

# **ACTION PLAN FOR DIKRONG RIVER AT NH 52 NEAR BRIDGE, LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT**

## **PRIORITY V**

### **1. Basic information about the Stretch**

The Dikrong is one of the major north bank tributaries of the river Brahmaputra, which originates from the lesser Himalayan ranges in Arunachal Pradesh. A number of rivulets join the river Dikrong on its left and right banks before it outfalls into the Brahmaputra in Assam. The total length of river Dikrong is 145 km. It flows through the hilly region of Arunachal Pradesh for a distance of about 113 km and remaining 32 km it flows through the plains of Assam. The river may be divided into two main reaches on the basis of topography, river gradient and the confluence of important rivers. These reaches are (i) The reach from the source to Harmutty. (ii) The reach from Harmutty to outfall of the Dikrong into the Brahmaputra.

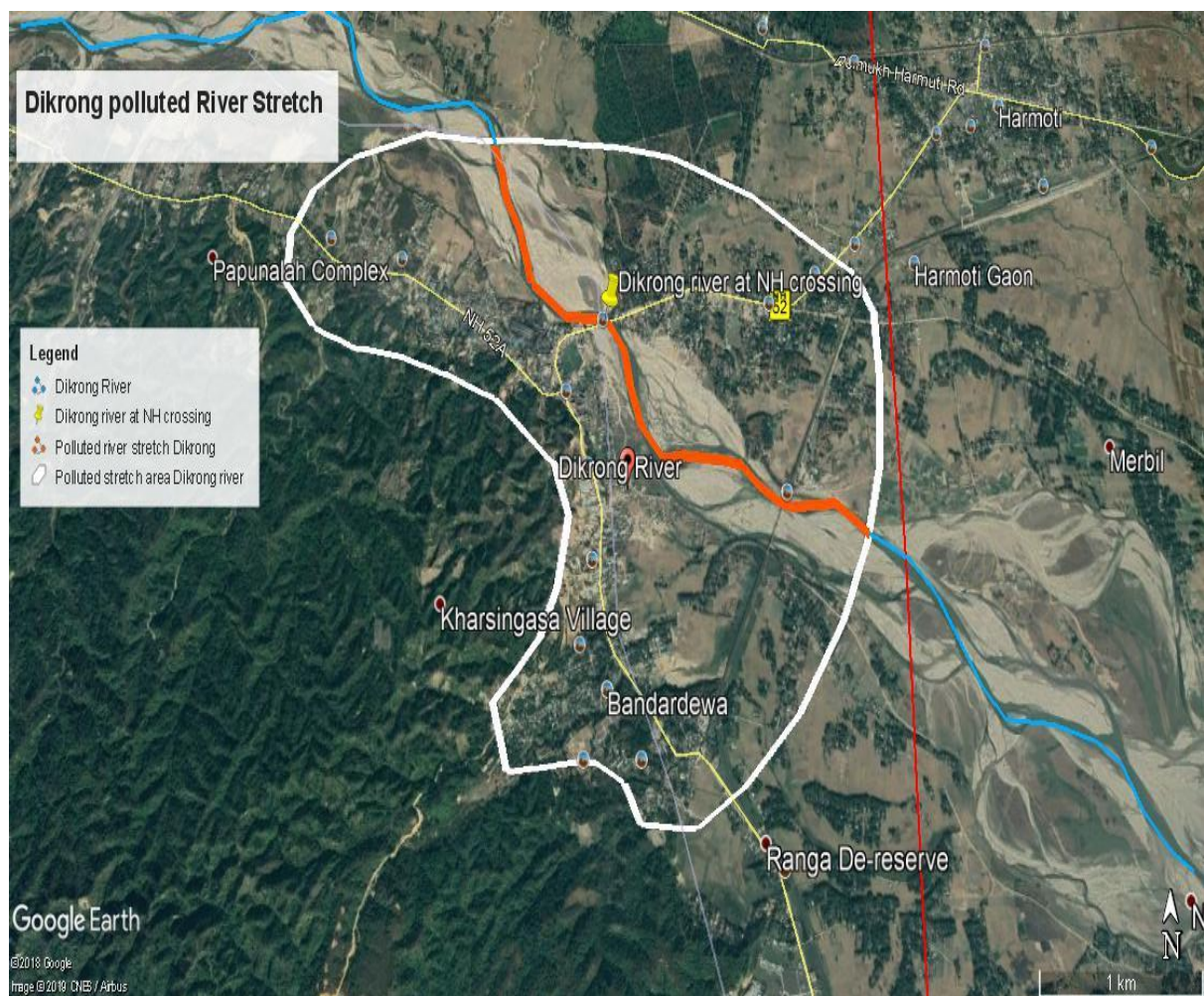
(i) The reach from the source to Harmutty : This reach lies in hilly region of Arunachal Pradesh. The head stream of Dikrong is known as Par Nadi, originates at an elevation of 2579 metres. The left bank tributaries in this reach, are Keyate, Pang Nala, Shu Pabung and Peti Nala . Keyate originates from an elevation of 2100 metres and joins Par Nadi at 30 k.m. distance from the source (115 k.m. away from the outfall of Dikrong to Brahmaputra) at an elevation of 980 metres. Pang Nala originates from an elevation of 2100 metres flows in the south west direction and meets Par Nadi near Sagali at an elevation of 800 metres and 105 k.m. away from the confluence with the Brahmaputra. Shu Pabung originates from an elevation of 2000 metres, flows south east direction and meets Par Nadi at a distance of 78 km from the confluence with the Brahmaputra. Par Nadi is known by the name Dikrong after it joins Shu Pabung. Peti nala originates from an elevation of 1000 metres and meets the Dikrong at a distance of 65 k.m. away from the point of confluence with the Brahmaputra. Right bank tributary Ranchi Pabung originates from an elevation of 2000 metres and joins Par Nadi near Rayayi. Another right bank tributary Pachin Nadi joins the Dikrong at 45 k.m. away from outfall.

(ii) The reach from Harmutty to outfall of the Dikrong into the Brahmaputra: In this reach, left bank tributary Beguli Nadi meets the Dikrong at a distance of 21 kilometer away from the outfall. In the right bank, Kachikata Nadi meets spill channel of the Subansiri. Mora Dikrong is a dead channel of the Dikrong. It

receives a very small discharge in the monsoon period, but the channel remains like a beel in the rest of the period. It receives a back-water flow from the Brahmaputra. Originally the outfall of river Dikrong was on a bifurcated channel of the Brahmaputra known as Kharkatiasuti. This channel has been blocked and as a result Dikrong outfalls now on a spill channel of the Subansiri which also meet the Brahmaputra. But during flood season, the Brahmaputra flows through this so called blocked portion and hence the outfall of Dikrong is considered to be on the Brahmaputra and hence treated as one of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra.

### 1.1 Polluted river stretch/length

The length of the polluted stretch of Dikrong River is approximately 4 KM with an area of 9.2 sq.km. (Fig 1). The stretch identified as polluted is from Parbotipur No 2 to Doimukh harmoti Road.



**Fig 1: Map showing the polluted river stretch of Dikrong river at NH 52 Near bridge, Lakhimpur district**

## **2. Background:**

In compliance of the direction of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the matter of news published in 'The Hindu' authored by Jacob Koshy, Titled 'More river stretches are now critically polluted CPCB', Government of Assam constituted River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) vide memorandum 673/2018 dated 19/12/2018 for effective abatement of pollution, rejuvenation, protection and management of the identified polluted stretches, for bringing the polluted river stretches to be fit at least for bathing purposes within six months

## **3. Basis of Action Plan for Dikrong river at NH 52 Near bridge, Lakhimpur district polluted river stretch**

The action plan for rejuvenation, protection and management of the identified polluted river stretch of Assam has been prepared based on the following

- As per direction of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the matter of news published in 'The Hindu' authored by Jacob Koshy, Titled 'More river stretches are now critically polluted CPCB'
- Comprehensive report on Prevention and Control of Pollution in River Hindon: An Action Plan for Rejuvenation' [Submitted in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal]

## **4. Components of Action Plan**

### **(a) Industrial Pollution Control**

- Inventorisation of industries
- Categories of industry and effluent quality
- Treatment of effluents, compliance with standards and mode of disposal of effluents
- Regulatory regime.

### **(b) Identification, Channelization, Treatment and Utilization of Treated Domestic Sewage**

- Identification of towns in the catchment of river

- Town-wise Estimation of quantity of sewage generated and existing sewage treatment capacities to arrive at the gap between the sewage generation and treatment capacities;
- Identification of towns for installing sewerage system and sewage treatment plants.
- Storm water drains now carrying sewage and sullage joining river and interception and diversion of sewage to STPs,
- Treatment and disposal of septage and controlling open defecation.

**(c) River catchment/Basin Management-Controlled ground water extraction and periodic quality assessment**

- Periodic assessment of groundwater resources and regulation of ground water extraction by industries particularly in over exploited and critical zones/blocks.
- Ground water re-charging /rain water harvesting
- Periodic ground water quality assessment and remedial actions in case of contaminated groundwater tube wells/bore wells or hand pumps.
- Assessment of the need for regulating use of ground water for irrigation purposes.

**(d) Flood Plain Zone**

- Regulating activities in flood plain zone.
- Management of Municipal, Plastic, Hazardous, Bio-medical and Electrical and Electronic wastes.
- Greenery development- Plantation plan.

**(e) Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow)**

- Issues relating to E-Flow
- Irrigation practices

**(d) Such other issues which may be found relevant for restoring water quality to the prescribed standards.**

**5. Action Plan as per direction of Hon'ble NGT**

The components to be discussed in the action plan for rejuvenation, protection and management of identified polluted stretch of Dikrong river are as follows

## 5.1. Industrial Pollution Control

No industrial estate/notified industrial area is located in the 500m periphery of the Dikrong river catchment area. There are only two villages located in the demarcated catchment area of the polluted river stretch in the jurisdiction of Assam state as shown in the map. Banderdewa is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Details of Industrial Pollution Control is presented in Table I below.

**Table I: Details of Industrial Pollution Control**

Name of the Industry	Category	Total Water Consumption/ Waste Generation	Without consent/Directives issued	ETPs	CETPs	OCEMS	Gaps	Proposed CETP
No notified industrial area	NA	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

## 5.2. Number of industries- category Red or water polluting/ Small scale

No major/minor industrial estate/cluster are located on the 500 m periphery of the river bank.

## 5.3. Industries without consent/authorisation

Not Applicable

## 5.4 Number of directions issued to industries

Not Applicable

## 5.5. Total water consumption and the waste water generation by the industries

As there is no any industrial zone/belt in the catchment area, there is no possibility of water consumption and waste water generation.

## 5.6. Number of industries having captive ETPs and treatment capacity

Not Applicable

## 5.7. Number of industries are members of the CETPs

Not Applicable

## 5.8. Number of CETPs existing in the catchment of the polluted river stretch and the treatment capacity

Not Applicable

#### **5.9. OCEMS installation status by industries**

Not Applicable

#### **5.10. Gaps in treatment of industrial effluent**

There is no gap in treatment of industrial effluent as the catchment area does not fall under any industrial estates/Clusters.

#### **5.11. Present/proposed CETP capacity/ Member unit**

Not Applicable.

### **6. Identification, Channelisation, Treatment and Utilization of Treated Domestic Sewage**

#### **6.1. Major towns located on the bank**

There are only two villages located in the catchment area of the river namely Parbotipur No.2 and Harmoti gaon which falls under Bihpuria Tehsil of Lakhimpur district. Banderdewa is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

#### **6.2. Town wise estimation of quantity of sewage generated and existing sewage treatment capacities**

The population is very less in the catchment area of the river and are highly scattered. Approximate population of the villages in the catchment area of the river is 4544 as per census of India. As the locality is sparsely populated, the individual households construct their own soak pit, artificial pond for the liquid waste generated by them. Also during its course land absorbs the sewage. There is no any existing sewage treatment Plant.

#### **6.3. Identification of towns for installing sewerage system and sewage treatment plants.**

There is no requirement of Sewage Treatment Plant at present as the locality is sparsely populated. Individual households may be encouraged for connecting the liquid waste to the soak pit. Further they can use it for gardening purpose.

**Table II: Sewage generation and gaps in treatment**

S.N	Area (sq.km)	Population as per 2011 census (Catchment villages of Dikrong river)	Water Consumption (KLD) @135 lpcd	Sewage Generation (KLD)	No. of STPs	Existing Treatment capacity (KLD)	Gaps in KLD
1	9.2	Parbotipur No2– 2289 Harmoti gaon – 2255 Total = <b>4544</b>	613	490	NIL	NIL	490

#### 6.4. Water Quality of the river stretch

There is one (01) sampling location of Dikrong River under NWMP as per the following.

**Table III: Monitoring Locations Details**

Sampling Location	Coordinates
Dikrong river at NH 52 Near bridge, Lakhimpur district	27°6'44.98" N 93°49'40" E

The latest water quality trend in terms of BOD value from July 2017 till April 2019 is presented below:

**Table IV: BOD value in mg/l of Dikrong river at NH 52 Near bridge, Lakhimpur district**

Year	BOD Value	Year	BOD Value	Year	BOD Value
Jan-17		Jan-18	3.0	Jan-19	1.9
Feb-17		Feb-18	3.4	Feb-19	2.2
Mar-17		Mar-18	1.6	Mar-19	1.8
Apr-17		Apr-18	1.9	Apr-19	1.0
May-17		May-18	1.4		
Jun-17		Jun-18	2.5		
Jul-17	3.2	Jul-18	1.7		
Aug-17	3.2	Aug-18	1.6		
Sep-17	3.0	Sep-18	1.9		
Oct-17	2.0	Oct-18	1.5		
Nov-17	1.2	Nov-18	1.6		
Dec-17	1.5	Dec-18	2.8		

The above data indicates that the BOD load is above 3 mg/l at five (05) occasion out of twenty two (22) samplings carried out from July 2017 till April 2019. The sampling of that location commenced from July 2017. From March 2018 the water quality has improved in terms of BOD value till date. Hence this location can be considered for omission from the list of polluted river stretch. The rise in BOD value at some occasion may be due to flood water carrying the debris of the catchment areas in addition to soil erosion.

### 6.5. Drains contributing to pollution

There is no any sewer line/major or minor drain connecting to the Dikrong river. However embankment on both side of the river bank will reduce the impact of pollution.

### 6.6. Treatment and Disposal of Septage and controlling Open Defecation

Individual households in the villages are equipped with septic tanks. However, around 426 toilets have been constructed in Bihpuria tehsil/block of Lakhimpur district of Assam under the 'IHHL' mission which is an initiative of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to achieve open defecation free area.

Following remedial actions will be taken in consideration of treatment and disposal of sewage

- Public awareness to control open defecation and understand the importance of toilets.

## 7. Controlled Ground water Extraction and quality Assessment

**Table V: Estimation of ground water resource in the Lakhimpur district**

Net Ground Water Availability	1198.15 mcm	Ground water recharging mechanism	Rain water harvesting
Net Annual Ground Water Draft	128.76 mcm	Recharging of groundwater are done by creation of Pond/lakes under government schemes.	The roof top rainwater harvesting is practiced.
Projected demand for domestic and industrial uses up to 2025	32.14 mcm		
Stage of Ground Water Development	11%		

### Irrigation Practices in Lakhimpur District

Certain schemes such as Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS), Flow Irrigation Schemes (FIS) and Deep Tubewell (DTW) have been taken up for Lakhimpur district by the irrigation Department of Assam in collaboration with the Central government.



## **7.1. Status of Ground Water**

As per CGWB report, chemical analysis data of ground water samples reveals that the ground water of dug well of the district is slightly acidic to slightly alkaline (pH= 5.83 to 7.11). Electrical conductance (EC) of ground water varies from 89 to 473 detectable limit. However, in Panigaon, Dolonghat Chariali and Kadam GWMS fluoride content are 0.44, 0.18 and 0.11 mg/l respectively, which are within permissible limit. Iron content generally varies from 0.13 to 6.98 mg/l. It is observed that iron content is generally high in permanently water-logged areas like Bhogpur Chariali, Bihpuria and Kadam. As per the information available in National Rural Drinking Water Mission, there are 354 habitats affected by iron contamination (source: <http://indiawater.gov.in> \IMIS Report).

The district is under safe category and sufficient resources are still available for development

## **7.2. Remedial Actions**

The following remedial actions will be taken in consideration of contaminated ground water sources, controlled ground water extraction and periodic quality assessment

- Ground water of deeper aquifers should be analyzed for periodic assessment of Iron.
- Alternate sources of drinking water should be explored and prioritized.
- Awareness campaigns about health hazards due to intake of excessive Iron is the need of the time.
- Role of pesticides used for agricultural activity should be carefully observed.
- Survey should be conducted regarding ground water uses for domestic purpose and also to identify the over exploited and critical areas in the river stretches with respect to ground water extraction.
- Effective management of sewage for preventing contamination of ground water sources.
- Roof top rain water harvesting techniques should be encouraged for industrial, commercial or individual households and community.

## 8. Flood Plain Zone

The following are the identified flood prone area for the polluted Dikrong river stretch

Name of River	Flood plain areas
Dikrong River	Parbotipur No.2 and Harmoti gaon

The Dikrong river embankment details are as follows

S.N	Embankment	Length (km)
1	Left bank	27.20
2	Right Bank	23.51

### 8.1. Regulating activities in the Flood Plain Zone

Further following activities need to be regulated in the flood plain zones.

S.No	Action points	Responsible authority
1	Plantation in the flood plain zone	Forest Department
2	Checking Encroachment	Local administration
3	Demarcation of the flood plain zone	Water Resource Department
4	Prohibition of disposal of all kinds of wastes	District Administration

### 8.2. Waste management status and proposed actions for Municipal solid waste, industrial waste and Bio medical waste management

Table VII: Waste management status and proposed actions

Type	Status	Proposed Action	Authority
Industrial Waste	➤ No notified industrial area/cluster have been identified within 500 meters periphery of the catchment area.	➤ Not Applicable	Pollution Control Board Assam
Municipal waste management	➤ Since the catchment area of the river does not fall under any municipal bodies, the villagers manage and treat their own solid wastes by constructing composting pit and other vermi composting practices etc in their household.	➤ Village Panchayat concerned should collect municipal solid waste generated from the villages of the catchment area. ➤ Awareness generation regarding	Village Panchayat

Type	Status	Proposed Action	Authority
		solid waste management rule.	
Plastic waste	➤ Plastic wastes are being burnt by the villagers in their household	➤ Village panchayats to segregate and collect plastic waste and initiate necessary steps to channelize the waste to authorized agencies for recycling and reprocessing. ➤ Awareness campaign regarding health and other issues related to burning of plastics.	Village Panchayat
Hazardous waste	➤ No notified industrial area/cluster have been identified within 500 meters periphery of the catchment area.	➤ Not Applicable	Pollution Control Board Assam
Bio-Medical waste	➤ No notified industrial area/cluster have been identified within 500 meters periphery of the catchment area.	➤ Not Applicable	Health & Family Department
E –waste	➤ No bulk consumers and generators have been identified.	➤ Not Applicable	Producer Extended Responsibility

### 8.3. Gaps identified in waste management

No gaps has been identified in waste management

### 8.4. Greenery development - Plantation Plan

State has initiated afforestation in the degraded forestland, also raising roadside plantation besides creating check dams/embankments in the river catchment areas to combat erosion and soil conservation.

The following remedial actions has to be initiated in consideration of greenery development

- Raise plantation along the river bank to control the flow run off water directly to the river
- Bamboo species to be raised as it is a good soil binder thereby stabilize the banks of the river from erosion

## **9. Environmental Flow (E-Flow)**

### **9.1. Stretch of river perennial or non- perennial/flow available/water usage in the stretch**

The entire river stretch is perennial. The discharge of Dikrong river as per the master plan of Brahmaputra Board is 2501.15 Cum. It is also observed that even during the dry season, the river maintains 50% of the average flow recorded. All the major tributaries of Brahmaputra river are perennial in nature and maintains 50% of the average flow even during non-monsoon season.

### **9.2. Irrigation practices in the river**

The high volume of discharge and water level of the river can be of great use for good irrigation practices for the people. But the farmers of the region usually depends on rain water for cultivation as rainfall is plenty in Assam.

## **10. Identified organisations responsible for preparation and execution of the action plans**

Organisations responsible for preparation and execution of the action plans are as follows:

- Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment and Forest department
- Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Urban Development department
- Commissioner, Industries and Commerce, Assam
- Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board Assam
- Commissioner, Guwahati Municipal Corporation
- Commissioner to the Govt. of Assam, Water Resource Department
- Divisional Forest officer, Social Forestry, Basistha, Guwahati -29

## **11. Monitoring mechanism proposed for implementation of action plans**

The water quality assessment and evaluation of impacts is necessary to understand the river state at various stages of the project implementation and post implementation of the project. Therefore the water quality assessment and evaluation of the project achievements is essential component for the long term benefit of the project. The monitoring and evaluation also indicate for taking

corrective measure at appropriate time. The ill effects may be controlled by taking step at right time for right cause. The monitoring & evaluation schedule and plan proposed is as under.

### **11.1 Water Quality Stations (WQS):**

The water quality monitoring will include following parameters, which shall be monitored at monthly interval or as and when required. The one complete unit to be purchased and identified parameters to be monitored at defined sampling stations.

The sampling stations are:

- Dikrong river at NH 52 Near bridge, Lakhimpur district

The parameters to be monitored are as follows.

- |   |                          |   |                                  |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | pH                       | 6 | Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) |
| 2 | Turbidity                | 7 | Faecal coliform                  |
| 3 | Conductivity             | 8 | Total coliform                   |
| 4 | Temperature              |   |                                  |
| 5 | Dissolved<br>Oxygen (DO) |   |                                  |

Most of the parameters will be monitored manually and will be incorporated in database.

## **12. Public Mass awareness etc.**

Any river conservation project to be implemented successfully, public awareness is of utmost importance. Unless the public are made aware about the irreversible damage and pollution caused by indiscriminate littering and dumping of waste and garbage in drain and water bodies connected to Dikrong River, the project cannot be implemented in true sense of the word to achieve conservation. Some members of the communities are already aware that there is a need for river conservation programme and that they will be benefitted. Hence, it should be ensured with the following points

- The communities are effectively involved in all the stages of the project cycle from conceptualization, to preparation, to finalization, to implementation and finally O & M.
- Public Awareness & Public Participation should be affront-end activity of the project

- The entire programme of conservation should be conceived, formulated, implemented, monitored and evaluated in close consultation with the stake holding communities.
- Therefore, education and awareness programmes are key to the sustainability of the various components implemented as part of the river restoration project.

### 13. Action Plan

**Table VIII: Action Points**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time Targeted</b>
<b>Industries</b>	a) No industrial units have been identified within 500 meters periphery of the catchment area.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
<b>Interception and treatment of raw sewage</b>	a) <b>No Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)</b> has been proposed at these villages.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
<b>Ground Water Assessment</b>	a) Conducting survey regarding ground water usage by category wise such as domestic, community, etc. and also identification of over exploited and critical blocks in the river stretches with respect to the ground water extraction. b) Carry out assessment of ground water survey in the catchment area of the identified polluted stretch once in a year to ensure quality. c) To promote roof top rain water harvesting by individual households	<b>PCBA/CGWA</b>	<b>Continuous</b>
<b>Flood Plain Zone</b>	a) Conservation of the river through watershed management.	<b>Soil Conservation Department/W</b>	<b>6 Months (February,2020)</b>

<b>Type</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time Targeted</b>
	b) Cleaning of the river bed and bank. c) Afforestation on both the banks to prevent soil erosion d) Recreational activities to be promoted. e) Erection of pathway of the river banks. f) Checking encroachment in the flood plain zone of the polluted river stretch g) Prohibition of disposal of municipal, plastic, biomedical and other wastes in the polluted stretch of the river bank h) Demarcation of the flood plain zone.	<b>Water Resource/ Forest Department/ Tourism Department/P WD Assam/Local Administration</b>	<b>to July, 2020)</b>
	<p>The plan for the polluted stretches of the river may be implemented in a time bound manner by fragmenting activities as</p> a) Assessment of water quality of the polluted stretches on monthly basis has already been commencing b) The monitoring committee may convene meeting of Stakeholder organizations on Quarterly basis with under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary	<b>Pollution Control Board Assam</b>	<b>3 Months (June,2019 to August, 2020)</b>  <b>a) Monthly Basis</b>
<b>Solid Waste</b>	a) Prohibition of direct disposal of solid waste in the river banks. b) Frequent River Surface cleaning by removal of debris, plastics etc.	<b>Village Panchayats/ Water Resource Department</b>	<b>3 Months (November, 2019 to January, 2020)</b>

<b>Type</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time Targeted</b>
<b>Environmental Flow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Flow measurement of the river should be carried out by the concerned department and the record has to be maintained</li> <li>b) Fresh water flowing through escape channels/small barrages should be checked.</li> <li>c) The river can be of good potential for irrigation practices and should be carried out by the farmers.</li> </ul>	<b>Water Resource Department</b>	<b>Continuous</b>
<b>Public Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Awareness programs to highlight the issues related with the direct discharge of solid waste and open defecation.</li> <li>b) Mass awareness to conserve water.</li> </ul>	<b>Village Panchayats/PC BA/NGOs</b>	<b>Continuous</b>