Everyone’s Manas: The people caring for a cleaner Manas

Welcome to Manas. As you enter the park, you enter a landscape that many people work to care for. Guides, village communities, resort teams, jeep association, forest staff each contribute. Collection and sorting workers carry that effort forward with support from public institutions and The Midway Journey through Root Connect program.

Waste management here is a shared responsibility. What you do during your visit becomes part of that story too.

A story that began with local action

Long before The Midway Journey's involvement, local guides and tourism associations were organising cleanups along safari routes and visitor areas. Nature guide Sanjib Das has guided on the edge of the park since 2008, and he remembers how often those drives were needed.

"Back then, we had records of conducting clean-up drives not just monthly, but weekly... 8 to 10 jeeps filled with nothing but alcohol bottles! That was the situation."

The method was simple. Drivers picked up litter on the trails, and associations worked to improve conduct around tourism activities.

"Whenever our drivers spot plastic or litter on the road, they pick it up and keep it in their jeeps... We have become that strict, which is why the area remains quite clean now." -Sanjib Das

Care inside and beyond the resort

Resort interviews describe earlier struggles with waste that had no reliable destination. Marcos Soro, manager of Manas Jungle Resort, recalls how things used to be.

"We generated a lot of plastic waste, water bottles, food packaging, and kitchen waste. Lacking proper options, we used to dump it near the riverbank... It wasn't right, and we were worried."

Mawphungsar Swargiary of Prakriti Neerh Resort remembers the same years. *"Before Midway Journey started this waste management work, we used to burn it."*

Regular collection has helped participating businesses store dry materials separately instead of burning them. Staff segregate waste and care for their premises. At Pugmark Resort, manager Basudev Saha says the team is briefed in advance so that waste streams never mix. *"Everyone follows these instructions, so it runs smoothly."*

Some businesses also reduce disposables. Nayan Jyoti Das, owner of Smiling Tasker, says the camp thought about waste from its first day. It serves water in refilled glass bottles, and its care extends beyond the property. A nearby walking stretch had been affected by picnic litter.

"Whenever we don't have guests, we send our staff to clean up from there up to here. It's not just about controlling waste within the resort; we also have to look out for the surrounding environment."

Communities and institutions doing their part

Village households and self-help groups participate in segregation, vermicomposting, training and cleanups. The Forest Department supports waste practices in forest camps and cooperation across the park landscape. Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin and Development Blocks support public waste infrastructure and collection assets that help local efforts become connected services.

Connecting efforts through Root Connect

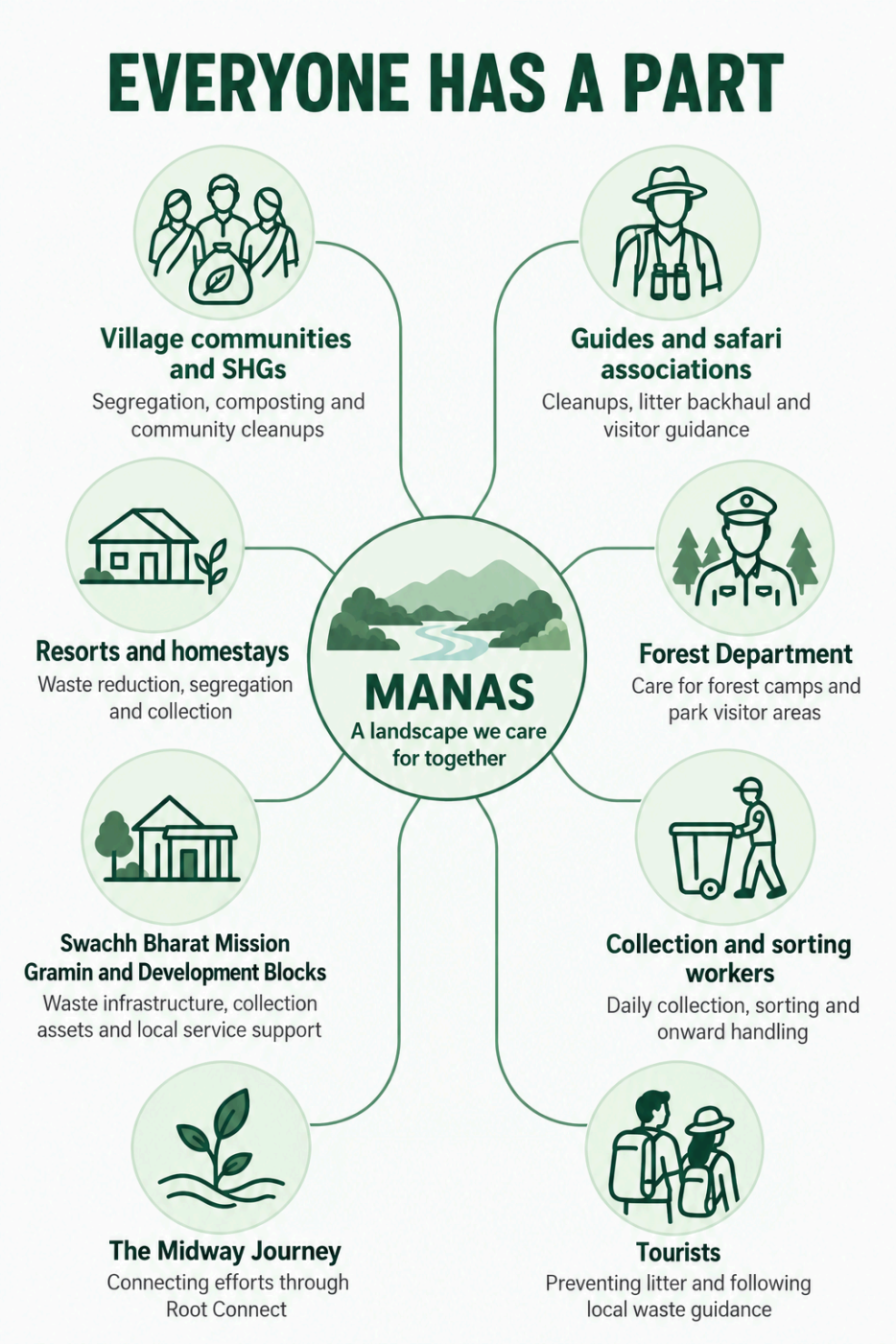
The Midway Journey joined this landscape of existing efforts later. Through Root Connect, it now plays a crucial role in strengthening segregation, supporting regular collection and sorting, engaging communities and connecting tourism businesses with public institutions. The aim is to make the responsibility easier to practise together, while recognising the people whose care came before.

For the resorts, the difference is felt in daily life. *"Disposing of waste used to be our main source of tension. Now, a major strain has been lifted,"* says Marcos Soro. At Prakriti Neerh, Mawphungsar Swargiary describes the change simply: *"Now, without burning the plastics, we store them in bags. After that, they collect the waste."*

The work continues. Organic waste, consistent participation and reliable operations still need attention as tourism grows. Nayan Jyoti Das puts the urgency plainly: *"We are running wildlife tourism. So if we cannot manage this right now—and for Manas, this is the right time—if we fail to manage it at this stage, it will pose a massive threat in the future."* Marcos Soro hopes more of his peers will join in. *"It would be much better if all resorts adopted this project. Everyone needs to cooperate."*

Everyone has a part

Different contributions come together to care for the same landscape. Each person and institution strengthens the work of the others.



[image: Shared care for Manas connects local action with public support and daily waste services.]

Care in action

Behind clean visitor areas is everyday work: keeping materials separate, sorting what has been collected and returning suitable organic matter to the soil.



[image: After collection comes sorting. A facility visit makes visible the work needed to separate materials and prepare them for onward handling.]



[image: Community members participate in composting. Such practices connect waste care with soil, resources and village life.]

Collection and sorting workers, community participants and local hosts help make these practices possible. Their contribution deserves the same attention as the cleanliness visitors see.

Your visit becomes part of the story

The people caring for Manas invite you to join their efforts. A few thoughtful habits help protect the landscape and support the people handling its waste.

- **Keep litter off the trails.** Carry wrappers, bottles and other waste back from your safari or walk. Ask your guide or host where to place them afterwards.
- **Follow the local segregation system.** Read bin labels and keep food waste separate from dry materials. Ask staff how to handle sanitary waste or anything you are unsure about.
- **Reduce what you leave behind.** Carry a refillable bottle and use refill facilities where available. Choose reusable items and take only the food you expect to eat.
- **Respect the people doing the work.** Cooperate with guides, hosts and waste workers. Their daily work supports a cleaner Manas for residents, wildlife and visitors.