

CREL Construction Work Improves Habitats and People

Wildlife living in the 1,302 hectare Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary in Cox's Bazar includes habitat for 34 elephants, the Northern Pig-tailed Macaque, deer, the Western Hoolock Gibbon and thousands of birds which are dependent on a small stream, named Mayggar Mar Chara. This stream is also nurturing 100 hectares of Assisted Natural Regeneration in the area and over 5,000 people living adjacent to this stream are dependent on it for agriculture and domestic uses. However, sedimentation over time has reduced the depth of the stream to two feet which has negatively affected its ecological functioning and benefits. The CREL Project is supporting the re-excavation of Mayggar Mar Chara to restore its water flow and depth to previous levels. Upon completion, it is expected that the water depth will be restored to 5 feet ensuring benefits for both wildlife and communities.



Co-Management Day Observed in Chittagong Region with Renewed Commitment



"This recognition of our conservation efforts will motivate us to increase our forest conservation activities", offered Md. Jashim Uddin and Md. Sarwar Alam, Presidents of Hazarikhil and Baraiyadhala CMCs respectively during the Co-Management Day 2017 observation program on 23 March in Chittagong. This year's theme for co-management day was "Sustainable Co-Management: Sustainable Forest Conservation". USAID's CREL Project in collaboration with the Bangladesh Forest Department organized the event where forest conservation, the establishment of ecotourism mechanisms and other fund raising opportunities were key topics of discussion for the 7 participating Co-

Management Committees (CMC) in Chittagong Circle.

Mrs. Neela Dutta, Director of the Forest Academy chaired the day's program where Md. Abdul Latif Mia, CREL Project Director and Conservator of Forest, Chittagong Circle attended as chief guest. 5 Divisional Forest Officers and 3 Assistant Conservators of Forest from respective divisions of Chittagong circle were present in the program. The event participants reflected on the sacrifices of Rafiqul Alam from Shilkhali CPG and Md. Hiru Mia from Kaptai CPGs who lost their lives while protecting the forests in 2008 and 2010, respectively. All participants renewed their oath to conserve protected areas and each CMC was honored with a gift from the honorable chief guest. Six CPG members from Chunati, Jaldi and Dhopachari CMC were also recognized and rewarded for their personal bravery in forest protection.

CREL Project Presents University Curricula Work to USAID Roundtable

USAID invited the CREL Project to their monthly Environment and Global Climate Change Roundtable discussions with stakeholders to present its work on the development of university curricula. The curricula include Climate Change, REDD+, Natural Resources Management, Carbon Measurement and Co-Management of Natural Resources. Md. Shams Uddin and Kevin Kamp from CREL project presented the process for developing the curricula, introduction of the curricula materials into Bangladesh universities and a high level overview of the curricula content. Copies of the curricula were made available to participants. The presentation was appreciated by USAID and participants and suggested ways to expand the scope and impact of the materials. To date, CREL provided more than 300 copies of the curricula to university faculties of different universities.

Khadimnagar Co-Management Committee Improves Electricity Safety for wildlife

The electricity transmission line between Chadimnagar and Burjan tea gardens used outdated, uninsulated cables which can cause electrocution to anything that comes into contact with them. The line goes through Khadimnagar National Park and has proven dangerous for monkeys, the Western Hoolock Gibbon and other local species of mammals and wildlife. The Khadimnagar Co-Management Committee recently met with the Executive Engineer of Rural Electrification Board (REB) of Sylhet to request that the electricity transmission lines to be replaced with insulated cables. The REB authority considered this request by the CMC and replaced the transmission line with a thickly insulated cable. Khadimnagar has set a Bangladesh example for a global problem that wildlife conservation organizations, animal rights organizations and experts are working on and advocating for in many countries to ensure the safety and free movement of wildlife.



Listen to the Young Voices



"Listen to the Young Voices" was the theme for International Wildlife Day 2017 and celebrated in collaboration with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park (Dulahazra Safari Park) and the USAID's CREL Project in Dulahazra, Cox's Bazar. The day's event started off with a colorful rally of elephants and school children in Dulahazra Safari Park followed by school children taking part in a competition on wildlife knowledge. Mr. Abdul Latif Mia, CREL Project Director and Conservator of Forest, Chittagong Circle participated in the celebration as the chief guest. Officials from the Forest Department, CREL and the community joined the event. Professors from Chittagong University joined a discussion session with the event's dignitaries focused on conservation issues.

International Day of Forest 2017 Observed by the CMC's of Chittagong



Four Co-Management Committees (CMC) of Chittagong region (Dudpukuria, Dhopachari, Jaldi and Nijhum Dweep) celebrated the International Day of Forests on March 21, 2017. This year's theme was, "Forests and Energy". Rallies, discussion meetings, games, art competition among school students, CPG awards and a prize giving ceremony marked the occasion supported by the Forest Department and USAID's CREL Project. High officials of the Forest Department and the local administration along with community members, school students and civil society attended the discussion meetings. The topics of discussions included conservation of protected forests, bringing an end to the hunting of wildlife and engaging village level community members in alternative income generating activities.