



## Site Status Report: Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary is in Sylhet Division, where Nishorgo Program has begun work to improve protection of this remote, but nonetheless beautiful, area. The Sanctuary, tucked into the border region, provides some of the country's best bird watching experiences. Previously this forest was part of the "Tarap Hill Reserve Forest".

The last few months were particularly eventful for Nishorgo Support Project' at Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary. Major milestones have been in the area of social mobilization, with formation of co-management committee. Also, skill development training on different AIGAs took place to empower key stakeholders. During the period, Mr. Shamsuddin joined the team as Site Facilitator for the Sanctuary.

### Progress Since November 05

- Training & Orientation activities were held for the Range and Beat officers to orient them to co-management and the Nishorgo activities. During the process, the Officers drafted their own Code of Conducts.
- The 4th Co-management Council meeting took place. The 19 member Co-management Committee has been formed.



Drama at Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

- Two Nishorgo Clubs are formed by the local youth to spread awareness for Nishorgo Program. The Clubs participated in the Victory Day celebration with NSP team.
- For awareness generation for the younger generation, NSP arranged an art competition for school children where 65 children participated. 300 students participated at Nishorgo School awareness program at their schools. Beneficiary training on Homestead Gardening, Nursery Development, Pisciculture and Cattle rearing are continuing (82 members).
- NSP arranged peoples theatre for motivating stakeholders that reached to 300 peoples approximately.
- 12 people received People's Theatre training and 10 people received Folk Songs Training for social mobilization.
- Two Eco-tour guides traveled to Dhaka to meet the private tour operators at a meeting jointly hosted by Parjatan Corporation. Later they joined the workshop arranged by 'Sylhet Division Tourism Development Forum'.
- 54 users group (representing 664 households) formed mobilized and linked with forest protection.

### Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary: At a Glance

- **Forest Type:** Tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen Forest.
- **Area:** 1795 ha.
- **Flora & Fauna:** Biodiversity includes 37 species of mammals, 167 species of birds, 7 species of amphibians; 18 species of reptiles; and 638 species of plants.
- **Flagship Species:** Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Monkey, Slow Loris, Deer, Wild Boar, Fishing Tiger, Jungle Fowl and many birds.
- **Location:** Rema Kalenga is located approximately 130 km northeast of Dhaka and 80 km southwest of Sylhet. Southwest of RK is Rema Tea Garden, Indian Tripura State is in southeast side.
- **Settlement:** Tripura, Shautal, Telegu and Urang ethnic groups live inside the forest.
- **Accessibility & Visitor Infrastructure:** Access only by dirt road from near Srimongal (by vehicle) and from Chunarughat (only by 2 wheeled vehicle). By road or rail it takes approximately 3-3.5 hours to reach Srimongal. From there it is 90 minutes drive to Rema or Kalenga. One FD Rest House inside RKWLS.



- Demonstration funds have been distributed on shared basis for establishing homestead gardening, nursery development and cow rearing activities.
- New Site Facilitator Mr. Shamsudding Joined the team.
- 10 FSP user groups have been linked with NSP activities.

### Planned Activities

The major activities for the next quarter will be:

- Rapid expansion of AIG activities
- Initiation of enterprise activities
- Operationalization of co-management committee
- Youth outreach via activities and cultural shows



Training for Forest Department field staff from RK area

### Impact from NSP's Intervention

#### i. Illegal Felling:

Members of Council attest to reduction in illegal felling at the Sanctuary, with exception of single Officer's incident. This Officer, however, was removed from his post and transferred with critical input from the Council, who criticized his behavior in public forum.

#### ii. Income Generation Activities in Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary:

Relevant IGA	Participants Trained/ Oriented			Participants doing AIGA			NSP demonstration fund allocated		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Eco-Guiding	5	0	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nursery	4	7	11	3	6	9	16,000	28,000	44,000
Fish Culture	0	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milk Cow & Beef Fattening	0	12	12	0	6	6	0	60,000	60,000
Home Gardening/Vegetable Gardening	12	10	22	9	10	19	24,000	20,000	44,000

Group Formed: 54(Female-38, Male- 16)  
 Total Person: 664

#### People Level Impact: Rahima Akter

Rahima Akter is from Jaliabosti village near Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary. She is a poor house wife struggling to meet her family's demands. She used to go to the forest to collect fuel wood and sell it in the market, while her husband worked as a dail laborer. Rahima, desperate to change her condition, enlisted her name for the nursery training after she was visited by the Nishorgo Support Project's field organizers. She traveled to Srimongal and participated in the week long residential nursery training. When she came back home after the training, she produced 2,000 saplings in her own initiative, with provision of a demonstration fund contribution of poly bag, timber seeds and water jerry can for start up. She later added more saplings. Last year, Rahima earned Tk 36,000 from selling her fruit and timber saplings. She also planted saplings in her home. Now, she is no longer going to the forest, and is focusing instead on expanding her nursery. Her husband is also working with her. She asks why the Nishorgo Support Project did not come earlier. She is also depositing savings at group TK 10 per week. Rahima is not only better off now but she is also working hard to visualize her dream.



Rahima Akter

