

Review of progress
of
Eco-restoration activities
under



Green Credit Programme
in
Assam



Green Credit Cell
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
An Autonomous body of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006 (Uttarakhand)

There are ten eco restoration blocks in three forest division for which funds have been transferred to the State Nodal Officer for implementing the eco restoration activities proposed for the first year (table-1). The funds of Rs. 12,42,94,905.00 (Twelve crore forty-two lakhs ninety-four thousand nine hundred and five only) were transferred to the State Nodal Officer's bank account on 25 June 2024 but the funds were not transferred to the respective implementing officers (DFOs) till the March 2025. These blocks were visited during 23rd and 26th March 2025, with representatives from the respective entities present during the field visits. Detailed observations for each forest division are provided below:

Table 1: List of eco restoration block reviewed in Assam

S. No.	Reg. No	Entity Name	Forest Division	Area (Ha)	Eco-Restoration Cost (₹)	1st year's installments
1	221	Oil India Ltd.	Kamrup West	16	1,00,32,174	54,81,056.00
2	220	Oil India Ltd.	Kamrup West	34	2,13,93,599	1,22,70,958.00
3	219	Oil India Ltd.	Kamrup West	5	44,30,338	24,55,684.00
4	215	Oil India Ltd.	W. Assam Wildlife	35	1,85,72,048	92,16,384.00
5	217	Oil India Ltd.	W. Assam Wildlife	50	2,69,41,679	1,40,90,653.00
6	241	Coal India Ltd.	Goalpara	100	4,74,47,507	2,19,21,457.00
7	238	Oil India Ltd.	Goalpara	25	1,44,97,084	80,80,157.00
8	239	Oil India Ltd.	Goalpara	25	1,50,83,583	74,93,660.00
9	240	Oil India Ltd.	Goalpara	84	4,58,94,306	2,51,20,464.00
10	237	Oil India Ltd.	Goalpara	80	3,87,11,211	1,81,64,432.00

1. Kamrup West Forest Division: There were three eco restoration block with an area of total 55 ha which were selected by the Oil India Ltd was reviewed in the division. As per DFO, Kamrup West, no fund was transferred from the SNO to the DFO for carrying out the eco restoration activities on any of the site.

1.1 Registration No.: 221
Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333358859
Entity: Oil India Ltd.
Area: 16 ha
Range: Kuls; **Beat:** Barbakra
Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative: Sh. S. Talukdar, DFO, Kamrup West FD
Date of field visit: 23.03.2025
Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- The site was found not suitable for GCP activities as Range Officer informed that the considerable area of this site is already allotted to the villagers under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The remaining area was under the tick canopy cover of *Shorea robusta*.
- The DFO was instructed to identify another location in his division as alternative site.
- He ensured that another site will be identified and same will be uploaded on the GCP Portal as alternative site.
- No progress.



Fig 2: *Shorea robusta* trees in the alternative site shown to the Monitoring team

1.2 Registration No.:	220
Cost Estimate ID:	EPID1710309926399
Entity	Oil India Ltd.
Area:	34 ha
Range:	Loharghat; Beat: Mataikhar
Entity representative:	Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative:	Sh. S. Talukdar, DFO, Kamrup West FD
Date of field visit:	23.03.2025
Financial expenditure:	Nil

Observations:

- As per the DFO, the work cannot be done on the originally proposed site, as represented by the uploaded polygon, because of the problem on encroachment on that site. was not suitable for ecorestoration activities. As a result, another site which was identified as the alternative to the actual site was shown to the monitoring team.
- The alternative site which is adjacent to the site reg. no. 221, was also found not suitable for GCP activities as the site is located on steel hill slop with boulders and rocky surface. Part of the rea is also covered with bamboos.
- The DFO was instructed to identify another location in his division as alternative site but he said that another area of degraded forest land of 34 ha is not available in his division. Therefore, he requested to allot the 34-ha area to any other forest division.
- This is the serious breach of guidelines of the GCP and Shri Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida who was representing the entity also raised his concerns on this.
- No progress.

1.3 Registration No.:	219
Cost Estimate ID:	EPID1712135376479
Entity	Oil India Ltd.

Area: 05 ha
 Range: Bondapara; Beat: Gamarimura
 Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
 SFD representative: Sh. S. Talukdar, DFO, Kamrup West FD
 Date of field visit: 23.03.2025
 Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- The site was found to be suitable for the ecorestoration under GCP.
- Work was not initiated as no fund was transferred from SNO till date.
- The ecorestoration block falls in the Sal dominated area, therefore the DFO was advised to plant the sapling of Sal and associated species on this block.
- No progress.



Fig 3: Monitoring team inside the site reg. no. 219

2. Goalpara Forest Division: There were five ecorestoration block with an area of total 314 ha. Out of which one block of 100 ha was selected by the Coal India Ltd and remaining were selected by the Oil India Ltd. As per DFO, Goalpara, fund was transferred during the first week of March 2025 from the SNO to the DFO for carrying out the ecorestoration activities under GCP.

2.1 Registration No.: 237
 Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333331456
 Entity: Oil India Ltd.
 Area: 80ha
 Range: Rogjuli; Beat: Dhupdhara
 Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
 SFD representative: Sh. T. Maraswamy, DFO, Goalpara FD
 Date of field visit: 25.03.2025
 Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- There was massive encroachment under tea, tamul and banana plantation from several years which is complete evicted now under massive eviction drive conducted by the state government during last year and entire area is now vacant for planation.
- DFO, Goalpara said that they will plant only bamboos (625 sapling/ha) in this block while the cost estimates were submitted for AR plantation (2500 saplings/ha). Bamboo plantation requires almost half of the cost as compare to AR plantation.
- DFO was instructed that the revision in cost estimates is not permitted and the sites must go under AR plantation only and if he wants to do any bamboo plantation, he must submit new sites for the same as a lot of degraded forest area is available with him due to recent encroachment eviction derives.
- Shri Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida also raised concerns on the difference between the cost of bamboo plantations instead of AR as proposed in cost estimates.
- Eviction was done even before the uploading of this block on GCP Portal, therefore there is no further progress.



Fig 4: Eco restoration block after removal of encroachment of tea garden

2.2 Registration No.:**238**

Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333297138
Entity Oil India Ltd.
Area: 25 ha
Range: Rogjuli; Beat: Dhupdhara
Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative: Sh. T. Maraswamy, DFO, Goalpara FD
Date of field visit: 25.03.2025
Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- Same as eco restoration block reg. no. 237



Fig 5: Ecorestoration block after removal of encroachment of tea garden

2.3 Registration No.: 239
Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333260867
Entity: Oil India Ltd.
Area: 25 ha
Range: Rogjuli; Beat: Dhupdhara
Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative: Sh. T. Maraswamy, DFO, Goalpara FD
Date of field visit: 25.03.2025
Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- Same as ecorestoration block reg. no. 237



Fig 6: Monitoring team at ecorestoration block

2.4 Registration No.: 240
Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333227149
Entity: Oil India Ltd.
Area: 84 ha

Range: Lakhipur; Beat: Kumarkhali
 Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
 SFD representative: Sh. T. Maraswamy, DFO, Goalpara FD
 Date of field visit: 24.03.2025
 Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- There was massive encroachment under habitations, schools, agriculture and tamul plantations from several years which is complete evicted now under massive eviction drive conducted by the state government during last year and entire area is now vacant for planation.
- Two school buildings are also vacated during the eviction drive. As per DFO, Goalpara, these school building will be used as camp hut for plantation and one forest battalion will be placed there to stop any further encroachment.
- DFO, Goalpara said that they will establish pure bamboo plantation (625 sapling/ha) in this block also while the cost estimates were submitted for AR plantation (2500 saplings/ha). Bamboo plantation requires almost half of the cost as compare to AR plantation.
- DFO was instructed that the revision in cost estimates is not permitted and the sites must go under AR plantation only as proposed in cost estimates.
- Eviction was done even before the uploading of this block on GCP Portal, therefore there is no further progress.



Fig 7: Monitoring team inside the site reg. no. 240

2.5 Registration No.: 241
 Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333227149
 Entity: Coal India Ltd.
 Area: 84 ha
 Range: Rangajoli; Beat: Simlitola
 Entity representative: Sh. Dhawal Teliang, Deputy Manager (EM), CIL
 SFD representative: Sh. T. Maraswamy, DFO, Goalpara FD
 Date of field visit: 25.03.2025
 Financial expenditure: Nil

Observations:

- The area has been subject to extensive encroachment over several years, primarily for tea, areca nut (tamul), and other horticultural plantations. A major portion of this encroachment was cleared during a large-scale eviction drive conducted by the state government last year. However, a significant portion within the polygon remains encroached and must be cleared before the commencement of eco restoration activities.
- Tea, litchi, and other plantation species are still visible within the polygon boundary. Additionally, a portion of the proposed eco restoration block is covered by a dense Sal (*Shorea robusta*) canopy.
- DFO, Goalpara said that they will establish pure bamboo plantation (625 sapling/ha) in this block also while the cost estimates were submitted for AR plantation (2500 saplings/ha). Bamboo plantation requires almost half of the cost as compare to AR plantation. DFO was instructed that the revision in cost estimates is not permitted and the sites must go under AR plantation only as proposed in cost estimates.
- All evictions were carried out prior to the site's upload on the GCP Portal; therefore, no further action has been taken since.
- Shri Sh. Dhawal Teliang, Deputy Manager (EM), CIL, Kolkata who was representing the entity also raise serious concerns on poor progress of eco restoration work and eviction of encroachment.



3. Western Assam Wildlife Division: There are two adjacent eco restoration blocks, together covering a total area of 85 hectares. Both the blocks were was selected by the Oil India Ltd.

As per DFO, fund was transferred during the first week of March 2025 from the SNO to the DFO for carrying out the ecorestoration activities under GCP.

3.1 Registration No.: 217
Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333431860
Entity: Oil India Ltd.
Area: 50 ha
Range: Kalamti; Beat: Gabharu
Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative: Sh. Piraisoodan B., DFO, Western Assam WL Division
Date of field visit: 26.03.2025
Financial expenditure: Rs. 70.05 lakh

3.2 Registration No.: 215
Cost Estimate ID: EPID1710333414661
Entity: Oil India Ltd.
Area: 34 ha
Range: Kalamti; Beat: Gabharu
Entity representative: Sh. Apoorva Chaturvedy, Chief Manager, OIL, Noida
SFD representative: Sh. Piraisoodan B., DFO, Western Assam WL Division
Date of field visit: 26.03.2025
Financial Expenditure: Rs. 49.50 lakh

Observations:

- This entire area was previously under the control of the Indian Army and has recently been released and handed over to the State Forest Department. The site is now clear and ready for plantation activities.
- However, as the area is slightly low-lying, it is recommended to select species that can tolerate mild waterlogging conditions.
- Installation of chain link fencing have been completed in both the sites, only two strings of barbed wire above the chain link fencing remains to be deployed on part of the fencing.
- Plantation of wildlife suitable species is proposed in next planting season.
- Digital estimates are **not** uploading on the GCP Portal due to which progress could not be updated on the GCP Portal.



Fig 10: Chain link fencing



Fig 11: Monitoring team with the officials of State Forest Department