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CREL Efforts help protect sea turtles



Senior managers of Winrock International US offices visit CREL sites and activities



Ms. Robyn McGuckin, Senior Vice President, Programs and Mr. Chris Kopp, Senior Director, Major Program & Project Management visited the CREL activities in South-west Region, Khulna during January 13-15, 2015. They reviewed CREL natural resource management and livelihood activities in Chandpai and Mushigonj areas of Khulna region. They also met members of the co-management councils in both locations. The Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party along with Mr., Zahiruddin Ahmed, Divisional Forest Office, Sundarbans West and Mr. Amir Hossain Choudhury, Divisional Forest Office, Sundarbans East accompanied Ms. McGuckin and Mr. Kopp.

Turtle breeding and incubation of the eggs are often disturbed by natural causes or human and animal activities. The end result is increased mortality of eggs and reduce recruitment of hatchlings to turtle populations that are already endangered. To combat these losses and negative impacts, CREL has established five turtle hatcheries in Cox's bazar to help protect the breeding cycle of the sea turtles and there populations. Through the support of local communities, CREL has established these turtle hatcheries to protect the incubating eggs and increase hatching rates. During the month of January, 1378 turtle eggs were collected from 2 sites (Sonadia Island - 1293 eggs; St. Martin Island - 85 eggs) and transferred them to the hatcheries. When the baby turtles hatch in about 2 months, CREL will ensure their safe transfer from the hatchery to the sea thereby reducing mortality during incubation and their normal dangerous race across the open beach to the sea.

CREL conducts a grants orientation workshop and training in financial management

Grant orientation workshops and training in grants and financial management were conducted at the Dhopachori site in the Chittagong Region on January 22, 2015 for two different categories of participants. The participants of the project orientation were members of the Dhopachori Co-management Council. Twenty-three members (2 female; 21 male) participated in the workshops. The participants of finance and grants management training were the Co Management Council office bearers. The participants were introduced to steps in the grant approval process, and how to manage accounts and administrative work and prepare budgets.



'Participatory Climate Vulnerability Assessment (PCVA)' Consultation Workshop engages multiple stakeholders



A 'Participatory Climate Vulnerability Assessment Consultation Workshop' (PCVA) was held at the Kalapur Union Parishad Complex on 31 December, 2014. This multi-stakeholder consultation workshop shared findings of the PCVA conducted under Chawtoli beat of Lawachhara National Park. The workshop was attended by the Chairman, members of Kalapur Union Parishad, Upzila level government officials, Co Management Council members, forest department officials and community members. Based on these finding, the participants drafted a climate change adaptation plan and prioritized some immediate necessary actions.

Gender Training



Five training programs conducted in three sites

Five training programs were conducted in December at three sites in Chittagong region in conjunction with CREL livelihoods activities. Thirty participants received training on duck and chicken rearing in the Kapati site and 56 participants in Karnaphuli site. All of the participants are CREL beneficiaries and members of Village Conservation Forum (VCF). Fifty-seven participants (32 female; 25 male) received training in homestead gardening at the Kaptai site. The same training was provided to CREL beneficiaries from Karnaphuli site. Special emphasis was given on culture of medicinal plants. Training on fruit cultivation using organic fertilizer was given to 30 CREL beneficiaries at the Dudpukuria site.



Co-Management Councils and Committees reformed in Cox's Bazar



Two Co-management Council and Committees were successfully reformed in Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary and Medakachapia National Park in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar Region on February 12 and 13, 2015, respectively. The reformation meetings were attended by Mr. Shahedul Islam, Upzila Nirbahi Officer, Mr. Jafar Alam, Upazila chairman, Chakaria Mr. Ahmed Hossan Bhuyan, Assistant Commissioner, Land Chakaria, Mr. Shah-E-Alam, Divisional Forest Officer North Forest Division, Mr. Mohammad Hossain, ACF, Mr. Safiul Rahaman, Fishery Officer, Mr. Atik Ullah UZ Ag, Officer, Mr. Gais Uddin, Chairman Fashiakhali, officer and Mr. Mukter Ahammed Chy and Dr. Mir Ahmed Ex-CMC President of FKWS and MKNP and other stakeholders. Participants and observers agreed that the reformations followed a fully democratic and transparent process.