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T r i p u r a G i f t
c o l l e c t i o n



The Tripura:

Colorful Culture under Pressure of Change

The 60,000 ethnic Tripura citizens of Bangladesh are concentrated in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Sylhet Division. The Tripura speak Kakbarak, a language originated from Tibeto-Burmese language family.*

Tripura culture is colorful, rich and distinct from the dominant Bengali culture. Traditional folk tales, songs and beliefs express themselves in cultural festivals such as Baisuk, a major festival that welcomes the new year. The Katharak (or Bottle) Dance is arranged for family well-being, affluence, peace in married life and relief from danger. Tripura jewelry includes both the cumulative necklaces seen on elderly women and large ring earrings.*

One of the central features of Tripura culture is weaving. Traditional Tripura looms are made from locally available bamboo. In the past, looms were custom made for each dress and were used only once. The yarn was also dyed locally by hand. Weaving is a social event, bringing women together to share information from the village.

Sadly, the richness of Tripura culture is under pressure of change. Many young Tripura boys and girls are not learning or adopting cultural traditions. Elderly women wear the beautiful jewelry that the young no longer find interesting. Hand-loom weaving in particular is under threat.

For the Tripura communities living in or near Protected Forest Areas in the Sylhet and Hobigang Districts of Bangladesh, cultural change is exacerbated by loss of forests upon which these communities have depended.

* -- From "Glimpse of Adivasi Cultures of Bangladesh", Earth Touch, March 2005 by Partha Shankar Saha.



The Tripura Gift Collection: Culture, Livelihoods, Nature

This Tripura Gift Collection brings the richness of Tripura culture to you in elegantly styled gifts. Each Gift includes a piece of hand-loomed cloth made in traditional styles of the Tripura culture and integrated with fine leather.

Earnings from the Collection help to improve the livelihoods of Tripura women even as they contribute to cultural conservation. The women making these cloths can work at home, remaining close to their children and families, and avoiding the risks and hardship of commuting to daily job outside the village or migrating to nearby cities.

Revenue generated from these sales will also help to reduce pressure on nearby forests by reducing the need to generate cash income from forest extraction.

The Collection was developed jointly by the Nishorgo Program of the Bangladesh Forest Department (www.nishorgo.org) and Folk Bangladesh.

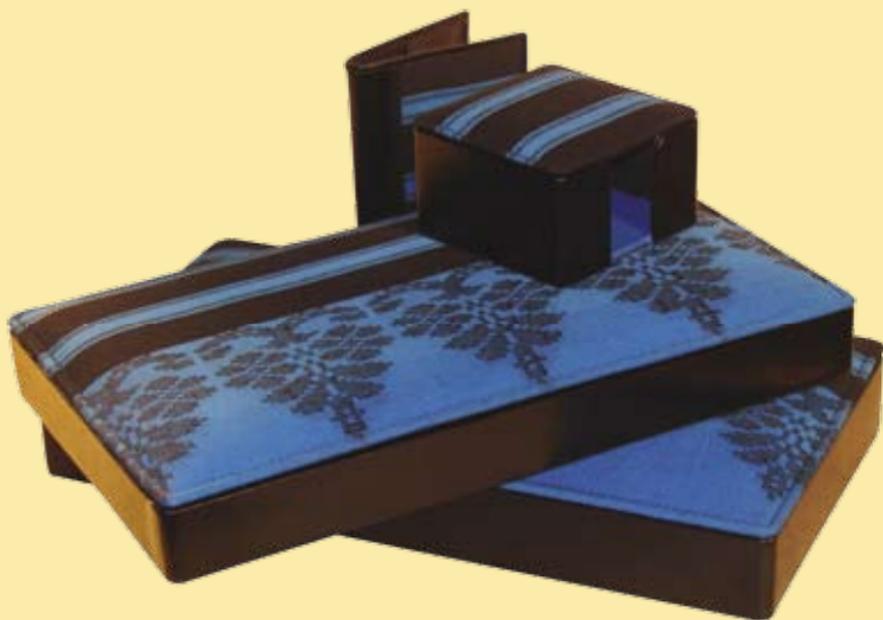
Nishorgo works to build partnerships for conservation with stakeholders living in and around Protected Forest Areas of the country. Nishorgo's work on the Collection receives technical support from IRG of Washington DC and RDRS of Bangladesh, and financial support from the American people through USAID.

Folk Bangladesh is a non-profit cooperative venture that works to expand business opportunities with low-income members of the ethnic minorities of the country. Folk Bangladesh is working for Fair Trade in all of its ventures.

All revenue from the Gift Collection is divided between the Tripura producers and Folk Bangladesh.



Office Organizer



Office Organizer



Pencil Holder



The Traveller Set



Jewelry Kit



Traveler's Bag



Folded Traveler's Bag

Tripura Corporate Gifts

Make a Statement with Your Annual Corporate Gift this Year

If you like the Tripura Gifts in this catalogue, why not use them for corporate meetings, seminars, year-end gifts to key clients, or other corporate gift opportunities?

Folk International works with its Tripura women producer cooperatives to prepare special order corporate gift items. Your company logo can be embedded in a variety of ways in one of the Tripura Gifts in this catalogue.

Every purchase of a Tripura Gift helps the women that made them and the Protected Areas they are working to conserve. By giving a Tripura Corporate Gift, your logo and name become associated with cultural preservation, nature conservation, help to the poor and pride in Bangladesh.

For more information on how you can order a Corporate Gift, contact

An Enterprise of
folk bangladesh

at the coordinates below:

Patriar Jonson Gomes, Deputy Director

Mobile: 880-1716-854 068

Office 880-2-892 0755

Email: folkasc@bdmail.net; devtech@bdmail.net

or

Visit and view our complete product range at Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka in the lower lobby area.



Our Supporters and Partners



The Forest Department's Nishorgo Program for Protected Area Management is working to conserve biodiversity in partnership with local people.

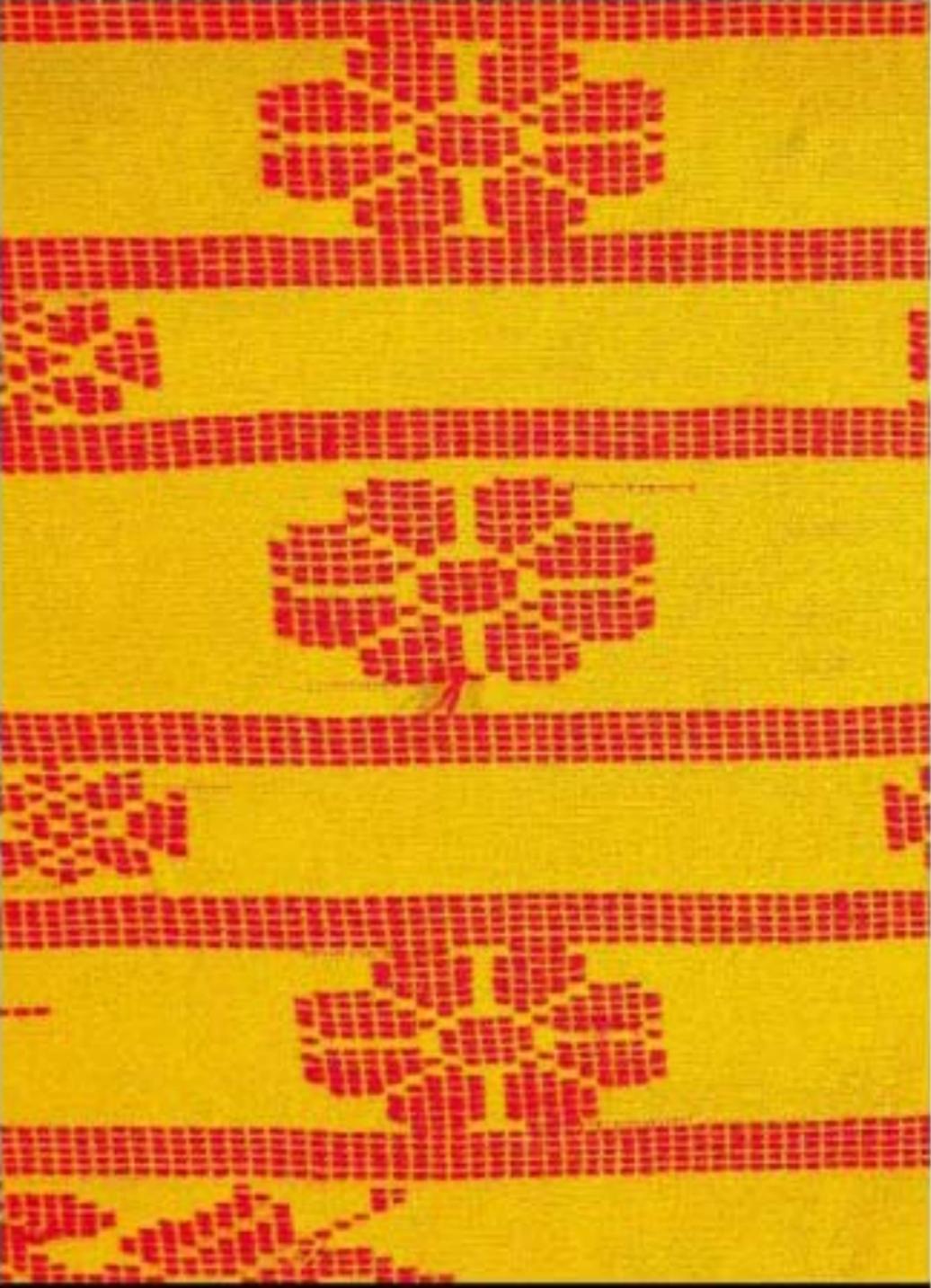


Partial funding for the technical development of this cooperative venture has been provided by the American people through USAID.



RDRS/Bangladesh is committed to supporting livelihood improvements for the low-income ethnic minority populations of the country, and has supporting field teams in Habiganj and Moulavibazar.

Radisson The Radisson Water Garden Hotel works & supports the Nishorgo Program and provides direct assistance to the Tripura and other people living next to Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary where many of the Tripura Collection producers live.



The Tripura Gift Collection

Conserving Culture

Improving Lives

Saving Nature