

People's Forum Formed At Ratargul



The Government of Bangladesh declared the 204 hectare Ratargul Swamp Forest as the “Ratargul Special Biodiversity Conservation Area” (RSBCA). USAID’s CREL Project, together with the Forest Department, has been supporting the introduction of co-management for the protection and conservation of this

area. At the preliminary stage, CREL helped to form 10 Village Conservation Forums (VCFs) covering the nine forest dependent villages surrounding Ratargul. Through a series of meetings, each VCF selected two representatives to the People’s Forum (PF) followed by the Forest Department Range Officer

helping to form the People’s Forum and selection of the PF representatives for the Co-Management Council on 14 November 2016. The People’s Forum has a total of 20 members including 14 men and 6 women and the Executive Committee has 11 members with 8 men and 3 women.

CREL Representative Participated in COP 22

Mr. Abu Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Deputy Chief of Party, CREL Project joined the Conference Of Parties 22 (COP 22) as part of Bangladesh government delegation held in Marrakesh, Morocco during November 7-18, 2016. As part of the delegation he was entrusted with the responsibility of covering the G77 and China coordination meetings. This annual global event is a continuation of the negotiation processes on climate change between global leaders. Bangladesh is a member of the G77 + China Group and provides a particularly strong voice within the LDC sub-group. Negotiations on various issues important to Bangladesh took place in the meetings, Mr. Kamal covered those meetings and shared positions of the member countries and groups with the members of the Bangladesh

delegation. Delegation members took those issues back to various contact groups. Mr. Kamal also covered the REDD+ discussions, participated in side events and helped to facilitate outreach activities at the Bangladesh pavilion.



MOEF- Innovation Team Visits CMC Activities

Innovation Team from Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was established with the objective of gaining better understanding of CMC activities and to provide suggestions to make CMCs more economically sustainable. In November, the Innovation Team visited Chunati, Khadimnagar and Medakachapia CMCs, which have been supported by CREL in Chittagong, Sylhet and Cox’s Bazar regions, respectively. After the visits, the Team shared their findings with high officials in the Ministry in the presence of the CREL team, where they expressed their positive impressions of the CMC’s activities to conserve protected areas.

CREL Organizes Nepal Visit for Government Officials and CMO Leaders

CREL arranged an exposure visit for local government officials and CMO leaders to Nepal in November. Forest Action Nepal (FAN) shared their knowledge and experiences of co-management of natural resources within the context of climate change in Nepal. FAN arranged site visits on both forest and wetland ecosystem co-management for the five government officials and seven CMO leaders. During the visit FAN organized a one-day classroom training and orientation focusing on Nepal's community-based natural resource management history including: evolution, policy and practice; wetlands and protected areas co-management; climate change policies and practices; and community-level adaptation efforts and planning.

Private Sector Supports Forest Conservation



The BSRM Group in Chittagong recently signed an MOU to support the Hazarikhil Co-Management Committee as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, suggesting that forest conservation ranks very high in their priorities. BSRM will be providing BDT 219,000 to Hazarikhil CMC to improve alternative livelihoods for forest dependent community members to reduce pressure on natural resources in the Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary. This is a successful example of how USAID's Climate- Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project efforts to enhance CMC capacities to harness private sector funding for forest conservation works. The MOU signing ceremony was held on November 14 where Mr. Jashim Uddin, President of the Hazarikhil CMC` and Ms. Ruhi M. Ahmed, Head of CSR, PR and Communication of BSRM signed the MOU in presence of Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Mia, Conservator of Forests and CREL PD, Chittagong Circle and others.

Mangrove Afforestation In Cox's Bazar: A Global Example

44 delegates from 11 countries recently visited the Nuniarchara mangrove afforestation efforts as part of an IUCN sponsored international event for the Mangroves for the Future Project. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project supported the Nuniachara community efforts for mangrove afforestation and protection work on 100 hectares at Nuniachara, Cox's Bazar. Since 2014, CREL Project has been working with the community to conserve Nuniachara's mangrove forests starting with the formation of the Nuniachara Village Conservation Group (VCG). The expanding mangrove forest has become the breeding ground and habitat for a growing number of crab, fish, bird and reptile species. It has become a common nesting place for variety of bird species that now attract tourists due to its close proximity to Cox's Bazar town. CREL is also supporting the community by developing tourism infrastructure that has included paddle boats, a ticket counter and car parking. During the visit, the VCG members shared information on the strategies they used in their afforestation efforts, environmental protection and other activities. The Mangroves for the Future Project participants were impressed by the community's interventions and expressed their interest to replicate similar activities in their respective countries.



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



Department of Environment

