**State Level Workshop on Climate Change Impact on Forest & Wildlife**

Forest ecosystems provide environmental services that benefit, directly or indirectly, all human communities, including watershed protection, regional climatic regulation, food, drinking water, air purification, carbon storage etc. There is greater need to understand the deep relationship between the biodiversity, forest ecosystem resilience, and climate change. It has widely been recognised that climate change a ffects or will affect the wild life and their habitat. Therefore there is strong rationale for talking about the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in any forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Keeping this vision in mind, Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) organized a State Level Workshop on Climate Change Impact on Forest & Wildlife under the GoI-UNDP Programme “Enhancing Institutional and Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change (2013-2017) on 6th & 7th February 2015 at the Conference Hall of the Circuit House, Guwahati**.** The main aim of this workshop is to identify the critical issues regarding the impact, mitigation and adaptation issues for the wildlife and forest in the State and also to Review and augment existing measures adopted for protection and conservation, mitigation of climate risk in the forest and wildlife.

**Padmshri Jadav Payeng**, the Forest man of India graced the occasion and shared his experience on the community based approach on Forest conservation and how a small initiative could bring in a big difference. Dr. Anurag Danda from WWF India spoke on mitigation and adaptation measures for sustaining Forests and Wildlife with particular reference to coastal eco systems in Sunderbans. Dr. Alka BHargava, IFS gave an overview of the present scenario of Climate change and Prof. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Retd. Professor, Gauhati University focused on the impact of climate change on Forest Eco system. Mr. Amit Sarma, from Guwahati centre of WWF India highlighted the burning issue of climate change on wildlife Habitat shrinkage. **Over 60 participants** attended the workshop.

The technical sessions will be continued in the next day also wherein various resource persons would give presentations on various thematic areas. Prof. Abhik Gupta, Dean School of Environmental Science, Assam will speak on the Impact of climate change on wetlands Ecosystems and Dr. Rathin Barman, centre Head, CWRC, Wildlife Trust of India will address the issue of wildlife rescue & rehabilitation in DRR perspective. Dr. Surajit Baruah, an Independent consultant, Environment & Climate change will give an over view on different best practices and speak on the importance of the eco system based tools for climate change. A talk on “Shaping policy – Advocating for legislations & funding” will be given by Shri R. P. Agarwal, IFS, PCCF (Wildlife) (Retd.), Assam.

This will be followed by a panel discussion on “Climate Change Adaptation, Restoration of Forest & Wildlife Habitat” Dr. Uwe Scholz, Director, GIZ will be the chief panellist of the panel discussion. The workshop would conclude with decision on the road-ahead for the future course of action in regard to Forest & wildlife and climate change adaptation.