ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the beginning, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my guide Prof. Bimal Kr. Kar, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Guwahati for his valuable guidance, advice and inspiration to carry out my research work. I express my deep sense of gratitude for his kind help and involvement in the completion of this research work.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratefulness to the respected teachers of Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Professor Abani Kr. Bhagabati, Professor Ashok Kr. Bora, Prof. Anup Saikia (HOD), Dr. Prasanta Bhattacharyya, Dr. Dhurbajyoti Sahariah, Dr. Madhushree Das and Dr. Nityananda Deka for their valuable suggestions, constructive criticisms and encouragement provided to my research work.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Bhupen Talukdar, Retired DFO, Forest Department Assam, who support and helped me in every step of my study right from the beginning.

I am thankful to Department of Forest, Govt. of Assam for granting me permission to work inside the sanctuary.

I am thankful to Mr. R Gogoi, ACF, Mr. Sudarshan Jahuri, Ranger, Kalamati Range, Mr. Gopal Deka, Beat Officer, Pranjal Das, Forester, Amrit Doley, Gargaraj Nath, Dipankar Tamuli for their helping hand during my field visit. It would not have been possible to carry my field survey without their help and cooperation.

I am also grateful to Raju Khakhhlari and Uttam Das who tremendously help me during my village survey.

I am very thankful my friends and brother Mrinal Boruah, Dr. Dhanjit Deka, Jyoti Prasad Das, Bhrigu Nath, Arup Kr. Das, Dr. Pranjit Hazarika, Krishna Das, Kuldeep Patgiri, Chandrakanta Pawe and all the research scholars of geography department, G.U. for their valuable suggestions and help in analysis of data and preparation of maps related to my research work.
I extend my thanks and gratitude to my parents Dharani Bhuyan and Biju Prava Bhuyan, brother Arjya Bhatta Bhuyan, sister Chitralekha Bhuyan, sister-in-law Nandita Bhuyan and all the family members of my in-laws who always inspire and encourage me in my entire research period.

I convey my heartiest thanks to Mainu Gogoi, my better half, who always stand beside in every situation I pass through, during my research and without her support and encouragement it would have been much more difficult in completion of my work.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank all the non teaching staff of Department of Geography, G.U., Librarian and library staff of K.K. Handique Library, G.U. and all those countless individuals and institutions that have directly or indirectly contributed towards my research work.

Date: 28-04-2018
Place: Guwahati

(Bhaskarjyoti Bhuyan)