

## Protected Area Management Rules 2017

USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Projects supported the Bangladesh Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the past four years in drafting, properly vetting and finally approving the 'Protected Area Management Rules, 2017' by the relevant authorities of the government. The 'Protected Area Management Rules, 2017' codified the co-management process as a legally mandated management tool for conservation of Forest Protected Areas of Bangladesh.

CREL then helped the Bangladesh Forest Department to organize a meeting of 20 top officials of Forest Department to discuss strategies for implementing the 'Protected Area Management Rules, 2017'. The meeting



increased the understanding of the rules among field staffs of forest department and will advance forest co-management for conservation of habitats and natural resources and protection of biodiversity, thereby helping meet the objectives of the CREL project.

Mr. Mohammed Shafiu Alam Chawdhury, CCF, Mr. Abdul Latif Mia, DCCF and PD, CREL, Dr. Son Huang Nguyen from USAID, Dr. John Dorr, CoP, CREL and all Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers of Forest Department attended the meeting.

## USAID's CREL Project and Forest Department Jointly Win Award in 'Development Fair 2018'



USAID's CREL Project partnered with the Forest Department to participate in a fair organized by Chakaria Upazila field administration. The three-day long fair during January 11-13 was organized in Chakaria Central Field, Chakaria, Cox's Bazar to showcase development in infrastructure to health to community development sectors working in Chakaria. Sixty-six participants including government departments and non-government development organizations participated in the fair. The 'Development Fair 2018' attracted

10,000 residents of Chakaria including all level of government, non-government officials and leaders of community.

The CREL Project presented their activities for promoting conservation of forests and protection of wildlife. CREL display and presentation attracted more than 8,000 thousand visitors. CREL also promoted the ecotourism facilities that have been developed in Medakachhapia National Park and Fasiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary. These facilities were created with CREL support and are now operated by Co-management organizations earning them revenue to pay for their conservation initiatives.

CREL and Forest Department display received second prize from the event organizers and helped increase local government agencies' understanding and appreciation of meaningful coordination for conservation.

## Eco Cottage in Sundarbans

"Enjoy Sundarbans from the window of your room" boasts Sharmila, a CREL beneficiary from Chandpai, Khulna. She was talking to guests and journalist showing around her Eco Cottage in Kailashganj, Chandpai, a village adjoining the Sundarbans.

USAID's CREL Project supported development of two eco-cottage in the area. Revenue generated from these cottages will be shared with Chandpai CMC and provide jobs for 20 families, who previously were dependent on forest resource for their livelihoods.



## Community Unite for Protection of Trees

CREL Project has planted 190,000 native species of trees in and around Hakaluki Haor in 2014-15. The survival rate of these trees is nearly 90%. Average height of these trees is now half a meter. During the dry season in haor area, as is the practice, cattle growers around the entire region send their livestock to haor for grazing. In one herd there are usually 500 cattle accompanied by few herders. They set camps in the haor and let their cattle graze freely. This practice destroys all vegetation in the area.

Judhistipur-Badedeuli Village Conservation Forum members protested when such a herd entered the plantation zone. The herder ignored the members request which led to a confrontational situation. The VCF members took the issue to local elected officials and urged them to protect the plantation. Elected Chairman of the local union summoned a meeting of both the parties and instructed the herder to remove their livestock within 15 days and compensate for the damage done to the vegetation there.



## Workshop on PA Management Rules and CMO Sustainability



USAID's CREL Project helped the Bangladesh Forest Department organize four two-day workshops on PA Management Rules and CMO Sustainability. The objective of the workshop was to orient Co-management Committee members and Forest Department Officials on various aspects of the 'Protected Area Management Rules, 2017' and how the Rules would support sustainability of Co-management Organizations in respective Protected Areas. Three workshops were held in 3 regions in January and the last one held in February. These workshops took place in Chittagong on January 8-9, in Sreemongal

on January 17, in Cox's Bazar on January 24-25 and in Khulna on February 6-7. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, honorable Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Environment and Forests presided over the workshop in Cox's Bazar where top officials of the Forest Department and CMC members participated. In Chittagong, Dr. Zaglul Hossain, Conservator of Forests, Chittagong Circle conducted workshop in Chittagong. Mr. Mihir Kanti Doe, DFO, Moulvibazar conducted the workshop in Sreemongal and in Khulna, Mr. Amir Hosain Chowdhury, Conservator of Forests, Khulna Circle conducted the workshop.

## Co-Management Organizations Receive Training for 'Business Plan Development'

"We had some idea about businesses, but we never gave much attention to cost-benefit, risk factors, market linkage issues are essential elements to be incorporated, during planning a business. Through this training we have understood the importance of factoring in environmental and biodiversity conservation issues while planning for business development."- Mr. Sarwar Uddin, President, Baraiyadhala Co-Management Committee.

Mr. Sarwar Uddin was expressing his opinion during the closing session of a two-day long training on Business plan development for CMOs held on January 29-30, 2018 in Chittagong. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project is working to make CMCs sustainable through various enterprises and activities. CREL Project organized two workshops during

January one in Khulna for South West regional CMCs and another one in Chittagong for CMCs under Chittagong region.

The purpose of this training was to enable CMOs to plan successful ecotourism based businesses, and enterprises in group approach to provide alternative livelihoods for CPG members, hunters and poachers. CMOs will be designing business modalities through proper planning and sustainable use the funds generated from those ventures for conservation and management of natural resources in their area. Representatives from five protected areas (PA) and seven Co-management organizations participated in the training. Each organization identified five enterprises and ecotourism based business area and produced a draft business plan at the end of the training.