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CCF inaugurates Revenue Collection at Shilkhali

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Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, formally inaugurated Shilkhali Garjan forest entry fee collection process on April 16, 2015. The Government of Bangladesh passed a regulation allowing Forest Department to share a portion of the revenue generated from the forest with the local Co-Management Organizations. The Shilkhali Co-Management Council and Committee developed facilities to promote eco-tourism in the Shilkhali Garjan Forest section of Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary, a government designated Protected Area.

The CCF met members and office bearers of Cox's Bazar region Co-Management Councils and Committee in Teknaf during this visit. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project facilitated these meetings.

The CCF also took part in a public consultation with all the co-management organizations of Cox's bazar region organized by Teknaf CMC. During this consultation, the CMC's had the opportunity to share their successes, demands, challenges, needs and hopes. In the meeting CCF was accompanied by top officials of Forest Department, USAID representatives and CREL officials. CCF responded immediately facilitating and communicating the needs and challenges of CMOs. The CCF had another consultation meeting with all the office bearers of the CMCs of Cox's bazar region in the evening, during which each CMC shared their progress and challenges with the CCF, who gave them guidelines for improvement.

The next day, April 17, the CCF visited the activities in Medakacchapia National Park CMC and attended a motivational workshop on forest and environmental conservation. At this workshop, the CCF gave guidelines on forests and environmental conservation.

CMOs of Sundarbans working to preventing wildlife hunting and poaching

Satkhira CMC is working with Forest Department to raise awareness on illegal resource extraction, illegal hunting of deer and tigers in the sensitive points of Sundarban as Satkhira and Shorankhola. The purpose of these awareness meetings is to generate community pressure against illegal wildlife traders and hunters. In coordination with Sundarban East forest division, an awareness meeting has been arranged at Uttor Sonatola cyclone center, one of the key resource extraction points at the Sarankhola site on 8 April, 2015. A total of 400 people (Male-260, Female-140) participated in the meeting. DFO, Sundarban East Forest division, CMC Chairman, ACF Saronkhola and CMC members were also present.

Herbal Product Collection Center established by CREL beneficiaries

The first Herbal Product Collection Center has been established by CREL livelihood beneficiaries of Shitarghat –Wagga Union (Kaptai site). Twenty-nine members of Shitar Ghat VCF (Kaptai site), of which 25 members are 100% hardcore forest resources users received land allocations from forest department. Now they are producing medicinal plants (Bashak Pata, Kalo Megh) and fruits saplings (Mango, Lichi, Jackfruit) in these lands.

Resident Forest Birds surveys conducted in Chittagong and Sreemongal region



A Resident Forest Bird Survey conducted at Chunati WS, Dudpukuria-Dupachari WS, Kaptai National Park, Hazarikhil WS and Bariyadhala NP. Bangladesh Bird Club members conducted the survey with support from CPG, Local frontline staff of FD and Local Guides.

This survey recorded the status of many species of birds in the protected areas and gathered information on threatened species of birds. The team conducted the survey in Chittagong from 16th April to 23th April. During the survey the team observed some rare species of indicator birds including Junglefowl, Puff-throated Babbler, White Rumped Shama, Hair-crested Drongo, Green-billed Malkhoha, Hill Moyna Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and Oriental Pied Hornbill. A sharing session was conducted with forest department to review the results of this survey.

Director General, Department of Environment visits CREL South West region



Md. Roisul Alam Mondol, Director General, Department of Environment, visited activities of USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project at Chandpai, Mongla, southwest region of Bangladesh on April 18, 2015. There he inaugurated the first signage with Sundarbans ECA information. CREL is supporting DoE by placing similar signage at selected entry points into the Sundarbans.

Later, the DG visited Financial Entrepreneurship and Literacy Learning Center (FELC), a CREL activity. He met with CREL livelihood beneficiaries and CREL-trained Local Service Providers (LSP). He also visited vegetable farms and met with Chadpai Co-Management Committee members.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director (Natural Resource Management), Md. Solaiman Haidar, Deputy Director (Natural Resource Management), Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Program Coordinator of DoE, Dhaka and Dr. Mollick Anowar Hossen, Director, DoE Khulna accompanied the DG. John A. Dorr, CoP and other CREL officials were present during the visit.

Interactive Popular Theatre (IPT) shows organized to aware mass people through entertainment



CREL organized three IPT shows in Mongla, Kajurbag and Uttor Sonatola of South West region. A total 1250 audiences enjoyed these three IPT shows. The actors of these IPT shows performed on basis of a script produced and supplied by CREL. The major messages disseminated through these shows were on climate change and its impact, sustainable natural resource management, conservation of forests and bio-diversity, alternative livelihoods etc.