

Barangangina RMO Awarded for Their Role in Improving NRM



The Barangangina Resource Management Organizations (RMO) has received an “Achievement Award” from the Department of Fisheries, Moulvibazar for their contribution to improved natural resource management of Baikka Beel Permanent Sanctuary. Mr. Minnat Ali, General Secretary, Barangangina RMO, received the award from Honorable Member of Parliament Syeda Saira Mohsin in the closing ceremony of Fish Week, 2017. The Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar Md. Tofayel Islam and District Fisheries Officer were also present at the award ceremony.

Barangangina RMO has been working since its formation in 2002 to manage Baikka Beel, and has



received support from USAID and the CREL project. Barangangina RMO is comprised of local resource users including fishers, farmers, landless poor and women. The aim of the RMO is to conserve biodiversity -fish, birds, and other aquatic biota of the haor throughout the year.

Barangangina RMO's management of Bikka beel has resulted in a major contribution to conservation of biodiversity in the beel. A total of 106 species of fish have been

recorded in the haor since 2014. Since February 2015, 227 species of birds including 87 species of water birds and migratory ducks have been observed using the haor as habitat, particularly during the winter dry season. Some of the species of fish in the haor are nationally threatened, and 15 of the bird species are globally threatened or near threatened. Numerous other aquatic animals including mollusks, amphibians, reptiles, mammals are found in the haor and are dependent on its habitat and condition.

Ministry of Land, Government of Bangladesh, declared Baikka Beel (Chapra, Magura and Jaduria beel cluster) as a permanent sanctuary in 2003.

Reformation of Nishorgo Co-Management Network Committee

Nishorgo Co-Management Network Committee of Northeast Region successfully reformed on 22 July 2017. The members of Nishorgo Network of Northeast Region reformed their new committee in a meeting, which was held in BRAC Learning Center, Sreemongal. Alhaj Chowdhury Samsunnahar, President of Satchari



Nishorgo Sangstha was elected as President of Nishorgo Co-Management Network Committee and made history as the first ever-female President of a Nishorgo Network

Committee in Bangladesh. Mr. Moazzem Hosain Samru, President of Dumuria RMO was elected Member Secretary of Nishorgo Co-Management Network Committee.

Pre-Congress Consultation Workshop Held in Chittagong



USAID's CREL Project is organizing the Second Co-Management Congress later this year. A pre-congress consultation workshop with stakeholders was held on July 26, 2017 in Chittagong. G. M. Mohammed Kabir, Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), Chittagong Circle, Dr. John A. Dorr, Chief of Party, CREL Project, Mr. Oemar Idoe and Ms. Carina van Weelhan from GIZ along with senior officials of Forest Department and CMC members attended the workshop. The participants were divided into five groups for group work, and reviewed issues and gaps in sustainable co-management organizations. The representatives from each group presented their findings, which will be consolidated with three additional pending consultations and presented in the Congress later this year.

Co-Management Award

The Khadimnagar Co-management Committee awarded the first Co-Management Award to Mr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Forester, Khadimnagar Beat for his contribution to conserve Khadimnagar forest and its biodiversity. In a recent council meeting, members of Khadimnagar Co-Management Council decided to recognize one individual every year for his or her contribution to conserving forests and biodiversity.

Co-management in Khadimnagar National Park was introduced in October, 2009. Communities living around the national park have long been extracting bamboo, wood and other resources indiscriminately. Khadimnagar CMC, with their



aggressive awareness campaigns and regular patrols supporting forest guards, has reduced resource extraction to a very low level. They are also working closely with the forest officials to revegetate parts of the forestland by planting 1,000 saplings, and then guarding these and other areas of the forest to allow natural regeneration to proceed. Mr. Rahman has been instrumental in making all these activities a success.

Best Aquaculture Farmer

USAID's CREL Project has been helping communities reduce their natural resources dependency by providing training for alternative income generation activities. This month, the benefits of these trainings were acknowledged by the Department of Fisheries in Southwest Region. Two CREL supported community members, Prokash Mondal from Koyra and Abdur Rashid Gazi from Munshiganj, were awarded for their accomplishments in aquaculture by their respective local fisheries department.

Prokash Mondal was awarded "Best Aquaculture Farmer" by the Department of Fisheries on the occasion of National Fish week, 2017. CREL provided training on fish culture from prestocking, stocking, post stocking, nursing to harvesting.



An event was organized to present the award at which A. K. M. Tomiz Uddin, Koyra Upazila Parisad chairman was the chief guest and was attended by dignitaries of Koyra Upazila.

Abdur Rashid Gazi, from Munshiganj also received the award for "Best Aquaculture Farmer" from the Department of Fisheries. In the past, his livelihood depended on extracting resources from Sundarbans. Training on aquaculture provided by the CREL project helped enable him to stop extracting resources from the forest. Aquaculture has given him more income and has improved his life. Also, through his success, he has become an example for other members of his community. In parallel, he is now a strong advocate for Sundarbans conservation.

