



## Deputy Chief of Mission of U.S. Embassy visits CREL activities in Sylhet



U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, David Meale visited CREL project sites in Sylhet of North East region. John Dorr, Chief of Party (CoP) of CREL along with other CREL staff accompanied Mr. Meale during his visit. The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) visited tree plantation sites, vegetable farming plots, and homestead gardening projects in the village of Pিরchok. There they met several Village Conservation Forum members. Later, DCM took a walk along one of the trails inside Khadimnagar National Park.

### Fish Catch Monitoring

CREL monitors fish catches in CREL's four regions; in North-East region Hail Haor, and Hakaluki Haor, in South-West region Sundarbans and Tengragiri, in Cox's Bazar region Sonadia and Nijhum Dweep and Halda of Chittagong region. Four days of fish catch monitoring is conducted each month. During the monitoring, the quantity of fish, species diversity, fishing activity, the size of fishes are observed and recorded. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess fish production and estimate of fish population parameters for important fish species. These data will also enable reliable quantitative estimates of changes in economic returns from fishing and bio-physical condition of the environment.



### Government of Bangladesh approves CREL Technical Assistance Project Proforma / Proposals with Department of Fisheries

The Ministry of Planning, GoB has approved the Technical Assistance Project Proforma/ Proposals (TAPP) of CREL project with Department of Fisheries (DoF). The project is being implemented with the assistance from three Government Departments, they are Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Environment (DoE) and Forest Department (FD) with three different Technical Assistance Project Proforma/ Proposals (TAPP). As per the approved TAPP of the DoF, the project period is July 2013 to September 2016 and the total worth of the project is 1,027.186 million Taka, of which GoB will contribute 32.019 million Taka and, as Development Partner, USAID will contribute 995.167 million Taka as grants.



## CREL organized training on Transitional Grants



CREL Transition Grants program, a part of the USAID Forward initiative, completed three days of training on M & E during May 11-13, 2015. The participants of this training were 12 members of six selected partner NGOs and 4 Winrock International staffs of different projects. The objective of the training program is to develop the capacity of six NGOs ( CODEC, CNRS, FIVDB, IDEA, NACOM and YPSA), to receive competitive grants that will help ensure their long-term sustainability and direct contributions to Bangladesh. The training covered the importance of M & E, detailed outline on program design and planning, good M&E practices that lead to proposal success, evidence-based approaches, Country-level Development Objectives and Intermediate Results, integration of M&E and learning into program design, project-level results framework preparation, practice on a USAID's RFA and how to prepare and implement a good M & E plan. The resource person for this training program was Carol Stoney, Director M&E and Knowledge Management of Winrock International.

## Jungle Walk CREL outreach activity for the youths

Jungle Walk - a CREL outreach program - is turning out to be popular with the college students. The basic scenario is: a group of selected students from VCFs are taken to forest for practical demonstration on bio-diversity and forest. There they also take part in exercises about their role on forest, wetland and ECA conservation and develop presentation based upon their learning. They then share their learnings among their peers as well as students of schools that are adjacent to the protected areas. The best performing group is then awarded for their performance. To date, CREL has organized four Jungle Walks in Chadpai and Koyra of Sundarbans and Chunati and Baroiadhala of Chittagong region that engaged 120 numbers of students of which half (51) were women. Forest Department officials, CMC, PF and VCF members as well as Teachers of the Colleges participated in the Jungle Walk with the students.



## Women representatives elected as Office Bearers in Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary

Co-management Council reformation meetings were held for the Teknaf, Whykong and Shilkhali CMC under Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary. Three women were elected in these meetings to the positions of Treasurer, Vice-President and Vice-President for Teknaf, Whykong and Shilkhali CMC respectively. Co-Management Organizations have a mandate to ensure at least one female representative in the position of CMC Office Bearer. These elections demonstrate the successful implementation of this mandate and steps towards promoting the role of women in leadership positions in CMCs.