

Chapter – 2

THE PARTICULARS OF THE WINGS, FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

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Year of creation: - The Khasi and Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division was created in the year 1977. With the bifurcation of Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division in the year 1989, the office was named as the “Khasi Hills Wildlife Division”.

Wings: - Under the Wildlife Circle/wing of the Forest & Environment Deptt.

Jurisdiction: - This Division covers three Districts viz. East & West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya.

Function: - With an object to protect and conserve the flora and fauna that represents the Biological diversity and genetic resources of the area under its jurisdiction, the following are some of the important functions of the Division..

- (i) To Control, Protect, Manage, Maintain & develop the Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary, the Mini zoological Park (Lady Hydari Park) Shillong , Lum Nehru Park at Umiam, Barapani and general protection of wildlife in other areas outside the PA.
- (ii) To fight against poaching and wildlife crime activities through enforcement of Wildlife Acts & Rules.
- (iii) To monitor, regulate & improve the administrative set up of the Division including Ranges and Beat Offices.
- (iv) To mitigate Man-Animal conflicts in areas where cases of depredations are highly regular.
- (v) To reduce impacts of people to the P. A. and vice versa by implementation of eco - development activities in the villages situated at the fringes of the Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary.

Activities: -

(i) Wildlife conservation and protection works: - This has been the priority concern of the Division. Regular patrolling & monitoring of all Government owned areas, non - Govt. owned wildlife habitat areas prone to poaching and constant checking of illegal wildlife trades at certain places such as Bazar, weekly village market in East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi District as well as areas of Jaintia Hills District.

(ii) Maintenance & development works: - The prime duty of the Division is to protect, maintain and manage the Nongkhyllem Wildlife sanctuary and the public parks and gardens , viz. Lady Hydari Park & Lum Nehru Park.

(iii) Antidepradation activitiand relief: - Providing guidance and help against wildlife depredations ,assessment and processing of damage to crops and properties including cases of injury or loss of human life.

(iv) *Publicity & awareness:* - Every year this Division as per the fund allotment, organizing various types of public awareness campaign on conservation of wildlife both in urban and rural areas of its jurisdiction. These campaigns are in form wildlife drawing competition, wildlife essay competition, debates at the level of schools & colleges where the public at large is the targeted groups. Commemoration of wildlife week is also being celebrated annually in the month of October. Besides programmes such as radio talks and television interviews whenever invited is being performed from time to time.

(v) *Revenue collection:* - Revenue is being collected from the visitors to the sanctuary, parks and gardens managed by this Division. The revenue collected are in the following forms;

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| (a) Entry fees | (b) Still camera fees |
| (c) Morning camera fees | (d) Accommodation fees in Forest inspection Bungalows |

(vi) *Others works:* -

(a)Eco-Development works in villages located at the fringes of the Sanctuary.

(b)Co-ordination with other Government departments at District level and state level.

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(d)Etc.