

How green was my forest



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Siddhartha Handique 16 September 2015 17046 views

There was a time when Nambor Reserve Forest along the Golaghat-Karbi Anglong border was known for natural beauty and bounty. It was in 1872, the famed 875.50 square km area was declared [as](#) reserved forest by the British calling it an abode of many unique spices of plants.

But now it is facing an extinction threat. [One](#) after another projects in the name of infrastructure development have resulted in the shrinkage of the entire reserve forest.

For the last few decades, the entire area has been a staple source of wealth for many botanists to do research works. But gradual shrinkage in the area and the various industrial activities in the adjacent places threaten to uproot many unique species of plants.

In 1952, around [6](#) sq. km. of forest land was cut off from Nambor to be included in the Garampani reserve forest. But it turned into a den of anti social activities. Renowned botanist Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi along with social activist [Arup](#) Ballav Goswami have been demanding proper steps to conserve the forest resources of Nambor and Garampani. Acting on their mounting pressure, on 27 July in 2000, the Assam government declared 37 square km area of the Nambor reserve forest in Karbi Anglong district [as](#) 'Nambor [Wildlife](#) Sanctuary. The remaining portion of forest area under Golaghat district was named [as](#) the Nambor-Doigrung Sanctuary in 2003.

Led by botanist Gogoi, a team of botanists in 1993 discovered several species of mushroom now facing extinction. Then these were sent these to the Royal Botanic [Garden](#) in London.

The garden curator Dr. D.A. Peyter in his letter called three species *Lentinus Velutinous*, *Clitocybe Geotropa* and *Lentinustuberegium*.

Another striking feature of Nambor is the presence of rare fern known [as](#) *Nephrolapis Namborosis*. It is [found](#) only in Nambor to be named after Nambor.

Due to lack of conservation and deforestation some rare species of plant that are [soon](#) going to be extinct. These include Jewel Orchid, Vanilla *Periphera*, Bon Aom, Thapi Lata etc.

Thus, lack of care and conservation measures, a natural laboratory of systematic botany is on the verge of extinction.



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