

Preserving Piulong Meadow

Piulong Meadow also called Bunning Meadow is a beautiful, calm and peaceful destination located in Tamei town, Tamenglong District of Manipur. It is located at an altitude of about 7000 feet above sea level and is situated in the north eastern part of the state about 40 Kms away from Tamenglong Headquarter. The meadow is spread over an area of about 500 acres and is surrounded by dense forests and lush green hills. It is an undulating small mounds covered with varied exotic flowers, herbs and shrubs, bamboo orchids and wild lilies. Barking deer, sambar, leopard, jackal, pangolin, wild boar, tiger, jungle cat, martens, clouded leopard, golden cat, slow loris, etc are believed to be found in this region. The meadow is famous for its breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and the valleys below. Piulong meadow is a perfect spot or a perfect destination for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. In short, it is a paradise for nature lovers. Many tourists and visitors came to the meadow for camping. Piulong meadow is a home to a variety of flora and fauna that are native to the region. There are several ancient stone structures and monuments that are of historical significance in the meadow. It is also a home to several tribal communities. There are around 60 houses with a population of around 400. Piulong meadow is one of the highest meadows in Manipur. It is also significant in the tourism industry of Manipur.

Piulong meadow is endowed with varieties of species. However, several flora and fauna are hardly seen today. The flora and fauna of the Bunning meadow are becoming endangered. The beautiful meadow has been facing several challenges due to human activities such as cattle-grazing, timber-logging, hunting of wild animals, lack of infrastructure and facilities, poor road conditions, lack of proper accommodation facilities, and lack of basic amenities such as electricity and clean

water. To preserve the beauty of the meadow it is our duty and responsibility to stop all these illegal activities and provide better facilities for the local villagers residing in Piulong. We should implement several measures to preserve the meadow. Educating the local villagers on importance of preserving the meadow is also one of the important measures. Education can help create awareness and provides valuable insights into the preservation efforts. The Government should protect the meadow by constructing better roads, improving the existing accommodation facilities and providing basic needs for the villagers such as electricity and clean water. We should conduct awareness program and aided regeneration to improve habitat of animals. The local communities can also take the initiative to control forest fire, hunting and catching of wild animals and birds and several other species found in the area. The villagers are poverty stricken however, they are struggling to save and conserve the natural environment of the place for the love of their land.

Another measure to preserve the beautiful Bunning meadow is to organize workshops and seminars for educating the local communities. Most of the villagers are suffering from poverty and therefore they make their livelihoods on cattle grazing, hunting of wild animals and timber logging. Most of them are uneducated and so they may not be aware of the impact of their actions on the environment. Therefore, we can prevent this by organizing several awareness campaigns and distributing education materials. They are making use of the natural resources for their survival, so it is very important to provide them with alternative livelihoods, creating job opportunities in such a way that the villagers do not cause any harm to the environment. As we all know, Piulong meadow is the perfect place for tourists from different parts of the world. Many tourists visit every year to witness the beauty of the place. We need to conserve and protect the meadow by promoting

sustainable tourism i.e. to minimize the impact of tourism on the environment and the local community. The Government and the authorities of the local community should implement strict rules and regulations regarding tourists and the villagers. Example, to prevent pollution of the natural resources they should instruct tourists and the villagers to implement effective waste management practices, to dispose their waste in a proper place, to promote recycling and composting practices. Throwing of waste into the rivers in the meadow should be strictly prohibited. Deforestation, hunting of animals and birds, poaching, and pollution of natural resources found in the area should be strictly prohibited. The Government can impose fines and penalties on those individuals who engage in the above mentioned illegal activities in Piulong meadow. The Government can also restrict the entry of huge and heavy vehicles into the meadow to prevent further damage to the roads. The local communities can also be given the right and responsibility to report and monitor any illegal activities done by an individual.

During the previous years, Piulong meadow has been suffering lost of vegetation. In order to restore the lost vegetation we should take up several measures to protect and prevent the damages. Reforestation is also one of the measures to help protect the meadow. We can engage local volunteers in tree planting campaigns and providing education on removal of invasive weeds. Maintain an ecological balance of the environment is necessary. Planting more trees and shrubs in the meadow can restore the natural vegetation and enhance the ecological balance. Stopping or shunning human activities for the preservation of the meadow is a must. The Government can create protected areas within the Piulong meadow so as to prevent illegal human activities. The protected areas can be designated as no-grazing zones, no-hunting of wild animals and birds zones, no-timber logging zones, no-

catching fish zones etc. This will help protect the flora and fauna and we can preserve the ecological balance of the Piulong meadow.

In conclusion, the Government should provide proper livelihood and settlement for the local communities so that they'll play a great role in preserving the meadow. The Government should also help construct roads, public toilets and guest house for visitors and tourists to make them more comfortable while visiting. Therefore, by working together, we can ensure the safety of the place and that Piulong or Bunning Meadow remains a beautiful destination and verdant valleys for generations to come.

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