# REPORT

## Visit to Dangs.

Visit to Dangs was scheduled from 2nd March 2022 to 12th March 2022 under GBIF's BIFA programme. Two research fellows (Riya Engineer and Krishna Rajput) from Baroda team were assigned this visit. Dang district is a part of Western Ghats and is rich in biodiversity of both flora and fauna. Both the researchers visited the Dang Herbaria at Waghai Botanical Garden, Waghai, Dangs. Waghai Botanical Garden is located 2 kms from the Waghai town and is an important Biodiversity Conservation Centre mainly developed for educational and research purpose. The Garden has its own herbaria comprising of nearly 3500 specimens collected from all over the Dangs Forest. Some of the specimens are 60-70 years old which form an important part of Natural History Collection. The whole collection of Dangs Herbaria is also included in the occurrence dataset which is to be published on GBIF under the project titled "Filling gAps iN daTA about BiodiverSiTy with NaTural History Collections in the Western GHATS from IFP and Baro Herbarium". Therefore, the main aim of this mission was to visit the Forest and Garden to retrieve the missing information of the dataset (Hence, filling the gaps in dataset) and to verify the doubtful identification of certain plant specimens.

During the mission, both the researchers first visited the Herbaria of the Waghai Garden to check the status of the physical specimens. A report of the current status of herbaria was prepared and submitted to the ACF of the South Forest Division, Waghai, Dangs and discussions were carried out with him on how to improve and modify the herbaria to facilitate the research and education in a better manner. They guided the Garden staff on how to preserve the specimens for a long time and how to protect them from fungal and pest attack. Damaged specimens were discarded in order to prevent the spreading of infection to other healthy herbarium sheets and fungicide was applied to those sheets to prevent further fungal attack. Suggestions were made to add more specimens to the collection to add more valuable data about the biodiversity of the Western Ghats serving the scientific community with more detailed and improved knowledge regarding the same.

In order to authenticate the identifications of the doubtful specimens, they were re-examined and their detailed study was carried out with the help of the floras and experts at the Botany Department of M.S University, Baroda. Apart from this, they obtained the information about the collectors of the data from the Garden which helped in filling up the gaps of missing dates and locality in the dataset. Therefore, this mission basically helped in improving the quality of the data by minimising the chances of publishing the records with wrong and doubtful identifications as well as with incomplete and missing data.