

## About the Authors



**Ish tiaq Uddin Ahmad**, is the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh. In 1981, he joined Forest Department of Bangladesh as Assistant Conservator of Forests after completing his Master in Forestry (1979-81) from Pakistan Forest Institute under Peshawar University, Pakistan. In the department, he served in different capacities and has been associated with the forest inventory activities. Very soon he developed his acquaintance in the field of Forest Inventory, Remote Sensing, GIS and Forest Management. He completed his Masters in Forest Inventory from University of Washington, Seattle, USA. Mr. Ahmad associated himself in the Community Based Conservation of Protected Areas of Bangladesh. He served as a Project Director of the Nishorgo Support Project and Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) sponsored by the USAID.



**Mohammad Razu Ahmed** has been working as a Remote Sensing Specialist in the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in Bangladesh. Mr. Ahmed has been working in the geospatial field (Remote Sensing and GIS) for more than 12 years. He has both a BSc (Honours) and MSc degree in Geology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh and another Master degree in Geo-information Science and Earth Observation from the University of Twente, The Netherlands. He has received more than 20 national and international trainings related to Geo-informatics and attended several international seminars, conferences and workshops. He has also been engaged with several national and international research related to geospatial applications.



**Modinul Ahsan**, Assistant Conservator of Forest is now working as Program Coordinator at Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh focusing on community based Tiger-Human Conflict mitigation at Sundarbans, Bangladesh. He has expertise on social forestry, co- management approaches, eco-tourism etc. He has a degree in Forestry with a post graduate diploma in Wildlife management from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.



**Mahub Alam** is a young professional from North South University and recently graduated having studied Environmental Management. He has worked as a research assistant with the University of London and University of Columbia. He is an experienced private entrepreneur having managed restaurants and poultry farms. He worked with Nishorgo Support Project to develop interpretive and interactive panels for Nature Interpretation Centers and is currently studying for a Masters in Development Studies at North South University.



**Nasim Aziz** is working as Programme Officer at IUCN, Bangladesh. He worked as Ecological and Social Monitoring Specialist for Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), a sub-contractor of International Resources Group (IRG) for Nishorgo Support Project, and Integrated Protected Area Co-management project. After earning his Bachelor degree in forestry from Chittagong University, he worked for a consulting firm for two years on environmental impact assessments of development projects. His interests include biodiversity conservation, restoration, participatory conservation mechanism, and economic valuation for resource use and optimization. He holds a Master of Environmental Studies degree from Dalhousie University, Canada.

**Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury** is the Chairperson and CEO of Tiger Tours Limited and also Chairperson of BRACNet Limited - a leading ISP in Bangladesh. He is a former Secretary to the Government and former Global Councillor, IUCN.



**Ruhul Mohaiman Chowdhury** is a professional forester with more than 13 years of experience in Bangladesh. He has contributed to the GIS based Resources Information Management System (RIMS) of Bangladesh Forest Department (FD). He has served in several projects of FD, working on forest inventory, application of GIS/GPS/remote sensing analysis in forest management, and has a research background in social forestry in reserved forests and collaborative management in the PAs

of the country. His Bachelor degree is in Forestry and he holds a Master of Development Studies degree, respectively from Chittagong University and BRAC University, Bangladesh.



**Philip J. DeCosse** is a Senior Manager at International Resources Group (IRG) in Washington, DC, USA and has worked with IRG since 1993. From 2003 through 2008, he was Chief-of-Party of the Nishorgo Support Project, and has since continued to support Nishorgo from Washington. Mr. DeCosse's work has focused on access, management and governance of natural resources by the rural poor. His technical areas of interest have included protected area management, agricultural and resource information systems and environmental impact assessment. He has lived and worked for extended periods in The Gambia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Peru, and speaks four languages fluently. He holds a M.Sc. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Agricultural Economics and a B.S. from Georgetown University in Philosophy and English literature.



**Utpal Dutta** is a community development specialist with 20 years experience in Bangladesh. He is currently working in the Gambia. He was IRG's Governance Specialist for the Nishorgo Support Project where he focused on co-management institution building, and thereafter continued to work as Governance Specialist for the Integrated Protected Area Co-management project up to 2010. Earlier he worked with the Adarsha Gram Project overseeing NGO efforts to resettle the landless, and before that for 13 years with Community Development Centre (CODEC) working with poor coastal fishing communities. Utpal holds both Bachelor and Masters of Commerce from Chittagong University in Bangladesh.



**Sumaiya Firoze** is working as the Project Management Assistant for Environment at USAID. She was awarded as an International Climate Champion in 2009, and implemented her own project idea of establishing a youth network of various schools and universities that will combat the impact of climate change by conserving forest biodiversity. Prior to joining USAID, she worked as the Communications and Applied Social Science Research Associate at Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) project. She joined Nishorgo Support Project as an intern, and later worked as the Assistant Editor of this very book. Sumaiya completed her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Studies from North South University, and led a student environment club, Earth Club, as its President for a year during her education there.



**Sadia Haque** joined Nishorgo Support Project of USAID as an intern and later worked as Public Private Partnership organizer. She completed her B.Sc. in Environmental Science from North South University and received a fellowship on Sustainable Leadership from Australia. Sadia currently resides in Melbourne and worked for the local government. She is also a member of the youth advisory panel of the Victorian Environment Minister. She wishes to know more about climate refugees and how future generations can adapt to climate change.



**Kazi M. A. Hashem** was IRG's Training and Grants Coordinator for the Nishorgo Support Project and is presently working as Institutional Capacity Building Specialist for Integrated Protected Area Co-management project. He has more than 20 years of experience analyzing institutional capacities and developing training systems for national, regional and local levels of government, NGOs, and CBOs. Earlier he worked with BRAC's training division and rural enterprises development program throughout Bangladesh with increasing responsibilities; and for a USAID supported natural resources management project. In IRG, he has supported organization-wide human resource development focused on co-management approaches, poverty alleviation and empowerment of disenfranchised citizens. He holds Masters in Development Management from Philippines; and an MA in Economics from Bangladesh.



**Salahdin Imam** was educated at Harvard and MIT before embarking on a career as an international banker, with various postings in the Middle East and Europe. He returned to Bangladesh in 1996 and has since been working as a Financial Consultant/Corporate Advisor. He has a particular interest in Tropical Forest Conservation and is currently a Director of the Arannayk Foundation set up by USAID and the Bangladesh Government for this purpose.



**Monirul H Khan** is a wildlife biologist engaged in teaching and research in the field of conservation and monitoring of wildlife and wildlife habitats in Bangladesh. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of Zoology in Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK, in 2004 for his work on the ecology and conservation of the Bengal Tiger in the Sundarbans of Bangladesh. Dr Khan has written many scientific and popular articles, and is also a keen wildlife photographer.



**Mehrin Ahmed Mahbub** is currently working with the External Affairs team in the World Bank Office, Dhaka. Prior to joining the World Bank she was Communications Coordinator for the Nishorgo Support Project. As a business graduate, she started her career working in the marketing program of the Square Toiletries Ltd. Mehrin did her MBA and BBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of University of Dhaka.



**Azharul H. Mazumder** is currently the Team Leader, Environment and Natural Resources Management at USAID/Kenya. Dr. Mazumder is a forester and environmental scientist with extensive experience in the development, refinement and communication of national-scale environmental policy and field programs. From 1995 to 2010 he was the principal designer of USAID's environmental program in Bangladesh that culminated in a total investment of \$75 million and pioneered the establishment of collaborative management of natural resources in Bangladesh. Dr. Mazumder holds a Doctorate in Forest Resource Management from the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and has conducted research on biogeochemistry of forested ecosystems. He worked earlier at the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute.



**Michael Mrong** has a Masters in Development Studies (MDS) and also Post Graduate Diploma in Economics and Management of NGO Affairs from the Southeast University, Dhaka. He has about 32 years of working experience as the development practitioner in various capacities in different Non-Government Organisation (NGOs) i.e. Care International, Caritas Bangladesh, Nishorgo Support Project (NSP) etc. He is the Founder Executive Director of Society for Biodiversity Conservation (SBC) and has participated in the Study Team of "An Exploratory Study on Performance and Capacity of NSP Co-management Committees".



**Md. Tarek Murshed** is an environmental science graduate with more than 5 years of experience in nature tourism. While working with NSP, he was involved in developing and implementing nature and tourism based enterprises, as a part of alternative income generating initiative for local communities in five Protected Areas of Bangladesh. Earlier he worked in UNDP Bangladesh and in the Bangladesh Cetacean Development Project as a researcher. Mr. Murshed is a nature guide to the Sundarban Reserve Forest and an amateur wildlife photographer. Currently, he is studying for a post-graduate degree in conservation, restoration and landscape management at The University of Melbourne, Australia.



**Shimona A. Quazi** is a doctoral student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and a Graduate Degree Fellow at East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She taught Environmental Science at North South University in Dhaka, and has consulted to NSP since 2006. She holds degrees in Forest Ecology (MFS, Yale FES 2001) and Biochemistry (BS, SUNY Stony Brook 1998). Shimona's past research includes forest regeneration on abandoned crop terraces in India. Her broader interest is in human-managed systems, and the integration of multiple land uses for nature conservation in fragmented, human-dominated landscapes. Her current study examines the conservation value of traditional agroforestry systems in Bangladesh.



**Md. Makhlukur Rahman** was Director, Administration and Finance, Nishorgo Support Project, and currently holds the same post with the Integrated Protected Area Co-management project. He has to his credit about 29 years of experience in project administration. He started his career with UNDP/UNFPA in their population program and has gradually diverted his professional skills towards project management and administration. He has worked with various foreign missions in Bangladesh including the US Embassy, USAID, The Netherlands Embassy and a number of US based companies providing technical assistance in health and family planning, water, forestry and fishery sectors. He has a Masters in Accounting from Dhaka University and in addition to Languages: fluent Bangla and English speaks some Hindi and Urdu.



**Abdur Rahman** has been serving as Assistant Conservator of Forests in Bangladesh Forest Department since 1994. He has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Chittagong University, Bangladesh. His research and professional interests include: interaction of people with the forest, forest based livelihoods and forest conservation.



**Md. Safiqur Rahman** has worked for over a decade in the development sector, with an increasing focus on the environment. He now works on collaborative and community-based management within Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh for Nature Conservation Management (NACOM) and earlier worked for NACOM under the Nishorgo Support Project. He has a Master's degree in Fisheries from the National University, and an undergraduate degree in zoology.



**Monoj Kanti Roy** worked for more than two decades in the Bangladesh Forest Department, ending his career as a Conservator of Forests. He was the initial Project Coordinator of the Nishorgo Support Project, and led the project from its inception in 2003 through 2009. He has a Master's Degree in Development from the Australian National University.



**Ram A. Sharma** was Protected Area Management Specialist with the Nishorgo Support Project. He is a natural resources economist and forester boasting a 20-year career in a broad range of forestry and natural resource programs in South and Southeast Asia. He acted as Director of the Swedforest International program in India and has consulted extensively for the Sida, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. He was a Post Doctorate Fellow in Resource Economics at the Scottish Agricultural College; and has a PhD in Resource Economics from the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Edinburgh. He speaks Hindi, English, Bangla, Oriya, Sanskrit and Urdu.



**Bitapi C. Sinha** is a Professor at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India. She works as a trainer and researcher on visitor use management and interpretive planning in protected areas. She is working towards setting up low cost interpretive facilities and evaluating their effectiveness towards enhancing conservation awareness. Her association with the Nishorgo Support Project was as a resource person for training workshops on development of ecotourism micro-plans for the five protected areas in Bangladesh. She has also been instrumental in developing interpretive plans for protected areas in Bangladesh.



**Rafiq Sultana**, has a Masters degree in Zoology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh and a Post Graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management from Dehradun, India. She has fifteen years experience in the field of Forest Resource Management as well as co-management approaches through different projects. Currently she is working as Assistant Conservator of Forests under USAID's project Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) at the Forest Department, Bangladesh. She has a publication on "Linking Fuelwood Collection and Community Livelihood in Satchari National Park" published from East-West Center, Hawaii in "Making Conservation Work: Linking Rural Livelihoods And protected Area Management in Bangladesh".



**Paul M. Thompson** is a Senior Research Fellow at Middlesex University in the UK. He is a social scientist specializing in the management of natural resources and floodplains and has worked largely in Bangladesh since the late 1980s. Since 1996 he has been involved in development and research on community based co-management of fisheries and wetlands in Bangladesh, with a focus on institutions and sustainability, most recently with the USAID supported Management of Aquatic ecosystems through Community Husbandry project. He has a PhD in development studies from Middlesex Polytechnic in the UK. He also has a keen interest in the birds of Bangladesh and their conservation.



**M. Khalequzzaman** is a senior adviser for Sustainable Energy for Development (SED) – energy program of Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Dhaka. He has extensive experience as an energy specialist for the power sector in the Govt. of Bangladesh as well as organizations in Germany. With a Master's in Energy Engineering at the Technical University, Berlin, Germany followed by a Ph.D. in Power Plant Engineering at the Institute of Energy Engineering, Technical University, Berlin, Germany. He is currently working on renewable energy initiatives at GIZ.



The idea that people might be kept out of forest Protected Areas (PAs) in Bangladesh is unimaginable. Even in the vast Sundarban Wildlife Sanctuaries, honey collectors, wood collectors, and fisherfolk are a regular presence. This is not surprising given that there are 32 times as many people per PA hectare in Bangladesh as in India, 75 times as many as in Sri Lanka, and 1,168 times as many as in Bhutan.

The 27 chapters in this book summarize lessons learned from a five-year effort to introduce collaborative management (co-management) in five forest PAs in Bangladesh as a means of improving protection and management of biodiversity. The five pilot PAs were selected from amongst the 19 PAs under statutory authority of the Forest Department in 2003, and were located in the northeast (Lawachara National Park, Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, and Satchuri National Park) and southeast (Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary and Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary) of the country. Together, they total 23,000 hectares and protect two notably “charismatic” mega-fauna (Hoolock Gibbon and Asian Elephant).

Each of these five PAs is surrounded by thousands of people, predominantly poor. In this respect, Bangladesh’s conservation challenge serves as a harbinger of global conservation challenges, with an increasing population and a rising absolute number of poor people. The need to find ways to conserve – even when population and poverty are high – is ever more urgent. This book aims to contribute to that search for practical conservation solutions “where people and poverty intersect.”

The volume is predicated on the need for conservation managers to report on what works and what does not. Rarely are failures documented as carefully as successes. This book aims to redress that. All chapter authors were involved in implementing elements of the program, and were asked to offer their candid assessment of lessons learned. In this sense, the book is intended as a practical knowledge management tool.