



Bridging Biodiversity and Economic growth

Empowering youth and promoting eco-tourism



Eco guide expresses their gratitude to IPAC for the unique opportunity: IPAC creates the ownership of protected area among the community youth! The existence of the nature will create opportunity for the youth entrepreneur for a sustainable income opportunity.

Rasel, once unemployed and unsure of his future has changed the direction of his life through the assistance of USAID-IPAC. An advertisement of USAID-IPAC for eco-guide opportunity and biodiversity conservation triggered his interest and he decided to join IPAC as an eco tour guide in November 2009.

IPAC introduced 150 Eco-tour guides throughout the country. These services are available to all visitors. The mentioned services are available in Lawachara National Park in Moulavibazar District, Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary and Satchuri National Park in Hobiganj District, Teknaf Game Reserve in Cox's Bazar District and Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittagong District.

IPAC focuses on Collaborative management, or Co-Management, which is an approach used by government technical agencies to collaborate with local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation of forest lands, wetlands and other natural resources. To implement this approach, co-managers engage local stakeholders through a participatory process that empowers them with a voice and well defined role in decision making and provides sufficient economic incentives to engage their interest in the successful achievement of agreed upon natural resource management objectives.

USAID-IPAC trained Rasel to be an eco guide and linked him with sustainable opportunities through a value chain model. It brought economic solvency for him and created opportunities to be a young entrepreneur. Today he is independent and proud to be working closely with Bangladesh's nature conservation. Rasel utilized his monetary revenues by providing his family with superior nutritional daily diets, finer clothing and by saving for the future to prevent any upcoming financial insecurity.

Rasel is an example of a young entrepreneur of USAID-IPAC, as he is a bridge between economic activity and conservations. This self employment opportunity created by USAID-IPAC enhanced his social mobilization building relationships and added a significant value to the ecotourism value chain activity. Because of bright aware young individuals like Rasel, Bangladesh is starting to expose her in all the right ways to tourists from all over the world.