



Nishorgo Network

Dudpukuria-Dhopachari Wildlife sanctuary

Ecotourism Planning Assessment



Forest Rest House at DDWS

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1. Introduction

The Sanctuary is situated along the borderline of Chittagong, Rangamati and Bandarban Districts. The Wildlife Sanctuary (WS) is located in the Reserve Forests of Khurasia and Dohazari Forest Ranges under Chittagong South Forest Division. The WS is accessible from Chittagong Metropolitan City by road northeastward along the Chittagong-Kaptai road and then towards south along Rangamati-Bandarban road. Administratively the Sanctuary lies in two upazillas under Chittagong district e.g. Rangunia and Chandnish between 22°09' to 22°22' north latitude and 92°05' east longitudes.

The sanctuary is surrounded with about 16 settlement of Bengali, Marma, Tanchangya and Tripura communities, harboring about 1500 households. Some poradic households live inside the sanctuary along the Dhopachari, Kamalachari, Mangala forest blocks. Most of these people are dependent on the sanctuary to meet their fuelwood, non-timber and timber products needs. The indigenous and local communities living in and around the sanctuary are entirely dependent on it for the supply of fuelwood, minor forest products like: bamboo, bush meet, wild fruits, vegetables etc

Dudpukuria-Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary (DDWS) is comprises of undulating hills, natural forests with rich diversity in flora & fauna, and numerous hilly creek/streams. The rich flora & faunal diversity has been the destination for promotion of ecotourism, academicians and researchers.

The DDWS has a great animal and plant diversity. The flagship species of WS is the Asian Elephant. Other important wildlife include Barking Deer, Gibbon, Capped langur, Rhesus Monkey, Wild boar, Hipsid Hare, Indian Crested Porlipine, Slow Loris, different species squirrel and bats, Indian Pangolin, Jungle cat, Black Bear, Civit and other minor lizard, Gecko, Rock Python, different of poisonous and none poisonous snakes are common. There are 177 species of birds and among them Rose-ringed Parakeet, Hill Mayna, Streak-breasted, woodpecker, Oriental Pied, Hornbill, hoopoe, King Fisher, and Beas-eater are important.

A numbers of creeks and streams viz. Piajum, Koiapara, Dola, Chikonjiri, Paran Jurani, Gondamura, Tamachari, naikhynggiri Mayani, Bara Ghoda, Leburjiri, and Dhopajiri traverse the Sanctuary. Water from Adjacent watershed basins flows along the creek round the years and maintained the unique biophysical situation for diversity.

In the fact, with the increase of population migrated increase pressure, dwindling trend of natural resources and above all on the verge of local weather changed impacts. This assessment report has two parts. Setting the goals and objectives with identification of existing physical potentialities structured has placed and identification new intervention to promote ecotourism.

Planning Goals

- Maintain Visitor at acceptable level within the protected area.
- Adopt minimum impacts on Conservation of Bio-diversity and revenue generation from DDWS.
- Monitor to maintain oversight on resources management.

Objectives

- To facilitate ecologically sustainable practices for revenue generation from forest.
- To prepared an integrated planning for improved natural resources management.
- Income generation for local rural poor peoples

2. Existing physical potentialities structure Facilities

Dudpukuria Beat, Kurasia range

Old Forest Rest House

There is one old forest rest house with two seated, attached birth and no electricity and safe water facilities. It is about 50 years old and it needs reactivate work. The rest house connected with main road of Rangamati-Bandarban road. The connected approach road became muddy in the rainy season; therefore, it requires brick paving and carpeting.

Beat Office

There is beat office closed to forest rest house and FG quarter for the residence. One Beat office cum residence where beat officer and forest guard use both office and residence. Beat office is very much closed to Rangamati - Bandarban road.

Foot Trail

There are at least three existing foot-trails currently available that are used by the forest users and others to enter into and exit from the forests at Dudhpukuria. The main trail starts from the main road just before Dudhpukuria Beat Office and Rest House campus continues towards right and runs inside the natural forest.

3. Facilities required for promoting Ecotourism

Dudpukuria Dhapachari Wildlife Sanctuary (DDWS) has two beat namely Dudpukuria Beat under Kurasia Range and Dhapachari beat under Dhahagari Range. Dudpukuria beat is located in the middle of Rangamati and Bandaban road. It is about 55 kilometer from Chittagong and 20 kilometer from Bandarban. It has high potentiality for ecotourism, as DDWS is rich in floral & faunal diversity.

2.1 Foot Trail

There are at least three existing foot-trails currently available that are used by the forest users and others to enter into and exit from the forests at Dudhpukuria. The main trail starts from the main road just before Dudhpukuria Beat Office and Rest House campus continues towards right and runs inside the natural forest. Besides the existing foot-trails, there are some low-lying areas inside the sanctuary also that can easily be converted into lake or ponds with minimum efforts and will play potential role to supply fresh water to the wildlife. Not only that, it may add beauty to the forest landscape and thus be treated as potential site for eco-tourists to visit. Three foot-trails have crossed over two small streams. Therefore, it is required to construct small wooden bridge to cross over the streams and make the trails suitable to use by tourists and others throughout year. These foot-trails need some earthworks to make them more accessible and posting of signage with maps to help the tourists to get the direction. Construction of 5-6 benches along the bank of lake or pond with locally available natural materials will be useful for the eco-tourists to take rest while visiting the sanctuary and to witness the splendid natural beauty.

- One **watch tower** can add more attracting to eco-tourist for site seen and watching wildlife's.
- In between the trail there need two more shade for resting

2.2 Nature Interpretation Center

- A nature interpretation center can be constructed very next to Forest rest house. It can enhance eco-tourist's attractions & knowledge base while visiting the sanctuary with the payment entry fees
- A gate needs to be built at the entry point with ticket counter facilities.

2.3 Car Parking Area

A small car parking area is essential for the tourists visiting the park and authority can earn handsome amount from such facilities. There are some areas that are ideal for car parking facilities near to the Beat Office and that will be much more secure as the area is very nearer to the office.

2.4 Picnic spot

There is two beat under DDWS where two picnic spot can be established in order to promote ecotourism facilities. One picnic spot may be developed at Dudhpukuria and another at Dhopachari areas with public toilet facilities and safe drinking water supply provisions.

2.5 Public Toilet

- Public toilet is necessary at the car-parking site.
- It can hand over to community patroller through CMC.

2.6 A tourist shop

- A tourist shop may be ideal for the local community to sell their artisanal products to the eco-tourists. This will make opportunity for the sanctuary dependent people to expose their products to wider people and a good number of people may be able to earn their livelihood from such activities. Authority may arrange some promotional activities for tourists shop and

can impose to pay small revenue from their sells. Tourists shop owners will not mind to pay a small revenue if they get proper or expected service from the authority or co-management organization.

2.6.1 Communities around the DDWS

There are different types of communities including indigenous hill people and migrant Bengali settlers live in and around DDWS particularly Dudhpukuria over the time. Communities are: Tanchagya, Marama, Bengali, Tripura and Barua.

3.1 Adjacent Village nearby DDWS

There are ten village fall under Dudhpukuria beat which are given bellow;

- Kamalachari
- Kurasia
- Purba Kurasia
- Falaharia
- Napit Pukuria
- Marma Para
- Amtali
- Udalbunia
- Bridge ghata
- Koia Para

4. Eco-Cottage

There is no other over-night staying facility close to DDWS except old forest rest house with two beds only. At least, one eco-cottage may be essential for the tourists to stay over-night and that may be as nearer as possible to the indigenous community's residences. Therefore, tourists may have added opportunity like seeing traditional culture and life styles of the indigenous communities along with forest and nature.

5. Eco-Guide

A group of young peoples can be trained as eco-guides to guide the visitors inside the sanctuary and help them to understand the potential of such protected areas, local diversity, their importance to nature, do's and don't in the sanctuary and various other related matters. It will also generate local income and motivated local youths can earn hand some amount through guiding tourists in the sanctuary.

Part-2

2.1 Dhopachari Beat, Duhazari Range

Dhopachari beat is situated by riverside of Sonka River. It is about sixty kilometer away from Chittagong. The communication from the CTG to Dhopachari Beat is CTG-Keranihat-Bazalia Bazar-

Silghata (CNG)-Sonka River-Dhopachari Beat office. There is another access road from Dudpukuria to dhopachari.

There is a access road from Chittagong – Bandarban. There is small feeder road from Dudpukuria to Dhapachari. Dhapachari is situated by the river Sangu. Add natural beauty. Boating facilities can be established. There are two settlements of Forest Villagers inside Forest area and about ten villages adjacent to Dhapachari Beat. The name of villages are:

- Two Villager Para in side Dhapachari Beat.
- Monglar Muk
- Chairman Para
- Shantir Bazar
- Chapachari
- Banna Mura
- Paranjurani
- Camp Para
- Sonkarful
- Shamukchari, and
- and Gungura Para.

2.2 Intervention required to promote Ecotourism in Dhapachari Beat Area

- A picnic spot with boating facilities and tourist shop can be established.
- Trail, Shade, toilet facilities

Conclusion

This ecotourism potentiality assessment report is prepared with consultation of forest officer who are working with Forest department. In order to promote ecotourism for deriving revenue generation physical infrastructure are necessary. It depend on the local co-management stakeholders who will be the in charge of PA Management.

Annexure-A:

List of Peoples consulted to prepared this Report

1. Md Maksud Alam, ACF, Chittagong South Forest Division
2. Mr Satyajit Roy, Forest Ranger, Khurusia Range
3. Md. Hamidul Islam, Beat Officer, Dudhpukuria Beat
4. Mr. Nishikanta Malaker, Beat Officer, Khurusia Beat
5. Md Mohiuddin Hossain, Beat Officer, Dhopachari Beat.