



FISH BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT PARAMETERS OF RIVERS AND WETLANDS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

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Wetland Panorama

Wetlands

. According to IUCN (1970),..Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, etc., temporary or permanent; natural or artificial mass of water, the depth of which generally **does not exceed 6 m**

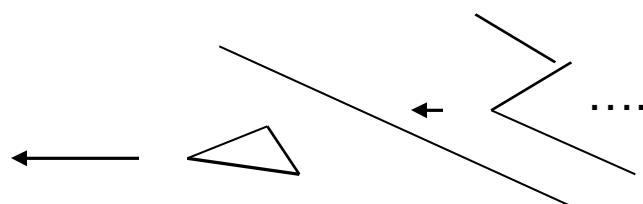


Diversity of Wetlands in South Assam

1. In Assam, and in adjoining Tripura and Bangladesh, three kinds of wetlands are generally found.
2. They are locally called as follows (Kar, 2007):
(a) **'Beel'**
Perennial wetlands which contain water throughout the year

- .(b) **'Haor'**
Seasonal wetlands which contain water for some period of the year only, particularly, during the rainy season.
As such, they are also called 'floodplain wetlands'.

- (c) **'Anua'**
Peculiar river-formed perennial oxbow-type wetlands which are generally formed due to change in river course and which may or may not retain connection with the original river.



Dolu Lake



This is the Dolu wetland situated along Silchar-Hflong highway. It has a maximum length and breadth of 2 km and 0.7 km respectively approx. The wetland has the following physico-chemical features of water: (average values):Temp: 12-35 C, pH 6.5-7.4, Turbidity: 20-35 NTU, DO:4.2-5.6 mg/l, FCO2 1.2-3.4 mg/l, TA 72-94 mg/l, Conductivity 110 μ mhos/cm. There is not much rich density of AM. However, there is abundant population of *Microcystis* sp and *Closteium* sp. The fishes include mostly the small trash varieties like *Puntius* sp, *Danio* sp, *Macrognathus* sp, etc. This wetland suffers from being not having any big continuous inlet and outlet . Hence, there is not much natural oxygenation of water which often becomes foul.

Rata Beel



This oxbow wetland is situated in the Karimganj district in Assam. It is said to have been formed due to change of the course of the River Barak. Its water properties are pH 6.52., DO 5.5 mg/l, FCO 32 mg/l, TA 50 mg/l, Conductivity 35 micro-mhos/cm, Phosphate 1.25mg/l. Nitrate 0.056 mg/l.

Sagar Beel



This oxbow wetland is situated in the [Karimganj](#) district in Assam. It is said to have been formed due to change of the course of the River Barak. Its water properties are pH 5.62, Turbidity 0.5 NTU, DO 4.9 mg/l, FCO 47 mg/l, TA 80 mg/l, Conductivity 22 micro-mhos/cm, Phosphate 0.174 mg/l. Nitrate 0.05 mg/l.

Rani-Meghna Beel



This river-formed oxbow wetland is situated in the [Sonai Circle](#) of Cachar district in Assam. It lies in N 24°45' 0.9" E 92°25' 10.9" and has an altitude of 56 ft MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 27 C, Turbidity 17.0 NTU, pH 5.3, DO 5.0 mg/l, FCO 39.0 mg/l, TA 49.0 mg/l and conductivity 23 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.522 mg/l, Nitrate 0.12. Now, this wetland is very much choked with *Eichhornia crassipes* and could be said to be in the final stage of successional series of conversion of wetland into land. It could be an ideal habitat for air breathing fishes.

Dubria Beel



This river-formed oxbow wetland is situated in the [Katigarah Circle](#) of Cachar district in Assam. It lies in N 24°49' 9.9" E 92°41' 7.7" and has an altitude of 81 ft MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 27C, Turbidity 9.0 NTU, pH 5.1, DO 6.3 mg/l, FCO 59.0 mg/l, TA 34.0 mg/l and conductivity 158 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.29 mg/l, Nitrate 0.36.

Angang Beel



This river-formed oxbow wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°51' 3.3" E 92°30' 0.7" and has an altitude of 85 ft MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 28C, Turbidity 1.0 NTU, pH 5.15, DO 3.95 mg/l, FCO 52.0 mg/l, TA 41.0 mg/l and conductivity 39.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.28 mg/l, Nitrate 0.192.

Deocherra Beel



This river-formed oxbow wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°50' 52.3" E 92°33' 44.8" and has an altitude of 34 ft MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 27C, Turbidity 2.0 NTU, pH 5.7, DO 5.2 mg/l, FCO 42.0 mg/l, TA 81.0 mg/l and conductivity 77.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.232 mg/l, Nitrate 0.15.

Asihali Beel



This wetland is situated in the Hailakandi district of Assam. It lies in N 24°41'5.7" E 92°31' 17.7" and has an altitude of 30m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 29C, Turbidity 308.0 NTU, pH 6.3, DO 7.8 mg/l, FCO 8.0 mg/l, TA 36.0 mg/l and conductivity 63.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.12 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Korkori Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah Circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°58' 32.4" E 92°35' 5.6" and has an altitude of 7 m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 27C, Turbidity 41.0 NTU, pH 5.69, DO 6.6mg/l, FCO 8.0 mg/l, TA 16.0 mg/l and conductivity 37.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0. 14 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Auti bauti Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°53' 4 9" E 92°33' 3.2" and has an altitude of 7m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 28C, Turbidity 408.0 NTU, pH 6.44, DO 3.35 mg/l, FCO 11.5 mg/l, TA 26.0 mg/l and conductivity 80.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 2.4 mg/l, Nitrate 0.108.

Kuria Beel



This wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°55' 16.8" E 92°36'6.3" and has an altitude of 51m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 32C, Turbidity 2.5 NTU, pH 5.72, DO 5.4 mg/l, FCO 7.0 mg/l, TA 30.0 mg/l and conductivity 43.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.099 mg/l, Nitrate 0.024.

Suska charua Beel



This wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°55' 17.7" E 92°36'17.1" and has an altitude of 11m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 32C, Turbidity 34.0 NTU, pH 5.86, DO 5.8 mg/l, FCO 7.0 mg/l, TA 29.0 mg/l and conductivity 45.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.165 mg/l, Nitrate 0.012.

Talkar Beel



This wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°59' 6.3" E 92°28'23.9" and has an altitude of -1±10m MSL. Its water characteristics are Turbidity 190.5 NTU, pH 4.72, DO 5.6 mg/l, FCO 6.0 mg/l, TA 24.0 mg/l and conductivity 60.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.165 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Andura Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N $24^{\circ}56' 10.5''$ E $92^{\circ}35'8.7''$ and has an altitude of 10 ± 10 m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temperature 25 Turbidity 183.0 NTU, pH 4.99, DO 4.6 mg/l, FCO 11.5 mg/l, TA 18.0 mg/l and conductivity 51.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.165 mg/l, Nitrate 0.036.

Lora Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°55' 1" E 92°30'37.8" and has an altitude of 6m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temperature 21 Turbidity 90.0 NTU, pH 5.73, DO 4.2mg/l, FCO 9.5 mg/l, TA 45.0 mg/l and conductivity 68.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.314 mg/l, Nitrate 0.084.

Narapati Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°55' 39.9" E 92°30'37.1" and has an altitude of 5±10m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temperature 22 Turbidity 33.0 NTU, pH 6.02, DO 2.0 mg/l, FCO 14 mg/l, TA 92.0 mg/l and conductivity 220.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.594 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Dholi Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°56' 10.5" E 92°35'8.7" and has an altitude of 10±10m MSL. Its water characteristics are Turbidity 246.0 NTU, pH 6.09, DO 2.45 mg/l, FCO 7.5 mg/l, TA 28.0 mg/l and conductivity 50.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.15 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Jabda Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°55' 13.3" E 92°31'56.6" and has an altitude of 5±18m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temperature 25 Turbidity 168.0 NTU, pH 5.24, DO 5.2 mg/l, FCO 8.0 mg/l, TA 31.0 mg/l and conductivity 53.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.858 mg/l, Nitrate 0.036.

Mohisatal- sundarkuri Beel



This wetland is situated in the Katigarah circle of Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N 24°56' 0.9" E 92°33'29.1" and has an altitude of 7m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temperature 26 Turbidity 384.0 NTU, pH 4.82, DO 7.0 mg/l, FCO 10.5 mg/l, TA 22.5 mg/l and conductivity 33.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.99 mg/l, Nitrate 0.036.

Developmental Measures for Beel Fisheries Development in Assam

Assam Govt has recently taken up an ambitious plan and project under the World Bank-aided Assam Agricultural Competitive Project (AACP) for the overall development of the Beels and the fisheries in them. This is a continuation of the earlier similar ARIASP Project. Under AACP, Development of Beel fisheries is one of the Major components. It begins with the following flowchart wise strategies

- a) Selection of Beels based on Biodiversity assessment, physico-chemical characteristics, primary productivity and stock assessment;
- b) strategies for sustainable management;
- c) involvement of community;
- d) dewatering;
- e) desiltation;
- f) artificial stocking.

These activities would be done following standard guidelines. Before development of a particular Beel, the social, technical and environmental aspects are screened. The legal aspects are also taken care of..The Assam Private Fisheries Protection Act, 1935 is consulted. Generally closed Beels with strong peripheral embankments and good communication, with 15-20% weeds is considered for development. AACP usually allows provision of construction of Rearing tanks @ Rs 2.10 Lakh/ha (civil work), Rs.0.10 Lakh for fishing nets. Provision of water retaining structure @Rs.0.9-1.54 Lakh/ha is allowed. AACP forms a social group called Beel Development Committee (BDC) under the guidance of Fishery Dept. and the NGOs. Under the BDC, there are: General Bodies (GB), Executive Body (EB) with President, Secretary and Treasurer. BDC's main objectives are: to initiate collective action for better livelihood through sustainable management of the existing beel fisheries resources; also, to increase fish production. AACP will assess: whether the following profit sharing is acceptable to the community people:

- (a) Fishermen: 40%,
- (b) operating cost for the next year: 25 %,
- (c) Community and capital saving : 20%,
- (d) Maintenance cost: 5 %,
- (e) Lease value : 10 %

These are generally reviewed in community participatory meetings

Chatla Haor



It lies between $93^{\circ} 15' E$ and $24^{\circ} 10' N$ in the Cachar district of Assam. It is one of the biggest floodplain wetland Haors in Assam having an area of 1600 ha at FSL. Its major inlet is called River Salganga and its major outlet is called River Ghagra. Its water properties are: Temp. 33 C, pH 6.09; Turbidity: 83.27 NTU; FCO₂ 7.59 mg/l, TA: 83.39 mg/l; Conductivity: 142.91 micromhos/cm. 57 spp have reported from Chatla. Presence of advanced fry of Hilsa is a remarkable feature indicating possible breeding ground. Cyprinids formed 32% of total fish population.

Bakri Haor



This wetland is situated in the Hailakandi district of Assam. It lies in N $24^{\circ}48'41.4''$ E $92^{\circ}35' 58.8''$ and has an altitude of 5m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 30C, Turbidity 46.0 NTU, pH 6.5, DO 6.1 mg/l, FCO 6.0 mg/l, TA 48.0 mg/l and conductivity 74.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.42 mg/l, Nitrate 0.11.

Punir Haor



This wetland is situated in the Cachar district of Assam. It lies in N $24^{\circ}38' 33.9''$ E $92^{\circ}52'6.3''$ and has an altitude of -6 ± 13 m MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 28C, Turbidity 588.0 NTU, pH 5.66, DO 2.8 mg/l, FCO 27.0 mg/l, TA 20.0 mg/l and conductivity 250.0 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.3 mg/l, Nitrate 0.06.

Other Wetland types: Anuas

1. River-formed oxbow wetland formed by meandering.



2. Plenty of such 'Anuas', 10 prominent along Barak



3. Being small and manageable, many functions:

A. Pisciculture



B. Flood management

C. Tourism

4 Problem: Chronic patients of Eutrophication (weeds).

5. Remedy: Eradication not very difficult because of small size.

Plate : Satkarakandi Anua at DSL showing infestation with weeds



Satkarakandi Anua



This Anua lies between $92^{\circ} 52' 41.6''$ E and $24^{\circ} 45' 8.9''$ N in the Sonai Revenue Circle in the Cachar district of Assam. The wetland has a max L,B and D of c 1.75 km, 0.3 km and 3.0 m respectively. The characteristics of its water are temp.26C, pH 5.7, DO 4.95 mg/l, FCO₂ 45 mg/l, TA 101 mg/l, Conductivity 49 micro mhos/cm. This wetland is also severely infested with *Eichhornia crassipes* mainly due to eutrophication

Dungripa Anua



This oxbow wetland lies between 24°44'40.9"N and 92° 54' 53.0"E in the Sonai Revenue Circle of Cachar district in Assam. It is said to be formed only during 1988 due to the change in the course of River Barak around Kaptanpur in Sonai Circle. The characteristics of its water are temp 26 C, turbidity <1.0, pH 7.02, DO 4.55 mg/l, FCO₂ 52 mg/l, TA 171 mg/l, Conductivity 102 micro mhos/cm

Rupairbala Anua



This river-formed oxbow wetland is situated in the Sonai Circle of Cachar district in Assam. It lies in N 24°47' 7.9" E 92°55' 23.5" and has an altitude of 158 ft MSL. Its water characteristics are Temp 26 C, Turbidity 74.5 NTU, pH 6.4, DO 5.05 mg/l, FCO₂ 46.0 mg/l, TA 41.0 mg/l and conductivity 74 micromhos/cm. Now, this wetland is very much choked with *Eichhornia crassipes* and could be said to be in the final stage of successional series of conversion of wetland into land. It could be an ideal habitat for air breathing fishes.

Algapur Anua



This oxbow wetland lies between 24°46'37.8" N and 92°53'31.0 " E in the Lakhipur Sub-division in Cachar district of Assam. Its water characteristics are temp 26C, pH 6.1, DO 4.4 mg/l, FCO₂ 54 mg/l, TA 187 mg/l and conductivity 96 micromhos/cm

Role of Wetlands

- 1.Wetlands for **Pisciculture**
- 2.Wetlands in **Flood Management**
- 3.Wetlands for **re-habilitation of fishermen**

Sone Beel, the biggest Wetland in Assam

It is situated between $92^{\circ} 24' 50''$ – $92^{\circ} 28' 25''$ E and $24^{\circ} 36' 40''$ – $24^{\circ} 44' 30''$ N within Karimganj district of Assam and falls in a valley geologically called **syncline**, **Miopliocene**



Dimensions of Sone Beel

FSL

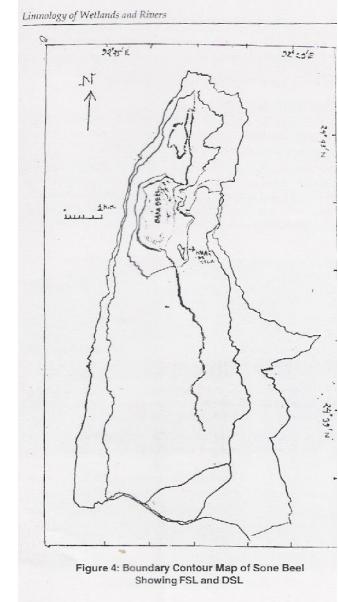
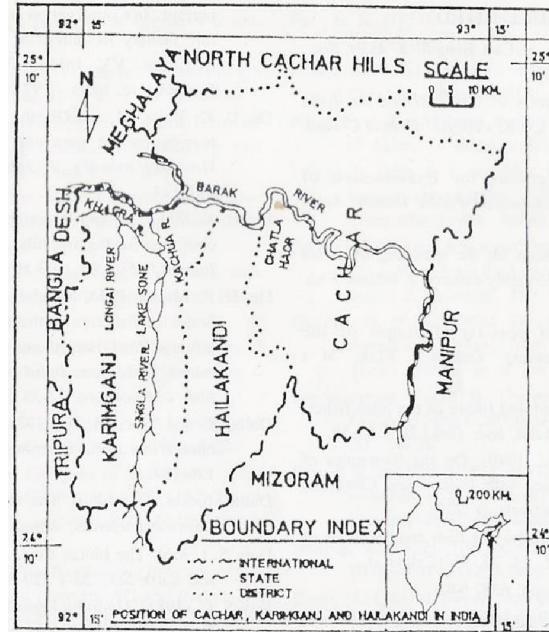
1. Maximum length (L)=12.5 km
2. Maximum Breadth (B)=3.9 km of the wetland at Live
3. **Area=3458.12 ha**

DSL

1. Max L = 4.07 km
2. Max B= 2.22 km
3. **Area=409.37 ha**

L of Shoreline= 35.4 km

Shore Development= 1.69
Volume Development= 0.15
Mean Depth= 0.29 m
Gross Volume= 101.54 106

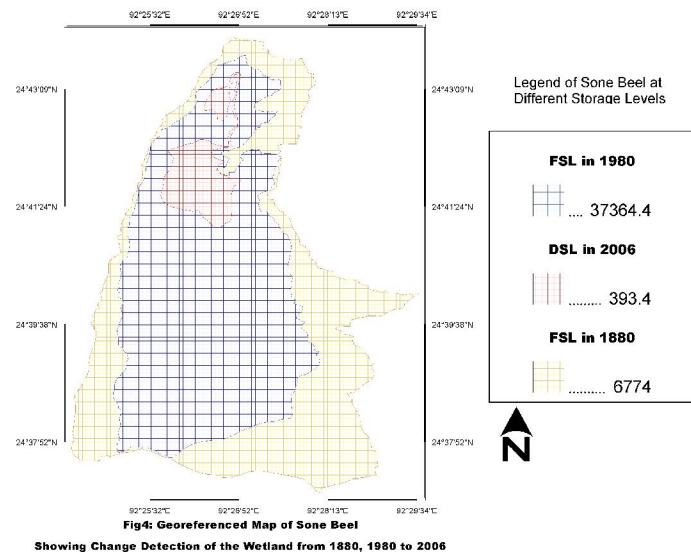


Map of Barak valley region of Assam showing distribution of Wetlands

(1= Chatla Haor, 2= Baskandi Anua, 3= Salchakra Anua, 4= Hathichhara Beel, 5= Dolu Beel, 6= Puneer Haor, 7= Rupairbala Anua, 8= Fulbari Anua, 9= Sib Narayanpur Anua, 10= Bakri Haor, 11 Sone Beel, 12= Rata Beel, 13= Sagar Beel, 14= Angang Beel, 15= Tapang Beel, 16= Dubria Beel)

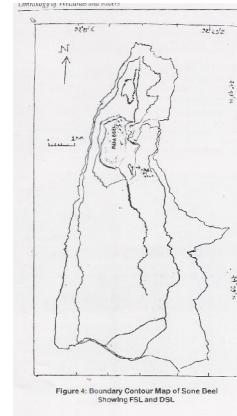
A Vivid example of Wetland shrinkage: Change detection of Sone Beel: 1880-1980-2006

1. Worked on GIS Platform
2. Compared Ground map at FSL of Kar, 1980 with Geo-referenced SOI topomap.
3. Superimposed 2006 LISS IV Satellite imageries.
4. Orange colored region depicts FSL 1880, 6774 ha
5. Blue colour indicates FSL 1980, 3234.4 ha
6. Red colour region portrays DSL2006, 392.4 ha
- 7. Hence, within a span of 100 years, there is shrinkage of 3539.6 ha of water area in Sone Beel.**
8. Deforestation, coupled with soil erosion led to very large-scale siltation causing this shrinkage.
9. One can expect further diminution of water area, if siltation continues.



Hydrodynamics of Sone Beel

1. Major Inlet 'Singla', or 'Thing Tlawng Lui', from Mizoram, 72 km., draining catchment 46105 ha; inflow 33.91 m³/sec



2. Major outlet 'Kachua' from Sone Beel. 19 km, outflow 87.03 m³/sec



3. 'Kachua' was blocked by Assam Govt. with 'blind dam' in 1951; then, replaced by a 'lockgate' in 1964, which is functional in a nominal way now.

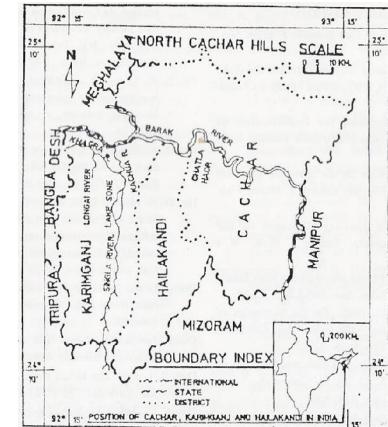
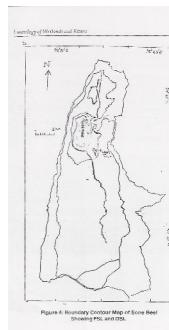


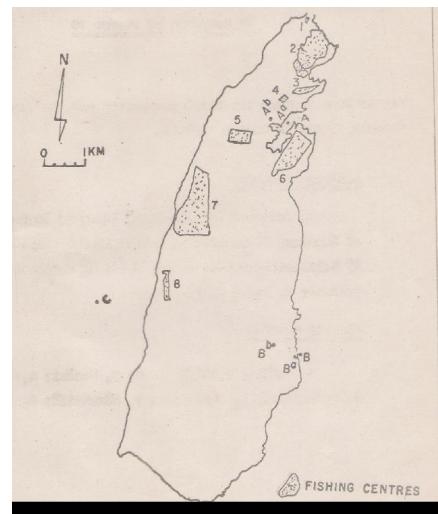
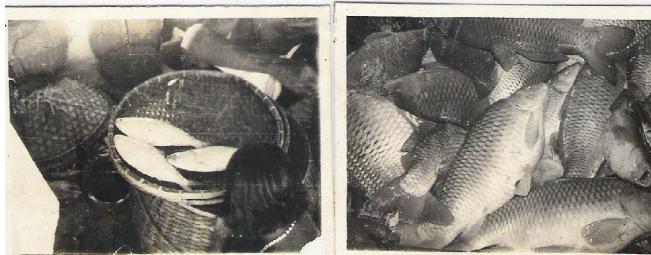
Plate : Blockade of Sone Beel Outlet

Potentialities of Sone Beel

1. Very Big size



2. Continuous inlet, outlet



3. High Fish yield, IMC Naturally growing,

also could be cultured



4. Occurrence of Hilsa

5. Ideal site for rehabilitation

of Fishermen



Major Problems in Sone Beel Wetland

1.Inlet diversification



2.Outlet diversification



3.Outlet blockade



4.Siltation

5.Mahajal operation

6.Paddy cultivation

7.Big size carnivorous fishes

8.Availability of Exotic fishes

9.Day-in and day-out fishing operation

10.Fish Disease, particularly EUS



Siltation problem in Sone Beel

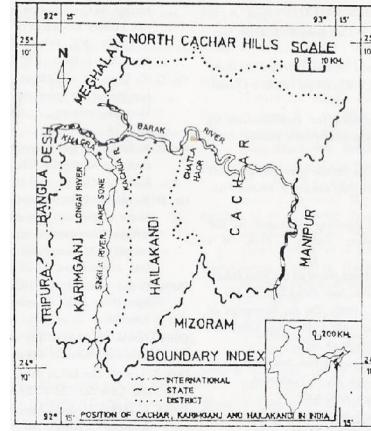
1. Max. silt load of **inlet** is 350 mg/lit

2. Max silt load of **outlet** is 88.1 mg/lit

3. Thus, **more amount of silt is retained and deposited in**

Sone Beel. Hence, decreasing depth and water area o

Sone Beel (Dey & Kar, 1987).



Management aspects of Sone Beel: a Case Study and Suggested Remedies

1. At DSL (Nov-Apr), Sone Beel has 8 deep 'Fishing

Centres' ('Bundhs'), 5 to 200 ha, 1 to 1.75 m depth.

2. Now, only 'capture' fishing goes-on in bundhs.

3. Pisciculture would enhance FY, generate jobs & income, check exodus and conserve 'Fishermen' as 'Fishermen'.

4. Part of cultured fish be sold as earning, rest be released into Beel to replenish stock.

5. Only thing is that the Sone Beel has to be leased-out to the **SB Co-op Soc** which can further earn through tolls

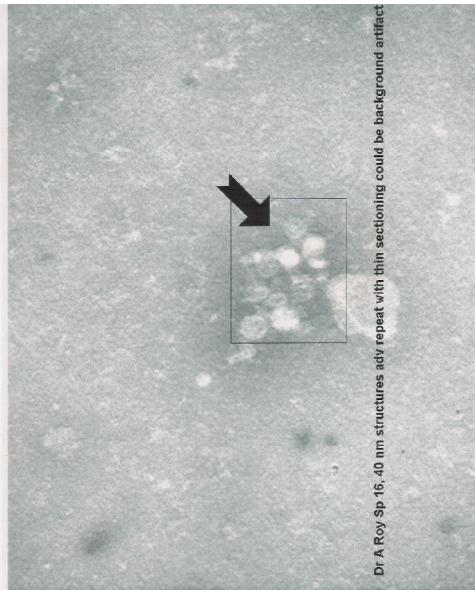
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(a) Rs 1.00/kg caught by per fisherman

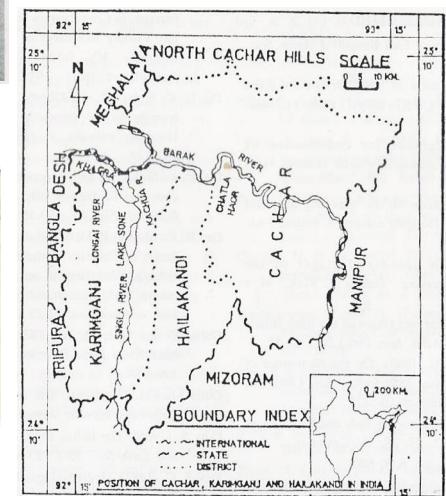
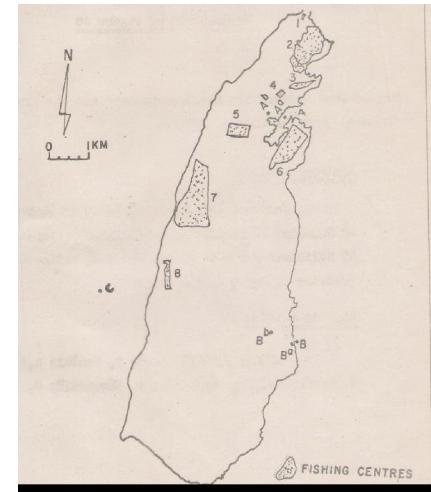
(b) Rs 2.00/kg bought by per fish trader

This **regulated** fish catch and purchase will **stop** over-exploitation

6. Siltation control by check dams, encroachment control by 'Patta' and 'EUS' be controlled



EUS fish virus under E/M



EPIZOOTIC ULCERATIVE SYNDROME

Aetiological studies

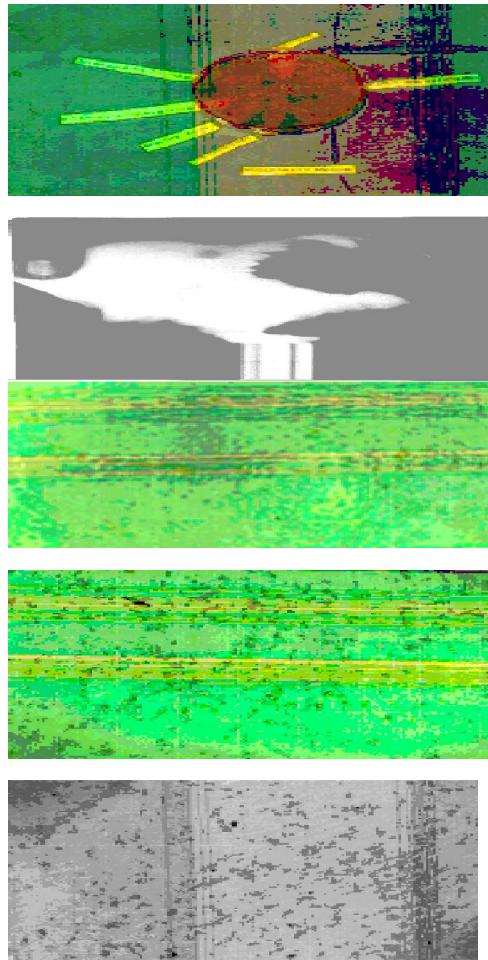
Bacteria

Regular isolation of bacterial flora from the surface lesion of EUS-affected fishes, as well as, from their muscles, gut, liver, gills, heart, kidney and gonads revealed the occurrence of haemolytic strains *Escherichia coli*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Klebsiella* sp. All these bacteria have been found to be sensitive to Chloramphenicol, Septran, Streptomycin, Gentamycin, Norfloxacin and so on (Kar et al., 1999 a). Guinea pig showed no infection after inoculation of microbes.

Virus

Absence of haemorrhagic septicaimia (which is so characteristic of *Aeromonas* infection) in all but most of the ulcerated fish (Roberts et al., 1989); non-occurrence of these pathogens in the early part of the disease (lilley et al., 1992); as well as, close association of these bacteria with the fishes in water since time immemorial (Kar and Dey, 1990 b); suggests that, *A. hydrophila* is unlikely to have any primary infective role in the pathogenesis of EUS. And, a primary 'viral' (?) aetiology has always been suspected to be associated with the initiation of EUS (FAO, 1986; Kar et al., 1990 a).

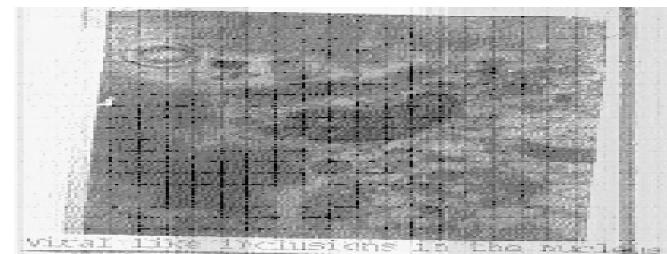
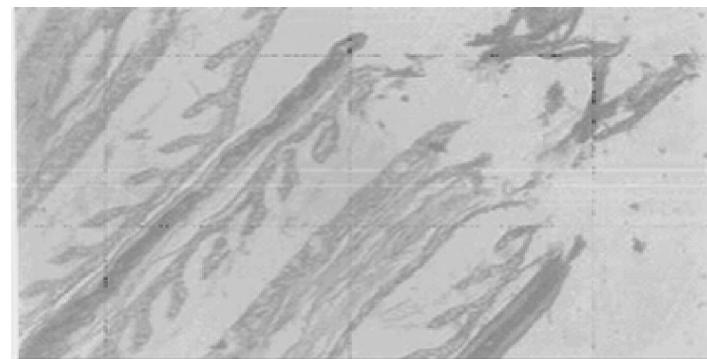
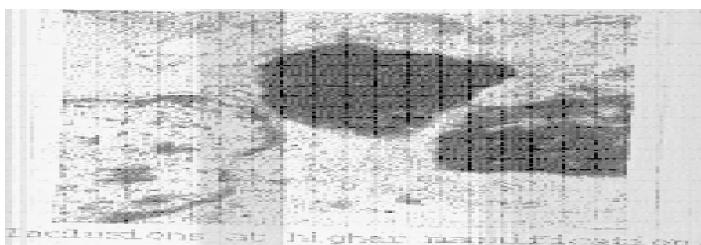
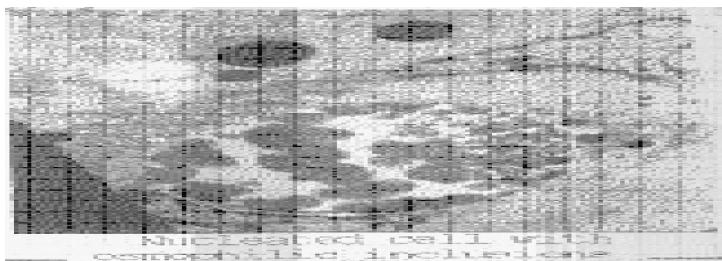
As a confirmation for the presence of virus in the EUS-affected tissues, in our studies, using BF2 fish cell line in tissue culture and infecting the growing cells with filtrate from homogenised tissue of ulcerated *Clarias batrachus*, a progressive CPE was noticed even at a dilution of 10 of a 10 % tissue homogenate. The infection was passable in the subsequent cultures



EPIZOOTIC ULCERATIVE SYNDROME

Electron Microscopic studies

Detailed EM studies done with the ultrathin sections of EUS-affected fish tissues revealed membrane-bound and granular abnormal structures; hepatocytes with vacuolations; and, virus-like inclusion bodies in the nucleus. Further works in this direction are being conducted.



Fungi

Kar et al (1999 b) isolated *Aspergillus* sp from diseased fishes in Assam. Subsequently, Kar et al (2000 a) also isolated *Aphanomyces* sp. From the EUS-affected fish tissues. However., Fungi may not be considered as the primary aetiology in view of the fact that they have always been associated with fishes in water without generally causing any harm.

EPIZOOTIC ULCERATIVE SYNDROME

Cntrol of EUS

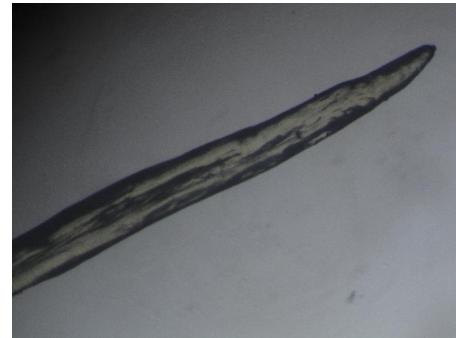
Effctive control and treatment of EUS is a major problem today because the primary pathogen has not yet been identified.

Control of EUS in large natural water bodies is, perhaps, impossible. However, in view of the fact that, TA of water acts as a predisposing 'stress' factor, application of lime in low alkaline water bodies, helps to control the spread of EUS .

Definition of EUS

EUS today is a semi-global problem among the freshwater fishes. Unfortunately, in view of its complex infectious aetiology, it is yet to be accurately defined (OIE, 1997).

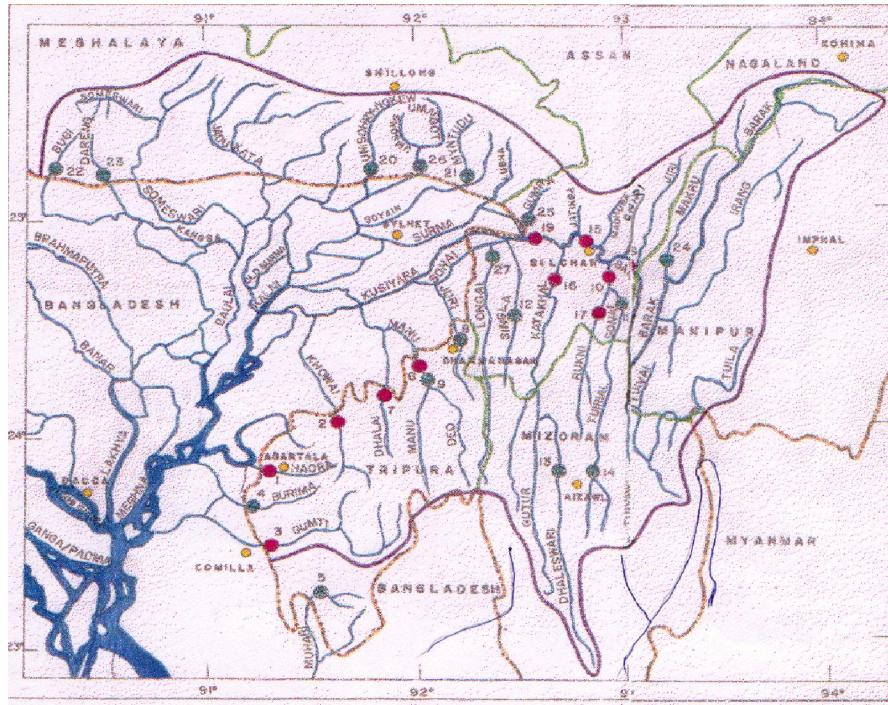
Fish Parasites of Awangsoi Lake in Manipur



Fish Parasites of Utra Lake in Manipur



River Network of North-East India



Principal Rivers in North-East India studied by Kar *et al.*: 48 rivers

Assam : Brahmaputra drainage: Brahmaputra, Kopili, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Manas, Beki : 6

Barak drainage: Barak, Jiri, Chiri, Madhura, Jatinga, Ghagra, Sonai, Rukni, Dhaleswari, Baleswar, Surma, Kushiara, Singla, Longai: 14

Mizoram: Tuirial, Tlwan, Tuirini, Tuivai, Mat, Kolodyne, Tuichong, Karnafuli, Serlui: 9

Tripura: Deo, Monu, Dholai, Khowai, Haora, Gomati, Muhuri, Feni: 8

Manipur: Barak, Nambul, Imphal, Irang, Thaobal, Iril, Leitang (Ukhrul), Lokchao, Khujailok: 9

Nagaland: Chate: 1

Arunachal Pradesh: Subansiri : 1

River Network of North-East India (Diagrammatic)

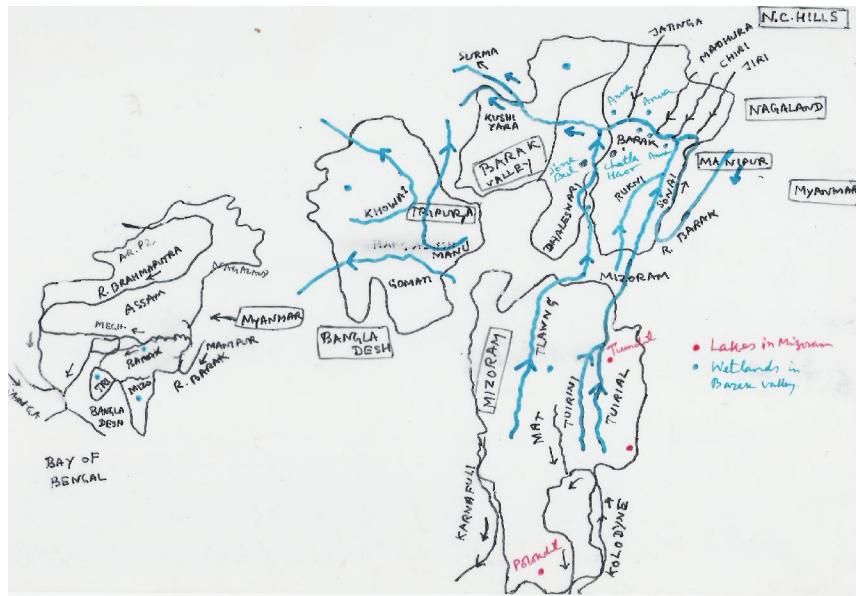
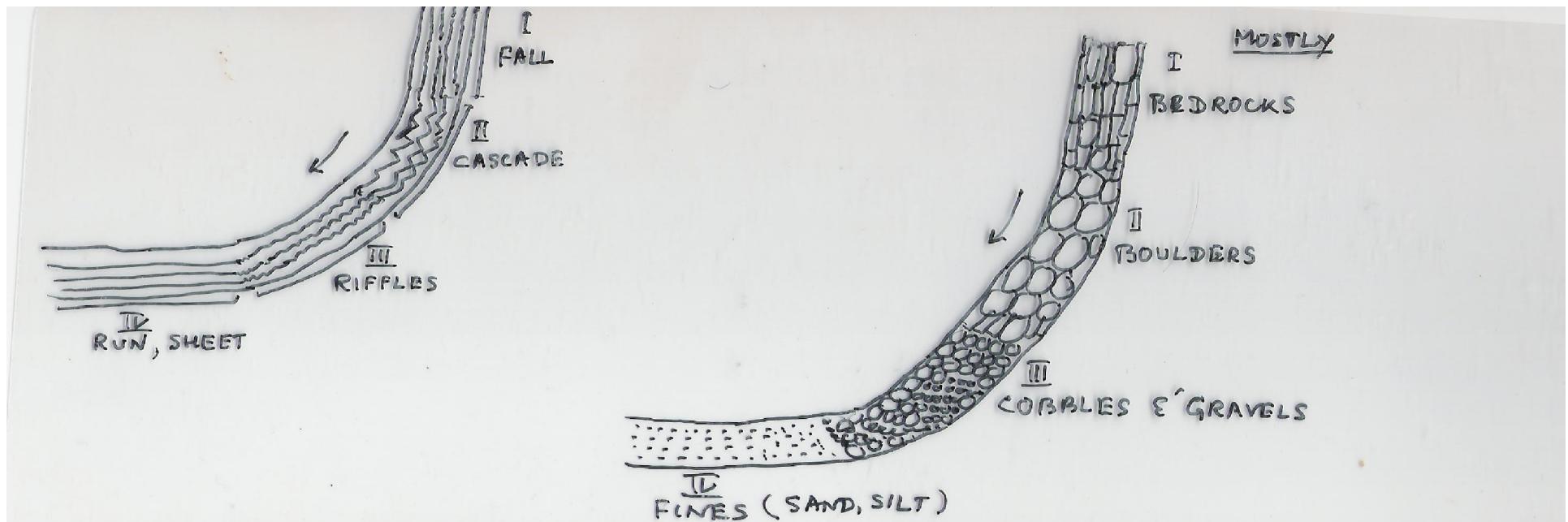


Diagram of Micro-Habitat, Substratum & Fish Diversity of N.E. Rivers



I. FALL
MAINLY:

1. BALITDRA SP.
2. SCHISTURA spp.
3. ERETHISTES SP
4. GLYPTOTHORAX spp.
5. GARRA spp.

II. CASCADE
MAINLY:

1. BARILIUS spp.
2. GARRA spp.
3. TOR spp
4. NEOLISSOCHILUS spp.
5. CROSSOCHILUS spp.
6. PSILORHYNCHUS spp.
7. GLYPTOTHORAX spp.
8. LABEO PANGUSIA
9. OLYRA spp.

III. RIFFLES (or Pools)
MAINLY:

1. BARILIUS spp.
2. DAMO ABQUIPINNATUS
3. DAMO NAGANENSIS
4. TOR spp.
5. CROSSOCHILUS spp.
6. NEOLISSOCHILUS spp.
7. GARRA spp.
8. BOTIA spp
9. NOEMACHEILUS spp.
10. ACANTHOCOBITIS spp.
11. GAGATA spp.
12. NANGRA spp.

IV. RUN, SHEET
ALL OTHER SPECIES

Habitat and Fishes of River Barak in Assam



1. Valley segment :	Alluvial
2. Stream order :	Fourth
3. Reach type :	Regime
4. Geographical position :	N 24° 43' 34" E 93° 4' 21" Alt.32 m
5. CGU microhabitat type	Run, Backwater pool
6. Channel bankfull width	200 m (in average)
7. Bankfull depth :	20m (in average)
8. Wetted width :	130m (in average)
9. Wetted depth :	14m (in average)
10. Fish cover type :	Depth cover, Turbulence cover,
11. Substrate type :	Rines and bedrock
12. Riparian type :	Mesoriparian
13. Riparian vegetation type :	Grass, Shrubs and Tea garden
14. Riparian land use pattern :	Human habitation
15. Signs of erosion :	Visible

Habitat and Fishes of River Jatinga in Assam



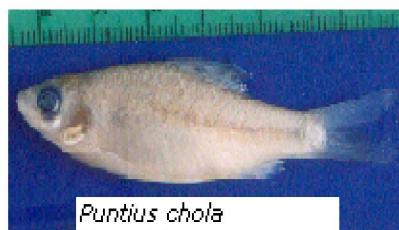
Labeo pangusia
River Jatinga



Mystus cavasius
River Jatinga



Danio devario
River Jatinga



Puntius chola
River Jatinga



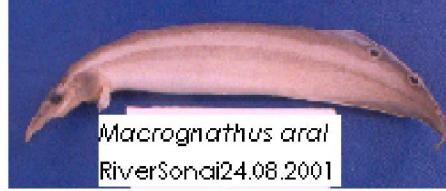
Garra nasuta
River Jatinga



Olyra longicaudata
River Jatinga 15.2.02

1. Valley segment :	Alluvial
2. Stream order :	Fourth
3. Reach type :	Pool- Ripple
4. Geographical position :	N 24 57 55 E 92 45 42 Alt. 86 m
5. CGU microhabitat type	Ripple, Run, Trench pool
6. Channel bankfull width	130m (in average)
7. Bankfull depth :	10 m (in average)
8. Wetted width :	55m (in average)
9. Wetted depth :	1.2m (in average)
10. Fish cover type :	Undercut bedrock, Bottom tree big boulder
11. Substrate type :	Gravels, Cobbles, Bedrocks
12. Riparian type :	Mesoriparian
13. Riparian vegetation type :	Deciduous trees, Shrubs and grasses
14. Riparian land use pattern :	Highway, Human habitation
15. Signs of erosion :	Visible

Habitat and Fishes of River Sonai in Assam



1. Valley segment :	Alluvial
2. Stream order :	Third order
3. Reach type :	Regime
4. Geographical position :	N 24 34 39 E 92 57 24 Alt. 37 m
5. CGU microhabitat type	Run, Trench pool
6. Channel bankfull width	130 m (in average)
7. Bankfull depth :	8m (in average)
8. Wetted width :	50m (in average)
9. Wetted depth :	2.9m (in average)
10. Fish cover type :	Overhanging vegetation, Turbulence and depth
11. Substrate type :	Rives and silt
12. Riparian type :	Mesoriparian
13. Riparian vegetation type :	Grass, Shurbs, Coniferous tree
14. Riparian land use pattern :	Human habitation and Agriculture
15. Signs of erosion :	Visible

Habitat and Fishes of River Dhaleswari in Assam



Nanra viridescens



Eutropiichthys vacha



Barilius vagra



Aorichthys seenghala



1. Valley segment :

2. Stream order :

3. Reach type :

4. Geographical position :

5. CGU microhabitat type

6. Channel bankfull width

7. Bankfull depth :

8. Wetted width :

9. Wetted depth :

10. Fish cover type :

11. Substrate type :

12. Riparian type :

13. Riparian vegetation type :

14. Riparian land use pattern :

15. Signs of erosion :

Alluvial

Third order

Braided

N 23 48 36

E 92 39 10

Alt. 66 m

Riffle, Run

1.50 m (in average)

1.5 m (in average)

80 m (in average)

2m (in average)

Undercut bank, Turbulence and Depth cover

Gravels and cobbles

Mesoriparian

Grass and shrubs

Agriculture and Human habitation

Visible

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Jiri in Assam



This river is originated in the Province of Assam. The study site lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp **24C**, Turbidity **44.0 NTU**, pH **6.83**, DO **6.1 mg/l**, FCO **9.0 mg/l**, TA **54.5 mg/l** and conductivity **88 micromhos/cm**, Phosphate **0.462 mg/l**, Nitrate **0.072**.

Habitat and Fishes of River Chiri in Assam



Micro-habitat type: Mainly Runs

Substrate types: Mostly sand, silt

Cover type: Mainly pools in some regions

Habitat and Fishes of River Baleswar in Assam



Microhabitat: Riffles, run

Substrate : Boulders, fines

Cover type: Bottom-free boulders, turbidity



Habitat and Fishes of River Rukni in Assam



Micro-habitat: Mainly run

Substrate: Mainly fines

Cover type: Mainly turbidity

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Singla in Assam



This river is originated in the Province of Assam. The study site lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp **24C**, Turbidity **17.0 NTU**, pH **6.43**, DO **6.43 mg/l**, FCO **10.0 mg/l**, TA **52 mg/l** and conductivity **183 micromhos/cm**, Phosphate **0.35 mg/l**, Nitrate **0.112**.

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Longai in Assam



This river is originated in the Province of Assam. The study site lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp **24C**, Turbidity **472.0 NTU**, pH **7.16**, DO **7.3 mg/l**, FCO **9.0 mg/l**, TA **69.0 mg/l** and conductivity **114 micromhos/cm**, Phosphate **0.24 mg/l**, Nitrate **0.06**.

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Brahmaputra in Assam



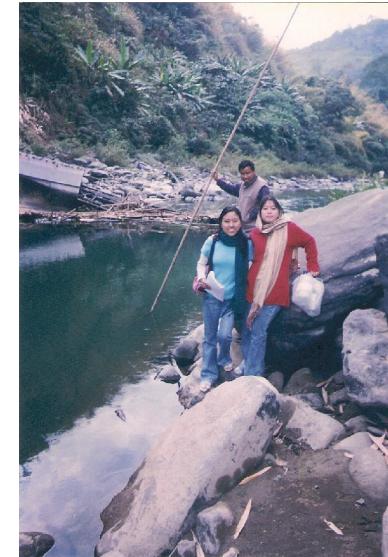
This river is originated in the Province of Assam. The study site lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp **24C**, Turbidity **397 NTU**, pH **7.33**, DO **7.1 mg/l**, FCO **12.0 mg/l**, TA **113.0 mg/l** and conductivity **200 micromhos/cm**, Phosphate **0.3 mg/l**, Nitrate **0.07**.

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Kopili in Assam



This river is originated in the Province of Assam. The study site is near to Panimur, lies in N 25°43' 24.2" E 92°49' 25.8" and has an altitude of 193 m MSL Its water characteristics are Temp 16C, Turbidity 59.5 NTU, pH 6.33, DO 3.0 mg/l, FCO 10.0 mg/l, TA 100.5 mg/l and conductivity 220 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.35 mg/l, Nitrate 0.192.

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Irang in Manipur



This river is originated in the Province of Manipur. The study site lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp **24C**, Turbidity **4.5 NTU**, pH **7.59**, DO **6.6 mg/l**, FCO **7.0 mg/l**, TA **80.5 mg/l** and conductivity **143 micromhos/cm**, Phosphate **0.30 mg/l**, Nitrate **0.084**.

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Luva in Meghalaya



This river is originated in the Province of Meghalaya. The study site is near Sonapur bridge that lies in **N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1"** and has an altitude of **46 ft MSL** Its water characteristics are Temp 28C, Turbidity 4.0 NTU, pH 6.19, DO 8.55 mg/l, FCO 35.0 mg/l, TA 99.0 mg/l and conductivity 280 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.30 mg/l, Nitrate 0.09.

Habitat and Fishes of River Tuirial in Mizoram



1. Valley segment :	Clivus
2. Stream order :	Third order
3. Reach type :	Pool-Riffle
4. Geographical position :	N 23° 42' 57" E 92° 48' 9" Alt. 275 m
5. CGU microhabitat type	Riffle, Dammed pool and Run
6. Channel bankfull width	110 m (in average)
7. Bankfull depth :	20 m (in average)
8. Wetted width :	50 m (in average)
9. Wetted depth :	1.5 m (in average)
10. Fish cover type :	Overhanging vegetation,
11. Substrate type :	Bottom free big boulders and Undercut bank
12. Riparian type :	Gravels, Cobbles and Boulders
13. Riparian vegetation type :	Mesoriparian
14. Riparian land use pattern :	Teak plantation and Shurbs
15. Signs of erosion :	Agriculture and Human habitation Visible

Habitat and Fishes of River Tuirini in Mizoram



Micro-habitat type: Rifflem run

Substrate types: Some boulders, fines

Cover type: Mainly depth

Habitat and Fishes of River Mat in Mizoram



Micro-habitat: Mainly
Cascade, riffles, pools

Substrate: Bedrocks,
Boulders,cobbles

Cover type:
Overhanging vegetation,
bottom-free boulders

Habitat and Fishes of River Kolodyne in Mizoram



Micro-habitat: Riffle-pools, run

Substrate: Bedrocks, boulders, cobbles, gravels



Cover type: Depth. Undercut banks, bottom-free big boulders

Habitat and Fishes of River Karnafuli in Mizoram

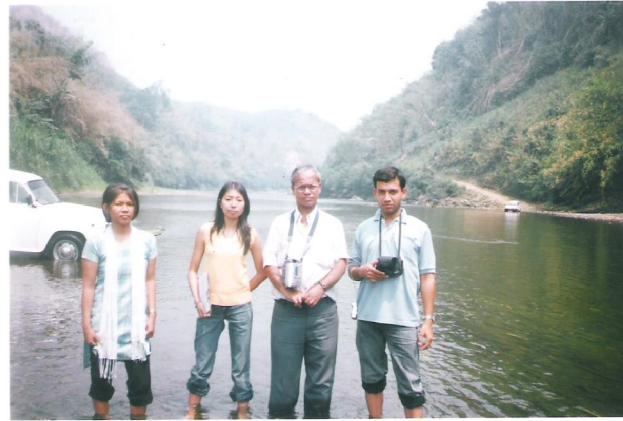


Micro-habitat: Riffles, pools mainly

Substrate type:
Bedrocks, boulders, fines

Cover type: Depth, turbidity

Water chemistry and Fishes of River Tuivai in Mizoram



This river is originated in the Province of Mizoram. The study site is near Mat bridge that lies in N 24°47' 45.5" E 92°54' 27.1" and has an altitude of 46 ft MSL Its water characteristics are Temp 24C, Turbidity 83 NTU, pH 5.85, DO 6.1 mg/l, FCO 46.0 mg/l, TA 190 mg/l and conductivity 155 micromhos/cm, Phosphate 0.30 mg/l, Nitrate 0.07.

Habitat and Fishes of River Gomati in Tripura



1. Valley segment :
2. Stream order :
3. Reach type :
4. Geographical position :
5. CGU microhabitat type
6. Char. >ankful width
7. Bankful depth :
8. wetted width :
9. Wetted depth :
10. Fish cover type :

11. Substrate type :
12. Riparian type :
13. Riparian vegetation type :
14. Riparian land use pattern :
15. Signs of erosion :

Alluvial
Third order
Regime
N 23 30 59
E 91 39 48
Alt. 42m
Dammed pool, Eddy pool, Run
180m (in average)
14m (in average)
80 m (in average)
6 m (in average)
Floating vegetation 20%,
Small woody debris 3%,
Overhanging vegetation 2%, Depth 25%.
Rines.
Mesotropical
Grass, Shurbs, Trees.
Human habitation, Protected forest, Agriculture.
Visible

Habitat and Fishes of River Manu in Tripura



Micro-habitat type: Mainly run, sometimes riffle, pools

Substrate: Mainly fines; sometimes boulders and cobbles, gravels

Cover type: Mainly overhanging vegetation

Habitat and Fishes of River Khowai in Tripura



Micro-habitat type: run,
sometimes riffles

Substrate type: Mainly fines;
sometimes boulders and cobbles

Cover type: Overhanging
vegetation and depth

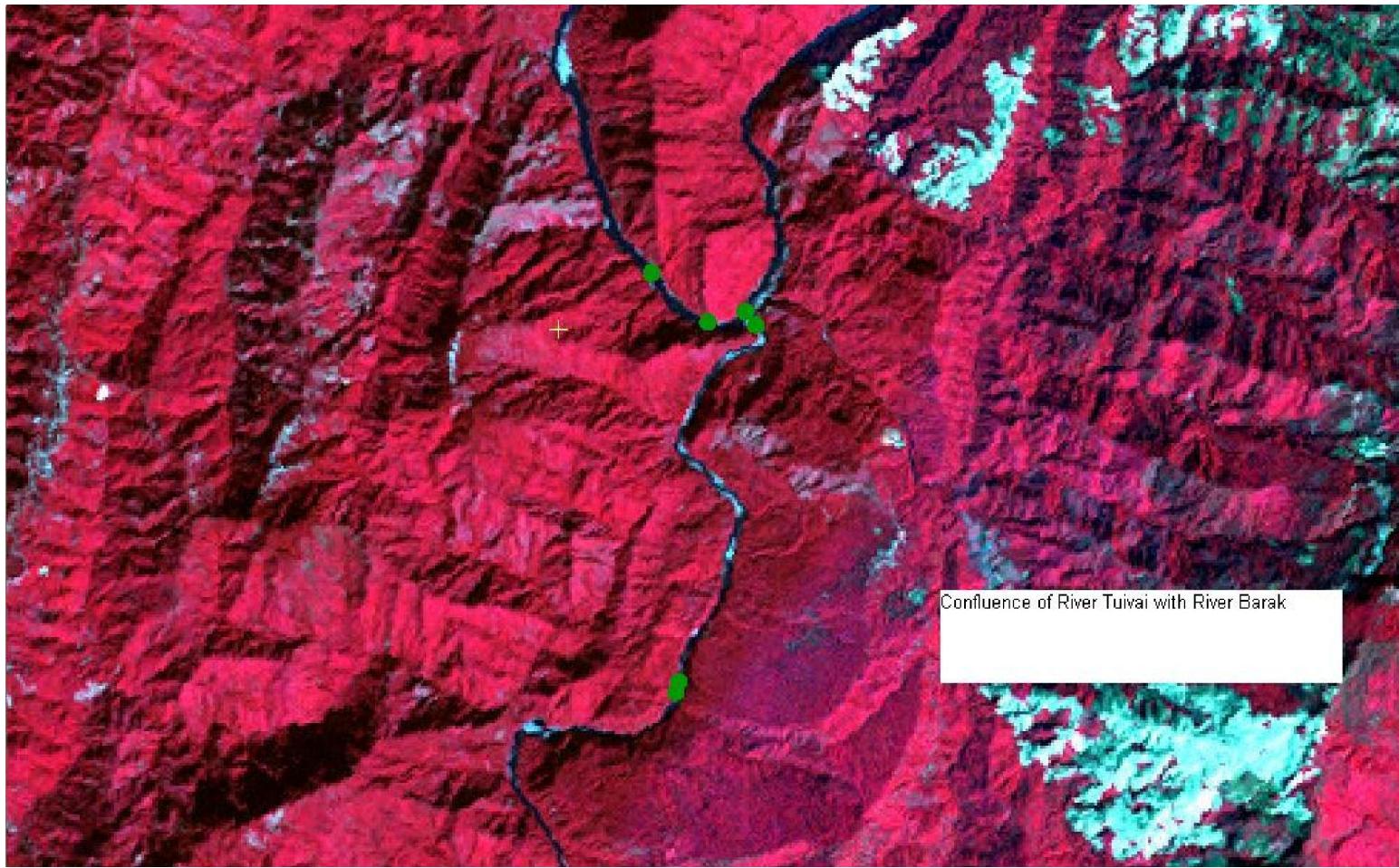
Habitat and Fishes of River Feni in Tripura



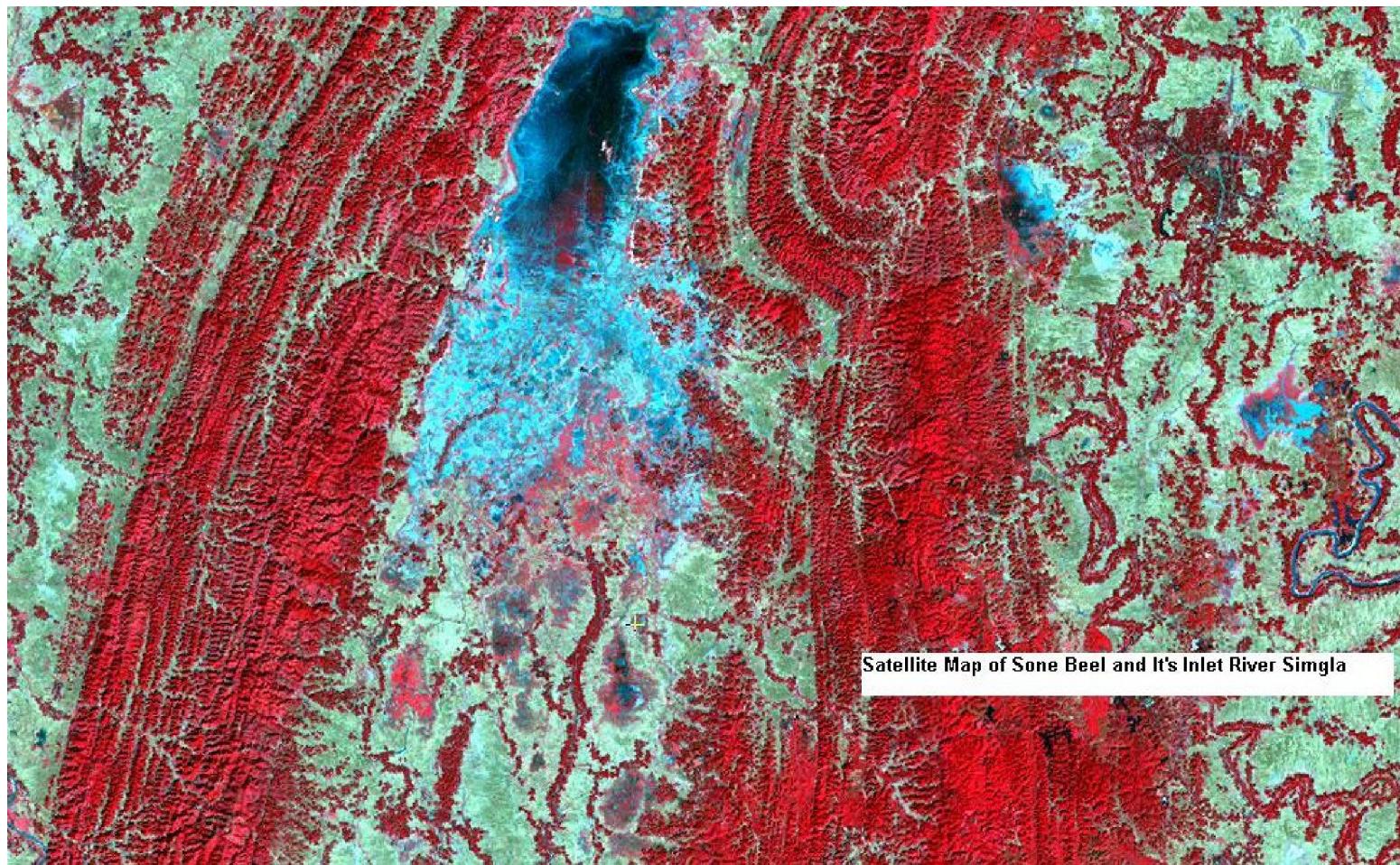
Micro-habitat type:
Mainly run

Substrate type: Mainly
runs

Cover type: Mainly
turbidity



Confluence of River Tuiuai with River Barak



Satellite Map of Sone Beel and It's Inlet River Simla

At first, the topographic maps (1970-71) of the study sites, i.e., the upstream region of river Barak are georeferenced using Geomatica software versopm 10.1. The maps have then been mosaiced to create the base map and clipped to the required size (Fig.1).

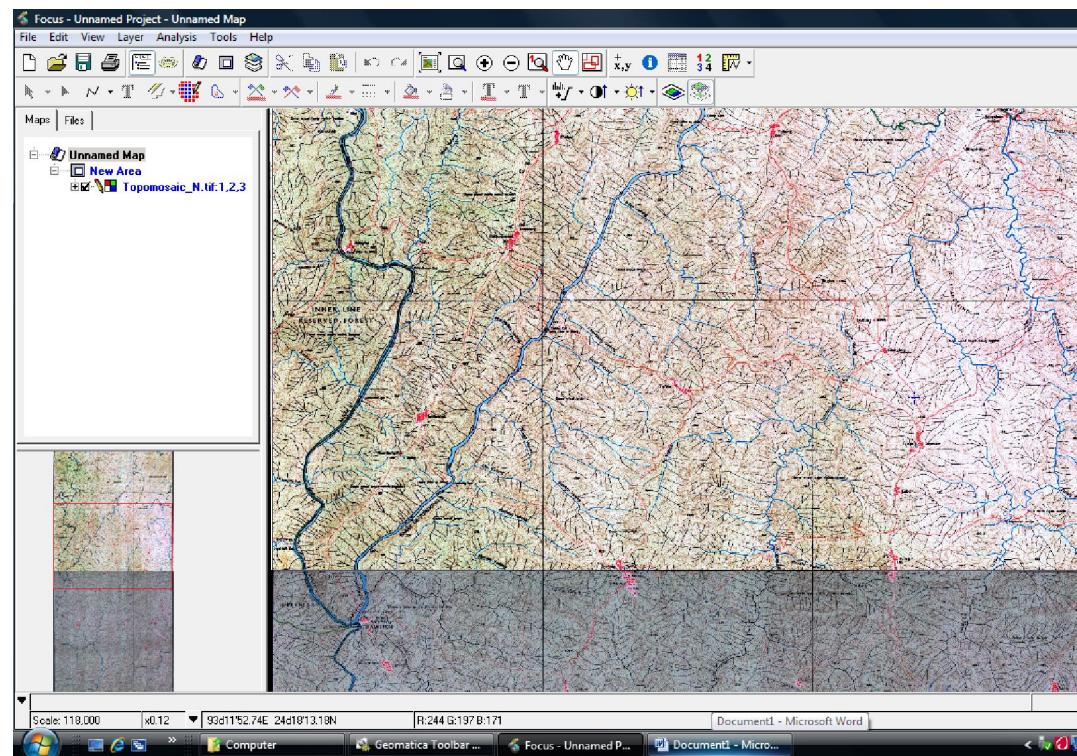


Fig. 1: Georeferenced and mosaiced topographic map of the study site.

The vector layers of the course of River Barak have been digitised from both the topographic map (blue line) and satellite imagery (red line) separately in order to display the change detection (Fig. 3).

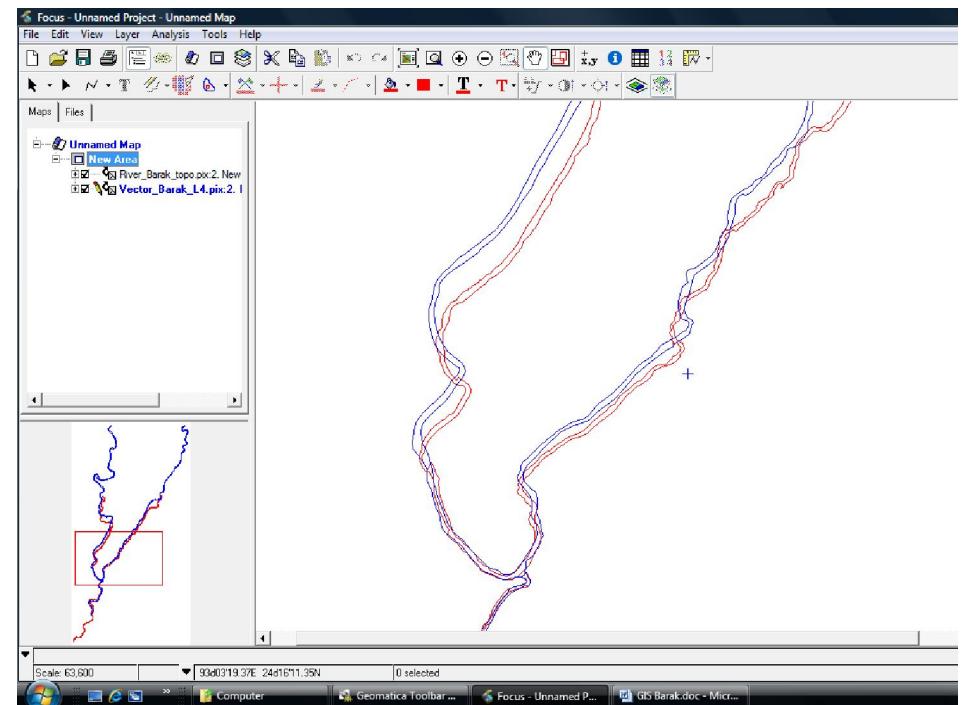


Fig. 3: Digitized vector layers of river Barak from topographic map (blue line) & satellite imagery (red line) to display 'change detection'

Table Ichthyospecies assemblage and distribution in Barak, Mizoram and Tripura drainages

Ichthyospecies	Ba	Ji	Ma	Ja	So	Ru	Dh	Bl	Tu	Se	Tl	Tw	Mt	Ko	Ka	Mn	Kh	Go	Fe
1. <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas)	+	+	+			+	+				+	+				+			
2. <i>Chitala chitala</i> (Ham-Buch)	+																	+	
3. <i>Pisodonophis boro</i> (Ham-Buch)	+																		
4. <i>Hilsa</i> (<i>Tenualoosa</i>) <i>hilsa</i> (Ham-Buch)	+				+		+												+
5. <i>Chodusia chapra</i> (Ham-Buch)	+				+		+												+
6. <i>Securicula gora</i> (Ham-Buch)	+			+	+		+			+	+	+			+		+	+	+
7. <i>Salmostoma bacaila</i> (Ham-Buch)	+				+	+		+	+		+	+			+		+	+	+
8. <i>Salmostoma phulo</i> (Ham-Buch)														+					
9. <i>Salmostoma sardinella</i> (Val.)																			
10. <i>Aspidoparia morar</i> (Ham-Buch)	+			+	+		+			+				+		+	+	+	+
12. <i>Barilius barila</i> (Ham-Buch)	+				+	+													+
13. <i>Barilius barna</i> (Ham-Buch)	+		+	+						+	+								+
14. <i>Barilius barnoides</i> (Vinciguerra)						+				+		+	+	+					+
15. <i>Barilius bendelisis</i> (Ham-Buch)					+	+				+	+								+
16. <i>Barilius dogarsinghi</i> Hora	+			+	+														
17. <i>Barilius dimorphicus</i> Tilak & Hussain																			+
18. <i>Barilius shacra</i> (Ham-Buch)						+				+	+	+		+		+			+
19. <i>Barilius tileo</i> (Ham-Buch)			+	+			+	+	+	+			+						
20. <i>Barilius vagra</i> <i>vagra</i> (Ham-Buch)			+	+			+	+	+		+		+		+				+
21. <i>Chela laubuca</i> (Ham-Buch)	+	+			+		+			+					+				+
22. <i>Esomus danricus</i> (Ham-Buch)	+						+				+			+					+
23. <i>Danio aequipinnatus</i> (McClelland)	+			+	+			+	+					+					
24. <i>Danio annandalei</i> (Choudhuri)																			+
25. <i>Danio devario</i> (Ham-Buch)						+													
26. <i>Danio naganensis</i> Choudhuri					+	+				+				+	+	+	+	+	
27. <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Ham-Buch)	+				+	+		+											+
28. <i>Tor masal</i> (Ham-Buch)						+								+		+			

Abbrvs.: Ba=Barak, Ji=Jiri, Ma=Madhura, Jn=Jatinga, So=Sonai, Ru=Rukni, Dh=Dhaleswari, Bl=Baleswar; Tu=Tuirial, Se=Serlui, Tl=Tlawng, Tw=Tuivai, Mt=Mat, Ko=Kolodyne, Ka=Karnafuli; Mn=Manu, Kh=Khowai, Go=Gomati, Fe=Feni

53. <i>Crossocheilus burmanicus</i> Hora			+						+					+				
54. <i>Crossocheilus latius latius</i> (Ham-Buch)				+						+				+	+	+	+	+
55. <i>Garra annandalei</i> Hora										+				+				
56. <i>Garra gotyla gotyla</i> (Gray)				+	+					+			+	+	+			
57. <i>Garra lamta</i> (Ham-Buch)														+				
58. <i>Garra lissorhynchus</i> (McClelland)											+							
59. <i>Garra nasuta</i> (McClelland)						+												
60. <i>Psilorhynchus balitora</i> (Ham-Buch)							+			+		+				+		+
61. <i>Psilorhynchus gracilis</i> Rainboth											+							
62. <i>Homaloptera bilineata</i> Blyth									+									
63. <i>Balitora brucei</i> Gray						+					+			+			+	
64. <i>Acanthocobitis botia</i> (Ham-Buch)	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	+		+		+		+		+
65. <i>Schistura multifasciatus</i> (Day)																+		+
66. <i>Schistura scaturigina</i> (McClelland)											+							
67. <i>Schistura vinctiguerrei</i> (Hora)										+	+			+		+		+
68. <i>Schistura rupecula</i> (Hora)											+							
69. <i>Botia dario</i> (Ham-Buch)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+					
70. <i>Botia rostrata</i> (Gunther)						+							+					
71. <i>Acantophthalmus pangia</i> (Ham-Buch)											+		+					
72. <i>Somileptus gongota</i> (Ham-Buch)																+		+
73. <i>Lepidocephalus annandalei</i> Chaudhuri							+						+					
74. <i>Lepidocephalus giurtea</i> (Ham-Buch)	+	+					+			+						+		+
75. <i>Rita rita</i> (Ham-Buch)	+	+							+									
76. <i>Batasio batasio</i> (Ham-Buch)															+			
77. <i>Batasio tengana</i> (Ham-Buch)					+													
78. <i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day)						+				+	+							+
79. <i>Mystus cavasius</i> (Ham-Buch)	+					+	+	+	+	+					+			+

Table No.: 8. STATUS OF SOME OF THE FISH SPECIES IN THE STUDIED RIVERS.
 (Based on informations collected from January 2000 to March 2002).

Sl. No.	Ichthyospecies	River in which recorded	Status
1	<i>Chitala chitala</i>	Barak	Critically endangered
2	<i>Danio annandalei</i>	Khowai	Endangered
3	<i>Bengana elanga</i>	Sonai	Endangered
4	<i>Tor mosal</i>	Sonai	Vulnerable
5	<i>Tor progenius</i>	Jatinga	Endangered
6	<i>Puntius sarana orphoides</i>	Turial	Critically endangered
7	<i>Puntius sarana sarana</i>	Jatinga	Critically endangered
8	<i>Puntius sarana spilurus</i>	Turial	Vulnerable
9	<i>Labeo pangusia</i>	Jatinga	Endangered
10	<i>Garra nasuta</i>	Jatinga	Endangered
11	<i>Psilorhynchus gracillus</i>	Turial	Endangered
12	<i>Balitora brucei</i>	Turial, Mat	Endangered
13	<i>Schistura multifasciatus</i>	Barak, Gomati	Vulnerable
14	<i>Schistura scaturigina</i>	Turial	Endangered
15	<i>Botia rostrata</i>	Jatinga	Vulnerable
16	<i>Mystus tengara</i>	Sonai, Gomati	Vulnerable
17	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i>	Barak, Jatinga	Endangered
18	<i>Eretistes pussilus</i>	Barak, Gomati	Endangered
19	<i>Chaca chaca</i>	Barak, Sonai	Vulnerable
20	<i>Rhinomugil corsula</i>	Barak, Gomati.	Vulnerable
21	<i>Parambassis tenasserimensis</i>	Tiwang, Kolodyne	Vulnerable
22	<i>Johnius coitor</i>	Dhaleswari	Endangered

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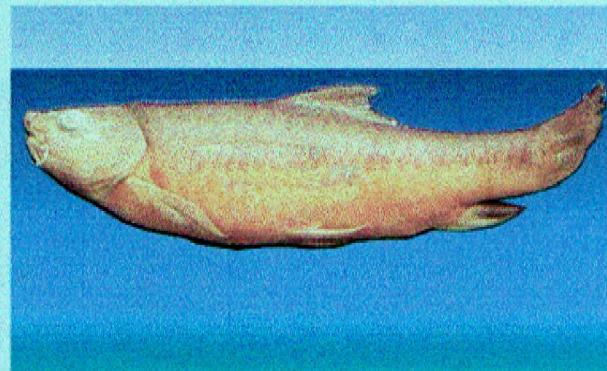
Issue No :1

CONSERVATION FORUM JOURNAL



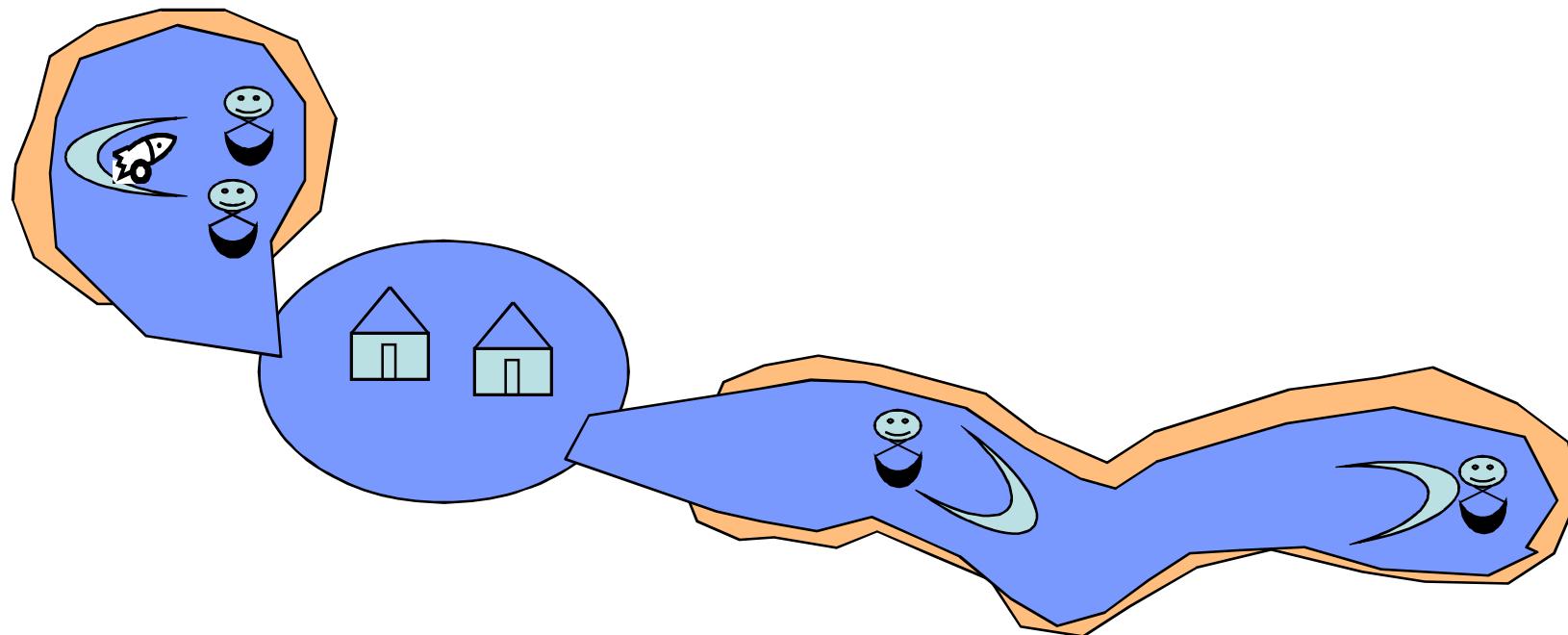
In this issue

Asis Dutta
Samir Bhattecharya
N.C.Datta

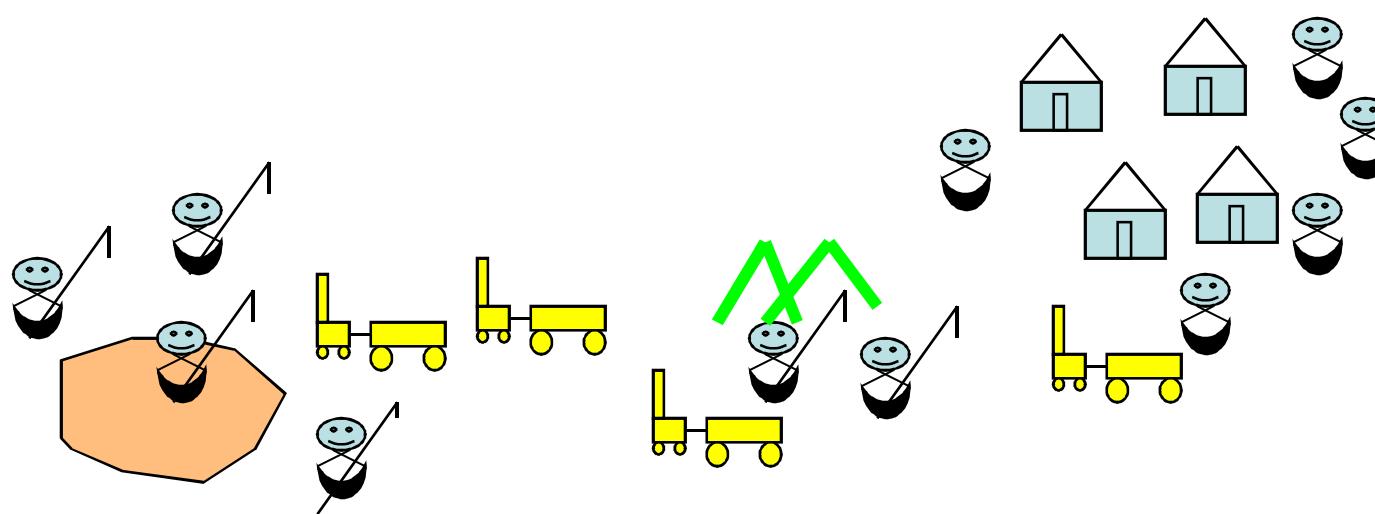
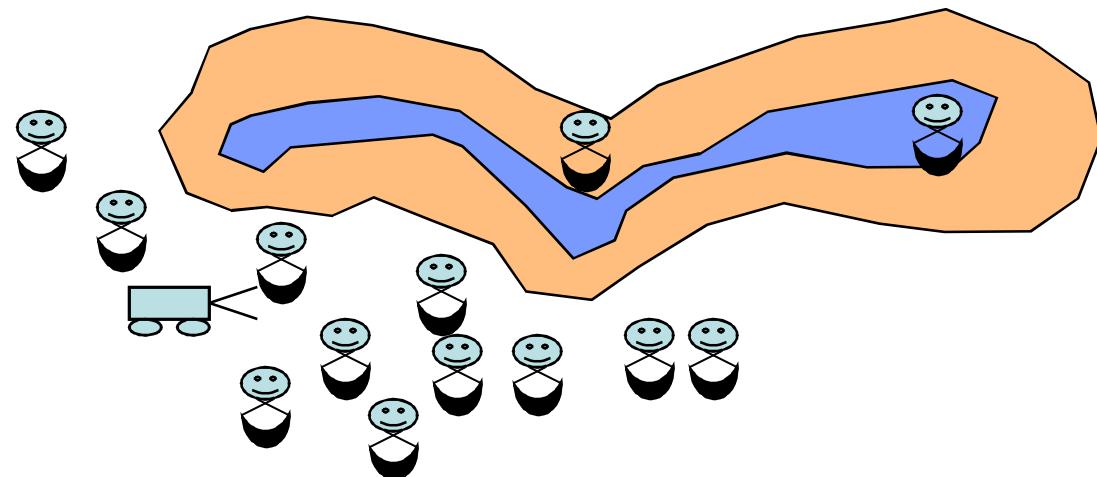
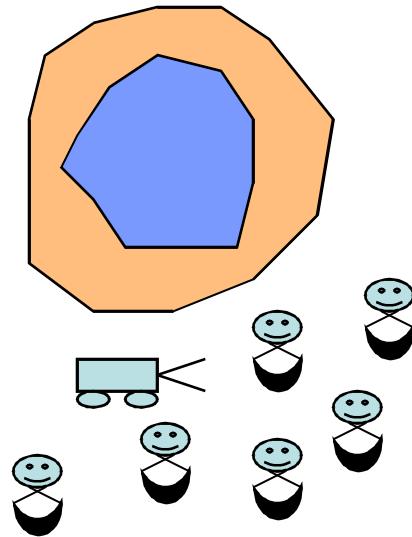


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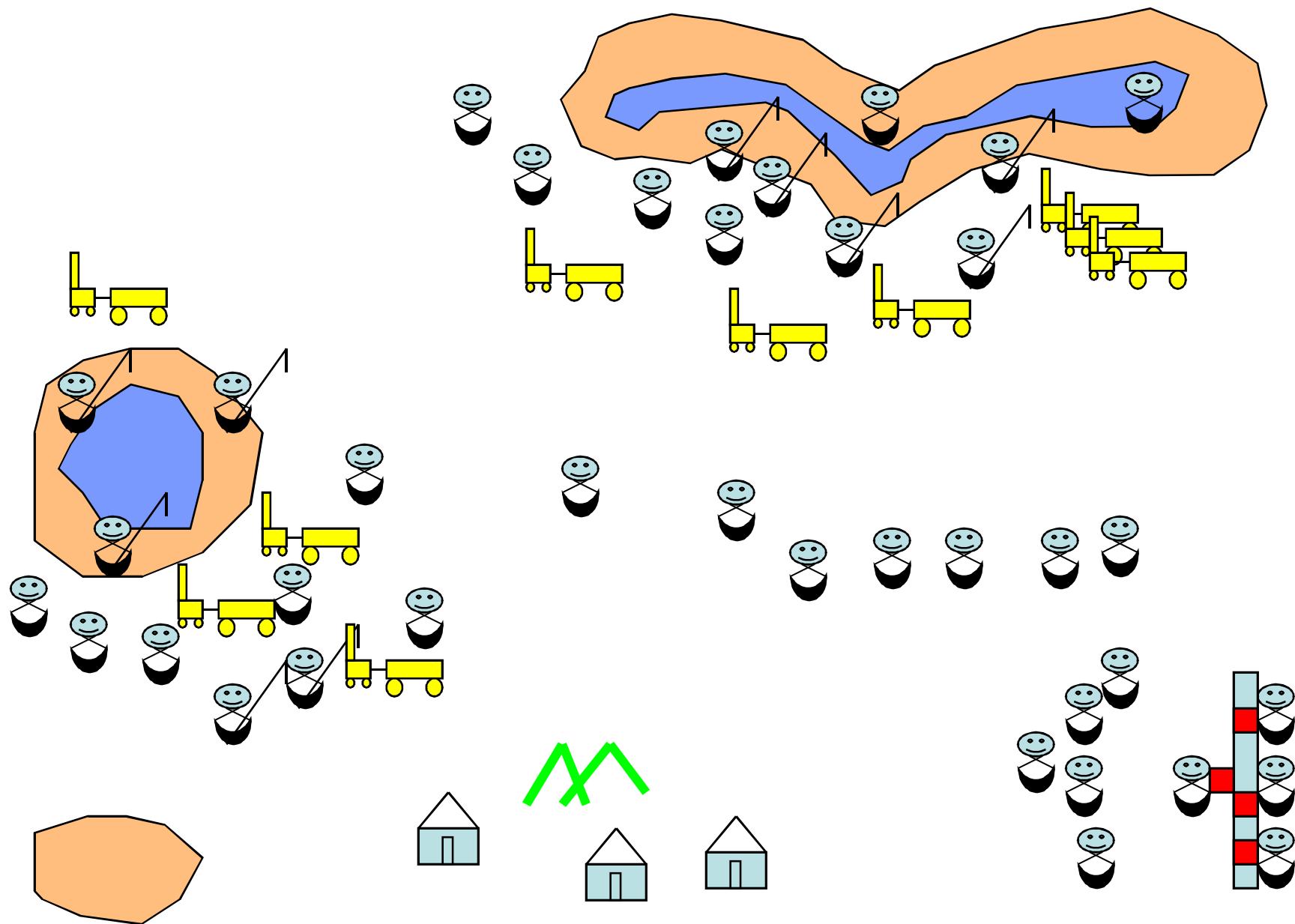
Cartoons showing a humble design for flood management using wetlands: 1



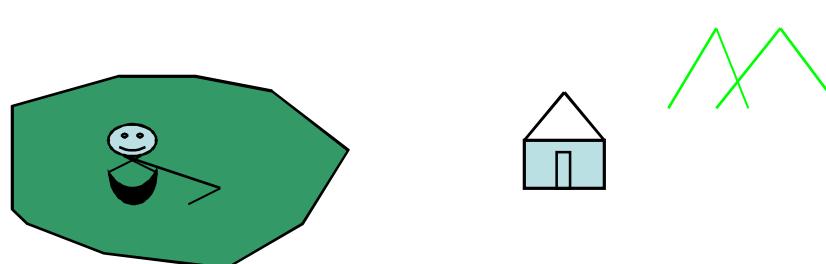
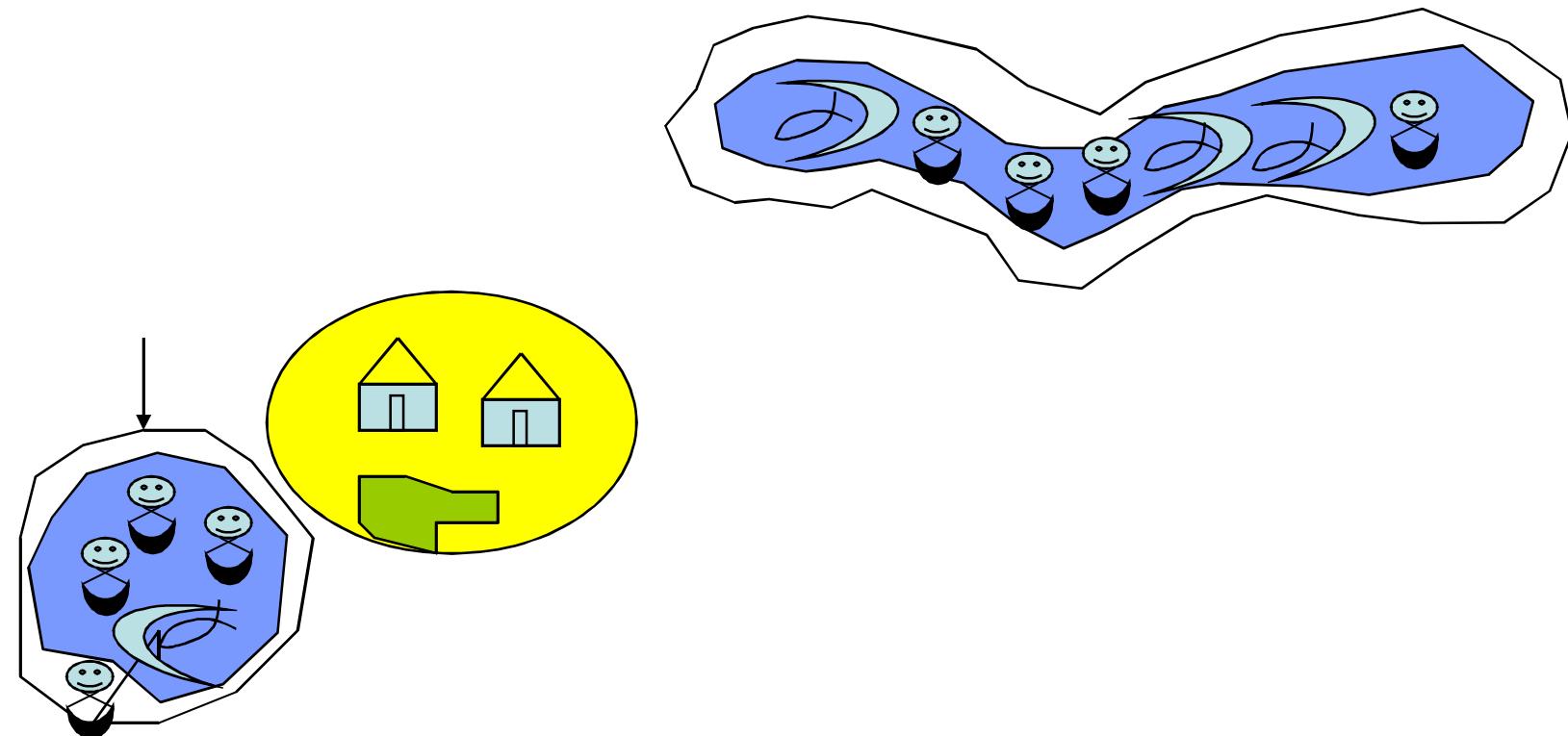
Cartoons showing a humble design for flood management using wetlands: 2



Cartoons showing a humble design for flood management using wetlands: 3



Cartoons showing a humble design for flood management using wetlands: 4



Thank You