

**MICRO PLAN OF**

**LUKHURAKHONIA DOMJAN ECO  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**August 2015**


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**LUKHURAKHONIA DOMJAN ECO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Sri Kulen Chandra Das**

**On behalf of the Study Team**



**CONTENTS**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page no</b>
<b>Study team</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Content</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Background of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Steps followed towards Micro-Planning</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Data source and methodological approach</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Background of Lukhurakhonia EDC</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Micro-Plan for the Lukhurakhonia EDC</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Village development</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Project activities, budget and Annual planning</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Conclusion and suggestion</b>	<b>34</b>



## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

### 1. Defining Eco-development:

The term eco-development is used to describe an integrated, sustainable approach to environment and development. It is in the UN (1997) Glossary of Environmental Statistics as:

*"..... development at regional and local levels, consistent with the potential of the area involved, with attention given to the adequate and rational use of natural resources, technological styles and organisational forms that respect the natural ecosystems and local social and cultural patterns".*

Within the context of India's protected areas, eco-development as a strategy recognizes the traditional dependence of people on forest resources for domestic use as well as supplementing livelihoods and seeks to rationalise the demands of communities by facilitating alternative for resources and livelihoods. It is supposed that people would act rationally and utilize the resources sustainably so as to enhance the productivity of rural ecosystem. This entails promoting the adoption of alternative energy sources and resources for livelihoods, thereby reducing forest dependency. In essence eco development aims to strengthen nature conservation through participatory processes that empower local people to take responsibility for their socio-economic well being in ways that do not reduce the biodiversity capital maintained within the PAs.

Eco-development is a strategy for securing support from local communities and other stakeholders for protected areas management. Activities taken up under eco-development should provide a strong linkage between conservation and development; and they may include ecotourism and off-farm activities as well as providing specific alternatives to local biomass dependencies on protected areas.

Micro planning at the village level is the participatory process aimed at an inclusive identification and assessment of potential activities, including ecotourism, for promoting under the eco-development strategy. Such activities should strike a balance between conservation measures and income-generating initiatives. Often conservation measures can be realized in ways that also generate income and vice-versa. For example, villagers may be hired by the protected area management authority to augment fire control and anti-poaching patrols. The output of micro-planning is a plan, popularly called as 'Micro Plan', which explains in simple, plain language the physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural context of the village and its surrounds, together with the various activities proposed for addressing the threats to biodiversity and improving local livelihoods. The outcome of micro planning is likely to be most effective, if those members of a community most dependent of forest resources can be identified through an inclusive, transparent participatory process and prioritized for support in adopting alternative, income generating activities.



## 2. Micro-planning for purpose of eco-development:

Planning is an act of formulating a programme for a definite course of action. It is a blue print for a definite action within a time frame. Macro planning is a planning for mainstream development at macro level. Micro planning is a location specific planning or grass roots planning. Micro-level planning (MLP) means detailed planning at a lower level, usually at or below a district, which takes into account the variations in the community.

Micro-planning is a term used to describe the inclusive process of engaging stakeholders in planning at a local level, usually at the smallest unit of community organisation, namely the village. It provides an effective participatory mechanism for planning eco-development within the context of protected area management. A micro-plan is the product of this process.

### 2.1. Key principles of micro-planning to be followed:

- **Micro-planning is not a one-off exercise:** Proper assessment of felt needs can evolve only in full consultation with all the stakeholders and that too through a multi-stage process.
- **Micro-planning requires patience:** Since villagers have their own prioritization of time and little initial understanding of the tools used during micro-planning, it is necessary for the facilitator to be very patience throughout the process.
- **Micro-planning requires ingenuity:** Sensitive situation may arise that requires a great deal of ingenuity to address, usually best resolved by one-to-one mediation.
- **Micro planning is by nature specific to the local context and cannot be replicated:** Since each village differ others in terms of socio-economic and other parameters and hence is unique, therefore, cannot be replicated.
- **Micro planning is inclusive:** The strength of a micro plan is its inclusive, grass roots nature. It should represent the sum of the combined wisdom and aspirations of the entire village. Thus, the process of micro planning should reach out to each household to elicit relevant information.
- **Micro planning is never 'in your face':** It is essential that the facilitator is humble, respectful and mindful of the value of the time, privacy and life style of the villagers.

### 2.2. Micro-planning tools to be used:

- **Social mapping** – It is a group exercise which provides the physical, social and infrastructure information about the village as a whole. It is taken up in a participatory manner and gives a rudimentary sketch of the village as an entity, with each household marked on the map. The purpose of the map is to gain an insight into the existing resources of the village, as well to understand its social complexity.
- **Visioning exercise** – It is a group activity in which villagers share their dreams and aspirations for the future, then identify the main challenges and constraints to achieving their vision, and finally identify measures for removing the impediments in achieving their vision.
- **Household interviews** – This is one-to-one exercise in which the facilitator visits each household to gather basic household level information in an informal manner that is based on structured line of enquiry.



### 2.3. Steps for preparation of micro-plan:

There are two main steps in the process of preparation of EDC Micro-plans as mentioned below:

#### Step 1 –

- ✚ Orienting the facilitation team
- ✚ Developing a common vision among the protected area staff and the EDC members
- ✚ Build the Micro-plan facilitation team.

#### Step 2 –

- ✚ Ice breaking
- ✚ Reaching out to each village
- ✚ Socio-economic profiling of the village
- ✚ Visioning with the entire village
- ✚ Assessing forest dependency
- ✚ Writing Micro-plan



## CHAPTER II: BACKGROUND OF THE KAZIRANGA TIGER RESERVE

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK, legally notified as a National Park in the year 1974, is a name known worldwide for its success in the conservation history of one horned Indian Rhinoceros. It also provides a natural habitat for a number of rare, threatened and charismatic species. A symbol of dedication for the conservation of animals and their habitat, Kaziranga, with a National Park status represents the single largest protected area within the North-east Brahmaputra valley Biogeographical Province to provide long term viable conservation.

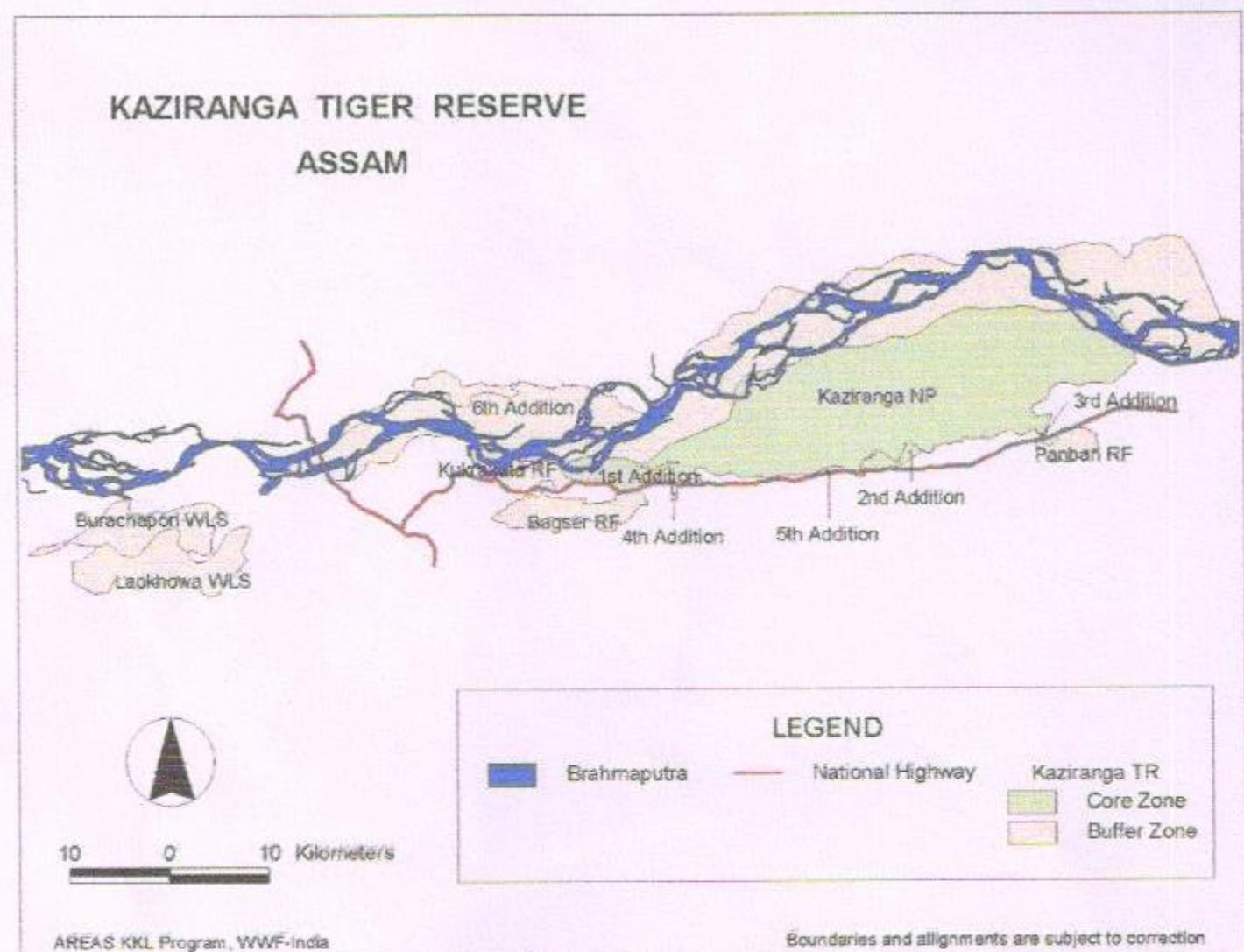
Kaziranga National Park lies between Latitudes 26°34' N to 26°46' N and Longitudes 93°08' E to 93°36' E. It is spread over the civil jurisdictions of Nagaon, Golaghat and Sonitpur districts in Assam with mighty Brahmaputra River on the north and verdant Karbi Anglong hills on the south.

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is one of the most important protected areas in Assam. Spread over an area of 429.93 Sq.Km in the flood plains of Brhamaputra, it harbors the World's largest population of One horned Rhino with a population of more than 2003, Wild Buffalo (1431 Nos. in 2001) and the Swamp Deer (more than 800 Nos.) presently. Its conservation value was much recognized when it become one of the World Heritage Sites notified in India by UNESCO in the year 1985. The management history dates back to 1st June 1908 when it was first declared as a Reserve Forest. It was subsequently upgraded to a Game Sanctuary in 1916, a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950, a National Park in 1974 and finally Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in 2007 with an area of 1030 sq kms.

Moreover, 6(six) areas have so far been added to the existing National Park. Besides these the R.Fs. of Panbari (7.65 Sq.Km.) and Kukurakata R.F. (15.93 Sq.Km.) are also under the administration of Kaziranga National Park.

Some of the significant conservation values of Kaziranga National Park are enumerated below:

- The largest Undivided and Representative area of Brahmaputra Valley flood plain grassland and forest with associated large herbivores, avifauna and wet land values.





- The World's largest population of Indian one horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) Wild Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvauceli ranjitsinghi*)
- High ecological density of Tigers (*Panthera tigris*)
- Significant population of Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)
- The junction of the Australasia flyway and Indo-Asian flyway exhibits considerable diversity in avifaunal species.
- Provides an entire range of habitat from the floodplains to grassland to hill evergreen forest communities.
- Considerable Research, Education and Recreation values.

**Some of the major constraints that have been identified are:** Poaching and other illegal activities, domestic livestock grazing, Insect/ Pathological problem, Floods and erosion, invasion by weeds, Siltation of water-bodies and problems related to infrastructure and communication needs of the park. Heavy traffic on the NH-37, growing tourist pressure and the man-animal conflict are some of the problems of lesser magnitude now, with greater implications for the future.



### CHAPTER III: STEPS FOLLOWED TOWARDS MICRO-PLANNING

#### EDC MICRO-PLANNING PROCESS IN KTR

**Orienting the facilitation team:** This is the very first step of the EDC Micro-planning process in KTR, where the management staff along with the field staff (the member secretaries of the EDCs) of the KTR met with the EDC executive committee members and NGOs members in order to develop the Micro-plan for the existing EDCs.

**Developing a common vision among the protected area staff and the EDC members:** This is a desirable step for the protected areas which don't have management plans. Since the KTR has an existing management plan, therefore, this step was avoided. Nevertheless, the vision of the KTR was discussed during the orientation workshop among the participants. While different values of the KTR and its identified threats were discussed in the workshop. Opinions were invited from all the stakeholders to mitigate the threats.

**Build the Micro-plan facilitation team:** The Micro-plan process needs to be facilitated by a team trained in participatory processes and skilled in facilitation techniques. Members of the team should be available to see the entire process through to ensure consistency in approach and, for purposes of building trust, continuity. In the case of KTR, a number of experienced Forest Officers along with organisations like WWF-India, Laokhowa Buhrachapori Wildlife Conservation Society (LBSCS), were part of the whole process from the very beginning.

**Ice breaking and reaching out to the people:** Entry into a village or household should always be undertaken in a spirit of humility, respect and patience in small groups and preferably including a lady. In case of KTR, after the initial discussion with the EDC members a general meeting was convened at the concerned EDC and the villages. All the villagers congregated where the facilitation team talked about the importance of EDC and its importance in realizing the goals of conservation. The importance of socio-economic profiling was discussed in detail in the meeting and was decided to do the socio-economic profiling of the village on a later date.

**Socio-economic profiling:** Members of the facilitation team split into small groups to visit each household in the village and elicit information on predefined parameters. Such visit also provide an opportunity to engage directly with the entire village at an individual level and therefore, gain a deeper insight into the livelihood concerns and issues of household members, while also accessing



the information that can help to consolidate the village social map and validate the assessment of the forest dependency and wellness ranking. In case of the KTR, as per the date fixed in the ice breaking meeting for socio-economic profiling a team was formed with the WWF members and volunteers from the EDC. An exhaustive questionnaire was prepared for the purpose and the team was given the requisite training how to approach the villagers and collect the required information for the purpose of Micro-planning. The team then entered into the village for socio-economic data collection.

**Visioning with the villagers:** In this phase of the work each and every person of the village was engaged. After compiling the data collected through the questionnaire, the findings were placed before the villagers for their information. The findings put light on household information, land holdings, sources of livelihood, livelihood skills, level of forest dependency, man-animal conflict, sources of energy, health issues and the like. Problem areas were almost defined, nevertheless, the villagers were asked if they wanted to add or omit some of them. Then suggestions were asked from the villagers for solving such problems. Alternative livelihood options were also discussed on the basis of the available village resources.

**Assessing forest dependency and wellness:** This is one of the most important steps in the process of preparing the Mirco-plan for an EDC. The ultimate objective of the EDC and its micro-plan is to reduce the dependency of the fringe people on the forest by providing them gainful livelihood alternatives inside the village. The villagers were asked, in the light of the findings of the socio-economic survey, to identify the forest dependent households or individuals on their own. The ultimate objective is to be able to target the most forest dependent and poorest households in the village for assistance. The criteria for defining forest dependent and wellness are as follows:

Categories	Criteria
<b>Forest dependency</b>	
High	Graze livestock, collect NTFPs, collect firewood and thatching materials for own use
Medium	Graze livestock, collect firewood and thatching materials for own use
Low	Collect firewood and thatching materials for own use
<b>Wellness</b>	
Very poor	Landless; no regular source of income; widow; separated women; orphaned children.
Poor	Marginal land holder; day-to-day (hand-to-mouth) living.



<b>Manageable</b>	Less land; barely enough for the year with no savings.
<b>Well off</b>	Enough land; well established; government service/ pensioners; running a good business; surplus food and money during the year.

**Writing Micro-plan:** The facilitation team worked closely with the EDC executive throughout the preparation of the micro-plan. The team wrote the plan and the draft plan was shared with the villagers for their approval. Though it was written in English it was discussed in vernacular medium for greater understanding of all the people of the village.



## CHAPTER IV: DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

**Methods of data collection:** For preparation of the Micro Plan both the Primary and secondary sources of data were consulted and extracted from the villages.

**Primary Data Collection:** The Micro Plan was prepared on the basis of primary data. To extract primary data various PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) techniques were used. Following are the brief discussion of the techniques of PRA that were used in the study and the criteria for selection of the sample for each technique.

For extraction of the information the Micro Plan preparation team adopted different PRA methods like direct observation, followed by time line, PRA mapping, SI (structured interview) and FGD. Prior information was given and the villagers were asked to assemble in a certain common place where they can be interviewed.

**Team composition:** PRA is basically a team work. The team comprises insiders and outsiders. The members from the outside interact with the insiders and jointly learn and achieve the desired outcome. For the present work the outside members were the KTR officials, WWF and LBCS members.

- 1. Direct Observation:** An understanding of the life and livelihoods of people as well as the resources of different kinds that support and sustain the livelihoods demands a direct observation of the livelihood opportunities and resources. The outsiders cannot have a better, deeper and more comprehensive analysis of the resources by just sitting and interacting with a group of people in a village. The need to leisurely walk in and around the village, walk through the fields, spend a great deal of time in directly observing the resources of various types, interact with the people on the basis of observation and learn gradually.
- 2. Time Line Analysis:** It should be noted that every village has a past and every past is full of events, incidences, happenings, experiments, etc. The past carries a great deal of experience along it and they need to be carefully studied. The best prophet of the future is past and therefore, there is a need to study the past. Time line is an important PRA tool which enables us to peep into the past.  
A time line is a key events, changes and landmarks in the past, presented in a chronological order. It is a way of charting trends, showing how past events led to the present situation and illustrating recurring themes.
- 3. PRA mapping:** Rural people are the natives of the area and have a clear perception of the area where they have been living for long. They possess the ability to represent their surroundings very accurately and diagrammatically irrespective of their literary status. People can easily transfer the picture in their mind into maps. Maps are very effective and immediate source of communication.

Mapping refers to maps made or drawn by the members of the community on paper or on the ground. It also entails building three dimensional models on the ground. It is a process by which information is presented in a spatial form.



4. **Structured Questionnaire:** Interviewing is one of the major methods of data collection. It is defined as a two-way systematic conversation between an investigator and an informant, initiated for obtaining information relevant to a specific study.

SI is a focused interview. The interviewer under this type attempts to focus the discussion on the actual effects of a given experience. For the present study a number of questions were designed carefully to extract the socio economic condition of the villagers. Each and every household was interviewed and the questionnaire was filled up by the interviewer who was trained up in this regard prior to the household survey.

5. **Focus Group Discussion:** It's basically a group interviews. There are a great many uses for focus group discussion in combination with other methods or even as an independent method of qualitative data collection.

Focus group discussion is basically a group interview. A moderator guides the interview while a small group discusses the topics that the interviewer raises. What the participants in the group say during their discussions is the essential data in focus group. In action research focus group discussion has almost become the sole method of data collection.

**Sample selection:** Since the objective of the study was to collect socio economic data of the village and also to know about various livelihood opportunities in the village, only young adult male and female and old age people were taken as sample. Children were not allowed to participate.

**Secondary Data Collection:** Secondary information was collected from the following sources:

1. Management plan of KTR,
2. Books and journals: Different reports, books and journals were consulted to get the knowledge to write the Micro Plan,



## CHAPTER V: BACKGROUND OF THE EDC

### PRELUDE TO THE LUKHURAKHONIA DOMJAN EDC:

The Lukhurakhonia Domjan Eco Development Committee was established in the year 2002, Mr Dipak Kumar Gogoi as its President. There is a general body and an Executive committee having placed Mr Ranjit Barua, Forester, as its Member Secretary who took charge from Mr Rupak Bhuyan. One member of each household of the constituting villages is a general member. The executive committee is formed with 14 members who are selected or elected at the general meeting by the general members. There are three female members in the Executive Committee.

### TIME LINE AND HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES:

#### Lukhurakhonia village -

Lukhurakhonia EDC is situated towards the South of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. The village is a historical one and is inhabited by Assamese Hindu people. During the Ahom rule some people inhabited beside the Kaziranga and were dispersed during the Burmese invasion to different places of Assam and even to Thailand. After the treaty of landabu when the Burmese left Assam the people came back to their original places. The people of this village also came back but did not find their village (since the houses were burnt down by the Burmese) and therefore settled beside and towards the south of Mora Difolu river. Thus the village was newly formed with fifteen families of four different Khels, namely, Borphukan, Lukhurakhon, Bora and Bhuyan and since majority of the families belonged to the Lukhurakhon Khel, the name became Lukhurakhonia village.

Lukhurakhonia has a very rich cultural background. Till a few decades back people of the village used to stage Bhaona in Brajaboli language. Some of the households of the village still possess the artilleries of Ahom warfare.

About 40/50 years back there were about 50 households only to increase to 79 right away which is the result of family expansion. The households living the village seem economically sound.

**Name of the village: Lukhurakhonia**

**Name of the Development Block: Bokakhat**

**Police Station: Bokakhat**

**Post office: Kaziranga National Park**

**District: Golaghat**

**Village boundary: North: Kaziranga National Park; South: NH 37; East: 1 No Domjan and West: Mohpora village.**



## CHAPTER VI: MICRO-PLAN FOR LUKHURAKHONIA EDC

1. **INTRODUCTION:** The Lukhurakhonia EDC was formed in the year 2002 under the Forest Development Agency programme of the Government of India.

Mr Dipak Gogoi is the president of the EDC and Mr Ranjit Barua is the Member Secretary. At least one member of all the households of the village is a general member of the EDC. The EDC has been taking the cause of conservation and working for the betterment of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve since its inception. The Executive body is as follows:

President	: Sri Dipak Gogoi
Member Secretary	: Sri Ranjit Baruah
Executive Members	: Sri Padma Gogoi
	: Sri Ajit Gogoi
	: Sri Baliram Gogoi
	: Sri Naren Gogoi
	: Smt Gopali Tamuly
	: Smt Jayanti Nath
	: Smt Jogamaya Nath
	: Sri Padum Bora
	: Sri Rajib Gogoi
	: Sri Ganesh Nath
	: Sri Kumud Saikia
	: Sri Santiram Nath

2. **LOCATION, ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES:**

Sl no	Information	
1	Name of the village	Lukhurakhonia
2	Name of the EDC	Lukhurakhonia Domjan
3	Forest Beat/ Range	Kohora
4	Post office	KNP
5	Block	Bokakhat
6	Police station	Bokakhat
7	Total household	79
8	Total population	395
9	Livestock population	1308

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

- 2.1. **Details of human population:**

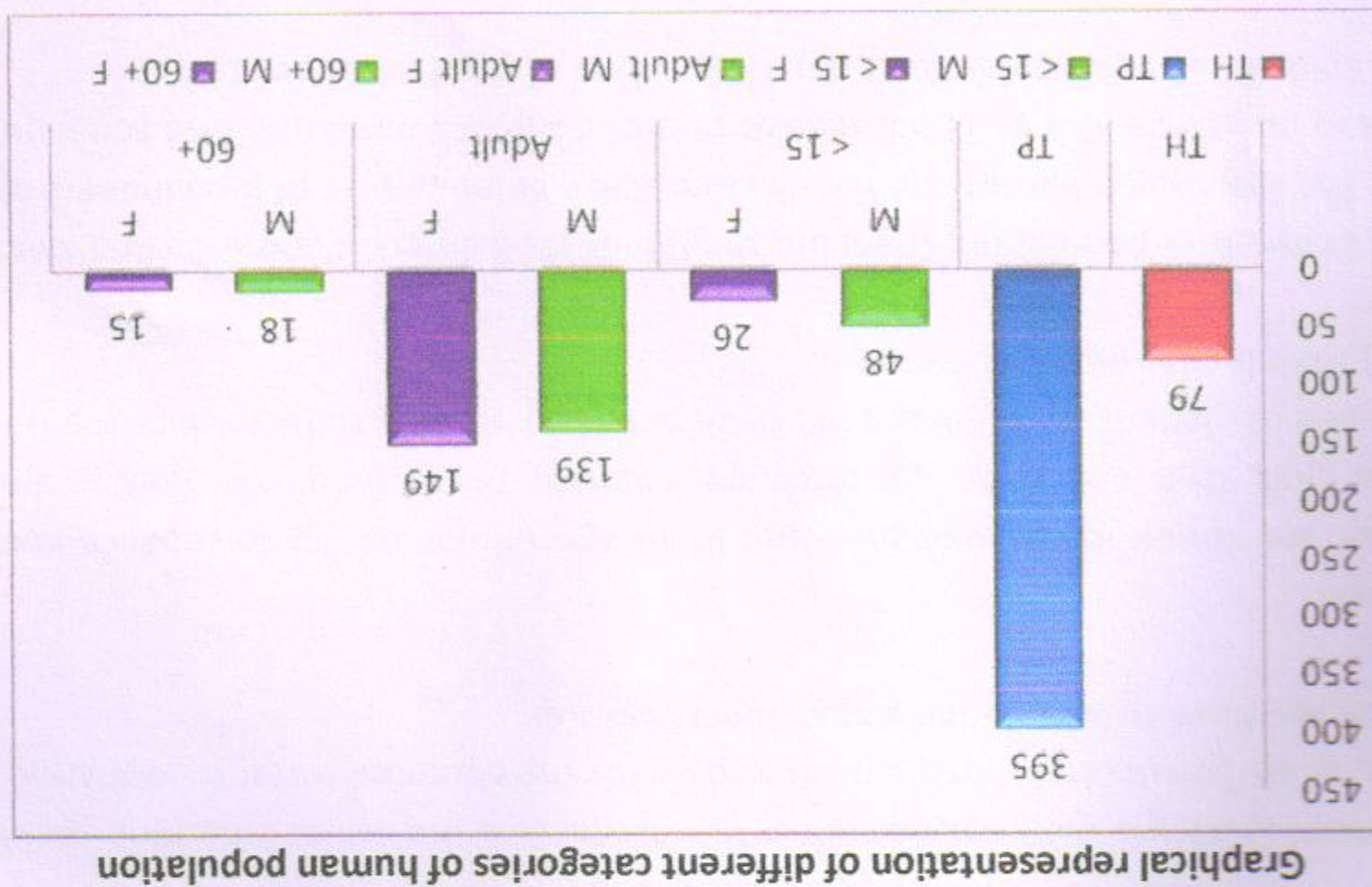
Population of Lukhurakhonia village

Category	TH	TP	< 15		Adult		60+	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
All	79	395	48	26	139	149	18	15

Source: Household survey



**Human population:** Lukhuraikhonia is a village accommodating 79 households, all Hindu by religion, with a population of 395 nos. out of which 205 nos are male as against 190 female. There are 288 workable people (comprising 73% of the total population in the EDC) 52% of which are female. The male female ratio in the village as a whole is 926. In the age group below 15, this ratio is 541 which are very discouraging. The overall literacy rate in the village is 80.7%. There are rooms for improving the education and direct it towards vocational line. The family size in the village is 5 per family. The different categories of population has been shown with the help of the following graph.



**2.2. Caste population:** All the population belong to the OBC category. The following table represents the caste population according to their age group in the village:

Source: Household survey.

Category	TP	M	F
<15	79	48	26
Adult	395	139	149
60+	18	18	15

**2.3. Educational Background:**

Education is one of the most important parameters of quality human resource. It is a prerequisite for development of any society. It is an asset to the society and people would like to see all their children well educated. Education increases their employability and thus raises the income of the households which contributes to the welfare of the said society. In a society, particularly in a modern society, where so much depend on the written medium, being illiterate is like being imprisoned, and school education opens a door through which people can escape incarceration. Having said this it can be said that the overall educational achievement is not at all encouraging in our country as a whole. The situations in the rural and interior places are rather tricky. The literacy rate in the Lukhuraikhonia EDC (village) as a whole is 80.7% which is quite satisfactory. The following table shows the educational status in the Lukhuraikhonia village:



Educated people in absolute numbers

Class	Numbers
Up to IV	32
V - X	206
XI - XII	51
Bachelor	29
Masters	1

Source: Household survey.

The general literacy is quite satisfactory in the village. But, the higher education scenario is not pleasing at all. Moreover, there is a need to diversify the educated towards vocational line so as to encourage them to take up self employment venture.

3. Livestock:

Livestock are domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce commodities such as food, fiber and labor. Livestock are generally raised for profit. Raising animals is a component of modern agriculture. It has been practiced in many cultures since the transition to farming from hunter-gatherer lifestyles.

**3.1. Details of livestock population:** There are altogether 1308 different domesticated animals in the village. The following table and the bar diagram give a detail picture of the numbers of different animals in the village. Out of 79 households of the village 44 households own some or the other kind of animals. 33 households don't possess any kind of livestock population.

Livestock population of Lukhura Khonia EDC

Types of livestock	Total numbers	Stall fed	Household nos having livestock
Cow	215	0	35 households don't have
Goat	171	0	livestock population
Buffalo	63	0	
Hen	656	0	
Pig	45	0	
Other	158	0	

Source: Household survey.

The village is sizeable enough to provide its livestock population a good source of food. Its huge agricultural fields and the grazing ground is enough to provide space to its livestock. But, since the Kaziranga is the boundary of the village and owing to no restriction cattle of the village quite often graze inside the park also. Therefore, the issue of checking the health of the domesticated cattle is very important. Since, the cows are of not high milking variety and therefore the people can be motivated to get away with those and get some improved and high milking variety so as to receive greater income out of such livestock populations. This huge livestock could be a good source of income for the people of the village which need only a meticulous planning.



**3.2. Fodder availability:** As has already been mentioned that Lukhakhonia has a sizeable amount of agricultural field where the cattle population of the village graze. Moreover, the village has also a grazing reserve of 40 bighas of land which is a good source of fodder for the livestock of the village. Nevertheless, owing to no restriction cattle also enter the park sometimes. The crop residue is being stored for the monsoon when frequent and heavy flood sweeps the agricultural fields and the grazing ground. Stall feeding is not at all practiced.

Fodder availability round the year at Lukhakhonia village

Types	Approx. months
Crop residues	6
Trees	3
Grasses	9
Green fodder	3
Grazing in village agricultural fields	9
Grazing in the PA	3
Grazing reserve	9

Source: FGD, PRA.

The sources of the cattle food are varied as has been presented in the above table. Grazing inside the KNP is though restricted, but the cattle sometimes used to graze inside it. The entire village is engaged in agriculture and therefore, there is good amount of crop residue that can cater to the needs of the fodder requirement for about six months. People also collect palatable grasses of different variety like Dol, Erail, etc. from the nearby wetlands like Kaziranga Beel. The livestock feed also is purchased from the market. Stall feeding is practiced only during the flood for about three months when the villagers depend entirely upon the crop residue, tree leaves and the feed from the market.

**4. Land and land holding:** Assam is predominantly an agrarian state. About 70 – 80 percent of the people depend on agriculture. The main crops produced are rice, maize, sugarcane, oil seeds, etc. Tea and jute are two of the most important commercial crops of the state. Though, the state



is an agrarian state its productivity and production is low in comparison to the other states of the country. One of the main reasons is the absence of modern methodology which can only be applied where land is consolidated and size of the land holding is big. But, in Assam the size of the land holding is very small and marginal. There are also the problems of landlessness. There is a very high degree of fragmentation of land holding which is untenable and unproductive.

**4.1. Land in the village:** The Lukhurakhonia village can be regarded as an exception in this regard. There is no landless household in the village as was elicited during the PRA although some of the households did not furnish their land data during the household survey. Agriculture is the prime livelihood activity in the village though there are some other livelihood options available also.

There are 428.6 bighas of land in the EDC as a whole as has been shown in the table below which is actually an absolute underestimation. This is due to non furnishing of data as has been mentioned above. Therefore, we would make the analysis here on the basis of the data presented by the villagers.

The average landholding in the EDC is 5.41 bighas per household. It came out during the PRA that though people possess good amount of land but the land is fragmented. Therefore, there is a need of consolidation of the land holding during the time of producing different agricultural items.

**Total land of Lukhurakhonia EDC**

Land in Bighas	
1	Total land
2	Community land
3	agricultural land

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

As has been represented by the villagers there are about 45 bighas of community land which has been utilized for establishing various community organisations like the schools, temple, etc. apart from the grazing ground.

**4.2. Irrigated land:** Since agriculture is the prime livelihood activity of the people of the village hence the agriculture is done round the year in the village. Sali paddy is done extensively since ages. Bodo paddy has been growing there for about last 15 years though now in a declining trend since it is becoming costlier. Irrigation is a must for the Bodo paddy and since there is no artificial irrigation facility available people need to procure water by installing Shallow Tube Wells (STW). Some people are growing it inasmuch as the productivity is very high for Bodo paddy. But, the point of disappointment is that the price of it is very low in the market and thus the farmers are not rewarded properly.

Apart from the paddy, mustard is grown in a very large scale by the farmers in the village. People also grow good amount of vegetables for home consumption. Unlike other neighboring villages the monkey menace is not there and hence can produce and harvest good amount of vegetables for domestic consumption.



Agriculture is mostly weather dependent and there is a good number of STWs at the village catering to the need of the water to the agricultural fields of the villagers. Farmers not having his/her own STW can procure water from others by paying one mound of rice per bigha of land. Productivity and production is low due to non-application of modern agricultural methodology.

4.3. Current land use:

	Bighas
1	0
2	428.6
3	0
6	0

Source: FGD, PRA.

Land under different use

Both Sali and Bodo paddy are grown in the village. In between mustard is grown in a very large scale. Vegetables are also grown for home consumption though not for sale. Therefore, the land is being used round the year. This double cropping has been practiced for about fifteen years now. Earlier people only grew Sali but due to the erratic weather most of the farmers switched to Bodo paddy which received more emphasis in the later years. The entire package of green revolution technology is yet to be applied on agriculture which will increase the productivity of the agriculture to a large extent.

4.4. Agricultural land holding: Land holding pattern in the state is not encouraging. More than 85% farmers are small and marginal against national average of 81%. Average land holding is 1.11 hectare and average land holding of small and marginal farmers are 0.63 hectares.

Land holding category	TH	Land (in bighas)
Large (> 4 hectares)	3	98
Medium (2 - 4 hectares)	8	133
Small (1 - < 2 hectares)	10	157
Marginal (< 1 hectares)	20	40
No agricultural Land	38	0

Source: Household survey.

A complete picture of land holding by the villagers of Lukhura khonia can't be presented here since most of the households were reluctant, for reasons unknown, to supply their land data. Whatever data were supplied can't represent a true picture of the land holding scenario of the village. Nevertheless, an analysis is trying to be made here on the basis of the supplied data.

The land holding scenario is satisfactory in Lukhura khonia village. The average land holding in the EDC is 5 bighas per household. Highest land in possession by one single farmer is 37 bigha. There are only three households in the village possessing more than 30 bighas of land. Similarly, eight households belong to the medium category possessing land in between two to four



hectares. Though 38 households have been shown possessing no land but actually these households did not supply their land data and the PRA confirm that there is not a single household possessing no land. Therefore, the overall land holding scenario is better in comparison to its neighboring villages.

5. Village resources and resource gap analysis: The state of affairs of the infrastructure facilities of Lukharkhonia EDC have been presented in the table below:

Resources of Lukharkhonia EDC

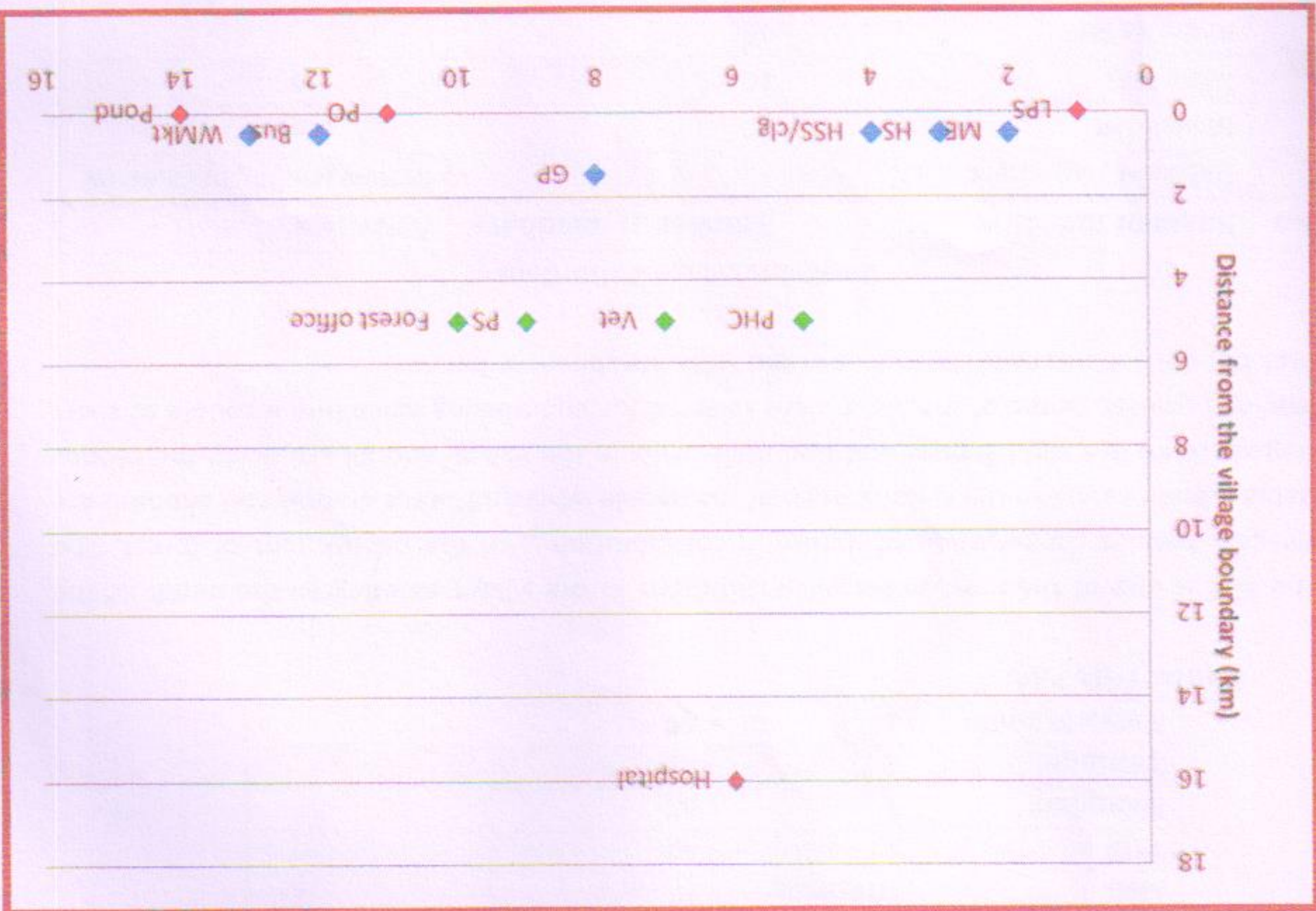
Type of resources	Availability	Distance (in km)	Status	Shortfall
LP School	Yes	0	Inside the village	0
ME	No	0.5	Diring Chariali	1
High School	No	0.5	Diring Chariali	1
HSS school/college	No	0.5	Diring Chariali	1
PHC	No	5	Kohora	1
Hospital	No	16	Bokakhat	1
Veterinary hospital	No	5	Kohora	1
GP office	No	1.5	Bosa Gaon	1
Police station	No	5	Kohora	1
Forest office	No	5	Kaziranga range office, Kohora	0
Post office	Yes	0	Inside the village	1
Bus facility (Roads)	Yes	0.5	Diring Chariali	0
Weekly market (Friday)	No	0.5	Diring Chariali	0
Tank/ pond	Yes	1	Inside the village	0

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

Infrastructure facilities are though not very developed but some of the important services are located nearby. For example the educational institutes are located in Diring Chariali which is beside the village boundary. A college has also been opened in the private hands near Diring Chariali. Thus education needs of the villagers are almost fulfilled. But for hospital and college (govt) one needs to go to Bokakhat making a distance of about 16 kms. Some services like veterinary etc. are located at Kohora five kms away from the village. But, there are rooms to improve the infrastructure facilities since there are shortfalls.

The following scatter diagram shows the distances of different facilities from the village. Close to the X-axis shows the closeness of the facilities to the village.





Distances of different facilities from the village

6. **Market facility:** Market scenario is also not satisfactory in the village as can be seen from the table below:

Market availability

Nature of facility (purchase/sale)	Nos	Distance (in km)
Grocery shop	3	0
PDS	1	0
Weekly market (Haat)	0	0.5

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

There is a PDS shop and three grocery shops at the village. These shops fulfill the demand for basic requirements of the villagers. The important items can be purchased from these shops easily inside the village. The weekly market is at Diring Chariali beside the village boundary (0.5 km) and the daily market is at Kohora, 5 kms away from the village. People get important items like rice, kerosene, etc. from the PDS shop which is functioning well. Kerosene allotted per household is not sufficient and therefore force to purchase it from the black market at a high price.

7. **Institutions:** Institutions are agents of change in both rural and urban set up. The following are some of the institutions the village has and have been working for the betterment of the villagers.



## Village institutions

Institutions	Numbers	No of member households
EDC	1	All
SHG	10 female	10 each
VDP	1	All
Namghar	1	All
Temple	2	All
Natya Mandir	1	All

Source: FGD, PRA.

The EDC is one of the most important institutions in the village catering to the needs of the villagers besides conservation of nature in collaboration with the department of forest. The Natya Mandir caters to the cultural need of the people where different dramas and Bhaonas are staged. There are eight female and two male SHGs in the village and all are doing the money lending business. Some of the SHGs were selected for undertaking apiculture a couple of years back but did not succeed. The names of the SHGs are shown as below:

## Available village institutions

Sl no	Name of the SHGs	Number of members	Activities
1	Nabasuruj Bahumukhi SHG	11	Money lending businesses
2	Milijuli SHG	10	- Do -
3	Sikha SHG	10	- Do -
4	Anamika SHG	10	-
5	Shyamoli SHG	10	-
6	Mondakini SHG	10	-
7	Monalisha SHG (Male)	10	-
8	Pragoti SHG	10	-
9	Brahmaputra SHG (Male)	10	-
10	Saraswati SHG	10	-

Source: FGD, PRA, NA: Not Available.

All the SHGs are presently embarking upon only the money lending business though they can be motivated to take up other productive activities so as to generate good income. A couple of years back some of these SHGs were selected by the EDC for taking up apiculture but could not stand up to the expectation. There is a need of building up the capacity of the SHGs and motivate them to take up activities of their own choice rather imposing something on them. Some technical and financial support needed by these SHGs can be provided from the EDC.

8. Sources of water: The state of drinking water is adequate in the village. The drinking water scenario of the EDC has been represented through the table below:



## Water infrastructure at Lukhura Khonia EDC

Sources	Number	B	D	I	L	Status (seasonal/perennial)
Pond	1	Yes	No	No	Yes	Perennial
Tube well	79	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Perennial
Ring well	0	No	No	No	No	
PHE	0	No	No	No	No	Perennial
River	1	Yes	No	No	Yes	Difolu river
Stream	0	No	No	No	No	

\*Bathing, Drinking, Irrigation, Livestock  
Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

The state of water infrastructure is pleasing here. Each household has their own tube well. The quality of water is also very good. There is no need of filtering the water as there is no iron content in the water. PHE water line has gone through the village but people are not in need and therefore not taking any connection. Difolu River is the only river passing through the North of the village catering hugely to different needs of the livestock population of the village.

9. **Energy requirements:** There are diverse sources of energy in the village, namely, fire wood, LPG, electricity, kerosene, etc. Though some households have LPG but still needs to depend largely on the firewood for stopgap maintenance.

## Types of energy used by the villagers

Type of fuel	Applicable	No of HHS	No of months of major Sources
Fire wood	Yes	79	November to February
Crop residue	No	0	
LPG	No	11	November to February
Electricity	No	73	November to February
Bio-gas	Yes	40	
Kerosene	Yes	79	Summer
			PDS & other

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

It is remarkable that more than half of the households have Biogas installed at their home which is used primarily for cooking purpose. A few LPGs are also there. Therefore the dependency on the fire wood is minimal. The village has a good amount of land under bamboo and different variety of tree species catering to the needs of the fuel wood of the villagers. 73 out of 79 households have electricity connection at their home though due to erratic supply of power they also need kerosene dependency on which increases during summer.

Kerosene is not at all a problem in the village. It is available in the PDS shop situated inside the village. 3 ltrs per household is procured for a month at the cost of Rs 18/- per liter. However, it falls short and the demand is met from the black market at Rs 30 - 40/- per liter.



10. Forest protection issues: As has been depicted on the table below that there is no such issue which shows an intimate relation of the people and the forest.

Issues	Presence
Collection of timbers	No
Collection of fuel wood	No
Collection of NTFPs	No
Hunting	No
Grazing	Yes
Encroachment	No
Others	No

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

There is not a single household which collect anything from the KNP. During the PRA the villagers denied to have anything collected from the forest. But, the livestock population of the village sometimes enters the park. Other than that the households have no sorts of dependency on the KNP.

11. Current income generation activities:

As has been discussed earlier that the village is absolutely an agrarian village depending primarily on agriculture for their livelihood. Few other options have also been availed by the people. The following table shows the household livelihood activities of the villagers of Lukhuraakhonia EDC.

Current income generating activities in household numbers

Sl no	Livelihood category	No of HHS	% of total households
1	Daily wage laborer	13	16
2	Farmer	65	82
3	Service	10	12
4	Business	2	.02
5	Farmer + Daily wage	4	
6	Farmer + Service	5	
7	Farmer + Business	1	
8	Service + Daily wage	1	
9	Farmer + Service + Daily wage	1	
10	Others	1	

Source: Household survey.

It is to be mentioned here that members of one family have been engaged into different employment activities (same person may engage in different activities at different point of time) in the same year. Although the entire village is engaged in agriculture but, 82% of the total households resort to agriculture as their prime livelihood activity. Similarly 13 households resort



to daily wage earning activities as their prime livelihood activity. Family members of some household are engaged in different income generating activities as has been shown in the table.

**12. Economic status:** It is really difficult to measure the economic status of the people of a village. Similar is the case for Lukhuraikhonia village also. Nevertheless, the following table tries to show some of the conditions of the people of the Lukhuraikhonia EDC.

Category of house	Nature	Households
Kutcha house	Thatched roof, mud floor, etc.	53
Pucca house	RCC/ tin roof, cement floor	26
Electrified		73
Owning livestock		44
Bio gas		50
Power tiller		10
Tractor		1

Source: Household survey.

It is apparent from the above table that most of the villagers live in kutcha houses. There are 26 households living in pucca houses. This does not include the IAY houses given to the poor households. 73 households are connected through electricity. Owing to large livestock population more than half of the households have installed bio gas for cooking purpose.

**13. Wellness status:**

Wellness is a difficult word to define. Traditionally wellness has meant the opposite of illness and the absence of disease and disability. Wellness is now a word used to describe living the best possible life you can regardless of whether you have a disease or disability. There is no single set standard for wellness and wellness is a difficult thing to quantify. Wellness here means the economic wellness of the people.

It is really a difficult task to attribute a wellness status upon the household since wellness of the people depends upon various parameters. Agricultural land, which is one of the most important assets of the rural people, employment opportunity, house structure, availability of mode of energy, education, health, family size are some of the important parameters of wellness.

Wellness status	No of households
Well off	10
Manageable	52
Poor	15
Very poor	2

Source: FGD, PRA.

Considering all these aspects and in consultation with the villagers in the FGD the wellness status for the Lukhuraikhonia villagers has been attributed as above.



14. Human – animal conflict in Lukhura Khonia EDC:

14.1. Crop raiding by wild animals:

Man animal conflict is very prominent in the village as has been discussed above. Though, there are no casualties in terms of man or animal, but animals like elephant, rhino, buffalo and wild boar quite frequently raid crops and croplands causing huge damage to the property of the people. Apart from the crop raids by these wild animals picking up of domestic animal like cow, pig, goat, etc. by tiger is very regular in the village. The cumulative damage in terms of money would be very high.

Frequency of man-animal confrontation

Names of animals	Frequency of conflict	Seasons	Nos killed/ injured by villagers	No of HHS afflicted
Elephant	Very high	Round the year	NIL	78
Wild boars	High	Round the year	NIL	56
Buffalo	Very high	Round the year	NIL	76
Rhino	Very high	Round the year	NIL	76
Tiger (Picks domestic animals)	Very high	Round the year	NIL	79

Source: Household survey and FGD, PRA.

It is worth mentioning here that Lkhura Khonia is one of the few villages in the fringe of KTR that have a presence of very high incidence of man-animal conflict. This is substantiated by the table above where man-animal conflicts of different nature during last three years have been presented. Conflicts with all the big animals are very frequent. Despite having been badly afflicted by the wild animals the villagers are not being compensated by the department. A meager amount of compensation is being paid to the afflicted household by the WWF for each case of tiger pick.

14.2. Household (HHS) impacted by crop raiding animals:

Conflict with animals	No of HHS
High (> 70% crop or other damage)	0
Medium (50 - 70 %)	79
Low (< 50%)	0

Source: FGD, PRA.

The man-animal conflict is very prominent in Lkhura Khonia village (EDC). There is not a single household which has not been attacked by wild animal during last three years. Fifty six households of the village have been attacked by all the five species of animals mentioned above. Eighteen households have been reported to have been attacked by four different kinds of animals at different point of time during last three years. This is the intensity of the man-animal conflict in this village. Therefore, it can be said that Lkhura Khonia EDC is highly affected a village by the crop raiding animals coming out of the KNP.



## CHAPTER VI: VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Village development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in a village. It is traditionally centered on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture, water, fish, forestry, etc. Education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing a village. Village development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. We need separate plan for each and every village since one is highly distinctive from another.

The Micro-plan facilitation team consulted the Executive committee of the EDC for identifying and prioritizing their problems. Care was taken to incorporate the interests of the forest dependent households. It was tried to ensure that the identified activities should not adversely impact the biodiversity of the forest. Since fund is limited emphasis was given to affordable activities that could be completed from the available resources.

**Priority setting:** There are many problems to be solved in a village. But each and every problem cannot be given an equal credence due to paucity of funds and therefore needs to be prioritized. The most urgent needs are to be solved first and so on. It is the villagers who know best about their problems and which need to be solved first. The following list of activities and priority ranking for Lukhura Khonia EDC was done in the general meeting.

The priority list of the Lukhura Khonia Eco Development Committee is as below:

Sl no	Name of activity	Priority ranking
1	Road	1
2	Community hall cum EDC office	2
3	Compensation for crop and other property damage	5
4	Dairy farm	6
5	Culvert	1
6	Tractor	15
7	Weaving centre, loom & training	6
8	Skill development (training)	6
9	Health camp (both human and cattle)	8
10	Kerosene & battery	5
11	STWs	7
12	Employment opportunities	6
13	Sewing machine	7
14	Repairing works of Namghar, etc.	4
15	Procuring sports equipments	14
16	One generator	16
17	Construction of Tongi ghar	8
18	Power fencing	17
19	Sprinkler machine	10
20	Eco lodge	13
21	Solar light	9



22	Animal husbandry	6
23	Plantation	12
24	Chairs	11
25	Repairing works of Beigaon LP School.	3

Detail of the activities to be undertaken by Lukhura Khonia Domjan EDC: Apart from the PRAs there was a series of very close meeting of the facilitation team with the people of the village at different point of time. The following specifications of their demand came out in the discussion:

Sl no	Item	Detail of activities
1	EDC office cum community hall	Building with furniture
2	Tractor	One number
3	Kerosene and battery	This is primarily for elephant depredation
4	Repairing works	Harimandir, Namghar and Natya Mandir of the village. Floor, procuring GI sheet, construction of toilets etc.
5	Sports equipments	Football, volleyball, badminton, etc.
6	Weaving shed	Construction of a shed along with procuring handlooms
7	Generator	For the community hall
8	Tongi house	Construction of tongi house along the boundary of the KTR
9	Sprinkler	Procuring the machine
10	Power fencing	2 kms along the KTR boundary for reducing the man – animal conflict
11	Compensation	Financial compensation to the afflicted households
12	Eco lodge	Construction of eco lodge for tourists
13	Solar light	20 nos
14	Road	Construction of roads from Luhkurakhonia namghar to Moradfolu/ Teteliguri link road). Narrow road to paddy fields.
15	Culverts	Five nos.
16	Chairs	300 nos.
17	Plantation	Locally available fruit tree at public places as well as valuable tree at home garden of each households.
18	Computer training centre	A house with five computers and internet connection
19	Sewing and cutting knitting centre	Construction of a shed (house) along with procuring sewing machine and other equipments
20	Capacity building	Training on specific activities so as to take up those as livelihood options.
21	Beigaon LP School	Earth filling and construction of boundary wall.

#### Income generation activities:

Income generation activities which are both farm and non-farm based but don't adversely affect the biodiversity of the area. The beneficiaries of these activities may be both the individual and organisation. The activities had been identified by the EDC executive members and were



approved by the general body on a later date. A time frame has been fixed for completion of the work. Some of the activities identified are listed below:

SI no	Activities	Beneficiaries	Year of implementation	Nature of support required
1	Dairy farming	SHGs/ individuals	2015	Both technical & financial
2	Supply of farm equipments	Individuals	2015	Both technical & financial
3	Driving, computer education, mobile repairing, electrician, etc.	Individuals	2015	Both technical & financial
4	Supply of looms & stitching machine	SHGs/ individuals	2015	Both technical & financial

Since the people have no specific expertise therefore they prefer to get engaged in the primary sector. Dairy farming, weaving, growing vegetables, etc. have been selected by the villagers as major income generating activities. The rational for selecting these activities are two: the first is the market for such products and the second is the expertise the women in weaving and stitching. The beneficiaries would be both the individuals and the SHGs. What requires at the very initial stage is some kind of technical assistance to the entrepreneurs and a handsome amount of seed money that can be provided from the EDC fund.

**CAPACITY BUILDING:**

**Awareness creation for environment conservation:**

Type of programme	Year	Frequency	Targeted nos of participants
Awareness	2015	Quarterly	School children and the EDC members

Awareness regarding various issues of nature and nature conservation is of utmost importance in the village. Since, the EDC is located in the fringe of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve therefore there is a need of generating awareness regarding forest and its ecosystem conservation. The school children could, thus, be groomed for future stewards for conservation in and around the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

**Capacity building/ skill development potential IGA**

Target groups	Activities	Year of training	No of participants	Place of training/ training institutions
SHG and interested individuals	Farming & cutting, knitting and weaving, etc.	2105	50	Village premise
Drop out youths	Mechanical training (carpentry, driving, etc.)	2015	50	Village premise



Since different income generating activities will be undertaken by the villagers, there is a need of capacity building for the people who would be involved in such kind of activities. The experts of the concerned field could be invited to the villages and the youths could be motivated for doing it in a scientific manner so as to get maximum benefit out of a tiny investment.

**COMMUNITY BASED ECOTOURISM:**

Promotion of ecotourism as an income generation activity in the village may be promoted. One should not confuse in using the term 'ecotourism' in a very liberal manner. It is not just about green destination but is much more about green behavior in reaching and exploring such destinations. The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as:

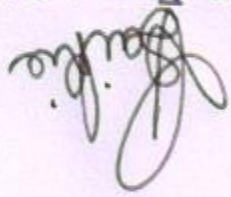
*Responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the welfare of the local people.*  
The IUCN defines it as:

*Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people.*

Community based ecotourism is a growing phenomenon in developing world. The community has substantial control and involvement in the ecotourism initiatives and majority of benefits accrue directly to the community.

Eco-tourists typically look for experiences that provide a sense of closeness to the natural features and local communities that attracted them to visit the destination. Any destination, therefore, must protect its resources while facilitating a sense of integration with the local community. An important ingredient of any tourism destination is accommodation, which is often a decisive factor in the choice of destination. Eco tourists prefer a clean, well managed small hotel located in a quite natural area that is built of wood and bamboo. They prefer to eat local food and sleep in a room decorated with local handicrafts and furnishings. Also, most international tourists are very environmentally conscious and want to stay in a place that does not negatively affect the environment. The EDC can take up some kind of eco tourism activities too at the village by identifying the resources available in and out the village. Some kind of activities around Mustard cultivation of the village and the Mohpara beel may be ideal for the purpose.

Division: Forest Officer  
-cum- FTU APFBC Society  
B.A.W.L. Division, Bokakhat





## CHAPTER VII: PROJECT ACTIVITIES, BUDGET AND ANNUAL PLANNING

The micro-plan will prescribe various developmental activities and provide approximate estimate of funds and period for implementation. The activities listed here are on the basis of household data collected and prioritized in the EDC meeting as has been mentioned above. The fund requirement would be met by the KTR welfare fund and other sources that can be tapped by the park authority or the EDC itself. The activities include man-animal conflict mitigation, village development, capacity building, income generating activities, etc.

This is basically a long term activity plan for the Lukhura Khonia EDC. It is to be reviewed once some of its demands get fulfilled.

Activities	Year	Duration of work	Man-animal conflict mitigation		
			Unit	Cost (Rs.)	Starting (month)
Compensation for crop raid	Rs	October, 2015	March, 2016	2,50,000	
Compensation for livestock	Rs.	October, 2015	March, 2016	3,00,000	
Village development					
EPA					
Chairs	300 nos	October, 2015	March, 2016	90,000	
Handloom	10 nos	October, 2015	March, 2016	1,00,000	
Culvert	5 nos	October, 2015	March, 2016	1,00,000	
EDC office cum Community Hall		September, 2015	2016	3,00,000	
Plantation					
Locally available fruit trees at the roadside like Lemon, Litchi, Mango, Kordoi, Amlakhi, Amora etc.	200 Nos	April - July, 2016		50,000	
Valuable tree at household premise like Agar, etc.	at 200 Nos	April - July, 2016		50,000	
Common interest activity					
Road (to request for PMGSY)					
Livelihood improvement					
Human health camp	2 Nos	Oct - March, 2015-16		1,00,000	
Animal health camp	2 Nos	Oct - March, 2015-16		80,000	
IGA					
Jersey cow	10	October, 2015	March, 2016	3,50,000	
Tractor	1 nos	October, 2015	March, 2016	2,50,000	
Procurement of STW	10 nos	October - Nov, 2015	March, 2016	3,00,000	
Weaving shed	1 no	October, 2015	Nov, 2015	1,50,000	



Stitching machine	10	80,000	October, 2015	March, 2016
Capacity building programme				
Awareness education	2 Nos	50,000	October, 2015	March 2016
Training in specific activity like carpentry, tailoring, electrical repairing, driving, computer mobile repairing, etc.	6 Nos	2,00,000	October - Nov, 2015	March, 2016
Exposure visit	1 Nos	1,00,000	December, 2015	March, 2016

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

Monitoring and evaluation is a prerequisite for achieving the desired goals of any development plan. If not properly monitored there is every possibility that the Micro Plan may not be implemented to achieve its desired goals of overall village development. Therefore, there should be some agencies that will look after the works to be implemented and point out the lacunae at accurate time so as to rectify for the greater benefit of the villages. Review of implementation of the Micro Plan may be carried out in the following manner:

SI no	Reviewing agencies	Minimum frequency
1	EDC executive	Every month
2	KTR, WWF, LBCS	Quarterly
3	EDC general body	Half yearly

The executive committee of Lukhuraakhonia EDC will be in charge of implementation of all kinds of schemes that have been outlined in the Micro Plan. Therefore, all the executive members have been proposed to sit and review the progress of the work monthly. The KTR, WWF and LBCS will meet quarterly and sit together with the executive members of the EDC and review whether the work is progressing towards desired direction. Finally, it is the EDC general members who will review and approve the work.

The reviewing agencies mentioned in Col.2 of the above table will also ensure necessary corrective steps as brought out by the review.

**ROLE OF THE LINE AGENCIES AND SUGGESTIONS:**

It has been realized that all the problems / issues cannot be addressed and solved by the forest department or the KTR authority. It is not always possible and also desirable on the part of the department or the KTR authority to bring panacea for all sorts of constraints of village development. It would be a gross mistake if somebody expects so. Therefore, it would be proper for the park authority to negotiate with other line agencies like the department of Agriculture, Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam State Electricity Board, Public Health department, Veterinary department, PWD, etc. for overall socio-economic development of the Lukhuraakhonia EDC. A proper coordination, indeed, would ensure desired development of villages and thereby guarantee nature conservation to a large extent. The roles that could be played by the line agencies in the overall socio-economic development of the Lukhuraakhonia (village) EDC have been summarized below:



**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:** The agriculture sector employs 52.9% of the total workforce and 46% of the total geographical area, making it a vital element for the inclusive and sustainable growth of Indian economy. Almost 41.8% of rural populations live in abject poverty and these poverty ridden people primarily depend on agriculture for their livelihood. For most of the farmers a noble thought of applying the modern and scientific technology in agriculture is a great luxury though there are no dearths of agricultural schemes. Lakhurakhonia village is no exception. The small and marginal farmers don't even realize that a small dose of the green revolution package will improve their lifestyle to a great extent. Therefore, an endeavor should be made on the part of the park authority to invite the officials concerned in order to give them some kind of technical and other assistance so as to increase the productivity of the land and thereby improving the village economy.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY:** Since the farmers are small and marginal having a small holding, application of modern technology is a distant dream for them. They do agriculture in a very traditional way by bullocks and other equipments. It is worth noting here that the bullocks during the farming season suffer from many diseases and people cannot attend to any doctor owing to no veterinary hospital nearby. It leads serious hardship and huge loss on the part of the villagers and therefore, there is an utmost need of attending the cattle and vaccinate it. On the other hand, inasmuch as the cattle are left free and the wild animals come into the village there is every possibility that the diseases may caught the wild animals. Therefore, vaccinating the livestock of the Lakhurakhonia villages should be one of the topmost priorities. This will help both the poor farmers on the one hand and the wild lives of the KTR and other adjacent forests on the other.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF P&RD:** The department of Panchayat and Rural Development can be requested to deliver all kinds of facilities meant for the poor villagers in the fringe area of the KTR.

**THE ASEB:** There is a noble scheme of rural electrification named Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme under which the BPL households of the village are given free electricity connection. The modalities of the scheme are that the concerned development block will prepare the list of the BPL families and handed over to the ASEB department and the department on their part would give the necessary connection. Therefore, the KTR authority may discuss with the concerned officials of both the development blocks and the ASEB for delivering the services in the Lakhurakhonia EDC.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PWD:** It has been mentioned above that the villagers are not connected with all weathered roads and therefore suffer a lot especially during monsoon. It has been realized at the same time that it would not be possible for the KTR authority, owing to paucity of funds, to build an all weathered road, which involves huge cost, for the villagers. Therefore, the department of PWD can be brought into the scenario at this juncture. It is the PWD department who is looking into the construction of the PMGSY (Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna). Our suggestion is that the KTR authority should sit and discuss with the PWD for their intervention in this regard.



CHAPTER IX: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

By the mid 1970s, wildlife conservation in India had become conflict ridden in many places. Conflicts and clashes between PA managers and local communities were on the rise. Also, in many PAs, it was proving to be a struggle for the park managers to safeguard their charge to the levels prescribed by law. In a few places, resource managers began to come up with innovative, ameliorative measures that began to yield results, which went beyond mere protection. Consequently, the mid 70s through to the 80s and 90s of the last century saw the emergence of new thoughts and practices in the realm of forest and wildlife management in the country. Driven primarily by the realisation that the needs and aspirations of forest dependent communities had to go hand in hand with the demands of nature conservation, practices like the Joint Forest Management were adopted. This, in turn, led to innovative experiments by a few resource managers in different parts of the country. In the case of the management of protected areas (PA), a government of India document (1983) titled 'Eliciting public support for wildlife conservation' sowed the seed of a philosophy and practice which finally came to be called 'eco-development'. This had clearly arisen out of a felt need.

A prior baseline survey profiling demographic and socio-economic features of the fringe villages where the EDC is to be established is a *pre-requisite*. The aim of such a venture is economic upliftment of the underprivileged as well as better conservation of biodiversity.

Robust micro planning in full participation with all community sections, specially the SNGs (special need groups), has emerged as another critical ingredient of all round success. The nature of micro planning process necessitates devotion of substantial time and expert facilitation. Hastening of the micro planning process can rob it of its real value and usefulness. Appropriate capacity building of the different players e.g. PA staff, NGOs and members of EDC/EC is a sine qua non of success. Similarly, skill enhancement of SHGs in IGAs is essential.

As has been mentioned above that the Lakhurakhonia village is an economically sound village. The population don't depend at all on the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. Since the KTR is beside the boundary of the village the man-animal conflict is very prominent in the village. Almost all the households are afflicted by one or the other kind of wild animals. The erection of power fencing along the boundary of the village is therefore one of the most urgent needs. The employment generation along different lines for the unemployed youths of the village has also taken place during the PRA. People also demand that there should be quota for the people of the village in the forest jobs. The people of the village are conscious about the conservation issues and also extend their helping hand in resolving the issues whenever need arise. Eco-tourism has big prospect as has been detailed in the analysis.

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