

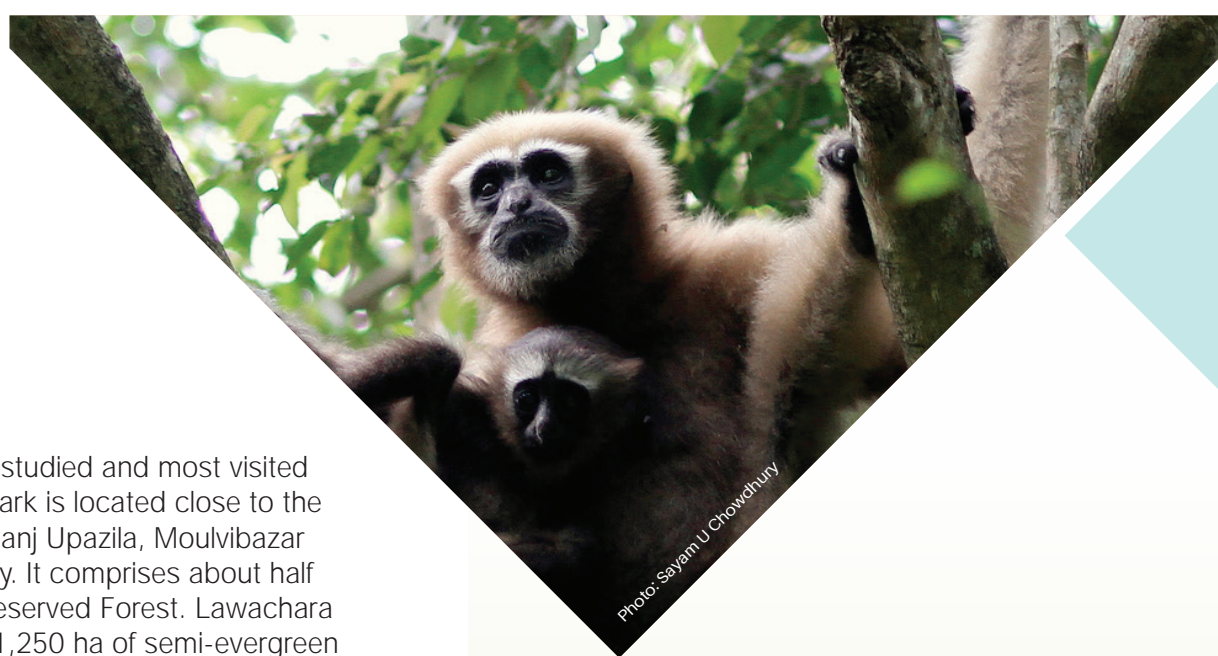
## WHY IS LAWACHARA NATIONAL PARK IMPORTANT?

Lawachara National Park is the best studied and most visited protected area in Bangladesh. The park is located close to the town of Srimangal but within Kamalganj Upazila, Moulvibazar District in the northeast of the country. It comprises about half of the 2,740 ha West Bhanugach Reserved Forest. Lawachara National Park covers approximately 1,250 ha of semi-evergreen tropical forest. The land was declared a national park by the Bangladesh government on July 7, 1996 under the Wildlife Act of 1974.

Lawachara National Park is best known for the relative ease of seeing primates including four globally threatened species: Northern Pig-tailed Macaque, Phayre's Leaf Monkey, Capped Langur, and the most important population in Bangladesh of Western Hoolock Gibbon, the only ape found in Bangladesh. The forest is a popular destination for nature lovers and scientists, a wide range of forest birds are present from Oriental Pied Hornbill and Kalij Pheasant down to six species of flowerpecker - Bangladesh's smallest birds. Surveys continually find species new for the forest and several species are only known in Bangladesh from Lawachara. The micro-climate of tall forest trees, cool clean air, and lush green seems a world away from the rest of Bangladesh.

Two villages of Khashia ethnic community are located inside the forest. The largest, "Magurchara Punji", is inhabited by 40 households and the other, "Lawachara Punji", has 23 households. Surrounding the NP are tea estates, and several villages including a Tipra community of 75 households. Eco-tourism is rapidly developing in the area through local guest houses and guides.

**Co-management** in Lawachara was established in October 2005 and is recognized through a Ministry of Environment and Forests order published on 15 May 2006. Lawachara CMC formally works with and includes Bangladesh Forest Department as well as all key local stakeholders including local government and of course representatives of the surrounding 30 villages who are organized into a common forum. The CMC collects entry fees from visitors, operates a visitor information center, and oversees community patrols and eco-guides. We also aim to influence sustainable land uses and respect for conservation over a much larger area covering about 7,000 hectare.



### Forest generates and regulates water flows to downstream

Protecting forest cover maintains a **carbon stock (CO<sub>2</sub>) of about 324 tons/ha**, helping to mitigate climate change

High biodiversity: **15** species of amphibians, **52** species of reptiles, **258** species of birds and about **20** species of mammals

Important population of **globally endangered** Western Hoolock Gibbon

Easily accessed with good **eco-tourism facilities**

**Diverse ethnic communities** – khasia, tipra, monipuri

Local people are poor and depend on forest resources, **threatening the biodiversity and ecology**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please support our efforts to strengthen conservation. The work of Lawachara CMC and associated organizations involves local communities working with local government and Bangladesh Forest Department. These activities depend on support from grants and outside resources.

Lawachara CMC has a bank account (Sonali Bank Limited, Current account no: 567, Kamalganj Branch, Moulvibazar) and can receive grants from domestic sources. For international assistance, funds can be channeled through CNRS – a national NGO which has helped establish the CMC. CNRS is registered with Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau registration no. 841. Its programs focus on Natural Resource Management.

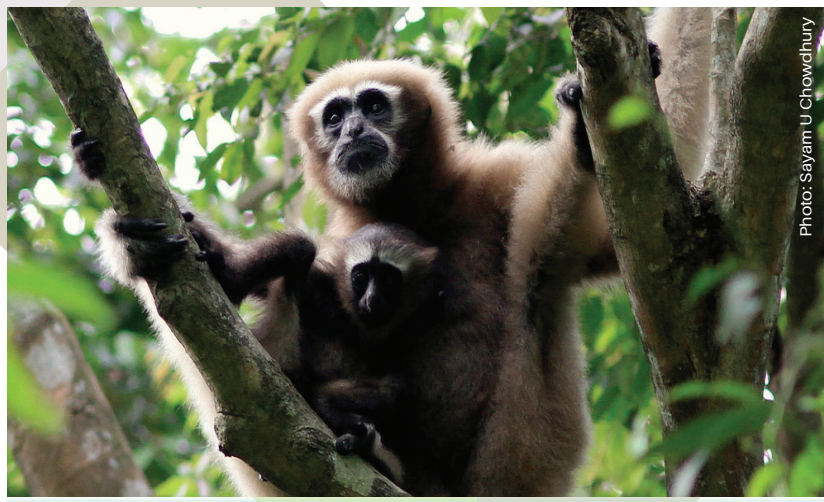
### Your donations to Lawachara CMC will support:

- Improving forest protection, especially those used by threatened species, through community patrols
- Maintaining sustainable eco-tourism (e.g., managing visitors, increase visitor facilities and publicizing Lawachara)
- Increasing community sustainability (e.g. reducing disaster vulnerability and improving services)



CO-MANAGEMENT HELPS PROTECT  
CRITICAL FOREST HABITATS  
IMPORTANT FOR A WIDE RANGE OF  
CREATURES AND PLANTS, INCLUDING  
GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES ...

*Please support this important work.*



### Western Hoolock Gibbon

*Hoolock hoolock*

The only ape in South Asia, gibbons are tail-less and spend their lives in the canopy, swinging between branches. Hoolocks mainly eat fruits with some leaves. They live in small family groups consisting of a mated pair and their offspring, and proclaim their territory with loud calls. Lawachara is probably the best place in the world to see this globally endangered species, but only about 16 families are left here. Co-management is strengthening protection of figs and other fruiting trees.

## LAWACHARA NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC) KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure long-term conservation of biodiversity
- Mobilize local people as environmental stewards and stakeholders
- Improve the lives and livelihoods of local people, by diversifying livelihoods, improving skills, and reducing vulnerability to hazards and climate change
- Encourage eco-tourism, and provide adequate facilities for visitors
- Provide a forum for discussions, consultations, and conflict resolution

## Contacts

### President

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# Lawachara National Park

Sustaining nature, biodiversity,  
and local communities



### Lawachara Co-Management Committee

engages with local communities to conserve Lawachara National Park and its threatened species, including the Western Hoolock Gibbon, through climate-resilient natural resources management and diversified livelihoods



USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project