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Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary :

Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary (FWS) at Chakaria is under the Fashiakhali Range of Cox's Bazar North Forest Division. The area was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in April 2007 under Bangladesh Wildlife Act of 1974. FWS encircles the hilly reserved forest areas of the Fashiakhali block and sections of Ringbhong and Dulahazara blocks covering a total of 1302 ha.

Surrounding Communities :

Two Forest villages consisting of 112 members were set up in the mid 1950s, by the Forest Department who leased small areas of land (2 acres) to a certain number of households within the reserve forest area. However, the Sanctuary now consists of around 8,551 households. Immigrating victims affected by various climate change activities and the neighboring Arakanese community the Rohingya make up most of the Sanctuary's population.

Biodiversity :

Once the forest was evergreen and semi-ever-green with tropical landscapes of natural Garjan *Dipterocarpus spp.* and Dhakijam *Syzygium spp.* as the dominant species, along with Canes, Bamboo, Shrubs and Climbers. Presently the wildlife sanctuary is dominated by Garjan along with some teak plantations and short rotation participatory plantations of *Acacia spp.*, *Eucalyptus* etc.

Over time, this complex and diverse forest has converted into one consisting of a few select planted species. The sanctuary however has maintained diversity in its wildlife, and is endowed with the famed Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, the flagship species of the sanctuary. Further species include the Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*, Red headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* and Besra *Accipiter virgatus*, snakes, deer, and many more.

Sanctuary Threats :

Immigration of climate change refugee migrants to the sanctuary has occurred since 1991. This has led to excessive removal of forest produce, constant forestland encroachment, and inter-district roads, all of which lead to daily degradation of the sanctuary. Further challenges include brickfields within one kilometer of the sanctuaries boundaries, scarce drinking water and a basic lack of awareness towards conservations activities.

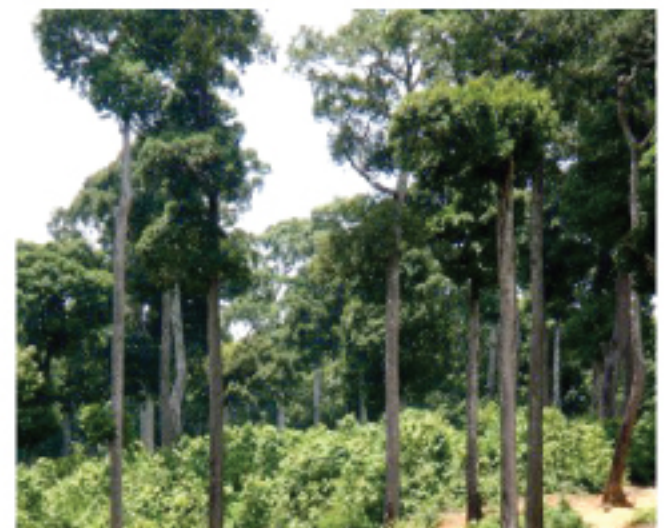
These pressures are being increased by current migrants from surrounding territories. Altogether the pressure from non-sustainable resource extraction along with the impact of the surrounding human settlements is intensifying and the forest reserve is facing challenges from habitat loss for keystone species like the majestic Asian Elephants.

Nishorgo Network :

FWS 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.



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Co-Management & Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary :

Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary is a leader of co-management for effective conservation, 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 FWS include the following:

- Formation and re-election of a co-management platform including a Co-Management Committee and Council, Village Conservation Forums (VCFs) and a Peoples' Forum (PF).
- Establishment of 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 FWS, including training a cadre of eco-guides from local communities as well as plans for the establishment of eco-cottages near the Sanctuary.
- Entrance Fee Revenue collection and sharing mechanism in place, ensuring 50% of tourism fees accrue to the CMC.
- Demonstration of community forestry activities based on revised Social Forestry rules of 2010, contributing to reforestation of the FWS landscape and revenue sharing upon harvest of fast rotation tree crops planted near the Sanctuary.
- Alternative Livelihoods Development training and support for FWS-dependent communities, including sustainable value chain support and MoUs between local communities and national buyers in both fisheries and handicrafts.
- Training and capacity building as well as leveraging additional financial support to sustain effective co-management of FWS conservation into the future

USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) and Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock (MOFL) has taken significant steps to conserve FWS including:

- Development of 1 CMC and 1 PF to contend with the NP's management.
- Arrangement of 30 VCFs to increase consciousness and promote preservation focused actions.
- 30 Nishorgo Sahayak (facilitators) have been trained to execute conventions and administer co-management activities with 42 members of CPG
- Training of forest dependent community members on farmstead agriculture to help decrease wooded area dependency and resource removal.
- Possible plans to develop employment consist of plantation nurseries, the generation of woven products, as well as traditional bamboo and cane handicraft production.
- Increasing and competency building of FD, in company with local authorities in forest management.
- Providing support to relevant ministries and departments to increase efficiency and address co-management concerns and PA approaches

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