

## **Policy day: CECFEE**

11th November 2019, IORA Hotel, Kaziranga National Park

CECFEE held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Day on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 by organizing a discussion on conservation of forest resources and wildlife. The key speaker for this event was Mr. P.Sivakumar, IFS, Director of Kaziranga National Park (KNP), Assam, who listed out the host of post flood management initiatives undertaken at KNP. He also outlined what was being done to protect the dwindling Rhino and Tiger population in the park. The presentation ended with an interactive session that invited questions from forest researchers and economists about the extent of field burning and community participation. The session also included an interaction with local forest officials who shared their views on involving local people in the management of forest resources.

Furthering the discussion on the role of local communities in forest and wildlife conservation, Soumya Prasad, from the Nature Science Initiative presented her work on the issue of plastic ingestion among animals. She extensively covered the health impacts of plastic ingestion on both animals and humans and presented her future aim to have a community-based approach to garbage management and disposal.

In order to tie the broad theme of wildlife conservation to specific policy initiatives undertaken in this area, CECFEE invited Anupam Sarmah from World Wildlife Fund (WWF), India to throw some light on WWF activities in the North-Eastern region. He presented his extensive work on conservation of large mammals such as a project on combating the human-elephant conflict that is being jointly undertaken by WWF and CECFEE. He also discussed on going initiatives to protect the Rhino population (Rhino Vision 2020) and the tiger population in sanctuaries like Manas (Trans Boundary Manas Conservation, TRaMCA). Steps like these are much needed to correct the ecological imbalance we are witnessing today and point towards the importance of bringing researchers and policymakers together to solve this problem.