



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENTS**

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(FIFTEENTH ASSEMBLY)

DEMAND FOR GRANT NO. 55 FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

DEPARTMENT : ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st March, 2025

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI- 781006.**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING
COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENTS,
2025-26**

CHAIRPERSON

1. Shri Gobinda Chandra Basumatari, MLA

MEMBERS

2. Shri Padma Hazarika, MLA
3. Shri Siby Misra, MLA
4. Shri Dipayan Chakraborty, MLA
5. Shri Ajoy Kumar Ray, MLA
6. Shri Krishna Kamal Tanti, MLA
7. Shri Ponakan Baruah, MLA
8. Shri Misbahul Islam Laskar, MLA
9. Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar, MLA
10. Shri Diganta Barman, MLA
11. Shri Suzam Uddin Laskar, MLA
12. Shri Nijanur Rahman, MLA
13. Shri Charan Boro, MLA

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary.
2. Shri Rajib Bhattacharyya, Additional Secretary.
3. Shri Parag Kumar Medhi, Deputy Secretary.
4. Smti Sewali Devi, Under Secretary.
5. Shri Mahen Ch. Doley, Under Secretary.
6. Shri Baidurjya Bharali, Superintendent.
7. Smti Aporna Devi Sarmah, Asstt. Language Officer.

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairperson of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Departments having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this **Twenty Seventh Report** on Demand for **Grant No.55** relating to **Environment and Forest Department** for the financial year 2025-26.
2. The Committee has considered the Demand for **Grant No.55** on the Budget Estimates for the year 2025-26 in its meeting held on **13th March, 2025**.
3. The Committee has been befitted with the assistance rendered by the Government representatives during the course of examination of the Budget Estimates under the aforementioned Grant for the year 2025-26. The Committee has formulated its observations taking into consideration the valuable submission rendered by official witnesses during the course of consideration of the Budget Estimates.
4. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.
5. The Committee has considered the Draft Reports on 16th March, 2025 and approved it on the same day.

Place : Dispur
The 16th March, 2025.

GOBINDA CHANDRA BASUMATARI
Chairperson,
Departmentally Related Standing Committee
on Development (A) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER 1
GRANT No. 55

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year, 2025-26, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Departments in its meeting held on **13th March, 2025** discussed on **Grant No.55 (Environment and Forest Department)**.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Departments in its meeting held on **13th March, 2025** examined the papers and documents received from the concerned department and took evidence of the Departmental representative. Besides, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the **26th Report** in addition to the scrutiny of the Budget provision.

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs. In lakhs)
VOTED	123182.68	5792.41	128975.09
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

The detailed Budget Estimates under the **Grant No.55** for the Financial year 2023-24 are as below :-

	(Rupees in Lakhs)
Major Head of Accounts	Budget Estimates 2023-24
2406 - Forestry and Wild Life	121222.50
2415 - Agricultural Research and Education	1960.18
4406 - Capital Outlay on Forestry & Wildlife	5687.91
4415 – Capital Outlay on Agricultural Research & Education	104.50
Grand Total Rs. 128975.09	

Budget provision under **Grant No.55** is relating to **Environment and Forest Department**. The amount so allocated before the House and is proposed to be spent in revenue and capital expenditure respectively.

CHAPTER-II

Grant No.55

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

Forestry is a vital sector of the State and it is a very important component of social sector in terms of goods and services it delivers.

The forest & tree cover in Assam as per the latest assessment by Forest Survey of India (F.S.I.) is 36.09% (as per latest Report, 2021) of the geographical area both within and outside the notified forest areas. The concept of extension forestry initiated in the early eighties under State Plan has percolated down fairly in terms of extent of forest cover outside the notified forest areas.

The thrust areas identified by the Department are as below:-

- Conservation of areas having rich biodiversity.
- Arresting the trend of degradation of Forests and reverting the process by reforestation through various stake holders.
- Eviction measures in Forest land of Assam and erection of boundary pillars in vulnerable areas.
- Conservation and Management of Protected Area Network.
- Upgradation of Research and Development activities.
- Improvement in livelihood support system of forest dependent communities.

Mandate of the Department : -

a) Function, role and responsibilities of the Department :

The mandate of the Forest Department is to manage the Forest, Forest produces and Wildlife of the State of Assam. The relevant constitutional framework at the backdrop of management of forest resources are briefly enumerated as follows:

The Constitution of India:

Article 48 A one of the Directive Principles, which state that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forest and wildlife of the country.

Article 51 A deals with the fundamental duties of citizens, which include the citizen's duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture and to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

Article 246 points towards the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which enlists forest as one of the subjects in the Concurrent List on which both the Central and State Governments shall legislate upon.

The Assam Forest Policy, 2004 has been adopted in the State of Assam in the line of **National Forest Policy, 1988**.

b) Acts and Rules administered by the Department:

The Central Acts and Rules as well as the State Acts and Rules administered by the Department are listed as below:-

Central Acts and Rules:

- Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
- The Cattle Trespass Act, 1971.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.
- The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 2002.
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management (Rules, 2010).
- National Green Tribunal (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2011.
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

State Acts and Rules:

- The Assam Forest Regulation, 1891
- The Assam Forest (Removal and Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000
- Un-classed State Forest Rules.
- Rules to regulate the removal of orchids from the Un-classed state forest in the N.C. Hills.
- Rules to regulate grazing in the Un-classed State Forests.
- Rules to regulate the import of forest produce.
- Rules for establishment and control of Forests Villages.
- Rules for Protection of Forests from Fire.
- Rules for eviction from Reserved Forests.
- Rules to regulate the transport of forest produce by land and water.
- Rules for better control of rafts of logs and bamboos on the Barak, Kushiya and Surma rivers in the Barak Valley.
- Rules to regulate the salvage, collection and disposal of drift and other timber.
- Assam Wood Based Industries (Promotion and Development) Rules 2022.
- Assam Revolving Fund Rules, 2000.
- Assam Trees outside Forest (Sustainable Management) Rules 2022.
- Assam Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2004.
- Assam Sale of Forest Produce, Coupes and Mahal Rules, 1977 (as amended in 2000)
- Assam Joint (Peoples Participation) Forest Management Rules, 1998.
- The Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Act, 2009.
- Tiger Conservation Foundation Rules, 2010.

- Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010.
- Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2013.
- Rules for quarrying of stones for the collection of stones, gravel, shingle or sand from the Un-classed State Forests.

Description of the Organizational Structure of the Forest Department, Assam is enclosed in the next sheet.

Activities of the Department:

Description of the main Plans/ Programmes/ Work implemented by the Department

c) Brief description of the schemes indicating the main objectives, components and beneficiaries :

Forestry is a vital sector of the State and it is a very important component of social sector in terms of goods and services it delivers.

The forest and tree cover in Assam as per the latest assessment by Forest Survey of India (F.S.I.) is 36.09% (as per latest Report, 2021) of the geographical area both within and outside the notified forest areas. The forest cover is more than what the nations aspires to achieve as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The concept of extension forestry initiated in the early eighties under State Plan has percolated down fairly in terms of extent of forest cover outside the notified forest areas.

The thrust areas identified by the Department are as below: -

- Conservation of areas having rich biodiversity.
- Arresting the trend of degradation of Forests and reverting the process by reforestation through various stake holders.
- Eviction measures in Forest land of Assam and erection of boundary pillars in vulnerable areas.
- Conservation and Management of Protected Area Network.
- Up gradation of Research and Development activities.
- Improvement in livelihood support system of forest dependent communities.

The above thrust areas have been the centre points behind the SOPD schemes which have been formulated and implemented during the period.

Implementation mechanism:

Most of the schemes of forest regeneration and conservation are implemented in a participatory framework involving Joint Forest Management Committees. Besides, continuous efforts are being made to involve line departments for better resource mobilization and implementation of the developmental schemes in forest areas considering increased inter-dependence of the forestry sector with other sectors of the economy.

Allocations, expenditure and target and achievements (Physical & Financial)

Plan Allocation & Expenditure of the Department for last 3 years :

Rs. in lakh

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2021-22	78246.37	59100.01 (appox.)
2022-23	98819.28	77740.04 (appox.)
2023-24	105983.53	78996.44 (appox.)

New initiatives and innovative steps taken by the Department to improve its functioning by increasing the use of information technology and/ or through any other reform measures :

- a. Rapid Response Teams- Mobile Anti-depredation Squad (MADS) & Field Anti-depredation Squad (FADS) have been constituted at division level to tide-over the situation of increasing human-wildlife conflicts in the state.
- b. Toll Free No. 0361 2333253 (To address the Personal Grievances of General People)
- c. Man-Animal Conflict Toll Free No. 0361 2333253 (To gather information about the Man-Animal Conflict in different parts of Assam)
- d. Relative ranks of subordinate forest officers have been upgraded to bring parity with police in terms of pay and other allowances. Also the anomaly regarding the Assistant Conservator of Forests as Class-I service as per rules getting class-II pay for the last so many years has been removed.
- e. Amrit Brikshya Andolan was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam on 02/08/2023 and more than One Crore seedlings were planted in single day by the people of Assam on 17/09/2023 and during the run up to this day 10 Guinness World Records were created from 09/09/2023 to 17/09/2023.
- f. For creating awareness among the people for conservation of wildlife, new Wildlife Safari and Rescue Centre at Cachar and Dibrugarh are at nascent stage of establishment.
- g. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) under the Territorial Divisions have been provided with Aranyak Response Vehicles (vehicle fitted with all necessary items required for anti-depredation activity and rescue of animals) for quick and better response to animal depredation instances.
- h. To enhance surveillance in forest areas especially those adjoining Border States, procurement of modern surveillance tools like drones is in progress.
- i. 3rd AFPP Battalion has been raised on 23rd march. 2023 with a strength of 1115 and recruitment of 820 constables has already happened with appointment letters issued on 26th May during 2023.
- j. To provide a State of the Art wildlife health and rehabilitation facility to the state, a project to establish Institute of Wildlife Health & Research at Dinjan with three satellite centers at Kaziranga, Manas & Tezpur is in progress.
- k. To create a State of the Art Zoo, proposal of ₹362.042 Cr is already submitted which is awaiting approval from the Cabinet.

Human Resource Development

1. The main strength of the Forest Department is the frontline staff working in the remote forests. Hence, the importance of training, both induction and in-service. Assam has two State Forestry Training Institutes, namely the Assam Forest School at Jalukbari and Assam Forest Guards School, Makum for training of the Foresters and Forest Guards respectively.
2. To counter smugglers and poachers who are armed with modern arms and weapon 48 constables of Forest Protection Force are given Commando Training.

Legislation:

- a) *Details of new legislations enacted by the Department during the year-* Nil.
- b) *Brief details of setting up of any major Commissions/ Committees-* Nil.

Any other matter which the Department would like to highlight in the report and which is not covered in any of the subject heads above :

In order to increase the forest cover, conserve biodiversity, improve the livelihood support systems for forest dependent communities and capacity building in the forest department, the following Projects and Schemes are in various stages of implementation as mentioned below:

(I) Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Phase-II

The “Assam Project on Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation” (APFBC) Phase-I, co-funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the State Government of Assam, covered the entire state of Assam in a phased manner. Activities under the APFBC, Phase-I were implemented by the Field Implementation Units comprising of 32 territorial divisions, 7 wildlife divisions and 13 social forestry divisions in the Forest Department of Assam. The Phase-I of the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) ended successfully on 31st of May, 2019. Two separate agencies, the AFC-IDCG India and the OKD Institute, separately conducted independent evaluation of the Phase-I of the APFBC. Based on the said evaluations, it was mutually agreed by the Government of Assam & AFD to have a Phase-II of APFBC.

The project vision is “*to enable sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation and management in Assam through multi-scale integrative planning and involvement of forest dependent communities in target areas and giving fillip to their livelihood activities through sustainable use of forest and non-forest resources*”.

The project budget amounts to a total of 55.72 M € (equivalent to INR 445.75 Cr.), comprising of 44.57 M € (INR 356.60 Cr.) loan component from the French Development Agency (AFD) and 11.14 M € (INR 89.15 Cr.) counterpart funding by the state Government of Assam. The project is planned to be implemented in the entire state of Assam from 2019-20 to 2023-24. The project has been extended till December, 2025.

Project Components:

The components of the project are:

- Component 1:** **Conservation of Ecosystems** (Sustainable Forest Management) aimed at to carry out forest management activities in a sustainable way.
- Component 2:** **Community Engagement** (Adding Value and opening markets / opportunities for forests and biodiversity goods and ecosystem services) aimed at to add value to goods and services generated by communities through sustainable use of forest and non forest resources.
- Component 3:** **Institutional Strengthening of Forest Department** aimed at to enhance the capacity of the Assam Forest Department.

(II) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):

The Ad-hoc CAMPA was set up in 2008 on the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India issued guidelines for establishment of CAMPA in States/UTs in 2009. Accordingly, Govt. of Assam established Assam State CAMPA in 2009.

Thereafter, Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act was enacted in the year 2016 and CAF Rules was notified in the year 2018 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. The State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (State CAMPA) was notified on 14th Sept. 2018 under CAF, Act, 2016. The Governing Body, State Level Steering Committee and State Level Executive Committee have been notified by the Govt. of Assam on 26th June, 2019.

Aim and Objective of State CAMPA

1. Compensatory Afforestation against diversion of forest land.
2. Plantation other than Compensatory Afforestation like Artificial Regeneration, Aided Natural Regeneration, Sal Coppice Management etc.
3. Soil Moisture Conservation.
4. Wildlife Habitat Management.
5. Construction of buildings and other infrastructure development work for protection of forest and wildlife management.
6. Research and Capacity Development.
7. Publicity and Awareness for protecting forest.

The various activities taken under State CAMPA for the year 2023-24 are as follows:

Plantations and Other Important Activities

Type of Plantation	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Compensatory Afforestation (SSP)	528.27 ha	382.56 ha	
Artificial Regeneration (AR)	1653.00 ha	3135.82 ha	Out of 1653 ha 1632.93 ha was created against the target and 1502.89 ha was created from the backlog of earlier APOs.
Sal Coppice Management	25.00 ha	25.00 ha	
Aided Natural Regeneration	430.00 ha	430.00 ha	
Infrastructure Development	24 nos.	3 nos.	

**Table -II A
Statement Showing the Staff Position**

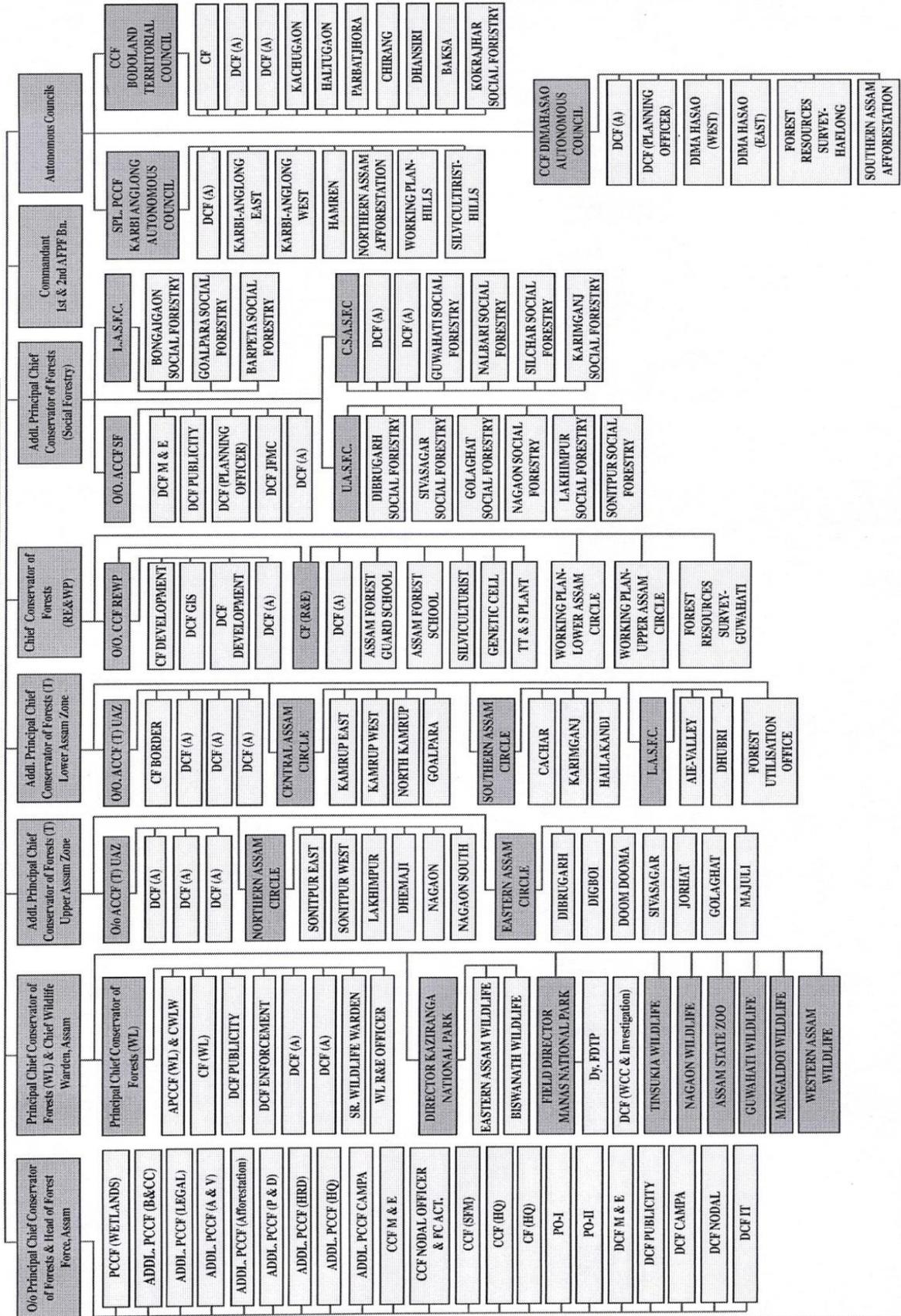
SI No.	Category	Sanctioned Strength	Total Staff in Position	Remarks
1	Grade I	303	141	
2	Grade II	410	258	
3	Grade III	7588	4636	
4	Grade IV	1437	857	
	Total	9738		

Table II-B

SI. No.	Name of the Statutory Board/Corporation/ Board/Other Agencies fully funded by the Government	Sanctioned Strength	Staff in Position	Remarks
1	Assam State Biodiversity Board	3	3	Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department, Govt. of Assam is the Chairman of the Board, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity) is the member Secretary. It consists of five Ex- officio members drawn from related Departments of Govt. of Assam and five expert members who are experts in various aspects of Biodiversity and life science related fields.
2	Assam Agro-Forestry Development Board	-	-	Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam is the Chairman of the Board, Chief Conservator of Forests cum Field Director is the Chief Executive Officer.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, ASSAM ORGANIZATION CHART

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam



Statement showing the Financial & Physical Progress report under SOPD, CSS & EAP schemes during 2023-24

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A							
1	Working Plan Organisation	31.99	0.00000	0.00000	Working plan survey and demarcationreserve forests, thinning of plantation of 30 years	NIL	
2	Remuneration to the Gaonburah under Forest Villages: Dayang, Tengani and other Forest villages	0.00	0.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
3	Amenities to Staff and Labour	572.54	80.78505	63.91697	Central procurement of uniformsfor 6151 staff, providing drinking water facilities, electrification of camps, purchase of offices items such as photocopier machines, inverter, etc.	Central procurement of uniformsfor 6151 staff, providing drinking water facilities, electrification of camps, purchase of offices items such as photocopier machines, inverter, etc.	
4	New Arms and Ammunitions	1800.00	162.30385	162.30385	Procurement of 112 bore PAG-NPB- 62 nos, 7.62 mm ghatak rifle- 91 nos.	Procurement of 112 bore PAG-NPB- 62 nos, 7.62 mm ghatak rifle- 91 nos.	
5	Deployment of Modern Technology & Communication System for Forestry & Wildlife Conservation & Management	24.75	0.00000	0.00000	Procurement of surveillance Quadcopter for forest and wildlife management, Procurement of day camera module with thermovision sensor base module for industrial quadcopter integration.	NIL	
6	Central Control Room Project	567.00	0.00000	0.00000	Setting up of Integrated Central Control Facility and Management Centre in Aranya Bhawan	NIL	
7	Social Forestry (General)	3595.08	138.96367	134.37534	Park Maintenance-13 nos. Nuresery creation 1.5 ha- 2 nos	Park Maintenance- 9nos. Nuresery creation 1.5 ha- 2 nos	
8	Raising People's Nurseries/ Plantation of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	0.01	67.50000	28.87500	Providing financial assistance to financially weaker section people for raising nursey- 160 persons	Providing financial assistance to financially weaker section people for raising nursey- 115 persons	
9	Greening of Greater Guwahati City	3.75	290.56795	284.99317			
11	Road Side Plantation of National Highways	13.91	25.02958	24.69608	Single Plantion- 665 nos	Single Plantion- 465 nos	
12	Reducing Man Animal Conflict	384.62	393.78110	370.56986	i) Formation of Anti-depredation squads of local villagers and providing logistics to them including hire charge of vehicle. ii) Installation of Electric Fencing in the strategic locations to reduce damage of life and property due to elephant depredation of iii) Digging of Elephant proof trenches in different areas of the state of iv) Purchase of ammunitions for use in Anti-depredation works v) Publicity and awareness campaign	i) Formation of Anti-depredation squads of local villagers and providing logistics to them including hire charge of vehicle. ii) Installation of Electric Fencing in the strategic locations to reduce damage of life and property due to elephant depredation of iii) Digging of Elephant proof trenches in different areas of the state iv) Purchase of ammunitions for use in Anti-depredation works v) Publicity and awareness campaign	
14	Bio-diversity Board (Salary)	26.20	24.21852	24.21852	Pay & Allowances of staffs	Pay & Allowances of staffs	

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	Bio-diversity Board (Non-Salary)	74.08	40.40000	40.40000	Preparation of PBRs, Capacity building workshop at BMC levels, Biodiversity Heritage Site Management, Constitution of BMCs, Publication, Publicity, Office Expenses and any other revenue expenditure.	Preparation of PBRs, Capacity building workshop at BMC levels, Biodiversity Heritage Site Management, Constitution of BMCs, Publication, Publicity, Office Expenses and any other revenue expenditure.	
16	Assam Climate Change Management Society (Salary)	27.23	24.24000	23.03000	Wages and salary	Wages and salary	
17	Assam Climate Change Management Society (Non-Salary)	68.40	76.00000	76.00000	Meeting of society,awareness and capacity building at state level, district level,block level and school/colleges. Green tagging of budget of department. Study and documentation of ground water level. Assessing risk due to climate change,publicity and office expenses.	Meeting of society,awareness and capacity building at state level, district level,block level and school/colleges. Green tagging of budget of department. Study and documentation of ground water level. Assessing risk due to climate change,publicity and office expenses.	
18	Assam Agro Forestry Development Board (Salary)	0.01	200.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
19	Assam Agro Forestry Development Board (Non Salary)	0.01	400.00000	200.00000	Raising of nursery, purchase of seedlings, Creation of agroforestry nuserie, Agar plantation250 nos etc.	Raising of nursery, purchase of seedlings, Creation of agroforestry nuserie, Agar plantation250 nos etc.	
22	Development of Forest Village	90.00	26.34965	16.48500	Community Nursery- 3 nos Supply of seedlings -50000 nos Construction of Check Dam -1no. Providing drinking water facility through hand pump and RCC ring well -43 nos Food processing units- 7 Construction of Community Hall-7 Skill Development-1 Construction and improvement of roads - 2 Installation of solar light -3 locations Tourism Activities -3 locations Apiculture -3 locations Road and Solar lighting system -1 location Community Hall repair -1 Skill Development Training - 3 nos	Apiculture -3 locations Skill Development Training - 3 nos	
23	Timber Treatment Seasoning Plant	0.01	17.70625	17.57521	Renovation of saw mill, wood processing unit, upgradation of joinery unit, procurement of machines, 4 axis CNC machines,etc.	Renovation of saw mill, wood processing unit, upgradation of joinery unit, procurement of machines, 4 axis CNC machines,etc.	
24	Forest Publicity	6.46	28.49932	28.49932	i) Organizing the State Level Functions viz. Vanamahatsava & Wildlife Week, 2022 ii) Circle / Division Level functions viz. Vanamahatsava & Wildlife Week, 2022 iii) Celebration of World Wetland Day on 2nd February, 2022.	i) Organizing the State Level Functions viz. Vanamahatsava & Wildlife Week, 2022 ii) Circle / Division Level functions viz. Vanamahatsava & Wildlife Week, 2022 iii) Celebration of World Wetland Day on 2nd February, 2022.	
	Assam Forest Development Corporation (Salary)	0.01					
	Assam Forest Development Corporation (Non-Salary)	0.01					
25	Global Green Gathering	0.01	38.00000	38.00000	NIL	NIL	

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27	Development of Other Wildlife Areas	288.00	79.56289	75.13510	1. Antipoaching Operation & Rescuing of Wild Animal. 2. Celebration of Wildlife Week & Publicity materials etc. 3. Logistic support to the villages for dealing with the elephant depredation in the villages. 4. Construction of watch towers.	1. Antipoaching Operation & Rescuing of Wild Animal. 2. Celebration of Wildlife Week & Publicity materials etc. 3. Logistic support to the villages for dealing with the elephant depredation in the villages. 4. Construction of watch towers.	
28	Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries	270.00	5395.81099	5334.91192	Procurement of POL, Maint. of Mechanized Boat, Wages of Casual Worker, Office Expenses including Camp, Procurement of Country Boats, Maint. of Patrolling path, Maint. of Camp, Publicity Material & Eco Dev., Repairing Anti-Poaching Camp, Maint. of Vehicles, installation of signages	Procurement of POL, Maint. of Mechanized Boat, Wages of Casual Worker, Office Expenses including Camp, Procurement of Country Boats, Maint. of Patrolling path, Maint. of Camp, Publicity Material & Eco Dev., Repairing Anti-Poaching Camp, Maint. of Vehicles, installation of signages	
30	Rehabilitation of Dadhia & Laika Village under Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (WL)	82.80	7.00000	7.00000	Rehabilitation of inhabitants from Namphei Rehalitation Area, Paharpur Area under Digboi and Rehabilitation of inhabitants from Namphei Rehalitation AreaTinsukia Wildlife	Rehabilitation of inhabitants from Namphei Rehalitation AreaTinsukia Wildlife	
31	Deepor Beel Conservation & Development Society (Salary)	0.01	0.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
32	Deepor Beel Conservation & Development Society (non-salary)	0.01	12.64000	12.64000	Office Expense and activities for protection of Deepor Beel	Office Expense and activities for protection of Deepor Beel	
35	Assam State Wetland Authority (Salary)	0.01	0.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
36	Assam State Wetland Authority (non-salary)	34.74	16.15000	16.15000	Office Expense and activities for protection of Deepor Beel	Office Expense and activities for protection of Deepor Beel	
37	Forest Research	30.00	48.64193	14.19819	Erection of Fencing, infrasturcture in plantation areas, advance work for nursery creation	infrasturcture in plantation areas, advance work for nursery creation	
38	Forest School Kajalgaon	150.00	190.00000	0.00000	Construction of boundary wall, watch tower etc.	NIL	
39	Assam Forest School (Training of Staff) - Uniform	0.01	0.00000	0.00000	uniform for trainees	NIL	
40	Assam Forest School (Training of Staff) -Training	0.01	86.86186	86.86186	Training to personnel of the department	NIL	
41	Building for General Areas	450.00	31.27542	12.56419	Development of departmental buildings- 53 nos	Development of departmental buildings- 4 nos	
42	Interpretation Centre Cum Museum at Manas & Digboi	810.00	861.77769	861.77769	Construction of Interpretation Centre Cum Museum at Manas & Digboi	Construction of Interpretation Centre Cum Museum at Manas & Digboi	
44	Communication for General Areas Roads & Bridges	90.00	32.54950	23.64882	Repairing of Roads 18 locations Construction of Culverts 5 nos. Construction of Road 4 locations Construction of patrolling Path 1 location Road and Culvert Repair 1 location Earth filling for road 1 location	Repairing of Roads 3 locations Construction of Culverts 1 nos. Construction of patrolling Path 1 location Road and Culvert Repair 1 location	

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
45	Forest Protection Force	1125.00	114.00000	38.68860	1st. AFPF Bn. – i) Installation of deep tube well ii) Construction of JCO toilet iii) Construction of 4 nos quarters. 2nd AFPF Bn.- i) Construction of Assam Type Barrack with kitchen at 2nd AFPF at Secoknee, Jakkhalabandha.Equipments at 2nd AFPF H.Q. Seconee, Nagaon. ii) Construction of Constable barrack iii) Construction of Septic tank iv) construction of kitchen	1st. AFPF Bn. – ii) Construction of JCO toilet 2nd AFPF Bn.- i) Construction of Assam Type Barrack with kitchen at 2nd AFPF at Secoknee, Jakkhalabandha.Equipments at 2nd AFPF H.Q. Seconee, Nagaon.	
46	Modernization of Assam State Zoo	1454.21	92.60683	92.60683	i) Construction of Aviary ii) Construction of Giraffe and Zebra enclosures in Assam State Zoo.	i) Construction of Giraffe and Zebra enclosures in Assam State Zoo.	
47	Chehar Wildlife Safari Centre	900.00	190.00000	7.15788	Setting up of wildlife safari centre	Setting up of wildlife safari centre (contour survey done)	
	Natural History Museum at Kaziranga	90.00					
48	Institute for Wildlife Health & Research at Dibrugarh	777.79	0.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
49	Dibrugarh Animal Safari cum Rescue Centre	270.00	0.00000	0.00000	NIL	NIL	
	TOTAL OF SOPD (A)	14800.10	12842.66205	11766.71940			
B	EAP						
	EAP- Assam Project on Forest & Bio-diversity Conservation Society (APFBC) (SS)	900.00	900.00000	900.00000	Conservation of eco-systems, Sustainable forest management, Human-wildlife co-existence, community engagement and institutional strengthening	Conservation of eco-systems, Sustainable forest management, Human-wildlife co-existence, community engagement and institutional strengthening	
51	EAP- Capacity Building for Forest Management & Training of Personal (JICA) (CS)	0.01	0.00000	0.00000			
	EAP- Capacity Building for Forest Management & Training of Personal (JICA) (SS)	0.99	0.99000	0.99000	Release of pending State Sharefor making repayment of loan to APFBC Society	Release of pending State Sharefor making repayment of loan to APFBC Society	
	TOTAL OF EAP (B)	9901.00	9900.99000	9900.99000			
C	CSS						
52	Green India Mission (CS)	0.01			NIL	NIL	
	Green India Mission (SS)	0.01			NIL	NIL	
53	Forest Fire Prevention & Management (CS)	40.50			NIL	NIL	
	Forest Fire Prevention & Management (SS)	4.50			NIL	NIL	
54	National River Conservation (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	National River Conservation (SS)				NIL	NIL	
55	Climate Change Action Programme (CS)				NIL	NIL	

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Climate Change Action Programme (SS)				NIL	NIL	
56	Control of Pollution for Assistance under Abatement of Pollution Scheme (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	Control of Pollution for Assistance under Abatement of Pollution Scheme (SS)				NIL	NIL	
57	National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (SS)				NIL	NIL	
58	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (SS)				NIL	NIL	
59	National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System (SS)				NIL	NIL	
60	Emission Trading Scheme (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	Emission Trading Scheme (SS)				NIL	NIL	
61	National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (SS)				NIL	NIL	
62	Solid Waste Management (CS)				NIL	NIL	
	Solid Waste Management (SS)				NIL	NIL	
63	Project Tiger and Elephant (CS)	2619.32	167.40000	167.40000	Reward to informer, Intelligence gatherin & legal support, Running cost of patrolling vehicles & logistics for protection & anti-depredation measure, Procurement of ammunitions for using in anti-depredation activities, Immunization of livestock on the fringe area of ERs for protecting elephants against contagious disease, Drugs for tranquilizing equipments, Implementation of MIKE, Improvement & Dev. of sensitive areas to reduced man-elephant conflict, Ex-gratia for loss of life and property due to elephant depredation, expedite movement of Anti-depredation team for quick action to scare elephants from human habitation & crop field to Reserve/Protected Areas, Raising of Bio-fencing by planting Bhoot Jalakia and lemon plants and other citrus species, Hiring of kunki elephant, Eco-development works in fringe villages of ERs and elephant corridors to reduce biotic pressure on elephant, Monitoring & study visit, training related visits and field visits etc., Veterinary support, Publicity & awareness programmes, Population estimation of wild elephants.	Reward to informer, Intelligence gatherin & legal support, Running cost of patrolling vehicles & logistics for protection & anti-depredation measure, Procurement of ammunitions for using in anti-depredation activities, Immunization of livestock on the fringe area of ERs for protecting elephants against contagious disease, Drugs for tranquilizing equipments, Implementation of MIKE, Improvement & Dev. of sensitive areas to reduced man-elephant conflict, Ex-gratia for loss of life and property due to elephant depredation, expedite movement of Anti-depredation team for quick action to scare elephants from human habitation & crop field to Reserve/Protected Areas, Raising of Bio-fencing by planting Bhoot Jalakia and lemon plants and other citrus species, Hiring of kunki elephant, Eco-development works in fringe villages of ERs and elephant corridors to reduce biotic pressure on elephant, Monitoring & study visit, training related visits and field visits etc., Veterinary support, Publicity & awareness programmes, Population estimation of wild elephants.	
	Project Tiger and Elephant (SS)	388.00	18.60000	18.60000			

Sl. No.	Name of the SOPD Scheme	Total Allocation	Fin. Sanction Amount	FOC issued	Physical Target during 2023-24	Physical Achievement during 2023-24	Remarks	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
64	Management Action Plan Biosphere Reserve Manas & Dibru-Saikhowa (CS)	0.01	0.00000	0.01000	Protection, Infrastructure & Communication, Habitat Management, Eco-development, Research, Monitoring & Training, Organisation & Administration, Anti-depredation measures, Procurement of Equipments, etc.	Protection, Infrastructure & Communication, Habitat Management, Eco-development, Research, Monitoring & Training, Organisation & Administration, Anti-depredation measures, Procurement of Equipments, etc.		
	Manas							
	Dibru-Saikhowa							
	Management Action Plan Biosphere Reserve Manas & Dibru-Saikhowa (SS)	0.01		0.01000				
	Manas							
	Dibru-Saikhowa							
65	Project Tiger (CS)	741.19	2042.08950	2042.08950	Establishing patrolling camps, Procurement of field gear, night vision, boats, arms and ammunition, construction activities, etc	Establishing patrolling camps, Procurement of field gear, night vision, boats, arms and ammunition, construction activities, etc		
	Kaziranga							
	Orang							
	Manas							
	Nameri							
	Project Tiger (SS)	82.35	222.46215	222.46215				
	Kaziranga							
	Orang							
	Manas							
	Nameri							
66	Development of Wildlife Habitat (CS)	1130.22	241.99703	241.99703	Construction of Anti-poaching camp, range quarter, boundary wall, wooden country boat, maintenance of arms, camps, wireless, POL, wages for casual works, protection measures, purchase of equipments, Eco-development activities, etc.	Construction of Anti-poaching camp, range quarter, boundary wall, wooden country boat, maintenance of arms, camps, wireless, POL, wages for casual works, protection measures, purchase of equipments, Eco-development activities, etc.		
	Development of Wildlife Habitat (SS)	125.58	26.88856	26.88856				
67	CAMPA (CS)	10292.59	10000.00000	10000.00000	Compensatory Afforestation- 528.27ha Artificial Regeneration- 1753 ha. Aided Natural Regeneration.- 330 ha. Sal Coppice Management- 25 ha. Nursery Maintenance 1.5 ha- 27 nos. Nursery Maintenance 3 ha- 5 nos. Infrastructure Development- 16 nos.	Compensatory Afforestation- 0 ha Artificial Regeneration- 150 ha. Aided Natural Regeneration.- 300 ha. Sal Coppice Management- 0 ha. Nursery Maintenance 1.5 ha- 20 nos. Nursery Maintenance 3 ha- 5 nos. Infrastructure Development- 4 nos.		
	TOTAL OF CSS (C)	14412.54	12719.43724	12719.45724				
	TOTAL OF SOPD (A)+EAP (B)+ CSS (C)	39113.64	35463.08929	34387.16664				

Action Taken Report on the Recommendations

Action Taken Report on the Recommendations made by The DRSC in its Twenty Sixth Report (Grant No.55) of 2024-25

1. The Committee recommends the Department regarding the utilizing of forest materials for the departments like PWD (Roads), PWD (Buildings) Irrigation, PHE, Water Resources to inform the item wise requirements of forest materials provided in each and every works immediately after issuing work order to the contractor and provisions be made to deduct the amount of forest royalty from each bills by the DDO and the deducted amount of forest royalty be transferred to the Forest Department immediately.

Action: On 24th April 2024 request was made to the State Government to take up the matter with concerned departments. [Enclosure at Annexure (i)]

2. The Committee observed that the amount of existing compensation provided to the victims of Human Wildlife Conflict is not sufficient for the beneficiaries according to their damaged properties.

Therefore, the Committee reiterates that its earlier recommendation to increase the compensation amount for full financial support to the victims of Human Wildlife Conflicts.

Action: On 1st June 2024 PCCF, Wildlife and CWLW proposed to enhance the ex-gratia amount provided by the State Govt. in line with the Central Govt. package issued by vide Office Memorandum F. No. WL-21/4/2023-WL dated 22-12-2023. The same proposal was sent to the State Govt. from this office on 06-06-2024 for taking necessary decision on the matter. [Enclosure at Annexure (ii)]

3. The Committee observed that in Hailakandi district, monkey creates problems/disturbances to the inhabitants of the locality.

Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to take necessary action steps for plantation of fruits base trees etc. for animals.

Action: On 24th April APCCF (T), LAZ was requested to directed DFO concerned to take action accordingly on which APCCF directed DFO, Hailakandi Division to take suitable action on 03.05.2024. [Enclosure at Annexure (iii)]

4. The Committee observed that in Hailakandi Reserve Forest, there are huge forest areas lying unutilized since long.

Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to take necessary steps to survey of those lands and allow the local people for cultivation which will also help to promote greenery.

Action: On 24th April APCCF (T), LAZ was requested to submit his views on which APCCF vide his office letter dated 04.05.2024 mentioned that as per existing rules and regulations, forest land cannot be allowed for cultivation by local people as recommended in the DRSC Report. [Enclosure at Annexure (iv)]

5. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation to repair and renovate the Forest IB and Forest Rest House at Orang national Park.

The Committee further suggests the Department for construction of a new Guest House at Orang National Park and takes up the matter with Forest and Tourism Department in this regard.

Action: As per recommendation made in 25th DRSC Report this office received estimate of ₹89.00 lakh for repair and renovation of Forest IB and Forest Rest House in Orang National Park from the DFO, Mangoldai Wildlife Division. The very same recommendation is made in the 26th DRSC Report and the estimate submitted by the DFO for recommendation made in the 25th DRSC Report is considered in the SOPD scheme during 2024-25 and placed before Govt. for necessary concurrence.

6. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation to construct Forest IB at Hailakandi Matijuri Range and Jharbari under Haltugaon Division, Kokrajhar.

Action: This office has received estimate of Rs.78.18 lakh for construction of Forest IB in Matijuri Range from the DFO, Hailakandi Division is considered in the SOPD scheme during 2024-25 and placed before Govt. for necessary concurrence.

7. The Committee strongly reiterates its earlier recommendation to initiate plantation of Cane in large scale in forest areas of the State.

Action: The Nagaon Wildlife Division has submitted estimate for strip plantation of cane in Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary under Gorajan Range which will be included in the management plan of the Wildlife Sanctuary during 2025-26.

8. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation to construct two storied building with auditorium at Bamunigaon West Division (DFO office) at Bamunigaon under Chaygaon Development Block and also to speed up the construction work.

Action: This office has received estimate of ₹298.00 lakh for construction of DFO Office from the DFO, Kamrup West Division is considered in the SOPD scheme during 2024-25 and placed before Govt. for necessary concurrence.

9. The Committee observed that the Budget allocation for the Forest Department is not sufficient for smooth functioning of the Department.

Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to increase the Budget allocation for the Department.

Action: On 24th April 2024 request was made to the Govt. to take up the matter with the concerned department. [Enclosure at Annexure (i)]

**OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON GRANT NO.55
ENVIRONMENT & FOREST DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 2025-26.**

1. The Committee recommends the Department to take necessary steps for controlling the menace caused by the squirrels and monkeys especially in Nalbari District.
2. The Committee recommends the Department to identify locations for construction of fencing in Manas National Park to prevent Men Elephant conflict.
3. The Committee recommends the Department to construct Elephant watch towers near Dhansiri River in Mazbat Constituency to enable the people residing near the river to take up agricultural activities without any disturbances from elephants.

Further the Department is recommended to process compensation for the people where their Crops has been affected by the destruction caused by the Wild Elephant at a speedy pace.

4. The Committee recommends the Department to construct Watch Towers in suitable areas to prevent Men & Elephant conflict and to make proper arrangements for training of 'Gaja-Mitra'.
5. The Committee recommends the Department to provide adequate compensation to people who are engage in horticulture activities (Tamul-Pan etc.) for destruction caused by elephants.
6. The Committee recommends the Department to increase the budget allocation for taking up infrastructure activities/developments activities including construction of camps/purchasing vehicles, watch tower etc. in all National parts of Assam.
7. The Committee observed that Bijni Bon Uddyan is one of the oldest park and is in a very dilapidated condition. The Committee therefore recommends the Department to renovate and also to undertake developmental activities for the upgradation of the Uddyan.
8. The Committee recommended to take necessary steps for construction of Forest IB at Gharmurah range, AFPP camp at Kukicherra range and Community cum Forest Camp at Baruncherra under Kukicherra range.
9. The Committee recommends to take necessary steps for construction of Quarters for Forest Ranger at Matijuri Range and Range Head Quarter Kukicherra Range, Manipur area. It is further also recommended to construct Forest Beat Office at Ramnathpur under Gharmurah Range and quarters for the staff.
10. The Committee recommends to construct Forest IB at Lunding, Udalguri, Bijni, Pakabetkari, Hailakandi and Rangapara.
11. The Committee recommends the Department to undertake plantation projects of Barpeta Bhawanipur Road, Dangarkuchi Kaljhar Road, Kayakuchi Newlarbhitha Road, Rajaghat Bhaktardoba Road, Bhaktardoba to Sarthebari Road and Kayakuchi Jarabari Road to help promote greenary.

The Committee recommends that the Budget allocation provided under Grant No.55 for the Financial Year 2025-26 for Environment & Forest Department be approved by the August House.