



FRIDAY COLLOQUIUM WITH

KARISHMA PRADHAN

10th May , 2024

CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN
STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Community-based wildlife conservation



Using hornbills as a flagship species, we have been working alongside multiple stakeholder groups such as local communities, forest department and other supporters to study and conserve hornbills and the habitat in the Eastern Himalaya. A long-term hornbill research in Arunachal Pradesh helped set up a community-based conservation model that is led by members of an indigenous tribe. The sustained success of this program for over a decade owes much to the active engagement of communities from the very beginning.

Following a similar approach, we plan to use our research findings from north Bengal to build capacities of local groups and collaborate to improve research and conservation in the landscape. Such inter-disciplinary approaches are different from the otherwise forest conservation model, largely adopted by the global south, that excludes tribal indigenous and forest dwelling communities in conservation practices. Our experience suggests that it is important to make conservation inclusive of local communities, to build upon their traditional knowledge of the landscape and allow them to equally participate in decision-making and implementation.

Karishma Pradhan, from Kalimpong is currently working as a Project Manager with the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF). Her ongoing work is on Hornbill conservation in the northern region of West Bengal. Her research is aimed at understanding of hornbill ecology in the landscape through research and also developing conservation interventions through collaborations with multiple stakeholders. She also coordinates a community-based conservation initiative in Arunachal Pradesh, working closely with community members belonging to the local Nyishi tribe for hornbill research and conservation.

VENUE, SEMINAR HALL, CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN STUDIES

At 3.00 pm

ALL ARE INVITED