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CREL Supports Government Delegation to Conference of Parties (COP) on Climate Change



During 1 -12 December, 2014 a delegation from the Government of Bangladesh participated in the Conference of Parties (COP) on Climate Change in Lima, Peru. The delegation included the Minister MOEF, the Secretary MOEF, and the DG of DOE, joint secretary, deputy secretary, senior assistant secretary and Director of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. CREL sponsored the participation of Mr. Abu Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Senior NRM Policy Specialist, CREL- an expert in climate change, to assist the delegation in contributing to the negotiation process. His efforts and that of the delegation helped to ensure that the perspective and concerns of Bangladesh were heard and considered at this key international conference.

CREL and Hathay Bunano Inaugurate Six New Toy-Making Centers for Women



A major challenge facing Bangladesh is to increase the access and engagement of hardcore poor in new markets despite their lack of resources. CREL is using a market-based approach to create this linkage and has established a partnership with Hathay Bunano (means handmade), an organization that produces high quality children's toys for export. Under the brand name 'Pebble Child' Hathay Bunano exports these toys worldwide to 33 countries. CREL and Pebble began working together in the Chittagong and Khulna Regions. On December 15, 2014, Hathay Bunano inaugurated 6 new production centers that it financed, and will engage 300 resource-dependent women in the Cox's Bazar Region to produce toys, which Hathay Bunano will then purchase from them.

CREL goes on air

Radio NAF, a community radio in Cox's Bazar aired a 30-minute radio program on December 7, 2014 highlighting CREL activities and achievements. CREL is building capacity of youth from communities living around protected areas in Cox's Bazar. Twenty-five youths received training on radio journalism and five of them are now working as interns with Radio NAF producing a weekly program covering all aspects of CREL activities. These weekly radio programs reach about 3500 households and 14,000 individuals, and help to promote CREL's efforts to protect ecosystem, natural resources and biodiversity in this region of Bangladesh.



CMO collaborates with the Forest Department on ANR in Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Chunati Co-Management Council and Committee reformed itself on 6 December 2014 in a fully open and fair democratic election, under the supervision of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Lohagora Upazila as Chief Election Commissioner and assisted by the Upazila Education Officer. Through this process, the 65-member Co-Management Council and 29-member Co-management Committee began its four-year and two year tenure, respectively, as mandated under government order. The Divisional Forest Officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Chittagong presided as chief guest and was joined by the Assistant Conservator of Forests and other FD field-level officers and Upazila-level Government Officers. During the meeting, the DFO also agreed to initiate assisted natural regeneration in Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary with the involvement of the newly formed Co-management Committee and engage its Community Patrol Group to strengthen the role and capacity of the CMO to protect the forest resources and biodiversity of the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project supports to the strengthening of the capacity of these important conservation organizations.

1st CREL Job Fair in Cox's Bazar.

CREL aims to build the skills youth from the communities living around the protected areas to enable them to obtain jobs and reduce their dependency on, and extraction of natural resources. To achieve this, CREL designed an employment engagement initiative to train resource-dependent youth and women, based in the Cox's Bazaar region. On December 14, 2014, CREL hosted the first Job Fair and Certificate Giving Ceremony for young beneficiaries living around protected areas of Cox's Bazar. This event recognized 176 youth, who received training in one of seven trades; hotel and hospitality management, sales and marketing, mobile servicing technician, hand embroidery, organic drying fish process, pickle making and betel leaf packaging. The event also connected these newly trained youth with private sector employers. The event received national and regional media coverage and was attended by CMCs presidents and secretaries, government officials from the Forest, Department of Environment, Department of Fisheries, USAID and a number of private sector employers including hotels, tour operators and mobile phone servicing companies.

CMOs driving co-management activities in the protected areas in Cox's Bazar.

The DFO Cox's Bazar South & North Forest Division and CMC prepared a plan for entry fee collection and identified human resources requirements and commensurate training needs during a meeting on 17th December. Other decisions included repair and maintenance of the entrance gate to the Nature Park, placement of an RCC pillar on the bridge at TRAIL, and signs on the entry gate and for dormitory. The CMC will engage a person as a cook and manage the dormitory and will charge visitors and receive a portion of the money for the CMC fund. Shilkhali CMC will build an entry gate at Shilkhali Garjan forest at their own cost, promote visitors and engage CPG members for ticket collection and visitor management.

UP incorporates PCVA recommendations into ADP

Khutakhali Union Parishad under Medhakachhapia NP held preparatory meeting on 23rd December on Annual Development Plan and decided to include five of CREL's proposed activities based on participatory climate vulnerability assessment that include tree planting, ICS distribution, installation of a deep tube-well, Chara/stream re-excavation and construction of a dam and dirt road in the Union Parishad's upcoming ADP.

