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## SUCCESS STORY

### Indoor Cooking Stove – Lower Levels of Indoor Pollution

#### Indoor Cooking Stove inside Ummaching's kitchen



*Top: Ummaching with her ICS*

Ummaching Marma used to be a stay home mother. Even three years ago, she didn't imagine that she could become and advocate of nature conservation. Today Ummaching is a member of the Village Council Forum (VCF) and is also a Nishorgo Shahayak (NS). She lives with her husband and two school going children in Belabopara, Bilachari Uppazila in Kaptai. Her village falls under the Kaptai National Park. As part of a joint venture between IPAC and GIZ, Ummaching received two Indoor Cooking Stovse (ICS) where both organisations contributed Tk. 250 each while Ummaching paid the making and transportation, a total of Tk. 350. "My children can now study in a cleaner environment as the smoke from the conventional stove would make their eyes water, giving them an excuse to avoid doing their homework", Ummaching explains with a smile. As a NS she has been actively advocating Climate Change concerns in her area through the Climate Change Adaptation training where she raised awareness about these issues to the locals of her area. This training provided her with a further stronghold on the subject of Climate Change.

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.

"It was a pleasant surprise receiving the stove", confesses Ummaching and since its arrival, she can now save up to Tk. 300 worth of fire wood. "It makes me feel better that not only am I advocating Climate Change issues as a NS but also actively participating by opting for a cleaner source of fuel."

Ummaching has served as an inspiration to the others living in her neighborhood and today 32 families out of the 60 that reside are using ICS. A cleaner indoor atmosphere, saving more money on fuel wood and time as the stove cooks more efficiently than a conventional one, Ummaching looks forward to a future of conscientious living and adapting to Climate Change.