Acknowledgement

At the very outset, I express my heartiest and sincere gratitude to my Supervisor Dr. Parthankar Choudhury, Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University Silchar, whose guidance, encouragement, understanding and patience added considerably in my research experience. I am privileged to have his guidance during my research period.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to my Co-supervisor Dr. Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, retired Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University. He has enriched the works by many useful comments on this work. I am indebted for his advice and proper guidance.

It is my pleasant duty to thank Dr. Bibhab Talukdar, Director of Aaranyak Nature Club, Beltola, Guwahati to arrange a GIS-RS training programme and allowing me to use their laboratory extensively.

I also want to thank specially to my friend Dr. Pranjit Sharma of GIS-RS Lab of 'Aaranyak' Nature Club who helped me in data processing and accomplish the LULC Chapter. No amount of praise would be adequate for the struggle and unfailing service of Dr. Sharma in my research work.

I would also like to express my thankfulness to Mr. Y. Suryanarayana, Chief Conservator of forest, Southern Circle, for giving me permission to access the forest areas of Cachar district.

I am thankful to Shyamal Kanti Paul, Apurba Chakraborty of department of Zoology, Cachar College for their helping hand in various aspects of my reaserch work.

I thankfully acknowledge Dr. Shovan Duttagupta and Mr. Sagnik Choudhury, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University for their helping hand throughout my research period.

I would like to express my thankfulness to Dr. Shankar Sarma, Mafidul Islam, Mridul Basumatary, Hemanta Bora, Anup Das, Anup Dey, Mukul Kumar Baruah, Manoj Sinha, Raju Brahma, Dr. Th. Pawlen Sinha, Rajang Narzary, Sanjay Swargiary for accompanying me in various field study. Without their helping hand the field study will be more obstinate to me.

My sincere thanks also for Badal Bawri, headman of Ekarthal; Ram Kumar Kurmi, Headman of Balichuri; Lolin Khasia, headman of Nagathal Khasia punji, Tarak
Kishore Kairi, headman, Nagathal forest village; Anjan Rhymbai, headman of Pancherra-Hadamma; Padam Barman of Baghewala and lastly Miss Puspalata Barman, AP member of Seorarthal forest village.

I thankfully acknowledge Munna Kurmi, Bablu Kurmi and Bimal Kumar Bhumij; Birsen Reang, Sadiram Reang of Purvanaxa village for their helping hand to access the forest areas under Silchar sadar range. Also I want to express my gratitude to Nestor Pyrtuh, Raju Khasia and the villagers of Pancherra extension for their kind co-operation during the field visits.

I also want to specially thank Late Jagadish Singh of Loharbond for his valuable information and assistance throughout the early stages of my field visit in the Inner-line reserve forest. I pray his sole be in peace in heaven.

Thanks to my friend Dr. Firoz Ahmed, Dolin Vanlalruata Maruata, Kumud Chandra Rabha, Pradip Kanwar, Serum Jayanta Singh, Rajib Rudra Tariang for their helping hand and support during my research tenure.

I am also thankful to Anisur Rahman, Dipankar Debnath, my fellow Research Scholar and the departmental staffs of the Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, AUS for providing me helps in different level of work during the research period.

Finally, I thank my parents and wife Rumi Rani Laskar as they have always been a source of inspiration. Their persistence and understanding helped me to complete my research work. I would also like to thank my in-laws Dr. R. K. Borah, Dwipen Medhi, Chandana Basumatary, Dr. N. Basumatary and Aslesha Medhi, who supported, strengthening me all through the adverse situations throughout the course of my work.

2nd May, 2014

(Nilam Basumatary)