

DETAILED PROJECT REPORT

GUWAHATI GREEN CARE PROJECT – SEUJ PRAKALPA, GUWAHATI (Benefiting people & places on Environmental Issues)

Guwahatians know it as '*Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*,'- which is a **special focus mission** of the Assam Forest Department, through **public-private partnership** for **massive afforestation** and **green belt development programme** undertaken in the **premier city** of **North East India – Guwahati**.

Situated on the southern bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra in the Kamrup district of Assam, Guwahati is a fast growing city and the gateway to the North- Eastern states of India and a principal centre of socio-cultural, political, industrial , trade and commerce etc. of the entire region.

The **Fact-file** is, the total area of the City is 216.79 sq. km. The area covered by hills in the city is 71.17 sq. km., out of which private settled land is 5.44 sq. km., Govt. Land - 14.49 sq. km, Reserved Forests -26.42 sq. km. & others - 23.89 sq. km. The Hillside story being, the total population of City in 2001 was 15,00,000 inclusive of hill dwellers -1,23,979. The forest cover of the City in 1990 was 13.60 % with total no. of hills in the City being 18, along with total households in hills at 26,985, with permanent structures on - 8,681, semi-permanent structures-7,510, temporary structures -10,794 & no. of villages on hills-75. The climate in Summer with max. temperature of 38⁰ C & min. of 20⁰ C, in Winter with max. temperature of 30⁰ C & min. 10⁰ C. The highest rainfall recorded on 7th October, 2004 was 141 m.m. The altitude is 54 Mts. above MSL.

The causes for concern was artificial flooding & water logging, soil erosion & killer landslides/mudslides from surrounding hills resulting in loss of 120 human lives so far, siltation & clogging of rivers & drainage systems, adverse climatic change like dust storm/air pollution, loss of green cover on the hills due to human settlement & illegal earth cutting.

The turning point was launching of **Guwahati Green Care Project**, of building people's support with missionary zeal through appeals, hoardings & signages in public places, sending SMS messages by cell phone, creating environmental protection whilst maintaining the ecological balance, reducing soil erosion in the hills using silt trapping measures, creation of eco-parks, herbal & botanical gardens in the hills & bamboo plantations along river banks. Awareness & motivational programme for greening Guwahati, to make it the greenest city of the country was initiated through Adoption of avenue plantation, Corporate brand equity plantation, Memorial park plantation, Reserved forestry plantation, Life & Heritage site plantations.

Involvement of the District Administration/Guwahati Municipal Corporation/Guwahati Metropolitan Development Agency, Govt. Departments & Agencies, NGOs / VAs / Self-Help Groups, Educational Institutions, Students & Youth groups, Public/Private sector Corporate Houses, Trade, Commerce & Business Houses, Paramilitary forces & Army, the common man, Press & Media etc. were sought in the project.

The choice of trees selected were Ornamental spps, Fruit bearing spps, Shade bearing & Fuel wood spps, Timber yielding spps. of commercial value, Medicinal & aromatic plants & Bamboo plantations. The sites for adoption of plantation selected were the degraded hillocks in and around Guwahati and other Govt. land, Educational Institutions, River front & Parks, along Road Dividers & High Ways, Life & Heritage sites, Private land & unused Public land.

Seven types of plantation packages were offered for Adoption along with a 3 years maintenance programme ranging from a roadside Single planting with an Enclosure costing just Rs.273.00 to 100 Ha. Block plantation costing Rs.13,37,300.00 . A two paged M.o.U. was prepared to be signed by both the Forest Deptt. & the proposed Adoptor, before taking up Adoption of plantation package of one's own choice.

The target achieved so far : The Project was formally inaugurated on 6th May 2003, by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, & Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forests. In 2003, from May to Sept. 6,00,000 seedlings were planted & freely distributed at 150 sites through Sponsorship/Adoption by 180 Organizations/ Individuals. From May to October in 2004, 5,00,000 seedlings were planted through Adoption by 50 Organizations & 2,00,000 Saplings freely distributed for homestead land in Guwahati by NGOs & Forest Dept. and a large no. of educational institutions adopted plantations in their respective campuses. In 2005, the target was fixed for 15,00,000 seedlings, out of which two – third saplings were planted from May to July. Several motivational hoardings were erected in public places and awareness rallies/processions were organized by various NGOs along with free distribution of seedlings in Greater Guwahati, also with distribution of motivational stickers & badges with Green Care logo. Personal contract programme were made by teams of dedicated forest officials. Playing of audio cassettes in public places with Green Care messages/slogans/themes during local festivals like Bihu. Preparation of GREEN MASTER PLAN of Guwahati city was also initiated. The Green Care Project was spread to different districts of Assam state in 2004.

Looking ahead, the aim is to make Guwahati the 'Greenest City' in in the Country by the year 2010, hopefully with a projected Forest Cover of 53.72 %. Dream of a clean & green Guwahati by the citizens by leaving a priceless gift to the children of the city by planting a sapling and watch it grow, from the 'Memorial Day Seedling Gift Centre' set up right in the heart of the City under the Project. A Target of 15,00,000 seedlings have been envisaged to be planted through Adoption in specific sites, with free distribution of seedlings from Forest Department's Nurseries, from April to Sept. in 2005.

FACT-FILE on Land Use Pattern of Guwahati City & Forest Cover

• Total No. of Hills in the City	= 18
• No. of Villages in City Hills	= 75
• No. of Households in City Hill Villages	= 26,985
• Total Population in City Hill Villages	= 1,23,799
• Total Population of City in 1971	= 1,23,799
• Total Population of City in 2001	= 15,00,000
• Permanent residential Structures in City Hills	= 8,681
• Semi- Permanent residential Structures in City Hills	= 7,510
• Temporary residential Structures in City Hills	= 10,794

- **Land degradation** in hills leading to change of Ecological System due to –

a) Hill earth cutting & filling of low land and

b) Heavy erosion by torrential rain

- **Study conducted** by State **Soil Conservation Depptt.**, based on **Satellite** interpreted map, showing **Land Use Pattern** of the **City** (Imageries from IRS / IILS -Land sat III with Resolution up to 23.5 mt.) :-

➤ Residential land use	= 73.0 %
➤ Public/Semi-public land use	= 12.3 %
➤ Industrial land use	= 4.2 %
➤ Commercial land use	= 1.5 %
➤ Mixed built up land use	= 0.2 %

- Recreational land use = 0.1 %
 - Transportation purpose land use = 0.6 %
 - Other land use = 8.1 %
- From **1967 to 1968 and 1990**, continuous **conversion of land** from non-urban to urban use, resulted in gradual **decrease in Forest Cover** and **increase in Wasteland**
 - In **1990**, the **Total Forest Cover** of land under **City = 13.60 %**
Total area of the City = 216.79 sq. km. or **21,679 Ha.**
Total area of City Hills = 71.17 sq. km. or **7,117 Ha.**
Total area of City R.F. s = 26.42 sq. km. or **2,642 Ha.**
 - **Country's** requirement of **Forest Cover** in respect of Geographical area, as per **National Forest Policy**, should be = **25 % in 2007 & 33 % in 2012**
 - Data on **Forest Cover** of the Country as per **State of Forest Report, 2003** released on 19.07.2005 in N.Delhi, by the **Forest Survey of India**, state that :-

✓ Forest Cover of Assam in 2003	= 35.48 %
➤ Total Area of Forest Cover	= 27,826 sq. km
➤ Very Dense Forest	= 1,684 sq. km
➤ Medium Dense Forest	= 11,358 sq. km
➤ Open Forest	= 14,784 sq. km
➤ R.F area	= 18,060 sq. km
➤ U.S.F area	= 27,018 sq. km
➤ 1st .highest in the State – N.C. Hills	= 88.71 %
➤ 2nd highest in the State – K.A. Hills	= 76.74 %
➤ Lowest in the State - Morigaon District	= 7.51 %
✓ Forest Cover of the Country in 2003	= 20.64 %

Target of 1 Crore Tree Plantation envisaged under GUWAHATI GREEN CARE PROJECT, during May to Sept. months every year from 2003 to 2010

- The Plantation target required to make Guwahati the Greenest Capital City in the Country by the year 2010 under the Project, it is envisaged to Exceed the 33 % Forest Cover as per National Forest Policy as well as the 35.48 % of higher Forest Cover of Assam, as per the State of Forest Report, 2003 of F.S.I
- The **Target** required for **Additional Forest Cover** of the **City** in respect of its geographical **area of 21,679 Ha.**, in spite of 13.60 forest cover of 1990 = **40.12 %**
- **Required area** for 40.12 % of forest cover of City area of 21,679 Ha. = **8697.61 ha.**
No. of Seedlings needed for Plantation @ 1150nos./Ha. for 8697.61 Ha.= 1,00,02,257
Say = 1,00,00,000
- **Total No. of Seedlings already planted** under the Project in 2003, 2004 & 2005 = **28,00,000**
- **No. of Additional Seedling** required to be planted every year **till 2010**, for Planting 1 Crore Seedlings under the project in **8 years** period
(Target of 1,00,00,000 – 28,00,000 already planted) = **72,00,000**

YEAR – WISE TARGET FOR PLANTATION

YEAR	NO. OF SEEDLING	REMARK
2003	6,00,000	Already planted
2004	7,00,000	-Do-
2005	15,00,000	-Do-
2006	15,00,000	To be planted
2007	15,00,000	To be planted
2008	15,00,000	To be planted
2009	15,00,000	To be planted
2010	12,00,000	To be planted

TOTAL = 1,00,00,000 SEEDLINGS

PROJECTED FOREST COVER OF GUWAHATI IN THE YEAR 2010 = 53.72 %

Text of few ‘Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati’ – S.M.S messages for Reliance/Airtel/Cell One

1. Please join the Clean & Green Guwahati mission – “*Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*”
- Contact Nodal Officer/ 9864037479/2543839
2. Celebrate your Special Day/Occasion by Gifting a Seedling
- for Free Seedling contact – *Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*-Tel. 2630046
3. Plant a Seedling in your Home – collect free seedlings from
- *Memorial Day Seedling Gift Centre* under *Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati* at Forest Complex, Panbazar
4. Leave a priceless gift to the Children of Guwahati – Plant a seedling ...
join *Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*
5. To really save life, first plant a Tree..... join *Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*
6. Let’s start rebuilding our future with TREES.....
join *Guwahati Green Care Project- Seuj Prakalpa, Guwahati*