



Nishorgo

Protected Areas Management Program

Protected Areas of Bangladesh: A Visitor's Guide



A Program of The Forest Department,
Ministry of Environment & Forests





www.nishorgo.org

Protected Areas of Bangladesh: A Visitors Guide

Technical preparation by:
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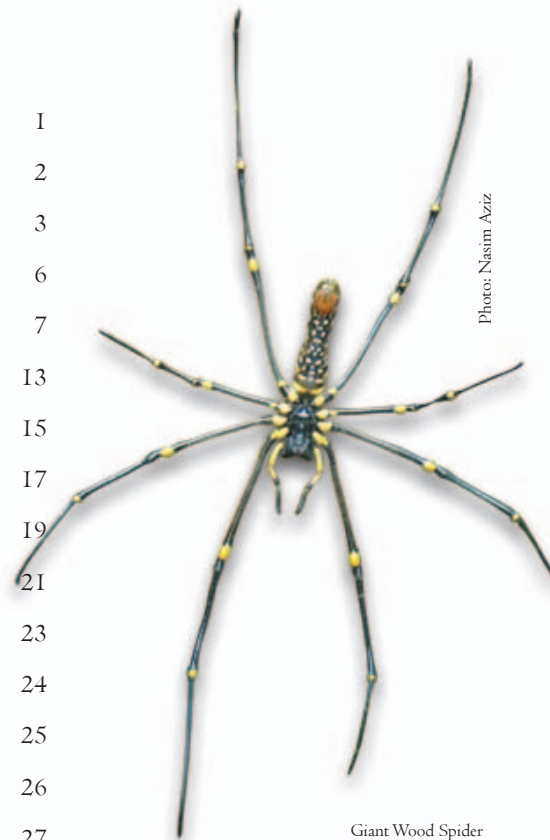


Photo: Nasim Aziz

Giant Wood Spider
at Lawachara National Park

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Photo: M M Feroz

Dragon fly

Our Protected Areas and Eco-Parks at a Glance

Sl.	Protected Areas	Forest types	District	Area (ha)	Established (Extended)
1	Sundarbans (East) Wildlife Sanctuary	Mangrove forest	Bagerhat	31,226	1960 (1996)
2	Sundarbans (West) Wildlife Sanctuary	Mangrove forest	Satkhira	71,502	1996
3	Sundarbans (South) Wildlife Sanctuary	Mangrove forest	Khulna	36,970	1996
4	Lawachara National Park	Hill forest	Maulvibazar	1,250	1996
5	Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary	Hill forest	Habiganj	1795	1996
6	Satchari National Park	Hill forest	Habiganj	242	2006
7	Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary	Hill forest	Chittagong	7,761	1986
8	Teknaf Game Reserve	Hill forest	Cox's Bazar	11,615	1983
9	Bhawal National Park	Sal forest	Gazipur	5,022	1974 (1982)
10	Madhupur National Park	Sal forest	Tangail	8,436	1962 (1982)
11	Ramsagar National Park	Sal forest	Dinajpur	27	2001
12	Himchari National Park	Hill forest	Cox's Bazar	1,729	1980
13	Kaptai National Park	Hill forest	Rangamati	5,464	1999
14	Nijhum Dweep National Park	Coastal mangrove	Noakhali	16,352	2001
15	Medha Kachapia National Park	Hill forest	Cox's Bazar	395	2004
16	Char Kukri-Mukri Wildlife Sanctuary	Coastal mangrove	Bhola	40	1981
17	Pabla Khali Wildlife Sanctuary	Hill forest	Rangamati	42,087	1962 (1983)
18	Banskhali Eco-Park	Hill forest	Chittagong	1,200	2003
19	Madhob-Kunda Eco-Park	Hill forest	Maulvibazar	253	2000
20	Kua-Kata Eco-Park	Coastal mangrove	Patuakhali	5,661	2006
21	Sita-Kunda Eco-Park	Hill forest	Chittagong	403	2000
22	Madhu-Tila Eco-Park	Sal forest	Sherpur	100	1999
23	Dulahazara Safari Park	Hill forest	Cox's Bazar	900	1997
24	Khadimnagar National Park	Hill forest	Sylhet	679	2006

➤ See map of all these areas on inside back cover.

Using this Guide and Planning Your Trip

Organization of the Guide

For each Protected Area and Eco-Park, we present its location, area, outstanding features, brief history, habitat, flora and fauna. We then include enough information to help you get there from Dhaka and find a place to stay the night and get a meal.

Picnic or Small Group Nature Experience?

Before you go, decide whether you want to picnic in a single place or explore nature in smaller groups. If picnicking is your goal, then you'll do best to visit the Eco-Parks, which are designed for recreation. If nature exploration is your goal, then it's better to avoid the Eco-Parks and go instead to the Protected Areas.

Appropriate Clothes

Bring walking shoes or hiking boots rather than formal shoes. All the trails will get your shoes dirty. While long-sleeve shirts may be hot, they are helpful for keeping the mosquitoes away. Wear drab colors and earth tones in the forest. The same bright colors that make some clothes eye-catching have the same effect on animals -- and cause them to flee.

Use of Tour Operators and Tour Guides

This book is meant to help you get out to the Protected Areas more easily. Tour Operators can also be of great assistance. For some areas such as the Sundarbans, a Tour Operator is a necessity for many. When you get to the site, look for local Eco-Guides, who often have more knowledge of the area than others. By hiring them you are supporting the local economy and providing an incentive for conservation. For the Nishorgo Support Project sites, you can find Eco-Guides at www.nishorgo.org.

Health Precautions

Mosquitoes and malaria are a risk in most forest areas of the country, so keep your skin covered and use repellent or preventing medicine as appropriate. Be aware that there are leeches in most forests. Leeches do not transmit diseases, and the only real impact is that they open a small wound and let out a little blood. The best way to avoid them is by tucking your pants into your socks. Many experienced hikers simply wear sandals and then pull the leeches off once they leave the forest. As an extra precaution, you may want to moisten your socks in salted water.

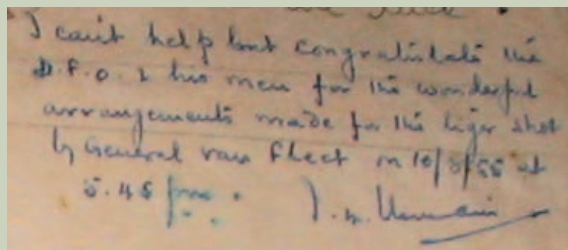
History of the Protected Areas

Traditional and customary forest use systems in **ancient and medieval** Bengal were largely participatory and inclusive, and were designed to meet the livelihood needs of local communities. Society at the time realized that forests on which local people depend for their livelihoods should not be managed in isolation of neighboring communities.

The first formal attempt to exercise state control was taken in the **Mughal** period. In the late 1700s, Moghal rulers effected permanent settlement of estates by granting to local Zamindars (or Talukdars) the right to collect land revenue in lieu of a fixed annual royalty. Local communities, who were until that time using forests for their livelihood and cultivation, were made tenants at the mercy of Zamindars. During this period, most land stayed under nominal control of the Zamindars. Regular conversion of forests to agriculture occurred to generate more payment revenue from cultivated lands.

With the advent of the **colonial** period, property rights were established on open access forests by establishing a Forest Department and enacting a first Forest Act in 1865. Some forests were earmarked as hunting reserves for royalty, a concept extended by British in their colonies first by reserving commercially important trees (e.g. teak for royal navy) and subsequently by reserving forest lands (e.g. reserve forest and protected forest). The main objective of forest management during this period was production of wood, mainly timber. Heavy loss of forests occurred during the first and second World Wars when the demands for the British navy increased manifold.

A Glimpse of Protected Area History Through a Visitor's Log



The Lawachara National Park Guest Book from 1955 includes this entry by the District Commissioner of Sylhet: *"I can't help congratulating the DFO [Divisional Forest Officer] & his men for the wonderful arrangements made for the tiger shot by General Van Fleet on 10/3/55 at 5.45pm"*. General Van Fleet was returning to Lawachara after having made a first visit in June of 1954 while he was acting as a special representative of President Eisenhower to review the political situation in the Far East.

Protected Areas Timeline

Until **1790**: Traditional and customary forest use systems

1793: First formal state control on forests

1865: Forest Department established and Forest Act 1865 enacted

1900s: Reservation process for natural forests started

1927: Comprehensive Forest Act enacted

1945: End of the War brings heavy demand for timber for the ship-building industry

1969-71: Civil unrest associated with Liberation War leads to rapid loss of Sal forests

1973-74: Wildlife (Preservation) Order and Act are enacted

1980s: Community and social forestry programs are initiated

1980-86: First wave of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are declared

2001: Wildlife Circle created

2003: Nishorgo Vision 2010 prepared and Nishorgo Program launched by Forest Department

2004: Pilot co-management efforts at five Protected Areas approved by ECNEC

2006: Government Order (GO) signed formally recognizing co-management structure at five Protected Areas

After **independence** from British rule in 1947, the Zamindari system was abolished by the Government of Pakistan and the 'State Acquisition and Tenancy Act' was enacted to bring private forests under Government ownership. Accordingly, the Forest Department took over the management of some private forests until then managed by Zamindars and native rulers. Natural forests of low commercial value were cleared for raising plantations of commercially valuable species such as teak and jarul. Raw material needs for West Pakistan were met by exploiting natural forests of East Pakistan.

The **Liberation War** resulted in a loss of valuable forests, particularly in the sal forest areas of the central part of the country. Forest land encroachment for habitation and cultivation led to shrinkage and degradation of natural forests. Forest dependent communities were affected adversely as this process continued.

Large scale community and social forestry projects, supported by donors, were taken up in Bangladesh from the **early 1980s** when forestry programs began to be linked to rural poverty alleviation efforts. Initially, these first social forestry projects were implemented in areas outside the designated forests (Reserved and Protected forests) mainly to create tree resources on unutilized government and private lands. As investment in these tree growing activities increased, resources allocated for natural forest management diminished.

The environmental functions and services of natural forests were increasingly recognized, both internationally and nationally during the 1970s and **into the 1990s**. Wildlife protection legislations and acts were enacted during the 1970s that provided a legal basis for establishing Protected Areas. The Forestry Master Plan, completed in 1993, led to the promulgation of the people-oriented Forest Policy of 1994 wherein peoples' needs were focused.

With the advent of the **new millennium**, the pressures on the network of Protected Areas have become greater. Brick fields have continued to operate near the Protected Areas. Dhaka's construction boom has pushed up the demand and prices for teak and other hardwoods. As land prices have risen throughout the country, even remote Protected Areas have suffered from encroachment. All the while, the demand for fuel wood for poor households has grown with the numbers of poor.

It is in this context that in **2003** the Forest Department developed a new vision for Protected Area management (called Nishorgo Vision 2010) and launched the new Nishorgo Program. The Nishorgo Support Project is working with the Nishorgo Program to develop a model for collaboration with local stakeholders in protected areas at five sites throughout the country.

Are You Forest-Friendly? Take This Short Quiz to Find Out

Even the largest of our Protected Areas will seem smaller as the numbers of visitors rises. If we are to ensure an enjoyable experience in the forest, we must all work to be Forest-Friendly. Take this short quiz to find out, or administer it to a friend.

In the Protected Areas, do you...

1. Pick any plants or flowers?
2. Capture and remove any insects or animals?
3. Enter uninvited into the homes or homesteads of the people of the area?
4. Take photographs of people without asking permission first?
5. Play loud music?
6. Cook food on open fire?
7. Discard any rubbish?
8. Hire local guides at fair rates?
9. Treat members of ethnic minorities with respect?
10. Willingly spend money on products or services provided by people of the area?
11. Follow the rules posted by Forest Department or the local Co-Management Committee?
12. Pay an entry fee where it is required?
13. Stay on designated trails when hiking?

If you answered "No" to questions 1-7 and "Yes" to questions, 8-13, then you scored 100% and should congratulate yourself on being Forest Friendly! If you got one or more questions wrong, then you should work to change your behavior or attitudes. These quiz questions follow standard and accepted behavioral norms for all Protected Areas.



Scouts hiking at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

Nishorgo Vision 2010

In August of 2003, a group of senior Officers of the Forest Department outlined a future vision for Protected Area management in Bangladesh. This *Nishorgo Vision 2010* has been the guiding document of the Nishorgo Program. Highlights of the Vision follow below:

The *Vision* calls for a "new institutional focus" for Protected Area management, stating that "Protected Area managers that have been perceived in the past as distant and distrusting of local people...must by 2010 focus more on coordination..." It also states that "Protected Area managers that have focused in the past on administration, collection of fines, fees and taxes should by 2010 focus on sustainable local development..."

In order to meet the new challenges, the Department's Protected Area managers will now work in new ways, including:

- Strengthening of skills in ecosystem management and eco-restoration
- Understanding and use of participatory management processes
- Reorganization of the Wildlife Circle
- Clarifying roles of Divisional Forest Officers from the "territorial" and "wildlife" branches of the Department
- Ensuring a cultural sensitivity and openness to the diversity of ethnic groups in the country.

In addition to direct investment in expanded training and staff reorientation, *Nishorgo Vision 2010* calls for new local, national and international partnerships. The range of public-private partnerships at these levels remain the only way for the Department to fully achieve its mandate of conserving a Protected Area system that meets the needs of a growing populace and threatened eco-systems.

(A full copy of *Nishorgo Vision 2010* can be found at www.nishorgo.org.)



Ethnic Urang boy and girl as 'Radha' and 'Krishna' in Satchari National Park

Photo: Monrul H Khan



The Three Sundarbans Wildlife Sanctuaries

Protected Areas within the Largest Mangrove Forest in the World

The Sundarbans is our "beautiful forest" as its name implies. It is the single largest mangrove forest in the world and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger. Within the larger Sundarbans Reserve Forest are found three specially declared Wildlife Sanctuaries: Sundarbans East, South and West. The unique array of natural mangrove forest, creeks, meandering streams, rivers, estuaries and spectacular wildlife make it a feast for all eyes.

Location: In the south-western frontier of Bangladesh. From Khulna city the distance by boat to the East, West and South Sanctuaries is about 65 km, 75 km and 80 km respectively.



Golpata at Sundarbans Forest



Area: The Sundarbans Reserve Forest includes 601,700 hectares. Within the boundary of this Reserve Forest are found the three Wildlife Sanctuaries, totalling 139,698 hectares.

Outstanding Features

- Home of the Bengal Tiger, Spotted Deer, Iriwaddy Dolphin, and Estuarine Crocodile
- A rich avifauna that comprise about 50% of birds known in Bangladesh
- A refuge and passage for migrant and seasonal birds
- Thousands of hectares of unbroken and uninhabited wild nature



Royal Bengal Tiger

Facts: Royal Bengal Tiger

- Their body length without tail is about 1.8 to 2.8 meters
- Weight of males is 180-280 kg and of females is 115-185 kg
- The pattern of each individual is unique
- Their short and stiff fur is bright fawn to reddish tan, shading to white underneath
- For food, they prefer spotted deers, wild pigs and monkeys
- The Tiger drags kill to a safe place to eat
- They are able to eat up to 20 kg at a time and then go without eating for days
- Tigers are solitary predators and soon after mating the male tigers leave the female who fends for the cubs herself
- The white ear spots enable mothers and cubs to keep track of each other in the dim forests at night
- A Tigress generally delivers 2-4 cubs
- Resting Tigers spend most of their time in the ritual of grooming with their rough tongues



Estuarine Crocodile

Brief History

In the 16th century, the Sundarbans forest was the property of the local king or Zamindar who imposed levy on the extraction of wood from the forest. During the British period, the proprietary right over the forest was assumed by the Crown. Forests were leased under the Act in 1830 to Europeans. This resulted in the progressive conversion of forests into agricultural land that continued up to 1875. A number of prominent British foresters visited the Sundarbans between 1863 to 1874 and succeeded in raising awareness in the colonial administration about the value of the forest. Their recommendations resulted in the introduction of a set of guidelines initiating the first conservation activities. Leasing out of forest land was thus stopped in 1875 and the remaining unleased forest was declared

as Reserve Forest under the Forest Act of 1876. A Forest Management Division was established in 1879 at Khulna that regulated export of timber and was in charge of management. The Boundary of the Bangladesh portion of the forest has remained mostly unchanged for the last 125 years. The conservation effort received a boost when in 1977 the government set aside 139,700 hectares for three wildlife sanctuaries under the Wildlife Act of 1973.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The forest is comprised of plant species that can grow on salty soil and withstand periodic inundation. The main species are Sundari, Gewa and Goran, with a total of 334 plant species. About 289 terrestrial faunal species and 219 aquatic faunal

Spotted Deer



species have been recorded. Prominent and important mammal species include the Royal Bengal Tiger, Spotted Deer, Macaque, Wild Boar, Jackal and Indian Fishing Cats. The Reserve Forest and Sanctuaries have a rich bird population of 315 species, of which 84 are migratory.

Getting There from Dhaka

From Dhaka to Khulna the most pleasant journey is by paddle steamer Rocket (Tk. 100-1000) which takes 26 hours and offers visitors a picturesque panorama of Bangladesh. Day and night coach services by road (AC: Tk. 300, non-AC: Tk. 175) on a 7 hour journey are also available. The quickest mode is of course by air from Dhaka to Jessore and then to Khulna by road. Water transport is the only means of communication with the Sundarbans from Khulna or Mongla port. Private motor launches, speed boats, country boats as well as mechanized vessels of Mongla Port Authority offer regular services on these routes. The time to visit the Sundarbans is from October to March.

Places to Stay and Eat

Lodging in Khulna is plentiful. Many visitors book a berth on boats run or organized by Tour Operators. Lodging may be arranged in the Forest Department Rest House with prior reservation. Parjatan has a motel at Mongla (Tel: 04662-75100, Tk. 600-1200) with restaurant facility.

Sundarbans

Bon Bibi: Mythical Lady of the Forest

Among the folk deities particularly associated with the Sundarbans is the Bon Bibi, the Lady of the Forests, a Sylvan manifestation of the Devi propitiated by woodcutter, honey-gatherer, fisherman, and hunter alike. She is often represented by a stone slab, clay pot, or a full two-headed image seated on a tiger, and has her own special festival in the winter months of the year. In some Sundarban villages, She is worshiped daily.





Special Nature Visits within the Sunderbans Reserve Forest and Sanctuaries

Karamjal

One of the major entry points to the Sundarbans. Located about 5km (a 45 min boat ride) from Mongla Sea Port, Karamjal Visitor Centre is a good place for a half day visit to get an overall idea and feel about what the Sundarbans has to offer.

Outstanding Attractions

- Mangrove Arboretum
- View dolphin jumping in the Passur river on way to Karamjal
- Elevated wooden trail inside forest and observation tower
- Deer and Crocodile rearing station
- Canoeing
- Good for half a day visit

Facilities: Although night stay facilities are not yet available, one can stay at local hotels or the Parjatan Tourist Hotel in Khulna city.

Katka

This is one of the most breathtaking spots in the region. It is also the best spot to see the Spotted Deer that graze around in herds or even the Royal Bengal Tiger stalking down the shores of the beaches, crossing one of the canals, or simply snoozing. Katka is 150km from Khulna city and 100 km from Mongla. One can travel to Katka from Mongla or Khulna Forest Ghat via various hired water vessels like speedboats, cabin cruisers, sea truck or launch.

Outstanding Attractions

- Spotted Deer herds in close proximity of rest house
- Jamtala watchtower to view wildlife
- Canoeing in Katka Khal
- Basking crocodiles
- Tiger spotting

Facilities: There is a solar-powered rest-house with security and tour guide facilities.



Kachikhali

Beach lovers will find Paradise here. Located 14 km east of Katka, Kachikhali has an isolated sea beach deep in the forest. The site is managed by the Sundarban East Wildlife Sanctuary.

Outstanding Attractions

- Virgin beach
- View fluorescent plankton & luminescent fireflies at night
- Night canoeing
- Deer, Crocodiles, Monkeys and Monitor lizards
- Tiger spotting

Facilities: A solar-powered rest house with security and tour guide facilities. For rent of rooms or entire rest house contact the Sundarban East Forest Division, Bagerhat.

Nilkamal

Located in the southern part of the Sundarbans this spot is also known as “Hiron Point”. It is 80 km from Mongla and 130 km from Khulna by waterway and can be reached by taking motorized boats (3 ½ hrs by speedboat and 12 hrs by jaliboat) on the Passur River.

Outstanding Attractions

- King Cobra, Otter, Spotted Deer
- Tiger spotting

Facilities: A Mongla Port Authority rest house and a Forest Department rest house with security and tour guide facilities. Radio communication available. Medical facilities from Navy camp available.

Dublar Char

This is essentially a fisherman’s island 25 km south-west of Katka and 35 km south-east of Nilkamal and can be accessed by launch, speedboat and Jali boat but should be avoided in stormy weather.

Outstanding Attractions

- Various species of fish and crab
- Raash Mela on November
- Local fish processing procedures

Facilities: Security and guide services available

Mandarbaria

Mandarbaria is an isolated island tucked away in the south-west corner of the Sundarbans and though a bit hard to access due to deep estuaries can be reached by launch or speedboat from Dublar Char or Nilkamal.

Outstanding Attractions

- Ideal undisturbed site for the mangrove and wildlife
- Turtle breeding spot
- Dolphins, King Crabs and numerous species of crabs

Facilities: No night stay facilities, but one may avail security and guide



Photo: Philip J. DeCasse

Lawachara National Park

Lawachara National Park



A beautiful tropical forest near Srimongal marked by diverse birds and the presence of the largest population of the critically endangered Hoolock Gibbon in Bangladesh.

Location: 8 km east of Srimongal town; Kamalgonj Upazila; Maulvibazar District, Sylhet Division.

Area: The 1,250 hectare Park is located within the larger 2,740 hectares West Bhanugach Reserve Forest.

Outstanding Features:

- Largest group of Hoolock Gibbon in Bangladesh
- 155 species of birds identified
- More than 20 species of wild orchids
- Easy access by road
- Presence of two ethnic minority communities
- Marked hiking trails of 1/2 hour, 1 hour and 3 hours

Brief History

Lawachara National Park is part of the West Bhanugach Reserve Forest. The Park was notified in 1996 under the Wildlife Act of 1974. From the turn of the century through the 1950s, the Park's natural forest was gradually felled for plantations. The core area is an excellent compact forest of plantations dating from the 1920s, now evolving towards natural forest.

The Park is now one of five pilot sites of the Nishorgo Support Project. Local people have formed a Government-recognized Council to oversee management of the Park and the surrounding landscape.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Forest is semi-evergreen. The 20 mammal species include 6 primates, 246 birds, 4 amphibians, 6 reptiles. Notable species include the Hoolock Gibbon; Capped Langur, Slow Loris, Pig-tailed Macaque, Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel, Barking Deer and Masked Civet. Most notable plants include a variety of spectacular orchids, which bloom in abundance during the rainy season.

Getting There from Dhaka

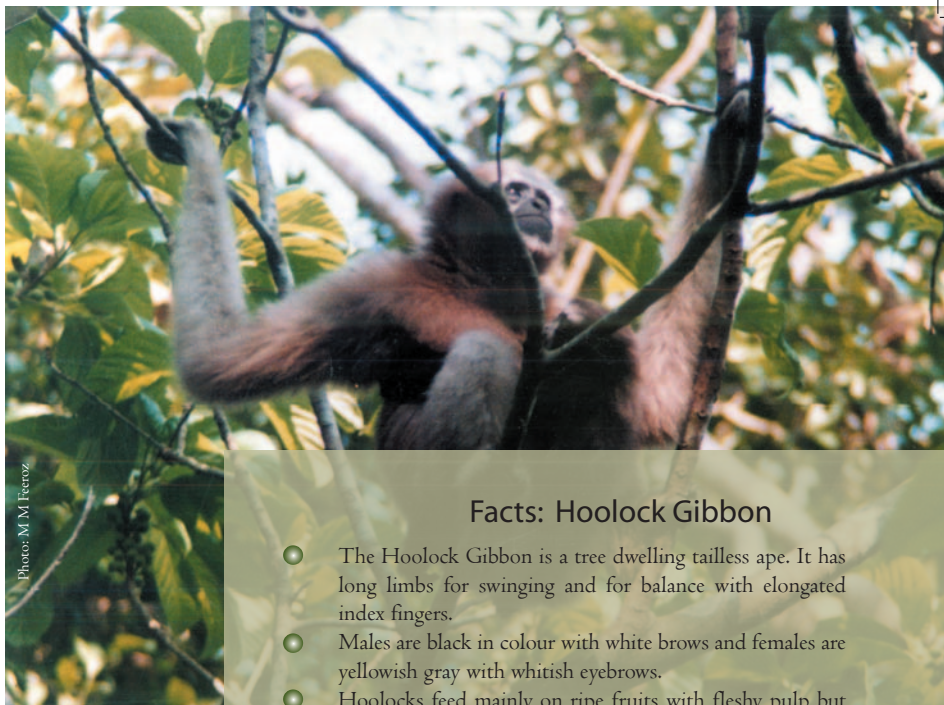
Daily bus services (AC: Tk. 250, non-AC: Tk. 200) are available from Dhaka to Srimongal every hour from Sayedabad Bus Terminal and take about 3.5 hours. Train services (Tk. 200, 4.5 hours) are also available twice daily. Car drive takes 3.5 hrs from Dhaka on highway N2, turn right at Mirpur junction towards Srimongal. From Srimongal you can hire any transport to go to the park which is only 8 km from the city center.

Places to Stay and Eat

Accommodation facilities are abundant in Srimongal. Facilities include entry-level Tea Town Guest House (Tel: 08626-370, Tk. 250-500), mid level Sandya Hotel (Tel: 08626-243, Tk. 400-750) and high-end Tea Resort (Tel: 08626-207, Tk. 1500-3000). Lodging is also available at BTRI Rest House (Tel: 08626-225, Tk. 300-400). A good number of restaurants in the city offer different choices of meals.

Hoolock Gibbon

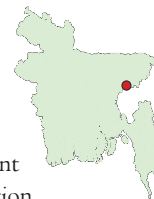
Photo: M M Feroz



Facts: Hoolock Gibbon

- The Hoolock Gibbon is a tree dwelling tailless ape. It has long limbs for swinging and for balance with elongated index fingers.
- Males are black in colour with white brows and females are yellowish gray with whitish eyebrows.
- Hoolocks feed mainly on ripe fruits with fleshy pulp but also eat leaves, flowers, buds and shoots.
- They live in small family groups of 2-5 consisting of a mating pair and 1-3 offspring. Gibbons mate for life.
- The mother Hoolock Gibbon gives birth to a single young.
- Hoolocks prefer the middle to top canopy of tropical forests.
- The Hoolock Gibbon is only found in four countries of the world - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar & Southern China.
- In Bangladesh the Hoolock occurs in the forests of Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary



This beautiful virgin forest sanctuary - the largest remnant of the upland forest that covered much of the Sylhet region through the 1940s - is tucked away in the border region of Bangladesh on the southeast fringes of Sylhet division. It is home to a wonderful variety of plant, animal and bird-life and provides some of the best bird-watching experiences in the country. Four different ethnic forest communities with their unique cultures are to be found living in the forest.

Location: Approximately 130 km northeast of Dhaka and 80 km southwest of Sylhet in the Chunar Ghat Upazila of Hobiganj District.

Area: The Sanctuary of 1,795 hectares is located within the larger 6,232 hectares Tarap Hill Reserve Forest.

Outstanding Features

- Largest natural hill forest of Bangladesh
- Bird lover's Paradise with 167 species of birds
- Primates include Capped Langur, Slow Loris and Monkeys
- Fishing Cat, Wild Boar and Deer
- Ethnic life and culture of the Tripura, Shantal, Telugu and Urang
- Marked 1/2 hour, 1 hour and 3 hour hiking trails

Brief History

Records from the Visitor's Log in the Forest indicate that it was a regular place for hunting of panthers, tigers and other animals in the early 1960s. The Sanctuary was officially established in 1981, and was expanded to its present 1,795 ha in 1996. In 2004, the Sanctuary was selected as one of

the five pilot sites for co-management under the Forest Department's Nishorgo Program.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The Sanctuary is composed of evergreen and semi-evergreen tropical plant species covering rolling and hilly land with small valleys. Four creeks which are tributaries of the Kusiara River run through the sanctuary. Identified species include 20 mammals, 162 birds, 3 amphibians, 6 reptiles, and 606 plants. The mammals include the Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Phayre's Langur, Slow Loris, Monkeys, Fishing Cat, Wild Boar, Barking Deer and Mongoose.

Getting There from Dhaka

By road, entry points to Rema Kalenga are from either Srimongal or Chunaru Ghat. In both cases, you will need a local guide (see "Getting More Information"), as the road is dirt and there are few signboards. From Chunaru Ghat it is accessible only by motorcycle or motor rickshaw (45min). From Srimongal, it is a 90 minute ride by 4-wheel vehicle (Tk. 2000), but the road may be impassable in the rainy season. By bus, go to Chunaru Ghat or Srimongal (served by Shamoly and Neptune lines) and proceed from there. No trains run near this site, although one can take a train to Srimongal and proceed from there.

Places to Stay and Eat

Ask for ecofriendly guest houses at the Sanctuary. One can also stay at Srimongal in facilities such as the budget Tea Town Guest House (Tel: 08626-370, Tk. 250-500), mid range Viator Rest House (Tel: 08626-88309, Tk. 400-1000) or high-end Tea Resort (Tel: 08626-207, Tk. 1500-3000). Lodging is also available at BTRI Rest House (Tel: 08626-225, Tk. 300-400). Restaurants are abundant in the city.

The Lonely Call of the Last Surviving Hoolock

When you visit Rema Kalenga, you may hear the high pitched whooping call of the single surviving Hoolock Gibbon, who cries for company. The other members of her tight-knit group may have been lost to poaching. Soon, she too may pass away. Wildlife zoologists from Dhaka University are looking for ways to save this single Hoolock by having her join an existing group in another forest, but the only lasting solution is to conserve the forest habitat in which she lives and to allow her and her fellow Hoolocks to live in the wild.

Photo: Momtaz H. Khan

Phayre's Langur
in Rema-Kalenga
Wildlife Sanctuary

Satchari National Park



The word "Satchari" refers to the seven streams that wind through this Protected Area. The natural beauty of the forest and its wildlife can be enjoyed by taking a stroll through any of the three designated hiking trails.

Location: At Chunar Ghat Upazila under Hobiganj District. It is nearly 130 km north-east of Dhaka and approximately 60 km south-west of Srimongol city on the old Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

Area: The 243 hectares National Park is located within the larger 6,205 hectares Raghundan Hills Reserve Forest.

Outstanding Features

- Special mammals to look for include the Hoolock Gibbon and Phayre's Langur
- Among the birds, watch for the Oriental Pied Hornbill, Red Jungle fowl, Red-headed Trogon and Pygmy Woodpecker
- The colourful Tripura ethnic group resides in the area
- Fossils remain on the forest floor, evidence of forest from millions of years ago (Please do not remove these fossils)
- Marked 1/2 hour, 1 hour and 3 hour hiking trails are available

Brief History

Established in 2005, Satchari National Park is a recent addition to the Protected Areas of Bangladesh. The Park was established to protect the patch of natural forest existing within its boundaries. In 2004, the Sanctuary was selected as one of the five pilot sites for co-management under the Forest Department's Nishorgo Program.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The forest is a remnant of the tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests that once covered the Sylhet division and ran down to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Identified species include 24 mammals, 149 birds, 6 amphibians, 18 reptiles. Mammals include the Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Fishing Cat, Wild Boar and Barking Deer.

Getting There from Dhaka

The best option is to hire a taxi or microbus (Tk. 3500) from Dhaka and go to Satchari in 2.5 hours. Alternatively, you can avail bus services to Srimongal (AC: Tk. 250, Non-AC: Tk. 200) and hire a transport from there for 1.5 hour trip. You can also reach Srimongal by twice-daily train service Tk. 200).

Places to Stay and Eat

Accommodation facility is not available in the immediate vicinity. The best place to stay is in Srimongal (one hour away). Facilities include entry-level Tea Town Guest House (Tel: 08626-370, Tk. 250-500), Mid Level United Hotel (Tk. 400-1000) and high-end Tea Resort (Tel: 08626-207, Tk. 1500-3000). Lodging is also available at BTRI Rest House (Tel: 08626-225, Tk. 300-400). Restaurants are abundant in the city offering different choices.

Puff-throated Babbler.

Photo: Monirul H. Khan

Tripura Festivals

The Tripura's special Maikai dance means “the dance of sowing” and is performed during the time of paddy sowing. Their harvest festival, the biggest festival of the year, is called Mamita and is marked by dancing and singing. These and other Tripura dances are linked with religious and agricultural rituals. The Tripuras also have a new year's festival which lasts through the last week of the old year. A special dance enacted through mimes is performed as an offering to the Gods Shiva or Goraya. Dancers go from house to house performing this dance, called Garaya or Kherbai, welcoming the New Year.

Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

The Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary includes nearly 8,000 hectares of forest and grassland. The Asian Elephant still roams wild through this huge tract of open land.

Location: About 70 km south of Chittagong city on the Cox's Bazar highway.

Area: 7,764 hectares

Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary



Outstanding Features

- Migration area of the Asian Elephant
- Unbroken natural vistas of hills and grasslands
- Key wildlife species include Wild boar, Rhesus Macaque, Barking Deer
- Near to Banshkhali Eco-Park
- Marked 1/2 hour, 1 hour and 3 hour hiking trails

Brief History

In the 1970s, this forest and the surrounding area was an important regrouping area of the Liberation War fighters. The Sanctuary was formally established under the Wildlife Act in 1986. Through the mid-1980s, the Sanctuary was covered by dense forest of Garjan and other hardwood species. Demand for wood for boat building and other commercial enterprises contributed to a rapid loss of forest in the late 1980s. In 2004, the Sanctuary was selected as one of the five pilot sites for co-management under the Forest Department's Nishorgo Program.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Patches of the original hardwood forest remain, most notably near the Chunati Range Office near Chunati town and the Chambol Range Office of the Jaldi Range near Banshkali. Sun grass is now the dominant plant species on the hills, while young regenerated hardwood seeds are often cleared for use in betel leaf cultivation. While no recent comprehensive species inventories exist, records from the late 1980s indicate the presence of 19 mammal species, 53 birds, 4 amphibians, 7 reptiles and 107 plants. Bird watchers can look out in particular for the Purple-Rumped Sunbird with its delicate hanging nests or the White Wagtail which gather in large numbers in crops or reedbeds when roosting.

Getting There from Dhaka

Biman and GMG Airlines have daily flights to Chittagong. AC and non-AC buses ply between Dhaka to Chittagong every hour and take about 6 hours. Take a 2 hour ride on bus bound for Cox's Bazar and get down at Chunati Bazar (also known as Deputy Bazar) where the Wildlife Sanctuary starts. You can also rent a microbus to go there (Tk. 2500-3000, daily plus fuel).

Places to Stay and Eat

Pothikrit Rest House (Tel: 0189179119, Tk. 250) at Deputy Bazar offers moderate lodging facility, but for meals, you will have to go to Amirabad, 10 km from there. You can also stay at Banshkali Proshika Rest House (Tel: 01711428364, Tk. 100). Restaurants are widely available in that area. Ask also about Eco-Cottages now being established with assistance of the Nishorgo Support Project.

Tree-house in Chunati used to take shelter from wild elephants

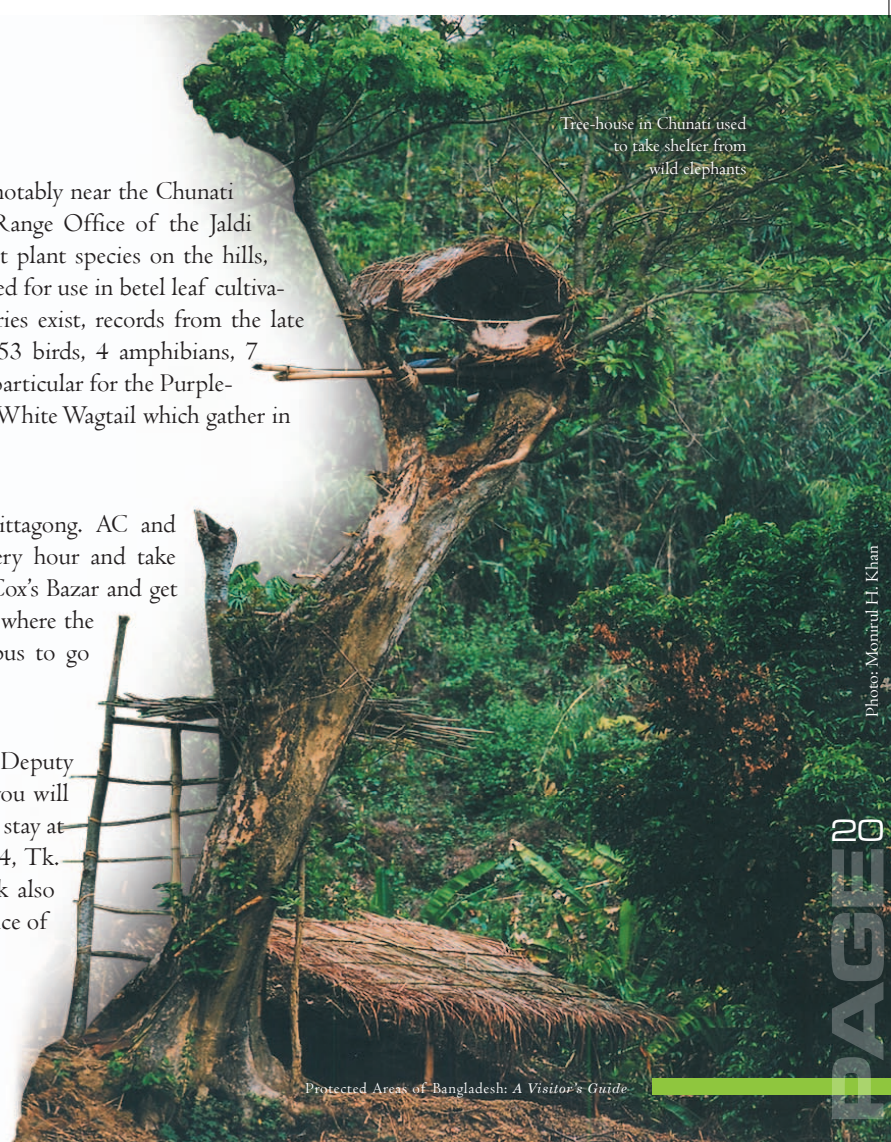


Photo: Monirul H. Khan



Kudum Guha
in Teknaf Game Reserve

Teknaf Game Reserve



The large Teknaf Game Reserve offers a remarkable diversity of scenic and natural beauty, from the well-known unbroken sea beach vista and the bat cave at Whykeong, to the sight of Asian Elephants in the wild at Mochoni. While the Reserve has suffered from deforestation for brickfields and logging during the past two decades, it remains one of the unique natural treasures of the country and is now the site of a participatory conservation effort led by the Forest Department.

Location: Includes a 24 km hilly ridge located between the Teknaf peninsula sea beach and the Cox's Bazar - Teknaf road. The northern end of the Reserve begins 48 km south of Cox's Bazar in Teknaf Thana of Cox's Bazar District, just west of Whykeong Bazar. The southern end is just north of Teknaf town.

Area: 11,615 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Natural migration area of the Asian Elephant
- The third largest Protected Forest Area after the Sundarbans and Pabla Khali Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Kudum Guha (cave) in Whykeong, populated by bats
- Three ethnic minority communities Rakhain, Marma, and Chakma (Tongchoinga) reside in Teknaf area
- Marked 1/2 hour, 1 hour and 3 hour hiking trails, including trails that offer spectacular views of the blue Bay of Bengal

Brief History

Teknaf Game Reserve is the only designated Game Reserve under the

wildlife Act. It was established in 1983 to preserve habitat for a large diversity of wildlife, especially the Asian Elephant. During the second World War the peninsula was traversed by both Axis and Allied forces. The Game Reserve was carved out of the southern portion of the large Teknaf Reserve Forest. In 2004, the Reserve was selected as one of the five pilot sites for co-management under the Forest Department's Nishorgo Program.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The coastal and hill areas of the Reserve offer a variety of habitats including evergreen and semi-evergreen hill forests, tidal mudflats and mangrove vegetation. While no recent comprehensive species inventories have been conducted, in past periods the Reserve has been shown to hold 55 mammals, 286 species of birds, 13 amphibians, 56 reptiles and 290 plants. Special plant species include the majestic Civit, Chapalish, Garjan, Shimul, Uriam (wild mango), Fig and Ashok. Attractive bird species include the Imperial pigeon, Green pigeon, White-winged Wood duck, Myna, Hornbill, and of course the Asian Elephant.

Getting There from Dhaka

You need to go to Cox's Bazar first. Biman (Tk. 3675) and GMG (Tk. 4520) Airlines have flights to Cox's Bazar four times weekly. AC and non-AC Bus services (AC: Tk. 750-1000, non-AC: Tk. 400-600, 8 hrs) are available from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar every hour. Buses from Cox's Bazar to Whykheong (Tk. 50-75) on the way to Teknaf run every 30 minutes and last 1.5 hours. You can also rent minibuses to go there (Tk. 2000-2500). To go there by the beach side, you can hire a Chander Gari on a daily rental basis (Tk. 2500-3000).

Places to Stay and Eat

Hotels and restaurants are numerous in Cox's Bazar. In Teknaf town, the Hotel Ne-Taung (Tel: 0171-4300522) of Parjatan offers good-quality lodging (non-AC Tk. 500-750, AC: Tk. 1500) and food. Hotel Naaf Queen (Tel: 0189-085285, Tk. 100-300) & Hotel Dwip Plaza (Tel: 0187-706790, Tk. 150-450) and Hotel Hill Top (Tel: 0189-073802) in Teknaf provide moderate lodging at affordable prices (Tk. 250-400 non-AC). Mid level restaurants are available all over Teknaf town. There are no commercial hotels yet on the west side of the peninsula.



Bhawal National Park

Bhawal National Park, only 40 km north of central Dhaka, offers serenity from the bustle of the city as well as a taste of the vast Sal forests that once ran nearly uninterrupted from Dhaka all the way north to West Bengal. It is predominantly a recreational Park.

Location: About 40 km north of Dhaka city on the Mymensingh Road

Area: 5,022 hectares

Outstanding Features:

- Continuous tract of Sal forest
- Recreational facilities, including picnic areas, boat rides and horse rides
- Guest house facilities available for night stays in the Park
- A new “silent zone” has been established within the Park where no music is allowed

Brief History

The Bhawal National Park stands as testimony to the value of long-term planning and local participation in conservation. After being totally cleared during the upheaval of the Liberation War, the Park was established in 1974 and officially gazetted as a Park in 1982. During the past thirty years, the forest has regrown from sal coppices. The high rate of visitors inflow to the park, particularly in the winter season has given rise to economic opportunities for the local residents. Now, the forest has re-grown and represents the largest forest block within an easy day trip of Dhaka.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Within this sal forest, recorded species have included 13 mammals, 48 birds,



Lake within Bhawal National Park

5 amphibians, 9 reptiles and 220 plants. The Forest Department has recently re-introduced Peacock, Spotted Deer, Python, and Fishing Cats to the area.

Getting There from Dhaka

Take a Mymensingh-bound bus from Mohakhali Bus Terminal and get down at the park (a 40-minute drive). You can also hire a taxi (Tk. 1100) for the day to travel to the Park.

Places to Stay and Eat

Lodging is available at BRAC Center for Development Management (CDM) (Tel: 9201353-5, Tk. 750-1000) with good dining. A variety of snacks are available within the Park.



Madhupur National Park

Although considerable forest loss has occurred at Madhupur National Park in recent years, the Park still represents an important and treasured part of the biological as well as cultural diversity of Bangladesh. Members of the Garo (Mandi) community have lived in this area for well over a hundred years. Within the Park can be found the endangered Capped Langur.



Photo: M N Feeroz

Capped Langur

Location: Is in Tangail District, 125 km north of Dhaka on the Dhaka-Mymensingh road.

Area: 8,436 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Stately Sal forests
- Capped Langur, Wild Boar and Barking Deer
- The Garo (Mandi) ethnic community, some of whom reside within the boundaries of the declared Park



Brief History

Parts of what is now the National Park have been inhabited by Mandi ethnic communities for well over a hundred years. During the Liberation War, Freedom Fighters used the area and surrounding sal forests as base areas. The Park was established in 1982. The Guest House is renowned as the site of the drafting of the Wildlife Act of 1973.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The Sal forest habitat is a sample of much larger tracts of sal that once existed here. Identified species include 11 mammals, 38 birds, 4 amphibians, 7 reptiles and 176 plant species.

Getting There from Dhaka

Board on a bus (Tk. 75, 1.5 hrs.) bound for Mymensingh from Mohakhali Bus Terminal and get down at the Park entrance. You can also hire a taxi (Tk. 1400) for a whole day to visit the Park.

Places to Stay and Eat

There is a Forest Department rest house that requires prior reservation and permission (Tel.: 0921-53524). One can request lodging from the Catholic Mission. Snacks and light meals are available within the Park.

Ramsagar National Park

Ramsagar is a man-made reservoir. It is considered to be the biggest man-made reservoir in Bangladesh after Kaptai. It has become a popular tourist destination in the Dinajpur area. In winter huge numbers of migratory birds visit this tank.

Location: At Tejpur about 8 km south of Dinajpur.

Area: 28 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Huge flocks of Migratory Birds
- Historical Monument

Brief History

The tank was named after Raja Ram Nath who excavated it on the eve of the Battle of Palashi. The National Park extends over 18 hectares of water space and includes 10 hectares of surrounding forest. Originally there was a ghat (or stairs) on the middle part of the western bank, but only parts of it remain. Established as a National Park in 2001, Ramsagar is now a popular tourist spot.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The migratory bird population, especially in winter, is the highlight of the biodiversity of the area. Trees



Photo: Amin Fara

A View of Ramsagar

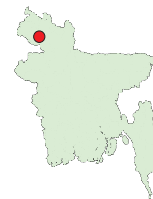
surrounding the tank are mostly planted ornamental species.

Getting There from Dhaka

The easiest way to visit Ramsagar is to go to Dinajpur by bus or train and then proceed by taxi or rickshaw. Daily bus services (non-AC: Tk. 250, 9hrs) are available from Gabtali Bus Terminal. Two intercity train services (Tk. 185, 10hrs) operate between Dhaka and Dinajpur daily. Biman has daily flights to Saidpur, 40 km from Dinajpur. You can rent a car (Tk. 600-700) to reach Dinajpur. From there you can take a rickshaw (Tk. 30, 25min) to reach Ramsagar.

Places to Stay and Eat

Parjatan Motel has a good restaurant (Tel: 0531-64718, Tk. 650-1200). Hotel Diamond (Tel: 0531-64629, Tk. 250-600) and Hotel Nobina (Tel: 0531-64178, Tk. 100-250) offer affordable lodging. Restaurants are available all around the city for modest meals.



Himchhari National Park

Himchhari National Park, on south of Cox's Bazar, is a unique place comprising the scenic beauty of green hills and blue waves of the vast sea. Once a passage for the Asian Elephants, it is now a place for tourists to escape Cox's Bazar town to see patches of ever-green forest. There is a waterfall there, which is best seen in the rainy season.

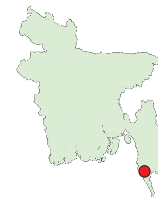
Location: About 5 km south of Cox's Bazar town.

Area: 1,729 hectares

View of the Bay of Bengal from the hills of Himchhari National Park

Outstanding Features

- Beautiful Waterfall.
- Bird-watchers site with 286 species of birds
- Occasional elephant sighting



Brief History

The Park was established in 1980. It comprises the reserve forest areas of Bhangamura and Chainda blocks under Cox's Bazar Forest Department. Evergreen and semi-ever-green tropical forests are found in this area.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Mammals – 55 species; birds – 286 species; amphibians – 13 species; reptiles – 56 species; plants – 117 species.

Getting There from Dhaka

The best way to get there is from Cox's Bazar. Biman (Tk. 3675) and GMG (Tk. 4520) Airlines have flights to Cox's Bazar four times weekly. AC and non-AC Bus services (AC: Tk. 750-1000, non-AC: Tk. 400-600) are available from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar hourly. From there, you can take a taxi (Tk. 200) or chander gari (Tk. 150) from Kalatali Stand for a 15 minute ride to the entry. You can also rent microbus from Cox's Bazar to go there (Tk. 1100-1500 daily).

Places to Stay and Eat

The best place to stay is in Cox's Bazar, where there are many hotels and restaurants of varying quality.



Kaptai National Park

Kaptai National Park is unique for its monumental oldest plantations in the Indian sub-continent, dating to 1873, 1878 and 1879. The area comprises very high hills, rivers, canals, streams, springs and natural as well as plantation forest.

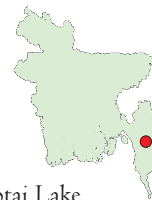
Location: In the south-eastern region of Bangladesh, 57 km from Chittagong City in the north-eastern corner in the Kaptai Upazila, adjacent to Kaptai Bazar under Rangamati District.

Area: 5,464 hectares

Kaptai Lake



Protected Areas of Bangladesh: A Visitor's Guide



Outstanding Features

- Plantations over 100 years old
- Nearby scenic Kaptai Lake

Brief History

Established in 1999, previously it was a part of Sitapahar Reserve Forest.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The semi-evergreen forest is populated by a range of wildlife including Asian Elephant, Deer, Fishing Cat, and various Monkeys.

Getting there from Dhaka

Go via Chittagong on regular Biman or GMG flights or AC and non-AC buses. Local buses to Kaptai leave every 15 minutes from Bohaddarhat Bus Terminal and take about 1.5 hours to reach there.

Places to Stay and Eat

There are few accommodations apart from Government Rest Houses that require prior permission (Tel: 0351-62337). For dining, Parjatan's Jhum Restaurant offers decent meals. Other restaurants offer affordable meals also.

Nijhum Dweep National Park

Part of what is now Nijhum Dweep National Park was originally proposed as a Sanctuary for the conservation of a wide variety of waterfowl, including the migratory shorebirds, and a large number of mammals. The area includes a cluster of islands, mainly Ballar Char, Kamlar Char, Char Osman and Char Muri.

Location: Within Hatiya Upazila in Noakhali District, at the confluence of the Meghna estuary on the Bay of Bengal.

Area: 16,352 hectares

Outstanding Features:

- Spotted deer
- Migratory birds
- Estuary reported to harbor the Ganges River Dolphin

Brief History

Nijhum Dweep was declared a National Park in 2001. The Forest Department has created mangrove forests in Nijhum Dweep.

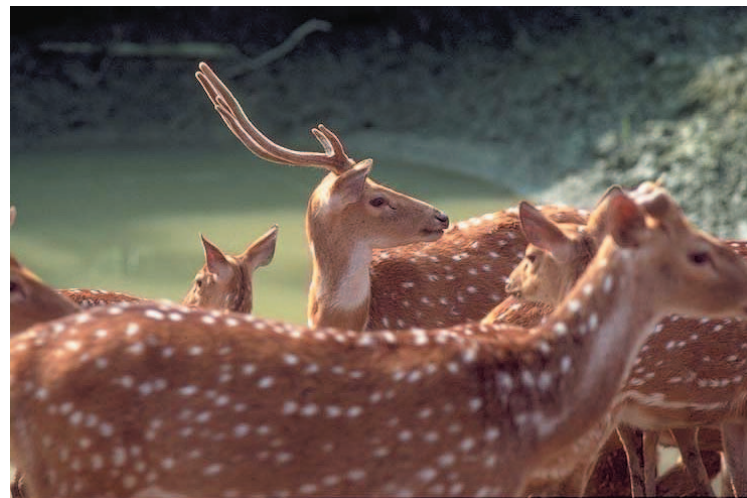
Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Mangrove forest is the main habitat. The island is being used as a breeding ground for deer and has about 5,000 spotted deer.

Monkeys are also present. During winter, thousands of migratory birds visit the islands, enhancing its splendour even further.

Getting There from Dhaka

From Dhaka take a launch from Shadar ghat to Tamaruddin of Hatia Dweep. From there you can get to Nijhum Dweep by local motorboat.



Spotted Deer

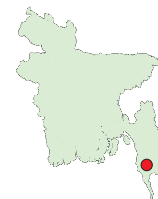
Or you can take a bus or train to Chittagong, from there you need to go to Hatia island by motor boat or Sea Truck. From there you can go to Nijhum Dweep by local motorboat. In Hatia, you will have to go to Jahazmara Bazar by tempo or jeep. From there you can go to Amtali Ghat or Katakhal Ghat by rickshaw. Engine boats are available there to take you to Nijhum dweep. These boats run depending on the wave and tide of sea.

Places to Stay and Eat

If you stay overnight at Hatia, there are some boarding hotels. Among them, the best is Monir Chairman's Boarding. Accommodations are not good at Nijhum Dweep and are few in number. Forest Department and District Parishod have Guest Houses in the island, which need prior permission. Both these places provide food.



Medha Kachapia National Park



Added to the Protected Area system in 2004, this small Park is easily reached from the Cox's Bazar - Chittagong Highway. It provides a glimpse of the forest that once covered much of the area south of Chittagong.

Location: Around 60 km north of Cox's Bazar under Chakaria Upazila.

Area: 396 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Extensive stand of Garjan trees easily visible from the road
- Easy hiking

Brief history

To preserve the Garjan forest and biodiversity therein, the Government declared it as a National Park in 2004.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Tropical wet-evergreen forest with species like Garjan, Boilam, Telsur, Chapalish, Champa & Gamar, along with various shrubs, herbs and creepers. Mammal and bird species diversity is much lower than in other Protected Areas.

Getting There from Dhaka

The best way to get there is by road from Cox's Bazar or Chittagong. The Park is 1.5 hours north of Cox's Bazar by road. Local buses can be taken from either of the two nearby towns. Tell the driver to let you down 2 kilometers south of the Dulhazara Safari Park.

Places to Stay & Eat

Accommodation facilities are yet to be developed in the area, although a Guest House is being developed at the nearby Dulhazara Safari Park. Accommodations in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong are plentiful.



Egrets

Char Kukri-Mukri Wildlife Sanctuary

The Char Kukri-Mukri Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1981, primarily to provide a breeding ground for a large colony of herons, egrets and other water fowls. It covers only 40 hectares of pond or marshy land, although the original char has grown through accretion. The Forest Department has added plantations of Keora which are now nearing 30 years of age.

Location: In southern Char Fashion Upazilla of Bhola District, some 130 km from Barisal Town in the Gangetic Delta of southern Bangladesh. The island of Char Kukri-Mukri now covers 2,500 hectares.

Area: 40 hectares

Outstanding Features

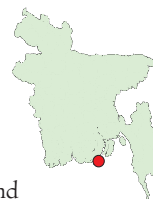
➤ Herons, egrets and other water fowls

Brief History

Declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981 under the Bangladesh Act, 1974. Also referred to as Char Fashion Wildlife Sanctuary.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Mangrove forest species include Hogla and Horgoja, Keora and Khalisha. Mammals include Fishing Cat and Oriental Small-clawed Otter. More than eight species of heron breed in the sanctuary. Other water fowl include egrets, bitterns and Grey Pelican. All three species of monitor lizard known for Bangladesh are reported from this Sanctuary.



Getting there from Dhaka

Accessible by air, road or riverine transport from Dhaka up to Barisal. Then go to Bhola by road. From Bhola go 2.5 hours by road towards the Char, then take 1/2 hour boat ride on local craft.

Places to Stay and Eat

Bhola has a number of circuit/guest houses, which must be arranged in advance. More plentiful accommodations are available in Barisal.

Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary

Tucked into the northeast corner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary is home to elephants and a wide variety of other animals. The Sanctuary is the finest hill forest remaining in Bangladesh and is also an important wetland site.

Location: At the northern end of Kaptai Lake in the south-eastern part of Kassalong Reserve Forest in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, some 112 km from Rangamati Town. The western boundary is formed by the Kassalong River.

Area: 42,087 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Wide variety of mammals, including elephants
- A refuge for birds
- Beautiful hilly terrain ranging from 100-300 m

Brief History

It was established as a game sanctuary in June 1962, later declared as Wildlife Sanctuary in 1983.

Habita, Flora & Fauna

Three forest types can be distinguished in the Sanctuary: tropical wet evergreen forest; tropical semi-evergreen forest; and tropical moist deciduous forest. Among larger mammals, the most important is the small population of Asian Elephant. Other mammals are Rhesus Macaque, Capped Langur, Hoolock Gibbon, Dhole, small cats, otters, Wild Boar, and Sambar. There are also numerous bird species in the Sanctuary.

Getting there from Dhaka

Different bus services (Dolphin, SA Paribahan, Hanif) from Kalabagan go directly to Rangamati. These buses stop at Rangamati Launch Ghat. From there board on launches that go directly to Pablakhali (5 hr). You can also use engine boat, but it may be pricey (Tk 600-700).

Places to Stay and Eat

There is a beautiful rest house at Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary, but prior permission is required from Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Hill Tract (North).



Asian Elephant



Banskhali Eco-Park

Bordering the western edge of the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, this Eco-Park provides a range of recreational nature activities. Visitors can take boat rides in an artificial lake, hike along well established trails or climb to the top of one of two viewing towers.

Location: In the Banskhali Thana of Chittagong District, some 60 km south of Chittagong town and 4 km east of Banskhali town.

Area: 1,200 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Vistas of the expansive Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary and of the Bay of Bengal
- Recreational facilities for group outings, including boat rides

Brief History

The Eco-Park began under a Government of Bangladesh project in 2003.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Although this area was once tropical semi-evergreen forest, it is now a habitat



Banskhali Eco-Park

dominated by sungrass and other plantation species.

Getting there from Dhaka

Travel to Chittagong (Biman and GMG Airlines have daily flights). AC and non-AC buses go from Dhaka to Chittagong every hour and take about 6 hours. Bus services from Chittagong Bohaddarhat Bus Terminal to Banskhali take about 2.5 hours and cost around Tk. 40. You can also rent a microbus to go there (Tk. 2500-3000 daily plus fuel).

Places to Stay and Eat

You can stay at Banskhali Proshika Rest House (Tel: 01711428364, Tk. 100). There is a Forest Department Rest House (Tel: 031-684420) here which requires prior permission. Restaurants are widely available in the area.



Madhob-Kunda Eco-Park

The Madhob-Kunda Eco-park is best known for its waterfalls and lies in the eastern corner of the Sylhet Division.

Location: In the Baralekha Upazila in Moulvibazar District.

Area: 266 hectares

Outstanding Features

- The largest waterfall of the country

Brief History

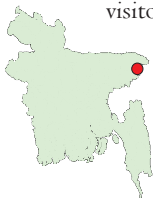
This area was declared as an Eco-Park in 2001 under a Government project with a view to conserve the Madhob-kunda waterfall and its surrounding biodiversity. It forms a part of the Gazipur Reserve Forest.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Madhob-Kunda waterfall area is an attractive natural forest with different plant and wildlife species. Natural hill forests along with vast natural bamboo groves support wildlife like Deer, Wild Boar, Red Jungle Fowl, and Monkeys.

Getting there from Dhaka

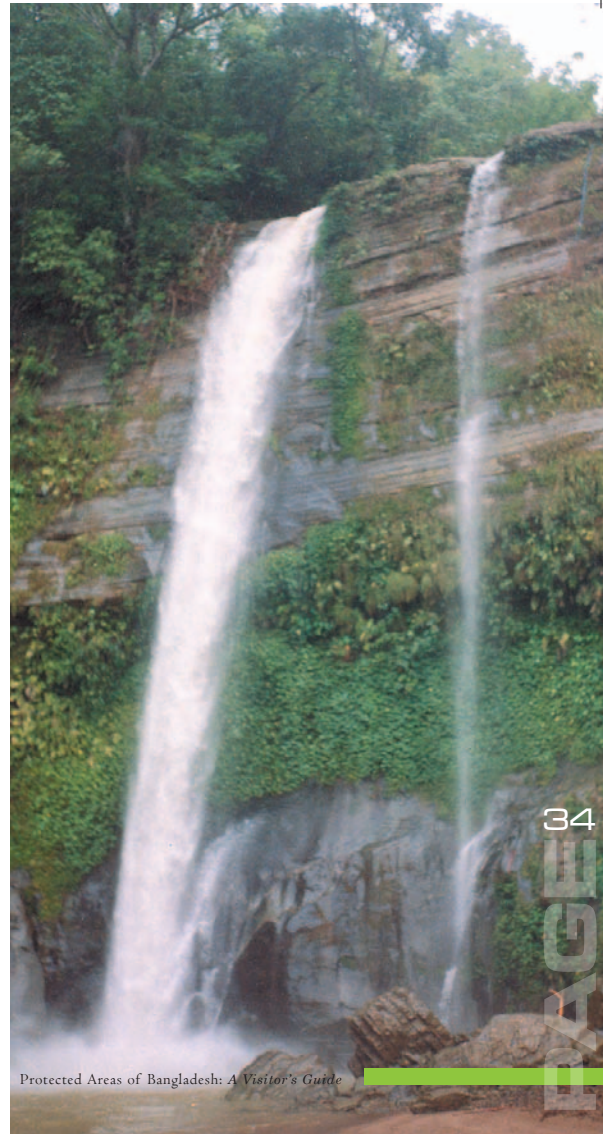
Take a bus to Sylhet. Daily bus services (AC: Tk. 500, non-AC: Tk. 300) are available from Sayedabad Bus Terminal and take about 6 hours. Biman and GMG airlines operate multiple daily flights to Sylhet. Once in Sylhet, you can take a bus (Tk. 60) or hire a taxi (Tk. 1500) to go to the Eco-Park, which receives many visitors from Sylhet town.



Places to Stay and Eat

Accommodation facility is not available around Madhob-Kunda. The best place to stay will be either at Moulvibazar or Sylhet, both of which have plentiful hotels. One may also proceed to the Eco-Park from Srimongal, which takes about 1.5 hours.

Madhob-Kunda Waterfall



Kua-kata Eco-Park

The mangrove forests, ethnic culture, ancient monuments and scenic beauty of the beach make Kua-Kata a heaven for nature lovers. It is the only place from where you can enjoy both sunrise and sunset, from the same location.

Location: Is 71 km away from the Patuakhali District town in Kolapara Upazila at the extreme southern part of the country.

Area: 5,661 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Coastal ecosystem
- Migratory birds
- Unique culture of ethnic Rakhain tribe

Brief History

Established in 2006, the park consists of two patches of Reserve Forest - Kua-kata and Tengragiri.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

Mangrove species like Keora, Gewa, Baen, Sundri, Kankra, Goran, Hental, Golpatta etc, are found making habitat for wildlife like Wild Boar, Deer, Monkeys and numerous birds.

Some indigenous birds like Koral Duck, Bali Hansh, Bonbok, Seagull, Goose, Chokha, Chaime, Prime, Oluhor, Horian, along with migratory birds inhabit the area.

Getting there from Dhaka

Kua-kata has road communication with Dhaka, but it is easier to go by air (GMG Airlines, Tk. 1450) or launch (8 hours). From there, it is 3 hours drive to Kua-kata. BRTC runs a direct bus service (Tk. 240) from Dhaka to Kua-kata via Barisal, but travel time is well over 10 hours on a good day.

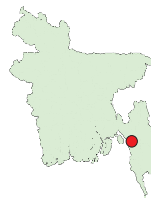
Places to Stay and Eat

Parjatan Motel (Tel: 01715167936, Tk. 400-1500) offers good lodging and restaurant facilities. Hotel Golden Palace (Tel: 01711-441622, Tk. 500-600) is another good option. A few dining options are available but Parjatan restaurant and Hotel Smriti are considered to be the best in the area.



Sita-Kunda Eco-Park

Tucked in the Hills of Chittagong near the Bay of Bengal, the Sita-Kunda Eco-Park is a place of natural beauty as well as cultural and religious significance.



Location: About 37 km north of Chittagong on the eastern side of the Dhaka - Chittagong Highway.

Area: 808 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Picnic spots and other facilities
- Panorama of sea and hills
- Nearby the renowned Chandranath temple

Brief history

A part of the Chandranath Reserve Forest with unique natural beauty was declared in 1998 as the Eco-Park.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The Eco-Park harbors a variety of plant species native to tropical evergreen forests.

Getting there from Dhaka

Biman and GMG Airlines have daily flights to Chittagong. AC and non-AC buses ply between Dhaka - Chittagong every hour, taking about 6 hours. Get down at Sita-kunda Bazar and walk from there. Local bus services are available from Chittagong Bus Terminal and take 1 hour (Tk. 40). You can also rent a microbus (Tk. 1500-2000).

Places to Stay and Eat

YPSA Guest House (Tel: 031 672857, Tk. 100) offers good lodging and dining. There are a few local hotels offering moderate boarding. Restaurants are abundant and affordable.



Sita-Kunda Eco-Park

Madhu-Tila Eco-Park

Madhu-Tila Eco-Park was established, to provide recreational nature facilities in harmony with biodiversity conservation. The small Eco-Park includes a lake with boating and other recreational facilities.

Location: Is in Nalita Bari Upazila, approximately 30 km from Sherpur District near the India-Bangladesh border.

Area: 100 hectares

Outstanding Features

- ▶ Plantations of ornamental tree species and some rare species
- ▶ A lake and other recreation facilities
- ▶ Surrounding Sal forest
- ▶

Brief History

Established in 1999 under a Government project

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The area of the Eco-Park is predominantly secondary Sal forest. Ornamental trees have been planted at the site.



Slow Loris at Modhu-Tila Eco-Park

Getting there from Dhaka

Take the N4 to Sherpur (5 hours) and proceed toward Nalita Bari Upazila. From Sherpur town, it takes half an hour by bus or local transport.

Places to Stay and Eat

Sherpur town has a number of circuit houses (available by reservation only) and two commercial budget hotels.



Dulahazara Safari Park

Dulahazara Safari Park includes a wide variety of wild animals living in a quasi-natural environment that allows visitors to see them freely.

Location: Is 1.5 hours north of Cox's Bazar in Chokoria Upazila on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway (N1).

Area: 900 hectares

Outstanding Features

- Visitor information center & a natural history museum
- A large orchid house
- Observation tower and minibus ride through the park

Brief history

It had begun in 1999 on the grounds of a deer breeding center with a view to save wildlife by captive breeding. It allows the public to view wildlife in a natural habitat.

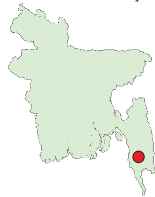
Habitat, Flora & Fauna

The Park houses variety of animals including the Bengal Tiger, Lion, Deer (Sambar and Spotted), Goyal, Bear, Elephant and Crocodiles.

Getting there from Dhaka

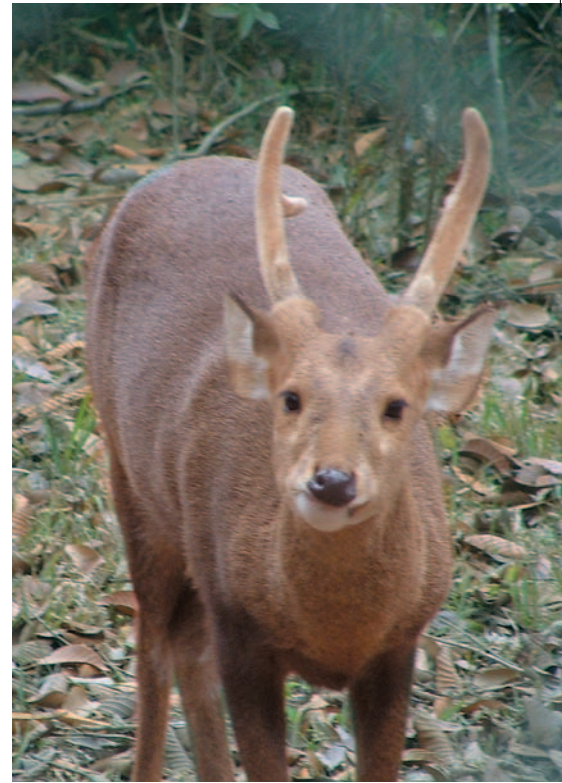
Road communications are good from both Chittagong (2.5 hours) and Cox's Bazar city (1.5 hours). You can take local buses to either Cox's Bazar or Chittagong

or rent microbus to get there (Tk. 2000-2500 daily). AC and non-AC bus services are available from Dhaka - Cox's Bazar.



Place to Stay and Eat

The park has good accommodation for visitors to stay at night, although prior permission is required (Tel: 031-684420).



Deer at Dulahazara Safari Park

Khadimnagar National Park

Within a short-drive from Sylhet city, this is the newest National Park in the country - provides excellent opportunities to observe a tropical forest with rich foliage and streams.

Location: Is 15 km northeast of Sylhet city, along the Sylhet-Tamabil highway within Sadar Upazilla.

Area: 679 hectares

Khadimnagar National Park

Outstanding Features:

- Nature hiking
- Monkeys and many species of birds
- Orchids
- Near to tea gardens (Burjan Tea garden, Khadimnagar Tea garden and Kalagul Tea garden)
- At the same place of the holy shrine of Hazrat Shahparan (R)



Brief History

Formerly known as Khadimnagar Reserve Forest, it was declared as National Park on 2006. During the 1960s, the primary bamboo vegetation were felled and replaced by plantations.

Habitat, Flora & Fauna

It includes rolling hillocks covered by semi-deciduous tropical forest. Wildlife include: 26 mammals, 9 amphibians, 20 reptiles, and 25 birds. Notable species are Red Junglefowl, White backed Vulture, Dove, Brahmin Kite, Macaque, Capped Langur and common mongoose.

Getting There from Dhaka

Reach Sylhet by air, train or bus. Daily bus services (A/C BDT 400, non A/C BDT250) are available (5 hours). Train takes 6 hours. Then follow the Sylhet-Tamabil road northeast out of town for about 30 minutes. Microbuses can be rented in Sylhet.

Places to Stay and Eat

Hotels and restaurants are plentiful in Sylhet city of varying quality. Parjatan Motel (Tk 600-1800, Tel: 0821-712426), Heritage (Tk 600-1100, 0821-810237), Hill Town (Tk 200-3000, Tel: 0821-718263), Hotel Polash (Tk 690-1495, Tel: 0821-718309), Hotel Supreme (Tk 200-1350, Tel: 0821-720751).

Where You Can Get More Information

Websites:

www.bforest.gov.bd: The general Forest Department website. Includes contact numbers for Divisional Forest Officers and more.

www.nishorgo.org: The website of the Forest Department's Nishorgo Program for Protected Areas management. You can get information here on hiring a local Eco-Guide for the five Nishorgo pilot sites (see pp 13-22).

www.lonelyplanet.com: For information about places to stay in small and large towns throughout the country.

Reference Books:

A few written reference books are listed here.

The Bangladesh Sundarbans: A Photoreal Sojourn. Khasru Choudhury, Mir Waliuzzaman and Ainun Nishat. IUCN 2001. Excellent source of information on the natural context in the Sundarbans.

Butterflies of Bangladesh -- an Annotated Checklist. Larsen, T. B. 2004. IUCN Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka.

Lonely Planet: Bangladesh. Marika McAdam. 2004. For wide variety of information on visiting throughout the country.

The Vanishing Jungle: The Story of the World Wildlife Fund Expeditions to [East and West] Pakistan, Guy Mountfort, 1969. Collins Press, London. Travel story by former RAF pilot with WWF team through the great forests of Sylhet, the Hill Tracts and the Sundarbans, as well as sites in Pakistan.

The Conservation Management Plan of the Protected Areas Other than Those in the Sundarban Forests in Bangladesh Emilio Rosario. 1997. Mandala Agricultural Development Corporation. Available from Forest Department.

Trees of Bangladesh, Dilip Kumar Das and M. Khairul Alam. 2001. Bangladesh Forest Research Institute. Chittagong.

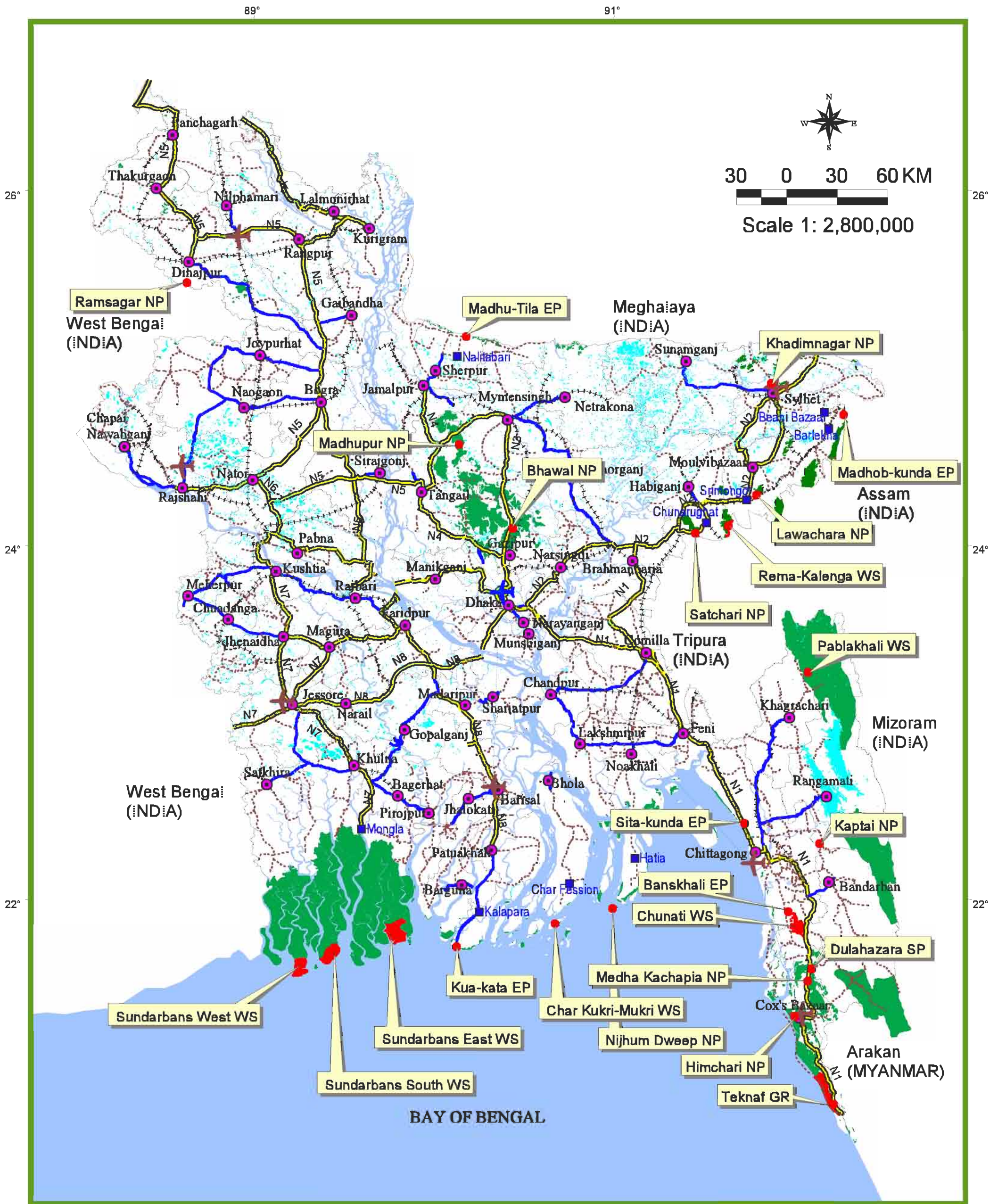
You can also visit the library of the Forest Department (Ban Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka) or the resource center of the Nishorgo Support Project (House 68, Road 1, Block I, Banani Dhaka 1213.).

Facts: Asian Elephant

- The Asian Elephant is smaller than its African cousin
- It does not have the large ears and hollow back that the African elephant has.
- It has four nails on each of its hind feet while its African counterpart has three.
- The Asian elephant has a lower lip at the tip of its trunk unlike the two equal-sized lips of the African elephant.
- Male elephants have large tusks and females generally have none
- Generally elephants give birth to only one calf every two years.
- A calf remains in the womb for 20 months.
- In Bangladesh, the Asian Elephant can be found in the wild in the Chunar Wildlife Sanctuary, the Teknaf Game Reserve, their surrounding areas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.




Protected Areas and Eco-Parks of Bangladesh







LEGEND

- Reserved Forest
 - Protected Areas
 - River / Sea
 - Water bodies

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| EP | Eco-Park |
| GR | Game Reserve |
| NP | National Park |
| SP | Safari Park |
| WS | Wildlife Sanctuary |

-  District Head Quater
-  Upazila Heqd Quater
-  International Airport
-  Domestic Airports

-
-  National Highway (N1-N8)
 Regional Highway
 Feeder Road
 Railways

Code of Conduct

for Forest Department Staff in Protected Areas

1. Evolve from negative perceptions such as "Local people contribute to destruction of the forest" towards a positive appreciation of local stakeholders participation in Protected Area (PA) conservation.
2. Enhance awareness of the Nishorgo Program among community people living in and around the PAs.
3. Develop close working relationships with people living within the landscape and support to get involved in development initiatives.
4. Help people living in and around the PAs to get involved in alternative income generating activities (viz. ecotourism).
5. Create scope for women and ethnic people in PA management and show proper respect to them.
6. Facilitate smooth functioning of Co-management Councils/Committees.
7. Ensure conservation and the co-management of PAs with the help and participation of the members of the local government and administration, NGOs and voluntary initiatives/institutions.
8. Develop gainful partnership with local people and ensure their participation in regeneration, conservation and development of the forests and biodiversity.
9. Consider the Nishorgo Program as the Forest Department's own program, rather than an individual project.
10. Create a sense of trust among the local stakeholders that "Foresters are instrumental to forest conservation" by providing support to every aspect of co-management activities.
11. Achieve the objectives of Nishorgo Support Project by maintaining close relationships with program implementing agencies.
12. Maintain professional integrity and honesty while discharging official duties.
13. Ensure transparency in all government and social development activities.
14. Have a clear understanding of the Nishorgo Vision 2010 and thus motivate local people.

This Code was developed iteratively by the Officers and staff of the Forest Department during a series of meetings conducted between October 2005 and February 2006.

be a tiger!
think like a tiger!
save the forest!



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