IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environmental 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 engages governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy laws and best practices.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,240 government and NGO Members and almost 1,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,996 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, private and civil society.

The Government of Bangladesh joined IUCN as a State Member in 1972. The Bangladesh Country Office aligns its activities with the current IUCN strategy: harnessing the diversity of life, shaping the climate forward, reimagining our future, managing nature for human well-being, and pursuing the world economy.

We work in close partnerships with our members, friends, a collective of natural non-governmental organizations with key support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, a State member. Support, under and encouragement is also received valued from partners, donors and conviction members, and volunteer scientists of home and abroad.
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 intergovernmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the natural world’s diversity of life. IUCN has played a leading role in defining and implementing the world’s most widely accepted conservation strategies. The Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN (BNCI) is the official representative of IUCN in Bangladesh.

It is fitting to note that the IUCN Global Congress is being held in the same place in 2020. Bangladesh became a member of IUCN in 1934, and the National Committee was established in 1984. Bangladesh has been an active member of IUCN National Committees since 1984.

BNCI, under the leadership of the Bangladesh National Committee, has organized several important events, including the 2020 Global Congress, to strengthen our commitment to conservation and biodiversity.

With support from IUCN national committees, BNCI and other partners have made tremendous efforts to meet their objectives in Bangladesh and internationally. Conservation activities with particular reference to Southeast Asia have supported the implementation and implementation of international biodiversity agreements.

IUCN is going to celebrate its 60 years as a country in Bangladesh in 2020. As the Chair of the Bangladesh National Committee, I am delighted to be a part of this celebration and future events - a process that continues to inspire and encourage us to conserve and protect life on Earth.

Mr. Samaver Hossain Sarkar
The year 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of ICOS Bangladesh Country Office. The day is being celebrated with an opportunity to reflect on the developments of our field and the direction in which we are all moving.

Congratulations to the members of ICOS Bangladesh Country Office on this prestigious milestone! The organization has surely come a long way since its inception. The past 40 years have been fruitful as ICOS has grown and flourished, becoming a part of the international community of environmental scientists around the world.

ICOS Bangladesh is now a well-recognized and appreciated institution in the field of environmental sciences. The organization has been instrumental in advancing research and providing valuable insights into the management of natural resources.

In this context, the ICOS Bangladesh Country Office has played a significant role by fostering collaborations with other research institutions and organizations.

The future of ICOS Bangladesh Country Office is bright. With the continued support of its members and partners, the organization will continue to expand its research capabilities and contribute to the advancement of environmental science.

The message is clear: Let us continue to work together to achieve our common goals and objectives.

Ashiqul Ali Khan
Chief Executive Officer
In Bangladesh, ICN is working to continually connect nature and biodiversity to various forms of species conservation and ecosystem protection. ICN is building on a successful project with the government of Bangladesh to conserve the Bangladesh Wood Pecker through the establishment of a national conservation area. ICN is also working with local communities to conserve the Bengal Tiger and the Mekong River Dolphin. ICN is building on a successful project with the government of Bangladesh to conserve the Mekong River Dolphin through the establishment of a national conservation area.

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Monitoring status of species - IUCN Red List

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IUCN does also recognize the importance of protecting species' habitats, and an example in this regard is the work being done by Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government has placed a high value on the conservation of its natural resources, and the country has taken several steps to protect its biodiversity. One of these steps includes the creation of protected areas, which are crucial for the survival of many species. Bangladesh has made significant progress in this regard, as it now has 21 official protected areas, covering an area of 8.8 million hectares. These protected areas are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the critically endangered Spotted Stork (Ciconia capensis), which is found in Bangladesh's Sundarbans National Park.

Habitat conservation

Habitat conservation is essential for the survival of many species, and this has been a priority for the government of Bangladesh. The country has made significant efforts to conserve its natural habitats, including the protection of rivers, wetlands, and forests. These efforts have been supported by international organizations such as the IUCN, which has provided funding and technical assistance to help Bangladesh protect its biodiversity. The government has also implemented policies to limit the expansion of human settlements into protected areas, and it has partnered with local communities to promote sustainable land use practices.

IUCN also recognizes the importance of habitat restoration and management, and it has supported initiatives in Bangladesh to restore degraded habitats and manage competing activities such as agriculture and livestock grazing. The country has also made efforts to reduce the impact of climate change on its ecosystems, including the establishment of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, which provides financial support to communities and organizations working to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

In conclusion, Bangladesh has made significant progress in protecting its biodiversity, and the government has taken several steps to conserve its natural resources. The country has created protected areas, implemented policies to limit the expansion of human settlements into these areas, and supported initiatives to restore degraded habitats and manage competing activities. These efforts have been supported by international organizations such as the IUCN, which has provided funding and technical assistance to help Bangladesh protect its biodiversity. The country has also made efforts to reduce the impact of climate change on its ecosystems, including the establishment of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, which provides financial support to communities and organizations working to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.
conservation and climate change related policy and strategic research. Some of the recent major conservation programs include the "National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP), Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance, Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Change Management in Bangladesh. BCR has also been involved in the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Capacity building projects:
BCR, through its 40 years journey with Bangladesh, has supported various knowledge products regarding Biodiversity and species conservation. The Red Data Book for Threatened Species of Bangladesh, The Ecological Zones of Bangladesh, Biodiversity of Tropical Forests of Bangladesh, The EU-Funded Project on "Ecologically Critical Area of Northern Chittagong Hill Tracts: Ecological Status and Biodiversity Conservation", The National Assessment Report on Human-Activated Biodiversity Loss, and Traditional Knowledge: The Tiger-Elephants and Associated Human-Induced Conflict in South Eastern Bangladesh. Approaches to sustainable forest recovery, management and restoration, and guidelines for biodiversity conservation in Bangladesh habitat and species conservation.
Climate change is a global problem that can be solved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions, such as wetlands, forests, and other natural systems, can store and release carbon, helping to address the impacts of climate change.

In Bangladesh, initiatives like the Nature Plus program are working on nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change. The program focuses on wetlands and their restoration to improve local livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Nature Plus, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Bangladesh Government, aims to restore and enhance wetlands as carbon sinks and sources of biodiversity, which will improve the resilience of local communities to climate change.

The Nature Plus program is part of a broader initiative to develop strategies for nature-based solutions to climate change. By fostering partnerships and adopting innovative approaches, Nature Plus is contributing to the global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Policy support

UNDP has played an active role in policy development and implementation. Efforts are being made to integrate climate change into sectoral policies, especially in the energy and water sectors. The country is working on a National Energy Policy and a National Water Policy, which will provide a framework for integrating climate change considerations. The National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), National Action Programme (NAP) on Climate Change, and the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG) Inventory have been developed. The country is also working on a National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP). The National Climate Change Response Plan (NCCRP) is being developed to address the impacts of climate change on the country's economy.

Community awareness and education

A strategy has been developed to enhance public awareness and understanding of climate change issues. The strategy aims to raise awareness among the general public, educate policymakers and decision-makers, and inform communities about the potential impacts of climate change. The strategy includes a range of activities such as public awareness campaigns, training programs, and the development of educational materials. The strategy is being implemented through partnerships with local community organizations and with the support of international organizations.

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

Ecosystem-based approach for building resilience to climate change

UNDP is working on an ecosystem-based approach to building resilience to climate change. This involves integrating climate change considerations into sectoral policies and programs. The approach aims to address the potential impacts of climate change on the country's economy and to support the country's efforts to adapt to climate change.

Recent efforts

Recent efforts by the government have focused on integrating climate change considerations into sectoral policies and programs. The country is working on a National Energy Policy and a National Water Policy, which will provide a framework for integrating climate change considerations. The National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), National Action Programme (NAP) on Climate Change, and the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG) Inventory have been developed. The country is also working on a National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP). The National Climate Change Response Plan (NCCRP) is being developed to address the impacts of climate change on the country's economy.
Other knowledge products
ICRA published several knowledge products through various initiatives for climate change adaptation.
This includes books on climate change issues and strategies, project annual reports and other
publications such as a review of rice and banana, duck farming and adaptation
to climate change. These products were aimed at supporting Extension
services and educating Extension staff and farmers on successful adaptation
measures, and workshops for participatory vulnerability assessments.

Monitoring and research work
ICRA has established research programs and conducts research to
understand the ecological and social impacts of climate change and
adaptation strategies. Research protocols and mechanisms for
monitoring adaptive capacity of the community have been developed.

Red alert support
ICRA conducted environmental impact assessments
and provided emergency support to communities after
major disasters like floods and droughts in different
regions. Support was provided after the
1988 flood and up to 2007.
In Bangladesh, ICRA has been working both at national and local level to enhance people’s right to food and livelihoods through its range of initiatives.

People everywhere depend on nature for their livelihood. Food, fuel and forest products, in particular, provide the fundamental subsistence that underpins local economies. Yet decisions on forests management and use are not always fair and sustainable and often benefit the few at the expense of the many. Local communities lose and get little or no benefit. How to solve this problem?

In Bangladesh, ICRA has been working both at national and local level to enhance people’s right to food and to benefit from natural resources and community participation in natural resource governance through its range of initiatives.

Community

Establishing community-based sustainable management systems in tropical rainforests is one of the examples of ICRA’s work in the country. People of-bg have determined a management system that balances the need for economic development and conservation.

Unlike other traditional forest management systems, the Forest Community Management System (FCMS) established a community-owned and managed forest management system with multiple benefits. The FCMS is a forest management system that allows local communities to manage and benefit from their forests.

In Bangladesh, ICRA has been working both at national and local level to enhance people’s right to food and livelihoods through its range of initiatives.
Government's efforts in promoting a sustainable manner. The government shares its management system with its research and policy support. Besides, the communities share a common governance practice with the government. Through active engagement of the community in natural resource management, there is an increase in the number of environmental-oriented initiatives. The government's efforts in this regard have been acknowledged by the United Nations (UN). The government's initiatives have been recognized by the UN for their efforts in promoting sustainable natural resource management.

Multi-stakeholder platforms
The country has been actively involved in the promotion of multi-stakeholder platforms. These platforms involve various stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs, communities, and private sector representatives. These platforms aim to promote an inclusive approach to natural resource management. The government has been working closely with these platforms to promote a sustainable approach to natural resource management.

Addressing gender
The government's role is crucial in addressing gender issues. The government has been working closely with NGOs and other stakeholders to promote gender equality in natural resource management. The government has established partnerships with NGOs to promote gender equality in natural resource management.
Small grants and resilience plans

In the coastal zone of the country, ICIMOD and its partners are implementing the national-level BMIPP project, which facilitates the identification and development of coastal resilience building plans at the community level. The project focuses on developing policy options and strategies to enhance resilience building at the community level. The project involves community-level consultations and workshops to identify and develop resilience-building plans.

Dialogues for Trans-Boundary Water Management

Recognizing the importance of trans-boundary water management, ICIMOD and its partners are implementing the BMIPP project, which focuses on building resilience and enhancing water management in the region. The project involves community-level consultations and workshops to identify and develop resilience-building plans and strategies.

The Ganges-Brahmaputra and Meghna river systems of South Asia support and influence a significant share of the region's economy and biodiversity. The project focuses on developing policies and strategies to enhance resilience building at the community level.
Loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems undermines food production, health, 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 remains as strong as ever. We now consider a larger portion of our food to come from domesticated plants and animals. In some developing countries, a very large percentage of these species have been cultivated directly from nature and still form a significant proportion of the plant and livestock portfolio. In the era of sustainable agriculture, this understanding among many policy makers that the need for nature is less developed and now, with a focus on food for an integral part of people's daily diets. Loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems undermines food production, health, and the availability of clean water, which is just as important as what grows on trees. Moreover, variety of genetic diversity due to loss of wild species and crops reduces the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change. Agricultural systems need a diversity of seeds every year which could help farmers and societies to be more resilient to crop failures.

In rural Bangladesh, intensive rice cultivation is the main focus of food security for a large portion of the population. However, it is essential that the rice is produced in a sustainable manner to ensure the long-term viability of the ecosystem.

Community-managed fisheries

From the time of rice cultivation in Bangladesh is the most essential and cheap source of protein for families. And with the continuous increase of population, rice production is not sufficient as a sole source of food. Fisheries and their importance are a lesser-known source of food in Bangladesh. The government has taken initiatives to promote fish farming, but the existing infrastructure facilities, habitat quality needs to be enhanced by management of the local communities in its management. This is evident from the increased catch and species diversity in the local water bodies.
Several wetlands managed by IUCN and its member organizations, notably the ‘Community Board Managed’ and ‘Small Property Managed’ categories, offer both conservation and sustainable development opportunities. Many are also hotspots for species, while wetlands managed by IUCN members CMS and WCMC. The latter act as refuges of sustainable livelihoods and conservation efforts. Several countries have raised their national reconciliation with their global and local wetlands by creating wetlands conservation. While the local communities’ livelihoods are inextricably linked to wetlands, sustainable fisheries and other natural resources are crucial to their health and survival. However, these resources are also vulnerable to climate change and other challenges, which will also affect the food security of the dependent population. Many of these communities rely on local resources for food, and without them, the local communities are at risk of losing their livelihoods and access to the ecosystems and fish they depend on.

Uncontrolled fish movement
Movement of fish between rivers is called “natural fisheries.” Natural fisheries are essential for maintaining the genetic diversity of fish populations and ensuring their survival. However, during recent years, fishers have begun to use uncontrolled fish movement to improve economic opportunities. This has resulted in the depletion of fish populations and increased competition for resources. In some cases, this has led to the collapse of fisheries and the loss of livelihoods for local communities. The benefits of uncontrolled fish movement should be considered carefully, and efforts should be made to promote sustainable fisheries management.

Climate resilient livelihood options and case studies
Bangladesh being one of the most vulnerable and frequent victims of the world’s climate change-related disasters, is facing numerous challenges to ensure and amplify livelihood options for its growing population. IUCN with its development partners are studying various
Recently, through Mangrove for the Future Bangladesh, IUCN has initiated and given facility to support livelihoods of the communities depending on coastal resources. IUCN and its partners are supporting communities to enhance livelihood through sustainable mangrove-based practices (i.e., wood collection, mangrove-based nurseries, eco-tourism, ecotourism, paddy-culture practices etc). These communities are enrolling with problems like habitat increase and income and are determined to the foundation mangrove resources. In addition to these groups, a group of women’s group has been formed who have taken up the cause of conserving mangroves and are planting trees to name them and to create mangroves and make dry land. This project enhanced the capacity of the community especially women, for proper land-based vegetation and sea-based livelihood and had recently conducted a study on the mangrove ecosystem to gather information on the status of mangroves and benefits of mangroves.

Water management and food security
Being a lower deltaic agriculture based country, water management is the single most important factor for ensuring food security. Water management is not only the factor for ensuring food security but is also the major indicator for sustainable water management and food security. For this purpose an ecosystem management plan is being identified and established which contributes to food security.

Floating gardens
In partnership with CARE Bangladesh, IUCN Bangladesh has also been promoting alternative agricultural practices in wetland and flood prone area of Bangladesh and it is now set to help Bangladesh's river island and wetland communities in the Mekong Delta development. The project aims to improve the livelihoods of the flood-prone communities and to reinforce their resilience to frequent flooding.
MAJOR PROJECTS

Ongoing
- Community Based Adaptations in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project
- Community Based Sustainable Management of Forests in Bangladesh
- Conservation and Development of Indigenous Plants and Traditional Knowledge by Involving Communities: Bangladesh
- Delta Biodiversity for Bangladesh: Synthesis
- Design for Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Resources in South Asia - Bangladesh
- Environmental Management and Biodiversity Conservation Plan for Sundarban Biodiversity
- Project on Climate Change Adaptation for the Wetlands of the Bay of Bengal
- SARI: Small Grants for Local Adaptation and Prevention of the Consequences of Climate Change
- Improving Water Resource Management for Rural Poverty Reduction
- Management of Forests: BMTP
- Wetland Conservation and Restoration: BMTP and Projects
- Building National Capacity for Design and Implementation of Wetland Restoration
- Enhancing Resource Generation and National Support: GIZ/WoM
- School Education Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Management of Coastal Livelihoods: Adaptation Projects (CEAP) Project
- Building National Capacity for Climate Change Education and Knowledge Management on Various Dimensions of Climate Change
- Wetland Biodiversity Protection Project

Accomplished
- Bangladesh Red Data Book of Threatened Animals: Conservation of Rare Wildlife in Bangladesh
- Conservation of Rare Plants in Bangladesh, Conservation of Rare Plants in Bangladesh
- REAP Implementation Project: 2
- The National Forest Management Action Plan (NFMAP)
- Dialogue on Water and Climate in Bangladesh
- Implementation of National Forest Programmes: NFMP for Forest Protected Areas
- Development of Forest Protected Areas in Bangladesh
- National Capacity Building for Global Forest Resource Management
- Awareness and Awareness on the Impact of Climate Change and Vulnerability to the General Forest
- Conservation in Bangladesh
- Roadside Forest Management
- Building National Capacity for Forest Resource Management
- Community-Based Forest and Watershed Resource Management Programme: Sustainable Environment Management Programmes (SEMP)
- Organizing Resource Generation and National Support
- Improving Environmental Governance for Sustainable Management of Flora and Fauna in Bangladesh
IUCN PARTNERS IN BANGLADESH

Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Australian Aid (Australia)
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 (KNA)
European Union (EU)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands
Keldoren-Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Scandinavian Institute
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Turkish Agency for Development and Cooperation (TUSAIDE)
The Netherlands Climate Assistance Programme (KCAP)
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)
UN Support Unit for International Development (UNIDO)
World Bank, Bangladesh
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)