

## WHY IS FASHIAKHALI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IMPORTANT?

Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary protects a wide range of wildlife dependent on mixed evergreen forest, including a herd of Asian Elephants. Fashiakhali WS covers 1,302 hectares in Chakaria Upazilla, to the north of Cox's Bazar town. It was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary on 2 June 2007 by a gazette notification of Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The Wildlife Sanctuary has a diversity of vegetation including mixed forest, dense undergrowth, bamboo and tall grasses, along with marshy lands and streams. The grasses are favored by a herd of about 28 endangered Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* that live inside the sanctuary. The elephant herd used to roam in neighboring Reserved Forests in the past. However, refugees have settled in Fashiakhali and Yeancha severely degrading forest there, so the elephants are now restricted largely to the WS. Other notable species present include Northern Pig-tailed Macaque, Slow Loris, Jungle Cat, Fishing Cat and White-crested Laughing Thrush.

FWS is bordered by 30 villages whose inhabitants have in the past degraded ecosystems and increased their vulnerability to climate change. Illicit logging was a major reason for ecosystem degradation and many of the larger most valuable trees have been felled with a long term impact on habitats and forest regeneration.

**Co-management** was established in FWS on 23 December 2009 following a Ministry of Environment and Forests order published in November 2009. Fashiakhali 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. Under the CMC two community patrol groups have reduced illegal felling, a conservation club and other initiatives are reducing dependence on extracting forest products and instead promoting forest protection. For example, through collaboration with local schools, children have planted seeds of Garjan trees to aid regeneration.

Home to  
**globally endangered**  
Asian Elephant  
and vulnerable Pig-  
tailed Macaque

Patches of **critically endangered**  
Garjan *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* trees.

High species diversity: **15** amphibian species,  
**35** reptile species, **25** mammal species, and  
**162** bird species.

Restoring forest here offers the scope to  
sequester **403 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare** for  
climate change mitigation

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

Natural beauty and wildlife **offer  
eco-tourism** potential



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

Fashiakhali CMC has a bank account (Fashiakhali Boinnaprani Avoyarnna Sahobabostapona Committee, A/C No 0049-325000041, NCC Bank Ltd., Chakaria, Cox's Bazar-4700) and can receive grants from domestic sources. For international assistance, funds can be channeled through Nature Conservation Management (NACOM) a national NGO which has helped establish the CMC. NACOM is registered with Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau, no. 481. NACOM focuses on environment, climate change issues, development of grassroots people and nature protection.

### Your donations to Fashiakhali CMC will support:

- Improving protection of forest, and their threatened species, through community patrols
- Creating awareness among the local people and increasing alternative income source.
- Promoting eco-tourism (e.g., establishing visitor facilities and publicizing Fashiakhali)
- Increasing community sustainability (e.g. reducing disaster vulnerability and improving services)
- Sustainability of co-management movement.



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.*



Photo: Paul Thompson

### Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonine*

This globally vulnerable monkey has a distinctive thin pig-like tail and flattened crown. It is restricted to evergreen forests in the east of Bangladesh, also east through South-east Asia to southern Thailand. Troops of up to 20 animals are often noisy as they squabble over ripe fruits on the forest floor or in large trees. Fashiakhali still protects a healthy population from poaching and habitat loss.



Photo: Sourav Mahmud

### 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. Fashiakhali 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.

## FASHIAKHALI CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC) KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Restore forest and ensure long term conservation of biodiversity
- Mobilize local people including youth as environmental stewards and stakeholders
- Assist natural resource users to enhance and diversify their livelihoods, reduce extraction from forests, and reduce 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

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# Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary

Sustaining nature, biodiversity,  
and local communities

## Fashiakhali Co-Management Committee

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



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