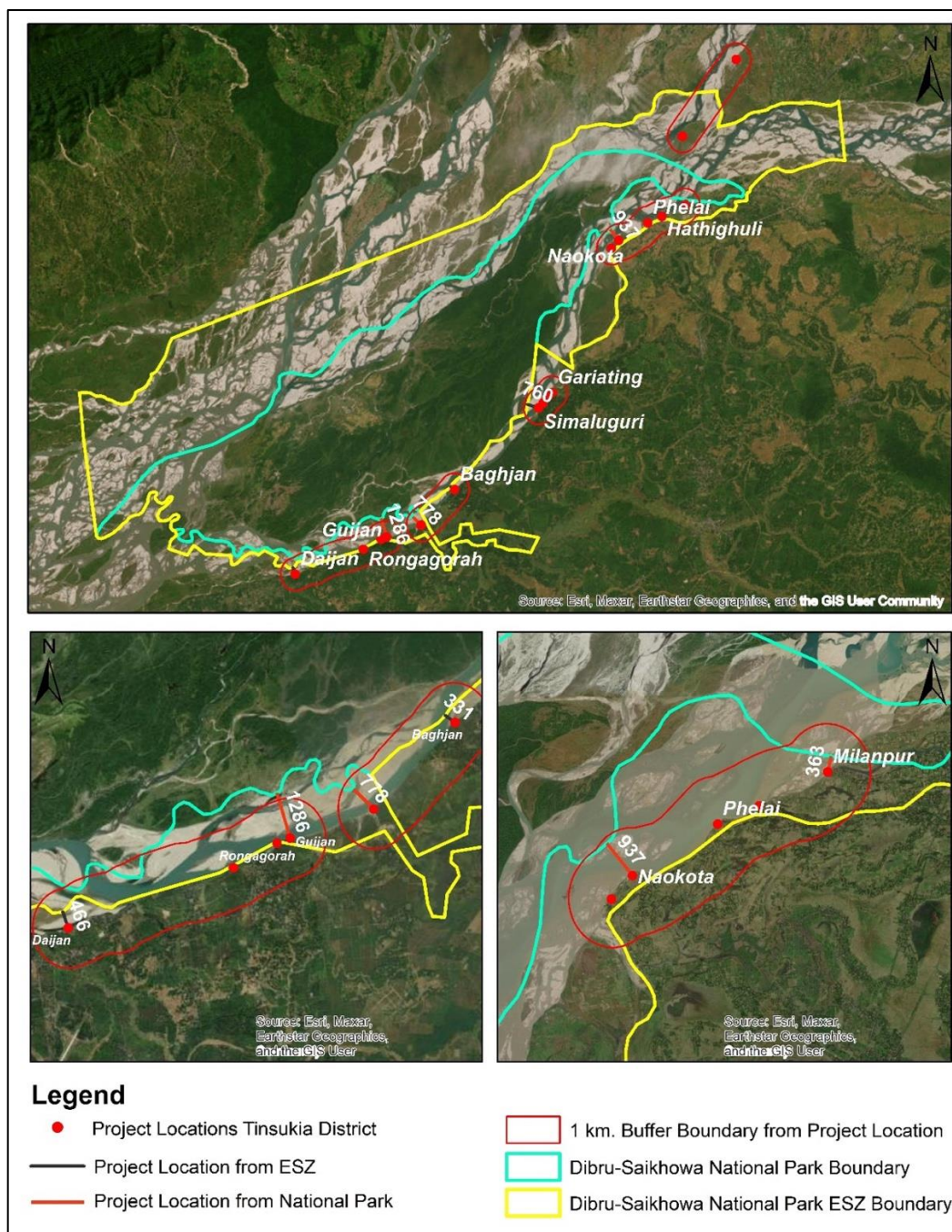


### III. Biodiversity Baseline in Subproject Areas

#### Biodiversity in Dibrugarh Subproject

A 1 km radius map were prepared to highlight protected area and eco – sensitive zone boundary of Dibru-Saikhowa. The detailed map is given in Figure below.

**Figure 4: 1 km radius map of Dibrugarh Subproject Locations earmarking Dibru-Saikhowa National Park**



## Existing landscape in Dibrugarh Subproject

The subproject area is dominated by tea gardens, followed by settlement and less proportion of agriculture area. Few patches of land with no local use were also noticed, particularly in Bogibeel and ADB's trance I and II areas. Plantations are mainly human induced.

## Mammalian Species in Dibrugarh Subproject

Based on secondary information, about 11 mammalian species falls under critically endangered (CR), endangered (EN), and vulnerable (VU) as per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red data List. Due to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park at the opposite bank of Brahmaputra River, there are reported presence of Chinese Pangoline (*Manis pentadactyla*, CR), Wild Water Buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*, CR), Ganges River Dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*, EN), Indian Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*, EN) Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*, EN), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*, EN), Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, VU), Asian Small-Clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinereus*, VU), Gaur (*Bos Gaurus*, VU), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*, VU), and Leopard (*Panthera pardus*, VU). During primary survey at the proposed subproject area, no mammalian species were recorded/sited within construction zone and within 1 km radius.

Brahmaputra river is famous for Ganges River Dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*). During aquatic mammalian survey along the river bed specially where bank protection are proposed, consultation with locals, fishermen are undertaken. During primary survey the river course are far from the bank, except few. There are 12 sites in the Dibrugarh subproject were identified under bank protection works. Dolphin's distribution in the study area (1km radius) is summarized below.

**Table 1: Distribution of Dolphins in Dibrugarh Subproject Area**

Project	LAC	Revenue Circle	Dolphins Distribution	
			Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Chaulkhowa	Moran	Dibrugarh West	-	+
Milanpur to Hatighuli	Doomdooma	Doomdooma	-	+
Nagaglulit	Iathowal	Dibrugarh East	-	-
Maijan Reach. -2	Iathowal	Dibrugarh East	-	+
Nagakhelia	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh East	-	-
Baghjan to Notungaon	Chabua/ Doomdooma	Tinsukia	-	-
Simalugurisara	Doomdooma	Doomdooma	+	+

Project	LAC	Revenue Circle	Dolphins Distribution	
			Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Mohanaghat	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh East	-	-
Amoragurd	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh East	-	-
ADB T-I-Mothala	Lahowal	Dibrugarh East	-	+
ADB T-II, D-3	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh East	-	-
Gariating gaon	Doomdooma	Doomdooma	-	-

Source: LASA Primary Survey; Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ©Reported during monsoon

### Avifauna Species in Dibrugarh Subproject

Based on primary survey and secondary findings, 61 species of birds are reported. Two vulnerable (VU) species, particularly *Ortygornis gularis* and *Streptopelia turtur* are noted.

**Table 2: Vulnerable species of birds noted from site survey**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reported	Study Method					Study area	Habitat
				Sadia	Dibrugarh	Doomdooma	Tinsukia		
Swamp francolin	<i>Ortygornis gularis</i>	Secondary Source	-	-	-	-	-	Buffer Zone	-
European Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Sighted	Walk Through Methods	1	-	-	-	Outer buffer Zone	Orchids

### Reptilian Species in Dibrugarh Subproject

Based on Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) report, there are species like Black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*, CR), Assam Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*, CR), Spotted Pond Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, EN), Indian Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*, EN) and King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, VU) Category of IUCN Red Data Book. However, only 5

species of reptiles are reported from the buffer zone. These are common Indian Skink, house gecko, garden lizard, rat snake and cobra.

### **Fish Species in in Dibrugarh Subproject**

To record the distribution of fish species in 1 km study area. All fishing point near settlements were surveyed. Based on primary survey from the study area in Brahmaputra River, species found were *Labeo gonius*, *Bagarius bagarius*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus tengra*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa punctata*, and *Rita rita*. Species of fish reported based on secondary source were *Mystus bleeker*, , *Wallago attu*, *Channa blecheri*. These are sold in local markets. Fish like *Wallago attu* and *Bagarius bagarius* has been listed under VU Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

### **Biodiversity in Morigaon Subproject**

#### **Landscape characteristic in Morigaon Subproject Area**

The subproject sites fall in lower assam division, which is characterized by moist deciduous forests. These forests are further described as Sal Forests and Mixed Deciduous Forests. Based on land-use distribution map, the project sites falls within agriculture land-use (dominant) distribution followed by settlement area. From edge of river towards land, agriculture production is the main source income of the locals. During primary survey growth of paddy, chillis, mustards, maize, brinjal, cabbage, capsicum, gourd, better gourd, sweet potato, tomato, potatoes, etc are recorded from the subproject sites. Further, it was noted that the surface are barren except at few locations where agriculture practice are noticed.

#### **Terrestrial Mammalian Diversity in Morigaon Subproject**

The project area does not harbour rich mammalian habits. The subproject within 1 km study area has dominant agrarian habitats and no forest, wildlife national park, sanctuary nor protected area. This has also been confirmed by forest department.

Based on interaction with farmers and locals, the species reported in the study area are Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indica*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*) and Indian barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjac*). All the species are categorized under least concern, except Asian Elephant which is declared endangered as per IUCN Red Data Book. Elephants are reported occasionally in study area in search of food, but no notified corridor reported.

### Aquatic Mammalian Diversity in Morigaon Subproject

Based on primary survey and secondary information, aquatic mammalian species reported within 1 km radius are Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) is listed as Vulnerable (VU) and Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) listed endangered under IUCN Red Data Book.

Distributions of Dolphins in project area is highlighted in table below. The finding is mainly based on the secondary survey through interaction with locals and fishermen. In most of the subproject site, river dolphins are not reported due to shallow depth. During monsoon when Brahmaputra River gets flooded, dolphins are reported in some sections. The details of sighting/ reporting is given in table below:

**Table 3: Distribution of Ganges River Dolphins in Study Area Sub Project Zone -B**

Project	LAC	District	Dolphins Distribution	
			Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Silghat	Kaliobar	Nagaon	+	Sighted
Gagalmari – Garubandha	Jagiroad (Mayong)	Morigain	-	+
Baralmari	Laharighat	Morigaon	-	-
Mikirgaon	Laharighat	Morigaon	-	©
Paken	Gohpur	Bisanath	-	-
Kalibari	Tezpur	Sonitpur	-	©
Zahaz Ghat	Tezpur	Sonitpur	-	+
Berachburi	Tezpur	Sonitpur	-	©
Jarani	Tezpur	Sonitpur	-	-
Bharasingri	Tezpur	Sonitur	-	@

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ©Reported during monsoon

### Avifauna Diversity in Morigaon Subproject

The total population avifauna reported are 282 species within 1 km radius according to reports. Based on primary survey and secondary sources about 27 bird's species of avifauna are recorded from the subproject area. The 25 bird species falls as least concern, and Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) is VU and Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) is EN as per IUCN Red List.

### **Reptiles in Morigaon Subproject**

Local farmers, people residing near banks and forest department were consulted to establish information of reptilian species and habitats in the Morigaon Subproject area. Based on interactions, 8 reptilian species were noted from during survey. These species were rat snake, cobra, common green whip snake, monitor lizard, gecko, Oriented Garden Lizard and Buff Striped Keelback. They were encounter by the farmers in agriculture fields, densely grown shrubs area and enters the houses during flooding. The reptiles reported in the study area are classified Least Concern by IUCN Red Data Book, except for the cobra (*Ophiophagus hanna* VU).

### **Fish Species in Morigaon Subproject**

Fishermen and local fish market people were consulted to collect fish distribution in the Morigaon Subproject area. During surveys, fishing activity were also visited to interact with local fishermen and record fish catch. Based on the overall survey about 15 species of fishes were recorded from the study area from Brahmaputra River, marshy area and ponds. The species reported were Dwarf Tengra (*Mystus*), *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus bleeker*, *Mystus tengra*, *L. calbasu*, *L. gonius*, *Rita rita*, *Channa bleeheri*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa punctata*, etc. These are sold in local markets. None of the fish species reported falls under IUCN RED list.

### **Biodiversity in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

#### **Landscape characteristic in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

The subproject sites are mostly dominated by agricultural land. About 70 to 75 % of project area is under agriculture practices. During primary survey, growth of vegetables followed by maize were common. Based on primary survey and interaction with farmers, one crop are harvested annuals. The common vegetable reported in core zone are potato, sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflowers, brinjal, tomatoes, mustards, spinaches, Dhania, Gourd, better Gourd, mustard, etc. Under crop, maize are common cash crops. Trees species falling within proposed bank protection works have sparce distribution of trees. This is due to annual flooding of the area resulting in loss of trees.

Brahmaputra river is famous for its riparian habitat. Which keeps on changing due to high current in watter and annual flooding during monsoon. There exists no well-established riparian habitat. This is due to large portion of the bank are cut annually. During primary survey, the locals fears that the existing portion where we are doing survey may not exists due to cutting and erosions of banks. Walk through and transect methods were adopted to record the hydrophytes reported within the core zone. The sandbars formed in the Brahmaputra bank were also survey to study the establishment of grass land and for herbaceous habitats. The species reported during survey were elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), *Phragmites karkar*,

*Ipometa aquatica*, *Ipomea carnea*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Colocasia alocasia*, etc.

### **Terrestrial Fauna in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

The project area does not harbour rich mammalian habits. This is mainly due to human induced agrarian habitat. There are no forest, wildlife national park, sanctuary nor protected area within 1 km radius. Based on interaction with farmers and locals, the species reported in the study area are Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indica*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bangalensis*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), etc. All the species reported from the study area are categorized as Least Concern as per IUCN Red Data Book.

### **Avifauna Diversity in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

Assam is one of the “endemic bird areas” in the world. With 950 bird species, the State is home to 53.5% of the bird species found in the Indian Sub-Continent. To establish the presence of birds in the subproject areas. Various survey methods like spot count, walk through, transect and call detection methods were adopted. Based on the survey (i.e primary and secondary source), about 27 species of birds are reported. All remaining of these bird species fall as least concern according to IUCN Red List.

### **Reptilian Species in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

Reptilian species like lizards and snakes are reported in agricultural field. During flooding, they enters the settlements area and houses. Snake bite is uncommon. The reptilian species reported are common Indian skink, house gecko, garden lizard, rat snake, cobra and common krait. Among the reptiles King Cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*) is classified as VU in the IUCN Red List.

### **Fishes Species in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject**

All fishing point near settlements were surveyed to record distribution of fish species in 1 km study area. There were 11 species of fishes were reported from the study area in Brahmaputra River. Based on primary survey, the species reported were *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus tengra*, *Channa marulius* and *Channa punctata*. Species of fishes reported based on secondary source were *Mystus bleeker*, *Wallago attu*, and *Channa bleeheri*. Fish like *Wallago attu* has been listed under vulnerable Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

### Aquatic Mammalian Species in Palasbari-Gumi/ West Guwahati Subproject

Brahmaputra river is famous for aquatic mammalian species i.e fresh water dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*). It is reported all over Brahmaputra River were depth of water and counter current for fish hunting exist. This dolphin species is categorized as EN as per IUCN Red Data Book.

Consultation with locals and fishermen were undertaken during aquatic mammalian survey along proposed bank protection. During primary survey, the river course are far from the bank and dried and exposed. At few sites, water course in form of small channels with depth less than meter were noticed. Not suitable for dolphin's habitat. However locals also confirm that during monsoon, dolphins are observed towards the main flow of the river and don't approach the river banks.

**Table 4: Ganges River Dolphin distribution in project influence area (1km radius)**

Name of Project	LAC	Stretch (m)	Dolphins Distribution	
			Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Gumi	Goroimari	850	-	+
Borakhat	Goroimari	3900	-	-
Panikhaity	Chamaria	1100	-	+
Lotordia NC	Chamaria	2600	©	+
Dakhala	Palashbari	800	©	+
Guimara	Palashbari	200	-	+
Simina	Palashbari	640	©	+
Makadhu spur	Palashbari	1450	©	+

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; ©Reported during monsoon

### Biodiversity in Goalpara Subproject

#### Landscape characteristic in Goalpra Subproject Area

Based on land-use distribution, the Goalpara Subproject sites are falling within agriculture land-use and settlement area. These settlements are surround by orchids, tree plantation on bunds and within agriculture lands. After floods recedes post monsoon, cultivation of vegetable (winter season) are being undertaken such as french beans, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, beet root, spinaches, spring onion, etc. During primary survey, growth of paddy, chilis, mustards, maize, brinjal, etc were noted. These vegetables are sold to local vendors, which are later source



to main nearby town.

### Terrestrial Mammalian Diversity in Goalpara Subproject

The subproject area does not harbour abundant mammalian habitats. Based on interaction with farmers and locals, the species reported in the study area are Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), Small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indica*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*) and Indian barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*).

### Aquatic Mammalian Diversity in Goalpara Subproject

The aquatic mammalian species reported within 1 km radius are Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) is listed as Vulnerable (VU) and Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) listed endangered under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Data Book. Distributions of Dolphins in project area is highlighted in table below. The finding is mainly based on the secondary survey through interaction with locals and fishermen.

**Table 5. Distribution of Ganges River Dolphins in Goalpara study area**

Project	LAC	Dolphins Distribution	
		Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Baladmari to Pahartali	Goalpara East	©	©
Chenimari	Chenga	-	@
Natunbasti	Goalpara East	-	+
Chunari to Joleshwar	Goalpara West and Joleswar	©	©
Goalpara Town	Goalpara East	-	+
Sluice 1	Goalpara East	-	-
Sluice 2	Goalpara East	-	-
Sluice 3	Jaleswar	-	-
Jadavpur to Dongra	Baghbar	+	+
Nosheet to Baghbar	Baghbar	@	+

Project	LAC	Dolphins Distribution	
		Within 100	Beyond 100 to 1 km
Sunderpara to Sujoymoni	South Salmara	@	+
Monich to Katdanga	South Salmara	@	+

Symbol: - Not Reported; + Reported; @Reported during monsoon

Based on Assam Inland Water Transport Project, Dolphin Study Report (AIWTDS) 2019. The Dolphins population in the project area based on AIWTDS report is given in table below.

**Table 6: Ganges River Dolphin's population in the subproject area (AIWTDS Report)**

Location Name	No.of Dolphins Sighted
Fakirganj to South Salmara	12
Dhubri to Jaleswar	2
Dhubri to Ghat up & Down	7
<b>Total Population</b>	21

Source: AIWTDS Report

### Avifauna Diversity in Goalpara Subproject

There are 45 species of birds from Assam, which are listed in the Indian Red Data Book. Based on primary survey and secondary source in the project area about 24 bird's species are reported from the study area. All species falls under Least Concern (LC) as per IUCN Red Data Book – 2022-2.

### Reptiles Diversity in Goalpara Subproject

No reptilian species were noticed during primary survey. Based on secondary information and interaction with local farmers, the species reported area rat snake, cobra, Common Green whip snake, Monitor Lizard, Gecko Oriented Garden Lizard and Buff striped Keelback. They are mostly reported from the field and densely grown shrubs. All the reptiles reported in the study area are rated Least Concern by IUCN Red Data Book. Among the reptiles King Cobra (*Ophiophagus*

*Hannah*) is classified as VU in the IUCN Red List.

### **Fish Species in Goalpara Subproject**

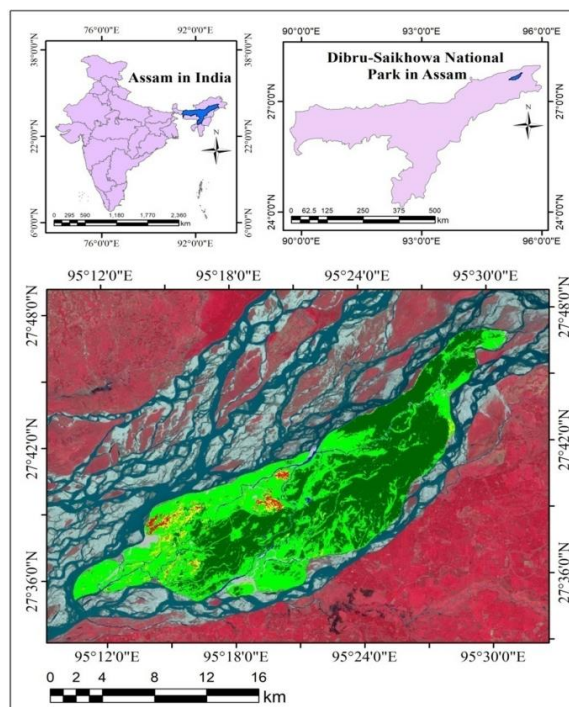
11 species reported from the study area in Brahmaputra River and from marshy area are *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita*, *Mystus bleeker*, *Mystus tengra*, *Wallago attu*, *Channa bleeheri*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa punctata*, etc. These are sold in local markets. Fish like *Wallago attu* has been listed under vulnerable Category of IUCN Red Data Book.

#### IV. Protected Areas

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park represents the “North Eastern India-Brahmaputra Valley Biogeographical Province”. Having rich flora and fauna being the transition zone of two major biodiversity hot spots, which supports diverse fauna well adapted to life in terrestrial, aquatic and arboreal ecosystems. This National Park supports astonishingly rich flora including 28 tree species, 26 species of shrubs, 2 species of parasitic plants, 17 species of grasses, 16 species of aquatic plants, 3 species of marshy plants, 4 species of climbers and scandens, 5 species of canes, 13 species of orchids, and 6 threatened medicinal plant species.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a habitat for many animals and birds with a total of 36 species of mammals belonging to 10 orders and 19 families and 27 genera are recorded in the core, out of which 12 belonged to Schedule-I. Feral horses are one of the prime mammal species available in the park. The National Park supports 11 species of turtles, 9 species of lizard including two species of monitor Lizards, 18 species of amphibian, 104 species of fish, 23 different species of snakes and 104 species of butterflies besides having a huge number, about 500 species, of avifauna. The area also attracts Migratory birds and is a feeding ground for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial birds.

**Figure 5. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park’s location in India and State of Assam<sup>81</sup>**



<sup>81</sup> Source: Shah, R.K., Shah, R.K. Forest Cover Change Detection Using Remote Sensing and GIS in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam: A Spatio-Temporal Study. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., India, Sect. B Biol. Sci.* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40011-023-01449-4>

## V. Critical Habitat (CH) Assessment

CH Assessment is a process to identify areas with high biodiversity value, which are considered particularly sensitive to impacts and where special attention must be given. The CH Assessment process commences with initial biodiversity screening to identify potential CH trigger habitats or species present within 1 km of the study area (area of analysis or AoA). If such triggers are present the following process should then be followed:

1. Define the AoA area of analysis to be used for the assessment. The extent of this area will depend on the biodiversity features of interest and the ecological functions required to maintain them.
2. Determine trigger species and habitats for which the analysis is to be undertaken. Undertake desktop review of available data to understand the biodiversity within the landscape.
3. Confirm biodiversity triggers likely to meet critical habitat criteria to each biodiversity feature (see detailed information on trigger thresholds below).
4. Determine critical habitat based on assessment of all collected data.

Critical habitat is a subset of both natural and modified habitat that deserves particular attention due to high biodiversity value, which includes at least one or more criterion. The critical habitat definition of ADB SPS 2009 uses the different criteria defined in the IFC's Guidance Note 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources (updated on 2019). There is no one criterion more important than any other for critical habitat designations or for determining compliance with SPS 2009. These values are referred to as "critical habitat criteria", where each is described in the subsequent paragraphs and assessment of each species considered in the assessment.

**Criterion 1.** The first criterion is the presence of areas required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species. The details to allow accurate assessment is as follows:

- a) Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed EN or CR species ( $\geq 0.5\%$  of the global population AND  $\geq 5$  reproductive units GN16 of a CR or EN species)
- b) Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed Vulnerable (VU) species, the loss of which would result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR and meet the thresholds in GN72(a)
- c) As appropriate, areas containing important concentrations of a nationally or regionally listed EN or CR species

**Table 7: Criterion 1.a or areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed EN or CR species**

Common Name/ Scientific Name/ IUCN RED List category	Subprojects	Comments/ Analysis	Critical Habitat Likelihood
Chinese Pangoline ( <i>Manis pentadactyla</i> ) CR	Dibrugarh	Species is recorded at the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts, which in the opposite bank of the subproject. See Chapter IV (Protected Area) for details of distance.	Unlikely
Wild Water Buffalo ( <i>Bubalus arnee</i> ) CR	Dibrugarh	Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, which is a complex of wetlands, grasslands, littoral swamps and semi-evergreen forests, an ideal habitat of the species. However, no data to support Criterion 1a.	Unlikely
Ganges River Dolphins ( <i>Platanista gangetica</i> ) EN	All subprojects	There are approximately 2,500-3,000 Ganges river dolphins left living in the wild. <sup>82</sup> No actual number of individual recorded during surveys, however local people accounted sightings of this species at main channel of Bhramaputra River.	Possible
Indian Hog Deer ( <i>Axis porcinus</i> ) EN	Dibrugarh	Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, which is a complex of wetlands, grasslands, littoral swamps and semi-evergreen forests, an ideal habitat of the species. However, no data to support Criterion 1a.	Unlikely
Asian Elephants ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ) EN	Dibrugarh Morigaon	Population of this species has become separated from the South Bank due to expansion of Guwahati City, clearing of forest for jhum and increased human habitation along National Highway. By district, this population occurs in Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, North Cachar Hills, Morigaon and Kamrup in Assam. <sup>83</sup>	Unlikely

<sup>82</sup> [https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ganges\\_river\\_dolphin\\_2019.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ganges_river_dolphin_2019.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/102148937/Status\\_and\\_conservation\\_of\\_the\\_Asian\\_Elephant\\_Elephas\\_maximus\\_in\\_rth\\_eastern\\_India](https://www.academia.edu/102148937/Status_and_conservation_of_the_Asian_Elephant_Elephas_maximus_in_rth_eastern_India)

Common Name/ Scientific Name/ IUCN RED List category	Subprojects	Comments/ Analysis	Critical Habitat Likelihood
Tiger ( <i>Panthera tigris</i> ) EN	Dibrugarh	This species is found in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and not along subpprject sites.	Unlikely
Greater Adjutant ( <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> ) EN	Morigaon  Palasbari- Gumi	Kamrup District in Assam is known to be a stronghold for the species, with almost 75% of its population in Assam found in this district. However, no data to support Criterion 1a.	Unlikely

**Table 8: Criterion 1.b or Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed Vulnerable (VU) species**

Common Name/ Scientific Name/ IUCN RED List category	Subprojects	Comments/ Analysis	Critical Habitat Likelihood
Fishing Cat ( <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> )	Dibrugarh	The Fishing Cat is widely distributed in South and Southeast Asia from Pakistan in the west to Cambodia in the east, and from the Himalayan foothills in the north to Sri Lanka and peninsular Thailand in the south. <sup>84</sup> Potential impact of subproject will not contribute to loss of this species and result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR.	Unlikely
Asian Small-Clawed Otter ( <i>Aonyx cinereus</i> )	All subprojects	It has a broad distribution range, extending from India in South Asia eastwards through Southeast Asia, including Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Indonesia to Palawan, Philippines (Mason & Macdonald 1986; Wozencraft 1993; Hussain 2000; Hussain et al. 2011). In India it occurs in West Bengal, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh, and in southern Indian hill ranges of Coorg. <sup>85</sup> Potential impact of subproject will not contribute to loss of this species and result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR.	Unlikely
Gaur ( <i>Bos Gaurus</i> )	Dibrugarh	Occurs in most of the larger protected areas such as Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park, Dibru-	Unlikely

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18150/221434864#population>

<sup>85</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/prop/020119\\_d/E-CoP18-Prop\\_draft-Aonyx-cinereus.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/prop/020119_d/E-CoP18-Prop_draft-Aonyx-cinereus.pdf)

		Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary. No subproject site is proposed within its habitat.	
Sambar ( <i>Rusa unicolor</i> )	Dibrugarh	This species occurs in Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary. No subproject site is proposed within its habitat.	Unlikely
Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	Dibrugarh	This species occurs in Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary. No subproject site is proposed within its habitat.	Unlikely
Swamp Francolin ( <i>Ortygornis gularis</i> )	Dibrugarh	Native to the foothills of the Himalayas in Northern India and Nepal. <sup>86</sup> Potential impact of subproject will not contribute to loss of this species and result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR.	Unlikely
Helicopter Catfish ( <i>Wallago attu</i> )	Dibrugarh Goalpara Palasbari-Gumi	This freshwater species is widespread, occurring all across India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Java in Indonesia. Its extent of occurrence is estimated at 10,446,620 sq. km. <sup>87</sup>	Unlikely
Bagar Fish ( <i>Bagarius bagarius</i> )	Dibrugarh	This species is widespread throughout South and Southeast Asia. Potential impact of subproject will not contribute to loss of this species and result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR.	

There is no species identified as under Criterion 1c. Please see table below.

**Table 9: Criterion 1c or areas containing important concentrations of a nationally or regionally listed EN or CR species**

Common Name/ Scientific Name/ IUCN RED List category	Comments/ Analysis	CH Likelihood
Chinese Pangoline ( <i>Manis pentadactyla</i> ) CR	This species occurs in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal, southern Bhutan, north and northeastern India, northeast, northwest and southeastern Bangladesh, northern and western Myanmar, to northern and Annamite regions of Lao PDR and northern Viet Nam, and part of northwestern	Unlikely

<sup>86</sup> BirdLife International (2016). "*Francolinus gularis*". *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*.

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/pdf/174784999>



Common Name/ Scientific Name/ IUCN RED List category	Comments/ Analysis	CH Likelihood
	Thailand. <sup>88</sup>	
Wild Water Buffalo ( <i>Bubalus arnee</i> ) CR	Wild water buffalos occur in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, and Cambodia, with an unconfirmed population in Myanmar. They have been extirpated in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Laos, and Vietnam. They are associated with wet grasslands, swamps and densely vegetated river valleys. In India, they are largely restricted to in and around Kaziranga, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary and in a few scattered pockets in Assam; and in and around D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary. <sup>89</sup>	Unlikely
Ganges River Dolphins ( <i>Platanista gangetica</i> ) EN	This species is found in the muddy river waters of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Meghna, Karnapuli and Hoogli river systems. This freshwater species may migrate to tidal waters during the rainy season, and during the dry season they migrate away from areas where temperatures and/or salinity rise significantly. <sup>90</sup>	Unlikely
Indian Hog Deer ( <i>Axis porcinus</i> ) EN	Historically occurred from Pakistan, throughout northern and northeastern India, including the Himalayan foothill zone, east across non-Sundaic Southeast Asia and, marginally southern Yunnan province <sup>91</sup>	Unlikely
Asian Elephants ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ) EN	The species occurs in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia and Cambodia, Indonesia (Kalimantan and Sumatra) Lao PDR, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam in South-east Asia. Feral populations occur on some of the Andaman Islands (India). <sup>92</sup>	Unlikely
Tiger ( <i>Panthera tigris</i> ) EN	Inhabits parts of India, but it is possible to find some populations in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. <sup>93</sup>	Unlikely
Greater Adjutant ( <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> ) EN	The total population is estimated to number 800-1,200 mature individuals, roughly equivalent to 1,200-1,800 individuals in total. This is based on estimates of 650-800 birds in Assam, India, plus 150-200 birds in Cambodia, as well as at least 156 birds in Bihar state, India, which may have dispersed from the Assam population. <sup>94</sup>	Unlikely

**Criterion 2.** This includes restricted-range species or endemic plants and animals, which have

<sup>88</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/12764/168392151#geographic-range>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.thainationalparks.com/species/wild-water-buffalo>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.marinebio.org/species/south-asian-river-dolphins/platanista-gangetica/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41784/22157664#geographic-range>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/7140/45818198#geographic-range>

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.tigers-world.com/tiger-habitat/>

<sup>94</sup> <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/greater-adjutant-leptoptilos-dubius/details>

limited extent of occurrence (EOO). As an example, terrestrial vertebrates and plants having EOO of less than 50,000 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) are involved in this criterion. The threshold for Criterion 2 is the following:

*Areas that regularly hold ≥10% of the global population size AND ≥10 reproductive units of a species.*

There is no species identified as under Criterion 2. The existing species of plants and animals found within the AOO are widely spread throughout the region and globe.

**Criterion 3.** Habitats or sites that are critical for the survival of migratory<sup>95</sup> and congregatory species<sup>96</sup>. Thresholds for Criterion 3 are the following:

- a) ≥ 1% of the global population of a migratory or congregatory species at any point of the species' lifecycle.
- b) *Areas that predictably support ≥10% of the global population of a species during periods of environmental stress.*

Along the 4 subproject areas, there is no migratory route of terrestrial wildlife species nor wildlife corridor. Thus, criterion 3 is not true for any terrestrial mammals.

Ganges River Dolphins and other aquatic animals use the river for movement from one stretch to other. The river dolphins are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River. The migratory fish species like Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*)<sup>97</sup> and Anguilla (*Anguilla bengalensis*)<sup>98</sup> migrate through the main channel of the river i.e., through the deeper zones of the river. There is no data on the global population for the Ganges River Dolphins, Hilsa and Anguilla. Hence, criterion 3 will not be able to be concluded for aquatic species.

The entire State of Assam falls within the Central Asian flyway and East Asian – Australian flyways. There are many migratory bird species that migrates through the subproject areas, and use riverine charland, islands or sand bars. Various types of water birds like Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Geese and Swans, Cranes and Rails, Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills, Flamingoes, Gulb, Terns, Skimmers, Pelicans, Pintail Duck, and Indian Spot-Billed duck are seen visiting the river banks of Brahmaputra.<sup>99</sup> However, there is no data that could support the number of individual migratory bird species and their respective global population. Hence, criterion 3 will not be able to be concluded for aquatic species.

**Criterion 4.** Areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services. According to IFC Guidance Note 6, the structural attributes of a region, such as its topography, geology, soil, temperature, and vegetation, and combinations of these variables, can influence the evolutionary processes that give rise to regional configurations of species and ecological properties. These are areas with

<sup>95</sup> Migratory species is defined as any wildlife of which a significant proportion of its members cyclically and predictably move from one geographical area to another (including within the same ecosystem).

<sup>96</sup> Congregatory species are defined as species whose individuals gather in large groups on a cyclical or otherwise regular and/or predictable basis.

<sup>97</sup> Anadromous: migration of fish from sea to fresh water for breeding.

<sup>98</sup> Catadromous: fish that lives in fresh water and breeds in sea.

<sup>99</sup> [Migratory birds in wetlands of Assam - Sentinelassam](#)

distinct landscape features associated with particular evolutionary processes or populations of species, which are especially distinct and have special conservation concern due to the species' distinct evolutionary history.

There is no unique assemblages of species associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services in the proposed subproject areas, thus do not qualify as critical habitat under this criterion.

**Criterion 5.** areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities.

The rivers and wetlands serve as fishing grounds and irrigation sources, ensuring food security and agricultural productivity. In view of their importance to local communities, it would appear that only the fishing grounds should be classified as a priority economic importance. Locals were found to be fishing on the bank of the river with bamboo poles and nets and also using boats to lay nets across the smaller channels.

**Criterion 6.** Areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection.

In Dibrugarh Subproject, no demarcation or any indication of boundary of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park exists. However, all the bank protection sites for Dibrugarh Subproject are adjacent to or within the eco-sensitive zone. Please see location of Dibrugarh Subproject river bank works in the table below.

**Table 10: Location of Dibrugarh Subproject with respect to Wildlife Boundary and ESA**

Locations of subproject sites	Wildlife Boundary	Eco-Sensitive Zone
Milanpur to Hatighuli	363 meters	Within
Phelai to Naokota	937 meters	Within
Gariating Gaon	-	760 meter Outside
Simaluguri Satra	-	Outside
Baghjan to Notun Gaon	331 meters	Within
Guijan	1286 meters	Within
Rungagorah to Dinjan	466 meters	Within

**Table 11: Summary of CH Assessment**

<b>Critical Habitat Trigger</b>	<b>Thresholds Adopted</b>	<b>Trigger Present</b>	<b>Applicable Subproject/s</b>
Areas with high biodiversity value, including habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species	Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed EN or CR species ( $\geq 0.5\%$ of the global population AND $\geq 5$ reproductive units).	There are presence in the AOA. Possible critical habitat for 1 species (Ganges River Dolphin - EN).	All subprojects
	Areas that support globally important concentrations of an IUCN Red-listed Vulnerable (VU) species, the loss of which would result in the change of the IUCN Red List status to EN or CR and meet the thresholds in (a).	No	None
	As appropriate, areas containing important concentrations of a nationally or regionally listed EN or CR species	No	None
Areas having special significance for endemic or restricted-range species	Areas that regularly hold $\geq 10\%$ of the global population size AND $\geq 10$ reproductive units of a species.	No	None
Sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species	Areas known to sustain, on a cyclical or otherwise regular basis, $\geq 1$ percent of the global population of a migratory or congregatory species at any point of the species' lifecycle.  Areas that predictably support $\geq 10$ percent of the global population of	No sufficient data hence inconclusive	None
Areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregatory species		No sufficient data hence inconclusive	None

Critical Habitat Trigger	Thresholds Adopted	Trigger Present	Applicable Subproject/s
	a species during periods of environmental stress.		
Areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services		No	None
Areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities		Yes, due to fishing activities for local people	All Subprojects
Areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection.	Such as areas that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union classification, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world natural heritage sites.	Possible critical habitat due to proximity to Dibru-Saikhowa National park	Dibrugarh

## VI. Impact Assessment

The purpose of this chapter is to determine the subproject-related risks on biodiversity and critical habitat feature. Where there are likely potential impacts, mitigation measures are proposed to maintain the high biodiversity value in the project influence and/or affected areas. Further, to support the conditions necessary to maintain viable populations of species and other priority natural features.

SPS 2009 has provided the following requirements and for the proposed project to meet the necessary conditions, which are:

- (i) There are no measurable adverse impacts, or likelihood of such, on the critical habitat which could impair its high biodiversity value or the ability to function.
- (ii) The project is not anticipated to lead to a reduction in the population of any recognized endangered or critically endangered species or a loss in area of the habitat concerned such that the persistence of a viable and representative host ecosystem be compromised.
- (iii) Any lesser impacts are mitigated<sup>100</sup>

The proposed project will focus on appropriate mitigation and offset actions, to ensure net gain to biodiversity and critical habitat. Through application of the mitigation hierarchy and the implementation of the actions given in the biodiversity action plan (BAP), it will be considered that no measurable adverse or significant residual impacts as a result of flood protection works.

### Potential Impacts

**Damage to wetlands or beels.** Hasila Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River in Goalpara Subproject. Deepor Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River in Palasbari-Gumi Subproject. In Dibrugarh subproject, Maijan Beel is the only wetland which has direct connection with the Brahmaputra River. The other wetlands in the subproject areas are Urpada Beel (Goalpara Subproject), Sonai beel which is a cluster of natural lakes namely Nandini, Mer, Sonai, Raumar, Dobarani, and Patiabandha beel (Morigaon subproject) and Maguri-Motapung Beel (Dibrugarh subproject). These are quite far away from the subproject interventions and are connected to the Brahmaputra River either upstream or downstream of the project interventions and shall thus not be affected by the proposed project activities.

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<sup>100</sup> Mitigation measures will be designed to achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity. They may include a combination of actions, such as post project restoration of habitats, offset of losses through the creation or effective conservation of ecologically comparable areas that are managed for biodiversity while respecting the ongoing use of such biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples or traditional communities, and compensation to direct users of biodiversity.

**Soil erosion.** Potential of an area to soil erosion depends on its topography, geological structure, rainfall, soil type and land use/land cover. In the subproject area, the topography of the terrain covering the alluvial plain is mostly flat plain except a few forested hills with elevation between 40 to 50 meters. The area also includes a large number of riverine tracts and sandy river island in the Brahmaputra River. Possibility of occurrence of gully and rill erosion is expected in the uncovered side slopes of embankments and other freshly cut or deposited areas. This is a problem that contractors may face when cutting the banks into desired slopes and subject to runoff from general rain. Quarrying of nearby sand bars to fulfill the requirement of construction materials and fill-up geo-bags may lead to erosion as well. During construction stage, soil cutting, embankment protection work will create soil erosion if the compaction not done properly.

**Water Quality.** Major source of surface water pollution during project construction phase will be sewage and wastewater generated from labor camps. For labourers, the contractor will establish a labour camp and produce sewage that may pollute land and other nearby water bodies if discharged untreated. The boat which are driven by diesel engine should be not spill fuel in water. The old engines in boats, where water from the river are taken in the diesel engine for cooling were common source of river water pollution.

**Air Quality.** During the construction phase, there will be two main sources of air emissions, i.e., mobile sources and stationary sources. Mobile sources are mostly vehicles involved in construction activities, whereas emissions from stationary sources include construction equipment and machinery, batching plants, diesel generator sets, excavation/grading activities etc. In addition to these, fugitive emissions will also form a major proportion of air pollution in the form of particulate matter from storage and handling of construction material.

**Noise.** During construction phase, noise will be generated from various activities such as clearing and grubbing, excavation, earthworks, borrow works, etc. There will be significant increase in vehicular movement for transportation of construction material. An increase in noise level is expected. However, the increase in noise levels will be localized, temporary in nature and mostly will be during daytime only.

**Disturbance to Vegetation.** There would be no major impact on terrestrial flora except cutting of trees during project intervention in the subproject area. There is no diversion of forest land. There is 1 notified protected area (Dibru - Saikhowa NP) within 1 km of the project intervention areas in Dibrugarh District and Tinsukia District. The present vegetation is primarily planted by the locals such as Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Betel nut (*Areca catechu*), Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), Banana (*Musa sp.*), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Cluster Fig (*Ficus glomerata*), Kadamb (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Arjun (*terminalia arjuna*), ziziphus *mauritiana*, Mango (*Mangifera indica*), various species of bamboo (*Bambusa balcooa*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Melocanna hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*) *Plectomia assamica*, *Plectomia bractealis*, *Cassia sophera* etc.

**Disruption of migratory animals.** There may be migratory route of mammalian wildlife species in the project stretch and thus some impacts are envisaged like man animal conflict (distruction of standing crops, hutments etc.,). Winter migratory birds may also use the riverine charland, islands, sand bars and some impacts may be envisaged like poaching by construction laborers. Ganges

River Dolphins and other aquatic animals use the river for movement from one stretch to other. The Ganges River Dolphins are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River and the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works shall be limited within 30m of the riverbanks. The migratory fish species like Hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) and Anguilla (*Anguilla bengalensis*) migrate through the main channel of the river i.e., through the deeper zones of the river.

**Decline of population of Ganges River Dolphins and other species (EN, CR and VU).**

Ganges River Dolphin sightings are reportedly found mainly in the main channel of the Brahmaputra River and the proposed anti-erosion and flood protection works shall be limited within 30m of the riverbanks. It may be likely that these dolphins may occasionally near riverbanks during the lean season. The only impacts that are probable are that of accidental hitting by the barges to carry materials and being stuck in the shallow waters. Dolphin is sensitive to polluted water and any obstruction of the channels at this stage may disturb the breeding activities (June to August). Other wildlife may also at risk due to potential damage to their natural habitats and pollution from construction activities.

**Disruption of breeding and spawning section of the river.** Breeding grounds varies from species as well as location. It has been reported in the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP) that most of the riverine smaller fish species, prefer the shallow courses of river for breeding and spawning. Some fish species refer wetlands and beels for breeding. Fish spawning seasons also vary from fish to fish. However, most normal seasons for almost 80% of fish species starts from April and ends in August (i.e., during pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons). Increase in siltation due to construction activity in the subproject area particularly during the breeding season, may disturb the breeding activities.

**Reduction on local fishing activities.** Locals were found to be fishing on the bank of the river with bamboo poles and nets and also using boats to lay nets across the smaller channels. Temporary flushing of the fish species towards the deeper part of the river may happen during the anti-erosion and flood protection works. The construction activities may increase the turbidity on the bank temporarily.

## **Risk Analysis**

Environmental risk is a function magnitude of potential consequences (i.e. levels of magnitudes) and likelihood of these consequences to occur (i.e. levels of probability of occurrence). To quantify the environmental risks, the formula is:

### **Likelihood x Consequence**

To perform the risk analysis, ratings were assigned for different levels of likelihood and consequence to determine the level of environmental risks. The ratings are presented below:



**Table 12: Likelihood or level of probability**

Likelihood	Definition	Rating
Likely	Potential to occur more than twice during construction and/or operations	3
Unlikely	May occur once or twice during construction and/or operations	2
Rare	Highly unlikely to occur during construction and/or operations	1

**Table 13: Consequence or level of magnitude**

Consequences	Definition	Rating
Major	Significant damage or impact on the natural environment or communities.	3
Moderate	Limited adverse impact on natural environment or communities	2
Minor	No or minimal adverse impact on natural environment or communities.	1

When all environmental risks are assigned with likelihood and consequence ratings, then the formula is to be applied and results stated. These risks are then to be classified based on the levels of risk. The table below shows the categories of environmental risk based on the formula (i.e. Likelihood x Consequence).

**Table 14: Quantifiable Environmental risk matrix**

Likelihood	Likely	3	3	6	9
	Unlikely	2	2	4	6
	Rare	1	1	2	3
High 6 and above			1	2	3
Medium 3-5			Minor	Moderate	major
Low 0-2			consequences		

The computation of level risk for the identified potential impacts are shown below. All environmental risks that have medium (3-5) and high ratings (6 and above) will have corresponding mitigation measures. To manage the potential impacts, biodiversity action plan

will be prepared and form part of the environmental management plan (EMP) of each subproject's initial environmental examination (IEE).

**Table 15: Computation of Environmental risk**

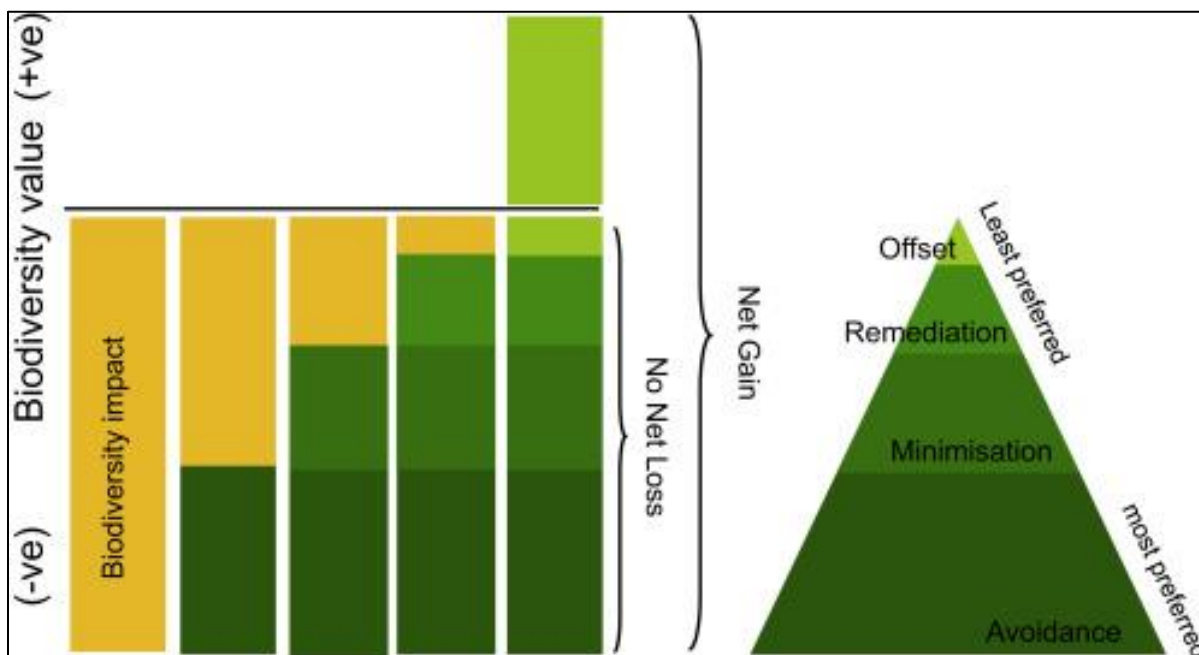
<b>Environmental Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Environmental Risk Level</b>
Damage to wetlands or beels	1	1	1
Increase in soil erosion	3	2	6
Water quality decline	3	2	6
Air quality decline	3	2	6
Noise level increase	3	2	6
Disturbance to land vegetation	2	1	2
Disruption of migratory animals	2	2	4
Decline of population of Ganges River Dolphins and other species (EN, CR and VU)	2	2	4
Disruption of breeding and spawning section of the river	2	2	4
Reduction on local fishing activities	2	2	4

## VII. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

This section presents the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which outlines the mitigation actions and monitoring activities to ensure that the proposed subprojects has no long-term net loss in biodiversity.

Conservation actions were developed for concerns on biodiversity features as result of the proposed subproject implementation and ensure the application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e. avoid, minimize, mitigate/remediation and compensate/offset). The concept of the mitigation hierarchy is outlined below. This will allow for the careful management of risk and the best possible outcomes for the subproject without compromising the health, function and integrity of the ecological system and biodiversity features.

**Figure 6: Diagram showing concept of mitigation hierarchy to achieve no net loss<sup>101</sup>**



The actions to conserve habitats and wildlife population along the subproject areas aimed of achieving 'no net loss' to biodiversity in accordance with ADB's safeguards requirements. The requirements need evidence that the mitigation hierarchy will be applied, that avoidance is prioritized, and that offsets are only applied as a last resort where residual impacts are unavoidable. This biodiversity action plan will be integrated with the EMPs for each subproject.

<sup>101</sup> Figure is sourced from "Net Gain: Seeking Better Outcomes for Local People when Mitigating Biodiversity Loss from Development. One Earth, Volume 1, Issue 2. 195-20" by Jones, J. P. G. and et. al. (2019).

Table 16. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
<p>Construction of embankments and sluice gates</p> <p>Operation of labour camps</p>	Water resources	<p><u>Water quality decline</u> due to contamination of water flowing in wetlands or beels and Brahmaputra River.</p>	<p><i>Avoidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No borrow soil should be dumped in streams.</li> <li>- No labour should be allowed to do open defecate on river. This would result in increase in total coliform and faecal coliform in wetlands or beels.</li> <li>- No material storage camps labours camps, borrow earth be allowed within 500 meters from riverbed and 1 km from the forest and Eco-sensitive Zone.</li> </ul> <p><i>Minimization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out construction works in non-monsoon season.</li> <li>- During Monsoon spawning of fishes take place. The schedule of embankment work should be planned in manner that it is over before arrival of monsoon.</li> <li>- As barge to carry construction materials, old boats should not be utilized and over loading the capacity is not allowed.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PISC, PIU and PMU

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p><i>Remediation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of silt traps should be available.</li> <li>- Embankment soil should be stabilized regularly.</li> <li>- The slopes of embankments should be stabilized adopting bioengineering measures.</li> <li>- Grassing, seeding and mulching are biological measures to stabilize river banks.</li> <li>- The soil used in embankment should be tested for pollutants like heavy metals.</li> <li>- There should be provision of mobile toilets at all construction site.</li> <li>- Modern flood embankments will be built and/or rehabilitated and will have openings (ie: sluice gates with fish passes) to enable river-floodplain interconnectivity and enhance biodiversity</li> </ul>		
<p>Sourcing of materials for filling-up geo-bags</p> <p>Earthworks and slope stabilization along river banks</p> <p>Construction of embankments and sluice gates</p>	<p>Soil stability</p>	<p><u>Increase in soil erosion</u> results from construction works that disrupts bank slopes, sandbars and existing embankments</p>	<p><i>Avoidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction shall be scheduled during non-monsoon season.</li> </ul> <p><i>Minimization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain materials from aggregate and sand quarries/crusher sites which has necessary permissions from the Department of Mines and Geology, Prior EC from SEIAA/MoEF&amp;CC and CTO from PCBA</li> </ul>	<p>Contractor</p>	<p>PISC, PIU and PMU</p>

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p><i>Remediation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Afforestation shall be undertaken with community participation.</li> <li>- Soil erosion shall be visually checked on potential erosion zones during construction phase.</li> <li>- The slopes of embankments should be stabilized adopting bioengineering measures.</li> <li>- Grassing, seeding and mulching are biological measures to stabilize river banks.</li> <li>- Exposed surface shall be resurfaced and stabilized as soon as possible and covered by straw or mulch to avoid soil loss in the intervening period.</li> </ul>		
Construction of embankment, anti-erosion works and activities within construction camps	Ambient air quality	<u>Air quality decline</u> results from implementation of subprojects and related construction works.	<p><i>Avoidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Batching plants shall be located away from high biodiversity areas, and be fitted with the air pollution control devices.</li> <li>- No sand mining or any form construction works will be done in Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary.</li> </ul> <p><i>Minimization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The emission shall meet Pollution Control Board standards.</li> <li>- The batching plants must be sited at least 1 km in the downwind direction from wildlife habitats with high biodiversity value.</li> <li>- All slopes and embankments will be turfed as per best engineering practices to help minimize the dust generation during operation.</li> </ul>	Contractor	PISC, PIU and PMU

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>Remediation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vehicles delivering loose and fine materials like sand and fine aggregates shall be covered to reduce spills on existing road.</li> <li>- Water may be sprayed on earthworks, on a regular basis. During and after compaction of the sub-grade, water will be sprayed at regular intervals to prevent dust generation.</li> <li>- Regular maintenance of machinery and equipment will be carried out</li> <li>- Ambient air quality monitoring shall be carried out during construction and the first year of operation phase as per the Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP)</li> <li>- Plantation along the embankment shall be maintained.</li> </ul>		
Construction of embankment, anti-erosion works and activities within construction camps	Acoustic environment	Noise level increase results from implementation of subprojects and related construction works.	<p><i>Avoidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stationary equipment shall be placed along low biodiversity value areas.</li> <li>- No sand mining or any form construction works will be done in Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary.</li> </ul> <p><i>Minimization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of appropriate temporary noise barriers especially near noise sensitive receptors identified near the construction zone</li> <li>- Construction activities shall be prohibited between 9.00 pm and 6.00 am near high biodiversity value areas throughout the</li> </ul>	Contractor	PISC, PIU and PMU

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			subproject stretch  <i>Remediation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction equipment and machinery shall be fitted with silencers and regularly maintained</li> <li>- Regular noise monitoring measurements shall be carried out as per the EMoP during the construction period and 1<sup>st</sup> year of the operation period</li> </ul>		
Construction of embankment, anti-erosion works and activities within construction camps	Biodiversity values	Disruption of migratory animals in the Brahmaputra River.  Decline of population of Ganges River Dolphins and other species (EN, CR and VU).  Disruption of breeding and spawning section of the river.	<i>Avoidance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The construction activity in the riverbed shall be prohibited during the breeding period of April to August.</li> <li>- Poaching, hunting and fishing by the construction workers shall be strictly prohibited.</li> </ul> <i>Minimization:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Channels are not permanently obstructed during the construction period in any way nearby the work zone.</li> <li>- If Ganges River Dolphins are sighted near to the riverbanks during the construction period, works shall be temporarily suspended till it move out into the main channel. The same action will be taken for terrestrial and aquatic mammals.</li> <li>- No work will start until clearance from wildlife authority is achieved.</li> </ul>	Contractor  FREMAA to get clearance	PISC, PIU and PMU



Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>All conditions in the clearance should be strictly followed.</p> <p><i>Remediation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building and workshops for the laborers shall be conducted about biodiversity and managing risks to wildlife.</li> <li>- In case of accidental trappings due to construction works, wildlife department shall be immediately contacted for necessary actions.</li> <li>- Biodiversity and ecology assessment including surveys/census of IUCN Red listed species shall be carried out during the first monsoon season in the construction period and winter season in the operation period for all the 4 subprojects.</li> </ul>		
Construction of embankment and anti-erosion works	Areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities	Reduction on local fishing activities	<p><i>Avoidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction shall be scheduled during non-monsoon season.</li> </ul> <p><i>Minimization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Passage of local people to the river will not be blocked, and ensure access to the temporary ghats.</li> </ul> <p><i>Remediation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any local facilities affected shall be restored or maintained for undisturbed movement of the fisherman.</li> <li>- During the construction, provide a clear signages to guide which areas</li> </ul>	Contractor	PISC, PIU and PMU

Construction/ Subproject activity	Environmental Aspect	Anticipated Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible for Implementation	Responsible for Supervision
			<p>that local fishing boat should not pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During construction phase, contractors will provide alternate landing sites (ghats) with berthing facilities, access, and other common infrastructure</li> <li>- Regular consultation with local people in view of construction works.</li> <li>- In places the riverbank protection will provide steps to facilitate landing of local boats in support of trade and river crossings</li> </ul>		

## Offsetting

Nature-based solutions (NbS) such as bioengineering techniques through planting of reeds will be pilot tested along embankment slopes. This will reduce maintenance requirements of the infrastructures and provide local stakeholders with income generating activities opportunities. Assam Agroforestry Development Board (AADB) will develop, implement, improve, guide, and supervise pilot NbS including relevant research and dissemination of research results. The pilots will provide employment opportunities for riverine rural poor and as the pilots can be upscaled to broader implementation, more employment opportunities will be created in the next phases. The purposes of the AADB pilots are to prevent erosion of the slopes of embankments, to plan and promote wetland revival and biodiversity, and to promote siltation on possibly reclaimed land.

For the NbS for embankments and riverbanks, the slopes shall be stabilized by using vetiver, khas and other deep-rooted grasses in different type of embankments. AADB shall also plan and execute business models for sustainable harvesting of these grasses through local communities as part of livelihood improvements for people vulnerable to flooding and riverbank erosion.

AADB also plans to undertake wetland conservation for watershed conservation and livelihood support. Identification of suitable vegetation for selected wetland conservation, wherein multiple-use of wetlands shall be promote and invasive species like water hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*) etc. shall be removed.

## VIII. Conclusion

The purpose of a critical habitat assessment is to identify areas of high biodiversity value that meet criteria set in ADB SPS 2009 and corresponding thresholds by IFC in Performance Standard 6 on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Resources (IFC, 2012a/2019). Based on the assessment, all the subprojects trigger Criterion 5, where the areas have biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities. Brahmaputra River and wetlands serve as fishing grounds to ensure food security. Fishing grounds should be classified as a priority economic importance. Locals were found to be fishing on the bank of the river with bamboo poles and nets and using boats to lay nets across the smaller channels.

The Ganges River Dolphin (EN) is noted from interviews with local people. In all subproject areas, there are sightings of this species and records from Assam Inland Water Transport Project, Dolphin Study Report (or AIWTDS) within the area of occurrence (1km radius from each subproject sites). However, there were no findings of Ganges River Dolphins in all proposed subproject areas during actual biodiversity survey. Available data is not sufficient to conclude dolphins would trigger critical habitat.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is the nearest protected area, particularly for works under Dibrugarh Subproject. There are no proposed works inside the boundaries of the national park. To manage potential impacts, biodiversity action plan includes prohibitions and mitigation measures that will be implemented during construction period.

Below are the SPS 2009 requirements for critical habitat, and compliance of the proposed project to meet these necessary conditions.

- (i) There are no measurable adverse impacts, or likelihood of such, on the critical habitat which could impair its high biodiversity value or the ability to function.

Compliance: Structural works of the project would create temporary disturbances to fishing activities of local people. However, this are only temporary and specific to the sites of construction works. Without the implementation of subprojects, target areas will be continuously affected by floods and severe soil erosion that would put the socio-economic conditions and life at an increasing risk, and could potentially worsen the living environment due to future extreme weather events. For the Ganges River Dolphins (EN), this species is not likely to meet the thresholds of the critical habitat (Criterion 1a and 1c). Secondary data shows presence of this species within the area of analysis of the proposed protection works during monsoon period. Primary data collected for the project did not show any presence of the species during the dry season (data collected during March-April 2023). There may be potential impact to this species due to transport of materials for the works through barges. However, construction works will be done during dry season when dolphins are in the deep channels and not nearby river banks.

- (ii) The project is not anticipated to lead to a reduction in the population of any recognized endangered or critically endangered species or a loss in area of the habitat concerned such that the persistence of a viable and representative host ecosystem be compromised.

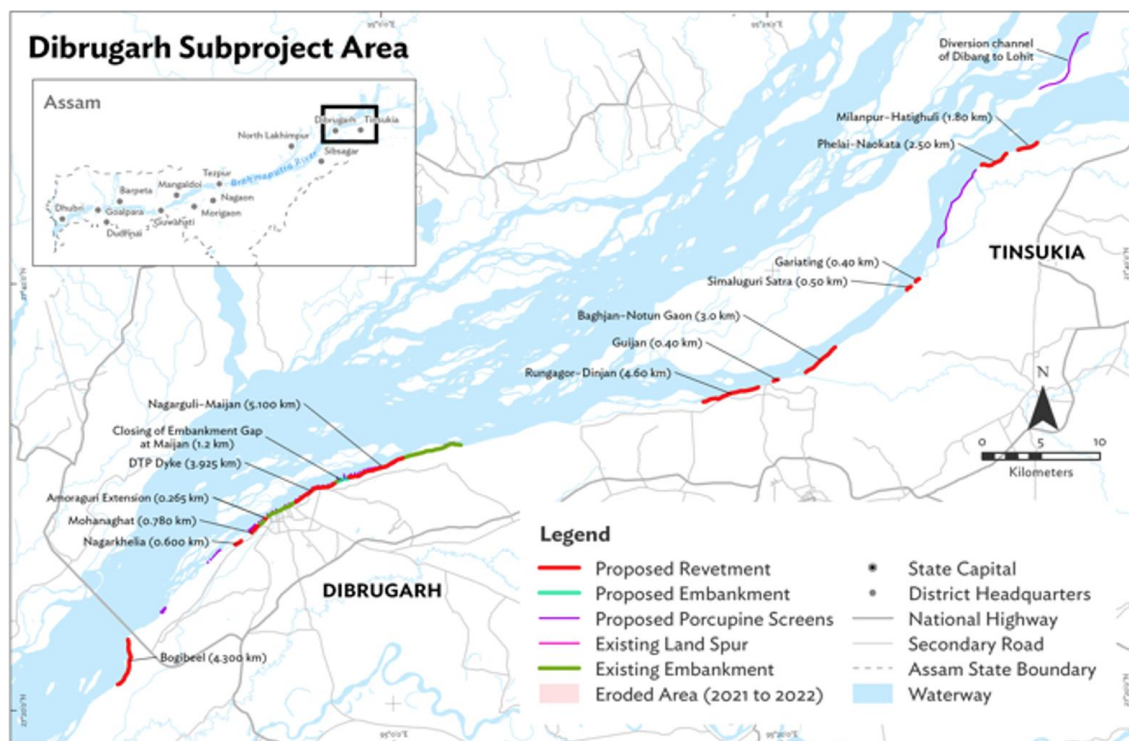
Compliance: There are EN and CR species in Dibru-Saikhowa NP, however no proposed works will be implemented inside the protected area. The subprojects will not lead to the reduction of Ganges River Dolphin's (EN) population and loss of its habitat because this species can be sighted within 100 m or more from the river bank during monsoon season when there is no construction works. To have measures safeguarding wildlife and their habitats, BAP will be part of contractors' commitment to mitigate the potential impacts from civil works.

- (iii) Any lesser impacts are mitigated (Mitigation measures will be designed to achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity. They may include a combination of actions, such as post project restoration of habitats, offset of losses through the creation or effective conservation of ecologically comparable areas that are managed for biodiversity while respecting the ongoing use of such biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples or traditional communities, and compensation to direct users of biodiversity)

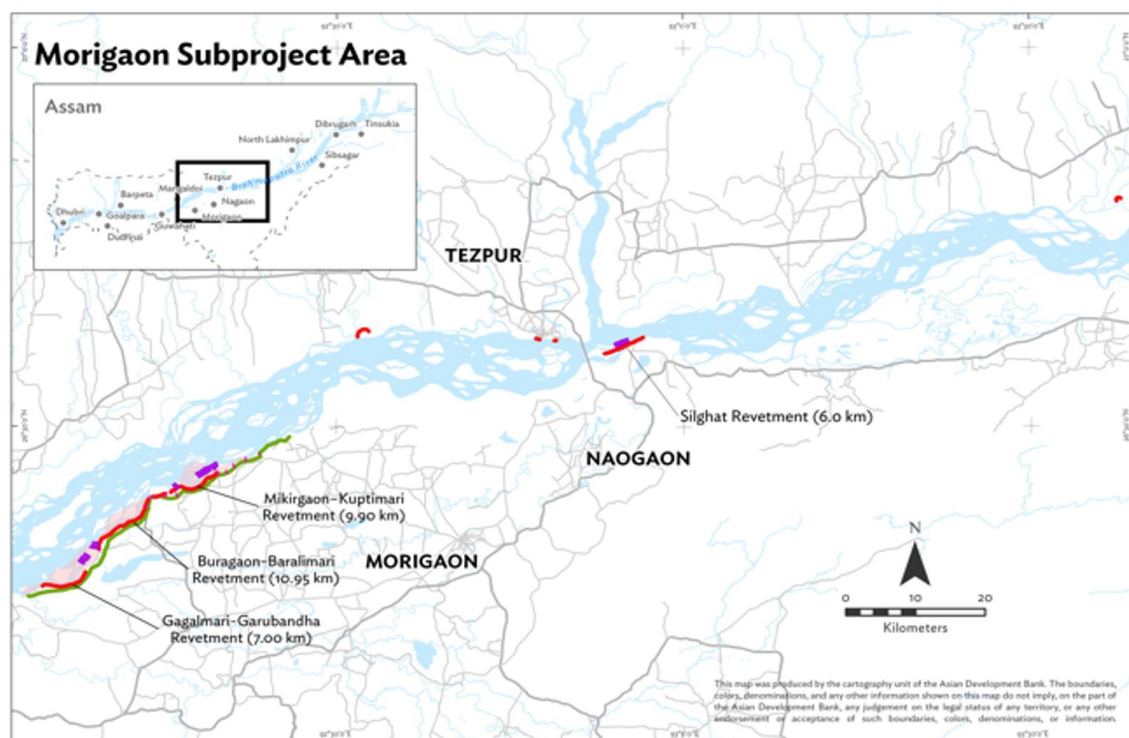
Compliance: The project will implement NbS. As a form of offsetting and to achieve no net loss, it will be beneficial in strengthening the flood protection works and embankment, and rejuvenating target wetlands along the Brahmaputra River.

### Appendix 1. Map showing locations of the 4 subprojects

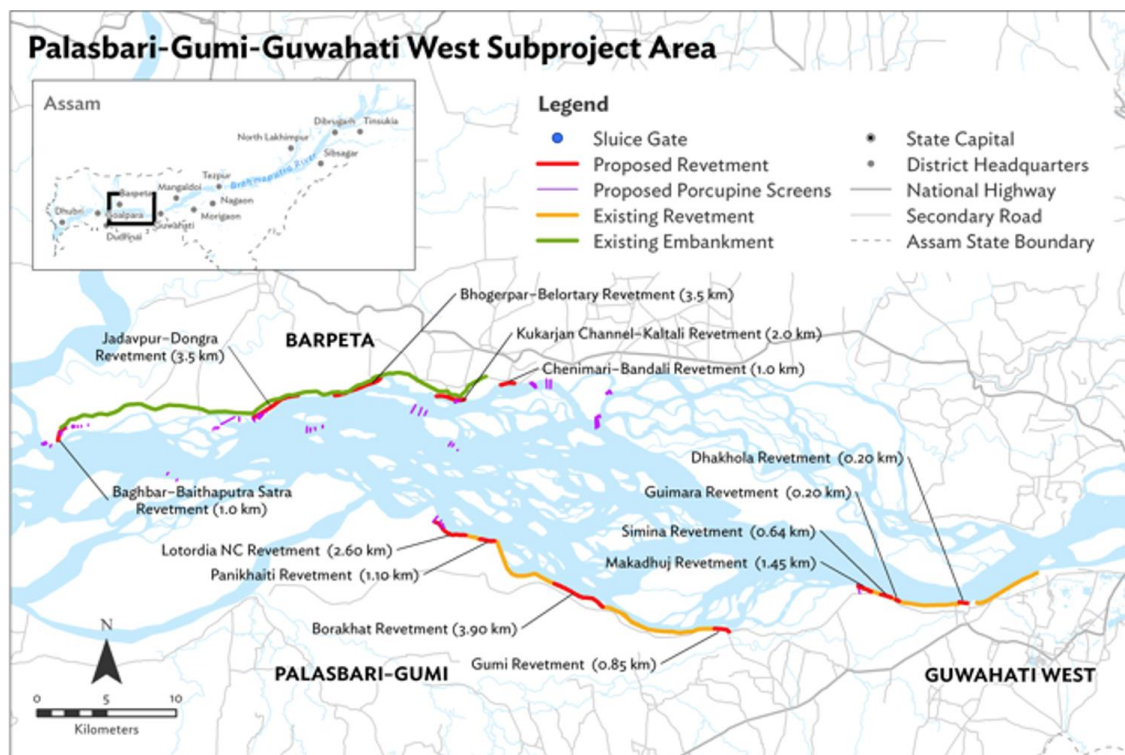
#### Appendix 1a.



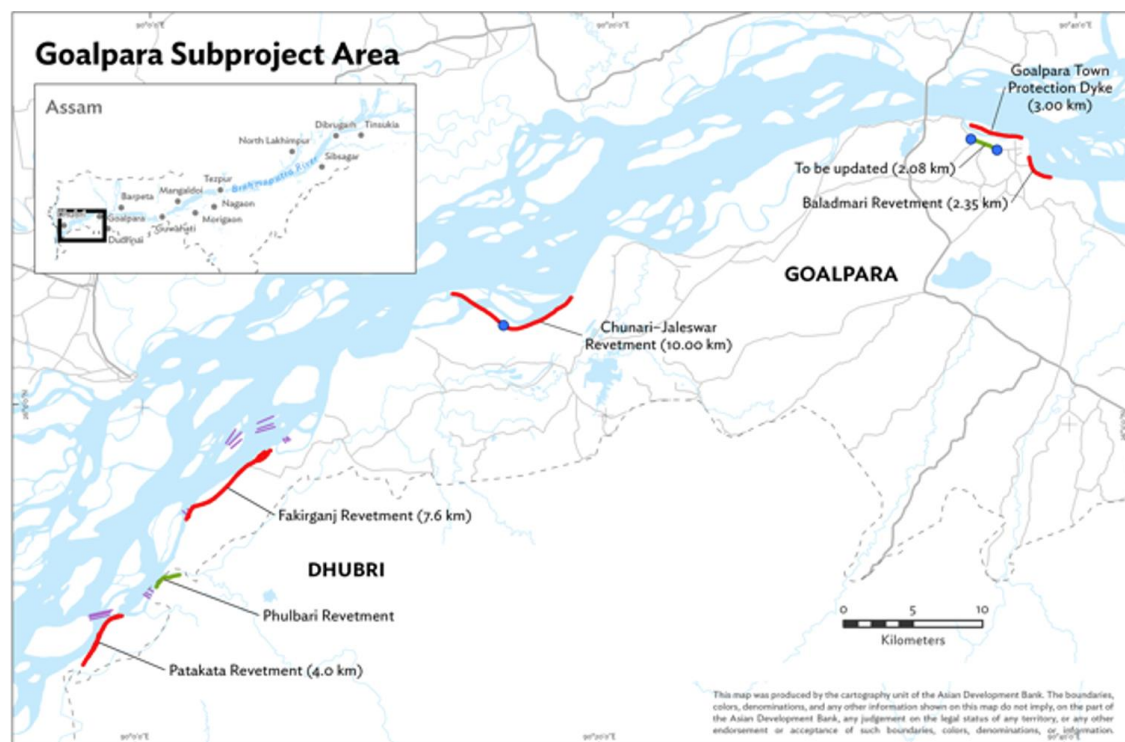
#### Appendix 1b.



Appendix 1c.



Appendix 1d.



## Appendix 2. Summary of structural works in 4 subprojects

Subproject	New Embankments (km)		Upgrading Embankments (km)		Riverbank Revetments (km)		Adaption Works/Emergency contingency (km)		Porcupine screen (no.)	Porcupine screen (km)	Regulator (no.)		Fish pass (no.)	Other works
Dibrugarh (including Tinsukia district)	Close gap in embankment at Majjan Beel	1.20	0	Nagaghuli to Kachari Line	0.90	Kasuoni	1.00	173	24.1	RCC triple shutter sluice gate in Majjan Beel embankment	1	1	Revive of Majjan beel with nature based solutions	
				Filunuguri to 7400 ft Spur	1.70	Mothola	2.40							
				DTP Dyke (Dibrugarh Town Area)	3.93	DTP dyke	1.00							
				DTP Dyke (Amoraguri)	0.27	Emergency	0.25							
				Mohanaghat	0.78									
				Nagakhelia	0.60									
				Chaulkhowa at D/S of Bogibeeel Bridge	3.69									
				Milanpur to Hatighuli	1.50									
				Pheliai to Naokota	2.00									
				Gariating Gaon	0.40									
				Simaluguri Satra	0.40									
				Bahjan to Notun Gaon	2.10									
				upstream Gujjan	0.30									
Rungagorah to Dinjan	2.70													
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21.26</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>						
Morigaon	0	0.70	Shift-ing/wid-ening existing embankment at Kup-timari	Mikirgaon-Kathani-Tengaguri area	7.50	Emergency	0.25	7	1.0	0	0			
				Kuptimari-Balidunga area	1.90									
				Upstream of Panchali spur	0.25									
				Chutia-gaon spur re-coup-ment	0.45									
				Downstream of Panchali spur to Baralimari	2.00									
Gagalmarri-Garubandha area	4.00													
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>15.65</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>						

Subproject	New Embankments (km)		Upgrading Embankments (km)		Riverbank Revetments (km)		Adaption Works/Emergency contingency (km)		Porcupine screen (no.)	Porcupine screen (km)	Regulator (no.)		Fish pass (no.)	Other works
PGP/Guwahati West	0	0	0	Kalitapara	0.80	Palashbari	3.50	8	2.7	0	0	0	Pump house at Palishbari	
				Futuri	1.45									
				Simina	0.64									
				Guimara	0.20	Emergency	0.25							Hostel for trainees next to Assam Water Center in Guwahati
				Gumi	0.85									
				Borakhat	3.90									
				Panikhaity	1.10									
Lotordia	2.60													
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11.54</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>						
Goalpara	Embankment Goalpara town	2.08	0	Goalpara Town Two stretches, 2.35 km - Baladmari 3.00 km - Goalpara (geobags with PCC blocks)	5.35	Emergency	0.25	6	4.50	Goalpara town (1 shutter sluice and 4 shutters sluice)	2	0		
				Chinair to Jaleswar	6.00									Chunari (4 shutters)
<b>Subproject Total</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11.35</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>59.80</b>	<b>13.90</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>32.30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>As above</b>					



## Appendix 16. Lessons Learned from Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP)

**Introduction:** Out of India's total land area of 329 million hectares (ha), more than 40 million ha are prone to floods. Flooding is a recurrent hazard and has been increasingly severe in recent years. Riverbank erosion is one of the most prominent causes of disasters in Assam due to highly dynamic morphology of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. About 40% of the state (i.e., about 9.4% of the national flood prone area) is inundated on average annually during the monsoon by the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, resulting in damages and loss of assets and crops.

The Assam government's development plans reflect the critical need for effective, sustainable flood risk management since most urban and agriculture areas are prone to floods and have suffered devastation from flooding for years. As part of the boarded plan to address and manage the flood hazard in the state of Assam, the multitranche financing facility (MFF) between the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP) was approved by ADB in 2010 with two tranches.<sup>102</sup>

The program used a phased approach and focused on three selected and appraised subprojects—Palasbari–Gumi, Kaziranga, and Dibrugarh—that have flood embankment systems protecting critical urban and productive rural areas along the Brahmaputra River, and capacity-building initiatives.<sup>103</sup> The program introduced international best practices of riverbank protection technologies and community participation. A major initiative was state-level institutional capacity strengthening for flood and erosion risk management. Resilience against the possible impacts of climate change which may increase the frequency and magnitude of flood disasters was to be strengthened through the investment program, thereby contributing to the efforts of climate change adaptation.

Project 1 (Tranche I) became effective on 4 August 2011 and was completed on 31 July 2017. Project 1 successfully executed immediately required protection works in the three subproject areas, and laid the foundations for institutional strengthening for flood and riverbank erosion risk management (FRERM) and community participation. Project 2 (Tranche II) was approved by ADB on 30 November 2018 with completion date of 18th October 2020. Project 2 aimed to complete the remaining protection works in the same three subproject areas, and continue institutional strengthening activities, to accomplish the appraised investments with necessary refinement.

The MFF and projects 1 and 2 are rated *likely sustainable*. The design and technology adopted in the subprojects are innovative and appropriate given (i) the huge advantages of non-structural and innovative structural solutions and technology (geotextile bags, pro-siltation, and heightened embankments), which have addressed climate resilience and morphological changes; and (ii) the involvement of communities in flood management and their provision with better opportunities for income generation and tourism<sup>104</sup>. The project was nonrevenue-generating and so the financial internal rate of return was not calculated. Instead, financial sustainability was assessed based on

<sup>102</sup> ADB. 2010. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Multitranche Financing Facility to India for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program*. Manila.

<sup>103</sup> Built during 1950–1960, the area's flood embankments are among the most critical reaches of the Brahmaputra River, spanning 90 kilometers (km). They are at risk of being breached because of river erosion and overtopping during extreme floods.

<sup>104</sup> Besides tourism, livelihood activities were weaving and spinning, agro-diversification, and vegetable production.

guidelines of the ADB.<sup>105</sup> The analysis shows that the program is likely to be financially sustainable since, historically, WRD has received on average 85% of the operation and maintenance (O&M) budget from the Assam government, and the agency has been utilizing on average 94% of its budget in the last few years.

**Environmental Safeguards** ADB approved environment category of project 1 was A, per ADB's Environment Policy 2002; and category B for project 2, per ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) 2009. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) report was prepared in June 2009 and disclosed on the ADB website. The EIA was carried out in the three subproject areas covered by Projects 1 and 2. While no significant negative environmental impacts were anticipated, ADB classified project 1 as environmental category A in consideration of the diverse riverine environment. An environmental assessment and review framework (EARF) was prepared and disclosed on ADB website to guide the subprojects selection, screening and categorization, environmental assessment, preparation, and implementation of the safeguards plans and documentation. Three initial environmental examination (IEE) reports were prepared for subprojects under project 2 from March to August 2018 and disclosed on ADB website. The EARF was also updated and disclosed to reflect the requirements for small community works proposed under project 2. An addendum to the IEE report—covering the Health and Safety Plan (in response to the coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic)—was prepared and disclosed on ADB website in June 2020 under project 2.

Positive environmental impacts included preservation of flora and fauna from the impacts of river erosion and flooding, including wetlands, pond fisheries, and agricultural lands. Interventions near Kaziranga helped preserve wildlife habitat by preventing the impacts of sudden flooding (from embankment breach). Based on environmental monitoring reports, no damage occurred to the endangered species (i.e. Ganges River Dolphins) and to Kaziranga National Park. The anticipated impacts on hydrology and morphology were also deemed insignificant. This is because the program supported the proper functioning of the existing flood embankment systems, and riverbank protection works were carried out taking an adaptive approach, i.e., providing protection along the naturally developed bank lines where and when necessary. Nevertheless, close monitoring was undertaken to detect any unforeseen impacts and that mitigation measures were provided. Possible negative impacts included those associated with construction, which were temporary, site-specific, and reversible and could be mitigated through prescribed mitigation measures under the environmental monitoring and management plan that was operationalized under the projects, with the necessary capacity building of the executing agency.

**Statutory environmental compliance** The regulatory permissions required under the then prevailing environmental and labor-related laws of India at the national, state, and local levels were reported to have been obtained—with significant delays for both projects 1 and 2. Given the nature of activities undertaken under both projects, regulatory compliances were commonly required. During project 1, the regulatory permission to undertake works in the Kaziranga National Park area was significantly delayed. As a result, the works proposed in this protected area were shifted to project 2 for implementation. The level of regulatory compliance during project 1 was observed to be limited. During the initial stages of project 2 implementation, regulatory compliance continued to be limited and needed persistent efforts to obtain them. The state's Forest Department had imposed penal sanctions for the regulatory lapses for which the civil works contractors paid fines imposed by the regulatory agency. The applicable forest and tree-cutting permissions were obtained. Initially, during project 2 implementation, regulatory shortcomings were observed: the earth used were obtained from borrow areas, construction materials were procured from quarries and mines,

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<sup>105</sup> ADB. 2019. Financial Analysis and Evaluation: Technical Guidance Note. Manila.

construction water was sourced from wells and bore wells, and construction plants were utilized for the projects. With sustained follow-ups, these shortcomings were addressed to achieve regulatory compliance. Labor licenses, as required under the labor laws of India, were also obtained and renewed with some lapses during project 2 implementation. With regular follow-up, it was ensured that the project personnel were adequately insured by the contractors and their subcontractors during the implementation of the projects. By the project closure, all regulatory permissions were reported to have been obtained and were valid.

**Institutional arrangements.** During the implementation of project 1, the project management unit (PMU) designated one of its contractual staff as the environmental officer with the additional responsibility of managing the tasks related to environmental safeguards. The PMU-designated environmental officer did not possess the requisite academic background or professional experience in the subject area. This officer participated in ADB-organized capacity- building programs on safeguards for enhanced understanding. The same environmental officer continued to provide inputs for project 2. The executive officer of the PMU was ably supported by the environmental expert engaged within the consultancy firm. The civil works contractors designated their existing site engineers and/or engaged environment, health, and safety officers to implement the environmental management and monitoring plans. During project 2, the executive officer of the PMU held regular review meetings for environmental safeguards with the staff from the consulting firm and the contractors, which was helpful in identifying the areas requiring attention. Overall, the institutional arrangements during implementation were assessed to be just adequate. Towards the closure of the MFF program, the PMU was staffed with two full-time environmental practitioners on a long-term contractual basis who both have the requisite academic training and professional experience.

**Implementation of environmental management, monitoring, and reporting.** The civil works contracts included the environmental management and monitoring plans (EMMP). The consultant's and contractors' staff were provided training by the environmental expert from the consulting firm to understand the requirements in the EMMPs. The overall implementation of the EMMPs could have been better if the corrective actions were systematically executed. The concern areas—such as safety measures at the sites, the provision of basic amenities to laborers, housekeeping practices, and others—continued throughout the implementation of both projects 1 and 2. This is due to the adequate institutional set up to manage environmental safeguards. The testing of parameters for ambient air quality and noise levels was very limited during the initial stage of the project, which improved with regular follow-ups by the PMU and by the project management consultant. The environmental performance of the MFF improved over the period with increased monitoring and coordination by ADB with the project staff. During project 2 implementation, time-bound corrective action plans to address shortcomings were prepared but implemented with some delays. Semi-annual environmental monitoring reports (EMR) since project commencement to its operation period were submitted with some delays. The testing of parameters for ambient air quality, water qualities, and noise levels and the submission of semi-annual EMRs improved over the period with regular guidance from ADB. A total of 20 EMRs (during July 2014 to September 2022), capturing the implementation of environmental safeguards during construction and operation stages, were prepared. The EMRs captured the status of regulatory compliances, the implementation of EMMPs, and the public consultations held during the implementation of the program, and these were disclosed on ADB website.

**Public consultation and grievance management system** The project staff from the PMU, project implementing units (PIUs), consultants, and contractors conducted consultations with the local residents and other government agencies including regulatory agencies regarding project-related activities. The project staff increased the frequency of informal consultations with the locals to disseminate project benefits, identify issues, and address problems encountered by the public

during implementation. Copies of environmental planning documents were made available at site offices. The grievance redress committees were established at PMU and PIU levels and continued to be functional till closure of the project. The routine grievances registered at site offices on environmental aspects were mainly on issues such as dust, removal of debris, and borrowing earth from authorized areas. The project staff responded to these grievances within a reasonable time and obtained feedback from the complainants about their resolution prior to closing the grievance log.

The project engaged women in FRERM decision-making by increasing their participation in public consultations and representation in community-based village DMCs. Project 2 included lessons learned on gender in the draft FRERM plan document, which emphasized building the gender-mainstreaming capacities of FREMAA staff. The institutional environment and gender-mainstreaming capacity building will have long-term impact. The enabling factors will contribute to the likely sustainability of GAP achievements.

**Conclusion** The environmental implementation performance of the program was initially lacking due to limited institutional arrangements under the project, however, it improved over the period with increased monitoring and coordination by ADB with the project staff during project 2 implementation. Better environmental performance could have been achieved by deploying appropriate safeguards experts at the PMU and among contractors. To improve the environmental performance of the project, the envisaged institutional arrangements for environmental safeguards should be fully functional from commencement to closure of the project. The PMU and PIUs were unfamiliar with ADB's procedures and policies on environmental safeguards during the initial stages of the project, and needed regular handholding by ADB through training at frequent intervals during the implementation of the project.

Photo Documentation







