



IUCN in Bangladesh 2013



IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

The Government of Bangladesh joined IUCN as a State Member in 1972. The Bangladesh Country Office aligns its activities with the current IUCN thematic areas: conserving the diversity of life, changing the climate forecast, naturally energizing our future, managing nature for human well-being, and greening the world economy.

We work in close association with our members formed from a collective of national non-government organizations with key support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, a State member. Support, advice and encouragement is also received valued from partners, donors and commission members, and volunteer scientists at home and abroad.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from the Chair, Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN Members | 4 |
| Message from the Country Representative | 5 |
| Nature+ life | 6 |
| Nature+ climate | 9 |
| Nature+ people and governance | 12 |
| Nature+ food | 15 |
| Major Projects | 18 |
| IUCN Members in Bangladesh | 19 |
| IUCN Partners in Bangladesh | 20 |



Message from the Chair, Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN Members

The International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization which has an official Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly. With more than 1,200 member organizations including 200+ government and 900+ non-government organizations, IUCN has proved to be a leading authority on the environment and sustainable development in the world.

It is worthwhile to mention that the IUCN Global Programme is adopted by the Members at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) which takes place in every four years. Bangladesh became a member of IUCN in 1972. In the year of 1989 IUCN established its full pledged secretariat in Bangladesh. Subsequently, the members of IUCN Bangladesh agreed to form the "Bangladesh National Committee" in 1995 - just before the first World Conservation Congress took place in Montreal in October, 1996. At present the IUCN National Committee consists of 20 members including the Ministry of Environment and Forest, a state member.

With support from IUCN national committee, IUCN Country Office has deployed tremendous effort to meet its objectives in Bangladesh and

international conservation activities with particular reference to South and South Asia. It has supported the ratification and implementation of international environment treaties and conventions in Bangladesh. After Biodiversity Convention held in 1992, it helped the Govt. of Bangladesh to formulate its national policies giving priority to the conservation of environment.

IUCN is going to celebrate its 40 years journey in Bangladesh this year. As the chair of the Bangladesh National Committee, I am delighted to be a part of this legendary and historic event – a journey that started soon after the birth of the country. I would like to congratulate all IUCN staff as well as member organizations whoever contributed to this long journey.

IUCN has created an example of environmental excellence and I hope IUCN will be able to hold this up in coming days also.

Mr. Sanowar Hossain Sarker



Message from the Country Representative

The year 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of IUCN Bangladesh Country Office. Like any birthday celebration, this anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect what we have achieved and set up the direction where we will precede.

Conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN. The IUCN Programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat with and on behalf of IUCN Members. We demonstrate how biodiversity is fundamental to address some of the world's greatest challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and food security. All of our work is framed by a Global Programme, developed with and approved by IUCN members every four years. Our current programme runs from 2013 to 2016.

The Government of Bangladesh joined IUCN as a State Member in 1972. Since its inception, IUCN Bangladesh Country Office has made efforts to achieve commendable success in all core areas of activities. The Bangladesh Country Office aligns its activities with the current IUCN thematic areas: conserving the diversity of life, changing the climate forecast, naturally energizing our future, managing nature for human well-being, and Greening the world economy.

To achieve its goals and objectives, IUCN Bangladesh parallels the vision and mission of IUCN globally, with well set strategic directions. IUCN Bangladesh Country Office works in close

association with its members formed from a collective of national non-government organizations with key support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest. Support, advice and encouragement are also received from partners, donors and commission members, and volunteer scientists at home and abroad. I am delighted to mention here that IUCN Bangladesh has the privilege to contribute to some important national documents namely, NAP, NAPA, NCSA, NBSAP and BCCSAP.

IUCN Bangladesh strives for an environmentally aware, educated and willing society that is capable of conserving and managing its natural resources sustainably and judiciously. Our aim is to identify and implement practical strategies to adapt to changing climatic conditions and the increasing risk of natural disasters.

We look forward to greater ownership and active participation of all our valued donors, members and partners in our journey towards building "a just world that values and conserves nature".

Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad



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Nature+ life

In Bangladesh, IUCN is working relentlessly to conserve nature and biodiversity in its various forms from species conservation to ecosystem protection.

Biological diversity is an elementary ingredient for human life; the services they provide consist of food, health care and clean air and water. Biodiversity contributes directly to local livelihoods and economic development. We need to do better at proving that conserving biodiversity is not a sacrifice, but an opportunity that brings many benefits. The value of nature is irreplaceable and essential to human wellbeing.

In Bangladesh, IUCN is working relentlessly to conserve nature and biodiversity in its various forms from species conservation to ecosystem protection. IUCN's involvement in conserving keystone species like Asian Elephant and Bengal Tiger has been groundbreaking and rewarding. All of our conservation efforts involve local communities and

we found it utterly true that without their active and wholehearted support conserving local species is impractical. One such successful projects 'Conservation through practice' has enabled indigenous communities of Chittagong Hill Tracts to conserve their local flora many of which have medicinal value. Co-management of Tangua Haor, is another outstanding example of involving local community in nature and biodiversity conservation, it is the only freshwater Ramsar site of the country and a unique wetland habitat which supports a large number of flora and fauna, several of them are critically endangered and demand special support to survive. However, our large scale ecosystem management initiative involving community started way back in 1990s, when IUCN and its members were involved in managing several wetlands under 'Sustainable Environment Management Programme'. Our conservation efforts lead to publication of several knowledge products including the flagship red data book of threatened species in Bangladesh and Biodiversity of Tangua Haor. IUCN has also provided policy support to the government to develop and implement national strategies for biodiversity conservation. Currently IUCN Bangladesh is working with BOBLME project to develop a framework to establish marine protected areas in the country.

Monitoring status of species: IUCN Red list

Biodiversity is the key to all life forms on earth where extinction is a threat that hampers the equilibrium of the Biome. Though extinction is a natural phenomenon and has played vital role in evolutionary process, but due to a range of unsustainable anthropogenic activities, the species' extinctions rate at present is up to 1,000 times higher than the nature would have supported. IUCN, being one of the oldest and leading nature conservation organizations of the world has taken a range of initiatives to monitor the status of these threatened species and raise awareness to counter the threat of elevated rate of extinction. To facilitate this monitoring and awareness practice, IUCN has innovatively prepared the profile of threatened species and have launched the 'IUCN Red List of Threatened Species'. Red Lists are produced by countries or organizations, which assess the risk of extinction to species within a political management unit and frequently updated. With similar quest, IUCN Bangladesh has produced the 'Red List of Threatened Animals of Bangladesh' in the year 2000. With the discovery of many new taxa and change of habitat quality for many species, we have started the process of updating the assessment and listing of the species once again.

Promoting protected areas: IUCN Green list

Bangladesh is a land of high biodiversity, compare to its small size, but due to persistent pressure from high population and settlement density the country is losing its invaluable species and ecosystem resources. From the early days of its establishment, IUCN, with its 'World Commission on Protected Areas' has established a close tie with Bangladesh forest department, who is the guardian of all our terrestrial protected areas. This enduring association and partnership have capitulated many positive returns and enhanced the understanding of many finer points in protected area management for both the parties. IUCN has observed the evolution of protected area management regime in this country as a key partner and provided support towards maintaining the natural integrity of Biodiversity by promoting protected areas.

IUCN do also recognize the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems, and so emphasized on the protection of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Recently, for the first time in the country, IUCN and Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems (BOBLME) have joined hands with Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to initiate the process to identify and designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), this also accentuate government's position as a signatory of Nagoya Protocol. Additionally, IUCN is directly managing country's second Ramsar site and also associated with the conservation and management of Sundarban's biodiversity.

Habitat conservation

Habitat destruction, modification and/or fragmentation are the fundamental cause of species loss as described by CBD. To conserve and protect important habitats with significant assemblage of species here in Bangladesh, we can notice various efforts led by IUCN. From its beginning habitat conservation is always a core activity for IUCN. The habitat protection effort in Tangua haor, one of the most important migratory bird habitat of the country, Sonadia island, which is the habitat of critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Sundarbans, world's largest single track of mangrove and home to Bengal Tiger, Cox's Bazar sea beach, breeding ground for sea turtles are some of the large ecosystems where IUCN is actively



Photo: © Dr. Ronald Halder



supporting government to protect and conserve. Meanwhile, in some other instances, habitat protection was done to protect flagship species, such as Asian Elephant, Hoolock Gibbon and Hilsa.

Community engagement

Partnership through participatory approach is one of the important ways in conserving the diversity of species. IUCN with its members being closer to the community tries to understand their dependency to nature and define its strategy by acting locally through engaging communities to protect the integrity of ecosystem and biodiversity. Community based wetlands management in haor and floodplains, community based adaptation for Ecologically Critical Area of Sonadia-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, are the exemplary work of IUCN that engage community in biodiversity conservation. Recently initiated Mangrove for the Future (MFF) programme also emphasized on building community resilient by their active participation in coastal ecosystems.

Policy support

In line with its commitment towards nature, species and biodiversity conservation, IUCN has always been in the forefront with its expertise and professionalism to help and support Bangladesh Government to draft environment, nature

conservation and climate change related policy and strategy documents. Some of the documents worth mention here are; National Conservation Strategy (NCS), National Biodiversity strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance, Climate Change Issues and Climate Change Negotiations: An Overview from Bangladesh Perspective, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP).

Knowledge products

IUCN, throughout its 40 years journey with Bangladesh has prepared various knowledge products regarding Biodiversity and species conservation. The Red Data Book for threatened Species of Bangladesh, Bio-Ecological Zones of Bangladesh, Biodiversity of Tanguar Haor: A Ramsar Site of Bangladesh, Approaches to Conservation of Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge, The Asian Elephants and Associated Human Elephant Conflict in South Eastern Bangladesh, Approaches to sustainable wetland resource management are some of the noteworthy knowledge products regarding biodiversity, habitat and species conservation.



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Nature+ climate

Climate change is a global challenge, but a lot can be done at the local level to minimize impacts and to apply nature - based solutions to emerging issues.

IUCN underscores nature based solution at the centre of climate change way out. Healthy forests, wetlands and coastal areas can store substantial amounts of carbon and help people to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are being felt across the world. When developed in an equitable and sustainable manner, mechanisms such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) can reduce emissions, conserve biodiversity and enhance human well-being.

In Bangladesh, we have been supporting the government and other stakeholders in climate change negotiations, policy making and strategic planning, community awareness and education on climate change, developing monitoring tools,

dissemination of adaptive techniques in agriculture, housing and boats, developing adaptation management plan for coastal community and building community resilience in the vulnerable coastal areas.

Climate change negotiations

IUCN facilitates Bangladesh Government's position in different issues with respect to climate change negotiations. It has already supported participation of over 100 delegates over more than 13 international negotiation meetings. The initiative also sensitized Honorable Members of the Parliament on Copenhagen process & outcome. To help raise awareness on impacts of climate change, twelve (12) information briefs were also developed and published. These works are supported by IUCN partners DFID and DANIDA.

IUCN has also been successful in providing support for efficient disbursement and monitoring of Climate Change Trust Funds through assisting Climate Change Unit (currently termed as Climate Change Trust Secretariat) of MOEF in project short listing, screening, summary preparation, and submission to

Technical Committee for approval. Working closely with the Trust Secretariat, the initiative also brought key changes in formats, reporting guidelines etc.

Policy support

IUCN has a proven expertise in policy development and implementation. For climate change aspects of Bangladesh IUCN provides support to Government of Bangladesh in policy building collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Forest. Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (BCCSAP), National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Desertification, and National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management are some of the noteworthy IUCN supported policy documents.

Community awareness and education

IUCN through its 40 years journey in Bangladesh has developed a vital relationship with the communities. IUCN worked for improving the role of communities in effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) The initiative reviewed, assessed and validated the role of community and community knowledge in effective implementation of CBD with specific focus on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and traditional knowledge through consultation with local communities. IUCN is



Photo: © IUCN Bangladesh

very much aware of the concurrent Climate change impacts on communities and therefore leading from the front to make the community aware of climate change impacts.

With its dynamism IUCN has brought a new dimension in building awareness to the community. It inspires the eagerly young minds by preparing Children books, Teachers training manuals through pictorial and illustrative demonstration of Climate Change and its impacts. Besides, IUCN arranges drama by school children and documentary showing various aspects of climate change vulnerabilities and ways to reduce them.

Together, with dedicated contribution from community, IUCN is working on the approach of DRR to combat climate change impacts in Bangladesh.

Ecosystem based approach for building coastal community resilience

IUCN is community resilience by developing resilience plans/management plans based on vulnerability assessments. Plans have been developed to support coastal communities in partnership with UNDP and Forest Department for community based adaptation to climate change through coastal afforestation. IUCN is now doing it through mangroves for the future initiative and supporting communities to implement these plans through small grants.



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Monitoring and research tools

IUCN facilitates researchers and practitioners to develop monitoring mechanism of impacts of climate change and climate variability. Monitoring protocol and mechanism for eight vulnerable sectors of the country has been developed and published.

Post disaster support

IUCN conducted environmental impact assessments and provided emergency support to community after major disasters like floods and cyclones in different time. This includes post disaster support after the 1988 flood and cyclone Sidr in 2007.

Other knowledge products

IUCN published several knowledge products through its several initiatives for climate change adaptation. This includes books on climate change issues and negotiations, tropical natural hazards and their impact on coastal livelihoods, adaptive designs of houses and boats, adaptive agriculture and awareness on climate change adaptation, climate change information books for students and teachers, and methods for participatory vulnerability assessment.



Rana Bhai: the IUCN mascot for climate change awareness programme.



Photo: © IUCN / Mizanur Rahman



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Nature+ people and governance

In Bangladesh, IUCN has been working both at national and local level to enhance people's right, access and benefit over natural resources through its range of initiatives.

People everywhere depend on nature for their well-being. From food, fuel and freshwater, to crop pollination, flood protection and climate regulation, nature provides the fundamental infrastructure needed for societies to survive and prosper. But decisions on nature management and use are not always fair and appropriate, and nature's benefits are not equitably shared. Richer countries and social elites are better placed to reap the benefits while poorer nations and communities bear the cost of biodiversity loss and get little or no benefit. How to strike a better balance?

In Bangladesh, IUCN has been working both at national and local level to enhance people's right,

access and benefit over natural resources and community participation in natural resource governance through its range of initiatives.

Co-management

Establishing community based sustainable management system in Tangua haor is one of the exemplary achievements of IUCN in the country. People of Tangua have witnessed a regime change in the first decade of the 21st century. IUCN has on boarded a community governed wetland resource management system with support from its partners like CNRS, ERA and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The people of 88 villages of Tangua now own this wetland. Previously this wetland used to be leased to local elites and people at large did not have legal access to the resources of this Ramsar site. The governance system involves a legalized community organization having democratically elected leaders that represents community from the villages organized on the basis of five professional groups. The system practiced now for the management of the Tangua Haor allows the community to harvest fish and other natural

resources of the wetland in a sustainable manner. The government shares the co-management system with its resource and policy support. Besides, the communities have a savings and self-help programme popularly known as SCM (Social Capital Management) by which they have accumulated an amount of BDT 13.9 million up to December 2012 and they are using this deposit to support their member for income generating activities like a revolving fund. The community is getting aware of their responsibility for conservation of the ecosystem values and services of the Tangua Haor. Yet the community still has to go a long way to consolidate the system in practice. IUCN is supporting them with technical knowhow through ongoing project interventions.

However, IUCN's engagement in co-management of natural resource governance is not confined to Tangua Haor alone. It has been a long story since mid 90s when IUCN starts to implement natural resources conservation and management projects in collaboration with its members with an initial concept of 'community based management'. Although, the core idea remains almost identical, but the nomenclature since then changed to 'participatory management' and more recently to 'co-management'. In addition, IUCN Bangladesh has agreed to host the secretariat of recently proposed 'Co-management network' of the country.

Addressing gender

IUCN believes that women are the agents of change. Hence gender components are embedded in most of the programmes of IUCN Bangladesh. Importance has been given to facilitate continuity of representation of women in co-management structures in our Community Based Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Tangua Haor project. In a recent analysis (2009-2012) it was found that women leadership in Tangua Haor has increased about 94% which is marked as significant. At present, in response to an official request of the Ministry of



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Environment and Forest of the Government of Bangladesh, IUCN has engaged itself in the preparation of a national action plan on gender and climate change as an initiative under Global Gender Climate Alliance (GGCA) with support from Finland Government.

Multi-stakeholder platforms

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) established through IUCN's global Natural Resource Governance project which is working for the improvement of governance of natural resources like wetlands and forests. Eight MSPs have been formed in Satkhira, Cox's Bazar, Gazipur, Magura, Chandpur, Sreemongal, Sunamganj and Manikganj districts. These platforms involved local government, community leaders and civil society members. IUCN supported community organizations to establish MDPs which were created under various past initiatives and improve the capacity of these MSPs on natural resource management and governance. These MSPs are now supporting community in the process of negotiation with local government and administration for establishing equity, right and access to natural resources for the local communities. Some positive changes have already been taken place in the decision making process of local government and administration, due to the advocacy by MSPs with enhancement of negotiation skill and awareness.

Small grants and resilience plans

In the coastal zone of the country IUCN and its partners supported by the Mangroves for the Future initiative, are now working to build sustainable socio-ecological production landscapes. This includes benefit sharing mechanisms to enable people to get access to ecosystem services of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems and building community resilience to coastal vulnerabilities. At the national level, MFF is contributing to develop policy briefs on economic value of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems, benefit sharing mechanisms like co-management and ecosystem based approach to coastal resilience building. At the community level, communities are being supported through MFF small grants facilities to plan and implement ecosystem based adaptation and interventions for building coastal resilience. Around 10 small projects are being granted to community organizations each year starting from 2013. This will enable coastal communities to use their ecosystems sustainably to secure their livelihoods.

Dialogues for Trans-boundary Water Management

Recognizing the importance of trans-boundary civil society engagement in confidence building mechanism, IUCN brings together civil societies from multiple countries to influence policy and decision making regarding common issues i.e. trans-boundary ecosystem management and habitat conservation.

The Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river systems of South Asia support and influence some of the most agriculturally productive, industrially populated yet precariously vulnerable flood plains in the world. That is precisely the motivation for the Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh- India Initiative (Dialogue for Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Regimes in South Asia) project. IUCN wishes to promote a better understanding of trans-boundary ecosystems between Bangladesh and India, by involving civil society in both countries and by providing a platform to discuss issues common and germane to the region. The overall goal is an improved, integrated management of trans-boundary water regimes in South Asia. The Ecosystems for Life is guided by a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of eminent persons from Bangladesh and India.

Discussions and research activities broadly cover five cross-cutting themes which encompass vital concerns and challenges of the region and address important elements in Integrated Water Resources Management at the basin level. Covering these themes a well defined methodology that is applicable in both the countries entails a three-tier approach involving research, dialogue and knowledge management.



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Nature+ food

Loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems undermines health, livelihoods, food production, and the availability of clean water

From the time of hunting and gathering up to the modern days of agriculture, the connection between biodiversity and food security remain as strong as ever. We now consume a staggering 7,000 or more species of plants and animals to fulfill our dietary delights. Although many of them domesticated, but a very large percentage of these species however collected directly from nature and still this percentage is even higher among the poorer and less privileged part of the society. In the quest to address the food security, there is a shortage of understanding among many policy makers that for many communities, especially the more than 70% in less developed rural areas, wild sources of food form an integral part of people's daily diets. Loss of

biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems undermines health, livelihoods, food production, and the availability of clean water—what grows in the wild is just as important as what grows on farms. Moreover, erosion of genetic diversity due to loss of wild varieties and cultivars put the whole global farming system under stress. Probably we are losing species every day which could have been used positively in the pursuit of our food security.

IUCN is working in Bangladesh to conserve nature and natural resources to get better food security of the people living in high natural resources dependant areas like wetlands, floodplains and forested areas for the past two decades.

Community managed fishery

From the time immemorial 'fish' is being the most essential and cheap source of protein for Bengalis. And with the continuous downfall of wetlands, floodplains and rivers this imperative source of food is gradually becoming scarce and expensive. To combat this continuous decline, habitat quality needs to be enhanced by incorporation of the local communities in its management. This is evident from the increased catch and species diversity in

several wetlands managed by IUCN and its member organizations. Project like 'Community Based Sustainable Management of Tangua Haor' is one of the excellent examples of such initiative; similar results are also found in various other wetlands managed by IUCN members CNRS and NACOM. The success stories of all these initiatives in combine is making a paradigm shift in the management practices of fisheries resources in the country, which in turn is also contributing a positive impact toward wetlands conservation in its entirety. With the help of local communities IUCN is trying to enforce a sustainable harvest limit for fish and other wetland resources to ensure a healthy and sustainable production level for a longer period of time, which will also ensure the food security of the dependant population. By doing this, IUCN also makes sure that the local communities get empowered to ask for their right and access to the resources and share of the benefit.

Unabated fish movement

Movement or migration whatever you called them is an important phenology for many fish species, be it for breeding or for feeding. In most cases especially those which are dictated by the breeding characteristic this migration is annual, but in some other instances they are more frequent. But



Photo: © IUCN Bangladesh

whatever the frequencies are their unrestricted movement is essential for maintaining the population in a healthy state. IUCN understands the significance of this phenological event and its consequence on fisheries productivity. But during last few decades' widespread changes of landuse, installation of water infrastructures, loss of connectivity between rivers and floodplains has made the natural fish migration virtually impossible. However, after a prolonged period of negligence government and various other institutions start to recognize the importance of this natural phenomenon to sustain productivity and diversity. To start with, government is installing various fish friendly water structures around the country. In several studies IUCN has tried to assess the impact of these structures on biodiversity and productivity. Some of our member organizations are also pioneering these activities in the country especially restoring connectivity between various wetlands and rivers.

Climate resilient livelihood options and small grants support

Bangladesh being one of the most vulnerable and impacted countries of the world from climate change related adversities is facing immense challenges to maintain and amplify livelihood options for its growing population. IUCN with its development partners are studying various



Photo: © Dr. Ronald Halder

livelihood options for the vulnerable communities especially in the coast.

Recently, through Mangroves for the Future initiative, IUCN has initiated small grants facility to support livelihoods of the communities dependent on coastal ecosystems. IUCN and its partners are supporting communities to secure livelihoods through alternative agricultural practices (i.e. salt tolerant rice cultivation, fresh water management, poly-culture practices etc). These communities are struggling with problems like salinity increase and intrusion and over dependence on the Sundarbans mangrove resources. In addition to these grants, IUCN will provide technical support to the communities to make the best use of these grants to build resilience to coastal vulnerabilities and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Floating gardens

In partnership with CARE Bangladesh, IUCN Bangladesh has also been promoting alternative agricultural practices in wetland and flood prone areas of Bangladesh since 2006 through Organizing

Resource Generation and Nutritional Support (ORGANS) project. More than 1000 poor beneficiary households has been facilitated for cultivating vegetables on floating gardens (using water hyacinths) and winter gardens, from which they can have nutritional support as well as earnings. This project enhanced the capacity of the community, especially women, for using local natural resources and alternative livelihoods and fod security and adaptation to the vulnerable environment.

Water management and food security

Being a lower riparian agriculture based country; water management is the single most important issue contributing food security. In IUCN's ongoing initiative on trans-boundary water management, one of the key thematic areas is ensuring food security through water management. Macro and micro level studies were conducted to reveal various aspects of the relationships between water management and food security. Best practices on water management are also being identified and studied which contributes to food security.



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MAJOR PROJECTS

Ongoing

Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project;
Community Based Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor - Phase-III;
Conservation through Practice: conservation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge by involving ethnic communities;
Delta Vision for Bangladesh Sundarban;
Dialogue for Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Regimes in South Asia : A Bangladesh - India Initiative;
Environmental Management and Biodiversity Conservation Plan for Sunderban Biodiversity;
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas for Marine Fishes in the Bay of Bengal;
GTI - Small Grants for Local Adaptation and Dissemination of the Core Learning Program;
Improving Natural Resources Governance for rural poverty reduction;
Mangrove for Future (MFF);
MIST for the Sundarban Livelihood Security (SEALS) Project;
National Gender and Climate change action plan Development in Bangladesh;
Organizing Resource Generation and Nutritional Support (ORGANS);
School Education Program on Disaster Preparedness and Management of Coastal Livelihoods Adaptation Project (CLAP)" Project;
Support to Bangladesh on Climate Change Negotiation and Knowledge Management on Various Stream of UNFCCC Process;
Wetland Biodiversity Protection Project.

Accomplished

Bangladesh Red Data Book of Threatened Animals;
Conservation of Asian Elephants in Bangladesh;
Conservation Monitoring of the Sundarbans Biodiversity Project;
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
NCS Implementation Project – I;
The National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP);
Dialogue on Water and Climate in Bangladesh;
Formulation of National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Desertification;
Promotion of Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Bangladesh;
National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management;
Awareness and Education on the Impacts of Climate Change and Variability for the Central Coastal Char Communities in Bangladesh;
Road to Copenhagen Negotiations;
Umbrella Law Concerning Natural Resource Management;
Community based Haor and Floodplain Resource Management Programme: Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP);
Organizing Resource Generation and Nutritional Support;
Improving Environmental Governance for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Bangladesh.

IUCN MEMBERS IN BANGLADESH



Ministry of Environment and Forest



Bangladesh POUISH



Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association



Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association



Bangladesh Center for Advance Studies



Forum of Environmental Journalist Association of Bangladesh



Center for Natural Resource Studies



Center for Sustainable Development



Nature Conservation Management



Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation



Environment and Social Development Organization



Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre



Shushilan



Bolipara Nari Kolyan Somity



WildTeam



Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services



Brotee Samaj Kallyan Sangstha



Unnayan Onneshan

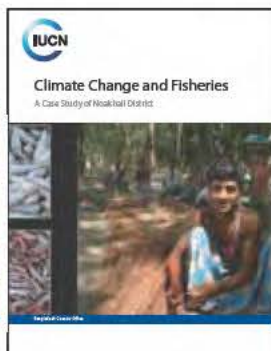
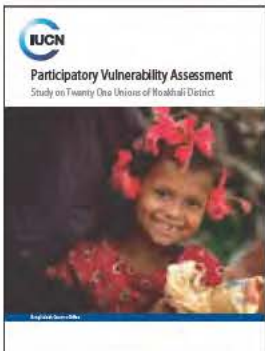
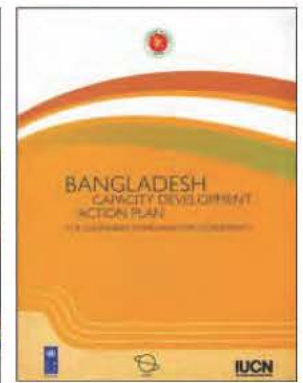
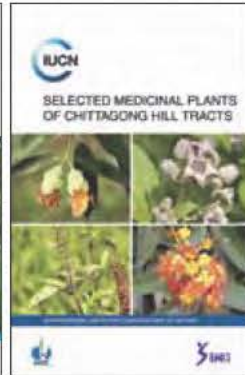
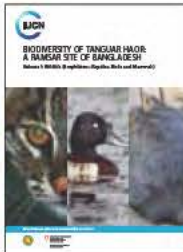
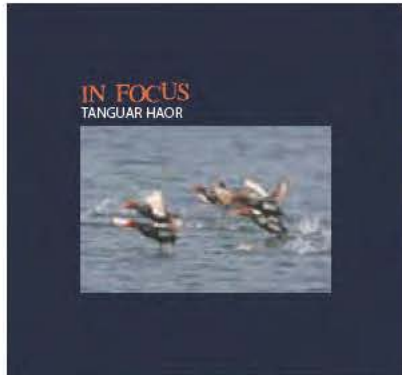


Gram Unnayan Sangathon

IUCN PARTNERS IN BANGLADESH

Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Australian Aid (AusAID)
Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME)
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Care Bangladesh
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Embassy of Denmark, Bangladesh
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN)
European Union (EU)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Smithsonian Institute
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
The Netherlands Climate Assistance Programme (NCAP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
US Fish and Wildlife Service
United Nations University (UNU)
UK Department for International Development (UKAID)
World Bank, Bangladesh
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

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