



*An  
BDLP  
Success  
Story of  
Convergence*



**An Initiative by:  
Basin Development Unit, West Garo Hills, Tura**

## BACKGROUND

Inclusive growth with a focus on poverty reduction, employment generation and livelihood provision is highlighted by the Planning Commission, Government of India in the Approach Paper for the 12th Plan. In line with that perspective, the Government of Meghalaya has decided to launch a flagship programme titled **“Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme” (IBDLP)** to be implemented during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period in an entirely convergent mode.

The programme aims at promoting optimal and effective development and utilization of the State’s natural resources for ensuring livelihood security and inclusive growth within the broad framework of sustainable development and efficient conservation and preservation of natural resources.

A significant feature of this Programme is specific mission mode interventions in **Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest and Plantation crops, Aquaculture, Livestock, Sericulture & weaving, Apiculture, Energy, Water, Tourism, Skills, and Knowledge Management**. The core objective of each of these missions is to facilitate the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the people of the state leveraging on the opportunities and strengths of the State’s natural resources. The Programme seeks to provide an enabling frame work for uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people. The Programme seeks to achieve this by strong entrepreneurship and capacity building of the individuals as also the communities, eventually to empower the common man to empower him to make his own choices and decisions within a rational and sustainable framework.

## IDEATION OF THE GHASURA PARK

“Ghasura Park” it is a space with a variety of activities inviting public interaction and

exploration. It was conceptualized to the villager’s need for recreational activities, for people to socialize and unwind. Such environment gave learning’s and provides opportunity to all sections of the society. Economically and socially helped the region to develop, it motivates the villagers to welcome the tourist.



The park has marked a historic significance in the region as the name is derived from the king named Ghasui Bhoia. It has also become a centre of attraction in Rural Tourism as there have not been any other high tech and well planned recreational centres in and around the District Headquarter of Ampati.

### Objectives

- ✦ *Promotion of Rural Tourism which would rather promote the livelihood of the people.*
- ✦ *Community ownership finding its way to sustainable development*
- ✦ *Conservation of natural resources in and around the park*
- ✦ *Motivational factor for convergence with line departments and utilization of available Government funds.*



### ESTABLISHMENT & CONVERGENCE INITIATIVES OF THE PARK

IBDLP with the presence of 9 core missions, it provides numerous opportunities to various departments. Meghalaya being blessed with bountiful natural resources is simply waiting to be harnessed. IBDLP launches the vision of the alike, in promoting one of the viability places, identified for the purpose of attraction of tourists and other business opportunities. IBDLP creates a way of facilitating all the departments who are a part of it.

The objectives of IBDLP best fitted in the project would include to promote convergence of initiatives of different stake holders in the direction of effective natural resource management and livelihood security and to promote better understanding and optimal utilisation of the natural resources.

The park is established in convergence mode by Tourism Department, Horticulture Department and IBDLP with the full utilization of **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**.

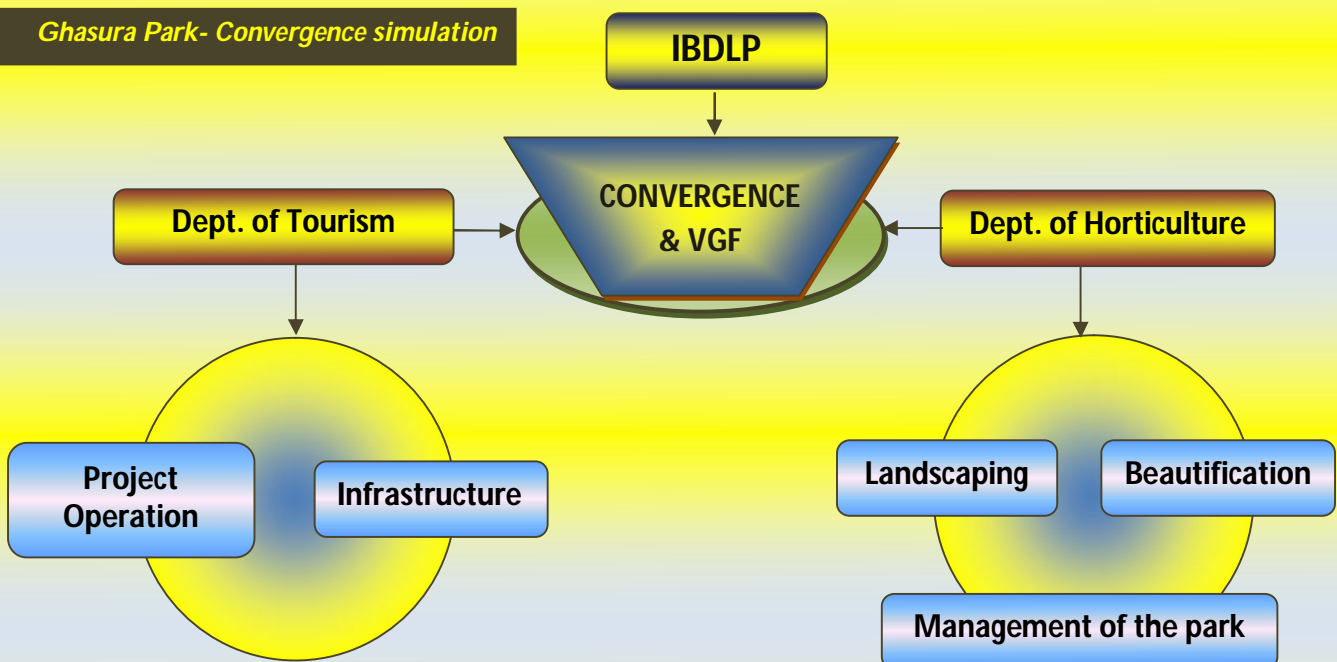
Through the plan of facilitating both the departments, the outcome came into existence. As the stipulation of 'Theme

Parks' continue, this project allows the departments to express its creation at its own flow. The prospect fills for the departments of Tourism and Horticulture

**Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels. Infrastructure projects also involve externalities that are not adequately captured in direct financial returns to the project sponsor. Through the provision of a catalytic grant assistance of the capital costs, several projects may become bankable and help mobilise private investment in infrastructure.

to instigate this tremendous venture of Rural Tourism for the people of Garo Hills. One of the limelight features of IBDLP include the convergence of two or more departments. This idea came into existence with the observation of the departments of Meghalaya, working in silos, to achive enhanced production and outcome of the researched projects. The project was initially operated with the Department of Tourism, in the beginning of the year 2012 and converged with the

#### Ghasura Park- Convergence simulation





Department of Horticulture around the time of May 2012. This convergence of both the departments made the park distinct.

The Park is inaugurated by Dr. Mukul Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012.



During those times they used to rest and eat Rongchu (*fermented rice*).

## DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE PARK

Ghasura Park is based on a **Japanese Zen garden**. Japanese gardens are traditional garden that creates miniature idealized landscape often in a highly abstract and stylized way. The garden is designed for recreation, aesthetic pleasure, contemplation and meditation.

### Features of the Park

- + Water
- + Rocks and sand
- + Garden architecture
- + Garden bridge
- + Stone path around the garden to see carefully composed landscape
- + Waterfalls
- + Lawn
- + Tree house
- + Trees and flowers etc.

## LOCATION OF THE PARK

Ghasura Park lies 1½ km from Ampati town on Mankachar road by the bank of Daru River at elevation of 32 msl located at 25.28` 334 "N and 89.55` 211" E. It is approximately 45 kms from Tura, district headquarter of West Garo Hills district. The area is covered with the tropical evergreen and deciduas trees which attract many birds like robins, doves, myna, kingfisher, cranes etc. The place is compose, quite and serine compare to the hustle and bustle noise of the Ampati town and temple nearby adds the sanctity to the place.

The entrance gate is at the east of the garden with silver pine and barrier. Proceeds towards the south, along flagstone are the rock garden with date palm, natural Bonsai Juniper chinesis, arranged with rocks, pebbles and sand. In the south-west of the garden is Gazebo overlooking the Daru River and beach. In the west is the waterfall with mimicking mountain. Just in front of the waterfall is

## HISTORY OF THE PLACE

Ghasura is named after Ghasui Bhoia. One century before there was a man with the significance of his name Bhoia '**The Mighty One**'. He took the place and the people into civilization. Ghasura Park is situated near the famous Raja Rongchu. The flashback goes to the story of many Rajas (*kings*).



an open air stage. Adjacent to open air stage one can walk into wooden bridge that crosses a reflecting pool.



- + GRP (Glass reinforced polymer) fencing to give a look of picket fence and wood finish to blend with the environment and natural surroundings.
- + Artificial pond
- + Flagstone and pebble pathways give a natural finish to the walkways so as it complements the river nearby is also constructed to match the overall look of the park.
- + An entrance gate of wood is also installed at the park. The gate has a welcome sign and the look of the gate is such that it matches the overall construction of the park
- + Plantations of trees and Mexican grass is also done in and around the park to give it a green look with a few flower beds in between.

## INFRASTRUCTURES

Ghasura Park is also very close to a children's park constructed with play pen area, amphitheatre, etc for children and visitors alike.



- + A skywalk is also constructed at the park which connects to a tree house. This is especially enjoyed by children who visit the park and take a swing in the skywalk toward the tree house.
- + Seating arrangements have also been made around trees in the park and also wood finish benches.

The infrastructures developed at Ghasura Park are of various kinds with deck wood gazebo, walkways, etc for the benefit of tourists and individuals who visit the park. Some of these infrastructures at the park are as follows:

- + Deckwood (from Bangalore) for decking, sit-outs, bridge over a small pond with fresh water for visual effect. The decking extends to the gazebo towards the river with thatch roof and wood finish sit-outs.





LAYOUT OF THE PARK



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### Plantation of Different Species Introduced in the Park

- ❖ Bambusa verticosa (Buddhist Bamboo)
- ❖ Juniperus obelisk (pencil pine)
- ❖ Phoenix dactyifera (date palm)
- ❖ Neurogelia, Juniper chinensis
- ❖ Azalea, Pinus roxburghii
- ❖ Gardenia augusta
- ❖ Allamanda cathartica
- ❖ Portulaca grandiflora
- ❖ Japanese maple
- ❖ Trident Red and White ginger
- ❖ Creepers, orchids
- ❖ Broomlets, Silver pine
- ❖ Dancing pine
- ❖ Foxtail palm
- ❖ Phoenix palm
- ❖ Raphis palm
- ❖ Cycas palm
- ❖ Lawn grass
- ❖ Japanese bamboo
- ❖ Tuja, Ficus benjamina
- ❖ Ixora singaporensis
- ❖ Lady night queen
- ❖ Champion palm
- ❖ Gold chris pine
- ❖ Anthurium
- ❖ Musunda.



## FINANCIAL OUTLAY OF THE GHASURA PARK

The project of Ghasura Park development is converged with the Department of Tourism, IBDLP and the Directorate of Horticulture. The Department of Tourism initiated the project with the amount of Rs. 47,00,000/- . The initial works of fencing, stone path, bridge, sit outs etc. have been done by the Department of Tourism. The remaining features of garden like beautification, landscaping, management of the park etc. was done by the Department of Horticulture with the convergence fund of Rs.44,55,000/- by Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP).



### COST FOR LANDSCAPING & DEVELOPMENT OF GHASURA PARK AT AMPATI

#### A) Material and Development works

1. Cleaning of weeds and unwanted plants	=	20,000/-
2. Preparation of moulds and hills	=	1,00,000/-
3. Chemicals and fertilizers	=	30,000/-
4. Vermi compost -5 MT @ 30,000/- MT	=	1,50,000/-
5. Coco pit -3 MT @ 30,000/-MT	=	90,000/-
6. Pebbles & rocks	=	50,000/-
7. Boulders	=	50,000/-
8. Artificial waterfall preparation	=	3,00,000/-
9. Terracotta garden statues, bird bath etc	=	1,00,000/-
10. Garden lightings ( Decorative)	=	1,00,000/-
11. Labour wages for different development works ( planting, turfing, media preparation, construction etc.)	=	2,00,000/-
12. Transportation Charges	=	60,000/-
13. Miscellaneous expenditure ( signboards, waste bins , ticket counter booth etc.)	=	2,46,000/-
14. Drip irrigation system	=	12,00,000/-
15. Construction of latrine and urinal at Ghasura park	=	4,03,000/-

**TOTAL (A) = 30,99,000/-**

**(Rupees Thirty Lakhs, Ninety Nine Thousand only)**



**FINANCIAL OUTLAY OF THE GHASURA PARK****COST FOR PLANTING MATERIALS IN GHASURA PARK AT AMPATI****B) Planting Materials**

S.No.	Name of Plants	Units	Unit Rate	Total Amt. in INR
1.	Junifer	- 100 nos	@500 =	50,000/-
2.	Conifer	- 100 nos	@450 =	45,000/-
3.	Pine Tree	- 20 nos	@600 =	12,000/-
4.	Golden Cyprus	- 50 nos	@400 =	20,000/-
5.	Green Dwarf bamboo	- 100 m	@600 =	60,000/-
6.	Golden Bamboo	- 20 m	@600 =	12,000/-
7.	Black Bamboo	- 20 m	@700 =	14,000/-
8.	Buddha Bamboo	- 20 m	@700 =	14,000/-
9.	Plumeriya alboha	- 50 m	@400 =	20,000/-
10.	Phyprasous	- 20 m	@600 =	12,000/-
11.	Zinneus	- 20 m	@500 =	10,000/-
12.	Azaliyas	- 200 m	@400 =	80,000/-
13.	Variegated ferns (Golden)	- 100 m	@200 =	20,000/-
14.	Hydrangea	- 200 m	@400 =	80,000/-
15.	Spathyphylhum	- 200 m	@300 =	60,000/-
16.	Scutflera	- 100 m	@300 =	30,000/-
17.	Fycus benjamina(White)	- 50 nos	@400 =	12,000/-
18.	Euphorbia	- 50 nos	@400 =	20,000/-
19.	Dracaena reflexa	- 100 nos	@400 =	40,000/-
20.	Peperonia	- 100 nos	@300 =	30,000/-
21.	All types of grass varieties	-	(L.S) =	1,00,000/-
22.	Aranides	- 200 nos	@300 =	60,000/-
23.	Phinolopis	- 200 m	@200 =	40,000/-
24.	Nest ferns	- 20 m	@300 =	15,000/-
25.	Gap filling	-	(LS) =	5,00,000/-

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**TOTAL (B) = 13,56,000/-**

**Total (A + B) = 30,99,000/- +Rs. 13,56,000/-= Rs. 44,55,000/-**

**(Rupees Forty-Four Lakhs and Fifty-Five Thousands Only)**

**Converged as VGF and convergence initiative by IBDLP, implemented through  
Horticulture Dept. West Garo Hills**



**EXISTING BENEFITS OF THE PARK**

**G**hasura Park with its heavenly composure is covered with the tropical evergreen, which provides tranquillity and serenity to the people. The place is overwhelmed with various plantations of the unlike species of bamboos and deciduous trees which attracts numerous birds like robins, doves, mynas, kingfishers, etc. This garden also adds to the sanctity of the surrounding town like Ampati. The place provides aesthetic pleasure, recreation, contemplation and meditation for the adults. Ghasura Park is not only a breakthrough but it is a promised, sustainable providence and pride for the people of Garo Hills.

would be the first time introduction of the models to the place. The same could be applied nearby areas and other feasible areas.



**FUTURE BENEFITS OF THE PARK**

**T**he uniqueness of the park gives brimful of scope for its growth and development. First consideration would come to its landscape, which is an abrupt imitation of Zen Garden. This allows awareness to the people of such creations. The knowledge and the presence of such introductions not only excite the people but also make them want to be a part of sustainable growth and development. Secondly, the outsourcing of different and new species of plants which was introduced in the park gives a benevolent knowledge to the people of Garo Hills. The species of the plants may not have been discovered in the local areas, which is exactly why the Department of Horticulture becomes a benefit provider to the surrounding areas the locals. Lastly the attraction of the park goes to the amusement models which bring excitement to the children and it is also an advantage for both the providers and the visitors. The Ghasura Children's Play Pen is one of its kinds. This

The park is also an assent for the display of A'chik Cultural possessions like the tree house (Borang). This gives a vision for other supplementary products of the A'chik Society to be recognized in such landmarks. Moreover, the students in the disciplines of Botany, Zoology, RDAP, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishery etc, have a lot of opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills. Last but not the least; the park also attracts various birds



and animals which in its own way protects the bio-diversity of the place. With this kind of promotion of the place it attracts business opportunities for the locals and other business persons. There can be many other initiatives in surroundings of the park which can be taken as initiatives toward income generating activities for the locals.



## FEEDBACK & REMARKS

Ghasura Park has set an example for the rest of the Garo Hills that such a project is possible in the rural areas. This project has come up with opportunities for the communities to represent their historical land which is now open to visitors and a place of attraction for the tourist which in return will bring income for the village. On one hand it has provided opportunity for livelihood and employments on the other it represent the traditions and culture of the community. Ghasura Park remarked as one of the success story for IBDLP.



The people of Ghasura feels obliged to be a part of the promotion and development. They are pleased to have been witnessed to the unlike species of plants and trees. They feel that there can be an extension of their business opportunities with this exposure. The Headman of Ghasura Mr. Gopal Kishore Koch believes that by providing and suggesting the location of the place near the Maa Bhagwati Temple would bring prosperity to the people and to the place.

There have been visitors and students who visit the park often and have acclaimed the



successful convergence initiative of IBDLP, Tourism and the Horticulture department. There have been group of scholars and consultants who have visited and seen the successful intervention of convergence and an effort for conserving the natural flora and fauna of the region. It has also helped the people to set up petty business in the park surrounding, which is promoting the livelihood of the people in the area.

# Photo Gallery



Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul M. Sangma, inaugurating the Ghasura Park on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at Ampati. Shri. Savio Sangma, DHO showing the park infrastructure to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries



Cultural events being showcased during the inaugural of the Ghasura Park on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at Ampati



Dignitaries speaking during the inauguration of the Ghasura Park on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at Ampati



Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr. Mukul M. Sangma, CM addressing the gathering during the inaugural event



Shri. Pravin Bakshi, DC & Chairman/DDG-IBDLP, Tura addresses the gathering and shares information on convergence initiatives of IBDLP



Smt. R.V. Suchiang, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism addressing during the inaugural event and congratulate people of Ampati on having such a beautiful park



Shri. Savio Chisim, DHO Tura shares the knowledge on the park dimension and its creativity



Shri. Chinmoy Gotmare, DC Baghmara, then SDO Civil, Ampati speaking during the inaugural event



Dignitaries present during the inauguration of the Ghasura Park on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2012, Ampati





View of the Ghasura Park

