

## WHY IS DUDPUKURIA-DHOPACHORI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (DDWS) **IMPORTANT?**

Declared as a sanctuary on 6 April 2010, DDWS encompasses 4,717 hectares. It is located within Chandanaish and Rangunia Upazilas, Chittagong District. These forested hills are a vital watershed, providing and regulating water flows into two significant river systems in southeast Bangladesh – the Karnaphuli and Sangu rivers. These upstream-downstream ecosystem impacts are increasingly important given the effects of climate change.

DDWS protects about 2,600 hectares of tropical mixed evergreen forest dominated by trees such as Garjan and Chapalish. Unlike many other forests in Bangladesh, the tree cover has increased in recent decades. The Sanctuary connects with forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, providing important wildlife corridors for Bangladesh's disappearing mega fauna. Small herds of endangered Asian Elephants visit the sanctuary regularly, and Dudpukuria CMC is working with others to conserve elephants in a coordinated way. DDWS is one of the few forests in Bangladesh where the globally endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon is found. Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat, Binturong, Grey Peacock-Pheasant, White-cheeked Partridge, Oriental Pied Hornbill, and King Cobra are other notable species.

Most people living in 28 villages impacting the wildlife sanctuary, including five ethnic communities inside the sanctuary, are poor and depend to a considerable extent on forest resources. Income-generating alternatives, such as eco-tourism are reducing threats to the biodiversity and ecology of DDWS.

**Co-management** in Dudpukuria was established on 22 May 2011 under an order from the Ministry of Environment and Forests under memo no. PaBaMa/parisha-4/nishorgo/105/sting/2006/398 of 23 November 2009. Dudpukuria CMC formally works with and includes Bangladesh Forest Department, local government and all key local stakeholders including representatives of 20 villages who are organized into a common forum. We protect 1,721 hectares of Dudpukuria range of the sanctuary under the Dudpukuria-Dhopachori Management Plan in coordination with Dhopachori CMC.

**Watershed generates and regulates** water flows to downstream rivers

**Forest-wildlife corridor** essential for Bangladesh's disappearing mega fauna

Preventing forest degradation preserves **386 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare** for climate change mitigation

Over **600** species of plants, including some rare species

Nearly **400** vertebrate species, including over 200 birds and over 45 mammals

**Habitat for globally endangered** Asian Elephant and Western Hoolock Gibbon, and globally vulnerable Binturong.

Several **local villages** are Marma and Chakma, by ethnicity

**Every 12 years**, the forest is an **important pilgrimage site** for Buddhists

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

## HOW CAN YOU **HELP?**

Please support our community efforts to strengthen conservation. The work of Dudpukuria 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.

Dudpukuria CMC can receive grants from domestic sources to First Security Islami Bank, North Podua (Dovhashi Bazar), Rangunia branch, account no. 1241110002488. For international assistance, funds can be channeled through CODEC – a national NGO which has helped establish the CMC, NGO Affairs Bureau registration no. 263

### **Your donations to Dudupukuria CMC will support:**

- Improving forest protection, especially those used by threatened species, through community patrols
- Reducing conflicts between people and wildlife, especially elephants (e.g., relocating cultivation, restoration of elephant habitats, improving warnings, and a compensation fund)
- Promoting eco-tourism (e.g., establishing visitor facilities and publicizing information on DDWS)
- Increasing community sustainability (e.g. reducing disaster vulnerability and improving services)

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

*Please support this important work.*



Photo: Sayam U. Chowdhury



Photo: Sourav Mahmud

**Binturong**  
*Arctictis binturong*

This large shaggy gray-coated relative of civets lives mostly in trees. At night it searches for small animals, insects and fruits to eat. In Bangladesh it is found only in a few eastern hill forests including Dudpukuria-Dhopachori Wildlife Sanctuary. It is globally vulnerable to extinction.

**Asian Elephant**  
*Elephas maximus*

This globally endangered species was once widespread in Bangladesh. It is now restricted to a few Protected Areas in the south-east. A small, but important, population moves within and between sites. Dudpukuria CMC is working with ten other CMCs and the Forest Department to protect elephants and their habitat, restore connecting corridors used in their migrations, and minimize conflicts with local people.

DUDPUKURIA CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)  
**KEY OBJECTIVES:**

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

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**Dudpukuria-Dhopachori Wildlife Sanctuary**

Sustaining nature, biodiversity, and local communities

**Dudpukuria Co-Management Committee**

engages local communities with Forest Department to conserve Dudpukuria-Dhopachori Wildlife Sanctuary and its threatened species, including Bangladesh's last elephants, through climate-resilient natural resources management and diversified livelihoods.

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