



14th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum 2026

30 October – 4 November 2026 | Guwahati, Assam

Naturenomics™ Pitch Your Idea for the Research & Conservation Grants

A Platform for Young Researchers to Advance Ideas on Ecosystem Resilience in the Eastern Himalaya and Northeast India

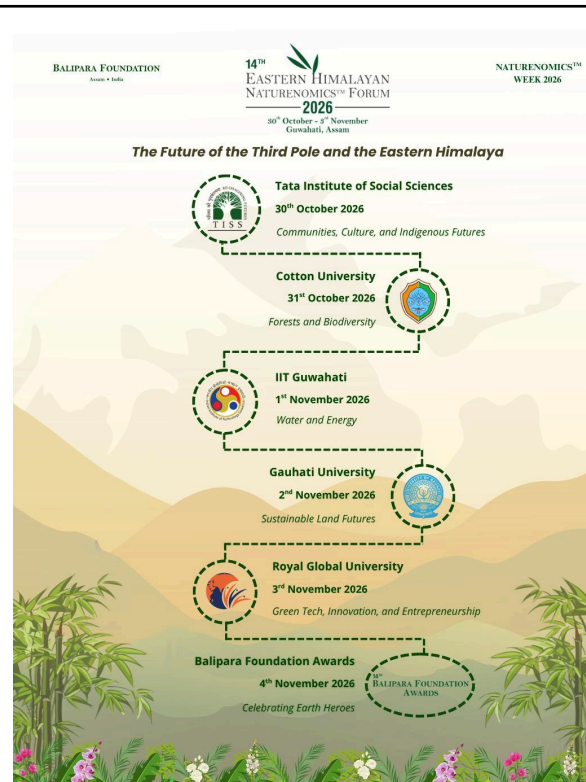
Seed Grants Support for Young Researcher

Focus Region: Eastern Himalaya & Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, India

1. About the Forum

The Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum (EHNH) is Balipara Foundation's flagship annual platform dedicated to advancing research, policy, innovation, and partnerships for the Eastern Himalaya. Now in its 14th edition, the Forum convenes researchers, universities, governments, Indigenous communities, civil society, industry, entrepreneurs, and young leaders to co-create practical solutions for conserving nature while supporting resilient economies and livelihoods.

The 2026 Forum will be held from 30 October to 4 November 2026 across Guwahati, in collaboration with Gauhati University, IIT Guwahati, Cotton University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Guwahati, and Royal Global University. Through thematic dialogues, policy discussions, youth engagement, research showcases, leadership conversations, exhibitions, and collaborative action, the Forum aims to strengthen the knowledge ecosystem for the Eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.





As part of this year's Forum, Balipara Foundation is launching Pitch Your Idea , a dedicated research platform that supports promising young researchers through mentorship, visibility, and seed funding.	
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2. Why This Platform: Pitch Your Idea

The Eastern Himalaya and the Indo-Burma hotspot are among the most ecologically significant, and least understood, landscapes in the world. Much of the research that could shape better conservation and policy decisions here never gets past the idea stage, for want of early exposure, mentorship, or seed funding. This event is designed to close exactly that gap: giving postgraduate students and early-career research scholars a genuine platform to present their thinking to a cross-institutional academic audience, and rewarding the strongest ideas with funding to actually start the work.

It also reflects Balipara Foundation's broader mission – strengthening the ecological knowledge base of the Eastern Himalaya and building a pipeline of young researchers invested in the region's long-term resilience.

3. Pitch Your Idea - Concept

Postgraduate students and early-career researchers are invited to **submit action based research ideas** (already preliminary study conducted) abstract aligned with 14th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum themes (**Communities, Culture, and Indigenous Futures; Water and Energy, Sustainable Land Futures, Green Tech, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Forest & Biodiversity**) focusing on the Eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma hotspot, under one of five themes. **Shortlisted applicants will present their idea as a poster at the Forum venue corresponding to their theme's host institution.** One winner will be selected per theme, each receiving up to ₹50,000 in seed support to begin their action based research.





4. Themes & Host Institutions

Theme	Description	Host Institution	Recognition
Communities, Culture, and Indigenous Futures	Indigenous knowledge, community governance, livelihoods, traditional ecological knowledge, cultural resilience	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati	WHAT WINNERS RECEIVE - - Seed research grant of up to ₹50,000 - Recognition at the 14th Balipara Foundation Awards 2026 - Opportunity to present before leading researchers and policymakers - Mentorship from experts and partner institutions - Visibility through Balipara Foundation publications and digital platforms - Opportunity to develop the research into future collaborative projects WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE - - Certificate of Participation from the 14th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum 2026 and Balipara Foundation. - Opportunity to present their research ideas before an interdisciplinary panel of academics, researchers, conservation practitioners,
Water and Energy	River systems, springsheds, hydropower, renewable energy, water security, climate resilience	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati	
Sustainable Land Futures	Agriculture, agroforestry, restoration, land-use planning, soil health, climate-smart landscapes	Gauhati University	
Green Tech, Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Nature-tech, AI, GIS, remote sensing, green businesses, circular economy, conservation entrepreneurship	Royal Global University	
Forest & Biodiversity	Wildlife conservation, ecosystem restoration, protected areas, biodiversity monitoring, species conservation	Cotton University	





			policymakers, and industry experts. ● Exposure to Balipara Foundation's field initiatives, including opportunities to visit selected restoration landscapes and community-led conservation sites to understand practical applications of ecosystem restoration ● Networking opportunities with leading scientists, university faculty, government representatives, conservation organisations, funding agencies, entrepreneurs, and young researchers participating in the Forum. ● Constructive feedback and mentorship from experts to strengthen research concepts and future proposals. ● Access to all Forum sessions, including leadership dialogues, technical discussions, policy roundtables, research showcases, and exhibitions
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Note: Poster presentations will be held at the venue of the host institution associated with each theme, during the Forum week.





Guideline

5. Who Can Apply

- **Study Area:** Researchers working in the Eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot Regions of India
- **Preliminary Study:** A preliminary study must have already been conducted.
- **Submission Requirements:** All submissions must be made individually and include one mentor or research supervisor from the recognised university or institute in which the applicant is currently enrolled.
- **Postgraduate (PG) Students:** Applicants must be currently enrolled in a recognised university or institute.
- **Early-Career Research Scholars:** Applicants must be early-career researchers, aged **30 years or below**, who are at the early stage of their research career and are affiliated with an educational institution, research institute, or non-governmental organization (NGO).
- **Research Focus:** Proposed research ideas must be action-based, focus on the Eastern Himalaya and/or the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot regions of India, and **fall under one of the five listed themes**.
- **Nationality:** Applicants must be **Indian nationals**.

Special Guideline for Previous Pitch Your Idea Winners (Natirenomics™ Research Conclave, 2025)

- **Eligibility:** The winner of the previous Pitch Your Idea is eligible to submit a new pitch.
- **Research Continuity:** The submission must be based on the same or a continuing research topic for which the applicant previously received the grant, and must include updated research findings or results.
- **Jury Evaluation:** The submitted pitch will be subject to the same jury selection and evaluation process as all other submissions.

6. Selection Process & Timeline

Milestone	Date
Abstract submission open	15 August 2026
Abstract submission deadline	15 September 2026
Result of abstract selection announced	25 September 2026





Eastern Himalaya Naturenomics™ Forum	30 October – 4 November 2026
Poster presentation (at respective theme venue)	During the Forum, 30 October – 4 November 2026

Interested applicants submit a research idea abstract by 15 September 2026. Abstracts will be reviewed by a panel drawn from the respective theme's host institution and Balipara Foundation's R&D team. Selected abstract Results will be announced by 25 September 2026, following which shortlisted applicants will prepare a poster presentation of their research idea, to be presented in person at the Forum.

A jury of subject specialists will review and evaluate the poster presentation of the idea and based on the evaluation, an award will be given to the winner.

7. Awards & Recognition

- One winner will be selected per theme (five winners in total).
- Each theme winner receives seed support of up to ₹50,000 to initiate their proposed research.
- Winners will be formally recognised at the Eastern Himalaya Naturenomics™ Forum 2026.
- All shortlisted presenters gain visibility with a cross-institutional academic and conservation-practice audience.

8. Expected Outcomes

- A cohort of early-career researchers with funded, real-world research ideas addressing regional ecological and social resilience.
- Stronger research linkages between Balipara Foundation and partner universities/institutes across the Eastern Himalaya.
- A growing, cross-disciplinary body of youth-led research contributing to ecosystem resilience in the Eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma hotspot.
- Increased visibility for the Eastern Himalaya Naturenomics™ Forum as a recurring platform for young researchers.

9. Organising Partners

Balipara Foundation, in collaboration with Gauhati University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Guwahati, Cotton University, Royal Global University, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.





10. Contact

For submission guidelines, theme-wise queries, and media/PR coordination, please reach out to the Balipara Foundation R&D team.

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The future of the Eastern Himalaya depends on new ideas, interdisciplinary research, and the next generation of conservation leaders. Through Naturenomics Pitch Your Idea, Balipara Foundation seeks to identify and support young researchers whose work can shape policy, strengthen ecosystems, and build resilient futures for people and nature across the region.

