



ECOTOURISM & CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF SIKKIM



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



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ABOUT ECOSS

The Ecotourism Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) is a civil society organization committed to promoting ecological conservation, sustainable development, responsible tourism, environmental education, and community resilience in Sikkim and the Eastern Himalayan region. Over the years, ECOSS has worked to bridge communities, youth, policymakers, researchers, and institutions to address emerging environmental and socio-cultural challenges facing mountain ecosystems.

The year 2025–2026 marked an important milestone in ECOSS's journey, reflecting on 25 years of work while exploring future pathways for ecological sustainability, youth engagement, climate resilience, and livelihood enhancement



Vision

We believe Sikkim's immense biodiversity and natural wonders belong to everyone and must remain so. ECOSS will bring together the energy of local communities and youth and the expertise of global ecotourism and conservation leaders to sustain the natural environment for the benefit for all generations, now and in the future.

Mission

At ECOSS, we are redefining what ecotourism means for Sikkim—proving that travel and conservation aren't opposites, they're natural partners. One simply cannot thrive without the other.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between July 2025 and March 2026, the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) implemented a diverse range of programmes and initiatives to promote environmental conservation, sustainable livelihoods, youth empowerment, regional collaboration, and institutional development in the Himalayan region. The reporting period also marked a significant milestone as ECOSS completed 25 years of engagement in conservation and sustainable development, providing an opportunity to reflect on its journey and initiate a strategic process to reimagine its future role and priorities.

A key highlight was the ECOSS @ 25 Years – Reimagination event, which brought together experts, practitioners, youth, and stakeholders to reflect on emerging environmental, social, cultural, and developmental challenges in Sikkim and the wider Himalayas. Discussions emphasized the need for a Pan-Himalayan perspective, stronger partnerships, research-driven interventions, proactive climate adaptation, sustainable lifestyles, youth leadership, preservation of indigenous knowledge and cultural identity, and improved environmental governance. The consultation reaffirmed ECOSS's role as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, conservation, and collective action, while identifying the need to respond to emerging challenges such as unplanned tourism, infrastructure expansion, climate risks, waste management, and cultural transformation.

Major activities during the reporting period included strengthening youth leadership through the Youth Outreach Programme (YORP); fostering regional collaboration through participation in South Asian conferences and workshops on women-led rural tourism; advancing environmental stewardship through the Rateychu Pulse water source assessment; and exploring sustainable livelihood opportunities through the Large Cardamom Rejuvenation Initiative. ECOSS also continued to strengthen institutional governance, expand partnerships, enhance organizational visibility, and reinforce its engagement in research, policy dialogue, and community-based conservation.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect ECOSS's continued commitment to building climate-resilient communities, conserving Himalayan ecosystems, supporting sustainable and inclusive livelihoods, empowering youth, and safeguarding the region's cultural heritage. The 25-year reflection further provided a foundation for ECOSS to strengthen its institutional role and develop forward-looking approaches for a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive Himalayan future.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2025–26 Annual Report of the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS)

It was on the 1st of July 2025 that I took over as Chair of ECOSS — reluctantly, if I am honest, and more than a little afraid that the organisation might quietly die on my watch if it were not shaken awake. Mr. R.P. Gurung, CEO, had steered it well for years. He was leaving and everyone looked at me. So, valiantly, I said yes, and the Board ratified it unanimously. I could not let this institution — one that has meant so much to Sikkim's idea of itself — simply fade away in a decade when we can least afford to lose it.

ECOSS has a history we all are proud to have witnessed. It gave Sikkim one of its genuine firsts: the rise of ecotourism as a deliberate answer to mass tourism, a way of routing tourist money directly into rural pockets rather than through distant intermediaries. Walk through almost any mountain village in Sikkim today and you will find a homestay that owes something, directly or indirectly, to that early conviction. Appreciating nature is no longer a specialist's pursuit here — it has become part of how Sikkimese speak about themselves, woven into public functions and everyday conversation alike. In retrospect, ECOSS was an institution exactly suited to its time, and its record documented well enough, in articles, reports and on our own website.

But 2026 is not two thousand, and urgency now outweighs nostalgia. We live in a world marked by geopolitical, ecological, and technological uncertainty—one that too often treats nature as scenery rather than the foundation of our lives. I worry as I watch our children spend hours on screens, their attention drawn into the endless scroll of social media. While a generation learns to perform its life online, the mountains around us are running out of time to be noticed. The warning signs are unmistakable: glaciers are retreating at alarming rates, forests are under strain from shifting rainfall, and rivers fed by ice formed over millennia are becoming unpredictable within a single human lifetime. I do not say this for effect. Scientists I trust warn that much of the Himalaya has already crossed thresholds once considered distant possibilities. We are not approaching a tipping point; in many respects, we have passed one, and denial only deepens the danger. The irony of our age is that we have never had more devices focused on our faces, yet less attention for the mountains that sustain us. The 2023 GLOF disaster in our State should have awakened both us and the rest of the country, but it has not.

It was with this urgency that we convened a workshop last year — "REIMAGINATION: 25 Years of ECOSS" — on the 24th of August 2025, to ask a hard question honestly: in a landscape reshaped by environmental stress, shifting politics, the sudden ubiquity of artificial intelligence, and new modes of connection like Zoom that did not exist when we began, where can ECOSS still add real value? We put that question to our participants, and the honest answer that came back stung a little: our connection to Sikkim's youth had become almost non-existent. An organisation cannot claim to protect a future if it has lost the connection with the youth. So, we have spent the months since rebuilding that bridge, and I am glad to say ECOSS is now a recognised, welcomed presence in colleges and universities near us — not yet enough, but a real beginning.

On the conservation side, we have turned our attention to the decline of large cardamom in Sikkim, a crop that is not merely commercial but a genetic and cultural inheritance — one that sustained our ancestors and is now regaining prominence in spice markets across India and beyond. I remain grateful to Dr. Ravikant Avasthe, who helped us frame the right questions from the outset. What began as the Large Cardamom Rejuvenation project has grown into the seed of a five-year action-research programme, one built deliberately around listening — to farmers first, before we presume to hand them science. Their accumulated, field-tested knowledge, parsed carefully alongside research findings, is what will eventually become a package of practices that farmers can use, not merely admire in a report.

We remain on a journey that began at the turn of this century, and I find it moving that several of our Founders are still with us — still on our Governing Board, still generous with their time, their counsel, and in some cases their resources. I am grateful to them, and to everyone outside our walls, especially our members, who continue to support ECOSS. We are a small team, but a determined one, and our task now is not simply to preserve what ECOSS was, but to make it youthful again — alert, adaptive, and unafraid to confront an uncertain future.

If ECOSS is to matter for Sikkimese society for the next twenty-five years the way it mattered for the last twenty-five, it will be because we chose deliberately to look up from our screens and out at the mountains and ridgelines that gave this organisation its first reason to be born.

Finally, so much about the present as obtained from our past so how can we forget where it all began. In January 2002 we held the South Asia Regional Conference on Ecotourism (SARCE 2002) as part of the set of worldwide consultations during the UN Year of Ecotourism celebrations led by The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) and its President, Ms Megan Epler Wood. Sikkim and ECOSS were fortunate to host this conference in Gangtok. It was the beginning our journey. Please see the picture appended in this report to get a sense and feel of that historical moment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prem Das Rai", written over a horizontal line.

(Prem Das Rai)
Chairman
31 March 2026

ECOSS ACTIVITIES

1. "REIMAGINING ECOSS" @ 25 YEARS



Date: 24 August 2025
Venue: Conference Hall, Chumbi Residency, Gangtok
Mode: Hybrid Session



The **ECOSS @ 25 Years** – Reimagination event marked an important milestone in reflecting on ECOSS’s 25-year journey in conservation and sustainable development while exploring future priorities for the Himalayan region. The event brought together experts, practitioners, youth, and stakeholders to discuss environmental, social, and cultural challenges facing Sikkim and the broader Himalayas.

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, in his presentation “Foundational Values and What the Next Decade Holds for ECOSS,” highlighted the rapid growth of unplanned tourism and hydropower development in Sikkim and their impacts on the environment and indigenous culture. He emphasized that Himalayan challenges should be viewed from a Pan-Himalayan perspective, requiring regional partnerships, research-driven interventions, stronger policy implementation, and long-term visioning for ECOSS’s future role.

Rev. Tulku Ngawang Tenzing, speaking on “*The Sustainable Living Paradigm*,” stressed that sustainability is deeply rooted in spirituality and interconnectedness. He highlighted environmental degradation, climate impacts such as glacial melting and GLOFs, and the urgent need to move beyond consumer-driven lifestyles toward zero-waste and regenerative economies, while strengthening youth capacities and Himalayan partnerships.

Mr. Roshan Rai, in his presentation *“Himalaya Challenges – The Disasters to Unfold – Opportunities Too: Stewardship of ECOSS,”* discussed the growing vulnerability of mountain regions to disasters and the importance of shifting from rehabilitation-focused approaches to preventive mitigation strategies. He emphasized mountain connectivity, improved management of sanitation, water and waste, and the need to reimagine urban development models such as “Smart Cities” within the context of Sikkim.

Dr. Smriti Basnet, through her talk *“Youth, Science and the Environment – A Great Responsibility,”* underscored the urgency of addressing climate and ecological crises, reducing carbon footprints, and recognizing planetary boundaries. She stressed the importance of documenting indigenous knowledge systems and creating greater space for youth participation in environmental leadership and science-based action.

Mr. Gyatso Lepcha, in *“Conservation and Ecotourism – Can Both Co-exist? A Story of ECOSS,”* reflected on changing Himalayan landscapes, cultural transformation, and the growing pressure from infrastructure expansion and commercialization. He highlighted concerns over the erosion of local traditions, shrinking ecological spaces, and the importance of reconnecting communities with their landscapes and cultural identity.

The open discussions focused on strengthening partnerships between government and civil society, expanding ECOSS’s role in addressing emerging developmental challenges, promoting collaboration among organizations, and preserving Sikkim’s cultural and ecological heritage. Participants raised concerns regarding increasing consumerism, waste management systems, youth engagement, and the growing sense of cultural alienation among local communities.

Overall, the consultation emphasized the need for collaborative environmental governance, stronger youth engagement, sustainable lifestyles, preservation of cultural identity, proactive climate adaptation, and research-driven policy interventions, while reaffirming ECOSS’s role as a platform for dialogue, conservation, and collective action across the Himalayan region



2. REGIONAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN-LED RURAL TOURISM IN SOUTH ASIA – OUTCOMES FOR IMI THIMPHU, BHUTAN



The Regional Integration Initiative for Women-Led Rural Tourism in South Asia Conference in Thimphu, Bhutan (8-10 May 2025) was attended by Mr. P. D. Rai and Mr. R. P. Gurung on behalf of the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), along with a delegation of homestay owners from Sikkim. The conference, organised by the South Asian Women's Network (SWAN) with support from the World Bank, focused on strengthening women-led rural tourism, regional cooperation and sustainable development across South Asia. The potential of the Buddhist Circuit connecting Nepal, India and Bhutan, along with the wider Eastern Himalayan tourism landscape, was highlighted as an important opportunity for regional integration and community-based tourism. The need for greater access to finance, skills, digital platforms, markets and cross-border opportunities for rural women was emphasised, while digital marketing, joint branding and knowledge sharing were identified as key drivers of integration. From IMI's perspective, the importance of assessing the implementation of existing women-led entrepreneurship policies, understanding local economic and social ecosystems, and aligning regional tourism initiatives with national development priorities, the SDGs and GNH principles was highlighted.

The development of innovative tourism products under the broader Buddhist Circuit, supported by coordinated digital marketing and stronger regional partnerships, was proposed. The Kanchenjunga Landscape was identified as a potential area for pilot collaboration. Discussions on other Himalayan concerns, including GLOF research being undertaken in Bhutan, were also considered relevant for future IMI engagement. Overall, the conference provided an important platform for strengthening IMI's engagement with regional initiatives on women-led rural tourism, sustainable livelihoods, cultural connectivity and environmental conservation.

3. YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME (YORP)



The ECOSS Youth Outreach Program (YORP) was successfully organized by the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) in a hybrid mode between 27 November 2025 and 9 January 2026. The programme consisted of twelve interactive sessions designed to equip young participants with essential life skills, leadership qualities, and knowledge required to become responsible citizens and future leaders. The initiative aimed to nurture holistic personal development while fostering environmental stewardship and community engagement among youth.

The programme covered a wide range of themes that addressed both personal growth and professional development. Sessions focused on self-discovery and personal development, enabling participants to better understand their strengths, values, and aspirations. Special emphasis was placed on mental health and emotional well-being, encouraging youth to build resilience, manage stress, and develop healthy coping mechanisms. Participants also engaged in activities related to career awareness and skill mapping, helping them identify potential career pathways and align their interests with future opportunities.

To enhance participants' leadership potential, the programme included sessions on **leadership, communication, and time management**, equipping them with practical skills for teamwork, decision-making, and effective interpersonal communication. Recognizing the importance of sustainable development, YORP also incorporated discussions on **environmental awareness and cultural preservation**, encouraging participants to appreciate the ecological and cultural heritage of the Himalayan region and become active advocates for conservation. In addition, the programme introduced participants to **digital skills and artificial intelligence (AI) awareness**, familiarizing them with emerging technologies and their growing relevance in education, employment, and everyday life.

As part of the programme, an offsite experiential learning camp was organized at Buddha Pada, Kalimpong, on 16–17 December 2025. The offsite component provided participants with opportunities for outdoor learning, team-building exercises, reflective activities, and interaction with peers in a natural environment. The experience strengthened collaboration, leadership, and problem-solving skills while reinforcing the programme's emphasis on environmental appreciation and personal growth.

The Youth Outreach Program concluded successfully with **14 young participants completing the training**. Throughout the programme, participants demonstrated enthusiasm, active engagement, and a willingness to learn and collaborate. The combination of online sessions and experiential field learning created a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and personal transformation. Overall, the ECOSS Youth Outreach Program (YORP) successfully achieved its objective of empowering young people with the confidence, skills, and awareness necessary to navigate personal and professional challenges. By integrating life skills education, environmental consciousness, cultural values, and digital literacy, the programme contributed to developing a cohort of informed, responsible, and socially conscious youth capable of contributing positively to their communities and the sustainable development of the Himalayan region.



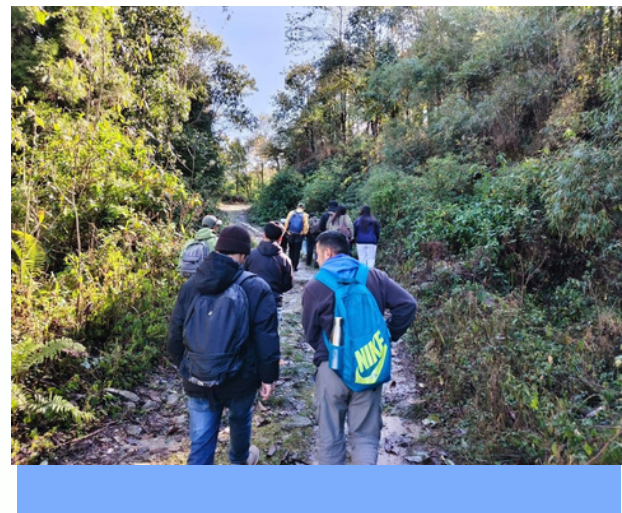
Date : 16th December 2025
Venue: Buddha Park,
Kalimpong

4. RATEYCHU PULSE

To commemorate World Water Day, the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) organized Rateychu Pulse, a scientific assessment and environmental awareness initiative focused on Rateychu, the primary source of potable water for Gangtok. Recognizing that water security is one of the most pressing challenges facing mountain regions, the programme sought to deepen public understanding of local water systems while encouraging active participation in watershed conservation.

The activity engaged youth participants in a scientific assessment of the Rateychu watershed, providing them with hands-on exposure to environmental monitoring and ecological observation. Participants examined various aspects of the water source, including water quality, ecological conditions, the sustainability of the water source, and long-term water security concerns. Through field-based learning, they gained valuable insights into the factors that influence the health and resilience of mountain water resources and the challenges posed by environmental degradation and climate change.

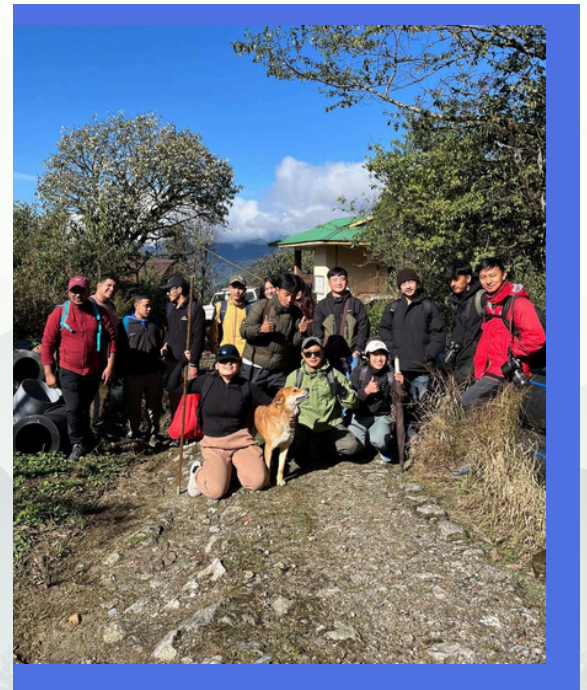
The primary objective of the initiative was to promote scientific awareness among young people by introducing them to practical methods of environmental assessment and observation. It also aimed to encourage environmental stewardship, helping participants recognize their role in conserving natural resources. By fostering a better understanding of local water systems and watershed dynamics, the programme highlighted the importance of protecting catchment areas that sustain drinking water supplies for mountain communities. In addition, the activity emphasized the need for long-term planning and community participation to ensure sustainable water management.



Rateychu Pulse successfully combined environmental education with practical conservation action. The initiative demonstrated how scientific learning can be integrated with community engagement to inspire responsible environmental behaviour among youth. Discussions during the programme underscored the increasing vulnerability of mountain water sources to climate change, land-use changes, and human activities, reinforcing the urgent need for effective watershed conservation measures.



Overall, the World Water Day activity served as an important platform for raising awareness about water security in the Himalayan region. By encouraging scientific inquiry, community participation, and environmental responsibility, Rateychu Pulse contributed to building a deeper appreciation of the ecological significance of mountain watersheds and the collective responsibility required to safeguard these critical resources for future generations.



5. REJUVENATION OF LARGE CARDAMOM INITIATIVE

Large cardamom cultivation forms an important component of Himalayan livelihoods and rural economies. Recognizing declining productivity and emerging challenges, ECOSS initiated consultations for a **Large Cardamom Revival Programme**.

The initiative seeks to support farming communities through:

1. Scientific interventions;
2. Collaborative research;
3. Improved infrastructure;
4. Capacity building;
5. Institutional partnerships;
6. Knowledge-sharing mechanisms.



Expected Impact

The programme has the potential to:

1. Strengthen farmer livelihoods;
2. Improve agricultural resilience;
3. Promote sustainable cultivation practices;
4. Benefit thousands of farming households.



An inception meeting was organized on 9th February 2026 through hybrid mode. The meeting aimed to examine the growing distress faced by cardamom farmers and explore feasible solutions that ECOSS and other interested stakeholders can undertake. Discussions focused on understanding the causes behind the decline in cardamom plantations over the last two decades, the current situation in India, Nepal, and Northeast India, and the measures being taken by the government and relevant agencies. The meeting also assessed the impact of climate change, economic losses to farmers and the state economy, and the coping strategies adopted by farmers. Based on these deliberations, participants identified practical interventions, assess their feasibility, and consider possible timelines for implementation.

Possible solutions include plantation rejuvenation, climate-resilient varieties, improved research and extension services, policy support, and sustainable farming practices. A snapshot of the economic significance of large cardamom was presented, highlighting its contribution to rural livelihoods and the economy of Sikkim. The discussion also examined the substantial losses currently being experienced due to declining production, affecting farmers' incomes, local economies, and the overall economic value generated by the cardamom sector in the state.

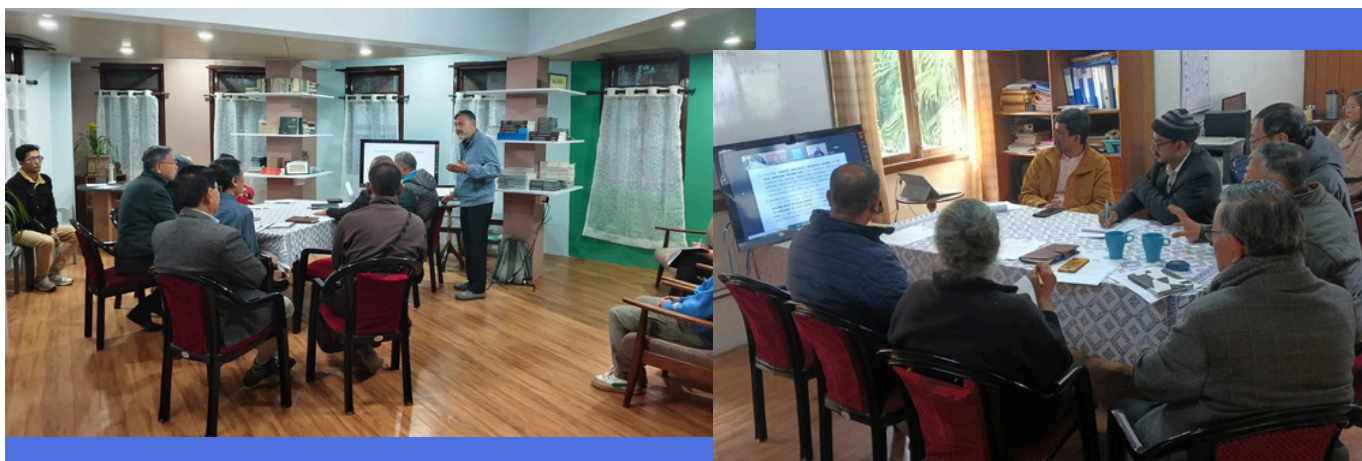
6. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, ECOSS continued to strengthen governance and organizational functioning.

Governing Board Meetings

The organization successfully conducted:

- **101st Governing Board Meeting:** ECOSS held a strategic Reimagination and Renewal Meeting on 28 August 2025 to reflect on its 25-year journey and develop a roadmap for the future. Chaired by P. D. Rai, the meeting reviewed the organization's strengths, challenges, opportunities, and future priorities, while announcing the receipt of ₹6 lakh to support its initiatives. Discussions emphasized strengthening organizational capacity, engaging youth, expanding partnerships across the Himalayan region, diversifying funding, and enhancing research and policy engagement. Members also agreed to undertake a six-month Reimagination and Renewal process, document ECOSS's 25-year journey, and redefine its vision to better address emerging environmental and livelihood challenges.



- The **102nd Governing Board Meeting** of ECOSS was held on 25 October 2025 under the chairmanship of P. D. Rai to review organizational progress and plan future activities. The Board approved the minutes and Action Taken Report of the previous meeting and discussed key administrative, financial, and programmatic matters. Members reviewed the organization's financial status, noting the approval of a ₹6 lakh grant from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and an upcoming ₹9 lakh grant through SAATHI NGO-TITAN. Decisions were also taken to appoint a new Chartered Accountant, recruit part-time accounts support, and finalize pending Annual Reports for publication. The Board endorsed the ECOSS Youth Outreach Program (YORP) and ASCENT initiative, emphasizing youth engagement, leadership development, and collaboration with partner organizations. It also discussed expanding the Governing Board by inducting new members and strengthening regional partnerships through the SWAN Women-led Rural Tourism Programme. Members further agreed to improve ECOSS's digital presence through its website, newsletters, and social media platforms.

- The **103rd Governing Board Meeting** of ECOSS was held on 31 January 2026 chaired by P. D. Rai, reviewed key organisational achievements, financial progress, and strategic priorities. The Board noted significant progress, including the successful completion of the Youth Outreach Programme (YORP), launch of the ECOSS website, publication of annual reports, and strengthening of the Board through new member induction.

The Board reviewed the NMHS Project in Dzongu, highlighting its focus on indigenous crops, climate-resilient agroecology, community seed banks, and sustainable livelihoods. Fresh funding of ₹25 lakh further strengthened ECOSS's financial sustainability. Strategic priorities for the year ahead included the establishment of a Youth Fellowship Programme and a Large Cardamom Rejuvenation Project, reinforcing ECOSS's commitment to biodiversity conservation, youth engagement, sustainable agriculture, and community resilience.

The meeting provided strategic direction for ECOSS's continued institutional strengthening and conservation efforts.

Organizational Recognition



ECOSS was featured in the **2026 Republic Day Edition of India Today Magazine**, enhancing visibility of its work.



Model Homestay: Mr. Paul Karna Rai
at his homestay in Assam Lingzey
village, East Sikkim.



A farewell programme was organized for **Mr. R . P. Gurung**, recognizing his service and contribution to ECOSS.

7. KEY OUTCOMES OF 2025–26

The year produced several important outcomes from our activities:

1. Strengthened Youth Leadership
2. Expanded Regional Collaboration
3. Increased Focus on Sustainability
4. Enhanced Institutional Visibility
5. Improved Dialogue on Climate and Livelihoods

Challenges identified

Key challenges emerging from discussions and programmes include:

1. Climate change impacts on Himalayan ecosystems;
2. Waste management and disposal concerns;
3. Cultural erosion and social fragmentation;
4. Water insecurity;
5. Youth disengagement;
6. Agricultural vulnerabilities;
7. Balancing development with ecological sustainability

Way Forward

Moving ahead, ECOSS aims to:

1. Strengthen youth-led environmental leadership;
2. Expand partnerships across the Himalayan region;
3. Promote sustainable tourism and livelihood initiatives;
4. Enhance conservation programmes and ecological research;
5. Support climate adaptation efforts;
6. Foster community-based solutions to environmental challenges;
7. Preserve Himalayan cultural and ecological heritage.

The coming years will focus on deepening collaboration and building resilient mountain communities capable of responding to changing environmental realities.

GOVERNING BOARD

Mr. Prem Das Rai, Chairman

Mr. Prem Das Rai is an Indian politician from Sikkim who served as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha for two consecutive terms (2009–2019) representing the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) party. He holds a B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and an MBA from IIM Ahmadabad, making him the first MP to have both degrees. Before entering politics, he worked at Bank of America and later held leadership roles in Sikkim's industrial sector, including as Managing Director of Sikkim Flour Mills and the Sikkim Milk Union, and as Chairman of the Sikkim Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (SIDICO). He is the founding member of the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) to promote sustainable development. In recognition of his work, he was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship in 2000.

Mr. Karma Nidup Bhutia

Mr. Karma Nidup Bhutia, a retired Secretary to the Government of Sikkim, has served over 33 years in public administration, beginning his career as an Assistant Mining Engineer in 1978 and later holding key leadership roles across sectors including renewable energy, tourism, taxation, transport, industries, and finance. Was inducted in the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre in the year 2004, he was instrumental in major reforms such as introducing the Value Added Tax system and modernizing tax administration, and received the State Government's Certificate of Meritorious Service in 2002. Following his retirement in 2012, he continued contributing to public institutions as Chairman of the Teesta Urja hydro project, OSD for establishing postgraduate programmes at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, and through long-standing involvement with various social, cultural, and sports organizations, including the Bon Monastery, Royal Tsuklakhang Trust, and ECOSS, where he is a founding member.

Mr. Loday Chungyalpa

Mr. Loday Chungyalpa: Graduated from University of Santa Clara California with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Has worked overseas for over 20 years in senior management roles in the corporate sector. Since returning to Sikkim in 1996 he has been actively involved in the areas of education transformation, sustainable livelihood generation, and environment issues. He is a founder member of a number of NGOs and schools in Sikkim.

Mr. Ravi Pradhan

Mr. Ravi Pradhan is the owner of Rhenock House, a heritage-style luxury villa turned boutique hotel in Gangtok, Sikkim's comes from a distinguished Newar - Pradhan family with deep roots in Sikkim: his ancestors established the renowned Chandra Nursery in Rhenock in the early 20th century. Known for his warm hospitality, Mr. Pradhan personally welcomes guests, helps with trip planning (including permits), and is praised in visitor reviews for the personal, home-away-from-home atmosphere he cultivates.

Dr. Satyadeep S. Chhetri

Dr. Satyadeep S. Chhetri is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College (formerly Sikkim Government College), Gangtok. He holds a PhD in Chemistry and has published his scientific work in both national and international journals. In addition to his academic career, he is a dedicated science communicator, popular quizmaster, and columnist. Dr. Chhetri is also a bestselling author, having written Gorkhaland Diaries: Even Dreams... Uneven Lives (2022) and Sikkim: From Autocracy to Half-Democracy (2023). He is actively involved in civil society, serving on the board of Sikkim's SAATHI organization and ECOSS.

Mr. Rajendra Prasad Gurung

Mr. Rajendra Prasad Gurung, Chief Executive Officer of ECOSS (He completed his tenure on 31st December 2025).

SECRETARIAT

Ms. Dikila Bhutia, Joint Secretary

Based in Gangtok, Sikkim works as a Joint Secretary with ECOSS. She has a MBA background and worked as a project manager in SAATHI NGO for five years and Deputy Manager in Vocational Education Project in SIBIN for eight years.

Mr. Anush Pradhan, Intern

Anush Pradhan is a dedicated and hardworking postgraduate in Sociology from Sikkim University, completed in 2024. Anush aims to work in a challenging environment that offers learning and growth opportunities originally from South Sikkim.



ECOSS MEMBERS LIST

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ECOSS expresses sincere gratitude to its members, Governing Board, youth participants, community partners, researchers, institutions, collaborators and supporters whose continued commitment made the year's activities possible.

The organization remains committed to working collectively toward a sustainable, resilient and ecologically secure Himalayan future.

Glimpses from the past



***South Asian Regional Conference on Ecotourism (SARCE),
Gangtok, Sikkim, from January 21 to 24, 2002.***

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