WILD BIODIVERSITY

of Chizami Village

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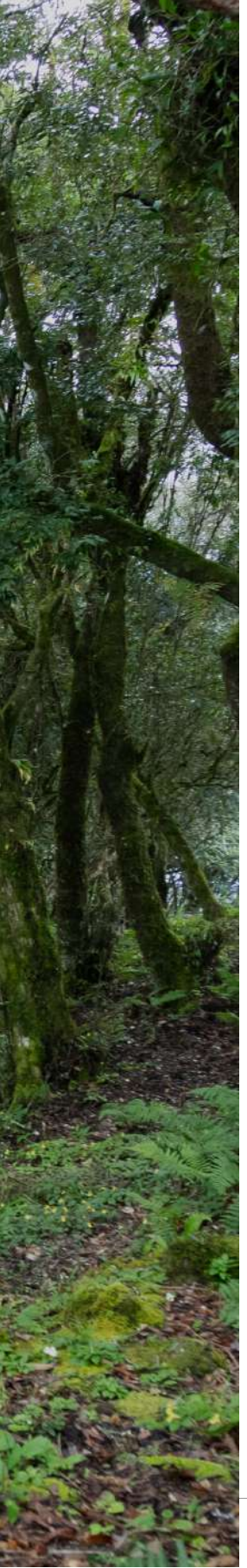

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Chizami BMC

Preface

Biodiversity is life and keeps the planet thriving. The health of the territories are defined by her natural and cultural diversity. Traditional ecological knowledge systems and practices evolve around biodiversity and the interactions with the natural environment defines the social and cultural constructs of indigenous peoples. Interconnectedness, reciprocity, custodianship and self-determination are core principles of indigenous ecology.

Understanding biodiversity is the foundation of sustainable management of natural resources and documenting biodiversity is crucial for understanding, conserving and managing, research and education, conservation planning and regenerative engagement of people, policy influence for sustainable development, socio-cultural ecological well-being for a shared sustainable and resilient future.

The Chizami Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) with five members was formed and instituted by the Chizami Village Council in February 2024. At its first meeting held in June 2024, the BMC recognized the urgent need to document the village's rich biodiversity alongside ongoing conservation efforts. This led to the idea of documenting and publishing a biodiversity booklet.

The BMC began by exploring existing documentation initiatives in the village. We discovered valuable resources, including a collection of plants, trees, bamboo and animal names compiled by community knowledge holders under the leadership of the late Kedu Rhakho, former Village Council Chairman and documentation of butterflies, birds, uncultivated foods by the North East Network.

Building on these existing efforts, the BMC convened stakeholders, proposing the collaborative creation of this document, “Wild Biodiversity of Chizami.” This proposal was met with enthusiasm and the team integrated all available data into one document. Finally, on December 18th, 2024 , a validation meeting on the compiled document was held with the community knowledge holders.

This booklet, published as part of the People’s Biodiversity Register, represents the culmination of dedicated work by the local community. Documentation involved participatory field surveys, interviews with elders, photography, and verification of information by BMC members, knowledge holders, youth representatives, and NEN staff and volunteers.

The purpose of this documentation effort is to preserve traditional knowledge and practices for future generations, promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, recognize the rights and contributions of local communities to biodiversity conservation and to support sustainable livelihoods and development. It also stands as a testament to the rich biodiversity, traditional knowledge systems, and cultural heritage of Chizami village.

The People’s Biodiversity Register- ‘Wild Biodiversity’ is a dynamic, living document that will continue to evolve and grow. We hope it will serve as a valuable resource for conservation, community living knowledge, support their journey towards sustainable self-determination, and inspire continued community regenerative engagement for a resilient and sustainable future

Seno Tsuhah,
Secretary,
Biodiversity Management Committee
Chizami Village

FLOWERS, STEMS, ROOTS AND TUBERS

1. Ebake *(August-September)*

2. Eyidzu *(All season)*

3. Eyitshehana *(All season)*

4. Kewapa *(March-April)*

5. Kutipa *(April-May)*

6. Lejoye Kuma *(March-April)*

7. Shepushele *(January-February)*

8. Yinedzu *(All season)*

9. Seynalechü Pa *(April-May)*

10. Ekhulo Mekrita *(May-June)*

FRUITS & SEEDS

1. Bokho Tshe *(October)*

2. Ekwi menatshe *(June)*

3. Cüti Tshe Kadu *(March)*

4. Cüti Tshe Ketsi *(May-june)*

35. **Sorhu Tshe** *(November-March)*

36. **Eratho Tshe** *(January)*
37. **Etsethora Tshe** *(July-August)*
38. **Cüka Tshe** *(June-July, Feb-March)*
39. **Kewapakeha Tshe** *(May-June)*
40. **Fucüfura Tshe** *(January-December)*
41. **Kakucü Tshe** *(May)*
42. **Etsumena Tshe** *(January-Dec)*
43. **Ezalodo Tshe** *(November-Dec*
44. **Levi Tshe**

HERBS AND LEAFY VEGETABLES

1. **Churakhuye** *(All season)*

2. **Ecieye** *(All season)*

3. **Echunleye** *(All season)*

4. **Echuye Kadu** *(March-May)*

5. Echuye Ketsi *(March-May)*

6. Efubuzuye *(All season)*

7. Ehcüni *(All season)*

8. Ekhulodzunuka *(Dec-April)*

9. Ekhumechuthoye *(All season)*

10. Erukeriye *(January-March)*