

## International wildlife delegation visits Jalimukh in Khalingduar Reserve Forest



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Jayanta Kumar Das 20 December 2009 18608 views

A delegation of International wildlife experts recently visited Jalimukh, the most enchanting tourist spot in Khalingduar RF under Dhansiri Forest Division, Udalgori on December 17. The wildlife team headed by Daniel Rothberg, Grant Director of Conservation International, USA visited a few places of nature and wildlife importance inside the reserve forest including most beautiful Jalimukh ( 26 48'21 N and 91 42'31E, elevation 150 M ). The other members of the visiting team were Julie (USA); Sarala Khaleng ,(Nepal); Dipankar Ghosh, of ATREE Bangalore. Dr. Anupam Sarma, Coordinator of North Bank Landscaping Programme, WWF India guided the delegation team. The visiting members had discussion with office bearers of a few NGOs and organizations at Dimakuchi TE Staff Club in the same day, The president and secretary of Udalgori district ABSU and members of Green Valley Forest and Wildlife Protection Society ( a Nonaipar based NGO engaged in the conservation of flora and faunas of Assam, headed by its CEO Ananta Bagh met the members of the delegation to apprise them of the present situation in Udalgori district. Ananta Bagh drew special special attention of the delegates about the world famous but near extinct pigmy hog (Nal gahori) of Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary. The pigmy hog was last seen in the sanctuary in 1984 .He also informed the world body members about the so called man-elephant conflict in Udalgori district resulting deaths of more than 10 wild elephants and 12 human beings in the year 2009.

It needs mention that very poor infrastructure arrangements like broken bridges, inaccessible forest roads, insufficient forest staff, lack of modern surveillance materials like GPS, wireless systems, old weaponry like 315 bore rifle, unrepaired houses for staff and tourists etc had crippled the forest department. Unless the BTAD leaderships understood the needs for solving all the problems nothing would change. Although several new tourist IB s had been constructed at Nonai Range Office, Suklai ,Bogamati and Samran, these IBs have neither been opened for tourists nor been equipped with furniture and water supply. The .The members of a print and electronic media personals, including this correspondent were stunned to see the horrible condition of the houses of Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary on December 19 2009.It was quite unlikely that tourists would be attracted to the sanctuary. Forest personals complained that they had to carry water from a distance of 4-5 KM for their personal use. When contacted Bankim Sarma,DFO Dhansiri Forest Division said that a scheme of water supply for Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary had already been sanctioned for implementation. Nature lovers urged the forest and BTAD authority immediately to appoint a full time Range Officer along with sufficient staff with weapon and electronic gadgets at Barnadi WS.WWF India is also requested to come forward for the development of the infrastructure of the sanctuary which would turn Jalimukh,Samran,Barnadi and Bogamati as tourist's hot spot.

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Jayanta Kumar Das

Environmental journalist.

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**BY JAYANTA KUMAR DAS**

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Noted astronomy activist UN Deka passes away

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