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## Satchari National Park

Satchari National Park (SNP) is situated in the Paikpara Union of Chunarughat Upazila in Habigonj district. SNP stands on the Dhaka-Sylhet old highway and is about 130-140 km northeast of Dhaka, in the Sylhet division. SNP is governed by the Forest Act of 1927 as well as the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1974. This tropical evergreen/semi-evergreen vista, established in 2006, comprises an area of 243 hectares as a part of the 6205 ha of the Raghunandan Hills Reserved Forest. Hillocks, locally called *Tillas*, are scattered throughout the landscape, ranging from 10-50 meters. A number of small, sandy bedded streams flow throughout the forests, all of which dry out following the end of rainy season in October-November, and are subject to intensive commercial harvesting of sands during the dry season.

### Biodiversity :

SNP originally supported an indigenous vegetation of mixed tropical evergreen forest. However, almost all of the original forest has been removed or substantially altered, turning it into a secondary forest. About 200 ha of the reserved forest are in natural condition and the remnants were introduced to long and short term social plantations schemes. Bamboo and cane have been planted in many plantation areas after removing undergrowth vegetation. SNP supports more than 6 species of amphibians, 18 species of reptiles, 149 species of birds and 24 species of mammals. The globally Endangered Hoolock Gibbon *Hoolock hoolock* and Vulnerable Bengal Slow Loris *Nycticebus bengalensis* still occur in SNP. Phayre's leaf monkey *Trachypithecus phayrei*, Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*, Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* and Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak* are common at SNP. Among the bird species Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*, Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*, Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*, Blue-naped Pitta *Pitta nipalensis*, Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*, Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*, Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis* and Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis athertoni* are notable.

### Local communities :

SNP is surrounded by 10,315 households with a population of about 55,701 (including one Tipra community, an ethnic settlement within the core zone) and 8 Tea gardens. The lone Tipra village located within SNP comprises 20 Households. The adjacent areas are covered by tea estates, coffee patches, rubber plantations and rice fields. Other settlements are located approximately 3-8 kms adjacent to the park area. All households inside Tipra settlement are mostly dependent on the forest for their everyday needs of fuel wood, house building materials and vegetables. Tipra community people are also involved with lemon cultivation within the designated protected area of the park. Many households, mainly the more financially challenged ones, are entirely or partially dependent on the collection of fuel wood, timber and bamboo.

### Park Threats :

SNP faces a range of threats resulting in forest degradation and, to a lesser extent, deforestation. The presence of the ethnic community within the forest area means degradation occurs through non-sustainable extraction of a variety of forest resources including firewood, timber, bamboo and fodder, while lemon cultivation by some members also contributes to a certain amount of degradation. The threats of non-sustainable extraction along with the recent influx of tourists to the site pose a dual burden on the forest.

### Nishorgo Network :

SNP is a valued member of the Nishorgo Network, Bangladesh's growing group of forest and wetland Protected Areas (PAs) being conserved through co-management. Co-management brings together community, government and other stakeholders to work together to conserve Bangladesh's rich natural heritage and eco-system services in a manner that contributes to long-term sustainable development, increased food security, and integrated climate change adaptation and mitigation. Nishorgo Network co-management shares roles and responsibilities between communities and government, demonstrating economic benefits of PA conservation to local communities through eco-tourism and sustainable alternative income generation activities, as well as by actively involving them in conservation management of PAs through participation in co-management organizations and joint patrol initiatives. The Nishorgo Network actively engages women, youth and ethnic minorities in co-management, and provides a foundation of good governance.



Satchari National Park



Phayre's Leaf Monkey







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## Co-Management and Satchari National Park:

Satchari National Park is a leader of co-management for effective conservation, beginning in 2005 [check] with USAID's Nishorgo Support Project and currently with support from USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) project implemented in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh's Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. Co-management highlights in SNP include the following:

- Formation and re-election of a co-management platform including one Co-Management Committee Co-Management Committee (CMC), 38 Village Conservation Forums (VCFs); and one Peoples' Forum (PF).
- Establishment of 20 Community Patrol Groups (CPGs), including one Women's CPG, engaged in regular Joint Patrols with Forest Department field staff.
- Development of eco-tourism support for SNP, including training of cadre of eco-guides from local communities.
- Constructing an interpretation center that allows the local community members to work alongside the FD officials in disseminating information regarding SNP.
- Entrance Fee Revenue collection and sharing mechanism in place, ensuring 50% of tourism fees accrue to the CMC.
- Alternative Livelihoods Development training and support for SNP-dependent communities, including sustainable value chain support and MoUs between local communities and national buyers in both fisheries and handicrafts.
- Encouraging the local communities to set up shops on the outskirts of the park area s apart of Alternate Income Generation (AIG) activities.
- Training and capacity building as well as leveraging additional financial support to sustain effective co-management of SNP conservation into the future

USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) Project has initiated several interventions to reverse the trends that are degrading the biodiversity of SNP. Some of which include:

- Training local populace dependent upon the forest, in farmstead agriculture, to help decrease wooded area dependency and resource removal.
- Training community members as Eco-Tour guides to educate and guide visitors alongside the marked trails.
- Plantation nursery, woven products and traditional bamboo and cane handicrafts.
- An interpretation center at the entrance works as an information kiosk, run by both the Co-management Committee (CMC) and the Forest Department (FD) officials.
- A Tourist's shop manned by the local people.
- Facilitating the level of competency demonstrated by the FD officials, in association with local authorities occupied in forest management.
- Escalating co-management concerns and PA approaches with importance and support given to the concerned ministry and departments to raise competence.
- Development of 1 CMC and 1 PF to support with the NP's management; 20 Community Patrol Groups (CPG) and arrangement of 38 VCFs to increase awareness and promote actions related to conservation, further facilitated by 10 Nishorgo Clubs.
- 37 Nishorgo Sahayaks (facilitators) have been trained to execute conventions and administer co-management activities, while 6 trained eco-guides escort visitors along the designated trails educating them about SNP and its resources.

## Contact Information :

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### Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project

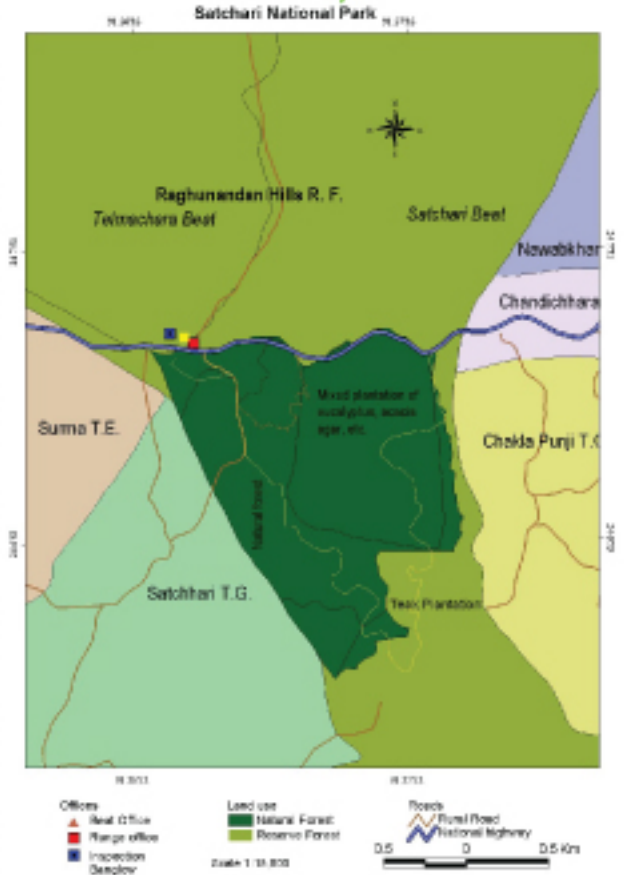
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Members of Tipra Community displaying their woven products



Interpretation Center



Department of Environment

