

## NATURE TRAIL AT HOLLONGAPAR GIBBON SANCTUARY

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat organized a Nature Trail on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 to Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, formerly known as Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, situated about 24 km from Jorhat town. The programme was organized to understand the ecosystem of the Sanctuary while walking through it.

There were around 70 participants that included students from various schools of Jorhat district such as Kakojan Boys' H. S. School, Cheniamguri High School, Cheniamguri M. E. School, Carmel School, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Valya Niketan, Director, Scientists and Staff of RFRI, Parents, Teachers and others.

In the beginning, Shri R. K. Kalita, Training Coordinator briefed the participants about the basic objectives of coming to the Sanctuary. He requested all to maintain strict discipline and cleanliness while visiting the Sanctuary. Sanctuary Official, Mr. Neog briefed about the importance of conservation & protection of the Sanctuary. He briefed the students about the Sanctuary and its habitats & the initiatives undertaken to preserve this valuable Sanctuary. He also told the students about do's & don'ts while walking through a jungle. The participants walked through the Sanctuary and interacted with the forest officials accompanying them and learned about various flora & fauna.

Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary (Area: 20.9 sq. km) has a very rich biodiversity and is home of seven primates. It is the home of the only Ape in India, the Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*), as well as the only nocturnal primate found in the northeast Indian states, the Bengal Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*). Other primates include the Stump-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca arctoides*), Northern Pig-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca leonina*), Eastern Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis assamensis*), Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), and Capped Langur (*Trachypithecus pileatus*). Also found at the sanctuary are Indian elephants, black panthers, leopards (*Panthera pardus*), jungle cats (*Felis chaus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), three types of civet, four types of squirrel, and several other types of mammal. At least 219 species of bird and several types of snake are known to live in the sanctuary.

The participants were able to see one pair of Hoolock Gibbon, one family of Capped Langur, many butterflies, large varieties of birds apart from different trees, ferns, lianas, mosses, orchids etc. The children expressed their happiness for being a part of the programme.

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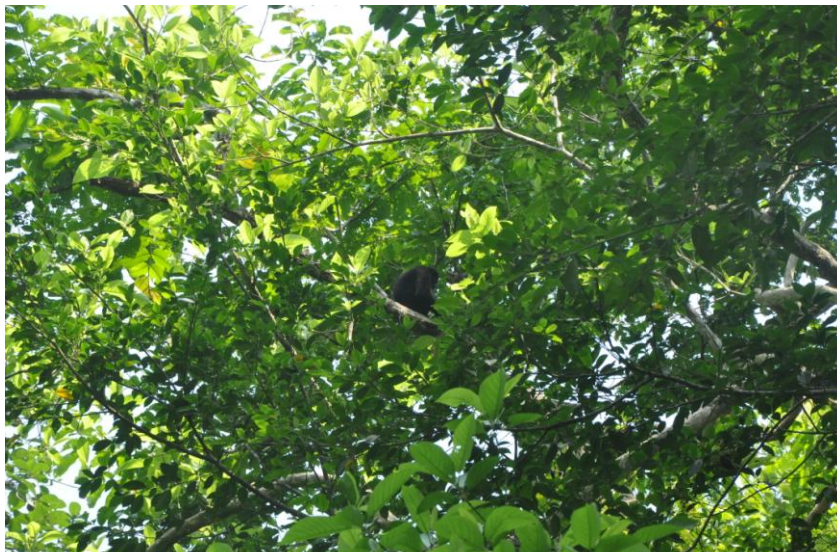
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