



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BANGLADESH

SUCCESS STORY

Conservation and Youth – Patenga Beach Clean-up

Patenga Beach Clean-up by IPAC at USAID's America Week -2012



Top: Scouts displaying their baskets full of trash collected from the Patenga beach

As part of IPAC's participation in USAID's America Week, a beach clean-up program was conducted at the Patenga beach in Chittagong towards the end of January 2012. IPAC's long standing association with youth came to the forefront as 50 members of the Bangladesh Boy and Girl Scouts and 50 students from the Chittagong University participated in the beach clean-up. Patches of this highly visited tourist beach were selected where the maximum debris was visible and thoroughly cleaned by the students, USAID members, US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena and USAID's Mission Director Richard Greene. The former Chief Conservator of Forest Mr. Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad also participated in the event along with other GoB officials. Everyone was designated into color coded teams thus ten teams descended upon the beach.

The Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) project is implementing collaborative management of natural resources between local communities around forests and wetlands and the respective governing bodies, Department of Forestry, Department of Environment and Department of Fishery. By socially and economically empowering the local communities, including them in forest and wetland management and giving them ways for alternative sources of incomes the IPAC project is building awareness and partnership between the government and the local people in 25 protected areas of Bangladesh. Through Co-Management Committees (CMC), with elected representatives from the communities and government officers, conservation friendly decisions are taken and activities are implemented to empower the poor while protecting forestry and wetlands of Bangladesh.

The students and scouts effectively combed the beach for trash and along with IPAC and USAID officials all worked like a team to clean up the designated area. The baskets used to collect the trash were made by forest dependent communities from IPAC's CHT cluster and South East cluster. Recyclable trash and non-recyclable trash was separated and given to the city corporation, while the trash collected was documented categorically and this information entered into the data card provided by the Ocean Conservancy. 50 baskets of trash were sent to the City Corporation while 30 baskets were distributed to the local restaurants that dot the beach, in a bid to continue promoting a clean environment.