
“Responsible Tourism-Issues
and Practices”-
March 23&24, 2012, Guwahati,
Assam

Rapporteur’s Report

By Meghali Barua

Title of the Workshop: “Responsible Tourism-Issues and Practices”

Date: 23rd and 24th of March,2012

Location: Greenwood Resort, Guwahati, Assam

DAY ONE: 23RD MARCH, 2012

INAUGURAL SESSION:

1. INTRODUCTION: Introduction to ESOI(Eco-Tourism Society of India) –a brief purview

PRESENTER: Mr. RAKESH MATHUR, Honorary Vice President, ESOI.

CONTENT:

Mr. Rakesh Mathur with the introductory presentation gave a brief overview about the following:

- **Formation of ESOI-** Mr. Mathur enlightened about the fact that Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) was formed by a group of eminent like-minded professionals from the tourism industry as well as Environmentalists with the encouragement of Ministry of Tourism in 2008. It had initially started out as a non-profit organisation to promote & ensure environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in the tourism industry.
- **Vision of ESOI:** ESOI strives to become a nationally recognised apex body striving to promote responsible and sustainable tourism with strong global linkages and providing comprehensive research support to the Government, NGOs, travel service providers and visitors to India
- **Objectives of ESOI:** Some of the major objectives elaborated by Mr. Mathur were the following:
 - To help develop policies and code of conduct for promotion of sustainable tourism
 - To encourage low pollution-generating practices – minimize carbon footprint.
 - Encourage energy saving practices, water harvesting, use of solar and other natural energy sources
 - One of the objectives of ESOI is to work extensively with Service Providers to enhance the quality of their product and services to a level so they can be sustainable and eco-friendly.
- **FOUNDING And GOVERNING MEMBERS:**

Mr. Mathur enumerated the list of those eminent people who were the Founding members of ESOI comprising of Mr. Mandip Singh Soin, Managing Director, Ibex Expeditions Pvt Ltd. , Mr. Rakesh Mathur, Director & Principal Advisor – Zinc Hospitality, Cross Roads Hotels and CIE Hospitality , and the like. There are 13 Founding members in totality. Also, knowledge was given about the people who were the Governing Members of ESOI who comprised of eminent people like Mr. Mandip Singh Soin and Mr. Rakesh Mathur himself

- **THE ESOI WORKSHOPS:** A briefing was given about the number and types of workshops conducted by ESOI; the first workshop being held in DELHI titled, “ORIENTATION PROGRAM ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & TOURISM TO ENSURE RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES BY TOURISM SERVICES PROVIDERS – TO PROTECT THE NATURE AND COMMUNITIES” on SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2008. Till date 9 workshops have been held successfully across the country ; the tenth being the one currently happening in Guwahati.

2. WELCOME ADDRESS

PRESENTER: Mr. MANDIP SINGH SOIN, FRGS, HONORARY PRESIDENT, ESOI

CONTENTS:

- He started off by enumerating about the adverse effects on the environment by the inhabitants of the modern world
- ESOI is actively involved in developing a certification process whereby the eco-tourists can become sure of having indeed a genuine eco-tourism experience while choosing the tour operators to plan their vacations.
- One of the major goals of ESOI is to reinstate India as the most preferred location of eco-tourism in the global context.
- He then briefed about the states like Madhya Pradesh who are patron-members of ESOI

3. SPECIAL ADDRESS

PRESENTER: Mrs. HEMOPRABHA SAIKIA, CHAIRPERSON, ASSAM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

CONTENT:

Mrs. Hemoprabha Saikia briefed about the special and unique features of Assam which are conducive for the development of Assam Tourism. She talked about various famous landmarks like the famous Kamakhya temple to the Kaziranga National park, one of the world Heritage Site. She was of the opinion that Assam is a place for tourism as mélange of tourists come every year to visit Assam. However, she opined, that sometimes such mass tourism might adversely affect the ecology by polluting the environment .She further added that it was now the right time to preserve the ecology and nature and that it was now the right time to develop eco-tourism in the Assam context. She concluded by thanking ESOI for such a commendable effort in making people aware of the importance of eco-tourism.

4. INAUGURAL ADDRESS

PRESENTER: MR. CHANDAN BRAHMA, HONOURABLE MINISTER, TOURISM, ASSAM

CONTENTS:

Mr. Chandan Brahma welcomed and applauded ESOI's initiative to promote eco-tourism throughout the country. He defined the meaning of ecology, its importance and also elaborated on the need of responsible tourism for the development of tourism in the state. He added that the Assam Govt. is planning to bring in some eco-tourism initiatives in its future policy and declared that Assam would become a patron-member of ESOI.

5.

PRESENTER: Mr. ANURAG SINGH, MD, ASSAM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, ATDC

CONTENTS:

- Mr. Anurag Singh delivered a special vote of thanks to ESOI and the members of ATDC who's joint-collaboration were responsible for the Tenth ESOI Workshop being successfully held in Guwahati. He also thanked Mr. Manoj Jalan who was responsible for organizing the two-day workshop in Guwahati.
- He then talked about the fact that 'Assam is endowed with nature's bounty'. He elaborated on the types of heritage present in any country or state which were Natural Heritage (made of nature) like Kaziranga National Park and Manas Tiger Project and the second type of heritage was Man Made Heritage (built by man) like the various historical sites
- He was of the view that the kind of terrain the river Brahmaputra has created is itself a kind of heritage.
- Mr. Anurag Singh highlighted on the sustainability of eco-tourism in Assam given its varied range of heritage. He opined that there is a lot more steps to be taken to promote Assam as a point of destination tourism in the country and that there is a need to manage the scarce eco-resources in a sustainable manner to pass on to the next generation to come

6. GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES IN TOURISM

SPEAKER: MR. MANDIP SINGH SOIN, FRGS, PRESIDENT-ESOI & FOUNDER AND MD, IBEX EXPEDITIONS PVT. LIMITED.

CONTENTS:

- He shared some experiences he gained while serving as a member of the judging panel of “WTTC(World Travel & Tourism Council) Tourism for Tomorrow” Awards and presented them in the form of case-study.
- He elaborated that the WTTC is the global forum for business leaders in the Travel & Tourism industry with the Chairs and Chief Executives of the 100 leading Travel & Tourism companies worldwide as its Members.
- He added that the basic aim of “Tourism for Tomorrow Awards” is to recognise the best practices in sustainable tourism within the Travel & Tourism industry worldwide and added that there are 4 categories of award type under “Tourism for Tomorrow Awards” which were- a) **Destination Stewardship Award** b)**Global Tourism Business Award** c) **Community Benefit Award** d) **Conservation Award**

a) Destination Stewardship Award:

This award goes to a destination -country, region, state or town – that show success in sustainable tourism management at the destination level, incorporating social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects as well as multi-stakeholder engagement.

- (i) Mr. Mandip Soin talks about the HERITAGE WATCH PROGRAM of CAMBODIA(one of 2009 Destination Stewardship Finalist) which seeks to prevent looting and illicit trade of antiquities in Cambodia while promoting tourism and economic development that is by and large responsible, sustainable and heritage friendly.
- (ii) The SOUTH WEST TOURISM(FINALIST DESTINATION STEWARSHIP AWARD 2009) launched a Sustainable tourism development plan in South West England to create a balance between communities, the tourism industry, the natural environment and visiting tourists to achieve long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits for the region

b) Conservation Award: Mr. Soin explains that this award is open to any tourism business, organisation or attraction, who are able to demonstrate that their tourism development and operations have made a overt contribution to the conservation of natural heritage.

- (i) The examples of “LAKE COVE RIVER TOURIST PARK , Australia and NATURE AIR,COSTA-RICA have been given to exemplify the Conservation Award.

c) Community Benefit Award: According to Mr. Soin, this particular award is for a tourism business or initiative that has effectively demonstrated direct benefits to local people, including capacity building, the transfer of industry skills, and support for community development

- (i) He gives the case-study of Community Action Nepal of Nepal (Finalist Community Benefit Award,2009) which is a perfect example of is a unique combination of a for-profit tour operator and a non-profit NGOthat provides opportunities for trekkers to enjoy the mountains, wilderness, and cultures of the Nepalese Himalaya while maximising community benefits to the indigenous population.
- d) **Global Tourism Business Awards**: These awards are basically open to any large company from any sector of Travel & Tourism with at least 200 full-time employees and operating in more than one country or in more than one destination in a single country. This award recognises the best practices in sustainable tourism at a large company level.
- (i) The example of Marriot Hotels would stand as a shining example of how a big conglomeration can be a winner of this category of award through a simple FIVE-POINT company wide sustainable plan which aims to carbon offsets through the protection of rainforest; further reduction of fuel & water consumption by 25 % per room, installation of solar power; engagement of the company's top 40 vendors to supply price-neutral greener products across 12 categories of the supply chain; creation of green construction standards for Marriott hotels to achieve LEED certification; and education of employees to support the environment.

7. PRESENTATION: “WHY RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN THE HIMALAYAS?”

PRESENTER: MRS. SEEMA BHATT, CONSULTANT –BIODIVERSITY, ECOTOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CONTENTS:

- First was an overview of the tourism scenario as the world’s largest growing industry and the importance of eco-tourism in today’s world whose demand is expected to become double and even more in the next twenty years.
- Mrs. Bhatt presented with the statistics as to why Himalayas have such a great potential for tourism . She elaborated on the rich flora and fauna found in abundance in the Himalayas and the fact that nearly 1 million visitors come to the Himalayas each year for mountain trekking, wildlife viewing, and pilgrimages to major Hindu and Buddhist sacred places
- The different kind of impacts of such huge mass tourism were discussed in detail which were many like impact leading to social and cultural change, economic impact and environmental degradation like deforestation particularly in the western Himalaya, has increased as a result of demand for firewood, extensive tree trimming in order to feed livestock, and construction of roads in the border regions

- **Community Based Stay** which was now a very much part and parcel of responsible tourism of the Himalayas and is becoming an important source of livelihoods for the Himalayan communities where homestays offer an innovative and fresh opportunity to tourists
- The state of Himachal Pradesh is promoting homestays through the state tourism department and is known as the **“Himachal Pradesh Home Stay, Scheme 2008”**
- The KEY ELEMENTS of Sustainable tourism was discussed which were:
 - *Carrying Capacity Study*
 - *Code of Conduct/*
 - *Environmental Guidelines*
 - *Training and Capacity Building*
 - *Education and awareness through interpretation material*
 - *Feedback and subsequent improvements*
 - *Cross-Site Visits*
 - *Monitoring*
 - *Certification*

She concluded by stating, “Let’s endeavour to make tourism a sustainable enterprise in the Himalayan region”

8. PRESENTATION: “POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECOTOURISM IN THE NORTH-EAST: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD”

PRESENTER: DR. SHIELA BORA, COORDINATOR, CENTRE FOR TOURISM MANAGEMENT AND PROF. DEPT. OF HISTORY (Retd.), DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

CONTENTS:

- Dr. Bora started the presentation by talking about the two dimensions of sustainable tourism which are : 1) Preservation and 2) Promotion of the fragile ecosystem in its entirety including the communities living within that system
- She discussed the various potentialities of eco-tourism which were like educating the tourists and the importance and benefits of eco-tourism in the North East.
- She talks about the rich and varied flora & fauna, wetlands, beels etc. specific to the North-Eastern Region &
- She had identified a vast number of challenges for the development of eco-tourism in the North-East Region like---significant knowledge gap relating to the biodiversity of the region, the sustainable uses of much of the flora ; very few regulations or laws stand in place as boundaries for the investors in ecotourism; The relationship between local communities and the biological diversity in India is a very intricate; two-thirds of our

population are heavily dependent upon the biodiversity for their survival; the destruction of biodiversity signifies the destruction of people's livelihoods and survival and the like

- She is of the view that Meaningful Eco Tourism can be initiated with the help of broad based community inputs and that communities should retain control of tourism development in their respective areas.
- Dr. Bora explained how tourism revenue can be recycled into conservation needs and concluded by saying that "The people of the Northeast will not derive the desired benefits from developing its potential for purposes of ecotourism unless they themselves assume the role of active players in developing the potential in the region."

FIRST TECHNICAL SESSION: SHARING BEST PRACTICES

1. PRESENTATION: RURAL HERITAGE & TOURISM

PRESENTER: Mr. RAKESH MATHUR, Honorary Vice President, ESOI.

CONTENT:

- He opens his presentation by taking up the example of Bhutan who had been an exemplary bench-mark in using its rural heritage extensively for the development of Eco-tourism where primary emphasis is given to vernacular style of architecture, community skills training, use of indigenous rain- water harvesting and the like
- He drew the following inferences from the Bhutan Case-study that in order to promote tourism the following steps have to be adopted:
 - Visual beauty is maintained
 - Architectural sanctity has been enforced
 - Traditional systems of construction are encouraged through use of local materials.
 - Local produce and cuisine is promoted
 - All activities revolve around a center that promotes local value systems
 - Concern for the environment is promoted including traditional water conservation practices, etc.
 - Even national dress is compulsory for all official purposes

2. SECOND PRESENTATION: ROLE OF HOTELS IN ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVES

PRESENTER: Mr. RAKESH MATHUR, Honorary Vice President, ESOI.

CONTENTS:

- Mr. Mathur opened his presentation by discussing about the types of heritage(man-made & God-given) and the growth of eco-tourism as a direct linkage between environment and tourism.
- Reverting back to hotel & hospitality sector he is of the view that there is HIGH CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY & RESOURCES and generation of HIGH WASTAGE AND POLLUTANTS. It also holds true that HIGHER EXPERIENCE - HIGHER COST for any tourism packages.
- According to him, the essential elements of hotels are:
 - STRICT ENFORCEMENT of Conservation Measures
 - NO COMPROMISE ON ENVIRONMENT MATTERS.
 - LONG TERM PLANS – NOT SHORT TERM PROJECTS.
 - TRAINING OF STAFF through INTERNAL WORKSHOP
 - IDENTIFY ECONOMIC BENEFITS & need for COMMUNICATION.
 - SHARE the BEST PRACTICES.
 - MAKE IT A CSR INITIATIVE.
 - ENERGIZE CREATIVE IDEAS – ENSURE PARTICIPATION.
- Some guidelines were shared for the eco-tourism projects pertaining to infrastructure(like REUSE EXISTING BUILDING MATERIAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING), AIR (like INDOOR PLANTATION, AVOID ARTIFICIAL ROOM FRESHENER), WATER (like RAIN WATER HARVESTING) , ENERGY (like USE GAS OR INDUCTION RANGES INSTEAD OF ELECTRIC RANGES) , WASTE & SEWAGE & finally Natural/ WILDLIFE LODGES
- Finally he concluded by sharing various new ideas & innovations which will help the hotels go a long way in incorporating eco-tourism initiatives successfully.

3. THIRD PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM EXPERIENCE FROM “ OUR NATIVE VILLAGE”

PRESENTER: MR. C.B. RAMKUMAR, FOUNDER & MD OF “ OUR NATIVE VILLAGE”

CONTENTS:

- Mr. Ramkumar discussed his new innovative type of resort he has opened near Bangalore city
- His resort boasts of eco-sensitive practices and measures ensuring the guests of a pure ecological experience while vacationing.
- He has used hand-made sun dried bricks, uses organic, compassionate food and used bio-degradable potter made clay shampoo bottles & soap trays to ensure bio-friendly practices

- More importantly he discusses how he generates power for the hotel's own consumption through solar and wind energy

SECOND TECHNICAL SESSION: CONSERVING CULTURAL & NATURAL HERITAGE

1. FIRST PRESENTATION: CONSERVING NATURE WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ADVENTURE & NATURE TOURISM

PRESENTER: MR. ANIRUDH CHAOJI, DIRECTOR, ECO TOURS, PUNE

CONTENTS:

- He talks about the Pugmarks programme who conducts nature trails & camps for students in national parks & reserved forests
- Maharashtra Govt. uses EDC for promoting tourism
- PUGMARKS train and recruits local boys from the nearby forest-fringed areas of national parks to become trained & expert naturalists. Pugmarks have a volunteer training program operational since the last ten years.
- The new recruited local boys are given skill-based training, the communities given capacity building training and the like.

2. SECOND PRESENTATION: ECO-SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURE FOR TOURIST DESTINATIONS

PRESENTER: MARIYAM ZAKIAH, ARCH I , NEW DELHI

CONTENTS:

- Mariyam gives a brief overview about the organisation ARCH I, a non-profit organisation established in 2009 which deals mainly with humane, perceptible, humane & sustainable architecture.
- The organisation has networks across 4 countries- INDIA< AFGHANISTAN, NEPAL & NETHAERLAND
- She talks about a upcoming project in KHARGYAK ZANSKAR area of Kargil district whereby a proposal for a sustainable school building would be built up along the lines of ARCH I's vision
- In Sikkim, the organisation has helped to educate the local people about proper ways of insulating the houses -in winters the locals have been shown how to insulate the ceiling of the houses by using eco-friendly materials like glass bottles
- The organisation has also been involved with the Ministry of Tourism, Uttarakhand by helping to design the UTTARAKHAND ECO-TOURISM MAP

3. THIRD PRESENTATION: AN ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVE AT WAKRO, LOHIT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

PRESENTER: MR. SHIVUMSO CHIKRO, ANU SHIKSHA SEVA TRUST(ASSET), ARUNACHAL PRADESH

CONTENTS:

- The Mishmi retreat at Wakro is a micro- eco- tourism initiative taken at the community level with the locally available resource
- The Wakro project was undertaken at the initiative of Shri Prashant Lokhande, the then DC Lohi who requested Mr Rohinso Krisikro, a community leader and social worker to take up this project.
- The Visions of the project are:
 - To develop tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - To encourage low cost/ micro projects with community participation.
 - To encourage local/ ethnic architecture
 - To provide employment and livelihoods.
 - To show case and conserve natural and cultural heritage of the region.
 - To promote rural and ethnic tourism.
- Some of the Unique features of the Mishmi community based stays are:
 - The unique experience of living in traditional Mishmi Huts.
 - Visits to Mishmi Villages.
 - Treks and walks in forests, including the Namdapha National Park.
 - Day excursions to the pilgrimage site of Parashram Kund on the banks of the Lohit river.
- Thereby it was concluded that local community led micro projects can effectively fill in the infrastructure gaps and develop eco-based tourism for the benefit of the community

4. FOURTH PRESENTATION: ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVES IN ASSAM

PRESENTER: Mr. ANURAG SINGH, MD, ASSAM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, ATDC

CONTENTS:

- Mr. Singh talks about the MERBEEL Tourism Project which was developed by the initiative of the local community.

- The cleaning up of Merbeel water-body for the development for tourism purpose was a joint-venture between the Assam Government & the local community & this initiative was completed in a record time of six months
- In Merbeel area, the area boasts of a rich fauna of 200 odd species of birds, different felines , different exotic flora & the like making it a hotspot for eco-tourism
- Again, Mr. Singh takes up the JOYPORE Rain-forest project where a project of developing the reserved forest for eco-tourism purposes is underway.

THIRD TECHNICAL SESSION: RAISING THE RESPONSIBLE TOURISM BAR

1. FIRST PRESENTATION: BALANCING WILDLIFE & TOURISM NEEDS

PRESENTER: DR. BIBHUTI LAHKAR, PROGRAMME SECRETARY, AARANYAK

CONTENTS:

- DR. Lahkar opens by discussing about the terminology of wildlife which according to him is “Wildlife is a general term that technically covers both flora and fauna, although in popular use, wildlife is mostly used to refer to large mammals or large folk of birds in the wild”
- He discusses the threat mass-tourism poses on National parks like exceeding the carrying capacity of a PA is impacting ecology of area & the polluting impact of the tourism related business activities
- The issues of eco-tourism is raised where it is important to realize that though ecotourism development can provide extra support for nature conservation, not all areas or sites where wildlife and natural areas occur are capable of supporting profitable ecotourism enterprises.
- The ill-Effects of disturbance on wild-life by tourism is raised which are:
 - **Behavioural effects**
 - **Physiological effects**
 - **Habitat damage and disturbance**
- He concludes by suggesting some measures to make eco-tourism viable & successful like:
 - *Planning approaches for zoning and visitor management.*
 - *Improve understanding of the biology of targeted species and monitoring of the effects of tourism on them.*
 - *Training, awareness and interpretation for all stakeholders.*

- *Evaluate the conditions required for wildlife tourism to be a viable option particularly for generating net revenues for conservation and benefits for local communities.*
- *Improve planning and management of tourism in protected areas and wildlife viewing sites.*

2. SECOND PRESENTATION: Ecotourism for sustainable livelihood in Sikkim under Sikkim Biodiversity & Forest management Project (SBFP)

PRESENTER: S.Anbalagan , DFO (Ecotourism), SBFP

CONTENTS:

- Mr.Anbalagan talks about a model for strengthening livelihoods through ecotourism: **Sustainable Forest Management --→ Conservation of Biodiversity ---→ Benefits to local communities**
- He describes a process which starts at the FOUNDATION->PREAPRATION->IMPLEMENTATION
- Under Sikkim government, there is establishment of Ecotourism Marketing Cell, formulation & implementation of 5 year ecotourism marketing strategy & creating links between tour operators and local communities
- The SIKKIM ECO_TOURISM POLICY states:
 - planning, zoning and modelling for ecotourism sites and other general tourism sites
 - training and capacity building
 - benefitting the economically disadvantaged people
 - stakeholder partnership and departmental convergence
 - products development
 - infrastructure development and carrying capacity analysis
 - promotion/publicity/marketing and feedback mechanism
 - safety
 - certification
 - finance
 - awareness and education
- There are 10 ecotourism villages where stakeholders' workshops are held & development of tourism areas are taken
- The Five-Year Marketing Strategy aims at:
 - Defining Local Tourism Products based on Social-Cultural, Nature and Wildlife and Activity
 - Pricing, Placing and Promotion Strategies

- Promotion Strategy based on Public Relations, Branding, Personal Selling, Advertising and Internet and Digital Marketing .
- Using Certification as a marketing strategy

3. THIRD PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM & CONSERVATION

PRESENTER : PEMA WANGE,PROJECT OFFICER, WWF INDIA

CONTENTS:

- He opens the presentation by enumerating the richness of bio-diversity of Arunachal Pradesh
- In western Arunachal Pradesh, 60% of forest area is under community ownership
- COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREA(CCA) IS NECESSARY because in Arunachal Pradesh CCA would help in facilitating Community Ownership, pressure (Easy access, Modern hunting tools, Easy money, Individual interest) ,realize importance of the area, sense of responsibility by the community, willingness of community for conservation , to set-up rules and regulations with legal back-up of customary or statutory laws etc.
- CCA MANAGEMENT requires: Panchayat proclamation, registration of CCAMCs under Society Registration Act of GoAP , basic office infrastructures developed, organized training on accounts and basic CCA management etc.
- Need of Community based tourism(CBT) :
 - Less Investment so less risk
 - More people can be involved
 - Minimum impact to nature
 - Long term benefit
 - Prospect of developing corpus fund for CCAMC
 - Conservation friendly/relation
 - Lastly he concludes by comparing mass, unplanned tourism to community based tourism and declared that CBT is by far beneficial to the development of a region & community

4. FOURTH PRESENTATION: Developing and Field Testing a Green Certification Scheme for Ecotourism in Community-based Homestays in Ladakh

PRESENTER : MRS. SEEMA BHATT, CONSULTANT –BIODIVERSITY, ECOTOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CONTENTS:

- According to Mrs. Bhatt “certification is a procedure that assesses audits and gives written assurances that a facility, product, process or service meets specific standards”
 - She upholds that Certification could:
 - Help raise the international standard for ecotourism in the country
 - Lend credibility to tour operators
 - Ensure that ecological impacts from tourism are monitored in ecologically fragile areas
 - Bring credibility to local community-based tourism initiatives
 - Help tourists make informed choices
 - There are three agencies that support community-based ecotourism in Ladakh: SLC(Snow leopard Conservancy), WWF India and the Wildlife Department
 - To develop the certification process in Ladakh it has to be made on the basis of certain parameters/indicators like:
 - **Demonstrate effective sustainable management**
 - *All personnel receive periodic training regarding their role in the management of environmental, socio-cultural, health, and safety practices and hospitality in general*
 - *Customer satisfaction is measured and corrective action taken where appropriate*
 - *Design of home-stay house follows traditional architecture*
 - *Information about and interpretation of the natural surroundings, local culture, and cultural heritage is made available to customers and is accurate.*
 - *Code of Conduct for tourists explaining appropriate behavior while visiting natural areas, living cultures, and cultural heritage sites and behavior while staying in the homestay is available in every room*
 - **Maximize social and economic benefits to the local community and minimize negative impacts**
 - *Homestays are run only by local people*
 - *A fixed price for the stay is determined and ensured that it is equitable across the board.*
 - *A system is established to ensure that each homestay gets a chance to host tourists equally*
 - **Maximize benefits to cultural heritage and minimize negative impacts**
 - *Historical and archeological artifacts are not sold, traded, or displayed illegally*
- Thus she concludes by stating, “ ***Let’s endeavour to make tourism a sustainable enterprise in the Himalayan region “***”

5. FIFTH PRESENTATION: WASTE MANAGEMENT: EXPERIENCES FROM SIKKIM

PRESENTER : MR.NIMA TASHI BHUTUIA, KHANGCHENDZONGA CONSERVAATION COMMITTEE

CONTENTS:

- KCC (KHANGCHENDZONGA CONSERVAATION COMMITTEE) was formed in the year 1996
- KCC conducts clean up campaigns since 1996 in collaboration with schools & local communities
- In Lachan village, with UNDP, KCC conducted a clean-up campaign
- KCC has launched “ Zero Waste Himalayas Campaign” with 11 member countries & the whole Himalayan belt
- KCC advocates a linkage between waste management & resource Management & with this criteria helps in generating resource/energy with waste collected from the villages

6. SIXTH PRESENTATION: ENERY ALTERNATIVES FOR TOURISM IN THE NORTH-EAST

PRESENTER : MR.MRINAL CHOUDHURY,ASST. DIRECTOR, ASSAM ENERGY AGENCY

CONTENTS:

- He opens the presentation by talking about energy alternatives & energy conservation which is a primary need for the promotion of eco- tourism
- He elaborates on different solar energy equipments like solar cooker, SK 14 PARABOLIC SOLAR COOKER, SOLAR STEAM COOKER, SOLAR WATER HEATER, SOLAR THERMAL APPLICATION and also on the different solar projects in Assam & NE like the one in Karbi Anglong which would go a long way to conserve scarce energy & thereby promote tourism